

DIPLOMAT AFFAIRS

IN TOUCH WITH THE DUTCH



**DIPLOMAT CLUB WASSENAAR
WELCOMES NEW AMBASSADORS**

ALGERIA, CHINA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, INDONESIA, ITALY, JAPAN

H.E. Sayyid Mohammed Harib Al Said, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman
The 'post oil generation'

Peace Palace
Flame of Peace Award

H.E. Mr. Juan José Quintana Aranguren, Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia
Peace Accord

AUTUMN/WINTER 2016/2017



Diplomat Club Wassenaar
The Netherlands



**KASTEEL DE
WITTENBURG**

AUDACIA AMICITIA FIDES

Landgoed De Wittenburg 1, 2244 BV Wassenaar



*Your Excellencies,
dear members
and readers,*

With pride and joy I present you the latest edition of our club magazine *Diplomat Affairs* Autumn/Winter 2016/2017. It gives me and our team great satisfaction to highlight the myriad of activities going on within the Corps Diplomatique in the vibrant City of The Hague and Wassenaar. We have been busy these past six months.

We strive through the Club to create a 'Home away from Home' for you, our member Ambassadors through collaboration, sharing your thoughts and facts, and events highlighting your countries and through the communal caring in the worlds of art, music and charity. I thank each and everyone one of you for contributing in this way to creating 'a modern way of diplomacy'. It is indeed an honour, Your Excellencies, to publish your articles.

Much personal appreciation goes to our volunteers and the staff of the Embassies, never failing to assist or walk the extra mile to provide quality content to *Diplomat Affairs*.

I would like to thank the patron of Diplomat Club Wassenaar, Mayor Jan Hoekema. Despite his full schedule, he is always willing to share his wisdom and knowledge in order to enhance the success of our events.

Last but not least I also thank Mr. Ralf Meppelder, the Director of Castle De Wittenburg and his team for their creative advices to make our events memorable.

As the year 2016 is approaching its end, I already very much look forward to pursuing our common endeavours in 2017, as we strive to 'keep in touch with the Dutch'.

Shida Blik

Publisher TenRande Foundation | Shida Blik **Photographers** Anton van der Riet, Walter Buonomassa, Annet Leenders, Robin Utrecht, Eddy Wenting **Contributors** Jhr. Alexander Beelaerts van Blokland; H.E. Sayyid Mohammed Harib Al Said, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman; H.E. Mr. J.S. Mukul, Ambassador of India; H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Ambassador of Bangladesh; H.E. Mr. Juan José Quintana Aranguren, Ambassador of Colombia; Dr. Abi Williams, President of The Hague Institute for Global Justice; Mrs. Nadia van Gaalen-Toppenberg; Ms. Julie Kennedy; Mr. Martin Beyer, Director Alliance Francaise The Hague
Postal address Carnegielaan 11, 2517 KH The Hague | embassyrow@hotmail.com **WWW.DIPLOMATAFFAIRS.NL**

This winter the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden (the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities) in Leiden will bring to life the riches enjoyed by the royal ladies of ancient Egypt, the intrigues they engaged in and the honours paid to them.

'Queens of the Nile', 18 November 2016 to 17 April 2017.



Queens of ancient Egypt: luxury, power and intrigues

The exhibition 'Queens of the Nile' tells the unique story of the pharaohs' wives during the New Kingdom period (1539-1077 BC.). Visitors can admire 350 top archaeological pieces, including rare sculptures, magnificent jewellery and luxurious artefacts used by women at the Egyptian court. This is the first time that such a large exhibition about the queens of Egypt has been organised in the Netherlands. During the New Kingdom, ancient Egypt was at the height of its power. Pharaohs were lords and masters of their realm and worshipped as gods; their queens were also accorded divine and regal status. The museum's exhibition will present the various roles fulfilled by famous Egyptian queens such as Hatshepsut, Tiye, Nefertiti and Nefertari during their life and after their death. Powerful women who were not simply wives but who also ran the pharaoh's palace and exercised significant political influence as queens.

Although pharaohs could marry many wives, only one was allowed to bear the title 'Great Queen'. She managed the day-to-day running of the harem, which sometimes comprised hundreds of women. At court she was surrounded by sumptuous jewellery, magnificent clothes, cosmetics and furniture. The Museo Egizio in Turin is loaning 225 of its finest objects to the National Museum of Antiquities. Also on display will be important pieces from the National Museum of Antiquities' own collection and from museums in Brussels, Copenhagen and Hildesheim. A unique element in the exhibition will be the display of objects recovered from the tomb of Queen Nefertari. Her tomb, plundered in antiquity, was discovered in the Valley of the Queens in 1904. One of its richly decorated chambers will be reconstructed in the exhibition. *'Queens of the Nile', 18 November 2016 to 17 April 2017.*

CONTENTS

AUTUMN/WINTER 2016/2017



6 A warm welcome



14 Cuban summer night



17 Climate at urge



22 Peace agreement



30 Argentina



36 Erasmus MC Thorax



38 World Tapas Day



40 Busy Brazil



54 Clinton or 'The Donald'?

18 The 'post-oil generation'

21 Momentous times for Malta

26 Flame of Peace Award

28 Indo-Dutch connectivity

44 Egyptian National Day

46 A warm goodbye 'tot ziens'

47 Mayor van Zanen honoured

48 Democratic transitions

50 Moroccan Throne Day

52 'Digital Bangladesh'

55 Dr. Abi Williams

56 South Africa: 22 years freedom

59 Europol: fast growing

60 Honorary consul highlighted

62 Montblanc's Anniversary

64 Iran-Netherlands exchanges

65 Alliance Française library

66 A bid farewell



Rear, from left to right, H.E. Mr Elpidoforos Economou, Ambassador of Cyprus; H.E. Mr Andrea Perugini, Ambassador of Italy; castle director Ralf Meppelder; H.E. Mr Nourredine Ayadi, Ambassador of Algeria; Peter Bliek, chairman TenRande Foundation; H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Japan. Front row, from left to right, H.E. Mr. Ken Wu, Ambassador of China; Mayor of Wassenaar Jan Hoekema; H.E. Ms. Andrea Gustović Ercegovac, Ambassador of Croatia; H.E. Mr. I. Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja, Ambassador of Indonesia.

‘A HOME AWAY FROM HOME’ FOR SEVEN NEW AMBASSADORS Welcome to the Netherlands!

Seven new Ambassadors having presented their credentials to His Majesty King Willem-Alexander, were officially welcomed at Diplomat Club Wassenaar by Mayor Jan Hoekema and Mr. Peter Bliek, Chairman of the TenRande Foundation, as is our bi-yearly tradition. PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET



Mayor of Wassenaar Mr. Jan Hoekema (l) welcomes the new Ambassadors.



Mr. Henk van der Meulen, Director Royal Conservatory The Hague.



Mr. Peter Bliek (r), Chairman of the TenRande Foundation speaks to the Ambassadors.

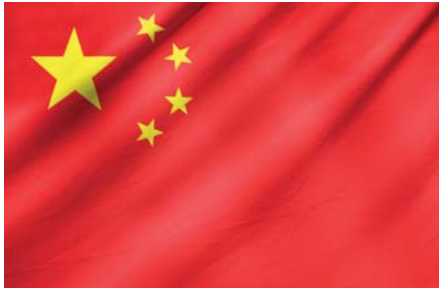
Ambassador of the Democratic People’s Republic of Algeria H.E. Mr Nourredine Ayadi



H.E. Mr Nourredine Ayadi, graduate of the Algiers Ecole Nationale d’Administration-Diplomatique holds a Masters in International Law and International Relations from the Algiers University. He served as Ambassador to Mali and to Argentina (covering also Chile and Uruguay) and was also posted to Vienna as Deputy to the UN. Director for International Political Affairs in Algiers and Charge de Mission responsible for the counter-terrorism committee. Decorated ‘Order of May’ he has also taught at the Ecole Nationale d’Administration, Algiers. Mr. Nourredine is married to Mrs. Daouia Ayadi, and they have three children.

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

H.E Mr. WU Ken



H.E Mr. WU Ken studied at Frankfurt University. Ambassador to Switzerland and Austria and also posted to Germany he has held numerous positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, such as Director-General, Department of Personnel and served as Deputy Secretary General of the People's Government of Guang Dong Province. Mr. WU is married to Mrs. GUO Jinqiu, Counsellor of the Embassy, and has a son.

Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia

H.E. M. Andrea Gustović Ercegovac



Comment of Ambassador Andrea Gustović Ercegovac about the Welcome Ceremony at Diplomat Club Wassenaar: *"This is really a nice idea for the Ambassadors to meet the leading figures from politics, culture and economy at the very beginning of their mandate."*



H.E. Ms. Andrea Gustović Ercegovac is Postgraduate from the Diplomatic Academy of Croatia (International Law and International Economics). She served as Ambassador to Romania and Moldova, and also as Ambassador to Slovakia. Author of many articles on International Relations and psychology, and Lecturer at the Diplomatic Academy, Mrs. Ercegovac pursues her interest in politics and sport. Mrs. Ercegovac is widowed and has one daughter.

Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus H.E. Mr. Elpidoforos Economou



H.E. Mr. Elpidoforos Economou holds a LLB (Hons) law degree and MA Degree in International Law and International Relations from the University of Lancaster, UK and a MA in European Studies and Diplomacy from the University of Macedonia.

He has served as Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (also Bahrain and Yemen); and as Ambassador to Rome (covering Switzerland, Malta, San Marino).

He was also posted as the first Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and as Consul General of Cyprus to Thessaloniki.

Mr. Economou is married to Mrs. Despina Christodoulidou and has a daughter and a son.

Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia H.E. Mr. I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja



H.E. Mr. I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja studied at Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia and at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (USA), The Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies.

He has served as Ambassador to Austria, Slovenia and as Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna and to ASEAN – SOM as Leader Indonesia/Director General for ASEAN. Governor of Indonesia to the International Atomic Energy Cooperation, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the UN, WTO and other international organizations, Geneva are just some of his prior positions.

Decorated many times over, Mr. Puja is married to Mrs. Rusdijana Puja and they have two children.

Maybe less known is that he is also a talented traditional dancer (performing the 'topeng tua') and musician (playing kendang) and an accomplished singer.

Ambassador of the Italian Republic

H.E. Mr. Andrea Perugini



H.E. Mr. Andrea Perugini has served as Ambassador in Vietnam and been posted to Paris, Beijing and Angola. He has extensive experience as Deputy Director General/Principal Director for Asia, Oceania, and the Pacific in the Directorate General for Globalization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Coordinator for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the European Union's Internal Market and Lisbon Strategy and served as First Counselor, Permanent Delegation of Italy to the OECD in Paris.

During the Italian Presidency of the EU, end 90s, he was Chairman of the Working Group on Challenge Inspections of the Preparatory Commission for the OPCW. Mr. Perugini is married to Mrs. Mariska Perugini-Visser, who is Dutch, and has three children.

Ambassador of the Empire of Japan

H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Inomata



H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Inomata graduated from Waseda University, faculty of Law.

He has served as Ambassador in Pakistan and has been posted to Thailand, the United States, United Kingdom and Korea. He has also served as Consul General in San Francisco, and many postings back home such as Director-General, Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department and Deputy Director-General, International Legal Affairs Bureau.

Mr. Inomata is married to Midori Inomata, and has two children.



Ambassador of Cuba, H.E. Mr. Fermín Gabriel Quiñones.



H.E. Mr. Willys Delvalle, Ambassador of Panama, H.E. Mr. Fermín Gabriel Quiñones and Mrs. Aimara de Armas, Mrs. Tatiana Zarak de Delvalle and daughter.



Painter Mr. Julio Breff Guilarte and Ms. Esther van Gent, Cuban Cultural Events.

AMBASSADOR OF CUBA, FERMÍN GABRIEL QUIÑONES HIGHLIGHTS STRONG LINKS BETWEEN CUBA AND THE NETHERLANDS

A Cuban summer night



Diplomat Club Wassenaar and the Cuban Embassy organised a Cuban Summer night at Kasteel De Wittenburg.

BY JULIE KENNEDY | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET



- 1 Mr. Peter Bliet; H.E. Mr. Gabriel Quiñones and Mrs. Aimara de Armas and H.E. Mr. Aldo Cavalli, Apolistic Nuncio.
- 2 H.E. Mr. Fermín Gabriel Quiñones and Mrs. Aimara de Armas, Mayor Jan Hoekema.
- 3 Mrs. Patricia van Oordt de Arias; Mrs. Gina Ledda; Mrs. Aimara de Armas; Mrs. Fanny Elena Arguedas; Mrs. Véronique Micléa and Mrs. Tatiana Zarak de Valle.
- 4 Mrs. Barbara Couwenbergh, Jhr. Alexander Beelaerts van Blokland; Ms. Elizabeth Auerbach.



