

Belgian DPM Reynders: Broad strategy beyond military operations needed to defeat ISIS



The EU Centre in Singapore, the Embassy of Belgium to Singapore and the Singapore Institute of International Affairs co-hosted a public lecture on the role of Belgium and Singapore in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) by Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Didier Reynders. This was preceded by a closed-door roundtable discussion where a delegation led by DPM Reynders engaged in a conversation on ISIS with prominent scholars and researchers in the fields of counter-terrorism and political violence.

DPM Reynders emphasized that this was not a war against Islam, and ISIS was not just a threat to Iraq and Syria, but a threat to common humanity. A broad strategy beyond military operations is needed to counter the threat of ISIS: the global coalition needs to review financial mechanisms to stop funding to ISIS, and a more inclusive political process in Iraq and Syria could aid in rebuilding hope and trust. Last but not least, Reynders talked about the need for Asian and European states to engage in the exchange of best practices and the need to understand the underlying motivations of these fighters, and also urged the audience to contribute to local and community actions in order for people to live better together. For more on this public lecture, please go to www.tinyurl.com/eubgis.

EUC Visiting Fellow Dr Richard Youngs delivers Public Lecture & Seminar on EU Foreign Policy

Dr. Richard Youngs, Senior Associate at Carnegie Europe, was the EU Centre's 2014 Visiting Fellow. During his stay at the EU Centre in October, he gave two talks that dealt with the impact of the crises in Europe on the European Union's foreign policy and also its relations with Asia.

In his talks at the S.Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA),



Dr. Richard Youngs with EU Centre Director Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee, Public Lecture at Singapore Institute of International Affairs
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SEASONS GREETINGS

As 2014 draws to a close, the EU Centre's Director Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners for an interesting and fruitful year of collaboration. We also wish all our partners, friends, colleagues and readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



56 University students in Macau take part in Model European Council

Fifty-six students from six tertiary institutions of Macau participated on 22 and 23 November 2014 at the second edition of the Macau Model European Union. As a sign of the diversity of Macau, participants – undergraduate and postgraduate students – were from nine different nationalities. The event took place at the University of Macau (UM).

Model EU is an educational simulation in which participants recreate the political decision-making of a European Council Summit to learn about European politics and current issues.

Participants displayed a deep understanding of the functioning of the European Union as well as of the positions of the countries they were representing. On the first day of the event, students discussed the Ukrainian crisis. On the second day, participants were challenged to address the current Ebola virus crisis that is severely affecting Western Africa countries. At the end of the discussion, students reached a consensus on a plan of action for the European Union comprising 14 measures. These included, among others, additional financial and technical support to the countries most affected by the virus outbreak, and preventive measures within the EU.

The six best participants (two teams and two individual delegates) were awarded free study missions to Europe, funded by the European Union



Photo: EUAP Macau 2014

Academic Programme in Macau. They were Tiago Serrano and Ana Rita Borges Duarte from the Macau Polytechnic Institute (representing Bulgaria); Nick Wauben and Lai An Qi from the University of Macau (representing United Kingdom); Ai Wei Ning from the University of Macau (representing Hungary); and Daniel Bruno Rangel Vendramin from the University of Saint Joseph (representing Sweden).

The event was co-organised by the European Union Academic Programme-Macau and the Youth Association of International Affairs (YAIA) of the University of Macau, and held with the support of the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM) and the Department of Government and Public Administration of the University of Macau. It was financed by the European Union.

EUAP organises EU Summer School "Discover the European Union"



Photo: EUAP Macau 2014

The European Union Academic Programme – Macau Summer School 2014, entitled "Discover the European Union", was held from 28 July to 30 July on the University of Macau's (UM) new Campus. This year, the summer school gave 24 students between 16 and 20 years of age, from nine local sec-

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New trends in documentary production discussed at the University of Macau

Portuguese filmmaker Andre Valentim Almeida gave a talk at the University of Macau on "Production of Documentaries in Europe: Current Trends and Challenges" on 19 November 2014. In attendance were master's programme students from the Department of Communication of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The talk was organised by the European Union Academic Programme in Macau.

