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Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC)

The Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC) is an international non-Governmental organization of 24 former leaders, ministers and decision-makers, including leading academics, who closely monitor developments in Asia and share a common concern for the prospects of peace and reconciliation in the region.

Launched in Bangkok, Thailand, on 5 September 2012, the APRC is currently chaired by Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. The APRC Secretariat is located in Bangkok.

The APRC seeks to provide a platform whereby experience and expertise can be shared, views exchanged, workshops organized and missions deployed to assist through good offices, advocacy, quiet diplomacy and the creation of comfort levels, the advancement of peace dialogues, peace-building processes, conflict prevention and management, and facilitation of reconciliation in the Asian region upon request of the relevant parties concerned. The APRC operates in ways that are complementary to and directly supportive of ASEAN and other regional mechanisms and processes.
1. The Preparatory Meeting for the official launching of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC), held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 4-5 September 2012, was organised by the Saranrom Institute of Foreign Affairs Foundation (SIFAF) and chaired by H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, President of the Saranrom Institute of Foreign Affairs Foundation, and former Deputy Prime Minister, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Minister of Finance of Thailand.

2. The Meeting took place in the form of closed and informal sessions, whereby participants from within and outside the Asian region engaged in free-flowing and candid discussion. The Meeting was well attended by sixteen Founding Members of the APRC, all of whom are distinguished high-level former Asian and European policy makers, diplomats and prominent thinkers, namely, H.E. Mr. José Ramos Horta, former President of Timor Leste and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate; H.E. Tun Abdullah Badawi, former Prime Minister of Malaysia; H.E. Mr. Shaukat Aziz, former Prime Minister of Pakistan; H.E. Dr. Alfred Gusenbauer, former Chancellor of Austria; H.E. Mr. José de Venecia, Jr., former Speaker of the Philippines’ House of Representatives; H.E. Mr. Jusuf Kalla, former Vice President of Indonesia; H.E. Professor Shunmugam Jayakumar, former Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore; H.E. Dr. Hassan Wirajuda, Advisor to the President of Indonesia and former Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, former Deputy Prime Minister, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Minister of Finance of Thailand; H.E. Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Haji Hamid Albar, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Minister of Defence, and former Minister of Home Affairs of Malaysia; H.E. Mr. Yashwant Sinha, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Minister of Finance of India; H.E. Dr. Tej Bunnag, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand; H.E. Mr. Weerasak Kowsurat, former Minister of Tourism and Sports of Thailand; Dr. Sorajjak Kasemsuvan, former Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand. Professor Dr. David Kennedy, Director of Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School and Mr. Juha Christensen, Director of Peace Architecture and Conflict Transformation Alliance (PACTA), Finland.

3. Other Founding Members who were unable to attend the Meeting but had given the APRC their full support include H.E. Mr. Aleksander Kwaśniewski, former President of Poland; H.E. Mr. Ricardo Lagos, former President of Chile; H.E. Mr. Romano Prodi, former Prime Minister of Italy and former President of the European Commission; H.E. Mr. Li Zhaoxing, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of China; H.E. Mr. Jose Isidro Camacho, Vice Chairman of...
The Meeting agreed that the APRC is unique due to its two key characteristics. Firstly, the APRC will consist of Founding Members who can offer a wealth of knowledge, experience, and understanding of bureaucracy, social political structure and realities, the business community, interstate relations, the administration of government and international relations, peace building and conflict resolution as well as first-hand knowledge on the political decision making process. Secondly, the APRC, once established, will be a non-governmental and impartial body that will have unparalleled access to decision-makers involved in conflict situations.

The Principles of the APRC

The Meeting agreed that the APRC will act on the principle of non-interference, silent/quiet diplomacy, consensus and upon request. Nevertheless, the APRC may choose to engage in any conflict resolution process provided that all parties involved grant their consent. The Meeting also emphasised that the APRC will adhere to the principle of inclusiveness. The Meeting welcomed and encouraged additional high level former policy makers, academics, experts and experienced individuals from various fields and regions to join the APRC.

The Role of the APRC

The Meeting agreed that the members of the APRC, who will consist of former leaders, ministers, diplomats and thinkers, will serve as prime movers, facilitators and pathfinders of peace dialogues and reconciliation. With their extensive networks of trust and contacts, collectively the APRC could offer their good offices, knowledge and expertise to assist governments, organisations and societies in Asia and beyond. With its diverse set of members and their impartiality, the Meeting agreed that the APRC will be able to offer a comfort level for parties to the conflicts.

The Organisational Structure of the APRC

The Meeting agreed that the APRC will be an organization that is international, independent, and non-governmental. The Meeting agreed that the APRC Secretariat will be located in Thailand, registered as a non-profit foundation under Thai Law. The Meeting underscored that APRC members are global citizens who do not and will not represent any government, country or political party.
13. The Meeting agreed that the APRC will be an action-oriented body whose views and actions are supported by its in-house think tank as well as drawing on the expertise from other academic institutions and research institutes within and outside Asia.

14. The Meeting concurred that the APRC Secretariat will be responsible for coordinating the APRC's efforts mainly through electronic means, which include the circulation of cases the APRC will take on for Members' deliberation as well as sharing and exchanging the APRC's research and analyses. Nevertheless, the Meeting stressed that there still remained a need for Members of the APRC to meet at least once a year.

Future Direction of the APRC

15. The Meeting agreed that the APRC is officially launched today and its organizational structure to be completed before the end of 2012.

16. The Meeting further agreed that the APRC will, at the initial stage, be selective and highly focused on the issues that it will work on which will have to first be discussed and agreed upon among all of the Founding Members. In this regard, the Meeting proposed that a working group shall be set up to determine which project(s) should be taken up by the APRC.

17. The Meeting agreed that seeking funding for the APRC’s projects and the administration of the secretariat office will be a collective responsibility and draw on each of the Founding Members’ network of connections. The Meeting also agreed to form a working group to oversee the decision on possible sources of funding in order to ensure the independent and impartial nature of the APRC.

18. Finally, the Meeting thanked H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, the Organising Committee, the Saranrom Institute of Foreign Affairs Foundation and all student volunteers for their outstanding hospitality, coordination, steadfast commitment, and generous support which led to the success of this Meeting.

19. All participants of this Meeting were most grateful to Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn for granting them an opportunity to have an audience.

20. The participants took note, with much appreciation, of the kind sponsorship for the two-day Meeting from the SIFAF, the Thai Beverage Public Company Limited, the PTT Public Company Limited (PTT), the PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited (PTTEP), the TOT Public Company Limited and the Government of Switzerland.
Elected to the Parliament of Thailand in the general elections of 2001, Professor Dr. Surakiart was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, being the first who served the full four-year term before being appointed Deputy Prime Minister after the 2005 general elections. He had also been Minister of Finance in a previous government in 1995 - May 1996 and had been a policy adviser to several Thai Prime Ministers before then, dating back to 1988.

Receiving his Doctorate (S.J.D.) and Master of Law (LL.M.) from the Harvard Law School, after completing his Master of Law and Diplomacy (M.A.L.D.) at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, and Bachelor of Law (LL.B. Honours) at Chulalongkorn University, Professor Dr. Surakiart held many important positions in the academic world including Director of the Law and Development Research Center and Dean of the Faculty of Law of Chulalongkorn University, Visiting Professor at the Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University, USA, Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs of Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, Visiting Scholar at Harvard Law School, and a Distinguished Scholar of Chulalongkorn University. He is currently an Advisory Board Member of the Institute for Global Law and Policy of the Harvard Law School, Member of the Asian Advisory Group of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, and President of the Asian Society of International Law (2014-2015). He received an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Public Administration from Eastern Asia University, Honorary Doctorate Degree of Philosophy in Social Science from Mae Fah Luang University, and was awarded Outstanding Alumni Awards of Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University in 1996 and 2003.

Professor Dr. Surakiart also has extensive experience in the corporate sector. He was Chairman of PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Ltd. (PTTEP), Thai Oil Co., Ltd., Securities Exchange Commission of Thailand, and Laem Thong Bank Public Company Ltd., as well as board director in a number of other companies. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Sami Premier International Law Office Co., Ltd. which he co-founded in 1990, and affiliated Offices in Laos and Myanmar, Chairman of Pepsi-Cola (Thai) Trading Co., Ltd., Advisory Chairman for Asia and Member of the International Advisory Board, SICPA S.A. Switzerland, Chairman of the Board, KPN Academy Co., Ltd., and Advisory Chairman of AEC Securities Public Company Ltd.

In 2006, he was the endorsed ASEAN candidate for the position of United Nations Secretary-General and retains a keen interest in regional and international affairs. He is currently President of the Saranrom Institute of Foreign Affairs Foundation which oversees the Saranrom Institute of Foreign Affairs (SIFA), Thailand’s foreign policy think-tank. He is also Chairman of many Foundations and committees raising funds for charity and conducting social activities in the field of culture and social development.


Professor Dr. Surakiart is married to Thanpuying Dr. Suthawan Sathirathai, Chairperson of the Good Governance for Social Development and Environment Institute Foundation. They have one son, Dr. Santitarn Sathirathai, Head of South-East Asia and India Economics Research, Credit Suisse, Singapore.

Among the decorations he has received are the Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant (Thailand), the Grand Companion (Third Class, higher grade) of the Most Illustrious Order of the Chula Chom Klaos (Thailand), Commander Grand Cross (Sweden), The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei (Brunel Darussalam), Grand Cross of the Order of Orange-Nassau (Netherlands), and Bahrain Decoration First Class (Bahrain), The Royal Order of Sahametrei – Grand Officer (Kingdom of Cambodia) and Congressional Medal of Achievement (The Philippines).
Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the UN Integrated Peace Building Mission in Guinea-Bissau (West Africa).

Named in February 2013 Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the UN Integrated Peace Building Mission in Guinea-Bissau, José Ramos-Horta served previously as: President of the Republic (2007-2012), Prime Minister and Minister of Defense (2006-2007), Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (2002-2006), and Cabinet Member in the United Nations Transition Administration for East Timor - UNTAET (2000-2002). He was also Minister for Foreign Affairs and Information in the first Government that proclaimed in December 1975 following Timor-Leste’s Unilateral Declaration of Independence, and Representative, Spokesperson, for the Resistance (1975-1999). Ramos-Horta has been active in Peace and Conflict Mediation, in Timor-Leste and internationally. He became a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996. He is Vice-President of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC) based in Bangkok, comprising leaders from Asia working on second track diplomacy and mediation. He has been awarded twenty "Doctor Honoris Causa", and is a Visiting Professor in Universities in Australia, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Philippines, Brazil, Portugal and USA.

As Chairman of the OIC, Abdullah waged a war against poverty and the lack of knowledge and development in the Muslim world. Besides emphasising the enhancement of education in OIC countries, Malaysia sought to share its experience in national economy development by initiating a series of self-help projects involving OIC Members and the Islamic Development Bank with the objective of increasing capacities in several poor member countries of the OIC. The immediate purpose was to generate income and provide employment, while the longer-term intention was to assist the OIC countries upgrade their governance and development efforts.

Abdullah also sought to provide an economic face to the OIC, in a bid to enhance trade, business and investment linkages between Member countries. The World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF), of which Abdullah is the founder patron, continues to be an important gathering of government and business leaders from the Muslim world and beyond. International Halal fora and trade expositions, initiated by Malaysia, are now held regularly throughout the globe to advance Halal industries, for the benefit of the larger Ummah.

