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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND ASEM 2

"No stability without human rights protection"

**Press briefing: 2.30pm, 30 March,
Foreign Press Association, 11 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1**

Amnesty International will be holding a briefing for the international media, to highlight its agenda for the ASEM 2 summit. The briefing will be given by **Rory Mungoven, Director of the organization's Asia-Pacific Program** at its London headquarters, and **Irene Fernandez, Director of Tenaganita**, a Malaysian NGO working on migrant labour and human rights.

According to Amnesty International, the current prospects for the Asia region are deeply troubling when viewed from a human rights perspective. One of the major contributing factors to the Asian economic crisis has been the failure of political, legal and institutional development to keep pace with rapid economic and social change.

The crisis has been fuelled by unchecked corruption and a lack of transparency and accountability. Local people who have spoken out have been jailed or silenced by authoritarian governments, and international investors have been prepared to turn a blind eye to the human rights violations which have caused political instability. Unless these deep-rooted problems are tackled by governments at the ASEM 2 summit, long-term political and economic stability will remain unachievable.

Amnesty international is calling for an "ethical" ASEM engagement policy with human rights at its centre. This ethical policy should be focal to the "three pillars" of development to be discussed at ASEM 2 -- economic development, security and people-to-people links.

Amnesty International has produced a media pack for the summit, including news releases, country briefings and details on the organization's overall agenda for ASEM 2. In addition, we have beta-sp b-roll and video news releases. **Amnesty International researchers on countries at ASEM2 will also be available for live interviews, scene-setters or briefings.**

*Source: Amnesty International, International Secretariat,
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