

DIPLOMAT AFFAIRS



AMBASSADOR OF
ARGENTINA
H.E. HORACIO H. SALVADOR AND
MRS. JANE BERGER DE SALVADOR

KENYA
A FLOWER POWER

ERIK DE BAEDTS
DIRECTOR PEACE PALACE

IN TOUCH WITH THE DUTCH

AUTUMN/WINTER 2015/2016




KASTEEL DE
WITTENBURG
AUDACIA AMICITIA FIDES



Diplomat Club Wassenaar
The Netherlands

Landgoed De Wittenburg 1, 2244 BV Wassenaar

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Left to right: Mrs. Eva Mennes, Mrs. Kris Schiermeier, Mr. Alexander Beelaerts van Blokland, Mrs. Shida Blik, Mrs. Nadia van Gaalen-Toppenberg, Mrs. Bonnie Klap.

‘Belgian Art in Focus,’ culture in ‘China Festival The Hague,’ trade in ‘Kenya: a flower Power,’ culinary adventures in ‘A taste of Thailand’, and several National Day celebrations, such as Morocco: ‘The Kingdom celebrates’ and ‘A defining moment for Indonesia’. It is a privilege to be involved in the arts and to connect the Diplomatic Corps and Dutch society through art. A good example is the International Day of Peace, which underscores mutual friendship and respect. Other highlights include an article by Dr. Williams of The Hague Institute for Global Justice on the crisis of Global Governance and the recent visit of former US Secretary of State, Ms. Madeleine Albright, as well as an in-depth article on Argentina, including an interview with Ambassador Héctor Horatio Salvador. Another article worth mentioning is ‘Beautiful Bastille Day,’ otherwise known as ‘Quatorze Juillet.’ At this year’s Quatorze Juillet celebration three Dutch veterans from the Princess Irene Brigade received the most honored ‘Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur.’ Moreover we have an interesting interview with the newly appointed Director of the Peace Palace, Mr. Erik de Baedts, who shared his thoughts and plans with us. Other fascinating articles include the one on butlers and the Annual Ambassadors Outing hosted by Mayor Mr. Jan Hoekema of Wassenaar. But there is more. Much more. We hope this collection of articles will provide some insights and understanding and we look forward to continue to bring The Hague and the International Community together. As 2015 draws to an end we, at *Diplomat Affairs Magazine*, would like to wish you Happy Holidays and a prosperous and healthy New Year!

Shida Blik, Bonnie Klap

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Back row from left to right; South-Africa: H.E. Mr. Vusi Bruce Koloane; Founder Diplomat Club Wassenaar Mrs. Shida Blik; Panama: H.E. Mr. Willys Delvalle Velasco; Colombia: H.E. Mr. Juan Jose Quintana Aranguren; Peru: H.E. Mr. Carlos Andres Miguel Herrera Rodríguez; Thailand: H.E. Mr. Ittiporn Boonpracong. Front row from left to right; Chief Protocol MFA: Mr. Roelof van Ees; Czech Republic: H.E. Ms. Jana Reinišová; Mayor of Wassenaar Mr. Jan Hoekema; Saudi-Arabia: H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Abdullah Abohaimed.

Ambassadors, welcome to The Netherlands!

On May 31st, 2015 seven newly arrived Ambassadors were welcomed at Diplomat Club Wassenaar in Castle De Wittenburg in Wassenaar.



From left to right; the Ambassador of Panama H.E. Mr. Willys Delvalle Velasco, the Ambassador of Peru H.E. Mr. Carlos Andres Miguel Herrera Rodríguez and the Ambassador of Thailand H.E. Mr. Ittiporn Boonpracong.

BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

As has become tradition, Ambassadors who have presented their credentials to His Majesty King Willem-Alexander, receive an official welcome ceremony at the Diplomat Club Wassenaar at Castle ‘De Wittenburg’ in Wassenaar. On May 31st, no less than seven newly arrived Ambassadors were ceremoniously welcomed by Mr. Jan Hoekema, Mayor

of Wassenaar, and Mrs. Shida Blik, founder of Diplomat Club Wassenaar. Mayor Hoekema welcomed Ambassador Juan Jose Quintana Aranguren of Colombia, Ambassador Jana Reinišová of the Czech Republic, Ambassador Willys Delvalle Velasco of Panama, Ambassador Carlos Andres Miguel Herrera Rodríguez of Peru, Ambassador Abdulaziz Abdullah

Abohaimed of Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Vusi Bruce Koloane of South Africa and Ambassador Ittiporn Boonpracong of Thailand and presented each with an official welcome certificate. In his speech Mayor Hoekema warmly welcomed all the Ambassadors and spoke briefly about two Ambassadors in particular. “Some of the Ambassadors I already know, as they

are residents of Wassenaar, such as the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, who is already a great friend of Wassenaar and the Ambassador of Peru, who, I know, is a poet and an art lover and who will open his residence to the public on Monuments Day, September 2nd,” according to Mayor Hoekema, who also briefly digressed from the welcome ceremony to express his sadness at the imminent departure of Ambassador

NO LESS THAN SEVEN
NEWLY ARRIVED
AMBASSADORS WERE
CEREMONIOUSLY
WELCOMED BY
MR. JAN HOEKEMA,
MAYOR OF WASSENAAR,
AND MRS. SHIDA BLIEK,
FOUNDER OF DIPLOMAT
CLUB WASSENAAR

Rajesh Prasad of India due to retirement: “Unfortunately this is part of the diplomatic life cycle, but as I look back on the two years that Ambassador Prasad served his country here, I remember the many highlights, such as the spectacular Indian wedding of his son, followed by a big party in Noordwijk and the many events that the Ambassador has organized in an excellent way during his tenure in The Netherlands” according to Mayor Hoekema, who then presented Ambassador Prasad with a farewell gift from the town of Wassenaar. “I agree with everything you say,” Ambassador Prasad quipped. The Mayor also congratulated Ambassador José de Bouza Serrano of Portugal on



the fact that his posting will be extended by one year to 2016. Founder of the Diplomat Club Wassenaar Mrs. Shida Bliek delivered a welcome speech and also expressed her delight at Ambassador de Bouza Serrano’s extended posting in The Netherlands: “We are not ready to say goodbye to our friend and highly appreciated neighbour yet”. After the ceremony the guests sat down to enjoy a stylish castle dinner, dining on delicacies such as Norwegian salmon and slow-stewed arm of beef. Dessert consisted of a large birthday cake and champagne in honor of the birthday of Mrs. Véronique Micléa, the wife of Ambassador Carlos Andres Miguel Herrera Rodríguez of Peru. Following the ceremony and dinner the Ambassadors and guests were invited by Mr. Ralf Meppelder to the concert room and treated to a sensational Jazz concert by famous saxophone player Candy Dulfer and her band.



1. Mayor Jan Hoekema welcomes the ambassadors.
2. Mrs. Shida Bliek of the Diplomat Club Wassenaar.
3. Mayor Jan Hoekema and Mr. Jochum Haakma.
4. Mrs. Sharyn van Ees and Mr. Roelof van Ees, Chief Protocol MFA.
5. Mr. Steven van Hoogstraten and Ms. Abir Ali Mr. Alexander van Bealaerts
6. H.E. Mr. Karim Ben Becher, Mr. Roelof van Ees and Mr. H.E. Jose De Bouza Serrano.
7. Mr. Peter Bliek, Chairman TenRande Foundation and Mrs. Nadia van Gaalen-Toppenberg.
8. Mrs. Reem Ben Becher.
9. Mrs. Eva Mennes, Mr. Ralf Meppelder from Castle De Wittenburg and Mrs. Indira Prasad.
10. H.E. Dr Alvaro Moerzinger, Mrs. Ana Luisa Trabal and H.E. Mr. Jose De Bouza Serrano.
11. H.E. Mr. Vusi Kolaone, Mrs. Ntokoza Kolaone, Mrs. Besma Al Fayad and H.E. Dr. Saad Ibrahim Al Ali.

Introducing the new ambassadors



COLOMBIA
H.E. Mr. Juan José Quintana is an international law specialist with 30 years of experience in international affairs. He is a career diplomat in the Colombian foreign service and has served in diplomatic postings in The Hague, Sofia, Managua, Washington D.C, New York and Geneva. His field of expertise is the law and practice of international tribunals, with particular emphasis on the International Court of Justice. Mr Quintana has been engaged as advisor for Colombia in several cases before the ICJ and has lectured and published extensively on public international law. In June 2015 Brill/Nijhoff published his monograph Litigation at the International Court of Justice – Practice and Procedure, as volume 10 of the series ‘International Litigation in Practice’.

PERU
H.E. Mr. Carlos Andres Miguel Herrera Rodriguez studied Law in Peru and at

the International Institute for Public Administration in Paris. As career diplomat in the Peruvian Foreign Service, he has served in a wide spectrum of sectors: political, economic, cultural, commercial and international relations. Twice in postings in Paris, but also in Ecuador, the United States of America and UNESCO.



Mr Rodriguez has a French spouse, Veronique and a daughter. A prolific writer, he has published nine books of fiction and participated in numerous national and foreign anthologies.

THAILAND
H.E. Mr. Ittiporn Boonpracong studied Law and International Law in Thailand and the United States. He is a specialist in legal affairs and as career diplomat has served in the Comoro Islands, Eritrea, Kenya (where his daughter was born), Rwanda, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Congo, Somalia and South Sudan and for the UN in Bangkok and



Geneva. He is married to Mrs. Suteera Boonpracong. Since March 2015 he is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

SOUTH AFRICA
H.E. Mr. Vusi Bruce Koloane holds an Honours degree in Economics and a Bachelor of Social Science, from the University of Natal, and a Senior Primary Teachers’ Diploma. Ambassador Koloane’s experience as a public servant spans many years, commencing in the mid-80s when he was employed as a mathematics and economics teacher with the Department of Education and Training. Following a short stint in the private sector, he was deployed as South Africa’s Economic Representative to Egypt and



to Japan before becoming Chief Director International Trade and Economic Development. Mr Koloane has served as South African Consul-General to Shanghai and Charge’ d’Affairs in Beijing. He was appointed Ambassador to Spain where in addition to cementing government-to-government relations, he also facilitated a number of scholarships for disadvantaged South Africans.

CZECH REPUBLIC
Mrs Jana Reinišová graduated from the faculty of Law in Prague and first worked in the area of International Cooperation in science and technology before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has worked mainly in the area of European Integration, including participation in negotiations on the accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union, inter alia as a Deputy Director, Department for the Coordination of Relations with the EU, Director, Department for the Internal Market and Sectoral Policies; she has also served in Brussels. In 2015 Mrs Reinišová was accredited as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic



to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.



SAUDI ARABIA
H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Abohaimed studied Diplomacy in Riyadh Saudi Arabia and Political Science in Portland USA. As a career diplomat he has been mainly involved in Economic Affairs, Bilateral Relations and in the Western Department. He has also served in Paris and Singapore

and is married with three daughters and two sons. After a posting as Minister Plenipotentiary in his home country, he was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 2015.



PANAMA
H.E. Mr. Willys Delvalle Velasco holds a degree in Science and Business and comes to us with over 30 years high level business experience, in particular in maritime affairs. He has held the position of General Manager of Crowley Caribbean transport and the American President line in Panama City and as Senior Marine Operations Manager for Latin America. Besides the business activities Mr. Velasco has served as President of the Panama Maritime Chamber and signed various cooperation agreements in education with various universities, the Ministry of Education, and the Panama Canal. Mr. Velasco is married and has three children.



Archbishop H.E. Mgr. Aldo Cavalli new Papal Nuncio in The Hague

The new Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Mgr. Aldo Cavalli, freshly named by His Holiness Pope Franciscus as Nuncio to the Netherlands, arrived in the Hague in May. He follows in this capacity Mgr. Andre Dupuy who left with highest regards.

BY JULIE KENNEDY | PHOTO FRANK VAN BEEK

The Papal Nuncio represents the Holy See in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and serves as the connecting link between the Pope and the Roman Curia; and the Roman Catholic church in the Netherlands. One important task of the Nuncio amongst others, is the recommendation of possible episcopal appointments.

H.E. Cavalli, born in Lecco (Como) Italy, was appointed Priest for the diocese of Bergamo on March 18th 1971. He went on to teach literature for a few years in a small seminary whilst pursuing studies in political and social sciences.

In 1975 Mgr. Cavalli started at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, the Holy See's diplomat training, where he specialised in theology and canon law, before graduating in political sciences. This marked the start of his diplomatic career at the service of the Holy See with postings in Burundi, Angola and Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Chile, Colombia, Libia and Malta. Apart from Italian, he also speaks English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and His Excellency Monseigneur Aldo Cavalli.



Eyes on Argentina



His Excellency Mr. Horacio H. Salvador was appointed Ambassador of Argentina to The Netherlands in 2013. Ever since he has made great strides in further cementing the excellent ties between the two countries, while at the same time promoting his fascinating country. This article aims to highlight both Argentina as a country and its modest, but active Ambassador.

BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

One of the various events organized by Ambassador Salvador this year was the celebration of Malbec World Day. On a glorious and sunny late afternoon in April the Ambassador hosted a well attended

reception to celebrate the third edition of Malbec World Day, which is an international celebration dedicated entirely to Argentina's most representative grape. The festivity took place at the Argentinian

restaurant 'Gauchos,' situated on the Bergse Plas in Rotterdam, providing the many guests with a spectacular view on the lake as well as on the impressive skyline of Rotterdam's highrise buildings,



H.E. Mr. Horacio H. Salvador, Ambassador of Argentina and Mrs. Jane Berger de Salvador at the celebration of the Argentine National Day, at their magnificent residence.

while sampling their Malbec wines. In his welcome speech the Ambassador pointed out that the city of Rotterdam was the perfect location to host the Malbec celebration event, as – in his own words – “Rotterdam is the City of Commerce and we have a long history of cooperation between Argentina and The Netherlands.” The event was concluded by a reception, followed by a fabulous tango performance.

Another highlight of the year was the celebration of the Argentine National Day on May 21st, when Ambassador Horacio H. Salvador and Mrs. Salvador hosted a reception at their magnificent residence in Wassenaar. As almost always on Argentine National Day the weather was wonderful and the hundreds of guests, who had come to congratulate the Ambassador and his charming wife Jane, were able to mingle in the spacious gar-

den, while enjoying Argentinian delicacies. One of those delicacies was the famous Argentinian beef, which is known to be the best in the world. On a more somber note and honoring the past as well as the future, Ambassador Salvador and his wife Jane, hosted a unique event at their residence in Wassenaar, on the occasion of the visit of a delegation from the ‘Centro Ana Frank Argentina.’ Exactly seven decades after she tragically



1



2



3

1, 2, 3: Celebration of Malbec World Day in Argentinian restaurant Gauchos.



Argentinian music performed in the residence for the delegation 'Centro Ana Frank Argentina.'

A weeklong trip to The Netherlands for the winners of the writing contest: Sofia Leibovich, Sofia Lopez Aime, Clara Moran, Alan Ludin, Matias Linares, Miriam Suagusa, Iara Eidelstein, Malena Pardo, Rosario Espino, Paula Castillo, Leonela Simoncini, Luciana Vignolo and Yamilla Gaete.



died in the German concentration camp Bergen-Belsen, the legacy of Anne Frank is alive and well. And most importantly it lives on among young people. For the sixth time the Anne Frank Center in Buenos Aires organized a writing contest for students in three different age-groups. Hundreds of students competed, all eager to deliver the best piece, emphasizing topics such as social inclusion, human rights, dictatorship and creating ideas to fight discrimination, all along keeping Anne Frank in mind as their role model.

AMBASSADOR
SALVADOR SHOULD
BE PRAISED FOR
HIS EFFORTS
IN KEEPING
ANNE FRANK'S
IMPORTANT
LEGACY ALIVE

After undoubtedly a great amount of work and sacrifice the winners were chosen and presented with the exciting prize: a weeklong trip to The Netherlands. The winners were Sofia Leibovich, Sofia Lopez Aime, Clara Moran, Alan Ludin, Matias Linares, Miriam Suagusa, Iara Eidelstein, Malena Pardo, Rosario Espino, Paula Castillo, Leonela Simoncini, Luciana Vignolo and Yamila Gaete. Speaking with several of these young people, one cannot help but be impressed with their social awareness and genuine



H.E. Mr. Horacio H. Salvador and H.E. Mr. Timothy Broas, Ambassador of the USA.

desire to change the world for the better. Their weeklong stay in The Netherlands included several exciting outings, such as a visit to the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. The group of students was accompanied by teachers, a project coordinator and the Director of the Centro Ana Frank Argentina, Lic. Héctor Shalom. The reception was well attended, not only by prominent members of the Jewish community in The Netherlands, such as Rabbi Soetendorp and Mr. Ronald Leopold, Director of the Anne

Frank Foundation in The Netherlands, but also by members of the Diplomatic Corps and the International Courts. Ambassador Salvador should be praised for his efforts in keeping Anne Frank's important legacy alive.

Ambassador Salvador has also agreed to answer a few questions exclusively for *Diplomat Affairs Magazine*.

Can you elaborate on the economic ties between Argentina and The Netherlands?

“Economic ties between both countries are long-standing and meaningful. The Netherlands are one of the biggest investors in Argentina. Some Dutch companies have been present in my country for over a century. Trade links are all the more important. The port of Rotterdam and other Dutch ports have an outstanding position as gateways to the European market for several key export products of Argentina. Argentina ranks among the biggest trade partners of The Netherlands in Latin America.”



(l) Ronald Leopold, Director Anne Frank Stichting Nederland.



Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, Mr. Lic. Héctor Shalom, Director Centro Ana Frank Argentina.



