4TH ASIA-EUROPE JOURNALISTS’ SEMINAR:

“Strategic Issues in Asia-Europe Relations: Perspectives from the Media”

26-27 May 2007 – Hamburg, Germany

in conjunction with the 8th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting

PROJECT REPORT

with the support of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Auswärtiges Amt
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Outline

**Concept**

The Asia-Europe Journalists’ Seminar series serves to enhance the flow of information and exchange of perspectives among policymakers and eminent senior journalists from Asia and Europe on strategic issues facing the two regions. It is a forum for the journalists to be updated on current world developments and concerns being addressed by the ASEM process, and the joint approaches being taken to deal with them. The journalists are thus exposed to the thinking in both regions and indications about future directions in Asia-Europe relations. Through this, the Seminar promotes greater media attention to, and fosters, more accurate, balanced and in-depth media analysis of Asia-Europe relations, particularly efforts to jointly tackle strategic issues at the policy level. Accordingly, participants are invited to stay on for the duration of, and to cover, the main ASEM official conference proceedings.

The Seminar series helps to build and foster important networking relationships among journalists and officials that extend in Asia and Europe.

**Background to Past Seminars**

The 2nd Asia-Europe Journalists’ Seminar was held on 25 July 2003 in Bali, Indonesia, on the occasion of 5th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting. A collaboration with the Delegation of the European Commission in Jakarta, the seminar brought together forty Asian and European journalists, who received briefings from senior officials of ASEM on the current political and economic developments relevant to the two regions, in particular:

- The ASEM process and various ways in which Asia and Europe could work together to promote long-term understanding between the peoples of the two regions;
- The EU’s external relations policy;
- EU enlargement and its implications for Asia;
- Current developments on the Korean peninsula from a regional and global security perspective;
- Asia-EU trade relations and the WTO agenda; and
- The role of media in emerging democracies.

After the Seminar, the journalists were invited to attend the main press conference of the ministerial meeting, as well as the one given by then-EU Commissioner for External Relations, Mr. Chris Patten, on the newly adopted EU Strategy on partnership with Southeast Asia.

The 3rd Asia-Europe Journalists’ Seminar was held on 8 May 2005 in Kyoto, Japan, back-to-back with the 7th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting. Twenty-seven journalists attended the seminar, with an emphasis on participation by journalists from the newer partner countries so as to familiarise them with the ASEM process and, in turn, enhance public awareness about ASEM and ASEF in their respective countries. The Seminar agenda covered:

- The newly-initiated ASEM Interfaith Dialogue;
- An in-depth look at the preoccupations of the Foreign Ministers’ Meeting;
• EU foreign policy and interests in Asia;
• The EU Constitution and its implications;
• Recent developments in Japan’s climate change policies;
• The prospect of an East Asian Community;
• EU trade policy and civil society dialogue; and
• Asia-Europe co-operation in human rights.

The journalists were also invited to cover the ASEM meeting and attended a special briefing by the Press Secretary of the Japanese Foreign Ministry. This included an informal gathering for the journalists to meet and have open discussions with ASEM officials.
Project Description

As one of its 10th Anniversary signature events in 2007, ASEF organised the 4th Asia-Europe Journalists’ Seminar on 26 – 27 May 2007 immediately preceding the 8th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Hamburg (28 – 29 May 2007). The event was the fourth edition of the Journalists’ Seminars organised by ASEF in a continuing effort to contribute to enhancing the visibility of ASEM through projects that are in line with ASEM priorities. Under the theme “Strategic Issues in Asia-Europe Relations: Perspectives from the Media”, the Seminar brought together 25 foreign desk editors, correspondents and reporters from 21 Asian and European countries. Among the journalists invited were those from the new or newer members, i.e. Eastern Europe, India and Mongolia. The main purpose of the Seminar was to familiarise and update the media representatives with current developments and topics pertinent to both regions, especially those being addressed in the ASEM process. In addition, the participants were encouraged to strengthen their contacts with their counterparts and with key figures in ASEM, as well as to generate direct reportage on the subsequent ASEM Ministerial. Key points arising from the discussions during the Seminar were summarised and subsequently channelled into the ASEM process. The Seminar was co-financed by the German Federal Foreign Office.

Preparation

The 25 participants of the Seminar were selected and invited by ASEF based on their professional experience and their involvement in Asia and Europe relations. Half of the participants were ASEF Alumni who had participated in previous journalists’ projects; the other half was either recommended by ASEM contact points and ASEM Embassies or contacted based on research. It was a requirement that participants were fluent in English. The overall composition of the journalists from the different segments of the media saw a good balance between Asians and Europeans and took especially into account new members of ASEM. Hence, for the first time, journalists from Bulgaria, Lithuania, Romania and Mongolia attended an ASEF Seminar. Two moderators and six panelists out of the 25 participants were identified to lead the discussions. They were:

Moderators:
Session 1: Mr Zhang Niansheng, Brussels Bureau Chief, The People’s Daily, China
Session 2: Mr Matthias Nass, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Die Zeit, Germany

Panelists:
Session 1:
Mr Asad-ul Iqbal Latif, Visiting Research Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore
Mr Kavi Chongkittavorn, Assistant Group Editor, The Nation, Thailand
Ms Maria Kruzckowska, Reporter, Gazeta Wyborcza, Poland

Session 2:
Ms Anne Autio, European Journalism Centre, Finland (based in the Maastricht)
Mr Alexander Haentzschel, Author, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany
Mr Nagayo Taniguchi, Author, Sekai, Japan (based in Brussels)
Accommodation of up to 4 nights, the participants’ travel costs and some other travel-related expenses in connection with the Seminar (e.g. taxes, airport transfers, where applicable) were covered by the organiser.

