



Consulat général de France à New York

**Speech of Mr. Philippe Lalliot,**  
**Consulate General of France in New York**

**Conferences@934 : Should we fear China ?**

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the Consulate this evening. I am glad to say our cycle of Conferences@934 is as dynamic as ever, with not one, but two conferences this month, each treating a very different issue: after a discussion on 20<sup>th</sup> century art last week, we have China on our plate tonight.

With still, despite the economic crisis, around 9-10% annual economic growth and the largest exchange reserve worldwide, if only to mention these two facts, China is both an indispensable partner and a challenge especially to the western countries. Thus, while considered by some as a land of opportunities, others see the rising country as a threat.

We are fortunate to have two renowned specialists with us tonight, both with a unique experience, and a very profound knowledge of Asia at the crossing point between the private and the public sectors.

Let me introduce them briefly.

Steve Orbins has been President of the National Committee on United States–China Relations (NCUSCR) since 2005.

You practiced law in New York, Hong Kong and Beijing before entering the financial sector, serving as President of Lehman Brothers Asia from 1987 to 1990. You then became Managing Director of Carlyle Asia – one of Asia's largest private equity funds – as well as Chairman of the Board of Taiwan Broadband Communications. You worked also at the Office of the Legal Advisor of the State Department, and can take pride in being one of the handful of those who helped establish diplomatic relations with China in 1972. You speak Mandarin Chinese fluently and you are a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Claude Meyer is one of our top French experts on Asia.

Like Stephen Orlins, you are very familiar with the banking sector, having been Deputy General Manager of the Bank of Tokyo up to the year 2000. After teaching at the Sorbonne University and E.H.E.S.S., you are now Professor of International Economics at Sciences Po. With a Ph.D. in Economics and a degree in Japanese Studies, your interest in Asia lays mainly in its economic and financial aspects. You are also a prolific writer, and recently published *China or Japan: Which Will Lead Asia?* which you can have a look at after the conference.

As usual, we will end this session around 7:45 p.m., after a half-hour discussion between our guests, and 30 more minutes of Q&A with the audience. The session will be followed by a drink over which we may continue the conversation with our guests.

Finally, I would like to remind you that you may find the pictures, video and audio recordings of tonight on our website, as of tomorrow. With no further delays, I hand over the microphone to Stephen Orlins, and wish you all an excellent evening./.