



# POLISH EMBASSY NEWSLETTER 3/2011

CANBERRA, SEPT/OCT 2011



## MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the third issue of our newsletter. This time we will focus on the effects of the GFC on the economic situation in Poland. Both Poland and Australia were the only OECD members that experienced economic growth in this period. As Poland was the only member of the EU to notice positive economic growth, it became even more attractive for foreign investors. We have included excerpts and links to press articles and comments on the strength and resilience of the Polish economy. You will also be able to read more about economic relations between Poland and Australia.

Furthermore you will find here short reports

about our recent events as well as information about upcoming events organized by the Embassy. This time we invite you to join us i.a. for a lecture by Professor Władysław Czapliński – Poland’s candidate for the International Criminal Court, and four seminars on multiculturalism in Australia, Poland and Europe.

Moreover, we bring you an interview with a young Polish scientist who lives and works in Melbourne. You can read about smallest, but one of Poland’s most beautiful national parks – Ojcowski Park Narodowy which is part of the Cracow – Czestochowa Upland. And as in previous newsletters you will find news from our Consulate General in Sydney.

You are welcome to visit our websites ([www.canberra.polemb.net](http://www.canberra.polemb.net), [www.sydney.polemb.net](http://www.sydney.polemb.net)) and to share with us your comments and remarks.

With kind regards,

Andrzej Jaroszyński  
Ambassador

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## POLAND - HAVEN OF GROWTH AND ECONOMIC STABILITY IN EUROPE

**Poland has one of the most rapidly growing economies among the European Union countries.** In 2010, the country's economy grew by a healthy 3.8 % and this year it is expected to grow by over 4 %. Since the GFC outbreak Poland has been the only EU Member State enjoying economic growth. Exports in constant prices increased in 2010 by 10.1% and imports by 11.5%.

As the latest statistical data shows, in the second quarter of 2011 the Polish GDP grew by 4.3%. Economic growth was supported by domestic demand, with the impact of total consumption expenditure valued at 1.9 percentage points. In addition, other indicators examined in the second quarter showed increases: the gross value added to the national economy in the second quarter of 2011 was 1.2 % higher, in industry 1.4 % higher, in construction 4.7 % higher, and in the market services sector 0.9 % higher. Domestic demand in the second quarter of 2011 was 1.4 % higher and total consumption expenditure was 0.8 % higher, while individual consumption expenditure grew by 0.9%. Gross fixed capital formation in the second quarter increased by 1.9 %.

The worldwide crisis has had a negative impact on the condition of public finances in most EU countries. This pattern was also followed in Poland – in 2010 the general government deficit was higher than for the EU27. However, the ratio of the general government debt to GDP was much lower than in the EU27.

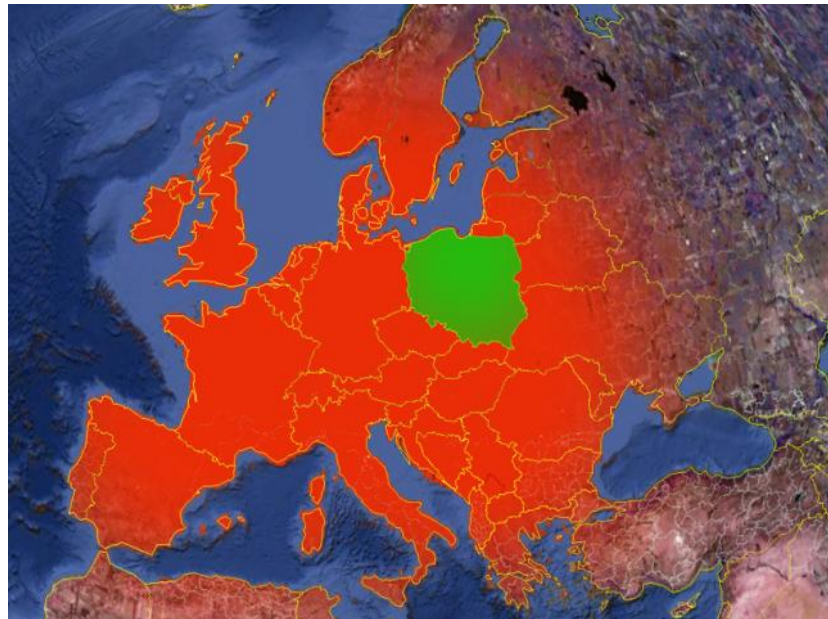
Poland is trimming its budget deficit with a combination of spending cuts, higher taxes and a cut of cash transfers to private pension funds, measures designed to prevent breaching Poland's self imposed debt threshold of 55 per cent of GDP and the constitutional debt ceiling at 60 per cent of GDP. Polish bonds had been stable amid the market turmoil and foreign investors viewed the papers positively...

*"Poland plays it cool amid turmoil" by Marcin Sobczyk, The Australian, 10.08.2011*

**Since its accession to the EU (2004) Poland has considerably improved its position in terms of the volume of the gross domestic product.** The value of the GDP in 2010 amounted to EUR 354.3 bn, which made Poland the seventh economy among the EU countries (while in 2003 Poland was tenth). The value of the GDP in Purchasing Power Standard amounted to 575.9 bn in 2010, which placed Poland sixth among the EU countries. GDP per capita in Poland reached 61% of the EU average in

2009. Since the accession to the EU, the unemployment rate consistently decreased. In 2010 the unemployment rate in Poland fell to the EU average level (9.6%).