Tun Abdullah married the late Tun Endon Dato’ Mahmood in 1965 and after 40 years of marriage, lost her after a prolonged battle with cancer on 20 October 2005. They have 2 children and 6 grandchildren. Tun Abdullah married Tun Jeanne Abdullah on 9 June 2007.

Abdullah stepped down as Prime Minister on 3 April 2009. He remains committed to pursuing development, promoting progressive Islam and enhancing understanding between the Muslim and Western worlds. He is Chairman of the Malaysian Institute of Islamic Understanding (IKIM), and Patron of the Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) in Kuala Lumpur which he established in 2009. He is the founding patron for the World Islamic Economic Forum. He holds several government advisory roles, including Malaysia’s regional growth corridors and Malaysia Airlines. Internationally, Abdullah is the member of the InterAction Council, board member of BOAO Forum for Asia (BFA) and World Muslims Foundation, Vice Chairman of Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC), Chair of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group and Co President of the council of China-Arab States Expo.

His Excellency Mr. Shaukat Aziz was elected as Prime Minister of Pakistan and served from 2004 – 2007, following five years as Finance Minister from 1999.

Mr. Aziz was the first Prime Minister of Pakistan to complete a full term in office. Mr. Aziz restored his country’s credibility at home and abroad and is renowned for his strategic approach, structural reforms, transparency and ability to focus on what is best, not simply what is politically expedient. His policies were based on the principals of liberalization, deregulation and privatization, accompanied by strong regulatory oversight. Mr. Aziz’s tenure was marked by high economic growth, increase in per capita income, reduction in poverty, an upsurge in investments and improved debt and economic indicators.

After graduating from Gordon College, Rawalpindi in 1967, Mr. Aziz gained a MBA degree from the Institute of Business Administration, University of Karachi. An internship at Citibank marked the beginning of a 30 year career in global finance, encompassing roles in Pakistan, Greece, United States, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Philippines, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Singapore. As Executive Vice President, he held several senior management positions in Citibank including head of Institutional banking for Central Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa and later for Asia Pacific, followed by Chief Executive of the banks global wealth management business.

He became Finance Minister in 1999 and was named “Finance Minister of the year” for 2001 by Euromoney and The Banker magazine. As Prime Minister, Mr. Aziz co chaired the UN Secretary Generals Committee to promote reform and coherence at the United Nations. As recognition of his services to Pakistan, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws by his Alma Mater, The Institute of Business Administration, University of Karachi, Pakistan. In 2014 Mr. Aziz was appointed Senior Visiting...
Research Fellow at Green Templeton College, Oxford University, United Kingdom, where he also chairs their annual Emerging Markets Forum. In September 2014, Mr. Aziz received an Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration from the Eastern Asia University, Bangkok Thailand.

Having presided over impressive economic growth in his country, Mr. Aziz offers an expert view and is a frequent speaker on the challenges facing the world including structural reforms, diplomacy, geopolitics and security. Mr. Aziz is a member of several boards and advisory boards of various commercial and non-profit entities around the world.

Born 8 February 1960 in St. Pölten, lives in Vienna.

Dr. Gusenbauer studied Law, Philosophy, Political Science and Economy at the University of Vienna. Ph.D. in Political Science (1987); Dr. Gusenbauer holds an honorary doctorate of the Hertzliyah University (Israel) and is Honorary Senator of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts.

- Leader of the opposition (2000-2007)
- Member of Parliament (1993-2007)
- Member of the Austrian Senate (1991-1993)
- Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (1991-2007)

- President of the Social Democratic Party of Austria (2000-2008)
- Vice-president of the PES (2000 – 2008)
- Vice-president of the Socialist International (since 1989)
- Visiting Professor at the IGLP at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- Chairman of Next Left-renewing Socialdemocracy (since 2009)
- Professor-at-Large at the Brown University Providence/Rhode Island
- James Leitner Fellow for Global Affairs at the Columbia University N.Y.C.
- President of the Dr. Karl Renner Institute
- President of the Austrian Spanish Chamber of Commerce
• Member of the “Consejo de Administración” (Supervisory Board) of FCC. Construction, Spain, and Alpine Construction Austria, until 28th April 2010
• CEO of Gusenbauer Projektentwicklung- und Beteiligung GmbH
• Chairman of Haselsteiner Familien-Privatstiftung since 29th April 2010
• Chairman of the Board of STRABAG SE since June 2010
• Chairman of SIGNA PRIME SELECT since 2012
• Chairman of Cudos since 2013
• Member of the Board of Gabriel Resources since 2010
• Member of the Board of RHI since 2013
• Chairman of the European Board of Equitas Capital since 2011

Languages:
German, English, Spanish, French, Italian

Aleksander Kwasniewski is the former President of the Republic of Poland (1995 – 2005). He was born on the 15th November 1954, in Bialogard, Poland. He participated in the famous “Round-Table” negotiations in Poland that finally brought the peaceful transformation of Poland and the whole Central and Eastern Europe from communism to democracy. He was a co-founding member and first chairman of the Social Democratic Party of the Republic of Poland. He won the presidential elections for the first time in 1995, starting against Lech Walesa. He was co-author of the new democratic Constitution of Poland, which he signed into law on July 16th, 1997.

He was a great advocate of Poland’s membership in both NATO and the European Union. It was under his leadership that Poland finally joined NATO in 1999. He is an active supporter of further alliance enlargement under the “open door” policy. A strong proponent of European integration, Kwasniewski campaigned for approval of the European Union accession treaty in 2003, and saw Poland become a member on May 1, 2004.

On March 7, 2006, Kwasniewski was appointed Distinguished Scholar in the Practice of Global Leadership at Georgetown University, where, as a visiting faculty member, he teaches students in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service about contemporary European politics, the trans-Atlantic relationship and democratization in Central and Eastern Europe. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Crisis Group, member of the Atlantic Council of the United States, member of the Bilderberg Group, Head of the Supervisory Board of the Amicus Europae Foundation in Warsaw and International Center for Political Studies in Kiev, Head of the International Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation, Head of the Board of Yalta European Strategy. Currently, President Kwasniewski co-leads a European Parliament monitoring mission in the Ukraine to monitor the criminal cases against Yulia Tymoshenko, Yurly Lutsenko and Valerly Ivaschenko.
His Excellency Mr. Ricardo Froilán Lagos Escobar  
Former President of Chile

Mr. Ricardo Lagos President of Chile between 2000 and 2006. Prior to becoming president, Mr. Lagos held position within the government as Minister of Education (1990) and Minister of Public Works (1994).

During the 80’s he led the Democratic Alliance and the Independent Committee for Free Elections. He was the founder and first president of the Party for the Democracy.

Lawyer & Phd in Economics at Duke University, he has also received the Honoris Causa from a large number of prestigious universities in the world, such as the Universidad Autónoma de México, Universidad de Salamanca, amongst many others. He was granted the “Berkeley Medal”, top distinction of the Berkeley University in California.

During 8 years (2007-2015) Ricardo Lagos performed as Professor-at-Large at Brown University (United States),

Former President of the Club de Madrid. Mr. Lagos was one of the United Nations’ Special Envoy on Climate Change. He is also President of the Fundación Democracia y Desarrollo in Chile.

Mr. Lagos was born on March 2, 1938. He is married and has 5 children and 8 grandchildren.

His Excellency Mr. Romano Prodi  
Former Prime Minister of Italy and Former President of the European Commission

Romano Prodi was born in Scandiano (Reggio Emilia, Italy) in 1939. He is married with Flavia Franzoni. They have two sons, Giorgio and Antonio.

After graduation at the Faculty of Law of the Catholic University in Milan and at the London School of Economics, his academic career began at the Department of Economics and at the Faculty of Political science of the University of Bologna, where he worked as an assistant professor (1963), associate professor (1966) and lastly full professor (1971-1999) of industrial organisation and industrial policy.

In 1974 he was a visiting professor at Harvard University and at the Stanford Research Institute.

He helped establish the "Italian school of industrial policy", and acted for several years as the editor of its quarterly journal, L'Industria, Rivista di Economia e Politica Industriale.

In 1981 he founded Nomisma, the largest Italian institute of economic studies, whose scientific committee he chaired until 1995.

From November 1978 to March 1979, Romano Prodi was Minister of Industry.

From November 1982 to October 1989, he was chairman and CEO of the Institute for Industrial Reconstruction (IRI), which was the largest Italian public holding.

Recalled to head the Institute in 1993, he saw through the privatization of a number of industrial, banking and service companies.
In February 1995 he founded the "Olive tree" centre-left coalition, which designated him as its candidate for premiership.

The coalition won the 1996 election and, in May 1996, he was appointed Prime Minister. He remained in office until October 1998. The bold measures introduced by his Cabinet enabled Italy to meet the Maastricht criteria for joining the Euro zone.

From 1999 to 2005 he has been President of the European Commission. During his presidency, the euro was successfully introduced, the Union was enlarged to 10 new countries from Central, Eastern and Southern Europe and the treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe was signed.

In 2006 Romano Prodi was elected leader of the centre-left coalition in Italy and after a victory in the 2006 elections he became Prime Minister, until May 8, 2008.

He is, since then, President of the Foundation for Worldwide Cooperation and in July 2008 he has been appointed as Chairman of the United Nations-African Union High-level Panel for Peacekeeping in Africa.

* * * *

From February 2009 to December 2013 he was Professor at-large at Brown University (USA).

From 2010 he is Professor of CEIBS (China Europe International Business School) in Shanghai.

From October 2012 to January 2014 he served as the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel.

During his academic and institutional career, Romano Prodi has been awarded a number of recognitions and he also holds various honorary degrees.
The 10th Vice President of Indonesia from 2004 to 2009 and Chairman of the Golkar Party during the same period and Chairman of Indonesia Red Cross Society, Jusuf Kalla attended Hasanuddin University in Makassar. During his university period, he became active in the Indonesian Student Action Front (KAMI), a student organisation which supported General Suharto in his bid to gain power from President Sukarno. Aside from his business career, Kalla has been active in numerous well-known organisations. He was Chairman of the Indonesian Economics Graduates Association (ISEI) in Makassar (known as Ujung Pandang at the time) and continues to be an adviser for ISEI. Kalla was extensively involved with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN). From 1985 to 1998 he was Chairman for KADIN in South Sulawesi and was coordinator for KADIN in eastern Indonesia. In addition, Kalla is on the board of trustees for three universities in Makassar. Kalla has contributed socially by building the Al Markaz Mosque and become Chairman of its Islamic Centre.

PresidentSusilo Bambang Yudhoyono has recently appointed Kalla as a special envoy to Myanmar to solve the conflict between Buddhists and Islamic Rohingya.

On 20 October 2014 Jusuf Kalla became the 12th Vice President of Indonesia.


He is also President of the Centrist Asia Pacific Democrats International (CAPDI), the first organization in the Asia Pacific, bringing together political parties and the key institutions of democratic civil society, people’s organizations, think tanks, academe, eminent persons, business leaders, media, women and youth groups.

INITIATIVES IN ASIA

- Co-founded the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), composed of more than 40 parliaments in Asia, to create what he envisioned to be the beginnings of an Asian Parliament. He also transferred the APA headquarters from Manila to Tehran to bring APA into an Asia-wide organization, instead of limited to East Asia. De Venecia also served as President of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP), forerunner of APA, and twice President of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIP).

