







Managing Conflicts on Sovereignty, Economy, Ecology, Technology & Demography

10-19 NOVEMBER 2013

















Asian Forum on Global Governance, 2013

RESOLVING GRIDLOCKS

Managing Conflicts on Sovereignty, Economy, Ecology, Technology & Demography

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RESOLVING GRIDLOCKS

As the 21st century world evolves in complex ways, there is an urgent need to develop a new paradigm of global governance. Here is the paradox that confronts us. Nations, communities and people are more connected than ever before. A century of globalisation, immense progress in transportation, the advent of the digital age and growing interdependence has negated many assumptions of previous ages. Cyberspace and communication networks have brought us to the very threshold of the promised global village. Across distant lands and disparate contexts, people's ambitions are increasingly similar. Yet, the world remains sharply divided and these cleavages are deepening.

We witness multiple disagreements on a wide range of issues. Today, we are unable to agree on what to consume and how to consume it; there are contests over resources – how they are priced and how they are controlled; there is competition for access to these resources; there are differences over erstwhile models of development and growth; there is little international consensus on security, trade, climate change, finance, and on new uncharted territories such as cyber space, outer space and the oceans. The causes of these gridlocks are many, including rising multi-polarity, emerging

polycentricism, lack of institutional capacities and inertia, proliferation of new voices and demands and a global inter-connectedness that challenges the role of the state.

20th century frameworks are utterly inadequate for the current era. Two trends stand out. Bretton Woods Institutions and the post – Second World War structures of governance are witnessing 'second order' cooperation problems. The new voices and the old partners are both unable to agree to a contemporary agenda resulting in a weakening of multilateral arrangements of the past century. On the other hand, states are now acutely aware of this reality and are seeking to create new forums to manage the world. There is a proliferation of new groupings and clubs such as G20, BRICS, IBSA, SCO, among others, which aim to supplement, complement and sometimes even undermine established structures.

Besides these differences at the supra-national level, we are also seeing vigorous debates on core issues such as values, religious faith, norms and laws among and between communities. There are definitional differences on democracy, sustainable development, human rights, global commons and human security itself. There is dissonance between the notions of power sharing and burden sharing.

The emergence of the digital sphere has added a new layer of complexity. The concepts of privacy, property and sovereignty are being defined for the first time. Security and freedom of expression are colliding in the virtual realm. And as recent events show, this has implications for geopolitics

in the real world. The growing gap between the need for effective global governance and the ability of intergovernmental institutions to provide it is contributing to this state of paralysis.

The Third Asian Forum on Global Governance, co-hosted by the Observer Research Foundation and the ZEIT - Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, is a platform for young leaders to discuss, debate and discover a new resolve to manage these challenges in the days ahead. It is our belief that solutions will not necessarily flow from formal processes or institutions but may be a product of change at the level of the most important political actor - the individual. Through this forum we encourage participants to walk a mile in the shoes of the other and to discuss differences and perhaps see them as a sign of plurality rather than conflict. Most importantly, we see this platform as a means to catalyse an informal network of future leaders, who can among themselves, find ways to respond to the social, economic and political challenges of the day, and identify and propose ideas and frameworks for progressive change.

The Observer Research Foundation is a not for profit, multidisciplinary, public policy think tank with its headquarters located at New Delhi. India. It is engaged in debating and developing policy alternatives of a wide range of issues of national and international significance. As an independent think tank, the Observer Research Foundation develops and publishes informed and viable inputs for policy makers in the government as well as for the political and business leadership of the country. It hosts a variety of public and closed door events and interactions in order to support its core objective of securing prosperity for India and Indians in a globalised world.

The ZEIT-Stiftung Ebeling und Gerd Bucerius has been involved in the funding of projects in various fields of research, art and culture, as well as education and training since 1971. The foundation was established by Gerd Bucerius, the founder and publisher of Germany's leading newspaper, DIE ZEIT. The flagship of the foundation is the Bucerius Law School, founded in 2000 as the first private university for law studies in Germany, and already a strong and innovative force in the academic discipline.

We, the organisers, are grateful to the Wadhawan Group, the BMW Foundation, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the Embassy of the United States at New Delhi, and the Trumpf Group for their strong and unconditional support to this initiative.

The third forum will see participation of 46 young leaders from 28 countries. They have come from diverse fields such as politics, diplomacy, academia, journalism, business, media, banking and civil society. All participants have been nominated by senior figures – heads of governments, ministries and government departments, CEOs of major national and multinational companies, heads of universities, non-profit organisations and international organisations – and thereafter carefully selected by an eminent jury.

The Observer Research Foundation and ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius welcome all speakers and participants to the Third Asian Forum on Global Governance, New Delhi, 2013. There are no ideological positions

that we seek to present. There is no agenda other than catalysing engaging discussions, new insights, appreciation of diversity, networking and lifelong friendships. Let these begin today and we wish you a very successful forum.

