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Bart Gaens has worked as an adviser to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland during the preparations for the ASEM6 Summit, held in Helsinki in September 2006. He has edited and co-authored a volume on the role of the ASEM process (“Europe-Asia Interregional Relations. A Decade of ASEM”, Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008). As Senior Researcher at the University of Helsinki Dr Gaens was a member of the Asian-European research team that drafted a critical evaluation study commissioned by the Japanese and Finnish governments on the first ten years of the Asia-Europe Meeting (“ASEM in its Tenth Year. Looking Back, Looking Forward”, Helsinki: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, 2006). Dr Gaens currently works as Acting Professor of Japanese Studies at the University of Helsinki.

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Christopher M. Dent is Professor of East Asia’s International Political Economy, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Leeds, UK. His research interests centre on the international political economy of East Asia and the Asia-Pacific. He has published ten books, the latest being China and Africa Development Relations (editor, London: Routledge, forthcoming 2010), East Asian Regionalism (London: Routledge, 2008) and China, Japan and Regional Leadership in East Asia (editor, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2008). Christopher Dent is also author of around 60 academic articles and other papers. He has acted as a consultant advisor to the British, Australian, Chilean and United States Governments, and European Commission on trade issues, as well an invited speaker at conferences and other events in Asia, Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Oceania. Christopher Dent is also an Expert (Brains Trust) member of the Evian Group.

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Mr Spencer was appointed Australia’s Ambassador to APEC in January 2006. Previously he served as Australia’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organisation in Geneva. Before taking up this position in August 2001, he was Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and prior to that, First Assistant Secretary of the Americas and Europe Division. Mr Spencer was Deputy Chief of Mission at the Australian Embassy in Washington 1993-1996, and High Commissioner to Canada 1991-1993. He was Senior Trade Commissioner in Hong Kong 1986-1989, and headed the Melbourne office of the Department of Trade 1984-1986. Mr Spencer also served in Tokyo (Commercial Counsellor), 1980-84, Geneva 1973-78 (Australian Delegation to the GATT), and London.

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Francois Lafond is the director of the Paris office of The German Marshall Fund of the United States (since July 2008). Most recently, François was a special adviser of the Italian Minister for Regional Affairs and Local Autonomies (2007-8), responsible for international relations of the think tank Globoc in Roma, and associate professor at the Centre for European Studies of Sciences-Po Paris (2001-9). Previously, he was special adviser of the Italian undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs (2006-7), deputy director of Policy Network in London (2003-6), researcher and then deputy
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Hu Dawei is Senior Research Fellow at Centre for EU Studies at CIIS. He studied philosophy and international relations at Hebei University, Renmin University of China and China Foreign Affairs University. Upon received his Ph.D in 2004, he joined the CIIS and has been doing research on issues such as China-EU relations, European Union’s foreign policy. China’s foreign policy, energy security as well as climate change. He worked as visiting scholar at DGAP Berlin and German Development Institute in Bonn, in 2007. Dr. Hu published extensively on academic journals and is a frequent commentator on international affairs on the news media.

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Jacques Gravereau is President and founder of the HEC EURASIA Institute, an Asia-Europe think tank based at the HEC School of Management in Paris. Previously a senior executive in multi-national companies, Gravereau has served as National Advisor for Foreign Trade in France and is a regular consultant in corporate strategies to the French government and the European Union. Gravereau was involved in the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF) since its first meeting in 1996 in Paris, and has been member of the AEBF Core Group since 2004. Gravereau has a Ph.D in Economics from Paris Sorbonne University and an MBA from HEC. He is author of eight award-winning books and has been awarded the Legion of Honour (Knight).

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Thomas Roe is the Asia Adviser and ASEM Counsellor in the Directorate General for External Relations of the European Commission based in Brussels. Other previous roles have included Head of Delegation of the European Union Office in Hong Kong and Macao (Hong Kong 2004-2008), Desk Officer for Indonesia and East Timor, EU Fellow and Visiting Professor in Globalisation Studies at George Mason University USA Washington DC 2000-2001, Head of

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Luk Van Langenhove (BE) is Director of the Comparative Regional Integration Studies Institute of the United Nations University (UNU-CRIS) in Bruges and Representative of the UNU Rector at UNESCO in Paris. Before, he was Deputy Secretary-General of the Belgian Federal Ministry of Science Policy, and a researcher and lecturer at the Free University of Brussels (VUB). Since 2006 he is Vice-President of the International Social Sciences Council. He currently teaches at the VUB, ULB and the College of Europe. He has published widely on regional integration, social sciences theory, positioning theory and psychology. Recent books include People and Societies (Routledge, 2010), World-Regional Social Policy and Global Governance (with Deacon, Yeates and Macovei, Routledge, 2010). He is also the editor of The EU as a Global Player: The Politics of Interregionalism (with Söderbaum, 2006), and Global Politics of Regionalism: Theory and Practice (with Farrell and Hettne, 2005).

