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ASEM LEADERS & GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Dr Miroslav LAJČÁK
Minister of Foreign and European Affairs
The Slovak Republic

Dr Miroslav LAJČÁK is the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs for the Slovak Republic and is the second longest serving Foreign Minister in the EU. He has held various positions in the diplomatic service since 1988 including as Slovak Ambassador to Japan (1994-1998), Slovak Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (2001-2005), Director of the Cabinet of the Foreign Minister in Slovakia, Political Director at the Foreign Ministry of the Slovak Republic, and High Representative of the International community and European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Dr LAJČÁK also contributed to the shaping of the European External Action Service, various trade and peace negotiations, and served as President of the General Assembly of the United Nations’ seventy-second session.

Mr Fernando M. VALENZUELA MARZO
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain

Mr Fernando VALENZUELA MARZO is the Secretary of State for Foreign affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain (MAEUEC). He has held various positions in the diplomatic field since 1974, including the Secretary General of the National Commission for UNESCO in MAEUEC, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador to Canada (1996-1999), and Chairman of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

Ambassador Ana SÁLOMON
Director General for North America, Eastern Europe, Asia and Pacific
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain

Ambassador Ana SÁLOMON is a Spanish Diplomat, Director General of North America, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain. Ambassador SÁLOMON entered the Diplomatic Field in 1988, she held the second position in the Embassy in Rome before being appointed Director General. She was previously ambassador to Cyprus, Ambassador to the Special Mission for the Jewish Community and Organizations and first Director General of the Sefarad-Israel House (2007-2008). She has also been Deputy Director of the Cabinet of the Foreign Minister and Consul in Rabat and was stationed at the Spanish embassies in Panama, Belgrade and NATO.
Ambassador Julie-Ann GUIVARRA
Embassy of Australia in Spain

Ambassador GUIVARRA is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade where she was most recently Assistant Secretary, South East Asia Investment & Services Branch.

She has previously served overseas as Counsellor (Agriculture), Australian Permanent Mission to the World Trade Organization, Geneva and Second Secretary, Australian High Commission, New Delhi.

In Canberra, she served as Assistant Secretary, South East Asia Analytical and Effectiveness Branch; Director, Services Trade & Negotiations Section; and Director, Trade and Environment Section.

Ambassador GUIVARRA holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from James Cook University and a Master of Arts (Foreign Affairs and Trade) from Monash University.

Ambassador GUIVARRA is the first female Indigenous Ambassador for Australia.

Mr Petr MATYÁŠ
First Secretary
Embassy of Czech Republic in Spain

Mr MATYÁŠ is First Secretary in the Embassy of Czech Republic in Spain. He serves in the Political and Business-Economic Section with a focus on Spanish Foreign Policy and the EU.

He previously has also served in the Embassy of Czech Republic in Algeria.

Mr MATYÁŠ graduated in 2008 from the Department of Political Science and European Studies in Palacký University Olomouc.

Ambassador Drs HERMONO
Embassy of Indonesia in Spain

Ambassador HERMONO is the ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Kingdom of Spain and United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). Previously, he served as the Secretary of BNP2TKI from 2015 to 2018.

He started his career as the Head of Middle East Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1992. Since then, he had been serving the Ministry in various roles.

Ambassador Drs HERMONO holds a Master of Political Science at Saitama University, Japan. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at Diponegoro University in Semarang.
Ambassador Emilio DE MIGUEL CALABIA
Embassy of Spain
In Thailand

Ambassador DE MIGUEL CALABIA has been serving as the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Kingdom of Thailand since 2017. Prior to that, he was the Deputy Director-General for Southeast Asia, the Pacific and the Philippines. He is a specialist in Asian matters having worked and lived in the Philippines and Singapore as well as Cameroon, Yugoslavia and Bolivia. A graduate in law from the Autonoma de Madrid, he speaks English, French and some Thai in addition to his native Spanish. He enjoys reading, writing, trekking in Nepal and scuba-diving in the Philippines.

Ms Ana BALLESTEROS
Senior Research Fellow
Barcelona Centre for International Affairs CIDOB

Ms Ana BALLESTEROS is a Senior Research Fellow at the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs CIDOB. She has a Ph.D. in Arab and Islamic Studies from Universidad Autónoma of Madrid (UAM). She took Ph.D. studies on Islam in South Asia at the School of International Studies of Jawaharlal Nehru University (2001/2002, New Delhi, India). She has worked for UAM’s Foundation (pre-doctoral contract, 2008-2010) in a research project on sectarian and group violence based at the department of Social Psychology and Methodology (UAM). She has taught International Cooperation in Central and South Asia at the University of Castilla La-Mancha (2008-2013). She has also been part of the Conflict Studies and Peacebuilding group at the School for a Culture of Peace at the Universitat Autònoma of Barcelona (2014-2015).

