

PRESENTED BY  
*THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES,*  
*THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF ASIAN RESEARCH (NBR), and*  
*US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL* in cooperation with *REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL*

## **BURMA/MYANMAR**

### *Views from the Ground and the International Community*

- **8:30 a.m.** Coffee and Registration
- **9:00 a.m.** **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
**Frances Zwenig**, US-ASEAN Business Council
- **9:05 a.m.** **HUMANITARIAN ISSUES: THE VIEW FROM THE GROUND**  
*What is the situation? What programs are most successful? Where are there opportunities for improving international cooperation?*  
Moderator: **The Honorable Morton Abramowitz**, The Century Foundation  
Speakers: **Morten Pedersen**, International Crisis Group  
**Andrew Kirkwood**, Save the Children  
**Debbie Aung Din**, International Development Enterprises  
**Richard Horsey**, Open Society Fellow
- **10:30 a.m.** Coffee Break
- **10:40 a.m.** **INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES AND APPROACHES**  
*What approach do neighbors and key economic partners take to addressing the situation? Are there opportunities for closer international coordination?*  
Moderator: **The Honorable Richard Armitage**, Armitage International  
Speakers: **Ambassador Chan Heng Chee**, Embassy of Singapore  
**Keiichi Ono**, Director, First Southeast Asia Division, Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan  
**Damrong Kraikruan**, Charge d'Affaires, Royal Thai Embassy  
**Ambassador Wegger Christian Strommen**, Embassy of Norway  
**David Stuart**, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Australia
- **12:05 a.m.** **CLOSING REMARKS**  
**Thant Myint-U**, Author, *River of Lost Footsteps*
- **12:15 p.m.** **CONCLUSION**

Friday, May 8, 2009 | 419 Dirksen Senate Office Building | 8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

# BIOGRAPHIES

## PANEL I

**Ambassador Morton Abramowitz** is a Senior Fellow at The Century Foundation. He retired in 1997 as President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and from the State Department in 1991. Ambassador Abramowitz also served recently as Acting President of the International Crisis Group - a multinational, non-governmental organization headquartered in Brussels and Washington, focusing on crisis prevention. Prior to joining the Carnegie Endowment in August 1991, he was Ambassador to Turkey. He has also served as Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, United States Ambassador to the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction Negotiations in Vienna, Ambassador to Thailand, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Inter-American, East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, and Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of State. He also served in Hawaii as political advisor to the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific.

**Debbie Aung Din**, a native of Myanmar/Burma, is currently Country Director for IDE (International Development Enterprises), an international non-governmental organization devoted to assisting poor and vulnerable rural households in Myanmar. IDE provided farm recovery assistance to over 58,000 farm families and critical food and shelter supplies to 112,000 landless families in the aftermath of cyclone Nargis. Debbie Aung Din served on several UNDP and World Bank missions to Myanmar/Burma between 1995 to 2003, to independently evaluate programs and assess food security and living conditions. Prior to UNDP, she worked on development issues in post-war Cambodia and lived there for four years. She lived in Indonesia for seven years, first working with the Harvard Institute for International Development and later as a consultant for USAID. Debbie Aung Din earned an M.A. from Harvard University where she studied development economics and public policy.

**Richard Horsey** has a long-standing involvement in the situation in Myanmar. After spending a year travelling in the country and its border areas in the early 1990s he decided to make Burmese language and Asian studies a focus of his undergraduate degree.

In 1997 he joined the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, where he was appointed to the secretariat of a Commission of Inquiry into forced labour in Myanmar, under the Chairmanship of the late Sir William Douglas. In 1999, after the Commission's work was completed, he left the ILO to begin doctoral studies in London.

In 2000 there were some tentative openings in the political situation in Myanmar, and he resumed his work with the ILO, taking part in a series of groundbreaking missions to the country for discussions with the SPDC leadership, with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other NLD leaders, and with ethnic representatives. In 2001 he was appointed Secretary to a High-Level Team led by former Governor-General of Australia Sir Ninian Stephen, which conducted a 4-week review of forced labour conditions on the ground and of the political will of

the leadership to address the problem. The Myanmar authorities subsequently agreed to the establishment of a permanent presence of the ILO in Myanmar, and he was assigned to Yangon in 2002. A year later he was appointed interim ILO representative in Myanmar, a position he held until June 2007.

