



**RAOUL
WALLENBERG
INSTITUTE**
OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW



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Human rights and ICT tackled in ASEM seminar

12th Informal Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Seminar on Human Rights: Human Rights and Information and Communication Technology (27-29 June 2012, Seoul, Korea)

25 June, Seoul– Developments in information and communication technology enhance freedom of expression but come with potential threats to security, privacy and intellectual property. The protection of human rights online is the focus of the 12th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights.

Political Advisor to the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Olof Ehrenkrona, notes: "The concern for online national security should also be mirrored in the protection of individuals and their rights online. The 20th century Conventions that have safeguarded human rights for so long have to adapt to the internet age. Understanding and discussing the impact of the digital revolution on human rights protection has become crucial, more than ever. Human rights should be protected online as well as safeguarded offline".

Access to new technology platforms can help improve people's lives – both in economic and social terms; however, a large portion of the world's population is still deprived of these modern technologies.

"Addressing the digital divide is of utmost importance if we are to succeed in bridging socio-economic inequalities between and within states and across sectors," points out Ambassador Rosario Manalo, Philippine AICHR Commissioner. "A human rights-based approach to ensure that people have access to ICT appears to be the best way forward."

Speaking on behalf of the Asia-Europe Foundation, Executive Director Ambassador Michel Filhol notes the relevance of Asia-Europe dialogue on digital human rights: "The Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights has always played a key role in advancing dialogue on human rights issues in the ASEM region. By focusing on issues related to freedom of expression, right to privacy, intellectual property, digital divide and the cultural enjoyment of the internet, this year's seminar will link human rights issues to the ICT debate in-depth for the first time within the framework of the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM)".

The 12th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights is hosted by:



The Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights series is co-organised by the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (delegated by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs), the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, and the Asia-Europe Foundation.

Hosted by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, the 12th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights will take place on 27-29 June 2012, at the Plaza Hotel in Seoul.

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ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



Asia-Europe Foundation

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), which currently comprises of 46 member states plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat (www.aseminfoboard.org) ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since engaged over 17,000 direct participants through more than 550 projects in the realms of economy and society, environment, education, public health, arts and culture, human rights and governance, and inter-communal dialogue. www.asef.org

In 2012, ASEF is commemorating its 15th Anniversary and invites everyone to take part in celebrating **Connected Histories, Shared Future**.



Raoul Wallenberg Institute

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law is an independent academic institution dedicated to the promotion of human rights through research, training and education. Established in 1984 at the Faculty of Law at Lund University, Sweden, the institute is currently involved in organising in Lund two Masters Programs and an interdisciplinary human rights programme at the undergraduate level. Host of one of the largest human rights libraries in the Nordic countries and engaged in various research and publication activities, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute provides researchers and students with a conducive study environment. The Institute maintains extensive relationships with academic human rights institutions worldwide. www.rwi.lu.se



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ABOUT THE HOST



National Human Rights Commission of Korea

The National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) is an independent government body established in 2001 to ensure protection of the inviolable and fundamental human rights of all individuals and promotion of the standards of human rights. The Commission also contributes to realization of human dignity and values, and safeguard of the basic order of democracy. <http://www.humanrights.go.kr/english>