

the european delegation 2013

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project overview and purpose

The project *European Delegation* was initiated in 2012 by a group of four students and young professionals who wished to create an opportunity for young Europeans to discuss global issues with a focus on the increasing importance of Asia. The initiative responded to the need for an educational program focused on Asia at a *European* level, paying special attention to the discussion of a desirable European foreign policy with regards to Asia. In 2013, the European Delegation consisted of a group of thirteen students and young professionals from various disciplines and six different European countries: the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, Poland, and Romania. The centerpiece of the group's program in both years was their participation in the annual *Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations* (HPAIR) conference, where the group's mission was to contribute a European voice among the much more strongly represented delegates from Asia and the US. In 2013, the project was continued by five participants of the first cycle and focused on sustainability and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), since Dubai is where HPAIR Asia 2013 was held.

The delegates of the European Delegation were selected during a rigorous application process and participated in an educational program in Berlin and the UAE during the summer and fall of 2013. The delegates met in Berlin in July and in September for a pre- and post-conference seminar to build knowledge about sustainability in the UAE, and to finish a position paper, respectively. The position paper is the tangible outcome of the group's work and presents sustainability issues in the UAE and thoughts on Europe's role in their solution. The group discussed the paper in a public forum in Berlin on the last day of the post-conference seminar with invited guests from politics, civil society, and academia in Berlin. Dr. Almut Möller of the German Society for Foreign Policy (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik) and Mr. Olaf Böhnke of the European Council on Foreign Relations set the stage for the public discussion by commenting on the role of Germany's federal election for European foreign policy.

The major part of the technical work was conducted during a trip of the group to Dubai in August of 2013. The program in the UAE was split into two parts: a self-organized delegation program and participation in the HPAIR Asia 2013 conference. During the four-day delegation program the group met with 20 leaders from 14 institutions from civil society and business in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, most of whom active in the fields of sustainability, and energy production, in particular. A highlight of the delegation program was a visit to the Masdar Institute of Technology, the UAE's flagship project of a zero-carbon and zero-waste university and

research center in Abu Dhabi, where the group met the institute's lead architect, Mr. Ross Palmer. The HPAIR Asia conference offered the delegates the opportunity to participate in panels and talks around different streams of their interest, such as security, media, entrepreneurship, finance, human rights, and again sustainability and energy. Whereas the focus of the delegation program was distinctly on the UAE, the HPAIR conference with 500 delegates from mostly Asia and the US added the additional perspective of reflecting on Europe's role on a global scale. HPAIR is the largest student conference in Asia, with over 100 speakers per year and a 20-year old history.

The project European Delegation was supported by the Hertie Foundation, the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, and the Taiwanese Foundation for Democracy.

In the following sections the participants of the European Delegation 2013 are introduced, the trip to Dubai is recounted in more detail, an abstract of the Position Paper is presented. The report concludes with lessons learned and an outlook on the future of the project.

participants

coordination team of the European Delegation 2013



ALT-HAAKER, Henry

Henry studied Philosophy and German Literature at Humboldt University in Berlin, Sorbonne University in Paris and Washington University in St Louis. Afterwards he finished a second Masters degree in Public Policy at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin.

He worked in several NGOs, political organization and government departments. Currently he works as program administrator at the Robert Bosch Foundation. He previously worked as the Chief Clerk at the Parliamentary Office of the German Federal Minister of Justice Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger.



NICKEL, Julia

Julia works in corporate strategy at Bombardier Transportation, a manufacturer of trains headquartered in Berlin. She previously worked as a consultant at McKinsey & Company. Julia was a member of the organizing committee for ED 2012 and is the treasurer for the debating club 'Streitkultur e.V.'. She holds Master's degrees in Engineering Systems and Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



PINILLA, Severin

Severin studied medicine at the LMU Munich (Germany), Harvard Medical School (USA) and Universidad de Zaragoza (Spain). He holds a Master's degree in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and wrote his dissertation on breast cancer cell invasion in oncology at the MD Anderson Cancer Center and the LMU Munich. Currently he is working for the German Deaf Association as a Mercator Fellow and health consultant. His main areas of interest for his Mercator year are prevention strategies for non-communicable diseases.

ULBRICHT, Manolis

Manolis studied Islamic Studies, Theology and History in Athens and Berlin. Starting in 2010 he spent two years in Damascus, Syria, in order to conduct research for his PhD thesis on Muslim-Christian polemics. He is currently writing his dissertation at the Free University in Berlin, thanks to support from a scholarship from the German National Academic Foundation. He is specifically interested in the political, social and security

developments in the Arabic world, which are highly relevant for Europe's foreign policy strategy.



QIAN, Matthias

Matthias is currently working on his graduate studies in Economics at Oxford University, St Hugh's College. In the past, he studied Industrial Engineering and Economics in Berlin, Singapore and Karlsruhe. During his studies, he gained working experience at Siemens and the Boston Consulting Group, working on strategic projects in the solar industry and the electric car market. He is interested in the topics related to new technologies, global challenges and European-Asian relations.

delegates of the European Delegation 2013



EIRICH, Arthur

Arthur started studying Business Administration at Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf for a year. At the moment he continues a degree in Economics as a part-time student at the Open University in Hagen while he reads International Politics as a full-time student at King's College in London. As a Fulbright Scholar he got an insight into the campus life of the University of Kentucky during the five week programme 'Discover the USA' in 2011. Due to his transcultural upbringing his cosmopolitan identity has become essential to him and is one of the main reasons why he loves to engage himself in social involvement such as working for organisations which intend to assist refugees.



