

**2003 SECOND INTERIM REPORT
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN STUDIES, asbl
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2003 SECOND INTERIM REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF EIAS¹

I. INTRODUCTION

During 2003, the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) continued to play its high-profile and meaningful role in the dialogue between Europe and Asia and to serve in the role of a Track II sounding board for new policy input for decision-makers at the European level. This was done particularly in the context of the EU' s Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) with a focus on Asian political and security developments, through the analysis of inter and intra-regional co-operation as well as through the analysis of EU-Asia international political economy. The main instruments and mechanisms of these were through several Round Tables, selected High-Profile Speakers and a series of Luncheon Briefings at EIAS, reinforced by the regular publication of its *EurAsia Bulletin* and supported by the EIAS website www.eias.org.

II. STRATEGIC CONTEXT OF THE EIAS PROGRAMME

Considerable emphasis was placed during the course of the year 2003 on

- The development of regionalism in South East Asia and its linkages with East Asia;
- the political and economic implications for Asia of the war in Iraq;
- the progress in the peace process in Sri Lanka and the suspension of negotiations between the Government of Indonesia and the Liberation movement in Aceh;
- the ongoing debate on the appropriate European response to the developments in the DPRK and the Korean peninsula;
- the development of EU' s security co-operation with China and Japan, placed in the broader context of the EU-China summit and, last but not least,
- the EU' s preparations towards the WTO Ministerial meeting in Cancun and the implications of the failure to reach any tangible agreement at this occasion.

One important development, ensuring a growing ' multiplier' of EIAS' s activities, is its active participation in the European Alliance for Asian Studies (EAAS). Composed of five original partners in several EU countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and the Netherlands), the network of institutions has been expanding to include the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid in Spain as a sixth member early 2003. At an historic occasion in London, the Director of the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, Prof Colin Bundy signed the Memorandum of the Understanding of the Alliance confirming its Membership of the Alliance (London, October 17, 2003). The Alliance is devoted to the analysis of Asian affairs and increasing understanding in Europe of contemporary developments within Asia. It is foreseen that in the course of 2004 some institutes from the newly acceding countries of Central and Eastern Europe will also join the European Alliance.

¹ This Second Interim Report consist of a narrative report of EIAS activities to date and an overview of budgetary expenditures up to 30-9-2003 in accordance with Annex III of the Operating Grant Agreement A 3031/2003.

As of 2004, EIAS is anticipating to have to bid in a competitive environment for EU funding. Systematic planning was undertaken to enable EIAS to be placed optimally to respond to the challenges and requirements, such as gradually increasing co-financing from non-EU budget resources. Simultaneously, the European Parliament in its first reading of the 2004 budget (October 23, 2003) introduced and adopted an amendment referring to a budget line mentioning the European Institute for Asian Studies with a budget of Euro 360,000 (line 19 02 02 01).

III. EIAS PROGRAMME JANUARY-NOVEMBER 2003

A. EIAS HIGH PROFILE SPEAKERS

JANUARY 29: Professor S. Jayakumar, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law of Singapore, addressed a breakfast policy briefing jointly organised by the European Institute for Asian Studies and the European Policy Centre (EPC) on 29 January on “New challenges facing ASEAN: Singapore’s view point”. The Minister said he felt “heartened” after two days of meetings with EU Foreign Ministers in Brussels, sensing a renewed interest in Southeast Asia. He outlined two “very strong reasons” that the ASEAN/EU relationship was important: economic co-operation and security and strategic imperatives.

The 10 member countries of ASEAN combined had a potential market of 500 million people. There were also a number of positive trends in the region, such as China entering into negotiations to forge a free trade agreement (FTA) with ASEAN. Japan, Korea and India had also expressed interest in economic partnership agreements.

Furthermore, ASEAN countries were in a “critical geopolitical situation,” highlighted by important sea links. Southeast Asia and ASEAN were at the confluence of two major civilisations, namely emerging China and India (the latter recently concluded its first summit with ASEAN). As a result, ASEAN was positioning itself to be a key player in the region. The bloc also enjoyed a special role as a non-controversial interlocutor for countries and regions outside Asia. The 23-member ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), for example, brought together the 10 ASEAN countries as well as countries such as the United States, Canada, China, the EU, India and Japan, to discuss, in a non-formal setting, matters of security in the region. It was a useful vehicle for Europe, the Americas and others to be engaged in regional security issues.

