



European Institute for Asian Studies, asbl

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Interim Report of Activities (Covering 1 January – 30 April, 2006)

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The Brussels-based research and policy think tank analysing political, economic, security and socio-cultural dimensions of the relations between the European Union and Asia

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I. **Introduction**

The European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) is a leading research and policy think tank that analyses political, economic and security relations between the European Union and Asia. The EIAS seeks to anticipate developments and help shape responses. In addition to ‘thinking ahead’ EIAS is also committed to ‘thinking outside the box’, initiating new policy ideas, facilitating track-two diplomacy and ensuring a cross-flow of information between officials, academics and experts, and civil society actors. It is the overriding aim of EIAS to develop its present nucleus of competence and intellectual capital into a dynamic institution that can provide guidance in an environment in which Asian human resource capabilities are strategically transformed into industrial, economic and military leadership.

2006 Work-Programme

In 2006, EIAS continues its work on EU-Asia relations through undertaking, in close collaboration with EU institutions, studies and analysis of the policies of the European Union vis-à-vis Asia, organising lunch briefings, specialised briefings, in-depth seminars and international conferences. The EIAS work programme includes research and activities and programmes and dissemination of information focusing on each of the major sub-regions in Asia in a balanced way.

Under the overall direction of the EIAS Director, Dr Willem van der Geest, EIAS staff in collaboration with Institute members and research associates, provide the basis for innovative and well-informed discussions, intellectual exchanges and publications. During 2004-2006, the work of the Institute is framed by four inter-related but distinct themes:

- EU-ASIA Inter-Regionalism and New Regionalism in Asia
- Political and Security Developments in Asia
- EU-Asia International Political Economy
- Socio-Cultural Dimensions of EU-Asia relations

2006 Interim Report (1 Jan – 30 April)

The 2006 EIAS Interim Report covering the period 1 January – 30 April is a component of the three-year European Commission Partnership Agreement (ECPA), a framework contract which facilitates and supports the work of non-profit institutes focusing their work on the external relations of the European Union. This report is a first account of how EU grant resources are being deployed during the first four months of 2006. Please refer to the 2006 Work Programme for detailed information regarding the EIAS activities scheduled to be undertaken.

II. Implementation of the Work Programme

A. EIAS Lunch Briefings

During the period January 1 to April 30, 2006 EIAS implemented five EIAS Lunch Briefings at its premises, covering EU election observation missions to Asia, press freedom and the free flow of information in the context of the 'cartoon controversy', strategic aspects of EU-US-China relations, Japanese trade policy, and the evolution Sino-Japanese relations. Invited speakers came from both Europe and Asia, including leading academic analysts and civil society representatives. EIAS Staff and Board members chaired the Briefings and acted as discussants.

- **10 Years of European Union Election Observation Missions to Asia: Lessons Learned**
Thursday, 26 January, 2006 from 13h00 - 14h30

Speaker: Mr Plamen Tonchev Head of Asia Unit, Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER), Athens

Chair: Dr. Willem van der Geest, Director, European Institute for Asian Studies, Brussels

Over the years, the EU has built up a reputation in the field of election observation as a fair and honest broker promoting transparency and international standards for democratic elections through its presence and reporting in a wide range of countries. European Union Election Observation Missions (EOMs) act as mechanisms through which to confer legitimacy on national political processes, contributing to the promotion of internal stability, the support for human rights, the rule of law and democratisation.

EOMs have been deployed to several Asian countries in recent years including Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Cambodia, Pakistan and East Timor. According to the EU, missions of this kind have made a tangible contribution to stability, transparency and confidence in the concerned countries, whilst simultaneously heightening the credibility and visibility of the EU's identity as a "project for democracy, development and peace".

The European Institute for Asian Studies was honoured to welcome Mr. Plamen Tonchev, Head of Asia Unit at the Institute of International Economic Relations in Athens to speak at this meeting. Mr. Tonchev has conducted extensive research on political and economic developments in Asia focusing much of his work on post-conflict resolution and, in particular, post-election stabilisation and recovery in nations torn by conflict. Additionally, he has served as an election observer and political analyst on a number of OSCE and EU missions, most recently as Deputy Chief Observer on the EU's Election Observation Mission to Afghanistan in 2005.

- **Cartoons and Freedoms - the perspective of an Indonesian Editor**
Thursday, 9 March, 2006 from 13h00 –14h30

Speaker: Mr Endy M. Bayuni, Chief Editor of The Jakarta Post

Chair: Dr. Willem van der Geest, Director, European Institute for Asian Studies, Brussels

“The cartoon controversy will subside sooner or later, but beyond giving a bad name to free speech, it will leave a long lasting and detrimental impact on the people in many countries, including Indonesia, in terms of the struggle for their own freedom of speech and democracy.”