After leaving the ILO, he worked as a consultant, mainly focussing on political and humanitarian issues in Myanmar. He carried out a major review of humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected areas in Myanmar for UNOCHA, produced a series of briefing papers on the evolving political situation in Myanmar for the Conflict Prevention and Peace Program, worked for the ILO on institutional reform, and was a guest lecturer at the University of Toronto Law School. After Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar in May 2008, he was appointed by UNOCHA as Senior Adviser on Myanmar, based in Bangkok, and was the designated spokesperson for the international relief effort.

Richard Horsey is currently an Open Society Fellow. He is a fluent Burmese speaker and holds a PhD in psychology.

**Andrew Kirkwood** is Country Director for Save the Children in Burma (since September 2004). He has degrees in engineering and rural planning. He has spent the last 16 years working on humanitarian development programmes in poor and conflict-affected countries in Africa and Asia. This is his 4th assignment and his 11th year with Save the Children.

**Morten Pedersen** is a research fellow in the Centre for International Governance and Justice at Australian National University (ANU), specializing in international statecraft, human rights and Burmese politics and development affairs. He spent six years in Burma from 2000-06, working as senior analyst for the International Crisis Group (ICG) and consultant for the UN Country Team and the World Bank, followed by two years at the United Nations University, Peace and Governance Programme, in Tokyo. He holds a PhD in Politics and International Relations from ANU and is the author of "Promoting Human Rights in Burma: A Critique of Western Sanctions Policy" (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), as well as numerous policy papers and academic articles on Burma. He continues to work with the ICG, as well as the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum in New York, on finding effective ways to promote the security, freedom and welfare of the Burmese people. His current research focuses on the political transition process and the impact of international aid programs.

## PANEL II

**Richard L. Armitage** became President of Armitage International beginning March 2005. Previously, his nomination as Deputy Secretary of State was confirmed by the Senate on March 23, 2001. He was sworn in on March 26, 2001.

Prior to returning to government service in 2001, Mr. Armitage was President of Armitage Associates L.C. from May 1993 until March 2001.

## BIOGRAPHIES (Cont.)

He had been engaged in a range of worldwide business and public policy endeavors as well as frequent public speaking and writing.

From March 1992 until his departure from public service in May 1993, Mr. Armitage (with the personal rank of Ambassador) directed U.S. assistance to the new independent states (NIS) of the former Soviet Union.

From 1989 through 1992, Mr. Armitage filled key diplomatic positions as Presidential Special Negotiator for the Philippines Military Bases Agreement and Special Mediator for Water in the Middle East. President Bush sent him as a Special Emissary to Jordan's King Hussein during the 1991 Gulf War.

In the Pentagon from June 1983 to May 1989, he served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

In May 1975 Mr. Armitage came to Washington as a Pentagon consultant and was posted in Tehran, Iran, until November 1976. Following two years in the private sector, he took the position as Administrative Assistant to Senator Robert Dole of Kansas in 1978. In the 1980 Reagan campaign, Mr. Armitage was senior advisor to the Interim Foreign Policy Advisory board, which prepared the President-Elect for major international policy issues confronting the new administration. From 1981 until June 1983 Mr. Armitage was Deputy assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia and Pacific Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Born in 1945, Mr. Armitage graduated in 1967 from the U.S. Naval Academy, where he was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. He served on a destroyer stationed on the Vietnam gunline and subsequently completed three combat tours with the riverine/advisory forces in Vietnam. Fluent in Vietnamese, Mr. Armitage left active duty in 1973 and joined the U.S. Defense Attache Office, Saigon. Immediately prior to the fall of Saigon, he organized and led the removal of Vietnamese naval assets and personnel from the country.