- Initiated and co-founded the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC), with former Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai, composed of former presidents and prime ministers, leaders of parliaments, ministers, diplomats, policy-makers and prominent thinkers. APRC aims to assist governments and organizations in peace-building and conflict resolution in Asia and in various parts of the world.
In the belief that Asia’s future depends on its economic and political integration, JDV has proposed an Asian Parliament, an Asian Monetary Fund, an Asian Anti-Poverty Fund or Asian Micro-Finance Fund, and other modalities of cooperation that he hopes will eventually lead to an Asian Community.

Another JDV international initiative is the Debt-for-Equity Program that the Philippines has proposed to the U.N., the IMF, and the Paris Club (which organizations de Venecia personally addressed) and the G-7 and G-20 nations. The formula empowers the poorest and heavily indebted debtor-countries (102 countries) to divert a percentage of their debt-service payments into anti-poverty programs that offer the prospect of profit, and recently for anti-climate change projects. This is awaiting their consideration.

JDV also initiated the Philippine proposal—which the United Nations has approved and began to carry out—Interfaith Dialogue to help heal politico-religious and cultural schisms in Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, principally those between Islam and the West, to prevent the dreaded “clash of civilizations” and “clash of religions,” following his speeches at the U.N. General Assembly and the U.N. Security Council.

JDV serves as Co-Chairman of the International Ecological Safety Collaborative Organization (IESCO), devoted to fighting climate change and environmental degradation, with offices in Beijing and New York and granted Special Consultative Status at the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

In the early 1990s, Speaker de Venecia reached out to Muslim secessionists (MNLF) in Mindanao, southern Philippines, to mutinous rightist military officers (RAM-YOU) and to the Communist New People’s Army (NPA) insurgents.

He crossed the North African desert twice to meet Libyan Leader Muammar Qaddafi, then-patron of the largest rebel force in Mindanao and the MNLF leader Nur Misuari. The peace agreement with the MNLF was subsequently signed in 1996, following JDV’s offer of a Coalition Agreement with Nur Misuari, who became ARMM governor.

His talks with rightist military officers who launched eight coup attempts between 1987 and 1989 led to a ceasefire in December 1992, a peace agreement with the Government in 1995, and subsequently to an amnesty program initiated by President Fidel Ramos and JDV, approved by Congress for Rightist, Communist, and Muslim rebels.

In 1966, at the age of 29, he was appointed Minister and Economic and Press Counselor of the Philippine Embassy in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) Vietnam, during the Vietnam War.

In 1967, he conceived of and implemented the historic Dollar Remittance Program for the Philippine overseas workers, which now raises more than $20-billion a year, continuously saving the Philippine economy during recurrent crises, from the major 1970 devaluation through the dark years of Martial Law, through the Asian financial crisis, and the impeachment and coup attempts during the Estrada and Arroyo years, and which program has become a model for many Third world countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Turkey, etc., and for which he has received a number of decorations.

For his historic initiative, JDV was given the prestigious Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award from Philippine Jaycees and Philippine Central Bank and other institutions. The BizNews Asia magazine conservatively estimates the program has raised more than US $250-billion since 1968.

From 1986-1987, he briefly served as Ambassador-at-Large under President Corazon Aquino’s administration and returned to Congress with new elections in the restored democracy.

He was first elected congressman in 1969, at the age of 32, but after two years, Congress was abolished by President Marcos under Martial Law. Upon democracy’s return, he ran again in a new congressional seat in Pangasinan (4th District) in 1987 and subsequently became Acting Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee.


Co-founded, with President Fidel Ramos and Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD), which became the ruling party for some 15 years. He was alternately its Secretary General, President, Chairman and Co-Chairman.

Architect of the “Rainbow Coalition” in the House of Representatives, which united the country during the turbulent post-Martial Law years, and which paved the way for the smooth passage of the economic, political and social reform legislation during the Ramos administration, helping create the modest Philippine economic miracle in the Ramos years.
• Ran for president in the 1998 elections. He emerged second in the field of 10 candidates, with President Joseph Estrada as winner. When Estrada went to prison and later pardoned, De Venecia’s running mate, Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, succeeded to the presidency.

LAWMAKER

• JDV was the principal author of the landmark B-O-T (Build-Operate-Transfer) Law, which has become a model for other developing countries and the formula for “Private-Public Partnerships.” In the Philippines the law has made possible private investments and public-private partnerships in infrastructure projects in the 1990s valued in excess of $30 billion as early as the mid-1990’s.

• He authored the Military Bases Conversion Law, which has turned the former American military bases on Luzon Island—the biggest of them being Clark Airfield and Subic Naval Base, including Baguio’s Camp John Hay and La Union’s Camp Wallace and Poro Point—into thriving export zones and free ports. The law which JDV authored included the conversion of Fort Bonifacio into the now successful satellite city and the Resorts World in the old Nichols Air Base.

• He co-authored the law which created the Central Bank of the Philippines—a reform that has strengthened supervision of the country’s financial sector and opened banking to greater competition.
Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr. Syed Hamid Albar began his career in the Judicial and Legal Service as a magistrate in 1970 and was appointed President of the Sessions Court in 1971. He then pursued a career in the financial and banking sector locally and internationally from 1972 to 1986. In the year 1986 to 1990, he became a partner in the law firm of Albar, Zulkifly and Yap. In 1990, he contested and won the Kota Tinggi Parliamentary seat until 2013. Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr. Syed Hamid was in the Cabinet from 1990 to 2009 and held various ministerial positions including Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department and Minister of Law, Minister of Defence, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Home Affairs.

Former Finance Minister of India, Foreign Minister and senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, which formed government after the 2014 Indian general election, Yashwant Sinha received his Master Degree in Political Science in 1958. Subsequently, he taught the subject at the University of Patna until 1960.

He is credited for the reforms and measures that put the Indian economy on the right trajectory. Some of them are lowering of interest rates, introducing tax deductions for mortgage interest, freeing the telecommunications sector, deregulating the petroleum industry and funding the National Highways Authority. He is also credited for breaking the fifty-three year tradition of presenting the Indian budget at five in the evening.

Yashwant Sinha is also remembered for his active role in international negotiations and social and political delegations.
His Excellency Dr. Hassan Wirajuda
Advisor to the President and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia

An Indonesian politician who was the Foreign Minister of Indonesia from 2001 to 2009, he served during the presidencies of Megawati Sukarnoputri and Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Hassan Wirajuda earned a Doctor of Juridical Science in International Law from the University of Virginia School of Law, a Master of Law (LL.M) from Harvard University School of Law, and a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy (MALD) from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He also graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Indonesia, later he spent a year at University of Oxford University in the United Kingdom earning a Certificate in Diplomacy.

Hassan Wirajuda has held several important posts including Director-General of Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Egypt, and Director of International Organisations of the Department of Foreign Affairs. During his diplomatic career, he initiated and also assisted the establishment of the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM).


In 1999, Hassan Wirajuda was also tasked by the Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid to initiate the dialogue between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement.

Her Excellency Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi
Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan from 2002 to 2004 and Minister of the Environment from 2000 to 2002.

Yoriko Kawaguchi also served as Special Advisor on Foreign Policy to Prime Minister Koizumi (2004 to 2005) and was a member of the House of Councilors (Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, 2005 to 2013).

Currently, she is Professor at the Meiji Institute for Global Affairs of Meiji University and active in foreign policy and environment fields.

She has broad professional experiences. She started her career at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan. She had also served as an economist at the World Bank and as Minister at the Embassy of Japan in Washington DC.

She has been very active internationally. She has served as the Co-Chair of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, Commissioner of the Global Ocean Commission, and Chairperson of the Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development Phase II (APFED II). She is a trustee of many foundations, such as the United States-Japan Foundation.

She is a graduate of the University of Tokyo (BA in International Relations) and Yale University (M.Phil. in Economics).
A senior Chinese diplomat and an expert in international affairs, currently a member of the standing committee of the 11th National People’s Congress (NPC), Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the NPC, member of the 16th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Honourable President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs, and President of China Association for International Friendly Contact. Li Zhaoxing graduated with honours from the prestigious Beijing University with a major in Western Languages and Literature. He later obtained his MA at Beijing Foreign Studies University, formerly known as Beijing Foreign Languages Institute, a cradle of Chinese diplomats.

He began his diplomatic career in Africa in the 1970s, where he first served as staff member and attaché of the Chinese Embassy in Kenya. Positions he has served in since then included staff member, Deputy Division Chief, Deputy Director General and Director General of the Department of Information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Assistant to the Foreign Minister, Deputy Foreign Minister, China’s Permanent Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Nations, and the Chinese Ambassador to the US. In 2003, he was sworn in as the ninth Foreign Minister of the country.

Li Zhaoxing has made huge contributions to the expansion and the development of the country’s diplomatic affairs. His talents were manifested notably in his service as the Chinese Ambassador to the US. In face of the crisis evoked in 1999 as a result of the NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, Li endeavoured to keep US-China relations on track and move to steady improvement and development. On January 29th, 2001, the last day of his term in the position, the Mayor of Washington DC announced that day as “Li Zhaoxing’s Day” to recognise his contributions to the US-China relations. Four years later, he received the Chilean Neruda Presidential Medal from the Chinese Ambassador to China, on the 100th birthday of Pablo Neruda, a renowned Chilean poet and a Nobel Prize Winner.

Mr. Yu is a senior adviser of Kim & Chang Law Office and also teaches at Sejong University as a chair professor. He retired in September of 2010 after 37 years of distinguished service with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade where he served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 2008-2010.

He started his foreign service in Japan in 1976 as a young diplomat and returned as Ambassador to Japan in March 2007. There he advised on various political and economic issues concerning both the private and public sector with a view to revamp bilateral relations until he left to join the Lee Myung Bak administration as a cabinet minister in February of 2008.

Mr. Yu’s experience extends across a broad range of issues in the field of international relations including security issues, relations with the US, and nuclear negotiations with North Korea. He has served as Political Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Korean Embassy in the United States respectively in the 1980s and 1990s and also served as Minister of the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

Mr. Yu also served as Ambassador for Anti-Terrorism and Afghanistan Issues, served as Ambassador to the State of Israel in 2002 and then transferred to the Philippines in 2004. He was appointed to 2nd Vice Minister in July 2005 and later he served as 1st Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade until December 2006.

Mr. Yu graduated from Seoul National University (B.A 1970) and also studied at the Hague Institute for Social Sciences (Diploma 1974). He was awarded the Order of Service Merit, Red Stripes in 1996 and the Grand Cross of the Order of Sikatuna in 2005 from the Government of the Philippines.
The Honourable Mr. Jose Isidro Camacho
Former Secretary for Finance of the Philippines

Having served in the cabinet of President Arroyo as Secretary of Energy and later Secretary of Finance, he is currently Vice Chairman of Credit Suisse, based in Singapore.

Jose Camacho obtained his Bachelor’s degree in mathematics (cum laude) from De La Salle University in 1975. He received his MBA with concentration in Finance from Harvard University in 1979.

He joined Credit Suisse in March 2005 after a distinguished career in government and international banking. He was appointed Secretary of Finance for the Philippines in 2001, a position he held until November 2003. As Secretary of Finance, Mr. Camacho led the country’s economic team and supervised the fiscal and financial sectors. Before that, Mr. Camacho was the Secretary of Energy for the Philippines where he was credited with the successful passage of the country’s power sector reform legislation.

Prior to joining the government, Jose Camacho was a Managing Director and Chief Country Officer at Deutsche Bank, AG in Manila. Before that, he worked for Bankers Trust Company for over twenty years in New York, Japan, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Singapore. He then became the Managing Director of Bankers Trust Company in 1990 and obtained Partner status in 1996.