The main focus was on highly talented painter Mr. Julio Breff Guilarte, specially flown in from Cuba for the opening, with professional guidance of Ms. Esther van Gent from the Cuban Cultural events. At least forty-two ambassadors, all honorary members of Diplomat Club Wassenaar confirmed and enjoyed the evening with their spouses and for at least two of them, with a delightful daughter too. High ranking officers from the Dutch Ministries and Captains of Industries were also present among the almost two hundred guests welcomed

by H.E. Fermin Gabriel Quiñones, Ambassador of Cuba, accompanied by his charming spouse Mrs. Aimara de Armas.

COHIBAS

For one night we could imagine actually being there: the Havana Club bar in the garden, under guidance of Ms. Marie-Laure Raadsen with irresistible mojitos and a cigar bar donated by CubaCigar Benelux. Perfectly cut Cohibas presented by Mrs. Yvonne van Horssen-Litz to enjoy on the terrace, the glorious beat of Cuban vocalist Estrella Acosta and her

band 'Esquina 25' filling the space with sunshine and rhythm and the acclaimed, colourful and fantastical paintings of Mr. Julio Breff Guilarte.

Mr. Jan Hoekema, Mayor of Wassenaar paid tribute to the organisers, before passing the floor to His Excellency Mr. Fermin Gabriel Quiñones. The Ambassador welcomed us to this 'passion for Cuba' event. He highlighted the strong links between the Netherlands and Cuba and the recent visits of Prime Minister Mr. Mark Rutte, Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Bert Koenders and Minister for



Cuban vocalist Estrella Acosta and her band 'Esquina 25'.



H.E. Mr. Emilian Brenici, Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova and spouse.



Photo left, H.E. Mr. Alfonso Boekhoudt, Minister Plenipotentiary of Aruba and Mrs. Boekhoudt.



Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Mrs. Lilianne Ploumen to his country and the first visit here of the Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs. Trade and tourism are booming and there is a strong will on both sides to cooperate further. The Netherlands have maintained full relations with Cuba since 1914. Due to the proximity of the autonomous countries of the Kingdom, the Netherlands and Cuba have shared interests in the Caribbean region.

CULTURE

“Tonight”, as he said, “is about culture:

the root of our nation.” Before sadly announcing his upcoming departure and inviting everybody to Havana, he gave “his deepest appreciation to the city of Wassenaar and Mayor Hoekema, to Diplomat Club Wassenaar, in particular Founder Mrs. Shida Blik, and Mr. Ralf Meppelder of Castle De Wittenburg”. He then proposed a “friendship toast to Cuba, The Netherlands, and all our countries”. It was then time to gratify the appetite with the wonderful Cuban buffet, prepared by Castle de Wittenburg Chef Jan-Willem Rietveld and his team, and

Mrs. Maaidelys Alfonso Lauzardo, the cook of the Cuban Ambassador. A mosaic of colours, textures, aromas and tastes. Diplomat Club Wassenaar thanks Mr. Carlos Rodriguez of the Cuban Embassy who was in charge of organizing the event. It was a great honour to welcome H.E. Fermin Gabriel Quiñones as a honorary member of Diplomat Club Wassenaar, in December 2014 (see Diplomat Affairs, Royal issue page 6/7). We wish the Ambassador all the best in his further career. *More photos: www.diplomataffairs.nl*



From left to right, Mr. Richard Schreurs, President Alliance Française The Hague; H.E. Mr. Philippe Lalliot, Ambassadeur of France; Mr. Frederic de la Mure, official photographer of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Martin Beyer, Director Alliance Française The Hague; Mr. Charles Noordam, Director of the Centrale Bibliotheek The Hague.

PHOTO ANTON VAN DER RIET

Climate: state of emergency

During July and August, the Alliance Française, by means of a photo exhibition, highlighted the state of emergency concerning climate change around the world.

This exhibition of 43 photos from 105 participating Alliances Françaises, out of the 830 worldwide; were first exhibited in Paris – Le Bourget, France; as part of the large international conference on climate change (COP21) organised in December 2015. From there the photo exhibition travelled to Lyon and Rouen before making its international debut, here in The Hague, at the Centrale Bibliotheek, the project being a joint collaboration of Alliance Française and Bibliotheek Den Haag. A well-attended vernissage was held in

July, in the presence of H.E. Mr Philippe Lalliot, Ambassador of France. The official photographer of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Frédéric de la Mure held a public conference including projections of his photos from the Arctic and also Pacific regions. In his speech Ambassador Lalliot stressed the importance of the COP21 agreement and the need of at least 55 countries to ratify the treaty for future implementation. Over a friendly drink, the guests had the opportunity to discover the exhibition and to discuss this crucial theme.

The exhibition ran until the end of August 2016 and concluded with the screening of the film ‘Human’ by Yann Arthus-Bertrand, at the Nutshuis Den Haag, in the presence of Françoise Bertrand, film project Co-director for an exchange of Q&A. The Alliance Française is mainly known for its expertise as a French language centre, but its mission also includes the promotion of cultural exchange between European countries, as well as the universal values of the Francophonie. www.aflahaye.nl

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF OMAN

The ‘post-oil generation’

H.E. Sayyid Mohammed Harib Al Said, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, on business opportunities for entrepreneurs.

PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

On Thursday 1st September 2016, I hosted a dinner at my residence in Wassenaar in honour of the visiting Omani business delegation members who won a competition organised by the Netherlands Embassy in Muscat. The competition was part of the Oman Netherlands Business Innovation Forum on Transport, Innovation and Maritime Affairs. The event was also attended by Mr. Wilhelmus Heeren (former CEO of Jan de Rijk Logistics and the current Chairman of the Executive Board of Dinalog, the Dutch Institute for Advanced Logistics), and a number of officials from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

CHALLENGES

Many young Omani nationals are working towards a future that is not dependent on oil as the country’s main source of income. The post-oil generation are articulate and intelligent and are constantly keeping abreast of the techno-



logical developments and changes that are taking place in the global market. They are ambitious as well as innovative and are keen to benefit from other countries experiences and expertise, including from the Netherlands where Dutch inventions are known for their distinctiveness and quality. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Sultan of Oman, is aware that one of the greatest challenges facing young entrepreneurs is finance. Banks and other lending institutions are known to be fiscally conservative and require some collateral assurances before loans are

approved. His Majesty’s Government has in recent years addressed this problem by initiating the Al Rafd Fund which helps Omanis to launch their Small and Medium size Enterprises (SME) projects with easy pay-back terms and conditions. Key to the success of the SME’s has been the young entrepreneurs’ academic credentials.

HERITAGE

In the past many young Omanis believed that a scholarship or education abroad would open doors to them in the job market and in particular in the public sector. Today, many young Omanis are home-grown talent and possess academic qualifications and language skills and seek employment in the private sector. The Sultanate is blessed with a diverse and abundant cultural and geological heritage. Tourism will no doubt provide a vital source of revenue for the Omani economy. The Sultanate’s Ministry of Manpower is currently exploring the



First row from left to right:
Mrs. Marwa Al Busaidi (member of the Omani Business Delegation)
Mrs. Hifaa Al Khadouri (member of the Omani Business Delegation)
Ms. Shurooq Al Subhi (member of the Omani Business Delegation)
Ms. Fatma Al Mukhaini (member of the Omani Business Delegation)
Second row from left to right:
Ms. Tamara van der Heijden (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Official)
Mr. Wilhelmus Heeren (Chairman of the Executive Board of DINALOG)

H.E. Sayyid Muhammed Harub Al Said (Ambassador of Oman)
Mr. Hamed Al Mahruqi (Omani Diplomat, Chief of Finance and Administration)
Mr. Salim Al Riyami (member of the Omani Business Delegation)
Third row from left to right:
Mr. Nassim Abba (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Official)
Ms. Marloes Smeets (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Official)
Mr. Mubarak Al Lamki (the Ambassador’s nephew)
Mr. Waheb Al-Saadi (member of the Omani Business Delegation)

many vocational training courses in the Netherlands and hopefully in the near future students will be sent to the Netherlands not only for university degrees but also for the outstanding and

exceptional vocational training diplomas. The tourism sector will provide employment for qualified Omanis. The Omani Government has allocated millions of dollars to develop tourism sites. This

sector offers opportunities for investors and entrepreneurs. Investment laws have been liberalized to attract foreign investors. Many businesses are now allowed hundred percent foreign



First row from left to right:
 Mrs. Marwa Al Busaidi (member of the Omani Business Delegation);
 Ms. Shurooq Al Subhi (member of the Omani Business Delegation);
 Mrs. Hifaa Al Khadouri (member of the Omani Business Delegation);
 Ms. Fatma Al Mukhaini (member of the Omani Business Delegation).
 Second row from left to right:
 Mr. Nassim Abba (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Official);
 Mr. Mubarak Al Lamki (the Ambassador's nephew);
 Mr. Salim Al Riyami (member of the Omani Business Delegation);
 Mr. Waheb Al-Saadi (member of the Omani Business Delegation);
 H.E. Sayyid Muhammed Harub Al Said (Ambassador of Oman);
 Mr. Wilhelmus Heeren (Chairman of the Executive Board of DINALOG);
 Mr. Hamed Al Mahruqi (Omani Diplomat, Chief of Finance and Administration);
 Ms. Tamara van der Heijden (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Official);
 Ms. Marloes Smeets (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Official);
 Mr. Saleh Al Wahaibi (Organizer of Conferences and Exhibitions).

ownership. The number of tourists visiting Oman is expected to increase. Visitors are attracted by the country's political stability and visitor security, in addition to the range of diverse activities: rock climbing, snorkelling, observing dolphins in their natural habitat and visiting the 500 forts are just a few of the many attractions.

LOGISTICS

In recent years one of the fastest growing and expanding sectors has been logistics. Logistics offers nationals employment opportunities, and foreign investors'

investment potential. The development of the Port of Duqm has attracted many foreign investors, in particular from Asia. The Port's location, close to one of the busiest shipping trade routes has resulted in the increase of business delegations, including entrepreneurs from the Netherlands, wanting to explore business opportunities to adapt, grow and profit. The Port of Duqm and the Sohar Industrial Port (which is a fifty-fifty joint venture between the Government of Oman and the Netherlands' Port of Rotterdam) together are important gateways to nearly four billion consumers.

In conclusion the Sultanate of Oman with its modest oil reserves has had to embark on a sustainable economic development programme which necessitates diversifying its source of income. The post-oil generation will need to be more involved in SMEs ventures which currently accounts for the employment of only twenty percent of the working population. There is general optimism that the liberalisation of investment laws will lead to greater foreign direct investment and provide employment opportunities for young Omani nationals in the non-hydrocarbon sector.



Momentous times for Malta

BY JULIE KENNEDY | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

For one, this year sees the 450th anniversary of the capital city Valletta, described by former British Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, as 'a city built by gentlemen for gentlemen'. Next, in the spirit of 'keeping in touch with the Dutch', in 2018 Valletta, together with the Dutch city of Leeuwarden will jointly serve as the European Capitals of Culture. But closer to date, from January 2017, for the first time since joining the European Union in 2004, Malta will take over the Presidency of the European Council. And this at a time, as the Ambassador said, when "the very sustainability of the EU will be put to the test, as it is set to face one of its most delicate and fragile times." Issues to be faced by Malta during their

Presidency will include items such as: the outcome of the UK referendum, the elections in France, Germany and The Netherlands; the rise of populism in

"THE EUROPEAN PROJECT HAS BROUGHT PEACE AND STABILITY TO THE OLD CONTINENT"

Europe; boosting economic opportunities; and dealing with conflict on Europe's borders. In the Ambassador's words: "Indeed the unfolding events of the recent past in Europe have left all of us breathless, sometimes unsure but hopefully with a stronger will to make the Union stronger and better." The role of the Presidency is not to be

seen as merely ceremonial. As he said: "This is not about governing the EU for six months but it is about highlighting issues that Malta deems essential. In this respect, the work carried out during the duration of the current Trio composed of the Netherlands, Slovakia and Malta will be significant building blocks towards a more relevant Union and the re-launch and continuation of the European Project." And last but not least, His Excellency reminded us that during the Presidency Malta will also have the opportunity to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome: "A sixty year journey called the European Project that has brought peace and stability to the old continent." Momentous moments ahead indeed, we will be following them closely.