Mr Rafael BUENO
Director
Department of Politics & Society and Education
Casa Asia

Mr Rafael BUENO is the Director of the Department of Politics & Society and Education of Casa Asia. He is also in charge of the Korea-Spain Forum (Casa Asia-Korea Foundation) and the Spain-Indonesia Forum (Casa Asia-Center for Strategic and International Studies). Between 2000 and 2003 he worked as a researcher in the Department of Economy and Political Sciences at INSEAD (Fontainebleau and Singapore). He was previously Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Security Studies of the European Union in Paris; Visiting Scholar at the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research of Harvard University and at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in Geneva. Between 1995 and 1997 he was a Visiting Researcher at Foreign Affairs University in Beijing. He is also an Associate Professor in the degree of International Relations. Ramón Llull University, Blanquerna School of Communication and International Relations.

Mr Rafael BUENO also joined 9th Model ASEM as a Webinar speaker during the Online Preparatory Phase.
Ambassador Noel Campbell
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

Ambassador CAMPBELL has recently completed his term as Australian Ambassador to Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay (2014-2018). Prior to this he served as Official Secretary to the Governor of New South Wales (2009-2012) and Australian Ambassador to Spain (2006-2009), the United Arab Emirates (2002-2005) and the former Yugoslavia (1994-1997). From 1998 to 2002 he was Chef de Cabinet to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency. He joined the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as a diplomatic trainee in 1975 and subsequently served at Australian Embassies in Buenos Aires, Lima, Geneva and Washington. In the intervening periods he served in several Branches of the Department in Canberra, most recently as Assistant Secretary, International Organizations Branch (2012-14), Chief of Protocol (2005-2006) and Deputy Legal Adviser (1997-1998).

Ms Sara E. Ciriza Beortegui
Jefa de Área Introductora de Embajadores
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain

Ms Sara CIRIZA BEORTEGUI works at the General Sub-Directorate of Travel and Official Visits, Ceremonial and Orders. She has held various diplomatic positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation since 2008, including the positions of Head of Service and subsequently Head of Area for European Affairs at the Directorate General for Development Policy Planning and Evaluation. During this time she worked on the preparation of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union in 2010. She has worked as Technical Advisor for the Department of Cooperation with Latin America at the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation and was assigned to the Spanish Embassy in Nouakchott (Mauritania) as Secretary of the Embassy in charge of Consular, Administrative and Cultural Affairs. In 2015 she was assigned to the Spanish Embassy in Ottawa (Canada) as Counselor in charge of Consular, Cultural and Administrative Affairs.

Mr Johannes De Bruycker
Founder
The Caravan’s Journal

Mr Johannes DE BRUYCKER is freelance curator, educator and photojournalist. He founded The Caravan’s Journal where he combines his education with international projects, in search of intense stories of relationships between people and their environment. He has worked with National Geographic photographer Dos Winkel, photo agency NOOR and he collaborated on Johan Grimonprez’ documentary SHADOW WORLD on international arms trade.
Mr Łukasz KRÓL
Digital Projects Coordinator
College of Europe, Natolin Campus

With a background in technology and political science, Mr Łukasz KRÓL studies the ways in which we can bridge our technological and social realities. He is a researcher, lecturer and workshop facilitator. Łukasz currently focuses on how people perceive AI, as well as issues related to inequality and discrimination in algorithms and tech in general.

Ms Carmen PEREZ-LANZAC
Journalist
Ideas, El País

Ms Carmen PEREZ-LANZAC coordinates the interviews at Ideas, the supplement of El País that focuses on analysis, essays and debates. She also develops quite a few of them. She studied Economics in Complutense University of Madrid and did a Master’s degree in Journalism of El País-Autonomous University of Madrid. Since 2001 she has worked for El País in different areas. Though Spanish, she feels a proud European citizen. She is the mother of two toddlers that amaze her every day.