During the preparations of the Seminar, ASEF worked in close cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office. The costs of travel and accommodation for the participants were shared between ASEF and the FFO. ASEF was honoured to have a senior guest speaker from the FFO during the seminar. Furthermore, the FFO facilitated the issuing of media accreditations and contacted the German Embassies in those countries where participants needed a visa.

Programme

On 26th May, a day before the Seminar, ASEF organised a welcome dinner for the participants to provide them with background information on the ASEM process and on ASEF’s mission. This dinner was especially useful in providing the journalists an opportunity to get to know each other informally prior to the Seminar itself.

The day-long Seminar was divided into two sessions:

1. The morning session, moderated by Mr Zhang Niansheng, Brussels bureau chief of the People’s Daily of China, covered the topic “Perspectives on European Enlargement and Consolidation – Asian Views”.
2. The afternoon focused on the topic “Perceptions of Regional Developments in Emerging Asia – Implications for Europe” and was moderated by Mr Matthias Nass, Deputy Editor of Die Zeit, Germany.

In between the two sessions, the participants had a luncheon with Amb. Andreas Michaelis, DG for Asian and Pacific Affairs of the German Federal Foreign Office. Amb. Michaelis spoke on the topic “Strategic Issues on Asia-Europe Relations: Current and Future Areas of Cooperation”. His presentation provided a strong stimulus to the already lively and high quality discussions at the Seminar.

With the insights gained from the Seminar, all participants were invited to remain in Hamburg to cover the 8th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (28 – 29 May 2007). The journalists had the opportunity to attend all press conferences and to generate reportage about the FMM.

Objectives achieved and contributions by participants

The interaction and the discussions among the journalists at the Seminar was robust but conducted in excellent spirit. In summary, the journalists group agreed that European enlargement and consolidation created conditions for Europe to play a global role. The European integration process however was not a model, and could not be copied in Asia or other areas. The history and conditions in Asia were different as was the nature of its regionalisation efforts. Nevertheless, the European experience could serve as a reference point and provide benchmarks.

The participants emphasised that European media should devote more resources to covering Asia. In particular, the quality of reporting was an area highlighted for enhancement. The same applied to Asian media reporting on Europe. The journalists suggested that ASEM considered setting up fellowships to facilitate the exchanges of Asian and European journalists. These
outputs were then be channelled to the host country officials for their consideration and further dissemination as appropriate.

Public Impact

As mentioned above, ASEF worked closely with the German Federal Foreign Office colleagues to ensure that the Seminar’s participants were properly accredited to attend all sessions designated for journalists at the 8th ASEM FMM. The participants took full advantage of this opportunity and attended several press conferences held by the organisers and various country delegations. They also held informal dialogue and networking sessions with officials and other journalists. The group of journalists invited by ASEF to the Seminar significantly added to the diversity of the media presence and formed a significant proportion of those journalists who covered the FMM. The analysis of the feedback forms showed that, without ASEF’s financial support and the stimulus of the Seminar, the majority of them would not have covered the FMM and/or developments in Asia-Europe relations. Hence, the Seminar offered a unique opportunity for many journalists to familiarise themselves with the issues pertinent for both regions, and to subsequently meet with high-level representatives from Asia and Europe.

The eventual outcome of more than 16 articles (e.g. The Irish Times, Standart News Daily in Bulgaria and UB Post in Mongolia), 2 radio broadcasts (Radio Romania) and 1 TV broadcast (ABS-CBN, The Philippines) in 9 ASEM countries can be regarded as a significant proof of the importance of this Seminar to increase ASEM’s visibility, particularly in the new partner countries. Another highlight of the Seminar was the production of a short video by a journalist which included messages and statements of the participants about ASEM, ASEF and Asia-Europe relations in general. This video, available on ASEF’s website and youtube.com, is an optimal tool to communicate the value of such Seminars. As is the usual practise, all the articles have been posted on the ASEF corporate website www.asef.org/dir/inthenews.

The value of the Seminar was also recognised in the Chair Statement of the 8th ASEM FMM. Apart from the public and traditional media output, several participating journalists have already initiated new Asia-Europe network platforms to continue and strengthen their relationship by setting-up of an Asia-Europe journalists’ blog.