- Endy M. Bayuni, The Jakarta Post 06/02/2006

As the violent protests sparked by the publication of caricatures depicting the prophet Muhammad began to die down, a more fundamental debate about the role and responsibility of the press in promoting free speech waged on. The European Institute for Asian Studies was honoured to welcome Mr Endy Bayuni to speak at its premises. As Chief Editor of the Jakarta Post and an advocate of press freedom and the free flow of information, Mr Bayuni had lamented the rationale of those sections of the press who chose to publish and reprint cartoons of the prophet Muhammad. He spoke of the long term, wider implications of the controversy for democratising countries already struggling to define the role of the media and the right to freedom of speech.

Prior to assuming the post of Chief Editor with the Jakarta Post in 2004, Mr. Bayuni held several positions on the paper, in addition to assignments with Reuters and Agence France Presse. From 2003 to 2004 he was awarded a Nieman Fellowship for a Journalism Program at Harvard University. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Economics from Kingston University, UK.

▪ **The EU-US-China Strategic Grand Triangle: Wishful Thinking or Work in Progress?**

Tuesday, 28 March, 2006, 2006 from 13h00 –14h30

Speaker: Mr. Willem van Kemenade, China Analyst & Consultant, Beijing

Chair: Dr. Willem van der Geest, Director, European Institute for Asian Studies

Discussant: Dr. Sebastian Bersick, Senior Research Fellow, European Institute for Asian Studies

The regional influence of the European Union, United States and People’s Republic of China has begun to take on a new dimension as the three powers engage in strategic dialogues and partnerships, which might eventually lead to an EU-US-China Strategic Grand Triangle. Will growing interdependence, new global challenges and the ‘Peaceful Rise’ of China lead to a shifting global balance of power? How can growing convergence and cooperation be managed in the face of increasing competition and strategic rivalries?

The European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) was honoured to welcome Mr. Willem van Kemenade to its premises to examine the feasibility and implications of said EU-US-China Strategic Grand Triangle not only for the parties involved, but the international system at large.

Mr. van Kemenade is an independent analyst and consultant in the Politics and Economics of China and (South-) East Asia, specialising in regional trade and investment flows in East- South- and Southeast Asia, China-Taiwan relations, China-Japan relations, China-EU relations and China’s global strategic and economic relations.

He has been affiliated with EIAS in the context of his contribution to The European Union’s Strategic Interests in East Asia – an EIAS/Nomisma study undertaken for the EU Commission in 2005.

▪ **Japanese Trade Policy: Towards Economic Partnership?**

Wednesday, 5 April, 2006, 2006 from 13h00 –14h30

Speaker: Prof. Yorizumi Watanabe, Professor of International Political Economy, Keio University, Japan

Chair: Dr. Willem van der Geest, Director, European Institute for Asian Studies

East Asia is emerging as a dynamic regional entity – with economic integration producing high profitability and growth rates, the region is beginning to explore deepening ties within the framework of bi-lateral and multi-lateral FTAs. As an economic powerhouse and a key player in the region, Japan has a vested interest in shaping the future structure of the East Asian economy through a proactive trade policy that engages its regional counterparts. Yet, what are the opportunities and challenges for increased trade cooperation in the region? Will growing convergence in the economic sphere lead to increased dialogue? Or will increasing competition further exacerbate strategic rivalries?

The European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) was honoured to welcome Prof. Yorizumi Watanabe to its premises to review the status of Japanese Economic Partnership Agreements and, more generally, economic cooperation in East Asia and what other effects deepening economic integration might have. Prof. Yorizumi Watanabe is Professor of International Political Economy, Faculty of Policy Management, at Keio University in Japan. He has also served as Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in charge of trade policy.

▪ **China's Japan Problem: Are We Headed for Confrontation?**

Thursday, 20 April, 2006 from 13h00 – 14h30

Speaker: Dr Yang Jian, Senior Research Associate, Asian Century Institute, London

Chair: Dr Willem van der Geest, Director, European Institute for Asian Studies

The emergence of a new strategic balance in Asia as a result of China's rise looks set to create new pressures on Sino-Japanese relations. Many Chinese analysts are pessimistic about relations in the medium term, having discarded their hope that the bilateral relationship would improve once the 'Yasukuni-obsessed prime minister' leaves office in late 2006. With the possibility that an even more overtly nationalist prime minister will succeed Koizumi, some in China expect a decade of frequent frictions between the two countries.

