

International Security and the Asian Heartland

The School of Foreign Service of the National University of Mongolia, in cooperation with the International Institute for Asian Studies and The Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael', will organize a symposium on the Security of the Asian Heartland in International Relations. The aim of the conference is to look at the political, military and economic aspects of the security situation in Central and Northern Asia:

- What are the internal and external factors?
- Who are the main players?
- How are they dealing with the issues in the past, the present and the future?

The idea is to bring academics and policy makers together from:

- Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan
- China, Russia, Japan, Korea, Iran, and Afghanistan
- US, EU, Australia, Turkey, India, and Pakistan.

At present over 60 students are studying at MA level. All MA students have to complete the two-year programme and students can select a course of study from an array of courses in International Relations, International Economic Relations, and International Law.

In addition to seminars and lectures, the SFS hosts conferences and round tables. The seminars make an important contribution to the academic programme by organizing special lectures, research seminars, conferences and round tables throughout the academic year. These events bring prominent scholars from all over the world to present current research and viewpoints on topics related to world politics, international political and economic relations. Since 1994, the SFS has organized annual national and international conferences on foreign policy, geopolitics, and on the world affairs.

In the past two years alone, SFS

organized 'The Significance of the USA Constitution and Some Aspects of the Separation of Powers, its Checks and Balances' in cooperation with the US Embassy in Ulaanbaatar and the Association of American and Canadian Studies (February 2001), a seminar on international issues in New-Delhi, India (April 2001), and, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, a conference on the occasion of the Ninetieth anniversary of Diplomatic Service and the Tenth anniversary of the preparation of the national foreign service personnel in Mongolia (December 2001).

The SFS strongly emphasizes the importance of exchange programmes of lecturers, and researchers. It is a matter of great satisfaction and pride for the SFS to have awarded: James A. Baker, former US Secretary of State (1996), Mahathir bin Mohamad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia (1997), and Paul

On the basis of papers and interventions in plenary and committee meetings a mutual exchange of ideas will be fostered, ultimately resulting in an English language publication. The symposium is scheduled for June 2003 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. On 1 January 2003 the final decision will be made regarding the list of participants and communication to those who showed interest in this endeavour. <

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W.Meerts, Deputy Director of the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael' (2001) its Honorary Doctor's titles.

The main objective of the School continues to be high quality service and dedication to its students in meeting the current demands of globalization of world politics and economy.

In collaboration with the Netherlands Institute of International Relations, Clingendael, the School of Foreign Service, the NUM, and the IIAS host the June 2003 conference on 'International Security and the Asian Heartland' in Ulaanbaatar (see the announcement on this page for further information). <

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