He has received numerous U.S. military decorations as well as decorations from the governments of Thailand, Republic of Korea, Bahrain, and Pakistan.

On December 15, 2005, Mr. Armitage was awarded a KBE and became a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Mr. Armitage currently serves on the Board of Directors of ConocoPhillips, ManTech International Corporation and Transcu Ltd., is a member of The American Academy of Diplomacy as well as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS.) He was most recently awarded the Department of State Distinguished Service Award. He has been awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service four times, the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Award for Outstanding Public Service, the Presidential Citizens Medal, presented by the President to citizens who have performed exemplary deeds of service, and the Department of State Distinguished Honor Award.

**Ambassador Chan Heng Chee** took up her appointment as Singapore's Ambassador to the United States in 1996. Prior to her appointment, she was the Executive Director of the Singapore International Foundation (which created a Singapore version of the Peace Corps) and Director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. She was the founding Director of the Institute of Policy Studies. She has served as Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and was concurrently High Commissioner to Canada and Ambassador to Mexico. Ambassador Chan has received a number of awards including Honorary Degrees of Doctor of Letters from the University of Newcastle, Australia; and the University of Buckingham (United Kingdom). She was named International Woman of the Year by the Organization of Chinese American Women in 1998 and she won Singapore's inaugural "Woman of the Year, Award". She received the National Book Award in the non-fiction section for "A Sensation of Independence: A Political Biography of David Marshall" in 1986 and the National Book Award for "The Dynamics of One Party Dominance: The PAP at the Grassroots" in 1978.

Ambassador Chan has served as a member on the International Advisory Board of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Council of the International Institute for Strategic Studies and the International Council of the Asia Society.

Ambassador Chan received from the Government of Singapore The Public Administration Medal (Gold) in 1999 and the Meritorious Service Medal in 2005.

Ambassador Chan was educated at the University of Singapore and Cornell University.

**Damrong Kraikruan** is the Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission of the Royal Thai Embassy.

Education:

- B.A. in History from Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand
- Certificate in Diplomacy, Oxford University, UK, in 1994

Career:

- Joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand in 1985
- Spend most of his time in Southeast Asian Affairs

Overseas Assignment:

- Royal Thai Embassy, Manila, Philippines
- Royal Thai Embassy, Berlin, Germany

Prior to the position of the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Royal Thai Embassy, Washington DC, Mr. Damrong Kraikruan was the Director of Maritime Southeast Asia Division, Department of East Asia and the Head of the International Security Task Force of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Thant Myint-U** is an historian of Burma and a former United Nations official. He was educated at Harvard, Johns Hopkins SAIS, and Cambridge University and completed his PhD in history at Cambridge in 1996. From 1996-2000 he taught Asian and British imperial history at Cambridge as a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. He has also served

## BIOGRAPHIES (Cont.)

on three United Nations peacekeeping operations: in Cambodia from 1992-3 and in the former Yugoslavia from 1994-5. From 2000-2006 he held several different positions in the UN Secretariat in New York, including as the head of policy planning in the Department of Political Affairs. He is the author of numerous articles, book chapters and broadcast work as well as three books, his most recent being *The River of Lost Footsteps: A Personal History of Burma*, published in 2006. He has held visiting fellowships at Harvard, the International Peace Academy in New York, and at the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. He is currently writing a new book, *The Hidden Map of Asia*. He was born in New York in 1966.

### **Keiichi Ono**

- Graduate of Tokyo University, BA(LLB), and University of Cambridge, MA(Law)
- Joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in 1988
- Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in London, 1991-1993
- Principal Deputy Director, the China and Mongolia Division, MOFA, 1997-2000
- First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Washington, DC, 2000-2003
- Principal Deputy Finance Director, MOFA, 2003-2006
- Senior Coordinator for Japan-US security affairs, the Japan-US Security Treaty Division, MOFA, 2006-2008
- Director, First Southeast Asia Division, Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department, MOFA, from Aug 2008

**Ambassador Wegger Christian Strommen** the Ambassador of Norway to the United States. He came to Washington, D.C. in 2007, after serving as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva since 2005. He was Norway's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York from 2002-2005, served on the Security Council during Norway's tenure from 2000-2002 and as Norway's Deputy Foreign Minister from 1999 - 2000. Ambassador Strommen joined the Norwegian foreign service in 1984 and has also practiced as an international lawyer. He is married to Reverend Cecilie J. Strommen and they have two daughters.

