

Lecture and publication launch

## The Role of Civil Society Organisations in Community-Building

With the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Community coming into effect in 2015, the goal of strengthening its ASEAN Socio-cultural Community pillar by increasing the participation of stakeholders and the peoples of ASEAN in building the ASEAN Community is clear. One crucial way to enable wider participation is the development of civil society and its relationship with ASEAN through constructive engagement processes.

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Office for Regional Cooperation in Asia, undertook a mapping exercise of civil society in the ten ASEAN member states and a study on the role of regional civil society organisations (CSOs). The publication “**An ASEAN Community for All: Exploring the Scope for Civil Society Engagement**” will be officially launched in Jakarta on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2011. It is through these efforts that FES supports the process of greater civil society participation in ASEAN and also tries to fill a knowledge gap by providing a comprehensive overview of the civil society landscape in ASEAN.

The Singapore chapter was written by **Dr. Gillian Koh** and **Ms. Debbie Soon** from the Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (NUS). They will present the findings of their study addressing questions on the diversity of CSOs in Singapore, their level of organisation and structure and the structural processes of consultation, and will look primarily at two dimensions: externally, at the legal, political and advocacy environment and the thematic areas in which CSOs operate; and internally at the organisational capacity of CSOs to perform their roles.

**Dr. Dorothee de Nève**, Professor for Political Science at the Fernuniversitaet Hagen, Germany, will provide an overview of how public interest groups and social movements in Europe seek to influence the European policy-making process and the roles they play in community-building.

This event is organised by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Office for Regional Cooperation in Asia and hosted by the EU Centre in Singapore.

### Programme in brief

09:00	Registration & networking breakfast
09:45	Welcome remarks Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee <i>Director, EU Centre in Singapore</i>
09:50	Governance and civil society Prof. Dr. Dorothee de Nève <i>Assistant Professor, Institute for Political Science, FernUniversität Hagen</i>
10:20	Main findings of the mapping Dr. Stefanie Elies <i>Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Office for Regional Cooperation in Asia</i>
10:40	Findings of the Singapore study Dr. Gillian Koh & Ms. Debbie Soon <i>Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore</i>
11:15	Q&A
11:45	Closing Remarks Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee
12:00	End

### Details

**Date:** Thursday, 10th November 2011  
**Time:** 9.00am – 12.00noon  
**Venue:** SR 502, Level 5, NTU@one-north campus, Executive Centre  
 11 Slim Barracks Rise (off North Buona Vista Road) Singapore 138664 [[Map](#)]

To attend this event, please [register online](http://www.eucentre.sg) at [www.eucentre.sg](http://www.eucentre.sg) by 9 November 2011.



Centre in Singapore



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**The Role of Civil Society Organisations in Community-Building**  
10<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**Speakers Profiles**

PD Dr. **Dorothee de Nève** is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the Institute for Political Science at the FernUniversität of Hagen, Germany. She is chair of the department State and Governance. Her research focuses on civil society and other forms of political participation, parties, corruption, and politics and religion in Western and Eastern Europe. She is also advisor and teacher at the International Graduate School Halle-Tokyo on "Formenwandel der Bürgergesellschaft" [Transformation of the Civil Society] and research projects on civil society in Germany and Japan. She has published several articles on the post-socialist transformation process in South-Eastern Europe and is author of a book on socialist and social democratic parties in Albania, Bulgaria and Romania (2002) and on Non-Voters in Western and Eastern Europe (2009).

**Stefanie Elies** is the Director of the Office for Regional Cooperation in Asia of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). She joined FES in 1996 and headed the offices in Shanghai and Hamburg.

Before starting to work at FES she was a researcher and lecturer at the Department for East Asian Studies at the Ruhr-Universität-Bochum, Germany.

Dr. Stefanie Elies studied Sinology and Political Science in Vienna, Münster, Taipei and Bochum. She gained her PhD on a dissertation on "Cultural Orientation under Colonial Repression: The Influence of the May Fourth Movement on Taiwan's Cultural and Social Movement".

**Gillian Koh** is Senior Research Fellow at Politics and Governance cluster of the Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore. Her research areas are electoral politics, the development of civil society and state-society relations in Singapore. She has conducted several surveys on national identity, voter attitudes, civil society, and social resilience. Dr Koh obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree (1988) from the National University of Singapore, a Master of Arts degree (1990) in Third World Studies at the Department of Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, and a PhD from the same department and university in 1995.

**Debbie Soon** is a Research Assistant at the Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and supports the work of the Politics and Governance cluster.

Her research interests include the study of power, political ideology, group identity, consciousness and culture. Some of her published work includes a working paper on the emigration attitudes of young Singaporeans, an opinion piece for the Straits Times on the identity of Singaporeans in a globalised era, and articles for the Institute's newsletter. Ms Soon received her Bachelor's Degree from the National University of Singapore in Political Science. "

**Yeo Lay Hwee** is Director of the European Union Centre in Singapore and teaches part time at both the Nanyang Technological University and the National University of Singapore. She is also Senior Associate Research Fellow at the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) and Adjunct Research Fellow at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS).

An international relations expert, she participates actively both in policy dialogue, research and in academic workshops and conferences. Her research interests revolve around comparative regionalism; ASEAN and EU; and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process. For her exemplary record in research and policy work on regionalism and Asia-Europe / ASEAN-EU relations, she was awarded the Nakasone Yasuhiro Award in June 2007. She had also been awarded various short term visiting fellowships and scholarships taking her to Brussels, Leiden and Aalborg.