During the talk, Mr. Almeida focused the students' attention to the new trends related to the production of documentaries, with a special focus on interactive documentaries (i-docs). Interactive documentaries are an emerging trend in the field of documentary production that use different media (audio, video, still images) and are open for interaction with viewers on internet, who may participate in the production of the

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Roundtable Discussion with Vice-President of the European Parliament: "The New European Parliament and Commission 2014-2019: Foreign Policy Objectives and Challenges"



Photo: EUAP HK 2014

On 8 October 2014 the EUAP-Hong Kong hosted Mr. Alexander Count Lambsdorff, Vice-President of the European Parliament for the roundtable on EU's foreign policy objectives and challenges. The discussants comprise Prof. Jean-Pierre Cabestan (Director General of the EUAP), Dr. Stefan Auer (Associate Professor of the University of Hong Kong) and Dr. Martin Chung (Research Assistant Professor of the EUAP), with Prof. H. Werner Hess of the EUAP as the moderator.

Count Lambsdorff explained to the audience the responsibilities of the European Commission and the European Parliament regarding foreign policy. He described the EU neighborhood as crisis-prone and provided examples of backsliding democratic transitions in Egypt and Libya, as well as destabilizing actions of Russia in

Ukraine. The discussants shared their opinions on Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership as the most important economic objective in external relations. Count Lambsdorff emphasized the unity between EU member states as a foundation for strong and effective Common Foreign and Security Policy.

He stressed that the EU maintains close cooperation with Asian countries, however, focusing on the economy rather than security. Regarding relations between the EU and China, he stated that while the EU may encourage China to reconsider its policies, the EU is unlikely to interfere in issues related to Chinese territorial integrity.

Regarding recent political events in Hong Kong, he commented that the peaceful way of conducting demonstrations has gained a great degree of sympathy within the EU. Moreover, he argued that the demonstrators are not fighting to change the political system in China but to remind Beijing of the promise of democratization made previously and of the preservation of freedoms guaranteed by the Basic Law of Hong Kong.

EUAP HK's "Urban Innovations" Series 2014-2015 - Prototyping Problem Solutions in European Cities and Regions

Beginning in fall 2014, the European Union Academic Programme Hong Kong (EUAP-Hong Kong) offers a series of events which present current thinking in Europe on urbanization, solutions for urban problems, and pan-European cooperation in these fields. Focusing on 5 main areas (Smart, Green, Social Innovation, Culture and Knowledge City), this series on "Urban Innovations" will discuss some of the best practices in leading cities in Europe, including Barcelona, Vienna, Helsinki, Malmö, Groningen/Oldenburg and Amsterdam.

The series is covering more than 30 events in 6 months including seminars, roundtable discussions and



Photo: EUAP HK 2014

Seminar at EUAP HK on "Urban Innovations" Series 2014-2015 - Prototyping Problem Solutions in European Cities and Regions. **This story continues on Page 6.**



EUIJ-Kyushu organises EU Study Tour



Photo: EUIJ Kyushu 2014

The second EUIJ-Kyushu Study Tour was conducted from 1-15 March 2014 where fifteen students from the three consortium universities visited Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and France. The tour participants came back with numerous wonderful experiences they had gained from visits to various EU institutions, a session with Japanese business people working in a Japanese company in Europe, and by participating in exchanges with students from universities in Europe.

At Ghent University in Belgium, the participating students were divided into three groups and gave a presentation in English about Japanese culture. The exchange between the Japanese students and students in Ghent was described by several students as "memorable" and an invaluable opportunity for students to make friends, which they hope to stay in touch. The Japanese students were also impressed by the Belgian students' ability to speak foreign languages and their enthusiasm for learning.

In addition, the EUIJ Study Tour commemorated the 30th anniversary of friendship between Fukuoka and Bordeaux. In the visit to Saint-Emilion in France, students enjoyed the beautiful scenery and deepened their knowledge and understanding about the culture and history in Europe. A debriefing session after the study tour was held on 31 March, 2014 co-organized by the Fukuoka EU Association.

