

Director's Message

Ken Booth

This will be my final Director's Message, as I stood down from the role as of the end of the 2012-13 academic year. Given the stage in my career – now well into retirement – it was well beyond the time for me to pass on the position to someone better able to take a longer-term perspective.

The new Director, I am very pleased to announce, is Dr Jan Ruzicka, who has already been closely involved with various DDMI projects for a number of years. Jan has established himself as an outstanding young researcher, with his recent work on nuclear weapons proliferation (with Professor Campbell Craig) attracting international attention and controversy.

The three years during which I have held the post of Director involved having to give attention to the financial challenges (securing core funding as

The David Davies Memorial Institute of International Studies was created in 1951 to commemorate the work of Lord Davies, a tireless advocate for international cooperation, organisation and law. From its inception, the Institute has sought to build bridges between academics and policy-makers, and provide fora where NGOs, government officials, students, researchers, and the general public can share ideas on matters of global and international concern.

well as specific project funding) typical of all such organisations these days. Our lifeline has been the enormous support that has been forthcoming in particular from the Gwendoline and Margaret Davies Charity (GMDC) and the Department of International Politics. It is my very pleasant duty therefore to express my thanks for the backing given to the DDMI by Lord Davies and the Trustees of the GMDC, and by successive Heads of the Department (Professor Mike Foley and Dr Jenny Mathers). Without their support it would not have been possible for the DDMI to develop in the way it has.

Looking back on the past three years, four initiatives in particular have been important: the inauguration of the Davies Forums, *The Davies Papers*, the International Politics Research Group (IPRG), and the 'Food and Water Security – Online Research Resource' (FWS-ore) website. These ideas – at different speeds - are still gathering momentum, but each has proved its worth, and will be taken forward into the future. The Davies Forums (see both the present and 2012 *Newsletter*) have engaged a healthy number of students in debates about current international affairs. A major step forward in *The Davies Papers* is the inauguration of the 'Africa Series', and a brief description and account of its aims is provided in this *Newsletter* by the editor of the Series, Dr Carl Death. The IPRG had a steady but successful first year, and an interesting selection of speakers is lined up for 2013-14, including at least one who will address our scholar-practitioner agenda. Finally, the FWS-ore (details of which can be found in the 2012 *Newsletter*) is still at a developmental stage because of financial constraints, but its potential audience has overwhelmingly endorsed its ambitions. The common themes of each of these four initiatives (Continued on p.8)

Annual Lecture – Professor Rosemary Hollis, City University London

Professor Rosemary Hollis is a leading analyst of Middle Eastern affairs. She is presently Professor of Middle East Policy Studies and director of the Olive Tree Programme at City University London. Her varied career includes research positions in the media and commerce in London, university teaching in the US and UK, being Head of the Middle East programme at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, and Director of Research and Head of the Middle East programme at Chatham House. Her DDMI Annual Lecture is entitled: 'Britain and the Palestine Question 1914-2014'. Her lecture takes place at 6pm in the Main Hall of the International Politics Building on 27 February 2014.



The Davies Papers ‘Africa Series’

Carl Death

The DDMI has launched the ‘Africa Series’ of *The Davies Papers*, an online working paper series named in honour of David Davies. Research published in the series can be an author’s last word on a topic, a draft of a paper, the text or substantive notes for a presentation, or work in progress.

The ‘Africa Series’ is edited by Dr Carl Death (carl.death@manchester.ac.uk) and seeks to provide a platform to promote and disseminate work on African politics, and especially those with an international dimension. Themes suitable for inclusion in the Africa Series would include conflict and peace-building, development, humanitarian intervention, diplomacy, regionalism, democracy and civil society, food and water security, climate and environmental change, transnational social movements, and international institutions such as the African Union, African Development Bank, International Criminal Court, World Bank, UN Security Council reform, regional bodies, and so on. More theoretical and conceptual papers are also welcome – dealing with issues including freedom, justice, power, equality, race, gender, violence, knowledge, religion and so on – as long as there is a clear link to issues of African politics with an international dimension. This list is not exclusive, and those interested in contributing to the series should contact the editor.

