

6TH ASIA-EUROPE YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS MEETING:

**“Towards an Asia-Europe
Partnership”**

26 February - 02 March 2007
The Hague, The Netherlands

Programme Book

Organised by:



**Buitenlandse
Zaken**



Contents

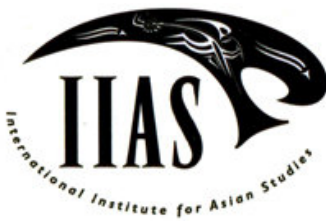
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Organisers



Asia-Europe Foundation | In March 1996, fifteen European leaders, ten East Asian leaders and the President of the European Commission convened in Bangkok, Thailand, for the inaugural Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). At this historic ASEM Summit, the leaders from the two continents agreed to forge a comprehensive partnership and strengthen links between the two regions for mutual benefit. To carry out the mission set out by the leaders, the 1st ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting (Singapore) launched the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) on 15

February 1997. Its mission is to promote understanding between the peoples of Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. In the last ten years of operation, ASEF has implemented over 300 projects bringing together more than 13,000 participants through our projects and a much wider public audience in various countries of Asia and Europe. Since the 5th ASEM Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam (October 2004), the membership has expanded to 39 to include the 10 accession states of the European Union as well as Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. Year 2007 will be another historic year as we will see the next round of enlargement, whereby India, Pakistan, Mongolia, the ASEAN Secretariat, Romania, and Bulgaria will join the ASEM process and subsequently the Asia-Europe Foundation as six new members, increasing the membership to a total of 45. <http://www.asef.org>



The International Institute for Asian Studies | The International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) is a postdoctoral research centre based in Leiden and Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Our main objective is to encourage the interdisciplinary and comparative study of Asia and to promote national and international cooperation in the field. The institute focuses on the human and social sciences and on their interaction with other sciences.

The IIAS acts as an international mediator, bringing various parties together. In keeping with the Dutch tradition of transferring goods and ideas, the IIAS works as a clearinghouse of knowledge and information. This entails activities such as providing information services, constructing international networks, and setting up international cooperative projects and research programmes. In this way, the IIAS functions as a window on Europe for non-European scholars and contributes to the cultural rapprochement between Asia and Europe. <http://www.iias.nl>



The Dutch House of Representatives | The parliament in the Netherlands consists of a House of Representatives (Tweede Kamer) and a Senate (Eerste Kamer).

Since 1956 the constitution stipulates that the House of Representatives should consist of 150 members and the Senate of 75 members. The members of the House are directly elected by the people. Elections usually take place every four years.

One of the main tasks of the Tweede Kamer is to monitor government. Another significant task of the Tweede Kamer is to enact legislation and amend existing legislation to changing circumstances, together with the government and the Senate.



The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates and carries out Dutch foreign policy at its headquarters in The Hague and through its missions abroad. It is likewise the channel through which the Dutch Government communicates with foreign governments and international organisations. Every hour of every day, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes the interests of the Kingdom abroad. As a country that looks beyond its borders, the Netherlands is committed to promoting the international legal order and building a safe, stable and prosperous world. We are dedicated to eliminating conflict, poverty and injustice. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs works with the other ministries to help shape the Europe of the future and ensure that the Netherlands speaks with one voice in the European Union.

Asia-Europe Young Parliamentarians Meeting

BACKGROUND

In March 1996, Heads of State and Government from 25 Asian and European countries and the President of the European Commission, gathering at the inaugural Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Bangkok, Thailand, declared their vision for a stronger partnership between Asia and Europe, that would contribute to global peace, stability and prosperity. To realise this vision, the ASEM Leaders underscored the importance of greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through dialogue and closer people-to-people contacts.

The legislative branch is a pivotal part of the policy-making process in ASEM countries. Its perceptions and attitudes not only reflect those of the people they represent, but have in turn a profound impact on public opinion. From among the younger members of the legislative bodies of ASEM partners will emerge the leaders of tomorrow, who would be charting the future course of their respective countries. They therefore constitute a very important constituency Parliamentarians and have an important role to play in efforts to enhance mutual understanding and strengthen co-operation between Asia and Europe within the ASEM framework.

The Asia-Europe Young Parliamentarians Meeting (AEYPM) was initiated against this backdrop. The AEYPM offers a platform for the younger members of national legislatures to develop greater awareness and understanding of external issues that affect political, social, and economic developments of their countries. At these meetings, participants will benefit from the insights of prominent speakers, who are experts in the relevant fields. Through the candid inter-cultural exchanges that the programme fosters, these young ASEM parliamentarians will also learn more about the different national perspectives and experiences, thereby adding to their own understanding of the issues that affect their important work. Finally, they will also gain a network of friends with the same professional interest within the ASEM community, which they can tap on in the future.

OBJECTIVES

The AEYPM provides a forum for young parliamentarians from ASEM partners to:

- **Deepen** their understanding of international issues of the day, particularly those that have significant implications for Asia-Europe relations or in respect of which the two regions can and should strengthen co-operation;
- **Exchange** views and perspectives and reach greater mutual understanding on these issues; and
- **Establish** personal contacts with one another and enrich the network of linkages between Asia and Europe at the people-to-people level.

PROGRAMME

The AEYPM provides an intercultural experience. Each programme is designed to enable young parliamentarians to challenge their own perceptions and understanding of issues and tease out points of divergence and of convergence among parliamentarians from Asia and Europe. The exchange of views and information will engender a mutual learning environment, through which good practices and experiences could be shared.

The AEYPM is organised annually by ASEF in collaboration with the national parliament, as well as relevant local partner organisations. The venue of the AEYPM alternates between Asia and Europe. The AEYPM was inaugurated in Cebu (Philippines) in 1998. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th editions were held in Lisbon (Portugal) in 2000, Bali (Indonesia) in 2001, Venice (Italy) in 2002, and Guilin (China) in 2003 respectively.

A typical AEYPM comprises the following elements:

Plenary Sessions

Plenary sessions are conducted in a roundtable format. One of the participants, ordinarily from the host country, will be invited to chair the plenary sessions. The Chair will be assisted by a representative of ASEF or its co-organising partner(s).

Plenary sessions comprise **presentations** by experts (academics or practitioners) on topics that are relevant to the overall theme of the meeting. After each presentation, one or two of the participants would be invited to give a **commentary** on the presentations, and this would be followed by a **question and answer** session.

Working Groups / Workshops

The Working Group (WG) sessions provide the parliamentarians with the opportunity to delve deeper into the topics presented at the plenary sessions. It would also be an opportunity for the parliamentarians to speak informally and candidly on issues or points of interest generated during the presentations and the plenary discussions.

Conclusion / Message

The 4th AEYPM held in Venice, Italy set the precedent of issuing a statement at the conclusion of the meeting setting out the views of the participants of the meeting on the theme and topics. The statement is not a negotiated text, and while not capturing every view expressed during the course of the meeting, seeks to provide a fair representation of the sense of the meeting.

At the 5th AEYPM held in Guilin, China, parliamentarians from Asia and Europe adopted the Lijiang Declaration on the Promotion of Common Development in Asia and Europe through Strengthened Interparliamentary Dialogue between Asia and Europe.

