H.E Brian McDonald,  
Head of Delegation,  
Delegation of the European Commission in Korea

Ambassador Brian McDonald is the Head of the European Commission Delegation to Korea since 2006.

His career over the last thirty years has included various trade and diplomatic postings. He has served at the GATT, the OECD, the United Nations, in Hong Kong and as Head of the European Economic and Trade Office in Taiwan before he was appointed to his current position.

A law graduate from University College Dublin and Harvard University Law School; he was called to the Bar in 1968 and has an LLD from University College Dublin. He joined the European Commission in 1973 after serving in the Irish Foreign Ministry.


Sebastian Bersick  
(Germany)  
Associate Fellow,  
German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

Dr. Sebastian Bersick is an expert in International Relations specialising in the politics of intra- and inter-regional relations. As Senior Research Fellow, Dr. Bersick heads the EIAS research department on ‘EU-Asia Inter-Regionalism and New Regionalism in Asia’ as well as the department on ‘Political and Security Developments in Asia’. He also holds the position of co-Editor of the ‘EIAS Briefing Paper’ series, an in-house publication providing in-depth analysis on issues in contemporary European-Asian studies.

Having studied Political Science, Economics, Sociology and Sinology at the University of Cologne and Free University of Berlin, as well as Mandarin at Xiamen University in the PR China, Dr. Bersick went on to receive a PhD in International Relations from Free University of Berlin. His doctoral research, on the politics of inter-regional relations and the ASEM process, was awarded the ‘Ernst-Reuter Preis 2003’ for outstanding doctoral dissertations. He has worked and lectured at the ‘Centre for Chinese and East-Asian Studies’ at the Free University of Berlin and in the Department of Economics at Bremen University of Applied Sciences.
Dr. Bersick has conducted several field studies in Asia and the U.S. and held consultancies on European-Asian relations and US-Asian relations for the German Government, the European Commission and several renowned NGOs, amongst others. He has published extensively on the political and economic aspects of Asian-European Relations, China’s foreign policy and the role of non-state actors in international relations.

Dr. Utai Uprasen, (Thailand)  
Researcher, Euro-Asia Centre,  
University of Limerick

Utai Uprasen is a researcher at the Euro-Asia Centre, Department of Economics, Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick, Ireland. Utai specialises in Theory of Economic Integration, Theory of International Trade and Investment, and in economic interaction between the European Union and ASEAN countries. The Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) modeling and the econometric of panel data also are his specialised areas. He is a member of team of experts of the EU Commission’s project entitled “A Qualitative Analysis of a Potential Free Trade Agreement Between the European Union and ASEAN”. Currently, he is working on the EU Commission FP7 project entitled “Institutional Changes and Trajectories of Socio-Economic development Models” with a research team at the Euro-Asia Centre of University of Limerick. One of his latest publications includes “The Economic Impact of the EU-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement”, in Asia and Europe: Connections and Contrasts, 2nd edition, edited by Bernadette Andreosso-O’Callaghan and M. Bruna Zolin, Libreria Editrice Cafoscarina, Venezia (2009).

Dr. Paul Gillespie (Ireland)  
Lecturer, School of Politics & International Relations,  
University College Dublin, & Foreign Policy Editor, The Irish Times.

Paul Gillespie is Foreign Policy Editor of The Irish Times, where he has special expertise and interest in European politics, transatlantic relations, Middle East affairs and East Asian affairs. He is a member of the advisory council of the European Policy Centre in Brussels, of the executive committee of the Institute of International and European Affairs in Dublin and advisory committee of the newly formed Asia Studies Ireland Association. In 2006 he completed his Ph.D. degree at University College Dublin with a dissertation entitled “Multiple Political Identity and European Integration”. He lectures at the UCD School of Politics and International Relations on political change and identity in Europe and on Europe-Asia relations. He is the author of many articles and book chapters and edited Blair’s Britain, England’s Europe, Dublin: Institute of European Affairs, 2000.
Prof. Sung-Hoon Park (Korea)
Professor, Graduate School of International Studies
Korea University, &,
President, EU Studies Association of Korea

Profile

Dr. Sung-Hoon Park is Professor of Economics and International Trade at the Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), Korea University since 1997, and has served Vice President for Planning and Budget of Korea University during the period of March 2007 – January 2008. Professor Park has held research fellowship at Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) during 1993-1997, and visiting professorships at Macau Institute of European Studies (2000 – now), Ritsumeikan University (2003) and ASEF University (2000, 2004), etc. For 2003/2004 academic year, he was awarded a Fulbright Visiting Scholarship to the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) at University of California, San Diego, United States. Professor Park has been doing researches primarily but not exclusively on international trade policy including WTO rules, European and Asian economic integration, and Korea’s external economic policies. He also published one book and several academic papers on North Korean economy and unification issues. Professor Park has provided policy advisory services to Korean government and the APEC secretariat for the past 10 years. He was nominated Expert of APEC’s IAP Peer Review Study of the Russian Federation in 2005 and Hong Kong, China in 2007, as well as Viet Nam in 2009. He is currently the Korean representative of the EU-NESCA Research Dialogue, which was awarded a major research grant by the European Commission. For the entire year of 2007, Professor Park was President of Korea Association of Trade and Industry Studies (KATIS). He is serving President of EU Studies Association of Korea (EUSA) and Vice President of Korean-German Economic Association for 2009. Since January 2007, he has been working as Director of the EU Research Center, Korea University, as well.

