

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**ISABEL HILTON OBE** is a London based writer and broadcaster with a career that spans print, electronic and online media in the UK and internationally. She has reported extensively from East and South Asia, Latin America, Europe and Africa and her work has been published in many of the world's major media. In addition to her writing career, she is a radio presenter and has reported and presented many documentaries on radio and television. She is the founder and editor of [www.chinadialogue.net](http://www.chinadialogue.net), an innovative bilingual Chinese-English website devoted to climate change and environment. She also lectures extensively and is frequently called upon to talk on international affairs. She holds honorary doctorates from the Universities of Bradford and Stirling and was appointed OBE in 2010 in recognition of her work in raising environmental awareness in China. In 1986 Isabel Hilton joined *The Independent* newspaper, pre-launch, as Latin America Editor. She set up and ran the network of correspondents and stringers in Latin America and the Caribbean, she also reported extensively from the region for the daily and Sunday newspaper, the *Saturday Magazine* and the *Sunday Review*. Subsequent posts included European Affairs Editor, from 1989, covering the end of the Cold War, and the subsequent elections in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as overseeing the coverage of Western Europe, including the European Community in the run up to 1992. From 1991, she was Chief Feature writer, with a wide brief involving writing leaders, book reviews, profiles, magazine, review and feature articles for the daily and Sunday newspapers. Isabel left the Independent in 1995 to write a book on China and Tibet. She presented Radio 4's *The World Tonight* (1995-1998) and joined Radio 3's *Night Waves* as one of its presenters in 1999. She also began writing a column for *The Guardian* and became a staff writer for the *New Yorker*, reporting from South Asia, Europe and Latin America for the magazine. She edited the global current affairs website *openDemocracy* from 2004 to 2006 before founding *chinadialogue.net*, where she is currently CEO and Editor in Chief.

**RT HON LORD HOWELL OF GUILDFORD** was born in January 1936 and educated at Eton. From 1954 to 1956 he was in the Armed Forces in the 2nd Btn Coldstream Guards. He went to King's College, Cambridge and studied Economics, graduating in 1959. His first job was in HM Treasury from 1959-60, after which he was a leader writer for the Daily Telegraph from 1960-64. In 1966 Lord Howell was elected MP for Guildford. He worked closely with both Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher and is credited by several authorities with having invented the idea of privatisation in the late 1960s. Lord Howell is the former Secretary of State for Energy, and later for Transport in Margaret Thatcher's first Cabinet (1979-83). He was Minister of State in Northern Ireland (1972-74) and has held several other Government posts. From 1987-97, he was Chairman of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee. He was made a life peer in 1997 and was Shadow Spokesperson in the House of Lords on Foreign Affairs from 2000-2010. In May 2010, he was appointed Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, a

position he stepped down from on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2012 when he was appointed as personal adviser to the Foreign Secretary on Energy and Resource Security. Lord Howell is the author of several books, including the best-selling *The Edge of Now*, published in 2000 and writes columns for The Japan Times, the International Herald Tribune and the Wall Street Journal.

**NIGEL INKSTER** served for 31 years in the British Secret intelligence Service (SIS). He had postings in Asia, Latin America and Europe and worked extensively on transnational security issues. He was on the Board of SIS (commonly known as MI6) for seven years, the last two as Assistant Chief and Director for Operations and Intelligence. He graduated from St. John's College, Oxford with a first-class degree in oriental studies. His languages include Chinese and Spanish. He is currently Chairman of the World Economic Forum's Committee on Terrorism. His responsibilities include: Analysis of international political risk and development of programmes on counter terrorism, international crime, proliferation of CBRN, cross-border conflict and other transnational/global issues. Nigel is also responsible for the IISS Armed Conflict Database.