China and Japan between them account for the most powerful militaries in the world after the USA and the two countries are the richest in the world in terms of hard currency reserves. The steady souring of Sino-Japanese relations since 1995 has been accompanied by, and in part caused by, the more outward reorientation of Japan's security policy and China's continued military modernisation. There is growing suspicion and resentment on both sides. What is the prognosis in the short term? What events could spark a crisis?

The European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) was honoured to welcome Dr Yang Jian to its premises to review possible scenarios for Sino-Japanese relations in the short to medium term. Yang Jian received his BA and first MA from Chinese universities and did his second MA and PhD in International Relations at the Australian National University (ANU). His primary research areas are foreign policy, US-China relations, international relations of the Asia-Pacific,

environmental politics, and Chinese politics. He is the author of ‘*Congress and US China Policy*’ (2000).

B. EIAS Special Briefings

In the first trimester of 2006, EIAS hosted two Special Briefings at its premises covering EU-Japan relations and their impact on East Asian security, and the role of dialogue in bridging religious-cultural divides. EIAS was honoured to welcome high profile speakers from Asia including the Japanese Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Pakistani Minister for Religious Affairs accompanied by a high-profile delegation from the Pakistan National Assembly.

- **The Future of Japan-Europe Relations and their impact on the Security Environment in East Asia**

Thursday, 12 January 2006, from 15h00 – 16h20

Venue: EIAS, Brussels

Speaker: Prof. Akiko Yamanaka, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Japan

Chair: Dr. Willem van der Geest, Director, European Institute for Asian Studies

As strategic partners, sharing a responsibility to build up a better and more peaceful society in the world based on common fundamental values, Japan and the EU co-operate with each other on a wide range of global issues. Whilst the EU continues to increase its importance in world affairs, it has become imperative for both Japan and the EU to recognise each other’s security environments and concerns.

The European Institute for Asian Studies was honoured to welcome Prof. Akiko Yamanaka, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, to its premises for a Briefing on the aforementioned issues. Prof. Yamanaka has a wealth of experience in both the political and academic field, enabling her to discuss security issues in the Asia-Pacific and their implications for Europe. She is a member of the House of Representatives and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Her work and research has been prominent in the field of international relations, mainly focusing on political and security areas, as professor at Hokkai University, senior adviser at the Center of Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), visiting researcher and visiting professor at the Brookings Institution and the Royal Institute of International Affairs. As a member of the Chief Cabinet Secretary’s Advisory Group on International Cooperation for Peace, she plays an important role in Japan’s policy formulation in international peace cooperation.

At this briefing, Prof. Yamanaka presented her views on Japan – EU relations, as well as the current security environment in East Asia. She also touched upon issues regarding the EU arms embargo on China.

- **Dialogue Amongst Cultures**

Tuesday, 7 March 2006

Venue: EIAS, Brussels

The European Institute for Asian Studies was honoured to welcome a distinguished delegation from Pakistan to its premises for a roundtable discussion on the topic “**Dialogue amongst Cultures**”. The Delegation consisted of:

Mr. Mohammad Ijaz ul Haq, Minister for Religious Affairs, Zakat & Ushr/ Member National Assembly;
Sahibzada Syed Asad Murtaza Gilani, Parliamentary Secretary on Religious Affairs, Zakar & Ushr/ Member national Assembly;
Professor Mushtaq Victor, Parliamentary Secretary for Minorities Affairs / Member National Assembly;
Dr. Attiya Inayatullah, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs/ Member National Assembly;
Dr. Muhammad Farooq Sattar, Chairman, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs/ Member National Assembly.

The focus of the discussion was the respect for religious beliefs and sentiments within the EU and Pakistan. It was argued that there are limits to freedom of expression, where this may cause hatred, inter-communal tension and intolerance. Although there was general support for this proposition, the differences in sensitivities between the ‘west’ and ‘Asia’ are not well understood, requiring an open and informed dialogue.

C. EIAS International Conferences

In the spirit of promoting intellectual exchange and dialogue amongst a wider European and international audience, EIAS organised and hosted two major conferences in the first four months of 2006. The first, a review of governance in Asia, organised in collaboration with the European Alliance for Asian Studies and the sponsorship of Mr. Glyn Ford MEP, provided insight into the status and role of good governance in Asia. The second, The Burma/Myanmar Forum 2006, brought together the donor community with NGOs and aid deliverers for an informed debate on the EU’s strategy for aid delivery to the people of Burma/Myanmar.