Only one direction to go: up

His Excellency Mr. Juan José Quintana Aranguren, Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands: “Relations between the Netherlands and Colombia are based on years of mutual respect and support, in particular in the area of Peace, and Dutch businesses have made considerable investments in the country.”

PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

What direct economic implications will the historical peace agreement, recently signed with the FARC guerrilla movement, have on the country?

The implications are huge. Once the Agreement is approved by the Colombian people with, I hope, an overwhelming majority, and its implementation begins in earnest; there will be profound changes for all to see. Not only will the Government be able to re-direct a significant portion of the National Budget into services with a direct social impact, but there will also be an improved environment that will foster business, productive projects and foreign investment, particularly in the rural areas (something that, incidentally, is mandated by the agreement itself).

Just remember that, despite the history of violence, the Colombian economy has always been relatively stable and we have managed to keep in place sound fiscal policies for a number of years. Therefore, once we get rid of the armed conflict there is only one direction to go: up. In short, what in United Nations



H.E. Mr. Juan José Quintana Aranguren and Mrs. Maria Rosario Navia.

“DESPITE THE HISTORY OF VIOLENCE, THE COLOMBIAN ECONOMY HAS ALWAYS BEEN RELATIVELY STABLE”

parlance is known as the ‘peace dividends’ will be enormous in the Colombian case.

We understand there is a considerable Human Rights Fund available to the Dutch Embassy in Bogota, for human rights activities including corporate social responsibility. Will that still be needed now that FARC has signed the agreement? Definitely. The protection of human rights activists and, more in general, the



H.E. Mr. Juan José Quintana Aranguren.

promotion of human rights is an ongoing task that will not be over with the making of peace.

In fact, the Agreement itself contains specific provisions concerning the security and protection of vulnerable populations, including FARC members who lay down their weapons and return to civil life. This will be one of the major tests for the sustainability of the entire peace effort, and in this field it will be very important to obtain assistance and cooperation from the international community. The Netherlands is uniquely well placed to continue playing a significant role in these matters.

Colombia is the third largest destination for Dutch investment in Latin America, and one of the main foreign investors from the European Union. Since 2013 Dutch businesses have been supported by the bilateral chamber of commerce, Holland House/Casa de Holanda. Does it make a difference?

It does, definitely. I only have words of praise for the excellent job that our

“I AM CONFIDENT
THAT A MEMBER OF
THE DUTCH CABINET
WILL BE IN
CARTAGENA
TO WITNESS THE
FORMAL SIGNING
OF THE PEACE
AGREEMENT”

colleagues in the Holland House in Bogotá are carrying out for the benefit of Dutch and Colombian businessmen and women who are interested in expanding their portfolios in both countries. They are remarkably creative and operate in a very executive manner. In my view, they definitely filled a vacuum that had been felt previously in the Colombian-Dutch relationship in the economic field. And last but not least there is regular contact between the Dutch and Colombian governments. King Willem-Alexander visited Colombia in 2013, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Lilianne Ploumen and a large delegation in November 2014.

Anything else on the agenda?
Yes, His Majesty visited and do not forget that Queen Maxima has already been twice to Colombia, one of them on her own. We do not have a high level bilateral meeting in the works right now but our Ministers meet regularly in venues like the UN General Assembly in New York.

I for one am confident that a member of the Dutch Cabinet, probably Foreign Minister Koenders himself, will be in Cartagena to witness the formal signing of the Peace Agreement. This will be a historical moment for Colombia and the entire region and I am sure that as the representative of one of our neighbouring countries he would not like to miss it.



PHOTO ROBIN UTRECHT

From left to right, the President of Colombia, Mr. Juan Manuel Santos; Queen Maxima; Mrs. Maria Clemencia Rodriguez, spouse of the President and King Willem-Alexander at the presidential Palace Casa de Narino in Bogotá.



PHOTO ANTON VAN DER RIET

From left to right, Her Royal Imperial Highness Archduchess Herta Margarete Habsburg-Lothringen, His Excellency José de Bouza Serrano, His Excellency Dr. Ben Bot and His Royal Imperial Highness Archduke Sándor Habsburg-Lothringen of Austria-Tuscany.

‘Flame of Peace Award’ at home in the Peace Palace

Diplomat Club Wassenaar honorary members Royal Imperial Highnesses Archduchess Herta Margarete Habsburg-Lothringen and Archduke Sándor Habsburg-Lothringen of Austria-Tuscany, representing the ‘Association for the Promotion of Peace’ bestowed the ‘Flame of Peace Award’ upon H.E. Mr. Ben Bot, Chairman of the prestigious Carnegie Foundation and H.E. José de Bouza Serrano, then Ambassador of Portugal. What better setting to do so than the stunning Peace Palace in our city of Peace and Justice. The Flame of Peace Award is presented to prominent people, peace activists and organizations for their endeavours in

promoting peace. Symbolically it is crafted out of walnut wood (courage and strength) mounted on stone (endurance and steadfastness). Dutchman Dr. Ben Bot served as Minister of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador to Turkey and as Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the EU where he worked closely with Ambassador de Bouza Serrano on promoting a peaceful Europe. As Her Royal Imperial Highness said: “Symbols and monuments have since the beginning of humanity a great importance, they make us remember and they give us strength”. Another area of activity of their Royal Imperial Highnesses is the much awaited

Wiener Ball which they attend as Guests of Honour. This spectacular event involving ball gowns, orchestras, debutantes, values and tradition enhanced with a lot of fun is also significant as fundraiser for SOS Kinderdorpen, an Austrian Foundation dating back to 1949, dedicated to providing a stable and loving home to thousands of children; some orphans, some in hardship families, in 134 developing countries. Diplomat Club Wassenaar is proud to support SOS Kinderdorpen and the 49th Wiener Ball will be held on Saturday February 11th 2017 at Huis ter Duin in Noordwijk. *More photos: www.diplomataffairs.nl*



The most elegant ball of the saison in the typical Viennese style.

For more information and admission tickets: www.wienerball.nl or contact the Ballbureau, mrs. Marianne van den Berg: welkom@wienerball.nl or 06-24348656

SOS Kinderdorpen/SOS Children's Villages benefits directly from the tombola proceeds. This charity, with Austrian roots, supports children and families and goes back fifty years. Because growing up in a loving and safe family is the basis of a child's development. Diplomat Club Wassenaar supports SOS Kinderdorpen / SOS Children's Villages.



Enhancing Indo-Dutch connectivity and connections

India-Netherlands relations during the last year or so have been marked by enhanced connectivity and connections all round.

BY H.E. MR. J.S. MUKUL, AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

While the earliest Indo-Dutch trading links go back four hundred years, India-Netherlands relations have today acquired a new dynamism. This 'new momentum' is primarily predicated on enhanced connectivity and connections across sectors. The past year 2015-2016 has been particularly good for bilateral interactions. The highlight was the Dutch Prime Minister's landmark visit to India in June 2015 with a mega business delegation. The close connections are also reflected in the numerous business missions exchanged in recent times.

The Netherlands was India's sixth largest trading partner in the European Union in 2015-2016 with bilateral trade of US\$ 6.6 billion. Even more remarkable, the Netherlands was India's fourth largest source of foreign direct investment globally during 2015-16 totaling US\$ 2.6 billion.

Major steps have been taken for connectivity or ease-of-travel between the two countries. India's unilateral introduction of electronic tourist visas (eTV) for Dutch passport holders has been a resounding success. During one year of its operation, over 16,000 Dutch passport holders have availed of the eTV to India, including for exploring business. This eTV has been supplemented by upgraded, state-of-the-art outsourced visa offices in The Hague and Amsterdam which will also serve as 'tourism desks' for travelers to India.

In terms of air connectivity, there existed a felt-need for augmenting direct flight



H.E. Mr. J.S. Mukul and daughters.

**INDIA-NETHERLANDS
BUSINESS RELATIONS
ARE POISED TO SCALE
THE NEXT HIGHER
LEVEL**

connections between the two countries, beyond the KLM daily flight on the Amsterdam-Delhi sector. The introduction of the Indian carrier Jet Airways' daily flights on Amsterdam-Delhi and Amsterdam-Mumbai routes has catalyzed both business and tourism flows. Schiphol Airport of Amsterdam has become a hub for Indian travelers to Europe and beyond. Similarly, the Port of Rotterdam is a hub for trade in goods not just for the Netherlands but Europe

as a whole. Clearly, for India today, the Netherlands is emerging as a 'Gateway to Europe'.

The year 2015-2016, recorded India's GDP growth at 7.6%, projected to ramp-up to 8-9% in future. The reform impetus of Indian economy remains strong. These combined with India's ambitious and innovative flagship programs provide ample complementarities and opportunities for Indo-Dutch cooperation. Going forward, numerous bilateral exchanges are envisaged and new connections are in the making. The Dutch business and investors are well positioned to leverage the advantage and be a part of the open Indian economy and robust growth story. India-Netherlands business relations are poised to scale the next higher level.



H.E. Mr. J.S. Mukul and Mrs. Mukul.

A message of peace and friendship

In the context of the 200th birthday of Argentine Independence, the superb marine frigate and sailer A.R.A. 'Libertad', on its 45th training trip for the marine officers of the Naval Military School, made a majestic entrance in the harbour of Amsterdam.

BY JULIE KENNEDY | PHOTOS WALTER BUONNAMASSA





From left to right, Mr. J.J. Gurmendi and Mrs. Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, President of the ICC; H.E. Horacio H. Salvador, Ambassador of Argentine Republic; Mrs. Shirley Noguera de Argüello and Ambassador of Nicaragua H.E. Carlos Argüello Gómez.

STRENGTHENING OF ARGENTINIAN-DUTCH BILATERAL TIES

Its 196 day trip, takes it to Brazil, USA, France, Ireland, UK, Spain, Greece and Uruguay conveying a message of peace and friendship in the name of the Argentinian people around the world. The Frigate is the largest of its kind, weighing in at 3765 tons with a mast height of 52,88m and won a world speed record in 1996 before being converted. Captain Ignacio Martin Errecaborde steers a crew composed of marine officers and representatives of the navies of Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The presence of the ship and the crew enables a strengthening of the bilateral relations between the Netherlands and Argentina. This follows up on the large number of official visits having taken place between the two countries since the newly elected president Mr. Mauricio Macri met with Queen Maxima and Minister President Mr. Rutte in Davos during the World Economic Forum in January 2016. Diplomats, dignitaries, business people and friends of Argentina enjoyed a superb



reception aboard the magnificent three Master, hosted by H.E. Mr. Horacio H. Salvador and Captain Ignacio Martin Errecaborde on the 200th birthday precisely. A unique blend of the spirit of adventure, the yearn of travel, enhanced by the strong winds, steep stairs, ropes and sails and the vibrancy of the vessel itself; yet at the same time so elegant and refined with the dashing men in uniform, the impeccable catering and the paintings along the canvas. Amongst the dignitaries was Prince



Top from left to right, Commander Ignacio Errecaborde, Ambassador H.E. Horacio H. Salvador, Prince Carlos de Bourbon de Parme, Mr. Jaap Rost Onnes.





Ambassador H.E. Horacio H. Salvador, Captain Carlos G. Funes and H.E. Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü (Director General OPCW).



Carlos de Bourbon de Parme, representing his company Insid, instigator of the Energy Agreement whereby forty parties committed to more sustainable energy. The Netherlands being very much to the fore of such a way of thinking producing for example energy from rubbish. Renewable energies are very much on the agenda. As we go to press, The ‘Argentina Business & Investment Forum’ is about

to open (September 2016) in Buenos Aires, marking Argentina’s return to international markets and laying out the government’s strategies to invigorate key economic areas, empower the private sector and stimulate inclusive, long-term growth. Also this September Dutch Minister of Agriculture Mr. Martijn van Dam is setting out on a Trade Mission to Buenos Aires and the port city of Rosario.



Commander Ignacio Errecaborde and his wife. Ambassador H.E. Horacio H. Salvador with Mrs. Jane Berger de Salvador and his son Eduardo and daughter Leticia.

In the words of the Minister: “It is a pleasure to lead such a broad delegation on agriculture, water, logistics and other sectors to Argentina. This delegation is a beginning of further steps to broaden our bilateral relations and to share our knowledge and innovations and I hope this delegation will enlarge and improve the collaboration between Dutch and Argentinian companies and intensify the bilateral relations.”