As with the first EUIJ-Kyushu Study Tour last year, the EUIJ-Kyushu programme was adopted as one of the youth development programs by Fukuoka Prefecture. For more information on the programme, please visit the [EUIJ-Kyushu homepage](http://www.euij-kyushu.com).

EUIJ-Kyushu's EU Study Summer Course

The 4th EUIJ-Kyushu EU Study Summer Course was held over 4 days and 3 nights, from 4 to 7 September 2014, at the National Institute for Youth Education in Aso. A total of 26 students from the three consortium universities, Kyushu University Seinan Gakuin University and Fukuoka Women's University, and also from seven other universities all over Japan. Attended this summer course Two PhD students from Europe, Mr. Hugo Canihac from Institute of Bordeaux Politics, Mr. Nicholas Peeters from University of Leuven, were invited to give lectures on a wide range of areas including economics, law, politics, society and culture.



Photo: EUIJ Kyushu 2014

A simulation of the European Council was conducted on the last day. In this programme, each student represented one of the 28 EU member states and discussed their standpoint on the issues being debated and to make an agreement with the other EU member states. The theme for this year's debate was "EU-Russia Relations—Issues over Crimea and others" in response to the recent crisis in Ukraine. Students examined the political tendency and economic power, the history and culture of different countries, and energy and environmental problems facing each EU member state. Consequently, they also learnt about the decision-making procedures and when and how sanctions are decided and carried out. In a set time, each of the students clearly stated the viewpoint of their own country, while the chairperson played a key role to seek the support of the entire EU towards a peaceful resolution.

In her closing remarks, Prof. Hachiya, Director of EUIJ-Kyushu, concluded that the Summer Course gave students a chance to become interested more than ever in the political system of the EU. A certificate to prove the completion of the EU Study Summer Course were handed to all students who participated, and all participants felt a deep sense of accomplishment and satisfaction in being part of this EU Study Summer Course.

2nd Korea-EU Forum at VU Brussels on 26-27 November 2014



Photos: Yonsei-SERI EUC 2014

The 2nd Korea-EU Forum was held at Vrije Universitat Brussels' Institute for European Studies, Belgium on 26-27 November 2014. The Korea-EU Forum, involving leaders from the political, economic, cultural, and educational sectors of Korea and the EU, aims to strengthen cooperative relationships for the future and to broaden mutual understanding among Korea and European nations. The Forum was organized by the Korea Foundation, Yonsei University and Vrije Universitat Brussels.

The Forum was divided into three sessions. The first session comprised a number of key figures from Korean government and Universities, as well as European counterparts from the European Commission who provided insights into important issues of mutual concern between Korea and the EU while acting as advisors for the younger generation. During the second session, Korean and European students discussed mutual interests and common concerns in both regions. The third session, brought together young rising professionals from various sectors in Korea and the EU to share their vision for future cooperation along with practical guidance for the youth of both regions on issues such as employment.

2014 Model European Council -Re-evaluation of the Eastern Partnership

On 7 November 2014, the 2014 Model European Council was held at Yonsei University Alumni Association Building by Yonsei SERI-EU Centre. This event was the third Model European Council started since 2012 at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. Sixty undergraduate and graduate students participated in this year's Model European Council under the main agenda of 'Re-evaluation of The Eastern Partnership'. Students from the 5 universities with EU Centres, which include Yonsei University, Korea University, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Pusan National University, and Yeung Nam University, and also students from other various universities participated in this Model European Council meeting.



Photo: Yonsei-SERI EUC 2014

In accordance with the purpose of the establishment of EU Centres, the third Model European Council in 2014 not only promote understanding of the EU but provide an opportunity to learn more deeply about the negotiation process and the cooperation of European countries. Certificates were conferred to all participants and some outstanding participants received prizes and awards. In the closing ceremony, there was a congratulatory message from Prof. Jin Bae Park, Yonsei University's Senior Vice-president of Administration and Development.



Photo: Yonsei-SERI EUC 2014

Cont'd from Page 3 :EUAP HK story on "Urban Innovations" Series 2014-2015 - Prototyping Problem Solutions in European Cities and Regions.

workshops. The issues selected are of significance to Hong Kong as well. Events are held in cooperation with over 30 local HK partners (academic and non-academic institutions, civil society groups, HK Government, statutory bodies, Chambers of Commerce, schools and others).