Evaluation and Recommendation for future projects

The general feedback from participating journalists was extremely favourable:

“AISEF did a great job in bringing together a group of experienced, open minded and outspoken journalists to guarantee a lively debate and a knowledgeable exchange.”
Matthias Nass, Die Zeit, Germany

“It is a thought-provoking and shimmering event in which one is forced to revisit the fundamental premise for the EU-Asia project.”
Ravi Kanth Devarakonda, Deccan Herald, India

“Helped me to argue the case for more effective Asian coverage to my Chief Editor. Helped me to prepare a MA level course on Europe-Asia relations”
Dr. Paul Gillespie, The Irish Times, Ireland
In their feedback, most of the participants stated that they heard about the Journalist’s Seminar from the Asia-Europe Foundation (50%). The journalists were interested in attending the Seminar primarily for two reasons: a) Professional interest, b) Opportunity to network with participants from other ASEM countries. Overall, the participants’ expectations were fully met. The journalists benefited most from the interaction with the speakers and the other participants. The moderators were rated excellent by the majority of the journalists (61%). 96% of the participants rated the panelists as excellent or good.

The majority of the participants (78%) stated that the administrative support from the organisers was excellent. None of them encountered difficulties registering for the Seminar, and sufficient background information about the event were provided. The travel subsidies provided by the organisers was deemed reasonable. If ASEF would not have subsidised their travel expenses, most of the participants would not have attended the event due of financial reasons. Lastly, twenty participants (87%) felt that sufficient information was provided during the Seminar to produce an article or a report. However, one third of the participants proposed that the Seminar could last two days instead of one.

This feedback will be considered carefully in the planning of future seminars. A detailed listing of the survey responses and statistics is provided later in Annex xxx.
Programme

Saturday, 26 May 2007

All day  Arrival in Hamburg, Registration and Hotel check-in of Participants
          Hotel Holiday Inn, Billwerder Neuer Deich 14, 20539 Hamburg,
          Tel.: +49 (0) 40 78 84 -0

19.00    Departure from Hotel for Welcome Dinner with Remarks by Amb. Wonil Cho,
          Executive Director, ASEF

19.15    Welcome Dinner at the Oevelgoenner Faehrhaus, Neumuehlen 53, 22763
          Hamburg, Tel.: +49 (0) 40 39 38 40

21.30    Return to Hotel Holiday Inn

Sunday, 27 May 2007

08.30    Meeting in the Conference Venue, Hotel Holiday Inn

09.00–09.15 Introductory Remarks: “ASEF and the ASEM FMM8” by Mr Sudesh Maniar, Director,
          Public Affairs, ASEF

09.15–10.15 Morning Session: “Perspectives on European Enlargement and Consolidation - Asian Views”
          Panellists:

          • Mr Asad-ul Iqbal LATIF, Visiting Research Fellow, Institute of Southeast
            Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore
          • Mr Kavi CHONGKITTAWORN, Executive Editor, The Nation, Thailand
          • Ms Maria KRUZCKOWSKA, Foreign Desk, Gazeta Wyborcza, Poland

          Moderator:
          Mr ZHANG Niansheng, Brussels Bureau Chief, People’s Daily, China

10.15–10.30 Coffee Break

10.30–12.30 Morning Session continues (Discussions)

12.30–14.00 Lunch with Guest of Honour, Amb. Andreas MICHAELIS, Director-General for Asian
          and Pacific Affairs, Federal Foreign Office, Germany, on “Strategic Issues in Asia-
          Europe Relations: Current and Future Areas of Cooperation”
          (Followed by Q & A)

14.15–15.15 Afternoon Session: “Perceptions of Regional Developments in Emerging Asia -
          Implications for Europe”
Panellists:
- Ms Anne AUTIO, Managing Editor, European Journalist Centre, The Netherlands
- Mr Alexander HAENTZSCHEL, Author, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany
- Mr Nagayo TANIGUCHI, Author, Sekai, Japan

Moderator:
Mr Matthias NASS, Deputy Editor, Die Zeit, Germany

15.15-15.30 Coffee Break
15.30–17.30 Afternoon Session continues (Discussions)
17.30-18.10 Wrap up by European and Asian Moderators: “Asia-Europe Cooperation: Perceptions, Reality and Reportage - Recommendations for ASEM Policymakers”
18.10-18.15 Concluding remarks by ASEF

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Monday & Tuesday, 28 & 29 May 2007

Seminar Participants stay on in Hamburg to cover 8th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting

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END
Summary

Panel 1: Perspectives on European Enlargement and Consolidation - Asian Views

Asad-ul Iqbal Latif is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of South East Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore. He was a journalist for 25 years prior to joining ISEAS. His presentation was premised on the notion that an Asian balance of power requires the presence of Europe together with other major powers, principally the US, Japan, China, India and Russia. European enlargement and consolidation create the conditions for Europe to play such a global role, though this needs to be accompanied by political will and means to project power. European regionalism also hold lessons for Asian regionalism. In this respect, Asia should recognize that its security interests are best served by economic integration.

Kavi Chongkittavorn is Executive Editor at the Nation from Thailand. While noting the difficulties of comparing European integration with that in Asia because differences in history, religion, culture and diversity, Kavi argued that a comparison with Europe is still useful as it provides benchmarks for emulation or discarding for Asia. Asian countries, while engaged in increased cooperation since the 1997 financial crisis, have not reached the same level as in the EU where members have given up a small part of the sovereignties to achieve integration. Currently, the main foundation of community building by default in Asia is ASEAN.

