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

10-19 NOVEMBER 2013
Asian Forum on Global Governance, 2013

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INTRODUCTION
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

SAMIR SARAN,
Vice President,
Observer Research Foundation

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

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
DAY 1

**SUNDAY**

**November 10, 2013**

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
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
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: 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: Technology vs. Sovereignty
   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
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
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
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
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
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<td>10.30 - 12.30:</td>
<td>Visit to Taj Mahal</td>
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<td>12.30 - 13.30:</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13.30 - 16.30:</td>
<td>Bus Transfer to Delhi</td>
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<td>20.00 - 22.30:</td>
<td>Dinner at “The Rooftop”, Oberoi Hotel</td>
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MONDAY
November 18, 2013

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
<table>
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<td>10.00 - 10.10</td>
<td>Remarks by Co-Chairs</td>
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<td>10.10 - 10.25</td>
<td>Special Address</td>
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<td>10.25 - 10.55</td>
<td>Valedictory Address</td>
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<td>10.55 - 11.00</td>
<td>Closing Remarks by Chair</td>
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**In the Chair:**
SHASHI THAROOR,
Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Government of India and Honorary Patron, Asian Forum on Global Governance

**Special Address:**
RIVA GANGULY DAS, Joint Secretary and Head, Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

**Valedictory Address:**
MANISH TEWARI, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, India
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
DAY 11

WEDNESDAY
November 20, 2013

DEPARTURES CONCLUDE
BIOGRAPHIES
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.
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.
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’.

SUNJOY JOSHI
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 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 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 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.
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).
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 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.
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
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 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 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 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, 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 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 guest 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.
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