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Site Links Chinese Activists with Peers Across Borders

(Jakarta, October 21, 2008) – Asia Report (亚洲调查), a new Chinese-language website, will link Chinese nonprofit groups with partners in Asia, Asia Catalyst (亚洲促进会) said today. The site provides news on human rights in Asian countries other than China, and information about the local groups campaigning on the issues.

“We asked grassroots Chinese nonprofits what they needed most, and they told us they wanted information about the issues they work on and links to peer groups in Asia,” said Sara Davis, executive director of Asia Catalyst. “The site will help break down barriers that isolate Chinese activists from activists across borders.”

The site, located at www.yazhoudiaocha.com, provides news, translated reports and original articles on economic and social rights in Asia, as well as profiles of groups working on these crucial issues. Already, Asia Report has attracted readers from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, United States, and Europe.

Asia Report focuses on economic and social rights. It contains dedicated sections on issues including advocacy, women’s rights, children’s rights, public health, the environment, migration, law, and AIDS. The site also offers reports and profiles from countries all across Northeast, South and Southeast Asia. It is updated several times a week, edited by Ken Oh and written and researched by a team of volunteers.

The site does not include information about human rights in China, said Davis, as this information is available from other websites. “In the future, we plan to expand the interactive elements of the site and create space for a dialogue between Chinese and Asian NGOs,” Davis said.

Asia Catalyst, a nonprofit organization based in New York City, partners with activists in Asia to inspire, create and launch innovative, self-sustaining programs and organizations that advance human rights, social justice and environmental protection. For more information, visit www.asiacatalyst.org.