Between September and November 2014, over 20 distinguished guests were invited to present their insights on the current urban development in their own city. They include the Deputy Mayors of Barcelona and Vienna, directors of the various governmental department, renowned companies and NGOs and experts in the field.

In the coming weeks, focus will be shifted to Malmö, Groningen/Oldenburg and Amsterdam on areas of Green and Social Innovation. For more details of the series, please visit <http://euap.hkbu.edu.hk/series/>.

This series contributed to enhanced dialogue and people-to-people contacts between HK and the EU. The series also complements existing structures of dialogue and exchange with Europe.

Cont'd from Page 2: EUAP Macao story on "EU Summer School"

ondary schools and two universities, the unique opportunity to take part in three days of lectures, workshops, and cultural activities to learn about the EU.

The school was organised by the EUAP, in collaboration with the Institute of European Studies of Macao (IEEM), with the support of UM, and co-financed by the European Union. Students took part in lectures covering the politics and economics of the EU, classes on Europe's history, diverse languages, and rich cultures, together with workshops on leadership and debate, and the private screening of a European film. The three winning students were awarded a free trip to Europe with the upcoming study mission of the EUAP, during which they will visit the EU headquarters in Brussels and other EU institutions.

The summer school concluded with an award ceremony offering a taste of European food at the Clube Militar of Macao. The awards were presented by Mr. Asad Beg, head of the Political, Press, and Information section of the European Union in Hong Kong and Macao, and Mr. Jose Luis Sales Marques, president of the IEEM. The evening celebration was also attended by participating professors, guests, and members of the EUAP. Prof. Rui Martins, vice rector of UM and director of the EUAP, said, "This enriching experience not only gives the students a deep knowledge of the EU, but also increases their negotiating skills and ability to reach consensus, which will undoubtedly help them in the future".

Cont'd from Page 2 :EUAP Macao story on "New Trends in Documentary Production"



documentaries by uploading content. I-docs include different concepts of collaborative documentaries such as web-docs, transmedia documentaries, serious games, cross-platform docus, locative docs, docu-games, and pervasive media. At the heart of interactive documentaries is the question: what opportunities emerge as documentary becomes something that is co-created?

Andre Valentim Almeida is an award winning filmmaker, documentary editor, professor and Ph.D candidate currently finishing his dissertation on Interactive Documentary at the University of Porto. Mr. Almedia has been teaching media production and was the scientific coordinator of a major video training program at the newsroom of the Portuguese news agency. He was part of the first yearlong collaborative documentary programme at the UnionDocs (Brooklyn, NY) where he was then the Collaborative Studio Director.

As a media maker, his work has been screened at MoMA, Doclisboa, IndieLisboa, Visions du Réel, Carpenter Center for Visual Arts, TEDx Brooklyn among others. He directed/edited the following films: Gigantes do Douro (2014,) The Quest of the Schooner Creoula (2013, Doc Alliance Selection Award 2014 + "Restart/Schools" award for best Portuguese Competition feature-length film, and O Ganho do Som honourable mention award for best Portuguese Competition first film at Doclisboa 2013), From New York with Love (2012), New York is a Big Apple (2010) and Uma na Bravo Outra na Ditadura (2010, non-theatrical).

Herman van Rompuy's visit to Singapore in November 2014



Photos EUROCHAM SG 2014

The 1st President of the European Council, Herman van Rompuy was in Singapore on 17-18 November on a working visit. He called on the President of Singapore, Mr Tony Tan, and also had a meeting with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, reaffirming the close relations and good cooperation between Singapore and the EU.

During Mr. Herman van Rompuy's visit, he held a dialogue at the Singapore Management University (SMU), addressing questions pertaining to immigration, quantitative easing and the challenge of solving the Eurozone crisis. The outgoing president of the European Council also talked about his five years in the European Council and how it functioned. He was at the recently concluded G20 summit and he told his audience that he was pleased that world leaders were able to sit together to discuss major issues such as climate change.