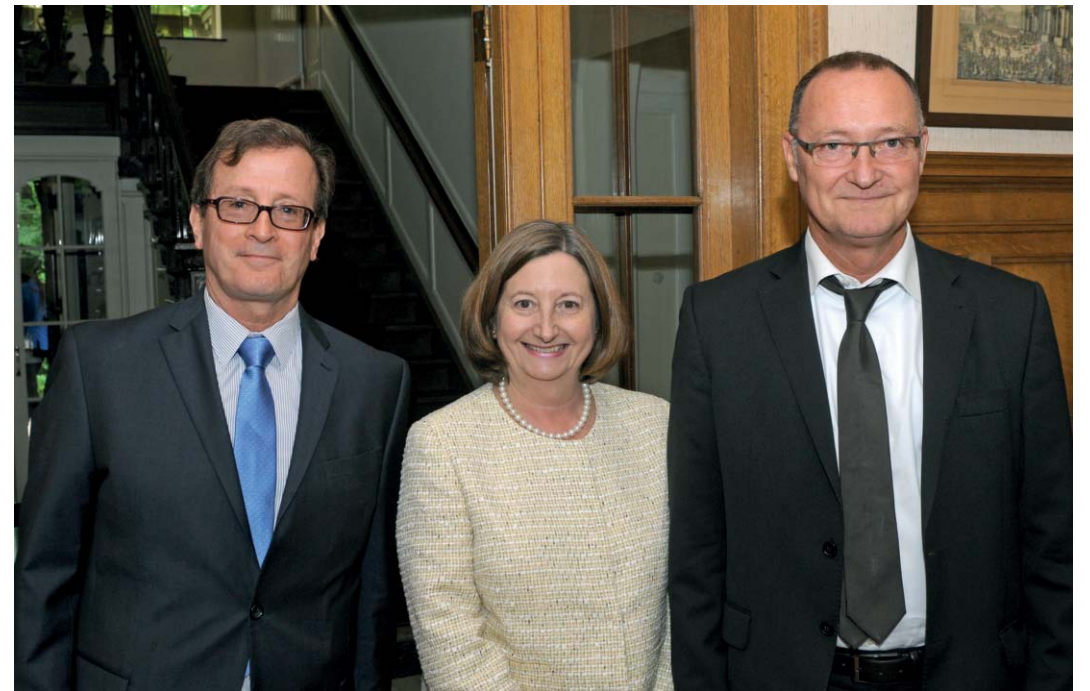
H.E. Haim Divon, Ambassador of Israel and Mr. Ronald Leopold and Mrs. Linda Divon.



Swiss Ambassador H.E. Mr. Urs Breiter, Mrs. James Stewart and Mr. James Stewart.



(r) Mrs. Bonnie Klap.



(m) President ICC Mrs. Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, (R) ICC Judge Mr. Bertram Schmitt.

Looking forward, what is your view for the future of these ties? Is there an aspect of the economic cooperation, which you wish to emphasize or perhaps enhance?

It is my personal opinion that Argentina and The Netherlands will have a bright future of cooperation. I consider it partly as a natural result of increasingly closer relations between Latin America and Europe and partly due to some specific aspects of our bilateral relation. Of course there are pending matters in the inter-regional relations. For instance, improved

access of export products from South America to European markets is still needed. But in a very complex world, I think the common interest of our two regions will prevail, in order to nurture closer relations based on our common values, such as peace, the rule of law, democracy and human rights. Argentina and the Netherlands have a positive experience of their own due to well established economic, business and social links, including human and family ties. Our challenge is to build on this and

explore the ways to promote more cooperation, productive investment, trade, science and technology, looking to equal and mutual benefits. Long-lasting business and economic relations finally rely on mutual confidence among human beings and societies. With regard to specific aspects of cooperation I see energy, agriculture and water management as key sectors in which we can make a difference working together.

You have been living in The Netherlands for well over two years now. How do you experience living here and how do you spend your free time?

My wife Jane and I arrived in The Netherlands on diplomatic appointment on March 25th 2013, over two years ago. We had visited it before as tourists and knew since school days about its culture and history, which in many aspects are linked to our own. Of course visiting a country is something different from actually living in it. In this sense, our

“WE VISIT AS MANY LOCATIONS AS WE CAN IN ORDER TO EXPLORE THE GORGEOUS DIVERSITY OF THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY”

experience has proven to be very positive since we have been able to adapt very quickly and with a high degree of success. Concerning our free time, and having the privilege to live in Wassenaar, I would say that cycling and walking along the beach are among our favorite pastimes. When we have more free time, we spend it visiting as many cities and locations as we can in order to explore the gorgeous diversity of this beautiful country and get a better knowledge of its extraordinary legacy.



The Launch of the East African Tourist Visa by H.E. Makena Muchiri, Ambassador of Kenya, H.E. Jean Pierre Karabaranga, Ambassador of Rwanda and H.E. Mirjam Blaak, Ambassador of Uganda.

Kenya: a Flower Power

A well-known advertising slogan of Dutch florists used to be: “Zeg het met bloemen,” which roughly translates into: “Express your feelings with flowers.” But nowadays chances are, those flowers are not from Holland... BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS COURTESY EMBASSY OF KENYA - KIM VERMAAT PHOTOGRAPHY

Those lavish bouquets of red roses, so often the Valentine’s gift of choice in The Netherlands, were grown in the far away African country of Kenya. A fact not generally known by the Dutch consumers. Yet Kenya has developed itself into a floricultural force to be reckoned with. Already a trailblazer in horticulture, Kenya has achieved tremendous export growth over the past two decades. It has become the lead exporter of rose cut flowers to the EU and a major supplier of other varieties, essentially making Kenya the flower garden of Europe. Kenya has a market share of approximately 38% and 65% of its exported flowers are sold through the Dutch auctions. Moreover Kenya has joined forces with a number of Dutch companies, such as the Dutch Flower Group and Decofresh, creating one of the industry’s most highly developed supply chains. By contrast, in the UK, supermarkets are the main retail outlet. Roses need labor-intensive watering, pruning and treating before they can be clipped and daily transported by air to buyers in Amsterdam and



the flower industry in kenya alone rakes in hundreds of millions of dollars annually

London. However, do not underestimate the high level of technology used by the farmers in Kenya. The roses are grown

utilizing state of the art technology, such as computerized drip irrigation systems, computerized greenhouse ventilation systems, artificial lighting to increase day length, fertilizer recycling systems to prevent waste, grading, pre-cooling and cold storage facilities to name a few. The main production areas are around Mount Kenya, Nairobi, Lake Naivasha and the Sathi River among others. The Kenyan floriculture industry is an extremely important provider of jobs. It is estimated that 500,000 people depend on the floriculture industry for their livelihoods. Horticulture has been one of the top foreign exchange earners for Kenya, and the flower industry alone rakes in hundreds of millions of dollars annually. All the more reason to make sure that extra emphasis is put on fostering responsible and safe production of flowers in Kenya, with consideration of the workers welfare and environmental protection. Against this background the KFC (Kenya Flower Council), which is a voluntary association of independent growers and flower exporters, was formed



H.E. Makena Muchiri, Ambassador of Kenya receiving a new breed of roses 'Avalonia' from Mr. Bob Goedmans and Mr. Jelle Posthumus of Preesman Kenya.



in 1996. Over time this council has developed into an important platform for industry representation and compliance to international standards. Most importantly the KFC administers compliance through an internationally accredited KFC Code of Practice on good agricultural practice, sustainability, environmental protection,

conservation and social accountability. Perhaps the next Valentine’s Day, when you receive a bouquet of fragrant red roses, would be a good moment to consider the lengthy, intricate and highly sophisticated supply line from the Kenyan floricultural farmer to the florist in Holland?



Left; H.E. Makena Muchiri, Ambassador of Kenya gave away bouquets of Kenyan Roses from Sian Roses Kenya to all guests at Kenya’s Independence Day celebrations. Featured receiving a bouquet is H.E. Maria Teresa Infantes, Ambassador of Chile. Right; Africa Day Celebrations, from left to right: H.E. Maymouna Diop, Ambassador of Senegal, H.E. Mohamed E.I. Hassa, former Ambassador of Sudan, H.E. Makena Muchiri, Ambassador of Kenya and H.E. Nassima Baghli, Ambassador of Algeria.

Introducing the new Director of the Peace Palace: Mr. Erik de Baedts

BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS COURTESY PEACE PALACE

The Peace Palace is one of the most famous landmarks in The Hague, built with an endowment from the wealthy steel magnate Andrew Carnegie. Initially Carnegie only wished to donate a sum of money to the Dutch Queen Wilhelmina, but this proved impossible due to legal issues. Consequently the ‘Carnegie Stichting’ was founded in 1903 to manage the construction, ownership and maintenance of the Palace. It was festively opened in 1913 and today the Peace Palace has been standing proud for more than a century. On July 1st, 2015 a new Director of the Peace Palace was appointed. Mr. Erik de Baedts succeeded Mr. Steven van Hoogstraten, who retired. In addition to being appointed Director, Mr. De Baedts also assumed the post of treasurer of The Hague Academy for International Justice. He graciously agreed to make some time in his busy schedule, to answer a few questions for *Diplomat Affairs Magazine*.

As Director of the Peace Palace, what are your main responsibilities?

The Carnegie Foundation owns and manages the Peace Palace with its surrounding buildings and park, and the Peace Palace Library. The Palace was built to host the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), and later the UN International Court of Justice (ICJ) as well. In addition, a decade after opening its doors, the Palace welcomed the establishment of The Hague Academy of International Law. The General Director of the Carnegie Foundation also serves

as treasurer of this academy, which was recognized by the General Assembly of the UN for its important role in the development of international law.

So my main responsibilities are to make sure that, together with the colleagues of the Foundation, we serve these renowned institutions well, allowing them to fulfill their important role to society.

“CAN WE PREVENT WAR,
LOSS AND DAMAGE,
THROUGH ADHERING TO
INTERNATIONAL LAW?”

Can you elaborate on the nature of the work of the major institutions that have their seat in the Peace Palace?

After the first World Peace Conference, held in The Hague in 1899, the notion behind the establishment of the PCA and the Peace Palace was the idea of ‘Peace through Law’. This same notion applies to the ICJ of course: can we prevent war, loss and damage, through adhering to international law?

In the Palace we facilitate the work of the judges, arbiters, academics and their staff. They are supported by the Peace Palace Library that Andrew Carnegie asked for, which is now the largest library in the world in the field of international law and peace.

You are new in this job, having started in July, 2015. What are your objectives?

Mr. Erik de Baedts succeeded Mr. Steven van Hoogstraten.

Is there anything you would like to change or improve?

May I build on the good work of my predecessors. My objectives are to maintain the Peace Palace in all its glory, and to make sure it can continue serving its residents as it has done over the last century.

Andrew Carnegie with his generous endowment also intended to erect a



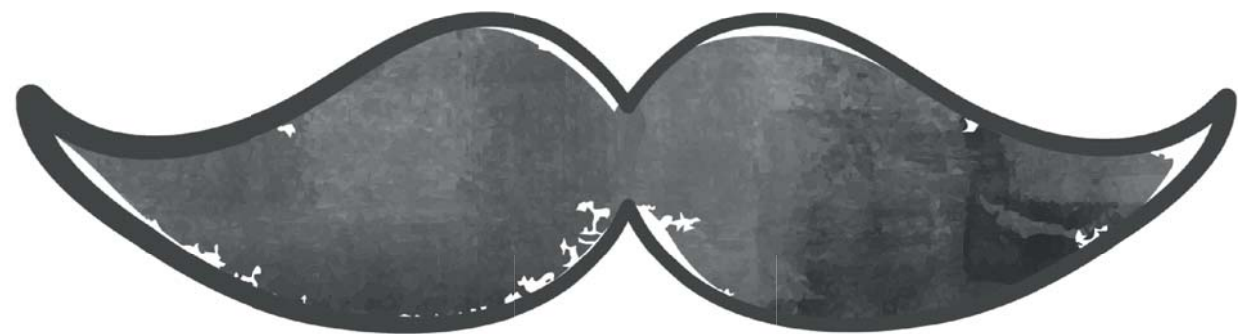
‘Temple of Peace’. Next to maintaining the premises of this Temple, I would hope that we can make known to the world even more and better, how important the work is that the institutions in the Palace carry out on a daily basis. In a world troubled with warfare and bloodshed as we see in the media, I think the public may also know that there is hope. The Courts in the Peace Palace

settled so many disputes, which might have lead to violence, in a peaceful way. So while my colleagues of the Carnegie Foundation sometimes have problems facilitating the Courts with more meeting rooms and office space, I am very happy with the increase in their caseload, as it implies that more issues are settled peacefully, through law and arbitration. It is a pleasure to welcome groups in the Peace

Palace, and to share the inspiring history of the peace process and the current practice with the visitors. The Peace Palace often serves as an icon for The Hague as The International City of Peace and Justice. I would wish that while we welcome Sustainable Development Goals including Peace & Justice in a difficult era, the message of hope which the Peace Palace symbolizes is carried forward.



NEW FRENCH LANGUAGE SESSION JANUARY 2016



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Oh la-la!



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www.aflahaye.nl



H.E. Mr Mir-Hamza Efendiyev,
Ambassador of Azerbaijan and
Prof. Sevil Amirova Efendiyev.

Azerbaijan: building bridges through sports

On a sunny May 28th, many members of the Diplomatic Corps, numerous international guests and dignitaries, gathered on the sunny terrace of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in The Hague to celebrate Republic Day.

BY JULIE KENNEDY | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

A promotional video on the June Baku 2015 First European Games was shown and the guests delighted in the many culinary delicacies and wines the country had to offer, in particular the magnificent dessert display topped by the Baku 2015 emblem.

Azerbaijan has a prime position at the crossroads between east and west, both Islamic and European and is keen to assume a role of genuine bridge to foster peace. The 'Baku Process' for the promotion of intercultural dialogue is one example, but sports also play an important role from that perspective. Azerbaijan – a country whose independence is less than 24 years old – has gained extensive experience in playing host to numerous international and regional sporting events such as the Baku



(l) H.E. Mr. Sadik Arslan, Ambassador of Turkey.



Mr. Adam Sterling, Minister-Counsellor Embassy
USA and Mr. Roelof van Ees, Chief Protocol MFA.

European Games. Next year on the agenda Azerbaijan will host the 42nd Chess Olympiad and the re-launch of the Formula 1 European Grand Prix in Baku. In 2017, the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games will be held in Azerbaijan and in 2020; matches of the European Football Championship will be organized in the city.



(l) H.E. Mr. Nguyễn Văn Đoàn, Ambassador of Vietnam.



(l) H.E. Mr. Ahmad Jalal Said Al Mufleh, Ambassador of
Jordan, (r) Mrs. Reem Mufleh.



Mrs. Najat Bellouki, Mrs. Besma Saadoon Al-Fayadh,
Mrs. Nadine Rushdi Farahat and H.E. Dr. Saad Ibrahim Al Ali.



Mr. Ehsan Turabaz, honorair consul van Afghanistan and
H.E. Dr. Obaidullah Obaid, Ambassador of Afghanistan.



Universal Paradoxes

BY ELIZABETH VAN DER WIND-HAMILL | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

The works of the famous Japanese-American artist Shinkichi Tajiri (1923–2009) went on display this summer at Japan Museum SieboldHuis in Leiden. This exhibition took place thanks to the close collaboration with Shinkichi Tajiri’s daughters, Giotta and Ryu. Museum director Kris Schiermeier welcomed the many guests who had come to view an exceptional selection of Tajiri’s sculptures, photographs and personal artefacts. She recalled the chance meeting with Shida Bliet, Ambassador of the Shinkichi Tajiri Art Collection, and how their shared background and love of art drew them together. Tajiri’s daughter Ryu spoke briefly on her father’s complex life experiences and their influences in his work. Art historian Prof. Helen Westgeest, who had the privilege of knowing Tajiri, outlined the three themes in this exhibition: the warrior, the knot and the wall and the universal meaning that unites them. Ms. Naomi Ogino of the Embassy of Japan and Ms. Annie Meinders of Leiden University Press were the first to receive the colourful and inspiring exhibition publication. *The exhibition is open to the public until 29 November 2016.*



Mrs. Ryu Tajiri and Mrs. Giotta Tajiri.



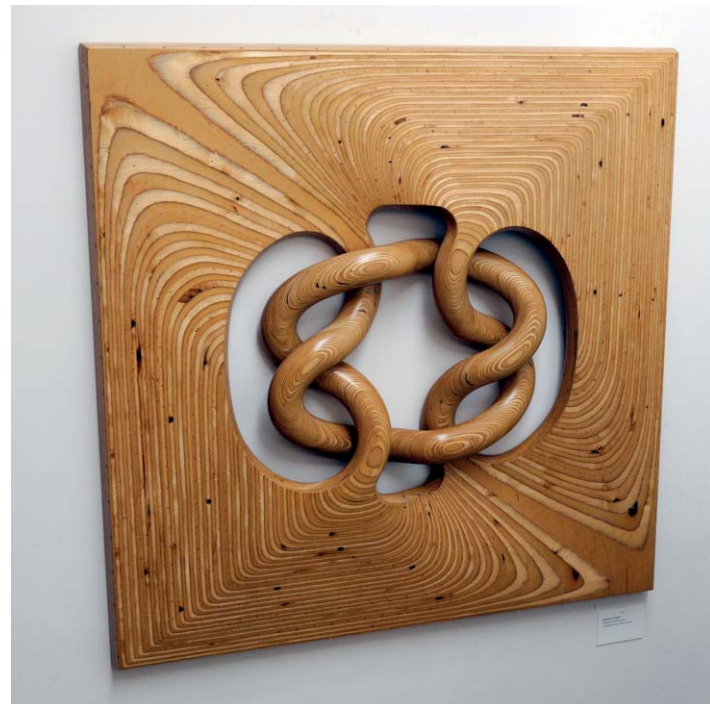
Mrs. Ryu Tajiri.



