

## **CLOSING CEREMONY**

### **Speech by Esther Viva, Spain**

*Good evening friends and comrades,*

During these 3 days, members and representatives from social organisations, trade unions, antiwar movements, NGO's, rural groups, indigenous people, antidebt networks, feminist groups... we have met in Hanoi, in the ASEM People's Forum to exchange ideas and to discuss our demands and strategies.

We have specially focused on peace; economical and social security; democratisation and people's rights.

We have had important debates on key issues as terrorism and anti-terrorism; the relationship between the civil society and the governments; and about the collaboration between different ethnic and religious groups to solve armed conflicts.

We have also exchanged ideas and perspectives on the challenges in the peace and antiwar movements in Asia and Europe; the alternatives to water privatisation; and the GATS challenges to national sovereignty and people's security. We are recognising the growing need to interlink our movements, issues and concerns.

The liberalisation of markets, the increasing militarisation, the privatisation of our fundamental resources... that's something that is happening in the South, in Asia, but also in the North, in Europe.

That is why we have to unite forces to build bridges, to be able to face this neo-liberal and capitalist system that prioritizes the economic needs above those of people. We have to be able to confront together the rise of militarism, the attacks on human and social rights and the increase of the USA Imperialism, that has its maximum expression on the occupation in Iraq and the genocide in Palestine. But we have to also confront other regional imperialisms as the European Union one that promotes a Constitution based on neoliberal principles.

This 3 days meeting it has been important to bring proposals to the Asia Europe meeting that will take place in Vietnam next October.

But it has also been important to work together, to debate about alternatives and to link our struggles.

And I understand that this meeting doesn't finish here. That we will continue working to strength our linkages and cooperation to get a better Asia, a better Europe and a better world.

Thank you.

## **Speech by Theresa Agravante, Philippines**

Just as international interest for the ASEM 5 People's Conference was high especially because it was going to be held in Vietnam, eagerness, curiosity and desire to be part of this Hanoi cross-regional gathering was similarly great among the progressive organizations in the Philippines. Most, if not all of us, wanted to see for ourselves how life runs in a country under a socialist system which to us progressives in the Philippines just remain vestiges of a dream, or for some, still continue to dream about and struggle for.

That is a major reason why Filipinos are quite many in this conference.

The other factor is of course, our growing recognition to link up with social justice movements in other countries and the global movement for deglobalization as we increasingly feel the ravage of the rule of transnational corporations, the multilateral financial institutions, the WTO in our daily life and struggle. We know that our local and national struggles can no longer suffice to lead us to the road of social transformation as many economic and political policies that affect us are the making of global governance institutions. But we do realize that it is also out of our local, sectoral and national struggles and movements that a global people's movement can be born and continue to grow.

Our participation in this conference has been both enriching and overwhelming. We have been exposed to new knowledge and new dimensions of running debates, to new tools, including new methodologies and processes of people's empowerment, cooperation and action.

We will certainly ponder on these new learnings and study and discuss more when we get home, and apply them where they are feasible.

However, what many of us have missed in the discussions is how to translate all these into concrete local, national, regional actions and campaigns, and how to work more effectively to get the various issues to our grassroots organizations and be made known to our fellow Filipinos; for these to be taken up in our lobby work with our governments, for these to be presented and pushed to be taken up in the ASEM structure.

For all that we gained and contributed, and we wish to say that we are privileged to have been part of the ASEM 5 People's Conference in Vietnam.

To the International Organizing Committee and our Vietnamese Organizing Committee, we salute you for all your hard work and the perseverance to see through this conference to the end despite the myriad problems that you had to face and solve.

To all the social movements, people's organizations, political parties and NGOs that participated in the conference, a big challenge is at hand to work together and bring all these issues to our respective organizations and movements, citizenries, governments and governance structures in the regional and international levels and see them to fruition.

Thank you very much.

