



E-Gazette

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"The Aid Effectiveness Puzzle – Completing the Picture?"

Maastricht (14-15 October)

The effectiveness of development assistance is not a new theme, but the issue has taken on a greater urgency in the last few years, following the disappointments with aid results in the past, the need to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and the additional efforts to promote stability, peace and greater equality in developing countries.

The Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, which will take place in Accra on 2-4 September this year aims at reviewing progress made in the implementation of the Paris Declaration; broadening and deepening dialogue on aid effectiveness by giving space and voice to new actors; identifying required actions and bottlenecks that need to be overcome.

This Advanced Academic Update (AAU) on Aid Effectiveness is explicitly scheduled after 'Accra' in order to offer a forum for donors, partners from developing countries and academia to discuss the outcomes of the forum in the light of the gap between political reality and academic scrutiny.

Together with the European Centre for Development Policy Management the School offers this Advanced Academic Update state-of-the-art knowledge for academics and professionals working in the area of aid effectiveness and aid

policies.

The aim of this AAU is to contribute to a better understanding of the problems that underpin the whole debate on aid effectiveness. The participants will learn about the latest developments in aid research and their applicability for work in the field. [Please click here to read the programme details >>](#)

The 2008 US Presidential Election Campaign *and Beyond* ...who is best for Europe: Obama or McCain?

(7 October)

For the first time in history, both American presidential candidates have actively campaigned on foreign soil. And Europeans have been following the American election with unprecedented fervor, with hundreds of thousands turning out to hear Barack Obama, while European politicians meet with McCain on his own tour of Europe. This is the year the American presidential contest truly goes global.

In recognition of this, on 7 October 2008 two prominent foreign policy advisors to the current United States presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain will debate which candidate will be best for Europe, Ivo Daalder (Obama) and Tod Lindberg (McCain) will appear at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, (Maastricht University), to discuss how Europe will be affected by the outcome of the American election.



The stakes for Europe in this presidential election are quite high. In the difficult counter insurgency war in Afghanistan, NATO struggles to hold its alliance together as casualties mount. The war in Iraq, which ignited fierce European opposition, continues to tie down NATO's largest member, limiting how much America can do in Afghanistan. Anger at the Bush administration in Europe also centers around tales of torture, secret prisons, and the kidnapping and detention of European citizens and residents in violation of European and international laws. The Doha round of talks on trade, in which the European Union and the US must cooperate in order to achieve their

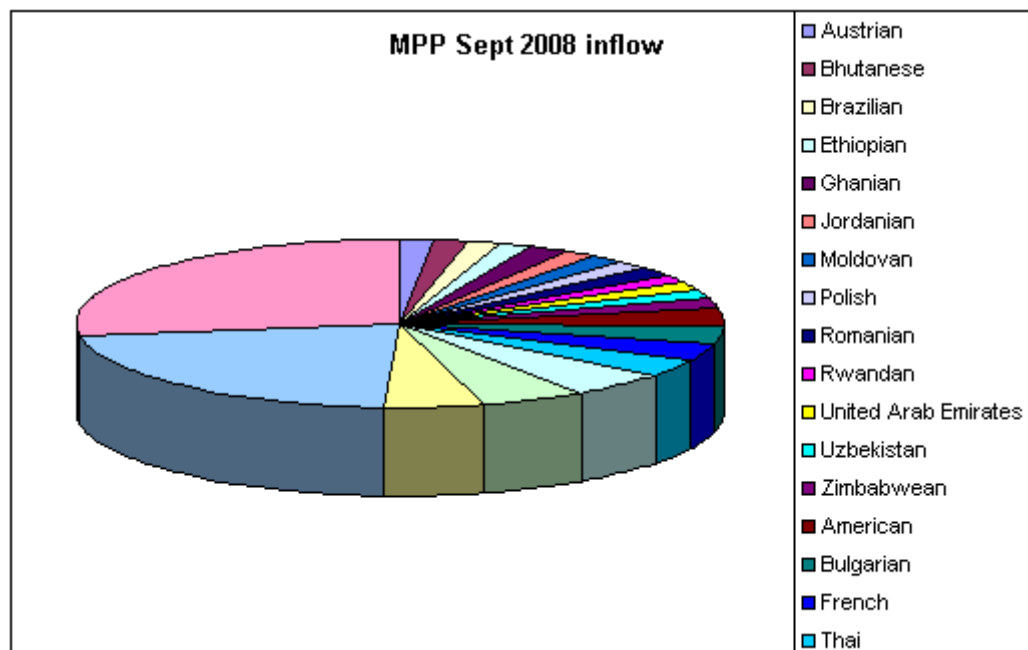
mutual goals, has been a source of tension over agricultural subsidies and other topics. Meanwhile, the powers of Europe wait to see whether a new president will be willing to work together on climate change and other environmental issues. For many citizens of Europe, the American presidential election is second in importance only to their own country's elections. Daalder and Lindberg will be asked what victory by their side will mean for these and many other issues.