**Maristela dela Cruz Cardenas**  **Philippines**

Maris dela Cruz is the Operations Manager of the Asian Secretariat of Asia-Europe People’s Forum (AEPF). She was the Project Officer on Urban Poor and Housing of the Local Governance Unit and then the Coordinator for the Asian Social Movements Program of the Institute for Popular Democracy before she became full time in the AEPF Secretariat. Maris had spent considerable years with the social movements and in research, advocacy work, and policy engagements with the government. She was with the Freedom from Debt Coalition for twelve years after she studied Political Science at the University of the Philippines where she was a student leader then. In FDC, she was the campaigns program coordinator focusing on the issues of privatization of public utilities such as power and water and the deregulation of oil industry. Until today, she continues her advocacy on power industry privatization through the electricity consumers group EmPOWER Consumers. Maris was once with media. She won a Jaime V. Ongpin Awards for Excellence in Journalism for the year 2001 for her article on power industry privatization that was published in series in a Filipino newspaper in 2000. In 2007-2008, she had a regular column in a Filipino newspaper.

**Melissa H. Conley Tyler**  **Australia**

Melissa H. Conley Tyler is the National Executive Director of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. She is a lawyer and specialist in conflict resolution including negotiation, mediation and peace education. She was previously Program Manager of the International Conflict Resolution Centre at the University of Melbourne and remains a Senior Fellow of Melbourne Law School. Ms Conley Tyler has an international profile in conflict resolution including membership of the United Nations Expert Working Group on Online Dispute Resolution and the Editorial Board of Conflict Resolution Quarterly. She convened the Third UN Forum on Online Dispute Resolution in 2004 and a Fulbright Symposium on Peace & Human Rights Education in 2005.
In 2008 Ms Conley Tyler was selected as one of the nation’s 1,000 “best and brightest” to participate in the Australia 2020 Summit convened by the Prime Minister to discuss future challenges facing Australia. Later in 2008 she was selected by the Fletcher Alumni Association of Washington D.C. to receive its Young Alumni Award for most outstanding graduate of the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy under 40. She is listed in Routledge’s Who’s Who in International Affairs and International Who’s Who of Women.

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Pascal Heyman is Deputy Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and Head of Policy Support Service since June 2008. Previous to that, he worked as a counselor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium to the OSCE in Vienna, including during the 2006 Belgian Chairmanship. Between 1997 and 2002 he served at the delegation of Belgium to NATO dealing with arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as PfP, NATO enlargement and NACC/EAPC. He joined the diplomatic service in 1991 and worked at the UN Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the delegation of Belgium to the EU (dealing with relations with Russia, the CIS and Eastern Europe, as well as with trade matters). From 1994 to 1997 he was attached to the Department for Transatlantic Security at the MFA, dealing with European security issues. From 1990 to 1991 he was assistant at the Chair of Public International Law at the Catholic University of Leuven. Pascal Heyman received his academic education in Public International Law at the University of Leuven and a masters in International Politics at the University of Antwerp.

**Radoslaw PYFFE  Poland**

Radoslaw Pyffel (1976) graduated from the Department of Sociology at the University of Warsaw. He was awarded scholarships at Zhongshan University (1999), Taiwan Normal University (2001), and Beijing University (2004). As a Co-founder and Director of Poland Asia Centre, the first Polish think tank concerning East Asia, Radoslaw Pyffel has coordinated many projects, including analysis reports for government institutions and for the private sector. He often appears as a commentator and expert on Asian issues in Polish media. He is author of two books on China (one published by the Polish edition of Newsweek), and numerous articles on Asia in scientific journals, as well as popular magazines and newspapers. He completed his Phd thesis at the Polish Academy of Sciences, on the subject of globalisation in China. With a focus on globalisation and increasing Asian immigration to Poland, Pyffel was part of a research team that conducted the unprecedented research on Asian immigration to Poland.

**Shada ISLAM  Pakistan**

Shada Islam is Senior Programme Executive at the European Policy Centre. She leads the EPC’s Asia programme which looks closely at EU-Asia relations, with the focus on Asia’s rapidly changing political, economic and social landscape. Shada is an experienced journalist, columnist, policy analyst and communication specialist with a strong background in geopolitical, foreign, economic and trade policy issues involving Europe, Asia, Middle East, Africa and the United States. Her journalistic experience includes 18 years as EU and WTO correspondent for the Far Eastern Economic Review. During this time she reported extensively on multilateral trade relations, and the EU’s foreign, security, trade and aid relationship with Asian countries. She also worked for eight years as EU correspondent for the
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Srinivasa MADHUR  India

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Takehiro OKUBO  Japan

Takehiro Okubo is Director-cum-Senior Coordinator for Legal Frameworks with Europe at the Asia-Europe Cooperation Division (ASEM Division), Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan. Previously, Mr Okubo has worked in the Japanese Ministry of Environment, before returning to the Foreign Service, where he has been posted to Belgium and Pakistan. Prior to his present position at the ASEM Division, he was Chief Intelligence Officer at the Cabinet of Intelligence and Research Office. Mr Okubo has a Master of Public Law from Keio University.