SUNJOY JOSHI,
Director,
Observer Research Foundation

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SAMIR SARAN, Vice President, Observer Research Foundation



VIVAN SHARAN, Chief Executive, Global Governance Initiative, Observer Research Foundation

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MICHAEL GÖRING, CEO and Chairman, ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius



THEO SOMMER, Editor-At-Large, DIE ZEIT, Dean of the Bucerius Summer School on Global Governance



SASCHA SUHRKE, Program Director Governance, ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius



SUNDAY November 10, 2013 Arrival in New Delhi at Hotel Oberoi

13.00 - 15.00: Lunch

15.00 - 17.30: Optional Heritage Walk

Spend an Afternoon Exploring Lodi Gardens

Lodi Gardens is one of the most beautiful parks in Delhi and has been rated as the best urban oasis in Asia by Time magazine. When the British decided to build a new capital at Delhi, the tombs at the village of Khairpur became part of the New Delhi area. This is when a garden was planned around these tombs. The village was removed and the garden was landscaped in such a way that the monuments stood out. This heritage walk includes the tomb of Mohd Shah Sayyid, of Lodi Dynasty kings including those of Sultan Sikandar Lodi, Bada Gumbad, Shish Gumbad and some late Mughal buildings.

20.00: Dinner at Restaurant "The Rooftop", Hotel Oberoi

Introduction to the Alumni Network:

SASCHA SUHRKE, Program Director Governance, ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, Germany

Introduction to Evening Activities:

VIVAN SHARAN, Chief Executive, Global Governance Initiative, Observer Research Foundation, India

MONDAY REIMAGINING
November 11, 2013 SOVEREIGNTY

Moderator: SAMIR SARAN, Vice President.

Observer Research Foundation. India

09.00 - 09.15: Welcome Remarks

SUNJOY JOSHI, Director, Observer Research Foundation, India MANFRED LAHNSTEIN. Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

ZEIT - Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, Germany

09.15 - 09.30: Co-Chair Address

C. RAJA MOHAN, Head, Strategic Studies, Observer Research Foundation. India

THEO SOMMER, Editor-at-Large, DIE ZEIT

09.30 - 09.50: Honorary Patron's Address

SHASHI THAROOR, Minister of State for Human Resource

Development, Government of India and Honorary Patron, Asian

Forum on Global Governance

09.50 - 09.55: Brief on Programme and Proceedings

VIVAN SHARAN. Chief Executive. Global Governance Initiative.

Observer Research Foundation, India

09.55 - 10.30: Breaking the Ice: Self Introduction by Participants

10.30 - 11.30: Tea/Coffee and Group Photograph

11.30 - 12.00: Keynote Address:

Gridlock: Why Global Cooperation is Failing When we Need it Most

DAVID HELD, Master, University College, Durham, UK

12.00 - 13.00: Plenary Discussion

13.00 - 14.30: Lunch

14.30 - 16.30: Panel Discussion: A New Definition of Sovereignty

The discussions will centre on the gridlock in the contemporary definition, perceptions and implications of how 'sovereignty' is understood and argued in the global governance discourse. Issues such as the implications of the debate on R2P in the context of the Syrian imbroglio or the use of drone warfare in various geographies will be discussed. Do R2P and the usage of drones constitute a violation of sovereignty? Additionally, the cleavages between international frameworks for cooperation on global commons, and the reassertion of sovereignty by new stakeholders in a multipolar system will be discussed. Ways to manage global commons such as the oceans, outer space and cyber space, within the overarching paradigm of sovereignty will be examined.

ASHLEY TELLIS, Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, USA

SIDDHARTH VARADARAJAN, Former Editor, 'The Hindu', India

SHEN DINGLI, Vice Dean of the Institute of International Affairs, Fudan University, China

MICHAEL SCHAEFER, Chairman, BMW Stiftung, Germany

16.30 - 17.00: Tea/Coffee

19.30 - 20.00: Bus Transfer to Lodhi Estate

20.00 - 23.00: Cocktails

Hosted by

SUNANDA and SHASHI THAROOR

Evening Speakers

OMAR ABDULLAH, Chief Minister, Jammu and Kashmir, India GREG SHERIDAN, Foreign Editor, 'The Australian', Australia

Festivities, Fun and Dinner

23.00 - 23.30: Bus Transfer to Hotel Oberoi

TUESDAY November 12, 2013 TECHNOLOGY, SECURITY
AND SOCIETY

09.00 - 11.00:

Panel Discussion: Internet and the State: A New Area of Contest

The cyber space as global commons can neither be owned nor completely ring-fenced. Yet, nations are attempting to establish sovereign spaces in the cyber sphere. What are the implications for the privacy of citizens and the responsibilities of the State? What are the implications of cross border cyber scrutiny? What can result from inter-state law-fare as a consequence of countries exerting legal jurisdictions in cyber space? The discussion will explore this new area of contest in global governance.

TRIPURARI SHARAN, Director General, Doordarshan, India

SUNIL ABRAHAM, Executive Director, Centre for Internet & Society, India

KATHARINE SARIKAKIS, Professor, Department of Communication, University of Vienna, Austria

11.00 - 11.30: T

Tea/Coffee

WORKING GROUPS

11.30 - 13.00:	Technology, Security and Society
a)	Drones and Sovereignty
b)	Cyber Security and Privacy
c)	Democracy and New Media
13.00 - 13.30:	Rapporteur's Report
13.30 - 14.30:	Lunch
14.30 - 15.00:	Plenary Address: National Level Cyber Defense - A Strategy for Information Sharing BROOKE GRIFFITH, Director, International Business Development, Raytheon Intelligence & Information Systems, USA
15.00 - 15.30:	Plenary Discussion
15.30 - 16.00:	Tea/Coffee
16.00 - 16.30:	Plenary Address: <i>Technology vs. Sovereignty</i> RÉKA SZEMERKÉNYI, Chief Foreign and Security Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of Hungary

