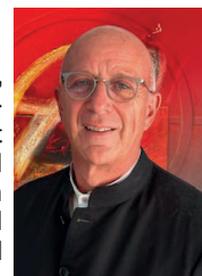


AMBASSADOR (RET.) DR. JÜRGEN MORHARD

Dr. Jürgen Morhard, a seasoned diplomat with an MBA and a Ph.D. in International Relations, has forged a distinguished career in the German foreign service. Notable roles include Deputy Director of the Budget and Finance Unit in Berlin, Head of the Economic Department at the German Embassy in Washington, Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and Consul General in Mumbai. His commitment to German-Indian relations is evident as the Chairman of the German Indian Society since 2022. Fluent in English, French, and Japanese, Dr. Morhard brings rich diplomatic experience, economic acumen, and linguistic versatility to his impactful endeavours.

**MR. WINFRIED MENGELKAMP**

With a comprehensive background in economics, Winfried Mengelkamp has navigated pivotal roles, from spearheading departments in government ministries to senior management at Deutsche GIZ. Currently serving as the Deputy Director of International Affairs at the State Chancellery of North Rhine-Westphalia, he brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the intersection of economics, culture, and international relations. His journey includes significant contributions to the Dortmund Development Center, Dortmund State Institute for Social Research, and a transformative role as a Consultant for Cultural Transformation at Barret Values Center (USA) since 2013.

**MS. AJITA AGARWALA**

Ajita Agarwala is an Indian Civil Servant who served as Under Secretary at the G20 Secretariat in the recently concluded Indian Presidency. During her tenure, she worked on institutionalizing two new initiatives in the G20-Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group and the Startup20 Engagement Group. She has also worked previously on PPPs for Infrastructure Development with Indian Railways and at the World Bank. She is an alumna of Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs and Delhi Technological University.

**MS. REGINA SUMMER**

Regina Summer has more than 20 years of experience working in the Swedish innovation system from both an academic, a business and a public agency perspective. Her previous position was Head of Unit Green Growth and Innovation at the Swedish Agency for Regional and Economic Growth. Today she is the Director of Strategic Partnerships at SISP – Swedish Incubators and Science Parks and Ignite Sweden. Before this, she was the Chief Strategy Officer of International Collaboration at Vinnova, the Swedish Innovation Agency. She is also responsible for Sweden Innovation Days and was the coordinator for Vinnova's participation at the world exhibitions, EXPO2020, COP26 and COP27.

**DR. ANNA SHPAKOVSKAYA**

Dr. Anna Shpakovskaya is a Research Fellow at the Institute of East Asian Studies at the University of Duisburg-Essen. Born in St. Petersburg, she spent 10 years in Shanghai and the last 14 years in Duisburg. Anna has worked as a China Analyst on several international research projects. She was an Associate Professor at Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main. She also teaches Chinese politics at the University of Paris East in France.



MR. KONSTANTIN L. KASAKOV

Konstantin L. Kasakov is a seasoned Political-Economic Specialist currently serving at the U.S. Consulate General in Düsseldorf, NRW. With a background at Daikin Chemical Europe GmbH, and consulting roles at Deekeling Arndt/AMO and Navos - Public Dialogue Consultants GmbH, Konstantin brings years of experience in corporate and public affairs. His expertise in navigating the intersection of politics and economics makes him a valuable asset in fostering international relations and promoting economic growth.

**CONSUL GENERAL MR. HUH SEUNGJAE**

Mr. Huh Seungjae is the Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Bonn. He has been serving in this position since 2021. Prior to his current role, he held various positions in the Korean government handling international cooperation in various ministries. He has extensive experience in international trade, investment, and environmental issues.

**MS. PARUL MAHAJAN**

Ms. Parul Mahajan has worked with several Embassies in India to promote International Relations and economic partnerships between India and those countries. She has also worked in the National Skill Development Corporation under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Government of India as the Head of Advocacy for Government and International Relations and Industry Partnerships. She studied Law at the Panjab University Chandigarh. In addition, Ms. Mahajan is a writer and has published articles on politics, society, and culture. She has also hosted a show called 'Jai Hind' which aired on National Television.