The AEYPM is open to participation to two **parliamentarians** from each ASEM country and the European Parliament, **under the age of 40 years**. To ensure representativeness of viewpoints expressed during the AEYPM, the inclusion of parliamentarians from all major political groupings from each ASEM country would be encouraged.

The AEYPM is an informal process. Participants represent themselves, not necessarily the institutions or organisations they come from. This sets the AEYPM apart from other institutional and political processes involving parliamentarians. This approach fosters more candid discussions.

THEME

Each AEYPM presents an opportunity for the parliamentarians to discuss a specific theme depending on what is of topical interest in both Asia and Europe, and the international community as a whole. The themes and working group discussion topics at previous meetings are as follows:

DATE/VENUE	THEME	PRESENTATIONS
<p>1ST AEYPM Cebu, Philippines 13-16 Nov 1998</p> <p>(Organised by ASEF and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, with support from the Philippine Congress)</p>	<p>Tomorrow's Leaders: Bridging Asia and Europe</p>	<p>Good Governance: Challenges and Responsibilities in a Globalising World</p> <p>Options and Concepts for a Closer Co-operation in Political and Economic Crisis Management</p> <p>Confrontation or Constructive Engagement: The Case of Myanmar</p>
<p>2ND AEYPM Cascais and Lisbon, Portugal 31 Mar-3 Apr 2000</p> <p>(Organised by ASEF and the Fundação Oriente, with support from the Parliament of Portugal)</p>	<p>Asia and Europe: Good Governance in the age of Globalisation</p>	<p>Welfare State and Globalisation</p>
<p>3RD AEYPM Bali, Indonesia 1-4 Nov 2001</p> <p>(Organised by ASEF and the Conrad Adenauer Foundation, with support from the Indonesian Parliament)</p>	<p>A Greater Need for Effective Governance in a Globalising World: Lessons to be Learned in Asia and Europe</p>	<p>Recent Political And Social Changes In Asia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes And Challenges For Policy-Making In Asia • Socio-political Development In Southeast Asia And Its Implications To Indonesia <p>Recent Political And Social Changes In Europe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Regional Perspective: The Case Of Saxony • Demographic, Electoral And Institutional Changes In Europe <p>The Challenges Of Globalisation And Its Significance For Parliamentarians</p> <p>Comparative Perspectives On Good Governance In Asia And Europe</p> <p>The Role Of Government In Developing Corporate Governance</p> <p>New Ideas For Successful Networking Between Asian And European Parliamentarians</p>
<p>4TH AEYPM Venice, Italy 17-20 Oct 2002</p> <p>(Organised by ASEF and the Camera dei Deputati, Consiglio Regionale del Veneto and the Fondazione Giorgio Cini)</p>	<p>Mobility and Globalisation: International Migration and Local Economic Development</p>	<p>Two separate presentations on Issues relating to Migration</p> <p>Three separate presentations on Local Economic Development</p>
<p>5TH AEYPM Guilin, China 23-27 Oct 2003</p> <p>(Organised by ASEF and the National People's Congress of China)</p>	<p>Promotion of Common Development in Asia and Europe through Strengthened Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue between Asia and Europe</p>	<p>Political Dialogue: Current International Situation and the new Security Challenges</p> <p>Economic Dialogue: Economic Globalisation and Developing Nations</p> <p>Dialogue on Cultures and Civilisations: Exchanging and Sharing Values and Harmony in Diversity</p>

6TH ASIA-EUROPE YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS MEETING

The Sixth Asia-Europe Young Parliamentarians Meeting (AEYPM6) is hosted by the Netherlands House of Representatives, and organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the International Institute for Asian Studies.

The theme for the sixth YPM, **Towards an Asia-Europe Partnership**, takes on the issue of pursuing a sustainable future whilst meeting the needs of today.

Participants shall be divided into 3 Working Groups to enable them to engage in more in-depth exchanges on the range of issues that will be raised during the course of the Conference.

Each Working Group shall be expected to present a 10-minute report of the outcome of its discussions to the Plenary Session on the designated dates. To steer and manage the work of the Groups, there will be a Facilitator appointed for each of the Groups. The members of each Working Group will also elect/appoint a Rapporteur from amongst themselves. There may be either one or two Rapporteurs per Working Group, on the discretion of the Facilitator; where there are two Rapporteurs there should be one European and one Asian Rapporteur.

The Facilitator is tasked to manage the discussion with maximum efficiency, with a view both towards ensuring a good exchange of perspectives on the key issues, and producing a set of recommendations. The Rapporteur, on the other hand, shall be responsible for capturing the main points of the discussions as well as the recommendations, and together with the Facilitator, shall draft the report of the Working Group.

A General Rapporteur has been designated by the Conference organisers to facilitate the working process, and to provide guidance to the Facilitator and Rapporteur of each Working Group.

A Chairman has been appointed to lead the plenary sessions on Tuesday and Thursday.

The Working Groups have been assigned the following topics:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Working Group 1: | Migration and Community Building |
| Working Group 2: | Education & the Knowledge-based Society |
| Working Group 3: | Security and Civil Liberties |

Profiles

Her Excellency Gerdi Verbeet

President

The House of Representatives of the States General



Gerdi A. Verbeet was elected President of the House of Representatives on 6 December 2006. She has been a Member of Parliament for the PvdA (Labour) Party since 11 December 2001. During this time Gerdi Verbeet was spokesperson for her political group on sports, elderly care, old age pensions and victims of World War II. She was deputy chairperson of both the Standing Committee on Justice and the Standing Committee on Elderly Care and deputy member of the Presidium.

Gerdi Verbeet was born on 18 April 1951 in Amsterdam, and has lived there all her life. After grammar school she read social geography for a number of years. From 1977 to 1982 she read Dutch Language and Literature.

Between 1980 and 1994 Gerdi Verbeet held various positions in education, particularly vocational training and adult education. She was also engaged in organizing information campaigns of the government aimed at increasing the number of women in executive/managerial positions in both education and technical professions.

From 1994 to 1998 Gerdi Verbeet was political advisor for Tineke Netelenbos, State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science. From 1998 to 2001 she was political advisor for Ad Melkert, chairman of the political group of the PvdA (Labour) Party in the House of Representatives.

Ambassador Cho Won-il

Executive Director

Asia-Europe Foundation



Ambassador Won-il Cho, a career diplomat, has assumed the role of Executive Director of Asia-Europe Foundation from 01 November 2004. Prior to his appointment at ASEF, he was the Korean Consul General in New York.

Upon completing a Bachelor of Arts from Seoul National University (College of Law), Amb. Cho became Political officer in Europe/Japan Divisions before joining as the Second Secretary in New Zealand (Commercial Affairs) about six years later. He then took on the appointment of Consul in Cairo and was responsible for economic/commercial affairs and particularly contributed to economic partnership between Korea and Egypt. He was also involved in establishing Korea-Egypt Joint Venture Bank (1978) and organised the first Korea Trade Fair in Cairo (1979).