He is currently a board member of the National Heritage Board (Singapore), an adviser to Singapore Institute of International Affairs, a member of the Group of Experts of the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum, a member of the Securities Industry Council (Singapore), and a member of the International Advisory Panel of the Securities Commission (Malaysia). He is also the Non-Executive Chairman of Sun Life of Canada (Philippines).

Obtained his Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) from King’s College, Cambridge University, UK in 1965 and Doctorate (D. Phil) from St. Antony’s College, Oxford University, UK in 1969. He then joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and enjoyed a long diplomatic career starting as First Secretary at the Royal Thai Embassy, Jakarta, rising over the years to be Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China (also accredited to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea), France and the United States of America. He has also been Thailand’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva as well as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Paris. He was Thailand’s Foreign Minister from July to September 2008. Dr. Tej Bunnag also served as Advisor to the Office of His Majesty’s Principal Private Secretary from 2004 to 2008.

In 1992 he was made Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant; and in 2004 Knight Commander (Second Class, lower grade) of the Most Illustrious Order of Chula Chom Kla.

Dr. Tej Bunnag also serves as Chairman of the Study and Research Committee of the Thai-Lao Joint Commission, Honorary Advisor to the Mekong Institute Council, and Chairman of the Honorary Advisory Committee of the Thai-Cambodia Friendship Association. In 2011, he received an Honorary Doctorate from Hua Chiao University, Xiamen, Fujian, People’s Republic of China. Currently he holds the position of Assistant Secretary-General for Administration, the Thai Red Cross Society.
His Excellency Mr. Weerasak Kowsurat  
Former Minister of Tourism and Sports of Thailand

Former Chairman of the Board of Sports Authority of Thailand and also Chairman of the Board of Tourism Authority of Thailand. His political experience includes Deputy Leader of the Chartthai Political Party, Vice Minister for Culture and Vice Minister for Social Development and Human Security. He once served as Deputy Secretary-General to the Prime Minister in International Affairs. Twice elected Member of the Thai Parliament, he was recorded as the youngest Secretary to the President of the Thai National Assembly and ex-officio Speaker of the Senate and Chairman of the Constitution Tribunal at the age of 24.

Received an honour when he finished his Law degree (LL.B.) from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Weerasak later graduated with a master’s degree of law (LL.M.) from Harvard Law School in the US. Voted Man of the Year in 2004 by the Gender Equality Promotion Association and received an Executive Award from UNIFEM for promoting the campaign to stop violence against Women & Children In the same year, Weerasak was also announced Child Rights Protection Goodwill Ambassador by the Thai NGOs on Children Protection Network.

Weerasak had also been Executive Director of the International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD), a public organisation jointly established by UNCTAD and the Royal Thai Government.

At present, Weerasak is the Secretary-General for the Federation of Thai Film, Motion Pictures and Contents Association. He also serves as Chairman, Board Member and Advisor to Boards of Directors of many corporations such as the International Law Office Finance and Securities Company, automobile makers, oil and gas flow technology service providers, etc.

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Dr. Sorajak Kasemsuvan  
Former Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand

Dr. Sorajak Kasemsuvan holds an LL.M. degree from the University College, University of London, and a Ph.D. in International Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science. After his graduation, he began his career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and subsequently joined the Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University. He won a selection process to become Director-General of the Mass Communication Organization of Thailand (MCOT) between 1999 - 2002, a state enterprise that runs national TV and radio station nation-wide, where 10 years later he returned as its Chairman in 2012. He served as Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Vice Minister for Culture and for the Prime Minister’s Office during 2002-2006.

Between 2007-2009, Dr. Sorajak was Executive Director of the International Institute for Trade and Development (ITD), a public organization jointly established by UNCTAD and the Thai Government.

For his academic career, he has taught International Air Law and International Law for Natural Resources since 1995, served as Dean of the Law School of Assumption University and was appointed President of Stamford University.

He became President of Thai Airways International Public Company Limited between October 2012 - December 2013.
Professor Dr. David Kennedy
Director of the Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP), Harvard Law School

An American academic and legal scholar known for his work on, and criticism of, International Law, Professor Dr. David Kennedy holds an appointment as Vice President International Affairs at Brown University, and the endowed chair as David and Marianna Fisher University Professor of International Relations.

Professor Dr. David Kennedy was formerly the Manley Hudson Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and director of its European Law Research Center. He also served as the Director of Brown’s Watson Institute for International Studies where he inaugurated BIARI, an interdisciplinary workshop that focused on contemporary issues in global governance. After serving at Brown, he returned to Harvard Law School and currently serves as the Director of the newly formed Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP).

Professor Dr. David Kennedy obtained his B.A. from Brown, graduating cum laude. In 1979 he completed a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. He then attended Harvard Law School to be awarded his J.D. (magna cum laude), after which he was admitted to the Bar in the District of Columbia. Later, he returned to the Fletcher school to complete his doctoral studies, where he obtained a Ph.D. in international law and organisations, law and economic development.

He has worked for the United Nations, the European Commission and in private practice. He is also a member of Council on Foreign Relations, a position held since 2003.

Mr. Juha Christensen
Director of Peace Architecture and Conflict Transformation Alliance (PACTA) Finland

A Finnish businessman and researcher, mainly works in Aceh, Indonesia, as Director of PACTA (Peace Architecture and Conflict Transformation Alliance), a non-governmental organisation focusing on the transformation of conflict into peace; committed to advancing international and national conflict resolution and reconciliation with a view to alleviate suffering, poverty and distress and building social cohesion and trust within and between communities.

Juha Christensen has been involved in the Aceh peace process since the very inception of the preparatory phase in 2000 laying the grounds for the Helsinki talks in 2005. i.e., urging the negotiations which resulted in the parties signing a memorandum of understanding in August 2005. He has worked closely in the mediation and follow up process together with Martti Ahtisaari, former President of Finland and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Later appointed by Ahtisaari, Juha Christensen served as a special adviser to the Head of the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) in Aceh. After the AMM had finished its work, he has been directing the peace-building program in Aceh and promoting lessons learnt from the Aceh peace process. He continued to monitor the peace through the Interpeace Institution, an international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland. One of the NGO’s duties was to monitor the implementation of the Aceh Government Law, a special law for the province.
NEWS AND PHOTOS OF APRC ACTIVITIES

H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn giving an audience to the APRC Council Members on 5 September 2012, the day of the inauguration of APRC
New peace council prefers silent tactics

Former Asian leaders among group’s founders

As a new international organization that promotes peace and reconciliation in the region, the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC) was launched in September 2012. The council was established by a group of former Asian leaders, including former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, former Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, and former Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

The APRC aims to address conflict and promote peace in the region through dialogue and mediation. The council’s founders believe that silent diplomacy is a more effective approach to resolving conflicts.

Asian peace and reconciliation council takes off

(Bangkok, Sep 5, 2012) The Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC) has been set up as a non-governmental organization in resolving conflicts in the region through silent diplomacy and building-the-trust approach.

Former Thai deputy prime minister Surin Pitsuwan, who chaired the preparatory meeting of the council last week, said the APRC aimed to create a network of experienced leaders from within and outside of Asia, whose expertise and experiences could help promoting peace and reconciliation in the region.

Asian councils are a platform where creative thinkers could be shared, research unfunded, and experts deployed to assist in peace dialogue and peace building process, conflict resolution and reconciliation.

"APRC will exhibit a non-interference principle and operate only upon request of parties in the conflict, be they governments or local communities. "Silent diplomacy will be used, in which negotiation and coordination will be done in confidence," he said a peace conference here.
Former statesmen to announce new body, seeking to reduce conflict, today

Former statesmen to announce new body, seeking to reduce conflict, today

A sian statesmen and leading international public policy figures will announce a historic plan in Bangkok today to set up an Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council. The body is intended to help regional peace efforts in a fast-moving and more complex world.

The statesmen are scheduled to announce the formation of the peace council after reiterating their consensus on the virtues of the organisation at a roundtable talk with Nation editor-in-chief Suthisirin Yum, at the proposed Asian Peace Reconciliation Council could resolve.

"The biggest contribution of the APRC is the members' timeliness, and a sense of purpose," Sakhrat said.

Shanbatu Aziz, former prime minister of Pakistan, described Asia as opportunities and growth. In peace was a key ingredient if it achieve its great potential.

"We want to be seen as a catalyst promoting peace and reconciliation. Asia is land of opportunities and growth. The key ingredient is peace and stability. Peace is a key element, for development and movement," he said.

Jose Ramos-Horta, former president of East Timor, said a body APRC would come in to help reduce tension during the political crisis in his homeland.

David Kennedy, a professor and director of Harvard Law School's Asian 21st Century Institute, said: "The value added by this is the fact it is devoted to Asia. The very few such groups with an Asia-wide focus that is composed of states with great governments and success stories. It's not positioned in an NGO or think tank."

"The relationship with the UN might be equal to a (policy) group like this can add to the UN."

Dr Alfred Gusenbauer, former chancellor of Austria, said if you are trying to put this nation in a box, nobody is excluding his wisdom.

Prof Shunmugam Anjugumal held several key Cabinet posts in Singapore, said the council would low-key yet determined steps solve conflicts and restore because "bamboo" success of development.

An NGO or think tank must be added.

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De Venecia leads new group for Asia peace

De Venecia leads new group for Asia peace | Inquirer Editorial

De Venecia urges Philippines and China to do more

At the same time, De Venecia urged Philippines and China to do more to resolve the territorial dispute in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

"It is perhaps the most pressing security issue to end the tension and facilitate the Philippines-China dialogue," he said, as both countries continued to square off in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

De Venecia is an international envoy and public figure who has been actively involved in promoting peace and reconciliation in Asia. His efforts have helped to strengthen diplomatic relationships and foster greater cooperation between countries in the region.
Ambassadorial Briefing on 23 January 2013 at the ASEAN Auditorium, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Courtesy Call on H.E. U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 28 January 2013 at the Presidential Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Visit of H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, to Beijing, the People's Republic of China (23 - 25 April 2013).

Seminar with Chinese experts and scholars at the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) on 24 April 2013 at CPIFA, Beijing, the People's Republic of China.

Courtesy Call on H.E. Mr. Yang Jiechi, State Councilor of the People's Republic of China, at Zhongnanhai, Beijing, the People's Republic of China on 25 April 2013.
H.E. Mr. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China receives the APRC delegation on 1 May 2013 at Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

Courtesy call on H.E. Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste during the 12th IISS Asia Security Summit: The Shangri-La Dialogue on 1 June 2013 at the Regent Hotel, Singapore.
From left, H.E. Professor Dr. Sarakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, H.E. Mr. Li Zhaoxing, Council Member of APRC, H.E. Mr. Shaukat Aziz, Vice Chairman of APRC, H.E. Mr. William Cohen, Former US. Secretary of Defense and General Joseph W. Ralston, Former NATO Supreme Commander, during the 12th IISS Asia Security Summit : The Shangri-La Dialogue on 1 June 2013 at The Regent Hotel, Singapore.

Courtesy Call on H.E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore on 3 June 2013 at the Istana (Government House), Singapore.

Courtesy Call on H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam and H.E. Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam on 25 June 2013 at The Plaza Athénée Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

Courtesy Call on H.E. Mr. Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines on 5 July 2013 at the Music Room, Malacañan Palace, the Philippines.
Courtesy Call on H.E. Mr. Wang Yi
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
on 2 August 2013 at the Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

Courtesy Call on H.E. Dato' Sri Najib Razak,
Prime Minister of Malaysia on 3 September 2013 in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

Courtesy Call on H.E. Dato' Sri Najib Razak,
Prime Minister of Malaysia on 3 September 2013 in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

to discuss methods to reduce tensions in Southeast Asia.
Courtesy Call on H.E. Erlan Idrissov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan on 10 September 2013 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Astana, Kazakhstan.