Mr. van Rompuy also delivered the Schuman Lecture at the Gala dinner organized by the European Chamber of Commerce in Singapore. In his lecture, he took stock of the EU-Singapore relations, and remarked that the EU-Singapore FTA and the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement are major building blocks to strengthen the bilateral relations. He then put this bilateral relation in the broader context of EU-Asia relations, and shared with the audience the successful conclusion of the 10th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit. He was also pleased with the substantive meeting he had with ASEAN leaders at the sideline of the ASEM summit in Milan, and acknowledged the important efforts by ASEAN to bring about dialogue and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. He concluded his speech by reflecting on his time as President of the European Council, and the decisions taken to strengthen the EU's Economic and Monetary Union.

For a copy of President van Rompuy's speech, please click [here](#).

Mr. van Rompuy has since handed over his duties at the Council to the 2nd President of the European Council, Mr. Donald Tusk, on 1 December 2014.

Rethinking the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

The 10th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit took place in Milan on 16-17 October 2014. The Summit was seen as a success with good turnout of the leaders. Two more countries, Croatia and Kazakhstan were accepted into the ASEM at the summit bringing the total number of ASEM partners to 53.



As the membership grows, and with a proliferation of summits across Asia and Europe, the leaders at the 10th ASEM summit issued a call for "fresh thinking on how to move the ASEM process forward". A symposium on "The Future of ASEM" will take place in the first quarter of 2015 to discuss how to transform ASEM. The Director of the EU Centre in Singapore, Dr. Yeo Lay Hwee, had written two commentaries in July ([link](#)) and November ([link](#)), to offer some of her thoughts on how the Asia-Europe Meeting could be transformed into a dynamic Asia-Europe marketplace.

Special Thanks

The EU Centre in Singapore would like to thank the following people for their contributions to the 8th issue of EUCI Asia. This regional newsletter would not have been a success without your kind help.

Dr. Joohyun Go and the team at Yonsei SERI EU Centre, South Korea

Ms. Doris Lee and the team at the European Union Academic Programme, Hong Kong (EUAP HK)

Dr. Rui Flores and the team at the European Union Academic Programme, Macau (EUAP Macau)

Ms. Kaori Takeda and the team at European Union Institute Japan-Kyushu (EUJ Kyushu)

Mr. Marc Cheng and the team at European Union Centre in Taiwan (EUTW)



EUTW interview with Frederic Laplanche, Head of the European Economic and Trade Office (EETO) to Taiwan



Photo: EUTW 2014

Mr. Frederic Laplanche, the head of the European Economic and Trade Office (EETO) to Taiwan, recently spoke to the EU Centre in Taiwan's Inger-Luise Heilmann on the EU's role in Taiwanese policymaking and international relations in the East Asian region. Here are some of the excerpts of the interview.

The European Economic and Trade Office in Taipei

The EETO was established 11 years ago, in 2003. At that time, it was the office representing the European Commission. The starting point of establishing an EU office in Taiwan was that Taiwan became a member of the WTO in 2002. Since 2003, a framework was developed and annual consultations on trade issues are held on a regular basis.

As head of the EETO, Mr. Frederic Laplanche reports to the European Union about the current developments in Taiwan and the region. Moreover, his office helps coordinate the collective actions of the 16 member states representation offices existing in Taipei: "We help the community of EU member states representatives to find common grounds, to report together and to have collective cooperation activities" he said.

He cited one example showing that the cooperation between the different centres in Taipei works particularly well: As there are too few Taiwanese investors going to the EU, the member state offices decided that it would be a good idea to promote the investment together. In 2012, the EETO and the member states offices organized a large-scale event to promote investment all over the EU.

EETO also made possible a number of regulatory dialogues between the EU and Taiwan on topics such as customs, government procurement, fisheries. Laplanche tells the EUTW that the EETO has been working with Taiwan on anti-maritime piracy issues — Taiwan has a large number of commercial and fishing vessels on the seas and we are trying to cooperate on this. Also, he told EUTW that the EETO had also accepted an invitation from the nuclear safety authorities in Taiwan to form a nuclear stress test peer review.

