

Paris Schiller Institute Hosts Seminar on BRICS' New Paradigm

by Our Paris Bureau

PARIS, Feb. 10—The Schiller Institute in Paris hosted the first in a series of seminars on what Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called “the mass movement for development” of the BRICS countries. Among the 40-some attendees were 11 representatives of embassies, one former French ambassador, academics, and representatives of the Pan African League.

Odile Mojon outlined the aims and actions of the Schiller Institute, appealing to all to sign and circulate its [petition](#) calling for the U.S. and Europe to abandon geopolitics and ally with the BRICS dynamic.

Christine Bierre, editor of *Nouvelle Solidarité* newspaper, discussed the realities the world faces today: the push for war by the Anglo-American financial empire and the good news that Greece is breaking with the bankrupt policies of the EU.

A message was read from Indian economist Jayshree Sengupta of the New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation (see below).

Minister Councillor Leonid Kadyshev, of the Russian Embassy in Paris, spoke next. He was the Russian negotiator at two BRICS summits, and underlined that the BRICS are aiming for peace through mutual development. The New Development Bank is crucial to finance large infrastructure projects, and the Currency Reserve Arrangement will allow countries to resist fluctuations of commodity prices.

Col. Alain Corvez (ret.) then spoke on France’s visionary leader Charles de Gaulle, who, in many ways, preceded the ideas of the BRICS. De Gaulle, in line with the Non-Aligned Movement at that time, opposed the Cold War and refused to side with one of the “two blocs.”

To conclude, Acheikh Ibn-Oumar, the former Foreign Affairs Minister of Chad, gave a poignant speech on Lake Chad, underlining that only great projects could bring security to the region. For Africa, the BRICS are key, he said.