HONKOVA, Jana

Jana holds an MA in Law and an MA in International Relations both from Masaryk University. She is pursuing an MS in Defense and Strategic Studies from Missouri State University, USA (expected August 2013). In 2013, she wrote analyses of Russian strategic capabilities for The George C. Marshall Institute and The Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC. Previously, she interned with The Federation of American Scientists in Washington, DC, the Forum 2000 Foundation in Prague, Czech Republic, and the Competence Center for Central and Eastern Europe in Leipzig, Germany.



HUSSEIN, Hussam

Hussam Hussein is currently a postgraduate researcher at the School of International Development at the University of East Anglia, UK, working on climate change discourses and transboundary water management. After his studies in international relations and diplomacy at the University of Trieste-Gorizia (Italy), at SOAS (London), and at the College of Europe, Hussam worked for the European Parliament, the Italian Embassy in Amman, the NGO Friends of the Earth Middle East, and the London Middle East Institute. Hussam has also been working as a private sector development analyst for IFC-World Bank, in Washington DC.



KROEGER, Nora

Nora studied Sinology and Media Studies at the Ruhr-University Bochum and National Taiwan University in Taipei. She has worked as a research assistant at the Faculty of East Asian Studies in Bochum and gained further work experience at the

ThyssenKrupp Academy. At present, she studies the MSc in Politics and Communication at the London School of Economics and Political Science where she focuses on national media systems in East Asia as well as political campaigning.



MURAFĂ, Corina

Corina holds a Master in Public Policy degree from Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. She is an expert in the energy sector and is currently active in this field in Romania, as a Public and Regulatory Affairs Expert for the largest oil and gas company in SE Europe, OMV Petrom. She has been also collaborating with the Future Challenges project of the Bertelsmann Foundation. Corina holds previous work experience for the United Nations Development Programme, in public sector and EU funds consulting for Deloitte, and in public service delivery models for the Romanian Academic Society. She spent her junior year as an Open Society Institute fellow at New York University. Her voluntary engagements comprise being an associate fellow for the Aspen Institute Romania and advising innovative non-profits in educational projects.



POZZA, Serena

Serena is a young professional driven by a fascination for International Affairs, Sustainable Development and Social Entrepreneurship. After earning a Master Degree in International Political Economy at the University of Warwick (UK) Serena has worked on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency at the Delegation of the European Commission in China and since three years she is working in the Europe Team at the Centre for Regional Strategies at the World Economic Forum in Geneva (Switzerland).



RADWAN, Arkadiusz

Dr Arkadiusz Radwan is engaged in academic research, university teaching, social activism, organisation management, legal counselling, and independent journalism.

Arkadiusz serves as the President of the Krakow-based Allerhand Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. He is also the founder and Managing Director of Centrum C-Law.org and Attorney-at Law affiliated with Kubas Kos Gaertner. Arkadiusz worked as Hauser Research Scholar at the New York University School of Law and as Post-Doctoral Fellow at Hamburg University. He studied or conducted research at Copenhagen Business School, European University Institute Florence, Ghent University, Hertie School of Governance Berlin, University of Cologne, University of Bonn and University of Jena.

Arkadiusz taught at the Jagiellonian University Krakow and at the Krakow University of Economics. He was also visiting lecturer at SWUPL in

Chongqing (China), the College of Media Management in St. Pölten (Austria), the State University of Economics in Ternopil (Ukraine), and the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (Ukraine).



VIRKKALA, Inari

Inari Virkkala graduated as a master of architecture from Aalto University in summer 2012. Throughout her studies she has specialized in ecological and social sustainability in architecture. Between 2010-2011 she was working in Kimmo Lylykangas Architects, Finland's topmost architecture practice focusing on low-energy buildings.

Virkkala's master's thesis on housing for refugees received two prizes in 2012 from City of Helsinki and Oskari Vilamo Foundation. Between 2010-2013 Virkkala has been running a construction project of Kouk Khleang Youth Center in Cambodia with working group Komitu, formed together with five classmates from department of architecture.

Besides working in Cambodia, Virkkala's expertise on Asian relations derives from experiences within Asia Europe University Alumni Network (Asefuan).

Currently Virkkala is working as a freelancer with her two own companies. Ongoing work includes South of North -exhibition, a joint project on humanitarian architecture with other Nordic designers.

the field trip to the UAE

The tour to the UAE, specifically to Dubai, is the centerpiece of the European Delegation project. The program of the delegation consists of two parts: a delegation program with officials in Dubai and the participation in the HPAIR Asia 2013 conference. During the delegation program we were introduced to Arab culture and have met with various stakeholders regarding sustainable development in Dubai. The HPAIR Asia conference provided the delegation with the opportunity to reflect on Europe's global role amidst the largest Harvard conference in Asia with over 100 speakers and 500 delegates.



Burj al-Khalifa, Dubai



Mr. Kayed explains Arab culture

Our first day in Dubai was an introduction to Arab culture. During this day we visited the Jumeira Mosque, the Sheik Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding and the Dubai Museum. The Arabic lunch with Mr. Nasif Kayed, the head of the Centre for Cultural Understanding, was the highlight of the day. Next to his intriguing speech about Arab customs and culture, we have been delighted about the delicious Arab food that he offered. The day was complemented with a visit of the Dubai Museum. It has been fascinating to see the rapid raise of living standards in Dubai, which has developed from a medium-sized trade hub into a global metropolis in only 30 years time.