Maria Kruczkowska is from the Foreign Desk of the Gazeta Wyborcza from Poland. In addition to speaking on the Polish/East European reaction of enthusiasm and skepticism towards Europe, Maria touched upon how Asia is reacting to EU enlargement, and possible lessons for Asia to be drawn from the experiences of EU.

Panel 2: Perceptions of Regional Developments in Emerging Asia-Implications for Europe

Anne Autio who is the Managing Editor of the European Journalism Centre in the Netherlands outlined in her presentation how Asia is generally viewed in European media in economic terms, often as a perceived threat. A European style “one size fits all” integration model would not be possible in the more diverse Asia. Rather, the process in Asia is more likely to follow a multi-track and multi-speed process. Nevertheless, the Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998 was a watershed in regional cooperation and integration, and has led to more government-led initiatives. It is in the EU's interest to support Asian integration, due to the Asia’s growing economic and political importance, and the growing interdependence between the regions.

Alexander Haentzschel who writes for various newspapers including the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung of Germany focused on the topic “Reporting about Asia in German Newspapers.” His central thesis was that there is imbalance and poor quality in the reporting about Asia which is a result of the concentration of correspondents in certain areas and their interests. It would be worth spending more resources in international reporting and the exchange of journalists in order to foster the understanding between Asia and Europe.

Nagayo Taniguchi who is based in Brussels and writes for Sekai of Japan analysed the concept of CBM (Confidence Building Measures) and discussed how ASEM could contribute to promote a
forum for CBM in both regions. The title of his presentation was “Confidence Building Measures: Potential dangers are chances as well?”
Feedback

- **Anne AUTIO**, Finland, European Journalism Centre
  People-to-people contacts are the best way to increase understanding between Asia and Europe. In this sense I gained a great deal of insights of Asian developments from the participants.

- **Evrildiki BERSI**, Greece, Kathimerini
  The diversity of the participants is really enriching.

- **Romen BOSE**, Singapore, Al Jazeera International
  A robust exchange of ideas between Europe and Asia by wordsmiths who understand the impact of what they write.

- **CHOIMBOROSUJAV Sumiyabazar**, Mongolia, UB-POST
  Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to take part in fruitful discussions. Wish you greater success in bridging two continents. Thank you.

- **Ravi Kanth DEVARAKONDA**, India, Deccan Herald
  It is a thought-provoking and stimulating event in which one is forced to revisit the fundamental premise for the EU-ASIA project.

- **Lourdes GALICIA**, The Philippines, ABS – CBN
  I came with a vague insight on a lot of issue but I am leaving with a more intense passion to report on Asia-Europe. Being able to smell and touch the subjects and writing which will be aimed to the viewer’s hearts.

- **Subodh GHILDIYAL**, India, The Times of India
  Well Asians being colonised is still remembered in Asia as “white master coming to see if the native is working well”. ASEM engagement makes the emerging relationships as equals.

- **Paul GILLESPIE**, Ireland, The Irish Times
  Helped me to argue the case for more effective Asian coverage to my Chief Editor. Helped me to prepare a MA level course on Europe-Asia relations.

- **Alexander HAENTZSCHEL**, Germany, Frankfurter Zeitung
  Excellent organized seminar which really promotes a better understanding between Asia and Europe.

- **Miranti HIRSCHMANN**, Indonesia, Gatra Weekly News Magazine
  I’m happy to take part of this event. I can get more ideas, exchange contact. Thank you and I wish I could take part for the next ASEF activity. I think its really useful for my work as an Asian correspondent in Europe.
Sarah KRAMER, Germany, Tagesspiegel
The seminar was very useful on interpersonal terms. There are not so many chances to get in
touch with colleagues from Asia and reflect upon issues important to either one side.

Asad-ul Iqbal LATIF, Singapore, ISEAS
This event helps journalists to participate in news making, not just report the news.

Matthias NASS, Germany, Die Zeit
ASEF did a great job in bringing together a group of experienced, open minded and outspoken
journalists to guarantee a lively debate and a knowledgeable exchange.

NGUYEN Dai Phuong, Vietnam, Tienphong Newspaper
This event is very useful for my daily work.

OAV Cago, Cambodia, Khemara Times
Seminar, Interaction, Discussion, build concrete relation

Vladislav PUNCHEV, Bulgaria, Standard News Daily
Asia is looking for the good experience of EU to gain integration but have to walk it's own way
without receipt provided from outside, just to use the positive European experience.

Jorgen SIEGUMFELDT, Denmark, Danish Broadcasting Corporation
Every time I participate in these events, it’s like a shot in the arm: you get on the beat again,
revitalized and ready to go on. It prolongs your career.

Nagayo TANIGUCHI, Japan, Sekai
Very professional organisation with good family atmosphere: convinced that the process will
provide an interactive base for exchanges.

Stojan ZITKO, Slovenia, Deli
I think there is enough interest in the public to hear and read more also about Asia, but
sometimes we don’t listen to them because we (in the media) think that Europe and probably
America are enough for an average knowledge of our readers. What a mistake.

