



European Institute for Asian Studies, asbl

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EIAS Report of Activities **(Activities from May 1 – August 31, 2006)**

Prepared by Dr Willem van der Geest and Ms Signe Bruun-Jensen of the European Institute for Asian Studies asbl to provide sponsors and interested members a report on the current implementation of the EIAS Work Programme 2006.



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

The European Institute for Asian Studies asbl receives grant support for its activities from the European Commission DG External Relations through the European Commission Partnership Agreement (ECPA), a framework contract that facilitates and supports the work of non-profit institutes focusing their work on the external relations of the European Union.

I. ABOUT THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN STUDIES

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 optimal 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 and powerful Asian Institute in Brussels that can provide guidance in an environment in which Asian capabilities are rapidly transforming. EIAS seeks to provide strategic analysis and interpretation of the long-term implications of Asia’s fast growing economic and political prominence for the European Union.

The EIAS 2006 Work-Programme

Throughout 2006, EIAS continued 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 Dr Willem van der Geest, Director, its 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

This Interim Report only covers the period May 1 – August 31, 2006.

<i>A. EIAS Lunch Briefings</i>

During the period May 1 to August 31, 2006 EIAS implemented five EIAS Lunch Briefings at its premises, covering North Korea and the Six-Party Talks, Conflict Resolution in Sri Lanka, Local Democracy in India and China, China Policy Competencies in New EU Member States and the Role of Trade Unions in the ASEM process.

Invited speakers came from both Europe, the US and Asia, including a leading academic analyst, civil society representatives and a former diplomat of an Eastern European EU Member State. EIAS Staff and Board members chaired the Briefings and acted as discussants.

Audiences at the EIAS Lunch Briefings included a cross-section of officials from the European Commission, including the Director Asia from Europe-Aid, desk officers from the countries under review from DG External Relations as well as from other DG’s including Development and Employment and Social Affairs. The European Parliament was present through its Members, including the Chair of its China Delegation as well as a Member of the Delegation for relations with Korea, complemented by Parliament staff and Member’s assistants. The Council was represented through officials from the Policy Unit as well as from the Council Secretariat. Academic participants were drawn from the universities in and around Brussels. Representatives of Member States, including accession countries Romania and Bulgaria, participated in the meetings. Asian Embassies were represented at all the briefings. Typically the audience size was between 20-30, with a larger audience for the meetings covering India and/or China.

The audience participation, responding to the topical subjects of the briefings, demonstrates the interest in this aspect of the EIAS work programme. The briefings are free of charge for officials from the EU institutions, press as well as members of EIAS.

▪ **Trade Unions – The Missing Link in the ASEM Structure?**

31 August, 2006 from 13h00 – 14h30

Speaker: Mr Guy Ryder, Secretary General, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

Chair: Mr Dick Gupwell, Secretary General, European Institute for Asian Studies

This September, Asian and European leaders gathered for the 6th ASEM Summit in Helsinki. Amongst the many topical issues for discussion, leaders addressed questions relating to the Doha Development Agenda, globalisation, competitiveness and structural changes in the global economy. Just prior to the Summit, the 1st ASEM Labour and Employment Minister's Conference was held in Berlin to the topic of 'More and Better Jobs – Working Jointly to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Globalisation'. As economic interests between Asia and Europe intensify, can a joint response be formulated commensurate with the goals of economic prosperity and sustainable development for the peoples of both regions?

Increased trade and investment by European and multinational companies and closer interaction with the global economy has had a significant impact on workers in developing and transition countries within Asia. The international trade union movement has continuously stressed that ASEM leaders' foremost commitment should be to improve the quality of life of their citizens, which can only be sustained if the working conditions and rights of their people are properly addressed. Indeed, the ICFTU advocates policies that encompass alternative approaches to globalisation and economic affairs that can provide a new, higher-growth and higher-employment path for sustainable development. Is there a role for the ICFTU and other civil society actors in an Asia-Europe dialogue on development, employment and labour issues?