Prof. Helen Westgeest.



From left to right; Ms. Annie Meinders, Publisher, Leiden University Press, Ms. Naomi Ogino, Second Secretary for Cultural Affairs, Embassy Japan, Ms. Kris Schiermeier, Director SieboldHuis and Mrs. Giotta Tajiri.



Ms. Kris Schiermeier and Mr. Laurens Jan Brinkhorst.



Mr. Alexander Beelaerts van Blokland, Special Advisor International Affairs, H.E. Mr. H.E. Mr. Mir-Hamza Efendiyev, Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Prof and spouse, Prof. Sevil Amirova Efendiyev, H.E. Ms. Mainyura Murzamadiyeva, Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Mr. Hans Koning, ING Bank, H.E. Ms. Odette Melono, Ambassador of Cameroon, H.E. Mr. Konstantine Surguladze, Ambassador of Georgia and Mr. Peter Goedfolk, President of First Dutch.



H.E. Mr. Laurent Pic, Ambassador of France.

Grand Départ Tour de France 2015 at Castle De Wittenburg

BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

On the occasion of the ‘Grand Départ of the Tour de France 2015’ the President of the Diplomat Club Wassenaar, Mrs. Shida Bliet, the President of the Alliance Française de La Haye, Mr. Richard Schreurs and the Director of Castle De Wittenburg, Mr. Ralf Meppelder organized a reception at the Castle de Wittenburg, hosted by the Mayor of Wassenaar, Mr. Jan Hoekema in the presence of the Ambassador of France, Mr. Laurent Pic and the Mayor of Utrecht, Mr. Jan van Zanen. The reception was attended by members of the French and Dutch community, members of the

**AMBASSADOR PIC
EMPHASIZED THE
IMPORTANCE OF THE
TOUR DE FRANCE IN
STRENGTHENING THE
BONDS BETWEEN
FRANCE AND OTHER
COUNTRIES**

Diplomatic Corps and representatives of the Alliance Française. Due to the glorious summer weather the event took place in the magnificent castle garden, where

French songs were performed, underscoring the French ambiance. Mayor Hoekema addressed the guests in impeccable French, noting that the town of Wassenaar has approximately 5,000 international residents, among whom 35 foreign Ambassadors. Furthermore he stressed the importance of the Tour de France, both economically and culturally, and he admitted that he was eager to watch the real event take place the next week in Utrecht, especially the thrilling moment, when 200 cyclists will pass under the Dom tower. Mayor Hoekema briefly touched on the tragic events that



Ms. Susan Meenhuis, Mayor Jan van Zanen, Mayor Jan Hoekema and Mr. Ralf Meppelder.





Sabrage de Champagne: Ms. Hinke de Jong and Mr. Richard Schreurs.



Mr. Martin Beyer, Director Alliance Française, H.E. Mr. Laurent Pic, Ambassador of France, Mrs. Shida Blik, President Diplomat Club Wassenaar, Mr. Jan Hoekema Mayor of Wassenaar, Mr. Richard Schreurs, President Alliance Française and Mr. Bernard Baudin, economic advisor of the French Embassy.



1 Mayor of Utrecht, Mr. Jan van Zanen.
2 Mr. Marin Beyer, Mayor Jan Hoekema, Mayor Jan van Zanen, H.E. Mr. Laurent Pic.
3 Right; Ms. Nicole Pierre.
4 Right; H.E. Mr. Jean Pierre Karabaranga, Ambassador of Rwanda.
5 Mrs. Len Defares, Mrs. Eva Mennes and Mr. Jan Pronk.
6 Ms. Isabell Nobile, Co-Director of the Frans Film Festival Amsterdam
7 H.E. Ms. Rose Makena Muchiri, Ambassador of Kenya.



Tess et les moutons magnifiques.



Left; Mr. Hans van Bemmelen.



Left; Mrs. Joan McNamara.



Mrs. Kraan, Mr. Jan Verschoor, gifted artist and Director Jan van der Togt Museum in Amstelveen and Mayor Jan van Zanen.



had taken place earlier in the day in Tunisia, when dozens of tourists had been shot by terrorists. Following Mayor Hoekema's speech, Mayor van Zanen of Utrecht took the floor. After he first thanked Mrs. Shida Blik and Mr. Ralf Meppelder for splendidly organizing the event, he told the audience about the many activities, related to the Tour de France, taking place in Utrecht for the last 100 days now. He added that the atmosphere in his city was very festive, with many yellow ribbons adorning the trees in Utrecht. Ambassador Pic of France also delivered a speech, starting

MAYOR HOEKEMA STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TOUR DE FRANCE, BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND CULTURALLY

by expressing his solidarity with the Tunisian people and his sadness about the tragic events. However he stressed

the importance of not bowing to violence, cherishing the freedom and continuing with our lives. Ambassador Pic also emphasized the importance of the Tour de France in strengthening the bonds between France and various other countries. Last but not least to take the floor were the President of the Alliance Française, Mr. Richard Schreurs, and its Director, Mr. Martin Beyer, who delivered his speech entirely in French. The event was concluded with an excellent French dinner buffet, accompanied by champagne, donated by Ms. Hinke de Jong/Brouzje Champagne.



The 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters in The Hague

As everyone knows, The Hague is the International city of Peace and Justice, hosting many worldwide and European institutions and tribunals in that field. Apart from permanent institutions and tribunals, The Hague also hosts many international conferences on Peace and Justice every year. In November 2015, the city will receive the 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters focusing on the issue of the everlasting issue of violence against women and girls the world over. Violence against women and children still occurs on a huge scale: one in every three women worldwide is affected by it at some point in their lives. The United Nations is very much aware of this huge problem and declared November 25th the International Day for the Elimination of violence against women. The exchange of knowledge on this subject, and strengthening and expanding the network of women's shelters, is of utmost importance. In 2008 the Global Network of Women's Shelters (GNWS)



BY ALEXANDER BEELAERTS VAN BLOKLAND,
SPECIAL ADVISOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

was founded during the first World Conference of Women's Shelters in Canada. This was followed in 2012 by the 2nd conference in Washington DC, USA. The Hague is proud to host the first conference outside Northern America. In November 2015, around one thousand participants from over hundred countries will meet at the World Forum in The Hague for the 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters. The Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science Mrs. Jet Bussemaker will open the conference.

Her Majesty Queen Máxima of the Netherlands will make a speech. So will Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, who, through The Mary Foundation, works to help women and children victims of violence. Dr. Mukwege from Congo will equally be addressing the audience in his capacity as world-renowned surgeon. In 1998 he founded the Panzi Hospital in East Congo where director Dr. Mukwege and his team have cared for more than 30.000 survivors of sexual violence so far. On November 25th, the International Day for the Elimination of violence against women, famous monuments all over the world will be illuminated orange, the color of hope: the Corcavado in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, the Niagara Falls in Canada, Petra in Jordan as well as the Peace Palace in The Hague and many more. In future perhaps the illumination will be on the 25th of every month, to make us realise monthly the importance of the fight to eliminate violence against women and children worldwide.

The marvellous beauty of the Classical World

The Rijksmuseum van Oudheden (National Museum of Antiquities) in Leiden has one of the most renowned collections of ancient art in the world.

With an Egyptian department that is among the international top 10 of Egyptian museums and a history that goes back almost 200 years (being founded in 1818) it is an important institute, not only as a museum, but also as a research institute. In 2015, three of the seven curators held a professorship within Leiden University.

Due to the focus on the Middle East and Mediterranean world (ancient Egypt, ancient Near East, Roman Empire and ancient Greeks) the connection with these countries is very important. In Egypt and Jordan the museum actually conducts excavations on a yearly basis. These excavations but also exhibitions are not possible without a strong tie with the institutions from the country of origin of the objects.

COOPERATION

The latest blockbuster exhibition from November 2014 until May 2015 was a *pièce de résistance* about the ancient city of Carthage with more than 150 loans from Tunisia. In this special case, the Ambassador of the Netherlands in Tunisia worked as an intermediary between the museum in Leiden, and all the different partners in Tunisia. The result was a wonderful cooperation with multiple local parties and a sponsorship from Tunis Air who fully sponsored the cargo flights of objects traveling from Tunisia to The Netherlands and back again. Of course there are always multiple interests involved. The collaboration from the Jordan Tourism Board and Royal Jordanian

Director of the
Rijksmuseum van
Oudheden Mr. Wim
Weijland.



Airlines during the Petra exhibition (October 2013 – March 2014) illustrates this very well. The increase of Dutch tourists visiting Jordan in the first half of 2014 (during and after the exhibition) was more than 40%! In the end, these collaborations do not revolve around tourists and financial motifs. The partnerships are based primarily on mutual trust and cultural exchange. This exchange does not explicitly end when the exhibition in Leiden closes. In Jordan the Dutch colleagues organised a professional museum workshop in Amman after the Petra exhibition, and the design and concept of the Leiden exhibition on Petra was re-used in the Archaeological museum in Amman.

CARTHAGE

Another example also involves Carthage and Tunisia. Not completely coincidental, the Dutch Naval officer Jean Emile Humbert was the first excavator of Carthage in 1822 under the patronage of the first director of the Rijksmuseum

van Oudheden, Caspar Reuvers. In 2016 the Leiden museum lent its full support to organise an exhibition about Carthage and Jean Emile Humbert in the National Bardo Museum in Tunis. These examples all focus on the museum's work in foreign countries. The Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, on the other hand, also functions as a platform for cultural exchange when (for instance) the Tunisian Ambassador in The Netherlands holds a reception (with a full fashion show with a catwalk coming out of an Egyptian temple!), or when the Ambassador of Cyprus hosts a reception for his National Day. The museum not only functions as a great décor, but has an intrinsic cultural historic connection with these countries.

Until December 2015 the museum is closed for renovation works. The reopening will be entirely dedicated to the new Classical World exhibition. From 7 December onwards visitors can again wander through the Classical galleries and enjoy the marvellous beauty of the Classical World.



Carthage and couture

A phenomenal fashion show, featuring both traditional as well as modern garments, marked the conclusion of the highly successful Carthage Exhibition. BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

The fashion show was held at the same location, where the Carthage Exhibition had been thriving for five months: The National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden. The pieces by designer Faouzi Naouar showcased the beauty of both contemporary Tunisia and its rich cultural heritage. Especially flown in from Tunis for this event a group of picture-perfect Tunisian models took the audience through an exciting kaleidoscope of bold



From left to right; Honorary Mistress of the Robes Mrs. Martine Van Loon-Labouchère with the Ambassador of Tunisia H.E. Mr. Karim Ben Becher and Mrs. Reem Ben Becher.

and engaging colors and beautiful fabrics, as they highlighted a number of places in Tunisia, such as Hammamet, Tabarka and Monastir. In his remarks His Excellency Mr. Karim Ben Becher, Ambassador of Tunisia, praised the tireless cooperation and enthusiasm that had made the Carthage Exhibition possible. It was a model of networking between a number of renowned museums, such as the Louvre and the British museum. He proudly stated that more than 130,000 visitors, many of whom children, had visited the exhibition in five months. Normally this is the number of visitors coming to this museum in a whole year, a testament to the fact that the Carthage Exhibition has been an indisputable success, not only in terms of number of visitors, but in terms of quality and quantity of pieces as well. In the first part of the fashion show the models all wore white, depicting Tunisia's peace, serenity and hospitality. The second part 'Mahdia,' included ten creations



inspired by the rich history of Mahdia, where women used to weave using materials such as silk, linen and gold thread. Undoubtedly the 'pièce de résistance' of this second part was the dazzling yellow wedding gown, honoring the power of the Sun, worn by 'the bride of Mahdia.' In conclusion a collection of haute couture was showcased in the final

and third part, highlighting the creative skills of designer Faouzi Naouar. The stunning designs were inspired by Hammamet, Nabeul, Raf-Raf and Moknine, famous for their weaving with gold. The colorful show was followed by a reception, where the guests discussed both the success of the exhibition, as well as the beauty of the fashion show.



US Independence Day Celebration

His Excellency Mr. Timothy Broas, Ambassador of the United States, hosted a reception at his residence to celebrate the 239th Anniversary of the Independence.

BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

The extremely well attended celebration took place in a huge, chandelier spangled tent, where typical American foods and beverages were served. Ambassador Broas and his charming wife Julie stood in the reception line welcoming a seemingly endless stream of guests, who included members of the Royal Family, Dutch Government, the Diplomatic Corps, the Business Community, International Organizations, Military staff of various countries, municipalities and many others with ties to the US. Musical entertainment was provided by the Allied Forces Jazz



Combo. A large cardboard cut out of President Obama, which was frequently utilized by many guests to pose with 'the President'.

After the Presentation of Colors by the US Embassy of The Hague Marine Security Guard Detachment, the National Anthem was performed, followed by the Ambassador's speech. Ambassador Broas touched on the 70th Anniversary of the Dutch liberation from Nazi Germany adding: "I was privileged to accompany their Majesties the King and Queen to the US recently to honor the sacrifices our forefathers made, so we can all enjoy the liberties and freedom today." He concluded by saying: "Let's all wish America a Happy Birthday!"



Vice Admiral Mr. Rob Bauer, Mr. Kees-Jan Klap.



H.E. Mr. Abdelouhab Bellouki, Ambassador of Morocco, Ms Abir Ali, chargé d'affaires Lebanon, Ms. Maryem van den Heuvel and Mrs. Bonnie Klap.



(r) Mrs. Astrid Smits and Mr. Simon Smits.



(r) H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Abohaimed, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia.

Hungary contributes to keeping the lessons of the past alive

On the occasion of Hungary’s Chairmanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, H.E. Orsolya Szijjártó invited dignitaries and friends to the opening of the exhibition ‘Synagogues of East and Central Europe 1781-1944’. BY JULIE KENNEDY | PHOTOS COURTESY HUNGARIAN EMBASSY | SHARON REYES

The exhibition is situated in the Glazen Zaal (Glass Hall), between the former Portuguese Synagogue and a stately canal house at the Prinsessegracht The Hague. Key note speaker at the opening was Minister of State Szabolcs Takács. Her Excellency opened the event highlighting the importance of Jewish culture; the Jewish community remaining the third biggest in Europe. During WW2 not only were victims of the Holocaust Hungarian, but perpetrators too. This



fuelled Hungary’s role in the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, the importance they give fighting anti-Semitism, educating about the holocaust – including the Roma holocaust – but also promoting Jewish culture through



From left to right; H.E. Orsolya Szijjártó, Ambassador of Hungary, Minister of State and Chairman of IHRA Mr. Szabolcs Takacs and Rabbi Marianne van Praag.



amongst others the Synagogue rescue program and the renovation of numerous cemeteries. Madam Ambassador emphasised: “This exhibition highlights the changing life of the Jewish community and teaches us tolerance and cohesion. Europe’s peace must be protected every day and that word needs to be spread.” Minister of State and Chairman of

IHRA Szabolcs Takacs stressed the importance to the 31 member countries of having an internationally shared narrative on how to look at one of the major tragedies of the history of mankind. Its aim: to keep the lessons learnt alive through remembrance and education, focusing not only on the past but also on how to revive what was lost and promote the values that the Jewish community has given Hungary. Before the reception, Őrs Kőszeghy, a Hungarian Cellist transported us with a piece from Weinberg embodying both soulfulness but also joy in life, hope and trust in Humanity. “A light”, he said, “going beyond all restrictions and challenges” and so indeed it felt as our spirits soared through the open glass ceiling.



Beautiful Bastille Day

Befitting a country known for its culture and style, Bastille Day, or ‘Quatorze Juillet,’ was celebrated in grand style at the residence of French Ambassador Mr. Laurent Pic in The Hague.

BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

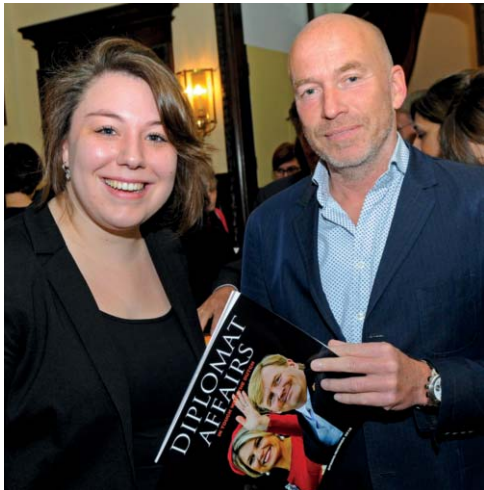
Hundreds of guests had come to join Ambassador Pic in celebrating this important day in French history, and – in part thanks to the generous contributions of many sponsors – could enjoy a wide array of French wines and delicacies. Ambassador Pic delivered a short speech in which he briefly commemorated the storming of the Bastille in 1789 and summarized the true spirit of France in the three famous words: ‘Freedom, equality, fraternity.’ During the reception, three of the many heroes who committed themselves to liberating France from German occupation during World War II were honoured. These three Dutch veterans from the Princess Irene Brigade: Mr Burton Sanders, Herman van den Bergh and Max Wolff, received the most honoured Chevalier de la Légion

d’Honneur. The Ambassador took time to highlight the career of these soldiers and thanked them for their contribution to the liberation of his country. The Ambassador also touched on a moment of great sadness, as he mentioned the

THREE DUTCH VETERANS FROM THE PRINCESS IRENE BRIGADE RECEIVED THE MOST HONOURED CHEVALIER DE LA LÉGION D’HONNEUR

terrorist attack in his country earlier this year. He expressed his gratitude towards the many people in The Netherlands, who had sent him numerous messages of support. Referring to the complicated

negotiations concerning the Greek debt crisis, the Ambassador expressed his delight at the outcome, explaining that a ‘Grexit’ would have meant a disaster for the Greek people. According to the Ambassador, France and The Netherlands understand that they are stronger together and both countries share the values of solidarity and responsibility. Ambassador Pic also mentioned the departure of the Tour de France from the city of Utrecht this year, calling it the perfect example of the friendly ties between our two countries. He concluded by saying: “All in all, I am confident that the friendship between France and The Netherlands, deeply rooted in our common history and our common values, will help us in making a more united Europe.”