In 1979, Amb. Cho became the Director of Planning and Budget Division; International Legal Affairs Division, MOFA during which he acceded to International Convention on the Abolition of Discrimination Against Women and initiated legal amendments to promote women's rights and abolish discrimination against women. During the directorship, Amb. Cho went on to complete and obtain his Master of Philosophy from Cambridge University.

Amb. Cho's extensive portfolio includes his roles as a Minister (DCM), Korean Embassy in Pakistan (1987) and Canada (1989), Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN (1994), and Ambassador to Vietnam (1997).

Other appointments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs include Spokesman, Director-General for International

Economic Affairs, Deputy Minister for Policy Planning, and Vice Chancellor, Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, in 1991, 1992, 1996 and 2001 respectively.

Ambassador Rodolfo C. Severino

Asian Keynote Speaker

Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore

Former Secretary-General, Association of Southeast Asian Nations



Rodolfo C. Severino is a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore and a frequent speaker at international conferences in Asia and Europe. Having been Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations from 1998 to 2002, he has completed a book, entitled *Southeast Asia in Search of an ASEAN Community* and published by ISEAS, on issues facing ASEAN, including the economic, security and other challenges confronting the region. His views on ASEAN and Southeast Asia have been published in *ASEAN Today and Tomorrow*, a compilation of his speeches and other statements. He writes articles for journals and for the press. As a member of the faculty at the Asian Institute of Management in the Philippines in the school year 2003-2004, he lectured on regional economic cooperation, the elements of competitiveness, and leadership in the management of change. Before assuming the position of ASEAN Secretary-General, Severino was Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines. In the Philippine

Foreign Service, Severino was Ambassador to Malaysia from 1989 to 1992, chargé d'affaires at the Philippine Embassy in Beijing from 1975 to 1978, Consul General in Houston, Texas, and an officer at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D. C. Between overseas postings, he worked as special assistant to the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs and Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs. He twice served as ASEAN Senior Official for the Philippines. Before joining the Philippine Government, Severino worked at the United Nations and with Operation Brotherhood-Laos. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in the humanities from the Ateneo de Manila and a Master of Arts degree in international relations from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Ambassador Bernhard Zepter

European Keynote Speaker

**Former Ambassador and Head of the European Commission's Delegation to Japan
& Former Deputy Secretary General of the European Commission**



Born in 1944 in Germany (Bavaria) Bernhard Zepter went to school and studied law and economics in Cologne and Freiburg and entered in 1973 the German Ministry for Foreign affairs to become a career diplomat. His initial assignment was the Cabinet of the State Minister for European Affairs, where he had his first encounter with European issues before he was sent, in 1976, to Dakar, Senegal, where he was in charge of development and public affairs issues.

From 1979 to 1982 he worked in the German Delegation to NATO and was involved in key issues of security and arms control. As he was later in the Ministry in charge of the same issues and of the then

emerging challenge to develop the defence dimension within the European Political Cooperation, Zepter gained in depth knowledge of security and defence issues including their European dimension. As so-called "Troika" official he became one of the first

German diplomats to work in operational units of Foreign Ministries of other EU Member States (Denmark and Greece) to assist them during the time of their European Presidencies. As a result of this work he developed ideas on how to improve the functioning of the European Political Cooperation. Some of his proposals were taken up in the Dooge Report. From 1984 to 1986, Zepter worked as special advisor in the German Parliament, the Bundestag, before he moved, on his own request, to Geneva as Deputy Head of the German Delegation to the GATT negotiations (Uruguay Round). In the latter context he learned more about international economic and trade issues. In 1990, he became diplomatic advisor to the President of the European Commission, Jacques

Delors. He remained with Delors until 1995 and then returned as Deputy Director General into the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of European Community issues and EC enlargement. In September 1997 President Jacques Santer asked Bernhard Zepter to become Deputy Secretary General of the European Commission. Zepter became in charge of the Commission's relations with the Council and the European Parliament as well as, within the European Commission, of the coordination of policies. For more than four years, he represented the Commission in Coreper, the key coordinating body of the European Union. In this capacity, he followed and sometimes shaped important institutional and policy related decisions and helped them to be accepted by the other European Institutions. Finally, in 2002, he was assigned, by the Commission, to become Ambassador and Head of the European Commission's Delegation to Japan, where he remained four years. Bernhard Zepter has now asked for retirement and intends to work as senior research fellow on European issues.

Mr Diederik (D.M.) Samson
Chairperson of the 6th Young Parliamentarians Meeting
Member of Parliament, Netherlands



Diederik Samson has been a **Member of Parliament for the Labour Party (PvdA)** since 30 January 2003.

He was born in Groningen in 1971 and studied physics at the Technical University in Delft where he was a radiation expert.

He is the general spokesperson of his political group for development cooperation including debt relief, trade policy, security policy, commercial programme and multilateral policy.

Other areas of focus include emergency and humanitarian help (including Tsunami), disaster reduction, general environmental policy including environmental council, Waddenzee, energy policy and sustainable energy.

He was previously with **Greenpeace** as a campaigner (1995-1998) and Leader of the Climate and Energy Team (1998-2001) and was Director of Energy Company ("Echte Energie") in 2002.

He is a member of the board of the **Burma Centrum Nederland**.

Ambassador Paul R. Brouwer
Governor to the Netherlands
Asia-Europe Foundation



Born in Yokohama in 1940, Amb. Brouwer read Law at Leiden University in 1964 and joined the Netherlands Foreign Service in 1968.

After serving several positions in Tokyo, Paris, Dacca and London, Amb. Brouwer was appointed as Counsellor of Embassy at the Netherlands Permanent Representation to the European Communities, Brussels (1981-1986), Ambassador in Ouagadougou (1986-1989) and Director of the Cultural Cooperation and Foreign Information Department at the Netherlands Foreign Ministry, The Hague.

From 1994 to 1998, he also served as Ambassador to Jakarta and most recently, as Ambassador to Athens.

Paolo Benigno “Bam” A. Aquino IV

General Rapporteur

Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, National Youth Commission of the Philippines

Email: paolobenignoaquino@gmail.com



Bam graduated summa cum laude, BS Management Engineering from the Ateneo de Manila University. He was valedictorian of his batch as well as the Student Council president.

He was made Chairman of the National Youth Commission (NYC), the main youth policy-making arm of the Philippine Government from 2003 to 2006. Previous to this, he was Commissioner-at-Large for two years. As such, he was the youngest person in Philippine history to head a government agency.

His other advocacies include being the spokesperson for Read to Lead (a reading advocacy campaign) and Children's Hour (a fund raising project for less fortunate children), and an ambassador of the Haribon Foundation, (an NGO for the environment). He is also on the Board of ReefCheck Philippines, Microsoft's main education initiative, the Partners-in-Learning Program and Venture for Fund-Raising, an NGO that capacitates other organizations for fund-raising.

Bam hosted Breakfast, a youth-oriented TV morning talk show aired over ABS-CBN's Studio 23 from 2001 to 2006, and is now a host of Yspeak, another youth-oriented show on the same channel. He is currently the editor of the ASEAN's 40th Anniversary Book that focuses on young achievers in the region.

After having ended his stint in government, he has recently been involved with a number of entrepreneurial efforts ranging from mobile communications to microfinance.

