

DIPLOMAT

MAGAZINE

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RIGHTS OF NATURE: AN EVOLVING MOVEMENT
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10 *Anniversary*

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DIPLOMAT MAGAZINE

By Diplomats for Diplomats

Year 9, No 1, January 2023

ISSN: 2468-3469

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Stichting Diplomat Magazine is a non-profit Dutch foundation. It is the first diplomatic magazine in the Netherlands' history, published by and for diplomats in collaboration with experts in international relations and diplomacy, the academia and dedicated volunteers from the Netherlands and overseas.

A broader selection of articles and contributions can be found in our free online version at:
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DIPLOMAT MAGAZINE

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Photography by Chris Ronteltap

DIPLOMAT MAGAZINE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY LOOKS BACK TO ITS ROOTS

Ten years ago, we brainstormed the idea of founding an independent, diplomatic, impartial publication, open to all countries without exception, in order to bring forth their ideas and publicize the good work of each mission; an arduous task for most embassies, that lack the support of the media, or special press budgets.

A group of ambassadors immediately collaborated in various ways and gave us the unconditional support we still enjoy today. They were the ambassadors of Vietnam, Malta, Canada, Japan, the Dominican Republic, Bolivia and Nicaragua, in office back in 2013. After them, a myriad of heads of state, ministers, ambassadors as well as academics from all over the world have published their articles on Diplomat Magazine, assured that through us they can reach a unique audience worldwide.

In the realms of many diplomats, the year 2023 means restart, hope, and aspiration towards global peace with a conviction in the power of the international rule of law, and confidence on the diplomats' ability to solve the conflicts we are facing; indeed, turning challenges into opportunities. A new face of the world is emerging, countries are looking for alternative partners. Diplomatic work is exciting, rewarding and challenging as it is, and likewise the best tool to succeed in forging new alliances. We believe that diplomacy, even in the worse scenarios is still the key to open doors, to put forth solutions or to amend ties.

Let's celebrate Diplomat Magazine's 10th anniversary with a special issue featuring Marcin Czepelak, the Secretary General of the oldest international court in existence: the Permanent Court of Arbitration, explaining the court's mission of developing mechanisms of dispute resolution through law. The Vice-President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, David Choquehuanca expresses his opinion about the multiple crises affecting our planet, in his statement "If humanity does not wake up, there is no future"

In this issue, the Registrar of the International Court of Justice, M Philippe Gautier provides an insight into the court's contribution to the functioning of international justice, and the President of the Dutch Senate, Prof. Jan Anthonie Bruijn, talks about the States General's role in parliamentary diplomacy.

Registrar Philippe Couvreur takes the opportunity to pay posthumous homage to Justice Antônio Cançado Trindade (1947-2022). Also, in this tenth anniversary Diplomat Magazine issue, you will find interesting articles on the right of nature, Latin America plastic solutions talks, a Special Tribunal for the Ukraine as well as the OPEC and International Law. We highlighted the 15th Anniversary of the Repatriation and Departure Service symposium led by Eric van der Burg, Dutch Minister for Migration.

Thanks for the support to our determined team, especially from diplomats from around the globe making Diplomat Magazine possible.

Dr Mayelinne De Lara

Publisher

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THE PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION: A STEADFAST PILLAR OF THE INTERNATIONAL RULES-BASED ORDER

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BY MARCIN CZEPELAK, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION

One can see it as a paradox, but I am the youngest Secretary General of the oldest international court in existence: the Permanent Court of Arbitration (“PCA”). Well known is the fact, that in order to offer the PCA a proper headquarters the Peace Palace was built thanks to the generous donation of Andrew Carnegie. It has quickly become the icon of The Hague, who with the PCA gained a fame of the city of “peace and justice”.

Indeed, the PCA is one of the institutional pillars of the peaceful settlement of international disputes, a foundational principle of our international legal order. As Secretary-General, I am deeply honoured to lead this intergovernmental organization with 122 contracting parties created to facilitate

arbitration and other peaceful means of dispute resolution. The PCA administers procedures for the resolution of disputes involving various combinations of states, state entities, intergovernmental organizations, and private parties. We are also at the forefront of developing other dispute settlement mechanisms to meet the transnational challenges of the 21st century.

Today, the PCA is flourishing. In 2021 alone, we provided registry services in 204 cases. Seven are inter-State arbitrations; 115 are investor-State arbitrations; 80 are contract-based arbitrations involving a State, State-entity, or international organization; and two involve other dispute resolution procedures. Developments in the past century

have also woven the PCA inextricably into the larger tapestry of international dispute resolution. References to our institution are included in a large and growing number of treaties and other international instruments. The Arbitration Rules of the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), for example, authorize me, in my capacity as the PCA Secretary-General, to provide various services, including the appointment of arbitrators, ruling on challenges, or deciding on fee arrangements. The number of requests for these services has also grown exponentially—at 893 and counting—with the PCA receiving 43 requests relating to our appointing authority services just in 2022 alone.

Background

Created in 1899, the PCA is the precursor to any permanently constituted international court. Our institution predates the United Nations and most of what we now consider the international legal order. It was also created when there were few, if any, precedents for what an international body devoted to resolving international disputes might look like. As in our times, it was also a period of significant instability following unprecedented technological change and innovation.

Created in 1899, the PCA is the precursor to any permanently constituted international court. Our institution predates the United Nations and most of what we now consider the international legal order. It was also created when there were few, if any, precedents for what an international body devoted to resolving international disputes might look like. As in our times, it was also a period of significant instability following unprecedented technological change and innovation.

From this turbulent background, the founding States came together in a peace conference in The Hague. The defining feature of the 1899 and 1907 Hague Conventions (which together constitute the PCA's founding instruments) is the humility with which they approach the subject of international dispute settlement. Almost uniquely among international treaties, the Hague Conventions favour the resolution of disputes as such, rather than a particular method of dispute settlement. At their core, the Conventions recognize that no single method of dispute settlement is appropriate in all instances and that States are best equipped to determine how to resolve their disputes. Faced with the limitations of what could be agreed upon in 1899, our organization was created an open-textured institution in which various forms of dispute settlement could be pursued.

As a result of this wisdom, the PCA has been remarkably able to adapt to the changing dispute resolution needs of the international community. This institutional flexibility we enjoy currently manifests itself in four major areas of activity: (a) inter-State arbitration across a wide range of treaties, (b) mixed arbitration involving private parties, States, and international organizations, (c) other forms of non-binding dispute settlement, and (d) the creation of dispute settlement mechanisms in novel areas in which they are otherwise lacking.

PCA in Inter-State Arbitration

The PCA's institutional flexibility is visible first and foremost in our work in inter-State arbitration. The Hague Conventions envisaged the creation of a standing Court of arbitrators, out of which individual tribunals would be formed. Yet it quickly became apparent that, when faced with a particular dispute, States were reluctant to have their appointments restricted to a specific list. Thus, the PCA's founders ensured that the procedures they designed were residual: a default approach that would give way to any other method agreed upon by the disputing parties. The 1899 Hague Convention thus expressly provided for the International Bureau of the PCA, which I head as Secretary-General, to support the work of any "special" arbitral tribunal its contracting parties might create, on the same terms as a tribunal created following the Hague Convention procedure.

Today, inter-State arbitration is alive and well at the PCA. Our institution is currently administering four inter-State arbitrations, two of which are between Ukraine and the Russian Federation: the first concerning Coastal State Rights in the Black Sea, Sea of Azov, and Kerch Strait, the second concerning the Detention of Ukrainian Naval Vessels and Servicemen. Recent inter-State proceedings have been initiated under various treaties, including the Law of the Sea Convention, the Indus Waters Treaty, the Timor Sea Treaty, the OSPAR Convention, and many other bilateral treaties. Any inter-State arbitration can be brought to us, whether the treaty provides for arbitration with nothing more, includes its own detailed rules of procedure, or expressly provides for the PCA and the application of the PCA's rules of procedure. Regardless of the context, we can provide an arbitral tribunal with the infrastructure and secretariat support to enable it to function with the same efficiency as a permanently constituted body.

PCA in Mixed Arbitration

The second area where the flexibility of the PCA is evident is in our support for mixed arbitration involving States and private parties, or in disputes involving international organizations. For such disputes, international litigation is not an option as it involves one or more parties that are not a State. Resort to a domestic forum would have required at least one party to subject itself to the jurisdiction of another State. In these circumstances, it is not surprising that parties often agree on an arbitrated resolution.

The administration of such mixed disputes has a long tradition at the PCA. While the 1899 and 1907 Hague Conventions focused on resolving disputes on an inter-State basis, the conflicts they envisaged frequently concerned private rights. Indeed, during the 1899 Hague Conference, a consensus was nearly achieved on a proposed obligatory arbitration for claims arising from harm to foreign nationals and their property.

Unsurprisingly, many of our institution's early arbitrations concerned private rights and claims presented as inter-State matters. As international law progressed into the 21st century, issues involving private rights are now routinely handled directly between the States and the private entities involved. The commercial treaties of the early twentieth century developed into a large network of bilateral investment treaties providing for mixed arbitration. And States now commonly engage in the complex contractual undertakings in a wide variety of areas. Such cases make up a large portion of our current caseload.



PCA in other forms of Dispute Resolution

The PCA's services are not limited to assistance with arbitral proceedings. We are also mandated by our founding conventions to assist States with other forms of dispute resolution, including mediation, fact-finding, and conciliation. These alternative forms of dispute resolution often take place out of the public eye but represent an area of great potential.

In 2016, for example, the PCA was heavily involved in the first-ever compulsory conciliation proceedings brought by Timor-Leste against Australia under the Law of the Sea Convention. By 2018, Timor-Leste and Australia had signed a settlement treaty based on a proposal from the Conciliation Commission. This ended a long-running and highly contentious dispute over their maritime boundary and petroleum development in the Timor Sea. This successful conciliation shows the potential of non-binding forms of dispute resolution, where litigation may not be conducive or where agreement on a binding solution may be out of reach.

Dispute Resolution Mechanisms of the Future

Able to support binding procedures, non-binding procedures, and anything in between, the PCA's flexibility allows us to develop other mechanisms of dispute resolution to meet the evolving needs of States in an increasingly complex transnational setting. At its core, our institution is uniquely empowered to create mechanisms for dispute settlement in contexts in which they are otherwise absent. Thus, in recent decades we have provided support to, among others:

- a) Permanent or long-standing legal institutions, such as the Bank of International Settlements Tribunal, the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal, and the Eritrea-Ethiopia Claims Commission, established to hear a number of cases over an extended period;
- b) Expedited procedures such as the review panels under the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean that have produced a decision within a few weeks;
- c) Disputes in post-conflict environments, such as the Abyei Arbitration between Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army, where an international

mechanism is needed but the permanent involvement of the international community is neither appropriate nor desired; and

- d) Dispute resolution in emerging areas of international law, such as climate change or the intersection of business and human rights.

Conclusion

Because of its flexibility, the PCA today is a modern dispute resolution institution that is more active than at any point in its more than 120-year history. The potential to leverage our institutional flexibility to meet the pressing needs of the international legal order is immense. Now, more than ever, the international legal order is under strain from the continued use of force and international disputes that seem to defy diplomatic resolution. Resolving these challenges requires the international community to not only address the crises, but to recommit itself to the fundamental principle of settling disputes through law. The international community needs the PCA as a crucial pillar of this international rules-based order. Our steadfast institution—the first, and the oldest, intergovernmental organization to provide a global mechanism for resolving international disputes—remains uniquely suited to rise to these challenges.





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Photography by Chris Ronteltap

INFORMATION SESSION FOR DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AND THE PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION.

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

The Hague, 15 September 2022. **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** and the **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)** organized a bilingual (English and French) information session for Diplomats. During the sessions, the courts provided a synopsis of their activities.

The following Ambassadors and diplomats attended the information sessions, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Kosovo, Myanmar, Kuwait and others. Also present are diplomats from Angola, Colombia, Croatia and many more.

Featuring on the program, an overview of the activities of the PCA, followed by a Q&A session in the Administrative Council Chamber, was presented by **H.E. Marcin Czepelak**, Secretary-General of the

Permanent Court of Arbitration. The court handled 115 cases in 2021. When diplomacy fails, arbitration comes into play. Marcin Czepelak, among other subjects, talked about "The Host Country Agreement".

"The Host Country Agreement" allows parties in dispute who are located in or near the host country to take full advantage of the flexibility and efficiency of PCA-administered proceedings in the territory of the host country.

The Host Country Agreements also provide wider benefits to the host country, neighbouring states, and parties in dispute: Attracting arbitrations to the host country that would otherwise be conducted elsewhere;



Photography by Naldo Peverelli

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Raising the international profile of the host country as an arbitral forum, just to mention a few.

The PCA has Host Country Agreements in force with Argentina, Chile, China (in relation to Hong Kong SAR), Costa Rica, Djibouti, India, Ireland, Malaysia, Mauritius, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Uruguay and Viet Nam. The PCA has concluded Host Country Agreements with a number of other countries whose entry into force is pending completion of constitutional procedures. The PCA also benefits from certain privileges and immunities in Austria.

Next was an overview of the activities of the **International Court of Justice ICJ**, followed by a Q&A session in the Great Hall of Justice, presented by **H.E. Mr Philippe Gautier**, Registrar of the International Court of Justice. He explained the important position ICJ takes in guarding international justice and how the registrar supports the court.

There are 133 cases, 27 are consultative, and 15 cases are pending. Gautier also touched on the relationship between the court and the Carnegie Foundation. There is an agreement between the UN. And the Carnegie Foundation as to renting the facility. Talking about relocating the court, yes, there is asbestos but there will be no relocation.

"The ICJ. **The International Court of Justice (ICJ)** is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.

The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.

The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. It is assisted by a Registry, its administrative organ. Its official languages are English and French.

The Registry is the permanent administrative secretariat of the Court. It is accountable to the Court alone. It is headed by a Registrar, assisted by a Deputy-Registrar. The Registrar is elected by the Court for a term of seven years and may be re-elected. The Registrar is responsible for all departments and divisions of the Registry.

The successful information session concluded with a group photo and a reception in the entrance hall of the Peace Palace.

IF HUMANITY DOES NOT WAKE UP, THERE IS NO FUTURE

"To address current global crises, everyone has to play a role and we must build and strengthen policies of complementarity that are born from the civilizing horizon of the indigenous peoples, such as "Living Well". – Bolivian Vice-President

During his visit to the Netherlands, Vice-President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia Jilata David Choquehuanca Céspedes spoke about the multiple crises affecting our planet, chief among them the environmental crisis. "If humanity does not wake up, there is no future" – he said, pointing at the role that every individual can have in reversing the current trends.

The message delivered by the Bolivian Vice-President was one that mixed realism and hope. On the one hand, Jilata Choquehuanca made it clear that the current circumstances are not easy ones. "Everyone knows that things are not going well, that we are going through multiple crises. The upcoming COP meeting in Egypt will tackle one of the most important ones, that of the environment, which is also tightly linked to others crises like those of food and energy". On the other hand, however, the Vice-President also sought to convey a message of hope, stressing that "everyone

knows that there is now an opportunity to change things, to move away from this path that is leading us to death".

Bolivia is one of the countries that are most affected by the climate crisis, despite having contributed little to it. "The current global crises – Jilata Choquehuanca stressed – are rooted in the implementation of a Western capitalistic developmental model. Developed countries need to take responsibility for their actions. In international fora, as Bolivia we have brought up proposals in this regard".

Asked about what individuals could do in order to address the current crises, the Vice-President stressed that "We all need to speak out, we cannot stay silent anymore. In Bolivia, for instance, due to the effects of global warming, we have lost a huge part of our mountain glaciers over the last 10 years. Scientists had foreseen this, but no one listened to them, and now that it happened, no

one talks about it. We need to talk about these issues, we need spaces for discussion, debate, exchange of experiences, cooperation and creation of new knowledge. These discussions need to start at the local level, at the level of neighborhoods."

Addressing the current global crises, including the environmental one, is set to be no easy task, as a wide array of actors have vested interests in the current model. Yet, this does not mean that we should not try our best, Jilata Choquehuanca Céspedes stressed. "The stakes are very high. Everything is now at risk, our plants, our mountains, mother earth, life. If the catastrophe is global, everyone will lose – actually, the ones who have the most will also be the ones who lose the most. Our planet is like a plane. Some people are in first class, others in economy class, but if the plane goes down, we all go down with it. We need to awaken everyone's consciousness, rich and poor people alike. If humanity does not wake up, there is no future".

Vice-President Choquehuanca stressed that there are already active movements that seek to counter the dominance of the current global economic model and its disastrous effects on the planet. "In many places, people are implementing what is called a circular economy – that is, an economy of non-accumulation, of redistribution. This redistribution should involve not only wealth, but also power: power needs to flow around and circulate, it cannot be concentrated into the hands of a few".

In these efforts, the Vice-President said, "everyone has to play a role". "In the past, there was discrimination and exclusionary dynamics, as people thought that men were superior to women, that city dwellers were better than peasants, that Europeans were better than Southern Americans, or that educated people were better than non educated people. They had us believe these lies, but we know that these are lies. In reality,



Vice-President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia H.E. Jilata David Choquehuanca Céspedes and Diplomat Magazine's publisher. Photography by Kim Vermaat.



Vice-President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia H.E. Jilata David Choquehuanca Céspedes. Photography by Kim Vermaat.

how we are, and we are all complementary, we all need each other. When one is alone, he or she cannot be complete. In Bolivia, a cultural and democratic revolution is ongoing, where we are doing away with all these forms of discrimination. We are doing away with colonization, with patriarchy. We all have the same responsibilities” – and we all need to work together towards solving the crises that are currently threatening our planet.

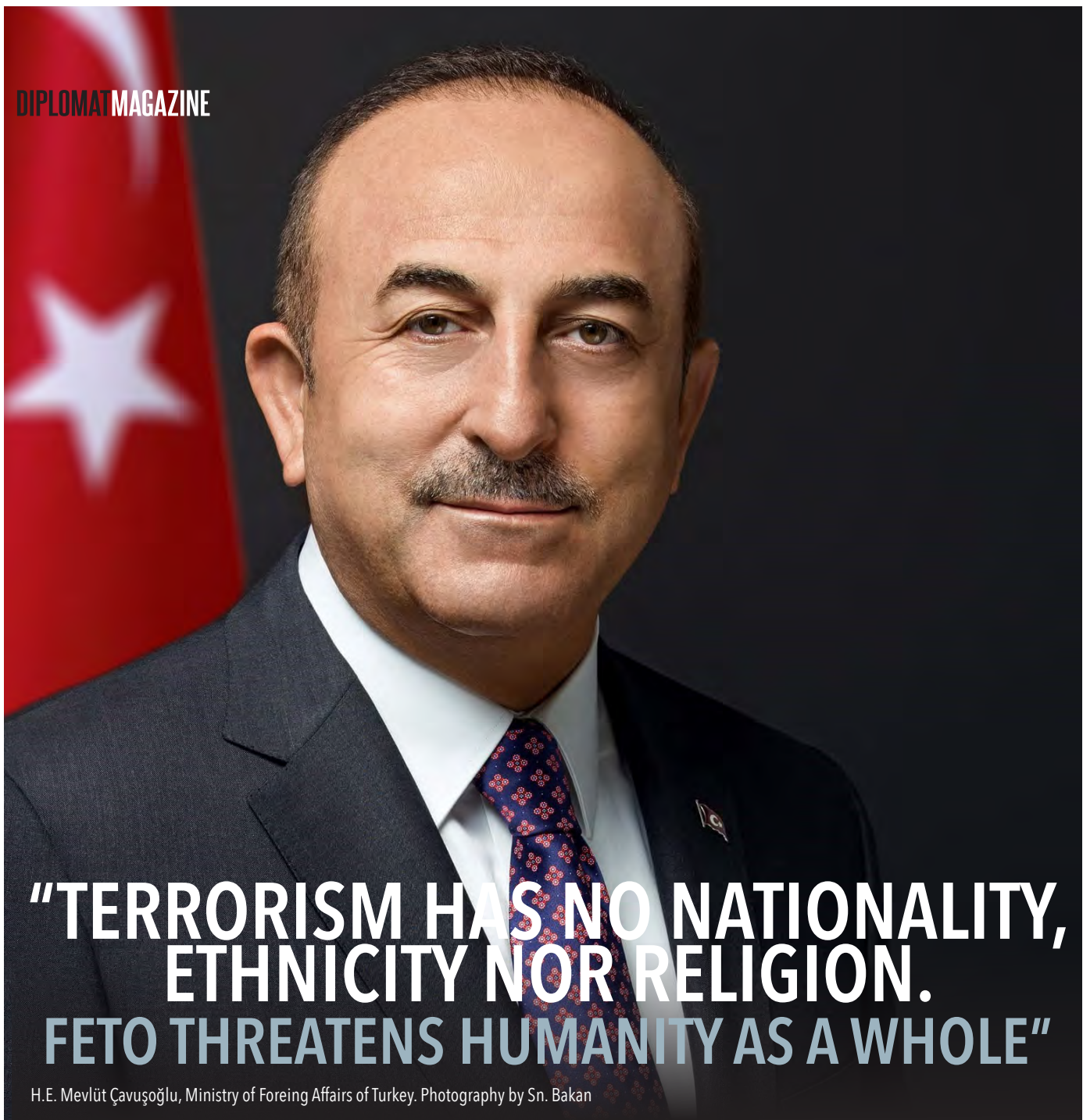
Capitalism has created a wasteful, consumerist, exclusive, clientelist civilization that generates opulence and misery, which we urgently need to transform. The planet and humanity are in grave danger of extinction. Forests are in danger, biodiversity is in danger, rivers and oceans are in danger, the earth is in danger. The Plurinational State of Bolivia, echoing the voice of the indigenous peoples of the world, assumes an ethical obligation towards the planet and proposes the need to recover the sense and awareness of unity and belonging to Mother Earth. We are at a crucial moment for the definition of the future of our planet. In our hands and in our consciences lies the responsibility to agree on the path we will follow to guarantee the eradication of poverty and the redistribution of wealth, as well as the creation and strengthening of our social, material and spiritual conditions to live in harmony and balance with nature.

We must build and strengthen policies of complementarity that are born from the civilizing horizon of the indigenous peoples, such as “Living Well”. Our vision of Living Well is based on rights and not on the market, it is based on the full realization of the happiness

of the people, of the peoples and populations, through the integral fulfillment of the rights of peoples, persons and Mother Earth, in a complementary, inclusive and interdependent manner.



The Ambassador of Bolivia, H.E. Roberto Calzadilla Sarmiento and the Vice-President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia H.E. Jilata David Choquehuanca Céspedes. Photography by Kim Vermaat.



"TERRORISM HAS NO NATIONALITY, ETHNICITY NOR RELIGION. FETO THREATENS HUMANITY AS A WHOLE"

H.E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey. Photography by Sn. Bakan

On the evening of July 15, 2016, the "Fethullahist Terrorist Organization" (FETO) launched a bloody coup attempt against the people and the government of my country. Their aim was to establish a radical, fundamentalist regime, loyal only to their ringleader Fetullah Gülen.

As FETO affiliated army units left their barracks to occupy key locations, such as the Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul and fighter jets and attack helicopters bombed strategic targets including the Parliament, Presidential compound, army and police headquarters; thousands of civilians took to the streets to stop this unprecedented heinous coup attempt. The plotters killed 251 innocent civilians and left

thousands injured. On that night the Turkish people defended democracy with their lives. This heroic response was something the conspirators did not foresee.

To understand what transpired, one has to understand the true nature of FETO. FETO was established in the late 1960's as a so-called "religious movement". In the guise of promoting education and inter-religious dialogue, it managed to cover its malign intentions.

The well-planned and wide-spread infiltration by FETO members and converts into the army, law enforcement, judiciary and numerous government institutions, including my Ministry, was carried out for decades clandestinely for an overarching plan, of which the final phase was unleashed on July 15, 2016.

Had the coup attempt succeeded, there would have been a very different Türkiye today. Democracy would not have existed and fundamental rights and freedoms would have been suspended indefinitely. The nation would have fallen in the hands of an extremist government.

FETO not only controlled a significant portion of educational institutions, but also owned numerous financial institutions. Their bank accounts were fed by prominent FETO members in industry and commerce, as well as by officials and members of the public. Many innocent civilians were also lured into contributing to FETO's finances as their piety was manipulated. The enormous income driven from their schools around the globe was channeled into these accounts clandestinely waiting for their ultimate move.

Following the bloody coup attempt of July 15, 2016, a resolute cleansing of the public sector, including government institutions and the military, as well as of the private sector from all FETO affiliated persons and companies was initiated. Some prominent conspirators have been apprehended. Others escaped justice and found refuge in foreign countries. The head of the FETO terrorist organization, Fethullah Gülen, still resides in the United States. Our government has been requesting the extradition of Gülen to Türkiye from the United States as well as that of FETO members from European countries for years. Unfortunately, these requests have not been fulfilled yet.

On the other hand, elsewhere in the world, an increasing number of governments understand the danger this terrorist organization also poses to them and are taking the necessary steps. FETO is also engaged in illegal activities such as visa fraud, money laundering and arms trafficking. Consequently, FETO members are being cleared from public and private sectors in many countries. Many schools affiliated with this terrorist organization abroad have been transferred to the Turkish Maarif Foundation after 2016. Today, Maarif Schools are functioning in many countries and are providing excellent education worldwide.

The nature and scope of Türkiye's fight against FETO is no different than that exercised by other countries against organizations which had terrorized officials and civilians alike, and endangered democratic values, fundamental rights and freedoms. Türkiye is doing what the respective countries in their fight against terrorism have done in the past. All procedures are in compliance with law.

Terrorism does not have a nationality, ethnicity or religion. This menace threatens humanity as a whole. Therefore, the response to this threat must be united and determined. No state has the luxury to differentiate between terrorists and no terrorist organization can be classified as "useful" according to preferences. FETO is responsible for the loss of hundreds of lives as well as other grave crimes against the Turkish people. Six years after July 15, 2016, Türkiye continues its resolute fight against FETO, just as it continues its fight against other terrorist organizations such as the PKK, PYD-YPG, DHKP-C and DAESH.

We expect the international community to stand in solidarity with Türkiye in the fight against terrorism.

DIPLOMATIC EVENTS



30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AND THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

The Embassy of Kyrgyzstan in Brussels, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Kingdom of Belgium, was held the fashion show of national clothes of the Kyrgyz Fashion house «Baira».

On January 20, 1992 Belgium recognized the independence of Kyrgyzstan. On March 25, 1992 diplomatic relations were officially established between the countries. Over the 30 years of cooperation the parties have carried out a lot of significant bilateral visits and consultations at the highest and high levels, the certain level of development has been achieved, which the parties intend to further develop and strengthen.

Among the guests of the evening were members of the Belgian Parliament and the Foreign Ministry, representatives of the diplomatic corps of Brussels, European institutions and international organizations, media, think tanks, as well as compatriots and friends of the Embassy.

Invited Kyrgyz designer Tolgonai Kerimkulova is the founder of the «Bayra» fashion brand, known for its specific style, focused on creating clothes with the ethnic identity of the Kyrgyz nomads. The presented collection of the autumn-winter 2022-2023 season «Shyrdak» - authentic and at the same time relevant, was presented at the Milan Fashion Week - 2022. All outfits are 90% handmade, outerwear was created using the unique technique of carpet weaving of Kyrgyz nomads.

The show of national women's clothing: from ethnic beldemchi and chapans to modern denim outfits, was held to Kyrgyz folk melodies and enthusiastic applause from European guests. The guests were especially interested in handmade felt products and a very actual accessory – masks with national ornaments.

During the event were presented the video materials on the tourism and investment potential of the Kyrgyz Republic, were held an exhibition-fair of national products and a buffet of national dishes.

Cultural diplomacy makes it possible to demonstrate not only the national character and culture of the country, but also to talk about the tourism and investment potential, to convey to the attention of a big audience the country's position on topical issues of the regional and world agenda.





The Cyprus Shipping Deputy Ministry, Vassilios Demetriades. Photography by Chris Ronteltap

It has been a pleasurable encounter meeting with the Shipping Deputy Minister of Cyprus Vassilios Demetriades in the Anna Pavlova room Hotel Des Indes, on 1 September 2022. **Deputy Minister Vassilios Demetriades**, an energetic and amicable gentleman. The Deputy Minister is in this position since July 2020.

The Cyprus Government attaches great emphasis on shipping and for this reason it has established a Deputy Ministry of Shipping. The Cyprus **Shipping Deputy Ministry (SDM)** focuses on safety and sustainability. The Deputy Minister of Shipping reports directly to the President in the same way as all the other Ministers. The establishment of Deputy Ministries in Cyprus instead of new Ministries is because of constitutional constraints that limit the number of Ministries to 10.

Deputy Minister Vassilios Demetriades aspires to promote Cyprus shipping globally and to communicate a positive image for the sector to the civil society. He will therefore exploit Cyprus's maritime potentials to the fullest. Cyprus is the eleventh largest merchant fleet in the world, the third largest fleet in the European Union, and Europe's largest ship management centre. Shipping contributes to 7% of Cyprus's GDP.

Cyprus's shipping industry is capable of competing in the world shipping market. We strive to promote the Cyprus flag while at the same time supporting the development of the European maritime industry by advancing new green technologies. When asked if Cyprus competes with the Liberia flag, Demetriades' reply was a categorical no.

PROMULGATING CYPRUS SHIPPING INDUSTRY

By Roy Lie Atjam

Cyprus is no novice to the world of shipping. Since ancient times, the Biblical refers to Cyprus as a shipping nation. See the book of Numbers 24:24 "Ships will come from the coast of Kit'tim. And they will afflict As-syr'i-a. And they will afflict E'ber." The historian Josephus referred to Kittim as "Chethimos," Cyprus, Kition-Citium. red.

The Shipping Deputy Ministry has recently presented "SEA Change 2030", a strategic vision for Cyprus Shipping promoting a more extroverted, adaptable and sustainable future for the sector. A progress report on the implementation of the 35 sustainable actions that are incorporated in the Strategy is taking place every six months. Furthermore, Cyprus is a leading advocate for sustainable shipping. Broad and diverse measures are needed at a global and regional level to achieve emissions reduction targets and a sustainable future for the industry. Terms such as Green Tax Incentives, low-carbon alternative fuels, lower emissions, and enhanced cooperation at EU and global level are at the core of the Cyprus Shipping Deputy Ministry's (SDM) activities.

A highlight of the Minister's mission to the Netherlands was the launching ceremony of the new vessel **MV. SOLVIK**. Dutch build in 2022 that will operate under the Cyprus flag.

It is the property of SOLVIK Shipping Ltd., Limassol / SMT Shipping (Cyprus) Ltd. Featuring at the launching ceremony was the speech by Isobel Reed, SMT's legal advisor and MV Solvik's godmother. Reed wishes the vessel and her crew a lifetime of safety and good fortune. The Solvik is a Dutch vessel under the Cyprian flag, may she swim well!

Minister Vassilios Demetriades would like to see an enhanced cooperation between EU member states aiming to the promotion of environmentally sustainable shipping. Minister Demetriades stated that shipping builds bridges, bringing together likeminded nations strengthening bilateral and multilateral relations, both at government and business level. It is important to work together in promoting a more positive image of the sector.

In unprecedented times, the ability of shipping services to continue undisturbed to transport food, energy and medical supplies across the continents play a critical role. During COVID-19 pandemic, Cyprus was one of the first countries worldwide that recognized seafarers as key workers. Cyprus implemented a formal crew change process, assisting with the repatriation of thousands of seafarers. The SDM also formulated and proposed a practical, global approach to delivering

COVID-19 vaccinations to seafarers, which was then adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO). Further recognizing the urgency of seafarer vaccination, and the role this would play in easing the crew change crisis, Cyprus then committed to vaccinating all crew onboard Cyprus-flagged and managed vessels with the adoption of a national vaccination plan to provide protection to over 40,000 seafarers.

In addition, in response to Russia invasion to Ukraine, Cyprus facilitated the opening of bank accounts for both Ukrainian and Russian seafarers to enable them, and their families, to easily access their wages. We also believed that shipowners and crew managers required an effective solution from flag states to a challenge that many were facing.

- “SEA Change 2030” A strategic vision for Cyprus Shipping where “S.E.A” stands for the three strategic pillars: Sustainability Extrovert Adaptability creating a continuous, interactive and systematic approach to achieving the vision. Cyprus is also in a continuous effort to

COME (Cyprus Open Maritime Exchange) is an online communication platform and engagement channel, a concrete example of extrovertness. It will enable shipping industry stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations and all other actors involved in the maritime transport and supply chain, to exchange

strengthen ties with other States to exchange views and ideas on issues of common interest and formulate common policy approaches. An enhanced, effective and constructive dialogue with regulators and decision-makers at global and European Union level responsible for the formulation of shipping policies is an absolute must to ensure that the regulatory framework is fit for purpose.

Technology, digitalisation or even AI-Artificial Intelligence are key elements of transforming shipping. However, Cyprus believes that the human element will always be at the heart of shipping operations and it is extremely important to invest on education, training and upskilling of the workforce. Since diversity is good for business, the Deputy Ministry of Shipping is in the process of recruiting more women into the male-dominated shipping industry.

Deputy Minister Vassilios Demetriades was on a two-day working visit in the Netherlands.



Deputy Minister Vassilios Demetriades and H.E. Ms. Frances Lanitou Williams, Ambassador of Cyprus to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Photography by Chris Ronteltap

INDOFEST 2022

A DIFFERENT FEATURE OF FESTIVAL

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

IndoFest 2022 is an Indonesian festival held in Rijswijk, a city adjacent to The Hague. The date was 10 – 11 December 2022.

The Indonesian Embassy brings Indonesian experiences to the Netherlands through IndoFest 2022. IndoFest is a phenomenon known in Indonesia since 2015.

The Indonesian Ambassador **Mayerfas** and the Vice-Mayor of Rijswijk, **Larissa Bentvelzen**, officially launched INDOFEST 2022. One could see this year's IndoFest as a festive tribute to the **EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit** of 14 December 2022.

Ambassador Mayerfas underscored the fact that IndoFest 2022 highlighted Indonesian culture, and not only that, it also demonstrated the potential of the Indonesian diaspora in the Netherlands.

As one of the top cultural events organized by the Indonesian Mission in the Netherlands, IndoFest 2022 collaborated with various stakeholders to present a diverse program. Take for instance, the cultural performers, the music performers, "Ngamen" Stage, and even administrative matters such as Immigration & Consular services.

Despite the freezing weather, thousands of people flooded IndoFest 2022 during the two festival days.

The turnout was beyond expectation. Not only Indonesians attended, but individuals of sister ASEAN- and others countries also joined in the fete.

The amazing program included captivating items with takeaways for everyone, dances, fashion, music, food and a feeling of being at home.





H.E. Mr. Philippe Gauthier, Photography by Roy Strik.

THE ROLE OF THE COURT'S REGISTRY: AN ACTOR BEHIND THE SCENES

The International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, consists of 15 Judges, elected by both the General Assembly and the Security Council. Its main function is to adjudicate on inter-State disputes through binding judgments and to render advisory opinions on legal questions submitted to it by the United Nations or other international institutions authorized to do so.