Set up in 1949, the ICFTU organises and directs campaigns on issues such as the respect and defence of trade union and workers' rights, the eradication of forced and child labour, the promotion of equal rights for working women, the environment, education programmes for trade unionists all over the world and encouraging the organisation of young workers.

The speaker is the Secretary General of the largest confederation of free trade unions globally.

▪ **Under the Surface of the Six-Party Talks: Findings from Government Interviews**

20 June, 2006 from 13h00 - 14h30

Speaker: Dr John S. Park, Project Leader, North Korea Analysis Group, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

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

The North Korean nuclear crisis is a dominant factor in the insecurity perceptions held about Northeast Asia. Although the Six-Party Talks have served as a valuable mechanism for addressing critical issues, no substantial resolution has been found as yet. The parties to the talks all bring differing perspectives, objectives, priorities and approaches to the negotiating table, hindering any substantial breakthroughs or progress. Why? In order to gain a deeper understanding and perspective, diplomatic efforts to broker a solution need to be seen in the context of what goes on behind the scenes.

The European Institute for Asian Studies was honoured to welcome Dr John S. Park to speak at its premises. Drawing on research interviews with Chinese, US, South Korean, North Korean, Japanese and Russian government policy advisers, working on their respective country's approach to a resolution, his presentation provided insights into what has been occurring under the surface of the Six-Party Talks process.

Dr Park was in Brussels on the joint invitation of EIAS as well as the Delegation for Relations with the Korean Peninsula of the European Parliament. During his sojourn in Brussels, he also addressed the Delegation.

- **Conflict Resolution in Sri Lanka: Forging a Multiparty Stakeholder Dialogue on Peace Building**

Thursday, 1 June, 2006 from 13h00 – 14h30

Speaker: Mr. Janaka Ranatunga, Deputy Director, One-Text Initiative, Sri Lanka

Chair: Mr Malcolm Subhan, Vice-Chair, European Institute for Asian Studies

The European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) was honoured to welcome Mr. Janaka Ranatunga to its premises to discuss the situation in Sri Lanka and examine the status of peace building efforts. What opportunities and challenges exist for stakeholders wanting to forge a dialogue for peace? Can different narratives and positions be brought together to create a common approach to the Peace Process?

Mr Ranatunga is Deputy Director of the Sri Lanka One-Text Initiative, a systematic process supporting Sri Lankan peace building by eliciting the underlying interests and needs of multiple parties and people, providing the space (physically and virtually) to jointly explore and develop options. The stakeholders of One Text are representatives from almost all political parties including the government party and the militant groups, who are the main protagonists of the conflict, in addition to civil society organisations. All operational, content and policy matters of this Initiative are determined by the participating political parties, organisations and various citizens' groups. One Text Initiative is the only multi party stakeholder dialogue on peace building at track two level in Sri Lanka.

The EIAS Lunch Briefing was held just a few days after the EU included the Tamil Tiger organisation LTEE to its list of 'proscribed' organisations, immediately following the resolution of the European Parliament on Sri Lanka.

- **Local Democracy in India and China: Opportunities and Challenges**

10 May, 2006 from 13h00 – 14h30

Speaker: Dr George Mathew, Director, Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), Delhi

Chair: Mr Dick Gupwell, Secretary General, European Institute for Asian Studies

The European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) was honoured to welcome Dr George Mathew to its premises to examine the development of local democracy in India and China. What opportunities and challenges exist for these two Asian giants as they strive to promote domestic development and reform? Can any comparisons be drawn or lessons gained from individual experiences?

The Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) is one of India's leading research centre on *panchayati raj*, India's system of elected local councils, and the impact this has on India's social development, especially in rural areas. Its findings and recommendations are made available to members of decision-making organisations, such as government bodies, trade unions, people's organisations, corporate bodies and scientific communities, to encourage them to enlarge the options for action.

Dr George Mathew, Founding Director of ISS, is a member of several committees of the federal government. He examines the local government system, decentralization and gender equity within the context of India, whilst also undertaking research on the introduction of local democracy in China.

He noted that democracy in India is solidly based with more than three million persons elected at the local grassroots level, of which more than one million women.