**MR. JORDI RAFOLS**

Jordi Ràfols is the founder and CEO of Innoget, the boutique of Open Innovation offering services from both technology push and market pull perspectives. With more than 20 years of experience working in the Open Innovation and Technology Transfer business sector, he has been directly involved in the hundreds of cross-industry innovation projects and worked with several International Companies in evaluating, developing, and deploying their Open Innovation programs.

**MS. KATHY ROUSSEL**

Kathy Roussel is the Head of Advocacy and Engagement at amfori. As a member of the leadership team, she contributes to building the organisation's strategy and is responsible for implementing the vision outlined for amfori by its members and the Board of Directors. Since joining amfori, Kathy has been successfully advocating for open and sustainable trade and positioning amfori as a leading voice on corporate due diligence policies. Graduated in both Political Sciences and European/International Trade Law, Kathy has 20 years of experience in Public affairs. In her past role, she was running the Brussels representation office of AHDB (UK - Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board). Also, she acted as the Secretary-General for the CDL, a European Platform of national agri-food promotion organisations (now merged with the ETPO, European Trade Promotion Organisation).



PROF. DR. KATHRIN MÖSLEIN

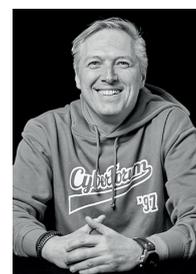
Prof. Dr. Kathrin M. Möslein, Vice President at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), holds the Chair for Information Systems, Innovation & Value Creation at FAU's School of Business, Economics and Society and is a research professor and academic director of the Center for Leading Innovation and Cooperation (CLIC) at the HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management (HHL).

**MS. ANNETTE KLERKS**

Annette is Head of the Department of International Business Service at the Office of Economic Development of the City of Düsseldorf. Among others, she and her team are in charge of supporting foreign companies in Düsseldorf. She started her career in Business Administration and Marketing at a Düsseldorf based newspaper publisher. After studying economic history and geography, she became Area Sales Manager of Oxford University Press, Academic Division. From 2001-2007, Annette worked as a Trade Officer at the head office of UK Trade & Invest in Germany. In 2007, Annette joined the Office of Economic Development of the City of Düsseldorf, initially as Area Manager Europe, North America and India.

**MR. RALF EICHHORN**

Ralf Eichhorn, the Head of Innovation and International Affairs at Wirtschaftsförderung Karlsruhe, is a visionary leader driving economic development and global engagement in Karlsruhe, Germany. With a focus on fostering innovation, Ralf orchestrates initiatives that propel businesses to new heights. His role encapsulates a commitment to advancing international collaborations, positioning Karlsruhe as a hub for innovation and economic growth.

**MR. GO THEISEN**

Go Theisen has been working as Project Director for EWG – Essen Economic Development Agency in the International Business Unit since 2018. He started his professional career working in Japan. Born as half German and half Japanese, he always has been active as a bridge between different cultures.

**MR. TASVVAR ALI**

Tasvvar Ali, Director of Business Development at the Indian SME Consortium in Germany, is a strategic leader with over 2 years of experience representing Aurangabad companies in the international market. His expertise spans marketing, business development, and successful collaboration between industries and academia. Previously, as the Maharashtra State Coordinator at GIZ, he played a pivotal role in fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and technological adoption in the MSME sector. With a background at Maruti Suzuki, Ali's dynamic career reflects a commitment to driving strategic initiatives for business success.



CONSUL GENERAL MR. B. S. MUBARAK

Mr. B. S. Mubarak is a senior Indian diplomat and has served in Cairo, Dubai, and Jeddah. He headed India's Mission in Palestine from 2012-14 and was Consul General in Jeddah from 2014-16. He was Director and later Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs from 2016 to 2018. He was Ambassador of India to Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras from December 2018 to December 2021 and, to the Republic of Sudan from January 2022 to August 2023. On 2nd October, 2023 Mr Mubarak assumed the charge of Consul General of India in Frankfurt, Germany.