Ivo Daalder, born in the Netherlands, now Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy studies of The Brookings Institution and former director for European Affairs on the National Security Council, directly advises Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama on foreign policy. Tod Lindberg born in New York is a Research Fellow in the Hoover Institution and advises the McCain campaign on foreign policy. A prominent European political representative will also participate in the Debate. Charles Clarke born in London is the former UK Home Secretary and known for his considerable political savvy; he became renowned for his advocacy of landmark proposals for countering terrorism.

[Please click here for more information >>](#)

Start of academic year: The next Generation

On Monday September 1st it was time for a new beginning for 62 master's students and 22 PhD fellows. During their first "day at School" they were introduced to the programme coordinators, informed about the programme, practical issues and became familiar with Maastricht as a student town and as a cultural heritage. The staff of the School was overwhelmed by the variety of countries of origin and the drive of the students for finalizing their study programme at the School of Governance before they will be starting their international career. Just to give you an insight of how our current cohort of MPP students looks like, see the pie chart below.



MGSOG Online Summer Course Graduation Ceremony

On Monday, the 8th of September, 2008, the graduation ceremony of this year's online summer courses was held. During this event, participants (finally) met their tutors, got a chance to have a pleasant drink and (of course) received their certificates. The courses that were offered covered "Economics", "Governance & Political Science" and "Mathematics & Statistics" and lasted for about 6 weeks. Their purpose was to provide students, with less than average prior knowledge on the topic in question, the opportunity to follow remedial online courses that would help them with a smooth transition into one of our programs.

The online course on "Mathematics & Statistics" employed an individual learning approach, allowing students to independently go through all materials. Based on individual knowledge profiles, students got the opportunity to learn new lessons in a stepwise fashion. In contrast, the courses on "Economics" and "Governance &



Political Science" build on an e-PBL approach, where participants collaboratively discussed a range of different tasks that introduced them to the main concepts and ideas of the topics. In the course of these discussions, students talked about "why consumers do not decrease their consumption and who pays for a tax", or whether "globalization evenly affects the developed, developing and in transition countries". Next to these strictly content-driven discussions, participants also shared their own personal experiences, such as an "overview of the Nigerian situation, analyzed from an economic point of view", or "the hot topic of [my country] Thailand at the moment, [namely] the rise of RICE prices." Finally, there was of course also plenty of opportunity to get to know each other on a more personal basis and to talk about "student life". More specifically, people exchanged their music preferences and gave each other advice on where and how to find a room in Maastricht.



Overall, it can safely be stated that the courses have again been very successful, helping participants to remediate possible gaps in prior knowledge and providing them with a pleasant and enjoyable learning experiences that will help them to get started at the MGSOG.

Capacity Building of South-East Asian Management



13 Governance officials from Indonesia and Vietnam are currently studying at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance. They are participating in a module which is developed upon request of InWent, Germany. It is the second time that the School runs this module and is designed for employees of social insurance institutions from South-East Asia about the current developments in social protection, including courses and practical internships in Europe. After they have finalized this module successfully, the participants will return to Germany for the last part of the study programme which also includes an internship in governmental institutions. It is a great opportunity for them, especially since the Indonesia government will be implementing a social security system in 2009.

Easy Living in Maastricht

On the 6th of October, the School organises an information market for the international professional community in Maastricht. Expatriates are invited to collect information concerning all sorts of facilities and services, e.g. health insurance, banking, cultural and social activities, childcare. The fair is meant to give highly skilled immigrants living in Maastricht an overview of all possibilities and opportunities offered by the community of which they weren't aware before. Next to that it's an opportunity to meet, mingle and exchange with a very interesting network! Please contact Ms. Charlotte Groven for more information >>

[Please check our agenda for other upcoming events \(movie series, seminar series, etc.\) >>](#)

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