



## The Security Sector Asia Team of EPES Mandala

**Dennis Brennan** – is an Irish and American lawyer, diplomat and development manager with thirty years experience in Asia, including Indonesia and Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Nepal where he was USAID Director. For ten years he was USAID Director in Washington for Asia Bureau projects, and Deputy Director Near East Bureau projects. He ended his Foreign Service career as US Representative at the OECD/DAC. Specialized in strategic development issues, programme management and evaluation, Dennis has moved in recent years in conflict resolution and disarmament, becoming one of the world's leading authority on peace building and small arms legislation.

**General Henny van der Graaf** - the world's most famous micro-disarmament expert who became a member of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters when he retired from the Royal Netherlands Army. He created and directed the European Union's successful programme for curbing small arms and light weapons in Cambodia EU-ASAC. He has advised the United Nations and UNDP on small arms issues in Philippines and Bangladesh as well as Albania, former Yugoslavia (where he was the founding Director of SEESAC) and West Africa. General van der Graaf is currently Advisor to the Stability Pact/NATO in Central Europe.

**Dr Robin-Edward Poulton** – wrote his PhD on Afghanistan in 1979, just before the Soviet invasion. Since 1995 he has been Senior Research Fellow at UNIDIR Geneva – the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. In addition to his consulting work, Dr Poulton teaches Central Asian and Middle Eastern studies on a part-time basis at Virginia Commonwealth University where he was Visiting Professor 2002-4, and at the European Peace University in Austria. Following his small arms work in Africa, Robin went to Cambodia with General van der Graaf and created the weapon collection component of the EU-ASAC project.

**Finn Tore Rose** – recently finished an assignment as peace negotiator in Sri Lanka, moving from there to become international coordinator of the 2004 Peace Forum in New York for the War torn Societies Project and the International Peace Academy. Tore was previously UNDP Senior Deputy Resident Representative in Vietnam, then UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Algeria, Mali and Rwanda. His positions with the UN in New York, with OECD in Paris and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo, have given Tore Rose vast planning and development coordination experience at the international level. He is a gifted negotiator, an experienced diplomat, evaluator, manager and trainer.

**Colonel Adrian Sprangemeijer** – formerly head of explosives for the Royal Dutch Army, Col Sprangemeijer is a world specialist in mine clearance, explosives and



ammunition destruction, weapon collection and destruction. As Chief Technical Adviser to the Cambodian Government's Mine Action Centre, Adrian was familiar with the work of EU-ASAC and he later joined the team to advise on weapon and ammunition storage and take control of a weapon destruction.

**Javier Nart** is one of Spain's most famous lawyers, working in human rights, commercial and criminal law. In 1988 he directed a Spanish Commission of Enquiry on Human Rights in the occupied Palestinian territories. As a former journalist and war correspondent, Javier has worked in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Yemen, Israel, Iran and Jordan, and he has relationships with political, social and humanitarian leaders all over the world including Africa and Europe. He has written in detail about Laos and Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam which he knows well.

**Dr Eva Mysliwicz** has spent the past 20 years in Phnom Penh working on humanitarian, human rights and development issues in Cambodia and the sub-region. She is recognized as the foremost expert on rural development, DDRRR and post-conflict reconstruction in Cambodia, a leader of civil society and an expert in grassroots participatory training and development. Before moving to Cambodia she worked for the American Friends Committee in Timbuktu, Mali.

**Dr Zeki Ergas** was born in Turkey, has academic degrees in economics from the universities of Berkeley and Geneva, and writes extensively on development and human rights issues in English – his fifth language. He is an expert on issues of culture, development and prevention of conflicts. He has extensive knowledge of the Mediterranean Basin and the Near East. Since Yugoslavia fell apart, Zeki has been deepening his historical and sociological research on poverty, identity and violence. He has also worked in Africa.

**Rick Schroeder** started life as a Texan oil driller and geologist. Seeking less money and higher value, he moved into water drilling and agricultural development in Mali. Then Rick worked with NGOs in Cambodia rebuilding the infrastructure and improving the economic prospects of communities that were still fighting the end of the civil war. He survived to become an indispensable disarmament partner to EU-ASAC in implementing the weapons-for-development project. Rick then moved to work as a consultant for the World Bank in Cambodia, Afghanistan and the sub-region.