- **China Policy Competencies in New EU Member States**

Thursday, 4 May, 2006 from 13h00 – 14h30

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ksawery Burski, Former Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Beijing

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

The European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) was honoured to welcome H.E. Ambassador Ksawery Burski to its premises to examine China policy competencies in new EU Member States. To what extent are their policies and strategies convergent with those of the EU-15? Will their links with China and Russia contribute new dimensions to the EU's partnership with China?

Ambassador Burski joined the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1961 and has served in diplomatic and consular service in Beijing, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. Prior to his posting as Ambassador in Beijing in 1999, he served as Ambassador in Jakarta (1995-1999) and in Singapore (1998-1999).

At the meeting he explained, inter alia, how the 'threat' perception of China had gained ground in his native country Poland, with much emphasis being placed on the growing trade imbalance.

B. EIAS Special Briefings

- **Relations between the EU and Asia**

Thursday, 22nd June 2006

European Institute for Asian Studies, Brussels

A delegation of 22 Senior Asian Diplomats studying at the Centre des Etudes Européennes de Strasbourg (CEES/ENA), visited EIAS to listen to presentations from three senior members of staff. Dr. Willem van der Geest focused on EU-China economic relations, questioning the long-term sustainability of Chinese economic growth. Dr. Sebastian Bersick focused on the ASEM process as a showcase of EU soft power vis-à-vis East Asia. Mr. John Quigley focused on the EU Financial Perspectives 2007-13, noting that the ambitions for EU external actions do not seem matched by real resource increases.

The French Government had invited the diplomats to the CEES/ENA. They included the directors and senior staff of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of several major countries, including China, Asia, Indonesia and Thailand.

- **Local Democracy and Civil Society Development in Asia: The situation in selected Asian Countries**

1 June, 2006 from 16h00 – 21h00

Venue: BBJ Consult

This meeting with Asian Stakeholders and European Experts, jointly organized by the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation and the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS), discussed the status and perspectives of democratic development in Asia, possibilities for promoting local participation as an instrument for socio-economic development and poverty alleviation and potential and limits of cooperation between Europe and Asian non-state actors in democracy promotion and development cooperation.

The invited speakers from Asia included Mrs. Chen Xiaojiang, Chairwoman of Shaanxi Women's Federation (SWF), Shaanxi, China; Mr. Gaudioso C. Sosmena, founder and director of the Local Government Development Foundation (LOGODEF), The Philippines; Mr. Methodius Kusumahadi Director of USC-Satunama, Indonesia; and Mr. Heng Monychenda, Director of Buddhism for Development (BFD), Cambodia. The DG External Relations of the European Commission was represented at the level of Heads of Unit, including South East Asia.

C. EIAS International Conferences

In the spirit of promoting intellectual exchange and dialogue amongst a wider European and international audience, EIAS co-organized a major two-day conference in July in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.

▪ **EU-China: Strategic Partnership Towards Developing Countries**

11/12 July 2006, European Parliament, Brussels

The conference sought to examine the possibility of establishing a ‘EU-China Strategic Partnership towards Developing Countries’. Are there commonalities of interest that would improve the provision and deliverance of development aid? Will priorities of the development cooperation policies of the two partners be conflictual or complementary with regards to achieving the UN Millenium Goals? European and Chinese Government representatives, experts from European and Chinese Think Tanks and Civil Society organizations gathered in the European Parliament to discuss their approaches and visions of a future Development Policy.

The conference offered a unique first opportunity for discussion and exchange in a track-two setting, between officials and scholars from China and from the European Union on the Chinese approach, in particular to Africa. The Chinese participants, present in their personal capacity, explained their approach to developing countries, placing due emphasis on the principle of non-interference. European participants stressed their long experience that had led them to appreciate the importance and desirability of conditionality in the fields of governance and accountability.

The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung will be publishing proceedings of the conference, based on the transcript of the discussion. Furthermore, an analysis of the main conclusions of the conference by the two co-directors, Dr Peter Köppinger of KAS and Dr Willem van der Geest of EIAS will be published during the autumn of 2006.