In the discharge of its duties, the Court is assisted by a Secretariat, “the Registry”, which provides support in legal, administrative and budgetary matters. The role of the Registry, which consists of 117 staff members, is often unknown, and it seems therefore useful to provide an insight into its contribution to the functioning of international justice.

First of all, it is important to underline that the Court is the only principal organ of the United Nations which is sitting away from Headquarters in New York. A direct consequence of this situation is that a number of administrative services have to be provided in situ, in The Hague: legal and linguistic services; organization of hearings and Court meetings; personnel and procurement; building's maintenance and security; IT; finances; information and secretarial services. In other words, the management of the Registry is similar to the functioning of a small international institution. A certain level of autonomy of the Court's Registry vis-à-vis the United Nations Secretariat is equally important to ensure the independent functioning of a judicial institution. This specific situation explains that the staff of the Registry is subject to its own staff Regulations and is headed by a Registrar elected by the Judges of the Court and accountable to it. Likewise, the Court adopts its own draft budget (which represents less than 1 per cent of the regular budget of the United Nations), which is then submitted, for approval, to the General Assembly of the United Nations by the Secretary-General, “together with such observations as he or she may deem desirable”.¹

The role of the Registrar includes a wide range of duties of administrative, judicial and diplomatic nature. A significant aspect of this role is to act as the channel of communications to and from the Court. The Registrar serves as intermediary in all exchanges between the Court and the parties for the purposes of a given case. In this regard, the Registrar is the recipient of all case-related correspondence

and documents, including, first and foremost, those which institute proceedings before the Court. As stated in Article 40, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court: “Cases are brought before the Court, as the case may be, either by the notification of the special agreement or by a written application addressed to the Registrar.” For example, in the case of an application, it is common for the Agent appointed by the applicant State – often the ambassador to the Netherlands or a senior official from their ministry of foreign affairs – to meet with the Registrar. This triggers the Registry to take a number of steps: the case is entered on the Court's General List and a certified copy of the application is transmitted to the respondent State. Copies of the application are sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to all States entitled to appear before the Court (this includes all the 193 member States of the United Nations which are parties to the Statute of the Court, annexed to the United Nations Charter).

The Registrar remains the principal interlocutor of the representatives of the parties throughout the lifecycle of the case in which they are involved: during the written phase of the proceedings, the Registrar receives from and transmits to the parties copies of all communications, notifications and documents relating to the case. The Court, and its Registry, may be requested to act fast in some situations, for example when a party requests the Court to order provisional measures to protect its rights pending the Court's final decision in the case. In such instances, which now occur more frequently in the Court's work, the Registry urgently mobilizes resources to enable the Court to address the request swiftly, as a matter of priority.

It is also the Registrar's responsibility to ensure that information concerning the Court and its activities is made accessible to Governments, legal practitioners, academic institutions and the public at large. To that

end, the Court regularly organizes outreach activities, including for the diplomatic community in The Hague. The latest of these initiatives, which took on 15 September 2022, was organized jointly with the Permanent Court of Arbitration. On that occasion, the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and the Registrar of the International Court of Justice each provided an overview of the work of their respective institutions housed in the Peace Palace. The briefing was attended by over one hundred participants, who were given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the work of the courts, in parallel sessions conducted both in English and French.

The Registry's outreach activities take several other forms, including presentations, tours, educational workshops and conferences. The Court's website and social media platforms, multimedia material and various publications, also contain a number of useful information on the activities and proceedings of the Court. Also worth mentioning is the Court's Judicial Fellowship Programme, which enables recent law graduates to improve their understanding of public international law and the Court's procedures, by working under the supervision of a Judge for a period of ten months. In 2021, following the adoption by consensus of Resolution 75/129 by the General Assembly, a trust fund for the Judicial Fellowship Programme was established, granting fellowship awards to selected candidates who are nationals of developing countries from universities based in developing countries, thereby improving the geographic diversity within the participants in the Programme. For the 2022/23 cohort, 3 Judicial Fellows benefit from the trust fund.

Through these various initiatives, the Registry endeavours to engage with the diplomatic community of The Hague. States, from all regions of the world, are the main users of the Court and their representatives should feel “at home” at the Peace Palace. It is therefore crucial for the Court and its Registry to be able to explain to the members of the diplomatic community the role of the Court in the settlement of international disputes.

¹ Regulation 2.14 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.



Eric van der Burg, Minister for Migration. Photography by Martijn Beekman.

REPATRIATION AND DEPARTURE SERVICE 15TH ANNIVERSARY

By Roy Lie Atjam

'Migration on the Move'

On 9 November 2022, the Repatriation and Departure Service -DT&V- commemorated its 15th anniversary with a symposium at the Louwman Museum The Hague.

“Together, we look back at a successful and inspiring international symposium. This symposium was specially organised on the 15th anniversary of the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V) and took place on Wednesday 9 November 2022 in the Louwman Museum in The Hague.

The DT&V organised on this day an open discussion about the opportunities,

possibilities and challenges migration professionals experience on the theme of return. A topic that is constantly on the move. During the symposium, participants were given the latest developments in national and European developments in the field of return. In this symposium, we have jointly bridged the gap between all cooperating partners and organisations.

Great interest

More than 130 participants, including ambassadors, national and international partners from the immigration process participated in the symposium. They followed an inspiring and interesting programme, facilitated by the moderator **Donatello Piras**. The plenary part started with a dazzling, colourful opening, which took those present along the story of Migration on the Move.

Partnership

Minister for Migration, **Eric van der Burg**, thanked the DT&V for organising this symposium and complimented the DT&V for its extensive and impressive experience as a professional implementer of return policy over the past 15 years. The Minister for Migration emphasized the importance of competent, effective implementing organisations at national level across the field of migration. “This is an important focus of the Dutch migration policy now that our national asylum system is under stress. At the same time, it has once again become clear that a partnership approach can provide an important contribution to successful collaboration in the field of migration, including return.” The Netherlands therefore intends to work closely with countries of departure, transit and destination.

Tailor-made return

Mari Juritsch, EU return coordinator since May this year, was the keynote speaker. Her position is new and aims to coordinate return initiatives efficiently in and with European countries. She emphasized two important ambitions. Increase the number of voluntary returns and improve the quality of support for returnees. Such as increasing the investment in return counselling and services that enable reintegration as well as support for individuals with different needs. Thus, a real tailor-made approach. This requires a large investment in the complex field of migration, she mentioned in her speech. During the panel discussion, she shows clearly her interest for the DT&V case management tool. A tool applied by the DT&V departure supervisors who is responsible for the foreign national from beginning to end in the departure process. She intends to introduce this tool EU-wide.

Panel discussion: International cooperation in return process & Tailor-made return

The panel discussion facilitated by moderator Donatello Piras was held with **Alessandro di Tolla**, Director European Center for Returns Division - Frontex, **Mari Juritsch**, EU Return Coordinator - European Commission, **Monika Sie Dhian Ho**, Director of the Clingendael Institute and **Ewald Riks**, Acting General Director of the DT&V. New insights were shared from each panellist's perspective to work towards migration and mobility with mutual benefits, preferably at European level and in cooperation with the private sector.

Mrs Sie Dhian Ho emphasised the importance of strong agreements and real partnerships between countries in which new initiatives can flourish to improve the future of migrants. "There are great initiatives to stimulate off-shore employment. This is for both parties a good business model."

Participants in the room underlined that migration is more than return and that legal migration, short or long, should be taken on board when considering a partnership approach.

Keywords in the panel discussion were **sustainability** and **customization**. The participants emphasized the importance of the human dimension whereby a foreign national returns with a future perspective. Mr Riks: "I try to contribute the best I can with capacity building projects, when it is within my mandate. If it is not within my reach, I try to make the link with other ministries or organisations who might have the possibilities to support within their mandate."

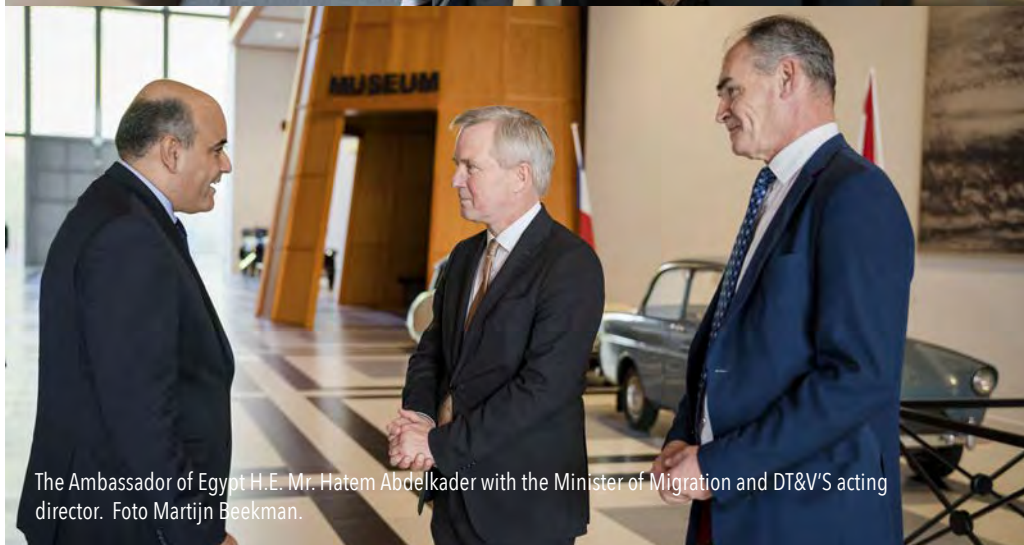
There was a lively Q&A session, and Ambassadors, Diplomats and others made effective use of it. Among them the Gambia, Tunisia, Panama, Bangladesh, IOM and others. After the plenary session, a toast was proposed to the 15th anniversary of the DT&V, followed by a reception.



The Ambassador of Panama, H.E. Ms. Elizabeth War Neiman. Foto Martijn Beekman.



The Ambassador of Costa Rica, H.E. Mr. Arnaldo Brenes Castro and the Minister for Migration, Eric van der Burg. Photography by Martijn Beekman.



The Ambassador of Egypt H.E. Mr. Hatem Abdolkader with the Minister of Migration and DT&V's acting director. Foto Martijn Beekman.



Photography by Chris Ronteltap

PARLIAMENTS' ROLE IN DIPLOMACY: AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE DUTCH SENATE, PROFESSOR JAN ANTHONIE BRUIJN

On October 6th, 2022, Professor Jan Anthonie Bruijn, President of the Dutch Senate, flew to Jakarta, Indonesia, to participate in the P20 meeting. This meeting gathers parliamentary representatives of the countries which are members of the G20, a high-level diplomatic group bringing together some of the most powerful states of the world.

The P20 meeting is part of a broader field of diplomacy called parliamentary diplomacy. In an exclusive interview with Diplomat Magazine's Publisher Dr. Mayelinne De Lara, the President of the Dutch Senate, Professor Bruijn, explained what parliamentary diplomacy is, and the role that the institution he represents plays in diplomatic efforts.

While the media's spotlight is often on diplomatic visits by high-level figures such as Heads of State and Prime Ministers, diplomacy actually consists of a number of different channels of contacts among states. These include meetings not only among ambassadors, diplomats and civil servants, but also among members of parliament (MPs) and Speakers and Presidents of parliaments.

At the Presidents of parliaments' level – Professor Bruijn explained – the focus is not on political issues, which fall under the remit of the government or of the members of parliament representing specific parties. Rather, Presidents of parliaments represent their respective institutions, and therefore their discussions focus on broader and less politicized topics, such as the working of democracy and parliaments, as well as the overall ties between various countries and their peoples.

The Dutch Senate and Professor Bruijn are very active on the diplomatic front, regularly meeting with foreign ambassadors and welcoming high-level delegations from all over the world. Dutch MPs are also very active in a number of inter-parliamentary frameworks, such as those of the Benelux, the Council of

Europe (CoE), the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), as well as in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

During the interview, Professor Bruijn sought to stress that, in these frameworks, it is the precious work of many of his fellow MPs that allows parliamentary democracy to flourish. As examples he mentioned, amongst many, many others, the prominent role played by MPs such as Tiny Kox, Petra Stienen, Ria Oomen, and Farah Karimi, praising their and their colleagues' activity in the various frameworks mentioned above. The role of the Senate and its President – Professor Bruijn said – is that of providing organisational and technical support to these engaged representatives.

The high level of diplomatic engagement of the Dutch Senate reflects the strong emphasis that the Netherlands as a country puts on diplomacy. “We realize that we are a small country, and as such we need to be very active in order to play a role internationally. Diplomacy is very important for us” – Professor Bruijn explained. These diplomatic efforts may be at times visible and at times less so. Regardless of their visibility, Professor Bruijn argued, such efforts are key to enable the exchange of views among countries, with the aim to ensure peace, respect, and contacts among peoples.

Over the past months, the war in Ukraine has created new challenges for the field of diplomacy. Asked about the implications of these developments for the diplomatic work of his institution, Professor Bruijn explained that it is not primarily up to the Senate to determine a political stance, which is instead the task of the government and the House of Representatives. However, “we try to contribute to dialogue anywhere and anyway we can”, he explained, mentioning his multiple meetings over the past months, both in person and digitally, with the Speaker of Ukraine’s parliament.

Occasions such as the recent P20 meeting in Jakarta also create avenues for precious diplomatic work. For instance, this year’s P20 – hosted by the Indonesian Parliament, in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union – became a meeting point for lawmakers from not only all G20 members, but also other countries. The list of participants included representatives from both Russia and Ukraine, as well as from the United States and the United Kingdom, creating a platform where each representative could deliver their own message.

During this occasion, Professor Bruijn, who also teaches immunopathology at the Leiden University Medical center, made a speech in which, reflecting on the Netherlands’ handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, he illustrated the importance of parliaments in ensuring the proper functioning of a country’s democracy. This speech shed light on the key role that parliaments play – both at home, where they ensure that democracy remains solid and vibrant, and abroad, where they create avenues for connections among countries.



CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF CENTRAL ASIAN LEADERS

The Heads of State of Central Asian countries met, on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic, to further integrate the region and collectively respond to today’s challenges.

Important documents were signed: a joint statement of leaders and a Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighborliness and Cooperation for Development.

The President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov emphasized the longstanding friendship tying the countries and stated the mission of maintaining integrity, security, development and prosperity.

Security and borders

Security and stability were underlined as the border with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan is currently being delineated.

Trade and economy

The President highlighted Central Asia’s dynamic economic and GDP growth rate in the past decade; he believes growth should be based on free trade, and all barriers to it should be removed. He pressed for better digitalization, transit infrastructure, and appreciated the border trade centers between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and industrial trade and logistic center at the Kazakh border.

Food and energy security

The priorities of food and energy security and self-sufficiency, agricultural development, macroeconomic and social stability and cooperation in the hydropower sector were reaffirmed.

Water cooperation

Due to the shrinking of water resources as a result of climate change, it was suggested to develop joint mechanisms to allow upstream countries to accumulate water for irrigation.

The Agreement on the Use of Water and Energy Resources of the Naryn-Syrdarya River between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan facilitates a balanced exchange of water and energy resources.

Transportation area

Efforts are encouraged to improve the transport, transit and logistics infrastructure of Central Asian countries, by enhancing integration and connecting to world transport hubs and corridors.

Tourism

Kyrgyzstan proposes the development of tourist routes, concessions for tourists crossing common borders and information centers for each country; furthermore, the creation of a common Central Asian TV and radio channel was suggested, with educational projects on the history, identity, relations and current potential of the region.

“FROM NUREMBERG TO THE HAGUE - THE QUEST FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE”

That was the title of this year's Dachau lecture given by Mayor Jan van Zanen on 23 September. This annual lecture is organised by the Netherlands Dachau Committee in memory of the victims and survivors of the Dachau concentration camp. The lecture this year was dedicated to Carel Steensma (1912-2006), pilot, resistance fighter and the first director of the Nederlands Congresgebouw, now the World Forum. He survived the horrors of Natzweiler and Dachau. This article is a shortened version of the lecture given by Mayor Jan van Zanen.

“From Nuremberg to The Hague - the quest for peace and justice”

After the Second World War it was at Nuremberg that war criminals were held accountable by the world community for the first time in history. The Hague, already the international city of peace and justice since the late 19th century, has evolved, especially since the 1990s, into a centre for international criminal law. And in many other ways too, people here have long worked to build a peaceful, just and safe world.

The organisers of the Dachau lecture therefore could not have chosen a better place than the World Forum, formerly the Nederlands Congresgebouw (Netherlands' conference centre). Not least, of course, because the name of Carel Steensma is so closely associated with it. As the first director, Carel Steensma played an important part in the development of The Hague as an international conference city. But there is another reason, too. The area where the World Forum now stands provides a good illustration of how The Hague has developed since 1945. During the Second World War most of the buildings in this area were demolished to make way for the Atlantic Wall defence fortifications of the German occupying forces. That after the war a building rose from the ashes in which the world could come together, holds a special symbolism. Since the 1990s this area of The Hague has become the International Zone. Where the World Forum rubs shoulders with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (that later won the Nobel Peace Prize), Europol and Eurojust, as well as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY.

I recently visited the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. This body was set up by the UN Security Council to wind up the remaining court cases of the Yugoslavia tribunal and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. During my visit I realised once again just how much these courts of law have contributed to the development of international criminal law. As well as how important these tribunals have been for the survivors and bereaved families of the victims of genocide in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. We must never forget that this is about crimes against individuals. Sometimes very large groups but victims are, and always will be, individuals. People like you and me. People like Carel Steensma and his fellow prisoners in Natzweiler and Dachau. But that is also what is remarkable about international criminal law, that it affects people individually.

The ICTY had a difficult start. The tribunal was lacking in everything, most of all funding and support from governments. What it did have, however, was former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on its side. She and others managed to persuade UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali that failure of the ICTY would represent a failure of the international community. In his first report to the UN the first President of the ICTY, Antonio Cassese, formulated it thus: “If these men - he was referring to the war criminals from the former Yugoslavia - if these men be immune, then law has lost its meaning, and man - humanity - must live in fear”. Ratko Mladic, responsible for the genocide in Srebrenica, is one of the men who was called to account by the tribunal. Today he is still serving his sentence in Scheveningen prison.

In his report Cassese explicitly quoted the statement of chief prosecutor Benjamin Ferencz at the trial of the Einsatzgruppen, the Nazis' mobile death squads, in Nuremberg, September 1947. Benjamin Ferencz, now 102 years young, has always been a tireless advocate for international criminal law. In 1998 he was closely involved in the drafting of the Rome Statute which established the International Criminal Court, whose work in The Hague began in 2002.

In February of this year the world was shaken by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The news had a major impact everywhere but in The Hague it was perhaps particularly felt as something bitter. All the more so when reports of war crimes such as those committed in Bucha, reached us. Is the quest for peace and justice a futile one and is war, as people used to think, something unavoidable that will trample you underfoot anyway? As important as it is to keep things in perspective, if there is one thing that we must always guard against it is cynicism. Like Andrew Carnegie, who donated the Peace Palace to The Hague, what we need to be is realistic idealists. The fact that war has broken out does not mean that we should cease our efforts to prevent it. Or that we should end our commitment to human rights. Every chemical weapon destroyed helps to make the world a safer place. Every war criminal convicted, despite the fact that so many of them are still at large, makes the world a little more just.

The Hague will continue to strive for peace and justice in whatever way it can. By continuing to invest in the academic knowledge infrastructure in this field, for example. So that students from all over the world can continue to come here to learn the principles of international law and then take that knowledge back home with them. As a Shelter City, ten years ago we were one of the first in the Netherlands to offer refuge to those fighting for the rights of minorities and a free press. To give them respite. We support active initiatives such as The Hague Humanity Hub, a community of people and organisations who - despite their diversity - have one thing



The Mayor of The Hague, Jan van Zanen. Photography by Chris Ronteltap.

in common: their drive to find innovative solutions for everything that has to do with peace, justice and humanitarian interventions, among other things.

Another example is providing a home base for international and non-governmental organisations. Like the Mukwege Foundation of Nobel Prize-winner, Dr. Denis Mukwege. The help that Dr. Mukwege provides to victims of sexual violence in war zones (violence that is often deliberately used as a weapon of terror) provides an outstanding example of the efforts made by countless doctors for the sake of humanity and for peace. How new technology is being used for humanitarian purposes was something I was able to see first hand during a recent visit to The Hague-based headquarters of the International Commission on Missing Persons, ICMP. This international organisation searches for missing people worldwide using pioneering DNA search methods. The ICMP has now been able to identify almost three

quarters of all persons known to be missing as a result of the war in former Yugoslavia. The ICMP is currently operating in Ukraine, too.

Last, but not least, in the spirit of Carel Steensma, we remain committed to bringing international conferences to The Hague. As recently as last July, for example, when the Ukraine Accountability Conference was held here at the World Forum, organised by the Dutch government together with the European Commission and the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. The ICC had already launched an investigation into war crimes committed in Ukraine. In the meantime a group of leading scholars and writers have called for a special Ukraine tribunal to be set up. For the British-French lawyer Philippe Sands there is only one city which qualifies for that role: The Hague. Although he cautions against too high expectations. He emphasises that international law is a process that demands

patience. It is precisely that which keeps him engaged. The 102-year-old Benjamin Ferencz would probably agree.

I feel privileged to be the mayor of a city that not only has 'peace and justice' as its motto but which also actively contributes in many different ways to the spread of peace and justice in the world. Current events remind us every day of the need for this and our responsibility to do that.

In that respect it is people like Carel Steensma, who never lost hope even under the bleakest and most desperate of circumstances, who cared about other people and kept the torch of humanity burning, who remain a constant source of inspiration.

WAR IN UKRAINE AND CASUALTIES BEYOND THE SHORE OF EUROPE: WHAT CAN WE DO IN THE HAGUE?

The Diplomat Magazine invited Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Managing Director of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), to discuss the impact of the war in Ukraine on developing countries and commodities markets.

DM: *How is the Ukraine war impacting developing countries beyond Europe?*

MD: The devastation of war doesn't stop at Europe's borders. Our hearts go out to all those suffering in Ukraine, but we are equally concerned by the damaging impact of inflation, hunger, famine, fuel shortages and a lack of medicine on the developing world. The war intensified the global economic instability and inflationary pressures that followed the pandemic. Commodity markets have been disrupted by price rises and supply shortages, creating a challenging environment for consumers of raw materials. People in developing countries are paying a staggeringly high price for the essentials they need to buy, while big businesses in the north are making a hefty profit. The profit out of hunger is the worst we can expect at this time. Soaring food and fuel prices are putting pressure on the poorest households that spend the highest share of their income on food and thereby making them more vulnerable.

DM: *Why is this war having such far-reaching consequences?*

MD: Firstly, both Ukraine and Russia are a big part of global grain, oils, fuel and fertilizer markets. Russia is a commodities giant, it is the biggest exporter of wheat, accounts for a quarter of the natural gas market, nearly 20% for coal, 14% for platinum, and more than 10% for crude oil. Ukraine is also a big player in the commodities markets. It is the number one exporter of sunflower seeds, the fourth largest exporter of wheat, and the fifth largest exporter of corn.

As many as 25 African countries, including many least developed countries, import more than one third of their wheat from the two countries at war. For 15 of them, the share is more than a half. Those supplies have been dramatically restricted.

Secondly, money earmarked for development is being redirected in response to the war. Some donor countries are reportedly pulling

funding from aid budgets to fill gaps elsewhere, which will have significant consequences for millions. The Hague community can help us remind our member states that countries such as Yemen, Afghanistan and South Sudan still desperately need support.

DM: *How is the Black Sea Grain Initiative improving the situation?*

MD: When the war began, exports of grain from Ukraine, and food and fertilizers from Russia, were severely hit, pushing already rising prices even higher. The Black Sea Grain Initiative, brokered by the United Nations and Turkey, was set up to reintroduce vital food and fertilizer exports from Ukraine and Russia to the rest of the world.

Since the deal was agreed, more than 25% of cargo has gone to low and lower-middle income countries, providing a vital lifeline to some of the world's poorest people and stabilising prices. This helps smallholders who rarely benefit when prices rise. For example, although a cocoa farmer's crop may sell for more, it is not enough to meet the increased cost of inputs such as fertilizers, seeds and pesticides.

DM: *Why is global commodity stability so important for developing countries?*

MD: They are often over-dependent on imports. For example, Africa spent US\$43 billion on food imports in 2019, a figure expected to rise to US\$90 billion by 2030. But this also highlights an opportunity for African agriculture and farmers.

At the CFC we're working to develop shorter commodity value chains that are transparent and traceable so that smallholders can access local markets and earn a fairer share of the rewards. This will create more reliable local supply chains, help increase prosperity in local communities and support farmers to access the growing international market for sustainable products.

DM: *The CFC has been investing heavily in Africa, why is this?*

MD: Currently about 40% of young Africans are under-employed and Africa's youth population is set to double by 2030. By creating jobs and unleashing their talent and creativity, we can drive a new wave of consumer demand for local products and services.

African agribusiness are also changing. They are starting to see the benefit of adding value to their products and taking more control of the commodities they produce. We want to grasp this opportunity to improve the lives of smallholders.

By supporting businesses with affordable financing, we can also reduce the impact of rising inflation and debt. As a small organisation, we are doing as much as we can to extend our impact, but we need the international community, including at The Hague, to work with us to de-risk investment and make finance more accessible.

DM: *Why are you so passionate about developing fairer commodities markets?*

MD: At the CFC our goal is to alleviate the poverty that blights so many commodity-dependent countries. We have been working to make the nexus between smallholders and SMEs work in a way so that development is localized. Without smallholders there won't be any food to eat, coffee or tea to drink and dresses to wear. This realisation should work to bridge the distance between the core and periphery and snowball it into healthy impact for the people and the planet. We will continue to work to connect producers and consumers so that commodity value chain is fair and sustainable. We thank you for shining a light on the issue and encourage all those at The Hague to continue working to develop solutions both as a diplomat and as a member of our one humanity.



Ceremony of Merit for the Ambassador of Tanzania, H.E. Ms. Irene Florence Mkwawa Kasyanju. In the picture the Ambassadors of Egypt, Hatem Abdelkader, Algeria, Salima Abdelhak, Burundi, Gamaliel Nkurunziza, Cuba, Anet Pino Rivero, South Africa, Vusi Madonsela, Yemen, Sahar Ghanem, Tanzania, OPCW Deputy Director General, Odette Melono, Tunisia, Slim Ghariani, Morocco, Mohamed Basri, Chief of Palestinian Mission, Rawan Sulaiman and the Charge d'affaires of Nigeria, Oluremi Oliyide.

CEREMONY OF MERIT FOR DEPARTING AMBASSADOR IRENE MKWAWA KASYANJU

A Ceremony of Merit to honour the Ambassador of Tanzania in the Netherlands and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps H.E. Ms Irene Florence Mkwawa Kasyanju was held at the Leonardo Royal Hotel in The Hague on 21 June 2022.

Diplomat Magazine presented a Certificate of Merit to the Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania in recognition of her outstanding contribution to strengthening Tanzania's bilateral ties with the Kingdom of the Netherlands, for promoting strategic diplomatic engagement. Further, for her significant involvement with international organizations, for her exceptional performance during her stint as Dean of the

African Diplomatic Corps, for supporting the Dutch-Tanzanian community and in gratitude for her support to the diplomatic community at large and the Media.

On the program, rendition of Tanzania National Anthem Mungu ibariki Afrika, followed by the Netherlands' National Anthem, Wilhelmus. Eulogiums were delivered by Her Excellency, Sahar Ghanem, Ambassador of Yemen and by Her Excellency, Odette Melono, Deputy Director General of the OPCW. Both ladies lauded the wonderful and altruistic personality of Ambassador Irene Mkwawa Kasyanju and how pleasurable it has been to work with her.

Dr Mayelinne De Lara, Publisher of Diplomat Magazine presented the Certificate of Merits along with a flower bouquet to the departing Ambassador. In her acceptance speech Ambassador Irene kwawa Kasyanju, noted, time flies fast. "In October 2015 I set foot in this beautiful country to serve as Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania in the Netherlands. Less did I know that I would stay for 6 years and 8 months! My successful discharges would not have been possible without the unwavering support I received from the Diplomatic Corps, the Dutch government and the business community."

"I wish to end my remarks with a note that I came here as a stranger, but I am leaving as a friend and family. Bidding farewells to friends and family is never easy, but life has its destiny too. I will always treasure our friendship and those good memories of this splendid country."

Dozens of Ambassador Mkwawa Kasyanju's colleagues and friends came by to say goodbye and offered her gifts and flower bouquets. Among the attendees' Ambassadors and diplomats from Palestine, Yemen, Morocco, Tunisia, Cuba, Burundi, South Africa, Algeria, Egypt, OPCW, diplomats from Nigeria and Vietnam, families and staffers of the embassy of Tanzania.



H.E. Ms. Sahar Ghanem, Ambassador of Yemen during her touching and personal speech honouring her friendship and solid ties with Ambassador Kasyanju.



Ambassadors at the Ceremony of Meriti to Jorge Skinner-Klee Arenales.

AMBASSADOR JORGE SKINNER-KLEE ARENALES COMPLETED HIS STINT IN THE NETHERLANDS.

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

The Hague, 15 November 2022, the Diplomatic Corps in The Hague bids farewell to Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klee Arenales, Ambassador of the Republic of Guatemala to the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to the OPCW.

Diplomat Magazine awarded a Certificate of Merit to Ambassador Skinner-Klee Arenales as a token for his outstanding contribution to strengthening the ties between Guatemala and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Furthermore, for the significant collaboration with the multilateral institutions in the Hague.

H.E. Mr. Vusimuzi Mandonnsela, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Mario Oyarzabal, Ambassador of Argentina and H.E. Mr. Juan Bautista Duran, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic lauded Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klee for what he has achieved for the Diplomatic Community.

In his valediction speech Ambassador Vusimuzi Mandonnsela noted:

"May I say how absolutely mortified I am with the news I have recently received, of the imminent departure from The Hague of a dear brother and friend.

To be sure, it is with mixed feelings of both pleasure and affliction that I accepted the invitation to attend this function. Pleasure, because a pleasant duty now devolves upon me to say farewell to one of the most quixotic diplomats of our time. Affliction, because I have always harboured profound admiration for any man who is witty; and so witty, eloquent and refined Jorge no doubt is. My affliction proceeds from the fact that Jorge was amongst the first Ambassadors I was so fortunate as to strike an acquaintance with, and no sooner did I become accustomed to being guided by his sound judgment on important matters of diplomatic life.

On such matters, I dare say, Jorge possesses great natural acuteness, sharply improved by his many years of diplomatic practice, all of which great attributes render him a rare breed amongst his peers. He is a quintessential diplomat who is able to, in an instant, pointedly observe and discern important matters of state and then express an opinion in the most measured manner, infused with beautiful banter and repartee – a trait that a seasoned diplomat requires, more especially in a multilateral setting such as we have in The Hague.

Farewell Excellency Jorge Skinner-Klee Arenales. You'll be sorely missed by many here in The Hague!

Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klee's qualities were deemed worthy of a second speaker, Mario Oyarzabal, Ambassador of Argentina.

"It is a great honor and also a little bit sad to greet goodbye to one of our finest, the Ambassador of the Republic of Guatemala Jorge Skinner-Klee Arenales, who is soon to leave us to be Ambassador to Austria and several other countries as well as the permanent representative to the international organizations in Vienna.

Correct me if I am wrong, Jorge, but Vienna will be your 10th headship of mission in a row, in Latin America and Europe, including both bilateral and multilateral affairs. That speaks loud about Ambassador Skinner's professionalism and versatility. Also about the trust that successive Guatemala's governments have bestowed upon him.

He always understood that despite our differences in the Latin American and Caribbean region, we are better off together. And I think that I speak for all GRULAC colleagues in saying that we will miss his driving and unifying force.

On a more personal note, I feel very fortunate for the friendship that you have given me, and that I will cherish.

You taught me a lot, and I enjoy working and spending time with you also an awful lot.

For those of you who may not know Jorge that well, in addition to and perhaps despite being a lawyer, he is well versed in history, literature and religion, besides having a prodigious memory, having myself witnessed his fascinating discussions that revealed his knowledge, but above all, his humanity.

I wish you, Jorge, all and only the best. And I would like to raise a glass for Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klee Arenales."

" When I met Jorge I felt the warmth, the dedication of a human being out of the ordinary, an exceptional person; do not change, we do not want to lose your friendship wherever you are. You will always be in our hearts." Said the Ambassador of Dominican Republic, H.E. Mr. Juan Bautista Duran.

Dr Mayelinne De Lara, Publisher of DM presented the Certificate of Merit and a bouquet of colorful flowers to Ambassador Jorge Skinner-Klee Arenales.

The ceremony, although serene, concluded with a joyous reception.

TAJIKISTAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO SOLVING GLOBAL WATER AND CLIMATE PROBLEMS

By H.E. Dr. Erkinon Rahmatullozoda, Ambassador of Tajikistan to the BENELUX States, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the European Union and NATO

Dedicated to the second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, entitled "Catalyzing Water Action and Partnership at the Local, National, Regional and Global Levels in Dushanbe and upcoming UN 2023 Water Conference.

Within the last five years, the world has been facing an unprecedented scale of natural hazards and disasters linked to water. Phenomena such as water shortages, drying up of rivers, water scarcity, mudflows and floods, and changes in the hydrological cycle, not only seriously affected the quantity and quality of water, but also caused loss of life, destruction of infrastructure, and financial damage have become more frequent.

Facts such as increased water consumption due to population growth, lack of access to clean water and sanitation, and high mortality from infectious diseases must also be considered. While fighting these challenges, there is a growing awareness that water is a vital resource that we must value, protect, use and manage effectively. Since the main sources of fresh water on the planet are glaciers, the acceleration of their melting because of climate change is of great concern.

Under these conditions, it is vitally important to take joint coordinated measures to change the situation. Therefore, over the past two decades, our country has come up with global initiatives related to solving water problems and which were supported by the international community. Thus, at the initiative of Tajikistan, 2003 was declared the International Year of Fresh Water, 2005-2015 the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2013 the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2018-2028 the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development". To draw attention to solving climate problems, Tajikistan calls to support declaring 2025 as an International Year of glaciers' preservation.

Within these initiatives, Tajikistan held several international events, including in Dushanbe, the first of which dates back to August 29 -

September 1, 2003, as an International Forum on Fresh Water. International conferences to promote world water history in Dushanbe provided the global community with an excellent platform for solving water problems. As a result, a series of Tajikistan's initiatives to promote global water issues, which was internationally accepted as the "Dushanbe Water Process", uniquely presented our country on the world stage. Within the framework of the "Dushanbe Water Process" Tajikistan, with the support of the UN, organized high-level conferences to create favourable conditions for the promotion of action, partnership and political dialogue, and review of the implementation of the Decade.

In light of its latest initiative for the new Decade of Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028, Tajikistan hosted two high-level conferences in 2018 and 2022, which will serve as the primary link connecting the chain of various global events and will play a decisive role in the preparation to the 2023 UN Water Conference for the mid-term comprehensive review of the implementation of the Decade of Action, co-chaired by Tajikistan and Netherlands.