Meeting among Council Members of APRC on 10 September 2013 at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Astana.

From left H.E. Mr. Weerasak Kowsurat, Council Member of APRC, H.E. Professor Romano Prodi, Council Member of APRC, H.E. Dr. Alfred Gusenbauer, Vice-Chairman of APRC, H.E. Dr. Alexander Kwansniewski, Council Member and Mr. Juha Christensen, APRC Council Member.
Courtesy Call on H.E. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia on 20 September 2013 at the Office of the Council of Ministers, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Third from left H.E. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, Ambassador Virasakdi Futrakul, former Secretary-General of APRC and Ambassador Kobsak Chutikul, Secretary-General of APRC.

Dinner in honor of H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, and H.E. Mr. George Yeo, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore hosted by H.E. Hor Nam Hong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia, on 19 September 2013 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, giving a Luncheon Address on “The Transformation of the South China Sea of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation” at a Regional Conference on “ASEAN and the South China Sea: Achievement, Challenges and Future Direction” organized by the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace on 19-20 September 2013 at the Raffles Le Royal Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

A bilateral Meeting with H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN at the sideline of the Regional Conference.

From left Ambassador Virasakdi Futrakul, former Secretary-General of APRC Secretariat, H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, and Ambassador Kobsak Chutikul, Secretary-General of APRC.
His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives in audience H.E. Tun Abdullah Badawi, former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Vice Chairman of APRC as leader of the APRC delegation on 14 October 2013 at the Istana Nurul Iman, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

Present in the audience are Vice Chairman of APRC, H.E. Tun Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, H.E. Mr. Shaukat Aziz, Council members, H.E. Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Syed Hamid Albar, H.E. Mr. Weerasak Kowsurat, Mr. Juha Christensen, former Secretary-General of APRC, Ambassador Virasakdi Futrakul and Ambassador Kobsak Chutikul, Secretary-General of APRC.

A group photograph with His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
Dialogue on Diversity, Diplomacy and Peace organized by APRC and ISIS Malaysia on 11 November 2013 in Putrajaya, Malaysia in conjunction with the First Annual Meeting of the APRC.
Keynote speech by H.E. Dato' Sri Najib Razak

Group photo of APRC Sponsors with H.E. Dato' Sri Najib Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia.
The First Annual Meeting of the APRC on 11-12 November 2013 in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

A dinner cruise in Putrajaya hosted by H.E. Tun Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, former Prime Minister of Malaysia and Vice Chairman of APRC during the First APRC Annual Meeting in Putrajaya, Malaysia.
A Retreat as part of the First APRC Annual Meeting

H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC is invited by President Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States of America and President of the Carter Center, to co-chair the Center’s observer mission for Nepal’s Constituent Assembly Elections on 16-21 November 2013. Ambassador Kobsak Chutikul, Secretary-General of APRC, accompanied the Chairman.
H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC welcomed H.E. Jose Manuel Ramos-Horta, Vice Chairman of APRC, former President of Timor-Leste and Nobel Peace Laureate on 20 December 2013 at Tonson Residence in Bangkok, Thailand.

H.E. Mr. Yashwant Sinha, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of India visits Bangkok on 6-8 January 2014.

H.E. Mr. Weerasak Kowsurat, Council Member of APRC meets with H.E. Mr. Somsavath Lengsavath, Deputy Prime Minister of the Lao PDR and H.E. Mr. Somdy Douangdy, Minister of Planning and Investment in Vientiane on 15 January 2014 to brief them on the progress of APRC activities.

H.E. Mr. Weerasak Kowsurat, Council Member of APRC meets with H.E. Mr. Somsavath Lengsavath, Deputy Prime Minister of the Lao PDR and H.E. Mr. Somdy Douangdy, Minister of Planning and Investment in Vientiane on 15 January 2014 to brief them on the progress of APRC activities.
H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC and his wife Thanpuying Dr. Suthawan Sathirathai welcome H.E. Dr. Alfred Gusenbauer, Vice Chairman of APRC and his wife at Sripanwa, Phuket, Thailand on 23 January 2014.

From left Ambassador Kobsak Chutikul, Secretary-General of APRC, Dr. Sorajjak Kasemsuvan, former Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC and his wife Thanpuying Dr. Suthawan Sathirathai, H.E. Ning Fukui, Ambassador of China to Thailand and his wife, H.E. Mr. Weerasak Kohsurat, former Minister of Tourism and Sports of Thailand and Mr. Zhang Yiming, attending a dinner on 1 March 2014 at the residence of H.E. Ning Fukui in Bangkok, Thailand.

Ambassador Kobsak Chutikul, Secretary-General of APRC meets with WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo in Geneva, 17 March 2014.

Ambassador Kobsak Chutikul, Secretary-General of APRC meets Mr. Michael Vatikiotis, Director of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre) in Geneva, 18 March 2014 to exchange views on peace and reconciliation in Asia.
H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC along with H.E. Jose Isidro Camacho, Council Member of APRC and current Vice-Chairman Asia Pacific of Credit Suisse, hold meeting with H.E. Yoshihiko Noda, former Prime Minister of Japan, (above) and H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (below) on the sidelines of Credit Suisse’s 17th Asian Investment Conference (AIC) on 24-27 March 2014 at the Conrad Hotel, Hong Kong.

H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC participates in the 2014 Boao Forum and delivers a speech at a panel session entitled "Reviving the Silk Road: A Dialogue with Asian Leaders," in Hainan, People’s Republic of China on 10 April 2014. The other panelists were H.E. Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of the Lao PDR; H.E. Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste; H.E. Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan, and H.E. Yang Jiechi, State Councillor of the People’s Republic of China.

H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart is also invited to deliver a speech at a closed session on “South China Sea: Seeking Win-Win and Cooperation” on 11 April 2014.

Courtesy Call on H.E. Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste on 11 April 2014 at Boao Forum for Asia, Hainan, the People’s Republic of China.
A meeting with H.E. Dominique de Villepin, former Prime Minister of France on 11 April 2014 at the Boao Forum for Asia in Hainan, the People's Republic of China.

Courtesy Call on H.E. Bob Hawke, former Prime Minister of Australia on 11 April 2014 at the Boao Forum for Asia, Hainan, the People's Republic of China.

An APRC Inter-Sessional Meeting on 16 June 2014, in Warsaw, Poland, hosted by H.E. Dr. Aleksander Kwaśniewski, former President of Poland. The meeting is attended by Council Members, from left Dr. Sorajak Kasemsuvan, H.E. Weerasak Kowsurat, H.E. Dr. Aleksander Kwaśniewski, H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, H.E. Mr. Shaukat Aziz, Vice Chairman of APRC, Mr. Juha Christensen, Council Member of APRC, H.E. Dr. Alfred Gusenbauer, Vice Chairman of APRC and H.E. Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Council Member of APRC.
In the course of the Inter-Sessional Meeting in Warsaw, the APRC delegation calls on Mr. Jerzy Jan Wenderlich, Acting Marshal of the Sejm (Acting President of the Senate as acting President of Poland), and Mr. Artur Norwak-Far, Acting Foreign Minister and Undersecretary of State of Poland.

Courtesy Call on H.E. U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 4 July 2014 at the Presidential Office in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Roundtable on Functional Cooperation in the South China Sea organized by the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC) in collaboration with the Saranrom Institution of Foreign Affairs Foundation (SIFAF) and Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (Myanmar ISIS) on 3-4 July 2014 at Myanmar ISIS in Yangon, Myanmar.
On 8 July 2014, H.E. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, hosts lunch in honour of H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC at the Diplomat Club, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing, the People's Republic of China. The Chairman takes this opportunity to brief on the results of the Roundtable on "Functional Cooperation in the South China Sea," is previously held in Yangon, Myanmar, during 3-4 July 2014 and further discuss possible cooperation to ease tensions in the area.

On 10 July 2014, H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, pays a courtesy call on H.E. Li Yuan Chao, Vice President of the People's Republic of China while attending the Eco-Forum Global Annual Conference Guiyang 2014 in Guiyang, the capital city of Guizhou Province.
On 10 July 2014, H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, pays a courtesy call on H.E. Dai Bing Guo, former State Councillor of the People's Republic of China while attending the Eco-Forum Global Annual Conference Guiyang 2014 in Guiyang, the capital city of Guizhou Province.

Courtesy call on H.E. Uong Chu Luu, Vice Chairman of the National Assembly and Chairman of Vietnam Peace Committee on 13 August 2014 at the Office of the National Assembly, Hanoi, Vietnam.

Courtesy call on H.E. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam on 13 August 2014 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hanoi, Vietnam.
H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC is invited as a special guest of H.E. Karim Massimov, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan and Council Member of APRC, on 4 September 2014 to participate in an International Conference on Kazakhstan’s role in the Globalizing World: Trade and Investments, in Astana, and to brief on the current South China Sea issues.

Courtesy Call on H.E. Thongsing Thamavong, Prime Minister of Lao PDR: H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC leading the APRC delegation, consisting of H.E. Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Vice Chairman of APRC and Dr. Sorajak Kasemsuvan, Council Member of APRC, on 21 October 2014 to Vientiane, Lao PDR.
Courtesy Call on H.E. Kasiviswanathan Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Law and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore on 6 November 2014 to discuss the South China Sea issue at the Ministry of Law, Singapore.

A meeting with H.E. Shunmugam Jayakumar, Council Member of APRC and former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, on 5 November 2014 at the Intercontinental Hotel, Singapore.
Public Forum on Maritime Cooperation in East Asia: Opportunities and Challenges, pressed over by Vice President Jusuf Kalla at the Auditorium of the Vice President, Jakarta, 2 December 2014, on the occasion of the 2nd APRC Annual Meeting.

Public Forum on Maritime Cooperation in East Asia: Opportunities and Challenges, Panelists, (from left to right) H.E. Professor Rokhmin Dahuri Ph.D, former Minister for Marine and Fisheries of Indonesia, H.E. Dr. N. Hassan Wirajuda, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Council Member of APRC, Professor Dewi Fortuna Anwar, Deputy Secretary for Political Affairs to the Vice-President of Indonesia and H.E. Professor Dr.Hasjim Djalal, former diplomat and prominent Indonesian legal expert on the law of the sea.

Courtesy Call on President Joko Widodo on 1 December 2014 at the Presidential Palace, Jakarta, Indonesia.
H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC leads a delegation consisting of Ambassador Kobsak Chutikul, Secretary-General of APRC, Professor David Kennedy, Council Member of APRC, H.E. Tan Sri Syed Hamid Albar, Chairman of the Executive Board and Council Member of APRC, and H.E. Weerasak Kowsurat, Council Member of APRC, to call on H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations on 10 March 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York City, United States of America.

Plaque Presentation to H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on 10 March 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York City, United States of America.