D. Loi-67 Briefings

▪ **Resources for Asia: EU Financial Perspectives 2007-2013**

Tuesday, 6 June, 2006 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Speakers: Mr. John Quigley, Editor, *EurAsia Bulletin*, EIAS

Mr. Jan Mulder, Member of the European Parliament

After heated debate amongst EU Member States on the financial perspectives for the period 2007-2013, a maximum total figure to the sum of € 864.316 billion, representing 1.048% of EU Gross National Income was eventually agreed upon. Under Heading 4 entitled "The EU as a Global Partner", the level of commitments, covering pre-accession, stability, development cooperation and economic cooperation, European neighbourhood and partnership, humanitarian aid and macro financial assistance, was set at € 50 billion (in 2004 prices), or 5.8% of the total budget.

With the EU honing its identity as a global player and partner, will this allocation be adequate to cover the expanse of external opportunities and challenges foreseen in the coming years? How will the EU balance its internal commitments vis-à-vis its global responsibilities?

Mr. John Quigley, Editor of the *EurAsia Bulletin* made an initial presentation. EIAS was honoured to welcome Mr. Jan Mulder, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chairman of the SAARC Delegation and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets to speak on the EU Financial Perspectives in the context of resources for Asia.

The *Loi 67 Briefings* take place under the Chatham House Rule and there is no published record, nor are statements attributed to speakers or participants.

E. EIAS Presentations and Academic Networking

- **INTA Committee Mini-hearing on EU-India Trade and Economic Cooperation**

Wednesday, 3 May, 2006
European Parliament

The Chairman of the Committee for International Trade, Mr Henrique Baron Crespo, former President of the European Parliament, invited Dr. van der Geest to make a presentation to its mini-hearing on EU-India trade. The EIAS Director reviewed the global and bilateral context of India's strong macro-economic performance and outlook. The presentation identified several mutual opportunities for EU-India trade and investment cooperation, noting the need for a long-term EU-India vision as well as a sustained political commitment.

The Briefing was addressed by Ambassador Dipak Chatterjee of the Mission of India to the European Union as well as by Prof Poonam Kumar, an analyst of the Indian economy. The discussion focused on the nature of the EU-India trade relations as well as the nature of the developmental challenges that India faces.

The hearing was attended by more than 20 Members of the European Parliament and had been requested by Mr Sajjad Karim, the Parliament's rapporteur on EU-India economic relations. The chair and the rapporteur publicly expressed their appreciation for the inputs which the session had offered the Committee.

- **China Business Congress 2006**

10 - 11 May 2006
Finance Department of Universiteit Maastricht, Netherlands

Currently, one of the most discussed topics on the global field of economics and business is the emergence of China into an influential economic superpower. The Chinese Business Congress will focus on the future impacts of events taking place in China and how these events influences the European and US market. Furthermore the investment opportunities in China for European investors shall be stressed from both theoretical and practical point of view.

The congress was a 2-day event that attracted approximately 200 students, academics and business people each day. At the end of the day a forum discussion will took place, and was an opportunity for interactive discussion among the speakers and the audience.

Helmut Schmidt, former chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, was the keynote speaker. The congress has previously been successful in attracting highly regarded international speakers like the Noble Laureate Harry Markovitz, Elroy Dimson, governor of the London Business School, Werner de Bondt and Norbert Walter, chief economist of Deutsche Bank. Dr Sebastian Bersick provided a presentation entitled "Living up to new realities: The EU's response to China's rise".

- **Video Conference with President Chen Shui Bian of Taiwan**

Friday , 19 May, Geneva

On the request of the Office of the President of Taiwan, EIAS Director van der Geest moderated a videoconference between Taipei and Geneva where President Chen Shui Bian of Taiwan explained the motives and aims of Taiwan's bid for WHO observer status. The panel in Geneva included academics as well as representatives of the medical profession. The videoconference was broadcast live in Taiwan and attracted considerable media attention across Europe.