Anonymous
Confidence building plays a key role in cooperation between Asia and Europe
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<td>Kavi CHONGKITTAVORN</td>
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## Participants from Europe

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Participants’ Profiles

ZHANG Niansheng (China - Moderator)

Mr. ZHANG Niansheng is Brussels Bureau Chief for the People's Daily, China. Before that, he worked as Chief Editor of the International Weekly, a weekly page of People's Daily. He served as correspondent in Stockholm covering Nordic countries from 1996 to 2000. He is also the co-author of the book Scandinavia in Our Eyes, published in China in 2002 and co-editor of other books including Insight on the world, published in China in 2004.

Mathias NASS (Germany - Moderator)

Mr Matthias NASS is Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Die Zeit (since 1998). He was Secretary of the German Association for Asian Studies and Editor of the quarterly Asien (1978-82); he attended the Hamburg School of Journalism (1982-83) and became a member of the foreign policy staff of Die Zeit (1983-90), Deputy Political Editor (1990-94) and Managing Editor (1994-97). He studied History, Chinese Studies and Political Science at the Universities of Göttingen, Hawaii and Hamburg. He is Vice President of the Japanese-German Center Berlin, Member of the Japanese-German Forum and Member of the Advisory Council of the Institute of Asian Affairs, Hamburg.

Alexander HAENTZSCHEL (Germany - Panellist)

Mr Alexander HAENTZSCHEL is a freelance journalist from Germany who specializes in Southeast Asian affairs and mass media. With the support of the Foundation of German Business, he studied in Berlin, Hong Kong and Singapore. For his Ph.D., he researched in Paris, London and Singapore. Besides, he worked for leading newspapers in Germany such as the Sueddeutsche Zeitung and as the China correspondent for a special interest magazine. Later, he served as a consultant to various German companies doing business in Asia and prepared executives for their sojourns there. Furthermore, he served as an official delegate of Hong Kong SAR during presidential elections in Taiwan and participated in the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations, the APEC Future Leaders Forum and the Asia-Europe Young Leaders Symposium. Currently, he writes for newspapers such as the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung about media and politics in Asia. Later this year, after defending his doctoral thesis, he is going to move back to Singapore in order to work as a Southeast Asia print and online correspondent.
Asad-ul Iqbal LATIF (Singapore - Panellist)

Mr Asad-Ul Iqbal LATIF is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore. His areas of research include Singapore’s political and strategic relations with China, India and the United States. His book, Between Rising Powers: China, Singapore and India, is forthcoming. Latif graduated with Honours in English from Presidency College, Calcutta, and received his Master of Letters degree in History at Cambridge University, where he was Raffles (Chevening) and S. Rajaratnam Scholar. He was a member of the president’s committee of the Cambridge Union Society, the university debating club, and a member of the editorial committee of the Cambridge Review of International Affairs. He was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Harvard University’s Weatherhead Center for International Affairs in 2006. A journalist for 25 years before joining ISEAS, he worked at The Statesman in Calcutta, Asiaweek in Hong Kong, and The Business Times and The Straits Times in Singapore. He was a Jefferson Fellow at the East-West Center in Hawaii in Spring 2001.


Kavi CHONGKITTAVORN (Thailand - Panellist)

Mr Kavi CHONGKITTAVORN is Assistant Group Editor of the Nation Media Group, publisher of the newspaper The Nation, Krungthep Turakij and Korn Chat Luek in Thailand. He has been a journalist for more than two decades covering Thai and regional politics. Chongkittavorn was Bureau Chief in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 1988-1990 and Hanoi, Vietnam, from 1990-1992. He also served as Special Assistant to the Secretary-General at the Jakarta-based Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) from 1993-1994 before returning to journalism until the current position.

In 1993, he was a Reuters Fellow at Oxford University and a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 2001. He was named the Human Rights Journalist of 1998 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of UNDHR by Amnesty International, Thailand. From 1999-2003, he was the President of Thai Journalists Association. Since 1999, he chairs the Bangkok-based regional free media advocacy group, Southeast Asian Press Alliance. He also serves as President Jury of the Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, UNESCO.

Vladislav PUNCHEV (Bulgaria)

Mr Vladimir PUNCHEV has been working in the media field for the past five years. He started as an international reporter for the private news agency Focus in 2002. Shortly after joining, he became Head of the International News Department and covered major political events in Europe. In summer 2005, he was appointed by the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to create and edit the web portal Evroportal.bg as part of the Ministry’s communication strategy prior to the accession of Bulgaria in the EU. In parallel he was working for Trud daily newspaper where he covered news from Spain and South America. One of his
professional highlights was a travel to Cuba where he participated in the parade of 1st of May on Cuba’s national holiday. The interest in investigating and writing reportages about live and society in authoritarian regimes also brought him to Libya for several stories. Punchev is currently working in the international news department of the newspaper Standart news daily and is mainly responsible for the Spanish-speaking part of the world.

**OAV Cago (Cambodia)**

Mr. OAV Cago works as Associated Editor for two newspapers: the Khmer Conscience Newspaper, a local Cambodian paper published daily in Cambodia, and the Khmera Times, the Cambodian bilingual weekly news published in California, USA. He has been working as a journalist for more than six years. In addition, he also owns a small translation agency, Reahoo Translation, providing translation services in English and Khmer. He graduated as Bachelor of Art in English language in 2004 and is currently doing his masters in private law.

