



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

060620-PR0607
Press Release
20 June 2006

Asian and European youth exchange views on human rights and the international legal order at ASEF University

The thirteenth edition of the ASEF University will gather forty-one university students representing 30 countries from Asia and Europe in Leiden, the Netherlands from 2 to 14 July 2006 to discuss the international legal order.

The ASEF University is an annual summer school for a select group of promising university students, chosen for their academic excellence and leadership, and is designed to deepen their insights into contemporary international issues and to forge personal linkages with youth from other ASEM countries.

This year's ASEF University, co-organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) and Leiden University, examines the international legal order. The programme, which benefits from the support of the European Commission, will include discussions on international dispute settlement and adjudication, human rights and opportunities for co-operation between Asia and Europe.

Opening the ASEF University are Secretary General Joris Demmink of the Netherlands Ministry of Justice, Ambassador for International Cultural Co-operation Jan Hoekema, Prof Wim Stokhof of the IIAS and Mr Ramon Molina of ASEF. Eminent legal experts will deliver lectures in the two-week programme, led by this year's keynote speaker, Judge Hishashi Owada of the International Court of Justice.

Guest lecturers from the European side include Mr Gijs de Vries, the European Union's first counter-terrorism chief, Dr Bas Belder of the European Parliament, Prof W. Werner of the Free University of the Netherlands, Dr Ilaria Bottigliero of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Dr Timo Kivimaki from the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Prof Alfred Soons of the Institute for the Law of the Sea, Utrecht and Dr Bart Stapert of the University of Utrecht and Amnesty International in the Netherlands.

Guest lecturers from Asia include UN Special Rapporteur on human rights Prof Dr Vitit Muntarbhorn, Mr Abdul Hakim of the Indonesian Commission on Human Rights, Dr Noorhaidi Hasan of Universitas Indonesia, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide of the Philippines and Justice Secretary of State Neou Kassie of Cambodia. Leiden University's prestigious Faculty of Law will be handling several lectures and workshops.

To complement the academic programme, the ASEF University also offers a social and cultural itinerary that will allow participants to experience key aspects of the social, economic and cultural life in the Netherlands, through tours of The Hague, the legal capital of the world, and of Amsterdam.

Further information on the project is available online:

<http://www.asef.org/dir/p2p/au13>

Inquiries on the programme: Ms Valerie REMOQUILLO valerie@asef.org

Contact for the media: Ms SOH Lai Yee laiyee@asef.org