The subsequent days were devoted to understand the role of sustainable development in Dubai. During our trip we have seen contradictory approaches towards this topic. On the one side, the government in the United Arab Emirates is subsidizing energy cost: for example, locals do not have to pay for their energy bill. The foreign workers are paying heavily subsidized cost for oil and electricity. Because of concerns regarding the social order that market driven energy costs might cause, the government is reluctant to reduce the subsidies. On the other hand, the Green Economy is frequently mentioned by the government in the United Arab Emirates. As part of a diversification initiative, substantial investments have been made in the field of renewable energy and green

growth, for example, Masdar City. Moreover, several hundred million USD have been invested to locate IRENA, the international agency for renewable energy, in the UAE.

Our meetings with sustainability leaders have given detailed insights into the sustainability initiatives in the region. At the Supreme Council of Energy, the highest-decision making body on energy policy in Dubai, we learned that Dubai has the highest CO₂ per capita emissions globally. While being aware of the problems, there are efforts to tackle it. Until 2030, the goal was set to supply 10 per cent of the energy with solar power plants in the desert. In the field of nuclear energy, two new reactors are under construction. Another policy effort is to improve the measurement of the CO₂ emissions of production facilities in Dubai, in order to improve the monitoring capacity of the government.

While the society in Dubai mostly works through top-down directives, we have been impressed by the work of the Emirates Environmental Group, a grassroots initiative to protect the environment in Dubai. According to Ms. Habiba Al Marashi, the NGO helped to fill the gap of a lacking in waste recycling in Dubai. In the past the waste was dumped in landfills in the middle of the desert. The NGO successfully established a private recycling system with considerable reach among the inhabitants of Dubai. Additionally, the organization is also engaged in educational programs at public schools to increase awareness for the environment.

Masdar city in Abu Dhabi is one of the most ambitious urban development projects globally aiming at zero waste and zero emissions. The plan achieved global coverage in the media and widely discussed in academic papers. The idea of building an eco-friendly city in the middle of the burning desert looks like a paradox. But the architects from Foster + Partner have used a wide range of new and traditional technologies to achieve the goal. We have been fortunate to meet the lead architect of this project, Mr. Ross Palmer. He gave us an exclusive tour through the existing complex of Masdar City, mainly the Masdar Institute, explaining this ideas and philosophies that guided the construction phase.

IRENA, the international agency for renewable energies, complements the efforts of the United Arab Emirates to diversify into the Green Economy. Hosted by Mr. Wouters, deputy director of the newly founded agency, we learned about the on-going efforts of IRENA to expand it's membership base and to provide their member countries with value-add services. Mr. Alshafar from the Directorate of Energy & Climate Change of the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, followed up on Mr. Wouter's presentation to elaborate on the various projects in the UAE in the field of Climate Change. We have been impressed by the financial means that the UAE has invested into this field, for example with the construction of the IRENA headquarters.



Passive windtunnel at the Masdar

Institute of Technology

Meetings corporate representatives supplemented our business perspective on Dubai. Ms. Raseena Illath (Siemens AG) gave us insights into the business environment in the Arab region. She is responsible for selling power plants in the region and shared her passion for doing business in the Middle East with us. Mr. Tobias Lubecki (Lufthansa Group) explained to us the increasing global competition in the airline carrier industry through the aggressive market expansion strategy of Middle Eastern airlines. The lawyers at the United Advocates gave us an introduction into Sharia Law and its legal implications on daily life.

This year, the HPAIR conference was held at the JW Marriot Hotel in Dubai, where the delegation also resided. As in the years before the discussions revolved around the challenges of rising Asia. Subtopics included Health Care, Law, Strategic management, Media, Security and Entrepreneurship. The program of the conference was split into Panel sessions, a Plenary session and Seminar sessions. As each delegate participated at different sessions, it is hard to summarize the vast intercultural experiences and extensive discussions that have been enabled through the international conference.

What stays with every single delegate is a feeling of shared responsibilities for the problems that mankind as a collective faces. Problems like climate change do not stop at national boundaries. They challenge Europeans as well as Asians and thus an international response is necessary. On the HPAIR conference, young individuals who are

engaged and eager to contribute to society had the opportunity to discuss their vision and dreams with their peers. Coming from diverse cultural backgrounds and educational systems, they were forced to develop a common language to coordinate.



Delegates of the European Delegation 2013 at the closing dinner

We, as members of the European Delegation have felt the momentum of ascending Asia. It is critical to think about Europe's future role in Asia. What interests should Europe articulate with respect to Asia? We hope that our ideas, as they are articulated in the position paper, are able to contribute to the European project, and to enrich the discussions related to Europe and Asia with bold and fresh ideas.

position paper abstract

Introduction to sustainability in the UAE

Over the past 30 years the UAE have developed from sparsely populated desert villages into a flourishing economic center of global importance. Oil and natural gas extraction was profitable business, and the revenues were invested in infrastructure and to enhance the lifestyle of the local Emirati population. Foreign multinational corporations, financial institutions and expatriate workers were drawn to the Emirates for a number of reasons. The political system of hereditary monarchies is stable and predictable. Regulatory incentives make foreign investments very attractive, money and capital for example can be freely repatriated to foreign countries. Besides corporate taxes for oil companies and foreign banks, no personal income, corporate, value added or sales taxes are imposed. Today, there are approximately nine expats for every Emirati living in the UAE. The UAE have a high Human Development Index, ranking 41st globally. For a country located in an extremely hostile environment this development is more fortunate than anyone could have predicted about fifty years ago. However, the rapid economic development has also brought about unsustainable developments that endanger the future prosperity of the UAE and the region. The delegation chose to focus on two interconnected areas of unsustainable development that are intertwined with the UAE's economic success: urban planning that does not foster a livable city and high resource consumption. The paper concludes with a contemplation of the importance of Europe's "national" image, which determines the possibilities Europe has to support and nudge the UAE towards sustainable development.