H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, APRC leads a delegation consisting of Ambassador Kobsak Chutikul, Secretary-General of APRC, H.E. Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Syed Hamid Albar, Chairman of the Executive Board and Council Member of APRC and Professor Dr. David Kennedy, Council Member of APRC, meet with H.E. Henry Kissinger, former US Secretary of State on 11 March 2015 in New York City, United States of America.
H.E. Mr. Guan Mu, former Ambassador to Thailand is accompanied by H.E. Mr. Peng Keyu, former Consul-General to New York and Vice President of CPIFA, Mr. Qi Jianguo, former Ambassador to Vietnam, Mr. Pan Guangxue, former Ambassador to Laos, Ms Shen Jun (Director of CPIFA), Ms. Hong Shuzhan (staff of CPIFA) pay a courtesy call on H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC on 23 March 2015 at Tonson Residence, Bangkok, Thailand.

Group Photo with Professor Tsuneo Nishida, Director of Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University on 23 March 2015 at Tonson Residence, Bangkok, Thailand.
An informal meeting between H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, and Vice Chairman of APRC H.E. Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, former Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Shaukat Aziz, former Prime Minister of Pakistan and H.E. Li Zhaoxiong, Council Members of APRC and former Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, on 27 March 2015, on the sidelines of Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference, Hainan Province, China.

H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC and H.E. Shaukat Aziz, Vice Chairman of APRC and former Prime Minister of Pakistan call on H.E. Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan, on 27 March 2015, Boao, Hainan Province, People's Republic of China.

H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC and H.E. Shaukat Aziz, Vice Chairman of APRC and former Prime Minister of Pakistan call on H.E. Zeng Peiyan, former Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China, on 27 March 2015, Hainan, the People's Republic of China.
Boao Forum For Asia, Annual Conference,
26-29 March 2015, Boao, Hainan Province, the People’s Republic of China.

H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC meets with Mr. Ratan Tata, Chairman of Tata Trusts, on 27 March 2015, in Boao, Hainan Province, the People’s Republic of China.

H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC as Member of the Board of Directors of Boao Forum for Asia, calls upon H.E. President Xi Jinping of the People’s Republic of China on 29 March 2015, in Boao, Hainan, the People’s Republic of China.
H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC meets with H.E. Mr. Yang Wenchang, President of Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), Mr. Peng Keyu, Vice President of CPIFA, Dr. Sorajak Kasemsuwan, Council Member of APRC and Ambassador Kobsak Chutikul, Secretary-General of APRC at CPIFA, the People’s Republic of China.

Courtesy call on H.E. You Quan, Secretary of the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee on 17 May 2015 at the State Guesthouse, Fuzhou, Fujian Province, the People’s Republic of China. Present are H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, Mr. Ye Shuangyu, Member of the Standing Committee and Secretary General, the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee, Mr. Zheng Xiaosong, Vice Governor of Fujian. A welcome dinner followed at the State Guesthouse, Fuzhou, Fujian Province, the People’s Republic of China.
H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, delivering a Keynote Speech on 21 May 2015, for 2015 Boao Youth Forum for Asia (Hong Kong) “Asia in Restructuring: Vision and Action of Youth” at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center co-organized by Boao Forum for Asia and the Y. Elites Association Limited.

Courtesy Call on H.E. Hassan Lahdan Saqr Al-Mohannadi, Minister of Justice of Qatar at The Plaza Athénée Bangkok, A Royal Méridien Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand on 4 June 2015.
On 27 July 2015, H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC has a meeting with H.E. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan to discuss the tensions in the South China Sea and Sea of Japan (East Sea) at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, Japan.

On 27 July 2015, H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC has a meeting with H.E. Yoriko Kawaguchi, Council Member of APRC to discuss many APRC issues at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, Japan.

On 28 July 2015, H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC is invited to give a Keynote Speech on the "Challenges to Global Peace and the Hiroshima Legacy" at the 2015 International Symposium held by the Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University at the International Conference Hall, Hiroshima, Japan.
H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, calls on H.E. Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on 5 October 2015 in Seoul.

H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, meets with H.E. Yu Myung Hwan, Council Member of APRC and former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea on 5 October 2015 in Seoul to discuss the upcoming APRC Annual Meeting. At far left is Ambassador Kobsak Chutikul, Secretary-General of APRC.

H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of APRC, addresses the International Conference on ASEAN’s Multilateral Cooperation and Its Lessons for NAPCI held on 5 October 2015, in Seoul.

On 27-28 October 2015, Chairman of the APRC, H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, was invited to attend the Club de Madrid/ICSR policy Dialogue "Madrid+10: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism" organized by the World Leadership Alliance Club de Madrid, in Madrid, Spain. On this occasion, the Chairman took the opportunity to meet with APRC Council Members and several former Heads of State and Heads of Government such as H.E. Viara Vike-Freiberga, President of the Club de Madrid, former President of Latvia; H.E. Ricardo Lagos, APRC Council Member, former President of Chile; H.E. Alejandro Toledo, former President of Peru; H.E. Dr. Alfred Gusenbauer, APRC Council Member and former Chancellor of Austria; H.E. Kjell Magne Bondevik, former Prime Minister of Norway; H.E. Jigme Yose Thinley, former Prime Minister of Bhutan and H.E. Hassan Wirajuda, APRC Council Member and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia.
H.E. Alejandro Toledo, former President of Peru.

H.E. Alfred Gusenbauer, APRC Council Member, former Chancellor of Austria.

H.E. Kjell Magne Bondevik, former Prime Minister of Norway.

H.E. Ricardo Lagos, APRC Council Member, former President of Chile.
H.E. Jigme Yose Thinley, former Prime Minister of Bhutan.

H.E. Hassan Wirajuda, APRC Council Member, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia.

APRC Chairman H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai addresses on the First Annual IKEDA Peace and Harmony Lecture “The Continuing Challenges to Peace” held in Singapore on 6 November 2015. Organized by Wee Kim Wee Centre, SMU Generously supported by Singapore SOKA Association (SSA)
On behalf of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council or APRC, I wish to express our
sincere thanks and deep appreciation to Your Excellencies and distinguished guests for
honouring APRC with your presence here today. Let me also express deep appreciation to
APRC Council Members, H.E. Jusuf Kalla and H.E. Dr. Hassan Wirajuda for kindly hosting the
venue for this Ambassadorial Briefing today.

APRC was founded in Bangkok, Thailand, on 5th September 2012 by a group of world
statesmen and former policy makers consisting mainly of former Heads of State, Heads of
Government, Cabinet Ministers such as Foreign and Finance Ministers, businessmen, as well as
distinguished academics and peace experts, some of whom are still serving in their respective
governments. The list of these Founders appear in the distributed documents. Some of
the Founding Members are here this morning. I would like to introduce them as follow H.E. Tun
Abdullah Badawi former Prime Minister of Malaysia and Vice Chairman of APRC, H.E. Shaukat
Aziz former Prime Minister of Pakistan and Vice Chairman of APRC, H.E. Jusuf Kalla former
Vice president of Indonesia, H.E. Dr. Hassan Wirajuda former Minister of Foreign Affairs and at
present Adviser to the President of Indonesia, H.E. Professor Shunmugam Jayakumar former
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senior Minister of Singapore, H.E.
Tan Sri Dato Seri Syed Hamid Albar Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Former Minister of
Home Affairs of Malaysia, Hon. Jose Isidro Camacho, Former Secretary for Finance of the
Philippines and at present Vice Chairman of Credit Suisse Asia-Pacific, H.E. Weerasak Kowsurat
Former Minister of Tourism and Sport of Thailand, H.E. Dr. Tej Bunnag, Former Minister of
Foreign Affairs of Thailand and at present Assistant Secretary-General to the Thai Red Cross
Society, Mr. Juha Christensen, Director of Peace Architecture and Conflict Transformation
Alliance (PACTA), Finland and H.E. Ambassador Virasakdi Futrakul, the Secretary-General of
the APRC who is former Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. The
meeting in September agreed for APRC to have its Secretariat established in Thailand by the end
of 2012. I am glad to inform the audience that since December 2012, the Secretariat has been
established at Eastern Asia University in nearby Bangkok.
The purpose of APRC is to be an Asian mechanism for regional peace and reconciliation. The aim of APRC is to mobilise the collective wisdom and experience of Asian statesmen and experts to facilitate the process of seeking to reduce regional or domestic tension and assist the peaceful solution to regional or domestic conflicts as the case may be, thereby fostering a peaceful regional environment in Asia conducive to the expansion of political and economic cooperation.

Towards this goal, APRC is in the process of creating a network of experienced individuals from within and outside of Asia, whose expertise and connections can help to promote peace dialogue and reconciliation, and reduce tension arising from conflicts in the region. APRC will be a platform where collective expertise can be shared, research funded and experts deployed to assist in peace dialogue, peace building process, conflict management and reconciliation upon request of governments and communities facing political, social, cultural and religious conflicts or facing tensions in bilateral relations. APRC’s operations will be complementary to the work of the United Nations and directly supportive of ASEAN and other Asian regional processes. APRC’s activities will be guided by its Founding Members, who are now Council Members with their vast background in public administration, diplomacy and finance, acting now not as officials or citizens of their respective countries, not of any political parties, but as Global Citizens, as Asian Citizens, working together for the common good of Asia.

APRC is therefore unique because, first, Council Members have a wealth of knowledge and experience not only in promoting peace but also in bureaucracy, interstate relations, social and political realities and constraints in decision making processes. Second, Members, because of their diverse backgrounds, have had relations and comfort level with parties to the conflicts at different levels. Third, under APRC, Council Members will put their resources together and act collectively. Such synergy will create a great potential to contribute to reducing tension and creating peace dialogue. Their expertise and experiences can help governments, societies, communities to reach a peaceful resolution of conflicts.

In its operations, APRC will uphold a non-intervention principle and operate only upon request of parties to the conflict, be those of governments or local communities. Equally important is that, silent diplomacy will be the core principle in its operation. Negotiations and coordination will be done discreetly and in confidentiality. Experts can be deployed to have dialogue with all parties to the conflict and their “good office” can be provided to encourage and assist parties concerned toward a peace dialogue and conflict resolution. The principal criteria for APRC’s engagement in any peace process is the consent of all concerned parties for APRC’s involvement. APRC also will be guided in its operations by the comfort level of all concerned parties.

In summary, APRC, which is an independent, international and non-governmental organisation with a secretariat based in Thailand, will do the following:

- deploy individuals to provide “good offices” for governments and communities in conflict;
- provide an experienced and expert resource for countries to draw upon in supporting peace and reconciliation;
- advocate and provide capacity building programmes on conflict resolution management;
- generate analysis and provide policy recommendations on peace-building and reconciliation to governments and regional institutions.

APRC’s first task is to make the countries in Asia aware of the assistance that APRC can provide in helping to foster a peaceful environment for the Asian countries to grow and prosper. This is the reason why several APRC Council Members are in Jakarta at present. Yesterday, we called on H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia, to brief the President about APRC and to ask for his support. As the largest country in ASEAN, Indonesia’s support for APRC will be a big impetus for APRC’s activities. This is the principal reason why APRC Council Members have chosen Jakarta to make the international debut of APRC. Another reason for Jakarta is that, it is the seat of the ASEAN Secretariat, where all the Permanent Representatives of all the countries around the world to ASEAN are gathered to conduct their relations with ASEAN. We want them to know that APRC will also work with ASEAN for regional benefits. APRC as a non-governmental organization with international composition will also cooperate with the recently launched ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation or AIPR to promote peace and prosperity in the region. With APRC having a broad geographical footprint covering the whole of Asia, it will work in harmony with AIPR to produce synergy for peace in our region.

Our plan in 2013 is to meet policy makers and leaders of countries in the region. In these meetings, we will emphasize the cardinal principles of APRC — non-interference, silent or quiet diplomacy, consent and ensuring the comfort level of all concerned parties. We will discuss areas where APRC can be helpful in creating peace dialogue and reconciliation for conflicts and tension within societies or between countries.