Although the DDMI is based in the Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University, ideas and submissions are welcomed from throughout the community of scholars, practitioners, students, NGO-workers and the general public with an interest in African affairs. Contributions to *The Davies Papers* should be approximately 4,000-9,000 words. However, we are open to other options than standard academic papers (for example conference reports, roundtable discussions, memoirs, policy papers, etc). Copyright will stay with the author, and we would not put any obstacle whatever in front of publication elsewhere. The final decision on any paper – its relevance and quality – will rest with the ‘Africa Series’ editor.

The advantages of publishing through the Series include the opportunity to promote and disseminate ‘work in progress’ or ‘thought-leaders’ relatively quickly, in a professional and high-quality format, to a wide-ranging audience of academics, scholars, policy-makers and members of the general public. The Series is publicised through the DDMI *Newsletter* and email list, which has a circulation of over 1000.

The Davies Papers are available exclusively through the DDMI website. Existing papers can be accessed at <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/interpol/research/research-centres-and-institutes/ddmi/publications/davies-papers/>

DDMI and Social Media

Grant Dawson

The Institute has made great strides into the social media domain in recent years. The reason for this is two-fold. On the one hand, the Institute is always seeking new ways to disseminate information to reach out beyond its core audience in the Department of International Politics. On the other, the officers of the DDMI realize that it is important to stay up-to-date with emerging technologies that have the potential to further its mandate.

The two international conferences held in the Department of International Politics in September 2013 and partly organized and funded by the DDMI (see articles in this *Newsletter* for more details) offer illustrations of the DDMI’s social media engagement. The first conference, ‘International Relations Theory Today,’ was notable in social media terms for the use of Skype. Not only were Skype video presentations given from Ecuador and the United States and shown ‘live’ in the United Kingdom, but also on one occasion a Skype group video call was conducted in which the co-authors of a paper from different (Continued next page)

parts of the United States simultaneously delivered remarks and answered questions afterward. There were some snags but by and large the technology worked well.

The second conference, ‘The Human Dimension of Climate Change: the Politics of Food and Water Security in Africa,’ was even more ambitious in using social media. On the suggestion and initiative of the Aberystwyth University Communications Department, a ‘Storify’ web story was created of the conference that includes tweets, videos, photographs, and text on a single page. Conference assistants tweeted the conference live, doing so in no less than seven languages (Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Portuguese, and Welsh)! There was a recorded speech by Lord Malloch-Brown followed by a live Skype video Q&A. A video of the entire conference was live-streamed and broadcast over the ‘Food and Water Security – On-line Research Resource’ (FWS-ore) website, which the DDMI helped establish (see the previous issue of this *Newsletter* for details).

The DDMI plans to continue its forays into social media to connect with its potential audience scattered across the world. A DDMI Twitter account (@DDMIABer) has just been set up. As new social media technologies emerge that can be of use in furthering the DDMI’s activities, its officers will take them up while not distracting from the core intellectual aspects of a conference or event.

Update on DDMI and WCIA Co-operation

Grant Dawson

The DDMI and the Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA) in Cardiff have been collaborating on projects and events in recent years. They have sought to nurture a closer connection because of their shared interest in perpetuating the legacy of David Davies, especially in relation to peace and security. Officers of both organizations have formed ties, and DDMI officers are Trustees of the WCIA.

Two recent events, one hosted by each organization, serve as examples of the developing co-operation. The WCIA hosted ‘Question Time: The Responsibility to Protect and the Arab Spring’ on 5 February in the Glamorgan Building Council Chamber, Cardiff. The event was chaired by Dr Peter Sutch of Cardiff University and included the participation of DDMI Deputy Director Dr Grant Dawson. The other event was the international conference ‘The Human Dimensions of Climate Change: the Politics of Food and Water Security in Africa.’ The WCIA sponsored a reception before the conference dinner, and WCIA Assistant Chief Executive Susie Ventris-Field spoke about the work of the WCIA and attended panels.

The DDMI and the WCIA are also working together, under the leadership of the WCIA, on a Heritage Lottery Fund bid. The focus is on ‘Wales for Peace’ and the occasion is the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. The project is partly about the history of people and communities in Wales involved with peace, and partly about today’s citizens directing their energy into global concerns and becoming the ‘new’ internationalists. In addition to the DDMI, Aberystwyth University is represented in the bid by the participation of the Department of International Politics, whose founding in 1919 was directly related to the experience of David Davies in the fighting on the Western Front.