A discussion focused on issues of regional security (esp. North Korea), intra-ASEAN relations (esp. Myanmar), free trade agreement with the EU and attracting investment, and broader issues of future political relations with ASEAN and the need for inter-cultural dialogue. Chair: John Palmer EPC.

MAY 13: Ambassador Wiryono Sastrohandoyo, has since early January 2002 been the Government of Indonesia’s chief negotiator on the problem of Aceh. At that time, the dialogue had been going for about 2 years with some encouraging results but had been in suspension for seven months before it was resumed when the Ambassador had become the negotiator. He spoke on the 13th of May, only days before the final round of negotiations in Tokyo collapsed and the Indonesian military restarted operations in Aceh.

The Government of Indonesia (GOI) signed a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement with the Aceh Liberation Movement (GAM) in Geneva, 9th December 2002. There seemed an opportunity to finally resolve the Aceh problem by bringing the conflict situation to an end and establishing a track for peace.

After 5 months, the implementation of the various aspects of the COHA had been experiencing serious problems. In particular, the continuing propagation by GAM leaders that the COHA is a road to independence, the GAM-based rival administrative structure (“the governors”, “regent”, “mayors”, “village chiefs”) in some parts of Aceh, the active and wide-spread acts of extortion (Nangroe Tax) and the lack of progress by GAM in the implementation of the placement of weapons were emphasized by the speaker. The off-the-record Q&A session was attended by Commission officials and members of COASI. The next day Ambassador Wiryono was called to travel to Tokyo, forcing him to cancel his scheduled presentation to the COASI. Chair: David Fouquet, Secretary General EIAS 2001-2003.

OCTOBER 8: Dr Vladimir Norov, First Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Uzbekistan. In the interlude of the EU-Uzbekistan Senior Officials Meeting and the official delegation visit of Uzbekistan to the NATO headquarters, the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan collaborated with EIAS to host a Special Briefing at which the First Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Dr Vladimir Norov addressed an invited audience on ‘Uzbekistan’s perspective on Regional Integration and Security’. He focused on the active involvement of his Government in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and the scope – and need—for further future involvement. He emphasized that this was a case of mutual interest in several ways: first as Afghanistan provides the most important route for land-locked Uzbekistan and second because the present regime does not hold the threat of Islamic Fundamentalism in the way the discredited Taliban regime did. He said that Uzbekistanis believe that the Kzihb-ut-Takhrir ideology was no less dangerous than weapons of mass destruction. For the full speech see www.eias.org . Chair: Malcolm Subhan, Vice-Chair EIAS.

NOVEMBER 3: Mr Praful Patel, Vice President of the World Bank for South Asia began by describing his recent whirlwind tour of South Asia, during which he met the political and financial leaders of the region’ s administrations. He stated how South Asia, with 40% of the world’ s population, accounted for only 2% of global GDP, a shameful percentage given the great potential of the region (India alone contains the world’ s largest single pool of skilled labour).

Mr Patel focused on four themes: (i) after the marked improvement in growth over the past decade (which has lifted 100 million Indians out of poverty), development is now being constrained by the "implementation capacity" -- or lack thereof -- of all South Asia governments; (ii) the region remains uncompetitive in terms of attracting foreign investment due a number of regulatory factors and infrastructure shortcomings, particularly in the power sector; (iii) a new leadership is emerging in South Asia that is very cognisant of addressing the region’ s poverty (which has a greater population of people living on US\$1 per day than Africa); and (iv) regional co-operation is the best way forward to ensure that South Asia as a whole realizes its great potential.

Mr Patel concluded by reminding listeners of the actual and potential importance



of South Asia in the global economy (noting, for instance, that the largest state in India has a greater population than either Russia or Brazil).

Mr Erich-Wilhelm Müller, Director Asia, Europe Aid Office of the European Commission acted as the Discussant, reviewing the European Union's perspectives on economic development in South Asia.

Mr Müller noted that, despite the economic progress of the past decade, in absolute terms South Asia has a larger number of people living in poverty than at Partition in 1947. He also described a "fatalism" common to South Asian governments that too often looked inwards, and how this "detachment" was increasingly untenable in our age of globalisation. Mr Müller noted that the EU and the World Bank shared a desire to emphasize sector reforms throughout the region.