1. Urban planning and social cohesion

The sprawling city design and abundance of high rises in Dubai creates a high dependence on cars for transportation and limits quality public space where people can meet and interact. Both factors exacerbate the segregation of different groups of society. The climate-conscious design of Masdar City serves as an example for energy- efficient architecture that creates livable urban space. A bus system and pedestrian and bike lanes should complement the existing metro system to permit a higher degree of non-car-based mobility for the poor.

2. Energy and resource consumption

The carbon footprint of the UAE is the largest in the world. Energy conservation and reliance on renewables are the likely ways forward. The current system of multiple subsidies, e.g. for fossil fuels, prevent a transition to renewable energy and would need to be amended. The EU should assist the UAE by sharing the EU experience in energy market liberalization and cross-border integration. Subsidized tariffs for final

customers should be gradually eliminated, in order to discourage wasteful consumption. Pioneer NGOs in the UAE educate and increase awareness of resource conservation in the population. The UAE government should encourage civil society development in these directions.

Importance of image management: Europe as a brand and strategic partner

UAE stakeholders who we met during our stay in Dubai and Abu Dhabi had mixed to negative views of the European brand. The European democratic and participatory system of governance was perceived as the cause of slow economic growth. Conversation partners viewed Europe as a less interesting partner than emerging Asian powers with usually less participatory political systems. Europe has to work on its brand. It needs to strengthen its presence in the UAE and promote understanding for its distinct political, cultural and economic features to convince UAE stakeholders that it is a beneficial partner for them.

lessons learned and outlook

The European Delegation seeks to familiarize young Europeans with the growing importance of Asia and its role in overcoming international problems; and further, hopes to contribute to the solution of specific problems that affect a region in Asia and to suggest a desirable role for European foreign policy in their solution. The two interconnected goals of the European Delegation therefore are to educate and to contribute to the solution of global problems. In this final section of the project report we would like to assess in how far those goals have been achieved.

The first goal has been fully met with the European Delegation 2013, as well as in 2012. The participants acquired a good overview of key interconnections of sustainability challenges in the UAE in a relatively short period of time. Most members of the group had a professional connection to sustainability and were able to discuss at a fairly deep technical level issues that came up in meetings with the hosts during the pre-conference program, as well as with each other during the course of the project. As in 2012, the pre-conference program in particular received very positive reviews from the participants. The HPAIR conference was viewed more ambivalently. Participants who sought an introduction to an area of interest were mostly satisfied, whereas participants who wanted to deepen their specific area of expertise (e.g., security, energy) found the level of discussion at a student conference to basic. The wish to evaluate alternative conferences to HPAIR was reiterated in the feedback session during the post-conference program to the organizing committee of a potential European Delegation 2014.

The second goal to contribute to the solution of global problems has been partially met, but remained behind expectations. The delegates identified and conceptualized a number of pressing sustainability issues in the UAE and obstacles to their solution. The solutions to those problems however are difficult, as the group frustratedly had to acknowledge. While there was no thematic direction in 2012, the organizing committee chose the topic of “sustainability” for the 2013 cycle and selected applicants with professional proximity for the delegation. The hope was that through more expertise and a narrower topic more concrete solutions could be suggested in the position paper. The topic of “sustainability” however was still relatively broad, and a position paper written by the entire, interdisciplinary delegation did not allow for deeper work in a specific area at the level of an academic or policy paper. The process of writing the position paper however was a worthwhile experience for the group, since they had to experience first-hand how difficult it is to reach consensus on desirable ways forward in an international working group, much like the real European Union. Two particularly controversial points were the supremacy of democracy over benevolent authoritarianism, and the

necessity of social cohesion for enduring prosperity. In the end, the group agreed to discuss certain controversial recommendations from the position paper with the guests at the public closing discussion, but to exclude them from the position paper.

The current format of a position paper is a suitable exercise to trigger discussions among the participants and to document key aspects of what they have learned. It is unlikely that very novel or specific ideas to the solution of hard policy and societal problems will emerge from the work of a few weeks, however. Going forward, the future organizing committee will have to decide whether they want to continue to produce a position paper similar to this year's for the sake of internal discussion and documentation. An alternative focus could be on individual projects with more technical depth, potentially in cooperation with peers from the same profession in the HPAIR host country. In the second setting it is more likely that a final paper contributes more substantially to current problems.

A novelty compared to the European Delegation 2012 was the public discussion format during the post-conference seminar that was intended to share and discuss insights from the project with the interested public. The format, held in English, was an effective way to encourage discussion about the identified issues of the European Delegation in small settings with the guests. It was especially motivating for the delegates to see the high interest of the guests in their work. The element of public outreach and discussion with interested experts and the general public fits well with the goal of the European Delegation to not only gather but also spread knowledge, and it would be desirable to strengthen this engagement.