16.30 - 17.00: Plenary Discussion

19.30 - 20.00: Bus Transfer to "Oh! Calcutta"

20.00 - 22.30: Dinner

22.30 - 23.00: Bus Transfer to Hotel Oberoi

WEDNESDAY November 13, 2013

ECONOMIC GRIDLOCK: FROM ONE CRISIS TO THE NEXT

09.30 - 11.30:

Panel Discussion: Elusive Global Financial Governance

Despite experiencing what is perhaps the worst financial crisis in history, it is certainly not clear whether the global financial system is equipped to pre-empt or prevent another one. Within this context, the discussions will highlight why global financial governance continues to be elusive – with particular emphasis on issues such as equity and representation of different stakeholders in the international system. The systemic imbalances in the global financial system continue to generate challenges. Enhanced South – South cooperation on issues ranging from trade and development cooperation, to multilateral coordination may offer some solutions for a fundamental rebalancing of the global economy. Could this be a way forward?

STEFFEN KERN, Chief Economist, European Security and Markets Authority, France

JOHN HULSMAN, President, Hulsman Enterprises, Germany

MANFRED LAHNSTEIN, Former Federal Minister of Finance, Germany

JWALANT NANAVATI, Managing Director and Head, Investment Banking (Advisory & Capital Markets), BNP Paribas, India

11.30 - 12.00: Tea/Coffee

WORKING GROUPS

12.00 - 13.30: Gridlocks in Rulemaking

a) Is the UNSC still Relevant for Peace and Security?

b) FTAs, Regional Blocs and Equity: Who will Represent the Voiceless in Trade?

c) Oceans: Governing the New Arenas of Contest and Cooperation

13.30 - 14.30: Lunch

FREE AFTERNOON / DEBATING GROUPS

THURSDAY DEMOGRAPHY AND November 14, 2013 GOVERNANCE

09.00 - 09.30: Plenary Address: Dreaming with a Billion

SHASHI THAROOR, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Government of India and Honorary Patron, Asian

Forum on Global Governance

09.30 - 10.30: Plenary Discussion

10.30 - 11.00: Tea/Coffee

11.00 - 13.00: Panel Discussion: Delivery of Public Goods

Developing countries of the Global South face challenges of a scale and range that have no historical precedent and therefore no prescriptive solutions. Are states equipped to handle incumbent challenges of public service delivery? Should the State be big or small? Concomitantly, questions such as how and how much responsibility can be divested by the State in the delivery of public services to the private sector are important. The role of innovation would also be critical to discuss within this context to determine

whether innovation can bridge existing gaps.

RAKESH BASANT, Professor, Indian Institute of Management

YOGESH JAIN, Founder and Secretary, Jan Swasthya Sahyog (People's Health Support Group), India

RAFAEL OSORIO, Director, Social Affairs, Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA), Brazil

13.00 - 13.15: Preparation for Site Visits

13.15 - 18.15: Site Visits: Understanding Development

These site visits are intended to give participants practical insights into the various ways that organisations in Delhi address social and environmental challenges. In addition these visits will allow participants to discover what motivates these organisations, how they organise themselves and ways in which they are able to effect significant change. It also aims to stimulate ideas on how each of us can play a larger role in society.

GROUP 1: "Conserve India" borrows principles from enterprise and social service in a new venture that recycles plastic waste and provides employment for rag-pickers, one of the most marginalised groups in urban India. Using a proprietary process, they transform

discarded plastic bags into a variety of fashionable products that are sold in high-end retail outlets abroad.

GROUP 2: The "Development Alternatives Group" comes up with innovative technology solutions, creates delivery mechanisms and equips local entrepreneurs in India to manage small enterprises. Development Alternatives has conceived, manufactured, and introduced more than 15 commercially viable and environmentally sound technologies into the Indian market.

GROUP 3: "Magic Bus" steers children towards a better life with better awareness, better life skills, and better opportunities, in the journey from childhood to livelihood. The Magic Bus program is run in 10 states, reaching out to 250,000 children in India. Their Activity Based Curriculum is a unique model that uses games to engineer change.

19.30 - 20.00: Bus Transfer to Restaurant "Shiro", Hotel Samrat

20.00 - 22.30: Dinner

22.30 - 23.00: Bus Transfer to Hotel Oberoi

FRIDAY November 15, 2013

10.00 - 10.45: Review of Site Visits by Participants

10.45 - 11.00: Wrap-Up Remarks by Chair

11.00 - 11.30: Tea/Coffee

CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE CRISIS IN MULTILATERALISM

11.30 - 13.30: Panel Discussion: Climate Change and Sustainable Development:
The Roadblocks to Consensus

The panelists will aim to explain why it is hard to reach an international agreement on climate change. Within this, issues such as the viability of formal rules based arrangements will be discussed. They will also highlight the fundamental cleavages between the negotiating positions of advanced countries and large developing countries with commensurate challenges of improving energy access and ensuring growth and development. The recent debates on sustainable development and the post 2015 development

agenda will be circumscribed within this over arching context, to put the global gridlock into perspective.