Our countries are working hard to prepare for this UN water conference, which is scheduled for March 22-24, 2023. The Water Action Agenda process, expected as one of the outcomes of the UN Water Conference in 2023, has already been launched. I want to emphasize that this is only the second conference on water resources over the past 46 years, which is convened by the UN, therefore our countries are making every effort to make this event a special and memorable event for the whole world. Conference participants will have a unique opportunity to evaluate the successes and failures of achieving the goals of the Decade of Water Resources.



The key preparatory event for the UN 2023 Water Conference became the second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, entitled "Catalyzing Water Action and Partnership at the Local, National, Regional and Global Levels" in Dushanbe 6-9 June 2022.

The Conference, which brought together 2500 offline and 500 online participants from 175 countries, included 5 special forums, high-level plenary sessions, 12 thematic and interactive panels, 11 side events on different aspects of water issues, an exhibition, as well as cultural events including water festival and Global Water Marathon.

The importance of this conference lay in the fact that it was inclusive both in terms of Conference process and results (leaving no one behind), action-oriented as the Conference led to concrete results through concrete actions and plans on the ground, cross-sectoral mobilized all sectors to improve the way they manage and utilize water resources, developed key messages and identified concrete actions to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, developed Key Messages to the UN 2023 Water Conference as well as ensured linkages with the Bonn Water Dialogues for Results, the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar and the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Kumamoto.

The second Dushanbe Water Decade Conference produced three outcome documents: A co-Chairs' Summary, a Final Declaration "From Dushanbe 2022 to New York 2023" and a Call for Action and Partnership.

VIETNAM - NETHERLANDS

NEW SIGNALS OF COMPREHENSIVE RELATION

By Dr. Mayelinne De Lara

Close cooperation

Relations between the Netherlands and Vietnam have existed for more than 400 years, when the East India Company's merchant fleet turned to East Asia, explored the market and sourced raw materials. At that time, Vietnam was not the promised land of Dutch trade and Vietnam was not what it is today. Then, after many historical events, Vietnam-Netherlands relations have become increasingly positive, especially in the past two decades, with visits by senior leaders of both countries. Crown Prince Willem Alexander and Princess Máxima have visited Vietnam twice (2005 and 2011). In particular, Her Majesty Queen Máxima also visited Vietnam as the UN Secretary-General's Special Mandate for the Promotion of Financial and Digital Inclusion.

The foundation of this good relationship is the need to complement each other and the ability to share common values, similarities of natural conditions as well as the challenges of nature itself. The implementation of the agreements of the "Strategic Partnership on Climate Change Adaptation - Water Management" (since 2010) and the "Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture - Food Security" (since 2014) occupies an important place in the cooperation between the two countries.

The Netherlands and Vietnam upgraded their relations to a comprehensive partnership in 2019 during Prime Minister Mark Rutte's visit (4/2019). Since then, the two sides have cooperated extensively in many areas, from politics to diplomacy, economy, trade, investment... Within the EU framework, the Netherlands has developed an Indo-Pacific strategy, further affirming the guidelines for strengthening and deepening cooperation with Asian countries, such as Vietnam, for security and stability, sustainable development based on multilateralism and international law, and for the Millennium Development Goals.

Fruitful cooperation.

On trade, the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement has contributed significantly to creating positive changes in bilateral economic and trade cooperation, including during the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2022, the Netherlands is still Vietnam's 2nd largest trading partner in the EU with bilateral trade turnover in the first 9 months of the year reaching nearly €8.3 billion.

In terms of investment, the Netherlands is the EU's largest partner for investing FDI in Vietnam with a total registered capital of

about 13.58 billion euros with nearly 400 projects, focused on the fields of processing industry, production, distribution of electricity, gas, water... The prospects for investment cooperation promise bright results when the EU-Vietnam Investment Protection Agreement is approved by EU members.

In addition, the two countries cooperate closely in many other areas such as culture, education, promotion of the rule of law and human rights, crime prevention... Cooperation between organizations, companies, between cities and provinces such as Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh, Binh Duong, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Eindhoven... is well appreciated, bringing positive effects to both sides, helping to improve understanding and shared prosperity of both countries.

The Netherlands and Vietnam also actively contribute to the promotion and development of the EU-ASEAN strategic partnership. The strengthening of relations between the two main prestigious regional organizations in Asia and Europe should be an important factor for peace, stability and development in the region and the world.

In 2022, as soon as the Covid-19 epidemic recedes, cooperation between the two countries saw many new positive signals. At the end of November, Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Liesje Schreinemacher and nearly 50 leading Dutch companies visited Vietnam. As the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries approaches next year 2023, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh will pay an official visit to the Netherlands in December. These visits will certainly open a new stage in the development of relations between the two countries. On this occasion, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh will also visit several European countries and attend the EU-ASEAN Summit in Belgium.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh received Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Liesje Schreinemacher on 28 November 2022





H.E. Paulo Roberto França, Ambassador of Brazil



Embaixada Brasileira

BRASIL CELEBRATES 200 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

BY ROY UJE ATJAM

Ambassador of Brazil, **H.E. Paulo Roberto França** and his spouse, Mrs. **Ivana Mainenti França**, cordially welcomed the hundreds of guests to a reception celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Independence of the Federative Republic of Brazil. The festivities took place in Wassenaar on 7 September 2022.

The National Anthem of Brazil and the Netherlands was by Brazilian artist **Elisabeth Fadel** on the Piano.

The venue was filled to capacity, and scores of ambassadors and diplomats from all continents attended. Namely, India, Thailand, Cameroon, Morocco, Costa Rica, Portugal, UK. and many others. Further, Dutch dignitaries and business people, academia, Director General and Deputy DG of the OPCW, Internationals, the Brazilian diaspora and numerous friends of Brazil. It was an exciting atmosphere!

The Brazilian National Day reception is one of the first major activities in the diplomatic community after the summer holidays. One Ambassador amicably observed that it looks like "the first day of school", and people are eager to reconnect with colleagues and friends.

On the program, a Piano performance by Elisabeth Fadel, Brazilian artist Andrew Laureth performing Brazilian music, and a Capoeira sessions by Academia de Capoeira Senzala under the stewardship of Mestre Claudio Lemos.

Ambassador Paulo Roberto França started his welcome remarks

"Since my arrival, I have been a witness to the diversity of converging interests and partnerships that bring our countries together. I have also actively engaged, mobilizing the efforts of the Embassy, in their promotion. Many of you present here today, whether Dutch or Brazilian, contribute, on a daily basis, to strengthening these bonds through your work in academia, the cultural sector and in business, amongst others.

In this regard, I would like to address the Brazilian community in the Netherlands. Brazil-Dutch relations are rooted in common principles and aspirations, but it is from people-to-people contacts that they gather strength." Then he said a few words in Portuguese to the Brazilians residing in the Netherlands.

Since I have addressed our Brazilian community, this is perhaps a good moment to mention the list of sponsors for tonight's event, which helps to illustrate the diversity I've referred to. All of these Brazilian companies are leaders in their fields: **Braskem**, in the chemical and petrochemical industry; **Embraer**, in the aerospace business; **CBMM**, in mining and development of niobium technology; **Cutrale**, in the fruit juice sector; and **Seara** and **JBS**, in the meat and poultry sectors. I take this opportunity to warmly thank them for their contributions.

I can't fail to mention, as well, our friends from

Rodízio Brazilian Grill, who will be preparing grilled meats and caipirinhas for us to savor.

Dear friends, Allow me to take this opportunity to pay tribute to **Professor Antonio Augusto Cançado Trindade**, one of Brazil's most brilliant and dedicated jurists, who passed away earlier this year. Having twice been elected as a judge to the International Court of Justice, professor Trindade's qualities are well known to the diplomatic community in the Hague. I want to acknowledge, as well, the presence at this event of **Professor Leonardo Caldeira Brant**, Brazil's competent jurist with vast knowledge and experience in international Law. We are proud to launch the candidacy of professor Leonardo Caldeira Brant here in the Hague to fulfill the remainder of the 9 year term of office that had been held by professor Trindade, in the elections to take place this November. We wish professor Leonardo Caldeira Brant success, which he most certainly deserves.

Lastly, I'd like to refer to tonight's cultural performances. I thank them all. Elisabeth Fadel, who we have already heard playing the Dutch and Brazilian anthems, will continue with a repertoire of Brazilian classics, including well-known chorinhos. On guitar and voice, **Andrew Laureth's** music focuses on Brazilian Popular Music. Furthermore, the capoeira Senzala school.

My warmest greetings to all of you!"

The Brazil @ 200 reception has made quite a splash !



Fadel

DIPLOMAT MAGAZINE #15



Embaixada Brasileira

On September 13 at 17:45 the plane of His Holiness landed at the Nur-Sultan international airport. The President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev personally met Pope Francis.

During the meeting ceremony, the heads of state introduced the members of the delegations of the two countries to each other, then the leader of Kazakhstan and the Head of the Catholic Church had a brief conversation in the Fireplace Hall of the presidential terminal.

His Holiness came to Kazakhstan to take part in the «VII Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions». The event has been running since 2003. The idea of the Congress was first voiced during the historic visit of Pope John Paul II to Kazakhstan on September 22-25, 2001.

The head of the Catholic Church visited Kazakhstan shortly after the events of September 11, 2001, which brought extremism and terrorism to the forefront of the international agenda.

Humanity is faced with the threat of an intercivilizational split. It was at that moment that Kazakhstan initiated a forum of spiritual leaders, which was supported by authoritative religious and political figures.

The six congresses held since then have become one of the largest international events in the history of independent Kazakhstan and have played an important role in the global discourse.

The topic of this year's Congress: «The role of leaders of world and traditional religions in the spiritual and social development of mankind in the post-pandemic period». The theme of the event was not chosen randomly.

«The spread of the coronavirus has significantly affected all spheres of life – economy, politics, and social relations. Unfortunately, the global health care system was not prepared to effectively cope with this global challenge. The crisis hit developing economies hardest, reinforcing poverty and inequality, accelerating global inflation. We are faced once again with food shortages in the least developed regions of the world.

At the same time, geopolitical confrontation between major powers has intensified, increasing tensions in different parts of the world. The previous system of international security is collapsing. Extremism and terrorism remain serious threats. The



APOSTOLIC JOURNEY: WHY DID HIS HOLINESS VISITED KAZAKHSTAN

By H.E. Mr. Askar Zhumagaliyev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Kingdom of the Netherlands

sanctions-induced energy crisis threatens the achievement of carbon neutrality we had just set», said the President of Kazakhstan during his speech at the opening ceremony.

This is «not a goal we can afford to ignore». Kassym-Jomart Tokayev stressed that Kazakhstan has always favored solving any disputes exclusively at the negotiating table in the spirit of the UN Charter and as the Chairman of CICA will continue to strengthen the dialogue with international and regional organizations and forums in accordance with the Regulations on External Relations.

Threats, sanctions, and the use of force do not solve problems.

«At such moments we must turn to humanistic ideals», he added. His Holiness supported the point of President's view.

«Kazakhstan represents a significant geopolitical crossroads, and so it has a fundamental role to play in lessening cases of conflict», said His Holiness. «A lot of ethnic groups make Kazakhstan a unique multiethnic, multicultural and multi-religious laboratory and disclose its particular vocation, that of being a country of encounter», underlined Pope Francis.

His Holiness paid his special attention the Kazakh musical instrument – the dombra. He referred to the dombra as a symbol between «two parallel strings».

«The dombra is played by plucking its two cords. Kazakhstan is known for its capacity to keep creating harmony between “two parallel strings”: temperatures that are as frigid in winter as they are torrid in summer; and between tradition and progress, as symbolized by the encounter between historic cities and modern cities like this capital. Above all, in this country we can hear the “notes” of two souls, Asiatic and European, which give it a permanent “mission of linking two continents” of being “a bridge», said the Pope.

His Holiness raised his hope that the name of Kazakhstan may continue to be a synonym of harmony and peace.

These two words – harmony and peace – are the things that our world need right now more than ever.

After the panel session at the VII Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions Pope Francis held a Holy Mass.

About 100 delegations took part in the congress.

KAZAKHSTAN TO DEFINE ITS FUTURE

Last year 19 million of people of Kazakhstan have chosen their future. Through one day one nation has made one big decision by electing the one person who will be representing their voices.

This year has been the most tumultuous in recent history of the country. Yet despite these challenges, our nation began writing a new chapter of our political development tumultuous.

After the turbulence President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev proposed constitutional reforms to transform country's entire state model and form of government: by limiting the powers of the President, strengthening the role of parliament, enhancing citizens' engagement in political processes, and further strengthening the protection of human rights.

The implementation of concrete reforms has ensured that Kazakhstan is on firm footing. Country's economic initiatives are focussed on diversification, de-monopolisation, and ensuring a fair distribution of the national income.

Significantly, as per President Tokayev's proposal, the presidential term has been reduced from two five-year terms to a single seven-year period without the possibility of re-election.

This initiative eliminates the risks of power monopolisation and strengthen the basic principles of democracy.

Six candidates have run with varying political views, including representatives of the opposition, giving the electorate extensive choice. In addition, for the first time in our history of Presidential elections, two female candidates were running for president. This is another important step in Kazakhstan's ongoing democratic development. Over many years, Kazakhstan has been taking solid steps to ensure gender equality and to promote women's role in business and politics. We are now witnessing the fruits of these efforts.

Six candidates have presented their campaign and visualization of country's future. Only one candidate has won this race.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has won the presidential election in Kazakhstan after receiving 81,31% of the vote. This was announced by the Central Election Commission (CEC) after the votes were counted. According to the preliminary results, other candidates received votes as follows: Zhiguli Dairabayev – 3,42 %, Karakat Abden – 2,60 %, Meiram Kazhyken – 2,53 %, Nurlan Auesbayev – 2,22 %, Saltanat Tursynbekova – 2,12 %, against all – 5,8 %.

According to the CEC, 8 300 046 citizens cast their vote, a turnout of 69.44%. Voting took place at 10,101 polling stations across the country, including 68 polling stations at 53

diplomatic missions of Kazakhstan around the world.

The election was monitored by 641 observers from international organisations and foreign states. Commenting on the election process, foreign observers noted the high organisational level of the election. No violations in the conduct of the election were reported by the observers. The election was also covered by 254 foreign journalists who received accreditation.

Speaking after the voting had ended, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said that if elected, "the government will remain in office, but point-by-point changes in the composition of the government and other agencies will of course take place." He also noted that he would announce the date of parliamentary elections at the end of the year.

In line with recent constitutional changes, President Tokayev will serve a 7-year term without the right to re-election. Answering a question yesterday from a journalist on whether seven years would be enough to fulfil all the promises to the people, Tokayev said: "I believe that seven years will be enough, because this is a long time in the life of any person. The most important thing is that there will be no monopoly on power in our country."

This was the seventh presidential election in Kazakhstan since the country's independence in 1991.



1ST OF DECEMBER, ROMANIAN GREAT UNION DAY

By H.E. Mr. Lucian Fătu, Ambassador of the Republic of Romania to the Kingdom

Every 1st of December, Romanians proudly recall the union of the Principalities that established the modern Romanian State. Since 1990, this became our National Day, and is celebrated by Romanian communities worldwide. In the Netherlands, we are glad to share this anniversary with around 50,000 resident nationals who are living, working or studying as part of a vibrant welcoming and multicultural society.



H.E. Mr. Lucian Fătu, Ambassador of the Republic of Romania to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Photography by Kim Vermaat.

This year, we also celebrate 160 years since, on July 27/August 8, 1862, the creation of the Department of Foreign and State Affairs can be considered the birth of modern Romanian diplomacy. Looking back, we pay tribute to outstanding Romanians who left their mark on our diplomacy and history, such as Constantin Karadja, Romanian diplomat born in The Hague in 1889, who was awarded the distinction Righteous among the Nations for his courageous actions of saving thousands of Jewish lives during World War II. Modern diplomacy also means looking forward. And this is what we are doing, together with our Dutch partners. Our bilateral relations are based on the solid pillars of a dynamic investment, economic and business cooperation, steadfast commitment to peaceful and law-based international relations, all within the framework of shared values and ongoing communication.

With a total of above 10 billion Euro, the Dutch investments rank first in Romania, and they embrace a wide range of fields, from ship building to financial services, pharmaceuticals and agriculture. Tourism is increasing in both directions and, as a result, more human interaction and a better understanding gives coherence to the dialogue between our societies. At the same time, every Duster SUV and the rest of the Dacia range of automobiles, powered by conventional or electric sources, is a statement of the confidence inspired to the Dutch consumers by the landmark Romanian car manufacturing industry.

Russia's illegal, unprovoked and senseless invasion of Ukraine is a watershed in the history of Europe and marks a turning point in our foreign policy, as it does in all areas of our social life. However, this tragedy has brought Europeans closer, offering a new impetus, and this is also true for Romania and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Our Embassy works towards consolidating the Romanian-Dutch dialogue on multiple levels. We continue to coordinate our positions on the topics high on the European agenda, such as the resilient response to this brutal war, security, economic, democratic and sustainable future of our continent, EU neighborhood, adaptation to climate change. On the issue of migration, as a border Member State, Romania has done and will continue to do its part in a responsible, humane and accountable manner that is consistent with all the relevant EU legislation and moral standards.

Romania remains firmly committed to combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and strengthening international regimes by actively participating in the formulation and implementation of policies in the field. Here, in The Hague, we are acting in this regard and we have an active presence in the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and in support of the OPCW Technical Secretariat in its efforts to monitor the situation in risk areas worldwide.

Romania pledged a strong and long-lasting attachment to multilateralism and respect for international law, and in this vein my country joined the proceedings initiated by Ukraine against the Russian Federation before the International Court of Justice in the case concerning Allegations of genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. While we staunchly uphold the activity of the International Criminal Court in investigating war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes of genocide, Romania is among the States which referred the situation in Ukraine to the ICC Prosecutor. Furthermore, the Romanian Government pledged significant financial resources and expertise in support of the proceedings of the ICC on all cases under investigation or consideration.

As mentioned in the opening, the human dimension is the most vibrant component of the Romanian-Dutch relations. As a token of shared identity, by the generous efforts of the Romanian Orthodox congregation led by Schiedam Parish Priest, Dr. Ioan Dură, a tulip was created in 2018 bearing the name of Dame Maria Brâncoveanu, in recognition of her iconic figure in the Romanian history and spirituality. Every year, in the Keukenhof Tulip Gardens, this delicate symbol testifies to the essence of the Romanian-Dutch relations and to the enduring quality of the shared values they are based on.

OPCW: CSP-27

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

CSP-27th session of the Conference of the States Parties convened on 28 November -2 December 2022 for their annual meeting. The Conference of the States Parties oversees the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, promotes the Convention's objectives, and reviews compliance with the treaty. The Conference is made up of representatives of all Member States of the OPCW, each of which has one vote.

A causerie took place with the chairperson of the CSP-27th session of the Conference of the States Parties, **H.E. Mr. Vusi Madonsela** Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa in the Netherlands. Asked about him occupying the chairmanship of such an august institution, Ambassador Madonsela responded.

“ It was a privilege of great distinction for my country, and for me personally, to have been nominated by the **Africa Group of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention** for elevation to the position of Chairperson of the 27th Session of the Conference of States Parties (CSP) on 28 November 2022. This is a position of enormous responsibility, in which I will continue to serve until the 28th Session of the CSP in November/December 2023. I am humbled by the confidence shown in South Africa's capability to steer the ship through what many had predicted would be stormy waters. I am eternally grateful to all

States Parties, without exception, for their cooperation given to me throughout the Conference and their unequivocal support in the period leading to the conference.

Sitting at the helm of the highest policy decision making platform of the OPCW thrust upon me an opportunity to deepen my knowledge and understanding of the policies of the organisation and, more importantly, cement my appreciation of the rules of procedure of the CSP. I now possess a bird's eye view of the work of the organisation. I am indebted to the African States Parties for their unceasing encouragement to rise to the occasion.

The Chemical Weapons Convention is a landmark international legal instrument, being the first to eliminate an entire class of weapons of mass destruction. The Organisation brings together 193 States Parties to the Convention, which could be described as the world's most successful disarmament treaty. It enjoys almost complete universality – with only four States yet to join it.

While the almost universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention warrants celebration, the OPCW continues to encourage non-State Parties to ratify it. Despite almost universality of the CWC, the greatest threat of the use of chemical weapons largely emanates from Non-State Actors. This is a matter that the



OPCW is seized with, working together with fraternal organisations that collaborate on international efforts against terrorism. Undoubtedly, the OPCW is a great contributor to a safer world: one free of weapons of mass destruction.”

PRESIDENT MATTARELLA'S VISIT TO THE NETHERLANDS

Italy and the Netherlands can contribute to reinforcing the values of democracy, peace and human rights by strengthening their bilateral relations. From the 8th to the 11th of November 2022, the President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Sergio Mattarella, accompanied by his Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Antonio Tajani, paid a State visit to the Netherlands.

On day one, the President Mattarella was welcomed by H.M. King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and H.M. Queen Maxima at the Royal Palace of Amsterdam.

Subsequently, the Head of State met with H.E. Mr. Giorgio Novello, Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Embassy's personnel and representatives of local Italian organizations.

On November 10th President Mattarella, presented flowers at the Herdenkings Monument, followed by a visit to the Palace of General States, a fruitful meeting with the President of the Senate, Jan Anthonie Bruijn, and with the Vice President of the House of Representatives, Roelien Kamminga, and to Prime Minister Mark Rutte, at the Institutional Complex of Binnenhof, followed by a visit to Anne Frank Museum in Amsterdam.



BETTER CHINA, BETTER WORLD

UNDERSTANDING CHINA BETTER THROUGH THE 20TH CPC NATIONAL CONGRESS

As the most populous country and the second biggest economy in the world, China is moving forward like a giant ship. To understand where this ship is heading, one may ask the captain at the helm, the governing party of China.



The most important outcomes of the Congress include the election of a new central leadership with Xi Jinping as the General Secretary, and the adoption of the Report delivered by Xi Jinping. Here are some highlights.

China in the past decade: Great changes

The Congress has summarized the progress in 16 aspects over the past ten years, with many historical achievements.

On economic development, China's GDP has doubled, now accounting for 18.5 percent of the world economy. China has ensured food and energy security for its more than 1.4 billion people. China has excelled in building a modern infrastructure system, including the world's largest networks of high-speed railways and expressways, numerous airports and sea ports, water conservancy and energy projects, etc.

On social development, China has lifted 100 million people out of poverty and resolved the problem of absolute poverty, an unprecedented accomplishment in the history of China and that of the world. It has worked continuously to ensure people's access to childcare, education, employment, medical services, elderly care, housing, and social assistance, thus bringing about an all-around improvement in people's lives. China's life expectancy has reached 78.2 years.

On environment protection, China has acted on the idea that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets. It is leading the world in developing renewable energy, and its installed capacity of wind, solar, hydro and biomass power accounts for more than one third of the world's total. China has made solid progress in promoting green, circular, and low-carbon development, its ecological conservation systems have been remarkably improved.

On opening up, China has become a major trading partner for more than 140 countries and regions. It is the world's top trader in goods, a major destination for global investment and a leading country in outbound investment. China has worked to build a globally-oriented network of high-standard free trade areas and accelerated the development of pilot free trade zones. China has been advancing the Belt and Road Initiative, making it a public good and a cooperation platform.

Blueprint for the Future: Chinese modernization

The Congress has set up the centenary goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects by 2049, the year marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Chinese modernization is through the path of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. This is the modernization of a huge population, of common prosperity for all, of material and cultural-ethical advancement, of harmony between humanity and nature, and of peaceful development. It prioritizes high-quality, green and people-centered development.

China will set store by high-quality development and market economy. It will continue to build a high standard socialist market economy, working to see that the market plays the decisive role in resource allocation and that the government better plays its role, putting in place new systems for a higher-standard open economy. China will foster a world-class business environment that is market-oriented, law-based, and internationalized.

China will accelerate the transition to a model of green development. China has declared that it aims to realize the goal of carbon emissions peaking before 2030 and carbon neutrality before 2060. It means that China will achieve the largest reduction in carbon intensity the world has ever seen, and move from carbon peaking to carbon neutrality within the shortest time in world history. This is a tall order which entails a broad and profound systemic socio-economic transformation.

China will follow a Chinese path of human rights development, actively participate in global human rights governance, provide better protections for human rights, and promote all-around advancement of human rights.

China's foreign policy: Dedicated to peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit

The world has undergone profound changes. The deficit in peace, development, security, and governance is growing. The goals of China's foreign policy are to uphold world peace and promote common development. China remains firm in pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace, with a view to promoting a human community of a shared future. It is in this spirit that China has put forward the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative.

On peace, China is committed to building a world of lasting peace through dialogue and consultation. It has always decided its position

and policy on issues based on their own merits, and it has strived to uphold the basic norms governing international relations and safeguard international fairness and justice. China respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries. It stays true to the principle of equality of all countries big or small, strong or weak, and rich or poor, and it respects the development paths and social systems independently chosen by all the world's peoples.

On Security, China is committed to a world of universal security through collaboration and shared benefits. China pursues a defensive national defense policy. It stands firmly against all forms of hegemonism and power politics, the Cold War mentality, interference in other countries' internal affairs, and double standards. No matter what stage of development it reaches, China will never seek hegemony or engage in expansionism.

On development, China is committed to its fundamental national policy of opening to the outside world and pursues a mutually beneficial strategy of opening up. It strives to create new opportunities for the world with its own development. China opposes protectionism, the erection of "fences and barriers", decoupling, disruption of industrial and supply chains, unilateral sanctions, and maximum-pressure tactics. It stands ready to work with other countries to foster an international environment conducive to development and create new drivers for global growth.

On cooperation, China is committed to a world of common prosperity through mutually beneficial cooperation, to an open and inclusive world through exchanges and mutual learning, and to a clean and beautiful world through green and low-carbon development. China will get actively involved in global governance in response to climate change. It adheres to the right course of economic globalization. It strives to promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, advance bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation, and boost international macroeconomic policy coordination. It is prepared to invest more resources in global development cooperation. China will continue to contribute to narrowing the North-South gap, supporting and assisting other developing countries in accelerating development.

On global governance, China upholds true multilateralism, promotes greater democracy in international relations, and works to make global governance fairer and more equitable. China is firm in safeguarding the international system with the United Nations at its core, the international order underpinned by international law, and the basic norms governing international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Messages: Certainty and consistency in its policy, more opportunities for and contribution to the world

The future policy of China put forward by the Congress could be characterized by 3 Cs -- clarity, certainty and consistency, which is a major contribution to the much-needed stability of the global economy.

China pursues peaceful development as its paramount task. This is determined by what the Congress called the primary challenge facing China, namely, the gap between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's ever-growing needs for a better life. In other words, while China will of course defend its sovereignty, security, and development interests as an independent nation, it has no interest whatsoever in geopolitical competition, to replace any country or rival for hegemony.

China's development is a significant contribution to the prosperity of the world. Over the past decade, China has contributed an average of 30% to global growth annually. China will expand its opening-up. In the next 15 years, the middle-income group in China is expected to expand from 400 million to 800 million. China will turn its super-sized market into enormous opportunities for the world.

China will continue to take strong actions in ecological conservation and environmental protection. On climate change, it is one thing for countries and regions to announce their respective goals; another to implement. China takes its commitment seriously and means what it says. The international community could request countries to show their annual report cards for people around the world to see who have delivered and who are the problems.

China is part of the solution. The world today is faced with severe challenges and uncertainties. China's development helps build not only a better China, but also a better world. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between China and the Netherlands. The two countries have achieved a lot over the past 50 years. China's blueprint for future development will be a boost to the Sino-Dutch relations, providing more cooperation opportunities in economic, social, environmental and many other sectors. As President Xi Jinping pointed out in his meeting with Prime Minister Mark Rutte in G20 of 2022, the most valuable experience for this relationship is the commitment to openness and pragmatism. China and the Netherlands could achieve more in the next 50 years.

A DUAL IDENTITY

PERSONIFICATION OF THE LOGO

Last September, I participated in a logo design contest, organised by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Hanoi and the Consulate-General in Ho Chi Minh City, on the occasion of 50 years of diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and Vietnam 1973–2023.

I spend only two days before the deadline to create my submitting. Begin October I received the news that I was selected as the winner. I was completely overwhelmed. Because for me it isn't just a logo. It reflects my dual identity.

In January 1975, 48 years ago, I was born in the Mekong Delta, in the Vinh Long province. As a new born baby, only a few days old, I have been abandoned without any note at the Good Shepherd Convent & Orphanage at the To Thi Huynh Street in the city of Vinh Long. This orphanage were run by Roman Catholic nuns.

After a few days I was brought to the residence of the Dutch Embassy in Saigon (capital of South Vietnam) through Father Aarts, a Dutch priest and missionary of the Roman Catholic organization of Don Bosco who worked in Vietnam and was a friend of the Dutch Embassy. "He drove a van and brought some of us to the Friends of the Children of Vietnam. This was a large orphanage in Go Vap District also run by nuns. From there, the orphans were distributed to several adoption agencies and embassies." He helped finding children and did so through his good contacts with orphanages. Especially the Sisters of the Good Shephard in Vinh Long. Orphans with mixed background were 'in demand'. For one, because babies with lighter skin were favored, but also because these children would have a hard time growing up in Vietnam. You could be considered a cast off or be banned



The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Ms. Liesje Schreinemacher and Mr. Arjen IJff, creator of the official logo of 'NLVN50'

from your family because of the tight and hierarchic family culture. My skin was lighter and the blue 'birth mark' above my buttocks – a so-called Mongolian spot that is visible in almost all Asian babies at birth – was absent.

So the first months of my life I have been cared in the residence of the Dutch Embassy in Saigon by Mrs. Carolina van Roijen, she was the wife of the Dutch Chargé d'Affaires Jan Herman van Roijen.

In April 1975, just two weeks before the end of the war, Mrs Van Roijen transferred me with 26 other orphans to the Netherlands. We were adopted by lovely parents and built up a good life.

I grew up on the countryside of Beemster Polder, a green and low lying land area below sealevel, which has similarities with the Mekong Delta. "That's why the tulip and Lotus flower, which I used in the logo, not only connects both countries, but also my both backgrounds, respectively Beemster and Mekong Delta. I always feel like a child of both countries."

And now, after almost 50 years, I created a visual identity for the Netherlands Embassy in Vietnam. It has meant to be. The circle is almost complete. In this slipstream of 50 years relationship between the Netherlands and Vietnam and besides the Year of the Cat – my Vietnamese zodiac sign – it feels like the ultimate chance to find my biological relatives.

Unfortunately the orphanage in Vinh Long is demolished after the war. A large square has replaced it. Only a tamarind tree, between the square and the Mekong River, reminds me to the orphanage, my 'place of birth'. This tamarind tree has now a symbolic meaning for me, "it is – so far – the only witness left of my early existence".

To be continued. Chúc mừng năm mới!

www.arjenijff.nl
[instagram.com/ijffoto](https://www.instagram.com/ijffoto)

17TH ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF GERMAN BUSINESS (APK)

By H.E. Mr. Laurence Bay, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the Federal Republic of Germany



Meeting between Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs **Dr Vivian Balakrishnan** and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy **Josep Borrell** at the side-lines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, July 2022 – Picture by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore.



H.E. Ambassador Laurence Bay - Picture by Singapore Embassy in Berlin

Singapore is deeply honoured to host the 17th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business (APK), Germany's most important economic conference for the thousands of German companies in the Asia-Pacific, from 13 to 14 November. The presence of both Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz, and Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Dr Robert Habeck at this biennial event sends a strong and unequivocal signal of Germany's commitment to deepening its engagement with Singapore and the region. More importantly, it brings Asia and Europe closer as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and tackle the myriad of today's global challenges together.

Even during the pandemic, Germany and the EU have stepped up their engagement of Asia. A case in point is Germany's Policy Guidelines on the Indo-Pacific region, as well as the EU's Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, which provide useful roadmaps for developing inter-regional ties. Singapore welcomes stronger engagement in the areas outlined in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which include economic cooperation, connectivity, and smart cities. I believe that there is much potential for inter-regional ties to be deepened further. Take Southeast Asia for example. It has a combined population of 622 million and GDP of US\$3.2 trillion. By

2030, Southeast Asia will become the world's 4th largest economy with a rapidly growing middle class. Furthermore, the region has excellent connectivity to the two largest global markets, India and China, and other advanced economies like Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea.

It is in the interest of Asia and Europe to uphold their mutual spirit of friendship, respect, and cooperation, that has been developed over more than four decades. Next month, ASEAN and EU leaders will meet in Brussels for a special summit to commemorate 40 years of relations. I hope that the Summit will be a

platform for meaningful and forward-looking discussions on how both regions can further build on the strong foundation that has been established over the years.

Constructive engagement is the key to ensuring prosperity, security, and stability for both sides. The elevation of ASEAN-EU relations to a Strategic Partnership in December 2020 was an important milestone and a step in the right direction. The EU has concluded Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Vietnam, and is negotiating similar agreements with other Asian countries. Both regions should work towards an ASEAN-EU FTA in the medium-term. Finally, more attention should be paid to expanding education and cultural ties. The conclusion of the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement in June 2021 is timely in this regard as it will greatly promote more people-to-people exchanges. Though small in size, as a major regional hub, Singapore is well-positioned to work with our partners in Asia and Europe to strengthen the enduring ties that bind us.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE COCOA SECTOR IN GHANA

By H.E. Francis Danti Kotia, Ambassador of Ghana

Cocoa production is essential to the health of Ghana's economy. It contributes significantly to the country's total foreign exchange earnings, second only to the extractive industry. While the cocoa sector's overall contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) is about 3.5 percent, it makes up about a quarter of total export receipts, while also providing about two-thirds of cocoa farmers' incomes. The sector currently supports the livelihoods of over four million farming households. Ghana represents the gold standard for cocoa quality and is one of the world's largest producers, yet the sector's yields in monetary terms remain stubbornly and sadly low. Young people are a key part of the solution to revitalising Ghana's cocoa sector as the average cocoa farmer in Ghana is over 50 years old.

Ghana, essentially shares in the vision of ensuring that the cocoa value-chain are promoted in a sustainable manner.

Ghana is a leading producer of cocoa in the world, producing a record 1.4 million tonnes of cocoa beans in 2020/21 season.

Higher cocoa prices

The idea that cocoa farmers should receive a higher price is not a new concept, although it has been operationalised in several different ways. For instance, some stakeholders advocate for the establishment of a cocoa cartel for intervening in international markets and in the creation and management of buffer stocks. While others believe that national marketing boards should be the ones paying farmers a higher share of the price they receive on the international market.

Low Cocoa Prices and Implication for the Cocoa Sector in Ghana

Consequently, it is disheartening to note that Ghana only earns less than 5% of the value of the global chocolate and confectionery retail industry, which is worth more than USD100 billion. It was against this background that the member countries of the Cote D'Ivoire-Ghana Cocoa Initiative (CIGCI) as well as the Secretariat itself decided not to participate in the World Cocoa Foundation partnership meetings held in Brussels, Belgium on 26-27 October 2022.