- **Review of Governance in Asia**

- A European Alliance for Asian Studies Conference
 - Tuesday, 21 February 2006, from 14h00 to 18h00
 - Venue: European Parliament, Brussels

The European Institute for Asian Studies, in collaboration with the European Alliance for Asian Studies, and the sponsorship of Mr. Glyn Ford, MEP organised its annual Asia Update conference entitled 'Governance in Asia' in the European Parliament, Brussels on Tuesday February 21, 2006. The conference brought together academic specialists associated with the Member Institutes of the Asia Alliance with a select group of MEPs, officials from the EU institutions and Asian representatives.

This conference sought to provide information and analysis on the perceptions of governance which exist in Asia. In particular, the meeting covered a review of the recent evidence on the transformation towards market-based democratic governance as is proceeding in Asia; an analysis of the notion of 'good governance' held in a several Asian where current developments are strongly at variance with the values which the EU projects, with its focus on rule of law,

democratic governance and human rights protection; and the increasing projection of India and China as regional leaders within Asia and its implications for the EU.

- **The Burma/Myanmar Forum 2006**
Wednesday, 29 March 2006, All-day Event
Venue: International Press Centre, Brussels

The Burma/Myanmar Forum 2006 provided a venue for informed debate on the EU strategy for aid delivery to the people of Burma/Myanmar. The Forum was addressed by Eneko Landaburu Director General (External Relations), European Commission.

The recent opening of an ECHO Office in Rangoon and the increasing aid allocation to Burma/Myanmar from the EU shows the need to better understand the dynamics of project implementation and aid delivery in Burma/Myanmar.

It is extremely difficult to work inside Burma/Myanmar. Restrictions by both donors and the host country have hindered the delivery of aid. The lack of any political progress, the perceived lack of transparency and the absence of an independent monitoring mechanism makes Burma/Myanmar unattractive to donors. This, in turn, serves to impede the development of a longer-term strategy for aid delivery.

While the humanitarian situation in Burma/Myanmar cannot be ultimately resolved without a political solution, the crisis cannot be ignored. Thus, the Burma/Myanmar Forum 2006 aimed to look at the factors that affect the delivery of aid, explore ways of optimising aid delivery, and enhance co-operation amongst donors to Burma/Myanmar.

The aim of Burma/Myanmar Forum 2006 was to address four main questions:

1. What are the most basic and most necessary needs in Burma/Myanmar?
2. What kind of projects should be funded in order to remedy the humanitarian crisis without compromising the integrity of aid operations?
3. How should projects be structured in order to ensure a maximum of accountability transparency without a loss of flexibility?
4. How can the European Union enhance its co-operation with other donors, in order to optimise the implementation of its overall strategy?

D. EIAS High Profile Events

In March of this year, the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS), in close association with the Cambridge and Oxford Societies of Belgium, and the Harvard Club of Belgium, were honoured to convene the inaugural lecture of The Amartya Sen Lecture Series on Sustainable Development. The lecture was given by Sir Nicholas Stern.

- **Sustainable Development, Climate Change and International Action**
by Sir Nicholas Stern
Thursday, March 16 2006, from 18h00 – 21h00

Venue: Charlemagne Building, European Commission

The European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS), in close association with the Cambridge and Oxford Societies of Belgium, and the Harvard Club of Belgium, were honoured to launch a series of lectures on sustainable development in the name of Professor Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences 1998.

Prof Amartya Sen commented on the Stern lecture noting that in much of the environmental debate the focus is too squarely on tomorrow, as if there were no today with its deprivation and poverty. Conversely, growth-oriented development appeared to proceed from the false premise 'as if there were no tomorrow'.

Sir Nicholas Stern leads a major review of the Economics of Climate Change. The review is conducted jointly by the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury of the United Kingdom, and will report to the Prime Minister and Chancellor by Autumn 2006. The review has been requested to understand more comprehensively the nature of the economic challenges that climate change poses and how these can be met, in the UK and globally. This lecture provided one of the first presentations of the initial findings of the ongoing review.

EIAS and the Societies will continue to work with Professor Sen to ensure that future lectures in the series address major issues surrounding sustainable development and a number of leading thinkers on the subject have been approached. Lord John Browne, the Chairman of British Petroleum, has kindly agreed to deliver the second lecture during the Autumn of 2006. Prof Sen has confirmed his intention to be present and provide comments at the exceptional occasion.