Reflecting on Five Years with the DDMI

Grant Dawson

This is likely the last DDMI *Newsletter* that I will have the pleasure to work on as part of the editorial team. At the end of July 2014, after five years as Deputy Director of the DDMI, I plan to move on and will not appear in these pages again except as a guest contributor. The lines below are but a brief summary of my time with the DDMI, and what it has meant to me. (Continued next page)

When I took on the post, I did not imagine I would have so many opportunities to grow and contribute to the Department of International Politics in general. Though ‘Deputy Director’ is an external-funded administrative post, I participated in Departmental board meetings, convened a module, and conducted research in my field of peacekeeping, intervention, civil war, and Canada’s foreign policy towards Africa. I published articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals. Also inspiring are all the great people – such as Ken Booth, Mike Foley, Andrew Linklater, and Campbell Craig – with whom I’ve come into contact.

A big part of the Deputy Director job is to organize special lectures and various other kinds of events. Highlights include the climate change symposium (2009), the DDMI Annual Lecture given by Professor Robert Jervis (2011), the popular Davies Forums (since 2012), and the two international conferences in September 2013. Coupled with my post as Editorial Assistant of *International Relations*, the journal of the Institute (though now owned by SAGE), I have learned a lot about the operational side of UK higher education and have become a much more well-rounded professional.

I could not end this article without making some personal remarks, since they too refer back to the DDMI. In July 2009, not long after arriving in Aberystwyth, I met the woman who would later become my wife. A few years later, we had a baby – and Galen Ferdinand Dawson is now 8 months old as I write. So you see, some of the most important things in my life will forever be linked to the DDMI, the Department of International Politics, and a little seaside town in Wales – Aberystwyth.

I’d like to thank very much the Gwendolyn and Margaret Davies Charity for their generous financial support of the DDMI. The Charity sustained my post for five years and will hopefully continue to sustain the DDMI long after my departure.

The IR Discipline: ‘International Relations Theory Today’ conference

Katja Daniels

Nearly twenty years on from the publication of the landmark edited collection *International Relations Theory Today*, leading scholars of International Relations (IR) were brought together in Aberystwyth to take stock of the path the discipline has taken since, and where it should be heading in the future.

Representing the diversity of both theoretical frameworks and empirical topics that characterize the discipline, the participants quickly justified the point made by Ken Booth, co-organizer with Toni Erskine, that IR is an ‘argumentative discipline.’ However, as the discussion developed, it was evident that the participants paid close attention to each others’ work and no theoretical stone was left unturned. Amid more specific debates, at least two broader questions recurred throughout the conference. The first area of disagreement concerned the discipline’s subject matter. In contrast to IR’s traditional ‘preoccupation with the state system’, Neta Crawford’s paper imagined a graduate curriculum of the year 2113 that explicitly embraced interdisciplinarity, a long-term perspective and the study of ‘world politics’, while Rorden Wilkinson stressed the importance of removing ‘the straitjacket of outmoded theoretical approaches’ in a world ‘after sovereignty’. The second recurring theme concerned theory itself. In their speech of welcome, Ken Booth and Toni Erskine argued that the discipline could no longer be accused of being ‘theoretically primitive’ (picking up on one of the views expressed in the first edition).

Indeed, the prevailing concern was whether the discipline had become too abstract or too detached from practice. Christine Sylvester challenged the discipline’s tendency to reward those (Continued next page)

engaged in abstract theorizing that ‘habitually remove everyday people’ from consideration; Chris Brown maintained that the very purpose of IR theory is to improve IR practice; and Oran Young advocated scholarly attention to solutions (in his case to the collective-action challenges of the Anthropocene) in order to avoid practitioners conjuring up unattractive solutions ‘at the spur of the moment’.

A recent Special Issue of the *European Journal of International Relations* lamented the lack of engagement between different theoretical approaches, but after three days of lively debate it is safe to say that the new edition of *International Relations Theory Today* will be an important step in the right direction.