During the Question & Answer session, Mr Patel and Mr Müller addressed a wide range of issues, including the effect of Afghanistan on Pakistan's economy; the Sri Lanka peace process and the development of the country's northeast; the importance of universal education in development; and how donor organisations might ensure good governance in the pursuit of socio-political and/or economic objectives. Chair: Dr Willem van der Geest, Director EIAS

NOVEMBER 6: Mr Mian Kurshid M. Kasuri, Pakistan's Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed a large gathering, well in excess of one hundred persons. He spoke about the Government of Pakistan's wish to see a 'stronger and more credible United Nations'. He noted the need for India and Pakistan to find the strong political will to negotiate and the importance that the international community becomes more engaged with helping the Karzai regime in Afghanistan. The full text of the Briefing and a summary report on the Q&A may be found on the EIAS website www.eias.org. The high-profile meeting was Co-organized with the European Policy Centre. Co-chairs: Dr Apurba Kundu, EIAS and Mr Fraser Cameron, EPC.

B. EIAS ROUND TABLES DURING FIRST PART OF 2003

March 11: Round Table on European Security -- with the participation of a high-level official delegation from the People's Liberation Army of China. EIAS and the Asia-Europe Centre, Sciences-Po, Paris, co-organised the meeting, in order to welcome the visit of a high level delegation from the Chinese army. The round table brought together a selected number of officials, academics and opinion leaders to exchange views on issues related to EU-China relations and security. The half-day round table took place at the Fondation Universitaire, Brussels.

Ms Henrietta Geiger, Principal Administrator of the European Commission addressed the developments in EU-China relations. Dr Jamie Shea, Director of Communications of NATO, addressed the distinguished audience on "Alliance Perspectives on Global Security Issues" commenting on NATO's approach to the currently most sensitive security issues. Mr Chris Holtby of the Policy Unit of the Council of the European Union, HE Mr Bruno Angelet, Member of COPS on behalf of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as

well as Dr Greg Austin, Visiting Senior Research Fellow of EIAS addressed the meeting. An interview with Admiral Yang Yi, the deputy head of the delegation may be found in the *EurAsia Bulletin*, April issue Vol 7, nr 4. Chairs: Dr Willem van der Geest and Mr David Fouquet, EIAS

April 3: Economic and Political Impact of the Iraq War on Asia organised with the collaboration of Mr. John Cushman MEP at the European Parliament responded to the concerns raised that the Iraq war may have deleterious long-term consequences for Asia and its relations with the European Union. Dr. Willem van der Geest, Director EIAS presented an analysis of the possible channels of transmission in the economic domain, whereas Ms. Eva Rakel of the University of Leiden introduced a paper by Dr. Amineh and herself on 'Political Responses from Islamic Movements in Asia'. A wide-ranging and intensive debate ensued on the changing political landscape, with participation of numerous Ambassadors and senior diplomats to the EU. Mr Cushman, Member of the European Parliament made a closing comment, emphasizing that the EU attitudes should not be construed as anti-American, even though highly critical of the present-day administration of the United States. The Chair of the European Parliament's delegation for relations with South Asia, Dr Maria Carillo MEP also participated in the debate. Chair: David Fouquet, EIAS.

June 18 SRI LANKA – A New Chance for Peace brought together academic, official and political perspectives on the ongoing Sri Lanka peace process. Dr Christian Wagner, Senior Research Associate, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin, Mr Markus Cornaro, Head of Unit, European Commission and Mr John Cushman Member European Parliament spoke at EIAS on the outcomes of the Tokyo donor conference and its likely impact on the peace process between the government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tigers (LTTE). Pessimistic and optimistic viewpoints were expressed, but it became clear that the active involvement of donors in this case might create a positive incentive towards a long-term settlement.

What distinguished the EIAS Round Table from other meetings was the active participation of an unofficial representative of the Tamil-side, who offered constructive suggestions for realising progress in the peace negotiations. This was particularly important, as the Tokyo donors' conference had not been attended by any spokespersons from the Tamil (LTTE) side. Chair: Dick Gupwell, Secretary General, EIAS.

C. EIAS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Oct 6-7: Fifth EU-ASEAN Think Tank Dialogue, Singapore (co-organised with KAS/SIIA)

EIAS was co-organiser and active participant at the 5th Fifth EU-ASEAN Think Tank Dialogue, involved in the programme development and the selection of European participants. Mr Dick Gupwell, Secretary-General EIAS presented an overview of the EU's ASEAN strategy and coined it a fragile and frustrated relationship. Dr Willem van der Geest chaired one of the sessions of the Dialogue. Dr David Camroux, Member of the Administrative Board of EIAS was present as well. The Dialogue resolved to undertake an in-depth review of the European Commission's new Communication on relations with South East Asia.