**LU Baokang (China)**

Mr. Lu Baokang works as a Senior Editor with Wen Hui Daily, a prestige general daily newspaper in Shanghai, China. He is responsible for the coverage of world news and is supported by 13 overseas bureaus in major cities around the world. He graduated from the International Politics Department, Fudan University in 1982 and immediately started to work for the Wen Hui Daily. In 1991, Lu went to Britain to study journalism at the University of Wales where he later received his Masters’ degree. As Director of the Center for External Cooperation of the Wen Hui Daily, Lu Baokang has hosted many seminars in Shanghai on various current socio-political issues.

**Jorgen SIEGUMFELDT (Denmark)**

Jørgen Siegumfeldt was born in 1935 in Copenhagen, Denmark and graduated in European languages (i.e. English, French, German). Has been working at newspapers and magazines since 1958. After free lancing in US and Canada (1962-64) on the daily INFORMATION, from 1980 the daily BERLINGSKE TIDENDE (1988-1991 as its correspondent in London, England) and since 1992 for The Danish Radio Broadcasting Corporation as Foreign Editor on "Orientering" (i.e. a programme giving background information on current political affairs) specialising in Great Britain and East- and Southeast Asia. Has contributed to magazines on foreign affairs and lectured at The Danish Defense Academy. Siegumfeldt travelled extensively in Europe (in particular the UK), Latin America, Africa & Asia (in particular East- and S.E.Asia). He has visited Indonesia several times since 1995 to interview a.o. Jusuf Habibie and Megawati Sukarnoputri.

**Anne AUTIO (Finland)**

Ms Anne AUTIO completed her Master of Science degree in Mass Communications in 1984 at UT, Knoxville, United States, where she received the Edward J. Meeman Fellowship in International Communications. She worked as an intern for PBS-TV and produced a weekly programme for National Public Radio. She went on to pursue Ph.D. studies in International
Communications at Syracuse University, United States, on an Asla Fulbright scholarship. Anne Autio worked as a news anchor, foreign news editor, foreign correspondent and producer for the Finnish national television, with extensive travels for TV-news and current affairs productions worldwide, e.g. in Vietnam, Indonesia, East-Timor, Singapore, Taiwan, Tanzania, United States, Guyane, in addition to extensive news coverage in Europe. In 1989-94 she was Brussels correspondent for the Finnish commercial TV MTV3 and in 2002-06 Brussels Bureau Chief for the Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE. She joined the European Journalism Centre in Maastricht, The Netherlands, in February 2007.

Sarah KRAMER (Germany)

Ms Sarah KRAMER studied in Berlin and Washington and graduated with a Master of Political Sciences from the Otto-Suhr-Institute of the Free University of Berlin. She has been working in the media field for the past five years, starting as a journalist for the Berliner Zeitung, the largest subscription newspaper in Berlin and one of the opinion leaders among German newspapers. Ms. Kramer was subsequently a reporter for the Berliner Kurier covering politics and sport news. Since June 2006, she is a member of the political news desk at the Tagespiegel where she specialises in writing about security and defense policy, in the NATO, UN, and between nations.

Evridiki BERSI (Greece)

Since 1998 Ms Evridiki BERSI has been working at the foreign desk of Kathimerini, Greece’s leading morning paper. She has reported from several European countries, as well as from the US, South Africa, Japan and Korea. Evridiki obtained a diploma in European journalism and a bachelor in mass media and communication in 1999. From 1996 to 1997 she worked at the foreign desk of ACCOUNT magazine. She is based in Athens.

Subodh GHILDIYAL (India)

Mr Subodh GHILDIYAL is a journalist working at The Times of India, based in New Delhi. Since starting off as a reporter in 1995, he has worked with several prominent newspapers like The Indian Express, Deccan Herald and The Pioneer and several regions of the vast country like Uttar Pradesh, understanding the governments, political parties and heterogeneous nature of Indian society. While monitoring the national government and the Indian states from the national capital New Delhi, he also maintains a keen eye on world affairs, especially the European Union, which is seen in India as a behemoth with wide areas of convergence.
Mr Ravi Kant DEVARAKONDA works as Geneva Correspondent to report and comment on developments at the World Trade Organization, the UN System, global Finance and international banks, multilateral disarmament body, European Politics FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association), and International Olympic Committee. During the last seven years, he has extensively written on all WTO developments, has closely followed security issues, and written on major health and labour issues. He also covered all major trade negotiations since the Uruguay Round. He worked at the Nigeria High Commission in New Delhi as an Information Officer. From 1989 to 1995 he was a special correspondent in various newspapers such as the Independent, The Economic Times and Business Standard. He also built the economic and finance bureau in New Delhi, focusing on the trade and finance issues that occupied the center stage after India embraced liberalization and globalization, in 1991. He currently lives in Geneva, Switzerland.

