



## BACKGROUND

Countries in Asia and Europe have had extensive experience in establishing and sustaining democratic institutions and political systems. However, the idea of a common definition of democratisation that can be universally applied to both regions is inaccurate. Different countries have had different experiences, and have therefore followed different trajectories towards democracy in their political development. The Asia-Europe Survey “Political Cultures in Asia and Europe: Citizens, States and Societal Values” by Professors Takashi Inoguchi and Jean Blondel (2009) show that there are greater *intra*-regional differences within Asia and with Europe rather than *inter*-regional differences between Asia and Europe.

There is much that Asia and Europe can learn from sharing their experiences in dealing with challenges faced in their respective legal and judicial frameworks. The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) which is committed to promoting dialogue between the two regions, encourages informal, open and non-confrontational dialogue among representatives of governments and civil societies in Asia and Europe. The **Asia-Europe Democratisation and Justice series** (AEDJ) provides a platform for Asia-Europe exchanges in this field through dialogue between civil society and policymakers. These dialogues are highly valuable to support economic development and strengthen the security and stability in Asia and Europe.

The AEDJ is the direct outcome of the workshop on “Comparing Access to Justice in Asian and European Transitional Countries” that was organised in 2005 by ASEF with the support of the Hanns Seidel Foundation (Indonesia) – ASEF’s main partner in the Asia-Europe Democratisation and Justice Series – and The Habibie Center.

## FORMAT

The series consists of workshops, lecture tours and publications of reference materials and case studies. The activities are specifically designed to raise awareness of the issues at hand and generate policy recommendations after each event with a focus on practical elements and experiences, leading to the development of good practices. These case studies of good practices form the basis for policy recommendations. The main recommendations are submitted to ASEM Foreign Ministries through the ASEF Board Governors and ASEM Contact Points.

The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** was established in February 1997 under the framework of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process. ASEF advances mutual understanding and collaboration between the people of Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)

The **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an informal process of dialogue and co-operation. It brings together Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission. [www.aseminfoboard.org](http://www.aseminfoboard.org)

**ORANISATION**

The AEDJ is co-organised in partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation, Indonesia. Selected projects under this series were organised in ad-hoc partnerships. ASEF acts as co-ordinating secretariat of the series.

Supervision of the series is entrusted to an Advisory Group consisting of 10 experts from relevant international and regional organisations, NGOs and the academe in the field of democratisation and justice. The Advisory Group has a consultative status, providing insights and ideas and meets every 12-18 months.

**ACTIVITIES**

<p><i>Comparing Access to Justice in Asian and European Transitional Countries</i> 27–28 June 2005, Bogor, Indonesia In partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (Indonesia) and The Habibie Center (Indonesia)</p>	<p><i>13<sup>th</sup> International Anti-Corruption Conference</i> ASEF workshop: Protecting the Whistleblowers - Asian and European Perspectives 30 October – 2 November 2008, Athens, Greece In partnership with Transparency International</p>
<p><i>Lecture Tour "Access to Justice and Public Empowerment"</i> by Pavol Zilnik, VIA URIS – Center for Public Advocacy, Slovakia 23 November – 6 December 2007 Venues: Delhi, Vientiane, Phnom Penh, Jakarta</p>	<p><i>Improving the Role of the Police in Asia and Europe &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Advisory Group Meeting of the Asia-Europe Democratisation and Justice Series</i> 3-5 December 2008, Delhi, India In partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (Indonesia) and the Developing Countries Research Center (DCRC), University of Delhi</p>
<p><i>1<sup>st</sup> Advisory Group Meeting of the Asia-Europe Democratisation and Justice Series</i> Jakarta, Indonesia, 3-4 December 2007 In partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (Indonesia)</p>	<p><i>Workshop "Good Practices Handbook for Policing in Asia and Europe"</i> 18-19 August 2009, Bogor, Indonesia In partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (Indonesia)</p>
<p><i>Lecture Tour "Transitional Justice and Human Rights"</i> By Neou Kassie, Peace and Development Institute Cambodia 5-17 March 2008 Venues: Strasbourg, Brussels, Budapest, Bucharest, Trnava</p>	<p><i>Lecture Tour: The Establishment of an Ombudsman Institution</i> By Dr. Roel Fernhout, Professor of Law, Radboud University Nijmegen &amp; Former National Ombudsman of the Netherlands 3-13 November 2009 Venues: Jakarta, Phnom Penh, Vientiane, Hanoi, Ulan Bator</p>

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