



ASIA-EUROPE LECTURE TOUR

“THE REGIONALISATION OF THE WORLD. WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ASIA?” SINGAPORE – BANGKOK – MANILA – SEOUL – SHANGHAI

Prof Dr Luk Van Langenhove

Director of the United Nations University Institute for Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS, Bruges – Belgium)

ABSTRACT

While the Westphalian world order of states faces challenges brought about by globalisation, unilateral globalisation has also revealed some deficiencies that resulted in conflicts between states and regions. In this facet of fast-changing and ever-complex world order, regionalisation has emerged as an alternative to enhancing better governance at all levels of community, state and region. The European model of regional integration, the European Union, has evolved considerably and has deepened the assimilation of many European states into one entity. Asia has also set about its movement towards the regionalisation since the second half of 20th century and, depending on their geographical and political circumstances, sub-continental regionalisation has been formed and moving towards closer integration.

Prof Van Langenhove will primarily discuss the relations between sovereign states and regional institutions. Key discussions will centre on the role of states in driving the region-building process and the subsequent consequence of regional organisations transforming the Westphalian world order. Prof Van Langenhove will discuss many geographical and structural varieties of regionalism, looking at how the process is impacted by the size of the states involved as well as the challenges confronting these states. Deeper regionalisation has had a profound impact on multilateralism, bearing major prospects for a more multidimensional and multipolar world order. While the main discussion will concentrate on Europe, Prof Van Langenhove will encourage dialogue on the comparisons with Asian regional integration and its implication for Europe and the rest of the world.

The lecture will be based on outcomes of ongoing research projects carried out by UNU-CRIS. It can be regarded as a ‘sneak preview’ of Prof Van Langenhove’s upcoming book “Building Regions. The Regionalisation of the World” (Ashgate, 2011).



PROFILE OF SPEAKER

Luk Van Langenhove (BE) is Director of the Comparative Regional Integration Studies Institute of the United Nations University (UNU-CRIS) in Bruges and Representative of the UNU Rector at UNESCO in Paris. Before he was Deputy Secretary-General of the Belgian Federal Ministry of Science Policy, Deputy Chief of Cabinet of the Belgian Federal Minister of Science Policy and a researcher and lecturer at the Free University of Brussels (VUB). Since 2006 he is Vice-President of the International Social Sciences Council. He currently teaches at the VUB, ULB and the College of Europe.

ABOUT THE 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*). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since implemented over 450 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe. www.asef.org

* ASEM now brings together 43 member states (Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, 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) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseminfoboard.org



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