FIRST IRES-ICWA SYMPOSIUM

MOROCCO-INDIA RELATIONS: WHAT LEVERS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP?

NOVEMBER 28TH, 2018
The Kingdom of Morocco and The Republic of India can consider building a strategic relationship, based on mutual respect, the interdependence of interests and cooperation in tackling global issues such as the fight against terrorism, climate change...

The strategic dialogue between the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES) and the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) comes at the right time. The international symposium that these two think tanks will organize in November 28, 2018, aims to examine, in a forward-looking and dynamic way, the relations between Morocco and India and to explore, ways and means to elevate these relations to a strategic partnership.

On the theme "Morocco-India relations: what levers for the establishment of a strategic partnership?", This conference aims to:

- evaluate achievements since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Morocco and India and reflect on future prospects for cooperation between the two countries,
- identify and analyze the geopolitical orientations of India and Morocco, and so, highlight the objectives, the issues and the fundamental motives, list them by geographical areas and groups such as the BRICS, SAARC, OIC, Non-Aligned Movement, African Union, etc.
- identify the potential sectors of strategic interest (for example: food, agronomic research, education, digitalization, security, etc.),
- provide concrete proposals for an economic rapprochement facilitating accession to a strategic alliance,
- highlight the common positions to be defended and interest, multilaterally and bilaterally, that can be explored as levers and a basis for a strategic partnership between the two countries.
# PROGRAM

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<td><strong>9.00</strong></td>
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| - Mr. Mohammed Tawfik MOULINE, Director General of the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES)  
- Dr. Kheya BHATTACHARYA, Ambassador of India to Morocco |
| **10.10** | SESSION 1: SEEKING A NEW PARADIGM FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN MOROCCO AND INDIA: CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS |
| Introductory statement by Mr. Abdelkader EL ANSARI, Ambassador, Director, Department of Asian Affairs and Oceania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation |
| - Cross reading in the foreign policies of Morocco and India, by Mr. Smaïl KOUTTROUB, Expert in international relations, Professor at Mohammed V University of Rabat |
| - Cross-fertilization or both Soft Power, by :  
  - Dr. Fazzur R. SIDDIQUI, Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs  
  - Mrs. Boutaina BENSALEM, Professor-Researcher at Mohammed V University of Rabat |
| - The Atlantic, an ocean space of important interest to India? by Pr. Girijesh Pant, Former Vice Chancellor of Doon University & GGD University and Former Dean of School of International Studies of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi |
| - How to build a maritime partnership? by Mr. Miloud LOUKILI, Professor of Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law, Associate Researcher at IRES |
| Moderator  
Mr. Zakaria ABOUDDAHAB, Dean of the Faculty of Law of Rabat, Associate Researcher at IRES |
| **11.10** | DEBATE |
| **11.30** | COFFEE BREAK |
| **11.45** | SESSION 2: WHAT LEVERS TO CONSTRUCT A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: OPERATIONAL ASPECTS |
| Summit meetings, by Mr. Soumen BAGCHI, Deputy Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs |
| Network Diplomacy : Think Tanks, Universities ... by :  
  - Mr. Fathallah SUJLMASSI, Ambassador, Former Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean |
| Mr. Jawad KERDOUDI, President of the Moroccan Institute of International Relations, Honorary Consul General of India in Casablanca and Marrakech |
- **Pr. Fatima ROUMATE**, Founding President of the International Institute for Scientific Research
  - **Sectors with high potential**: food and agroeconomic research, health, education, digitalization, security, by:
    - A High Representative of the OCP Group
    - Mr. Chakib BOJJI, Professor-Researcher at Mohammed V University of Rabat, Expert in industry of future
    - Dr. Saurabh Mishra, Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs
  
  **Moderator**
  
  **Mr. Mekki ZOUAOUI**, Economist, Professor at Mohammed V University of Rabat

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### 15.00 SESSION 3 : WHAT STRATEGIC HORIZONS: PROSPECTIVE ASPECTS

- **What are the scenarios for evolution in terms of regional, continental and global dynamics?**
  - Mr. Mhammed ECHKOUNDI, Professor-Researcher at the Institute of African Studies, Rabat
  - Dr. J.M. MOOSA, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