**Noor Akbari** is an Afghan agronomist trained at Reading University in the UK, and an expert in rural and community development, reforestation and the reconciliation of people after conflict. He lives in the Panshir Valley made famous by his cousin Ahmed Shah Masood, and works with NGO programmes in Afghanistan and the sub-region. Noor is an expert in (and committed to) organic agriculture – using natural resources to regenerate the land without the need to import chemicals. Afghans are wonderful farmers, they can grow crops on hillsides so steep they appear too hard even to climb.



**Seng Son** is a community disarmament and rural development expert in Cambodia, where he became the very successful and much-decorated field manager for EU-ASAC in the Western frontier zones of Cambodia. Previous to the EU-ASAC experience, Son had been working in rural development with a UNDP programme, rebuilding Cambodian communities in the aftermath of thirty years of war, mobilizing men and women to rebuild roads and bridges and schools and promoting intra-community reconciliation.

**Lois Ann Nicolai** is a regular UN, USAID and OSCE election monitor and peace worker. In that capacity she has worked extensively in the Balkans - Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova, Kosovo (training Albanian and Serbian Kosovo citizens in running democratic elections) and the former Soviet Union. Her teaching and peace work has covered the people and issues of Central Europe and Central Asia as well as USA. Founder and Executive Director World Citizen Diplomats (NGO based in Princeton) Lois organises exchanges between citizens of USA and Kazakhstan, Kirgystan and Russia and has supervised six Peace Caravans.

**Tanja Zlatkovic** is a Bosnian journalist and peace worker with a special interest in Eastern Europe, the UN, and questions related to genocide and history of the German migrations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. She has studied in Germany and in USA and previously assisted with the administration of EPES Mandala in the head office.

## **The Governance & Development Asia Team of EPES Mandala**

**Dr Michelle Elcoat Poulton**, whose doctoral work in the 1970s was carried out in the mountains of northern Afghanistan, has a wide experience of work in Asia, particularly in Central and South Asia. As Vice-President on one of the world's largest NGO conglomerates, Michelle supervised relief work after the Tsunami in places as varied as India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Aceh (Indonesia) all of which she was already familiar through her work with community development, and the protection of child and women's rights. One of Michelle's biggest responsibilities came with the rebuilding of Timor Leste after independence.

**Salem Mehzoud** originally from Algeria and now living in UK, has worked as a mediator with the UN High Commission for Human Rights in African and Asia. He knows the South Asia, Middle East and the Maghreb well, speaks Arabic and Kabyl, and is a specialist in Middle East identity and conflict analysis, human security, human development, programme design and evaluation.

**Dr Ghassan Rubeiz** of Lebanon and USA, spent twelve years as a peace negotiator for the World Council of Churches in the Middle East, where he keeps in contact with



religious, social and humanitarian leaders in every country. He is a former Professor of Sociology and former Director of the Washington office of the Christian Children's Fund, one of the world's leading child development agencies dealing with human rights, development and humanitarian relief.

**Yumi Yasuda** is a fascinating Japanese lady with fifteen years experience as a manager in the private sector and international organizations. She is fluent in English, Japanese, French and Chinese. And she decided to change direction and work in peace conflict transformation. She moved to Austria for a Master's from the European University Center of Peace Study and went off to work at making peace in the Balkans, looking after the administrative and logistical side of UNOPS/UNDP programmes and is currently working on Japanese foreign policy issues.

**Dan Pisey** now runs a community development programme in Cambodia after five years of practical disarmament experience with the EU-ASAC project as negotiator, interpreter and translator. She is especially interested in the impact of violence on women and families. Her career so far has given Pisey a unique perspective on rebuilding of a post-conflict society from the motivations of generals and peasants, to an understanding of the reasons and arguments that make urban and rural Cambodians decide to keep handgrenades or surrender their firearms. She has also acquired a good understanding of how to work with Europeans and the complexities of the EU.

**Bushra Gohar** is a remarkable woman leader of civil society in Pakistan, with an MA from USA. She runs HRMDC (Human Resources Management & Development Centre), Peshawar, a private NGO working on institutional development and capacity building of NGOs, communities, projects and government organizations through training, community development, networking and research. Bushra focuses on development, democracy and human rights for women, primary and adult education. She is a member, National Commission on the Status of Women, National Council on Social Welfare, Pakistan National Advisory Board on Women Development, Global Vice President and Regional President for the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW).

**Miriam Bibi** is founder of a leading women's NGO in northern Pakistan, with a special interest in income generating activities as the way for women to escape the 'poverty trap'. Mariam insists on the importance of gender issues in all aspects of strategic planning, management, supervision and implementation. She has an MA from UK, is an excellent communicator verbally and in writing and is recognized in Peshawar as a Pashtu poet.