The Founding Members of APRC have only one agenda — to use their experiences to contribute to fostering a peaceful environment in Asia that would be conducive to its peace and prosperity. Asia is at an historic crossroad. Never in modern history has Asia’s prosperity risen so high. However, as Your Excellencies and our distinguished guests are well aware, never has Asia’s peace been so threatened by international and domestic tensions and confrontations over territorial claims fuelled by nationalism and competing demands for food, energy and natural resources. In short, economic prosperity in Asia today is threatened by political conflicts that can erupt suddenly into military confrontations. This is why the Founding Members of APRC have decided the time has come to work together for a peaceful environment in our region so that Asia will continue to smoothly and fulfill its destiny in this Century.

Let me take this opportunity to invite the distinguished Vice Chairmen of APRC, H.E. Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Badawi and H.E. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to add some words of wisdom, followed by Council Members who may wish to further elaborate on APRC.
INTRODUCTION OF THE APRC AND THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

By
H.E. Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai
Chairman, Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC)
Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
at the ISIS/Malaysia Roundtable Discussion on "Diversity, Peace and Diplomacy"
on the occasion of the First Annual Meeting of the APRC
Putrajaya, 11 November 2013.

Selamat Pagi, As-salamu-alaykum.

This 11th day of the 11th month, as we approach a new year on the international calendar, provides an opportune moment for us to gather together here in Putrajaya, the administrative capital of Malaysia, which is also considered to be the world's first intelligent garden city.

We have gathered here to assess and reflect on some of the challenges that continue to cloud our vision of the future, to learn from one another, and to harness the intellectual resources that can help us chart a steady path forward in a rapidly changing world.

The Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council - APRC - would like therefore to express its appreciation to ISIS Malaysia for having organized a 'Peace Dialogue' as a prelude to the first APRC annual meeting. We are truly grateful to the Government and people of Malaysia for hosting this first annual meeting of the APRC.

The Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council was launched in Bangkok in September last year by distinguished former national leaders and government ministers, and includes leading academics, from around the world. The APRC was founded on the premise that all differences are reconcilable through peaceful process. It is our intention to offer our selfless service in the cause of peace in Asia and the world at large. In an ever increasingly interconnected and globalizing world, we must all stand ready to contribute, for the pursuit of peace requires the active and dedicated involvement of all men and women of goodwill.

Your Excellency Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, Honourable Ministers and senior officials of the Malaysian Government, Distinguished Members of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Selamat Pagi, As-salamu-alaykum.

The APRC now has 24 Council Members drawn from different regions of the world who share an interest in the prospects for peace and reconciliation in Asia. It is a diverse group with varied experience and a variety of expertise. From such diversities do we look to draw our strength, to utilize the extensive and varied network of connections that each of the individual Council Members have around the world, and bring them to bear in the collective service of peace and reconciliation in Asia. We are increasingly referred to as the Council of Elders. I'm not quite sure whether this is meant to be a compliment. Nevertheless, it does fit in well with Asian culture and traditions, and the moniker has been helpful in gaining acceptance for the APRC.

Over the past year, APRC missions have visited a number of countries around Asia to explain our aims and objectives, and to build levels of comfort and trust. We have received much encouragement from the highest levels, as well as valuable suggestions on what issues and potential flashpoints we should focus our attention. We shall be working in close coordination with existing regional mechanisms. But we also hope to add through quiet diplomacy and advocacy our own collective assessments of a potential conflict situation, and offer various alternative courses of action if asked to do so.

In the coming years, APRC hopes to send more goodwill missions to listen to various viewpoints and exchange information, fund research, offer mediation and diplomatic skills training for the younger generation, and encourage the work of peace-builders and conciliators by awarding them proper recognition. These are some of the issues I envisage APRC Council Members will be discussing later this afternoon and tomorrow morning. Thoughts and ideas emanating from this morning's roundtable, and from the Honourable Keynote Speaker, will be extremely valuable for our deliberations.

On the immediate horizon, APRC will be organizing in the early part of next year a workshop on the various aspects of the South China Sea situation. I believe functional cooperation in areas such as maritime environmental protection, sustainable fisheries, management of navigation, and research on seabed resources, can be jointly undertaken by all the parties concerned while leaving such issues as maritime boundaries to a more opportune time. As Prime Minister Najib Razak has said, "Agreeing to share prosperity, rather than let it divide us, is infinitely preferable to the alternative.

The South China Sea is a potential flashpoint which can have ramifications throughout South-East Asia and far beyond it. The negative fallout will be felt by the peoples in this region more than any other. We therefore welcome the wise of counsel of Prime Minister Najib who urged that, and I quote: "Instead of passing on choppy waters to the next generation, we should endeavour to leave them a calmer sea."

At the same time, we must all recognize that wars do not begin on land, sea, or in the air, nor in cities, towns or villages. As philosophers remind us, wars begin in the minds of men. To prevent conflicts and wars, we must begin to change mind sets, to encourage and embed core beliefs and attitudes that are conducive to peace. Nothing dies faster than the hope for peace in a closed mind. The initiative taken by the Right Honourable Najib Razak in the form of the Global Movement of Moderates or GMM is therefore of critical importance at this crucial juncture in human history. GMM has captured the imagination of peoples around the world. APRC fully

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supports and endorses the tenets and philosophy of the GMM, and would be honoured to work in close collaboration with the GMM Foundation. The norms of tolerance, avoidance of extremism, and taking a middle path resonates in our Eastern and indeed all cultures. They must be nurtured and reinforced. These are the foundations on which peace can be built and reconciliation achieved.

The facilitative role of Prime Minister Najib in the Bangsamoro framework agreement for the southern Philippines, and his helpful broker role in the initiation of peace talks concerning the situation in southern Thailand among the parties involved, demonstrates not only the Prime Minister's statesmanship, but offers us a glimpse of what the application of GMM principles can achieve.

Certainly peace cannot merely be the absence of war; reconciliation cannot be merely a return to a status quo ante. A positive forward-looking agenda is also required. The emphasis of the GMM on promoting inclusiveness, progress, social and economic justice, the rule of law, and equity, are vitally important, for these are the imperatives, the necessary conditions, for achieving reconciliation and sustaining a meaningful peace. We surely must in time add to the goal of solving undesired disputes a more important one of building something desired.

The challenges before us are immense. Questions seem to multiply faster than answers. Time seems to be compressing and easily overtaken by events. Yet in whatever capacity we are in, each of us is duty-bound to do whatever we can. There can never be enough people working for peace. Every contribution is important, whether it be from governments, academic institutes, retired public servants or young individuals. However small we may feel in the face of the enormity and intractability of the problems, no effort is insignificant. Bear in mind must we all, the words of Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore -- "Every action of our lives touches a chord that vibrates in eternity." Let us persevere in the pursuit of peace. For our part, my colleagues on the APRC are resolved to do so.

I have been assigned today the pleasant task of introducing a man, a statesman, who in fact needs no introduction. I have already made numerous reference to his bold conceptual initiatives on moderation. He is a man respected throughout the world. He is not only a thinker, but a practitioner. He was returned to office in a general election in the middle of this year and retained two months ago the Presidency of the UMNO party uncontested. Prime Minister Najib Razak embodies continuity, but is also a catalyst of change. Confident in his heritage and core beliefs, he has been able to push through wide-ranging reforms and modernisation. He has persevered. Under his watch, Malaysia has shot up world rankings and indexes, and is firmly on track to achieve the goal of advanced developed country status by the year 2020. We are honoured to have as our Distinguished Keynote Speaker, a gentleman of reason for all seasons, the steady hands at the helm of Satu Malaysia ---- please join me in inviting The Right Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak to deliver his Keynote Address.

Selamat pagi.

On behalf of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC), I would like to express my deepest appreciation to The Secretariat of the Vice President, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Centre for Strategic and International Studies of Indonesia and the APRC for organizing this Public Forum on Maritime Cooperation in East Asia at such an opportune moment and in such a prestigious venue.

Your Excellency Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia,Your Excellency Hassan Wirajuda, former Advisor to the President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Honourable Ministers and senior governmental officials of the Republic of Indonesia, Distinguished Members of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Selamat pagi.

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I am grateful to the Government and people of the Republic of Indonesia for hosting the 2nd Annual Meeting of the APRC. The APRC held very good discussions yesterday on a variety of issues related to peace and security in Asia. This Public Forum today can be regarded as a continuation of those discussions. But the Public Forum will in addition involve key stakeholders and experts who can bring their knowledge and thoughts to focus on one priority issue of immediate concern, namely, maritime cooperation in East Asia. I'm sure our moderator,
Ibu Dewi Fortuna Anwar, as well as Bapak Dr. Hashim Djalal and the other panelists will have much to contribute.

But first please allow me to recognize the APRC Council Members who are here with us today:- in addition to H.E. Jusuf Kalla and H.E. Hassan Wirajuda, we have with us H.E. Jose Ramos-Horta, a Nobel Peace Laureate and former President of Timor-Leste, H.E. Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, former Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Alfred Gusenbauer, former Chancellor of Austria, H.E. Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Syed Hamid Albar, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, H.E. Weerarasak Kowsurat, former Minister of Tourism and Sports of Thailand, Dr. Sorajak Kasemsuvan, former Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and Mr. Juha Christensen, Director of PACTA of Finland. All the Council Members are still very much active in their respective fields and all are keen friends of Indonesia.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The APRC is a non-profit international organization comprised of 24 former national leaders and government ministers as well as two international academics from many different regions of the world. Through quiet diplomacy, APRC seeks to help reduce tensions in this region, to foster dialogue, and to prevent potential conflict situations from getting out of control. Over the past two years, one issue we have paid particular attention to is the South China Sea. APRC Members have met policy makers of both Claimant and Non-Claimant States, including opinion leaders, civil societies and academia to seek solutions to reduce tensions in the South China Sea. A Roundtable was held in early July this year in Yangon, Myanmar focused on functional cooperation as a way to reduce tensions, prevent conflict and foster trust. Copies of the Roundtable proceedings booklet have been distributed to the participants of this Forum.

Although estimates vary of proven and potential reserves of oil and natural gas, it is obvious the energy resources in the South China Sea are enormous, as are the maritime fishing resources. USD5.3 trillion in trade passes through the South China Sea every year, with more than half of the world's shipping tonnage. By 2035, 90% of Middle East fossil fuel exports will be coming to Asia, and most of it will be transported through the South China Sea. Any armed conflict in the South China Sea will undermine the economic growth and development of East Asia, disrupt the ASEAN Economic Community, and destabilize the entire region.

It is therefore most appropriate that the new Administration of President Joko Widodo has enunciated a global maritime axis vision for Indonesia. The five pillars of the vision deals with many of the key issues, both foreign and domestic. In particular, pillar number four concerning the use of maritime diplomacy to eliminate sources of conflict at sea. “Jalesveva Jayamahe” (in the ocean we triumph), this naval motto cited by President Jokowi is certainly an exciting new slogan for Indonesia.

I have five thoughts to leave with this Public Forum:

**Satu** - *Functional Cooperation*: To avoid the very real threat of disruptive armed conflicts in the South China Sea that will threaten the maritime as well as economic and political security of all of us, the political will must now be summoned and invested in making functional cooperation in the South China Sea at last a reality. Dr. Hasjim Djalal has been working on this for over twenty years. It lacks only the political will on the part of the parties concerned. An honest broker, whether it be a country or an organization, may be required to help bring about the confidence-building measures such as joint oil and gas exploration, joint fisheries exploitation, and joint environmental protection that not only can ease tensions but bring about concrete, material benefits.