E. Loi-67 Briefings

- **East Asian Regionalism: The East Asia Summit and the Outlook for the Helsinki ASEM Summit**
4 January, 2006 from 18h00 – 19h00
Venue: EIAS
Speakers: Dr Willem van der Geest and Dr Sebastian Bersick

The inaugural Loi-67 Briefing was held on January 4th by Dr Willem van der Geest, EIAS Director and Dr Sebastian Bersick, EIAS Senior Research Fellow to review the outcomes of the first East Asia Summit, held December 14, 2005 in Kuala Lumpur as well as the "10 years of ASEM" evaluation conference, organised by the Japan Centre for International Exchange (JCIE) in Tokyo, 13-15 December, 2005. Dr van der Geest observed the East Asia Summit on the invitation of the Malaysian Institute for Strategic and International Studies, whereas Dr Bersick was one of the speakers at the JCIE conference in Tokyo.

F. EIAS Presentations and Academic Networking

- **Research & Networking Visit to Malaysia**
16-25 January, 2006
Venue: Centre for International Dialogue at the Malaysia Institute for Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)

The Editor of *EurAsia Bulletin*, John Quigley, visited Malaysia in January as a guest of the Centre for International Dialogue at the Institute for Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia at the invitation of Chairman Dato' Mohamed Jawhar. The visit provided high-level access to a range of political, diplomatic, business and NGO actors in Malaysian society. Mr Quigley also had the opportunity to meet with a cross-section of Editors and journalists from several of Kuala Lumpur's daily and weekly newspapers. Coming just several weeks after the first East Asia Summit, hosted in Kuala Lumpur, the mission was an excellent opportunity to assess Malaysia's relationship with its neighbours, region-wide developments in ASEAN and Malaysia's role internationally

- **The Great Wall of China. How can Europe get across?**
20-21 January, 2006
Venue: European Executive Council, Meeting in Brussels

Dr. Sebastian Bersick was invited as a guest speaker on the topic of 'Do we Europeans have a Strategy towards China?' The European Executive Council (EEC) is a circle of confidential exchange and reflection, which gathers around thirty CEOs of non-European multinationals' European HQs. The European Executive Council was founded in April 2000 as an informal forum where top European executives could confidentially exchange ideas and share solutions about common issues faced in Europe by non-European multinationals. Focus is laid on strategy, development, leadership and integration in a culturally diverse European market. The EEC also provides a structure that allows members and European personalities to exchange their vision of Europe's future. Members have the opportunity to pass on the non-European multinationals' key concerns.

- **Annual Alliance Meeting**
21 February, 2006 from 9:30-13:00
Venue: EIAS: Brussels

The European Institute for Asian Studies hosted the annual meeting of the European Alliance for Asian Studies, a co-operative framework of European institutes specialising in the study of Asia. Also in the alliance are:

- International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden/Amsterdam
- Institute of Asian Affairs (IFA), Hamburg, Germany
- Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), Copenhagen, Denmark
- Asia Europe Centre (AEC), Paris, France
- Centro de Estudios de Asia Oriental (CEAO; Centre for East Asian Studies), Madrid, Spain
- London School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, United Kingdom

The Alliance, established in 1997, aims to bring together fragmented forces in Asian Studies in Europe to facilitate scholarly excellence to the benefit of the respective national research environments.

- **Developing European Security Perspectives on China**
3 March, 2006
Venue: European Union Institute for Security Studies, Paris

The seminar dealt with the transatlantic fallout over the arms embargo and the need for the European Union to develop its own security perspective on China. Questions discussed by European and American participants were inter alia: Does the EU share Washington's concern about China's military modernisation? What is the EU's assessment of the security situation in the Far East and in particular in the Taiwanese Strait? Under which conditions, if at all, would the EU be prepared to remove the embargo? Dr Sebastian Bersick was invited to participate in the seminar.

- **The Governance of Continents: Regional Integration, Globalisation and National Cohesion in Europe and Asia**

8 March, 2006

Venue: Italian Institute for Human Sciences, Florence

Dr Sebastian Bersick was invited to present the paper "ASEMetrics: The Rationale for Interregional Regime-Building". The workshop concentrated on the relationship between national cohesion, regional integration processes in Europe and Asia and the globalisation process. The workshop analysed the process of constitution and development of ASEM, its level of informality and its field of intervention, with the aim of explaining how the ASEM process can influence the level of integration of the regions concerned.

- **From Hanoi to Helsinki: Review of the Asia-Europe Peoples Forum – Strengthening the Social Aspects in the ASEM Process**

13-15 March 2006

Venue: Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisations/Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

The workshop allowed for informal brainstorming between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the light of the upcoming ASEM Summit in Helsinki and the ASEM Social and Labour Ministers' Meeting in Berlin. It focused on the question of how the Asia Europe Peoples' Forum (AEPF) can contribute to including social issues in the ASEM process.