WORDS BY AMBASSADOR HORACIO H. SALVADOR

“Argentina acknowledges the importance of the Netherlands as one of its most significant partners in the 21st century. My country is engaged in promoting trade and investment with the whole world as demonstrated by the ‘Argentina Business and Investment Forum’, a huge global event held in Buenos Aires in mid- September to bring together 1,600 investors and government and business leaders, and

representing a wide range of sectors. In this context the business mission led by Minister van Dam is all the more welcome since it stresses the close ties between our two countries. Trust and better knowledge of each other are the keys to exploring the new opportunities that Argentina has to offer, on a mutually beneficial basis.”

Auction for top clinic research

Erasmus MC Thorax Foundation Gala: style and fun for a good cause.

BY JULIE KENNEDY | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET/ANNET LEENDERS

At the Wereld Museum, located so beautifully on the glorious river Maas, hundredfifty guests from *tout* Rotterdam – business people, heart surgeons, patrons, politicians and municipality – splendid in their tuxedos and evening finery, gathered for the lustrum of the MC Erasmus Thorax Foundation.

Each year, the Foundation organizes a Fund-raising dinner for a new research project. The dinner was this year sponsored by First Dutch Capital Group.

The CEO of First Dutch, Mr. Bastiaan van de Knaap extended a warm welcome in the name of professor Jolien Roos-Hesselink, who in turn stressed how the event had been made possible thanks to his generosity and that of Peter Goedvolk of Count Companies and to how the Foundation had come into being, thanks to the support and enthusiasm of so many Ambassadors, such as Lisette Goedvolk.

The Mayor of Rotterdam, Mr. Ahmed Aboutaleb gave a wonderful speech. Auction Master was Mr. Pechtold, a role he held masterly, with energy and shrewdness and an incredible amount of humour: entertainment at its best.

By the end of the auction 209.00 euros was raised for Dr. Sin Yap's project on the prevention of sudden death.

PIONEERING

The Erasmus MC Thorax Center is a center of excellence for cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery and lung diseases.



From left to right, Alexander Pechtold; Mayor of Rotterdam Mr. Ahmed Aboutaleb; professor Jolien Roos-Hesselink; Mrs. Lisette Goedvolk and Mr. Bastiaan van der Knaap.

In terms of patient care, top clinical research and education, the center, since already more than forty years, belongs to the undisputed top of the world. On an annual basis highly complex care is given to 25,000 patients, including approximately 1,000 open heart surgeries.

“I AM DELIGHTED
TO WITNESS THE
INCREDIBLE
SUPPORT OF ALL
THESE PEOPLE”

Pioneering treatment methods and techniques have been developed, such as echocardiography and stents in the coronary arteries.

IMPACT

Each year, the most promising, patient-related research projects are selected for a pre-determined duration: research projects that can directly contribute to innovations

and improvements in the area of (preventive) diagnostics and treatment of cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases at home and abroad. Important scientific findings are translated directly into practice and have worldwide impact on patient care. One project focusses for instance on new treatment options for heart failure, while another international project investigates women with heart disease who have a pregnancy wish. All funds are directly and entirely used for the project itself. Major donors, when interested, receive feedback on the progress and results of the scientific work.

At *Diplomat Affairs Magazine*, we had the chance to ask Professor Jolien for her thoughts and hopes for the Thorax Foundation.

What was your personal drive to found the Thorax Foundation in 2012?

The decreasing budgets from the government and very strict regulations



From left to right, Alexander Pechtold, political leader of D66 and auctioneer at the dinner of the Erasmus MC Thorax Foundation; Meike Wiegers-Peters, fundraiser Erasmus MC Thorax Foundation; Dr. Sing Yap, cardiologist Erasmus MC; professor Jolien Roos-Hesselink, cardiologist and president of the Erasmus MC Thorax Foundation; Ghislaine Plag, radio presenter KRO-NCRV and ladyspeaker at the dinner and Mr. Bastiaan van der Knaap, managing director First Dutch and main sponsor of the dinner.

for funding by the pharmaceutical industry, added to a growing need for private support were what drove me to set up this Foundation, with as aim to provide a powerful impulse to innovative top clinical research.

Four years on, how do you feel it is doing?

I am amazed as it has been a much bigger success than I had ever dreamt of and I am delighted to witness the incredible support of all these people.

Where are you heading?

The Thorax Foundation works internationally and we would like to develop that even further. For example, we often receive Fellows from other countries who join us for one or two years. We would love to appoint an amount of PhD-students, fully financed through the Thorax Foundation.

And if you were granted a wish?

It would be if a few people, alone, or



Mrs. Kitty Jue, Mrs. Lisette Goedvolk, Ambassador of MC Thorax Foundation and Mrs. Pauline van der Ende.

together with others, would come forward and offer to fund a PhD-student. They would then stay directly connected to the project, and the student; and follow the whole process from beginning to end. We have a few projects we are very eager to launch, and for the moment

are held back due to financial restrictions. As we go to press, the Foundation is preparing for next year's Gala, to be held April 10th 2017. As Mayor Aboutaleb generously and enthusiastically offered to host the event 'at his home'. Indeed, at the Town Hall of Rotterdam it will be!

Longing for the vibrancy of Spain back home in The Hague? You need go no further than the Spanish tourism board to feel the warmth, speak the language, taste the food and enjoy the vibrancy! Their World Tapas day event has become a ‘must-do’ of the year the world over. PHOTOS EDDY WENTING

Olé, it’s World Tapas Day!



A tapas event is a journey right to the heart of Spain. Described as ‘miniature cuisine’, these small portions of food, enjoyed with friends, family and colleagues, though intended as appetizer are often enough for a meal. What a wonderful way to discover the flavours of Spain, of so many regions and so many specialities, in just one mouthful. Many cities have a ‘tapas route’: the perfect way not to miss anything!

This year TURESPAÑA merged the international and national event and the month of June featured a worldwide host of activities, such as tastings, show cookings, activities in local markets... and for The Hague, special tapas menus in the sixteen participating restaurants.

On June 16th the Embassy of Spain and the Spanish Tourism Board held an exclusive reception for special guests at The Hague’s ‘Kookfabriek’. After a warm welcome by H.E. Fernando Arias, Ambassador of Spain and Mrs. Ana Roman, Director of the Spanish tourism



Professional ‘cortador’ (ham cutter) Bartolomé Piñero.

WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO DISCOVER THE FLAVOURS OF SPAIN, IN JUST ONE MOUTHFUL

board, the numerous guests, including many Ambassadors, were given a peek at the rich gastronomy of Spain.

The evening started off with a delicious Iberico ham and sherry, courtesy of Andalucía. Jorge Peñate, award winning chef at Hotel Bahía del Duque in Tenerife, assisted by Mrs.Véronique Micléa spouse of the Peruvian Ambassador, offered the guests a show cooking, prepared with local ingredients just flown in from Tenerife. The chefs of the restaurants Tortillaes, Ele Spaans Tapas Restaurant, Les Ombrelles, La Bulería, Hollandaluz and Sannda Horeca also prepared their ‘signature tapa’ for the guests, who could follow the preparation process right up to and including the moment of serving the tapas: what a treat!

To round off the evening, this year the red wines were courtesy of D.O. Ribera del Duero, and white wines came from Tenerife.

For more and delicious information about the World Tapas Day in The Netherlands, check wereldtapasdag.nl.



H.E. Fernando Arias, Ambassador of Spain and Mrs. Ana Roman, Director of the Spanish tourism board.



From left to right, Mr. Luis Martin, Prof. Sevil Amirova Efendiyev, H.E. Mir-Hamza Efendiyev, star chef Jorge Peñate, H.E. Fernando Arias.



The red wines were courtesy of D.O. Ribera del Duero, and white wines came from Tenerife.



Mrs. Veronique Micléa, spouse of the Ambassador of Peru.



Busy Brazil

Brazil has been very much to the fore on various fronts these past months; H.E. Mr. Piragibe Dos Santos Tarragô generously accepted to answer some of *Diplomat Affairs Magazine's* questions in an exclusive interview on the occasion of the National Day.

PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

One of the strong channels of cooperation between Brazil and the Netherlands is in the domain of education and research; could you provide a few examples?

Considerable progress has been made on bilateral collaboration between Brazil and the Netherlands in the domain of education and research in recent years.

The ‘Science without Borders’-program has played a pivotal role. Launched in 2011, the program funded 100,000 scholarships between 2012–2016 to enable Brazilian college students and researchers to follow courses abroad. Many Dutch universities have entered into educational agreements with Brazilian universities and research institutions in order to regularly receive Brazilian students in their courses. Thanks to that program, around six-hundred students have enrolled in various universities of The Netherlands, such as Erasmus, Leiden, Amsterdam, Delft, Wageningen, Utrecht, etc.

In addition, important steps have been taken to encourage further cooperation in the field of science, technology and innovation, as they feature high amongst Brazil’s priorities. Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in 2013, a Joint Committee was set up with a view to steering the bilateral cooperation in this area. Two meetings have already been held.

As a consequence, a number of priority areas for project collaboration have been identified, such as bio-based economy,



“THE BENEFITS OF THE OLYMPIC LEGACY IN TERMS OF IMPROVEMENTS IN TRANSPORT, HOUSING AND ECONOMY ARE INDISPUTABLE”

flood, drought and landslide disaster prevention, nanotechnology, space-research, sustainable cities and computing and sports.

The numbers of Brazilian tourists to the Dutch Caribbean is on the increase, tightening the link between Europe and

Brazil, why the sudden increase and interest?

The number of Brazilian tourists visiting the Dutch Caribbean has increased lately not only because of the attractiveness that these Caribbean islands exert, but also due to the appreciation of the Brazilian currency vis-à-vis the US dollar, rendering trips to that area more affordable to Brazilian nationals. In addition, the Dutch Caribbean has become more accessible given its proximity to Brazilian cities located on the Northern part of the country, and the introduction of new direct flights, on top of the usual charter flights from Brazil.

One maybe less known fact, is that Brazil is a priority country for Dutch policy on shared cultural heritage, could you extrapolate?

Given the remnants of the Dutch presence in Brazil in the XVII century, the country has been considered a priority for the Dutch policy on shared



cultural heritage. The construction of the ‘Huis Vrijburgh’ in Recife in 1640 stands out as a symbol of the common heritage. Private institutions have taken the lead in developing projects in Brazil to recuperate and conserve historical buildings marking the Dutch presence in the country. Also such activities reflect a permanent interest of its cultural and academic community in studying the Dutch presence in Brazil, by revealing new perspectives and dimensions. Eventually new studies may become the object of cultural initiatives of interest to both countries.

And last but not least, seeing your country has just been very much in the fore as host of the 2016 Olympics, we would be interested to gather your impressions on the Games and their impact on country and economy?

Hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games for the first time in South America, Brazil cannot but be proud of their realization, as they proved to be an enormous success.

On the performance side, Brazil’s athletes achieved their best ever result in the Olympic Games, with the highest number of gold (seven) and total medals

(19), and in the Paralympic Games, with 14 gold medals and a total of 72 medals.

On the sport venues and infrastructure, we proved to be capable of organising a spectacular and inspiring mega-event following the steps of another successful achievement, the 2014 Football World Cup.

The 2016 Olympics were also the stage for fruitful Netherlands–Brazil cooperation. Various Dutch government agencies set up a ‘Dutch House’ and ‘Heineken House’ to showcase the very best of the country’s business, culture and science to Brazilian and international investors, policy-makers, buyers and decision-makers.

In the preparations for Rio 2016, Dutch expertise played a role in various areas – both in engaging in intense collaboration with Brazilian police and security forces in order to ensure public safety, and in applying Dutch expertise in helping to put together the Olympic Park.

As for the barometers of success of the Rio Games and their impact on the country and its economy, it is yet early to state, but the benefits of the Olympic legacy to the city in terms of improvements in transport, housing, sporting infrastructure and economy are indisputable.

A survey conducted by the ministry of tourism during the Olympic fortnight found that eightyeight percent of foreign visitors intended to return to Brazil.

STUNNING RESIDENCES

As from now *Diplomat Affairs Magazine* will be featuring some of the Ambassadorial Residences. We asked Ambassador Piragibe Dos Santos Tarragô to provide the historical background of his stunning residence.



Historical country house

“When I presented my credentials almost three years ago, His Majesty King Willem-Alexander said to me: “The Official Residence of Brazil is one of the most beautiful residences in Wassenaar”.

I couldn't agree more with His Majesty. The Residence is a historical country house with several buildings, inspired by Dutch-Classicism and English country house styles. Built in 1914, it is a typical example of the oeuvre of architect L.J. Zaaijer. The house was built on the land made available in 1910, after the death of Princess Marie van Wied, the youngest daughter of Prince Frederik. On that occasion, the plot was sold to J.T. Wouters's office. As a first phase of the land division for the villas and country house De Paauw, the north part was split into two large lots.