This sounds very positive, but what does Laplanche have to say about the decline with regard to the trade between the two economic partners? He cites two reasons: firstly, the economic downturn in Europe has affected trade between the two countries. Secondly, there is a decline of direct trade between Taiwan and the EU and an increase of indirect trade. This is more a statistical problem, because the figures can only show the direct trade. Moreover, Taiwan has been pushed down in the EU list of the most important trade partners, as Europe has been focusing on oil producing countries and emerging economies such as Brazil and India. Nevertheless, Laplanche has been active in urging European companies to be more aware of the potential markets in Taiwan as well as cooperation with Taiwanese business with regards to entering the Chinese mainland market.

What make Taiwan different from others?

The culture in Taiwan has particularly caught his interest. Laplanche also appreciates the Taiwanese people's kindness and his favourite place in Taiwan are the mountains. When we ask him about his favourite food, he answers: "Of course I like all the food here. Even stinky tofu is no problem for me, you know we French eat a lot of smelly cheese. I like the traditional, most simple family food best."

Before he came to Taiwan, Laplanche worked at the French Embassy in Beijing. EUCTW asked him about the major differences between mainland China and Taiwan, to which he had this to say: "Taiwan is also much closer to the feeling that we have in Europe which is an economy and a society that already attained a very high level of development". He also emphasized that Taiwan has developed a system of

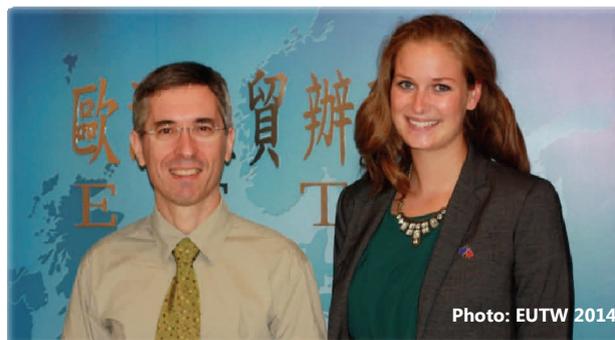
democracy which people cannot find in mainland China yet.

Is there something European he misses in Taiwan? Laplanche starts laughing: "There is a nearly political answer to this: meat. I hope that very soon, we will get those products in Taipei just as we get them in Tokyo or Seoul, it is just a matter of opening the market for it."

But what about the problems that Europeans might have with Taiwanese politics, such as for the example, the death penalty? Laplanche finds very diplomatic words to express this issue as it is difficult for Europeans, and as he correctly notes, Taiwan is not the only democratic country in the world to retain the death penalty. In his opinion, the issue with the death penalty could be achieved through dialogue with the civil society and the government authorities. "The sad story about Taiwan is that it had the moratorium for a few years and then it went back to the executions. So we have to make more efforts to at the same time understand this situation and to pass a message trying to convince that the death penalty is not fully in conformity with a modernized vision of human rights" he said.

The Cross-Strait Relations also makes Taiwan different. What is EU's attitude on this issue? Laplanche affirms that the EU has been very supportive since the start of the policy of rapprochement. He adds: "We have expressed over and over that dialogue, cooperation, development of links are useful for the stability of the straits, useful to the overall stability in the region and useful to the people on both sides of the straits. This being said we have also repeatedly expressed our support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international fora where its presence is useful for the Taiwanese people's interests."

In his opinion, the ECFA is useful to the economic development on both sides of the straits, but not only limited to this region. Hopefully, European business operators can also benefit from the cooperation with the two sides of the straits. "We see the developments in the cross-strait relations positively and for the future we hope of course that the development will continue to be based on dialogue and exchange. It's up to the people of both sides to make up the decisions for the future concerning their relations. But the EU will follow this development with a very close eye", he said.



What can Europeans learn from Taiwan?

Laplanche believes that Europeans can learn a lot of things from the Taiwanese. For one, he was cognizant of the fact that the Taiwanese government uses the budget very efficiently. "You might know that the share of the government budget on the Taiwanese GDP is very low, around 15-16% whereas the European average is at 45%", he said.

He also cited one example of good practices in Taiwan where the island acts more efficiently than the EU: garbage separation and garbage collection. To Laplanche, this is one area in which that Taiwan is ahead.