Nov 6: EU-CHINA: THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE BEIJING SUMMIT

In collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Europe Office and with the participation of a high-level official delegation of three scholars from China as well as a representative of the Chinese Embassy, Minister Counsellor Mr Ma Zhao Xu, EIAS co-organised an international Conference, in order to take stock of the outcomes of the EU-China Summit, held in Beijing October 30th, 2003.

The International Conference brought together as many as 160 invited EU officials, academics and opinion leaders to exchange views on issues related to EU-China relations and security. The half-day round table took place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brussels in order to enable optimal participation. The total registered participants exceeded a total of 180 and included prominent members of the Brussels diplomatic corps (e.g. Ambassador Asakai of Japan) as well as prominent Members of the European Parliament (e.g. Mr Graham Watson, Leader of the European Liberal and Democratic Reform Party).

Ms Cristina Ravaglia, Head of the North East Asia Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy spoke for the Presidency and emphasized the strategic importance of the Summit and the scope which it had offered for dialogue. Mr Ma Zhao Xu reiterated this message, emphasizing that China seeks from her side greater engagement from the EU. It had therefore for the first time published its 'own' China-EU position paper. Mr Jan-Willem Blankert, Principal Administrator of the China unit, Directorate General External Relations, European Commission too addressed the significance of the Beijing summit for closer EU-China relations.

A galaxy of China scholars from within Europe as well as China addressed the meeting. The presentations covered the socio-economic challenges which China faces, the political transformation which it is undergoing and the scope and challenges of regional and global security. In a final statement Dr Jamie Shea, Director of Information of NATO, addressed the distinguished audience on global security issues, commenting on the organization changing approach to the very sensitive security issues in Asia and China. The meeting was chaired by Dick Gupwell, Secretary-General EIAS, Mr Per Gahrton MEP and Ms Langehagen MEP (both Members of the Interparliamentary Delegation for Relations with China). A full report including some of the presentation may be found at www.eias.org.

D. EIAS LUNCHEON BRIEFINGS DURING 2003

During the first half of 2003 three EIAS Luncheon Briefing meetings were held as follows:

- April 10:** **Yorizumi Watanabe**, Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan on Japan' s new approach to Free Trade Agreements.
- April 23:** **Dr Takahiro Shinyo**, Director-General Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan on EU-Japan' s political-security co-operation and its approach to regional security
- May 7:** **Tran Duc Minh**, Deputy-Secretary General ASEAN, on possible lessons which the ASEAN may draw from the EU integration process and experience.

- Sept 16:** **Mr Sam Wong**, President of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA), an association with 300,000 members and fast growing in Greater China, spoke on 'Corporate Governance in Hong Kong and China'.
- Oct 13:** **Dr Richard Jones**, Reader in Law at the John Moores University of Liverpool questioned the appropriateness of the framework provided by India's Information Technology Act 2002 for e-commerce trade across borders in the global economy.

Reports of these meetings, including summaries of the statements made by the speakers can be found in the relevant issues of the *EurAsia Bulletin* as well as through the EIAS website www.eias.org.

E. EIAS OCCASIONAL SEMINARS DURING 2003

Further to the above 'regular' series of Round Tables and Briefings, EIAS also convened several 'occasional' seminars or meetings. The following are particularly worthy of mention:

- January 28** **First Meeting of the EU-Thai Think Tank network**, which brought together selected Thai academics and officials with Members of EIAS's Board as well as its staff members. The meeting reviewed the scope and modalities for collaboration between EU and Thai think tanks and defined a research agenda. The European Commission was represented by Mr. Joao Pereira, desk-officer for Thailand.
- March 4** **Special Press Briefing** with the ASEAN Ambassadors, organised jointly with the European Policy Centre, to review the issues following from the EU-ASEAN ministerial meeting, held earlier in January 2003.
- May 8** **EU-India Network on Trade and Development (EINTAD)** - a research workshop on main WTO issues organised with CUTS. At the meeting five authors presented academic papers on issues of market access, textile quota, competition policy and intellectual property rights. The workshop was also attended by four European Commission officials, including Ms Laurence Argimon-Pistre, Head of Unit for India and other South Asian countries. At the end of August, the CUTS, in collaboration with EIAS and the University of Sussex, published a volume presenting the findings of this research under the title 'Bridging the Differences'.