Dr Sebastian Bersick presented the paper "ASEM and AEPF: Review after 10 Years of Experience and the Way Ahead".

- **Course in International Relations and Diplomatic Practice**

20 March, 2006

Venue: Institute of International Relations, Clingendael, The Netherlands

Within the framework of a Course in International Relations and Diplomatic Practice for Junior Diplomats from Indonesia, Dr Sebastian Bersick gave a lecture on "The Future of the Euro-Asian Dialogue and the Role of ASEM".

- **Asian Economic Development and the European Union: Viewpoint of the new EU Member States**

21 - 23 March, 2006

Venue: Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Vilnius

In 2006, Lithuania will mark the fifteenth anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations with China, the Republic of Korea and Japan. The groups for Inter-parliamentary Relations with the People's Republic of China; Republic of Korea and Japan have already been functioning for several terms of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania; the exchanges of parliamentary delegations have occurred on several occasions. With the accession to the EU, Lithuania has found an opportunity to get actively involved in the Europe-Asia Dialogue within the ASEM framework.

On the initiative of the Groups for Inter-parliamentary Cooperation with China, the Republic of Korea and Japan, the board of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania decided to hold a two-day international conference. Dr Willem van der Geest, Dr Sebastian Bersick and Joern Keck (elected EIAS Administrative Board Member in April) were invited to present reports to the conference.

- **EU-Japan Symposium**
6 & 7 April, 2006
Venue: European Commission

Following up on the request of the EU-Japan 2005 summit, a high-level symposium in Brussels examined key agenda items ahead of the EU-Japan 2006 summit. Dr Willem van der Geest was co-chair and rapporteur on the second panel, focusing on cooperation in the field of energy saving and sustainable development.

- **The EU's Policy Framework for East Asia**
11 April, 2006
Venue: Institute for International Economic Relations, Athens

Dr Willem van der Geest was invited to present a lecture on EU's policy framework for East Asia in Athens at the Institute for International Economic Relations.

- **The International Politics of EU-China Relations**
20-21 April, 2006
Venue: British Academy, London

Dr Sebastian Bersick was invited to participate in a conference on "The International Politics of EU-China Relations". He presented the paper "The Impact of European and Chinese Soft Power on Regional and Global Governance". The conference was co-sponsored by the British Academy and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and co-organised by the Institute of European Studies at CASS and the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies at the University of Durham.

F. EIAS Publications

EIAS publishes analyses, insights and viewpoints through its bi-monthly *EurAsia Bulletin*. EIAS also supports its own internet site on EU-Asia (www.eias.org) and contributes to other

publications and web-based exchanges. EIAS participates in Europe-Asia networks of research and analysis, most pertinently as a Member of the *European Alliance for Asian Studies*.

- **EurAsia Bulletin**

EurAsia Bulletin is a bi-monthly publication focussing on the nature and extent of EU-Asia relations in the political, economic, cultural, development and security fields. Through news and analysis and by presenting the views of policy-makers, *EurAsia Bulletin* seeks to bring to the attention of readers in Europe the value of better links with Asia and to readers in Asia the growing importance of Europe. Authors include a mixture of high-profile politicians, diplomats, NGO representatives, EU civil servants, experts and academics and in-house staff. The Editor is John Quigley.

In accordance with the EIAS Annual Work Programme, to date, the following issues in Volume 10 have been published:

No. 3&4 March-April

The March-April featured contributions from Graham Watson, MEP, on efforts to build human rights in North Korea, Eneko Landaburu on the European Commission's activities in Burma, Khin Zaw Win on the plight of those suffering from HIV/AIDS in Burma, Professor Nicholas Stern on sustainable development and EU climate change policy (The inaugural Amartya Sen lecture) and Dr Sebastian Bersick on the role of the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership in ASEM.

The issue included full details of the activities of the EU institutions with regard to Asia and complete reports of recent EIAS meetings including on the Danish cartoon controversy, Japan's trade policy and aspects of EU-China relations including the American dimension.

No. 1&2 January-February

In 2006, EIAS announced the publication of 10th volume of *EurAsia Bulletin*. In the first issue of the year, Graham Watson MEP considered the human rights situation in Cambodia and the role played by the European Parliament in helping to maintain a focus on the political situation. Dr Christophe Jaffrelot examined the nature of India-EU relationship and questioned whether the EU was really committed to developing a Strategic Partnership with India. Norbert Palanovics identified key issues in Japan's overseas development aid programme and suggested that Japan's image would only get better once her relationship with China and South Korea improved. Malcolm Subhan examined the impact of Asian research and technology in Western society and wonders how this would affect India.