Ms. Gabriëlle van den Hurk, municipality The Hague and Mr. Louis Hueber, spokesman at City of The Hague.



Ms. Sabine Verschoor, Deputy Mayor of the City of Wassenaar and Mr. Laurens Jan Brinkhorst.



H.E. Mr. Masaru Tsuji, Ambassador of Japan.



History of the Huys Clingendael

BY ANNA GANS, PR AND COMMUNICATION ADVISOR OF THE CLINGENDAEL INSTITUTE | PHOTOS: ANTON VAN DER RIET

The Clingendael Institute is located in Huys Clingendael, named after its location in a ‘dael’ (valley) of the ‘clingen’(an old Dutch word for sand dunes) in the town of Wassenaar; ‘Clingendael’, thus actually means: ‘valley in the dunes’. The farm and lands, first mentioned in the archives in 1544, were purchased in the first half of the 17th century by Jan Doublet, who, on being appointed Treasurer General of the Seven United Provinces, moved to The Hague from the city of Mechelen. His son and grandson, Philips I and II, designed and built the stately home as we now know it in the second

half of the 17th century. The Doublet family lived at Clingendael for four generations; during their time it was a centre for international politics and culture, which was also famous for its neo-classic gardens, inspired by the French garden architect André le Nôtre, who was commissioned by king Louis XIV to create the spectacular gardens surrounding his new palace in Versailles. In the 19th century the estate is purchased by the Van Brienens, a family of merchants and bankers. Willem Joseph van Brienens, mayor of Amsterdam and made Baron by Napoleon, buys the country manor in



Mr. Jos Kösters, Director of Corporate Staff The Clingendael Institute.



H.E. Mr. Masaru Tsuji, Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Jos Kösters, Director of Corporate Staff The Clingendael Institute, Ms. Lillanne Blankwaard-Rombouts, District Director Haagse Hout The Hague, Mrs. Ingrid van Engelshoven, Deputy Mayor and Mr. Roelof van Ees, Chief Protocol MFA.



Mrs. Kris Schiermeier, Director at Japan Museum SieboldHuis.



Mr. Alexander Beelaerts van Blokland, special advisor international affairs.



Mrs. Ingrid van Engelshoven, The Hague's alderman for the Knowledge Economy, International Affairs, Youth and Education as well as the Haagse Hout and Loosduinen districts.

1811. Another famous occupant of the Huys is his descendant Baroness Marguërite van Brienens (Lady Daisy), who lived at Clingendael until her death in 1939. She is responsible for the beautiful Japanese Garden in the park Clingendael. Every year the Japanese Garden is open to the general public during a few weeks in the spring and in

autumn. At the end of April, the Garden is always officially opened by the Japanese ambassador and the Mayor of Wassenaar with a festive ceremony for invited guests. It remained in the hands of the Brienens until after the Second World War, during which it became the residence of Arthur Seyss-Inquart, the Nazi Commissioner for the Occupied Netherlands.

In 1954 the municipality of The Hague became the owner of both Huys and park, which it remains to this day. The park was opened to the general public, but finding a new destination for the Huys proved to be a greater challenge. In the late Seventies/early Eighties the Huys was squatted for a number of years, until it was decided that Clingendael would

become the new home for five institutes, which were all active in the field of international relations. These institutes merged into what is officially ‘the Netherlands Institute of International Relations’, but is generally known as ‘the Clingendael Institute’. The Institute has been privileged to be located here since 1983.



Mrs. A. Rabbani,
Mr. S. Rabbani,
Mrs. Iman Talhouni.



(l) H.E. Mr. Fernando
Arias, Ambassador
of Spain.



H.E. Mr. John Neary, Ambassador of Ireland,
H.E. Ms. Ireny Comaroschi, Ambassador of
Romania and H.E. Mr. Urs Breiter,
Ambassador of Switzerland.



Ms. Iman Talhouni, Ms. Nimat Al-Kayed, Ms. Naima Shennib-Swessi,
Mrs. Besma Saadoon Al-Fayadh, Ms. Iman Hashim
and H.E. Ms. Nassima Baghli Ambassador of Algeria.

The Kingdom celebrates

BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

His Excellency Mr. Abdelouahab Bellouki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, and Mrs. Abdelouahab Bellouki hosted a reception at the Hilton Hotel in The Hague on the occasion of the 16th Anniversary of the accession of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to the Throne. Despite the summer holiday lull large numbers of well-wishers showed up to congratulate the Ambassador, underscoring his popularity within the Diplomatic, Dutch, Moroccan and international community. The National Day of Morocco is also known as Throne Day and was established when Morocco gained



independence and the title of Sultan was replaced with the title of King. The atmosphere at the well-attended reception was decidedly festive and colorful given the fact that many Moroccan ladies wore their national attire, as did the Ambassador and his charming wife Najat. Several prominent members of the Moroccan community also attended the reception, such as the immensely popular Moroccan-Dutch comedian Najib Amhali. In keeping with the customary Arabic hospitality the many guests were treated to a sumptuous dinner buffet, featuring a large number of dishes of the traditional Moroccan cuisine.



Ms. Niam Le Boudoir, Ms. Ahlam Ayoubi, H.E. Mr. Abdelouahab Bellouki, Ambassador of Morocco, Mrs. Najat Bellouki and Mr. Najib Amhali.



(l) H.E. Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the OPCW.



H.E. Mr. Franz Josef Kremp, Ambassador of Germany.



(l) H.E. Mr. Alireza Jahangiri, Ambassador of Iran.



(l) Ms. Silvia Fernandez de Gurmendi, ICC President.a

AmCham Netherlands presents priority points

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING AT KASTEEL DE WITTENBURG IN WASSENAAR

BY JULIE KENNEDY | PHOTOS BASTIAAN MUSSCHER

At the Annual General Members meeting of AmCham presided by Vice President Jochum Haakma (representing TMF Group B.V. in the Board) the priority points were officially presented by the newly elected President Mr. Wouter Paardekooper to the key note speaker: the Prime Minister of the Netherlands H.E. Mr. Mark Rutte. They are the key to AmCham's ongoing dialogue with government, employer organizations, legislators and other stakeholders. The issues raised are based on a recent AmCham study and have been distilled from concerns expressed by members –

THE UNITED STATES IS THE NUMBER ONE INVESTOR IN THE NETHERLANDS

business leaders and practitioners who are faced with investment challenges on a daily basis. The solutions are born out of maximising the economic benefit to business and society as a whole – more investment, more labour participation and enhancement of productive capacity.

ATTRACTIVE FISCAL CLIMATE
The Netherlands is well placed to be the preferred jurisdiction for today's global



Newly elected President of AmCham Mr. Wouter Paardekooper handing over the Priority Points to Prime Minister Rutte.

multinationals that work on the technology of tomorrow, to support the future Dutch economy. However, the Dutch investment climate is vulnerable to competition from neighbouring countries; other countries have copied the most

attractive elements of the Dutch corporate tax regime. The Netherlands intrinsically still ranks as one of the most attractive jurisdictions for international investors, but improvements are necessary to keep on par with tax regimes in the rest of the

world. Once the erosion of the pillars of the Dutch business tax regime has been halted, the Dutch Government should focus on continued, enhanced competitiveness. The United States is the number one investor in the Netherlands.

SAIL Amsterdam

The ‘Esmeralda,’ the training ship for the Chilean Navy, the Colombian tall training ship the ARC ‘Gloria’ and the NRP ‘Sagres’ of the Portuguese Navy were a few of the several magnificent tall ships to take part in ‘Sail,’ the quinquennial maritime event in Amsterdam.

BY BONNIE KLAP

Initiated in 1975 to celebrate the 700th anniversary of Amsterdam, ‘Sail’ attracts tall ships from across the globe, making it one of the largest maritime manifestations in the world. Hundreds of thousands of visitors attended this hugely popular event, with numbers increasing every consecutive day of the four-day festival.



Ambassador of Chile Mrs. Maria Teresa Infante together with the Commanding Officer of the tall ship ‘Esmeralda’, Captain Carlos Fiedler.

CHILE

On Friday evening August 21st Her Excellency Ms. Maria Teresa Infante, Ambassador of Chile to The Netherlands, hosted a reception aboard the Esmeralda, receiving hundreds of guests, among

whom many Ambassadors, who were welcomed with live music performed by the Chilean Navy band. The Esmeralda was launched in 1954. Since her commissioning, she has visited more than 300 ports worldwide. She has four masts, which were festively decorated with small lights for the occasion, 21 sails and carries 313 crew members. During the well-attended reception, I had a chance to have a few words with the Esmeralda’s Captain, Mr. Carlos Fiedler Pinto, who told me it was his fourth time to visit The Netherlands. The first time he came here was back in 1996 and ever since he makes sure to fully enjoy the wealth of cultural treasures this country has to offer, whenever he visits. The Captain’s wife accompanied him on this trip and together they had taken a boat ride on the Amsterdam canals that very afternoon. Captain Fiedler Pinto has also visited a number of Dutch museums, such as the Rijksmuseum and the Van Gogh Museum. Asked what his impression is of the Dutch people, he answers that he is impressed by their diversity, friendliness and open-mindedness. The atmosphere on this warm summer evening was decidedly festive with large numbers of

boats floating around on the ‘IJ’ and the guests on board thoroughly enjoying themselves.



The Ambassador of Portugal Mr. José De Bouza Serrano, Capitão-de-Fragata Mr. Paulo Jorge Palma Alcobia Portugal, Mrs. Patricia van Oordt de Arias and The Ambassador of Spain, H.E. Mr. Fernando Arias.

PORTUGAL

Not too far from the Esmeralda, H.E. Ambassador José de Bouza Serrano of



The tall ship the ARC ‘Gloria’ from Colombia.



The tall ship the NRP ‘Sagres’ from Portugal.



The tall ship ‘Esmeralda’ from Chile.

Portugal hosted a reception aboard the NRP ‘Sagre’. The NRP ‘Sagres’ is a training ship of the Portuguese Navy. It was built in 1937 in Hamburg, Germany. The three masted barque has a rich history, such as being used as a stationary office ship during World War II and being sold in 1948 to Brazil for the symbolic price of USD 5,000. In 1961 the NRP ‘Sagres’ was acquired by the Portuguese Navy for training purposes. Today the ship is commanded by Captain Paulo Jorge Palma Alcobia Portugal, who together with the Ambassador, hosted a well-attended reception, where the guests were treated to delicious Portuguese cuisine, complemented by excellent Portuguese wines.

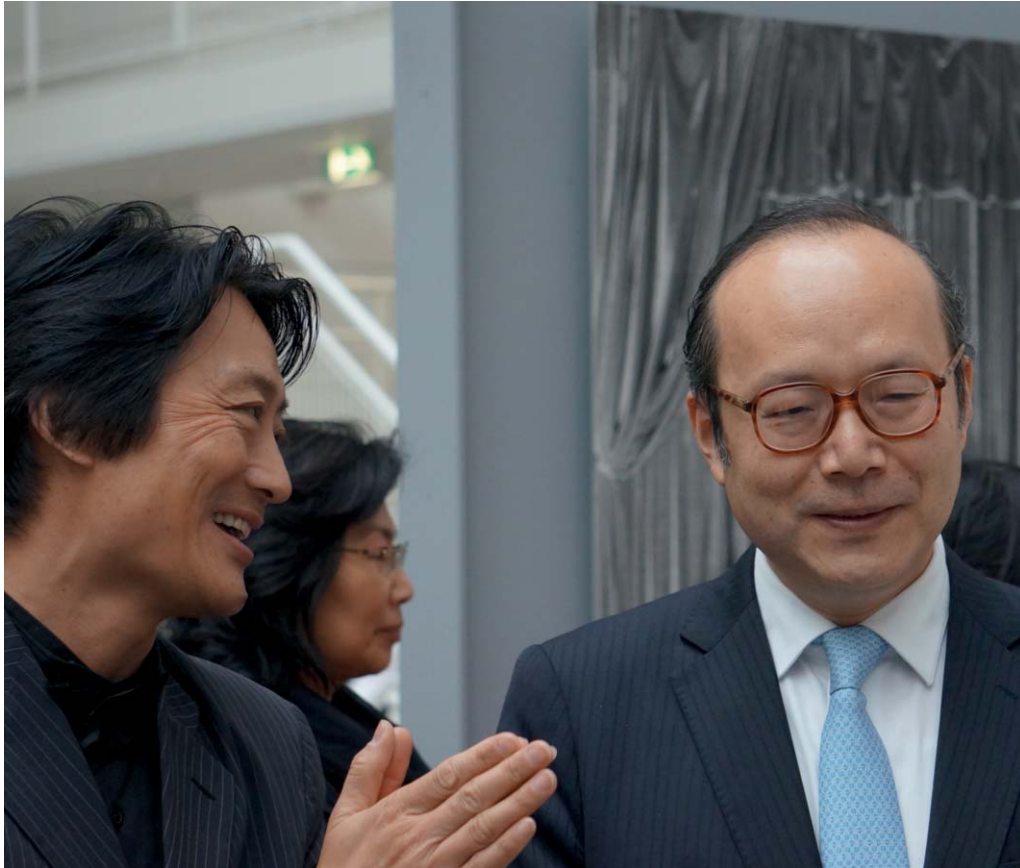


The Ambassador of Colombia, Mr. Juan José Quintana Aranguren, Mrs. Maria Rosario Navia, Captain Reynaldo Espinosa and his spouse, Ms. Elizabeth Saieh.

COLOMBIA

On the same evening, not too far away, the Colombian Embassy also organized a reception aboard the tall ship the ARC ‘Gloria’, which was built in Bilbao, Spain

in 1968. Well over 100 guests attended, including members of the Diplomatic Corps and International Courts, organizations based in The Hague and various other dignitaries. Musical entertainment was provided by the Colombian artist Jaime Rodriguez and his band, who gave a lively performance of Latin Jazz and traditional Colombian songs. This musical performance was part of the Cultural Promotion Plan of the Embassy of Colombia. In addition the dance cadets of the Tall Ship ARC ‘Gloria’ entertained the guests with traditional Colombian dances, such as the *Cumbia* and of course the world famous *Salsa*. The vibrant evening was completed with a taste of typical Colombian dishes.



Mr. Xin Dong Cheng, exhibitions coordinator China Cultural Festival and H.E. Mr. Chen Xu, Ambassador of China.



Deputy Mayor Mr. Karsten Klein.



H.E. Mr. Chen Xu and Ms. Carol Yao.

China Cultural Festival The Hague

The reception and official opening of the ‘798 Art Exhibition’ by the deputy mayor of The Hague, Karsten Klein, and H.E. Chen Xu, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China in the Netherlands, which took place in the town hall of The Hague, were a big success.

BY ROBERT COOPS | PHOTOS HUIB GULICKX

During three weeks, the cultural spotlights were on China. They shone even more specifically on the famous 798 Art Zone from Beijing, where many artists performed their cultural activities. Two seminars also took place during this period: a performance of the Nanfang dance group from Guangdong, and an Opera from Kanton.

It was with pride that the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China announced the opening of the Chinese Cultural Festival 2015. “Such a festival is a part of the Chinese cultural and historical tradition. It shows the friendship between two worlds and two countries. It is a pleasure to learn from each other and to take

pleasure in viewing the different modern and contemporary Chinese paintings that are exposed at galleries, the World Trade Centre and the town hall in The Hague”.

“SUCH A FESTIVAL
SHOWS THE
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN
TWO WORLDS AND
TWO COUNTRIES”

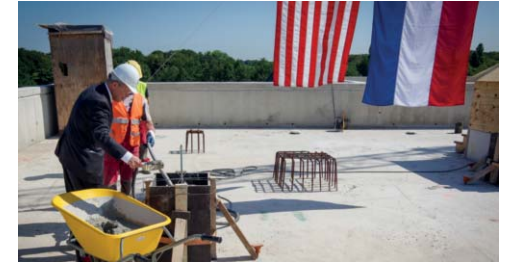
Karsten Klein, deputy-mayor of The Hague, was also very positive about this initiative. He was inspired while visiting the art-exhibition stating: “Cultural

relations between China and The Hague are very important. Not only for the exchange of knowledge and experiences of the artists, but also for the economic relationships”.

The Chinese Art festival 2015 is organized by the Friendship Association the Netherlands-China (VNC), New Chinatown, China Council for the Promotion of Industry and Trade (CCPIT) and Beijing Administrative Committee of 798 Art Zone. The festival is organised in the Netherlands supported by the government of The Hague, the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the Netherlands and Dutch Culture, Centre for International Cooperation.



Mayor of Wassenaar Mr. Jan Hoekema, The Ambassador of USA, H.E. Mr. Timothy Broas and Deputy Mayor Ingrid van Engelshoven.



‘Topping Out Ceremony’ US embassy

Amidst tight security and in perfect summer weather, the ‘Topping Out Ceremony’ of the new US Embassy compound took place on August 7th in Wassenaar on the roof of the newly constructed Embassy building.

BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS COURTESY EMBASSY USA

Just a little over a year after H.E. Mr. Timothy Broas, Ambassador of the US, was photographed with a spade in his hand, while he broke ground to mark the beginning of the construction of the new Embassy campus, he once again donned a safety helmet and symbolically poured a scoop of concrete into a form, to mark the highest point of the building: the completion of the roof. Mr. Jan Hoekema, Mayor of Wassenaar and Mrs. Ingrid van Engelshoven, Deputy-Mayor of The Hague, were present to celebrate this significant milestone with Ambassador Broas, as were a few of the nearby residents, who were closely involved in the construction process. Also present was, of course, the construction team, a group of 150 men and women, for whom the Ambassador offered the highest praise. The diverse workforce, representing at least six different countries, worked six days a week, making them a proud symbol of productive, international cooperation, with one common goal: the construction of a modern, secure and sustainable facility. Obviously the numbers

of a construction site of this magnitude are overwhelming. Thus far, hundreds of workers have put in 300,000 work hours and 645 piles were driven 20 meters into the ground to give the buildings solid foundations. 8,000 cubic meters of concrete were poured and 300 shipping containers full of equipment and materials were unloaded. Not only was the Ambassador delighted to report that construction was actually a little ahead of schedule, but he was most proud of the fact that all construction had taken place without major injuries or work-site fatalities.

Ambassador Broas also graciously drew attention to – in his words – a special group of people: the US Embassy’s neighbors, who had patiently endured a great deal of noise at the construction site for over a year. He underscored the Embassy’s continuing efforts to be good neighbors and expressed his wish that, once the construction was completed, all neighbors, indeed all Dutch people would look at the new US Embassy as a fitting symbol of the enduring friendship between the US and The Netherlands.

Mayor Hoekema, an avid cyclist himself, noted that, due to the thousands of cyclists and motorists passing the new Embassy compound on a daily basis, its location could potentially have a positive economic impact on the nearby shopping areas, such as the Hoytemastreet in The Hague and the center of Wassenaar. Project Director Philip Barth explained that, diverging from the standard US Embassy look, a combination of white stone, steel and glass was used for the facade, to fit better into the Dutch architecture. Apart from the main building, the residence of the Marine Security Guard will also be constructed on the grounds, which incidentally is 4 hectares or 10 acres. After the rooftop ceremony the guests were taken on a tour throughout the building, and although only bare, concrete walls were visible, it did not require a lot of imagination to be impressed by the skillful design and the size of the rooms. In conclusion Ambassador Broas invited his group of guests to join him in a toast to the successful construction in what he called: “Hopefully will one day be my office!”

Ghana-Royal Conservatory

The Hague: music to the ears

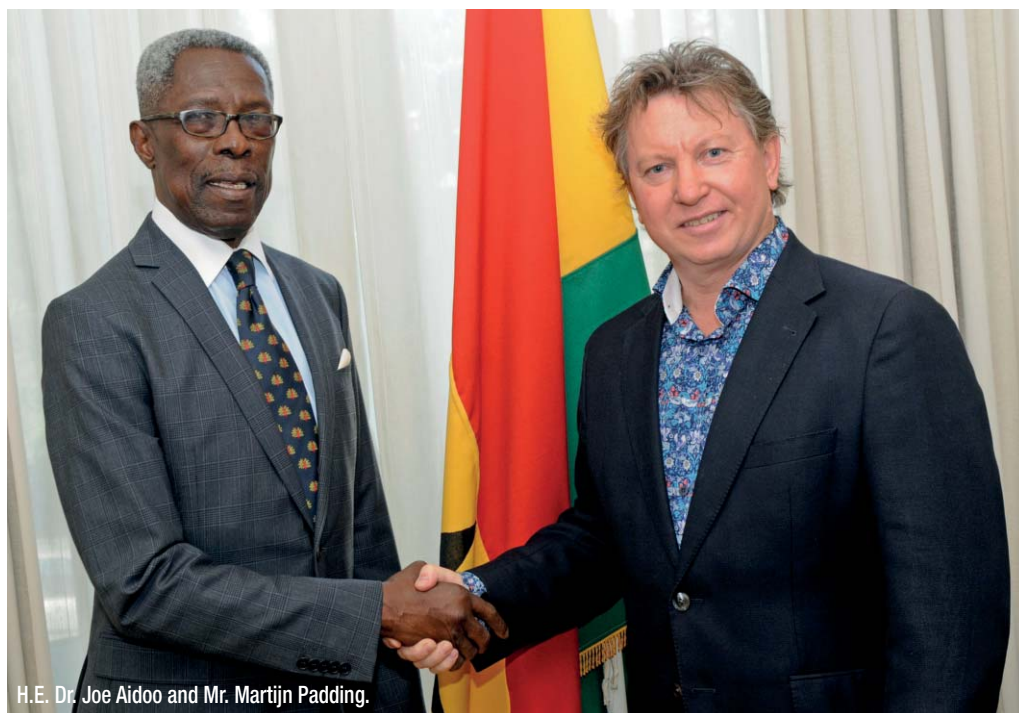
On September 30th 2015, two Ghanaian students from the Royal Conservatory, Priscilla Nokoe and David Azaglo, accompanied by Dutch composer and Head of Composition of the Royal Conservatory Martijn Padding, had the honour of meeting with HE Dr. J. Tony Aidoo, Ambassador of Ghana to the Netherlands to discuss the composing exchange project that Mr. Padding organises together with the University in Legon and various music schools in Ghana.

BY ANGELA VISSER | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

The Ambassador stressed the importance of tightening the links between the Royal Conservatory and the Embassy of Ghana in The Hague, seen the importance of these exchange projects in creating bonds between Ghana and the Netherlands. As one of the prime exporters of cocoa, Ghana has been an important trade partner for the Netherlands for over 300 years.

The Ghanaian population in the Netherlands continues to grow with an increased arrival rate, added to the 2nd and 3rd generation Ghanaians born here, not to mention the yearly arrival of exchange students.

The Hague, Rotterdam and Amsterdam have in particular very active Ghanaian communities. The Kwaku Summer festival in the Bijlmer area for example was held for the 40th time in 2015, attracting the visit of the Ghanaian Minister of Culture. Ten years ago Martijn Padding found the Royal Conservatory lacking in cultural diversity, a short coming for the musical development of the students but also for the international position of the Royal Conservatory. Personally always fascinated



H.E. Dr. Joe Aidoo and Mr. Martijn Padding.

with the music, rhythm and sounds of Africa, he decided to set up a project with young, talented composers in Ghana.

Finding the budget was the biggest obstacle until he happened across a Dutch couple who had made fortune with cocoa in Ghana and was looking for ways to give back (their Debman foundation supports projects amongst others, in Ghana).

Next a good network was necessary, and through the University of Legon, Mr. Padding got in contact with the renowned

Ghanaian ethnomusicologist Kwabena Nketia who whirled him away on an unforgettable music tour of the country from which emerged the concept of linking a number of composers from the University of Legon, with top talent from The Hague.

Each year, Martijn Padding travels with a group of talented musicians from the Royal Conservatory to Ghana to give a week-long workshop to 12 young, talented Ghanaian composers. The resulting composition is then performed

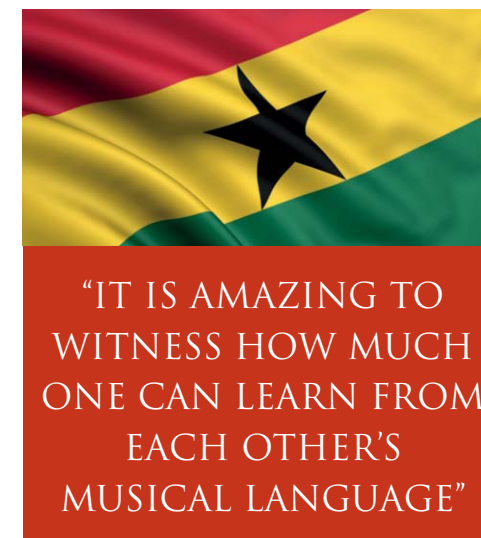


Mr. Martijn Padding, Head Composition Royal Conservatoire, Ms. Priscilla Nokoe, Student Royal Conservatoire, H.E. Dr. Joe Aidoo, Mr. David Azaglo, student Royal Conservatoire, Angela Visser, fundraising and partnerships coordinator.

by Dutch talent. “It is amazing to witness how much one can learn from each other’s musical language and culture, and how it impacts our own perceptions forever,” remarked Mr. Padding.

The exchange however does not only take place in Ghana, each year Ghanaian students are given the opportunity to come and study in Holland, at the Royal Conservatory. At the moment there are two students doing so and from next year, talented Dutch students will have the chance to take a course there.

Through the composition workshop, Martijn Padding met Priscilla Nokoe and David Azaglo, who shared their personal stories with the Ambassador. Priscilla was studying music and dance in Legon and was one of the first to join the workshop. From there she was invited to finish her Bachelor at the Royal



Conservatory in the Netherlands. She now holds a Masters as well.

David Azaglo arrived in 2014 after participating in the composition workshop and Martijn Padding immediately spotted his potential. In parallel to his

studies, David is very active as organist/ accompanist during various church services of the Ghanaian community in The Hague. They both intend staying in Holland a few more years before returning to Ghana to contribute to the arts there. They shared with the Ambassador the difficulties of finding finance as governmental priorities tend to lie in the Science and Healthcare departments. One useful channel is the Ghana Education Trust Fund.

The visit ended on a personal note, with the Ambassador sharing how his growing up in the UK influenced his musical horizon and his particular affinity for Jazz and classical music. He himself does not play, his younger daughter plays cello but music plays an important role in his life and he is looking forward to attending a performance at the Conservatory.

International Day of Peace

In the name of friendship and generosity, a beautiful collaboration highlighted the International Day of Peace with art: Pepo Toledo and Karla Higueros. PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET



Mr. Pepo Toledo, Mayor Jan Hoekema and Ms. Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, ICC President.



Mr. Pablo Vega Perez and Ms. Angela Visser, fundraising and partnerships coordinator Royal Conservatory The Hague.



H.E. Dr. Joe Aidoo and Ms. Lita Cabellut, artist.



Guatemalan painter Ms. Karla Higueros.



H.E. Mr. Carlos Andres Miguel Herrera Rodriguez, Mrs. Véronique Micléa and Mr. Alexander Beelaerts van Blokland, Advisor International Affairs.



Mr. Israel Castillo Hernandez, student at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague.



H.E. Mr. Enrique Eduardo Rodriguez Veltze, Ambassador of Bolivia and his daughter Laura.



H.E. Mr. Eduardo Ibarrola-Nicolín, Ambassador of Mexico and Mrs. Eva Mennes.

The International Day of Peace fell this year on Sunday September 20th. To mark this occasion, H.E. Mr. Gabriel Aguilera Peralta, Ambassador of Guatemala and Mrs. Aura Azucena Bolaños de Aguilera, inaugurated the sculpture *Utopic City* by Guatemalan artist José Toledo Ordóñez on the grounds of Landgoed De Wittenburg. When it became clear last year that return transportation of his sculptures would be so costly, Pepo Toledo, as the

sculptor is called by his friends, donated them officially to Eva Artproductions Foundation. Eva distributed them throughout the Netherlands: one to Amsterdam, two to Brabant in the South of the country, two stayed at Duin & Kruidberg Country Estate and four were placed in a garden in Wassenaar. The sculpture *Utopic City*, which had been the main feature of last year's exposition in front of town hall 'de Paauw'

Wassenaar, was donated permanently to the municipality to remain in the grounds of Kasteel De Wittenburg. The press and many friends, champagne in hand, greeted its inauguration at the corner of Bremhorstlaan 11 and Landgoederen route for bikes in Wassenaar. The ceremony was followed by the opening of an exhibition by Guatemalan painter Karla Higueros in the beautiful Oranje Nassau Zaal of Kasteel De Witten-



José (Pepo) Toledo, H.E. Mr. Eduardo Ibarrola-Nicolín, Ambassador of Mexico, Ms. Fabiola Soto-Midena, Mr. Jan Hoekema, Mayor of Wassenaar, Mrs. Aura Azucena Bolaños de Aguilera, H.E. Mr. Gabriel Aguilera Peralta, Ambassador of Guatemala, H.E. Mr. Enrique Eduardo Rodriguez Veltze, Ambassador of Bolivia, H.E. Mr. J.S. Mukul, Ambassador of India, Mrs. Eva Mennes and Mr. Loet Mennes.



H.E. Dr. Alvaro Moerzinger, Ambassador of Uruguay and H.E. Mr. Karim Ben Becher, Ambassador of Tunisia.



Ms. Celeste Marinelli, Mr. Carlos Alberto Garcia Reyes, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of Guatemala, H.E. Mr. Gabriel Aguilera Peralta, Ambassador of Guatemala and Mrs. Regina Toledo.



Mr. Jaques Schraven, Chairman Supervisory Board Tata Steel Nederland.

burg. The themes of Karla's paintings fitted perfectly with International Peace referring to Overpopulation, Poverty and Economic Inequality, the degradation of our Environment, Educational and Cultural Inequality and Religious Beliefs. Karla travelled from Antigua, Guatemala, as did Pepo Toledo accompanied by his charming spouse Regina. Many of Ambassador Aguilera Peralta's colleagues were present from

Mexico, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, India, Tunisia, Ghana, Hungary, Uruguay and last but not least the Mayor of Wassenaar, Drs. Jan Hoekema. The Mayor then proceeded to present Eva Mennes from Eva Art productions Foundation, the initiator and organizer of this cultural event, the medal for achievements for the municipality of Wassenaar. Musical star Bert Simhoffer sang a beautiful song, composed specifically for this occasion.

The reception was wonderfully facilitated by Kasteel de Wittenburg, with the embassy of Mexico providing additional wine and the embassy of Guatemala a special twelve year old rum to taste. Mrs. Shida Blik, from The Diplomat Club Wassenaar, invited the Mexican musician Israel Castillo Hernandez, student at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, to play Latin songs on his Viola da Gamba. It was an unforgettable occasion.

Confronting the Crisis of Global Governance

On June 16th, The Hague was the venue for the launch of a major report on the future of the United Nations, and of global institutions more broadly.

BY DR. ABI WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT THE HAGUE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

Convened by The Hague Institute for Global Justice – and by its partner, The Stimson Center, in Washington, D.C. – the Commission on Global Security, Justice & Governance presented its report before an audience of some 300 senior diplomats, scholars and Dutch government officials at the Academy Hall of the Peace Palace.

The launch featured the co-chairs of the Commission, former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former Nigerian Foreign Minister and UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Ibrahim Gambari, as well as the Mayor of The Hague, Jozias van Aartsen, who also served as a Commissioner. There could be no more fitting venue than the Peace Palace for the launch, for it serves as a global symbol of international law, as well as the seat of its practice.

Commenting on the findings of the report, Secretary Albright, who serves as Chair of the Advisory Council of The Hague Institute for Global Justice, argued that the world requires “more capable tools of global governance, with different kinds of public, private, and mixed institutions designed for twenty-first-century challenges.”

This assessment was shared by Professor Gambari, who noted that “much more is needed from the United Nations and, indeed, other global institutions dealing with, for example, security sector reform and the rule of law to economic and social recovery and the promotion of human rights.”

To address these challenges, the report provides targeted reforms that transcend



THE REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATIONS
SERVE AS A ROADMAP
IN THE RUN-UP TO
THE UN'S 75TH
ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION
IN 2020

national borders, and reach out to diverse stakeholders, including business groups, mayors, civil society, and local communities and cities, a point which was emphasized at the launch by Mayor van Aartsen.

The launch of the report in The Hague follows more than a year of research and international consultations, with a diverse 14-member Commission at its heart. Having consulted experts at the Munich Security Conference, the Lima Climate Change Conference and the Global Conference on Cybersecurity, also held in The Hague, the Commissioners were well-placed to deliver far-reaching recommendations to address global challenges posted by conflict-affected states, climate change and the hyper-connected global economy.

The report, entitled ‘Confronting the Crisis of Global Governance’, reflects the global perspective of commission members that have served in leading government and non-governmental positions in Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lebanon, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Tanzania, the United States and at the United Nations. The report and recommendations serve as a roadmap in the run-up to the UN’s 75th anniversary commemoration in 2020.

Following the launch in the Peace Palace, The Hague Institute was pleased to be able to rely on the support of the Dutch government for a launch of the report in the United Nations itself. There, Dutch Ambassador to the United Nations, Karel van Oosterom, presided over a session in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, attended by Secretary Albright,



Mayor of The Hague Jozias Van Aartsen.



Mr. Boudewijn van Eenennaam and Mr. Steven van Hoogstraten, former Director of the Peace Palace.



as well as Jan Eliasson, Deputy-Secretary General of the United Nations. This builds on the cooperation provided earlier by Dutch Ambassador to the United States, Rudolf Bekink, who hosted a high-level dialogue for the Commission



Mrs. Madeleine Albright and Dr. Abi Williams, President The Hague Institute for Global Justice.



H.E. Ms. Vjosa Dobruna, Ambassador of Kosovo, Mrs. Bibi van Zuylen van Nyevelt, Mistress of the Robes and H.E Ms. Teresa Paraskevi Angelatou, Ambassador of Greece.

last November at his residence in Washington.

In continuing its advocacy for the recommendations included in the report, The Hague Institute will draw on its many connections with the diplomatic

community in The Hague and in capitals. It hopes to foster an ongoing dialogue on global governance reform, and encourages interested readers to download the full report by visiting: www.globalsecurityjusticegovernance.org

Vin d'honneur at India House

HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR OF INDIA, H.E. MR. J. S. MUKUL

PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

On Wednesday, September 2nd 2015, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India, H.E. Mr. J. S. Mukul presented his credentials to His Majesty Willem-Alexander, King of the Netherlands. Ambassador Mukul was invited to first inspect the Guard of Honour at the Palace. During the ceremony, he was accompanied by Counsellor & Director of The Gandhi Centre, Mr. V. K. Choubey, First Secretary (Legal) Dr. Kajal Bhat, Second Secretary (HOC) Mr. M. K. Pujari and Second Secretary (Political) Mr. D. Meher.

