

Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI), Paris
June 1-July 31st,2010

Comité d'études des relations franco-allemandes (CERFA)

June 1-June 30

- Translated several texts from French into English
 - CERFA website
 - Future of the European Union
 - *Dialogue d'Avenir*
 - Advanced Technology
 - Short texts
 - An excerpt from Dr. Louis-Marie Clouet's working paper about the German *Bundeswehr*'s involvement in Afghanistan
- Research
 - Read newspaper articles, academic journals, scholarly books, and recent studies published by other political think tanks that correlated with the given research topic.
 - Presented CERFA researchers with one electronic document that included a copy of all the articles, website links, and book citations
 - Research topics included:
 - Dr. Louis-Marie Clouet's article on: European Union defense budget cuts in 2009-2010 due to the economic financial crisis
 - Most of my findings concluded that there was not a worldwide decrease in military spending in 2009. Nonetheless, there were defense budget cuts that led to ending the manufacture of F-35 and C-17 aircrafts, and limiting the number of F-22 jets. In France, there were talks of merging the police and the *gendarmérie* together under one department.
 - Nele Wissmann's article on: transatlantic relations between the US and the EU, specifically dealing with France and Germany, within the past few decades
 - My findings concluded that the US has taken on a more globalist point of view; thus, taking its transatlantic relationship with the EU for granted. The US and EU have very different priorities.
- *Dialogue d'Avenir*
 - In conjunction with a German political think tank, *Deutschen Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik* (DGAP), a series of three seminars is held in France and Germany. Every year, IFRI and DGAP assemble a promising group of 20 young professionals from France and Germany who are interested in promoting Franco-German relations. At each seminar, the participants get to interact with prominent leaders in the business and political world during round-table discussions. At the end of each seminar, the cohort presents several policy papers that are then published by IFRI in *Radioscopie de l'Allemagne* at the end of the year.
 - Some of the panelists from the Paris seminar included:
 - President of Mercedes Benz-France Reinhard Lyhs

Leadership Rice Summer Mentorship Experience

- Author and correspondent for Le Monde, Berlin, Cécile Boutelet
- German Minister Detlef Weigel
- Prior to the conference, I helped with bulk mailing and folders. During the conference, I helped oversee all of the logistics and organization. The conference was held at several different locations including the German Embassy, IFRI, and the Maison Heinrich Heine at Cité Universitaire.

Energy

July 1-30

- Worked on a research topic on: “Renewable Energy, a Rural Reality? Realizing the potential of efficient biomass and solar stoves in rural areas of Senegal, Cote d’Ivoire and Guinea.”
 - In my working paper, I posit that the overuse of biomass fuels from using traditional three-stone stoves has led to deforestation, pulmonary diseases, and overburdened women. In sub-Saharan African societies, the woman is responsible for collecting heavy loads of firewood and cooking meals, leaving them with very little time to pursue anything else, like education. There is a large dependence on biomass fuels in rural areas because they are quasi-free. In addition, rural areas have little access to other expensive forms of energy, like liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Senior Executive Interviews

- Dr. Alain Antil, Head of sub-Saharan Africa Program at IFRI
- Monsieur Louis-Michel Aka, LMB Paris consulting firm
- Monsieur Dominique David, Executive Director of IFRI
- Madame Alice Ellenbogen, author

IFRI Conferences that I attended

- “Les nouvelles technologies au service de la médecine : quelles avancées? Quels enjeux éthiques ? ”
 - Panelists included :
 - Professor Bernard Debré, Chief Urologist at Cochin Hospital
 - Denis Perrus, Director of Marketing and Business Management, Division Healthcare France, Siemens
 - Pierre Leurent, PDG and founder of Voluntis
- “Obama administration’s strategy for Africa: promoting stability and Democracy in Africa: Through Collaborative Diplomacy”
 - Presented by Dr. Eric Silla, Special Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for African Affairs at the Department of State
- “Blessures invisibles et conflits modernes: impact physique et psychologique sur les forces armées et les populations”
 - Discussion on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among soldiers returning home.
 - Some of the panelists included :
 - Army General Theodore Stroup
 - Professor Christopher Coker, London School of Economics

Leadership Rice Summer Mentorship Experience

- Jean-Paul Mari, journalist for the *Nouvel Observateur*
- “La Francophonie en Afrique : Quel Avenir ?”
 - Series of round-table discussions throughout the day that dealt with the importance of France’s relationship with Africa. There was a consensus among the panelists that the best way to promote this bilateral relationship is by maintaining the French language in Africa and providing greater access for African students to study abroad in France.
 - Some panelists included:
 - Bernard Accoyer, President of the *Assemblée Nationale*
 - Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of the African French Speaking Countries
 - Thierry de Montbrial, Director and Founder of IFRI

Conclusion

- By interning at IFRI this summer, I achieved two goals: gaining a French perspective and improving my networking skills. By doing research and numerous translations, I became more aware of the French perspective and current events. I read a great deal of articles from French, European, and American sources. By attending several conferences and seminars hosted by IFRI, I was able to listen to important leaders and improve my networking skills. In addition, I believe that my written and spoken French greatly improved because I often communicated in French.