Conference on the ‘Human Dimensions of Climate Change: the Politics of Food and Water Security in Africa’

Justa Hopma

Between 18–20 September, the interdisciplinary conference ‘Human Dimensions of Climate Change: the Politics of Food and Water Security in Africa’ took place at Aberystwyth University, organised and sponsored in part by the DDMI. The other lead sponsors were C3W (Climate Change Consortium of Wales) and Aberystwyth University’s IBERS (Institute of Biology, Environmental, and Rural Sciences). The conference included a variety of events: from a New York / Aberystwyth video conference, to a number of high-quality academic panels, to a tour of the IBERS’ state-of-the art crop breeding labs. Seventy people attended, including academics, diplomats, policy makers, NGO representatives, government officials and students from Africa, Europe, and North America. All individual sessions were broadcast live on Aberystwyth University’s ‘Food and Water Security – Online Research Resource’ (FWS-ore) website while three conference assistants kept Aberystwyth University’s twitter followers updated.

A personal highlight was the panel on water security in which Inga Jacobs (Water Research Commission, South Africa), Daniel Yeo (Global Green Growth Institute, based in the Government of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa), and Larry Swatuk (University of Waterloo, Canada) presented their views on how water security policy is framed and why we need to re-think it. Larry Swatuk’s question ‘Why do we think about water the way we do?’ could certainly be seen as a guiding question for other panels too. Why do we think about agriculture and security the way we do?

The conference had a strong international dimension to it, with representatives from many countries – some of whom had extensive experience in international policy-making and leadership. Lord Malloch-Brown provided insight into the workings of the UN, whilst former African Union President Jean Ping gave his keynote address on the human impact of climate change on the continent that has ‘contributed least to global warming’.

Overall, the conference was successful in its aim of bringing together experts from a variety of backgrounds; it thereby provided an example of the kinds of exciting collaborative projects the DDMI can help organise. Nevertheless, the stimulating discussions also made clear that the mere identification of common research areas is not sufficient in itself. Of course, there is only so much that can be achieved during a three-day conference. However, if it is true that – in Jean Ping’s words – the involvement of *all* is required to respond adequately to the formidable challenges related to food and water security, then the process through which such involvement is realised *and sustained* matters tremendously. For the purpose of this conference, the DDMI succeeded in getting a number of key parties around the table. The challenge now is to think about how the conversation can continue. In this regard, I am looking forward to a second interdisciplinary conference on the politics of food and water security – this time *in* Africa.

Staff Profile: Dr Kamila Stullerova

Kamila Stullerova

Kamila Stullerova, a Lecturer in International Politics, has worked at the Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth since 2009. She joined the DDMI as an Associate in 2012. Kamila's area of research lies at the intersection of International Relations Theory, Political Theory and Security Studies. In March 2013 she organised (together with Jan Ruzicka) an international conference entitled 'Emancipatory Realism: Ken Booth and the Discipline of International Relations', which revisited Ken Booth's scholarship and examined its impact on current developments in International Relations and Security Studies. It was also held to mark his 70th birthday. Papers were presented by scholars from Australia, Canada, South Africa, and Turkey, as well as the UK. At present Kamila is editing (together with Tim Dunne) a book, *Security and Emancipation*, building on the conference.

As a critical theorist of security, Dr Stullerova is interested in the normative dimensions of security and its relationship to other political values. One outcome of this inquiry is a project examining the human rights–security nexus from the perspective of food and water security. Developing her recent theoretical article entitled 'Rethinking Human Rights', she is now exploring how the concept of human rights may prevent some of the depoliticising tendencies of the food and water security agenda, while reinforcing the commitment to securing basic nutrition for all. This international, collaborative, and multidisciplinary project will be published as a special double issue of *The International Journal of Human Rights*.

Kamila is a member of the 'Critical Theory Meets Classical Realism' network, a three year international research project funded by the Leverhulme Trust. As part of this project, she is examining how twentieth-century political realism can be appropriated for addressing contemporary challenges of international politics, and in particular how it can identify and address newly emerging issues and do so ethically. She co-convenes the British International Studies Association's working group Contemporary Research on International Political Theory (CRIPT) as well as the Group on International Theory (GRIT), a research group at the Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth. Dr Stullerova teaches modules in political theory, international ethics, international relations theory and critical security studies, and supervises PhD theses in these areas. She is excited to be part of the DDMI team!

Highlights from work of the past year by DDMI officers and associates

Grant Dawson

Publications:

Ken Booth, 'Foreword' in Laura J. Shepherd (ed), *Critical Approaches to Security: An Introduction to theories and methods* (Routledge: 2013): xv-xvii.

