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Bart Gaens has worked as an adviser to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland during the preparations for the ASEM6 Summit, held in Helsinki in September 2006. He has edited and co-authored a volume on the role of the ASEM process ("Europe-Asia Interregional Relations. A Decade of ASEM", Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008). As Senior Researcher at the University of Helsinki Dr Gaens was a member of the Asian-European research team that drafted a critical evaluation study commissioned by the Japanese and Finnish governments on the first ten years of the Asia-Europe Meeting ("ASEM in its Tenth Year. Looking Back, Looking Forward", Helsinki:

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Melissa H. Conley Tyler is the National Executive Director of the Australian Institute of International Affairs. She is a lawyer and specialist in conflict resolution including negotiation, mediation and peace education. She was previously Program Manager of the International Conflict Resolution Centre at the University of Melbourne and remains a Senior Fellow of Melbourne Law School. Ms Conley Tyler has an international profile in conflict resolution including membership of the United Nations Expert Working Group on Online Dispute Resolution and the Editorial Board of Conflict Resolution Quarterly. She convened the Third UN Forum on Online Dispute Resolution in 2004 and a Fulbright Symposium on Peace & Human Rights Education in 2005. In 2008 Ms Conley Tyler was selected as one of the nation's 1,000 "best and brightest" to participate in the Australia 2020 Summit convened by the Prime Minister to discuss future challenges facing Australia. Later in 2008 she was selected by the Fletcher Alumni Association of Washington D.C. to receive its Young Alumni Award for most outstanding graduate of the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy under 40. She is listed in Routledge's Who's Who in International Affairs and International Who's Who of Women. ceo@aia.asn.au

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Radoslaw Pyffel (1976) graduated from the Department of Sociology at the University of Warsaw. He was awarded scholarships at Zhongshan University (1999), Taiwan Normal University (2001), and Beijing University (2004). As a Co-founder and Director of Poland Asia Centre, the first Polish think tank concerning East Asia, Radoslaw Pyffel has coordinated many projects, including analysis reports for government institutions and for the private sector. He often appears as a commentator and expert on Asian issues in Polish media. He is author of two books on China (one published by the Polish edition of Newsweek), and numerous articles on Asia in scientific journals, as well as popular magazines and newspapers. He completed his Phd thesis at the Polish Academy of Sciences, on the subject of globalisation in China. With a focus on globalisation and increasing Asian immigration to Poland, Pyffel was part of a research team that conducted the unprecedented research on Asian immigration to Poland. info@polska-azja.pl

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Ambassador Dominique Girard joined ASEF as its fourth Executive Director in November 2008. A graduate in Political Studies from the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris and in Oriental Languages (Chinese and Vietnamese) from the Ecole Nationale des Langues Orientales (1967 and 1969 respectively), Ambassador Girard is a career diplomat holding the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary (hors classe). He started his diplomatic career in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Secrétaire des Affaires Étrangères (Orient) in 1970 and since then has been alternating diverse postings in the Ministry and in French diplomatic missions in Vietnam, Laos, Singapore, USA and China. He was Ambassador to Indonesia (1992-1995), Australia (1995-2000) and India (2002-2007). Prior to his present appointment, he was Diplomatic Adviser to the French Government, as well as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Council of France. Ambassador Girard has been awarded several French Honorary distinctions; among them, National Order of Merit (Officer), 2002; and the Legion of Honour (Officer), 2007. dominique.girard@asef.org

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