After presenting his credentials, the Ambassador and his spouse had a 20 minute meeting with the King where issues of mutual interest to India and the Netherlands were discussed. Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mrs. Renee Jones-Bos was equally present at the meeting.

On the evening of September 2nd, Ambassador and Mrs. Mukul organized a Vin d'honneur at India House in Wassenaar. The reception was attended by over 100 guests including Mayors, Grand Master of the Royal Household, senior dignitaries from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassadors of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives from international organizations based in The Hague, members of the Press Corps, prominent members of the Dutch and Indian diaspora communities.



Ambassador of India H.E. Mr. J. S. Mukul and his wife Mrs. M. Mukul receive Ambassador of the People's Republic of China H.E. Mr. Chen Xu and Ms. Wenci Li.



Ambassador of India H.E. Mr. J. S. Mukul and his wife Mrs. M. Mukul receive Ambassador of South Africa H.E. Mr. V.B. Koloane.



Ambassador of India H.E. Mr. J. S. Mukul and his wife Mrs. M. Mukul receive H.E. Mr. Roelof van Ees, Director of Protocol Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



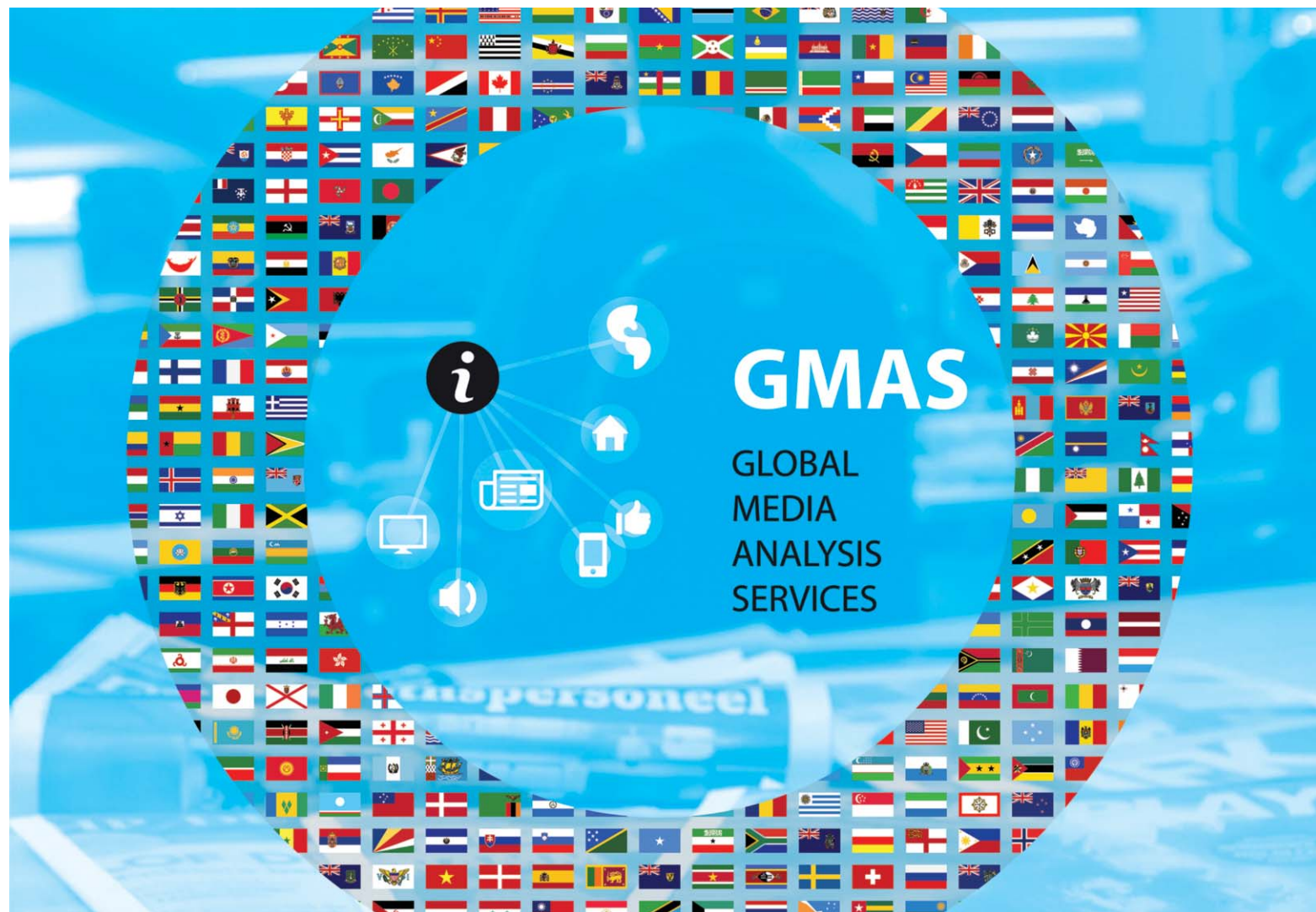
Mr. Rajiv Mehra, Board member of NIA, Mr. Rabin Baldewsingh, Alderman of The Hague, Mr. R. L. Lakhina, Former Executive President, NICCT, Dr. Pankaj Sharma OPCW.



Ambassador of India H.E. Mr. J. S. Mukul and his wife Mrs. M. Mukul accompanied by Former Ambassador of the Netherlands to India, Mr. Eric F.C. Niehe and his wife Mrs. L. Niehe-Van Hilst.



Ambassador of India H.E. Mr. J. S. Mukul and his family accompanied by the Mayor of Wassenaar Mr. Jan Hoekema and Ms. Eva Kuhlemeier.



GMAS: media monitoring in the digital age

BY ELIZABETH VAN DER WIND-HAMILL | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

Diplomatic the Hague, government officials and members of the press were well represented at Nieuwspoort in October when GMAS (Global Media Analysis Service) hosted a High Level Round Table meeting. Former Ambassador Eric Niehe (India, Ireland and Hungary) chaired the meeting which included guest speakers from the Clingendael Institute, ANP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, City of the Hague and BNR News Radio. Media analysts, ambassadors and

government officials discussed the ever increasing impact of (social) media on diplomacy and the need to appreciate and utilise this digital world. GMAS, explained Ambassador Niehe, facilitates this need by keeping diplomats and other international organisations abreast of relevant news pertinent to their countries. GMAS selects, summarises and analyses clearly, quickly and concisely. Language used is English. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for November.



Top; Mr. Ard van der Vorst, representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Willem Post, advisor international affairs City of The Hague, prof. Jan Melissen, Clingendael Institute, Mr. Eric Niehe, senior advisor GMAS and Former Ambassador of the Netherlands to India.

1 H.E. Mr Peep Jahilo, Ambassador of Estonia, H.E. Ms. Jana Reinisová, Ambassador of Czech Republic and H.E. Mr. Ole Moesby, Ambassador of Denmark.

2 Mr. Guido van Nispen, Director ANP and H.E. Mr. Chris Hoornaert, Ambassador of Belgium.

3 H.E. Dr. Joe Aidoo, Ambassador of Ghana and H.E. Mr. H.E. Mr. Emilian Brenici, Ambassador of Moldova.

4 H.E. Mr. Eduardo Ibarrola, Ambassador of Mexico, H.E. Ms. Adia Sakiqi, Ambassador of Albania and H.E. Mr. J.S. Mukul, Ambassador of India.

Annual Ambassadors outing

As has been the tradition for several years now, the Mayor of Wassenaar, Mr. Jan Hoekema, invited the Corps Diplomatique of The Hague to a unique walking tour in Wassenaar, followed by a preview of the exhibition ‘A Selection of Pavilions’ at Town Hall De Paauw. BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS WALTER BUONAMASSA

A large number of Ambassadors, many of whom were accompanied by their spouses, participated. Several newly arrived Ambassadors also attended, such as the Ambassadors of India, Malaysia and Canada. Upon arrival the diplomats were greeted at the Royal Estate De Horsten by Mayor Hoekema, two Aldermen and several of his staff members. This year the group of participating diplomats was remarkably diverse, making for an exceptionally fascinating afternoon. The welcome reception was held outside, where the guests were treated to coffee and the famous Dutch ‘stroopwafels,’ after which they were divided into five groups. The groups, each under the professional supervision of a ‘nature-guide,’ then set out on five different tracks, taking them through the magical Royal estates. The knowledgeable guides elaborated on points of interest regarding cultural history, landscape architecture, flora and fauna. The diplomats were particularly interested in the ‘Royal connection,’ listening intently. The guide explained to them that these beautiful grounds are the property of the former Queen Beatrix and that the Royal Estate De Horsten has been owned by the Dutch Royal Family since 1838. After the walks through the Estate a luxury coach awaited the diplomats and they were ferried to the new Early Childhood Center of the American School for a private tour. At approximately five p.m. the group finally arrived at the Townhall,



Typically Dutch: ‘stroopwafels’.



Ambassador Mir-Hamza Efendiyev of Azerbaijan, Mrs. Sevil Amirova-Efendiyeva and Mr. Roelof van Ees.



Ambassador Ben Becher of Tunisia, Ambassador Nabil A.O. Abuznaid of Palestine, Ambassador Konstantine Gurguladze of Georgia and Ambassador Emilian Brenici of Moldova.



Chargé d’Affaires of Russia Mr. Zhilko, Ambassador Jonghyun Choë of Korea and Ambassador J.S. Mukul of India.



Eva Kuhlemeyer, Ambassador Nikola Kolev of Bulgaria, Mrs. Kolev, nature-guide Els van Venetië, Ambassador Konstantine Gurguladze of Georgia, Ambassador Adia SakiqivandeCastele of Albania, Mayor Jan Hoekema of Wassenaar, Alderman, Ms. Inge Zweerts of Wassenaar, Ambassador Emilian Brenici of Moldova.

where their group picture was taken. The diplomats were then able to view the art pieces of the ‘Selection of Pavilions’ at their leisure. With participating artists of twelve different countries, this exhibition underscores the truly international scope of Wassenaar. Yvette van Caldenborgh,

guest curator of the exhibition, was approached six months ago to organize the exposition, and has done a remarkable job. Nature, education and art. This year’s Ambassadors outing was clearly as diverse as the members of the Diplomatic Corps themselves.



Mayor Jan Hoekema and the participating Ambassadors and spouses in front of Wassenaar Townhall de Paauw.

Yvette van Caldenborgh

Art advisor Yvette van Caldenborgh has graciously agreed to answer a few questions for *Diplomat Affairs Magazine*.

Which challenges did you encounter whilst organizing the Exhibition ‘a selection of Pavilions?’

“If there were no challenges while organizing an exhibition, it would be boring work. One of the challenges we encountered, was the fact that we had to work within a limited budget. For example, there was little money available for the transportation of the art works, so Helene van ’t Hoen and myself drove a van for two days to Antwerp, Amsterdam and The Hague to collect the art works ourselves. Another challenge was how we would hang the art works in the Paauw. Obviously it’s not allowed to hammer nails into the walls of such a historic building. In terms of stature and ambiance the Paauw is similar to the old city palaces of Venice, which enhances the presence of the art works here. I think we have succeeded at putting together a beautiful, modest exhibition, which provides an excellent impression of what will be on display in Venice this year.”

You obviously have a passion for art. How did this come about?
“My parents inculcated me with an appreciation for art at a very young age. The walls of my parental home were covered with art and I accompanied my father to many museums and



Yvette van Caldenborgh in front of one of her favorite art works by Graham Fagen.

galleries. When faced with the choice which study to pursue, I chose art history, which, in my opinion, is the most fascinating education there is, and one that serves me well every day.”
Do you have one or more favorite art pieces in this selection and why?

“This exhibition includes the works of twelve artists. Due to the fact that I have spent months preparing this exhibition, all the art works have become dear to me. However, if I really had to choose a few favorites, they would be the neonlight artwork of Graham Fagen because of its strong aura and Sarkis’ extraordinary movie due to its simplicity.”



Farewell to Maha and Suhad

BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

The wives of the Ambassadors of Iraq, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and Egypt are not only a close-knit group of friends, but Besma Al Fayadh, Reem Ben Becher, Nagat Belouki, Reem Al Mufleh and Nadine Rushdy also are excellent organizers, which they proved once again at the farewell lunch on the occasion of the departure of Mrs. Maha Sulaiman Al Wabel and Mrs. Suhad Abdien. Maha, whose husband is an executive at the Aramco Overseas Company, will return to her home country Saudi-Arabia. Suhad is the wife of His Excellency Mr. M. Elhassan Ibrahim Alawad Hassan, Ambassador of Sudan, and will also return to her country. The lunch featured gastronomic specialties from Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, the home countries of the five organizing ladies. Mrs. Reem Al Mufleh graciously hosted the lunch at the magnificent residence of the Ambassador of Jordan in Wassenaar. Dozens of ladies not only enjoyed

the delicious dishes from the various countries, but also the stunning view of the sprawling grounds surrounding the residence. When Maha, who is known to feel very much at home here, was asked what she will miss most when leaving The Netherlands, she answered: “The people. They are very kind, accepting and welcoming. And even the international community in The Netherlands is equally open-minded and welcoming,” according to Maha, who has also taken advantage of the wealth of culture that this country



has to offer by visiting a great number of its museums. Mrs. Suhad Abdien will also return to her country with good memories of The Netherlands. Asked what she will remember best from her time here, she has a clear and short answer. “The flowers,” referring to the abundance of colorful flowers, especially in springtime. Thanks to the exceptional collaboration between the five organizing ladies, Maha Sulaiman Al Wabel and Suhad Abdien can look back on a warm and friendly farewell.

From left to right; Mrs. Najat Belouki, Mrs. Reem Ben Becher, Mrs. Besma Al Fayadh, Mrs. Majida van der Meulen, Mrs. Suhad Abdien, Mrs. Tamader Hassoun, Mrs. Nadine Rushdy, Mrs. Reem Al Mufleh and Mrs. Maha Al Wabel.



The Einstein Legacy Project

2016 represents a unique moment in world history. One hundred years ago, Albert Einstein created his Theory of Relativity, changing the world with the power of one man's intellect and vision.

To celebrate this milestone, The Albert Einstein Foundation together with The Hebrew University and The Smithsonian Institute are embarking on a number of global projects. The goal: to inspire a new generation of scientists, leaders and humanitarians to bring fresh thinking to contemporary global challenges and to make STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) more accessible and appealing to a younger generation, particularly to young women. The project is being co-chaired by former Apple Executive Mr. Jeffrey Martin, along with leading Canadian philanthropist Mrs. Judy Tanenbaum, and was founded by Mr. Rami Kleinmann and Mr. Elan Divon of the Albert Einstein Foundation. The European launch of the project took recently place in The Hague with a series of events, and the project plans to return in January 2016.

Projects include:
The Citizen Scientists Initiative
The initiative will allow millions of young people from around the world to use their smartphones as mobile laboratories (particularly in countries where resources are limited) and work with top scientists, including Nobel Laureates, on collecting data around issues such as climate change, global warming and the environment, while participating in the scientific process. The goals of the initiative are to empower and identify the world's next 'Einstein's', while making STEM more appealing to



Former Apple Executive Mr. Jeffrey Martin, along with leading Canadian philanthropist Mrs. Judy Tanenbaum.

young adults, thus creating new career aspirations for millennials in fields where jobs will be both available and necessary for the future of our planet.

Genius: 100 Visions of the Future
The world's first 3D printed book designed by renowned artist Ron Arad, will invite the 100 greatest icons, leaders and influencers of our time to share their wisdom and vision for the future with the world. A publishing milestone, 'Genius' will be launched in Washington DC with the gathering of books by 100 distinguished contributors and global

dignitaries. This historic event will be held on May 22nd 2017 at The National Portrait Gallery and is being dubbed 'The Dinner of the Century'.

STEM Summit
The Dinner of the Century will be preceded by a global STEM summit planned by The Smithsonian Institute and The Hebrew University, in which leading scientists from around the world will be invited to discuss STEM related issues and form partnerships to advance shared research.

'Einstein & Friends'

Helping to promote Museum Boerhaave is fun, but it's even greater fun to curate your own exhibition. As guest curator in my own museum, I tremendously enjoyed planning and realizing 'Einstein & Friends'.

Helping to promote Museum Boerhaave is fun, but it's even greater fun to curate your own exhibition. As guest curator in my own museum, I tremendously enjoyed



Prof. Dirk van Delft, Director Museum Boerhaave.

planning and realizing 'Einstein & Friends'. 'Einstein & Friends' has been organized to celebrate the centenary of the General Theory of Relativity. Allegedly, only a few experts were able fully to understand it at the time. Rather than introducing you to the finer points of Einstein's field equations, this exhibition focuses on the Dutch circle around the man Albert Einstein, with Leiden as its vibrant centre. This approach resulted in a series of remarkable portraits of top scientists, who changed our view of the world but also liked to make music in between.
Dirk van Delft, Director Museum Boerhaave



A birthday at Diplomat Club Wassenaar

BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

As her husband, Ambassador Carlos Herrera Rodríguez of Peru was officially welcomed by Mayor Hoekema during a ceremony at the Diplomat Club Wassenaar, Mrs. Véronique Micléa suddenly also found herself at the center of attention. On this very day it also was the birthday of Mrs. Micléa and the surprised look on her face was priceless as a huge birthday cake was brought into the dining room, compliments of the founder of the Diplomat Club Wassenaar, Mrs. Shida Bliek. All the dining guests sang ‘Happy Birthday’ in honor of Mrs. Micléa, who then blew out the single candle on her cake. Raves could be heard about the exquisite Dutch chipolata cake, which was served as dessert together with a glass of champagne. This impromptu birthday celebration contributed to the festive atmosphere, which was further enhanced by the sensational Jazz concert by saxophone player Candy Dulfer and her band that followed. The ceremonious welcome for her husband, the stylish Castle dinner, her ‘surprise birthday celebration’ and the spectacular concert that concluded the evening certainly all contributed to a memorable birthday for Mrs. Véronique Micléa.