Ken Booth, 'Human Development in a Statist World', *International Journal of Social Economics*, 40(7), 2013: 633-47.

Ian Clark, *The Vulnerable in International Society*, (Oxford University Press, 2013).

Grant Dawson, 'Player, partner and friend: Canada's Africa policy since 1945', *International Politics* 50(3), 2013: 412–434. (Continued next page)

Carl Death, 'Governmentality at the limits of the international: African politics and Foucauldian theory', *Review of International Studies* 39(3), 2013: 763-787.

Andrew Linklater, 'The Global Civilizing Role of Cosmopolitanism', in Gerard Delanty (ed), *The Routledge Handbook of Cosmopolitan Studies* (Routledge, 2012): 60-71.

Campbell Craig and **Jan Ruzicka**, 'The Nonproliferation Complex', *Ethics & International Affairs*, 27(3), 2013: 329-348.

Kamila Stullerova, 'In Defence of Human Rights,' *International Politics* 50(5), 2013: 686–705.

Lectures:

Ken Booth addressed Masters students at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced Studies, Bologna University, Italy, on 'Realism, Critical Theory, and Global Security' (March 2013).

Ken Booth delivered a lecture to the social science faculty at Coimbra University in Portugal on 'IR: why it matters and what we should do' (April 2013).

Ian Clark gave talks on 'China as a Great Power' at Tsinghua University, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and the Foreign Affairs University – all in Beijing, China (June 2013).

Grant Dawson participated in a seven person panel discussion hosted by the Welsh Centre for International Affairs entitled "Question Time: The 'Responsibility to Protect' and the Arab Spring," Glamorgan Building Council Chamber, Cardiff (February 2013).

Carl Death gave a paper, 'Green states in Africa: Environmental change and international politics', at Stellenbosch University, South Africa (February 2013).

Kamila Stullerova and **Jan Ruzicka** co-organised an international conference entitled: 'Emancipatory Realism: Ken Booth and the Discipline of International Relations', Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University (March 2013).

Institute events and lectures in 2012-13

Grant Dawson

DDMI Annual Lectures:

Thomas O. Melia (Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, United States Department of State), 'Is it realist to think we can advance democracy and human rights?' (19 March 2013).

Professor Norman Davies (Jagiellonian University and Honorary Fellow of St Antony's College, University of Oxford), 'Is the European Union a Vanishing Kingdom?' (1 November 2012).

Conferences and Workshops:

International conference: 'The Human Dimensions of Climate Change: the Politics of Food and Water Security in Africa' (18-20 September 2013). (Continued next page)

International conference: 'International Relations Theory Today' (11-13 September 2013).

The International Politics Research Group of the DDMI hosted a workshop entitled 'Can we trust anybody in international politics?' (24 October 2012). Participants were Professor Nicholas J. Wheeler (University of Birmingham and former Director, DDMI), Dr Vincent C. Keating (Durham University), and Dr Jan Ruzicka (Aberystwyth University).

Davies Forums:

5th Davies Forum on 'Al-Qaeda in Mali? Hostage-taking in Algeria? Insecurity in Libya? Assassination in Tunisia? Human rights abuses in Syria? What is to be done?' Participants were Professor Martin Alexander and Drs Jan Ruzicka, Madeline Carr, and Grant Dawson (19 February 2013).

4th Davies Forum on the '2012 U.S. Presidential Election'. Participants were Aidan Condon, Professor Campbell Craig, and Dr Andrew Priest. The question they engaged with was: 'What are the implications of the election for U.S. politics and the world?' (6 November 2012).

Guest lectures:

- Ian Sinclair (writer and peace activist), 'The unknown achievements of the 15 February 2003 anti-war march,' based on his 2013 book, *The march that shook Blair: an oral history of 15 February 2003* (19 April 2013).

- Georgina Holmes (King's College London), 'Feminist theorising of war and genocide in the Great Lakes region of Africa' (5 February 2013).

- Christoph Ploss (University of Hamburg), 'Lord Davies, The New Commonwealth Society and its German section' (7 November 2012).

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are inclusivity (getting more people involved in the activities and ethos of the DDMI) and dissemination (making sure that the widest body of people possible become aware of what the DDMI is doing).