Assoc. Prof. Chan Ka Lok, Kenneth (Hong Kong, China SAR)
Department of Government and International Studies
Hong Kong Baptist University, China

Kenneth Chan received his DPhil in Politics from Nuffield College, University of Oxford, and is currently Associate Professor at the Department of Government and International Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University. He has also taught at the University of Warsaw and the University of Gdansk in Poland. In recent years he has taught for the MA Programme in European Studies at the Institute of European Studies at the University of Macao. He has been appointed Advisor to the European Studies in Asia Programme of the Asia-Europe Foundation in
Singapore and Research Associate of the National Centre for Research on Europe in New Zealand.

His interests include post-communist politics, democratisation, British politics, European Union politics, Hong Kong politics and East European languages. Dr. Chan is fluent in Polish and has learnt Czech, Slovene, Hungarian and Estonian. Recent research outputs concern the politics of electoral reforms in post-communist Europe and the perceptions of the European Union in the Asia-Pacific region. He has written extensively about international and local affairs and contributed to public affairs programmes for RTHK and Commercial Radio.

Dr. Michael Bruter (France)
Senior Lecturer, 
Political Science and European Politics
London School of Economics

Michael Bruter is senior lecturer in European Political Science at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he will direct a new European centre for research in electoral psychology. He is currently directing several large scale comparative research projects on electoral psychology, European identity and citizenship, public opinion, electoral memory, political participation, and extreme right politics. He is involved in the APPP project directed by Prof. Martin Holland and Dr Natalia Chaban, particularly in the project’s public opinion component and its methodological aspects.

Some of Dr Bruter’s recent books include The Future of our Democracies? (2009, with Sarah Harrison), Encyclopaedia of European Elections (2007, with Yves Deloye), Citizens of Europe (2005), and he has also published in numerous leading political science journals.

Prof. Martin Holland (United Kingdom)
Director
National Centre for Research on Europe
University of Canterbury

Professor Martin Holland holds a Jean Monnet Chair ad personam and is the Director of the National Centre for Research on Europe at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand and the New Zealand EU Centres Network. Since writing his PhD at the University of Exeter, UK, on the 1979 direct elections to the European Parliament, he has specialised in the
analysis of the EU’s external relations, initially in terms of European Political Cooperation and latterly through the Common Foreign and Security Policy. His research on EU-South African relations during the apartheid and post-apartheid eras is particularly well-known and saw Professor Holland involved as a practitioner in one of the EU’s first election observer missions to monitor the first democratic non-racial South African election in 1994. More recently, he has focused his research interests most broadly on the EU’s global development policy and on the perceptions of the EU in third countries.

He was a Jean Monnet Research Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence (1987), an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow, University of Freiburg (1992-3) and a Rockefeller Bellagio Fellow in 2000 and he is currently a on the “list of Experts” for the EU’s Framework Programme 7 initiative. Professor Holland has been active regionally in developing EU Studies through a number of initiatives such as the EU Studies Association of the Asia-Pacific (EUSA-AP) of which he was the President (2007-9), the FP6 Network of European Studies Centres in Asia (NESCA), the ASEF sponsored European Studies in Asia (ESIA) and through establishing the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Australasia. In 2006, his Centre launched the first B.A. major in European Union Studies offered by a tertiary institution in New Zealand and Australia.

Currently, Professor Holland leads a 30-person multinational research team engaged in examining how the EU is perceived externally involving media perceptions and public and elite opinion studies. This team has involved researchers from Australia, Thailand, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, South Africa, Kenya, India, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China, as well as academics in Sweden, UK, Ukraine, Spain, Belgium and the USA.
Mr. Peter Ryan,
Director for Intellectual Exchange
Asia Europe Foundation

Peter Ryan, a career diplomat from Ireland, joined ASEF as the Director of the Intellectual Exchange Department in September 2006. He received his undergraduate & postgraduate degrees from the National University of Ireland in Dublin and worked in Ireland and Australia in the banking sector before joining the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland in 1994. His strong interest in Asian-European relations stems from his appointments to the Irish Embassies in Japan, Korea & Singapore. In addition, he served as Deputy Director, Asia-Pacific in the Bilateral Economic Relations Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Prior to joining ASEF he was based in Singapore covering eBusiness & New Technologies in the Asia-Pacific Region for the Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources of Ireland. Mr. Ryan is married with two children.

Mr. Ronan Lenihan
Project Officer
Intellectual Exchange
Asia-Europe Foundation

Ronan Lenihan, is Project Officer for the European Studies in Asia (ESiA) network, an initiative of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). He also works on ASEFs new priority area, Economy and Society.

He graduated from Dublin City University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies in 2006 and following this completed his MA in Globalisation and International Relations at the Centre for International Studies at Dublin City University. Prior to joining ASEF, he worked for a period in the private sector with Rabobank International in Dublin.