EIAS was also closely involved in two international research seminars on the relations between China and Taiwan, drawing on its long-standing expertise within this field. These research seminars were held under the auspices of the European Alliance for Asian Studies in respectively London (October 17) and Leiden (October 21). The seminars provided an important input to the International Conference on EU-China which was held subsequently in Brussels.

- Oct 17:** Taiwan and China in the Global Communities at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London focused on Taiwan and China's membership of international organisation in particular WTO and WHO.
- Oct 21:** Taiwan and China in the Global Communities at the International Institute

for Asian Studies, University of Leiden focused on processes regulated primarily by international norms and conventions, in particular transparency, free flow of information and human rights.

F. EU-INDIA CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

EIAS has, from December 2000 to December 2002, managed a pilot bilateral EU-India CSR project. It now seeks to expand its scope, both conceptually, to include other elements of governance, and, geographically, to encompass the Asian region. The CSR project, funded under the first call for proposals of the EU-India Economic Cross-Cultural Programme, has now been completed and closed. It is agreed, in principle, that the EU-India CSR programme agenda will be taken further by the Confederation of Indian Industries. Also an agreement in principle has been reached with the Japan Foundation and the Federal Trust (a London-based think tank) to examine issues of corporate social responsibility through a conference in the United Kingdom in 2004 with co-sponsorship of the Japan Foundation.

H. EIAS COMMUNICATIONS

The year marked an intensification of the work of the Institute to develop and enhance its means of external communications. Essentially, the EIAS communications and publications activities revolved around its regular monthly periodical, the *Eurasia Bulletin*, launched in January 1997, its Internet world-wide web site, initiated some two years later in 1999, and its scholarly *EIAS Briefing Paper series*, initiated already in 1996.

-- IMPROVED EIAS WEB SITE

To reach out to the EIAS members and broaden its support base was achieved through its web site, *www.eias.org*. The number of visitors to the site increased significantly during the year. With effect of the end of September 2003 an exercise was undertaken to ensure (i) improved user-friendliness of the EIAS website as well as (ii) to ensure that the many different activities which EIAS undertakes were fully and optimally projected and disseminated through the EIAS website. Therefore, a completely revamped website, improving both the design and content, was launched early November. An external web-master, Mr Carling, was engaged on an external contract, while Dr Apurba Kundu took responsibility for the web-editing aspects.

-- EURASIA BULLETIN

Seven issues of the *EurAsia Bulletin* were produced during the year, with the October issue due to be released in the course of November. Each of these carried some 14 to 18 topical articles on issues of EU-Asian relations. A balance was achieved between in-house articles from the Editor Malcolm Subhan and EIAS staff as well as articles from external contributors. Contributors to the publication included, inter alia, Per Stig Möller, the Danish Foreign Minister; Liz Lynne MEP; Pierre Defraigne, Deputy Director General for Trade; Francois Nizery, Europe-Aid Office; Glyn Ford MEP; Ambassador Deva and Professor Tharakan.

The August-September issue of the EurAsia Bulletin included contributions by eight 'external' contributors as follows: H.E. A. Selvarajah, Ambassador of Singapore; Dr Georg Wiessala, Reader in International Relations, University of Central Lancashire; Dr Kantathi Suphamongkhon, Thai Trade Representative and Special Envoy of the Prime Minister; Prof K.S. Jomo, Professor of Economics, University of Malaysia; Paul Tran Van Thinh, former Head of European Commission Delegation to the GATT/WTO; Devinder Sharma, Chair Forum for Bio-Technology and Food Security, New Delhi; Mr Pascal Lamy, European Commissioner for Trade; Mr Pradeep Mehta, Secretary-General, CUTS, Jaipur, India. In addition to these contributors, the EIAS team, consisting of Mr Malcolm Subhan, Mr John Quigley, Dr Axel Berkofsky, Dr Apurba Kundu as well as Ms Mitakshara Kumari (intern) contributed seven articles to this recent issue. See www.eias.org for further information.