Mrs. Véronique Micléa.



Candy Dulfer and band.



Candy Dulfer and the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Abdullah Abohamed.



Ambassador of Panama H.E. Mr. Willys Delvalle Velasco and Mr. Hans Dulfer.





Iron Chef Assoc. Prof. Dr. Surachai Jewcharoensakul, H.E. Mr. Ittiporn Boonpraong, Ambassador of Thailand and Mrs. Suteera Boonpraong.



A Taste of Thailand

His Excellency Mr. Ittiporn Boonpraong, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Mrs. Suteera Boonpraong hosted an exclusive Thai cooking demonstration and dinner at their beautiful residence in Wassenaar. BY BONNIE KLAP

All seats in the room were taken as the Iron Chef Assoc. Prof. Dr. Surachai Jewcharoensakul took the floor. The recipient of the Iron Chef title for Thai cuisine at the Texas Culinary Academy in 2006, Dr. Jewcharoensakul is recognized by the government of Thailand for his important role in chef training programmes made for Thai restaurants overseas since 2003. He is also renowned for his versatility and talent. Traits which were once again underscored at this unique event. In Thai cuisine, attention to detail is of paramount significance. The Iron Chef masterfully orchestrated the complex interplay between the five taste senses by adding just the correct amount of a certain spice. Lemongrass, garlic, ginger and chili are liberally used, resulting in delicious, light dishes with a heavy emphasis on texture, color, taste



H.E. Mr. Ittiporn Boonpraong, Mr. Hans van Baalen, Member of the European Parliament and Mrs. Ineke Ybesma and son Robert.

and aroma. While patiently explaining his work method in preparing his dishes, Dr. Jewcharoensakul occasionally shared a few 'secrets to culinary success' with his audience, such as adding baking powder to meat in order to tenderize it. He also elaborated on the very intricate way in which dishes are prepared for the Thai Royal Family, explaining the importance of small portions, artful presentation of the dishes and never serving raw foods.



H.E. Mr. Xu Chen, Ambassador of China, H.E. Mr. Moazzam Ahmad Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan and H.E. Ms. Janet Lowe, Ambassador of New Zealand.

Iron Chef Dr. Jewcharoensakul prepared a variety of Thai dishes for Ambassador Boonpraong and his guests, such as Lab Kai (Chicken salad), Yam Beef, and Chicken with cashew nuts and Prawn Garlic. The guests, many of whom were Ambassadors, gathered in the formal dining room and enjoyed this taste of Thailand together. They were unanimous in their praise for the culinary skills of Iron Chef Jewcharoensakul.

Butler: by-gone era or cutting-edge 21st Century?

Leaves dancing in the breeze, a lark singing high and clear, a car ceremoniously crunching to a halt on the gravel and... a butler obligingly opening the passenger door to guide the guest into the estate... An image of a previous era? No, 21st century and still up-to-date!



BY MR. ROBERT WENNEKES, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUTLER ACADEMY



Who thinks of *Downton Abbey* or *Upstairs-Downstairs* is mistaken. The passenger door is held open by an executive manager who runs the entire household, the latest mobile phone within reach and detailed knowledge of how each guest likes his drinks. A master at pre-empting his employer's thoughts and wishes, enabling the boss in question of focusing entirely on his/her core business. Discrete, highly skilled, providing spotless service, beyond expectation.

Maybe you've seen him before? Welcoming you at Castle the Wittenburg for example? This butler is trained at The International Butler Academy in The Netherlands. Maybe not the country you would expect to have such an academy? Actually, it is one of the most highly-rated Butler academies worldwide. The International Butler Academy is a unique,

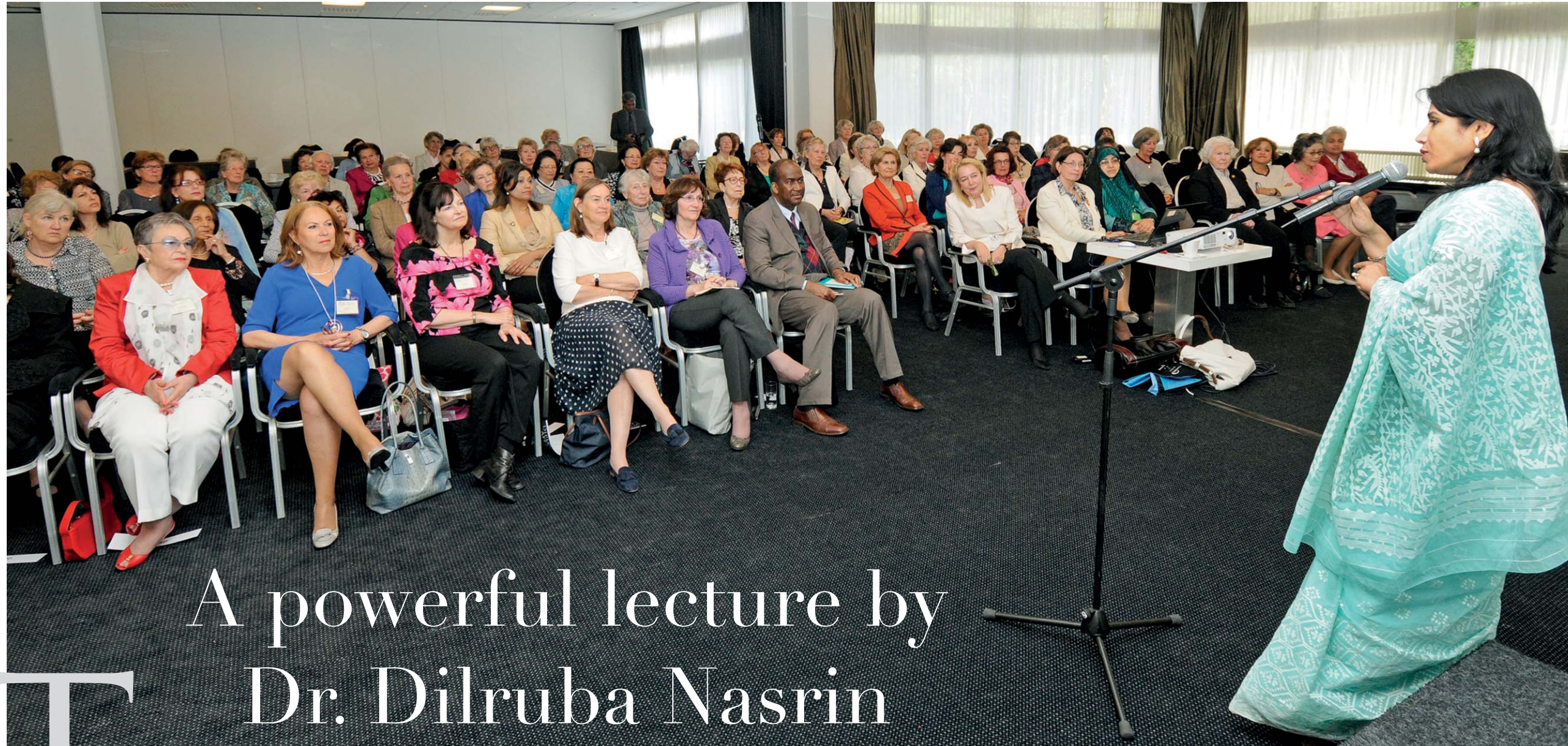
exclusive and professional butling and house management school. Proud to be the finest and most innovative butler service training institute in the world, second to none. Equally proud that some of the world's wealthiest families, international businesses, as well as five-star hotels, resorts, private clubs, and cruise lines, turn to this academy for staff training, staff recruitment as well as for the highly specialized consulting services.

By combining traditional skills and knowledge with cutting-edge technology and training, the traditional art of butling is brought into the 21st century. It is the only school of its kind in the world where students live, work and learn in a real, multi-million dollar household. Attending the professional training program truly is a life-changing experience. Imagine being the employer of such a butler!

The International Butler Academy will be pleased to assist employers with their recruiting needs. They have developed a very straightforward selection process for both the employer and employee to ensure a mutually successful placement. They consult with employers about their domestic needs in a professional and thorough way, and work with them to find them the perfect staff member.

Curious to know more? Have a look at the Academy's website butlerschool.com and know that you are more than welcome to visit the Academy at the education Centre and that the staff will be honored to present you all the information during a personal interview.

The International Butler Academy
Kasteel Oost – Oosterweg 36
6301 PX Valkenburg, The Netherlands



A powerful lecture by Dr. Dilruba Nasrin

BY BONNIE Klap | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

The International Women's Contact of The Hague invited Dr. Dilruba Nasrin to give a lecture at their monthly meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in The Hague. Dr. Nasrin, who is the wife of H. E. Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal of Bangladesh, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland. She earned her PhD in the field of Epidemiology and specializes in child health in the developing world and vaccine-development in particular.

Throughout her hour-long lecture Dr. Nasrin captivated her audience not only by sharing very personal stories, such as her own baby son, who struggled with infections during his first year, but also by showing at times truly disturbing

slides of malnourished and sick children in developing countries. Fortunately these sick children, who were severely dehydrated, often made a full recovery by administering a dose of ORS – Oral Rehydration Solution –, which Dr. Nasrin was proud to state, was developed in Bangladesh and costs a mere 10 cents per packet. 1,8 million children die annually of diarrhea. A shocking number, which becomes even more shocking as Dr. Nasrin explains that diarrhea is relatively easy to treat. The ORS-solution can even be prepared at home in the kitchen, by mixing molasses, sugar and salt. She also told her audience about her regular travels to her three study-sites in Kenya, Mali and The Gambia, where Dr. Nasrin

works on an extensive research-project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In those African countries she has experienced a variety of challenges ranging from difficulty in communicating with the local people, as well as the presence of poisonous snakes. Completely undaunted however, it is clear that her work is her passion and she will stop at nothing. After she is asked by a lady in the audience how this problem can be solved and whether there is a lack of money, Dr. Nasrin offers a bold statement, explaining that money should not be a problem.

"In the US, \$ 8 billion is spent annually on cosmetics, whereas \$ 9 billion would provide clean water for the whole

developing world. \$ 17 billion is spent annually on pet food in the US and Europe and only \$ 13 billion would buy basic health and nutrition needs for the entire developing world," according to Dr. Nasrin. Huge strides need to be taken before the world is a healthy, safe place for all its children. Dr. Nasrin for her part is determined to tirelessly keep working toward that goal.

After her lecture, which was hugely successful, we asked Dr. Nasrin to share a few thoughts on her work in her own words.

"I primarily work for the center for Vaccine Development, University of Maryland, USA as an Assistant Professor.

We are involved in diarrheal disease research in children in developing countries, named as 'Global Enteric Multicenter Study (GEMS)'. GEMS is the largest, most comprehensive study of childhood diarrheal diseases ever conducted in seven sites of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. The study was conducted in The Gambia, Mali, Kenya and Mozambique in Africa, and Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India in Asia. The study was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF or the Gates Foundation). BMGF, the largest private foundation in the world, was launched in 2000 by Bill and Melinda Gates. The primary aim of the foundation is to enhance global healthcare. One of the

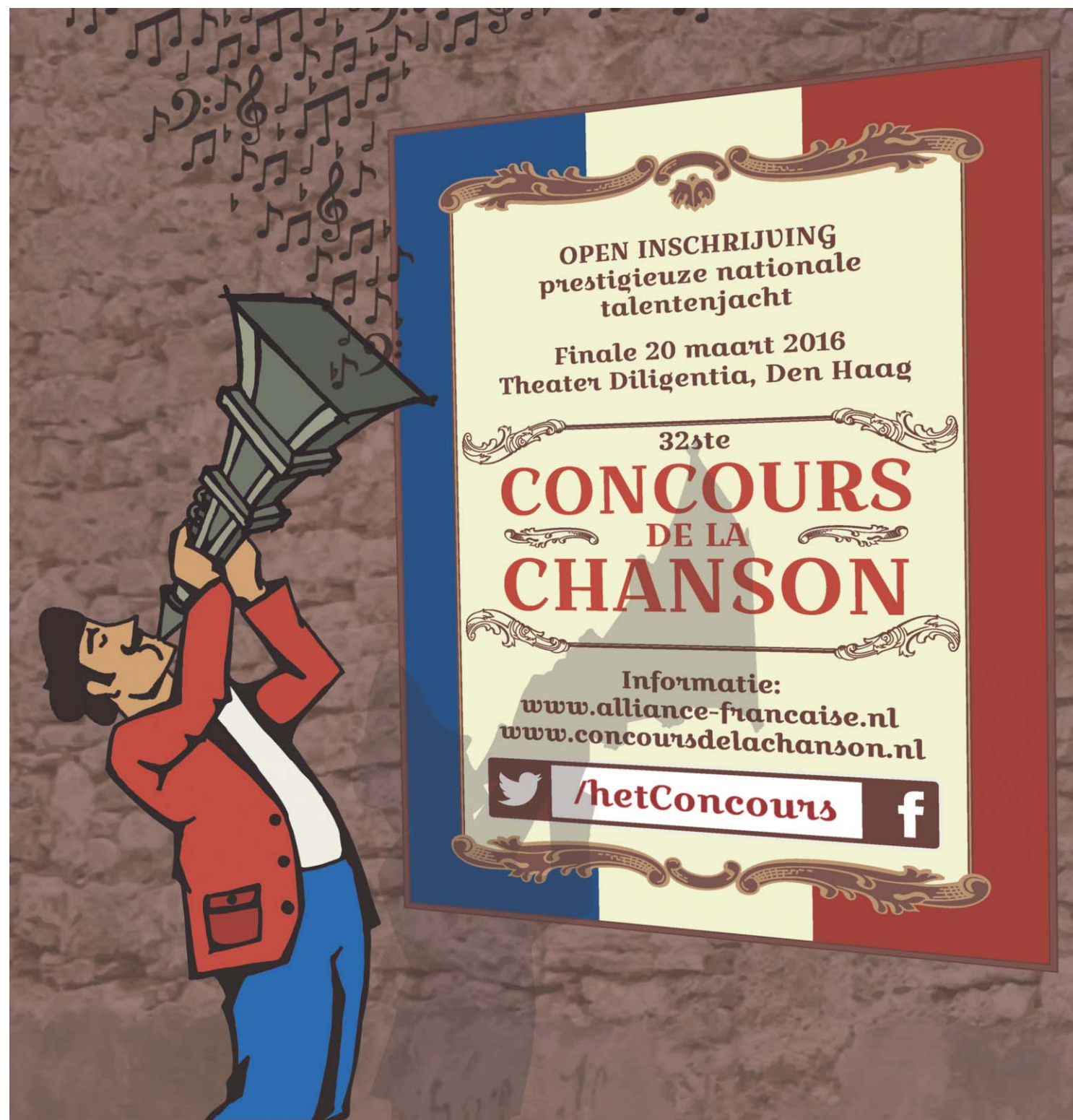
goals of the foundation is to end diarrheal disease deaths in children under age 5 in low and middle income countries, and to significantly reduce the burden of malnutrition resulting from diarrhea in children. The primary focus is to advance the development of safe, affordable, and effective vaccines for the leading causes of diarrheal diseases in developing countries. I am the coordinating epidemiologist for this study. My job, among others, also engages me in arranging trainings for the clinical teams in our research sites across the globe. I also routinely monitor the research activities, ensure quality data, analyze and design program response and policy interventions when required."



Boardmembers of the IWC, from left to right; Mrs. Ewa Stein, Mrs. Odette Schillings, Mrs. Debby Barth, Mrs. Barbara Couwenbergh, Mrs. Cristina Battistig, Mrs. Venera Moga, Mrs. Mechtild v.d. Lugt and Mrs. Jeanne Thoret.



President of the IWC Mrs. Barbara Couwenbergh and Dr. Dilruba Nasrin.



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Top; Dr. Dilruba Nasrin and the Ambassador of Bangladesh Mr. Sheikh Mohammed Belal
Left; Members of the Dutch-Bangla Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DBCCI).

The road to the Asian Century passes through Bangladesh

On a grey, rainy Monday morning the Dutch-Bangla Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DBCCI) brightened up the Hilton, with their energy, vitality and optimism regarding the potential of their country and the opportunities for trade between Bangladesh and the Netherlands.

BY JULIE KENNEDY | PHOTOS: COURTESY BANGLADESH EMBASSY

Members of the delegation highlighted the many assets of Bangladesh such as its strategic location between India and China, the steady 6% increase in GDP over the past decade, and the huge, enterprising population in age of working. Agriculture is the single largest sector and employer but also the Leather industry is booming (with 10 Million cows slaughtered yearly), joining the huge readymade garments industry. Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal delivered a heart-felt speech, opening with a humorous: “Thank God it’s Monday” before moving on to convey so much enthusiasm for the beautiful country of the Netherlands and its wonderful people. He admitted to waking up every morning excited to be here and is eternally grateful to the people of Bangladesh he has the honour to represent.

“A good novel” he says, “tells you many stories in a short space” and he proposed to write a novel entitled “Bangladesh-uncharted “involving 165 Million characters, easily trainable, enterprising, in

**“TO BE SUCCESSFUL,
ONE MUST PUT
ONESELF IN THE
PATH OF GIANTS...”**

a country where English is widely spoken. “To be successful”, he stated, “one must put oneself in the path of giants, Bangladesh enables you to do so.” Mr. Belal sees the twinning with the innovative Dutch as a perfect match, highlighting building a flood proof country, reclaiming land and gathering deep sea port

knowledge as three particular points.