Jonny Sinaga

Facilitator for WG 1: Migration & Community Building

Head of Sub-directorate for civil and political rights, Indonesia Department of Foreign Affairs

Email: jonny.sinaga@deplu.go.id



Mr. Jonny Sinaga is Head of Sub-directorate for civil and political rights at the Department of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia in Jakarta, upon the completion of his four year tenure at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations in New York. Prior to that assignment, he worked at the Directorate of International Organizations at the Department, political officer at the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra, Australia, Head of section at the Directorate of International Treaty Affairs at the Department from 1988-1993. In 1992 he completed a master degree program (LL.M) in international law from Tulane Law School, New Orleans after graduating from School of Law University of Indonesia, Jakarta. He also participated in several UNITAR trainings in New York; such as on the UN international

treaty depository process, drafting resolutions, etc. He was a speaker at the 2004 National Model United Nations, sponsored by the National Collegiate Conferences Association (NCCA), New York.

He attended many bilateral, regional, and multilateral meetings. He participated in the IPU seminar in Geneva in 2006. In 1995 he spoke before the young Parliamentarians in Canberra. He was a judge for Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in 2006 and 2007. He attended the 7th ASEM informal Human Rights

Seminar in Budapest in February 2006 and a preparatory meeting of the 8th informal Human Rights Seminar at the ASEF Secretariat, Singapore in November 2006. His publications in the “The Jakarta Post” daily include: *RI needs effective disaster agency* (June 9, 2006); *Shameful modern slavery* (May 10, 2006); *Lesson learnt from world leaders’ school diplomacy* (April 19, 2006); *Indonesia and the New Human Rights Council* (March 28, 2006); *The quiet revolution in Indonesia’s human rights* (November 8, 2005); *Reforming the UN Human Rights Commission* (April 18, 2005). His view *The World Conference against Racism, Durban, South Africa* was also published in the United Nations Chronicle, New York (June-August 2001 edition).

Yannis Piliouris

Facilitator for WG 2: Education & the Knowledge-Based Society

Bureau Member of the Hellenic National Youth Council

yannis_pil@yahoo.gr



Yannis Piliouris graduated “International and European Affairs” Department of Panteion University in Athens and holds an MA in “Comparative History” (University of Utrecht). He is an elected Bureau Member of the Hellenic National Youth Council dealing mainly with non-formal education and external relations of the organization.

He has been representing Greek youth in European Youth Forum and international events such as Global Youth Leaders Summit organized by UN. His activities also are connected with organizing many seminars and trainings in Greece, having to do with youth participation and regional cooperation.

Yannis has been active in youth politics back in Greece, being a member of one of the most historical youth parties, Hellenic Democratic Youth, standing for democracy and human rights and strongly advocating participation in all aspects.

The last 3 years he is an active trainer of the Pool of Trainers of European Youth Forum and he had worked as a trainer/facilitator in many significant European events such as : 1st European Youth Week, Austrian Presidency’s meeting of Education Ministers, European Anti-tobacco Manifesto and latest as a trainer of Council of Europe, regarding promotion of the “Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life”.

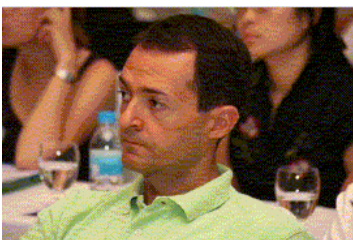
His academic interests focus in Greek-Turkish relationships and Central Asian countries and he has 2 academic articles under publication, dealing with “Public Diplomacy of USA” and “The rally for influence of Russia, China and Turkey toward Central Asian countries.” He has participated in many symposiums and UN Models.

David Garcia Cantalapiedra

Facilitator for WG 3: Security & Civil Liberties

Senior Research Fellow, Royal Institute Elcano of Strategic and International Studies

dgarciacan@wanadoo.es



Prof. David García Cantalapiedra is Senior Research Fellow on Transatlantic Relations and International Organizations at the Real Instituto Elcano de Estudios Internacionales y Estratégicos as well as Professor of International Relations at the Department of International Studies, Faculty of Political Sciences, Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He is also currently Senior Research Fellow at the UNISCI, Programs Director on US Foreign Policy, Transatlantic Relations and Asian Security at the UCM Research Group (Social Sciences) at UCM. At this university he also received his PhD in Political Science with honours. His areas of

expertise include European Security, Transatlantic Relations, Geopolitic of the USA, the Bush Administration. He has participated in many international conferences and has been a participant in another ASEF activity, namely the ASEF University Programme. Subsequently he became founder member of the ASEFUAN (ASEF University Alumni Network) and of the AES (Asia-Europe Society).

Schedule

Plenary sessions will be held in the Old Plenary Hall.

	26 February (Mon)	27 February (Tue)		28 February (Wed)		01 March (Thu)		02 March (Fri)
	Arrival of Participants / Airport Pickup (Registration at hotel from 12 - 17pm)	0800	Registration	0700	Breakfast	0700	Breakfast	Breakfast
0900		Welcome Address - Mr Diederik Samson, Chairman of the AEYPM - HE Gerdi Verbeet, President of the House of Representatives of the States General - HE Cho Won-Il, Executive Director ASEF - Programme Update Old Plenary Hall		Visit to European Parliament See Separate Schedule		Working Groups Session 2 WG 1: Migration and Community Building Thorbecke WG 2: Education and the Knowledge-based Society Groen van Prinsterer WG 3: Security and Civil Liberties Troelstra		Departure of Participants
1000		Break				Break		
1015		Asian Keynote Address (Amb. Rodolfo Severino) European Keynote Address (Amb. Bernhard Zepter) Open Discussion Working group formation Old Plenary Hall				Presentation of Working Groups' Reports (Rapporteurs of each working group) Discussion Old Plenary Hall		
1115								
1130								
1230		Lunch Rooksalon		1230-1430 Lunch Rooksalon				
1430		Working Groups Session 1 WG 1: Migration and Community Building Thorbecke WG 2: Education and the Knowledge-based Society Groen van Prinsterer WG 3: Security and Civil Liberties Troelstra		1430-1530 Tour				
1600		Coffee Break Working Groups Session 1 continues as above		Presentation of General Report of the Meeting Closing Session Old Plenary Hall				
1600								
1630								
1700	Farewell Reception							
1800		Departure to Dinner Venue				Rooksalon		
1900	Welcome Reception & Dinner (Hosted by the House of Representatives) Rooksalon	Informal Dinner & Cultural Event Lakenhal, Leiden		Dinner Princen Logement, Middelburg		Dinner Rooksalon		
2200	End Programme	2230	End	23.00	End	2100	End programme	