-- EIAS BRIEFING PAPERS

The EIAS Briefing Paper series, edited by Dr Willem van der Geest, has been the Institute's primary means of presenting significant intellectual input on public policy recommendations on topics affecting European-Asia relations. The papers are generally some 15-20 pages in length and may be commissioned and written specifically for EIAS or be derived from papers presented at its conferences. The following *EIAS Briefing Papers* have been published or are in press:

- 2003-01 Dr Axel Berkofsky, 'The EU' s policy towards the DPRK – Engagement or Standstill?'²
- 2003-02 Dr Mehdi Amineh, ' Caspian Energy Resources – A viable alternative for the Persian Gulf?
- 2003-03 Dr Christian Wagner, 'Sri Lanka -- A new chance for Peace?'
- 2003-04 Dr Georg Wiessala, 'EU' s Dialogues with Asia -- Burma, China and Indonesia'

Two further *Briefing Papers* are being prepared. This includes an expanded and revised version of the presentation at the EU-China conference by Prof Weigelin-Schwiedzrik, University of Vienna, comparing the EU's approach to China with the Chinese approach to the EU – as evidenced from the recent policy documents. A final sixth paper is expected on China-ASEAN trade relations, being prepared by Ms Aysun Ayun, intern at EIAS.

I. ADVISORY SERVICES TO THE EU

EIAS is sometimes asked to respond quickly to requests for information or analysis in its areas of expertise from Members of the European Parliament or staff of the European institutions.

Requests from staff in the European Commission included a request for an input into the background note for the 'ASEM Task Force on Closer Economic Partnership'. The EIAS Director drafted a concept note on the scope for an Asian Monetary System (AMS)

² *EIAS Briefing Paper* 03-01 addressed the issue of EU engagement with the Democratic People' s Republic of Korea, specifically responding to a request for further analysis of the simmering crisis on the Korean Peninsula. *EIAS Briefing Paper* 03-02 points to the need for utilizing Caspian oil and gas reserves in view of the rapidly growing energy demands across China, India and elsewhere in Asia.

developing closer monetary co-operation, leading towards the creation of a single Asian currency.

European Parliament Committee staff requested background information from EIAS on the introduction and implementation of the Article 23 of the Basic Law in Hong Kong. Others instances of ad-hoc services to Members of the European Parliament concerned the EU position on North Korea and Myanmar/Burma.

J. VISITORS TO EIAS

EIAS also continues to play a useful role as a contact point in Brussels for a steady flow of visitors to the EU. During the first half of 2003, some 55 visitors registered with the Institute. To them EIAS functioned as a useful and informative unofficial intermediary to EU institutions and policy-makers.

The EIAS visitors included senior and high-level officials from Asia, in particular India, China, Bhutan, Thailand, Japan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia, Korea, Sri Lanka and Taiwan. Academics and representatives of business or civil society, as well as contacts with students, researchers were also developed.

Among the prominent visitors to EIAS during the period July-November 2003 one might note the new Ambassador of Singapore to the EU, H.E. Walter Woon. On the 7th of November a group of 12 Chevening Scholars from the London School of Economics visited EIAS. A group of 10 journalists visited Brussels on the invitation of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Europe Office, Brussels and discussed forms and modalities of collaboration. Finally, a three person delegation of the Shanghai Institute for European Studies visited EIAS on the 8th of October seeking to assess the scope for joint research, exchange of scholars for conferences as well as joint research.

III. EIAS GOVERNANCE

A. EIAS STAFF

Within the constraints of its modest level of financing, EIAS increased its staff from four to five specialists supported by one part-time administrative assistant and a house-keeper. However, two full-time staff working from EIAS premises, completed and closed the EU-India Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project during the first quarter of 2003 and ceased working for EIAS. Mr Navtej Dhillon joined the World Bank in Washington DC in February 2003 and Ms Amita Joshi joined a forum for the promotion of nuclear energy in Brussels with effect from April 2003. Subsequently she too joined the World Bank, working in its Brussels Office on a management internship.

The EIAS personnel as of November 1, 2003 included the Director, Dr Willem van der Geest, the only salaried senior manager (0.9 full-time equivalent); a full-time Senior Research Fellow, Dr Apurba Kundu, a full-time Research Fellow, Dr Axel Berkofsky, a full-time Assistant Editor for the *EurAsia Bulletin*, Mr John Quigley; a part-time Administrative Assistant, Ms Zoe McCarthy (two-thirds time) and a cleaning person Ms Evelyn Nacyno (0.16 full-time equivalent).

The full-time Assistant to the Director, Ms Roberta Zavoretti left the service of EIAS with effect of September 21, 2003. She was replaced on a temporary basis (for three months up to December 21) by Mr Arnaud Valdelievre, a student of the ULB's Masters in International Politics, on an agreement for 0,6 fte. As of November 1, 2003 the total personnel strength of EIAS therefore stood at 5.32 full-time equivalent.