Mr Paul SEDILLE
Journalist
HK01

Videographer for leading Hong Kong media HK01 Paul has embraced the twenty-first century's most accomplished form of surplus-value theft: the "one-man-band" formula for video production. He shoots, produces, directs and occasionally hosts news-based documentary video series, from their inception to their final distribution. Subjects range from Pakistani sexual minorities to graffiti art in Beijing with a recent focus on the Hong Kong protests. Apart from making a living in media, he's been spotted across Europe and Asia giving trainings on digital journalism, leading projects in media literacy, and occasionally writing about Sino-European affairs. His background is in the humanities, with research projects in Chinese philosophy and political sociology.
WEBINAR SPEAKERS
During the Online Preparatory Phase

Dr Alan CHONG
Associate Professor & Acting Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies; Coordinator for MSc (International Relations) Programme
R. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Dr Alan CHONG is Associate Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore. He has published widely on the notion of soft power and the role of ideas in constructing the international relations of Singapore and Asia. He is also the author of Foreign Policy in Global Information Space: Actualising Soft Power (Palgrave, 2007) and editor of International Security in the Asia Pacific: Transcending ASEAN towards Transitional Polycentrism (Palgrave, 2018). He is currently working on several projects exploring the notion of “Asian international theory”. His interest in soft power has also led to inquiry into the sociological and philosophical foundations of international communication. In the latter area, he is currently working on a manuscript titled ‘The International Politics of Communication: Representing Community in a Globalizing World’. In tandem, he has pursued a fledgling interest in researching cyber security issues. He has frequently been interviewed in the Asian media and consulted in think tank networks in the region.

Dr Steven EVERTS
ASEF Governor from the European Union
Senior Advisor, Asia Pacific Department European External Action Service (EEAS)
Alternate ASEM Senior Official for the European Union

Dr Steven Everts has been working for 20 years on EU foreign policy, first as academic and analyst and now as EU diplomat. He is currently a Senior Advisor in the Asia Pacific Department of the European External Action Service acting as the Alternate EU SOM for the ASEM process. Prior to this, he was responsible for coordinating the EU’s strategy for ASEAN and the ASEAN Regional Forum. Until November 2012, he was Member in the Cabinet of HR/VP Catherine Ashton with responsibility for Asia and the Pacific; Turkey; and the general issue of how to frame and strengthen the EU’s relations with its Strategic Partners. Previously, he covered the EU’s relations with the US, Canada and the UN. Between 2005 and 2009, Dr Steven Everts worked for SG/HR Javier Solana, both as his Personal Representative for Energy and Foreign Policy and as a Member of his Cabinet. Before his time at the EU, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the London-based Centre for European Reform and Director of the CER’s transatlantic programme, which covered the full range of US-European relations.
Mr Javier PARRONDO, was born in Madrid, he is a Law Graduate by University Carlos III of Madrid, and entered in the diplomacy corps in 2004. In August 2018 he was posted at the Embassy of Spain in Bangkok (Thailand). Previously, he was in charge of the Cooperation Department with the Arab World and Asia, within the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation to Development (AECID), collaborating with the design and execution of the Spanish policy of cooperation for development in North Africa, the Near East and Asia. He was Deputy Consul at the Spanish Consulate General in Jerusalem, and previously he was appointed at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the United Nations, with headquarters in Geneva, and at the embassies of Hanoi (Vietnam) and Kabul (Afghanistan).

Ambassador Carmen DÍEZ OREJAS is a diplomat and has been Director of the Casa Asia-Madrid Centre since January 2018. Former Ambassador of Spain to Namibia and Botswana (2011-2015) and Guatemala (2008-2011). In 2018 she was president of the Selection Board for the diplomatic career. She has been assigned to Spanish diplomatic missions in Nigeria, Switzerland and the Czech Republic, and she was Consul General in Rabat, and in Strasbourg. She has served as Technical Adviser in the Directorate-General for Foreign Policy for Europe and Advisory Member for Inter-American Affairs in the Directorate-General for Foreign Policy for Latin America. From 2005 to 2008 she was Deputy Director General of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. From 2015 to 2018 she was Head of the International Sanctions Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.

Ms Cécile SENÉN joined Casa Asia in 2008, engaging renowned experts and professors on Asian matters to teach at Casa Asia Madrid, tailoring the topics taught to the general public, contributing to the aim of building bridges between Spanish civil society and Asia throughout Education. She previously worked for the Australian Embassy in Madrid, where she was in charge of cultural matters, under the direction of the Cultural Attaché. She received her master’s degree on Education and then on Social Work at the Complutense University of Madrid. She also completed an MA on Comparative European Social Studies from the London Metropolitan University at the Zuyd University of Applied Sciences in Maastricht. She spent several years in Hungary, on an Erasmus programme working at Bicske Refugee Camp and at Savaria Rehab Team.
Ms Ruth VERA DELGADO is a Protocol, Organization of Events and Corporate Communication student from Rey Juan Carlos University, she is in her last year and doing her Degree’s Final Project about Royal Protocol and Ceremonial during the Korean dynasty of Joseon. Her interest in Asia brought her to Casa Asia where she is doing her internship and helping organising the 9th Model ASEM. She previously did three Vocational Trainings related with Administration, Management and Secretary areas, and worked in the Development and Logistics Department of Orizonia’s Corporation headquarters.