The decision of non-participation in the Brussels meeting was to register the displeasure of the cocoa producing member states against

the unwillingness of the cocoa and chocolate industry to pay fair prices for cocoa. The immediate consequence of the posture of the chocolate industry was the deterioration of the beneficial Living Income Differentials (LID) on the price guaranteed to the millions of small cocoa producers in Ghana and la Cote d'Ivoire in meeting their overhead costs in cocoa production.

It would be recalled that earlier in 2022, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, through the CIGCI, took the decision to publish the origin differentials for greater transparency in the pricing of cocoa. In July 2022, a further decision was taken to no longer sell their cocoa with negative income differentials, which buyers had been applying to offset the cost of the LID, since it came into effect at the beginning of the 2020/21 season. At the same time, a process was also launched with the industry to build a path for an economic pact that was signed by all the major cocoa purchasing companies.

As a result of the low producer prices to cocoa farmers, some cocoa farmers have resorted to leasing their cocoa plantation lands to small-scale miners. This development would have an overall adverse impact on cocoa production in Ghana.

Improving cocoa productivity

Generally, improving productivity results in raising incomes for cocoa households. However, most cocoa farms are far from achieving potential yields due to poor agronomic practices, and low, inappropriate or untimely use of inputs. Therefore, training on good agronomic practices (GAP) is often seen as a

way of remedying the situation. Advocates for boosting farmer yields also see this as one way to slow or reverse deforestation. Some actors have also expressed concerns that improving productivity could contribute to oversupply in the future, resulting in lower prices.

Access to Finance, Skills training and education

For young people who do acquire land, rehabilitating such lands is becoming expensive. In view of soil degradation and climate change, greater investment in fertilizer, pesticides and other inputs is essential to achieve desired yields. Furthermore, cocoa trees take up to five years to yield beans, leaving farmers with no cocoa income during that time lag. Aside the foregoing challenges, cocoa farming requires more sophisticated farming skills to manage soil fertility losses and climate change. In addressing the skills gap, Ghanaian Universities and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Ghana are promoting agro-economic education or skills training for young farmers.

Conclusion

The fact that sustainable cocoa production is a win-win concept cannot be overemphasised. Furthermore, it is abundantly clear that if the three key elements namely the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of the industry, underpinned by the well-being of the cocoa farmer are managed in a fair, balanced and holistic manner, cocoa producers and multinational companies alike would work in a very harmonious way to bring smiles to the faces of consumers of chocolate.



Photography by Chris Ronteltap.

KOSOVO DUO CONCERT: NO FRAME

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

The Kosovo Embassy in the Netherlands (KSinNL) organized a cultural diplomacy soiree a piano guitar concert. The occasion was the NATO intervention leading up to freedom.

Mr Dren Doli, Ambassador of Kosovo in the Netherlands made the opening remarks.

The theme of the concert was No Frame referring to spontaneous communication between the two performers, Arben Ramadani piano and Armend Xhaferi guitar. Improvised music, no predefined program, just expressing mutual inner feelings through the tune of Kosovo music, substituted by classical music.

The concert was held on 30 June 2022, at Het Korenhuis in the heart of The Hague. Het Korenhuis was built as a corn exchange in 1663, where grain was stored and traded. An amazing soiree, bravo Kosovo !



ALGERIA WORKS AND IT IS WORTH IT

By H.E. Ms. Salima Abdelhak, Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Kingdom of the Netherlands

I was delighted to participate, with an Algerian trade mission, to "Africa Works 2022" Conference after a lengthy pause due to Covid-19 pandemic as a sign of a business bump. The sessions dedicated to Algeria, gave me the opportunity to outline the priorities of my tenure as Ambassador of Algeria in the Netherlands and shed light on the significant potential of Algerian Dutch cooperation and partnership.

Indeed, the assessment of the economic relations between Algeria and The Netherlands shows their great potential in setting up a strong partnership. If they are still relying on exports of hydrocarbons from Algeria and agricultural products from the Netherlands, with an overall volume of trade exchange of 2.2 billion dollar, they are likely to multiply and diversify. In my book, hydrocarbon from Algeria represented in 2021 more than 85% of the overall volume of trade cooperation. As for The Netherlands, agriculture evolves around 3 top-areas; sustainable potato production, dairy sector and rational use of water in agriculture.

Training programs designed for young entrepreneurs in agriculture and agro-food industries holds also lion's share of an agreement between the two countries. As for water management and given the fact that the Netherlands are well-seasoned in this very field, cooperation prospects are even more promising, particularly in terms of flood control and basin development pouring. Public works and transport are not the least when it comes to investment opportunities as the two parties are considering to kick off a cooperation project between the Ports of Oran and Rotterdam.

These results are commendable. However, I do believe that we can do much better turning our efforts into a comprehensive med-long term strategy that would pave the way for a more diversified partnership.

Sectors have been already depicted as vital by both parties such as port management, renewable energies (solar, wind and hydrogen), water resources management, mining exploration, transports facilities upgrading, innovation, start-up and waste management. In addition, the Dutch are known for their commercial dynamism, importing different products for resale on the European market. Algeria could take advantage of Dutch expertise in the field of re-exporting products in order to promote the Algerian label on international markets.

The Dutch business community are invited to explore further the massive Algerian market and play its due part alongside with other local and international companies operating in Algeria, in country with a thriving economy and a genuine treasure trove of both human and natural resources that are only awaiting for keen explorers like the Dutch.

To be attractive Algeria has lifted constraints and adopted incentives to facilitate trade and investment, including the abolition of the 51/49 rule governing foreign investments in 2020 and the adoption of the new investment Law. Other many preferences are available for products originated in Algeria within the African free Trade Area (AfCFTA) where Algeria is a founding member.



H.E. Jamal Al Musharakh. Photography by Kim Vermaat

THE UAE AND THE NETHERLANDS:

"GOING BEYOND THE STATUS QUO"

The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Netherlands, H.E. Mr. Jamal Jama Al Musharakh, explained to Diplomat Magazine Publisher Dr. Mayeline De Lara the priorities of his mandate. While the two countries already enjoy a solid, multifaceted partnership, the Ambassador plans to further expand cooperation across a wide range of sectors.

Ambassador, how do you assess the current state of the relations between your country and the Netherlands?

The partnership between the UAE and the Netherlands is a multifaceted one, and it is in constant evolution. As the world changes, so do the priorities of both the UAE and the Netherlands, meaning that bilateral ties today focus on different topics as compared to 20 years ago. Today, our bilateral ties see a major focus on topics such as sustainability, climate change and energy. These topics were at the core of the Dutch pavilion at Expo 2020, which focused on the nexus of water, energy and food. Moreover, our Minister of Climate Change and Environment, H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed Almhiri, recently led a visit by a large Emirati delegation to the Netherlands. The visit was a great opportunity to discuss

issues of common interest, such as climate change, food and water security, as well as agri-tech. The visit also served as a springboard for discussing potential partnerships with Dutch institutions, so as to further strengthen our cooperation in these fields.

All these developments come on the backdrop of an already solid relation between the UAE and the Netherlands. Investment between the two countries is flourishing, spanning across a wide range of sectors including construction, energy and farming. Business to business relations are strong, as are people to people ties. Crucially, the UAE has been an important platform for Dutch businesses interested in doing business not only with the UAE itself, but also with other countries in the region. There is also an upcoming joint economic committee meeting on the horizon.

As your mandate begins, what are your priorities for the next years?

The main priority is to build upon the existing relations and take them to a next level – to go beyond the status quo, beyond business as usual, even beyond existing expectations. There are tremendous avenues of cooperation that need to be explored, and we plan to do it with all of our energy. Climate-related topics are surely set to remain at the center of the agenda, given their interest to both the UAE and the Netherlands, as well as to the whole international community. The UAE will be hosting next year's COP, and the Netherlands has already expressed its willingness to work on important issues in this regard.

In addition, we want to expand ties in other fields too. The cultural angle, for instance, is very important to us. We are keen to know more about Dutch culture and arts, which are very rich and diverse. We would also love the Netherlands to know more about us, beyond what can be read in a textbook. Expanding people to people ties, including students' opportunities for exchanges, is always a good avenue in this regard, as there are many programs offered in English.

How do Emirati-Dutch relations fit into the broader framework of the UAE's foreign policy?

The partnership developed with the Netherlands reflects the vision of our leadership in the UAE and the priorities of our ministers. There are a wide range of topics that we deem very important, and hence we assign specific ministries to them. Look, for instance, at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, the Ministry of Culture and Youth, or the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology. These topics are not only our domestic priorities, but also the cornerstones of our partnerships with other countries, including the Netherlands.

These partnerships are a key element of our foreign policy. This was clear during the Covid-19 pandemic, when we relied on our partners for vaccines. To do so, we relied on both the United States and China, consistently with our strategy to have friends and partners everywhere, and building bridges. Our foreign policy is based on dialogue – a dialogue that allows us to constantly expand our network of alliances.

About 100 delegations took part in the congress.

GREEN HYDROGEN: A PROMISING FUTURE FOR CHILE AND THE WORLD

By H.E. Mr. Jaime Moscoso Valenzuela, Ambassador of Chile to the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Chile, a long country at the end of the South American continent, is well known for several things: our Nobel Prize winning poets, Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda, Eastern Island, the astronomical observatories, and our rich geography, among others, which gives us so many natural wonders. Thanks to this geography, we are recognised for our fruit, wine and salmon, as a tourist destination for adventurers, but also for our mineral resources, such as copper and lithium. Today, a new energy source of the future has been added to our export offer: hydrogen.

Hydrogen is set to be the definitive replacement for fossil fuels, with zero emissions of carbon dioxide and other polluting gases. To produce it, a process called electrolysis is required, which, based on high amounts of electricity (produced by renewable energies) breaks the water molecule (H₂O) and separates it into hydrogen (H) and oxygen (O). While the hydrogen is stored for use as fuel, the oxygen is released into the atmosphere.

Chile could produce green hydrogen - thanks to solar and wind energy - at a very low cost, and could have an installed capacity of 25 Giga Watt by 2030, according to a study by global strategic management consultancy McKinsey & Company.

To achieve this goal, we need to attract more investment, but also find a new way of developing projects internally, with a more inclusive overview and a close relationship with communities and territories to improve our ESG (environmental, social and governance) performance.

At the same time, experts estimate that green hydrogen production will allow the implementation of a decentralised development model, generating local energy markets that commercialise hydrogen and electricity. This is also in line with President Gabriel Boric's commitments to decentralise Chile and give more autonomy and development to the regions.

Chile has committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 in its National Determined Contribution (NDC), and green hydrogen could go a long way towards achieving this. The deployment of green hydrogen in applications such as freight transport, motor uses in mining and industry, and residential and industrial heat could account for 24% of the reduction of CO₂-equivalent emissions by 2050 in a carbon neutrality scenario. As

in the Chilean case, green hydrogen will help many countries to reach this critical goal, as was urgently raised at the just concluded COP27. That is why we are working with the Netherlands on a green hydrogen supply corridor from Chile to Europe.

We are in a first phase of developing industrial-scale pilot projects, which will shape the second phase of building the infrastructure and the capacity to produce and export, to achieve the third phase of exporting. Simultaneously we are working on certification standards, transport and shipping carriers. Therefore, bilateral efforts are focused on working together in international forums to improve certification, and to advance in the creation of a regulated market for this new commodity, but also to strengthen institutional and private sector ties.

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Chilean Ministry of Energy and the Port of Rotterdam in 2021 was a first step and the legal framework to

establish this green hydrogen corridor. Two Dutch Trade Missions to Chile in a year are proof of the strong commitment of both countries to develop the hydrogen market. On the last Trade Mission, from the 5th to the 13th of November, more than 25 businessmen and women visited Chile: Santiago, Valparaíso, Concepción, Mejillones, and Calama, to see by themselves the industrial sites, innovation initiatives, the main ports, and the first concentrated solar power plant in Latin America.

If we achieve this historic shift from fossil fuels to green fuels, it will be a tipping point for humanity. Chile can transition from a country that grows by extracting non renewable resources to one that produces the clean and renewable fuels that the world requires to avoid climate change.

This will have a great impact on our country's brand, adding green value to the products exported from Chile, such as being the world's leading producer of green copper. Green hydrogen could prove to be the missing link to a climate-safe energy future for Chile. That is why we welcome the commitment of the Netherlands to developing countries, because the energy transition and mitigation of the consequences of climate change cannot be achieved alone, it is a community effort that requires the concurrence of all.





ONE DREAM GOAL: BOOSTING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE.

THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS AND THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN THEY REALLY PERCEIVE. BOTH MAY SURE BENEFIT WITH A CLOSER PARTNERSHIP.

By H.E. Mr. Alvaro González Otero, Ambassador of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Netherlands and Uruguay have small territories and they are influenced by contiguous neighbors. Both share similar landscapes, surrounded by waters, undulating slight hills and very friendly people.

They are also countries who firmly defend multilateralism and the principles and purposes of the United Nations. We maintain several compatible positions in this field, mainly with regard to Peace and Security.

Three main subjects have already been identified for working together, since we may add common areas of interest: green hydrogen; logistics, and agricultural developments. Nevertheless, there are also other valuable topics to grow up together.

Uruguay stands out in Latin America for being an egalitarian society, for its high per capita income and for its low levels of inequality and poverty. In relative terms, its

middle class is the largest in the Americas, representing more than 60% of its population.

Its economy grew 4.4% in 2021, after a 6.1% drop the previous year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By 2022, it is expected to grow 4.8%, mainly driven by the opening of borders to foreign tourism last summer and an increase in agricultural production. For 2023, growth of 2.7% is expected. This slowdown will be driven by lower growth in the main Mercosur partners, the global economic slowdown, the tightening of monetary policy, and the completion of extraordinary investments related to a new pulp mill for US\$3 billion, in addition to complementary public works.

The strong economic advances that Uruguay has made, particularly since the 2002 crisis, added to the solid social pact that characterizes it, support the path towards poverty reduction and the promotion of shared prosperity that the country has travelled. Also defined by its strong vocation in terms of social protection, it should be mentioned, that

historically, inclusive social policies have focused on expanding the coverage of programs, for example, around 90% of the population over 65 years of age is covered by the pension system: this is one of the highest coefficients in Latin America and the Caribbean, along with Argentina and Brazil.

Today, there are a number of structural constraints that can hinder progress towards sustainable development goals. In one hand, the country is in an advanced phase of the demographic transition and is in the process of reforming its social security system, which currently generates large fiscal costs. In addition, Uruguay faces challenges to improve its competitiveness and long-term growth. In turn, Uruguay faces challenges to incorporate women into economic activity and transform education and labour institutions to take advantage of technological change productively, in addition to promoting investment in infrastructure and integration into global value chains. Finally, despite the fact that the incidence of poverty in

Uruguay remains relatively low in regional comparison, there are still disparities in terms of age, sex, region, and ancestry, which could have deepened with the pandemic.

On a different subject, the country achieved a transformation of its energy matrix and continues to take firm steps towards greater use of clean energy. Favored by its geographical location for the generation of solar, wind and hydraulic energy, Uruguay is undergoing a process of investment in renewable energies that has become a priority with institutional support. It currently allocates approximately 3% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to energy infrastructure, which places it in fifth

Strong institutional performance in other areas, such as trust in government, low corruption, and a consensus-based political approach, as well as a strong commitment to strengthen institutional arrangements, give the country a firm foundation on which to continue renewing their social contract and establish policies to attack current limitations.

place in the world in terms of investment in clean energy, according to the Renewables Global Status Report prepared by REN21. In addition, according to the global index prepared by the World Economic Forum and the consulting firm Accenture in 2021, Uruguay was for the second time the best positioned in Latin America in this aspect. Investment in renewable energy has become a national priority that materializes in the exponential increase in electricity production through clean sources. This change in the energy sector began with a public-private model, in which the public sector was in charge of coordinating and managing national and international contributions and the private sphere was the source of investment, a model that was praised by the International Energy Agency Renewables. The country has been committed to this cause since its participation at the end of 2019 in the annual summit of the United Nations Macro Convention on Climate Change. From here it managed to combine its natural resources, future-oriented legislation and investments to achieve an energy transformation that allows it to produce more than 97% of its energy from renewable sources.

In the wine production sector, it is important to mention that two of its tannat wines -Uruguay's flagship variety- were awarded gold and silver medals in London. Decanter World Wine Awards, one of the most important awards in the industry organized by the prestigious British magazine

Decanter, awarded the Sacromonte winery in Maldonado, Uruguay, in its 2022 edition with a gold medal for its 2020 tannat wine and a silver medal for its tannat concrete-aged. In the competition, held between April 24 and 30 in London, more than 54 countries participated and 300 international experts evaluated nearly 18,000 wines.

Finally, the most important reasons why Uruguay has become a leader in South America for investments and business are:

1. Reliable country: Uruguay has political, democratic and social stability, and macroeconomic soundness, which creates the right environment for successful investment. It is also a stable and predictable country, qualities that are taken as a differential by investors.

2. Gateway to Latin America: Uruguay's strategic location as the Gateway to the region offers the perfect springboard to Latin America. Uruguay provides top-level logistics infrastructure, state-of-the-art telecommunications technology and the best energy supply in the region based on renewable resources. Through Uruguay is possible to access a market of 400 million people, which accounts for 68% of Latin America's GDP and represents a flow of foreign trade of almost 74% of Latin America's total.

3. The best partner to develop business: Uruguay has become the destination par excellence for international companies seeking quality, efficiency, experience and new opportunities in the most stable and reliable business environment in Latin America. Both national and foreign investment has been declared of national interest. The foreign and local investors are treated equally. It also has a wide range of incentives that adapt to different types of activities, both industrial, commercial or services that want to be carried out in the country.

4. Availability of talent: Human resources in Uruguay are highly competitive, qualified and multilingual. Moreover, the state promotes the implementation of training programs tailored for existing staff or new recruits, offering grants to companies that present eligible projects.

The state guarantees free access to education, from pre-school to university. Around 5% of the Gross Domestic Product of Uruguay is invested in education.

With all these notes in mind, our Embassy kindly invites all of you to visit Uruguay and directly confirm the similarities between these two progressive countries.

KOSOVO

ART EXHIBITION

SILENT CONVERSATION

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

The Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo hosted the opening of the art exposition **Silent Conversation** by the artists **Arjeta Mala**, graphic designer, and **Eduart Baçe**, sculptor. Both the first and ground level of the Chancellery have been prepared to facilitate the exposition.

Both artists were introduced and invited to address the guests. In the audience were the Ambassadors of Albania, Egypt, and Luxembourg and a British diplomat and friends of Kosovo.

The pianist **Mirsa Adami** augmented the ambience at the festive opening of the exposition with her virtuoso piano performance.

Ambassador **Dren Doli** expressed how pleased he was to see so many attending the event. He quoted Salvador Dali "A true artist is not the one who is inspired, but the one who inspires others".

Silent conversation, "the artist's conversation with his work. Meanwhile, when the work is exposed, the visitor's conversation with the work of art begins... These silent conversations are also a kind of symbol for our daily life." On show, paintings, drawings and ceramic statuettes. All items could be purchased.

The opening was followed by a reception.





Ambassador Sapar Palvanov - Picture courtesy of Ambassador Palvanov

The key feature defining the role of Turkmenistan in the system of modern international relations is the doctrine of positive neutrality. Since gaining independence, the principle of neutrality in foreign policy has become the foundation of Turkmenistan's political strategy.

The main characteristics of Turkmen neutrality are respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries, non-interference in their internal affairs, refusal to use force in interstate relations, priority of UN decisions in international affairs, strengthening of good neighborliness and cooperation with all countries, etc.

As is known, on December 12, 1995, during the UN General Assembly session all 185 countries unanimously voted for the adoption of a special resolution on Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan.

In February 2017, at the initiative of Turkmenistan, a new date emerged in the world political calendar – the International Day of Neutrality, celebrated on 12 December.

NEUTRALITY IN THE NAME OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY

By H.E. Mr. Sapar Palvanov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to the Kingdom of Belgium

The Turkmen model of neutrality radically changes the ideas of neutrality that have existed up to now. Historically, obtaining a neutral status presupposes the existence of a historical context, expressed in military actions or other kind of international conflicts, the result of which is the neutrality of the State enshrined in the treaty of the parties concerned. In the case of Turkmenistan, we have, in fact, a unique phenomenon in the history of international relations.

Turkmen neutrality is recognized by origin, permanent in form and positive in content, which implies an active position in matters of maintaining peace and stability.

The neutral status of Turkmenistan affects such aspects of the country's political life as foreign policy, economic, defense sectors, and ensuring state security.

The essence of Turkmen neutrality could be defined as follows: to be friends and maintain good relations with everyone equally, but not to be friends with anyone against anyone. Using the neutrality status, at the global level, Turkmenistan has managed to build equal partnership relations with the great powers and the main world actors – the United States, Russia, the European Union, China, and the countries of the Muslim world.

Turkmenistan's status of neutrality, combined with a stable political system, determines the minimum level of foreign policy risks of the country's partners, and, coupled with the richest resource potential, has predetermined a great interest in the country. Having huge reserves of natural gas, Turkmenistan strives to create favorable external conditions for equal and mutually beneficial relations in the economic sphere, and does not allow the politicization of these relations. At the same time, the neutrality strategy

contributes to the diversification of natural gas supply routes to the world market.

As for the military-political aspect and characteristics of state security, the principled and unconditional refusal to participate in international military groupings and blocs allowed Turkmenistan not to be drawn into any form of regional rivalry.

Turkmenistan's neutral status is not a self-exclusion from solving international problems and a way to isolate itself from the dangers and concerns of the outside world.

On the contrary, it is a strong position to actively influence the situation in the region and on the planet as a whole.

As a result, a Group of Friends of Neutrality for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development has been formed in the UN.

Given that preventive diplomacy is an integral part of neutrality, the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia has been successfully functioning in Ashgabat for 15 years on the initiative of Turkmenistan.

It is noteworthy that Turkmenistan's permanent neutrality has clearly expressed regional focus. The country actively contributed to the unanimous adoption of the resolution declaring Central Asia a zone of peace, trust and cooperation at the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in July this year.

The 27th anniversary of neutrality status is another very significant reason to look back at the neutral path of development, and draw conclusions based on insight gained from experience, enriching this status with national "flavor" and expanding its humanistic boundaries.

HISTORIAS DESOBEDIENTES

BY JOHN DUNKELGRÜN

The ambassador of Argentina, H.E. Mr. Mario Oyarzábal gave a garden reception for the delegation from the "Centro Ana Frank Argentina" last summer. After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, this was the 11th time they visited The Hague! The Centro Ana Frank runs a museum in Buenos Aires and organizes many lectures and other activities to teach young people about the horrors of the Holocaust fostering an awareness that will hopefully help that this horrible history will not repeat itself.

The reception, entirely held in the lovely gardens of the residence, was attended by many ambassadors and diplomats from fifteen countries! The visit this time was extraordinary because Mr. Hèctor Shalom, director of the Centro, had brought along a big delegation from the Historias Desobedientes, familiares de genocidas par la Memoria, la Verdad y la Justicia. This is a group of descendants and relatives of the perpetrators of Crimes against Humanity under the various dictatorships in Latin America.

Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp spoke movingly as only he can and told about the SS officer in charge of a razzia detail on his parent's house. He was immediately taken by the three-month-old Awraham. "What a beautiful baby, it's such a pity he is a Jew."

Awraham's father looked at him, "You don't need to feel pity, at least he will never have a murderer for a father."

At this the officer said "Dirty Jews. You're too filthy to put on a train. Get cleaned up and we'll come and get you tomorrow". Of course, the family fled that same evening.

Rabbi Soetendorp spoke of the family that had taken him into hiding, pondering on the momentous decision such saviours took, often without having time to think. "These instant acts of supreme mercy are the specks of light that together form a beam that illuminates our humanity."

"I am the daughter of a criminal" were the first words of Véronica Montenegro, a member of Parliament from Buenos Aires. She came with the group of the Historias Desobedientes to help keep our collective memory alive to the dangers of dictatorships. Her parents were twenty and eighteen, and she was just thirteen days old, when they were arrested. The parents were never heard of again and she was taken into the home of an army colonel, where she was raised as his own child and called Maria Sol. She was married with three children before she found out that she was not their daughter and that her father was killed, probably in one of the infamous death flights.

The colonel was convicted to four years in prison, where he died. She is still searching for what happened to her mother. It took her seven years to search for a new equilibrium. Her



H.E. Mr. Mario Oyarzábal, Ambassador of Argentina

book, *Hasta ser Victoria*, details this difficult journey. Despite all that had happened, she loved her foster parents to the very end. She has devoted her life to a better society and to help teach as many people as possible about what had happened in the hope of helping to make this a better world.

All those present were deeply touched and grateful to the Embassy of Argentina for organizing this very special event.

DIPLOMAT MAGAZINE EVENTS

DIPLOMAT FRIENDSHIP CHESS TOURNAMENT EDITION 2022

The Hague, on 19 November 2022, Dr Mayelinne De Lara of Diplomat Magazine welcomed the players from the diplomatic community, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international organizations in the Netherlands to participate in the 2022 Chess Tournament aiming to consolidate friendship and strengthen the solidarity among Diplomats.

Ambassador Adia Sakiqi of the Republic of Albania, Dean of the diplomatic Corps, graced the tournament with her presence.

The friendly tournament also attracted children as young as eight, Victor, Max, Philip and Aiko, a very hearting phenomenon.

Furthermore, the event listed players from Albania, Cuba, El Salvador, Russia, Senegal, Ukraine and the Netherlands.

After a series of matches during which the players made their best tactical moves, Stan Cortenbach of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is affiliated with the Chess Club Docendo Discimus, emerged as the winner.

It has been really fun, players enjoyed the networking opportunity. In the end, the winners were given a trophy as a souvenir of the tournament.

Diplomat Magazine is looking forward to welcoming another inclusive and diverse group of participants next year, notably the younger ones.



Victor Perez, Stan Cortenbach, Victor Saburov, Philip Kriger, Henry Pierre Sarr and Max Saburov winners of the III Diplomats Chess Tournament. Photography by August Zeidman



Coronation Day 2020 - Nataya and her spouse, the Ambassador of Thailand Chatri Archjananun.

SA WAT DEE*, DIPLOMATIC LIFE!

By Alexandra Paucescu

When you see her smiling face and her kind eyes, you instantly understand that you have a compassionate woman in front of you. But what you discover later is that she is also extremely energetic, active and involved in every project she does.

Nataya Archjananun is originally from Thailand and she never forgets to tell how proud she is of her country. This highly educated woman, holding a bachelor degree in English Literature (from Thammasat University, one of the oldest university in Thailand), and a master's degree in Telecommunications (Southern Illinois University, USA), has started her career in advertising and marketing. But after years in the field, she finally found her true calling and passion. She started working on a new project, for a social enterprise, Doi Tung Development, in Chiangrai province, northern part of Thailand. The model business was to help villagers attain self-sufficiency. The project also aimed to improve public health, education and the environment in order to alleviate the hardship by helping locals to earn incomes through crop-substitution programs, opposite to what the hill tribes people in Doi Tung used to do (earning their income by selling opium). She says candidly: 'working at the Doi Tung Development project was a moment of pride for me and I enjoyed it and worked passionately there for more than ten years.' You can easily sense from her words that this was an important part of her life.

She confesses to me: 'it was a very tough decision to leave my beloved career behind and to pursue my new role as a diplomat's spouse. I knew it would be a big challenge!'

But, following advice from her childhood, she embraced her new life with a positive attitude and tried to find new projects and ways to express her enterprising personality.

She says: 'no matter how life hits you, always smile. We all must prepare for the worst with mindfulness. When you believe in yourself, you can overcome self-doubt and achieve your goals'.

So she did!

After first 4 years in Geneva, her diplomatic family moved to The Hague in 2021, during the pandemic. As I am a diplomatic spouse myself, I know all too well all the logistics and the complications and emotional charge of a new relocation, and a pandemic can only complicate matters even further. But Nataya discovered in the Netherlands a country with very friendly people. She tells me that 'we are amazed with life here, we feel very comfortable and we so much enjoy our diplomatic circles'.

She is extremely grateful that being a diplomat's spouse does give her many opportunities to meet new people, to learn different cultures and explore values of different countries.

It is a big honor for me to be in this diplomatic world and I have no regrets. I always open my heart up and adapt to the new roles, new friends and new societies. To live in the diplomatic world is an art of living for me. I am proud of being Thai and I feel much honored to represent Thai women abroad. I enjoy creating events that show Thai culture, especially Thai cuisine. The Thai food is unique, thanks to its flavors and styles, and it is a reflection of our nation's culture. One of my hobbies is making traditional Thai desserts. It is always such a precious time to enjoy my home-made desserts with a sip of Thai herbal tea, she says giggling.

She seems happy, content with her new life and the new ways of expressing her vivid personality. Her events are colorful and full of flavor. They couldn't be any different, as she tells me that her life motto is: **'life is like a spice. It is full of sweet, sour and bitter, so always stay positive!'**

*Hello



Nataya Archjananun at her Monday Coffee Morning activity with ASEAN ladies
Photography by Chris Rontelap.

THE GIRL WITH THE BEADED EYES

I first met her on a little terrace, near the Vatican doors, in Rome, in a lovely summer day. I still remember that I was instantly struck by her beauty and I also noticed her necklace, which perfectly complimented her outfit and tanned skin.

Later on, I discovered her passion for jewelry, which she is now transforming into business.

Arpi Arakelyan was born in Armenia, is a linguist and journalist by training and worked in a state sector for several years, until she had the encounter of her life.

'I met my husband at a friend's place, and we started to secretly examine each other right away, during that evening, pretending as if we were not interested in each other at all...He later became the man who really changed my life.'

She admits that the beginning of her diplomatic life was a bit difficult, it meant giving up many things and it brought changes to her life.

She tells me: 'First I "lost" my job and I realized that from that moment on, there will be no stability in my life, in this regard. It was very difficult to prepare myself psychologically. Anyway, I started a totally new life with my beloved husband. However, this drastic change almost coincided with another great change, the birth of my daughter, which I'd say, was an irreplaceable motivation for me.'

And from there, the series of Foreign Service missions began, known to all of us, who live a diplomatic life. She says that, no matter where she will be in a few years, most important is to be together with her family.

'It was in 2015 when I first moved to Lithuania, where my husband was posted as a diplomat. Lithuania is my "first country and first love", also because my baby girl was born there. The second posting is now, in beautiful Italy.'

And she continues telling me that moving to Italy, being surrounded by all that beauty, offered her the inspiration to start this new adventure in life, that of creation and art...

'I have always loved painting and design. Those were my long time hobbies. I was circulating something in my mind for a long time about what I should do with my passions and my spare time. Then, all of a sudden, the idea of

"Vivien Wearing" arose. It was unexpected, but in the meantime, it was close to my heart, as I am a jewelry lover. Thus the idea has been developed quite quickly afterwards.

I would really like "Vivien Wearing" to be a nice example to my daughter and maybe to others, too, show them the possibility of starting anything and anytime from zero.'

She designs colorful and feminine necklaces, all from natural stones and materials.

Her eyes sparkle like her precious beads, when she talks about her new found passion.

'I plan to continue creating, non-stop', she says candidly. 'When women feel themselves more feminine and beautiful while wearing my creations, that is when I consider my plan fulfilled. It's my goal.'

I truly admire her passion and I like to see motivated young women who try to reinvent themselves and to prove that there is always more behind the diplomatic titles... we are not just diplomatic spouses.

She says that 'diplomatic life can be difficult, because when you live in a foreign country, the sense of responsibility multiplies. You also never stop adapting, it's an endless process. The most common perception of an easy-going life is thoroughly wrong.'

But it seems to me that, although she is very young and has a whole life of experiences and discoveries in front of her, she has already learned, with wit and wisdom, many of the secrets of a fulfilled diplomatic life abroad and found her true calling in art.

'Create continuously and find time for goodness!' she says... indeed, my dear Arpi, let's all try to do that!



THE LIFE OF A DIPLOMATIC CHILD

BY AUDREY NGUYEN

Diplomatic children - a term increasingly used to refer to children whose parent(s) are diplomats. The early stages of their lives are usually characterized by moving, traveling, and cultural exchanges, something one might not expect from young children.

14-year-old Fernanda Ginschel is one of the many diplomatic children residing in The Hague. She and her family moved here two years ago when her father Jens-Volker Ginschel was assigned to the Embassy of Germany to the Netherlands as the Armaments Attaché.

Fernanda is in her 10th grade at the German International School of The Hague. As she is in her last few years of secondary school, academics are taking up most of her time. In addition, Fernanda is very passionate about sports, so her weekly schedule is packed with gymnastics, track and field, and tennis training. She would have liked to do even more if schoolwork did not keep her so busy. Whenever she does have free time, she loves spending it with friends or listening to music. Fernanda seems to be living the life of a typical teenager.

However, her father's occupation has given Fernanda a rather unique international experience for someone her age. She was born and raised in Germany under a German father and Peruvian mother, alongside her older sister. In 2015, her entire family moved to Madrid, Spain, and Fernanda parted with her home country for the first time. Five years later, they made a second move to the Netherlands for Mr. Ginschel's assignment.

When asked about her experience thus far, Fernanda spoke of it with much positivity and enthusiasm. Her family's situation has allowed her to see new countries, meet new people, and learn about other cultures. She adores the peacefulness that the Netherlands has to offer, along with the proximity of the beaches. Ever since she moved here, she has also taken up the Dutch biking culture; she will take her bike anywhere in the city.

Fernanda's distinct background and experience have also given her command of multiple languages. She speaks German and Spanish at home while learning English, Dutch, and French at school. Participating in local sports clubs is helping her practice Dutch, though she admits having German as her mother tongue has been a pleasant advantage. It is

not surprising to hear that languages are her favorite subjects in school.

Despite all her praises, Fernanda acknowledges that the life of a diplomatic child is not without challenges. Every move means leaving friends and familiarity behind to start again in a new setting. For example, she remembers the initial struggle of learning French at her current school as all her peers got an early start. Of course, there is no escaping homesickness either; aside from friends and family, Fernanda especially misses the German bread she used to get at home.

Nevertheless, "I'm just very grateful," expressed Fernanda; she appreciates all the new opportunities this experience has given her. One unexpected thing she has stumbled upon in the Netherlands is modeling. Fernanda reads many local magazines to learn Dutch, and she once saw a modeling advertisement in one of them. She has always been fond of taking photos, so she signed up. This landed Fernanda in her first photoshoot, with the theme being "Star for a Day." She chose to be Olivia Rodrigo, one of her favorite singers who is currently making waves amongst listeners of her generation. Her busy schedule has not given Fernanda the time for more modeling projects, but she would like to continue it soon.

When asked about her plans for the future, Fernanda is undecided at the moment, but she would like to interact with different cultures in an international environment. It seems reasonable considering her upbringing. She also wants to travel around and see more of the world, mentioning England and the United States at the top of her list. A career in diplomacy like her father would allow her to do so, but she still has plenty of time before making a decision.

In her message to fellow diplomatic kids, Fernanda simply says "don't be scared." The change will always be difficult at first, as one adjusts to leaving friends, family, and everything they know. However, this initial struggle will be worthwhile as you eventually discover so much about new people, places, and cultures. Besides, one does not have to leave all things one holds dear behind; she still keeps in touch with relatives and old friends, who will always be there when she comes back to visit. If given the chance to change her diplomatic child experience, Fernanda said she still would not do anything differently.

