



# Communiqué

October 2007

*Inside this issue of the Communiqué*

- Message from The San Diego World Affairs Council: *President Dr. Ina von Ber*
- Upcoming Events: *Peter Kovach*  
*Estonian Ambassador*
- Meet the SDWAC
- Young Professionals Group
- Past Events
- Sponsor-A-Student Program

## Upcoming Events

**Peter Kovach: Public Diplomacy Specialist, U.S. State Department**

Please join us as the world affairs council hosts Peter Kovach. Mr. Kovach is a Public Diplomacy Specialist for the U.S. State Department and Former Counselor for Public Affairs at the American Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. He will discuss U.S.-Pakistan relations and the fight against terrorism.

Where: Garren Auditorium UCSD Basic Science Building

When: November 7th, 2007

Time: 6:30 pm

**Ambassador Vaino Reinart  
Estonian Ambassador to the U.S.**

Ambassador Vaino Reinart will be at the San Diego World Affairs Council for a luncheon. Come hear his take on his country's transition to a market economy, membership in the EU and NATO and what is in store for Estonia in the future. He will discuss the state of his country and answer questions from attendees.

Where: Tom Hamm's Lighthouse  
2150 Harbor Island Drive  
San Diego, CA 92101

When: November 13th, 2007

Time: 11:30 am

## Looking Back

Ambassador Inocencio Arias



French Cultural Dinner



Ambassador Bisera Turkovic



Ambassador Roy Ferguson



Ambassador Sudjadnan Parnohadiningrat



## Thai Cultural Dinner

Latest in the series of SDWAC's popular Cultural Dinners was the Thai Cultural Dinner on September 19th. Guests dined on an array of foods, from Spring Rolls and Chicken Sauté to Panang Curry with roasted duck and Phad Thai with tofu. Dinner finished with a dessert of fresh coconut ice-cream made daily at the restaurant.

After dinner, Consul General Jukr Boon-Long from the Thai Consulate in Los Angeles informed guests on his country and the business of the consulate. He highlighted the fact that his consulate handles 8 states, and gave statistics on the large Thai population living in Cali-



fornia. He also mentioned plans to hold Thai festivals in states with smaller Thai populations to raise awareness of the Thai culture.

Consul General Boon-Long also discussed the Thai king and the history of the Monarchy, as well as shed light on the current economic and political climate of modern Thailand. He explained the effects of the military coup in 2006, and Thailand's attempts to stabilize. He finished by graciously answering questions from guests attending the dinner.

## *Perspectives from the President*



*Dr. Ina von Ber*

*WELCOME, BIENVENUE, WILLKOMMEN, BIENVENIDOS, BIENVENUTI TO THE SAN DIEGO WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL*

Dear members,

It has been a very trying and unsettling time for all of us: lives lost, families displaced, homes burned or destroyed, lives changed for ever. The good prevailed and we were able to evacuate 600,000 people, the largest evacuation in the history of the U.S. without any incident. Kudos and thank you to all who assisted. After making numerous calls during the evacuation period, especially to our North County members, I found that people were taken care of, no report of loss or damage. If any of you have knowledge of members who have lost their houses, please call our office and let us know.

I too was evacuated for 4 days. I spent my evacuee time as part of the Red Cross Disaster Response Team, DMH clinician at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, where many of our members were sheltered. When I first arrived on site, I was the only DMH clinician, actually for 2 1/2 days until the National Red Cross arrived, we were 2 people at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. We were supported by EMTs, the National Guard, County, and clergy, -some wonderful people with terrific skills. For our members at the shelter, I am glad I could help you and hope you are all back in your homes safe and sound, ready to come back to our new and exciting programs.

Updated news for you:

- Our Ambassadorial Roundtable hosted 17 Ambassadors and Consul Generals during 2007 and we are expecting 6 more before the year ends
- In 2006, we hosted 11 Ambassadors and Consul Generals
- In 2005, from June to December, 6 Ambassadors participated in our Roundtable
- A new membership committee: Chair, Joanne Snyder; Committee, Richard Phillips and Sally Fuller
- CFO Caroleen Williams back from the Ukraine and working hard on our finances!
- 3 new interns: Alexis - Lead Intern, Aisha and Lynsey -stop in and meet them one day!
- Our internship program is running strong: UCSD, Alliant International University, USD, SDSU, etc., are all participating
- We are expanding and creating more educational programs
- Members, learn about the "sponsor a student" opportunity and help students attend our luncheons and dinners.
- The Young Professional Group has now 87 members and is meeting each month at a different hip location
- Our cultural dinners are very popular and well attended
- Following up on the kind invitations of the Ambassadors, we are working on cultural trips to New Zealand, Thailand and Bosnia-Herzegovina

As you can see, we are moving right along and doing well. What do we need? Oh...funds and corporate support of course! Please spread the word to corporations which could benefit from our "connect and educate" programs, sponsoring the Ambassadorial Roundtable and becoming members of SDWAC. We would love to have them join us!