The main house, known as Villa Ruys, has acquired public interest because of its architectonic and historic values. It is a typical example of a country house with annexes. It also stands out as being representative of one of the most important constructions in Wassenaar in the early XX century. In the early sixties, the Brazilian Government bought the country house. Since then, it is used as Residence of the Ambassadors of Brazil.”





- 1 Malaysia: H.E. Mr. Ahmad Nazri Bin Yusof; H.E. Mr. Taher Farahat; Mrs. Nadine Roushdy; Mrs. Linda Zin.
- 2 Iraq: H.E. Mr. Saywan Sabir Mustafa Barzani; Azerbaijan: H.E. Mr. Mir-Hamza Efendiyev; Kazakhstan: H.E. Mr. Magzhan Ilyassov.
- 3 Jhr. Alexander Beelaerts van Blokland, Special Advisor International Affairs; Mr. and Mrs. Piotr Perczynski, Embassy Poland.
- 4 South Africa: H.E. Mr. Vusi Koloane; Kenya: H.E. Ms. Rose Makena Muchiri; Rwanda, H.E. Mr. Jean Pierre Karabaranga.
- 5 Saudi Arabia: H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Abdullah Abdulaziz Abohaimed; Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Adam Sadiq; Malaysia: H.E. Mr. Ahmad Nazri Bin Yusof; India: H.E. Mr. J.S. Mukul.
- 6 Mrs. Najat Bellouki; Mrs. Tamader Hassoun; Mrs. Naima Shennib-Swessi.
- 7 Czech Republic: H.E. Ms. Jana Reinisová.
- 8 Malta: H.E. Mr. Joseph Cole and Mrs. Cole, staff of Embassy Egypt.
- 9 Chile: Prof. Maria Teresa Infante; Canada: H.E. Ms. Sabine Nölke.
- 10 Switzerland: H.E. Mr. Urs Breiter.



“Dutch investment and expertize have immense potential”

W

On the occasion of the Egyptian National Day His Excellency Mr. Taher Ahmed Hanafi Farahat, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Mrs. Nadine Roushdy hosted a reception at the Hilton Hotel The Hague.

We are delighted that His Excellency agreed to answer some questions.

Excellency, you arrived in October 2013, what do you see as the main achievements regarding Dutch/Egyptian interaction in this time?

The bilateral relations between Egypt and the Netherlands, since 2013, have witnessed major achievements and tangible results. While it is difficult to enumerate all of them here, I believe that the most significant would have to be the Egyptian-Dutch cooperation in building the New Suez Canal. The Dutch expertize and participation in the project enabled the completion of the project in a record one year period. The New Suez canal will not only serve the people of Egypt, but will also facilitate International Trade and Commerce, benefiting humanity at large.

What further developments would you like to see advanced?

I believe that the potential fields for further cooperation between our two countries are immense, due to the inherent complementarity of the two economies, the richness of their history and their constructive roles in the international arena. Further Dutch investment and expertize in agriculture, logistics, water management and conservation, and manufacture, to name a few, have immense potential. These investments will benefit greatly from the more liberal and modern investment laws adopted recently in Egypt.



PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

H.E. Mr. Taher Ahmed Hanafi Farahat and Mrs. Nadine Roushdy.



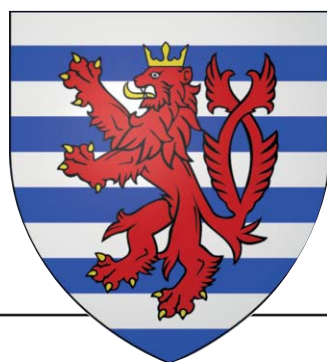
excellent cooperation between Egypt and the Netherlands. The Heineken purchase and investment in the Alahram Beverage Company has been very beneficial for the two sides, creating yet another bond between the two countries.

Seen the difficult times we are in, do you have any particular hope for the future?

I am optimistic, despite the difficulties we face today. Indeed, the challenges of terrorism, extremism and economic deprivation are substantial. However, I firmly believe that international cooperation and understanding, upholding the rule of law and education can and will enable humanity to overcome these challenges, and build the bright future that we dream of, for our children and generations to come.

We have a hidden link: beer. Significant in Holland, both economically and culturally, did you mention that beer originated in Egypt?

Indeed, Egyptologists (archaeologists specialized in history of ancient Egypt) have proven without a doubt that the laborers who built the ancient monuments were provided bread and beer, as daily sustenance, as inscribed on murals. Today, beer represents yet another area of



From left to right, Jonkheer Reinoud A.F. von Mühlen-Calem and Mrs. Isabel von Mühlen-Calem; H.E. Mr. Pierre-Louis Lorenz, Ambassador of Luxembourg and Mrs. Judith Lorenz; H.E. Mr. José de Bouza Serrano, Ambassador of Portugal; H.E. Ms. Maria Teresa de Jésus Infante, Ambassador of Chile; H.E. Mr. Horácio Salvador, Ambassador of Argentina; H.E. Mr. Brett Mason, Ambassador of Australia; Mrs. Fabiola Soto; H.E. Mr. Eduardo Ibarrola-Nicolin, Ambassador of Mexico; Mrs. Shida Blik; H.E. Mr. Philippe Couvreur, Registrar, International Court of Justice; Mr. Peter Blik, Chairman TenRande Foundation; H.E. Mr. Piragibe dos Santos Tarragó, Ambassador of Brazil.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF EMBASSY

WARM GOODBYE TO GOOD COLLEAGUES AND NEIGHBOURS AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

Tot ziens!

The Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg H.E. Mr. Pierre-Louis Lorenz and Mrs. Judith Lorenz hosted two dinner receptions for their ‘good colleagues’ and neighbours, as H.E. Mr. José de Bouza Serrano (Ambassador of Portugal), H.E. Mr. Haim Divon (Ambassador of Israel) and Mrs. Linda Divon have completed their postings in The Hague.

In the stunning Residence of Luxembourg, within the neighbourhood ‘Zorgvliet’, surrounded by an abundance of historical background and in walking distance of the Peace Palace, His Excellency Pierre-Louis Lorenz emphasized with warm words how deeply the friendship and wisdom of his good colleagues and neighbours will be missed.



From left to right, H.E. Pierre-Louis Lorenz; H.E. Mr. Haim Divon; Mrs. Linda Divon; Mrs. Jane Berger de Salvador; H.E. Mr. Horácio Salvador.

PHOTO HAN ERNEST



H.E. Hiroshi Inomata and Mayor of Utrecht Jan van Zanen.

Mayor Jan van Zanen honoured by Japan

On May 27th 2016, the Honourable Mr. Jan Hendrikus Cornelis van Zanen, Mayor of Utrecht, Chairman of the Association of Dutch Municipalities, Former Mayor of Amstelveen, was honoured at the Ceremony of ‘The

Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon’ held at the Residence of the Japanese Ambassador. At the ceremony, Ambassador Inomata delivered a congratulatory speech and conferred the decoration upon Mr. van

Zanen after presenting the Patent of Decoration. Close friends of Mr. van Zanen, and guests/representatives from the Japanese-Dutch cultural and economic fields attended to celebrate this special occasion.

Democratic Transitions: Conversations with World Leaders

On the occasion of the Dutch translation of the acclaimed book *Democratic Transitions: Conversations with World Leaders*, The Belgian Ambassador H.E. Chris Hoornaert held a book presentation and panel discussion at his residence with Senator Petra Stienen from D66 and Han ten Broeke, MP from the VVD.

BY JULIE KENNEDY | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

The mixed party of Ambassadors, Dignitaries from Foreign Affairs, Heads of political parties and interested guests followed with engagement and inspiration the presentation Mr. Yves Leterme, Secretary-general of IDEA (International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance) and former Belgian Prime Minister gave on the idea and message of the book.

IDEA was created 21 years ago after the collapse of the Soviet Union and apartheid in order to support the dynamic of democratisation. Mr Leterme expressed his thanks to the Dutch parliament and Ministry for forming one of its Member States most important pillars.

The book in question was actually the brainchild of his predecessor at IDEA, born of a need to gather and examine lessons learnt after the Arab spring and condense the experience of those who had put it in practice. It is accessible, open and candid, facing the mistakes too. The authors, combining the brains of an

academic Mr Abraham Lowenthal and that of a former Minister of Chile who himself had been through prison and founded a party, Mr Sergio Bitar; interviewed thirteen leaders during multiple day in-depth interviews covering nine countries. Important emerging points

INTERNATIONAL
ENGAGEMENT NEEDS
TO BE IN A HEALTHY
BALANCE,
NOT MEDDLING
BUT SUPPORTING

were the need for an incremental strategy, taking the process step by step whilst including the interaction with the existing regime which is often overlooked. It is crucial to take time to create a credible strategy and a clear translation to the people, what's in it for me? From a socio-economic point of view: it must be inclusive (all parties, men/women

etc.) and incorporate every separate vision in the big picture.

Coalitions and platforms for free dialogue need to be created and durable, sustainable political parties. An internal consensus is needed from the beginning and a safe environment created by getting the army on-board.

International engagement needs to be in a healthy balance, “not meddling but supporting” as he put it. This can be in helping with the details such as providing asylum for those needing to leave the country.

Mr Han ten Broeke, MP from the VVD took the floor to lobby for a realistic foreign policy for the Netherlands. “In each country”, he said, “it is important to keep the national interest at heart when looking at foreign policy. The impact on our own country and people must be taken into consideration. It should be the starting point for foreign policy. We need stability in the world. If you break it, you own it, and have an



From left to right: H.E. Chris Hoornaert, Ambassador of Belgium, Mr. Yves Leterme, Secretary General IDEA and former Belgian Prime Minister, Senator Petra Stienen (D66), Han ten Broeke MP (VVD).

obligation to fix (Iraq, Libya, Syria).”

Next up was the lively Senator of D66 Petra Stienen who herself had lived in Damascus and Egypt and in those days had seen no social movements: women, youth, activists felt excluded. “So who is allowed to participate? Is stability the definition of state of law?” she asked.

Illiteracy is a major obstacle, as is the use of religion and the promise of a wonderful afterlife to cover the shortcomings of the present, and of course the problems of access to health, the gender gap, and economic hardship.

Dilemma of non-conformity, where is the common ground?

Senator Stienen also stressed the huge need for security (Army) and a viable economy in the transition period. Indeed there is also a need to acknowledge the fear of losing power of those who had it, especially if the transition is too fast as the majority tends to side with change and leaves the losers isolated, bitter, angry. What does this mean for our foreign policy? The repercussions are felt here.

Human rights are essential, as is the need to give all citizens the vote. “There is a middle way” she thought.

The Secretary General of IDEA concluded urging governments and donors to

“search for your leverage. Operate from a position of humility and watch out for a donor policy with much in the periphery, and nothing in the centre”.

In matters of Foreign Policy, much as would like to, we cannot be everywhere nor save everyone, for maximum impact we need to focus and choose.

After so many questions and food for thought the reception area was abuzz over drinks and snacks with lively discussions and exchanges as guests of so many nationalities and different cultures connected around the common human need for peace and stability in the world.



Photo left, from left to right, Mr. Christiaan Rebergen, Deputy Director General for International Cooperation at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands, H.E. Chris Hoornaert, H.E. Ms. Janet Lowe, Ambassador of New Zealand, H.E. Jaime Victor B. Ledda, Ambassador of the Philippines.



Photo right, H.E. Ms. Adia Sakiqi, Ambassador of Albania and Mr. Piotr Perczynski, Head of Political and Economic Section/Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Poland.



Photo left, H.E. Chris Hoornaert, Ambassador of Belgium, H.E. Bruce vusi Koloane, Ambassador of South Africa.



Photo right, Mrs. Emmanuelle de Foy, Minister-Counsellor Belgian Embassy and Mrs. Gravin Verena von Roedern, Minister Embassy of Germany.



Mr. Peter Bliet; Mrs. Gravin Verena von Roedern, Minister Embassy of Germany; Mr. Martin Beyer (Alliance Française); Mrs. Shida Bliet.



Mrs. Marloes Borsboom. Lebanon: Ms. Abir Ali.



Left, Jordan: Mrs. Reem Al Mufleh.



Mr. Ehsan Turabaz from IKEA.
Oman: H.E. Sayyid Muhammed Harub Al Said.



Colombia: H.E. Mr. Juan José Quintana Aranguren and Mrs. Maria Rosario Navia.



H.E. Mr. Abdelouahab Bellouki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, and Mrs. Najat Bellouki.