Visit To European Parliament - Brussel

Wednesday, 28 February 2007

07:30	Departure from Hotel by bus
10:30	Arrival at European Parliament, Paul-Henri Spaak building
11:00-12:00	Presentation on the EU and the European Parliament by Mr Jarmo OIKARINEN, from DG Information and Public Relations and Mr Thierry JACOB, from DG External Policies of the Union Room PHS 0C011
12:00-12:30	The European Parliament and Parliamentary Diplomacy, by Mr Dietmar NICKEL, Director General for the External Policies of the Union
12:45-14:15	Lunch hosted by the Vice-President of the European Parliament (in charge of relations with the National Parliaments of the EU), with an introductory participation by Mr Georg JARZEMBOWSKI, MEP, Chairman of the Delegation for relations with Japan and Chairman of the EP Delegation to the 4th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (Helsinki, 2006), and possibly other Delegation Chairs.
14:15-14:45	Tour of Parliament Building
15:00-16:30	Meeting with Parliamentary Committees I - Committee on Industry, Research and Energy II - Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs III - Committee on Culture and Education Room ASP 5G2
16:30	Departure by bus to Middelburg for Dinner
19:00	Dinner at the Princen Logement in the ancient abbey of the Province of Zeeland, Middelburg, Zeeland Word of Welcome by the Commissioner to the Queen of the Province of Zeeland, Drs Wim van Gelder Presentation by Dr Sebastian Bersick, Senior Research Fellow at the European Institute for Asian Studies
21:00	Departure by bus to The Hague
23:00	Arrival in The Hague

Cultural Event

Tuesday, 27 February 2007

On Tuesday night we will travel to Leiden and visit the Leiden Municipal Museum, which is located in *The Lakenhal*, a former clothmakers' hall built in 1640 by Arent van 'Gravesande.

Experience Leiden's art and history from the Middle Ages to the present day with ancient and modern masterpieces by Lucas van Leyden, Rembrandt, Jan Steen, Floris Verster, Theo van Doesburg and many others. Stylish halls with displays of unique implements and collections of silver, glass, tin and tiles. The themes of the temporary exhibitions are ancient and contemporary art and topical historical subjects.

The Building itself, *The Lakenhal*, is where the famed Leiden cloth was inspected and where the Governors and Syndics of the cloth industry held their meetings. Reminders of the textile industry which was so important to Leiden can be seen in the historical collection. The various stages of the wool production process are illustrated in a monumental series of 16th-century paintings by Isaac van Swanenburgh. This unique pictorial record is supplemented by a loom, sample books, scissors, stamps and suchlike. Events from Leiden's history are also depicted, such as the siege of the city and its relief on October 3, 1574 as well as The Gunpowder Disaster of 1807.

The Gunpowder Disaster of 1807

Two hundred years ago a cargo boat with 369 barrels of gunpowder on board exploded on Steenschuur in Leiden. The devastation was unimaginable and more than 160 people were killed. This disaster is going to be commemorated in various ways in Leiden this year. The exhibition at De Lakenhal, January 12th until April 15th, will include eye witness accounts, surviving fragments of the ship and other memorabilia with numerous prints and drawings to give a graphic picture of the tragedy.

The Cultural Night is scheduled as follows:

18.15	Departure from the House of Representatives to Leiden (by bus)
19.00	Arrival at the Lakenhal - Welcome drinks
19.30-20.30	Guided tours through the museum
20.30-22.30	Buffet dinner
22.30	Departure from Lakenhal, return to The Hague by bus

Bus Schedule

Buses will take you to the venue each day, below is the Schedule, please be on time.

Do note that if you miss the bus, it is your own responsibility to arrive on time at the conference venue. For directions, see the practical information sheet, below.

26 February

17.30 - Pick up at Hotel - travel to House of Representatives for Welcome Reception and Dinner

22.00 - Pick up at House of Representatives - return to Hotel

Tuesday 27 February

08.15 - Pick up at Hotel - travel to House of Representatives for Opening

18.15 - Pick up at House of Representatives - Travel to Leiden, Lakenhal for Cultural Programme

22.30 - Pick up in Leiden, Lakenhal - return to Hotel

Wednesday 28 February

07.30 - Pick up at Hotel - travel to Brussels

10.30 - Arrival in Brussels

16.30 - Departure from Brussels - travel to Middelburg for Dinner

21.00 - Departure from Middelburg - return to Hotel (estimated time of arrival 23.00)

Thursday 1 March

08.30 - Pick up at Hotel - travel to House of Representatives for Working Groups

22.15 - Pick up at House of Representatives - return to Hotel

Friday 2 March

07.00 - Opportunity to take the bus to Schiphol Airport (travel time 30 minutes)

11.00 - Second opportunity to take the bus to Schiphol Airport

Participants who decide not to take this bus are requested to travel back to the Airport by themselves.

Practical Information

For all conference matters, please contact

International Institute of Asian Studies

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For emergencies, you may call us on one of the following numbers;

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Mrs Stremmelaar and Mrs Rozing are also staying in NH Hotel The Hague. You can contact them through the reception desk of the hotel.

Usefull contacts

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Important Numbers for non-conference matters:

National emergency numbers

Police emergency, fire brigade, ambulance: 112

Police, no emergency: 0900 8844

Road patrol

ANWB: 0800 0888

Local tourist information offices: vvv

The local tourist office in the city you intend to visit can answer most of your questions. For the addresses of these offices, go to the official website of the [Netherlands Board of Tourism](https://www.vvv.nl). The tourist information offices are listed under 'General Information'.

Telephone services

Telephone numbers within Holland: 0900 8008 (EUR 1,15 per call)

Telephone numbers abroad: 0900 8418 (EUR 1,15 per call)

Operator: 0800 0410 (toll-free)

Collect call: 0800 0101 (toll-free)