In her message to fellow diplomatic kids, Fernanda simply says "don't be scared." The change will always be difficult at first, as one adjusts to leaving friends, family, and everything they know. However, this initial struggle will be worthwhile as you eventually discover so much about new people, places, and cultures. Besides, one does not have to leave all things one holds dear behind; she still keeps in touch with relatives and old friends, who will always be there when she comes back to visit. If given the chance to change her diplomatic child experience, Fernanda said she still would not do anything differently.



Fernanda Ginschel Photography by Geert van Tol for Meiden magazine.

AWARD CEREMONY

CARNEGIE WATELER PEACE PRIZE 2022

BY ROY LIE ATJAM



Mr Piet Hein Donner chairman of the Carnegie Foundation, went on to highlight the significance of the event.

“The Swiss-based peace mediator “The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD)” received the 2022 Carnegie Wateler Peace Prize today at the Peace Palace in The Hague. The Carnegie Foundation Peace Palace awards this prize to HD for its more than 20-year track record in ending armed conflict and for its patient, creative and discreet approach.

The Prize is really an inspiration to me and my colleagues, and we will think of it, and of the values and motivation behind it, when we next find ourselves in a dark place, which is often. It will be a light for us.” – Dr. David Harland, HD’s Executive Director.

Founded in 1999, HD works beyond the confines of traditional diplomacy to establish discreet contact with all types of actors – armed groups, governments, communities and influential third parties – to prevent and resolve armed conflict through dialogue and mediation.

Among many other achievements, HD has supported the peace process in the southern

Philippines and brokered an immediate ceasefire in Libya in 2020, ending a chapter of open warfare in the country. For 15 years, HD discreetly contributed to the settlement of decades of violence in Spain, announcing in 2018 that the armed Basque group ETA had disbanded. HD and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-host the Oslo Forum, widely regarded as the leading international network for mediation in armed conflicts.

During talks between Russia and Ukraine earlier this year on resuming vital food supplies, teams from HD provided advice and assistance to the United Nations and Türkiye-led Black Sea Grain Initiative.

Mr. Piet Hein Donner, Chairman of the Board of the Carnegie Foundation, announced that yesterday a cessation of hostilities agreement was signed in Ethiopia, under the Obasanjo initiative, which was originally conceived and supported by HD in the quest for peace in the country.

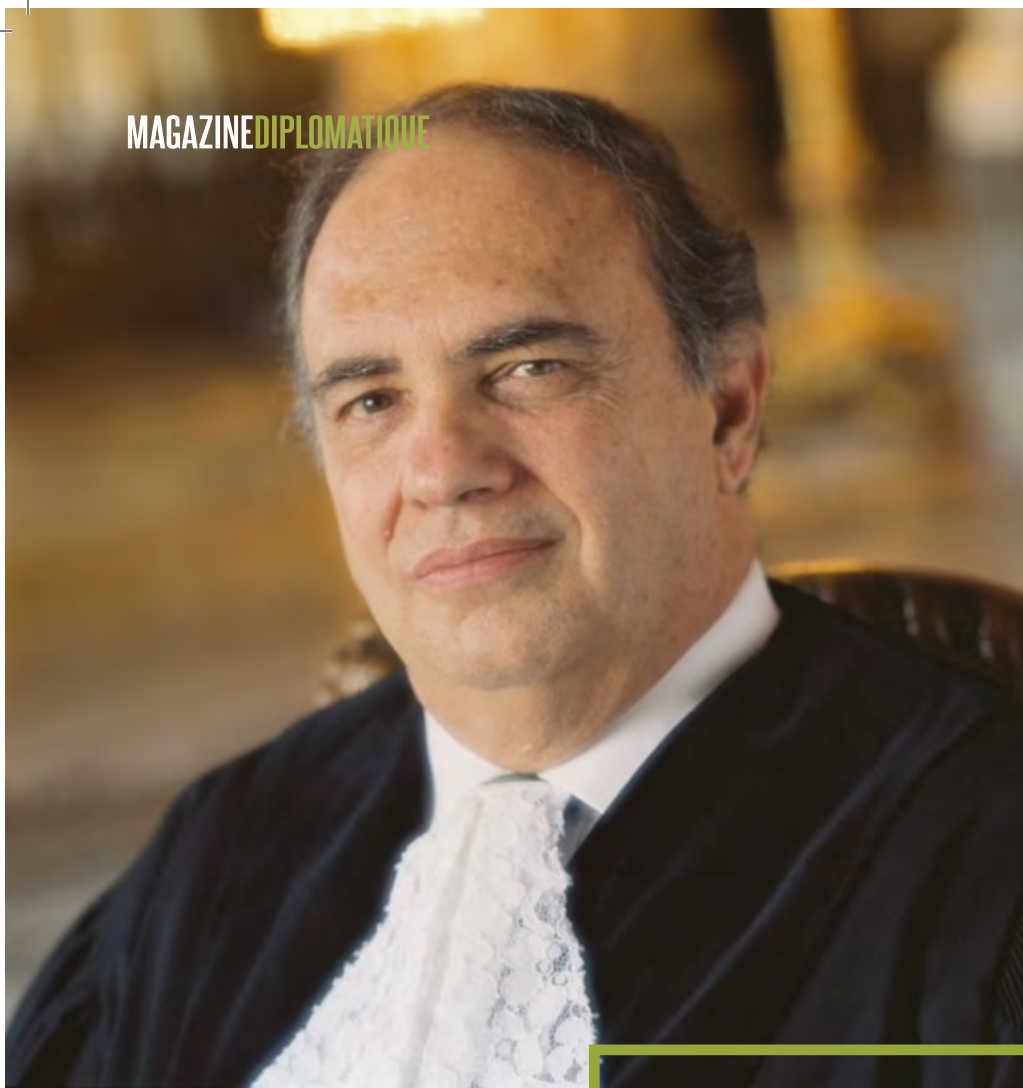
“In each case, and many more, the Centre has for more than 20 years operated behind the scenes- patiently, creatively, discreetly – to bring about results that simply couldn’t have been produced by traditional diplomacy.” said

Dr. Elisabeth Wesseling-Van Gent, Chair of the Carnegie Wateler Peace Prize Committee.

Today’s guests included representatives of the international legal organizations in The Hague, many ambassadors, Marielle Vavier, alderman of The Hague, who gave the opening speech, and former laureates: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Sigrid Kaag, Dutch Major General (ret) Patrick Cammaert and Rhea Mahanta, founder of The Peacebuilding Project.

Last year Mahanta received the Youth Carnegie Peace Prize but was unable to accept in person due to COVID-19. Today, she addressed the audience after meeting with peace organizations in the Netherlands earlier this week. Next year, the Youth Carnegie Peace Prize will again be awarded to a young peacemaker.”

The well-attended Award Ceremony Carnegie Wateler Peace Prize 2022 ended with a reception in the entrance hall of the Peace Palace.



IN MEMORIAM: ANTÔNIO CANÇADO TRINDADE (1947-2022)

PAR SE PHILIPPE COUVREUR

Ce 29 mai 2022 s'est éteint à Brasília, où il avait longtemps enseigné, **Antônio Cançado Trindade**, un illustre intellectuel et juriste, un homme de convictions, défenseur infatigable des idéaux les plus nobles, un être d'une profonde bonté d'âme et d'une grande simplicité, un joyeux compagnon et un ami très cher.

Rien ne pouvait laisser pressentir que cet homme si robuste et dynamique, travailleur acharné, toujours engagé avec enthousiasme et bonne humeur dans de nouveaux projets, passionné d'écriture, de livres et de musique (mais aussi, comme maints de ses compatriotes, de football) et doté d'un sens de l'humour de tous les instants, allait soudain connaître, au cours des deux dernières années, tant d'épreuves qui, à chaque fois surmontées avec un courage et une sérénité exemplaires, fort de l'appui de sa famille, avaient fini par laisser renaître tous les espoirs d'un rétablissement durable et d'une reprise prochaine de ses nombreuses activités, jusqu'à ce que la dernière eût raison de sa vie, ce triste jour de mai 2022...

Antônio Cançado avait vu le jour à Belo Horizonte (Brésil) en 1947. Après des études de droit à l'Université fédérale de Minas Gerais, il s'était spécialisé en droit international à l'Université de Cambridge,

dont il sortit docteur en 1977 avec une thèse très remarquée sur la règle de l'épuisement des voies de recours internes, qui lui valut le prix Yorke. De retour dans son pays natal, il fut d'emblée nommé professeur titulaire de droit international public à l'Université de Brasília (1978) et au prestigieux Institut diplomatique de Rio Branco (1979), charges qu'il conserva jusqu'à son élection à la Cour internationale de Justice en 2009.

Sa bienveillance naturelle et de son sens aigu de l'humanisme expliquent sans doute l'intérêt particulier que le professeur Antônio Cançado Trindade nourrit presque instantanément pour la protection internationale des droits de l'homme, à l'éveil duquel la préparation de sa thèse ne fut assurément pas étrangère. Il se convertit rapidement en l'une des plus éminentes autorités en la matière, et, pendant des décennies, fut appelé à partager son impressionnant savoir, solidement ancré dans l'histoire du droit des gens, et ses très

vives aspirations à la « ré-humanisation » progressive de ce droit, dans les établissements d'enseignement et autres institutions académiques (Académie de droit international de la Haye, Institut international des droits de l'homme de Strasbourg, Institut inter-américain des droits de l'homme, etc.) les plus en vue du monde. Les honneurs divers qu'il y reçut ne se comptèrent bientôt plus.

En même temps, Antônio Cançado eut le privilège d'être confronté durant de longues années aux réalités exigeantes et aux servitudes multiples de la « politique juridique extérieure », exerçant des tâches aussi variées que celles de conseiller juridique du ministère des relations extérieures du Brésil, représentant du Brésil à maintes conférences internationales, expert et conseiller de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, de plusieurs de ses agences et Institutions spécialisées, ainsi que de l'Organisation des Etats américains.

C'est donc fort d'un savoir et d'une expérience aussi solides que complémentaires qu'il trouva assez naturellement le chemin de la Cour interaméricaine des droits de l'homme, dont il fut successivement Juge ad hoc (1990-1994), Juge titulaire (élu en 1995 et réélu en 2000), Vice-Président (élu en 1997) et enfin Président (élu en 1999 et réélu en 2002). On sait combien cette institution, d'une importance capitale sur le continent américain, le marqua... aussi profondément qu'il allait à son tour la marquer.

Les quelque quinze années passées au service de la Cour interaméricaine, où il se forma au difficile métier de magistrat international, lui offrirent l'occasion d'œuvrer sans relâche, depuis une position unique, à la promotion du respect des droits de l'homme par l'application du droit. Il l'a constamment fait avec une totale liberté d'esprit, fidèle à ses idéaux et en plein accord avec sa conscience d'homme et de juge, privilégiant invariablement la générosité des objectifs assignés à la règle juridique par rapport à ses rigidités formelles, une règle qu'il s'est toujours évertué à humaniser, en l'interprétant de façon ouverte, dynamique et évolutive, pour lui conférer un maximum de ce qu'il estimait être son effet utile.

Élu membre de la Cour internationale de Justice en 2009, et réélu en 2018, Antônio Cançado Trindade s'y est inscrit dans la lignée des illustres juristes brésiliens qui l'y avaient précédé (Azevedo, Carneiro, Sette-Camara et Rezek); de tous, il fut celui qui siégea le plus longtemps à la Cour. Il lui insuffla un esprit nouveau. La Cour bénéficia à la fois de son savoir encyclopédique, qui n'avait d'égal que sa jovialité et sa modestie, et de sa vision éminemment progressiste du droit international, qui ne s'en nourrissait pas moins aux sources mêmes de celui-ci, les enseignements de ses pères fondateurs. Elle s'enrichit aussi de son expérience judiciaire antérieure. Antônio Cançado devait toutefois désormais exercer ses fonctions de juge dans un cadre assez différent. La Cour internationale de Justice, ouverte aux seuls Etats au contentieux, ne constituait en effet pas une cour des droits de l'homme, même si, avec l'extension progressive du champ d'application matériel du droit international, elle avait été amenée à en traiter des aspects chaque fois plus variés. La présence exclusive des Etats devant la Cour, et leur rôle encore fréquemment prépondérant dans les relations juridiques internationales, furent pour lui l'objet de préoccupations et de frustrations constantes.

Que les droits des individus fussent directement ou plus médiatement en cause dans les affaires qu'il eut à traiter, le Juge Antonio Cançado,

faisant preuve d'une vigilance sans faille, n'a jamais manqué l'occasion de remettre les intérêts de la personne humaine – qu'il regardait comme sujet plénier et permanent du droit international – au centre du débat, les faisant primer sur ceux des Etats, conformément aux exigences de ce qu'il dénommait le « nouveau jus gentium » et au « principe d'humanité ». Ce dernier devait selon lui trouver application bien au-delà des limites formelles du droit humanitaire et fonder les règles les plus essentielles de l'ordre juridique international, telles celles de l'interdiction du génocide et de la torture ou du droit à l'autodétermination des peuples, toutes règles qu'il considérait relever du jus cogens en vertu d'une *opinio juris communis*, émanation de la conscience universelle.

Dans les très nombreuses opinions qu'il signa, il n'eut de cesse de militer en faveur d'une « justice objective », propre au droit naturel, et de s'insurger contre les « effets pervers » du volontarisme étatique et du formalisme juridique, qu'il regardait comme des phénomènes, non seulement obsolètes et toxiques, mais aussi gravement immoraux, dès lors qu'ils étaient susceptibles de porter atteinte aux droits des personnes (« La Cour ne peut rester indifférente... au sort des êtres humains, ainsi qu'à leurs souffrances... il demeure nécessaire (pour elle) d'atténuer (ces) souffrances..., en faisant en sorte (avant tout) que justice soit faite »). Au « jus voluntarium » secrété par les Etats devait, pour Antônio Cançado, se substituer le « jus necesarium » dérivé des valeurs objectives de l'humanité toute entière. Maintes fois, le positivisme juridique, participant à son sens d'une « vision myopique du droit », a constitué la cible de ses attaques; il n'y voyait rien de moins qu'un facteur de « fossilisation du droit international », responsable de son maintien dans un état de « sous-développement ».

Ainsi n'a-t-il pas hésité à soutenir que le consentement des Etats à la juridiction de la Cour devait être interprété de manière à donner aux clauses compromissaires insérées dans les conventions de protection des droits de l'homme un effet utile maximal conforme à la nature et à l'objet de celles-ci (« La Cour ne peut demeurer l'otage du consentement des Etats »; « la conscience l'emporte sur la volonté ») ou que le droit d'accès des individus à la justice et leur droit à un procès équitable (droits fondamentaux relevant d'un jus cogens qu'il regrettait parfois être en voie de « déconstruction ») devaient primer sur les immunités des Etats (non destinées à leur assurer l'impunité) lorsque des violations graves du droit international étaient en cause (« Il est inadmissible... que des Etats prétendent s'accorder pour suspendre des

droits naturels de la personne humaine »). Dans le même esprit, le Juge Cançado s'en est pris à certaines « fictions juridiques », aujourd'hui si communes, telles celle de la protection diplomatique (« fiction vattelienne »), insistant sur ce que toute *reparatio* dans ce cadre devait être « déterminée du point de vue des victimes », dès lors que « les êtres humains – et non les Etats – (devaient) bénéficier des réparations des violations des droits de l'homme commises à leur détriment ». D'une manière plus générale, l'éminent Juge a par ailleurs fréquemment mis en relief l'importance de la renaissance d'une « justice réparatrice » des souffrances de l'humanité, qu'il appelait de tous ses vœux.

En dépit de son activité judiciaire intense, Antônio Cançado a réussi à poursuivre, à un rythme soutenu, les activités académiques et de recherche qu'il affectionnait tant, apportant une contribution substantielle aux travaux des nombreuses institutions de prestige dont il était membre (telles l'Institut de Droit international ou l'Academia brasileira de Letras jurídicas) et ne renonçant jamais à écrire, au point que l'on peut affirmer sans hésitation qu'il est l'un des auteurs les plus prolifiques de sa génération (près de 80 ouvrages et 800 articles ou autres publications).

Tout départ d'un être cher laisse un vide cruel auprès de ses proches et de ses amis. Celui d'Antônio Cançado Trindade laissera assurément aussi un vide énorme au sein de la communauté universelle des juristes. On doit à l'illustre défunt, parmi tant d'autres œuvres, un petit opuscule publié en 2013 à Valence et intitulé « Conversación con Antonio Augusto Cançado Trindade. Reflexiones sobre la Justicia Internacional », qui contient ces très belles paroles:

« La verdad es que hay una relación íntima de los vivos con sus muertos, que los "posmodernos", en su pobreza de espíritu, han dejado de cultivar, sometidos como están a la tiranía del "aquí" y del "ahora". En cambio, las culturas más antiguas de América latina enseñan que nuestros muertos siguen vivos dentro de nosotros, y solo mueren definitivamente el día en que nos olvidamos de ellos »



WHAT TO WATCH FOR AT SCO HEAD OF STATES SUMMIT IN SAMARKAND

By Vita Kobiela

On the 15-16th of September, Uzbekistan welcomed the 14 heads of state who jointly represented half of the world's population. Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin together with the other 12 Heads of State, including from India, Pakistan, Turkey, and 4 Central Asia nations - gathered in Samarkand - to take part in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Heads of State Summit.

Political outcomes

The number of signed documents, excluding the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), reached the number of 44. The procedure for granting Belarus membership of the SCO has been initiated, while Iran has signed a Memorandum of Obligations that would begin a year-long formal process for the country to attain full member status. On the 14th of September, both Qatar and Egypt signed a formal memorandum to become SCO's official partner-states, which is the first step to potential future accession. Applications for partner status in Bahrain and Maldives were also approved.

Economic outcomes

When it comes to the economic outcomes, the total amount of contracts signed only by Uzbekistan is estimated at \$26 billion. Uzbekistan and China signed agreements worth \$15 billion, while a package of new investment agreements signed between Uzbekistan and Russia was worth \$4.6 billion.

After 20 years of complex negotiations, within the framework of the SCO summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and China have finally signed a tripartite agreement on the construction of the transnational railway. Another historical breakthrough for Central Asia is the implementation of the project, which will expand the geography of trade and transportation from China through Uzbekistan to Europe and the Persian Gulf states through the Southern Corridor. New transport routes will redesign Eurasian connectivity per se, and the goods from South and Central Asia will be traveling to Europe faster, at a cheaper cost.

Uzbekistan has come up proposing to SCO members as well as to the whole world to rethink the value of multilateral cooperation at a time of great geopolitical and economic upheaval.

Samarkand Solidarity Initiative for Common Security and Prosperity, coined by the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev became the cornerstone of the SCO joint political declaration.

Samarkand Initiative, which is, in fact, the practical embodiment of the UN Declaration on Dialogue among Civilizations, adopted in 2001 by the UN General Assembly - is the symbiosis of the Shanghai and Samarkand spirits. The former is built on mutual trust, benefit, and equality, striving to resolve issues through consultations, respect for the diversity of civilizations, and movement toward joint development. The latter, as President Mirziyoyev pointed out, is an embodiment of constructive dialogue, mutual understanding, good neighborliness, and friendship.

Within this Initiative, the President of Uzbekistan proposed to rethink the value of multilateral cooperation in the framework of the global inter-civilizational inclusive dialogue. This dialogue will be conducted in 2023 as the **International Forum**, the main objective of which is to engage all states concerned in a global inter-civilization inclusive dialogue, to seek concerted approaches and solutions, restore trust, defuse global tensions, uncertainty, and unpredictability to build international cooperation.

VI DIPLOMATS FUN RUN & WALK



During the Autumn, as temperatures drop and leaves fall, it is tempting to spend more and more time indoors. But it isn't Winter yet! Saturday, October 22, saw the third edition of the Diplomats' Fun Run and Walk take place in The Hague. Attendees met at the Chalet ten Bosch, near the Louwman Museum and Embassy of the United States, and, after everybody spent some time getting settled and socialized, it was time to set off.

Attendees chose between doing a 5 km run, going all the way around the Haagse Bos, or a km walk which brought them some of the ponds before returning to the start. As the sky cleared, a light breeze carried through the air, and the park was alive with bikers, dog walkers, families, and all other sorts enjoying the fine October air. Diplomats from all around participated in this event including the Ambassadors of Ghana, Peru, Costa Rica, and Algeria. After everybody had completed their run or walk, beverages and a light lunch was served at the Chalet ten Bosch and, luckily, the sky had cleared to a cerulean sea, and everybody was able to sit outside. It was a marvelous opportunity for networking, renewing old connections, enjoying the fresh air, and to enjoy the beautiful nature which, here in Den Haag, we may sometimes forget we are lucky enough to have access to.

This was the third year that Diplomat Magazine had organized and sponsored this event and, for anybody who was not able to make it for this edition, we hope to see you next year!

BANGLADESH @ 50, WATER STORY PHOTO BOOK LAUNCH IN DELFT-THE NETHERLANDS

DIPLOMATIC EVENTS

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

The Bangladesh Ambassador in the Netherlands Mr Riaz Hamidullah, and Dutch Water Envoy Mr Henk Ovink, launched a book capturing award-winning pictures from younger Bangladeshi and Dutch photographers.

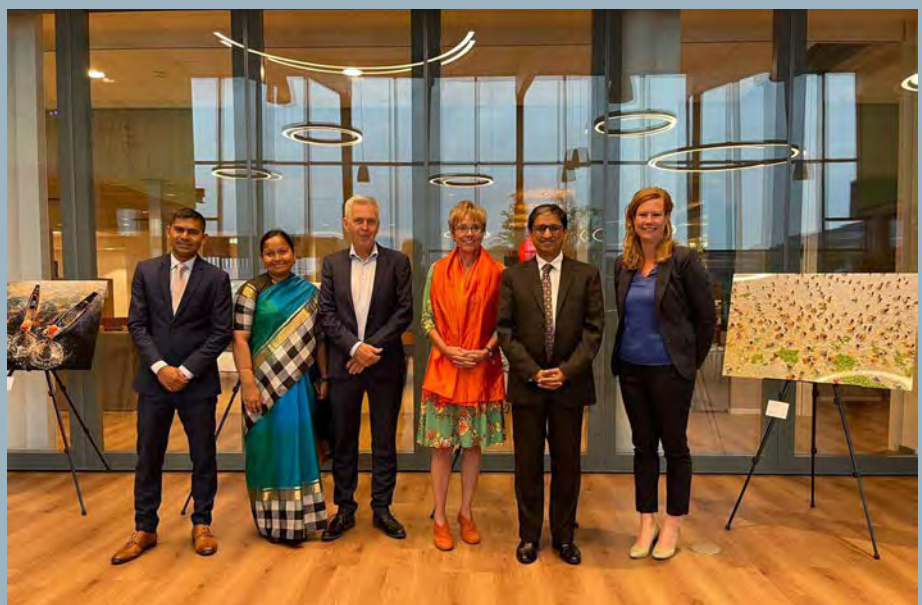
The book results from sixteen months of collaboration between the main Dutch water analysis establishment, Deltares – Annemieke Nijhof and the Embassy of Bangladesh.

In the past year, the Photo Contest had 800,000 outreaches on social media of which a jury has selected ten Bangladeshi pictures.

The commemorative photo book has been produced as a part of 50 years of diplomatic ties between the Netherlands and Bangladesh and devoted to the Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The book launching event attracted major figures from the Dutch water sector, such as IHE, Wageningen University, Royal Haskoning, and other institutions.

Several news outlets in Bangladesh as Financial Express, TBS News, and UNB, divulged the news of the launching of the prestigious work. Kudos to the Embassy of Bangladesh in the Netherlands.





H.E. Mr. Fikrat Akhundov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan.



The Ambassador of Peru, H.E. Mrs. Marisol Aguero Colunga, Mrs. Beatriz Piza, H.E. Mr. Arnaldo Brenes Castro, Ambassador of Costa Rica and the Ambassador

AZERBAIJAN CELEBRATES 104 YEARS DEMOCRATIC AND SECULAR STATEHOOD

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

The Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Netherlands H.E. Mr. Fikrat Akhundov and Mrs. Vusala Akhundova, hosted a reception on the occasion of the 104th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the first secular democratic republic in the Muslim East.

The celebration on Friday, 28 May 2022, was very well attended and featured many ambassadors; among them ambassadors of Algeria, Argentina, Costa Rica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Philippines, South Africa, and the Deputy Director General of the OPCW, diplomats from Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and others. Further, an Azerbaijani dance group performed National Dances adding to the festive atmosphere.

This year Azerbaijan and the Netherlands celebrate 30 years of diplomatic relations. For 30 years, Azerbaijan and the Netherlands built their relations on mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, Azerbaijan believes that these relations will further grow and contribute to the prosperity of the two nations.

Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov's welcome speech walked his guests through the history and independence proclamation to the present day. Indeed, the Ambassador spoke on a range of fascinating topics.

Ambassador Akhundov said "From ancient times Azerbaijan has been the bridge between East and West, North and South. This tendency has not changed for modern Azerbaijan. Due to this geographical position Azerbaijan became a principal transportation hub. Azerbaijan has built one of the biggest

ports at the Caspian Sea and Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway route has been realized.

After the restoration of its independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has participated in many regional projects, cooperating on the international stage with the EU, OSCE, NATO, OIC and became the reliable partner for both West and global South. Azerbaijan has been elected to the positions at different international organizations. Namely, Azerbaijan has been the non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2012-2013 and has been chairing Non-alignment movement since 2018.

In the framework of the partnership with NATO, for instance, Azerbaijan peacekeepers helped with the evacuation at Kabul airport in Afghanistan.

In its global efforts to fight COVID-19 and expressing its solidarity with states affected by the virus, the Government of Azerbaijan has donated 10 million US dollars to World Health Organization, 5 million of which was to support the most affected NAM countries.

Azerbaijan is strategic partner of EU in ensuring energy security of the region. Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and the natural gas projects TANAP and TAP were launched for

this purpose. TAP (transadriatic pipeline) in particular plays a key role in the EU's strategic goal of energy security.

Currently, in connection with the crisis in Ukraine, Azerbaijan has provided humanitarian aid worth 15 million euros and continues its efforts.

It should be also noted this year marks the 30th anniversary of Azerbaijani-Dutch diplomatic relations. For the last 30 years the relations between Azerbaijan and the Netherlands had a trajectory of development in different spheres, from agriculture to logistics, from education to tourism, culture and so on. About 50 Dutch companies work in Azerbaijan in different fields. Also Azerbaijan companies cooperate closely with Dutch companies in the Netherlands.

Today we present to you the products of Anna Dutch Company, which produces caviar of the sturgeon from Caspian Sea in the Netherlands. I would like to thank the company for its contribution to this event.

Azerbaijan and the Netherlands has a huge potential in the bilateral relations and we hope it will further deepen in the future."

The festive event concluded with a reception and a galore of caviar, courtesy of Anna Dutch B.V.

Happy Independence Day Azerbaijan!



Ambassador Akhundov welcome Odette Melono, Deputy Director General of the OPCW



Azerbaijan National Day 2022

THE COMMITMENT OF THE US INTELLIGENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS

By Marco Pizzorno

It all started in room 3603 of the Rockefeller Center, where the one who Gen Dwight D. Eisenhower, cited as "the last hero," created an intelligence program that would later become the world's largest security services agency and US information source.

It was 1941, the Second World War had revealed the atrocities and shame of racial policies that continued to destroy innocent lives. Europe was stunned. In an attempt to block the perpetration of genocide, and to safeguard the protection of people and their dignity, President Roosevelt signed an order appointing an Assistant Attorney General to Information Coordinator (COI).

His name was William J. Donovan, who history will remember as the protagonist of countless operations aimed at restoring freedom and democracy to many western nations. Donovan worked hard to train the information service and was the source of important international collaborations. His efforts were so effective that the government changed the name of the COI to the Office of Strategic Service.

Today, the official website of the US Department of Justice clearly explains the moment of that transition, that is when the US presidency declared the existence of the OSS.

The Office of Strategic Service turned out to be an extraordinary organization committed to the fight against evil, which worked assiduously for international justice and subjected criminals to the law, even paying with their own blood, thanks to the sacrifice of the lives of many of its agents.

The text of the official website of the Department of Justice, in fact, quotes verbatim:

"President Roosevelt issued an order to replace the COI with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and appointed Mr. Donovan as its director.

During World War II, the OSS focused on gathering crucial information on members of the Third Reich. Mr. Donovan's knowledge and experience was vital to the initial investigation into the Nuremberg Trials, where he was appointed Assistant Chief Prosecutor Robert Jackson".

The battle of William J. Donovan and the OSS to bring war criminals to justice.

When the war ended, the British and American governments did not seem intent on prosecuting war criminals. It would seem, in fact, that it was Donovan himself who insisted so much on the establishment of criminal proceedings that led President Truman to then give the order to collect all the technical elements useful for organizing these trials.

Supreme Court Justice of the time R. Jackson was in charge of war criminals. The magistrate's office realized that the OSS was the only agency to have worked on the matter, so much so that it invited Donovan to be part of the court's work.

Donovan's extraordinary work made it possible to gather information from Auschwitz survivors. This fact traced sensitive documentation on the SS and the Gestapo.

The Office of Strategic Service moves 172 officers into the Judge's investigation team who proved instrumental in the indictment evidence and what went down in history as the most important war trial.

The OSS continued its relentless work of safeguarding human rights even after the Second World War.

Today, as then, history repeats itself and American intelligence still seems to work tirelessly to ensure the West and the whole world those guarantees that make peoples free from autocratic regimes. These efforts go well beyond a departmental service, in fact they allow peoples the freedom to express themselves, but above all to exist and be able to "disagree", the possibility of hoping and dreaming of a better future and pursuing happiness because it is in its inspiring principles and it is an inalienable right declared by the Congress of Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. For this reason, it would be important to reflect on how precious the work of the OSS has been and how much that of the current US agencies that monitor in respect to human rights in today's age; The Attacks against democracy makes everyone equal without any distinction of race, ethnicity, political affiliation, birth and religion.



Photography by the Belgian Monarchy

TURKMENISTAN'S SAPAR PALVANOV PRESENTS CREDENTIALS IN BELGIUM

Thursday, 13 October 2022, Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium: At the Royal Palace of Brussels, His Majesty The **King of the Belgians** received the letters of credence from Turkmen Ambassador **Sapar Palvanov**, a first in Belgium for a top envoy having been dispatched by HE President **Serdar Berdimuhamedow**, who took over the Turkmen presidency on 19 March of this year.

Ambassador Palvanov distinguishes himself for speaking fluently the English, Russian and Turkish languages. He leads the Turkmen mission located in Brussels, which is also responsible for relations vis-à-vis the European Union, The Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg as well as the OPCW.

Palvanov joined the Turkmen foreign service back in 2013 by becoming a specialist, and subsequently a lecturer at the Institute of International Relations. From 2015, he specialised at the Americas Department of the Foreign Ministry, and became its Head in 2018.

During his tête-à-tête with The King of the Belgians, Ambassador Palvanov assured his interlocutor of the firm position of his Government aimed at bringing bilateral relations between Turkmenistan and the Kingdom of Belgium, and naturally, with the European Union, to a new high level. Sinewing trusting relations with the European Union in all possible spheres will be his main objective during his tenure in Brussels.

For further information:

Embassies of Turkmenistan:
<https://www.mfa.gov.tm/en/>



Luciana Dos Santos Duarte. Photography by NGO World Peace Initiative

DIPLOMACY FOR THE NONHUMANS IN THE AMAZON: FROM LAW TO INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

By Luciana dos Santos Duarte, PhD researcher at the International Institute

of Social Studies

In the name of Sustainable Development, the Brazilian Amazon has been the stage of several projects performing to save the world. By default, the projects are driven by the paradigms of "New", "Modern", and trends like "Forest 4.0", to which Technology is the answer to make profits while protecting the forest.

Although we are in the Anthropocene, pressuring the button of self-destruction, these projects are far from extinction. They exist due the connections of a corporation (buyer), an NGO (technical assistance and credibility in the forest), some cooperatives (workforce of rural farmers), multilateral banks (investors), and the Brazilian government (subsidies). All the actors connected are humans and its creations. – They are Culture.

On the other hand, the Amazon rainforest is just Nature, the stage where the actors play, something separated from Culture, something we can literally step on it, extract, and domesticate. This separation (Culture x Nature, Humans x Nonhumans) is fundamental for the mentioned paradigms to permanently exist in the forest, allowing projects to come and go. Like waves, the projects go to the Amazon according to profitable opportunities. Then, the projects go away. They incorporate New

ideas, not the Maintenance of previous ones.

The humans and nonhumans have an important difference, according to the French anthropologist Philippe Descola ("Beyond Nature and Culture", 2005): "Humans are subjects who have rights on account of their condition as men, while nonhumans are natural or artificial objects that do not have rights in their own right". Thus, it is an exclusivity of humans to exercise the authority over a certain domain of affairs. I might risk saying that we, humans who represent our Culture, are not so diplomatic with Nature. This assumption leads us to the core question: How to think diplomacy for nonhumans in Nature?

My positionality to answer this question is not from a diplomat, but from a product designer doing a double PhD in Production Engineering and Development Studies. By saying that, and recalling a quote by Einstein on creativity, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them", I am now confident to point out three possible paths to inspire an answer in Diplomacy: Law, Anthropology, and Industrial Design.

In 1972, Christopher D. Stone wrote the breakthrough article "Should Trees have Standing?", launching a worldwide debate on the basic nature of legal rights that reached the U.S. Supreme Court. He starts his argument on the reasons why Nature should be represented in the court, for instance remembering that

children in the past were seen as objects without rights, or just extension of their parents, until their rights were represented. Also, if nonhumans like corporations can be represented by lawyers, why not trees and rivers can be? Indeed, after half of a century of this seminal article, the first river in the world, the Whanganui, in New Zealand, was finally represented in the court. The river's interest is represented by two people, one member from the Crown, and one from the Maori people, a tribe that had been fighting for over 160 years to get this recognition.

Back to Anthropology, the Ontological Turn scholars have been including the nonhumans in the same epistemological level as humans. For instance, making Science from what is the form of life of indigenous peoples, creating ideas like perspectivism and pluriverse. However, our indigenous brothers do not know that their thinking-feeling can be framed in such fragmented ideas. They do not see the division Nature x Culture. – They are Nature.

Likewise, we can be Nature too, by creating our rational thinking, Science and projects. As a lecturer in Design, I am teaching my students to represent the voices of nonhumans in the design process. I believe that the agency of a lawyer should start in the embryonic stage of a project. Once the project is in the Amazon, where we find thousands of nonhuman species, there is a lot of work to do, not only for designers, but also for lawyers, policy makers

RIGHTS OF NATURE: AN EVOLVING MOVEMENT

By Dr. Dorine E. van Norren, independent researcher and civil servant

Few had heard of Rights of Nature fifteen years ago, but recently this new legal paradigm is becoming increasingly popular. That is, mostly in the Global South. Though it started in a few municipalities in the US since 2006 (starting with Pennsylvania), it is mostly the indigenous peoples who have embraced the concept. First in the Western Hemisphere and later in other continents. The Ojibwe in Minnesota declared rights for their wild rice (and related freshwater resources), the Ponca Nation (Oklahoma) claimed rights of Nature for their territory (to halt fracking) (2017). And 200 U.S. and Canadian tribal nations recognized the grizzly bear's right to exist in a healthy ecosystem (to counter President Trump's attempt to take it off the endangered species list). The people of Toledo also declared lake Erie to have rights (later overturned by a federal judge in 2020).