**JONATHAN PARIS** is a London-based political analyst with wide research interests that include the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, Europe, transatlantic relations and international security. He is Senior Fellow with the South Asia Center of the Atlantic Council of the US, and Associate Fellow at the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR) at King's College London. He was recently appointed Senior Advisor for the Chertoff Group based in Washington, D.C. Before moving to London in 2001, Mr. Paris was a Middle East Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. A Senior Associate Member at St. Antony's College, Oxford from 2004-2005, he is a graduate of Yale University (B.A. in Political and Economic Systems) and Stanford Law School. He is the author of a Legatum Institute monograph, *Prospects for Pakistan* (2010) at <http://www.li.com/docs/publications/2010-publications-prospects-for-pakistan.pdf> and *Prospects for Iran* (2011) at <http://www.li.com/docs/publications/2011-publication-prospects-for-iran.pdf>

**LORD SASSOON** was appointed a Director of Jardine Matheson Holdings Limited in January 2013. Lord Sassoon began his career at KPMG, before joining SG Warburg (later UBS Warburg) in 1985, where he became a managing director and head of the investment bank's industry sector teams, equity corporate finance and global privatization business. He joined the Treasury Board in 2002 as a civil servant, where he had responsibility for financial services and enterprise policy. Between 2007 and 2010, he chaired the Financial Action Task Force and, acting as an adviser to the then Shadow Chancellor, he conducted The Tripartite Review of the United Kingdom's system of financial regulation. From May 2010 to January 2013, he was the first Commercial Secretary to the Treasury in the United Kingdom, and he acted as the Government's Front Bench Treasury spokesman in the House of Lords. During his banking and government career, he had a consistent focus on international business, particularly relating to Asia. Lord Sassoon was knighted in 2007 and joined

the House of Lords in 2010. He is Chairman of the China-Britain Business Council. He was born in London in 1955 and educated at Eton College and Christ Church, Oxford, where he read Philosophy, Politics and Economics. He is married with three children.

**SIR DAVID TANG KBE OBE**, Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, was born and educated in Hong Kong. At the age of 13, he was sent off to boarding school in Britain after which he went to university and Law College. In 1983, the year when there was agreement between Britain and China for the return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty, he went to live in China and taught philosophy at Peking University. Subsequently, Sir David was involved with oil exploration, drilling 5 wild cats offshore China, and working on open pit gold mines in Africa, Australia and South America. In 1987, he established a trading company in China. In the nineties, he began his own businesses by founding the China Club (Hong Kong, Peking, Singapore) and Shanghai Tang, and became the exclusive distributor for all Havana cigars for the whole of Asia, Australia, South Pacific and Canada. He also started other restaurants such as Island Tang in Hong Kong, China Tang in London, and Cipriani in Hong Kong, London and New York. Meanwhile, he was advisor and director of a number of international companies such as Blackstone, the Savoy Group of Hotels, Asprey, Gerrard, Tommy Hilfinger, British Airways, and First Pacific. Sir David is passionately involved with the arts. He has been a trustee of the Royal Academy of Arts for 15 years, and is chairman of the Asia- Pacific Acquisitions Committee at the Tate. He is also adviser to the London Symphony Orchestra and the English Chamber Orchestra, and President of the London Bach Society. He is an avid collector of contemporary Chinese art; and has given concerts with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, of which he is a governor. Sir David is also founder of the Hong Kong Cancer Fund, and vice-chairman of the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer, as well as numerous other charities, but notably as founding president of the Hong Kong Down Syndrome Association, and patron of the Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation.

**ODD ARNE WESTAD** is Professor of International History at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and director of LSE IDEAS. Among his books are *The Global Cold War* (2005), which won the Bancroft Prize, and *Decisive Encounters* (2003), a standard history of the Chinese civil war. He also co-edited the three-volume *Cambridge History of the Cold War* (2010). His most recent books are *Restless Empire: China and the World since 1750* (2012) and the *Penguin History of the World* 7th ed. (2013).

**RODERIC WYE** is an Associate Fellow with the Asia Programme at Chatham House. He spent 36 years working at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, where he was Head of the Asia Research Group from 2002-2011; Deputy Head, China Hong Kong Department (1999-2002); First Secretary, British Embassy (1995-1999, and 1985-1988). Since 2013, he has been a Senior Fellow at the China Policy Institute, Nottingham University.