- **Perspectives from Morocco on Asian and traditional powers in Africa, by Pr. El Mostafa REZRAZI**, Expert in crisis management and asian affairs

- **Perspectives from India on African and traditional powers in Asia, by Mr. G. S. IYER**, Leader of the Indian delegation & former Ambassador of India to Morocco

  **Moderator**
  
  **Colonel Hassan SAOUDI**, Associate Researcher at IRES

| 15.40 | DEBATE |

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<th>CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF “DECENTRALIZED” MOROCCO-INDIA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE</th>
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- Dr. Kheya BHATTACHARYA, Ambassador of India to Morocco
- Mr. Mohammed Tawfik MOULINE, Director General of the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES)
SPEAKERS’ BIOGRAPHIES
Mohammed Tawfik MOULINE was born on the 4th, April 1952 in Rabat. He graduates from the Paris Polytechnic School (X) in 1974 and from the Paris Mining School in 1976. He started his professional career at the “Office Chérifien des Phosphates” (Chemical Industry Department) and at the “Société Nationale de Sidérurgie”. In 1979, he joined the Prime Minister Department, where he participated to the assessment of public organizations and companies operating in the mining, energy, transportation and agriculture sectors. He contributed to the reform report related to the pricing of public goods and services. Between August 1982 and June 1995, he holds various positions within the ONA Group:

Director of Studies and Development till 1989, Director General of Financial Sector and of the holding “Financière Diwan” from 1990 to 1995, Director General of Telecommunication and Information System Pole from 1992 to 1994. His career at ONA was marked by the achievement of many studies, the conduct of large scale investment projects in the area of audiovisual, information systems, sea products and large distribution; The contribution to the enhancement of the Group financial sector (banking, insurance, financial engineering...) and its global financial strategy as well as the foundation of a breeding-ground for senior management.

Between July 1995 and June 2003, he was nominated Director of Studies and Financial Forecasts at the Ministry of Economy and Finances (Morocco). Alongside the setting up and the development of this Directorate, he contributed to the modernization of the Ministry of Finances through the promotion of a culture of anticipation, the conception of the Ministry's Strategic Action Plan, the setting up of the communication policy and the leading of the admission board in charge of recruiting engineers.

In July 2003, he has been appointed at the Royal Cabinet, as in Charge of Mission, where he carries out strategic studies and future oriented thoughts. Member of the editorial committee of the 50 Years of Human Development report, he leads the elaboration of the transverse reports on Morocco’s 2025 prospects and the comparison of Morocco with a sample of 14 emerging countries.

In November 2007, he has been nominated Director General of the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies, institution whose main mission is to contribute to the enlightenment of Morocco’s major strategic options.
He ensures the leading of the institution and the achievement of its study programs, focused in particular on social cohesion, climate change, global competitiveness as well as the development of the strategic watch mission of the Institute.

He orientates the work of the Institute towards diplomatic field and various issues related to Morocco's Foreign Affairs, in their different dimensions: political, economic, social, cultural and environmental.

Mohammed Tawfik MOULINE is the author of various studies published in national and international reviews. He was the Chairman of the Moroccan Foresight Association from 1999 to 2004, Honorary President of the Moroccan Association of Regional Science since 2013 and a member of scientific committee of several institutions.

He is an Officer of the Order of Merit by Decree of the President of the Republic of France since June 2004.
Dr. Kheya Bhattacharya
Ambassador of India to Morocco

Dr. Kheya Bhattacharya joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1985 after obtaining her Masters from Columbia University, New York and completing her Ph.D in Molecular Biology from Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

Dr. Bhattacharya has studied in Institute Internationale d’Administration Publique in France in May 1991 and in the Foreign Service Programme of Oxford University from September 1991 to July 1992.