Frontrunners were also Bolivia and Ecuador who enshrined the indigenous concept of Vivir Bien/Buen Vivir in their constitutions in 2008. The Andean concept lived by the Quecha people of Sumak Kawsay was the basis and centers around living in harmony with Nature, that is to say biocentric living. This is in contrast to the Western anthropocentric way of living which puts the human at the centre of the universe, above nature and in control of it. This biocentric belief is shared by most indigenous people.

Bolivia organized the Alternative Climate Summit in 2010, issuing a Universal Declaration (and adopting a national law) for the rights of Mother Earth. Recently (2022), it also gave rights to Lake Titicaca. In 2012 the UN organization for Harmony with Nature was established. At the same time Ecuador adopted the first constitution with a rights of Nature clause (art 71-73) in 2008. Since then Colombia recognized the rights of several rivers (2016). Chile proposed a draft constitution recognizing the rights of Nature (to be voted on in September 2022). The Llaka Honhat community in Argentina won a case in which the InterAmerican court also recognized rights of Nature. And Mexico proposes (biodiversity) policies based on 'armonia con la naturaleza'. Though not

formally recognizing rights of Nature, Costa Rica has put many environmental policies in practice that are in this spirit.

Ecuador, however, remains the only country to constitutionally recognize these rights. To mention a few court cases that ensued. In a recent landmark decision the constitutional court forbid mining in the area of Los Cedros Forest, and courts did so for a few other areas (Llurimagua territory in Imbabura, the indigenous Sinangoe territory & Amazon rivers, Pinas de la Chuva hills). Other cases involved limits on agriculture (pig farming pollution, shrimp farming in a mangrove area, pine tree plantation in a paramo ecosystem) and genetically modified crops limiting 'food sovereignty'. The first case ever won gave the river Vilcabamba rights over the claimed right to development (road construction) by a municipality. And the Galapagos islands benefitted by enhanced jurisdiction tackling illegal shark fishing. Rights of Nature also included protection of animals, most notably the domesticized monkey Estrellita. In the case of oil spills by Chevron in the Amazon, decided on earlier by conventional environmental law, but disputed by the oil company, defendants recently also successfully invoked rights of Nature.

In the meantime other countries in the world are catching up. Bhutan enshrined guardianship of Nature in its constitution of 2008 (including mandatory forest cover of 60%) that is entirely based on its (Buddhist) Gross National Happiness philosophy. In the front row also sat New Zealand in 2012 giving rights to Te Urewere National Park, mountain and a river in cooperation with indigenous peoples. Uganda adopted a rights of Nature law in 2019. In the same year, the court in Bangladesh recognized rights of rivers and the local court in India of the Yamuna and Ganges rivers (later overturned by the Supreme Court). In Europe the Spanish are writing history giving rights to the Mar Menor lake (2022). In the Netherlands rights are being petitioned for the Waddenzee and the river Maas. The design museum Nieuwe Instituut became a zoöp (zoöperation giving voice to all life).

With this new movement some initial steps have been taken in the fight against climate change and protection of the Earth..

Dr. Dorine E. van Norren. Photography by Kim Vermaat.



SCORING A GOAL FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN PLASTIC POLLUTION TALKS

By Claudia S. de Windt y Romain Collet

More than the world cup is in play this year. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) kicks off with high stakes. In an ambitious two-year timetable, finalizing a treaty that will define whether we live in a world where plastics improve our lives or make our planet unlivable.

Scoring a goal towards ending plastic pollution is in Latin America and the Caribbean's (LAC) best interest. With plastic pollution, like with climate change, the region is vulnerable and suffers greatly effects without being a major culprit. It must position itself and push for effective governance in a fair and decisive way. Multilateralism and private investment are needed more than ever. The real challenge doesn't lie in the creation of a treaty but one that adapts to lessen the burden of future generations, articulates existing frameworks, non-traditional plastic institutions and achieves multi-stakeholder dialogue, especially with non-state actors to catalyze investment at scale in LAC's circular economy.

Despite a roadmap endorsed by 175 countries, effective talks will require objectivity and keeping the eye on the ball. Plastics have solved critical problems of humanity benefiting the region greatly. Consensus on how to end plastic pollution is the challenge, not plastic. Plastic pollution is a substantial contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, in addition human, marine and terrestrial environment hazards.

Plastic is the most persistent pollutant. Traveling through air, land and sea freightage or using oceans, rivers and streams as mediums, affects the environment, hampers efforts to tackle the nature and climate crisis and to guarantee human rights. It is a global problem with local implications requiring responses at different levels. Plastic materials production in LAC only accounts to about 4% percent of the total approximate global production of 368 million metric tons. LAC generates under 12% of the global waste but bears a heavier brunt of its effects. Plastics have a significant carbon footprint and emit 3.4% of global greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gas emissions from the plastic lifecycle affect meeting global climate targets. LAC is one of most vulnerable regions to climate change.



About 8 million tons of plastic, expected to triple by 2040, flow from rivers and beaches into the ocean yearly. These plastics are broken down by waves and the sun into small microplastics. Absorbed persistent organic pollutants traces have been found in blood, clothing, migratory species and even in animals sampled from deep sea. Additionally, the Mesoamerican Reef data shows that when plastic meets a reef, the coral is 20 times more likely to be afflicted by disease. Plastic is also clogging poorly managed landfills that result in never ending fires with health and human rights implications for the poorest and most vulnerable communities that tend to live next to them.

Plastic pollution raises human rights along with social and environmental justice concerns. The legal architecture to address them is fragmented and piecemeal. Different aspects of plastic pollution are covered by at least nine Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) yet not by a single international treaty. The beaches from Yucatan to Santo Domingo evidence that one nation's regulations do not prevent another's waste from reaching its shores. No uniform global standards or policies guide the industry. Strikingly, there is no common definition of biodegradable plastics. This has become an issue for multinational corporations selling in various countries. Despite advances, concerted action at the sectoral and multilateral governance levels in the region remains a main issue.

The INC Resolution provides a glimpse of what seems to be the framework and guide for treaty talks. Several options are on the table but many questions persist, divergent views, and a plethora of interested parties from industry lobbying to make their views known and reflected – some to encourage, some to block. Action is needed from multiple angles at each stage of the plastic life cycle for real impact in LAC.

Non-State Actor roles in different fronts must be reconsidered. Instead of burdensome enforcement mechanisms, more is needed on market opportunities. Shifting to circular economy including bio-based plastics is an important part of the solution. The transition requires significant investments in sustainable business models. The global plastic market is to increase revenues to USD 811.57 billion by 2030, including for fuel efficiency and eventually reducing emissions. Waste recycled in LAC (4.5 %) is significantly below the world average. A treaty needs to foster the role of emerging markets in the region.

A SPECIAL TRIBUNAL FOR UKRAINE?

By Steven van Hoogstraten, Former director Carnegie Foundation

A large part of the world is full of indignation about the military invasion by Russia in Ukraine; War crimes which are being committed against Ukrainian civilians and about the sham referenda in and the subsequent fake annexation of four Ukrainian regions by Russia. The general mood is that perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine should be held to account in a court of law, more precisely at the International Criminal Court in the Hague. The Prosecutor of the ICC, Karim Khan, has started a process of investigations in Ukraine with the primary aim of collecting and validating as much evidence as possible. He did so at the request of no less than 39 member nations of the ICC, a request already made to him by the end of February 2022. In his endeavours he is receiving the active support of Eurojust, also in the Hague.

The road to international justice through the ICC is certainly not without promise, as Ukraine – while not a member of ICC – has accepted the jurisdiction of the ICC for this particular situation. As we all know, Russia is not a subscriber to the Rome Statute. The Accountability Conference in The Hague on 14 July 2022, a ministerial summit at the joint invitation of the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs and the European Commission, concluded that all efforts should be made to coordinate the various efforts which are now being deployed with the ICC in a prime role, on “pole position” so to speak.

While the ICC can investigate the personal responsibility for Russian (alleged) crimes, it cannot at the present time look into the aggression by a state or of state officials towards another state. For that purpose, a separate and independent tribunal is necessary in the eyes of many legal experts. I mention an initiative led by former British PM Gordon Brown, supported by many well-known names in the world of international law, to come to the creation of a “Special Tribunal for the Punishment of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine”. International rules exist to protect us from such aggressive actions, reflected in the Charter of the United Nations, which is “the closest thing we have to an international constitution”. Rules which protect the political independence and the territorial integrity of a state, and which prohibit the use of force other than for defensive purposes.

These are the words of one of its proponents, professor Philippe Sands from London, in the Financial Times. Philippe Sands is a regular visitor of The Hague as an advocate before the Courts (notably the ICJ and the PCA). In several media he has branded Putin's use of force as a crime of aggression, as the waging of an illegal war, an idea that originated at the war crimes tribunals of Nuremberg and Tokyo as the famous “crime against peace”.

The call for a new Special Tribunal, that would work in cooperation with ICC and not take its place, has been supported openly by the Ukraine Minister of Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba, by the European Parliament, and recently even by the Czech President of the Council of Ministers of the EU Johan Lipavsky (17 September) “after new mass graves were found in Ukraine”. But official reactions from EU members to the idea of a separate tribunal have not been registered so far, neither from the United States.

The decision how to proceed in the matter will not be an easy one, and it will notably be difficult to evaluate all the pro's and con's in a situation where the military invasion is still going on. The establishment of a Special Tribunal will have to overcome obstacles in the UN, where a permanent member can easily use its power of veto. Remember that the ICTY was the result of a resolution in the Security Council, with all major partners in favour. Also, if such a special tribunal were



S van Hoogstraten. Photography by Naldo Peverelli

to see the light of day, would that not block the lines of communication with Russia all together? Would it promote a sustainable restoration of peace?

The Netherlands will have to make up its mind as well. Not only as to the subject matter of a Special Tribunal. But should The Hague again be appointed as the host city to such a tribunal, like was the case in so many instances before? In my eyes, that would be a logical step, something that the world would expect. I was happy to read that the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs was quoted as being open to the idea. In this context I assume that the notion of serving as the World's Legal Capital should encourage the Dutch government to look at this question in a positive way. Such an institution in The Hague will provide the best guarantee of a smooth cooperation with the International Criminal Court, which will be of the essence. Let justice prevail.

¹ Declaration by Gordon Brown and others of 28 February 2022

OPEC AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

By Eugene Matos and Adrian Zienkiewicz

OPEC is a leading international organization driving the prices of petroleum worldwide. Just like a blowout from an oil well, the price of black gold skyrocketed through the influence consolidated by OPEC to then find itself oscillating due to war, global changes in economic models, extraction processes, political mentalities, and supply. Many countries experienced an energy crisis in 2021, and although there is greater diversity in primary energy production, a total transition away from oil is impractical, if not impossible, for the next few decades. That is where OPEC's relative power shines through as its members' proven crude oil reserves account for nearly 80% of global reserves as per OPEC's 2018 reports. How is OPEC perceived through the scope of international law?

OPEC is often described as an intergovernmental cartel, since its thirteen independent members work together to maintain control over the market, all whilst increasing their revenue. What leads to this attribution is its fascinating decentralized nature, as all members retain their state sovereignty and policy is expressed through resolutions. These resolutions, which are analogous to treaties that operate based on *pacta sunt servanda*, are passed unanimously under article 11 c) of the OPEC Statute, but there are no monitoring mechanisms for noncompliance. Production policy is not articulated through these resolutions, further emphasizing the need for members to act in good faith and cooperate more efficiently with shifting supply and demand. As listed in article 9 of the OPEC Statute, OPEC's governing bodies operate in voting policies and managing the organization. Although the Secretariat exists as a quasi-executive organ, its role also consists of preparing the Conferences represented by the members' delegates. State sovereignty and autonomy principles are supreme and understanding the organization's existence through mutual self-serving economic interests means that there are no inherent or desired supranational qualities.

OPEC has never managed to develop its own court to settle disputes related to petroleum matters, and there is no solitary codified regulation, as all points are brought before the Conferences. OPEC can be characterized as a legal entity holding diplomatic and political advantages, as it benefits primarily from the principle of sovereign immunity, one that,

according to article 6A of the OPEC Statute, is from every form of legal process unless "expressly waived".

The meteoric rise on the global stage that OPEC experienced in the 1970s accompanied a fair share of lawsuits through antitrust arguments. This was seen especially in the U.S., where the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976 contended with OPEC's legal status, opening the doors to several legal actions, and culminating with *International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers v OPEC*. IAM was concerned with the high prices of petroleum during the latter half of the decade and possessed a personal interest as this would affect its profits. It was argued that price setting breached U.S. antitrust laws. The court ultimately sided with the defendant, since deciding on the legality of a sovereign act would have politically sensitive and unintended effects. On appeal, this decision was affirmed and even cited the act of state doctrine, which expresses the sovereignty of states and non-interference, and arguments in favor of the Sherman Antitrust Act fell.

American citizens would have been able to successfully sue through State courts, and even though the "action of sovereign nations coming together to agree on how each will perform certain sovereign acts can only, itself, be a sovereign act", this could have only increased in volume and possibly included situations of vexatious litigation. *Hartford Fire Insurance Co. v. California* nevertheless settled in 1993 that violations to the Sherman Act can be used to make a sovereign entity liable if it intends to restrict trade. This has not yet been utilized against matters involving OPEC.

Besides, *Illinois Brick Co. v. Illinois* decided that violations to antitrust laws can be remedied only to direct and not indirect actors of a particular sector. Direct suppliers of petroleum could theoretically proceed through litigation, but the complexity and intertwining nature of the sector makes it that OPEC isn't challenged this way. OPEC adapts to market trends and establishes accommodating prices to the members' and most of the supply chain's advantage.

Prewitt v OPEC was another high profile U.S. case that elaborated antitrust breaches through the Clayton Act, referred to Austrian law (seeing how the seat of OPEC is in Vienna) and mentioned the federal International Organizations Immunities Act which OPEC is not designated by. No matter the difference in how the U.S. government officially perceives OPEC, the organization is heavily protected by international principles. United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 1803 (XVII) and 3281 (XXIX) point to the sovereign control over resources. OPEC is an organization of several independent, sovereign countries, and thus legal actions would not hinder their operations or exporting capacities. The organization is by all means a monopoly, but claims of significant predatory practices have not been satisfied.

The defense through the foreign sovereign compulsion principle, which posits that a defendant could have been compelled to breach antitrust laws, has rarely been used. Its use against OPEC has never been raised and would otherwise be irrelevant, as the only successful application was seen in *Interamerican Refining Corp. v. Texaco Maracaibo* bearing specific circumstances. Successful legal action against OPEC in national jurisdictions would have to compete with international tenets. In the U.S. again, the judicial path is narrow, and the violations and legal remedies available would have to be specific. Although the U.S. enjoyed greater levels of petroleum production throughout the 21st century, legislative proposals for expanding antitrust laws to target OPEC exist. "NOPEC", an amusing pun to the organization, is an unenacted bill that was most recently debated in the House Judiciary Committee in 2021. With OPEC's unique status, the recourse through international apparatuses is unclear and OPEC is not challenged.



DIPLOMAT TOURISM & CULTURE

ART AND CULTURE IN PAKISTAN

What an exceptional and exclusive opportunity it was for about thirty members and guests of the Arts Society The Hague to be invited to Pakistan House on Friday 14 October! The Special Event was organized by the Embassy of Pakistan in cooperation with the AS The Hague, on the subject of contemporary trends in art and culture in Pakistan.

Introduced by (retired) Ambassador Andrea Perugini, Chairman of the AS The Hague, His Excellency Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, Ambassador of Pakistan to the Kingdom of The Netherlands, gave a special lecture based on his recent book "All That Art". Rich in colorful slides and powerpoint explanations, the Ambassador presented a comprehensive overview of the vibrant Art of Pakistan and its global significance. He showed paintings and works of art of a number of artists from his country, and commented on the differences in generations and styles, both in Pakistan and abroad, thus allowing the audience to look at art both from the inside as well as from a distance.

The Ambassador proved to be an able and eloquent art critic, narrating the individual stories and trajectories in style and artistic production of a selected group of contemporary artists from his country through a personal lens thanks to his past experience and his wide contacts. Early on in his life he had been exposed to the works and creative processes of many of Pakistan's leading artists, while visiting their studios and interacting with them because of their friendship with his distinguished father, one of the most famous contemporary living Pakistani writers. Ambassador's Tarar's knowledge was further enhanced by the fact that he attended the National College of Arts in Lahore and was subsequently, as a diplomat, posted to New York, where he became acquainted with the art and architecture of multi ethnic societies, enjoying this city's rich cultural heritage and following its roots of abstract impressionism.

During the course of his very varied lecture he highlighted in particular the revival of Pakistani miniature and landscape art and paintings. A new, original and unexpected world of knowledge opened up for the members and guests of the AS The Hague who were surprised and captivated by the richness of his presentation. The evening was enlivened by an excellent musical programme of classical opera arias from Mozart and Dancla performed by the duo "The New Phoenix Ensemble", with Letizia Maula', clarinet, and Sylvia Cempini, cello. Both were welcomed with enthusiastic applause by the audience and a rich buffet of Pakistani delicacies closed the evening.

A reference was made by both Ambassadors to the unprecedented floods that caused casualties and so much destruction in Pakistan. Thanks to members' contributions and a successful raffle of valuable Pakistani art and culture books made available both by the the AS The Hague, and the Pakistan Embassy, the Arts Society was able to raise, in symbolic solidarity with the affected populations, an amount of 1215 Euros which was donated to the Pakistan Flood Relief Fund.

The Arts Society the Hague is happy to participate in further similar Special Events with other Embassies interested in reaching out to the wider Dutch and International audience represented by its membership in The Netherlands.

NATIONAL DAYS

LUXEMBOURG NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION 2022

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

The Ambassador of Luxembourg, H.E. Mr Jean-Marc Hoscheit and Mrs Nicole Hoscheit-Maes organized a reception on the National Day of Luxembourg at their residence on 23 June 2022.

On this sunny afternoon, the lawns of the residence serve as a fabulous backdrop for the reception. Without a doubt, Ambassador Hoscheit's colleagues enjoy the program.

In his speech, Ambassador Jean-Marc Hoscheit expressed the view that many tourists will visit Luxembourg since the free movement of persons within the Schengen countries has resumed. Hoscheit invited his guest to taste the Luxembourg cuisine and beverages.

The saxophone quartet Saxitude a creative and high-energy saxophone quartet from Luxembourg delighted the guests with their musical intermezzo. Further, on the program, Mr Piet Hein Donner was made "Grand Officer of the Order of the Oak Crown".

Those in attendance included a long slate of Ambassadors and other dignitaries, China, DG.OPCW and many others.

Congratulations Luxembourg.



AN INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

By Adrian Zienkiewicz

Man-made ecological disasters arise through the mismanagement of energy resources, technological and industrial accidents, and often the prioritization of unmitigated output over sustainable environmental development. No matter how these disasters occur, there are long-term economic repercussions and a negative impact on the quality of life. What then is the role of international law in disaster risk reduction?

A prelude to a more uniform regime was the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment of 1972 based on the idea that human activity was able to have a long-lasting influence on surrounding environments — it is only natural to ensure environmental stability, as humans' fragile existence on this Earth is predicated by nature's preservation. An action plan and 26 governing principles originated through this Conference. The following Rio Conference of 1992, on the backdrop of notable disasters such as Bhopal, Chernobyl, and the Exxon Valdez oil spill, strengthened the commitments to environmental protection. The MARPOL Convention and the UNCLOS through its part XII are international treaties reserved for maritime law, focusing on the prevention of pollution. The IAEA serves as an international regulatory body for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and more importantly its safe waste disposal.

The Sendai Framework, a product of the 2015 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action, sets out objectives, namely, to encourage cooperation between nation-states and deliver assistance to those affected by disasters. The Building Back Better strategy delineated by this document reflects these elements in providing humanitarian and financial relief in the wake of disasters, as well as preventing future disasters through sufficiently durable infrastructure and social initiatives. The UN *Sustainable Development Goals* launched the same year operate in parallel to entice countries to work towards a more sustainable future while the UNISDR reveals that disasters account for global losses of up to US\$1.5T. Draft Articles on the 'Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters' submitted by the International Law Commission in 2016 mention the reduction of the risk of disasters through article 9, and play a complementary role to international treaties as stated by article 18. The UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and the Paris Agreement are other examples of international

tools aimed at raising awareness of the effects of anthropogenic activities and climate change which contribute to the scale and frequency of disasters. Despite its short existence, the Sendai Framework appears to be the prime legal regime on risk reduction due to the presence of patterned behavior, in that 187 UN member states adopted the framework and NGOs actively participate in its promotion. With the presence of clear norms and rules, it will retain its status unless supplanted by a more comprehensive document.

The distinction between man-made and natural disasters (otherwise known as "Acts of God") exists, yet some natural disasters that occur due to heightened human activity blur lines. For instance, earthquakes would be included in the natural disaster category, but what of forest fires aggravated by man-made contaminants? States that accept to be parties in trials have encountered lawsuits specifically on environmental matters. Coupled with internal legislation, which does not necessarily need to be extensive but at the least includes reasonable protective statutes, there is an increased sense of responsibility. The Aarhus Convention brought signatories to make municipal, national, and multilateral legislation public access. This would effectively encourage citizens to participate in public debate, as States would react and adopt sensible environmental laws. International environmental law, as in other sectors, lacks hard sanctions for violations of its treaties, albeit the EU created criminal sanctions through its institutions. Directive 2008/99/EC, through its article 3, cites an inclusive list of offenses, and stipulates in article 5 that offenses are "punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal penalties". EU member states that had insufficient legislation were encouraged to modify it and include criminal penalties that incorporate the three criteria of article 5. In the U.S., where most remedies are not bound by a "ceiling" amount, companies and third parties will be held responsible and charged with multi-million-dollar fines or forced to hefty settlements. Note also, the only universally ratified treaties in UN history, the Vienna Convention of 1985 and the following Montreal Protocol, serve to protect the ozone layer.

The harm principle, in which actions are limited to preventing harm done to other parties, is seen primarily through the Trail Smelter arbitration case. The case demonstrates that remedies through transboundary pollution can be obtained,

and that States are accountable to each other for any such environmental harm done. The landmark decision from the ICJ in *Costa Rica v Nicaragua* allotted remedies to Costa Rica in 2018 for ecological damage perpetrated on its territory by Nicaragua. The Court's finding that "damage to the environment, and the consequent impairment or loss of the ability of the environment to provide goods and services, is compensable under international law" will likely serve as a key persuasive precedent on future environmental damages disputes. Multilateral environmental agreements that break down could proceed to negotiation, arbitration, or legal action in front of international courts of law. Even though court cases are rare, one is presented with a large degree of flexibility to hold parties responsible for their actions. Dispute settlements that coincide with particular economic interests can also be brought before the WTO.

The objective of international environmental law is most certainly that of the prevention of environmental harm rather than the assessment of damages after the fact. Prevention is logical as there would be no accommodable reparation for the destruction of ecosystems. Thorough national legislation and international cooperation lead to effective strategies of protection, as private corporations and public agencies are held to a high degree of accountability. It is national mechanisms that enforce international principles, and States that have inadequate laws are eventually subject to public pressure. A proposal to create a distinct international environmental court could be initiated to quell concerns between States in times where globalization has led, coincidentally, to both unprecedented productivity and environmental degradation.

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INDIA-NETHERLANDS PARTNERSHIP: OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT

Dutch and India representatives from both the government and the business sector gathered to celebrate India's decision to invite the Netherlands as a guest country in the upcoming G20, which New Delhi will preside. The gathering was an important occasion to promote business and investment relations between the two countries.

On December 1st, 2022, India officially inaugurated its Presidency of the G20, a group of powerful countries that together represent around 85% of the world's GDP, over 75% of global trade, and about two-thirds of the world's population. In its role as G20 President, the Indian government decided to invite the Netherlands as a guest country – a proof of the strong political and economic partnership enjoyed by the two countries. To celebrate this occasion – as well as to further stimulate bilateral economic ties – the Embassy of India in the Netherlands organized a symposium on business and investment opportunities between the two countries.

The Indian Embassy was represented by Ambassador Reenat Sandhu. In addition, Ms. Ravneet Mann – Vice-President of Invest India, the agency in charge of promoting investment in the country – also flew all the way from New Delhi in order to attend the event. While the majority of the Dutch guests were business representatives, the symposium also featured the presence of representatives of the Dutch government.

The event started with opening remarks from Ambassador Sandhu, who voiced her government's priority for the forthcoming G20 Presidency. "India is taking charge of the G-20 at a time when we are witnessing geopolitical tensions and experiencing economic uncertainty, rising food and energy prices, supply chain disruptions and ill effects of the pandemic. In this challenging time, the world is looking at the G20 with hope. Prime Minister Modi has emphasised that India's

G20 Presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented. The theme of our G20 Presidency, 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', symbolizes hope and our goal to bring the world together for global good."

The Ambassador went on to explain the specific priorities that India plans to adopt during its Presidency, reflecting on the synergies that these priorities create with bilateral cooperation efforts between her country and the Netherlands. "Sustainable lifestyles, circular economy, accelerating SDGs, food security, digital health, energy transition, use of digital technology for development and inclusion, women led development, start-ups & innovation will be among the top priorities of India's G20 Presidency.

Ambassador Sandhu also praised India's economic potential and the opportunities that the country's economy offers for Dutch businesses. "Today, India is working at more speed and scale than ever before. India is now the 5th largest economy in the world with a large talented pool of skilled manpower. The ease of doing business in India has vastly improved. A massive push is being given to infrastructure development and to creating an efficient logistics network. Our 'Make in India' programme also aims to 'Make for the World' and presents ample opportunities for investment and joint ventures for Dutch companies."

The Ambassador's contribution was followed by that of Ravneet Mann, who explained some of the initiatives undertaken by the Indian

government to promote trade, investment and a business friendly environment. Invest India's Vice-President also laid out some of the opportunities for investing in India, and invited Dutch companies to invest in the country. This contribution was compounded by those of representatives from different Dutch ministries (specifically those of economic affairs and climate policy, infrastructure and water management, foreign affairs, and agriculture), as well as by speakers from the private sector (representing Royal Philips and Poonawalla Science Park). The speakers praised the current state of cooperation between India and the Netherlands, reflecting on existing opportunities to further strengthen this partnership.

Overall, the event celebrated and cemented the solid bilateral economic ties enjoyed by the two countries. The Netherlands is now India's 4th largest trading partner in Europe, with total bilateral trade exceeding USD 17 billion in 2021-22. The Netherlands is also the largest export destination for Indian goods in Europe, and in 2022 it has become the 3rd largest export destination for Indian goods in the whole world. Investment ties are also very strong: the Netherlands is the 4th largest investor in India, with USD 42 billion worth of investments, while also being the 4th largest destination for Indian overseas direct investment (ODI), worth USD 22 billion. More than 350 Indian companies have a presence in the Netherlands, and a similar number of Dutch companies are present in India.





PANAMA, LAND OF ADVENTURE

So many unique experiences within hours of landing at the airport!

Panama achieved a remarkable 30% protected marine area and 32% protected land mass by 2021, becoming one of a handful of countries to meet the 30 x 30 ODS goals 9 years ahead of time! Panama's Corredor de Coiba allows for the protection of an ecosystem that is one of the last major refuges for rare and endangered species of tropical America.

With a direct flight departing from Amsterdam, you arrive to a city that amazes most first-time visitors with its unexpected skyline. Panama City, is home to some of the tallest skyscrapers in Latin America, resembling Miami or New York.

Although we have countless beaches, mountains and exotic adventure, it is highly recommended that time be spent in the dynamic city of Panama. Panama City is home to the ruins of Panama Viejo (Old Panama), the first Spanish establishment on the Pacific, which is separated from Casco Viejo (the renown historic district and UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Site since 1997) by 5 world class shopping malls, the banking and financial center, many architectural wonders, multi-cultural neighborhoods and restaurants offering a varied gastronomic experience, all within a distance of 14 kilometers.

A short hike up Cerro Ancón gives you a magnificent view of Casco Viejo, the city, the Pacific Ocean, the Panama Canal and Taboga island, called Isla de las Flores (island of flowers). Taboga is a beautiful and relaxing

day trip that is accessible only 30 minutes away by ferry boat.

You can head west or east from the city depending on what experience you seek. Daily flights depart from the smaller airports but most destinations are connected by road. To the east you head towards the most remote province, commonly called the Darien Gap, as it is a primary forest considered the most important "natural lung" in the Americas. This protected area contributes to Panama's being one of three carbon negative countries in the world.

The Comarca de Guna Yala (previously known as San Blas), is home to the Gunas, the first indigenous group to gain autonomy in Latin America. The reservation, comprised of its mainland as well as 365 islands in the Caribbean. Guna Yala is certainly worth a visit if you seek a once in a lifetime experience in paradise!

However, if you choose to go west, upon crossing one of several bridges over the Canal, you venture into a reality that includes secondary cities, small villages and numerous beaches with warm tropical waters and a range of sand that goes from almost black to white. Restaurants or side of the road "fondas" serving traditional food are very reasonably priced and delicious.

A mere 2 hours away from the bustling city life, you can also visit El Valle de Anton, a

micro climate utopia. El Valle is the largest continually inhabited volcanic crater in the world with an average temperature of 22 degrees. El Valle offers endless possibilities of adventure, horse-back riding, relaxation, flora and fauna appreciation, outdoor market shopping or simply enjoying the gastronomical variety.

Chiriqui is the most westward province. Located here is the Baru Volcano, the tallest mountain in Panama at almost 3,500 meters. Because of the fertile soil it has provided over centuries, this province is known for agriculture. Our Geisha coffee stands out worldwide as the most expensive coffee sold at auctions, year after year. The Circuito del Café (coffee farm tour) is equaled only by the wine tours in Europe or Australia. Chiriqui is known as Little Switzerland and its beauty is breathtaking.

Be it the historic center, mountain trails, the Pacific Ocean or the Caribbean Sea, volcano craters, lush tropical rainforests that house 10% of all known bird species, farmland or laid-back living, it is all within reach in a few hours. Panama is the only place in the world where you can see the sun rise in the Pacific over a cup of coffee and set in the Atlantic with a cocktail in hand.

Panama, the undiscovered country to **LIVE FOR MORE!**



MALAYSIA TRULY ASIA NETWORKING RECEPTION

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

Selamat Datang Tourism Malaysia event by the Embassy of Malaysia and the Marketing Manager of Benelux Tourism Malaysia. The MC for the day was Ms. Naziha Kechouh of the Cultural Affairs Department and Marketing Manager Benelux, Tourism Malaysia.

The event was attracted a good number of vocational persons, travel agencies, tour operators, airlines as KLM, Singapore Airlines, Emirates and Turkish Airlines and others. The venue, the prestigious Chancellery of Malaysia in The Hague.

H.E. the Ambassador of Malaysia, Mrs. Nadzirah Osman presented the welcome remarks. A slate of speakers followed.

The Director of Tourism Malaysia The Hague, Ms. Rosbi Mamat gave an update on the post-Covid 19 situation. Next was Ms. Iris van Wijhe of Dutch Productions, a frequent visitor of Malaysia. She is full of enthusiasm about her recent tour of Malaysia.

Mr. Rob Harting, the proprietor of Distant Greens Golfing Holidays, recounted personal experiences of his many pleasant visits to Malaysia.

Mr. Gerald van Amerongen, founder and proprietor of DMC Happy Trails Asia, concluded the list of speakers with an elaborated presentation about why one should visit Malaysia.

Ambassador Nadzirah Osman in her welcome talk stated the following. "The last two years

have been an extremely challenging and difficult period not only for the Malaysian tourism sector but also for the tourism industry worldwide. In 2020, only 14,486 Dutch tourists visited Malaysia, a sharp decrease of 82.4% compared to 2019 where we received 82,110 Dutch tourists. In 2021, the numbers declined further as expected, as the country was still closed to foreign travellers due to the pandemic. The reopening of Malaysian borders via the Langkawi International Travel Bubble as of 15 November 2021, was the first step in reopening the country's tourism sector. The statistics for this pilot project showed that the Dutch people are eager to travel again to Malaysia. We are indeed pleased that the Netherlands ranked 13th out of 105 countries for tourist arrivals for the Langkawi pilot project. Considering the fact that the Netherlands' population is relatively small as compared to other countries in the top 10, it clearly reflects the importance of the Dutch market for Malaysia.

Malaysia has fully reopened its borders to all international visitors since April 1, 2022. We hope to attract 2 million international tourists this year and we hope to see Dutch tourists returning to Malaysia in big numbers." The Netherlands was the top fourth largest contributor for tourist arrivals in Malaysia from Europe after United Kingdom, Germany and France, pre COVID 19.



H.E. Ambassador of Malaysia Mrs. Nadzirah Osman, Ms. Rosbi Mamat, Ms. Iris van Wijhe, Mr. Rob Harting and Mr. Gerald van Amerongen.



ANNUAL DIPLOMATIC CYCLING TOUR

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

The 7th Diplomats Biking Ride departed from Leonardo Royal Hotel for a tour through and outside the city of The Hague on Saturday 2 July 2022.

The objectives of the ride are to promote inclusion and to provide a networking opportunity, all while having fun and exploring The Hague's historical and touristic environment.

The group of participants in the smooth 15 Km route was made up of cyclists of all ages, first-time riders as well as veteran riders. Participating Ambassadors, diplomats and invitees were from Costa Rica, Germany, Mexico, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, IOM and International organisations.

The biking caravan travelled in the direction of De Vliet Leidschendam. Along the way, stops were made at interesting sights such as Palace Huis ten Bosch, second world war sites in the Haagsche Bosch also the group stopped for a coffee break and ice-cream in the historical town of Leidschendam. After the cycling tour, participants went to lunch at the Westbroekpark.

Diplomat magazine highly appreciates the participation of all those who have contributed to yet another successful cycling event.

The Pakistan Embassy in the Netherlands has organized an exhibition of Pakistani contemporary art "PAKART" in The Hague. The grand overture was on 16th December 2022, in the presence of many Ambassadors and persons with interest in art.

His Excellency Ambassador **Suljuk Mustansar Tarar** is an aesthete person. He is the publisher of the book *All That Art*. The book is about vibrant Pakistani art and its global presence and recognizes the work of several artists across different generations - both in Pakistan and abroad.

Moreover, the book looks at art and architecture from an insider and a distance. It is an art critique that narrates individual stories and trajectories of a select group of artists through a personal lens.

Pakistan and the Netherlands will mark 75 years of their diplomatic relations in 2023. PAKART is a Public and Cultural Diplomacy initiative by the Pakistan Embassy in the Netherlands to bring Pakistani art, culture and heritage to the people of the Netherlands.

PAKART exhibition brings the works of twelve renowned Pakistani contemporary artists belonging to three generations showing the depth and breadth of visual artwork done in Pakistan. It includes traditional miniature, painting, landscape painting, printmaking, sculpture, and video installations.