Occasionally student-workers from Belgian Universities were engaged on an *ad hoc* basis to assist with organising meetings, publication mailings and other routine activities. Two unpaid student internships were awarded to students in fields related to Asian studies. The successful applicants were undergraduate students from the University of California and the University of Minnesota (Ms Mitakshara Kumari).

With effect of October 6, Ms Aysun Ayur, a PhD research student at the University of Ankara, joined as an unpaid intern for a period of 12 weeks. She will be working on a research paper on the proposed China-ASEAN free trade agreement for possible inclusion in the series of EIAS Briefing Papers 2003.

During the ten months of 2003, the EIAS Director Dr Willem van der Geest, as part of his duties in EIAS management, was particularly involved in gearing up for the 'new' system of appropriation of EU budgetary funding, foreseen for Budget 2004. Several initiatives were developed which resulted in EIAS' s participation (and being pre-selected) in a consortium to provide technical assistance to the ASEAN secretary to facilitate regional integration in the region, with effect of 2004. This bid proved unsuccessful.

However, EIAS has been shortlisted for a tender for a framework contract to undertake policy research studies in support of the European Commission's strategic programming with Asia in the political, economic and social domains (Europe Aid, II6448/C/SV). EIAS and its partners in Europe and Asia will seek to bring to bear their unique expertise on comparative political, economic and social analysis of Asia, drawing on specialists from amongst its members and/or associated institutes involved in the European Alliance for Asian Studies, the EU-ASEAN Think Tank Dialogue and other collaborators.

He was also:

- *Chair & Rapporteur* of the preparatory meeting of the EU-Thailand Think Tank Network, scheduled in conjunction with the EU-Thai Senior Officials Meeting on January 28 at EIAS;
- *Chair* of the opening session of 'Round Table on European Security' with participation of senior members of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (March 11, Fondation Universitaire, Brussels);
- *Speaker* at the Round Table on 'Iraq War -- Political & Economic consequences for Asia' analysing several scenarios assessing the possible economic consequences of the war in Iraq on Asia.
- *Speaker* at the conference on EU-China which assessed the implications of the EU-China summit held in Beijing in October 30, 2003. His presentation focused on gradualism and the long term sustainability of economic reform and growth in China.

The EIAS Director also attended to a demanding schedule of academic networking across Asia and Europe including:

- *Invited Speaker* at the ' Second Asian International Forum in Fukuoka, sponsored by the city' s prefecture and organised by the Kyushu Economic Research Centre- (January 20-23, Japan);
- *Moderator* of a video-conference on Taiwan's application as WHO observer. The video conference linked up public health and international affairs specialists in Brussels and Taipei to analyse the implications of SARS on East Asian countries and assess the responses of the public health authorities in Taiwan to this debilitating virus (April 24, Brussels);
- *Chair* of the opening session of the Korea research workshop organised by the University of Trier at the European Law Academy (June 25, Germany);
- *Occasional Lecturer* on EU-Asia Relations at a special half-day session of the Intensive Programme on the European Union, College of Europe, Brugge; (July 14, Belgium)
- *Visiting Professor* at the ' Summer School on Modern South Asia' , University of Heidelberg, co-organised by EIAS in collaboration with the South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg as well as the Universities of Edinburg and Oslo; (July 20-23, Germany).
- *Invited Speaker* (further to the above) at the ' Third Asian International Forum in Fukuoka, sponsored by the city' s prefecture and organised by the Kyushu Economic Research Centre- (September 8-10, Japan);
- *Chair* of the Second Session of the EU-ASEAN Think Tank Dialogue, held in Singapore (see above).

He also attended several specialised conferences within the EU, in particular the ' Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics' held at the Ministry of Economics, Finance and Industry in Paris and the ' EU-DPRK conference' hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, as well as the Asian International Forum and the EU-ASEAN Think Tank dialogue (see above). He also continued his duties as the Editor of the *EIAS Briefing Papers* series.

Dr Apurba Kundu, Senior Research Fellow, joined EIAS with effect of July 1, 2003. Following an open recruitment procedure with advertisements in the *Economist*, Dr Kundu was selected on the basis of a recruitment procedure concluded late 2002. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the London School of Economics and Political Science and has extensively published in the fields of civil-military relations in South Asia. He is also the Editor of the journal *Contemporary South Asia*. (joined as of July 1, 2003). Dr Kundu chaired the High-Profile meeting with Pakistan's FM Mr Mian Kasuri.