- **EU Enlargement and Global Political Economy**

9-11 June, 2006
Renmin University, Beijing

The Center for European Studies at Renmin University of China and the Centre for Applied Policy Research of the University of Munich, Germany, organised this international conference. The main themes of the conference included: (1) The enlargement and the EU institutional reform, (2) the enlargement and EU-China relations, (3) the enlargement and the Trans-Atlantic relations. Dr Sebastian Bersick presented a paper on the topic: "Strategic Impacts of the EU-Enlargement on EU-China Relations".

- **Lecture and Simulation on ASEM**

15 June, 2006

Clingendael, Netherlands Institute for International Relations, The Hague

Dr Bersick was invited to hold a lecture and to conduct a simulation on the Asia-Europe Meeting. In a first theoretical part he concentrated on the functioning of the ASEM process. The afternoon session dealt with an interactive scenario exercise. This daylong meeting was part of a Course in Strategic Planning and Foreign Policy for Senior Diplomats from Indonesia.

- **EU-Asia Relations: Cooperation on Regional Security and Integration**

26-27 June, 2006

European Policy Centre, Brussels

The European Policy Centre, Brussels, and the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (Singapore) co-organised an ASEM Work Shop titled "EU-Asia Relations-Cooperating on Regional Security and Integration". The workshop brought together leading Asian and European scholars and academics to discuss Asian regional security issues, the state of play of regional integration as well as EU-Asia security co-operation in the framework of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Dr Sebastian Bersick presented a paper on the topic: "The Euro-Asian Experience in Security Cooperation".

- **Making Euro-Asian Soft Power in the 21st Century: Concepts, Constraints and Consequences**

July 17-27 2006, Singapore, Manila, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta

Dr Sebastian Bersick was invited by the Asia-Europe Foundation (Singapore) on a Lecture Tour in Southeast Asia. From July 17 until July 27 Dr Bersick made presentations in Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Parts of his lecture were transmitted via videoconference across East Asia to also include audiences in Mongolia and e.g. the ASEAN Secretariat.

ASEF Lecture Tours are designed to provide a platform for emerging or well-established "leaders of opinion" of Asian and European civil societies to address an informed audience on issues pertaining to bridging the cultural and civilisation differences between Asia and Europe. Every year, ASEF's Intellectual Exchange Department selects three personalities from each region and organises a tour of the other region in partnership with host institutions in the selected countries included. Dr Bersick's ASEF Lecture Tour 2006, including an abstract of his lecture, are featured on the ASEF website (www.asef.org).

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 focusing 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 *EIAS- An Intellectual Resource for EU-Asia*.

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 during the period under review:

No. 7&8 July-August

The July-August issue featured contributions from Daniel Caspary MEP on Turkmenistan, Raul Romeva MEP on Small Arms, Light Weapons, John O'Shea of GOAL on humanitarian aid, Nawab Khan on EU-Iran relations, Marzia Baldassari on West Papua and G. Manicandan and P. Mansingh on the textile and garment industry in India.

No 5&6 May-June

The May-June issue featured contributions from Chris Weeks on the structures of humanitarian aid delivery, Dr Greg Austin on the US-EU relationship with Iran, Glyn Ford, MEP, and Dr Soyoung Kwon on the propaganda and idealistic notions found in North Korean comics, Manual Schmitz on the process of nation building in East Timor, Malcom Subhan on how the EU-India Strategic Partnership should be developed and Dr Xiaokun Song on whether the EU integration model may have some resonance for China-Taiwan relations.

There are full details of the activities of the EU institutions with regard to Asia and complete reports of recent EIAS meetings including the China policy of the EU newer Member States, local democracy in India and China, conflict resolution in Sri Lanka, civil society development in Asia and the process of the six party talks involving North Korea.

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.