Ton Nu Thi Ninh  Vietnam

Madame Ton-Nu-Thi Ninh is President of Tri Viet University in Vietnam. Slated to open in 2013, Tri Viet is driven by the innovative resolve to be comprehensively “green” in the conditions of a developing economy, a Vietnamese university open to the modern world, a private institution dedicated to public service. Madame Ninh's university leadership draws upon her first calling as a scholar and academic when she taught at the Sorbonne (France) in the 60es. A diplomat for over two decades, Madame Ninh specialized in multilateral institutions and global issues. From 2000 to 2003, she was Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and Head of Mission to the European Union in Brussels. During the 11th National Assembly (2002-2007), she served as Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, focusing on North America.
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Cambodian Ambassador to Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Austria, and Head of the Cambodian Mission to the EU

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Dr YE0 Lay Hwee is Director of the European Union Centre in Singapore and teaches part time at both the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University. She is also Senior Research Fellow at the Singapore Institute of International Affairs and Adjunct Research Fellow in the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies. An international relations expert, her research interests revolve around comparative regionalism; Asia-Europe relations in general, and in particular, relations between the European Union and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations); and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process. For her exemplary record in research and policy work in these areas, she was awarded the Nakasone Yasuhiro Award in June 2007. She has also been awarded various short term visiting fellowships and scholarships taking her to Brussels, Leiden and Aalborg. Before joining the academia, Lay Hwee had worked in the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts.

Yong-Kyu PARK  Korea
Ambassador Park joined the Korean Foreign Service in 1977, and served at various home and overseas assignments in Geneva, The Hague and Bratislava. He was Visiting Professor at the Graduate School of International Studies of Sogang University, and Ambassador to the Slovak Republic (2007-2009). He currently serves as ASEM Senior Official for Korea, Coordinator of NESA Group, and Professor of IFANS (Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security) of MOFAT. Ambassador Park majored in political science at the Korean University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, and studied at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in the United States (MA). He also worked as a Research Associate at the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) in London from 1998-99. Ambassador Park co-authored books on international law and multilateral diplomacy titled: “21st Century International Law” and “Globalization and Multilateral Diplomacy”. He is a member of the Korean Association of International Law and the Korean Arms Control Association.
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Dominique GIRARD
Ambassador Dominique Girard joined ASEF as its fourth Executive Director in November 2008. A graduate in Political Studies from the Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris and in Oriental Languages (Chinese and Vietnamese) from the Ecole Nationale des Langues Orientales (1967 and 1969 respectively), Ambassador Girard is a career diplomat holding the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary (hors classe). He started his diplomatic career in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Secrétaire des Affaires Etrangères (Orient) in 1970 and since then has been alternating diverse postings in the Ministry and in French diplomatic missions in Vietnam, Laos, Singapore, USA and China. He was Ambassador to Indonesia (1992-1995), Australia (1995-2000) and India (2002-2007). Prior to his present appointment, he was Diplomatic Adviser to the French Government, as well as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Council of France. Ambassador Girard has been awarded several French Honorary distinctions; among them, National Order of Merit (Officer), 2002; and the Legion of Honour (Officer), 2007.

Bertrand de CROMBRUGGHE
ASEM Senior Official for Belgium and Head of the ASEM 8 Task Force, Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrugghe was born on 3 October 1955, is married and has three children. Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrugghe, who has a Degree in Law (Catholic University of Leuven) and International Relations (John Hopkins University, SAIS, Washington D.C.), was a practicing lawyer at the Brussels Bar during four years before joining the Belgian diplomatic service in 1986. During the first part of his diplomatic career, Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrugghe was assigned to the Embassies of Belgium in Tunis and in Washington and to the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the European Union. He later worked as Advisor to the Director General for Bilateral Relations and Multilateral Trade Negotiations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Cabinet of Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Louis Michel. In 2003 Ambassador de Crombrugghe became Permanent Representative of Belgium to the OSCE in Vienna, where he took charge of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office of Belgium through the year 2006. He became Ambassador of Belgium in Moscow in 2008. He has been ASEM Senior Official since June 2009.

Wilhem HOFMEISTER
Wilhelm Hofmeister is the Director of Konrad Adenauer Foundation’s (KAF) regional program “Political Dialogue with Asia” based in Singapore. His areas of special interest are, on the one hand, political development, regime transformation and the institutionalization of political parties and party systems, and on the other hand, the international relations of the European Union and its participation in the debates on global governance. These areas of interest are reflected by his numerous articles published in books and journals in Germany and Latin America. He is author of the book “Chile. The option for democracy” (published in German and Spain), and editor of numerous books on political development and international relations. He is a regular columnist of the Brazilian newspaper “O Estado de São Paulo” on Asian Affairs. From 1988 to 1993, he was KAF’s representative in Chile, from 1993 to 1999 he served in the department of international cooperation in the headquarter of KAF in Germany, from 1996 - 99 as its deputy-director with responsibility for programs in Africa, Asia and Latin America. From July 1999 to April 2009 he was director of the Research Centre of KAF in Río de Janeiro, Brazil, assuming his actual responsibility in June 2009. He studied Political Sciences, Sociology and History and received his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Mainz, Germany.
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