She has experience of diplomatic assignments in both Europe and India’s neighbourhood. She was Second Secretary (EEC) in India’s Mission in Brussels from 1986 to 1989. Subsequently, she was First Secretary (Press, Info & Culture) in Dhaka from 1992 to 1994. She was posted in Paris as Counsellor (Political) from 1997 to 2000 and as Deputy Chief of Mission in Kathmandu from 2004 to 2007. Dr. Bhattacharya was Deputy Permanent Representative in Permanent Mission of India to the UN, Geneva from 2009 to 2013.

In the Ministry, Dr. Bhattacharya was Under Secretary (Americas Division) from 1989 to 1991. She worked as Senior Programme Director in the Indian Council for Cultural Relations from 1995 to 1997. As Director in MEA from 2001 to 2004 and then Joint Secretary from 2007 to 2009, Dr. Bhattacharya interacted with the neighbouring countries. As Additional Secretary and Senior Directing Staff in National Defence College (NDC), she was a member of the faculty of NDC.

Dr. Bhattacharya’s hobbies include reading, music, sports and travel.
Mr. G. S. IYER
Leader of the Indian delegation & former Ambassador of India to Morocco

- Date of Birth : 25.01.1942
- Education : B. Sc (Physics) MA (English Literature)
- Joined Indian Foreign Service: in 1965
- Posted to Commission of India in Hong Kong (1966-68)
- Second Secretary in Embassy of India, Beijing (1968-71)
- Undersecretary (China), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi (1971-74)
- First Secretary in Embassy of India in Thimphu (1974-76)
- First Secretary in Permanent Mission of India in New York (1976-79)
- Counsellor in Embassy of India in Tehran (1979-82)
- Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission in Embassy of India in Tokyo (1982-86)
- Joint Secretary Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi (1986-89)
- Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission in Embassy of India in Kathmandu (1990-91)
- Senior Directing Staff, National Defense College, New Delhi (1991-93)
- Joint Secretary Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi (1994)
- Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Morocco (February 1994 to December 1998)
- Ambassador of India to Mexico (January 1999 to January 2002)
- Received the Grand Cordon of the Wissam Alaoui from His Majesty King Hassan II
- After retirement worked in the Rotary Movement and received International Presidential citation as president of his club.
- Author of A China Primer, has translated several literary classics from Tamil and Malayalam for the Sahitya Akademi and other publishers. Awarded Best Translation Prize by a prestigious Tamil institution for his translation of Kalki’s Tamil novel Alai Osai into English
Fathallah Oualalou is an economist, a Former Minister of Economy and Finance, of Privatization and Tourism, a Former Mayor, City of Rabat, as well as a Senior Fellow at OCP Policy Center who focuses on Macroeconomics, economic growth and development and economic policies.

Fathallah Oualalou was born in 1942 in Rabat. He graduated in economy from Mohammed V University in 1964 and obtained a diploma on economy in 1966 in Paris. He was appointed Ministry of Economy in 1998 and Ministry of Finance in 2002. He is professor at Mohammed V University and chairs the Association of Moroccan Economists and Union of Arab Economists. After over 20 years as member of the Municipal Council, he was Mayor of Rabat from 2009 to 2015.
Mr. Abdelkader EL ANSARI

Ambassador, Director, Department of Asian Affairs and Oceania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

- Since January 2018, Ambassador, Director, Department of Asian Affairs and Oceania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- From May to December 2017: Head of the African Union and Regional Partnerships MAECI unit.
- 2008-2016: Ambassador of His Majesty the King in Greece and Cyprus.
- October 2001 - May 2003: Head of division of Maghreb and UMA. MAECI.
- Second and project manager at the Moroccan Embassy in Algeria.
- Degrees:
  - normal and higher cycles of the National School of Public Administration ENAP.
  - first and second DES certificate in International Relations at faculty of law, Rabat Agdal.
- Several times member of the Moroccan delegation to the UN General Assembly and to lots of international and regional summits and conferences.
Dr. Fazzur R. SIDIQUI
Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs

- Dr. Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui is fellow at Indian Council of World Affairs (Sapru House), a Delhi-based foreign policy think tank.
- He has done his M.Phil and PhD in West Asian Studies from School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).
- He is the author of two book: The Political Islam and the Arab Uprising: Islamist Politic in Changing Time (Sage Ltd., 2016) and ‘The Concept of Islamic State: From the Caliphate to Twentieth Century: Pre-Ikhwan and Post- Ikhwan phase (Beirut). He is presently working on a new book ‘Political Transition in West Asia and quest for new regional order. Before his association with ICWA, he was with the Ford Foundation. He has contributed many articles in books and national and international journal and participated in national and international seminars.
- His area of academic interest is political and social issues in the Arab world, the foreign policy of the Middle East nations and debits of political Islam.
- He knows Arabic, English, Urdu and Hindi and has working knowledge of Persian.
Boutaïna Bensalem is a professor in the School of Politics at the University Mohamed V of Agdal-Rabat and associate Researcher at IAV. She holds a Ph.D. in Civilizations from the University of Bordeaux-Montaigne. Much of her work focuses on International relations, History and politics.
Pr. Girijesh PANT
Former Vice Chancellor of Doon University & GGD University and Former Dean of School of International Studies of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

- Economist by training, he is former Dean of School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- Senior Fulbright Fellow, he has been Vice Chancellor at Doon University and GGD University.
- He has authored and edited twelve books and contributed extensively in journals of national and International repute. Associated with leading think tanks of India, he has been commenting on the region in media regularly. Currently he is working on Global Energy Transition in Comparative Perspective with focus on India and China.
Mr. Miloud LOUKILI

Professor in Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law, Associate Researcher at IRES

- Professor of Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law at the Faculty of Law, Rabat Agdal, Mohamed V University.
- Former Director of the Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (I.S.E.M.), Casablanca.
- Former Director of Merchant Marine, Casablanca.
- Member of the Bureau of the Group of Studies and Research on the Mediterranean (G.E.R.M.), Rabat.
- Founding member and President of the Moroccan Association for International Studies and Research (A.M.E.R.I.), Rabat.
- Former member of the Board of Trustees of the World Maritime University, Malmoë, Sweden.
- Former member of the Hassan II Jury for the Environment.
- Founding Member of the African Network of Environmental Law, Rabat, 2016.
- Advisor to the Social and Environmental Economic Council (CESE) for the Coastal Law and the Blue Economy.
Mr. Zakaria ABOUDDAHAB

Dean of the Faculty of Law of Rabat, Associate Researcher at IRES

- Assistant Professor (2003-2009), Professor-habilitated (2009-2015) then Professor of Higher Education (since 2015) in International Law and International Relations at the Faculty of Legal, Economic and Social Sciences of Agdal-Rabat.
- Vice Dean for Scientific Research, Cooperation and Partnership (October 2013 to July 2018).
- Since 1st August 2018, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Legal, Economic and Social Sciences of Agdal-Rabat.
- Associate researcher at the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (since 2009) and where he has coordinated or is part of several research studies including Morocco-European Union Regulatory Convergence, Morocco's relations with Algeria and the relations of Morocco with North America.
- Expert consultant to several national and international institutions (National Council for Human Rights, Center for International Studies, Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Center for Business Cycle Analysis and Surveys, Arab Maghreb Union, African Development Bank ...).
- Temporary teacher / lecturer in several institutions and national institutions, public and private: National School of Administration, Moroccan Academy of Diplomatic Studies, Royal Military Academy of Meknes, Faculty of Legal, Economic and Social Sciences (Fes, Meknes, Tangier and Souss-Salé), School of Governance and Economics, International University of Rabat ... Former auditor of The Hague Academy of International Law (2004).
- Participant at the 2005 session of the Center for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations (The Hague, Academy of International Law).
- Member of several research groups or teams including the Working Group on the Protection of World Cultural Heritage under threat of destruction from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (Malta) and EMNES (Euro-Mediterranean Network for Economic Studies, Barcelona).
Mr. Soumen BAGCHI
Deputy Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs

Shri Soumen Bagchi joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1993 and is currently serving in Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), Sapru House as Deputy Director General. Besides serving in various capacities in India, he has worked in Indian Missions abroad in Belgium, Bangladesh and United States. His last assignment was Head of Division looking after West Africa in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. He holds a B. Tech Degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Delhi.
Fathallah Sijilmassi was appointed Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean on 1 March, 2012. He was re-elected Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean on December 4, 2014. A career Diplomat for the Moroccan Government, he specializes in the field of economic international relations, in particular with regard to Euro-Mediterranean issues.

