

Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs
British Pugwash Group

**Prospects for Dialogue
in the Middle East:
- Iran and the West
- Israel and Palestine**

A Discussion Meeting featuring:

Paolo Cotta-Ramusino, Pugwash Secretary General
Andreas Persbo, Senior Researcher, VERTIC
Nomi Bar-Yaacov, Middle East Expert
Rosemary Hollis, Director, Olive Tree Programme

Thursday, 30 April 2009

Ramsay Lecture Theatre
Christopher Ingold Chemistry Building
University College London
Gordon Street, WC1
(*Nearest underground: Euston & Euston Square*)

Agenda:

- 15.00 – 15:45 **British Pugwash AGM** (members only)
15.45 – 16.15 **Tea** (all are welcome. Nyholm Room, Chemistry Building)
16.15 – 17.45 **Improving Relations between Iran and the West: recent Pugwash experience.** Prof. Paolo Cotta-Ramusino and Andreas Persbo
17.45 – 18.00 **Break**
18.00 – 19.30 **Prospects for Peace in the Middle East, post-Gaza and the Israeli election.** Nomi Bar-Yaacov and Dr Rosemary Hollis
19.30 – 20.30 **Reception** (all are welcome. Nyholm Room)

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

There is no obligation to attend all sessions. Admission is free. No advance booking is necessary.
It would, however, help the organizers if those planning to attend inform the BPG office:

British Pugwash Office, Tel: 020-7405 6661 Email: pugwash@mac.com, Web: www.pugwash.org/uk

Objective of the Meeting:

There is an urgent need for constructive dialogue in the Middle East. This meeting will focus on two key themes: Iran-Western relations and the impact on Middle Eastern security of the recent events in Gaza and Israel. These topics involve some of the most pressing issues facing decision makers. How can we balance a growing demand for nuclear energy with proliferation concerns? How can we protect human rights and personal freedoms? What role can the UK and other European countries play? And how can informal Pugwash contacts help?

The Speakers:

Professor Paolo Cotta-Ramusino, *Secretary-General, Pugwash Conferences and Professor of Physics, University of Milan.*

Paolo is Secretary General of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, which received the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize for its work on nuclear arms control and disarmament, serving as a bridge across East-West divides during the Cold War. Continuing in that tradition, Paolo has instigated several Pugwash initiatives that have facilitated high-level dialogue in areas of conflict where nuclear weapons are either present or proliferation risks are high. For example, in 2008, Pugwash convened a series of four meetings on Iran-West relations. These meetings served as an important forum for unofficial, private discussions between Western nuclear non-proliferation specialists, experts on Iran, and Iranian officials.

Ms Nomi Bar-Yaacov, *Foreign Policy Adviser on Middle Eastern Affairs*

Nomi has extensive expertise in international organisations, international law and Middle Eastern affairs. She advises governments, intergovernmental organisations and NGOs on political and security issues in the Middle East. She also advises a number of investment banks and law firms on issues relating to her field of expertise. For the past six years she has testified before the Foreign Affairs Select Committee of the UK House of Commons in its investigations on Middle East security, including the latest hearing in February 2009 on the war in Gaza. She is a regular participant in Track II Diplomacy meetings on the Middle East peace process and the wider region. She is also a frequent commentator on Middle Eastern affairs for the BBC World Service, BBC World TV, SKY News, CNN and Al-Jazeera (Arabic and English). Bar-Yaacov is the former head of the Middle East Conflict Management Programme at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

Dr. Rosemary Hollis, *Director, Olive Tree Israeli-Palestinian Scholarship Programme, City University London.*

Rosemary is an expert on foreign policy and security issues in the Middle East, particularly European, EU, UK and US relations with the region and transatlantic differences over these issues. She is former director of research and head of the Middle East programme at Chatham House. Her career has included positions at George Washington University (USA), The Dayan Center for Middle Eastern & African Studies, Tel Aviv University and the Middle East programme at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, London. She has also held visiting lectureships at King's College London and at the London School of Economics. And for five years she was the European Co-ordinator for training and education at the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs, East Jerusalem.

Mr Andreas Persbo, *Senior Researcher, The Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC)*

Andreas manages VERTIC's nuclear arms control programme. This includes work on confidence-building measures between States and the verification of nuclear disarmament, and is involved in the current UK-Norway warhead dismantlement trial. He maintains VERTIC's watching brief on issues relating to Iran and International Atomic Energy (IAEA) safeguards. He acts as VERTIC's chief liaison to IAEA and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization in respect of national implementation of nuclear arms control agreements. Andreas holds an *juris kandidat* (LL.B. LL.M) in public international law and European human rights from Stockholm University, Sweden.