Participants in the exhibition are some of Pakistan's leading and internationally known: Atif Khan, Bashir Ahmed, Fawad Jafri, Imran Channa, Imran Qureshi, Iram Wani, Jamil Baloch, Naheed Fakhar, Nazir Ahmed, Noor Chagani, R. M. Naeem, and Yaseen Khan.

Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar related how the exhibition was curated and the current status of contemporary art in Pakistan. He mentioned different types of work and how contemporary miniature painting from Pakistan has become a global art movement. He also mentioned the cultural links between Pakistan and the Netherlands and that Pakistani visual artists like others in the world have been inspired by the Dutch masters during their education or careers.

The artist **Imran Channa** was present at the exhibition showing three of his works. Two are erased drawings, *Pasts in Pencil*. Medium: pencil and erasure on paper. Size: 50x76 cm.



H.E. Ms. Dewi van de Weerd, Ambassador for International and Cultural Cooperation, Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Netherlands.. Photography by Roy Strik



H.E. Ms. Adia Sakiqi, Ambassador of Albania and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps together with H.E. Ms. Sahar Ghanem, Ambassador of Yemen. Photography by Roy Strik.

PAKISTANI ART BY THE NORTH SEA

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

The other work is *The Promised Land*. Year: 2022. In an interview, Imran recounted it as a three-channel interactive video game installation based on Dutch East Indies Film archives from the Eye Film Museum, Amsterdam.

The artist made each object with Autodesk Maya, Zbrush, Substance Painter, and Unreal Engine 4 and programmed the game. Guests had the opportunity to try their hand.

Furthermore, call it the centrepiece of the show, safely behind the glass was an artwork by Noor Chagani. Title: *Pillars of Pakistan*,

Medium: Concrete. Size: 28.5 x 7.5 inches. Year: 2021.

Mrs Dewi van de Weerd, the Dutch Ambassador for International Cultural Cooperation, also spoke at the occasion. She very much appreciated the hosting of the exhibition the Pakistan embassy is leveraging cultural diplomacy.

A Pakistani treat of drinks and snacks was served.

It has been an evening replete with art and colours from Pakistan.



H.E. Mr. Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, Ambassador of Pakistan. Photography Roy Strik.



FARM DAY FOR DIPLOMATIC KIDS

By August Zeidman

Sunday, September 18 was a rainy, windy day in The Hague. Nevertheless, this did not stop a group of diplomats and their families from gathering together in t'Waaygat City Farm in Scheveningen. Diplomat Magazine invited families with young children to come together in order to bridge new connections in the diplomatic community and for kids and parents to enjoy themselves in the fresh air. Bedecked in raincoats and with umbrellas at the ready, those who came to brave the weather were in for a lovely family-friendly morning. For those posted here in The Hague, it is only fitting that they learn that rain can never stand in the way of a good time, c'est la vie.

Attendees joined from Japan, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Vietnam, Costa Rica, Iran, and others, making themselves a fine crew. The children amused themselves with the playground, and with the variety of animals on the city farm. The rabbits were a favorite, and someone had even brought some carrots for

the kids to feed them. Parents weren't left out of the fun and, while supervising their children, they all managed to catch up with each other and enjoy some quality conversation.

t'Waaygat on Havenkade is one of ten city farms in The Hague and, like many parks in the city, is on the site of a since-filled canal. Opening in 1978 it provides a great opportunity for city children to learn about and spend time around some animals they would not otherwise have many chances to see such as cows, rabbits, chickens, and goats.

Rain was no barrier to having such fun from everyone's first arrival. Children were speaking and sharing one language with their parents, and another amongst themselves. Everyone was offered a lunch bag and Diplomat Magazine is already looking forward to the next edition of this successful event (and maybe a drier one too!).



LEONARDO' HARING PARTY 2022

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

Haring party is an annual festive event in the Netherlands to usher in the new haring season. Allegedly, the haring party is the oldest (1961) Dutch networking event. This year Leonardo Royal Hotel Promenade The Hague held its haring party on 21 June 2022 and invited her clients, diplomats and associates to sample the soft salty creamy taste of the new herring as well as scores of other delicacies.

Mr. Patrick Aarsman, General Manager Leonardo Royal Promenade Hotel The Hague, declared the Haring party 2022 open.

A haring party tradition is allocating a small wooden barrel draped in the Dutch tricolour, containing herring to a special person. For 2022 Leonardo has selected Mr. Leo Dommanschet, proprietor of Leo's Koffiehuis in the Laak district, Den Haag.

It was not only the annual haring party but also the opening of the refurbished Leonardo Royal Hotel The Hague.

DIPLOMAT TOURISM & CULTURE

A mixed crowd enjoyed the haring, music and food. The iconic Peruvian hors d'oeuvre "ceviche" served as toast, herby honouring Peru as the first participating country in the international Flavours Festival hosted in 2017 by Leonardo Royal Hotels in The Hague together with the Embassy of Peru.

A good number of Ambassadors and diplomats accepted the invitation. Such as South Africa, Cameroon, Tanzania, Belarus, Ukraine, Nigeria, Armenia, Russia and others.

Haring party 2022 has been a great occasion.



Oscar Izquierdo, Minister Counsellor of Ecuador, H.E. Madeleine Liguemoh Ondoua, Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon and H.E. Irene Florence Mkwawa Kasyanju, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania.



Patrick Aarsman, General Manager at Leonardo Royal Hotel The Hague presenting the haring .



H.E. Olivier Jean Patrick Nduhungirehe, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda talking to Rwanda flowers producers at IFTF 2022.

IFTF2022, THE NETHERLANDS FLORA-HUB, A GATE FOR RWANDAN FLOWERS

This year, Rwanda was represented by five professionals from the floriculture sector at the 12th edition of the Netherlands' International Floriculture Trade Fair (IFTF), on November 9th, until November 11th, 2022, at the Expo Greater Amsterdam in Vijfhuizen, The Netherlands.

This year's IFTF marks the sixth time Rwanda has attended and remains an excellent opportunity to showcase Rwanda's growing floriculture sector and increase the visibility of the "Rwandafresh – Quality Horticulture Products" brand. The trade fair also provides an opportunity to increase the number of international buyers, as this forum is the world's largest and most important trade exhibition for international flower growers and buyers from all over the world.

Rwanda's participation in the IFTF was made possible by the close collaboration between the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB). The participants from Rwanda include representatives from Bella flowers, Oxfam and Duhamic-ADRI as well as two local farmers, Ms. Margueritte Mukamazimpaka and Mr. Augustin Gasana, who travelled to the Netherlands to showcase their work and learn the best practices from other professionals from around the world.

Special mention goes to the fruitful partnership with Oxfam and DUHAMIC ADRI, the implementers of a 4-year horticulture project (2020-2024) funded by the European Union and the Irish Aid, who made the participation of local farmers in this year's trade fair possible.

H.E. Olivier Jean Patrick Nduhungirehe, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the Kingdom of the Netherlands said that: *"Rwanda's participation in this trade fair is a great opportunity to be at the center of where the demand meets the supply in the field of cut flowers. Our participation in the IFTF will play a crucial role in the growth of Rwanda's floriculture industry as it offers an opportunity to buyers and investors to learn about opportunities in our growing sector and experience the quality of our beautiful flowers"*.

Mr. Patrick Manzi Mbayiha, Chief Marketing Officer of Bella Flowers, on behalf of Rwandan flower exporters, said that "Although we sell more than 90% of our flowers to the Dutch market, we know that their final destinations are in countries that are currently embroiled in political and economic strife. But we came here to shape our business strategies while learning from our peers in other flower-producing countries, and we are hoping for the best in the flower trade going forward."

According to Mrs. Mukamazimpaka and Mr. Gasana, the two local farmers from the Rulindo district who attended this year, the attendance to the IFTF was a welcome opportunity to explore and learn about techniques about production and packaging. They mentioned that they will go back home with an improved view how to best to do their work and share the knowledge they were able to acquire during the international exhibition.

In the last five years, revenues from export of Rwandan flowers increased from 1,243,427 USD to 6,854,822 USD.

NATIONAL DAYS

INDONESIA CELEBRATES HARI KEMERDEKAAN - INDEPENDENCE DAY

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

The theme, "Pulih Lebih Cepat, Bangkit Lebih Kuat" Recover Fast, Rise up Stronger!

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in the Netherlands organised a flag-raising ceremony to celebrate its 77th anniversary of independence.

The ceremony was at the International Sekolah Indonesia in Wassenaar on 17th August 2022. Not even the inclement rain was able to dampen the enthusiasm of the patriots. Congratulations to H.E. Ambassador Mayerfas and the Indonesian people on this joyous day.

Scores of Indonesian nationals and people of Indonesian descent joined in the annual solemn flag hoisting ceremony, the enactments of the independence proclamation and jollification afterwards.

On the program was a captivating presentation of students outfitted in their immaculate white uniforms.

Another item on the program, Ambassador Mayerfas, conferred distinctions and awards on individuals who have rendered supplementary service to Indonesia.

Independence Day celebration 2022 has been an eventful and delightful day.



Ambassador Mayerfas

Indonesian student at the 2022 National Day celebration

CROATIA JOINS SCHENGEN AREA AND EUROZONE



Sunday, 1 January 2023, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia: Croatia adopted the euro as its currency and fully joined the Schengen area. This marks an important milestone in the history of Croatia, of the euro and Schengen areas and of the EU as a whole.

With Croatia, 20 EU member states and 347 million EU citizens share the EU's common currency. As for Schengen, this is the eighth enlargement and the first after 11 years.

The euro will gradually replace the kuna as the currency of Croatia. In line with a consistent record of exchange-rate stability, the kuna will be exchanged at a conversion rate of 1 euro for 7.53450 Croatian kuna. The two currencies shall be used alongside each other for a period of two weeks. When receiving a payment in kuna, the change will be given in euro. This will allow for a progressive withdrawal of the kuna from circulation.

The Schengen area is one of the main achievements of the European project. It started in 1985 as an intergovernmental project between five EU countries, namely France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. Now it has gradually expanded to become the largest free travel area in the world.

An enlarged Schengen area without internal border controls will make Europe safer, through reinforced protection of our common external borders and effective police cooperation; more prosperous, by eliminating time lost at borders and facilitating people and business contacts; and more attractive, by significantly expanding the world's largest common area without internal border controls.

Since its accession to the EU in 2013, Croatia has applied parts of the Schengen acquis, including those related to the external border controls, police cooperation and the use of the Schengen Information.

DIPLOMAT TOURISM & CULTURE

PRINSJESDAG CONCERT 2022 AMARE THE HAGUE

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

The Residentie Orkest - Business Circle welcomed its members and partners to the traditional Prinsjesdag concert.

The annual Prinsjesdag concert took place at the Amare theatre in The Hague on 20th September 2022. Hundreds of music lovers flocked to the Amare theatre.

The welcome address was by Mayor of The Hague, Jan van Zanen and Sven Arne Tepl, director of the Residentie orkest.

On this festive occasion, the Residentie Orkest introduced the new artist, Yeol Eum Son, who played a classic by Ravel. Yeol Eum Son is, Versatile, graceful, young and timeless!

Son beautifully opened the season. Ravel's Piano Concerto in G clearly shows an American influence full of jazz and dynamics. A varied and surprising composition that challenges the pianist in virtuosity but also in finding the sound and touché.

The soloist and orchestra also stay with Ravel for the second piece, this time as orchestrator of Modest Musorgsky's Painting Exhibition. A

monumental and visual piece, which is just as unique as Son as a new artist in town.

The student orchestra, also performed. Together with the Residentie Orkest they played music from the movie the Avengers.

On the program.

Anja Bihlmaier conductor
Yeol Eum Son piano
Ravel Piano Concerto in G
Musorgsky/Ravel Painting Exhibition.

The Prinsjesdag concert is part of the Residentie Orkest's project Artist in de Residence, which runs from 20 September 2022 to 16 April 2023. The guests were treated to an excellent walking dinner buffet. The 2022 Prinsjesdag concert was another unforgettable one, with shouts of applause as a token of appreciation.

Henceforth, the new season of the Residentie Orkest is declared open.



JUDGE RAFAEL ALTAMIRA AND THE CENTENARY OF HIS APPOINTMENT IN THE HAGUE

On the occasion of the tribute to Judge Rafael Altamira (1921) for the centenary of his appointment as Judge of the Permanent Court of International Justice in The Hague, the Embassy of Spain in The Hague and the Hispanic Association of The Hague organized the lecture "Rafael Altamira, a civilizer among civilizers at the Permanent Court of International Justice" by Yolanda Gamarra Chopo, Professor of International Public Law and International Relations at the University of Zaragoza.

The conference brought together international jurists of the stature of Philippe Couvreur, former Registrar of the International Court of Justice, ambassadors, such as Ambassador and Costa Rican jurist Arnaldo Brenes Castro and jurist Renan Villacis, Director of the Secretariat of the Assembly, at the International Criminal Court, among many other diplomats, jurists and legal historians from Spain and Latin America who filled the main hall of the Carlton Ambassador Hotel in The Hague on Thursday, September 29, 2022.

He was the only Spanish judge chosen by the same body to be part of the International Court of Human Rights in The Hague, not by assignment of a position by country, but for his long career in defense of equality and human rights. He was not a judge, nor an internationalist, but a professor of History

of Law, which brought a different vision to the Court. Although he lacked experience as a judge, he brought to the Tribunal a new perspective on dispute resolution, introducing arbitration as a means of conflict resolution. He also implemented the language and conceptualization of his own training: social justice, the dignity of individuals and the recognition of individual rights as opposed to the sovereignty of countries, the contribution of jurisprudence as a source in the Tribunal, regeneration, morality and common principles as the basis of the solution.

In her extensive lecture, Prof. Gamarra Chopo emphasized the legal conscience of Judge Altamira, his character, his humility, his vocation for peace, his defense of arbitration in the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the Hague Tribunal. Altamira's work still dispersed among the many academic activities he carried out and his constant travels around the world, Edith Gербансius, President of the Hispanic Association of The Hague, who organizes important academic and cultural activities, presented Yolanda Gamarra Chopo as a passionate of Altamira's life and one of his most faithful scholars. Ms Berganisiu thanks the Embassy of Spain and Luis Tejero González, Counselor of the Spanish Embassy in The Hague, for their Support in the organization of this event.



AMBASSADOR J. EDUARDO MALAYA ELECTED PRESIDENT GOVERNING BODY PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION

The so-called Administrative Council comprised 122 member States governing the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). The PCA was established in The Hague in 1899 during the first Hague Peace Conference. It provides services to resolve disputes that arise out of international agreements between member States, international organizations or private parties and deals with a variety of cases. In 2021, the PCA registered 204 cases, consisting of seven inter-State arbitrations, 114 investor-State arbitrations, 80 contract-based arbitrations and 2 other proceedings. Topics are for instance inter-State arbitrations arising from the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It deals with a wide range of economic sectors like oil and gas, mining and quarrying, construction, real estate, financial and insurance, electricity and power, telecommunications, and transportation and storage.

The Administrative Council is responsible for the general governance and oversight of the PCA's activities, as well as financial and budgetary matters. The ambassador of The Philippines in The Hague, H.E. **J. Eduardo Malaya**, has been appointed President for the period 2023-2024 during a Council meeting this month. Ambassador Malaya is a lawyer himself, vice-president of Philippine Society of International Law and a distinguished member of the Executive Council of Asian Society of International Law. Ambassador Malaya is the first Philippine national to have been elected to this relevant position. He is a renowned figure in diplomatic circles. Ambassador Malaya is the author (or editor) of nine books on international law, diplomacy and history, such as "Stewards of the Nation" considered a classic for everyone who is interested in the history of the Republic of Philippines.

SEMINAR DUTCH LAW AND EMBASSIES

BY ROY LIE ATJAM



Russell Advocaten, a corporate full-service law firm in Amsterdam, and Diplomat magazine organized their annual seminar-workshop for embassies and consulates. The law firm has decades of experience in dealing with legal queries of embassies. This time around the seminar was held in The Hague on 7 November 2022.

The diplomatic community turned out in their numbers. Some Ambassadors had chosen to attend the seminar themselves.

Topics discussed by the Embassy Desk specialists, Jan Dop, Priscilla de Leede and Reinier Russell were:

- Employee illness
- Labour law and dismissal in the Netherlands
- Personnel handbook/code of conduct
- Employee participation/Works council

These topics are of significant importance to diplomatic mission. Utilizing practical illustrations and cases presented by the audience, the specialist lawyers of Russell Advocaten passed on valuable information.

conclusion: Dutch labour law is applicable to Embassies in the Netherlands:

A. Employee illness

- Comply with obligations regarding sick employees → a.o. involving the Arbo/company doctor
- Financial sanctions in case of non-compliance
- In principle, no dismissal of a sick employee during the first 2 years of illness

B. Dismissal law

- Reasonable ground required for a dismissal. Please note: transition compensation + fair compensation
- In general, sending States cannot invoke immunity in civil proceedings before the Dutch court → only immunity regarding the enforcement of judgements of the Dutch court (seizure)

C. Personnel handbook / Code of conduct

- Collective rules with which employees must comply, for example regarding work clothes, rules on reporting sick etc.
- Proof for employers in dismissal proceedings

D. Employee participation / Works council

- Mandatory for large Embassies (and companies)
- Specific statutory rights.

Those registered for the seminar will receive a link to the presentation. This seminar about the Dutch employment law, specifically the rules regarding dismissal and illness of local staff, was by all means a great success. Participants listened attentively, hardly anyone left during the break.





H.E. Ambassador Olivier J.P. Nduhungirehe

RWANDA COFFEE QUALITY SHOWCASED IN THE HAGUE

On September 2nd, 2022, ten selected Rwandan export companies have brought their coffee samples to be tasted during the first exclusive coffee cupping sessions after the COVID-19 pandemic, hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in The Hague.

The cupping event was organized by the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB), the Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria Onlus (ICU) and Coffee Cupping International (CCI), with support from the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, to attract the interest of international connoisseurs, buyers, wholesalers, roasters, baristas, and other professionals in the coffee sector. The following 10 Rwandan coffees were cupped: Nova Coffee, Huye Mountain Coffee, Kivu Belt Coffee, Nyakizu Mountain Coffee, Mubuga Coffee, Fugi Washing station, Coocamu Cooperative, Simbi Coffee, Rwashoscco and Sholi.

The initiative is part of ICU's Coffee Value Chain Development project that has the goal to improve quality and quantity of coffee produced by smallholder farmers, strengthen coffee processing companies and cooperatives to build more sustainable businesses, facilitate access to finance and increase visibility on the international market. The project is working with more than 12,000 smallholder farmers and 20 coffee washing stations across 12 districts of Rwanda.

Next to the cuppings, 'Rwanda Coffee – A Second Sunrise' was heavily promoted in the Rwanda Pavilion during the 8th edition of the Embassy Festival in The Hague on September 3rd 2022, during which also Visit Rwanda and Made in Rwanda were featured. About 60,000 visitors were welcomed at the festival and many of them had the chance to enjoy a complimentary cup of Rwandan coffee while enjoying traditional Rwandan dance performances.

The fact that Rwandan specialty coffees meet high international standards provides an excellent opportunity to proactively increase their visibility in the international market and thus earn higher returns.

Rwandan coffee is not a new product to the Dutch market and it has gained popularity for its quality over the years. For instance in 2019, prior to the coronavirus pandemic, Rwanda exported 209.5 tons of coffee worth USD 556,731 to the Netherlands. In spite of this achievement, there's still room for greater sales of Rwandan coffees in the Netherlands if its visibility is boosted to not only Dutch coffee lovers but also to the international community located in major big cities. It is expected that sixty Embassies with offices in The Hague will be represented and this could be an opportunity to take the "Rwanda coffee – A Second Sunrise" brand even further.



MALAYSIA COOKING DEMONSTRATION EDITION 2022



Chef Dato' Ismail Ahmad and H.E. Mr. Mario Oyarzabal, Ambassador of Argentina.

The Malaysian Ambassador to the Netherlands, Dato' Nadzirah Osman hosted a Malaysian culinary event at the Rumah Malaysia (Ambassador's Residence) in Wassenaar on 7 October 2022. The event was attended by Dutch dignitaries, Ambassadors and members of the Ambassadors' Spouses Association (ASA), ASEAN Ladies Circle, members of the Dutch media, as well as representative of a local oriental supermarket chain in the Netherlands.

The event featured Tourism Malaysia's Ambassador for Food and Culture, Chef Dato' Ismail Ahmad who demonstrated the preparation of three types of Malaysian dishes — Nasi Ulam (Mixed Herbs/ Salad Rice), Kari Daging (Beef Curry), and Kuih Ketayap (Crêpes with Sweet Coconut Fillings). Chef Ismail also amazed the guests with his pulled tea (popularly known as the Tarik in Malaysia) making skills. Few guests showed their cooking skills by trying the recipe.

The cooking demonstration was followed by a luncheon where guests indulged in sumptuous Malaysian delicacies prepared by Chef Ismail and members of the Ladies Association of the Embassy of Malaysia in The Hague (PERWAKILAN The Hague).

In her welcoming remarks, Dato' Nadzirah mentioned that Malaysia is renowned not only for its beautiful landscape, sandy beaches, pristine clear waters, and biodiversity-rich flora and fauna but also for its wide array of culinary treasures.

"These culinary treasures are an important element of Malaysia's intangible cultural heritage. As a multi-ethnic and multicultural country, Malaysian cuisine tells the stories of Malaysia, its people, culture, and traditions." She said.

She also mentioned that "before the pandemic, gastronomy tourism generated RM10.5 billion, 13.3% of total tourism revenue in Malaysia.

"In 2021, Malaysia successfully designated Kuching, the capital city of Sarawak, as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. This recognition from UNESCO is in line with Malaysia's plan to cultivate elements of innovation and creativity in elevating the gastronomy tourism ecosystem towards sustainable outcomes and positive socio-economic impact."

She ended her remarks by stating that "as a gastronomical paradise, travellers can connect with Malaysia by immersing themselves in its food, history, people, culture, and environment."

The event received excellent reviews from all the guests. Guests were also gifted with a recipe booklet signed by Chef Ismail.

The Embassy of Malaysia in The Hague has been actively promoting Malaysia as a tourism and gastronomy destination. Malaysian fruits and food products have entered the Dutch markets and have begun to gain popularity among the locals.

DIPLOMAT MAGAZINE EVENTS

FOOD FESTIVAL, MEXICAN FLAVORS

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

The Hague 6 October 2022. The Mexican cuisine is well known for its variety of flavours, colours, and its combination of different spices and unique ingredients.

In 2010, Mexican cuisine made it to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The Embassy of the United Mexican States presented the Mexican Flavours Food Festival, from 6 to 8 October 2022 a gastronomic dinner prepared by Mexican Chef José Orlando Méndez in collaboration with Leonardo's Hotel chef Mr. Sido de Brabander.

On the menu, dishes from various regions: Starter: Bean Cream touch of morita | tortillas stirps Quesadilla queso Sopecito fried beans | lettuce | cream | white cheese

Main courses: Veracruzana Cod Campeche style shrimp coconut | tamarind sauce Enmolada cream | white cheese

Desserts: Dulce de leche crepes Ate with cheese Tequila Ice Cream.

On the opening night, Ambassador H.E. Jose Antonio Zabaloitia Trejo welcomed the guests and presented the Mexican Chef José Orlando Méndez, who introduced the various dishes. Live music by Alberto Zárraga, a Mexican guitar player animated the gastronomic evening.



LEONARDO'S FACES

The Leonardo Royal Hotel Den Haag Promenade is represented by both new and more experienced employees working together with passion as one team, to deliver great service and to depict the hotel's values. In these monthly written pieces, there is a focus on their values and their approach to our international clients. Who are the employees as an individual? Allow us to introduce you to Mattia Rivillit.

- Nationality: Italian
- Function: Food & Beverage Supervisor
- Department: Food & Beverage



When did you start working at the Promenade Hotel?

I started working for the Promenade Hotel per February 10, 2022. After four months, I got promoted to F&B Supervisor.

What was your first impression of the Promenade Hotel?

My first impression when I walked into the Promenade Hotel was absolutely positive. I experienced the warm atmosphere as similar to coming home.

What makes the Promenade Hotel suitable for welcoming people from all around the world?

It makes it suitable for guest all around the world because we host international events, such as Food festivals. Furthermore, Leo's International Flavors, the new concept for our restaurant as well as the team are very international, which also creates a welcoming atmosphere for international guests.

What do you value most in the organization of diplomatic events at the Promenade Hotel?

What I value the most is to see how all departments work together, which is an added value. Additionally, working with all the diplomats together also makes it a great way to learn new cultures and traditions.

What did you learn so far by working with diplomats? Some tips, rules or values to share?

What I especially learned by working with different diplomats is; treat every guest equally and with respect. Especially if you work with a lot of diplomats you get to know what you expect and what they want.

Which Food Festival has been your favorite so far or would you like to experience?

The Ecuadorian Food Festivals was one of my favorites. I would love to see an Italian Food Festival with all popular dishes from my country!

What local food(s), from abroad, have you tried already?

I have tried many different cuisines and food in my life. I am a fan of the North Europe cuisine especially Norway and Sweden.

What is your favorite drink or dish at LEO's International Flavors?

My favorite drink from Leo's is the Coconut Espresso Martini. One of our new cocktails made with coconut milk, coffee liquor, espresso and vodka.

What sustainable development goal do you value most? Why this one?

Decent Work and Economic Growth: It's important for everybody to have a decent work and a good work place, including young people and persons with disabilities.

What piece of good advice did you receive, and from whom, that you would like to forward?

One piece of advice that I follow for myself is to enjoy life every day. Believe in yourself, always. If you really want something you can do it.

THE EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA IN THE NETHERLANDS CELEBRATES THE 92ND NATIONAL DAY

His Excellency Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Netherlands, Ziad M.D Al-Atiyah hosted a reception in The Hague on September 22, on the occasion of the 92nd National day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

His Excellency received Scores of Dutch officials, Ambassadors, Secretary Generals of International Organizations in The Hague, friends and acquaintances of Saudi Arabia, who all wished the Kingdom and the Saudi people prosperity and ample success on this glorious occasion.

In his welcome speech, His Excellency extend his sincere congratulations on this occasion to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz, and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. His Excellency also highlighted that this year coincides with another important occasion, the 150th anniversary of Saudi-Dutch relations since the establishment of the first Dutch consulate in Jeddah in 1872, a milestone reflecting an old friendship that is always renewed with prosperity and dialogue.

His Excellency then invited guests to take part of a historical journey in which a short movie highlighting historical and contemporary aspects of the Saudi-Dutch relations was projected. After that, guests were invited to enjoy an exquisite buffet of Saudi delicacies.



H.E. Mr. Ziad M.D Al-Atiyah, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
Photos Courtesy of the Embassy of Saudi Arabi



Ambassadors of Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica.

CENTRAL AMERICA NATIONS CELEBRATED INDEPENDENCE DAY

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

September 15 is a very important date in the Central American nations of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica: it is the date on which all five of these nations declared their independence from the Spanish Empire in 1821. Now, 201 years later, the diplomatic corps came together on this day to celebrate independence, national food and culture, and the general revelry that such a holiday merits.

The Ambassadors of Nicaragua, H.E. Mr. Carlos Jose Arguello Gomez, of Guatemala, H.E. Mr. Jorge Skinner-Klee Arenales, of El Salvador, H.E. Ms. Carmen Maria Gallardo Hernandez, and of Costa Rica H.E. Mr. Arnoldo Brenes Castro were all in attendance and welcomed their esteemed guests to the celebration in the Leonardo Royal Hotel Den Haag. The co-hosting the National Day celebration has become a tradition in The Hague and many may remember past editions. This collaboration is a fitting reflection of shared heritage and the influence of diplomacy in a time when it is important to find reasons to bring people together.

Ambassador Brenes Castro, speaking on behalf of all his colleagues, offered brief welcoming remarks to the attendees, thanking them for their presence, as well as urging all to enjoy the celebration with good food and good company. He stressed the symbolic importance of hosting the event in the Hague as a way to renew the bonds of friendship with the Kingdom of the Netherlands and other

members of the diplomatic community and their shared values in multilateralism. Finally, he spoke warmly about the international community and how, even though the republics of Central America share certain challenges related to the effects of climate change, organized crime, and others, it is through the partners and friends on the world stage who will help bring things to pass.

“More than two centuries ago, five republics, located in the centre of the

Americas started writing their own path as independent nations. Today, our countries are integrated into the international community, and they offer multiple opportunities but also share common challenges.

To face common challenges, such as the multiple adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather conditions, but also organized crime and narcotrafic, and the unstable economic and financial

environment, we have confidence in the cooperation and partnership with our friends in the international community.

In terms of opportunities, we share a great strategic location which has allowed us to integrate into the global world, by means of a developed network of trade and investment agreements with multiple partners, including the European Union and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. We are a multi-ethnic and pluricultural region, with an outstanding nature and biodiversity, including its marine biodiversity, which we are committed to protect for the benefit of all.” Said Ambassador Brenes Castro.

Each of the four republics hosted a table at the event where attendees could sample a tasty variety of national flavors. The event was lively, the atmosphere was joyous, and the whole world joins in celebrating 201 years of Central American independence.



The Ambassador of Costa Rica, H.E. Mr. Arnoldo Brenes Castro.



ALIDA HAUTE COUTURE, A PASSION FOR FASHION

From an early age, Ayuna Asalkhanova had a passion for fashion and knew she would start her own business one day. Her brand, ALIDA, was born from the realization that the pandemic would change how we view our wardrobes. The budding designer grew up in different parts of Russia, China, Spain, and Germany though she spent her teenage and formative years in Brussels.

When COVID-19 started spreading and brought the world to a stop in 2020, it was a time of adjustments and reflections for all of us. They say there is always something good in every bad, and while that can be hard for many to believe, it did happen for Ayuna. The situation gave her a stroke of inspiration; she realized there was a desperate need for versatile garments. Finding a piece of clothing that works for lounging and going out was almost impossible, but this is needed considering we spend so much more time at home, and the lines between work and private life are blurring. It was not long before Ayuna filled in this gap. After some hand sketches, one pair of palazzo trousers, and a kimono later, ALIDA was born.

The brand's moniker derived from Ayuna's name and that of her beloved grandmother, Lydia. Her grandmother instilled in her a love of sourcing noble materials. She taught Ayuna that dressing well is to elevate one's experience daily. This idea came to define the brand; luxury without compromising on quality.

Hence, ALIDA combines a strong aesthetic with high-end production values and artisanal manufacturing, allowing customers to experience the finest of high-end extravagance while exuding a refreshing, modern spirit. Everything is handcrafted in Belgium, which houses a textile industry with a long-standing

tradition. Local artisans throughout the country work with Belgian Royal Court Suppliers, international fashion brands, and celebrated designers like NATAN and Carine Gilson. The result is a thriving place to create haute couture, where ALIDA fits perfectly.

Understandably, many designer houses have opted to move their production overseas, but Ayuna chooses to keep everything local. She believes in supporting her hometown's economy and utilizing the resources within her community. It also makes it easier to control the quality of the finished garments. Ayuna knows every seam and pattern by heart as she continues to hand-draw all the designs.

She is also committed to being kind to nature. All pieces are limited in stock and made-to-order to prevent overproduction and reduce textile waste. The pieces themselves are made with biodegradable silk and toxin-free dyes.

Wearing ALIDA is an invitation to unleash one's creativity and take control of their style, no matter the circumstance. The brand's luxury loungewear pieces are designed for inside and outside the house. They make the perfect outfit for every occasion when paired with the right accessories.



ANGOLA INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION 2022

BY ROY LIE ATJAM



Theme: Angolans, Hand in Hand to the Future

The Ambassador of the Republic of Angola in the Netherlands H.E. Ambassador Maria Isabel Gomes de Resende Encoge, organized a reception in The Hague on 14th November 2022 to celebrate her country's 47th anniversary of Independence.

Guests were received by the sound of live drumming and dance and given a glimpse of the rich Angolan cultural legacy; one they probably have never seen before in The Hague.

Ambassador Maria Isabel Gomes de Resende Encoge was outfitted in gorgeous Angolan attire and flanked by her spouse, consul and the vice-consuls.

The master of ceremonies gave some background information on the significance of 11th November, and the national anthems of Angola (Angola Avante) and the Netherlands were played.

Further features on the program: the cutting of the cake, proposing of toasts, screening of a video, the captivating live music by vocalist Don Silas moved guests to take to the floor,

further a dance demonstrations by the Kizomba Dance Company. The evening concluded with networking and a double buffet, Angolan and continental. Subsequently, H.E. Ambassador Maria Isabel de Resende Encoge delivered her welcome address.

"Our National Independence Day is being held under the guidance of His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola. This celebration time has special importance, it eventuates at the same year that we celebrate the Centenary anniversary of Dr. António Agostinho Neto, Founder and First President of the Angolan Nation."

The Nation's founder Dr. António Agostinho Neto declared Angolan independent on 11 November 1975.

"The year's National Independence Day Celebration slogan is "Angolans, Hand in Hand to the Future", declared Ambassador Gomes "is a slogan that summarizes the past, present, and future of Angola. The Celebration of the Centenary Anniversary of Dr Antonio Agostinho Neto, which was considered for all ephemeris during 2022, demonstrates the

strategic vision of the country that we have been building over the years.

Angola is not alone in this, as we have partners who are in solidarity with our cause for development. One of those partners are the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with bilateral relations with Angola dating back to 1976 when this friendly state became recognized the Republic of Angola as an independent and Sovereign State.

We have witnessed the continuous growth of bilateral relations since then in the Economic Sector, in the fields of specialized Services, in the Oil Sector and Liquefied Natural Gas Industry, in the Agriculture and Logistics fields, and there is still plenty to achieve in the field of bilateral cooperation.

The Angolan Government counts with the Kingdom of the Netherlands for this new phase, the attraction of foreign investment, in addition to the oil sector, is crucial for the economic and social development of our country. Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge the Angolan community in the Kingdom of the Netherlands which continues to play an important role in strengthening our

countries' relations. We continue to count on the commitment, dedication, and contribution of each member of the Angolan community to enhance these relations, regardless of creed, race, religion, or political affiliation.

At the Multilateral level, Angola is a Member State of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) since 2015 and has been committed to contribute to further enhance the capabilities of the OPCW as a global leader in the efforts to rid the world of chemical weapons. Additionally, Angola is also a State Member of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) since January 1986 and aims to strengthen the cooperation with the intent to advance the process of economic diversification highlighted in Angola's National Development Plan 2023-2027.

The Ambassador finalized her speech in Portuguese, *"Gostaria de enviar uma saudação especial e calorosa aos representantes da comunidade angolana que foram tão amáveis em honrar o seu país, a sua pátria, a sua nação, estando presentes nesta cerimónia."*

The second speaker at the reception was Mr Huub von Frijtag Drabbe, Head of Section East and Southern Africa of the sub-Saharan Africa department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. In part this what Drabbe said: "Angola and the Netherlands are old friends. Our formal bilateral relations go back more than 40 years. Over the years, our bilateral relationship has progressed substantially. One of the key elements of our cooperation today is the promotion of trade and investment between our two countries." And specifically on some current programs:

"A cornerstone of our cooperation is in the agriculture sector. Our efforts align closely with one of the Angolan government's main priorities for the next years, namely economic diversification. The development of fruit export from Angola to the Netherlands, for instance, has been an area of cooperation and shows significant potential for both Angolan and Dutch businesses."