ALED JONES, Director, Global Sustainability Institute, Anglia Ruskin University. UK

LYDIA POWELL, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, India

 ${\tt CATHERINE\,MACKENZIE, Lecturer\,in\,Law,\,\,University\,of\,Cambridge,\,\,UK}$

13.30 - 14.30: Lunch

14.30 - 17.30: Simulation Exercise

HexGame is a powerful simulation of country management in a situation of crisis and scarcity. It shows management challenges at different levels of government. Participants represent administration officials; regional and local leaders. The goal of each team is to provide their settlements, regions and the countries with necessary resources, infrastructure and services. The game is played in a series of rounds representing consecutive years. A balance between short and long-term goals is required, as well as

a balance between the goals of local regions and interests of the entire country. Players are faced with the challenges of negotiation, conflict resolution, strategy implementation, group leadership and the allocation of resources.

17.30 - 18.00: Debriefing Session

19.30 - 20.00: Bus Transfer to Restaurant "Woks", Lalit Hotel

20.00 - 22.30: Dinner

22.30 - 23.00: Bus Transfer to Hotel Oberoi

SATURDAY AGRA RETREAT

November 16, 2013

09.00 - 12.00: Bus Transfer to Agra

12.00 - 13.00: Arrival and Check In at ITC Mughal

13.00 - 14.00: Lunch

POST LUNCH SESSION

14.00 - 16.00: Panel Discussion: Religion and Democracy

It is argued that democracy is often conflated with western forms of modernity and this is leading to a greater demand for more traditional forms of religion. The panelists will delve into questions such as - is religion more dominant in the 21st century than in the past? Are the events in West Asia indicative of a flicker of pluralism or are they simply indicative of a re-appropriation of governance by the religious right? Can religious laws be compatible with democracy and what is the future of political Islam? Experiences of various states will be mapped in order to generate perspectives on some of these critical questions.

TAREK FATAH, Writer and Political Activist, Canada

CHARLES A. KUPCHAN, Whitney Shepardson Senior Fellow,

Council on Foreign Relations, USA

HARSH SETHI, Consulting Editor, 'Seminar', India

16.00 - 16.30: Tea/Coffee

16.30 - 19.00: Preparation for Debating Day

20.00: An Indian Evening

SUNDAY AGRA RETREAT

November 17, 2013

10.30 - 12.30: Visit to Taj Mahal

12.30 - 13.30: Lunch

13.30 - 16.30: Bus Transfer to Delhi

20.00 - 22.30: Dinner at "The Rooftop", Oberoi Hotel

MONDAY November 18, 2013	DEBATING DAY
09.00 - 09.30:	Directions for Debating Day
09.30 - 12.30:	Working Groups (Preparation for Debating Clubs) Will Sovereignty Trump Globalism? Is Green Growth an Oxymoron? Is Asia Facing a Demographic Nightmare? Does Social Media Strengthen Democracy?
13.00 - 14.00:	Lunch
14.00 - 16.00:	Debating Sessions
16.00 - 16.30:	Tea/Coffee
16.30 - 17.00:	Results
19.30 - 20.00:	Bus Transfer to "Olive Beach", Mehrauli
20.00 - 22.30:	Dinner
22.30 - 23.00:	Bus Transfer to Hotel Oberoi

TUESDAY

VALEDICTORY SESSION

November 19, 2013

In the Chair: SHASHI THAROOR.

Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Government of India and Honorary Patron, Asian Forum on Global Governance

10.00 - 10.10: Remarks by Co-Chairs

10.10 - 10.25: Special Address

RIVA GANGULY DAS, Joint Secretary and Head, Public Diplomacy

Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

10.25 - 10.55: Valedictory Address

MANISH TEWARI, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, India

10.55 - 11.00: Closing Remarks by Chair

11.00 - 11.05: Vote of Thanks

SAMIR SARAN, Vice President, Observer Research Foundation, India

11.05 - 12.00: Distribution of Certificates

12.00 - 13.00: Lunch

13.00 - 13.30: Closing Session

DEPARTURES COMMENCE

20.00 - 22.30: Dinner

Hosted by

SAMIR SARAN

WEDNESDAY November 20, 2013

DEPARTURES CONCLUDE

BIOGRAPHIES

HONORARY PATRON



SHASHI THAROOR

Shashi Tharoor is Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Government of India and a Member of the Indian Parliament from the Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum) constituency in Kerala representing the Indian National Congress party. Until May 2010 he was the Minister of State for External Affairs in the Government of India. Earlier he has served as the UN Under-Secretary General for Communications and Public Information under Kofi Annan. He has served on the boards of many international think tanks, NGOs and educational institutions. He is a prolific author and columnist.

STEERING COMMITTEE



MICHAEL GÖRING

Since 1997, Michael Göring has been CEO and member of the Executive Board – since 2005 Chairman – of the Hamburg-based ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, one of the largest foundations in Germany. He is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Bucerius Law School and the Bucerius Kunst Forum. As one of Germany's philanthropic leaders, he is involved with numerous foundations and private organisations. Since 2000, he has taught as honorary professor at the Cultural and Media Management Institute at the Hamburg School of Music and Theatre.

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SUNJOY JOSHI

Sunjoy Joshi is the Director of the Observer Research Foundation. After serving in the Government for over 25 years, Sunjoy took voluntary retirement from the Indian Administrative Service to follow his primary interests in energy and development studies. He has been speaking, writing and commenting regularly on development, energy and environment issues. He has recently co-edited a publication titled 'Climate Change and Sustainable Development'.



SAMIR SARAN

Samir Saran is a Senior Fellow and Vice President responsible for Development & Outreach at Observer Research Foundation. An Electrical Engineer by training, Samir has a Master's degree in Media Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science and has been a Fellow at the University of Cambridge Program for Sustainability Leadership. Some of his recent publications and research projects cover issues around the representation of Islam and radicalism; politics of climate change; and, the implications of the emergence of BRICS.