• External Publications

A special issue of the *Asia-Europe Journal* Volume 4, Number 2 was published in June 2006 featuring a synthesis of the main findings of the 'China' Study of EIAS, with Dr Willem van der Geest as the invited 'Guest Editor' to the special issue. Eight selected chapters were included, in addition to the editorial introduction, providing a comprehensive account of the results of the Study:

- **Willem van der Geest**, *The European Union's strategic interests in East Asia (editorial)*
- **Willem van der Geest**, *Shaping factors of EU-East Asia relations*
- **Wei-Wei Zhang**, *Long-term outlook for China's political reform*
- **Robert Ash**, *The long-term outlook for economic reform in China*

- **Shujie Yao**, *How does China perform in science and technology*
- **Roberta Zavoretti**, *Family-based care for China's ageing population*
- **Sophie Boisseau du Rocher**, *ASEAN and North East Asia: implications for the European Union – ASEAN partnership*
- **Sebastian Bersick**, *Strategic considerations in the US-China relationship and the role of European soft power*
- **Sean Golden**, *Socio-cultural aspects of the relationship between the EU and East Asia*

Multiregionalism and Multilateralism: Asian-European Relations in a Global Context

Volume edited by Sebastian Bersick, Paul van der Velde and Wim Stokhof

During the period May 1 – August 31, a manuscript for a book on multi-lateralism, edited by Dr. Sebastian Bersick (EIAS), Dr. Paul van der Velde (IIAS) and Prof Wim Stokhof (IIAS), was submitted for publication to the University of Amsterdam Press. The publication was rushed through the Press in order to ensure that it could be available to those attending the Asia-Europe Meeting held in Helsinki on September 11-12, 2006.

The volume rolled from the press on the 31 August and was subsequently launched in Helsinki at the ASEM meeting as well as Brussels on September 14th. Mr. Hervé Jouanjean, Deputy Director General, European Commission, DG External Relations gave an introductory speech to the workshop at the occasion of the booklaunch.

- **EIAS Newsletter**

The monthly EIAS e-Newsletter, established in 2004, has continued to grow, with around 5,000 subscribers to date. During the period an issue was sent out in the beginning of June.

- **EIAS Website**

The EIAS website www.eias.org is updated frequently, providing information on our meetings and publications. During 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. For example, the speakers at the five EIAS lunch briefings all provided a spoken synopsis of their presentation through a brief 5-7 minute Q&A with the EIAS Director.

Furthermore, registration to EIAS conferences and meetings is now also available online and has taken off in recent months.

II. Commissioned Research Projects

In addition to the work carried out by EIAS in relation to the annual Work Programme of 2006, the Institute is also engaged in tailored research projects for the European Commission and other sponsors.

- **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 have been prepared during the period covered by this Interim Report and include analysis on (authors in brackets):

- **The role of the Indian Diaspora in Europe** (Ms Prof Rosa Perez, University of Lisbon)
- **India's emergence as an global player: the globalisation of Indian industry** (Dr Willem van der Geest and Ms Miniya Chatterjee)
- **Renewable Energy: ensuring sustainable development patterns** (Dr Lawrence Saez)
- **India's Tourism Industry: unleashing the potential of India** (Dr Kunal Sen and Dr Agarwal)
- **Indian Students in Europe: trends, constraints and prospects** (Dr Marie Lall)
- **India film industry and EU co-operation** (Yojana Sharma and Jonathan Braude)

The team is developing a website dedicated to the ANERI project (www.neri.eu).

- **'Bringing together European research on Contemporary India'**
Leiden University, LIPSIUS Building
Wednesday 28th of June from 19:00 to 20:30.

'Bringing together European research on Contemporary India' was the title of a public presentation of the Academic Network for European Research on India (ANERI) that took place at the 19th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies (ECMSAS). This international conference was organised by the European Association for South Asian Studies (EASAS) in collaboration with the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) at the University of Leiden from 27 to 30th of June 2006.

The presenting team included Dr Willem van der Geest (teamleader), Prof Kunal Sen (University of East Anglia) and Dr Lawrence Saez (Asia Research Centre, London School of Economics). At the plenary discussion, the project team introduced the network initiative. A discussion was initiated on the scope and opportunities for an active interface between the academic and applied research communities on the one hand and the policy-making circles at the EU level on the other hand. A representative of the European Commission, Mr Mikael Sami participated in the panel discussion.