Moroccan Throne Day: The Kingdom celebrates

PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

His Excellency Mr. Abdelouahab Bellouki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, and Mrs. Najat Bellouki hosted a reception at the Hilton Hotel in The Hague on the occasion of the 17th Anniversary of the accession of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to the throne. 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 reception was festive and colorful and the many guests were treated to a sumptuous dinner buffet, featuring a large number of dishes of the traditional Moroccan cuisine.



Right: the Ambassador of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Alexander Shulgin and Mrs. Natalia Shulgina



Argentina: H.E. Mr. Horacio H. Salvador.



Argentina: Mrs. Jane Berger de Salvador.



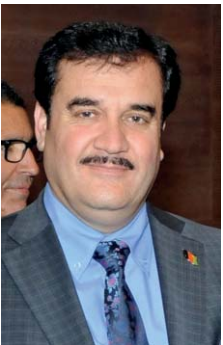
Philippines: H.E. Mr. Jaime Ledda.



Ukraine: H.E. Mr. Olexander Horin.



Switzerland: H.E. Mr. Urs Breiter.



Afghanistan: H.E. Dr. Obaidullah Obaid.



Algeria: H.E. Mr. Nourredine Ayadi.



Right, Kenya: H.E. Ms. Rose Makena Muchiri with her son and daughter.



Right, Italy: H.E. Mr. Andrea Perugini and Mrs. Mariska Perugini-Visser.



Denmark: H.E. Mr. Ole Moesby.
Brazil: H.E. Mr. Frayibe Tarragô.



Peru: H.E. Mr. Carlos Herrera.
Slovenia: H.E. Mr. Roman Kirn.

Decoding ‘digital Bangladesh’: join us to prosper together!

Beneath Bangladesh’s development journey lies a deeper and longer process of radical change that is sometimes called the information revolution. This revolution was triggered by the government’s visionary plan called ‘Vision 2021’, which maps out a pathway towards making ‘Digital Bangladesh’.

BY SHEIKH MOHAMMED BELAL, AMBASSADOR OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH | PHOTO COURTESY EMBASSY OF BANGLADESH

This journey touches almost all nodal points of Bangladesh’s health and hygiene. The world cannot fully grasp its implications, but it is fundamentally transforming the society and economy of the world’s eighth most populated country to the pleasant surprise of 170 million people of Bangladesh.

The nature of some of the changes in Bangladesh are so overwhelming, it not only drew innumerable visitors such as Her Majesty Queen Máxima of the Netherlands or billionaire innovator philanthropist Bill Gates, it equally turned Bangladesh into a virtual laboratory for the world’s many leading Information and Communication Technology (ICT) businesses and academics.

It began back in 2001, with a Harvard Professor: “Visiting Bangladesh recently, we saw farmers using cellular phones to call several villages and cities before deciding where to sell their products. They were spending 20 cents to call because, by one farmer’s estimate, they would make fifty percent greater profit when selling their eggs. By pursuing the highest price, the farmers send their eggs to where they are valued most, lowering the price for consumers. This is the market at its best, with a little technology greasing the wheels.” The Harvard professor concluded: “Bangladesh again provides evidence of how technology helps.”

Indeed, Deltaic citizens of Bangladesh are by nature entrepreneurs by virtue of their struggle with nature and calamities.

So, with ‘entrepreneurship’ in their DNA, people were just waiting for an enabling environment. When Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced her ‘Vision 2021’, a pathway to a Digital Bangladesh, youthful Bangladesh accepted with unbound support and appreciation. By 2021, after fifty years of independence, we are determined to be a middle-income country with peace, prosperity and dignity.



HER MAJESTY QUEEN
MÁXIMA SAW HOW
FINANCIAL
INCLUSION HAS BEEN
IMPACTING PEOPLE’S
LIFE IN BANGLADESH

Digital Bangladesh does not only mean computers everywhere. “Digital Bangladesh is a modern philosophy of using appropriate technology in implementing all pledges of the government, including poverty eradication, ensuring quality education and health facilities, generating employment opportunities for the people.” Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina appraised the nation when she launched this journey. Indeed, the aim is to ensure people’s empowerment, establish transparency,

accountability and good governance at every level and sector, and take government services to the doorsteps of the people. Therefore, the government is working with private sectors to implement what is called e-governance, e-service, e-business and maximum utilization of modern technology including ICT.

To implement ‘Digital Bangladesh’, Bangladesh created ‘hard’ infrastructure and institutions as well as huge ‘soft’ investments to train millions of youths with ICT technologies and innovations. Just to give you a sense of the government’s innovation drive, ‘Access to Information’ (‘a2i’) is the world’s first Innovation Lab, situated within the Prime Minister’s Office, working closely with the line ministries. The a2i’s primary goal is to create a public service innovation ecosystem and deliver infrastructure for affordable and reliable access to quality public services for all citizens of Bangladesh.

IMPRESSIVE

The outcome is impressive this far. The 5,000+ Digital Centers and the National Portal uniting 43,000+ government offices now deliver over 100 services – both public and private – to an average 4.5 million underserved citizens at a much lower ‘TCV’ (the time, cost and number of visits it takes citizens to access services) than before.

An amazing performance like this not only brought a sense of liberation to our



Reception at Bangladesh House in honour of ICT delegation from Bangladesh.

predominantly rural life, it worked even more impressively bringing greater freedom to women as well. Perhaps this is why Her Majesty Queen Máxima chose to make a three-day visit to Bangladesh in November 2015 in her role as the UN Secretary-General’s Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development. It was Queen Máxima’s first country visit in her capacity as Special Advocate since the new sustainable development goals were adopted by all UN member states in September 2015.

Her Majesty Queen Máxima saw herself how financial inclusion has been impacting people’s life in Bangladesh while visiting a garment factory outside Dhaka. Her Majesty had exclusive sessions with the working women and heard directly how they enjoyed their new found freedom as their salary now goes directly into their mobile, using mobile banking services like bKash, not to their husband’s bank account any more.

PRIVATE SECTOR

Between January 2013 and February 2015, the number of mobile money clients in Bangladesh increased five-fold to 25 million users, with the number of monthly transactions increasing from 10

million to 77 million. The biggest feat of this effort was driving mobile money adoption among a population hugely underrepresented in the sector.

The underlying foundation of this impressive achievement is the architecture of strong public private partnership. Private sector led ICT-umbrella body, Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Service (BASIS), Small and Medium Enterprise Foundation (SMEF), Bangladesh Women in Technology (BWIT) etc. are working with the government to achieve the goal for a ‘Digital Bangladesh’.

GATEWAY

Today, Bangladesh’s ICT industry is estimated to be worth around \$600 million, where approximately 70,000 professionals, mostly ICT graduates, are employed.

To cater to the world’s growing outsourcing need, Bangladesh is well endowed with a youthful population. Sixty-six percent of our population is aged between 15 and 64 years, and belong to the workforce. By 2030, the population of this age group will rise to seventy percent. Nineteen percent of the country’s population is between 15 and 24 years old,

which holds immense potential. To make it even more exciting, the size of its own domestic market, coupled with her geo-strategic location, makes Bangladesh destined to become your next ICT outsourcing destination. Situated strategically between India and China, Bangladesh provides a gateway to the whole of South Asia as well as to the South East Asia.

Already a growing number of the Netherlands ICT businesses like Cimsolutions, Vodafone, Booking.com, HawarIT, Adyen, Suitsupply, ASML, Philips, AVG, VimpelCom etc. found it imperative to have ICT graduates from Bangladesh on their payroll, providing us with an instant platform to cater to Dutch demand for its ever-growing outsourcing need.

In a pioneering book in the early 1970’s, Faaland and Parkinson called Bangladesh a ‘test case for development’. Fortysix years after this challenge, Bangladesh stands as a testimony of how with grit, innovation and perseverance; a nation can overcome great odds to emerge as a successful economy. Visit Bangladesh to witness this success story. If you like, be a partner of this exciting journey of Digital Bangladesh.

US-EXPERTS DEBATE
ON THE CANDIDATES

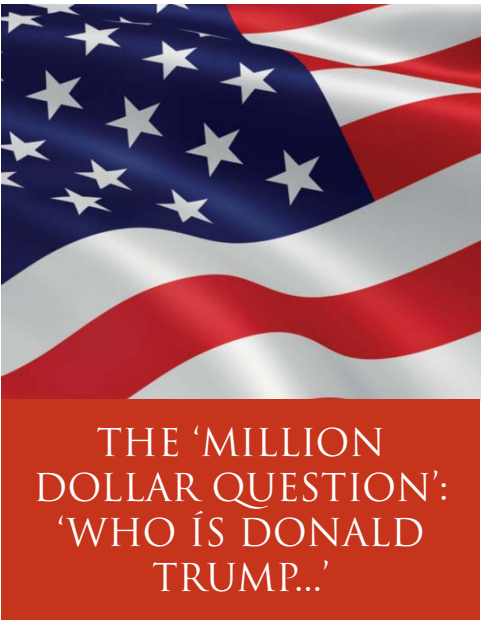
Hillary or ‘The Donald’?

On the occasion of the publication of US expert Willem Posts *The Mirror of America*, he and former Ambassador Timothy Broas expressed their views on the upcoming election.

BY JULIE KENNEDY | PHOTO ANTON VAN DER RIET



From left to right, Mr. Willem Post, Mayor Jan Hoekema and Mr. Timothy Broas.



Mayor of Wassenaar and moderator of the event Jan Hoekema expressed his pride in having both insider Timothy Broas (former Ambassador to the US in the Netherlands and now advisor to the Hillary Clinton campaign) and Mr. Willem Post, Senior Visiting Fellow on America at Clingendael institute and author of many books on the political, historical and cultural developments within the US) as guests. Mr. Willem Posts latest book discusses the aftermath in the country of Trump and Clinton. Each speaker did their utmost best to stick to the allocated five minutes though their passion for the topic made this hard. Mr. Broas’ endorsement of Mrs. Clinton was delivered wholeheartedly and with conviction as he described how knowledgeable, reliable and resilient she was. A private person, tough in politics in personal and private issues, an effective do-er, good on national security and she does care about the middle man and will certainly address their issues. In small

circles she is personable and pleasant, a strong supporter of the EU and NATO and will make a reliable Commander-in-chief. Then came indeed the ‘million dollar question’: ‘who is Donald Trump’, which Mr. Post attempted to answer: “He is more a marketeer than a politician, brought up to be a winner – his nickname was ‘The King’. In love with media, he served for years as his own press officer. Trump is an unpredictable populist, an impactful entertainer, changing his mind

with the wind, successful in tapping into the fears of the American people and offering simple answers.” Mr. Broas pointed out that never before had two candidates been so dramatically different, which has urged Americans out of election apathy. “The two main parties are big and powerful, but independents, in particular Libertarians may influence the outcome. One thing is sure, globalisation is seen as a danger; whoever wins, will need to adapt more social measures.” Will they accept the result? It is already such an ugly campaign, the feeling was that if Trump loses, he will not do so graciously and the angry white mob will need to be appeased. As Broas said: “He will need to lose by a lot, or he will not go away”. Knowing the power of the President of the USA, what checks and balances are there to control? The Constitution and the Supreme Court are there to ensure control. How will the choice of President affect foreign policy? The biggest concern is Trump’s rhetoric of dropping out of NATO. As Mr. Post said: “We can’t play with security in this world.”

The Hague Institute for Global Justice celebrates fifth anniversary

President Dr. Abi Williams reflects on the Institute’s unique relationship with the diplomatic community in The Hague.

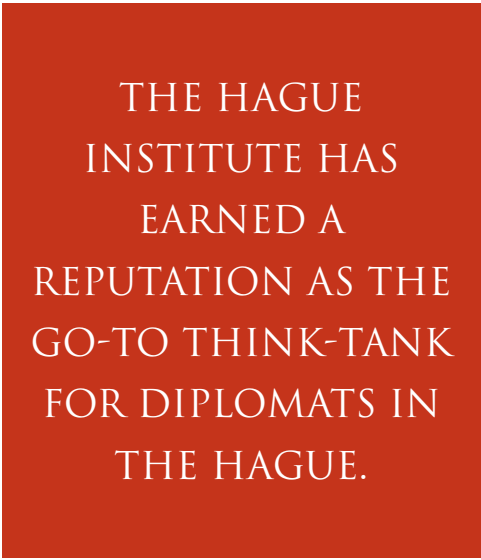
Established in 2011, The Hague Institute aims to improve the effectiveness of policy and practice on issues at the intersection of peace, security and justice. The Institute pursues this mission by conducting policy-relevant research, developing practitioner tools, and convening policy-makers, practitioners and scholars to facilitate knowledge-sharing.