He started working in the banking sector as representative of the Banque Commerciale du Maroc in Milan (Italy). His career within the Moroccan administration was then marked by his active role in the negotiations of free trade agreements with the European Union, the United States, and several Arab and African countries.


In 2009, he becomes CEO of the Moroccan Investment Development Agency, leading its launch and subsequent growth.

Fathallah Sijilmassi is an officer of the Légion d’honneur and grand officer in the Ordre National du Mérite of the Republic of France.

He is a graduate in Political Science, holds a PhD in Economics and speaks five languages: Arabic, French, English, Italian and Spanish.
After graduating from HEC Paris in 1965, Jawad Kerdoudi was recruited by the Bureau for Exports Commercialization of Morocco which had the monopoly on Moroccan exports of agricultural products by then. After a successful career, he became chief officer of the bureau in Hamburg (Germany) and New York (United States) while at the same time being Consul General of the Kingdom of Morocco. He came back to Morocco where he held various executive positions within the Bureau of Exports Commercialization and its holding company. After being in charge of wine exports, he retired in 2002 and created the Moroccan Institute of International Relations (IMRI) in 2003, a think tank devoted to the analysis of changing international relations. Simultaneously to his executive position at IMRI, Jawad Kerdoudi teaches international trade at graduate level in Rabat and Casablanca. He is the author of several books on Moroccan external trade, on the Spanish model in addition to regular articles and commentaries in the Moroccan media.
Pr. Fatima ROUMATE  
Founder and President of the International Institute for Scientific Research, IIRS

Associate Professor in International Economic Law in the University Mohammed V Agdal Rabat. President and Founder of the international Institute of Scientific Research. Since 2014 she has been selected as expert by the Council of Europe to provide expertise to its program on building capacity against cybercrime from 2014 to 2016.

She presented lot off paper about women entrepreneurs like my participation to the conference, North to North – Women as agents of change, organized in The House of the Estates, 29.09.2011 Helsinki by the Finnish Committee for European Security (STETE), 1325 Network Finland and the Coalition of Finnish Women’s Associations (NYTKIS RY), her paper was about « women economic empowerment in Morocco.

She attended the International Visitor Leadership Program Organized by US Department of States, 1-15 December 2012 about The Strategic Dialogue with Civil Society launched by Secretary’s Clinton with the title “Civil Society: Cornerstone of Democracy. She organized lot off sessions of training and workshops to reinforce women entrepreneurship.
Mr. Chakib BOJJI
Professor-Researcher at Mohammed V University of Rabat, Expert in industry of future

Mr Chakib BOJJI is a senior professor in industrial engineering at ENSET (Ecole Normal Supérieure de l’Enseignement Technique) in Rabat, Morocco.

He also occupied and still occupies many professional positions such as:
- Founded and president at ESSTI an engineering school in Rabat,
- Founder and chairman of NC Technology, a store network development in Morocco for MACROSEC Spanish franchise for dry cleaning,
- Former CEO at LARAKI Automobiles the first Moroccan supercar company,
- Former general manager and Founder at FIBROMAR S.A,
- And other engineering positions in different international companies like BOMBARDIER CANADA and CAMOPLAST CANADA.

As for his educational career, Mr BOJJI holds a PHD degree from Polytechnique Montreal School in Canada.
Dr. Saurabh Mishra

Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs

Dr. Saurabh Mishra is a Research Fellow at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).

Prior to the ICWA, he worked with the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi.

He received his Ph.D. from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India, for his thesis on “Globalisation and Transnational Conflict: In the Context of Expansion and Cultural Homogeneity”. He earned his Masters and Undergraduate degrees from the same university.