**Speech by Minna Hakkarainen**  
**Chair of the Finnish-Vietnamese Friendship Association**

As we have now spent a couple of intensive days together discussing issues, which we all found important enough to arrive to Hanoi from different parts of Europe and Asia, it is time for us to assess the results of this forum. But when doing that, I think it is important to remember that the final statement of the forum is just one way of seeing what we have achieved by participating in the forum.

When listening to the presentations during the forum and having talked with several participants here, I have realized that actually, we arrived here for various reasons: some of us came here in order to meet their friends and other activists working for the same issues, some came here to be able to tell other participants about the difficulties and struggles of their own countries and communities, some came to build new networks, and some perhaps just out of curiosity to see what Vietnam looks like today. And some of us are participating a big, international conference of the kind for the first time and perhaps, and I hope.. perhaps, have got some new ideas to think about even after the forum.

Therefore, I dare to say that the outcome of this forum cannot and should not be evaluated just by looking at the official output of the forum, but rather by looking at the individual level as well, because that's what the civil society is being made of: individual gains and losses.

In autumn 2006 we shall meet again, in Helsinki Finland. Finland is a country in northern part of Europe, between Sweden and Russia. It is a country of the same size as Vietnam but with a population of just 5 million. Finland is therefore a spacious, peaceful quiet country with a forest cover of 70 % and some 100 000 lakes.

In Finland there is about 10 000 NGOs, and the civil society is active and quite powerful. What makes Finnish NGOs different from other Western NGOs is that we have fairly close contacts with the government, as most of the NGOs are funded by the government. However Finnish civil society is free to criticize the government if they like.

Here in Hanoi we have six representatives from Finland participating the ASEM People's Forum 5 and learning how to organize the next one, ASEM People's Forum 6 in Helsinki, September 2006.

So we would warmly welcome you all to Finland in 2006.

Tervetuloa Suomeen (Finnish)

Valkommen till Finland (Swedish)

Welcome to Finland

Bienvenue a la Finlande (French)

Villkommen nach Finnland

Finrando e irasshaimasu

Yindee tii daai raap tii Finland na khaa (thai)

Selamat Datung di Finlandia (bahasa Indonesia/Malesia)

Chao mung cac ban den Phan Lan!

## **Speech by Zhan Xiaoan, China**

I'm very pleased to join all of you here in Hanoi at the ASEM People's Forum V. I'm also very pleased to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Chinese NGOs who participate in this Forum, to share with you our following remarks on this Forum.

During this Forum, we have discussed a wide range of world issues of our common concern, including peace and security, economic and social security, as well as democracy and people's rights. All participants have actively participated in every workshop and the plenary, and also busy with the networking. I'm especially impressed by the active participation of NGOs from our host country, including their religious groups. We exchange our views, information and experience in the atmosphere of cooperation and friendship. We respect our differences and find our commonality. These dialogues have enhanced our mutual understanding and trust. The Final Statement we just adopted reflects faithfully our concerns and views on world issues. I can safely say that this Forum is a successful event and has made positive contributions to the ASEM process.

The success of the Forum is based on the excellent organizational work of the events. The International Organizing Committee and the National Organizing Committee have done a wonderful job in this regard.

The themes of the Forum reflect the common concern of our civil societies. The program of the Forum, including 3 plenary and 29 workshops is well organized. The logistic arrangements for all the participants including airport pickup, local transportation, accommodation and meals are also in perfect arrangements. We have seen a lot of Vietnamese volunteers actively supporting this Forum. Here we would like to express our heart-felt gratitude to our host, the National Organizing Committee of Vietnam, especially the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the Vietnamese government who attaches great importance to this Forum. Our thanks also go to the International Organizing Committee as well as all the participants. It is the excellent arrangements of the organizers and the active participation of the civil society that make this Forum a great success.

The Forum held in Hanoi also give us a good opportunity to have a better understanding of our host country Vietnam, including its rich history and culture, as well as people's achievements. We have seen with our own eyes the remarkable changes of the country since its renewal nearly 20 years ago. Its dynamic economy, peaceful life and hospitality of the people leave us a deep impression.