In summary, the concept of the European Delegation 2014 has proven that it fulfills a need in the education of young Europeans with an interest in Asia and in European foreign policy with regards to Asia. The number of applications (37) and the level of interest among HPAIR participants and hosts in Dubai in the project attest to that. The program is well-suited to convey knowledge to participants and to spark discussions with experts, fellow conference participants and the interested public about pressing global issues that touch both Europe and Asia. There is room for broader public engagement in these discussions. The capability of a relatively young, interdisciplinary group to contribute to the solution of some of the most difficult problems of our times in a matter of a few weeks should be considered as a secondary measure of success, if at all.

appendix

a. schedule pre-conference seminar

Friday, 26th July 2013 (Berlin)

Dress code: smart casual

Until 19.00	<i>Individual arrival of participants in Berlin</i>
19.30	Welcome Dinner Introduction of ED Organizing Team and participants. Get together and dinner with HPAIR Alumni at Restaurant Baraka (Morrocan cuisine, <i>self-paying – 17,50 €/person plus drinks</i>) Lausitzer Platz 6, 10997 Berlin

Saturday, 27th July 2013 (Berlin)

Dress code: business casual

9.00 – 9.30 a.m. Seminar	Welcome note by Organizing team and overview Hertie School of Governance, Friedrichstraße 180, 10117 Berlin <i>Room: 3.61</i>
9.30 – 11.00	Panel 1 Europe and Asia – Different understanding of sustainability? Speaker: Dr. Günther Bachmann , (General Secretary of the German Council for Sustainable Development)
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00	Panel 2 Asian Energy Challenges Speaker: Dr. Felix Groba , (Deutsche Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung)
13.00. – 14.30	Lunch break (Cha Chà, Friedrichstraße 63)
14.30 – 16.00 input I	Panel 3 Aspects of Sustainability – Group Speakers:

- EIRICH, Arthur (Dubai and sustainability)
- HONKOVA, Jana (N.N.)
- HUSSEIN, Hussam (N.N.)
- KROEGER, Nora (N.N.)
- VIRKKALA, Inari (N.N.)
- ALT-HAAKER, Henry (Social Sustainability)

16.00 – 16.30

Coffee break

16.30 – 18.00

Panel 5: Aspects of Sustainability – Group input I

Speaker:

- MURFA, Corina (Energy)
- POZZA, Serena (N.N.)
- RADWAN, Arkadiusz (N.N.)
- NICKEL, Julia (Rail projects in the Middle East)
- QIAN, Matthias (Masdar City)

Starting 19.00

Dinner Café am Neuen See in the Tiergarten

(self paying - Biergarten)

Lichtensteinallee 2 10787 Berlin

Sunday, 28th July 2013 (Berlin)

Dress code: smart casual

10.00 – 11.00

Way to Dahlem

(Henry leaves at U Wittenbergplatz with U3 at 10:08 for those feeling uncomfortable travelling alone)

11.00 – 12.00

Guided Tour through Asian Section of the Ethnological Museum in Dahlem

Arnimallee 27, 14195 Berlin

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch break (Die Luise, Königin-Luise-Straße 40)

13.00 – 14:30

Preparation for HPAIR 2013 in Dubai

14.30 – 16.00

Closing session and Feedback

INDIVIDUAL DEPARTURE

b. schedule pre-conference program and HPAIR

- Delegation Programme
- Cultural Programme
- Transportation meetings (do not be late / transport might not wait)
- Harvard Project for Asia and International Relations Asia 2013 Conference
(location will differ depending on panel group)

Sunday, 18th August 2013

9 am	Meeting in hotel lobby	
10 - 11.30 pm	Visit of Jumeirah Mosque (guided tour / free)	Jumeirah Beach Rd, Dubai
12 - 1.30 pm	Lunch at Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding with Nasif Kayed (95 AED pp / 55 AED for students)	House 26, Al Mussallah Road Bastakiya, Bur Dubai
3 - 4 pm	Majlis Gallery (free)	Bastakiya, United Arab Emirates
4.30 - 6 pm	Dubai Museum (3 AED pp)	Opp. Grand Mosque, Al Fahidi St - Dubai, United Arab Emirates
8 pm - 9 pm	Sheikh Saeed Al-Maktoum House (2 AED pp)	

Monday, 19th August 2013

9 am	Meeting in hotel lobby	
10 - 12 am	Raseena Illath (Siemens AG / Commercial Project Manager Sales - Power Generation)	Siemens LLC, Floor 8 The Galleries Tower 2, Downtown Jebel Ali,
4 - 6 pm	Visit of Burj Khalifa (130 AED)	Emaar Blvd, Dubai
7 pm onwards	Dinner with Raseena Illath	

Tuesday, 20th August 2013

7.30 am	Meeting at hotel lobby	
8 - 9.30 pm	Timothy Paul (Maersk Line / Climate Reality Project)	
10 - 11 am	Dubai Carbon of Excellence	DCCE Jumeirah Meeting Room
1 - 2 pm	Emirate Environmental Group	
2.30 - 3.30 pm	Muhammed Nasiruddeen (United Advocates)	Single Business Tower, 3901/02 Business Bay, Sheikh Zayed Rd.
4 - 5.30 pm	Rashmi Coelho (The Climate Initiative)	

6.30 pm onwards	Dinner with Hisham Hussein (Sales manager, Indesit / Brother of Hussam)	
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Wednesday, 21th August 2013