His areas of interests are Africa, Globalisation, Peace and Conflict, International Institutions, Indian Foreign Policy, and International Relations Theory. He has worked primarily on India and United Nations, and issues regarding Africa.

In addition to these, he has co-edited three volumes on “Kautilya and His Vocabulary”. He is also a co-editor and contributor to the book titled “The Arthaśāstra in a Transcultural Perspective: Comparing Kautilya with Sun-Zi, Nizam al-Mulk, Barani and Machiavelli”, a product of a collaborative project of the IDSA, Heidelberg University and the National University of Singapore.
Mr. Mekki ZOUAOUI  
Economist, Professor at Mohammed V University of Rabat

Economist and Professor at Mohammed V University of Rabat. Since 2013, he has been a member of the School Board of the National School of Architecture and since May 2017, a Member of the Supervisory Board of Banque Populaire Rabat - Kenitra as independent director.

Echkoundi Mhammed, professor-researcher, economist at the Institute of African Studies. He has prepared a doctoral thesis in France on governance and territorial dynamics of development in Africa. It is a laureate of the training cycle on reforms and development organized from 21 to 30 October 2018 by the Sino-Arab Studies Center for Reform and Development in Shanghai, China.

He is coordinator of the project: "Moroccan TPEs in Africa: Case of Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire", financed by the CNRST. He is a specialist in development economics and governance issues. Just coordinated a collective work on "good governance and fight against poverty: the case of Morocco, Botswana, Mauritius, Gabon and DRC".

He works on the economies of Southern Africa and has published several articles on the theme, the last of which are titled: "Corporate Governance in South Africa: the case of Lonmin and the Marikana massacre", published in the notebooks of the Third World Association in 2015 and "Morocco-Southern Africa Relations: Between Political Conflicts and Mutual Misunderstanding", published in 2016 in the collective publication Maroc-Afrique. Success-Story.

He coordinated a book titled "Africa and Powers" that came out in 2014. He supervises three doctoral theses: Governance and dynamics of reform in English-speaking Africa: case of Ghana, the impact of the transition to the floating exchange rate regime on relations Morocco-Africa and Training and Development in Africa: Case of Cote d'Ivoire. He teaches courses in Macroeconomics, human resources management and Morocco's integration into the world economy at Mohammed V. University. He has participated in several studies of expertise on Morocco-Africa relations. He is a laureate of the institute on democratic governance organized by CODESRIA in 2011 in Dakar.
Dr. J.M. MOOSA
Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

- Dr Jamal M. Moosa was till recently was the Chairperson of the Centre for African Studies and the Programme Coordinator of MA (International Relations and Area Studies) of School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- He is the Book Review Editor of Africa Review (published by Routledge, London) and was the Guest Editor of International Studies (Sage) for 2014. He also has successfully supervised 6 doctoral thesis and 15 MPhil dissertations. He has also contributed various articles to journals and to edited volumes.
- His areas of specialization and interests include African Studies with special focus on Arab and Francophone Africa, Human Rights, and Conflict Studies.
- Currently, he is working on issues related to group rights, identity and developmental challenges in Africa.
Dr El Mostafa Rezrazi is a professor of Crisis Management, and Security Studies and a Senior Fellow at OCP Policy Center who focuses on Terrorism, Security and East Asia studies. His area of Expertise covers Afro-Asian Affairs, Strategic & Security Studies, Terrorism, Extremism and Deradicalization, mainly from the view of Criminal; Legal and Forensic Psychology.

He got his Ph.D in Regional & International Affairs from the University of Tokyo in 1998, and later a Doctorate from the University of Mohammed V on the Psychological dynamisms of Suicide Bombers (2014). He is the executive director of the Moroccan Observatory on Extremism and Violence, Director of the African Center for Asian Studies, Rabat. Currently, he is Visiting Professor at the University Mohammed V Rabat.

In 2017, was appointed a Co-coordinator of the OBOR China-Morocco Research Group, and a member of the Advisory Board of the Euro-African Studies Institute, Hanyang University Seoul, South Korea.