*Dear Friends,*

I would like once again to express my thanks to our host for the high standard organizational work and IOC members for their devotion to our people's movement. I believe that, with further efforts by all of us, the People's Forum will make greater contribution to the ASEM process and to the solidarity of the people of Asia and Europe.

Thank you,

**Closing speech by Mr. Vu Xuan Hong**  
**President of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations**  
**Chairman of the National Organizing Committee**  
**of ASEM People's Forum V**

*Distinguished Guests,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Friends,*

After three extremely actively working days, we are now ensured that the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEM People's Forum has recorded a great success.

Over 500 participants representing 350 people's organizations in Asia and Europe have attended this Hanoi Forum. All agendas and programs of the Forum have been completely realized. Discussions throughout 3 conferences and 29 workshops have been enthusiastically conducted in an open atmosphere, touching upon many interesting topics. Participants had an unique opportunity to share information and ideas, to exchange experiences and discussions, and accordingly to propose measures of joint-actions in all matters regarding human security in Asia and Europe. The diversification and differences in nationalities, organizations, viewpoints have contributed to the richness of discussions' topics, without restraining the consent on the common goals.

This Forum has built on the invaluable traditions inherited from the previous ASEM People's Forums, meanwhile offered a good opportunity for international comrades, friends and participants to get acquainted with the Vietnamese history, country, and people, as well as our people's will, aspirations, expectations and dreams for the future.

*Friends,*

Hosting the Forum posed a tremendous challenge to the Vietnam Organizing Committee, amid of its limitation of facilities, which restrained us from timely fulfilling your requirements. We are thankful for your understanding, sharing, cooperation and assistance reserved for us, so that we have been able to bring about a good success to the Forum.

On behalf of the National Organizing Committee, I would like to thank the International Organizing Committee for its close cooperation with us during this Forum. Our gratitude goes to distinguished speakers, international and Vietnamese participants for your responsible and constructive participation in the Forum. It is also our deep

gratitude to international participants who joined the struggle for the just cause of the Vietnamese people, came to Vietnam this time to express once again their solidarity to Vietnamese people. We are thankful for your heartfelt words and feelings toward our people and country.

Our sincere thanks also go to the Government, organizations and agencies of Vietnam for their support, assistance to the National Organizing Committee during the preparation and conduction of the Forum; to the media, staff, volunteers, interpreters, technicians and all those who contributed to the success of the Forum.

It is my strong confidence that, toward the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit, ASEM People's Forum V has strengthened mutual understanding, solidarity, unity and opened new possibilities for our solidarity, cooperation for a better ASEM, for human security in Asia and Europe, for a world of peace, equitable and sustainable development.

With that spirit, may I declare close the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEM People's Forum. My best wishes for your good health.

Thank you.

**FINAL STATEMENT ASEM PEOPLE'S FORUM V**  
**"PEOPLE'S ACTIONS FOR HUMAN SECURITY IN ASIA AND EUROPE"**

**Hanoi, Vietnam, 9 September 2004**

We, over 500 women and men representing people's organisations from Asian and European countries gathered at the ASEM People's Forum V held in Hanoi from September 6-9, 2004 under the theme "People's actions for human security in Asia and Europe"

- Building on the traditions and values of the Asia Europe People's Forum as a venue for people, their organisations and social movements to exchange ideas, analysis and common concerns of the effects of the current structure of economic development on the lives, livelihoods, rights and security of the women, men and children in both our regions;
- Concerned about the increasing militarization of international relations, the weakening of democracies and the attacks on human and social rights. We are concerned that women's and Indigenous People's rights and livelihoods are specifically under threat;
- Recalling and re-emphasizing the declarations of the People's Forums held in Bangkok (1996), London (1998), Seoul (2000) and Copenhagen (2002);
- Promoting mutual understanding and people's joint actions for peace, equitable and sustainable development, democracy and social justice in Asia and Europe;
- Recognising the growing need to interlink our movements, issues and concerns
- Having discussed at the People's Forum in Hanoi, respecting the diversity and complementarity of different values and with the aim of developing concrete responses and recommendations;

state the following:

ASEM People's Forum V calls for fundamental changes in Asia-Europe relations so that the necessary steps can be taken toward establishing a just and equal world where people's rights, sustainable economic and social development and people-centred security dominate.