Laplanche affirmed that the people to people exchanges between Europe and Taiwan are important. Even though the EU-Taiwan relationship is not an official diplomatic one, but both sides could still work on substantial issues. Mr. Laplanche emphasizes that this is the core of the EU's interests in Taiwan.

About Mr. Frederic Laplanche

Mr. Frederic Laplanche is the head of the European Economic and Trade Office (EETO) to Taiwan. He has previously served in the French Embassy in Beijing from 2000 to 2004. He was Deputy Head of the EETO from 2004 to 2008. He then returned to Paris to take up a post in the French Foreign Ministry before returning to EETO Taiwan as head of office.

Mr. Laplanche holds degrees in political science and Chinese from the Paris Institute of Political Studies and the French National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilisations.

Cont'd from page 1: EUC Visiting Fellow Richard Youngs delivers Public Lecture and Seminar on EU Foreign Policy

Dr. Richard Youngs gave a broad overview of trends in EU-Asia relations over the past few years. Here, he emphasized on how the financial crisis in EU has had an impact on EU's global position and influence, and argued that the crisis has not been a purely economic one, but rather, one with a strong political dimension.

The recent Euro crisis has spurred the Union to change its strategy and to think about how overall global balance and power has changed, and this has pushed member states to cooperate on a more intense level. For Youngs, there are three level of changes after the crisis: first of all, the crisis has made the EU a greater geo-economic actor. Secondly, there is the question as to whether the Member States can actively be involved in geo-economics but still be committed to the multilateral agreements, while the final change is in the relationship with Asia. For interest in Asia to be sustained, Youngs posits that the EU-Asia relationship could be framed more as a global partnership to increase its visibility and potency. A report on Dr. Richard Youngs' events can be found at www.tinyurl.com/eucyoungs.

EU Centre and DA(S) organize Inter-Polytechnic Debate competition at NUS University Town



The much-anticipated EU Centre Inter-Polytechnic Debate Competition held with the support of the Debate Association (Singapore) began bright and early at the National University of Singapore's University Town on 22 November 2014 as participants from the various polytechnics in Singapore fought it out over the course of two rounds before the grand finale.

Teams debated the prepared motion: "This House believes that the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement will be more beneficial than harmful to Singapore's economic interests" in the first round. Many proposition teams cited the freer movement of goods while opposition teams cited the impact of global competition of Small-Medium Enterprises. The second round saw teams debate a motion on whether the EU should prioritise its engagement of Asia rather than the EU—proposition teams honed in on the rising economic importance of Asia, while opposition teams cited instabilities and the diversity of Asia as challenges for the EU's engagement of Asia.

The final saw a fiery debate between Nanyang Polytechnic A and Temasek Polytechnic A over the motion "This House believes that the EU will overtake the US as the foremost Western superpower in the world". Teams debated the credibility and track record of US and EU in global leadership. Nanyang Polytechnic A emerged as champions, while Temasek Polytechnic A's Darren Woo and Sarish Mohar were recognised as the first and second top speakers of the competition respectively. For more on this debate competition, please go to www.tinyurl.com/euds2014.

EUC organizes talk on ERASMUS MUNDUS Masters Degree Programmes



The EU Centre and the Erasmus Mundus Association (Southeast Asian Chapter) held a talk at NTU@one-North on the 18 November 2014, which covered the European Masters Scholarships under the Erasmus Mundus programme.

The Erasmus Mundus programme aims to enhance quality in higher education through scholarships and academic cooperation between Europe and the rest of the world. Ms. Lucia Loposova (President, Erasmus Mundus European Chapter) talked about the programme and the opportunities available in Europe, while Ms. Natalie Cheong (Erasmus Mundus Southeast Asian Chapter) shared how a European Masters has shaped her professional career. Also present were three other Erasmus Mundus alumni who shared their study abroad experience with participants of the talk. For more on the ERASMUS MUNDUS talk, please go to www.tinyurl.com/SGerasmus.