- **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 German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), 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 briefings 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 and presentations will be produced covering the following topical issues, with a focus on:

- 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

The ECAN programme has tackled these issues through a series of in-house Policy Analysis Workshops as follows:

- **ECAN Policy Analysis Workshop I**
15 May 2006 14:00 through to 17:00
European Commission, Brussels

The half-day Policy Analysis Workshop was held at the European Commission, DG External Relations, Charlemagne Building in Brussels on 15 May 2006 as an integral part of the ECAN network project.

The workshop brought together experts engaged for the ECAN project with specialists from the TAC Applied Economic & Financial Research, a research company based in France, working on the European Commission's 'China Observatory project'. Presentations included, *Political and Economic Issues Shaping EU-China Relations 2006-2010* a presentation of a Table on Key Issues for EU-China Relations by Dr Willem van der Geest, Director EIAS & Dr Margot Schüller, Deputy Director, German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg; *Catching up and China's Industrial Policy* by Dr Margot Schüller, Deputy Director, German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg; and *Re-assessing the meaning of 'Made in China'* by Dr. Thierry Apoteker, TAC Applied Economic and Financial Research.

The informal approach of the workshop provided an opportunity for EU officials to discuss in-depth political and economic developments which are likely to become important shaping factors, perhaps stumbling blocks, for EU-China relations during the period following the forthcoming EU-China communication.

- **ECAN Policy Analysis Workshop II**
7 June, 2006 from 14:00 through to 17:00

European Commission, Brussels

This workshop focused on political and security issues, including Taiwan. Presentations included *EU-China Shaping Issues: Preliminary Qualitative Assessment* by Dr Willem van der Geest, Director, European Institute for Asian Studies; and *Cross Strait Relations - What Role for the European Union?* By Jean-Pierre Cabestan, Senior Researcher, CNRS & Associate Researcher, Asia Centre, Paris.

▪ **ECAN Policy Analysis Workshop III**

3 July 2006 from 14:00 through to 17:00
European Commission, Brussels

This workshop focused on political and security issues with a particular focus on China's military modernization and Hong Kong. Presentations included *Military Modernisation and the Role of the PLA in Chinese Foreign Policy* by Jean-Pierre Cabestan, Senior Researcher, CNRS & Associate Researcher, Asia Centre, Paris and *Hong Kong: Outlook for the Future* by Mr. Chris Jackson, writer and consultant, who has previously worked for the Hong Kong government and was its representative to Washington (1996-2001) and to Brussels (2001-2004). In addition, comments were given by Mr. John Walls Cushnahan, European Parliament Rapporteur on Hong Kong (1997-2004).

▪ **ECAN Specialised Briefing of the Commissioner for External Relations**

The ECAN team is also convened a discussion, strictly by invitation (**July 20, 2006**) with **Mrs Dr Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations**, on the EU's immediate and long-term objectives for its China policy; the comparative advantages of the EU in its relations with China - opportunities for possible synergies; and effective ways of engaging China.

▪ **The ECAN Policy Workshop IV**

25 Sept from 14:00-17:00 , European Commission, Brussels

The presentation of Prof Robert Ash, School of Oriental and African Studies focused on China's economic strategy and its environmental impact. Dr Margot Schuller, GIGA, Hamburg reviewed recent developments of Chinese industrial and technological policies, whereas Dr Willem van der Geest reviewed the issues of the Chinese exchange rate regime.

▪ **The ECAN ANNUAL MEETING IN BRUSSELS 2006**

The present 2006 work-programme of ECAN will conclude with an **ECAN Annual Network Meeting**, a one day international conference, to be held October 23th, 2006 at the Charlemagne Building (Room S2). Final versions of the Briefing Papers will be presented. Several key note addresses from leading officials and prominent scholars are foreseen:

- **Prof Wu Jianmin**, President, China Foreign Affairs University
- **Prof David Shambaugh**, George Washington University, Washington DC
- **Prof Peter Nolan**, Judge Business Institute, University of Cambridge

Mr Eneko Landaburu, Director-General External Relations, European Commission will inaugurate the meeting.

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