**Peace and Security:**

In many ASEM countries and parts of some ASEM countries, the escalation of conflicts rooted in social, political, economic, ethnic and religious tensions has led to the

curtailment of civil liberties and human rights, further undermining people's efforts to progress towards greater human security, social justice and democracy.

We will work with Asian and European people's organisations to

- continue to strengthen the co-operation between Asian and European peace and economic justice activists to build and sustain our movement within and across our countries;
- work to end the arms race and militarization, including a total ban on weapons of mass destruction; supporting the NPT Review Conference to be held in New York (May 2005); intensify dialogues and exchanges among different peoples from Asia and Europe, promoting mutual understanding, the culture of peace and enhancing people's participation, particularly women, in conflict resolution;
- demand justice for all victims of weapons of mass destruction including people with disabilities;
- endorse and support the call for justice for the victims and survivors of nuclear weapons, Agent Orange and 'depleted' uranium;

We call on ASEM governments to contribute to world peace and security through preventing war, rejecting all kinds of use of force or threats to use force in inter-state relations, through disarmament, the promotion of conflict prevention and the peaceful solutions of conflicts on the basis of international laws and respect for the independence and sovereignty of nations; To progress towards this end we call upon ASEM governments to

- reduce military expenditure which should instead be spent on health, education and human welfare
- encourage the public disclosure of their defence and security budgets
- stop waging wars of aggression and using weapons that cause multiple and inter-generational disabilities, such as Agent Orange or 'depleted uranium', and formulate and implement laws in relation to compensation for those already affected;
- end their current military involvement in Iraq Recognise and accept active citizen's and people's organisations as key actors in addressing conflict and to facilitate their participation in the process of conflict resolution
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- repeal national legislation and policies introduced under the pretext of "the War against Terrorism" which imposes restrictions on citizens', including migrant workers, legitimate rights and interests, victimises Muslim communities and peaceful movements
- ensure due process in criminal justice systems for suspected 'terrorists' including an end to detention without trial
- ensure respect for fundamental rights on personal privacy as recognized by international laws
- ensure respect for the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and political prisoners, as recognised by international laws, agreements and covenants
- ratify and implement all UN Conventions related to People with Disabilities, including the draft convention on the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of People with Disabilities
- Systematically and comprehensively report on the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), in consultation with children

### **Economic and Social Security:**

Asian and European economies are undergoing disturbing changes that are creating human insecurity, a phenomenon characterised by the 'race to the bottom'. In many Asian and European countries, citizens, including migrants, are denied their fundamental rights to essential services. Transferring of control to the private sector is increasingly being encouraged and supported, generally leading to decreased access and increased vulnerability for millions of women, men and children across Asia and Europe. Labour restructuring in both regions has transformed workers, including migrant workers, into flexible, substitutable, and disposable commodities. Women and child workers are most vulnerable in this environment.

EU and WTO rooted agricultural policies, subsidies and agreements that favour corporate agribusiness are having severely detrimental effects on the lives and livelihoods of millions of small-scale agricultural producers across Asia and Europe.

We will work with Asian and European people's organisations to promote the interests and rights of farmers, fisherfolk, migrant workers, people with disabilities, women, children, indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities and workers; To do this we will

- promote human security, poverty elimination, the right to Health, Education, Food and Water for All
- promote the right to sustainable and decent work

- promote sustainable agricultural and rural development based on the principles of food sovereignty
- protest against unjust international economic order which is leading to a loss in national sovereignty, growing social disparities and environmental destruction;
- struggle against unfair trade practices and agreements such as Agreement on Agriculture and Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights which are endangering the lives of millions of peasants, workers and indigenous peoples in both regions;
- develop and promote people-centred approaches to trade and investment, including public/public and public/community partnerships.