How do Diplomats Know What They Know? A Seminar by UBC's Merje Kuus



The EU Centre organized a seminar by Professor Merje Kuus (Department of Geography, University of British Columbia) entitled "How Do Diplomats Know What They Know?" on 13 October 2014.

In this seminar, Prof. Kuus emphasized three key ideas that shape diplomats' knowledge: informal and social dynamics are as important as technical skill sets, the debate over who wields the power between Brussels and Member States obscures rather than reveals the real power structures in diplomacy, and embedded in the actions of any one actor are its relations with other actors, underscoring the importance of individual agency within EU institutions and systems. She also elaborated on the social and symbolic resources required in the production of diplomatic expertise in Brussels, as well as the transnational and quasi-diplomatic character of the EEAS.

A full seminar report can be found at www.tinyurl.com/eudiplo.

Seminar on Right to Be Forgotten in the Online World by A/P Lim Yee Fen



This seminar, which was held on 11 September 2014, explored the ECJ decision and examined the legal, historical and social contexts of the decision.

A/P Lim went into some detail on the recent European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling on the "Right to be Forgotten". She argued that the ECJ did not invent the right as some of its critics have accused it of doing as it was already enshrined in the EU Data Protection Directive of 1995. Nevertheless, A/P Lim reminded the audience that the ECJ regards the "right to be forgotten" as not absolute, meaning that it has to be balanced against other fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and media. She then closed her talk with a brief overview on Singapore's Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA), and also engaged in a lively Q&A with members of the audience.

A full seminar report can be found at www.tinyurl.com/eucrfow.

Book Launch - *Building the Knowledge Economy in Europe*



The EU Centre organized a book launch for "Building the Knowledge Economy in Europe" on the 23 October 2014. The book's co-editor Dr. Chou Meng-Hsuan (Public Policy and Global Affairs, NTU) was present at the event to give a short introduction to the book. Dr. Chou told the audience that the idea for this book was born during the European Consortium for Political Research General Conference 2011, where researchers working on knowledge policies (higher education & research) had their own 'Europe of Knowledge' (EoK) session for the first time. This introduced higher education and research policies into EU studies more broadly and allowed for the EoK section to be successfully organized at subsequent general conferences.

Dr. Chou noted that the European knowledge policy area is emerging as a departure from how higher education and science policy have traditionally been handled, and spoke briefly about the framework of the European Research Area (ERA) and European Higher Education Area (EHEA) from their inceptions. She then concluded the book launch by presenting four visions concluded with four visions for a Europe of Knowledge: as a foundation for a knowledge-based economy, as embodiment of a knowledge-based society, as an instrument of a knowledge-based policy and as a tool for enhancing competitiveness in science and higher education in Europe. For more on this book, please go to www.tinyurl.com/knoecoc.



Ms. Julia Gour
EUC Associate Fellow

Ms. Julia Gour is an Associate Fellow with the EU Centre in Singapore. She graduated with a BA from the University of Vienna and an MA from University of Winchester, UK. Julia is working on a forthcoming EU Centre background brief on the EU's Asylum Policy in the Mediterranean which will be published in early 2015.



Ms. Cheryl Low
Intern
August to December 2014

Ms. Cheryl Low is a fourth year History undergraduate at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Her research internship at the EU Centre will focus primarily on writing about public diplomacy for a forthcoming book on Europe's ties to Singapore, in line with the SG50 celebrations next year. She is also involved in designing work and weekly news brief write ups.



Mr. Charles Chia
Intern
September to December 2014

Mr. Charles Chia is a recent BA Journalism graduate of Monash University, Australia. During his time at the EU Centre, he will conduct research for a forthcoming book on Europe's ties to Singapore in line with SG50 celebrations next year, as well as assist with events and outreach. He hopes to pursue an MA in International Relations in the near future.



Mr. Benjamin Felix van Roij
Intern
September to December 2014

Mr. Benjamin Felix van Roij is a Bachelor of Arts graduate of the Radboud University Nijmegen in The Netherlands. He is currently pursuing his MA at the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, KU Leuven, Belgium. During his time at the EU Centre, Benjamin will conduct research for a forthcoming book on Europe's ties to Singapore in line with SG50 celebrations next year.

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