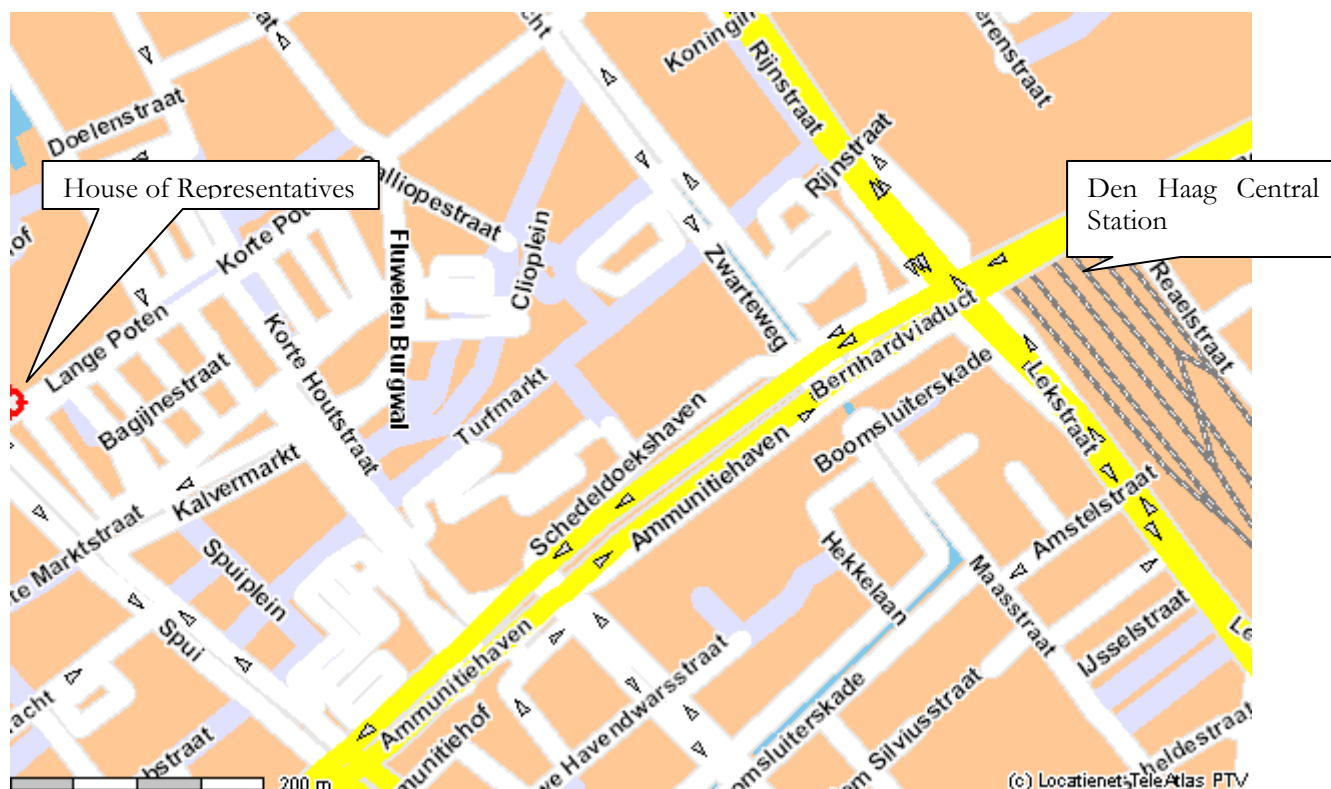
Conference Venue

The AEYPM will be held in the Netherlands House of Representatives. In Dutch it is called the *Tweede Kamer* (The second chamber).

You will be picked up each morning by bus (see bus schedule on page 16) and brought to the Venue. In the evening buses will return you to your hotel.

Please use the entrance at “Lange Poten 4” to enter the House of Representatives.

In case you miss the bus, walk to the train Station Den Haag “Laan van NOI” which is close to your hotel (see arrival map). Take a train to Den Haag Central Station. From Den Haag Central Station it is a 5 minute walk.



The Address of the House of Representatives:

Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal
Lange Poten 4
2511 CL DEN HAAG
Tel: +31 70 318 2211
www.houseofrepresentatives.nl

Security Notice

The first time you enter the House of Representatives your name will be recorded at the Information Desk. After this first registration, your badge will be sufficient to identify you.

You need to carry your badge and your passport or ID Card with you all the time.

Please stay with the group. Visitors are not allowed to walk the halls of the House of Representatives unaccompanied.

Guides will accompany you to the working group rooms on Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning.

Your Hotel

NH Hotel The Hague
Prinses Margrietplantsoen 100,
2595 BR Den Haag
The Netherlands

E-mail: nh@nh-hotels.com

Tel.: +31-(0)70-381 2345

Fax: +31-(0)70-381 2323

We have booked a hotel room for you from 26 February to 2 March (departure day) including breakfast and tourist tax. Any other costs (minibar, telephone, laundry service, additional nights for personal stay, double room charge etc.) are not covered by the organizers and have to be paid by yourself at check-out.



Meals

Breakfast will be held daily in your hotel.

On Monday, if you arrive in the morning you have to take care of your own breakfast and lunch. On Monday Night you will be invited for a reception and dinner in the House of Representatives. (Buses will take you). On all other days you will have lunch at the venue (in The Hague or Brussels). Tuesday night we will go to Leiden for a cultural outing and dinner and on Wednesday night we will have a dinner on the way back from Brussels. The conference ends on Thursday night with a dinner in the House of Representatives.

We have tried to accommodate all dietary preferences. However, if you have any further comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Business Hours

Shops:

Most shops are open from Tuesday to Friday between 9 am and 6 pm, on Saturdays between 9 am and 5 pm. On Monday, many shops are closed in the mornings and open between 11 am and 1 pm and close at 6 pm. Most cities have late-night shopping (until 9 pm) on Thursdays or Fridays. In the main cities, many shops are open on Sunday from 12 noon to 5 PM. In most holiday and tourist resorts many shops are open at night, too. For business hours on Sundays or late night shopping, please call a local tourist information office in the city of your destination.

Travellers to the Netherlands from EU countries do not have to pay duty on the following items: 800 cigarettes, 400 cigarillos (up to 3g each), 200 cigars or 1kg smoking tobacco; Alcohol allowances include: 10 litres of spirits with alcohol content higher than 22%; 20 litres alcoholic beverages less than 22%; 90 litres wine or 60 litres of sparkling wine; 110 litres of beer; Travellers over 17 years arriving from non EU countries do not have to pay duty on the following: 200 cigarettes, 100 cigarillos, 50 cigars; or 250g smoking tobacco; 1 litre spirits with alcohol volume higher than 22%, or 2 litres spirits or aperitifs made of wine or similar beverages less than 22% alcohol volume, sparkling wines, liquor wines; or 2 litres still wine. Perfume up to 50g, 250ml eau de toilette. 500g of coffee or 200g coffee extract; 100g tea; or 40g tea extract; Goods for personal consumption to the value of EUR 175.-. Prohibited items include the import of all birds.

Sunday shopping and late-night shopping in the main cities:

Amsterdam

Sunday: every week from 12 a.m. to 7 p.m. (city centre)

Late night shopping: every Thursday until 9 p.m. (city centre)

The Hague

Sunday: every week from 12 a.m. to 5 p.m. (city centre, Scheveningen and Kijkduin)

Late night shopping: every Thursday until 9 p.m. (city centre, Scheveningen and Kijkduin)

Foreign exchange, banking, money

Please note that during the meeting, the organizers will take care of all your meals and refreshments.

The currency of the Netherlands is the Euro - €.

All major credit cards are accepted widely, but not everywhere. If in doubt, ask in advance. Cash-on-card services are available from selected American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and VisaCard addresses. These cards are also accepted by all GWK currency exchange outlets and Change Express Offices.

If you have a foreign bank pass with a Cirrus, EC or Maestro logo you can get money from an Automatic Teller Machine (ATM). Of course, you can also use most credit cards to obtain money from an ATM. The ATMs are usually open 24 hours per day., near your hotel and near the venue. The reception desk in the Hotel or at the Venue can point them out for you.

If you have to change money, you can best go to the GWK Bank at The Hague Central Station. They have the best rates. There are also ample possibilities to change money at Schiphol Airport. Most banks are open from Tuesday to Friday between 9 am and 4 pm. On Mondays business hours start mainly at 1 pm. On Saturdays and Sundays banks are closed. GWK currency exchange offices are open 24/7.

As the programme schedule is very tight, we recommend that you arrange your currency exchange beforehand, either at the airport of your departure or at Schiphol airport.

Internet and Telecommunications

There is wireless internet available in the hotel. The costs for 24 hour access are € 17 and matters can be arranged through the reception desk.

In the House of Representatives there are no internet facilities for visitors

In the conference secretariat (Schrijfkamer) it is possible to make and receive international calls, as well as fax messages.