VIVAN SHARAN

Vivan Sharan is Chief Executive, Global Governance Initiative, and Associate Fellow, Development and Outreach, at the Observer Research Foundation. An economist by training, he is educated at the University of Edinburgh, and the University of Delhi. His research interests include energy and financial markets; multilateral economic relationships and strategies; and monetary policy.



THEO SOMMER

Theo Sommer is currently Editor-at-Large of the German weekly DIE ZEIT. From 1973 to 1992 he served as Editor-in-Chief and held the position of publisher from 1992 to 2000. Sommer headed the Policy Planning Staff of the German Defence Ministry from 1969 to 1970, was responsible for the Defence Ministry's White Book in 1970, and since then has played a prominent part in his posts as Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Common Security and Future of the German Army (Weizsäcker Commission). He was a Member of the International Commission on the Balkans (1995-1996) and of the Independent International Commission on Kosovo (1999-2000).



SASCHA SUHRKE

Sascha Suhrke has been Program Director Governance at the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius since 2010. Sascha has a Master's degree in Philosophy from the University of Hamburg and has been working for the ZEIT-Stiftung in various positions since 2006. He is responsible for Governance and International Politics programmes of the ZEIT-Stiftung, the Bucerius Summer School on Global Governance in Germany, the Asian Forum on Global Governance in India and the forthcoming Latin American Forum on Global Governance in Brazil 2014. He also serves as the Chair of the Steering Committee of the Grantmakers East Forum of the European Foundation Center.

CO-CHAIR



C. RAJA MOHAN

C. Raja Mohan is currently Head of Strategic Studies and Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation. He is also a foreign affairs columnist for The Indian Express, a Visiting Research Professor at the Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore, and a Non-Resident Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, DC. He is currently a member of India's National Security Advisory Board and has served on it earlier, from 1998 to 2000 and from 2004 to 2006. Raja Mohan has a Master's degree in Nuclear Physics and a Ph.D. in International Relations, Earlier he was a Professor of South Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He was the Henry Alfred Kissinger Chair in Foreign Policy and International Relations at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC (2009-2010).

EVENT ADMINISTRATION



DÖRTHE BOOSE

Dörthe Boose has been Project Assistant in the Governance Team of the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius since September 2006. She has a diploma in foreign language correspondence and translation, in English and French, and a Master's degree in American Literature from the Universities of Hamburg and Kansas. Apart from organizing the Bucerius Summer School on Global Governance in Hamburg, she handles administrative and project work.



KANCHI GUPTA

Kanchi Gupta is a Junior Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation. She is working for the West Asia programme at the ORF. Kanchi holds a Master's degree in International Politics and Diplomacy from School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. She also holds degrees in Economics from the University of Delhi and International Politics from the University of Bath. Her areas of interest are nationbuilding, conflict resolution and identity politics.



Arun Mehra is a Vice-President at the Observer Research Foundation. He is in charge of administrative matters at the Foundation. At the ORF, he oversees contract implementation from the administration perspective for all projects with external stakeholders, which include multiple projects with agencies from within the European Union. He has a thorough understanding of monitoring and evaluation requirements, quality assurance and administrative issues.

ARUN MEHRA



RAHUL PRAKASH

Rahul Prakash is a Junior Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation. At the ORF's Institute of Security Studies, his research focuses on cyber and outer space security, CBRN issues and security developments in Asia. Prior to joining ORF, he interned with the Public Health Foundation of India. He holds a Master's degree in International Relations and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Delhi.



Vijay Seth is an Assistant Manager – Events in the Outreach Programme at the Observer Research Foundation. He holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from Sikkim Manipal University. He is also a Software Engineer from Aptech Computers Limited. He has completed his Graduation in Botany from Sambalpur University.

VIJAY SETH

THE SPEAKERS



OMAR ABDULLAH

Omar Abdullah is the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir state, India. He was sworn in as the 11th Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir on January 5, 2009. Omar's political career began in 1998 when he was first elected to the Lok Sabha. He repeated this success in subsequent elections and also went on to become a Central Minister. He was a Union Minister of State for External Affairs in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's NDA government, from July 23, 2001 to December 23, 2002.



SUNIL ABRAHAM

Sunil Abraham is the Executive Director of the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS), Bangalore. CIS is a 4 year old policy and academic research organisation that focuses on accessibility by the disabled, intellectual property rights policy reform, openness [Free/Open Source Software, Open Standards, Open Content, Open Access and Open Educational Resources], internet governance, telecom, digital natives and digital humanities. He is also the Founder of Mahiti, a social enterprise aiming to reduce the cost and complexity of information and communication technology for the voluntary sector by using free software.



RAKESH BASANT

Rakesh Basant has been on the faculty of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad since 1994. Earlier he has worked at the Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research and the Gujarat Institute of Development Research, both located at Ahmedabad. His research is focused on a variety of issues relating to agricultural technology, indigenous knowledge in agriculture, labour markets and rural non-farm sector and he has published extensively in these areas. He is a recipient of the Ford Foundation post-Doctoral Fellowship in Economics and has spent two years at the Economic Growth Center, Yale University, U.S.A. as a Visiting Research Fellow. He has also worked as a consultant for CIDA, World Bank, Intermediate Technology Development Group, U.K. and the United Nations Institute of New Technologies, The Netherlands. He was a member of the Sachar Committee that prepared a report on the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community in India.



