

ESTABLISHED 1947

# DIPLOMAT

## OF THE YEAR AWARDS

### 2012 WINNERS

#### YOUNG DIPLOMAT OF THE YEAR

**Mr Natthapol Na Songkhla**  
*First Secretary from the Embassy of Thailand*

#### OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRESS CORP

**Ms Cristina-Nacisa Nita**  
*Press Attaché from Embassy of Romania*

#### OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONSULAR CORPS

**Ms Zeina Hamad Al Khalifa**  
*Embassy of Bahrain*

#### DIPLOMAT OF YEAR FROM THE AMERICAS (DEFINED AS CANADA, USA, MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA & CARIBBEAN)

**His Excellency Mr Eduardo Medina Mora**  
*Ambassador of Mexico*  
(Collected by Minister Miguel Angel Vilchis)

#### DIPLOMAT OF YEAR FROM EUROPE

**His Excellency Dr Ion Jinga**  
*Ambassador of Romania*

#### DIPLOMAT OF THE YEAR FROM EURASIA

**His Excellency Mr Fakhraddin Gurbanov**  
*The Ambassador of Azerbaijan*

#### DIPLOMAT OF THE YEAR FROM AFRICA

**His Excellency Mr Ernest Rwamucyo**  
*High Commissioner for Rwanda*

#### DIPLOMAT OF THE YEAR FROM ASIA

**His Excellency Dr Chris Nonis**  
*High Commissioner for Sri Lanka*

#### THE DIPLOMAT OF THE YEAR FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

**His Excellency Mr Hatem Seif el Nasr**  
*Ambassador of Egypt*

#### DIPLOMAT OF THE YEAR FROM SOUTH AMERICA

**His Excellency Mr Mauricio Rodríguez-Múnera**  
*Ambassador of Colombia*

#### OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO WOMEN IN DIPLOMACY

**Her Excellency Mrs Marija Efremova**  
*Ambassador of Macedonia*

#### THE DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO DIPLOMACY IN LONDON

(Collected by its Director, Professor Nabil Ayad)  
*The London Academy of Diplomacy*



DIPLOMAT of the Year Awards  
Winners with Rod Wilkinson of Jaguar  
Landrover (far left), Toby Hampton of  
General Trading Company (2nd left) &  
Hugo de Blocq van Kuffeler (far right)

# PRESS RELEASE

## DIPLOMAT MAGAZINE'S AWARDS CEREMONY 2012

24 APRIL 2012

HEADS OF MISSION from over 65 countries (and diplomats from over 100 countries) attended DIPLOMAT magazine's 2012 annual Awards Ceremony at the The Langham London hotel on Tuesday 24 April. DIPLOMAT presented 12 awards to some of the most influential diplomats based in the UK. The 300-plus guests were treated to a champagne reception and canapés prepared by the hotel chefs.

The awards ceremony recognises the outstanding work and achievements of London's diplomatic community, who are trying to better their nations' well-being. In its fourth year, DIPLOMAT magazine identified 12 categories that recognise different levels of diplomacy.

Host of the event, DIPLOMAT's Publisher, Hugo de Blocq van Kuffeler, stated in his introductory speech: 'Despite the conveniences of modern technology, the tact, persuasiveness, influence and guile of a great diplomat is far more powerful and effective than an e-mail or a letter. Diplomacy is the brain of a nation. It has been said that the quality of a nation's diplomacy gives it direction and weight. And so it is important that we appreciate the great conductors of diplomacy this evening.'

The popular awards of the evening went to Ambassador of Macedonia, Her Excellency Mrs Marija Efreanova, the winner for the 'Outstanding Contribution to Women In Diplomacy' award, and First Secretary, Royal Thai Embassy Natthapol Na Songkhla, for the 'Young Diplomat of the Year' award, who said that 'There is no better place than London where young diplomats can learn the arts of their profession.'

Winner of the 'Diplomat of the Year from Europe' award, Ambassador of Romania, His Excellency Dr Ion Jinga, said he considered 'the award to be recognition of the professionalism of Romanian diplomacy as a whole...and a proof of the excellent bilateral relations between [his] country and the UK.'

Professor Nabil Ayad who picked up the 'Distinguished Contribution to Diplomacy in London' award on behalf of The London Academy of Diplomacy, highlighted that 'diplomats are considered custodians of national interest. No one can put a premium on national interest; hence diplomats are still [more than] necessary.' All winners thanked DIPLOMAT magazine for recognising the achievements of overseas Heads of Mission based in London.

The evening was sponsored by Jaguar Landrover, General Trading Company, diplomatic insurance specialists Clements Worldwide and The Langham London. Cleave and Co produced the unique awards for the winners and International Diplomatic Supplies provided the drinks for the evening. Guests were sent home with a beautiful glass paper weight from General Trading Company.

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**ABOUT DIPLOMAT:** DIPLOMAT provokes intelligent discussion from the heart of London's diplomatic community. This 65-year-old publication provides unique insight into the minds of the most prominent world leaders and governments. DIPLOMAT's mix of high quality analysis, political commentary on world affairs and interviews with High Commissioners and Ambassadors make it essential reading for the diplomatic, political, corporate and investment communities. The exceptional content and follow up events for our unrivalled audience of 164 foreign governments make DIPLOMAT the only platform that provides access to so many overseas governments at once.

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