The issue also featured news and analysis from the EU and from Asia with a comprehensive report of the activities of the EU Institutions. The issue also included full reports of recent EIAS meetings including EU Election Observation Missions, Japan-EU relations and notions of 'good' governance in Asia.

- **External Publications**

A special issue of the Asia-Europe Journal will present a synthesis of the main findings of the 'China' Study of EIAS/Nomisma. Eight chapters were included, providing a comprehensive account of the results of the Study.

- **EIAS Newsletter**

The monthly EIAS e-Newsletter, established in 2004, has continued to grow, with around 5,000 subscribers to date. Issues were sent early January, end of January and early March.

- **EIAS Website**

The EIAS website www.eias.org is updated almost daily, providing information on our meetings and publications. In the first trimester of 2006, the Institute continued to examine ways of making the EIAS website more dynamic and interactive. The introduction and expansion of audio features to the website, for instance, allows visitors to listen to the complete inaugural lecture of the Amartya Sen Lecture Series on Sustainable Development held this March. EIAS podcasts and interviews with speakers and opinion formers online is now also available. Furthermore, registration to EIAS conferences and meetings is now also available online and has taken off in recent months.

G. EIAS Projects (Non-Eligible Activities: Studies for the European Commission)
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In addition to the work carried out by EIAS in relation to the annual Work Programme of 2006, the Institute is also engaged in 'non-eligible' research projects for the European Commission.

- **Academic Network for European Research related to India (ANERI)**

'To help Commission services in better defining their cooperation strategy and future policy with regard to India with the overall aim to enhance and deepen and widen the EU-India relationship.'

The 'Academic Network for European Research related to India' (ANERI) has been launched by the European Commission with the objective of monitoring and assessing the implications of India's economic rise for the EU and assisting in the updating and articulation of the EU Agenda for the EU-India Relationship. To facilitate the process and make available the existing research on contemporary India, a consortium of SOGES and EIAS has been selected to establish ANERI, which will link together the various institutions engaged in research about India. The project is being implemented by a team consisting of Dr Willem van der Geest, teamleader, Dr Kunal Sen (University of East Anglia), economic analyst and Dr Lawrence Saez (London School of Economics), political analyst.

First, a stocktaking is taking place of available Centres of Indian Contemporary Studies and on EU-India relations, focusing on the most relevant aspects such as economic policies; the global impact of India's rise; political and policy developments in India; India's policy strategy in the region, and social and cultural affairs.

Second, short and well-focused Briefing Papers are being produced on topical issues. On the basis of these papers the experts will participate in workshops/brainstorming sessions with staff of the EU institutions. Papers will include analysis on:

- The role of the Indian Diaspora in Europe and its contribution to India's development (Ms Prof Rosa, University of Lisbon)
- India's emergence as an international investor: the globalisation of Indian industry (Dr Willem van der Geest, Dr Kunal Sen and Ms Miniya Chatterjee)
- Clean Energy and Clean Environment: ensuring sustainable development patterns (Dr Lawrence Saez)
- India's Tourism Industry: unleashing the hidden potential of India (Dr Kunal Sen and Dr Agarwal)
- Indian Students in Europe: trends, constraints and prospects (Dr Marie Lall and Dr Lawrence Saez)
- EU-India co-operation in the audio-visual sector: bringing together European and Indian Film Industries (tbc)

Third, the team is contributing to updating and improving the quality of the information on the RELEX website related to India and develop a website dedicated to the ANERI project.

- **Europe-China Academic Network for Studies (ECAN)**

It is of utmost importance that the EU in further defining and articulating its strategy and policies, not only towards China, but more in general with regard to among others environmental questions, energy use and enterprise regulation, is able to monitor and assess developments in China and their impact, especially on the EU.

A thorough analysis of the issues at stake is required and developments in a number of areas need to be monitored and assessed. The European Commission has launched the project Europe-China Academic Network for Studies (ECAN). The project will be implemented by a team of the European Institute for Asian Studies, consisting of Dr Willem van der Geest, teamleader, Dr Sebastian Bersick, political analyst, and Dr Margot Schüller, economic analyst (from the Institut für Asienkunde, Hamburg).

The global objective of the ECAN project is to foster closer cooperation between the scattered European research institutions and the sources of information available within the contemporary China field. Specific objectives include the production of briefs and papers on a range of most topical issues in the EU-China relationship and to support Commission services in defining their cooperation strategy and future policy with regard to China.

