

FOREWORD

In 2008 the Netherlands Institute of International Relations ‘Clingendael’ is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Congratulations!

In the Netherlands the Institute is well known as a relevant partner in the public debate on foreign affairs policy. But also abroad the prestige of Clingendael as a think-tank and a diplomatic academy, where hundreds of foreign diplomats have been trained over the years, is fully recognized and appreciated.

This book includes a series of articles written by Clingendael staff members on a wide variety of policy domains. The selection of topics illustrates the considerable expertise and knowledge that Clingendael possesses in so many fields relating to foreign policy.

‘Reflecting the World’ is the motto of Clingendael’s activities during its anniversary year 2008. Consequently, this book aspires to offer the reader a series of reflections on the new challenges and developments the world is experiencing in this rather turbulent period of time.

The reader finds the different dimensions of the process of globalization well represented in this thought-provoking book. In that context attention is in particular paid to issues like: the new upcoming global players and economies; the new security challenges and threats like climate change and energy; the role of international organizations like the United Nations and NATO; the importance of regional cooperation; the responsibilities in this respect of the European Union; and the Dutch interests in all these areas. In so doing all four main domains of specialization at Clingendael – European studies, Security, Diplomacy and Energy – are well represented.

For all these reasons, this book is highly recommended to politicians, policy makers, academics and all those who may be interested in the fast-track developments of our modern world.

On behalf of all members of the Governing Board I wish the Institute and its staff members lots of success in the next period of 25 years!

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Bernard R. BOT
*Chairman of the Board of Governors
of the Clingendael Institute*