In addition to these four on-going projects, September 2013 saw the DDMI play a central role in the conception, organisation, fund-raising, and running of two major international conferences. I think it is not going too far to claim that these have been the most high-profile conferences ever sponsored by the DDMI in its long history. Brief accounts by conference volunteers are included in this *Newsletter*.

Chronologically, the first of the conferences was entitled 'International Relations Theory Today'. The co-organisers were Professor Toni Erskine and myself. We brought together in Aberystwyth a very distinguished group of IR theorists, to discuss drafts of chapters for the second edition of the book *International Relations Theory Today*, the first edition of which was published in 1995, and which became an established source for higher level students internationally. The meeting was essentially an author's workshop, but postgraduate students in the Department participated, while members of staff played positive and decisive roles as discussants – earning the thanks of both the paper-givers and the organisers. The second edition of the book is planned to come out in later 2014, published by Polity.

The second conference was: 'The Human Dimensions of Climate Change: the Politics of Food and Water Security in Africa'. This conference was co-organised by Sir Emyr Jones Parry, President of Aberystwyth University, Dr Carl Death, now of University of Manchester, (Continued next page)

and myself. The keynote address was given by Jean Ping, former Chair of the African Union, and participants included officials, politicians, activists, and researchers from various parts of Africa, as well as from Europe and Canada. The main aims of the conference were the promotion of understanding about the interplay, at different levels, between insecurity dynamics, climate change, and politics in Africa; the creation of a network of interested scholars, activists, and officials; and the exploration of the challenges facing interdisciplinary approaches to food and water security in general. The conference looks likely to generate a variety of outputs, evident in the way participants left the conference with a buzz. The first of *The Davies Papers* 'Africa Series' will be a roundup of the conference – its themes, achievements, failures – from a variety of different viewpoints. Those interested should look out for this on the DDMI website towards the end of 2013.

In helping the successful running of these conferences various thanks are due. For financial support of the 'International Relations Theory Today' conference, I want to thank the Department of International Politics and the Aberystwyth University Conference Fund. For the conference on 'The Human Dimensions of Climate Change: the Politics of Food and Water Security in Africa' I want to thank C3W (Climate Change Consortium Wales), IBERS (Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences), and the Department once more. For help in organising the events, I want to acknowledge for the 'International Relations Theory Today' conference the Department's support staff, especially Elaine Lowe, Rachel Owen, and Gwenan Creunant; and in Australia the administrative support of Kimberley Layton. 'The Politics of Food and Water Security in Africa' conference was organised largely by the DDMI officers, Sir Emyr Jones Parry and Carl Death, with very useful advice as ever from the Department's support staff. In both cases Grant Dawson had first-class 'front of house' help from student volunteers (Katja Daniels and Pola Zafra for the first conference, and Justa Hopma, Désirée Poets, and Florian Mikal for the second). Success in ventures such as these, involving significant numbers of participants from different countries, always depends on good team work, and the DDMI was well served by our support teams.

It would be remiss of me, in this final Director's message, not to single out the Deputy Director of the DDMI, Dr Grant Dawson. In 2009 Grant took the risk of coming from Canada to take up this position, on a part-time basis. From the start Grant enthusiastically endorsed the DDMI ethos, and he and I have enjoyed a warm personal relationship. Not least of the latter was my pleasure at being drafted in, five minutes before the music began, as the Best Man at his wedding – the real Best Man having got himself hopelessly lost making the journey from Liverpool to Aberystwyth.

Although I have stepped down as Director, I am certainly not losing contact with the DDMI: far from it. I have been asked to be President, a role that has languished in the years since the DDMI transferred to Aberystwyth from its London beginnings. This will involve a more ambassadorial role on my part, rather than regular involvement with the running of seminars and other activities (though I will be involved in these as a participant). With this role in mind, plans are afoot next year for projects in Malaysia, Canada, South Africa, and Turkey, as well as the UK, and in all these cases I will fly the DDMI's flag.

Finally, it is my pleasure to wish Jan the very best in his new role as Director. I am confident that with his outstanding organising ability, vision, and energising skills the unique project that is the DDMI will continue with its upward trajectory, always punching above its weight in its commitment to show how international relations matter in the life of the world at so many different levels.

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