

wieka na obecnym jej etapie można uznać co najwyżej za początek kształtowania wytycznych ich promocji.

Katarzyna Łasak

**FRAMEWORK FOR THE DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IN THE ASIA – EUROPE MEETING**

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) started in 1996 with an opening summit of leaders from ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations), China, Japan, Korea, European Union member states and the European Commission. ASEM's official goal was to achieve an innovative broad "Asia-Europe Partnership for Greater Growth" and to build up multi-dimensional cooperation. ASEM has expanded into a specific cooperation which is marked by informality and lack of legally binding instruments. ASEM covers enormous and different but not precisely defined types of functions. This vagueness poses a problem in the context of human rights too. The organization has not accepted a clear concept of human rights. ASEM dialogue has been conducted within its three pillars. Therefore, human rights in ASEM are supposed to be conceptualized within that framework. The political pillar focuses on global threats, promotion of labor as well as environmental questions. The economic pillar reflects a discussion which regards the commonly lowering standard of living. Progress has been most significant in the area of cultural and intellectual exchange within the cultural pillar. ASEM's three pillars have produced moderate tangible results. The lack of clearly defined objectives implied diverse expectations and unrealized potential.