RIVA GANGULY DAS Riva Ganguly Das is the Joint Secretary and Head of the Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Riva joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1986. She has been posted at Indian Missions in Spain, Bangladesh and the Netherlands. She was in the Ministry's headquarters from 1989 to 1998 and later from 2001 to 2004. She has served as Under Secretary (XP) & (Nepal), Deputy Secretary (PV) and Director (UNES). She has also worked as Passport Officer, Jaipur. She served as the Consul General of India, Shanghai from 2008-2012.



SHEN DINGLI

Shen Dingli, a physicist by training, is a Professor of International Relations at Fudan University. He is the Deputy Dean of Fudan University's Institute of International Studies. He is also the Founder and Director of China's first non-government based programme on Arms Control and Regional Security at Fudan University. His research areas cover China-U.S. security relationship, nuclear arms control and disarmament, nuclear weapons policy of the U.S. and China, regional non-proliferation issues. test ban, missile defence, export control, as well as China's foreign and defence policies. Shen Dingli is on the editorial board of Contemporary Asia-Pacific Studies (China). South Asia Studies (China). Fudan Journal Social Sciences Edition (China), Journal of Contemporary China (U.S.). Journal of East Asian Studies (ROK/Japan/Taiwan), IRI Journal (ROK), INESAP Information Bulletin (Germany), and Non-proliferation Literature Review (U.S.), as well as on the international advisory board of Regional Studies (Pakistan).



TAREK FATAH

Tarek Fatah is a Pakistan born Canadian writer, broadcaster and a secular. progressive and liberal activist. He is the author of Chasing a Mirage: The Tragic Illusion of an Islamic State, which was shortlisted for the Donner Prize for 2008-09. Fatah's second book, titled The Jew Is Not My Enemy: Unveiling the Myths that Fuel Muslim Anti-Semitism won the 2010 Annual Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Book Award in Politics and History. In May 2009, he joined CFRB 1010. Later that fall, he joined John Moore's morning show as a contributor. Currently, he hosts "The Tarek Fatah Show" on Sunday afternoons. He also has a weekly column in the Toronto Sun and is a frequent quest on the Sun News Network. Tarek Fatah is the founder of the Muslim Canadian Congress where he served as communications officer and spokesperson for several years, and was frequently quoted in the press as a result.



BROOKE GRIFFITH

Brooke Griffith is the Director for International Business Development at Raytheon Intelligence & Information Systems (IIS). He is responsible for ensuring that all Raytheon global resources are integrated to help grow IIS internationally, and is the IIS representative on the Raytheon International Council. Previously, he was the Director of International Strategic Programs for IIS, leading the IIS border-focused global Immigration Control & ID Management (ICIM) campaign to exploit Raytheon's US-VISIT and e-Borders wins. Brooke Griffith joined Raytheon in 2003 from Elemica, Inc., the primary Internet consortium for the global chemical industry, where he was Director of Business Development. At Elemica, he was responsible for negotiating and closing strategic alliances.



DAVID HELD

David Held is Master of University College, Durham and Professor of Politics and International Relations at Durham University. Among his most recent publications are Gridlock: Why Global Cooperation is Failing (2013), Cosmopolitanism: Ideals and Realities (2010), Globalisation/Anti-Globalisation (2007), Models of Democracy (2006), Global Covenant (2004), Global Transformations: Politics, Economics and Culture (1999), and Democracy and the Global Order: From the Modern State to Cosmopolitan Governance (1995). His main research interests include the study of globalisation, changing forms of democracy and the prospects of regional and global governance. He is a Director of Polity Press, which he co-founded in 1984, and General Editor of Global Policy.



JOHN C. HULSMAN

John C. Hulsman is the President and Co-founder of John C. Hulsman Enterprises (www.john-hulsman.com), a global political risk consulting firm. An eminent foreign policy expert, John writes regularly for the Aspen Institute of Italy and is a regular columnist on foreign affairs for City AM newspaper in London. A veteran of think tanks in Europe and America, Hulsman is a Life Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He has taught European Security Studies at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and world politics and US foreign policy at St. Andrews University, Scotland. The author of all or part of 10 books, Hulsman has also given 1400 interviews, written over 300 articles and delivered more than 400 speeches on foreign policy around the world.



YOGESH JAIN

Yogesh Jain has an MD in paediatrics from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AlIMS), Delhi, but is a public health physician in practice. He has been deeply involved in "primary health care"- through founding and running a community health programme - Jan Swasthya Sahyog (people's health support group) in rural Bilaspur in central India where people from over 2500 of the most marginalised villages access these services for their major health care needs. He has been involved in addressing issues - be they technical, operational, economic or political that determine health care for the rural poor- through careful documentation, observational research studies, developing appropriate health related technology, training, and lobbying, based on continual learning from this community health programme.



Initiative on behalf of Greg Barker, the Minister for Climate Change in the U.K's Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC). He regularly presents on climate change issues to corporations and governments and sits on the UNEP FI insurance sector working group.