**MR. MICHAEL SCHMIDT**

Michael Schmidt is a trained economist with more than 25 years of experience in international business, investment management and trade & development. Before joining the United Nations Organization for Industrial Development (UNIDO) as Deputy Head of the Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) in Germany, he worked on industrial park development in China, investment and trade consulting in Eastern Europe and as director of the Germany Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHK) in South-Eastern Europe.

**MR. YUNUS ARIKAN**

Yunus Arikan is an environmental engineer from the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. Yunus has led ICLEI's global advocacy at the UN bodies and multilateral environmental agreements since 2009. As Director of Global Advocacy, he also serves as the Focal Point of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency to the UNFCCC.

**DR. ALEKSANDRA JASKÓLSKA**

Dr. Aleksandra Jaskólska is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw in Warsaw, Poland. She has been involved in the European Union projects under the Horizon 2020, Strategic Partnership framework. Her research interests: role of domestic actors in shaping India's foreign

**DR. THORSTEN JELINEK**

Dr. Thorsten Jelinek is the Europe director of the Taihe Institute, contributing to the policy debates on international relations and digital transformation. Previously, he was an Associate Director at the World Economic Forum and worked in the industry for many years. He earned his PhD from the University of Cambridge.

**MR. VIVEK ANAND**

Vivek Anand is a seasoned civil servant with one and a half decades of multi-disciplinary experience across industry and government administration. As Deputy Director in the Ministry of Finance, he has been at the forefront of initiatives spanning governance and technology, specializing in public-private partnerships and international collaborations. Earlier, as a German Chancellor Fellow, he facilitated numerous Indo-German and Indo-Spanish partnerships in open innovation and Industry 4.0. He has also been part of various Government of India delegations including to Brussels, Moscow, and the World Trade Organization. For his professional and leadership excellence, in 2018, Mr. Anand was awarded the Finance Minister's Gold Medal.



MS. ARVEA MARIENI

Arvea is a partner and board member of management advisory Brainscapital and technical director for the Regenerative Society Foundation, co-chaired by US Economist Jeffrey Sachs, and Andrea Illy. As a strategy adviser, climate policy expert and innovation manager, she specialises in EU-China environmental cooperation, serving as a European Commission expert and a consultant with the UNFCCC.



PRIV.-DOZ. DR. MANUEL BECKER

Priv.-Doz. Dr. Manuel Becker is Senior Researcher and Head of the Scientific Program at the Academy of international Affairs NRW. From 2018 to 2023, he was the Managing Director of the Institute for Political Science and Sociology at the University of Bonn. He studied Political Science, Medieval and Current History as well as Philosophy at the University of Bonn and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po). He teaches Political Science at the University of Bonn and at the Hochschule Bonn/Rhein-Sieg. His research interests include the politics of history, university policy, the history of political ideas as well as International Relations. He recently published *Universitäre Bildung in Deutschland, Ideengeschichtliche Perspektiven unter aktuelle Herausforderungen in NRW*, Nomos 2022. He was also co-editor of a book on migration policies; *Fluchtpunkt Integration, Panorama eines Problemfeldes*, Wiesbaden 2017.



DR. KATJA FREISTEIN

Dr. Katja Freistein is Senior Researcher and Academic Coordinator of the Fellowship Program at the Academy of International Affairs NRW. Her research has focused on international organisations, global inequalities and development. She has published extensively on narratives and visibility, particularly in the context of rightwing populism, in journals including *Review of International Studies* and *International Political Sociology*, among others. She was a Fellow and Visiting Professor at institutions in Aarhus, Saint Petersburg, Hamburg and Münster. Her latest, co-edited book is: *Freistein, Katja, Bettina Mahlert, Sigrid Quack, Christine Unrau, Imagining Pathways for Global Cooperation*, Edward Elgar 2022.