“There is no end in sight in terms of potential, opportunities crop up daily”, he added before leaving us with the lyrical: “When the wind of change blows, some people build walls, others build windmills. As the wind of change in Bangladesh blows more dynamically than ever before, we cannot wait to welcome you.”

The vibrancy continued throughout the day and the networking reception warmly welcoming the visiting DBCCI delegation, the Dutch entrepreneurs and the President of MODINT (the largest Dutch Labour Welfare organisation). Beautifully hosted at Bangladesh House the Bangla delegation and their Dutch counterparts engaged in lively discussions before being served an excellent Bangladeshi dinner.



De opbrengst van de tombola komt ten goede aan
SOS Kinderdorpen. Een goed doel met Oostenrijkse roots,
dat al 50 jaar kinderen en families helpt.
Want opgroeien in een liefdevolle en veilige familie is
dé basis voor de ontwikkeling van een kind.

Voor meer informatie en entreekaarten: www.wienerball.nl.



Dutch-American Friendship Day

His Excellency Mr. Timothy Broas, Ambassador of the United States to The Netherlands, hosted a reception at his residence in The Hague to celebrate the Dutch-American Friendship Day.

BY BONNIE KLAIP | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET



H.E. Mr. Timothy Broas, Ambassador of the United States of America.



1 Ms. Michele Fiszbajn, Mr. P. Luzac, Mrs. M. Luzac, Mrs. Lois Pot-Mothershed.
2 Ms. Jessie Rodell and Ms. Roberta Enschede.



3 Mrs. Astrid Bharos and Mr. Rutger Mazel.
4 H.E. Mr. Timothy Broas, Ambassador of the USA and Mr. P. Luzac.



Both Dutch and American guests had come to join Ambassador Broas on this memorable day. As is well known the US and The Netherlands share a very special and 233 year-old unbroken relationship, which was commemorated at this event in a unique way. Two ladies, OAR-member Mrs. Jessie Rodell and Mrs. Roberta Enschede took us back in time and recited excerpts from the famous letters written by the then Minister Plenipotentiary John Adams – later President Adams – to his ‘dear Portia,’ also known as Abigail. The hundreds of letters were written to his wife, while she waited for him in Massachusetts, as he struggled to achieve Dutch recognition of American independence. After this fascinating trip back in time, His Excellency Mr. Broas took the floor and welcomed his guests. He expressed his disbelief at how fast a year had gone by,

as the Dutch-American Friendship Day had been the very first event he had hosted as an Ambassador exactly one year ago. It had been an eventful year for Dutch-American friendship with undoubtedly the visit of President Obama to The Netherlands being the highlight. Ambassador Broas also mentioned the upcoming visit of their Majesties King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima to the White House, as well as to Grand Rapids, Michigan and Chicago. The Ambassador has visited many provinces in The Netherlands and continues to be amazed by – in his own words – the strength of the ties, the entrepreneurial spirit and shared values that exist between The United States and The Netherlands, ranging from trade and investment to cultural and academic exchange and from military training to water management. Ambassador Broas, who incidentally is of

Dutch descent, elaborated on the cause of American independence and the many who have supported this cause. “One man familiar to us is John Luzac. We place flowers before his memorial in the Pieterskerk each year on Thanksgiving. John Luzac believed in America, as so many in this nation did and still do,” according to the Ambassador. What made this event even more special was the fact that Mr. Peter Luzac, a direct descendant of John Luzac, had also come to the reception, bringing with him an extremely unique, original copy of a letter written by George Washington to John Luzac in 1797. “Peter’s presence here tonight symbolizes the strong and longstanding ties that bind our countries,” Ambassador Broas told his guests, after which he invited Mr. Peter Luzac to join him in cutting the huge Dutch-American Friendship-cake.

Marc Angeli ■ Michel Antaki ■ Dario Caterina ■ Jacques Charlier ■ Martin Coste ■ Alain Denis ■ Jenny Donnay ■ Pierre Gerard ■ Fanny Germeau ■ Francois Goffin ■ Philippe Herbet ■ Laurent Impeduglia ■ Alain Janssens ■ Djos Janssens ■ Tatiana Klejniak ■ Sophie Langohr ■ Jacques Lizene ■ Jacques-Louis Nyst ■ Pierre Petry ■ Marianna Ponlot ■ Jonathan Sullam ■ Vincent Ubags ■ Dani Tambour ■ Elodie Timmermans ■ Marie Zolamian

Belgian art in focus

The Belgian Embassy is known for enhancing the cultural ties between Belgium and The Netherlands by regularly organizing an exhibition of Belgian artists. BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET



His Excellency Mr. Chris Hoornaert, Ambassador of Belgium, hosted a vernissage at his residence in The Hague, – exhibiting art pieces of twenty-five Belgian artists. The stunning, century-old Ambassador’s residence provided the perfect backdrop for the artworks, which were located throughout the main and first floor. Standing in the imposing hall, Ambassador Hoornaert welcomed his guests, immediately captured by two eye catching works of art on the main floor. Hanging from the ceiling was the white ‘Jonas et la baleine blanche,’ by Marianne Ponlot and in an adjacent room the highly original ‘Unchain my heart’-sculpture by Jonathan Sullam could be viewed. Ambassador Hoornaert delivered a welcome speech, effortlessly switching

from English to French, then back to Dutch and occasionally even German. He underscored the fact that – in his own words – ‘it is art that connects us as

AT THIS PARTICULAR EVENT, THE BELGIAN PROVINCE OF LIÈGE AND ITS ARTISTS WERE HIGHLIGHTED

a continent.’ At this particular event, the Belgian province of Liège and its artists were highlighted. Strategically located right at the centre of the London-Paris–

Berlin triangle, Liège is an attractive tourist destination and boasts as many as 130 museums and 72 monuments. Famous cities such as Spa, known for its mineral water, and Chaudfontaine, are located in Liège. Mr. Michel Foret, Governor of the Province of Liège, was also present and gave a speech, elaborating not only on the cultural ties between The Netherlands and Liège, but on the economic ties as well. After the speeches the many guests, who included several Ambassadors and other dignitaries, were invited to view the art works at their leisure. The artists were available to answer any questions the guests might have. Although deserved, it is not possible to discuss each and every one of the twenty-five art works that were on display in the



‘Jonas et la baleine blanche’ by Marianne Ponlot.

Ambassador’s residence. However, there were a few extremely unique ones, such as the wonderfully abstract ‘Chez Campbell’ painting by Jacques Charlier hanging in the stairwell, and the highly original ‘La Vie en rose,’ by Dani Tambour. Definitely dominating the first floor was ‘Landscape II,’ by Vincent Ubag, with its rich and engaging colors. In conclusion two other works are also worth mentioning, namely ‘Sans titre,’ by Laurent Impeduglia, which is a dynamic composition in yellow and black, and ‘Les Lapins,’ by Pierre Pétry. Ambassador Hoornaert had done a magnificent job by organizing a vernissage and connecting Liège and The Netherlands through the wonderful world of art. An objective he shares with *Diplomat Affairs-In touch with the Dutch Magazine*.



Top; Mr. Michel Foret, Governor of the Province of Liège and Mr. Laurens Jan Brinkhorst. Top left; H.E. Chris Hoornaert, H.E. Dr. Joe Aidoo and Ms. Gloria Quartey. Below left; Mrs. Annelies Verkerk, Mayor Bas Verkerk and Chief of protocol Mr. Roelof van Ees.



From left to right; PNBC Chairman John Lintjer, ING Head for International Affairs Barbara Rutgers, Business Advisor of The Netherlands Enterprise Agency Arthur van Leeuwen, Philippine Ambassador to The Netherlands Jaime Victor B. Ledda, ING Managing Director Lenin Duenas, Jr., PNBC Board Member & Founder and CEO of East West Seed Company Simon Groot, and PNBC Board Member Ric Hettinga.

PHILIPPINE EMBASSY PARTNERS WITH BUSINESS COUNCIL AND ING IN HOLDING BUSINESS SEMINAR FOR DUTCH PRIVATE SECTOR

Asia's Rising Tiger

The Philippine Embassy in The Netherlands, together with the Philippines-Netherlands Business Council and ING Bank, held a business event titled 'The Philippines: Asia's Rising Tiger. A Briefing on the Philippine Economy' on 21 May 2015 at the VNO-NCW Building in The Hague.

The event was convened by the three organizations with the aim of bringing the good news about the Philippines and encouraging the Dutch private sector to invest and do business in the country. Some 40 Dutch companies and organizations attended the event. The seminar was also auspicious for ING Bank as it

celebrates its 25th year of operations in the Philippines this year.

The speakers included Philippine Ambassador to The Netherlands Jaime

THE NETHERLANDS
IS THE PHILIPPINES'
10TH LARGEST
EXPORT MARKET

Victor B. Ledda, PNBC Chair John Lintjer, ING Managing Director Lenin Duenas, Jr. and Business Advisor of The

Netherlands Enterprise Agency Arthur van Leeuwen. The speakers underscored the impressive growth that the Philippines has gained over the past four years, including the investment grade status bestowed upon the country by the world's leading credit ratings agencies. They also highlighted the opportunities on various fields for Dutch companies, including infrastructure (through the PPP scheme), agriculture, water, tourism, and energy.

The Netherlands is the Philippines' 10th largest export market and has been the number three source of Foreign Direct Investments for the past fifteen years.

Holland-Israel Innovation Week

Ms. Neelie Kroes opens inspiring Holland-Israel Innovation Week, brimming with young international speakers and impressive events.

BY JULIE KENNEDY | PHOTOS COURTESY EMBASSY ISRAEL

Many different international events took place from Saturday 2nd till May 8th 2015 to stimulate and encourage fast-growing start-ups, corporate international innovation teams, the outstandingly talented and investors; to settle and do business in the Netherlands.

Israel has been known for years as having a favourable climate for successful start-ups and can mean a lot to the Dutch Start-up scene.

Former European Commissioner and now figure head of Startupdelta Ms. Neelie Kroes, together with Israeli Ambassador Haim Divon and Deputy Mayor Laurens Ivens, officially opened the Holland-Israel week on May 3rd at Wework in Amsterdam.

A few hundred people were present and the Dutch Embassy in Tel Aviv also contributed by bringing Mr. Ben Lang to the Netherlands. He developed the world's biggest start-up map and is the brain behind projects used by millions. During the week he unveiled a new project which will strengthen the international position of start-ups in the Netherlands.



Ms. Neelie Kroes, head of Startupdelta and former European Commissioner.



H.E. Mr. Haim Divon, Ambassador to Israel.



Mr. Nir Kouris (with microphone).

Colorful Cameroon

Dressed in a summery yellow outfit Her Excellency Mrs. Odette Melono, Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon, hosted a reception on May 20th at the Worldhotel Bel Air to celebrate the National Day.

BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET



H.E. Muhammed H. Al Said, Ambassador of Oman, H.E. Mr. Carlos José Argüello Gómez, Ambassador of Nicaragua and H.E. Mr. Alireza Jahangiri, Ambassador of Iran.

Standing at the entrance of the room in front of a portrait of President Paul Biya of Cameroon, Ambassador Melono received an endless stream of well-wishers, who, after the reception, were treated to a sumptuous dinner buffet featuring authentic Cameroonian dishes. We are delighted that Her Excellency Ambassador Melono agreed to answer a few questions for *Diplomat Affairs Magazine* on topics such as tourism and others.

Tourism to Cameroon is growing. Which are the main tourist attractions in your country?

Tourism is a high priority for my government in its quest to enhance and diversify economic growth; as well as for making Cameroon a leading tourist destination in Africa. Cameroon is often described as ‘all of Africa in one country’ or ‘Africa in miniature’. Other phrases sometimes

used to describe Cameroon include ‘the melting pot of Africa’ and ‘Africa in microcosm’. This means that my country possesses all the attractions that Africa has to offer, within our borders, in climate, culture, geography, race and food. In Cameroon, there are more than 300 tourism sites. We have three World Heritage sites and many more awaiting the status. For example:

- Mount Cameroon in Buea (4100 meters high), the highest mountain in Central and West Africa, attracting thousands of hikers and climbers.
- 400 km of sandy beaches on the Atlantic Ocean; perfect for seaside holiday makers, with the unique Limbe volcanic black-sand beach and the Kribi white-sand beach among others.
- Nine national parks for safari wildlife viewing, which serve as a safe haven for wildlife in its natural habitat. The most well-known is the Waza National Park,

located on the northern apex of the country. It harbors Africa’s iconic animals such as cheetahs, elephants, lions, giraffes, black rhinoceros, panthers, hippopotamus, hyena, gorillas, leopards, chimpanzees and many more.

- The 3000 year old man made Rupestral Engravings of Bidzar, an archaeological site displaying around 500 engraved figures, in Northern Cameroon.
- The architectural heritage site Diy-Gid-Biy which has a collection of 300 year old stone monuments, covering 25 square kilometres.
- The archaeological remains of Shum Laka, under the shelter of a huge rock of 1200 square meters in the North West region.
- The spectacular ceremonies such as the fantasias (horse races) of the Lamido (Muslim Chief) in the Northern regions.
- The ritual enthronement of chiefs in the West and North West regions.



H.E. Ms. Odette Melono and H.E. Dr. Alvaro Moerzinger Ambassador of Uruguay.



Right; Mr. John Neary, Ambassador of Ireland.



H.E. Ms. Maymouna Diop Sy, Ambassador of Senegal and H.E. Dr. Nimota Akanbi.



H.E. Mr. Wilson Mutagaywa Masilingi, Ambassador of Tanzania and Mrs. Bonnie Klap.



Right; H.E. Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü, OPCW Director-General.

Traditional chiefdoms and Fondoms, such as the sultanate of Foumban, or chiefdom of Bafut (World Heritage site), have their own Palace or compound which visitors may visit for a fee.

- Yaoundé, the capital, which is home to many more of Cameroon’s national monuments and museums.

Eco-tourism has been embraced by many of the parks, such as the Korup national park, the Dja Faunal Reserve (a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1987), the Limbe botanical garden and the Ebodjé fishing village (home to a sea turtle conservation project). The government is always available to assist potential tourists with more information in this regard.

Which products are exported by Cameroon? Cameroon’s primary export crops are cocoa, cotton, coffee, bananas, timber, crude petroleum, rubber, aluminium and

palm oil. Our country's main export partner is the European Union, including the Netherlands.

“WOMEN PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN AFRICAN SOCIETY BUT THEY SHOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN EVERY SOCIETY”

Women play an important role in African society. Can you elaborate on this phenomenon? Of course women play a very important role in African society but they should play an important role in every society. As a woman myself, I have talked extensively about the massive contributions women make in our society in particular. Women have always been active in agriculture, trade, politics,

education and small businesses. They are the backbone of our nation, taking care of children, family and often the whole community with the little they have. They are the true guardians of their children’s welfare and are responsible for providing for them both emotionally and materially. I am proud to say, in Cameroon, the government has embarked on a mission to empower women and improve women’s’ rights. Cameroon currently has 56 women in its parliament and 20 percent of the Senate (upper house) is made up of women. There has always been equal pay, the right to vote and free information for family planning to women. Our government is committed to improving education for young girls and women as we believe that educated women have educated children. Education is the key to developing the country, enhancing democracy and improving human rights.”

A defining moment for Indonesia

The proclamation of Indonesia's independence took place on August 17th, 1945, exactly 70 years ago.

BY BONNIE KLAP | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

To celebrate this defining moment for Indonesia, as Dutch Foreign Minister Mr. Bert Koenders stated, the Deputy Chief of Mission of Indonesia, Mr. Ibnu Wahyutomo, hosted a reception at the Hilton Hotel in The Hague. Prior to the official remarks made by Mr. Wahyutomo and his Guest of Honor, Dutch Foreign Minister Mr. Bert Koenders, an Indonesian welcome dance was performed. Following the dance, Mr. Wahyutomo took the floor and delivered a speech, during which he underscored the importance of the presence of Minister Koenders in relation to the mutual commitment of the two countries to strengthen bilateral relations. Mr. Wahyutomo looked back on the very close and dynamic relations between Indonesia and The Netherlands, while admitting these same relations had also been subjected to various ups and downs. According to Mr. Wahyutomo the personal contacts between the two peoples should be strengthened and deepened further and he was delighted to report that substantial progress had been made in the areas of education, science, culture and tourism. Moreover Dutch investors are among the top ten investors in Indonesia, and the bilateral cooperation in the educational and cultural field has been expanded. After these encouraging remarks, Mr. Wahyutomo invited Mr. Koenders to say a few words. The Minister first took the opportunity to congratulate President Widodo and the Indonesian people on the 70th Anniversary of the Independence. He



H.E. Mr. Bert Koenders, Dutch Foreign Minister and Mr. Ibnu Wahyutomo, Charge d'Affaires of Indonesia.



Dancer Ms. Anouk Wilke.



Mr. Ben Bot, Chairman of the Carnegie Foundation (I).

then went on to praise the impressive changes that Indonesia had undergone over the years in terms of poverty decline and growth of the middle class. The Minister is a great proponent of a forward-looking approach, with many opportunities for people-to-people contacts: a 'Relationship 2.0,' as foreign Minister Retno Marsudi called it. Minister Koenders shared with the audience that he had recently met Minister Marsudi at Schiphol Airport,

while she was in transit, and with whom he had an excellent conversation, adding that she still takes every opportunity to drop by, even only in transit. After the speeches, two young Indonesians, Riana Westra and Satryia Krisna, students at the Amsterdam music conservatory, performed the two National anthems, after which the elaborate Indonesian dinner buffet was opened. The 70th birthday of the Republic of Indonesia was celebrated in grand style!

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