7.30 am	Meeting for transport to Abu Dhabi	Note: please only take minimum luggage to Abu Dhabi for a one day stay.
10 - 12 am	Ross Palmer (Fosters and Partners)	Masdar City, PRT station large spiral staircase
12.30 - 13.30 am	Visit Sheikh Zayed Mosque (guided tour / free)	Al Maqtaa, Abu Dhabi
2 - 4 pm	Masdar Institute in Masdar City	Masdar Institute, PO Box 54224, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
4.30 - 6 pm	Dr. Samra-Rohte (German Chamber of Commerce Abu Dhabi)	Abu Dhabi Mall, The Towers at Trade Center, East Tower, 1st floor, Office No. 104 P.O. Box 54702, Abu Dhabi, VAE
4 - 6 pm	Ross Palmer (Fosters and Partners)	Masdar City, PRT station large spiral staircase

Thursday, 22th August 2013

9 am	Meeting at hotel lobby	
10 - 12 am	Ali Ozair AISHafar (UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	IRENA HQ
2 pm	Meeting for Transportation to Dubai	
4.30 - 6 pm	Ibrahim Tadros (Global Shapers in Dubai)	Near JW Marriot Marquis Dubai
6.30 pm	Registration for HPAIR	Hotel Lobby
8 to 9.30 pm	Opening Ceremony HPAIR	JW Marriot Marquis Dubai, HPAIR
9.30 pm onwards	Reception	JW Marriot Marquis Dubai, HPAIR

Friday, 23th August 2013

9 - 11 pm	Business Plenary	JW Marriot Marquis Dubai, HPAIR
12 - 14 pm	Panel Sessions 1	JW Marriot Marquis Dubai, HPAIR
3.30 - 4.30 pm	Seminar 1	JW Marriot Marquis Dubai, HPAIR
5-7 pm	Panel Sessions 2	JW Marriot Marquis Dubai, HPAIR

7.30 - 9 pm	Dinner with Tobias Lubecki (Lufthansa Group)	JW Marriot Marquis Dubai
9 - 10 pm	Position Paper Session 1	Hotel Lobby

Saturday, 24th August 2013

8.30 pm	Bus transport to American University in Dubai	
9.30 - 10.30 pm	Campus Tour	American University in Dubai
10.30 - 11.30 pm	Welcoming Ceremony	American University in Dubai
2 - 3.30 pm	Case Study Workshop	American University in Dubai
4 - 5 pm	Seminar 2	American University in Dubai
6.30 - 7.30 pm	International Night Booth Displays	
7.30 - 9 pm	International Night	

Sunday, 25th August 2013

10 - 12 am	Special Session	JW Marriot Marquis Dubai, HPAIR
12 am - 6 pm	Field Trips	JW Marriot Marquis Dubai, HPAIR
7.30 - 8.30 pm	Position Paper Session 2	Hotel Lobby
9 pm	Entertainment Nights	JW Marriot Marquis Dubai, HPAIR

Monday, 26th August 2013

9 - 11 am	Academic Plenary	JW Marriot Marquis Dubai, HPAIR
12 am - 13.30 pm	Case Study Workshop	JW Marriot Marquis Dubai, HPAIR
3 - 5 pm	Panel Session 3	JW Marriot Marquis Dubai, HPAIR
5.30 - 6.30 pm	Seminar 3	JW Marriot Marquis Dubai, HPAIR
8 pm onwards	Gala Dinner	

c. schedule post-conference seminar

Saturday, September 28, 2013

Location: Hertie School of Governance

10 am	Welcome and overview of the weekend
10:30 am	Position paper: Discussion of major concerns/comments on the position paper & of our recommendations
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm	Position Paper: Joint editing of position paper
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	Feedback session on program, content, collaboration of the European Delegation 2013
4:15 pm	Break
4:30 pm	What is SPAIR ? - Alumni possibilities Discussion of vision and ideas for improvement of the European Delegation 2014
6:00 pm	Adjourn
7:15 pm	Dinner

Sunday, September 29, 2013

Location: Hertie School of Governance and Münzsalon, Münzstr. 23, 10178 Berlin

9:00 am	Preparation of public closing discussion
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Set-up and preparation of public closing discussion
12 pm	Break
2:00 pm	Begin public closing discussion at Münzsalon: Welcome (European Delegation)
2:05 pm	Discussion on impact of German elections on Asian-European relations Dr. Almut Möller, Head of Program, Alfred von Oppenheim Center for European Policy Studies at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

Olaf Boehnke, Head of Berlin office, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)

2:45 pm	Public discussion (facilitation: European Delegation)
3:15 pm	Presentation of the position paper (European Delegation)
4:00 pm	Reception and networking
6:00 pm	End of the event/guests depart
7:00 pm	Debrief and departure of European Delegation

d. full position paper

Feeling the heat - Ideas from the young generation for decision makers in Europe and the Middle East on how to create sustainable societies and economies

Executive summary

Urban planning and social cohesion. The sprawling city design and abundance of high rises in Dubai creates a high dependence on cars for transportation and limits quality public space where people can meet and interact. Both factors exacerbate the segregation of different groups of society. The climate-conscious design of Masdar City serves as an example for energy-efficient architecture that creates livable urban space. A bus system and pedestrian and bike lanes should complement the existing metro system to permit a higher degree of non-car-based mobility for the poor.

Energy and resource consumption. The carbon footprint of the UAE is the largest in the world. Energy conservation and reliance on renewables are the likely ways forward. The current system of multiple subsidies, e.g. for fossil fuels, prevent a transition to renewable energy and would need to be amended. The EU should assist the UAE by sharing the EU experience in energy market liberalization and cross-border integration. Subsidized tariffs for final customers should be gradually eliminated, in order to discourage wasteful consumption. Pioneer NGOs in the UAE educate and increase awareness of resource conservation in the population. The UAE government should encourage civil society development in these directions.