Angola independence day celebration 2022. What an excellent ambience, guests left the venue with the rhythmic sounds of live drums still playing in their heads.

Angolans, Hand in Hand towards the Future!





Antonio Polosa, IOM Chief of Mission with H.E. Mr. Vusumuzi Madonsela, Ambassador of South Africa.

CAR EXTRAVAGANZA AT LOUWMAN MUSEUM

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

Diplomat Magazine has been granted a preview of the upcoming Exhibition “F1 Legends”, and a Car extravaganza reception was organized on 29 June 2022 at Louwman Museum. The diplomatic community responded enthusiastically. We observed ambassadors and diplomats from Costa Rica, Australia, Ghana, Rwanda, Cyprus, Cameroon, USA, Guatemala, Suriname, Iran, South Africa, Venezuela, Thailand, Ecuador, Germany, Philippines, Albania, Chad, Romania, Nigeria, Portugal, North Macedonia, Ukraine, New Zealand, Russia, Vietnam, Belgium, ICJ, ESA and IOM, to mention a few. They enjoyed the warm hospitality offered by Museum Louwman.

On display are Eight F1 cars of legendary drivers that took part in the Dutch Grand Prix between 1948 and 1970. The permanent collection of the museum with 250 antique and classic automobiles produced by more than 100 different manufacturers and presenting every aspect of the history of the automobile, was also open to Diplomat Magazine’s guests.

Guido Roozkrans from Louwman and responsible for external relations welcomed the guests and said: “I am very proud that Louwman Group, the beautiful Louwman Museum and the Louwman brands have been collaborating with Diplomat Magazine

since the very first issue of the magazine!” Roozkrans talked on behalf of Eric Louwman who was not able to attend.

“The founder of this fantastic museum is Mr. Evert Louwman. To be honest, I don’t know anyone in the world who has as much knowledge and passion for historic vehicles than Evert. He is known, in the Netherlands and abroad, as the ultimate passionate car enthusiast and has dedicated a significant part of his life to the cultural heritage of the automobile.

Our collection of historic vehicles is housed in this building designed by Michael Greaves, who also designed the building of the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare & Sport in The Hague.

Exactly 12 years ago Louwman Museum was officially opened by our former Queen of the Netherlands, her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix. We are proud that our museum enjoys worldwide fame and is considered to be one of the most beautiful and important automobile collections in the world by experts. And, of course, it is always nice when third parties say this.” He explained.

The exhibition ‘F1 Legends’ in the Louwman Museum Step into the history of the

Zandvoort Grand Prix. The exhibition opened on 1 July and ended on 4 September, the day on which this year’s F1 Grand Prix was held at Zandvoort.

F1 Legends Ascari, Fangio and Clark

Highlights of the special exhibition are undoubtedly the winning Ferrari 500 F2(1952/1953) driven by Alberto Ascari, Juan Manuel Fangio’s victorious Mercedes-Benz W196 (1955) and the winning Lotus 33 (1965) driven by Jim Clark.

The Louwman Museum dates back to 1934. Since then, the collection has been expanded and refined in stages. The collection includes one of the oldest surviving automobiles in the world, an 1887 De Dion-Bouton et Trépardoux. Also The only and oldest surviving pre-war Toyota in the world

The emphasis is more on special models, groundbreaking designs and one-offs than on medium-sized cars for the general public.

Diplomats enjoyed talking to automobiles experts from the museum, while a jazz band played songs from the 80’s and 90’s. Impressive car collection, and a relax atmosphere, goes without saying that it was a fantastic night.



H.E. Ms. Adia Sakiqi, Ambassador of Albania, H.E. Dr. Eniola xxx, Ambassador of Nigeria, H.E. Mr. Vusumuzi Madonsela, Ambassador of South Africa and H.E. Mr. Francis Danti Kotia, Ambassador of Ghana.



Photography by Roy Strik

QATAR 2022

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION IN THE HAGUE

'Our Unity Is the Source of Our Strength'

Large crowds of Ambassadors, diplomats and friends came together at the Grand Hotel Amrâth Kurhaus on 7 December 2022 to felicitate and join H.E. **Nasser Ibrahim Allenqawi**, Ambassador of the State of Qatar, in celebrating his country's National Day. Featuring the program, playing of the national anthems of Qatar and the Netherlands, screening a historical documentary, drawing of Qatar Airways tickets and Ambassador Nasser Ibrahim Allenqawi welcomes his guests. Another speaker at the event was Mr **Marc Gerretsen** of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ambassador mentioned in his statement.

"Qatar National Day is a great occasion where the people of Qatar show cohesion, solidarity and unity in meanings of love for homeland. It is the Day of pride of the wise leadership of H.H the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, **دولاً دظفح**, the leader of the process of achievements, development and promising future.

The slogan of Qatar National Day 2022 "Our Unity Source of Our Strength," quoted from a speech of HH the Amir which is affirming the approach of uniting people of Qatar to face challenges and achieve objectives.

The celebration of Qatar National Day is particularly important this year, as it coincidence with Qatar hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Both events are an opportunity for us to show our culture to the world. Visitors to Qatar learned about the bright aspects of our history and culture, and test our belief in civilized interaction with other cultures, and our respect and pride in our Arab and Islamic values.

The 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar brought the people together and affirmed that the world can be united to face the major challenges that threaten all humanity. As a trusted international partner, State of Qatar believes in supporting the collective initiatives and the multilateral action.

The State of Qatar is eager to support all efforts aimed at promoting cultural and civilized openness among the world. The State of Qatar pays great attention to develop its relations with countries and regional and international organizations, and actively contributes in promoting international peace and security through mediation to settle disputes by peaceful means, and supports development and stability projects in different countries.

The mediations of the State of Qatar in Sudan, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Chad and others, have not just paved the ways for building peace, stability and development in these countries, but also at the regional and international levels. The State of Qatar strongly believes that the peaceful means are the best way to resolve conflicts and end wars.

I would like to also highlight the excellent bilateral relations between the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which obviously have been strengthened during the years through a constructive partnership and open dialogue based on mutual respect, building of the long established relationship that continues to grow on all fields and levels for the benefit of our two Friendly Peoples."

The evening continued in the ballroom with a sitting dinner guest savoured the 3-course international-middle eastern style dinner, including the gorgeous "**Holland-Qatar cake**". Ambassador Nasser Ibrahim Allenqawi cut the first slice. The evening was spent with a festive atmosphere.





WELCOME TO THE HAGUE!

By Gerko Visée

The Hague region is the proud host of more than 85 percent of the diplomatic community in the Netherlands. We feel it is important to make you feel at home in our city. Professionally as host city for embassies, consulates and international organisation. But also personally as you work, live and perhaps raise your children in our city. Therefore the municipality invests in making the city attractive for internationals by offering support and advice to newcomers, English language information and services, affordable education for international children and lots of ways to enjoy the Sea and green around the city.

Support for international newcomers

For over 12 years, The Hague International Centre has provided free help for international newcomers who work or live in The Hague region. We take care of formalities upon arrival such as municipal registration and residence documents. The centre provides information and guidance about things like immigration, housing, learning Dutch, finding a job, education and more. You can visit the daily helpdesk with your questions, pick up a copy of our welcome guide for newcomers, get recommendations for trusted service providers or sign up for events. At the centre you will be greeted by volunteers from the not-for-profit ACCESS. To prepare for a move, the centre offers checklists, webinars, welcome guides and a new relocation app.

Municipal registration

The International Centre also arranges the municipal registration for newcomers. Diplomats can opt to be registered with the municipality next to their registration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Many chose to register as public services are easier to arrange once you are registered and have access to the Dutch digital log-in DigiD. To register you need to make an appointment via our website, bring your documents and attend in person. Registration does not affect your fiscal privileges and immunities.

Volunteer

If you are interested in giving back to the community, you may want to volunteer. The Hague offers lots of volunteer opportunities for which Dutch is not required. Via ACCESS

you can volunteer at The Hague International Centre. Volunteer The Hague offers a job portal for vacancies and regular Mix-and-Match events to network with organisations.

Events

Throughout the year the International Centre organises events to help international newcomers settle in and make them feel at home. Four times a year a Welcome to The Hague event for newcomers. The event offers insight into the Dutch culture, things to do, a city tour and drinks to connect with other newcomers. The ideal opportunity to start life in The Hague. Every month the centre also organises thematic events about key elements of your new life in the Netherlands, such as healthcare, finding a home, education, Dutch language or taxes. On the sixth of November The Hague International Centre organised the annual Feel at Home Fair. More than 500 internationals got information from 50 sport, social and community clubs. A true celebration of the diversity of the local international ecosystem!

If you do not want to miss the next events keep an eye out at the event section on our website for our own events and other international-friendly events in the region.

Den Haag.com offers a complete overview of all things to do in the region. You can find out how to have a Royal Winter in The Hague or what cultural activities are planned for the Escher Year. In 2023 it will be 125 years ago that Escher was born.

Stay updated

If you do not want to miss out on the latest news, events and updates, please sign up for our newsletter or follow our social media channels. You can follow The Hague International Centre on LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook or Twitter. Visit our website at www.thehagueinternationalcentre.nl, or helpdesk in City Hall from Monday till Friday or send your questions to internationalcentre@denhaag.nl.

Bio

Gerko Visée works as policy officer for The Hague International Centre. For the last five years he has been in contact with employers, service providers and government agencies to make The Hague region more attractive for international staff and companies.

BANGLADESH NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

H.E. Mr Riaz Hamidullah Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in the Netherlands observed a solemn National Day of Mourning on August 15 2022.

This year is the 47th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, whom stood for secularism, pluralism, murdered at the age of 55 years. It is, therefore, appropriate to solemnly pay deep respect. On the program was also the screening of "Hasina- A Daughters Tale" a documentary movie.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina cautions her people of possible repetition of 1975 carnage. In a newspaper interview with The Economic Times on 21 Aug. 2022, Hasina stated, "More attacks may come. The August 15, 1975 attack was carried out when Bangabandhu started the country's development. Today, Bangladesh became a developing nation and is heading towards becoming a developed one - those who don't like this, will not sit idle, they will attack - so be alert about this," Sheikh Hasina said.

The National Memorial was attended by Ambassadors, among them Costa Rica, Philippines, diplomats from Belarus and others.

Drs. Jan Pronk, former Dutch Minister of Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade (1973-77, 1989-98), delivered the keynote address. A media release by the Bangladesh Mission stated the following.

Veteran Dutch politician Jan Pronk shed light on Bangladesh's development, independence struggle and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's outstanding leadership in the 70s in the commemorative event by the Bangladesh Embassy to the Netherlands organised at The Humanity Hub in The Hague.

He also recalled his spirited interaction with Bangabandhu in Dhaka in 1973; and lauded leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Pronk was Dutch Minister of Development Cooperation & Foreign Trade for two terms (1973-77, 1989-98). He played a key role in augmenting development cooperation to Bangladesh from the Netherlands and Europe as a whole immediately following Bangladesh's independence.

In the event, he released e-version of the Dutch edition of Bangabandhu's Unfinished Memoirs on 150 e-book sites and online markets. From today, Dutch-speaking people worldwide can buy the Dutch version for just €4.95.

After translating and printing the Dutch version (hard copy) in March 2021, Bangladesh Embassy took steps this innovative initiative and realised in one year. This will now be the only digital version of any edition of Bangabandhu's book, globally.



At the launch of the e-version of the Dutch edition, 4 Podcasts out of the Dutch edition were also made available which can be accessed at the Embassy's website.

Afterwards, "Hasina- A Daughters Tale" was screened for the Ambassadors, diplomats and Dutch dignitaries present. Copies of the Dutch edition were presented to the guests as well.

It has been a day full of activities, the National Day of Mourning, the screening of a documentary film and the launching of a book.



Across section of the audience.



Jan Pronk delivering keynote speech

BARBADOS TO ESTABLISH THE WORLD' FIRST EMBASSY IN THE METAVERSE

By Roy Lie Atjam

The Government of The Unitary Parliamentary Republic of Barbados has approved the establishment of the World's First Metaverse Embassy. Establishing an embassy in the metaverse - a virtual world - is an innovative move and a world-first for a government.

The Government of Barbados will continue to establish and maintain physical embassies however will use the Metaverse Embassy as an opportunity to pioneer the evolution of global diplomacy beyond the physical world.

Metaverse is a virtual-reality space where users can interact within a computer-generated environment with other users.

After speaking to the Barbados Government Special Envoy, Ambassador Gabriel Abed, he furnished me with the following information: "November 14, 2021 - On August 12 2021, the Government of Barbados' Cabinet approved the establishment of the world's first Metaverse Embassy."

Barbados' Metaverse Embassy will be at the centre of activities to advance the growth of stronger bilateral relationships with governments globally. It launches in the wake of Covid-19 disrupting traditional diplomatic

channels, and at a time when Barbados is reimagining itself as a world hub for digital transformation and technology innovation.

Senator Jerome Walcott, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade said " This platform will be an important forum where Barbados will work with our traditional partners and new allies to deepen engagement in the diplomatic arena; the investment, business, tourism and cultural sectors; and people-to-people interaction. Barbados looks forward to welcoming the world in its Metaverse Embassy."

The Metaverse Embassy is being championed by Barbados' Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, H.E. Mr. Gabriel Abed, who is also a world-renowned pioneer in the field of Central Bank Digital Currency and blockchain technology.

"The Metaverse Embassy demonstrates Barbados' leadership in pivoting diplomacy and international relations into the technology age. The Metaverse Embassy is the first phase of a multi-phased approach towards delivering digital solutions that evolve the way we interact with the world around us. This will be critical as Barbados fosters stronger

relationships with technologically advanced nations", the Ambassador explained.

Although most details have not been revealed, the Ambassador did say that e-consular services will be a core feature alongside with a virtual teleporter which will be built in Barbados' Metaverse Embassy connecting all meta-worlds as a gesture of diplomatic unification between technology platforms.

" We believe it is critical to build teleporters as a common access point to all of the metaverses to foster meta-diplomacy", said Ambassador Abed.

"We welcome the world's diplomatic missions to join us in establishing their embassies in the metaverse. Barbados is proud to lend our technological assistance and knowhow to governments wanting to establish their own metaverse embassy", said Minister Walcott. The Barbados Meta Embassy is officially still to be launched. According to Mr Mark Zuckerberg, Meta CEO, the metaverse will be mainstream 5-10 years from now.

Barbados, fondly Known as Land of The Flying Fish, takes to the Metaverse!





Photography by Kim Vermaat



ECUADOR CELEBRATES ITS 203 INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

The Embassy of Ecuador in the Netherlands hosted various activities on 16, 17 and 20 September 2022, celebrating its 213 years of Independence. It started with a presentation on the extension of the Galapagos marine reserve

On June 28, 2002, in order to make the local community aware of Ecuador's contributions to the conservation of the environment and nature, as well as for the purpose of promoting the tourism and investment in this sector, H.E. Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral made a presentation on the background and effects of the expansion of the Galapagos marine reserve and the agreements established with neighboring countries, which has placed this presidential initiative at the center of world attention.

This event was attended by an important audience from the Sociëteit De Witte in whose facilities developed the presentation, also with the assistance of several friends from Ecuador, colleagues and

personalities who contribute to the dissemination of the priority interests of Ecuador. In addition, articles on the central theme of the event were published in the newspapers "The Holland Times" with which a wide spectrum of diffusion was covered, as well as in the monthly magazine of the Sociëteit De Witte itself, which is a Dutch private entity of very high social and economic hierarchy. The central objective was to identify potential stakeholders in cooperation and investment in Ecuador.

On September 16th, 2022, an official reception celebrating the National Day of Ecuador took place at the Leonardo Royal Hotel in The Hague, which was attended by nearly 200 people, including authorities from different Dutch entities, businessmen and the diplomatic community.

The event had various sponsors. Air Europa donated two air tickets Amsterdam – Quito,

which were raffled during the reception, as well as looms, and ponchos were donated by the Dutch-Ecuadorian company "Ecuafina" and hats donated by "Ecuallanda" owned by compatriot Tania Peláez, who also set up an attractive stand to demonstrate to attendees during the reception, the art of weaving toquilla straw hats.

Ecuadorian roses were offered to the Embassy by the company Farm Direct. On departure attendees were presented roses.

Travel agencies and other companies (Nutreco), added to the positive impression of Ecuador's relationship with Dutch companies, also Dutch exporters and importers.

The official National hymn of Ecuador and the Netherlands were performed by the Ecuadorian singer living in the Netherlands, **Carolina Peña**, with piano accompaniment, which was appreciated and praised by the attendees.

In his official National Day address, **H.E. Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral**, emphasized the political, diplomatic and commercial relations between Ecuador and the Netherlands, and highlighted the favorable conditions offered by the current National Ecuadorian Government, for investment in various economic sectors of the country. The Ambassador referred to the bilateral and multilateral relations with the Netherlands, evidenced during the recent bilateral political consultations held on September 12, in the city of Quito.

The reception featured Ecuadorian snacks made in cooperation with Hotel Leonardo and the Ecuadorian **chef Héctor Tapia**, who traveled from Ecuador and was sponsored by ProEcuador commercial office in The Hague.

Other events, a business breakfast on September 16, 2022, at the Leonardo Hotel and was attended by several Dutch businessmen and company representatives.

The Ambassador thanked the attendees and highlight the potential that exists for investors to expand their investments in Ecuador. The director of the office Commercial of ProEcuador, Mrs **Andrea Montoya**, made a presentation publicizing in greater detail business and investment opportunities in the country.

Gastronomic Festival of Ecuador

The Embassy together with ProEcuador coordinated the participation of Ecuador in the gastronomic festival promoted annually by the Leonardo Royal Hotel and **Diplomatic Magazine**. On 16 – 17 September 2022, **chef Héctor Tapia** offered various flavors and gastronomic traditions at the Ecuadorian Food Festival on 16th September.

H.E. Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral opened the festival in the company of chef Héctor Tapia and Embassy officials, thereby fulfilling an important aspect of the promotion of the strengths of Ecuador, such as its attractive gastronomy, which encourages complementing the tourist interest in the country.

The Embassy invited sponsoring companies to the National Day reception and the food festival.

The celebration of the 213 years of Independence also included a piano concert by **Aarón Ormaza Vera**, at Sociëteit De Witte on 20 September, which was well attended and had a high turnout. The Embassy received many positive reactions.

By means of these activities, the Embassy has made a wide deployment of resources of various kind to position Ecuador in a visible place with a favorable impact that leads to the opening of opportunities for the benefit of the interests of Ecuador.

These were eventful Ecuadorian days in the Netherlands.

TEXTILES, DRESS AND EMBROIDERY: UNIVERSAL LANGUAGES WITH MANY DIALECTS

It may not come as a surprise to hear that few people, if any, go without clothing or textiles. But many are surprised when they learn about the complexities, meanings and above all the language of those items. Don't we all sometimes 'dress up' to impress, 'dress down' to show our modesty, or recognise someone's attire as specific to a certain culture?

The Textile Research Centre (TRC) in Leiden studies the skills of textile and garment production, and what people want to express when wearing their clothes, namely the language of dress. It is a knowledge centre that is actively involved in the preservation, interpretation and future of this specific, but universal part of cultural heritage.

The TRC was founded in 1991 as an independent foundation ('Stichting') and works closely together with Leiden University and other Dutch and international organisations worldwide. The courses and workshops set up by the TRC are attended by professionals and non-professionals, promoted by the TRC's (EU) Erasmus+ Adult Education Accreditation and its official status as a Cultural Public Benefit Organisation ('ANBI').

A key feature of the TRC is its collection of over 40,000 textiles, garments and accessories that date from prehistory to yesterday. Most of the items are photographed and included in the open-access, online catalogue. The items have been brought together for people to see, feel and indeed closely investigate. In doing so they can focus on the associated techniques, decoration and the specific meanings of the garments. Items in the collection have been collected during travels in the Netherlands

and abroad; they have also been donated by many institutes and individuals, including various embassies in The Hague, as well as immigrant organisations in Leiden and beyond. But people not only donate textiles, they also help us with invaluable information about the meaning of the items, how they were made and used. We often describe this as 'Citizen Culture at Work' because so many people are involved.

There is another, closely related side to the TRC. In 2015 the then Yemeni Ambassador to the Netherlands asked if the TRC would become a cultural ark for Yemeni textiles and dress. Since then the TRC has become a haven for Yemeni textiles, preserving and supporting the study of Yemeni textile and dress culture. Sadly, the TRC has also become a textile ark for other communities, including Afghanistan and Syria.

Embroidery has become an important and prestigious part of TRC activities. We study its long history, its many techniques and forms and its meaning. Embroidery's history includes monarchs, religious leaders, as well as the military and the diplomatic world, and of course 'ordinary' people all over the world. The oldest known surviving embroideries, for example, come from the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh, Tutankhamen. He was buried in c.

1322 BC together with both Egyptian made embroidered garments and embroidered clothing that was given as diplomatic gifts by the Mittani, who lived in what is now northern Syria.

Embroidery was and still is produced in many parts of the world and there are hundreds of different forms, materials, stitches, threads and end products, and they all have a different history and a different meaning. Many of these forms are represented in the TRC collection, as well as being the subject of an eight-volume series called the Bloomsbury World Encyclopedia of Embroidery, which is written and edited at the TRC, and published by Bloomsbury, London. The first two volumes are already out and cover the Arab World (2016) and Central Asia, the Iranian Plateau and the Indian sub-continent (2021). The first volume won several international prizes, including the prestigious Dartmouth Medal (2017). The third volume on Sub-Saharan embroidery is due in April 2023. The other volumes on Central and East European, East Asian, Southeast Asian and the American forms are all planned for the next five or so years.

Help with the relevant entries is being given by many individuals, institutes and others. The Georgian, Philippine and Estonian Embassies in The Hague, for example, are already working with the TRC. TRC's 'Citizen culture at work' unites many people from all over the world, since, as was said, we all use textiles and garments, and we have to learn the myriads of dialects in order to communicate effectively.



An embroidered, married woman's dress from Bayt al-Fakih, Tihamah, Yemen (late 20th century; TRC 1997.0213)



An embroidered, woman's blouse (huipil) from Guatemala (late 20th century, TRC 2011.0486).



A woman's apron made from the sleeve of a Turkish embroidered dress. The apron is decorated with paisley (buteh) motifs as well as the signature (tughra) of the Turkish sultan (c. 1900; TRC 2003.0199).

Textile Research Centre

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A hand stitched embroidery from Rwanda, made by the Savane Kabuye Workshop (c. 2018; TRC 2021.2052).



The Leiden Hat: a miniature bicorne hat made in 1796 for a Hat Maker's Guild examination in Leiden (TRC 2010.0056a).



Detail of a Brussels lace shawl once owned by Queen Anna Paulowna of the Netherlands (c. 1820; TRC 2014.0831).



Ms. Eleni Godevenou, Attache Embassy of Greece, Mr Miltiadis Gkouzouris CEO @ HVA International, and H.E. Ms. Caterina Ghini, Ambassador of Greece.

A NEW HUB FOR GREEK BOOKS IN THE HAGUE

One year after an interview with Diplomat Magazine, Stanza Bookshop opens a new Greek section in collaboration with the Embassy of Greece in the Netherlands. The inauguration ceremony took place on-site on November 10th, 2022. Local members of the Greek community, Stanza's staff members, and the Embassy attended the event. In our conversations with them, we learned about how this project came to be.

In recent years, Stanza has received personal requests for Greek books. Although a Greek collection was not previously available, the store would still provide for individual orders. The need for Greek books was also present in the Embassy, but H.E. Ambassador Caterina Ghini said, "We could not find them anywhere!" Thus, when they stumbled upon this international bookstore at the heart of The Hague, an idea immediately came to mind.

The Embassy reached out to Stanza's owner, Karina Romay, intending to establish a new provider of Greek books. Since August 2022, they worked closely together to connect Stanza with Greek publishers. After two busy months, their plan materialized and a new Greek section was added to Stanza.

The store currently houses almost 300 Greek titles of a wide variety for all ages. Aside from literature of different genres, the books cover cooking, travel, and political science, among other topics. There are children's books, in addition to early reader and language books. Many available titles are also translated from Greek into numerous languages, including English, French, and German. Indeed, this diversity suggests a section catered to readers

of all interests and backgrounds, including non-Greek-speaking customers.

This attribute was echoed in our talks with Ambassador Ghini and Attache Eleni Godevenou. The project is catered toward Greek people in the Netherlands who had difficulty finding books in their mother tongue. There are approximately 40,000 Greek people residing in the Netherlands, including those working at international organizations and students. The Embassy wishes to bring a sense of home to this Greek community living abroad. However, they hope the project can serve non-Greek people as well. Considering the number of travelers in Greece and people's general fascination for Greek culture, the new section definitely achieves this purpose. Ambassador Ghini believes that the love for reading truly "brings everyone together."

It is without a doubt that Stanza Bookshop continues to keep the joy of books alive for people from all different backgrounds. This has not changed since we last met with Karina. Greek is another language that Stanza has opened its doors to, but is unlikely to be the last.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY THE HAGUE 2023



On January 30th, the Vredespaleis hosted the commemorative symposium organized by ChAI, the cultural and educational foundation of the NIG, the orthodox Jewish community of The Hague together with the city of The Hague and the Embassy of Israel. Following two 'digital' corona years it was once again possible to have the symposium in person. The symposium, which aims to show light on how the Holocaust has influenced the development of international criminal law, this time focused on six photographers who recorded images of the occupation and the persecution of the Jews in the Netherlands.

The importance of this event is evidenced by the roster of speakers that consisted of the mayor of the Hague, Mr. Jan van Zanen, minister Dilan Yesilgöz Zegerius, Judge Graciela Gatti Santana, professor Leora Bilsky, ambassador Modi Ephraim of Israel, Mrs. Deborah Maarsen-Laufer and rabbi Shmuel Katzman. Among the public in the almost full hall were ambassadors, politicians, lawyers, former ministers, senior members of international organizations, academics, and students of international law. Unfortunately, there were no representatives of the printed press.

Mrs. Maarsen-Laufer gave a moving account of how she and her parents survived Ravensbrück, Bergen Belsen, and Birkenau. Her message was most powerfully expressed in her closing words:

"Don't lose hope, not then, not now, not ever!"

Most speakers and especially the minister of Justice and Security stressed the importance of education, formal and within the family, of the facts of the Holocaust, of the dangers of discrimination and especially antisemitism. She pointed to the rise of antisemitism's 'ugly head', and the influence of false facts entering the minds of our youths through social media.

It was why General Eisenhower ordered photos and films to be made of the horrors the Allied armies found in the concentration camps. He foresaw that these crimes might be denied. "After all 'the' truth can consist of many different truths, and we must always be alert to the danger of malicious actors trying to control the narrative", she said.

Comemorating and celebrating are not enough. It is also a problem of the here and now. It is about prevention, education, and corrective action where needed. How we plan to do this you may read in the action plan of the NCAB, the National Coordinator for Combating Antisemitism.

Internationally renowned professor Bilsky in her keynote speech 'Rachel Auerbach: The Eichmann Trial and a new concept of victim testimony' spoke about the influence of Auerbach on the empowering of witness' accounts in trials of genocide and crimes against humanity since the Eichmann trial. No longer would such trials merely rest on archival evidence, but surviving witnesses would become proactive rather than just victims.

Ambassador Modi Ephraim told about the six photographers who were limelighted in

this symposium, while their photographs were projected onto the screen and Mrs. Maarsen-Laufer lighted a candle as their names were mentioned.

In his closing words, rabbi Katzman emphasized the role of iconic photos in building our understanding of events. "Believing is seeing", he emphasized. The photos help in the war of the narratives. Rabbi Katzman also stressed the importance of education because "laws alone will never preclude crimes".

After the symposium, the Dutch member of Parliament, Mr. Ulysse Ellian, was very enthusiastic about the event. It was well-organized and the message of the speeches was important and necessary, but there were hardly any young people. "If everyone agrees that education about the Holocaust is so crucial, why weren't there any schoolchildren?"

While this symposium was discussing the influence of the holocaust on international criminal law, an aggressive war is being waged by Russia in the east of Europe with many charges of heinous crimes against humanity. In part because of that, there appears to be a movement to add 'Aggression' to the crimes of 'Genocide' and 'Crimes against humanity' on the list of war crimes.

The organizers should have no problem finding a focus for next year's International Holocaust Memorial Day-The Hague.

The six photographers are: Maria Austria, Rudolf Werner Breslauer, H.C. Damen, Jan Duimel, Johan de Maas, and Lydia van Nobelen Risouw.



H.E. Ms. Marisol Agüero Colunga, Ambassador of Peru

INAUGURATION EXHIBITION TOUCHED BY NATURE BY THE AMAZONIAN SCHOOL OF ARTS

BY ROY LIE ATJAM

The city of peace and justice saw an exceptional exhibition take place on August 16th, 2022. The exhibition titled Touched by Nature by the Amazonian School of Arts was a result of cooperation between the Picaflors Foundation and the Atrium City Hall, where it was hosted.

Guests attending the event included Ms. Jacqueline Meier - Director of the Atrium City Hall; Mr. Jan van Zanen - Mayor of The Hague; Mr. Jan Paul Buijs - Representative of the Picaflors Foundation; and Mr. Luc Vankrunkelsven - a prominent researcher on agricultural issues. The Ambassador of Peru, H.E. Ms. Marisol Flavia Aguer Colunga, officially inaugurated the exhibition.

Ms. Aguer Colunga welcomed visitors to the unique exhibition of eighteen painters of the Neo-Amazonian School of Art from the city of Pucallpa, Peru. The event hopes to raise awareness of the little-known and fragile ecosystem of the Cerrado Savannah in the Brazilian highlands and the Amazon forest, which are interdependent.

In her speech, the Ambassador briefly talked about Peruvian Amazonia and the participating Peruvian painters.

The Amazon Forest covers 62% of Peruvian territory and is one of the most biologically diverse areas on the planet. Although many more species have yet to be discovered and classified, we currently know of 15,000 animal species and more than 20,000 botanical species here, including medicinal plants.

"In order to properly preserve this natural wealth, the Peruvian government has established more than 50 protected natural areas in the Amazon Forest, amounting to 10% of Peruvian territory."

Despite having the lowest population density in the country at 8%, the Peruvian Amazon is home to 64 tribes that speak 44 languages, divided into 19 different linguistic families.

"It is within that rich context that we found a marvelous group of artists from the Usko-Ayar School of Art in the city of Pucallpa, founded by the shaman and visionary artist Pablo Amaringo," said the Ambassador about the painters of the Neo-Amazonian style.

Their origins date back to the Amazonian cave paintings, and their art showcases a

universe where people live in harmony with animals, plants, and rivers. This philosophy of respect for nature and the environment is why the artists are advocating for preserving ecosystems like that of the Amazon forest. Representing her fellow painters at the exhibition was Mrs. Mita Lizano.

There was an outstandingly festive atmosphere accompanied by an abundance of wonderful Peruvian goodies such as Pisco Sour, a traditional Peruvian cocktail. Members of the diplomatic community came out in strength; among them were the Ambassadors of Ecuador, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Malta, Panama, and Costa Rica, and diplomats from Argentina, El Salvador, Chili, and Poland. Other friends of Picaflors also came from the Belgian cities of Brussels and Gent to see the exhibition.

The Honourable Jan van Zanen, Mayor of The Hague.. Photography by Kim Vermaat



VIET NAM BROUGHT TYPICAL CULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO EMBASSY FESTIVAL

BY Viet Nam Embassy in the Hague

The Embassy of Viet Nam in the Netherlands attended the Embassy Festival which took place at Lange Voorhout, The Hague last September. This is a prestigious cultural event organized annually by the event organization Prooost in collaboration with the city government of The Hague. After 2 years of the Covid-19 pandemic, this event was attended by nearly 50 embassies and attracted thousands of visitors. Besides foods, visitors can enjoy music performances, martial arts and traditional costumes from ethnic groups around the world.

Vietnam's pavilion is located in the area of 5 ASEAN countries booth which included Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, creating a highlight of ASEAN's cohesion. This place is also one of the most crowded areas of the festival, which is visited and supported by a large number of visitors. In particular, the ASEAN culture and cuisine corner was honored to be visited and enjoyed by the Mayor of The Hague, Mr. Jan van Zanen.

Participating in this Festival, in addition to promoting Vietnamese culinary culture through typical dishes such as "bánh mỳ", "nem", the Embassy focused on promoting Vietnamese agricultural products through displayed products, from food and beverages such as coffee, fresh coconut water, mung bean cakes, lotus products (dry lotus seeds, lotus tea, lotus root snacks), spices to environmentally friendly non-food products like straws from grass, bamboo. In particular, Vietnamese coffee imported and distributed in the Netherlands under Vietnamese brands such as Hoi An Roastery and Real Bean has attracted the attention of visitors. Many

visitors enjoyed a cup of European-style coffee with 100% arabica beans or a mix of Arabica and Robusta beans with mostly Arabica ingredients which imported from Viet Nam. Especially, Hoi An Roastery coffee beans grew by farmers in Quang Tri Province, supported by Medical Committee Netherlands-Vietnam (MCNV) and developed in Dutch market by a Dutch company.

The group of Vietnamese students in the Netherlands performed a Silk Fan Dance on the background of the music "Beo dat may troi" at one of the three main stages of the Festival, leaving a strong impression on the audience. Many spectators who love Vietnam responded enthusiastically to the performance and lingered to ask for souvenir photos with the dance team.





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LEONARDO ROYAL HOTEL DEN HAAG PROMENADE

Leonardo Royal Hotel Den Haag Promenade is situated between dynamic Scheveningen, the Embassy District and the center of Royal The Hague. The hotel offers 178 luxurious hotel rooms and 10 meeting rooms. Our 3 largest conference rooms combined can accommodate 350 guests in theatre style. Furthermore, it is equipped with a Sony 4K laser projector, which features stunning images that are four times clearer than High Definition. For effective meetings, the hotel offers 3 boardrooms. Enjoy a good cup of coffee, a light lunch or dinner in our restaurant. Our kitchen team is happy to surprise you with International dishes. Relax in the luxurious Promenade Healthclub & Spa with various saunas, a swimming pool and a comprehensive fitness area including personal trainer.



LEO'S INTERNATIONAL FLAVORS

LEO's International Flavors is a concept in which we create dishes inspired by cuisines from all around the world. It's all about authentic flavors, but with a personal touch of our Chefs. Smaller portions that you can share and discover multiple flavors. During our Food Festivals an international Chef selected by an embassy, creates a special menu full of authentic flavors, together with Chef Sido de Brabander. Each Food Festival highlights a specific cuisine. The very best dishes are here to stay on our menu.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Centrally located in The Hague
- 178 luxury rooms
- 7 multifunctional meeting rooms
- 3 boardrooms
- 4K Laser beamer & Vision Presenter
- Promenade Healthclub & Spa
- Bar & Restaurant with terrace
- Private parking



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