Ms Miranti Hirschman was born in Jakarta, Indonesia. Graduating from Trisakti University, Jakarta, and interested in journalism, she worked from 1998 to 2002 as Assistant Correspondent for Bundesstelle für Aussenhandelsinformation in Jakarta. Since 1999, Hirschmann has been working as a freelance journalist for different foreign media organisations. In 2003, she joined Gatra, an independent weekly news magazine. Gatra was set up in 1994, shortly after the ban of the famous Tempo news magazine. Based in Jakarta, the political magazine currently has a print run of 60,000 and is read nationwide. Married to a German, Hirschmann moved to Nuernberg, Germany, in 2004 where she continues to work as a correspondent for Gatra. In 2005, she joined the German international radio Deutsche Welle, Bahasa Indonesia desk in Bonn.

Dr Paul GILLESPIE is Foreign Policy Editor and a Duty Editor of The Irish Times, working in the chief editor’s office. He is an Editorial Writer and Columnist on international affairs, and was previously Foreign Editor with responsibility for international news coverage. It is Ireland’s most authoritative newspaper, with a daily circulation of 117,500. Dr Gillespie is the author of several books and many papers on European politics, transatlantic relations, British-Irish relations and Europe-Asia relations. He has recently completed a doctoral study of multiple political identities in the European Union at University College, Dublin, where he lectures in the School of Politics and International Relations.
Nagayo TANIGUCHI (Japan)

Mr Nagayo TANIGUCHI was born in Nagoya, Japan, in 1949. Since 1998, he has been a Freelance journalist for various Japanese magazines, including Sekai. He graduated from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and majored in International Relations. From 1976 to 1980 he was a freelance journalist and editor for Japanese magazines. Nagayo also was the Correspondent of the Mainichi Shimbun to Brussels for ten years, before being nominated in 1991 as Brussels Bureau Chief of The Mainichi Shimbun. Taniguchi covers topics such as the NATO, the EU, political summits (UN, GATT-WTO, G8), as well as conflicts such as the Gulf War and the Balkan. Member of Board (Representing Asian Region), and A.P.I (Association de la Presse Internationale, BelgiUm), he also is the author of several books, e.g. NATO. Transforming Regional Security.

Tomas VAISETA (Lithuania)

Since January of 2006 Mr Tomas VAISETA has been working as Deputy Editor in Chief for the news portal www.lrytas.lt. It is owned by the biggest daily newspaper in Lithuania, namely Lietuvos rytas. The online portal has more than 300 000 visitors per month and belongs to the fifth most frequented websites of Lithuania. Vaiseta covers local and international news. Next to his job, Vaiseta is doing his MA in history at the Vilnius University. He is specialised in the history of the 20th century, in particular the development of totalitarian regimes.

Romen BOSE (Singapore)

Mr Romen BOSE is currently a Producer with Al Jazeera International in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He has been an award-winning Broadcast Journalist for the last 14 years and was Indochina Bureau Chief for Channel Newsasia, based in Bangkok, Thailand for 8 years prior to joining Al Jazeera. Bose covered most of the major stories in the region, especially breaking news in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam. He has also written several books on the modern history of Southeast Asia including, The End of the War: Singapore’s liberation and the aftermath of the Second World War 2005), A Will For Freedom: Subhas Chandra Bose and the Indian Independence Movement in Southeast Asia 1993), Secrets of the Battlebox: The History and Role of Britain’s military HQ during the Malayan Campaign 2005) and Kranji: The Commonwealth War Cemetery and the Politics of the Dead 2006). He is now working on a book on the Southern Thai insurgency which will be published later this year.
CHOIBOROLJAV Sumiyabazar (Mongolia)

Mr CHOIBOROSLJAV Sumiyabazar is the Editor in Chief for the Mongolian English newspaper UB Post. Being specialised in website conceptualisation and design, he is currently developing the official web site of the Mongolian Federation of Photographers www.mongphotographers.mn. Furthermore, he created and designed the websites: www.uma.com, www.volunteer.org.mn, www.ancientnomadic.mn, www.greatmongoliatours.mn and www.ubtimes.mn. Choiboroljav also contributed stories and articles to Czech online magazine Transitions Online www.tol.cz, which focuses on post-communist countries in transition to the market economy. Choiborosljav is also the initiator of the project “Newspapers in Education”, a volunteer project which publishes a monthly newspaper in cooperation with several hundred schools throughout Mongolia.

Maria KRUCZKOWSKA (Poland)

Ms Maria KRUCZKOWSKA has been working for Gazeta Wyborcza since its beginning in 1989. Gazeta Wyborcza was the political platform of the democratic Polish opposition Solidarnosc. Since then, she covered news stories about education, society and human rights. Getting interested in Asia, she has been writing about the region since 1999. As polish media doesn’t have a correspondents’ network in the region, she tries to visit Asia as often as possible to discover new stories. Kruczkowska graduated in history in Poland.

Malina ANDRONESCU (Romania)

Since her student times in Romania in the 1980s, Ms Malina ANDRONESCU had a strong interest in politics and journalism. Unfortunately due to the political situation, she could not start a career in the media as the access to information was very limited. After the political changes in 1989, she finally had the possibility to work for the Romanian Radio. In the middle of the 90ies, she moved to Berlin, Germany, to work as a foreign correspondent for a Romanian newspaper. Andronescu is currently working as a correspondent for Radio Romania.