Dr Axel Berkofsky, Research Fellow, holds a doctorate in Japanese Studies/Political Science of the University of Hamburg. At EIAS he has been involved in developing research on EU-DPRK relations and EU-Japan cooperation in the field of human security (joined EIAS as of January 5, 2003).

He was also:

- *Presenter on EU-DPRK* at a session at the Korea research workshop organised by the University of Trier at the European Law Academy (June 25, Germany);
- *Lecturer on EU-DPRK* at a session of the International Summer School, Free University of Brussels (June 19, Brussels);

- *Chair and Rapporteur* at the Asia-Europe Young Leaders Symposium, organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation in Vietnam (August 26-30, Hanoi);
- *Rapporteur* at the Asia-Europe Forum, organised by the Herbert Quandt Stiftung in Brussels (Sept. 19-20, Brussels);
- *Discussant* at an Italy-Japan Conference organised by Bocconi University (Oct 9-10, Milan);
- *Presenter on EU-DPRK* at a Special Briefing on EU-DPRK at the European Parliament, hosted by Mr Glyn Ford MEP (Oct 16, 2003);
- *Chair* of a session of a Conference on EU-Japan relations at the German Japan Centre in Berlin (Nov 5, 2003);
- *Presenter on EU-DPRK* at a session on EU-DPRK at the CSCAP meeting in Paris, (Nov 7, 2003).

Mr John Quigley, Assistant Editor of the *EurAsia Bulletin*, prepares articles on the EU institutions' deliberations about Asia, liaising with external contributors as well as overseeing the publication's production and distribution.

Ms Zoe McCarthy, Administrative Assistant, deals with payments, salary administration, membership administration, organisation of meetings and general enquiries.

B. EIAS ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EIAS benefitted from the unpaid services of some Members of its Administrative Board. At its meeting of 24th of June 2003, the Board unanimously elected the following officers, in accordance with its statutes as an ASBL (number of identification 16645/89)

Chairman:	Prof. Ludo CUYVERS, Denblommaert 17, 2540 Hove (Belgium)
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. Gwyn MORGAN, 14 Ravenscroft Road, London W4 5EQ (United Kingdom)
	Mr. Malcolm SUBHAN, Kisteveldlaan 18, 3080 Tervuren (Belgium)
Secretary-General :	Mr. Richard GUPWELL, 346 Hagley Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge DY9 0QY (United Kingdom)
Treasurer:	Mr. Hasan I. KAZMI, avenue Winston Churchill 58, 1180 Bruxelles (Belgium).

To date the 13 members of the EIAS Administrative Board are:

Gupwell, Richard, pensioner, (United Kingdom), British;
 Subhan, Malcolm, journalist, (Belgium), Belgian;
 Cuyvers, Ludo, professor, (Belgium), Belgian;
 Saunier, Gérard, professor, (Belgium), French;
 Jonckheere, Boudewijn, pensioner, (Belgium), Belgian;
 Kamalam, P., administrator, (Belgium), Malaysian;
 Kazmi, Hasan, pensioner, (Belgium), Belgian;
 Islam, Shadaba, journalist, (Belgium), Belgian.
 VandeWalle, Laurence, (Belgium), Belgian;
 Tourrès, Eric, manager, French;
 Camroux, David, professor, (France), French;
 Morgan, Gwyn, pensioner, , (United Kingdom), British;

Nobbs, Richard, pensioner, British (elected at the Annual General Meeting held April 30, 2003).

V. CONCLUSION - IMPLEMENTATION OF 2003 WORK PROGRAMME

EIAS activities during the period were effectively channelled towards the implementation of its Work Programme as approved by the EU Commission. The EIAS Work Programme 2003 is the reference guide for the Institute's activities and its present implementation is wholly consistent with the targets outlined in the Work Programme.

Significant public events and activities by EIAS in Brussels foreseen for the remainder of 2003 include:

- Active participation and reporting on the ASEM Civil Society Forum, organised by the European Commission in Brussels (November 16-17, 2003);
- a one day International Conference on 'Building a New Era of Partnership – EU-Korea Relations 1963-2003' in collaboration with the Mission of the Republic of Korea to the European Union and the Korea International Institute for Economic Policy (November 26, 2003); and
- a one day International Conference on 'EU-India: The Implications of the New Delhi Summit' in collaboration with the Europa Office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Brussels. (December 4, 2003).

Speakers at Lunch Briefings before the end of December may include Prof Shamsul AB from Malaysia, Dr Peter Chang MD from Taiwan and/or Dr Girish Kumar from India.