Image management: Europe as a brand and strategic partner. UAE stakeholders who we met during our stay in Dubai and Abu Dhabi had mixed to negative views of the European brand. The European democratic and participatory system of governance was perceived as the cause of slow economic growth. Conversation partners viewed Europe as a less interesting partner than emerging Asian powers with usually less participatory political systems. Europe has to work on its brand. Europe needs to strengthen its presence in the UAE and promote understanding for its distinct political, cultural and economic features to convince UAE stakeholders that it is a beneficial partner for them.

Introduction

Over the past 30 years the UAE have developed from sparsely populated desert villages into a flourishing economic center of global importance. Oil and natural gas extraction was profitable business, and the revenues were invested in infrastructure and to enhance the lifestyle of the local Emirati population. Foreign multinational corporations, financial institutions and

expatriate workers were drawn to the Emirates for a number of reasons. The political system of hereditary monarchies is stable and predictable. Regulatory incentives make foreign investments very attractive, money and capital for example can be freely repatriated to foreign countries. Besides corporate taxes for oil companies and foreign banks, no personal income, corporate, value added or sales taxes are imposed. Today, there are approximately nine expats for every Emirati living in the UAE. The UAE have a high Human Development Index, ranking 41st globally¹. For a country located in an extremely hostile environment this development is more fortunate than anyone could have predicted about fifty years ago. However, the rapid economic development has also brought about unsustainable developments that endanger the future prosperity of the UAE and the region. This paper focuses on two interconnected areas of unsustainable development that are intertwined with the UAE's economic success: urban planning that does not foster a livable city, and high resource consumption. The authors of this paper offer suggestions for ways forward on a path that will allow the UAE to continue to live in prosperity and social peace. The paper concludes with a contemplation of the importance of Europe's "national" image, which determines the possibilities Europe has to support and nudge the UAE towards sustainable development.

1. Urban planning and social cohesion

Elements of a 'livable' city typically include public spaces and an accessible layout. Public spaces offer people the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors with plant life and water, as well as to meet and interact with each other. Accessibility means people can move around easily in a city, and access their workplace, necessary services for everyday life, and areas of culture or entertainment.

Traditionally, marketplaces offered public space and an area for interaction in Europe and the Middle East. Car-oriented development and careless urban planning are natural enemies of livable public space. The UAE face the additional challenge of an extremely hot climate. Large parts of life are hence spent indoors, and malls have come to take over the role of places in which time is spent in public. Malls fulfill certain roles of public spaces, such as seeing and being seen by one's environment. They provide however a sprawling, transitory space, not one in which one stays to enjoy the environment. Hence, people see one another, but rarely come to communicate with one another. In addition, poorer residents are excluded due to the mall's commercial character. It can be argued that malls are the modern day version of marketplaces and can be designed to fulfill the same purpose. The question, whether they are a substitute of equal or lesser quality to a traditional marketplace is a controversial one.

The physical design of area in the new developments of Dubai, such as the Dubai Marina and the downtown area is of high quality. They lack

however the hustle and buzzle and life that populates a city, and end up feeling somewhat hollow. Transportation in a desert climate is heavily car-oriented. This tendency exacerbates a segregation of society by design, which can also be observed in the malls. People move around 'clothed in their cars' and are much less likely to notice each other or interact, compared to people traveling on public transportation or by foot. All in all, public spaces in the UAE are limited, and function to segregate different pockets of society: rich and poor, Emirati and foreign, Westerners and Asians. Different groups of societies are so unlikely to interact, that one can speak of 'parallel societies'. The city's design contributes to the upholding of this state of segregation.

Social segregation prevents the development of a feeling of community and of 'society' among the residents of a country, including in the UAE. The question whether or not social segregation is a sustainable state or not is a controversial one. As soon as disparate developments of wealth among expatriates become too extreme for example, and a country's leadership decides to actively help the poor and redistribute wealth, social cohesion helps to make this unpopular measure acceptable to the rich. Poverty among Emiratis is unlikely for the foreseeable future, since they are few in number and a stable system of social provision for those without income has been put in place by a wealthy government. It is unclear however if a level of extreme poverty among expatriates that is perceived as a public problem will ever be reached, and whether the ruling monarchs will choose to put in place policies to help the poor.

A feeling of social cohesion is also necessary to spur exchange, meetings, and time spent together between different groups of society. All is needed for the long-term integration of expats. It is unknown whether or not long-term integration is desired by the ruling monarchs. Long-term integration would be the prerequisite to move from a society that temporarily accepts workers to one that supports permanent immigration, which currently is not the case. In the UAE it is enforced at present that expats leave the country once they stop working, and spend their retirement in their home country. In any case, the current stable state will most likely be upheld as long as the oil money keeps taxes low and most segments of society relatively or very wealthy. Any risk of segregation will show after problems of large-scale poverty and social unrest appear.

Should the ruling monarchs wish to make their cities more livable and equitable, there are different options available. The climate-conscious design of the Masdar Institute sets an encouraging example of how some of the climatical challenges can be tackled. A system of passive wind tunnels and narrow structures designed to cast shadow make it possible to walk around outside even in the hot month of August. The courtyards of the institute formed into a popular gathering space for families on the weekend. The design guidelines used for Masdar Insitute have been inspired by traditional building forms in desert areas, as well as hot areas

of Europe, such as Italy and Spain. In terms of transportation, the existing and well-used metro system should be completed by a bus network to allow people who do not own a car to move around freely in the city and access a multitude of work places. Where possible, the car-oriented city should be made friendlier for walking and biking in the cooler months.