T +31 70 318 5508

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The Netherlands

The country and its people

The Dutch are a surprising people. They live - all 16 million of them - on 41,528 square kilometres, little more than half the size of Scotland. The Netherlands is thus one of the world's most densely populated countries. But the Dutch have turned their crowded country into such a success that the world's planners and architects flock here to find out how.

The Netherlands is best known for its tulips, windmills and clogs. And for its low altitude and vulnerability to flooding. Less well known is that it is the world's eighth largest exporter of goods and capital and the world's third largest exporter of food. Equally little known is that Dutch people have won 15 Nobel prizes: for chemistry, physics, medicine, economics and peace.

The Dutch are major players in fields like science, the economy, the arts and sports - and their country is a beacon of forward-thinking social and cultural policy.

Bridge builders

The Netherlands lies on the delta of three major rivers: the Rhine, Maas and Scheldt. It owes its existence to feats of hydraulic engineering.

The Dutch are proud of their conquest of water. Their struggle to keep dry has helped them develop a can-do attitude. And since controlling water requires many parties to meet and plan together, it has forced them to learn how to work as a team. That is why their European partners and the broader international community regard the Dutch as bridge builders and often ask them to serve as such.

The country

The Netherlands is a kingdom. Its full name is the Kingdom of the Netherlands. It consists of the Netherlands itself and six islands in the Caribbean Sea: Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles. The Netherlands is also sometimes called "Holland". The word features in the names of the two western coastal provinces, North and South Holland, which have played a dominant role in the country's history. Thanks to their location on the estuaries of two major West European rivers, the Rhine and the Maas, these two provinces are still very important for the economy.

With Rotterdam the biggest port in the world, the Netherlands is an important gateway to Europe. And not only by water: Amsterdam Schiphol is one of Europe's biggest airports.

Each of the Netherlands' major cities has a distinctive character, even though they are all so close. Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam and Utrecht all belong to the Randstad conurbation, with a population of ten million. Amsterdam attracts many tourists, with its historic centre, majestic buildings, museums and unique ring of canals.

But The Hague, Delft, Haarlem, Utrecht, Groningen and Maastricht also have their share of historic buildings, museums, traditions and attractions. Rotterdam is renowned for its strikingly modern architecture, as exemplified by the Erasmus Bridge, known locally as the "Swan".

Floods

The Netherlands' many bridges, dykes, windmills and pumping stations give it a unique appearance and illustrate its long struggle against the sea. The crowning achievement was the Delta Project, a chain of dams protecting Zeeland and South Holland from the North Sea.

Work on the Delta Project began after the 1953 floods, and it ended in 1997 with the completion of a storm surge barrier in the Nieuwe Waterweg. The barrier has two enormous hinged gates that can be lowered in severe weather to close off the 360-metre-wide waterway. It protects greater Rotterdam's one million inhabitants from flooding without harming the environment.

A quarter of the Netherlands' land area lies below sea level. The low-lying areas consist mainly of "polders", flat stretches of land, surrounded by dikes, where the water table is controlled artificially. From the 16th century, windmills were used not just to keep the land dry, but even to drain entire inland lakes.

Religion

The 16th century Reformation split the Netherlands into Catholic and Protestant parts. The border between them runs roughly diagonally across the country from the southwest to the northeast. The part to the north was mainly Protestant, and the part to the south mainly Catholic. The Protestant community divided further into the Reformed Church and many other denominations ranging from orthodox to liberal.

Since the 17th century, the Netherlands has been a home to Jews, mainly descendants of refugees from Spain and Portugal. And it was in the 17th century that the country received many Huguenot refugees from France. In the 20th century, Hindus and Muslims arrived from the former Dutch colonies of Indonesia and Suriname. And since the 1960s, they have been joined by more Muslims from Morocco and Turkey. The Netherlands is now home to almost one million Muslims.

In the second half of the 20th century, the Dutch churches lost much of their influence. The tradition of adopting your parents' religion disappeared. First many Protestants, then many Catholics, abandoned formal religion. Less than half the Dutch population now belong to a church, but religious organisations still have a strong social influence. Freedom of religion was laid down in the 1848 Constitution, which separated church and state. This means that the government keeps out of the internal affairs of religious and other belief-based organisations. And these organisations keep out of matters of state. But the government can help people practise their religion.

The Care Institutions (Quality) Act, for instance, stipulates that care institutions must provide for the spiritual needs of patients in ways compatible with their religion or belief.

Multiculturalism

Dutch society used to be strictly organised along religious or ideological lines with every grouping having its own schools, newspapers, trade unions, clubs and so on. The traces can still be seen today in the media, interest groups and the education system. One of the benefits was that it helped prevent friction among religious and ideological groups, since they lived more or less independently alongside each other.

Article 1 of the Dutch Constitution says: "All persons in the Netherlands shall be treated equally in equal circumstances. Discrimination on the grounds of religion, belief, political opinion, race or sex or on any other grounds whatsoever shall not be permitted."

People have been migrating to the Netherlands for centuries. Of the current population, 18% are of recent foreign descent. The current immigration policy is restrictive because the Netherlands is so densely populated. In the 1950s, high population density led the government to encourage emigration. But in the 1960s and 1970s, a labour shortage attracted many migrants.

In recent years, the Netherlands has admitted immigrants on only three grounds: if their presence serves an essential Dutch interest, if they are entitled to live here under an international agreement, or if there are compelling humanitarian reasons for admitting them. The Government actively pursues policies to help immigrants integrate.

The Dutch language

Dutch is the mother tongue of more than 22 million people in the Netherlands and Belgium. In northwestern France, around 60,000 people speak a Dutch dialect.

Dutch is used widely in government and education in the former colony of Suriname and in Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, which are part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. In Indonesia, many lawyers and historians speak Dutch owing to historical ties. Afrikaans, which is spoken in South Africa, is an offshoot of Dutch. Dutch has also influenced other languages, especially in shipping, waterworks and agriculture.

Dutch is taught at around 250 universities around the world. In French-speaking Belgium, northern France and Germany, many pupils choose Dutch as their second language. In 1980, the Netherlands and Flanders founded the Nederlandse Taalunie (Dutch Language Union), which promotes Dutch worldwide and draws up rules for spelling and grammar.

In the province of Friesland, they speak a separate language: Frisian. This officially recognised language is the mother tongue of around 400,000 people. It is similar in some ways to English and the Scandinavian languages. Dutch is used in schools throughout the country, including Friesland.

The Hague, the Netherlands

History

The Hague is a beautiful city behind the dunes and today still known as 'the largest village of Europe'. It's a city that is full of history and royalty.

Royal Residence

Although the Netherlands first became a monarchy in 1813, the Royal House of Orange had been playing an important role in its history since 1559 when Emperor Charles V assigned Prince William of Nassau to the post of stadtholder of the provinces of Holland, Zeeland and Utrecht. Later, William inherited the title of Orange from his cousin René van Châlon. For reasons of safety, William settled in the town of Delft, but was murdered there in 1584.

