

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**MORE INFORMATION**

<http://tinyurl.com/d2wrswn>

# ASEM Outlook is an exercise to study inter-regionalism

**“The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Outlook project helps us identify factors that drive relationships between Europe and Asia. Particularly underlining the specific roles of regional organisations such as the European Union and the ASEAN.”**

The above remark was made Prof. Luk Van Langenhove, Director, United Nations University – Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS), during his opening remarks at the ASEM Outlook 2012 workshop in Singapore on 3 December 2012.

The ASEM Outlook 2012 workshop (3-4 December 2012) brought together 18 international participants from the public and the business sector, civil society organisations, think tanks and academia and media.

The event was organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the United Nations University – Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS).

“The idea is to provide a platform for sharing ideas in an open and frank dialogue”, highlighted Mr Karsten Warnecke, ASEF’s Deputy Executive Director. “This 4<sup>th</sup> ASEM Outlook workshop is different from the past three workshops. Rather than focusing on the past and present experiences, this one explores future possibilities for stronger bi-regional cooperation”, he added.

“The highlight of the event is the interactivity, especially during the group discussions when participants are free to present their visions for Asia and Europe,” shared Alexander C. Chandra, one of the workshop participants from Indonesia. Mr Chandra is the Trade Knowledge Network (TKN) Southeast Asia Coordinator for the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

The ASEM Outlook Report has been published in advance of this workshop. The Report is a key resource to better understand the forces influencing Asia-Europe relations today. It focuses on the future of Asia-Europe relations in four sectors: security and conflict management, economic and financial integration, environmental governance, and public health and pandemic preparedness. This two-volume publication contains recommendations to address emerging global and regional challenges.

For more information please visit <http://tinyurl.com/d2wrswn>

## ABOUT ORGANISERS

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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 49 member states plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat ([www.aseminfoboard.org](http://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 600 projects in the realms of governance and human rights, economy and society, sustainable development and environment, public health, arts and culture, and academic co-operation and education. In 2012, ASEF is commemorating its 15th Anniversary and invites everyone to take part in celebrating 'Connected Histories, Shared Future'.

For more information, please visit: [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org)

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**United Nations University – Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS)**, based in Bruges, Belgium, is a research and training institute of the United Nations University. UNU-CRIS specialises in studying the processes and consequences of regional integration and cooperation.

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