2. Resource consumption

As the holder of the seventh largest proven oil reserves in the world, the UAE have experienced outstanding economic development, primarily driven by the hydrocarbon sector, which continues to account for over 80% of total government revenue. However, a least well-known fact is that oil and gas reserves are unequally spread among the seven emirates, as approximately 94% of reserves are located in Abu Dhabi. Notwithstanding federal fiscal transfers, several emirates decided to diversify their economies - the most apt at this endeavour being Dubai, where tourism, trade, and manufacturing play an increasingly significant role. Still, the average water and electricity consumption in the UAE is approximately three times higher than in the EU. The carbon footprint of UAE is the largest in the world. Under these circumstances, energy efficiency and resource conservation are likely to be the most appropriate pathway towards a more sustainable economy and society. Natural resources (fuel oil, electricity, water) are heavily subsidized, especially for Emirati citizens, but also for expats. It is a sound business and political case to promote energy efficiency intensively.

The European Union should assist the UAE by sharing the EU experience (worst and best practices) in energy market liberalization and cross-border integration. Regulated tariffs for final customers should be gradually eliminated, in order to discourage wasteful consumption. This should not impact negatively those living in deprivation, so due protection for the vulnerable consumers from higher energy prices should be considered.

When it comes to behavioural changes towards sustainability, education plays a key role. Currently, there are pioneer NGOs in the UAE educating and increasing the awareness of the population, especially children, on environmental protection, recycling, sustainability by and large. The government should encourage civil society development in these directions. The EU could also play a role in capacity building and knowledge transfer in this area.

In an attempt to decrease reliance on finite sources, but also to affirm the country's global leadership in sustainable technology development and roll-out, several emirates have embarked upon a transition towards more sustainable energy sources: solar parks are being built², as well as a 13 GW nuclear plant close to the border with Saudi Arabia. Rhetorically, the country's leadership has gone even a step further. His Excellency Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum declared, that Dubai is aspiring to become the global leader of the "Green Economy." However, it

is debatable how sustainable the transition to renewables is in the UAE. Discussions with stakeholders revealed there is currently no business case to develop electricity from renewable sources in UAE, as the vast majority of the population and also businesses enjoy subsidized end-user tariffs. Current projects, despite their ambition, are economically unsustainable. However, according to regional data, at 80 USD the oil barrel, solar technology, namely PV, can already become a strong competitor against gas. In any case, with the multiplicity of subsidies in place (incl. for fossil fuels), getting right the economic model for supporting renewables remains a challenge.

3. Image management: “Europe” as a brand and strategic partner

National image management is an indispensable tool in the field of international relations and global communication. The term “national image”

refers to the climate of opinion formed by collective expressions of perceptions and judgements of a country by its overseas publics. The underlying premise is that perceptions, attitudes and beliefs held by international publics (ultimately) influence and drive nation-state behaviours in the global arena. 3

Looking at Europe, it becomes evident that it is affected by the same principle: Despite all regional differences and diverse nation states, the global public shares a general belief of what defines “Europe”. More specifically, a survey of different nations’ perceptions of Europe showed substantial differences between people’s attitudes towards Europe as a continent which was exceptionally positive, or Europe as an institution, the European Union, which is viewed less favourably⁴ .

Regardless whether one looks at Europe as a region or a political entity, it is this notion, or this brand, which becomes crucial for Europe’s political agency and standing in the global arena. Brands are always a product which is shaped by both the brand owner and the public. Therefore, a brand is “only as good as the grapevine says it is.”⁵

Accordingly, it is of utmost importance to take into consideration how publics from different countries perceive the European brand, especially if they are a valued partner for Europe. The UAE have a strategic location not only with regard to trade but also militarily. Given the instabilities in the MENA region that have already begun influencing the security and socio-economic situation in some parts of Europe, European countries should continue strengthening its cooperation with the UAE on a bilateral basis (e.g., as France has already been doing⁶) and also through NATO’s Istanbul Cooperation Initiative launched in 2004.

UAE stakeholders who we met during our stay in Dubai and Abu Dhabi had mixed to negative views of the European brand. They often

mentioned the European participatory system of governance and its slow or negative economic growth as two European features. The political ideals and democratic systems of European countries were perceived as the cause of slow economic growth. Bureaucracy (and in some cases democratic participation) was seen as creating obstacles for Europe to initiate changes which foster economic growth. In this context, many stakeholders we spoke to viewed Europe as a less interesting partner than emerging Asian powers with usually less participatory political systems.

It is in this field of diverging political cultures and ideals as well as different approaches to economic growth, where Europe has to work on its brand. It is advised that Europe strengthens its presence in the UAE. Using national image management to promote understanding for its distinct political, cultural and economic features could convince UAE stakeholders that it is a beneficial partner for them.

Sources

- 1) 2013 Human Development Report, accessed at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/> on 9/22/2013
- 2) Wang, "The Power and Limits of Branding in National Image Communication in Global Society."
- 3) Anholt, "'Brand Europe'— Where Next?"
- 4) Scammell, "Political Brands and Consumer Citizens."
- 5) Katzman, The United Arab Emirates (UAE): Issues for U.S. Policy, 14.