Aled Jones FRSA is the inaugural Director of the Global Sustainability Institute (GSI) at Anglia Ruskin University in the U.K. Jones also chairs a working group on climate finance within the Capital Markets Climate

ALED JONES



STEFFEN KERN

Steffen Kern is Chief Economist and Head of Financial Stability of the EU's financial market supervisory authority ESMA, in Paris (France). Appointed in 2012, his responsibilities include the analysis of market developments and identification of risks and vulnerabilities in the securities and derivatives markets, the institutional investor industry as well as the financial market infrastructure of the EU. Kern is a Professor in International Finance at the University of Mainz (Germany); he serves as a Senior Non-Resident Fellow of the Transatlantic Academy in Washington (US) and was appointed the 2011 Helmut Schmidt Fellow of the ZEIT-Foundation and the German Marshall Fund. He holds academic degrees in Economics, Politics, and Philosophy from the Universities of Oxford (Great Britain) and Leuven (Belgium) and a Doctorate from Erasmus University Rotterdam (The Netherlands).



CHARLES
A. KUPCHAN

Charles A. Kupchan is Professor of International Relations at the School of Foreign Service and Department of Government at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He is also a Senior Fellow and Director of Europe Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. During the first Clinton administration, he was Director for European Affairs on the National Security Council (NSC). Before joining the NSC, he was a member of the US State Department's policy planning staff. Prior to government service, he was an Assistant Professor of Politics at Princeton University.



MANFRED LAHNSTEIN

Manfred Lahnstein is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius. He served as Federal Minister of Finance in 1982, and was Head of the Federal Chancellery in Bonn from 1980 to 1982. Previously, he served as State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Finance from 1977 to 1980. He was active in the private sector as a Member of the Board of Directors for Bertelsmann AG from 1983 to 1994, where he was responsible for the development of the New Media sector. From 1994 to 1998, he was a Member of Bertelsmann's supervisory board. In 1994, he founded Lahnstein & Partner, International Consultants, Hamburg.



CATHERINE MACKENZIE

Catherine MacKenzie is a Fellow of Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, and a Visiting Research Fellow of Green Templeton College, University of Oxford. Formerly a Commonwealth Scholar, she is an international lawyer with expertise in environmental law, sustainable development and climate change. A member of the Bar of England and Australia, she worked for the United Nations, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. She is Chairman of the Board of Scrutiny at the University of Cambridge, responsible for scrutiny of university financial operations globally. She publishes widely, advises governments and corporations on international law and sustainability, and contributes to BBC programmes.



JWALANT NANAWATI

Jwalant Nanavati is Managing Director and Head of Investment Banking (Advisory & Capital Markets), India at BNP Paribas SA. He has over a decade of experience in the field of investment banking and capital markets with BNP Paribas, Deutsche Bank and Lehman Brothers. Throughout his career he has worked across major global financial centres including New York, Hong Kong and Mumbai. Prior to joining BNP Paribas, he served as a Director, Investment Banking Group in India at Deutsche Bank AG. Jwalant Nanavati holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering (Minor: Economics) from the Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He is also an alumnus of the Asian Forum on Global Governance.



RAFAEL GUERREIRO OSORIO

Rafael Guerreiro Osorio is a researcher and currently the Director of the Division of Social Studies and Policies at the Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada, IPEA, of the Brazilian Presidency of the Republic. He obtained a PhD in Sociology at the University of Brasilia (2009), and most of his research work is in the field of social stratification and mobility, social policies, and the non-economic dimensions of inequality, such as race and gender. Before joining IPEA, he worked at the International Poverty Centre of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and as an independent consultant for the Brazilian Government and international organisations.



LYDIA POWELL

Lydia Powell has been with the Observer Research Foundation's Centre for Resources Management for over eight years working on policy issues in Energy and Climate Change. Her current research interests include energy-poverty, energy-security, Energy Security Index for India, resource based conflict with particular reference to energy and water, commercially viable renewable energy pricing policies and regulatory issues in nuclear energy. She has gained industry experience working for NorskHyro ASA, Norway's largest industrial enterprise with core interest in fertilisers, oil & gas (now divested) and aluminium and for Orkla, one of Norway's largest listed conglomerates whose interests include solar energy and hydro power.



KATHARINE SARIKAKIS

Katharine Sarikakis is the Vice-Director of the PhD Programmes at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Vienna. Her work is informed by political philosophy and investigates the ways in which empowerment and disempowerment of citizens become inherent elements in public policy addressing communication (either as technology or process) and expression (whether political, cultural or other). She is the founding Co-editor of the International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics with Prof Neil Blain (University of Stirling, U.K.). She has served as Chair of the Communication Law and Policy Section of ECREA for six years. She was also re-elected as member of the Executive Board of ECREA and a member of the International Council of IAMCR. In 2011, she joined the University of Vienna after having spent twenty years in the U.K., twelve of them as a tenured academic. Her previous academic post in the U.K. was at the University of Leeds between 2004 and 2011.

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MICHAEL SCHAEFER

Michael Schaefer is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt. After postings at the United Nations in New York from 1981 to 1984 he served as Permanent Representative at the German Embassy in Singapore from 1987 to 1991 and as head of the Political Affairs Section at the German Permanent Mission in Geneva from 1995 to 1999. From 1999 to 2002, Michael was head of the Western Balkans Task Force and subsequently Deputy Political Director and Special Envoy for Southeast Europe at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. From 2002 to 2007, he was Political Director of the Federal Foreign Office, before being appointed Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, a post he held until June 2013.