Stocktaking will take place of available information on China, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and on EU-China relations. Well-focused Briefing Papers will be produced on topical issues:

- China's Economic Strategy and its Outward Foreign Investment Behaviour
- The Impact of China's Rise on EU Competitiveness

- The Impact of China's Rise on World Commodity Markets and Transport Capacity
- Human Rights in China, Prospects for Change?
- EU-China relations: Prospects and Recommendations
- Taiwan and Cross-Strait Relations and the Possible Role for the EU
- Hong Kong/Macao: Which Scenarios for the Future?
- The Role of the Party in governing China and Prospects for Political Reform
- The Chinese Administrative System - Procedures and Concepts
- Corruption and the Changing Social Fabric in Chinese Society
- Military Modernisation and the Role of the PLA in Chinese Foreign Policy

III. Management

A. Executive Committee and Administrative Board

In the period between 1 January and 30 April 2006, the Executive Committee met once, jointly with the Finance Committee, and the Administrative Board met three times.

Executive Committee Meetings	Administrative Board Meetings
13 February	4 January
	16 February
	24 April

On 24 April 2006, EIAS held its seventeenth Annual General Meeting (AGM) at which time four Effective Members of the Institute were elected to Membership of the Administrative Board:

- Mr. William G. Seddon-Brown, former CEO, British
- Mr. Robert Hull, former EU Official, British
- Mr. Joern Keck, former EU Official, German
- Prof. Victor Pou Serradell, former EU Official, Spanish

Thus, the EIAS Administrative Board now comprises eighteen Members:

- Camroux, David, professor, French;
- Cushnahan, John, former MEP, Irish;
- Cuyvers, Ludo, professor, Belgian;
- Geeraerts, Gustaaf, professor, Belgian;
- Gupwell, Richard, former EU official, British;
- Hull, Robert, former EU Official, British
- Jonsson, Bo, former Trade Union Official, Swedish;
- Keck, Joern, former EU Official, German
- Kamalam, P., international trade union administrator, Malaysian/Belgian;
- Morgan, Gwyn, former EU official, British;
- Murshid, Tazeen, professor, Bangladeshi;
- Nobbs, Richard, former EU official, British;
- Plasschaert, Sylvain, professor, Belgian;
- Pou Serradell, Victor, former EU Official, Spanish
- Saunier, Gérard, professor, French;
- Seddon-Brown, William, former CEO, British
- Subhan, Malcolm, journalist, Belgian;
- Tourrés, Eric, manager, French.

The Executive Committee is composed of:

Role	Name	Address
Chairman	Prof. Ludo CUYVERS	Denblommaert 17, 2540 Hove (Belgium)

Vice-Chair	Mr. Gwyn MORGAN	14 Ravenscroft Road, London W4 5EQ, (UK)
Vice-Chair	Mr. Malcolm SUBHAN	Kisteveldlaan 18, 3080 Tervuren (Belgium)
Secretary-General	Mr. Richard GUPWELL	346 Hagley Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge DY9 0QY (UK)
Treasurer	Mr. Eric TOURRES	187 Boulevard Reyers B-1030, Brussels

IV. Concluding remark and Implementation to date

The concluding 'programme implementation table' covering the first four months of 2006 indicates quite clearly that EIAS is well-on-the-way towards a successful and impressive performance during this year.

EIAS 2006 Programme Implementation (Jan 1 – 30 April) (Verifiable Indicators Only)			
Type of Activity	Programme Planning (Jan-Dec 2006)	Implementation	Comments
Meeting Events			
Lunch Briefings at EIAS	10	5	Positive Feedback from senior commission officials; approx. 120 participants
International Conferences	6	2	Asia Update Meeting, Burma/Myanmar Forum; high-level participation
Loi-67 Briefing	10	1	Informed participation & discussion
High Level Event	2	1	Amartya Sen Inaugural Lecture, Exceptionally high-level participation
Specialised Briefings & Public Lectures	4	2	High-level interest and participation
Research and Publications			
Publication of articles on EU-Asia through <i>EurAsia Bulletin</i> and Other Publications	72-84	25	Including contributions from the Director General of DG RELEX, an MEP, government officials and leading academic analysts
Academic Presentations & Networking	Approx. 40	13	2 in Asia 3 in Brussels 8 in other EU countries
Information & Dissemination			
EIAS Website	Not Indicated	numerous updates	Hits, visits and page downloads sharply increased; all activities of EIAS projected
EIAS e-Newsletter	Not Indicated	3 issues dispatched	Monthly from Jan 2006

