

A recognition of leadership

By DR ROBIN NIBLETT

DIRECTOR OF CHATHAM HOUSE



ROBIN NIBLETT has been the Director of Chatham House (the Royal Institute of International Affairs) since January 2007 and his principal areas of study are European integration and transatlantic relations. Before joining Chatham House he was based in Washington at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), one of America's largest and most influential foreign policy think-tanks. There, Robin served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer and, prior to this appointment, as Director of its Europe Programme and its Initiative for a Renewed Transatlantic Partnership.

In a politically and economically turbulent year in international affairs, it is appropriate that Chatham House's members have chosen to honour Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva as the winner of the 2009 Chatham House Prize. Appropriate because President Lula serves as a reminder that leaders can implement change and make a positive difference to their country and their region, even in the most uncertain of times.

The Chatham House Prize was introduced in 2005 and is awarded to the statesperson who is deemed by Chatham House members to have made the most significant contribution to the improvement of international relations in the previous year. The selection process draws on the expertise of Chatham House's research teams and three presidents. Our members then vote for the winner in a ballot. The winner is presented with a crystal award and a scroll signed by our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

This is the first time the Prize has been awarded to a statesperson from Latin America. President Lula is awarded the Chatham House Prize for being a driver of economic integration and a promoter of political stability in his region. He is recognised for his leading contribution to the resolution of regional crises and for spearheading the UN stabilisation mission in Haiti. He has also played a central role in establishing the constitutive treaty of the South American Union of Nations (UNASUL) and in enabling Cuba to be integrated as a full member of the Rio Group, which was set up to facilitate political dialogue between Latin American nations.

Under Lula's administration, Brazil has become increasingly integrated into the global economy and President Lula is further recognised for making a major contribution to reducing poverty in Brazil through innovative and responsible economic policies that have maintained fiscal balance and avoided an increase in inflation, in support of the country's democratic commitments and goals. He has demonstrated that market-led growth and improvements in social welfare are as achievable in Latin America as they are elsewhere.

President Lula's personal trajectory is also a success story. He has gone from his humble beginnings to metal worker in São Paulo, to charismatic trade union and political leader, and now to international statesman. This journey is evidence of his now widely recognised

leadership qualities and diplomatic skills – recently the President was awarded the Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service in recognition of his fight for democracy and social justice and for his fundamental role in Brazil's political and economic transformation.

I am delighted that Chatham House members, often informed by the sterling work of our research programmes, have recognised President Lula's achievements as a role model for leadership on the world stage. Personal leadership remains a vital ingredient for sustainable development and peaceful relations between states and peoples across the world. Understanding the role of leadership is a growing focus of the research programmes at Chatham House. To help us do this, Chatham House's research is now focused around three areas: Energy, Environment and Resource Governance; International Economics; and Regional and Security Studies.

Energy, Environment and Resource Governance

In the next few decades, competition over finite resources (from food and water to oil and gas) will intensify in the face of a 50 per cent increase in the size of world population and ever-rising standards of living. Chatham House research in this field promotes innovative thinking on ways to promote sustainable economic development.

The research team on climate security provides analysis and practical policy options that will help facilitate the transition to a low carbon future. Activity includes regular workshops and publications such as the report *Changing Climates*, on EU-China approaches to climate security, and the book *Keeping the Lights On*. An annual conference brings together key practitioners to review developments and consider emerging issues in the climate change debate.

Our work on energy security informs and facilitates debate on oil and gas issues. This includes both supply and demand dynamics, and strategic (economic, development, security) implications of energy extraction, delivery and use for producing and consuming countries. Collaborative work is undertaken with Chatham House regional specialists, including on the role of Asian national oil companies in African countries and the growing pressure for engagement with Iran. On sustainable development, our researchers analyse new ideas, help design global solutions (from technical assistance to regulatory measures) and convene global stakeholder

forums on resource management including food, timber and fisheries. Projects consider the relationship between business and sustainable development.

International Economics

The process of economic globalisation that accelerated rapidly after the end of the Cold War hit an existential crisis in 2008. The rise of new economic powers and global economic imbalances, and the fracturing of market principles in the United States and Europe, pose unprecedented challenges to international economic engagement over the coming years. Chatham House research actively contributes to public and policy debate on the reshaping of the post-crisis world.

Work on financial markets focuses on both the shifting fortunes of international financial centres and the growth of Chinese investment overseas. Successive projects are assessing the relative strength of the Gulf, Tokyo and the trio of Shanghai, Hong Kong and Taipei as centres of financial importance. Recent analysis of the flow of investment between China and Europe forms part of a wider body of work on the growing importance of China in the world economy.

Work on reform of the international financial architecture is focused on developing new ideas through research and consultation to feed into G8 and G20 policy discussions. A multi-year project is examining the repercussions of the financial crisis, exploring the financial architecture and providing recommendations for reforms.

Regional and Security Studies

The interaction between the national political and security priorities of countries and communities around the world and the transnational forces of globalisation can create a combustible mix. Chatham House regional and security programmes dig beneath the surface of global trends to assess the particular priorities of leaders and decision-makers around the world.

Chatham House has built up in-house teams working on regional studies as well as teams working on international security and global health security. Our regional expertise is complemented by cross-cutting projects relating to many aspects of EU and US external relations and international law. In addition, we have also just launched a major new project on *Rethinking the UK's International Ambitions and Choices*. This project will assess the UK's international priorities and the policy choices it faces in matching its ambitions, interests and resources.

This combination of resources enables the institute to undertake collaborative analysis across regions and to ensure that work on thematic issues is informed by detailed knowledge of regional and country dynamics. Research on political and security developments in the Horn of Africa and Yemen, for example, underpins the

institute's understanding of the driving forces behind the rise of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and its likely impacts on global trade. Expertise on the politics and geopolitics of Russia, Central Asia and the Caucasus informs the institute's insights into shifting energy supply and demand patterns from Europe to China.

China's economic development and growing external reach are examined through focused political assessment as well as through research on Chinese climate interdependencies and international investment patterns from Europe to Africa. A major project on *Rethinking the United States' International Role* assesses promising areas for future US influence and suggest specific ways in which engagement by the United States can make a positive impact in addressing global and regional challenges.

Chatham House Moving Forward

It is important that Chatham House is constantly engaged with governments, NGOs, academics and with businesses large and small to explore important questions and to identify emerging trends. While, over the years, our work has ranged from the academic and long-term to the immediate and day-to-day, our comparative advantage is the 'near future' – closer to policy issues than most university-based researchers and more sustained, reflective and forward-thinking than most politicians or business planners. Impartiality and openness to all views is fundamental to our success. Our Royal Charter, granted in 1926, forbids us an organisational opinion – all who speak at or from Chatham House do so as individuals. It is this independence that I believe our members and supporters value most.

In the near future, there is no shortage of issues on which to focus. Stabilisation of the international economy, America's international role under its new president, global health security, political change in Africa, and continuing security challenges in the Middle East and elsewhere. Chatham House will play its full part in addressing these for the benefit our members and the wider community we serve. **F**



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2009 Chatham House Prize winner, HE Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil, with Rupert Goodman (centre) and Alastair Harris of FIRST