The diplomatic community in The Hague is one of the Institute’s most important stakeholders. We recognize that diplomats in the international city of peace and justice play a critical role in advising governments on the many global challenges we confront today. By engaging with this community, the Institute has a unique opportunity to provide decision-makers around the world with access to objective information, evidence-based policy recommendations, and tools for implementing these policies. The Distinguished Speaker Series (DSS) is the centerpiece of the Institute’s high-level engagement with stakeholders in The Hague. It convenes eminent figures in international affairs to discuss contemporary issues of significance to policymakers such as the refugee crisis, violent extremism, and the reform of global governance institutions and processes. The DSS and the annual Madeleine K. Albright Lecture on Global Justice have facilitated interaction between the diplomatic community and speakers such as former US Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, HRH Prince El Hassan of Jordan, Prime Minister of Albania H.E. Edi Rama, and



PHOTO HARMEN DE JONG

Dr. Abi Williams, President of The Hague Institute for Global Justice.



Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Baroness Patricia Scotland. The Institute also seeks to promote interaction between the diplomatic community and Dutch policymakers. The Inside View event series brought together former Dutch ministers of foreign affairs, former political directors of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and former Dutch permanent representatives to the United Nations to discuss the evolution and effectiveness of Dutch foreign policy. The Premier Perspectives series convened former prime ministers of the Netherlands to reflect on a range of global justice issues. These lecture series have offered the diplomatic community valuable insights into Dutch politics and the role of the Netherlands on the world stage. The Institute also works closely with embassies in The Hague to explore international issues of particular concern to their respective countries. In the past year, we collaborated with more than five embassies to address pertinent issues such as the protection of children in armed conflict and the integration of refugees. During the past five years, The Hague Institute has earned a reputation as the go-to think-tank for diplomats in The Hague. With this reputation comes responsibility – we will redouble our efforts in the coming years to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of the diplomatic community, and provide a safe space for exchanging ideas on the myriad peace and justice challenges we face.



1 H.E. Vusi Koloane, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa.
2 H.E. Ms. Fatou B. Bensouda, H.E. Vusi Koloane, Mrs. Ntokoza Koloane.
3 Palestina: H.E. Mr. Nabil Abuznaid, Lybia: H.E. H.E. Breik Swessi. Brazil: H.E. Mr. PiragibeTarragó. Croatia: H.E. Ms. Andrea Gustović Ercegovac. Morocco: H.E. Mr. Abdelouahab Bellouki. Egypt: H.E. Mr. Taher Farahat.
4 Malaysia: H.E. Mr. Ahmad Nazri Bin Yusof.
5 Ivory Coast: H.E. Mr. Sallah Ben Abdelkader Hamza.
6 Uruguay: H.E. Dr. Alvaro Moerzinger. Chile: Prof. María Teresa Infante. Panama: H.E. Mr. Willys delvalle and Mrs. Tatiana Zarak Arias de Devalle. Ms. Fabiola de Soto-Midena. Mexico: H.E. Mr.Eduardo Ibarrola.



7 Oman: H.E. Sayyid Mohammed Harib Al Said.
8 Spain: H.E. Mr. Fernando Arias.
9 Ms. Namhla Gigaba, Bilateral Counselor at the South African Embassy.
10 Ghana: H.E. Dr. Joe Aidoo.
11 Chargé d'Affaires of Lebanon: Ms. Abir Ali.
12 Azerbaijan: H.E. Mr. Mir-Hamza Efendiyev.
13 Tanzania: H.E. Ms. Irene Florence Mkwawa Kasyanju.



“DESPITE THE INHERITED CHALLENGES, GOOD PROGRESS IS MADE”

South Africa: 22 years of Democracy and Freedom

It was a perfect sunny May evening to celebrate the South African National Day at the Mariott hotel, The Hague. The line of guests was long, as the large turnout was greeted by His Excellency Bruce Vusi Koloane and his spouse, Mrs. Ntokoza Koloane.

BY JULIE KENNEDY | PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

Ambassadors and members of the Diplomatic Corps, Chief of State Protocol, President of the ICC and judges, Ministries and Government, business people and many South Africans gathered to celebrate the special day.

Ambassador Koloane was greeted with a spontaneous round of applause. “I am proud to be the Ambassador of South Africa in The Netherlands, the country which had the largest anti-apartheid movement.” The current South Africa inherited many challenges, in particular

regarding lodgings and national health but progress has been made and will continue to be made. Twentytwo years of Freedom and Democracy see an enhanced relationship with the Netherlands. *Diplomat Affairs Magazine* asked Ambassador Koloane some questions.

The relationship between South Africa and the Netherlands has come a long way since the anti-apartheid movement, both emotionally and business wise. What would you say were the most significant achievements to date?

Correct, the bilateral, political and economic relations between South Africa and the Netherlands are cordial. As you may recall the Dutch anti-Apartheid Movement played a significant role in the liberation struggle for the attainment of universal suffrage for all South African citizens. One such example among many is Operation Vula. During 1986 the ANC launched an underground operation called Operation Vula. The main objectives of this operation were to smuggle freedom fighters into South Africa and maintain open communication links between the ANC Leaders in exile, at home and in prison. With the unbanning of the ANC in 1990, a decision was taken that the ANC should continue

with Operation Vula because there were no guarantees that the government would negotiate in good faith with the liberation movement. Operation Vula was conceptualised and executed from the Netherlands.



Since the attainment of democracy in 1994, this solidarity was translated into solid relations, not only at state-to-state level but also in the economic, cultural and civic sphere.

The Netherlands has been one of South Africa’s most valued partners, especially in areas such as water management, education and trade, with the

Netherlands being one of South Africa’s major export markets.

It was thus of the utmost importance to coordinate these activities under a coordinated bilateral structure, the Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) that would comprise various committees such as political, economic, technical and social issues, to be co-chaired by South Africa’s Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and her counterpart, Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders. The MoU establishing this structure was signed on 19 November 2015.

Can you tell us more about the ‘pilot investment scheme’ between the two countries? Can you give an example of companies involved?

The Dutch are market leaders in the agro-processing industry and in this regard I facilitated various meetings



14



15



16

14 Japan: H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Inomata.
15 Mr. Peter, Chairman TenRande Foundation en Mrs. Shida Bliet, Publisher *Diplomat Affairs Magazine*.
16 Mrs. Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi (President of the ICC).
17 Cameroon: H.E. Ms. Odette Melono. Senegal: H.E. Ms. Maymouna Diop Sy. Kenya: H.E. Ms. Rose Makena Muchiri.
18 Rwanda: H.E. Mr. Jean Pierre Karabaranga and spouse.



17



18

between A-Ware-Bakker and the Pick&Pay Group in South Africa. These two companies have entered into a multi-million rand investment deal. Royal Vopak N.V. is a Dutch company that stores and handles various oil and natural gas-related products. Vopak will be investing in South African crude oil storage capacity. It is a natural partner within the context of Operation Phakisa. KGP Greenhouses is still in consultation with the Eastern Cape Government on investment opportunities and mutual cooperation.

In your National Day address, you mentioned many examples of cooperation, is there an area where you would wish to see more cooperation between the Netherlands and South Africa? And if yes, why?

In the area of arts and culture, cooperation has been excellent. As a result of the historical and cordial ties, we have seen regular exchanges in this sector. We believe that more could be done through

institutional arrangements on government-to-government level on cultural exchange. In addition, SA and the NL both champion multilateralism and the peaceful pursuit of conflict resolution. We are also heavily involved with post

**“THE NETHERLANDS
HAD THE LARGEST
ANTI-APARTHEID
MOVEMENT”**

conflict reconstruction and development programmes on the African continent and as such I believe that there remains room for greater alignment on post conflict reconstruction and development programmes, especially in strife torn regions like South Sudan and Burundi. Trilateral cooperation is thus key.

And lastly, are there any other exchanges you would like to highlight?

There have been many high profile bilateral exchanges in 2015-2016. The visit by Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte to South Africa on 17 November 2015 where he held consultations with South African President Jacob Zuma on pertinent bilateral, economic affairs and issues of international concern set the pace for renewed energy in the bilateral relationship. The Working Visit by South Africa’s Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and her counterpart, Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders. The MoU establishing this structure was signed on 19 November 2015.

The visit by Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa to The Hague from 11-13 December 2016 to re-invigorate cultural relations between SA-NL.

The visit by Environmental Affairs Minister Ms. Edna Molewa to attend the International Wildlife Conference.

PHOTO ANTON VAN DER RIET



EUROPOL: a fast growing international police organization

For some decades criminals are no longer only simple thieves and burglars, but people who run international organizations and work with high tech. If police organizations want to attack those people and organizations, they have to be international and have to work with high tech as well. That is why in 1992 in the Treaty of Maastricht (in The Netherlands) the EU countries of that time decided to create EUROPOL: the European Police Office, to be based in The Hague. In 1999 the organization was operational and since 2011 EUROPOL has a newly built office on the Eisenhowerlaan, close to other international organizations. EUROJUST – the organization of European Public Prosecutors that works close together with EUROPOL – is building a new office in that area as well. In the 21st century new kinds of crimes appeared and of course EUROPOL wants to attack them as well.



BY ALEXANDER BEELAERTS VAN BLOKLAND,
SPECIAL ADVISOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

In 2013 EUROPOL started a new centre: the European Cybercrime Centre (‘EC3’) to strengthen the law enforcement response to cybercrime in the European Union and to help protect European citizens, businesses and governments.

This year, 2016, EUROPOL started no less than three new activities:

1. In January 2016 the European Counter Terrorism Centre (‘ECTC’), that will be an enhanced central

information hub by which the Member States can increase information sharing and operational coordination.

2. In February 2016 the European Migrant Smuggling Centre (‘EMSC’), that will proactively support EU Member States in dismantling criminal networks involved in organised migrant smuggling.

3. In July 2016 the International Property Crime Coordinated Coalition (‘IPC3’), to act against infringements of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), a widespread and ever-increasing phenomenon worldwide, in which in 2013 no less than 338 billion euro were involved, the equivalent of the GDP of Austria or the combined GDP of Ireland and the Czech Republic.

The City of The Hague is proud that such extremely important new organizations against very serious modern crimes all are based in our international city of peace and justice.

HONORARY CONSUL HIGHLIGHTED

In the spirit of Diplomat Affairs Magazine and “keeping in touch with the Dutch” we would like to highlight the Honorary Consuls who live in the Netherlands and represent another country. In this edition we speak to Mr Theo Quast, Honorary Consul for the Chilean Embassy.

PHOTOS ANTON VAN DER RIET

“On the first day I arrived in Rotterdam, I met my future wife and the biggest port in the world, which changed my path completely”

Mr Quast, you yourself were actually born in Germany, so how did you end up being Honorary Consul for Chile in the Netherlands?

As a child I was raised in South America, and those first basic school years created a deep affection for Latin American countries which I still hold today.

After high school in Germany I started a career in logistics, not really knowing at that point what I expected to become, but thinking of a way to link with South America in view of getting a job there and keeping in contact with my LA friends.

On the first day I arrived in Rotterdam, I met my future wife and the biggest port in the world, which changed my path completely.

Starting a family in the Netherlands and working in an exciting environment kept me very busy, also as the company I was working for became one of the biggest users of the Port of Rotterdam with its



own offices, warehousing facilities almost all over the world. Being part of the management team I was designated to look after Latin America (amongst other responsibilities) and discovered beautiful Chile and the kind, honest people of Santiago. My organisation – where we developed a logistic system that allowed companies to save a considerable amount of money, and reach all markets in the

world – became well-known in Chile and we were asked to participate in official forums, and received invitations from various institutions in Chile as well as in the Netherlands.

Rotterdam, being at that moment the biggest port for Chile’s trade in the external world, was very important and therefore a representation was needed. Due to the links of the company with



Chile I became Consul (h.c.) officially as from 2002.

Of course I was very much honoured and accepted this post, delighted in this way to be able to serve the country I had learnt to know and to admire so much.

What does your task entail?

Having contacts to the logistic (and commercial) community of Rotterdam,

the Port of Rotterdam, and Town hall, I saw my primary task in supporting Chilean exports in reaching in the best (and cheapest) way the European market. Providing support to Chilean commercial missions, assisting in presentations, match-making, and giving full support to the commercial activities through their commercial arm – Prochile. The direct contact with Chileans living



or visiting the Netherlands is the responsibility of the General Consulate of Chile in Amsterdam, which has high standard personnel and is empowered to provide legal services to those who so request.

I am very proud to provide general assistance to the Consulate in cases where Chilean residents need support in the Rotterdam area or when approached by people wanting to conduct activities in Chile who I can help learn about the country and its institutions.