Maurits, his son and warlord, turned the Binnenhof parliamentary seat into a military fortification. Later stadtholders in The Hague resided at the Oude Hof, now known as the Paleis Noordeinde, or the Binnenhof. Stadtholder William III, married to Mary Stuart, daughter of Jacob II, King of England, was crowned king of England in 1689 and resided in England and the Netherlands by turns. The death of William III in 1702, who died without children, for a while meant the end of the stadtholdership.

In 1747, Friesian stadtholder Willem Friso, descendent of William of Orange, was appointed to the post of stadtholder of Holland. A period of inheritance stadtholders with members of the House of Orange followed until 1795 when they had to flee the French occupying forces, marking the end of the Republic, as well as the end of the 200-year reign of the Princes of Orange. Following the French occupation, the Kingdom of the Netherlands was established in 1813. The first Head of State was William Frederik, the son of William V, the stadtholder whom had fled earlier. He was crowned King of the Netherlands, which then comprised the Netherlands and Belgium. When the two countries separated in 1830, William I remained King of the Netherlands while Leopold of Saksen Coburg was crowned King of Belgium.

The Netherlands was reigned by successive Kings until the death of King William III in 1890. His wife, Queen Emma, who acted as regent until their daughter Wilhelmina came of age, succeeded him. Wilhelmina (1880-1962) was crowned Queen in 1898. Her daughter, Juliana succeeded her, in 1948, who in turn was succeeded in 1980 by her daughter, Beatrix. Until this day, the Netherlands is reigned by a Queen. Queen Beatrix has three sons, so succession to the throne is guaranteed.

The Largest Village of Europe

The Hague was originally a hamlet close to the count's castle built in the 13th century. The village was first recorded in a document dated 1370, but has never been granted a charter. Charters entitled medieval villages to erect defence walls and dig moats to protect their citizens. It also gave villages certain privileges, including the right to administer justice.

Attempts by The Hague to obtain a charter were continuously thwarted, although noblemen in the Large Hall of the Count's Castle administered justice. In 1811 The Hague was granted a 48-hour charter by Napoleon, when he proclaimed The Hague 'Bonne Ville de l'Empire'. Passing through on his journey from Amsterdam to Paris, he refused to stay in a village.

No city rights

Even today, The Hague has no charter. From 1851 local legislation has no longer distinguished between city and

countryside. The Netherlands now has only municipalities, with the exception of Amsterdam, which is a city under the Dutch Constitution. '*s-Gravenhage* -- the official name for The Hague and is literally translated as 'the Count's hedge' -- was never awarded city rights.

Although The Hague gives an outward appearance of being a full-fledged city, it is still known today as 'the largest village of Europe'. Even though voices whispered 'The Hague is the third largest city of the Netherlands' with a population of 450,000, it was still not granted its charter when it celebrated its 750th anniversary in 1998.

Town Arms

Although still without a charter, The Hague boasts its own Town Arms. The Town Arms was officially laid down by order of the Dutch College of Arms on 24 July 1861 and is described as follows: 'In gold a striding stork of a natural colour, holding in its beak a sable-coloured eel. The shield is covered by an antique count's crown and held by two golden lions looking round'.

It is likely that the illustration on the Town Arms is based on the medieval storks that used to build their nests on the little island in the *Hofvijver* or "Big Pond". This was seen by The Hague population as a sign of fortune as the storks would finish off all the fish remains after the fish market. These remains would otherwise rot and cause infectious diseases. The stork is depicted on all municipal institutions and on the tower of the Church of St. Jacob.

City of Peace and Justice

The Hague's current role as host to international organisations and the international community is part of a tradition dating back more than 750 years. In 1998 the city celebrated its 750th anniversary with a grand commemoration, and the city's international community was well-acknowledged.

Historians today generally agree that the city was founded in 1248 by Count William II of Holland. The name originated from him: '*des Graven Hage*', or the Count's Wall (or hedge), thus The Hague.

Past generations helped to turn The Hague into the hospitable city it is today - a diverse community of people from many different backgrounds and countries. Over the centuries it has played host to international visitors, but also provided a safe haven for outcasts. In this respect the city's history is interwoven with, and deeply embedded in, the history of The Netherlands. It is no accident that the national constitution explicitly states the promotion of the international legal order; in a climate that was remarkably tolerant and intellectual by the standards of their day, renowned scholars such as Erasmus and Hugo Grotius were able to flourish here and make their bodies of ideas known to the world.

In more recent centuries, the city returned to the international spotlight as a location for important events and institutions such as the World Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907, the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Court (ICC). These and many other important developments are strongly linked to The Hague and the activities hosted here.

The Hague has many faces: a city of royalty, the seat of national government (though not the capital), a city of scholars, a city of storks (the city's coat of arms has featured the proud stork for many centuries), a city by the sea and a city of culture. But the rich heritage of this green city by the sea ensures that it shall always remain a humble servant to its role as International City of Peace and Justice.

International Organisations in The Hague

The Hague is home to more than 150 international legal organisations, such as the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Court, as a result of its rich legacy in international politics.

The Carnegie Foundation

In 1903 the wealthy philanthropist Andrew Carnegie donated 1.5 million US dollars to The Netherlands for the construction of the Peace Palace and establishment of the Carnegie Foundation.

Eurojust

Stimulating and supporting cooperation and coordination between investigators and prosecutors in the EU Member States.

Europol

This European law enforcement organisation was established in the Maastricht treaty of February 1992.

The Hague Academy of International Law

The Hague Academy of International Law was founded on 14 July 1923 in accordance with the ideas from the second Hague Peace Conference of 1907.

The Hague Conference on Private International Law

The Hague Conference on Private International Law (Hcch) was formed in answer to the ever-increasing complexities in private law due to the expanded international relations between people, families and businesses.

The International Court of Justice

The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Established in 1946, it has a twofold role. The Court has its seat at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

International Criminal Court

At the first Hague Peace Conference of 1899 a first call for adjudication of war crimes was heard, and the concept of an International Criminal Court (ICC) was born.

International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

The ICTY was established in 1993 by a UN Security Council resolution to address the serious violations of international humanitarian law which have been committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991.

The Iran-United States Claims Tribunal

The Iran-United States Claims Tribunal came into existence as one of the measures taken to resolve the crisis in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America.

NATO C3 Agency

The NATO Consultation, Command and Control Agency (NC3A) is a non-profit, 100% customer-funded organisation. The Agency serves the NATO Alliance, its constituent nations and agencies.

Non-Governmental Organisations

Of the more than 40 international NGOs that are based in The Hague more than half of them are active in the area of peace and justice.

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

After the Chemical Weapons Convention was signed in Paris in 1993, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was established in 1997 to monitor the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The Peace Palace Library

In 1913 the Peace Palace Library (PPL) was opened as the world's first single library on international, comparative and foreign national law.

Permanent Court of Arbitration

Founded in 1899 as a result of the first Hague Peace Conference, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) was the world's first-ever international dispute settlement mechanism.

Climate in The Netherlands in February

The Netherlands has a fairly temperate climate, very similar to England; temperatures are variable and rain occurs throughout the year.

Average Rainfall in February is 44 mm (1.7 Inches), Average Min. Temperature is 0°C (34°F) and Max. Temperature is 6°C (43°F).



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Colophon:

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