**David Stuart**, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Australia, Washington DC

David Stuart arrived in Washington DC as Deputy Chief of Mission in July 2007.

David Stuart joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1981. He has served overseas as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York (1999 - 2002); Western Bureau representative and Vice-Chairman of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development; and as Counsellor for Political Affairs in the Australian Embassy in Jakarta (1997-99). He served in Australia's Mission to the United Nations in New York as delegate on the UN General Assembly's Third Committee (Social and humanitarian affairs), and as a member of the Australian delegation to the

Commission on Human Rights (1988-1992). He also served as Third Secretary in the Australian Embassy in Madrid (1981-1984).

In Canberra, David Stuart was the First Assistant Secretary, International Security Division from January 2004 to January 2007. Prior to that he was Assistant Secretary, Strategic Affairs Branch and Assistant Secretary, Strategic Policy and Intelligence Branch. Other positions held in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade have been Director of the UN Political and Commonwealth Section and of the OECD and Group of 7 Section; Executive Officer of the Human Rights Section, Executive Officer of the UN Social and Technical Section and a member of the Refugee, Immigration and Asylum section.

David Stuart holds degrees in Arts and Economics from Macquarie University and the Australian National University, and is a graduate of the Joint Australian Services Staff College (1995). He speaks Spanish and Indonesian.

David Stuart is married, with a daughter and two sons.

## FORUM CONVENERS

**The Atlantic Council of the United States** promotes constructive U.S. leadership and engagement in international affairs based on the central role of the Atlantic community in meeting the international challenges of the 21st century. The Council embodies a non-partisan network of leaders who aim to bring ideas to power and to give power to ideas by stimulating discussion on critical international issues. The Council's Program on Asia seeks to encourage U.S. leadership and engagement in the Asia-Pacific region; one approach in that regard is to encourage European-American cooperation on Asian issues. The Council's co-sponsorship of this event is an initiative of its new US-Europe-Southeast Asia Dialogue, managed by Nonresident Senior Fellow Catharin Dalpino.

**The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR)** was founded in 1989 in the legacy of Senator Henry M. Jackson, who believed that an urgent need existed for an institution that could tap the nation's best expertise to study Asia and Russia with U.S. national interests in mind. NBR is a non-partisan, non-profit research institution that conducts advanced independent research on issues affecting U.S. relations with Asia. Drawing upon an extensive network of the world's leading specialists, NBR bridges the academic, business, and policy arenas. NBR's research agenda is developed in consultation with its Board of Advisors, which consists of experts from research centers, universities, corporations, and Members of Congress. Congressional Members—a bipartisan group of 29 Senators and 50 Representatives—periodically participate in NBR activities and call on NBR for information, research reports, and expertise.

**Refugees International** advocates for lifesaving assistance and protection for displaced people and promotes solutions to displacement crises. As the leading advocacy organization on refugee crises, we successfully challenge policy makers and aid agencies to improve the lives of displaced people around the world and increase stability before conflict spreads. We decline government or UN funding, allowing our advocacy to be fearless and independent. Our field-based knowledge of humanitarian emergencies and expert recommendations are sought out by global leaders whose decisions bring immediate relief to refugees and solutions to large-scale crises. Due to our efforts, refugees receive food, medicine and education; displaced people return home; peacekeepers protect the displaced from harm; and stateless people obtain legal status.

**The US-ASEAN Business Council** is the trusted voice of the American private sector in the 10-country ASEAN market. With over two decades of building strategic alliances and working relationships with ASEAN regional organizations as well as with government and private sector leaders in each country, the Council has helped improve the business environment for American companies and expand the U.S. competitive position in the region.