We call on ASEM governments to

- enhance economic co-operation which promotes equitable, sustainable and people-centred development, reduces the gap between the rich and the poor, supports poverty alleviation, respects state economic sovereignty and human economic-social security;
- strengthen the role and responsibility of their governments in poverty alleviation, in providing accessible, equitable and quality health care, education and universal access to water; ensure that essential services are in public control.
- reject the provisions of GATS and the July 2004 WTO framework agreed in Geneva, which are detrimental to people-centred sustainable and equitable development
- position food safety, sovereignty and access to local food at the centre of their agricultural policies in order to achieve food security for all. ASEM should ensure the end of agricultural dumping through all kinds of subsidies related to exports that affect small-farmers' livelihood in both regions.
- Recognise that environment and security are inextricably linked to sustainable development and that it is essential to develop institutions and approaches to governance in this context
- ratify, respect and realise ILO Core Labour Standards, including ILO Convention 97 and 143 and the UN Convention on the protection of all Migrant Workers and their families and integrate them into national legislation in supporting equal treatment for all workers including migrants who are documented and undocumented, formal and informal sector and homeworkers.
- Fully implement commitments to CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development and apply a critical gender analysis on the impact of economic reforms

- adopt and implement comprehensive legislation with respect to the rights and needs of people with disabilities
- Ensure the protection of the lives and livelihoods of ethnic minorities
- submit ASEM related trade and investment agreements and policies to public and national parliamentary scrutiny.
- ensure that the AEBF becomes a mechanism for supporting socially and economically sustainable and equitable patterns of trade and investment.

### **Democratisation and People's Rights:**

We believe that respect for human rights and self-determination and the development and strengthening of open and participatory democracies form the basis for sustainable economic and social development both nationally and internationally.

Democracy has many components and varies from society to society. However, there are some key principles which we feel are essential to the promotion of a social and political fabric which can be the foundation for sustainable economic and social development.

We will work with Asian and European peoples' organisations to:

- Build a strong active citizen's organisations based on a wide degree of public participation and facilitate exchanges between them including at the grassroots level
- Deepen the process of democratization in active citizens' organisations to be genuinely plural and inclusive
- Develop new institutions in both regions which can both deliver basic democratic rights and strengthen people's participation in decisions that affect their lives so contributing to deeper and more participatory democracy
- Recognise the particular barriers preventing people with disabilities, especially women, in exercising their rights and accordingly ensure the provision of the necessary accessibility and support for them to participate in people's movements
- Closely collaborate with the media to promote the goals agreed in this statement.

We call on ASEM governments to:

- Reaffirm their commitment to building strong participatory democratic societies based on the widest degree of people's participation
- Use the opportunity of their political dialogue to promote and respect human rights, participatory democracy and promote gender equality

- Take all necessary measures to end trafficking in women and children;
- Ensure respect for the freedom of association, expression and assembly
- Establish mechanisms for the redress of and reparation for victims and survivors of human rights violations
- Ensure respect for and protection of indigenous peoples' rights and cultures
- Develop a dialogue between Asia and European governments on the role of participatory local government in promoting sustainable development and democratic services in practice;
- Ensure all children, parents and communities are fully aware of children's rights as expressed in the CRC
- Fully support children by including children's issues and views in all outcome documents of local, national, regional and international events regarding children

We continue to call for the development of a strong just and equitable social dimension to all aspects of the ASEM process. We call on ASEM to establish, following appropriate consultation, by ASEM6, a Forum which can further enable people and People's Organisations, including Trade Unions, to contribute to the building of a new Asia-European partnership and interaction with the official ASEM process.

We call upon all people's organisations in Asia and Europe to strengthen their linkages and co-operation, and join us in this common struggle for a better ASEM, for human security in Asia and Europe, for peace, equitable and sustainable development, democracy, equality of peoples and between women and men and social progress in both our regions and the world over.

Following the ASEM People's Forum V we confirm our willingness to further strengthen the ties between Vietnamese people and people's organisations with social movements and active citizen's organisations in Asia and Europe.

Finally, we thank the Vietnamese people, people's organisations and hosts and express our solidarity in their continuing efforts for a peaceful and democratic society and equitable and sustainable social development.