HARSH SETHI

Harsh Sethi is currently the Consulting Editor of Seminar Magazine. He has been a Fellow at the Centre for Studies in Developing Societies, Delhi and Deputy Director of the Indian Council of Social Science Research. He has also been a consultant to the United Nations University, and the Food and Agricultural Organisation, Rome. A prolific author of many books, some of his publications include Social Change Through Voluntary Action; (ed.) with M.L. Dantwala and P. Visaria, Sage, Delhi (1998); Foul Play: Chronicles of Corruption 1947-97; (ed.) with S. Visvanathan, Banyan Books, Delhi (1998); Participatory Development: Learning from South Asia; with P. Wignaraja, A. Hussain and G. Wignaraja, Oxford University Press, Karachi (1991).



TRIPURARI SHARAN

Tripurari Sharan is the Director General of Doordarshan, India's national public service broadcasting organisation. A practised administrator, he has been part of the country's elite Administrative Service (IAS) for nearly three decades. Previously he has served as the Principal Secretary of the Food Department in the province of Bihar and the Director of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). He has also served in the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Defence of the Government of India among other critical departments and ministries.



GREG SHERIDAN

Greg Sheridan, The Australian's foreign editor, is the most influential foreign affairs commentator in Australia. He is the author of five books on international relations and has been foreign editor since 1992. He entered journalism in 1979 as a staff writer for The Bulletin and joined The Australian newspaper in 1984 as an editorial writer and in 1985 was appointed the paper's first ever Beijing correspondent. After various other postings he took up the position of foreign editor in 1992. Sheridan's work has appeared in newspapers and journals around the world, including the Sunday Times, The Wall Street Journal, the South China Morning Post, the Jakarta Post and the Hindustan Times. In 2001, he was awarded the Centenary of Federation medal by the Australian Government for services to journalism.



RÉKA SZEMERKÉNYI

Réka Szemerkénvi was nominated Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister of Hungary in 2011, she covers security policy, energy security and cyber security issues. Prior to this position, between 2006 and 2011, she was Chief International Public Relations Adviser to the Chairman of the Board of the MOL Group, Hungary's Oil and Gas Company, Réka Szemerkényi held various governmental posts previously: between 1998 and 2002. she was State Secretary for Foreign Policy and National Security Adviser to the Prime Minister, from 1991 to 1994, she was Senior Adviser to the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence. In her academic and research work, she was university lecturer at Pázmány and Károli Universities in Budapest, as well as at the ASERI Centre of International Relations, Catholic University of Milan, Italy. She was foreign policy op-ed author of the Hungarian weekly magazine Heti Válasz. Réka Szemerkényi received her Master's Degree in Strategic Studies as Fulbright Fellow at SAIS, the Johns Hopkins University, in Washington DC (1993-5).



ASHLEY J. TELLIS

Ashley J. Tellis is a Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace specialising in international security, defence, and Asian strategic issues. While on assignment to the U.S. Department of State as senior adviser to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, he was intimately involved in negotiating the civil nuclear agreement with India. Previously, he was commissioned into the Foreign Service and served as senior adviser to the U.S. ambassador in New Delhi. He also served on the National Security Council staff as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Strategic Planning and Southwest Asia.



MANISH TEWARI

Manish Tewari is the Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. He was elected to the Indian Parliament (Lok Sabha) in 2009 from Ludhiana. He joined the youth wing of the Congress in 1981 and became the President of the All India Youth Congress in 1998. He held the position of Secretary of the All India Congress Committee in 2004 and was appointed as its spokesperson in 2008. As a Member of Parliament, he has been active in drafting a Private Member's Bill to bring the intelligence agencies under parliamentary oversight. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Punjab University, Chandigarh and an LL.B from Delhi University.



SIDDHARTH VARADARAJAN

Siddharth Varadarajan is an Indian journalist, editor, and academic. He is the former editor of The Hindu, one of India's leading English language newspapers. He has reported on the NATO campaign in Yugoslavia, the destruction of the Bamyan Buddhas by the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, the war in Iraq and the crisis in Kashmir. After studying economics at the London School of Economics and Columbia University, Varadarajan taught at New York University for several years before joining The Times of India as an editorial writer in 1995. In 2004, he joined The Hindu as Deputy Editor. He worked as the Hindu's National Bureau Chief.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

THE FORUM SECRETARIAT:

Kanchi Gupta	+91 9818500007	kanchigupta@orfonline.org
Rahul Prakash	+91 9910028847	rahulprakash@orfonline.org
Vijay Seth	+91 9910028657	vijaykumar@orfonline.org
Vivan Sharan	+91 9810850692	vivansharan@orfonline.org
Arun Mehra	+91 9910736669	arunmehra@orfonline.org

HOTELS:

The Oberoi	+91 11 24363030
The ITC Mughal	+91 562 4021774

DOCTOR ON CALL:

Vijay Seth +91 9910028657

OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION:

ORF Reception +91 11 43520020 contactus@orfonline.org

For further information, please contact:

Vivan Sharan

Phone: +91. 9810850692 Fax: +91.11.43520003

Email: vivansharan@orfonline.org

Sascha Suhrke

Phone: +484041336717 Fax: +494041336740 Email: suhrke@zeit-stiftung.de

The Forum Secretariat:

Kanchi Gupta

Phone: +91. 9818500007 Fax: +91.11.43520003

Email: kanchigupta@orfonline.org

Vijay Seth

Phone: +91. 9910028657 Fax: +91.11.43520003 Email: vijayseth@orfonline.org