Rezrazi is the president for the second term of the Moroccan Association for Asian Studies. Dr Rezrazi has served in the past as a distinguished professor in the school of law of Sapporo Gakuin University (Japan), a professor & Deputy Director of the Institute of International Relations in Hagoromo University in Osaka (Japan). A political Analyst at the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research in Abou Dhabi, and was also a Visiting Fellow in Princeton University, USA.
Colonel Hassan SAOUDI
Associate Researcher at IRES

Mr. SAOUDI is laureate of the National Institute of Higher Studies of Security and Justice of Paris.


Mr. SAOUDI is Research Associate at IRES.
Mr. Mohammed BELMAHI  
*Former Ambassador of Morocco to India, Associate Researcher at IRES*

During Ambassador Mohammed BELMAHI's over 44-year professional career, he has held various positions in the fields of diplomacy, government, international organizations, business, academia and philanthropy.

From 2015 till today, Mr. BELMAHI is Founding and Managing Partner of the Quattro Group SARL, an international strategy advisory firm based in Morocco.

Since 2013, he holds the position of Senior Fellow at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane (Morocco), with a focus on international relations and geopolitics.

He also prepares policy research reports commissioned by l’Institut Royal des Études Stratégiques, a Moroccan think tank (since 2016).

From 2009 to 2013, he held the following positions within the OCP Group, (Morocco’s biggest mining and industrial concern as well as the World’s largest exporter of phosphates and phosphoric acid): Adviser to the Chairman and CEO; Architect-General of OCP; and Chairman of the OCP Foundation (which he set up). While in the latter position, he supervised the creation of the OCP Policy Center, a think tank.

M. BELMAHI was successively Ambassador of HM the King of Morocco to the Court of Saint James’s (London, 1999-2009); and to India and Nepal (New Delhi, 1996-1999).

Ambassador BELMAHI attended, on behalf of Morocco, the proceedings of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), London, 2000-2008. In 2003, he was elected President of IMO’s International Conference on the Establishment of a Supplementary Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage.

From 1988 to 1995, he held the following executive positions within the ONA Group (Morocco’s then premier holding, encompassing over 150 diversified companies): Managing Director of ONA’s Tourism and Real Estate Sector (which he set up); Managing Director of Hospitality Holding Company; Member of ONA’s Executive Committee; Adviser to the Chairman and CEO of the ONA Group; and Managing Director of the Casablanca World Trade Center (which he set up).
From 1992 to 1995, he was Board Director of the World Trade Centers' Association (WTCA), based in New York City; and Chairman of its International Trade Facilitation Committee. He remains Honorary Board Member of WTCA.

From 1983 to 1994, he was Member of the Board of Directors of Royal Air Maroc. From 1977 to 1988, Mr. BELMAHI worked for the Moroccan Government, successively as Managing Director of the Moroccan National Tourist Office (ONMT); Director of Tourism at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism; Chargé de Mission near the Prime Minister (as part of a task-force in charge of proposing a major reform of Morocco's State-owned enterprise sector); Director of National Land-Use Planning, and Head of the Urban Planning Division at the Ministry of Housing and Land-Use Planning.

From 1974 to 1976 he worked as a staff member of the United Nations' Center for Housing, Building and Planning based in New York, in charge of preparing a UN report on slums and squatter settlements, and was part of the team preparing the 1976 First UN Habitat Conference, held in Vancouver-Canada.

Ambassador BELMAHI is a Freeman of the City of London, (since 2006); a Knight Commander of the Order of Francis I; a Member of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George (London, since 2003); and an Officer of the National Merit of Portugal (1991). He received the Interfaith Gold Medallion "Peace Through Dialogue" from the Three Faiths Forum (London, 2009); and the Indira Gandhi Award (New Delhi, 1998). He was an honorary member of the Athenaeum Club (London, 2003-2008); and a member of the Travelers Club (London, 2002-2015).

Morocco-India relations: what levers for the establishment of a strategic partnership?