Mr SUN Xiangyang is the 7th Deputy Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). He assumed the post in January 2017. Mr SUN supports the Executive Director, Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, in the overall planning, management and administration of ASEF, as well as the implementation of its policies and programmes. Mr SUN is a seasoned diplomat from China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), with over 25 years of experience. He has held the positions of the Division Director of the Asian Department, Counsellor of the International Economic Department, MFA, China, and Deputy Head of Mission and Political Counsellor in Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines. He has also served in the Chinese Embassies in Indonesia, Malaysia and Myanmar. Mr SUN holds a B.A. in English literature from the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies.

Ms Leonie NAGARAJAN has been heading the Education Department of the Asia-Europe Foundation since February 2014. Together with her team members, she develops and drives ASEF’s education project portfolio with a focus on student mobility, youth employment, university-business partnerships, and lifelong learning. Prior to this, she advised and supported as Chief of Staff 3 ASEF Executive Directors from France and China in the planning and implementation of the Foundation’s long-range strategy, programmes and operations (from 2008 to 2015). Ms NAGARAJAN previously worked in Public Affairs and the media, including the Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin, the Berliner Zeitung, Pretoria News and the Icelandic national broadcaster Ríkisútvarpið (RUV). Having studied in Reykjavik, Iceland and Berlin, Germany, she received her Master’s degree in Communication Sciences with minors in cultural and political sciences from the Free University and Humboldt University of Berlin.
Andy CHAN is a Singaporean who recently graduated from Singapore Institute of Management with a Bachelors (Hons) of Science in International Relations. He formally joined ASEF in December 2018 after completing his internship in October 2018. Prior to joining ASEF, Andy was an intern at the US Embassy (Singapore), where he covered issues relating to Human Rights and Human Trafficking with the Economic/Political Section. In 2012, he was a Sovereign Risk intern with DBS Bank where he assisted the department in monitoring credit ratings and producing reports.

Freya CHOW-PAUL, a British national with Singaporean heritage, joined the Education Department in August 2019, having previously been an intern in 2018. Freya recently graduated from the University of Sussex, England with a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations and Development. Freya undertook two study abroad exchanges, a summer school in Taipei, Taiwan at the National Taiwan University, and in Malmö, Sweden for her third year at Malmö University under the Erasmus programme. Through her studies, she focused on peace and conflict studies, as well as education in development.

Professor Dámaso López García has a degree in Hispanic Philology (literature) and Modern Philology (English). He has a PhD in Modern Philology from the UCM. As Vice-Rector for International Relations and Cooperation he is responsible for all matters concerning the establishment of agreements and covenants by the university. He is also Professor of English Philology at UCM. He is an Honorary Research Fellow from the University of Wolverhampton and is an Adjunct Professor at Beijing Jiaotong University. He has been vice-dean and dean of the Faculty of Philology, has been president of the UCM Statutes Commission and has been secretary of the UCM Claims Commission. His dominant area of academic interest is in English literature. He has published more than a hundred articles on his specialty. His latest published book is titled Silva illustrated: El Capricho de la Alameda de Osuna. He has translated works by Joseph Conrad, Robert Louis Stevenson, Mark Strand, Virginia Woolf, among others. He is the president of the Spanish Society of General and Comparative Literature.
Photographer & Videographer

Mauricio SKRYCKY is a Uruguayan freelance photographer based in Madrid, Spain. His work revolves around cultural and political affairs and has been collaborating with Casa Asia since 2004 and is a daily contributor to Expansión, Spain’s leading economic daily newspaper among others. His journalism work has been published by major news outlets and magazines across Latin America and Europe. His personal projects have been shown in solo and group exhibitions both in art galleries and museums. Madrid 5500ºk, a series of eight black and white photos was bought by Madrid’s Contemporary Art Museum.

Raúl JIMÉNEZ OBREGÓN is a Spanish freelance photographer based in Madrid, specialising in documentary photography and cinematography. He has worked on several development projects for NGOs in the Gaza strip, West Bank and India. He also collaborates with a number of Spanish press magazines. Currently he is also working on an audiovisual project development, directed by the visual artist María García, called ‘Tierras Rarras’, which can be viewed at the BBVA Foundation in Madrid. Another personal photographic piece, ‘Manos de caña y esparto’, was selected to be included in Descubrimientos Photoespaña 2015.
Visual Concept
The Model ASEM design focuses on tangible elements and tools used in the world of international relations and diplomacy. Simple but powerful, each visual represents the foundations of ASEM: diversity of cultures, consensus building, exchange of perspectives, participation in dialogue and negotiation, and opportunities for better mutual understanding and knowledge.