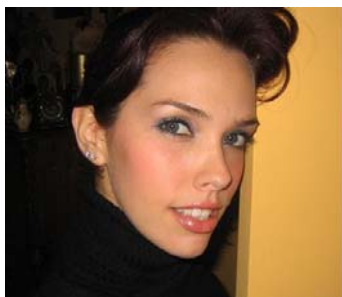
So much for now, I am back on the road, traveling -Belize is my next stop. I look forward to seeing you at our next event,!

*Dr. Ina von Ber*

President, San Diego World Affairs Council

## Meet Our Team at the SDWAC Office

### Alexis Romero



Alexis Romero joined SDWAC in September 2007. Alexis was raised in Mexico and is fluent in Spanish. She graduated from San Diego State University last May where she majored in both Psychology and International Security and Conflict Resolution (ISCOR). During her time at SDSU, Alexis studied abroad in Paris and Berlin, and completed two internships. She was vice-president of the ISCOR Student Society and Head Delegate for the National Model United Nations. Alexis has traveled to over a dozen countries around the world and spent the summer in China teaching English.

### Aisha Maher



Aisha Maher began her internship with us in September 2007. She received her bachelors degree in Anthropology and minored in Biology from the University of Colorado. Currently, Aisha is in graduate school working on a masters degree in International Relations at Alliant International University, which she will be finishing this December. Aisha's area of interest is the Middle East. She spent last summer in Pakistan researching the political parties of the country. Aisha hopes to be a diplomat in the future and fulfill her dream of working in the area of foreign affairs.

### Lynsey Koslik



Lynsey Koslik has been interning with the World Affairs Council since September 2007. Lynsey is originally from Redlands, California but loves San Diego, especially it's beaches. She is a senior at the University of California, San Diego studying International Studies with concentrations in Sociology and Latin America. She loves to travel and has the opportunity to visit Thailand, Brazil, and the Caribbean. She has a fascination for languages and is proficient in Spanish and Italian and hopes to learn many more. In her free time she enjoys scuba diving, reading, and cooking.

## Ambassador Inocencio Arias

On July 9th the San Diego World Affairs Council kicked off its Summer programming with Ambassador Inocencio Arias, former Ambassador of Spain to the United Nations, and current Consul General in Los Angeles.

Ambassador Arias gave an insider's view on the United Nations, and voiced his concerns over the possibility of change. He explained that in order for significant changes or power transfers to occur, those who held all the power



would need to vote to give it up, an outcome which he views as extremely unlikely. In an entertaining and energetic presentation style, he continued to explain the Spanish relationship with the UN as a member nation, and detailed several ways that he hoped the United Nations could change in the coming years.

Ambassador Arias also reminded the audience that while there are many problems with the structure of the UN, it has also accomplished great things with many of its programs such as UNICEF and others.

## SDWAC Young Professionals Organization

San Diego is home to many ambitious and worldly young people, and The San Diego World Affairs Young Professionals group provides a forum for them to connect with each other. It is for people who may:

Attend the SDWAC Ambassadorial Events

Read the Economist magazine

Speak multiple languages

Be interested in living and working abroad

Have studied international relations, business or law

Seek a global network of friends and possible business associates

Enjoy going out for a drink, but want something different from a raucous Saturday night at PB Bar and Grill...

The young professionals meet for happy hour once per month at venues throughout San Diego. The past three meetings - at Clay's in La Jolla, Wine Steals in Hillcrest, and The Living Room in Old Town - have attracted fascinating people with experience living and working throughout the world. See you at the next event!

Check out [www.businessnetwork.meetup.com/339/](http://www.businessnetwork.meetup.com/339/) for details about the group and upcoming events.