Stojan ZITKO (Slovenia)

Since 2006, Mr Stojan ZITKO has been the Foreign Desk Editor and the biggest political newspaper in Slovenia Delo. Prior to this, he has been working as an Editorial Page Writer. After the break of former Yugoslavia in 1991, he was Delo’s Foreign Correspondent in Brussels. Zitko is especially interested in covering bilateral relations, especially between Slovenia and Croatia and Slovenia and Austria.
**Lourdes GALICIA (The Philippines)**

Since October 2002, Ms Lourdes GALICIA has been working as case manager at the United Nations Yugoslavia Tribunal at the Hague. In 2006, she became the Netherlands Correspondent for ABS-CBN Europe News Bureau at the Hague. Galicia also worked for the Wall Street Journal Europe as a Sort Editor and a Wire Editor. She reported for both TV and Online news platforms of the Philippines’ major broadcast company ABS-CBN.

**NGUYEN Dai Phuong (Vietnam)**

Mr NGUYEN Dai Phuong is the World News Editor and Director of the World News Department of the Tien Phong daily. The newspaper is one of the three leading national newspapers in Vietnam with a nationwide circulation of 150,000 copies. Its readership is between 15-35 years old. Nguyen writes commentaries and in depth analysis of international issues. From 1978-1994 he was the Sub-Editor of English news for the Vietnam News Agency.
News Coverage

Press

- **IPS, by Ravi Kanth Devarakonda**
  Headline: Climate Change: Europe and Asia seek differentiated Goals
  Date: 30 May 2007

- **Standart News Daily, Bulgaria, by Vladislav Punchev**
  Headline: Европа и Азия не се разбраха за климата
  (English translation will be confirmed later)
  Date: 12 June 2007

- **Standart News Daily, Bulgaria, by Vladislav Punchev**
  Headline: Европа и Азия не се разбраха за климата
  (English translation will be confirmed later)
  Date: 12 June 2007

- **Standart News Daily, Bulgaria, by Vladislav Punchev**
  Headline: Пънк кошмар в Хамбург за срещата Азия-Европа
  (English translation will be confirmed later)
  Date: 12 June 2007

- **Standart News Daily, Bulgaria, by Vladislav Punchev**
  Headline: 10 000 антиглобалисти чакат Калфин в Хамбург
  (English translation will be confirmed later)
  Date: 12 June 2007

- **Khemara Times, Cambodia, by Oav Cago**
  Headline: Khemara Times Reporter participate in International Seminar in Germany
  (English translation)
  Date: 2 June 2007

- **Khemara Times, Cambodia, by Oav Cago**
  Headline: Foreign Ministers’ Meeting talked about Asia-Europe Relation in Germany
  (English translation)
  Date: 2 June 2007

- **Koh Santephea, Cambodia, by Oav Cago**
  Headline: Strategy of Asia-Europe Relation & Media Perspective
  (English translation)
  Date: 4 June 2007

- **The Irish Times, Ireland, by Dr. Paul Gillespie**
  Headline: EU experience can benefit Asia as it explores regional integration
  Date: 2 June 2007
▪ **UP Post, Mongolia, by Sumiyabazar Choimborosljav**
  Headline: Mongolia welcomed to ASEM
  Date: 31 May 2007

▪ **UP Post, Mongolia, by Sumiyabazar Choimborosljav**
  Headline: Street protests fail to dampen ASEM spirit
  Date: 7 June 2007

▪ **ABS-CBN online, The Philippines, by Loui Galicia (online)**
  Headline: ASEM meet to benefit RP, others
  Date: 8 June 2007

▪ **ABS-CBN online, The Philippines, by Loui Galicia (online)**
  Headline: Media in Philippines, Asia slammed for narrow-mindedness
  Date: 8 June 2007

▪ **The Nation, Thailand, by Kavi Chongkittavorn**
  Headline: Europe seeking a more active role in guiding the future of Asia
  Date: 1 Jul 2007

▪ **Tien Phong Daily, Vietnam, by Nguyen Dai Phuong**
  Headline: Phó Thủ tướng Phạm Gia Khiêm dự Hội nghị Ngoại trưởng ASEM-8
  English Translation: Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem attended the 8th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting
  Date: 30 May 2007

▪ **Tien Phong Daily, Vietnam, by Nguyen Dai Phuong**
  Headline: Nhật - Trung đạt nhiều thỏa thuận bên lề Hội nghị Ngoại trưởng ASEM - 8
  English Translation: Japan and China achieve many agreements during the 8th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting
  Date: 31 May 2007

**Broadcasts**

▪ **Radio Romania, Romania, by Malina Andronescu**
  Headline: broadcasted during the news programme
  Date: 28 May 2007, 7am

▪ **Radio Romania, Romania, by Malina Andronescu**
  Headline: broadcasted during the programme "24 hours"
  Date: 28 May 2007, 10pm

▪ **ABS-CBN TV, The Philippines, by Loui Galicia**
  Headline: 8th ASEM Summit
  Date: since 8 June 2007 on youtube

▪ **ABS-CBN TV, The Philippines, by Loui Galicia**
  Headline: BEU Journalists
  Date: since 8 June 2007 on youtube
YouTube

- The Philippines, by Loui Galicia
  Headline: ASEF Journalists Seminar 2007
  Date: since 31 May 2007 on youtube
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