A further necessity is to keep in contact with the Consular Associations in the Netherlands, and of course with their members, in order to learn about the latest developments, also to maintain excellent contact with official institutions, such as Ministries, Police Department, and Immigration. I am also of course constantly in touch with the Embassy of Chile in The Hague, trying to assist and support the Embassy when needed.

Montblanc's Anniversary

A PINNACLE OF EXCELLENCE, RELENTLESSLY REACHING FOR THE SNOW-CAPPED SUMMIT

The 110th Anniversary of Montblanc at Hotel New York in Rotterdam was all one could imagine: an intoxicating blend of class and elegance, innovation and passion, style and vibrancy and of course excellence under the evening theme of 'Black and White'.

BY JULIE KENNEDY | PHOTO FRISO BOVEN

Clients, Friends of Montblanc, business people, gathered enthusiastically around the stunning array of writing instruments, leather goods, accessories and watches on display, before being greeted by the General Manager Benelux and Scandinavia Mr. Yves Neron-Bancel.

The choice of location was part of the legend as not only is it a stunning venue, but also the old Headquarters of Holland America Line, with travelers leaving from here to follow their dreams, just like the Founders of Montblanc left Hamburg for New York seeking inspiration. And inspired they were, launching their first pens in 1906, and instigating this booming company, gathering the rewards of taking risks, which as Mr Neron-Bancel said "is ironic in a way, since Montblanc was built on the safety of fountain pens".

For me Montblanc has always represented a traditional icon of elegance and precision, but I was not aware how very much up to date and high tech their

creations are with amongst them 'Augmented Paper' which looks like normal pen and paper (though when is a Montblanc pen ever normal?) but loads by Bluetooth to any device.

At the event was also Montblanc's Creative Director Zaim Kamal, originally from Pakistan, raised in London. Formerly a fashion designer, he is fascinated by the never ending creativity of Montblanc relentlessly reaching for the summit (the emblem, the star on the cap is the snow-capped summit).

Zaim is fascinated by all the different competencies in house and told me of spending fascinated hours with the leather craftsmen in Florence and their inherited special smoking techniques passed on over the generations. He always learns something new which is one of the many aspects of his love for his job. There are constant challenges and one of the secrets at Montblanc is how they all work together as a team from the first

design, where vision and operation come together, designers and manufacturers working hand in hand. That is why they are so fast. In the last three years he reckons over 2,000 products have been developed and he has never once repeated himself.

"Happy with an excellent result, we are never satisfied and strive to do it even

"NEVER STANDING
STILL, AUDACITY
AND PASSION
LEADING THE WAY"

better, never taking no for an answer. Never standing still, audacity and passion leading the way."

The first half of the evening took place in the stunning Ballroom amongst the old glory, the twenties brought to life with the Charleston live band, view on the water, promises of travel while

delighting in a seven course walking dinner. For the second part guests enthusiastically walked the red carpet to the atmospheric NY basement where the roaring twenties were enacted by dancers and the guests enthusiastically mingled and celebrated the 110th birthday of this remarkable company.



From left to right, Ms. Cynthia Ritsma, Ms. Chantal Chow, Mr. Zain Kamal, Mr. Yves Neron-Bancel, H.E. Fernando Arias, Mrs. Shida Blik, Mrs. Patriacia van Oordt de Arias, Mr. Peter Blik.



Iran-Netherlands exchanges

Iran’s Vice-President and Head of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization Massoud Soltanifar and a number of Iranian and Dutch officials were present at the opening ceremony of the Iran-Netherlands Trade and Cultural Center (INTCC) in Leiderdorp .

The Centre will activate cultural, trade and economic exchanges between the two countries as stipulated in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). “Iran and the Netherland have had cordial ties for many years” Mr. Soltanifar said, “There is no limitation for the development of their bilateral ties in the areas of culture, economy and politics.” Iran’s Ambassador to the Netherlands H.E. Ali Reza Jahangiri commented on the opening of the INTCC saying: “The center can be used for the future ties not only with the Netherlands but also with the members of the European Union.” Established by the private sector, it is the first of its kind in Europe and will put

Iranian products including hand-made carpets, handicrafts and furniture on display and will also follow up trade and cultural relations. In his speech, the Ambassador mentioned what a pleasure it was to witness the inauguration ceremony of INTCC which shows and confirms that the private sector can play a significant role in expanding cultural and economic ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of The Netherlands. Cultural and commercial relations between Iran and The Netherlands are strongly rooted in history and go back 400 years with many valuable experiences on both sides.

TOURISM
“The new environment in the Iranian

economy is a positive and welcoming environment for European and especially Dutch companies”, stated His Excellency. The tourism industry is one of the important areas which requires more attention by the private sector. One point in particular he found crucial is the establishment of good banking relations to facilitate financial transactions and the Ambassador expressed the hope that both Iranian and Dutch central and commercial banks solve this hindrance to the optimal expansion of bilateral relations. The Ambassador concluded saying: “I do hope that this type of trade and cultural infrastructure and joint work will help us to expand and strengthen the existing relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and The Kingdom of the Netherlands even further.”

Launching of a bilingual French-Dutch contemporary library at the Alliance Française

With its central and prominent location in the historic Berlage Gebouw on Kerkplein in the old city centre, the Alliance Française has decided to reorganize and renew its library.

The Alliance Française in The Hague is one of the most prominent Alliances in Europe, using the modern technics of linguistic tuition, including well-trained pedagogical staff, well-equipped rooms and, last but not least, a new bilingual library which allows the Alliance Française to renew with its initial mission of promoting exchange and debate in literature, philosophy and aspects of contemporary society.

The new project focuses on French and Dutch contemporary writers whose books have been translated from French to Dutch and – vice versa. The Alliance Française started to build up the new bilingual library based on the criteria of books written from 2000 onwards, existing in printed version in the two languages. Thanks to the assistance of Gemeente Den Haag (project buurtbibliotheek), and to Fonds1818, and with the help of the Belgian Embassy (Delegation Wallonie Bruxelles), the Alliance was able to launch the new project. Additional time until the end of this year will still be needed to equip the new library and increase the collection. Local architect Peter Drijver designed a new interior for the Franco-Dutch Buurtbibliotheek on the first floor of the Berlage Gebouw. With additional assistance from the French Embassy, the French Librairie Nomade and a private partner (Ziggo Horizon TV), works shall proceed smoothly thus allowing members of the



From left to right, Georges Goyon, Advisor domestic policy and Press at the French Embassy; Peter Drijver, Interior architect (Scala Architecten – Hofkwartier, Den Haag); Martin Beyer, Director AF The Hague; Marc Clairbois, Délegué Wallonie Bruxelles, Delegate Belgium Embassy; Anneke Verzijden, Gemeente Den Haag Municipality; Richard Schreurs, President AF The Hague.

Alliance Française from the end of the year to borrow books or to have a decent choice for reading on the spot at the Alliance Française. The director of the Alliance Française, Martin Beyer says: “Our objective is not to compete with the large collection of

“YOU DO NOT NEED TO SPEAK FRENCH TO READ THE FRENCH BOOKS OF OUR LIBRARY...”

International and French books at the Centrale Bibliotheek at Spui, but to promote books of contemporary French and Francophone literature that have been translated and thus already meet an audience in The Netherlands. We wish to intensify this direct exchange on important writers and discuss the books in either French or Dutch – or both languages. You do not need to speak French to read the French books of our library. You can chose between the French or Dutch

version. The reading comfort is what matters to us! But if reading a French book in the Dutch version will then encourage you to improve your French language competence, the Alliance Française is there to help you...”. At the same time the new bilingual library also intends to offer an alternative new service to the French and Francophone community living in the Hague/Holland, especially since the closure of the ‘media-thèque’ of the French Institute in Amsterdam since June 30th.

According to Martin Beyer, next steps include a crowdfunding project this autumn to raise additional funds for the new Franco-Dutch Buurtbibliotheek, as well as the set-up of monthly conferences including the invitation of Dutch top translators of French contemporary literature to discuss and exchange regularly on current topics, currents and subjects of literature and philosophy exposed in the books of the new collection at the Alliance Française de La Haye.



First row from left to right: H.E. Mr. Mir-Hamza Efendiyev, Ambassador of Azerbaijan, and Mrs. Sevil Amirova Efendiyev; H.E. Mr. Karim Ben Bécher, Ambassador of Tunisia, and Mrs. Rym El Memmi Ben Bécher; Mayor Jan Hoekema.

Second row: Mrs. Véronique Micléa, spouse of Ambassador of Peru H.E. Mr. Loet Mennes; Mrs. Barbara Couwenbergh, President International Women's Club; Ana Trabal, spouse of the Ambassador of Uruguay; Mrs. Shida Bliek, founder Diplomat Club Wassenaar.

Third row: Mrs. Fanny Elena Arguedas, spouse of the Ambassador of Bolivia; Mrs. Eva Mennes, Eva Art Productions; Drs. Tanja van der Zon, Project Curator National Museum of Antiquities; Ms. Abir Ali, chargé, d'Affaires of Lebanon; H.E. Mr. Ahmad Mufleh, Ambassador of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Fourth row: Mr. Peter Bliek, Chairman of TenRande Foundation; Drs. Wim Weijland, Managing Director National Museum of Antiquities; Prof. dr. Ruurd Halbertsma, Curator National Museum of Antiquities; Mr. Musaid Almarwany, Counsellor Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Fifth row: H.E. Mr. Alvaro Moerzinger, Ambassador of Uruguay; H.E. Mr. Konstantine Surguladze, Ambassador of Georgia; H.E. Mr. Enrique Eduardo Rodriguez Veltze, Ambassador of Bolivia; H.E. Mr. José De Bouza Serrano, former Ambassador to Portugal; H.E. Mr. Carlos Herrera Rodríguez, Ambassador of Peru; Prof. Dr. Pieter ter Keurs, Head Department of Collections and Research, National Museum of Antiquities.

A bid farewell at Diplomat Club Wassenaar

A special dinner was hosted by Mrs. Shida Bliek, founder of Diplomat Club Wassenaar to bid farewell to H.E. Mr. Karim Ben Bécher, Ambassador of Tunisia and his charming spouse Mrs. Rym El Memmi Ben Bécher.

In his speech the Mayor of Wassenaar, who serves not only as the Patron of Diplomat Club Wassenaar but also as Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden, emphasized the importance of the contribution Ambassador Ben Bécher

THE MAYOR PRAISED THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE AMBASSADOR TO PROMOTE HIS COUNTRY

made to the spectacular exhibition 'Carthago', which thrived at the museum for five months. More than 130,000 visitors attended. The Carthago exhibition was an indisputable success, not only in

terms of number of visitors, but also in terms of quality and number of pieces. The Mayor praised the tireless efforts and enthusiasm of the Ambassador to promote and highlight his country through organizing many events, in particular the celebratory event at the Peace Palace The Hague for the Nobel Peace Prize 2015, awarded to the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet for its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011.



In the course *Kunst & Antiek in de Praktijk* (Art & Antiques in Practice), we open doors for you. Renowned art dealers, many of whom regularly appear on the television show *Tussen Kunst & Kitsch*, a Dutch version of the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow*, share their unique expertise and experience with you. Antique dealers will be receiving you in their homes and shops or accompanying you to a museum, art fair or restoration workshop. You will have the chance to study and hold rare pieces, while experts provide detailed commentary and background. In this course, we share not only our

knowledge, but also our love of fine art.

Practical information
The course consists of 11 sessions at various locations in the Netherlands. The course is given in groups of no more than 15 people. The participation fee is €725 (incl. VAT) for 11 sessions.

Expertise
Old Masters, 19th and 20th-century painting, Delft earthenware, porcelain, glass, silver, jewellery, icons, sculpture, dodes, carpets, medieval and Renaissance art, Asian art, archaeology, modern and contemporary art and Islamic Art.

For more information on our course programme. Visit our website www.kuhd.nl, send an email to info@kuhd.nl or send the enclosed form to Koninklijke VHOK, Den Haag 375, 1012 ZJ Amsterdam.

COURSE KUNST & ANTIEK IN DE PRAKTIJK

The undersigned, wishes,
☐ to register for the spring course (in the Dutch language)
☐ to receive more information about the course *Kunst & Antiek in de Praktijk*
☐ to receive more information about a personalized course, also available in English (extra expenses will apply).

Table	M	Y
FULL Address		
COUNTRY		
TELEPHONE		
E-MAIL		
DATE / SIGNATURE		



Diplomat Club Wassenaar
The Netherlands

FIRST  DUTCH