**Dua** - *ASEAN centrality*: The Naypyidaw Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision positions ASEAN as a rules-based and resilient grouping that is capable of maintaining its centrality in the evolving regional architecture. As the world's largest archipelagic power, the world's largest Muslim country, the world's third largest democracy, and the largest economy in ASEAN, the national resilience of Indonesia is the regional resilience of ASEAN. Maintaining the centrality of ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture means maintaining the ability of the peoples of this region to determine their own future without outside interference. It is to be hoped that the global maritime axis vision of Indonesia will also place importance on maintaining ASEAN centrality.

**Tiga** - *Connectivity, trade and investment*: Maritime cooperation does not merely mean cooperation out on the seas. The third and fourth pillars of President Jokowi's maritime axis doctrine rightly talks about the upgrading of ports for inter-island trade and transport links. Such infrastructure building can be achieved through investment from both within and outside the region. A conducive investment atmosphere would be required. Maritime connectivity will complete the roadmap of ASEAN connectivity by linking with land connectivity progressively developed among Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and Singapore.

**Empat** - *Non-physical connectivity*: In the modern era, connectivity is not only those provided by air, land or sea physical links, but also business infrastructure through cyberspace. E-commerce laws enabling electronic transactions, infrastructure enabling secure network grids for communication and software application will also be essential in providing the framework for economic prosperity that is the basis for peace and security.

**Lima** - *Oriental Wisdom*: In dealing with new circumstances and modern challenges, let us not forget the wisdom of our ancestors and the methods they used to deal with very similar challenges. As the Indonesian saying goes -- *Ada asap ada api* -- every why has its wherefore, there is no effect without some cause. The Pancasila of Bandung can still serve us well. For East Asian problems there can be East Asian solutions. We must keep up the oriental custom of “warm hands”, that is maintaining regular contacts; and of “hold-knee talks”, that is of close proximity personal heart-to-heart discussions. The oriental tradition is not one of winner takes all, but rather of win-win accommodation, of the greater common good, and of the longer term, not extremist but moderate, not irrational but reasonable, leading not to perpetual war but to peaceful co-existence.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, I would like to thank the organizers of this Public Forum, and all those who have taken the time to participate in it here today. On behalf of the APRC, I wish all of you every success.

*Terima-kasih dari hati.*

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Advisory Board to APRC Chairman

HONORARY ADVISERS TO THE CHAIRMAN
His Excellency John Kofi Agyeekum Kufuor was President of the Republic of Ghana from 2001 to 2009, and Chairperson of the African Union (2007-08).

His election victory in 2000 marked the first peaceful democratic transition of power in Ghana since the country's independence in 1957. Having served two terms, in 2008 he was no longer eligible to run for the presidency.

Born in 1938, Mr. Kufuor was educated at Osei Tutu Boys college (1951-53), Prempeh College (1954-58), Lincoln’s Inn, London (1959-1961) and Exeter College, University of Oxford (1961-64).

Mr. Kufuor is married to Theresa Kufuor (née Mensah) and has five children. The family belongs to the Roman Catholic Church.

Along with Mr. Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva, Mr. Kufuor was awarded the 2011 World Food Prize for personal commitment and visionary leadership in alleviating hunger and poverty.

In 2013, he was appointed, along with Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, former Prime Minister of Norway, as United Nations Special Envoy on Climate Change.

His Excellency Yasuo Fukuda was born in Takasaki, Gunma. He joined Maruzen Petroleum (now part of the Cosmo Oil Company) after graduation from Waseda University in 1959 March.

From December 1977 to December 1978, he was the Cabinet Decretary of Prime Minister. In 1979, he became the personal secretary of his father Takeo Fukuda, who was the Japanese Prime Minister.

From December 1979 to March 1991, he was a director of the Kinzai Institute for Financial Affairs. In 1990, he was first elected into the House of Representatives.

From June 1992 to October 1999, he served in the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee of the governing office.

In July 2000, he became vice President of Home Affairs investigating the Liberal Democratic Party. Then he became the Secretary of State and Chief Cabinet Secretary in October the same year.

He was re-elected as Chief Cabinet Secretary in April 2001 and in September 2003. In September 2007, he was elected as the 22nd president of the LDP. He was then elected as the 91st Prime Minister of Japan on September 25th 2007 until September 2009 in the plenary meeting of the House of Representatives.

His Excellency Kevin Rudd, Australia’s 26th Prime Minister, served from 2007-2010, and for 11 weeks in 2013. During his first term, Julia Gillard served as Australia’s first female Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr. Rudd was appointed as Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2001. In 2003, he was given the responsibility for international security, and in 2005: trade. In 2008, Rudd signed the Kyoto Protocol.

Mr. Rudd enrolled in the Asian Studies program with a specialization in Chinese history and language in 1977. He graduated in 1981 with first class honors on his thesis on Chinese dissident and democracy campaigner Wei Jingsheng. The same year, Mr. Rudd joined the Department of Foreign Affairs as a cadet diplomat. He was posted in Australian embassies in Stockholm and Beijing prior to returning to Canberra in 1986. In 1998, Mr. Rudd was fluent in Mandarin, and was appointed Counsellor in Australia’s diplomatic service.

Following his appointment to Counselor in Australia’s diplomatic service, Mr. Rudd worked on the Campaign of state Labor Opposition leader Wayne Goss. In 1989, the party celebrated a “historic win” with Goss being the first Labor Premier in 33 years. Mr. Rudd was appointed the Premier’s Chief of Staff, and later served as Director General of the Cabinet Office from 1991-1993.

His Excellency Jigme Yoser Thinley is the first democratically elected Prime Minister of Bhutan, a position he held from 2008 to 2013.

Born in 1952 in Bumthang, he was educated in Kalimpong and graduated from St Stephen’s College in India. He obtained an MA in public administration at Pennsylvania State University in the United States, and a certificate from Manchester University in the United Kingdom.

He joined the civil service of Bhutan in 1974 and served the Royal Government for 34 years. Prior to the beginning of democracy, he was Prime Minister twice, from July 20 1998 to July 9 1999, and from August 30 2003 to August 20 2004. He held senior positions in the Department of Home Affairs, and was Bhutan’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations office in Geneva. He later became Minister of Home and Cultural Affairs and Minister of Foreign Affairs. During this period he was awarded the Red Scarf and Orange Scarf honours, and received the title of Dasho.

In Bhutan’s first democratic 2007/2008 national election, his Peace and Prosperity Party was able to form government after it won 45 of the 47 seats in the National Assembly.
Virasakdi Futrakul, a former career diplomat who joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand in 1974, had served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to various countries including the United States of America, Canada, the French Republic, the Union of Myanmar and Japan, which was his last posting before formally retiring in 2012.

Before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Futrakul studied in the United States and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Washington and a Master of Arts in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia. Furthermore, he also graduated from the National Defence College, Thailand in 2003.

During his diplomatic career, Ambassador Futrakul was appointed as the Permanent Secretary, the highest civil servant status in Thailand, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition to bilateral postings, Ambassador Futrakul also served in several multilateral institutions. From 1999 to 2002, he was the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva. While serving as the Ambassador in France, he also served as the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and as a member of the Board of the Development Centre at the Organisation for Economic and Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Apart from his diplomatic experience, Ambassador Futrakul served as a Director at the Board of the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand. Ambassador Futrakul was awarded the Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand in 1998 and the Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant in 2003. In 2012, he was also awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun from Japan.

U Thuang Tun

Thaung Tun is a former Myanmar Ambassador. He joined the Myanmar Foreign Ministry in 1972 and served at headquarters and various diplomatic posts abroad until his retirement in April 2010.

His overseas postings include, Bern, Brussels, Geneva, Manila, New York and Washington, D.C. He was Ambassador of Myanmar to The Philippines from 2005 to 2008. Subsequently, he served as Ambassador of Myanmar to Belgium, The Netherlands and The European Union from 2008 to 2010.

At headquarters he was Director General for Political Affairs and was Leader of the Myanmar delegation to The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Senior Official Meetings (SOM) from 2001 to 2005. He served concurrently as Secretary of the National Commission for Environmental Affairs (NCEA) and Secretary of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic Studies (MISIS).

He has a Bachelor of Science Degree from The Rangoon Arts and Science University and a Diploma in French from the Institute of Foreign Languages, Rangoon.

He attended the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), The Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C. as a Fulbright scholar from 1984 to 1985 and has a Master in International Public Policy.

He is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Myanmar Development Resource Institute (MDRI) and an Associate Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore.

He is Government Relations Advisor in Shell Myanmar Energy Pte. Ltd.
H.E. Ambassador Dr. Kobsak Chutikul
Secretary-General, APRC

A retired ambassador and former member of the parliament of Thailand, Ambassador Kobsak Chutikul last served as Special Adviser to the Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva from 1995 to 2012.

Born in 1950 into a diplomatic family, he received his early primary schooling at St. David's School in London, then completed his Cambridge 'A' levels at the Anglo-Chinese School in Singapore where his parents were posted. He received his Bachelor's degree at the Australian National University in Canberra, and completed his Master's and Ph.D at the Johns Hopkins University and Southeastern University in the United States.

Before resigning from the Foreign Ministry of Thailand to run for parliament as deputy leader of the then Chat Thai Party in the year 2000, Ambassador Kobsak had diplomatic postings in Washington, D.C. and the Thai Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York before becoming deputy Director-General of the Political Affairs Department, and then ambassador to the Czech and Slovak republics in 1990. He also later served as Director-General of the Foreign Ministry's ASEAN Affairs Department, Economic Affairs Department, and Information Department (Foreign Ministry Spokesman).

As a member of parliament, Ambassador Kobsak was Vice-Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee as well as Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister.

He is a recipient of the Knight Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Mrs. Supakanya Chavanich
Assistant to the Secretary-General, Vice President, Eastern Asia University, Thailand

A graduate of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Mrs. Supakanya oversees policy and planning at the Eastern Asia University.
Aileen San Pablo-Baviera, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Asian Politics and Policy, Philippines

Aileen San Pablo-Baviera is a Professor at the Asian Center, University of the Philippines, where she also served as Dean from 2003-2009. She also has a visiting professor appointment at the University of Malaya, where she teaches at the Asia-Europe Institute. Since 2011, she has been the editor-in-chief of Asian Politics & Policy (Wiley-Blackwell). Having trained in both area studies and international relations, her specializations include contemporary China, Southeast Asia-China relations, Asia Pacific security, and regional integration. Over the years, Dr. Baviera has held visiting fellowships or lectured at various institutions in Australia, China, Japan, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, and the United States. Among recent engagements was time spent as a Visiting Senior Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore and Visiting Scholar of the Australian National University and Griffith University. As a former member of the East Asia Vision Group, she participated in processes leading to the strengthening of ASEAN Plus Three cooperation. Prior to joining academia, she had been head of the Center for International Relations and Strategic Studies of the Philippine Foreign Service Institute, and Executive-Director of a nonprofit group promoting development cooperation between the Philippines and China. She is also founding president of Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation.

Jacob Hogan

Jacob Hogan is a Fellow at the Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS Thailand), Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, specializing in political reconciliation and amnesty, and ASEAN and East Asian relations. He also lectures fourth year International Relations classes.

He is a graduate of the Australian National University, Canberra.
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