## Recapping Past Events

### *French Cultural Dinner*



Members enjoy a 3 course dinner at Leana Bistro

To celebrate the French holiday of Bastille Day, the San Diego World Affairs Council hosted a French Cultural Dinner at the lovely French Pastry Shop and Leana Bistro. Guests were treated to a traditional dinner of Soupe A

L'Oignon (French Onion Soup), Chicken Cordon Bleu, and a selection of rich pastries. After dinner, Professor Alain Lescart of Alliance Francaise explained the history of the holiday and its relevance to modern France.

Bastille Day, celebrated July 14th, commemorates the storming of the Bastille Prison by the French people. It represents the overthrow of the French monarchy, and a turning point in the revolution. Dr. Lescart gave a lively description of the events leading up to this incident, captivating the audience with his energy and dramatic flair. He explained the buildup of energy in the days prior to the storming of the prison, and the desperate attempts by the monarchy to retain control of the French people.

After his presentation Dr. Lescart took questions from the audience, allowing members to get detailed responses to their questions, and a lovely time was had by all!

## *The South Pacific*

### Ambassador Ferguson



Ambassador Roy Ferguson, New Zealand's Ambassador to the United States, addressed the SDWAC membership on August 30th at Tom Hamm's Lighthouse. After lunch he spoke about his country's unique history and geography, its blooming tourist industry, and mentioned a unique visa that allows people to come as tourists or students, and to find work, all without having to obtain additional documentation.

In particular, Ambassador Ferguson discussed New Zealand's similarities to and relationship with the United States, from the fight against terrorism to trade and industry. He also mentioned links between New Zealand and San Diego in particular, both in terms of international athletics as well as commerce.

Afterwards Ambassador Ferguson answered questions from members on topics ranging from climate concerns to the native Maori population.

### Ambassador Parnohadiningrat

Continuing with the South Pacific region, the San Diego World Affairs Council hosted Ambassador Sujadnan Parnohadiningrat from Indonesia for a dinner on September 6th. In the lovely Fairbanks Ballroom, guests were treated to views of the harbor, along with herb-crusted salmon and decadent chocolate mousse.

Ambassador Parnohadiningrat discussed the state of Indonesian politics in the wake of the overthrow of the Suharto Regime. He detailed Indonesia's first free and fair election in decades, and highlighted the high level of voter participation in the election. Ambassador Parnohadiningrat also discussed the economic connections between Indonesia and the United States, as well as the ideological connections



exemplified by the shared struggle against terrorism.

He closed with an answer to questions about the situation in East Timor.

### Sponsor-A-Student

The San Diego World Affairs Council's Sponsor-A-Student program is up and running! Members can sponsor a place at our events for a bright, interested student of UCSD, SDSU, USD and other universities. This will allow capable students who would not otherwise be able to afford it to attend our events and contribute their voices to these discussions. Please consider sponsoring an individual student or a student table for upcoming SDWAC events. Please contact our office at (619)325-8200 for more information.

### DONATIONS

SDWAC needs your support to better serve our community. We rely on member contributions to continue to offer our programs. Remember that it is a tax write-off! The Council is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Please contact Dr. von Ber or Alexis Romero for details on how to make your contribution. Any financial or material contributions are greatly appreciated!

### The COMMUNIQUÉ

For questions regarding the SDWAC COMMUNIQUÉ, please contact Alexis Romero at (619) 325-8200 or at alexis@sdwac.com.

San Diego World Affairs Council  
1250 Sixth Ave, Suite 110  
San Diego, CA 92101  
www.sdwac.com





# San Diego World Affairs Council

1250 Sixth Avenue, Suite 110

San Diego, CA 92101

www.sdwac.com sdwac@sdwac.com

*"Connecting San Diegans to the World Since 1954"*

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
San Diego, CA  
Permit #998

## Membership Form

### Membership Fees:

- \$1000 Ambassador Club
- \$500 Diplomat Club
- \$250 Consular Club
- \$75 Couple
- \$50 Individual
- \$15 Full time Student
- Company providing matching contribution

90% of membership dues are tax deductible. If you wish to give a membership as a gift, please contact our office at (619) 325-8200

Mail completed form to:  
**SDWAC**  
1250 Sixth Avenue, Suite 110  
San Diego, CA 92101

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Form of payment \_\_\_ Visa/Mastercard      Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_      Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_