**Poland has a significant, highly qualified human resources potential** which is not fully exploited by the domestic labour market. Compared with other European countries, Poland remains a young society. The average age of Poles is 37.8 years. The percentage of people with tertiary education aged 30–34 has been regularly increasing – to 32.8% in 2009. The most popular areas of study are, among others, business and administration, social and behavioral science, education science and teacher training, and engineering.



### SHALE GAS RESOURCES - A "PROMISED LAND"

#### AND STRATEGIC ASSET FOR POLAND

One of the biggest challenges, and at the same time prospects, for Poland in the coming years in terms of energy security will be to successfully use its huge shale gas resources. **Poland is believed to have vast deposits of as much as 5.3 trillion cubic meters of extractable shale gas, the largest reserves in Europe. Such an amount of gas could meet Poland's demand for natural gas for another 300 years, and eventually make Poland a major shale gas producer.** Once discovered and proven to be commercially viable, these unconventional gas resources would significantly reduce Polish dependency on foreign energy supply thus strengthening national security. Massive extraction and gas production in 10 to 15 years would significantly affect Poland's and the region's gas market, decreasing by half the market prices. Some scientists and experts predict a reduction from over \$US 400/1000m<sup>3</sup> for Russian gas exported to Europe in 2011, to less than \$US 200 for Polish shale gas. These gas resources have the potential in the future to improve Poland's energy mix, to lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, to ease costly investment needs, to improve the national account balance, and finally to significantly improve the energy security of the entire region. Shale gas presents a major opportunity to change the energy balance in the region. It may become the chosen alternative to the current coal mining in Poland and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe, as it would help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and improve the quality of the environment.



## POLAND AND AUSTRALIA - "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP DURING THE CRISIS TIMES"

In recent times, during the worst global economic and financial crisis in decades, Poland and Australia have been linked by a special relationship – both were amongst only a few countries in the developed world and that avoided recession and experienced positive economic growth.



*"It's an unusual economic pairing, but Australia and Poland will be the only OECD economies to record positive growth in 2009"* - Austrade's Chief Economist, Tim Harcourt, *"Australia and Poland economic outlook: more in common than Poles apart"*, Austrade media release, 11 November 2009

With fiscal stimulus and other anti-cyclical measures enacted before the crisis came into effect, Poland and Australia can now enjoy low inflation, sound economic growth and stable credit ratings. Poland maintained a flexible exchange rate and successfully contained external and internal imbalances. As in Australia, the Polish banking system remained well buffered and fiscal sustainability was preserved.

*"Poland, which broke free from the shackles of communism about 20 years ago, was as 'an island of strength' and the only nation in Europe that did not enter recession during the global financial crisis". "It is a very big land mass right in the middle of Europe".* - Steven Sewell, chief executive of the Charter Hall Retail REIT (one of Australia's largest owners of neighborhood shopping centres, owns five shopping centres in Poland).

*"Landlords see sweet spots in sour European economy - Australian retail groups are defying Europe's debt crisis"* by Bridget Carter, *The Australian*, 15.08.2011

Poland's outstanding stable political and economic situation positioned us it an entry point into the European market. Being the biggest "clever economy in bad times" in Central Europe has created more chances and opportunities for successful long-term investment. An important factor is that Poles account for a quarter of the region's population and they produce nearly 40 % of its GDP.

*"The direct effect of the US rating downgrade should be positive for Poland because we're outside the turmoil and we have the fundamental advantages that investors are looking for: low public debt, a relatively low deficit, and economic growth,"* said Mr. Radziwill from the Polish Finance Ministry.

*"Poland plays it cool amid turmoil"* by Marcin Sobczyk, *The Australian*, 10.08.2011

Now Polish firms are taking advantage of this momentum to



increase exports – 20 years of market economy have brought Polish products to a stage where they are extremely competitive in terms of both price and quality. In many sectors Polish firms are finding significant success abroad and are likely to make the biggest waves in the near future. Poland's and Australia's bilateral business relations are continuously developing, with great support from a vibrant Polish community in Australia. Over the years, Poland has managed to build a reputation as a strong and reliable

*"Poland as a region has performed extremely well. It grew during the GFC and it fits with our strategy to target good core long-term assets in regions with strong economic fundamental"* - Kyle Mangini, IFM's global head of infrastructure.

*"IFM turns up the heat with \$500m Polish acquisition"* by Adele Ferguson, *The Age*, 27.07.2011

business partner. Cooperation is growing in the resource sector and mining services, including coal, copper and minerals mining, and it is also expanding in knowledge-based initiatives such as clean coal and carbon capture and storage, IT, education, agribusiness, food security and advanced processing technologies and consulting services.



Australian companies have already explored opportunities in Poland in the areas of packaging, real estate and commercial property development, construction, infrastructure development, traffic management and speed control technologies, security and early fire warning systems. The success stories involve major companies such as Amcor, Macquarie Group, Mincom, Meydan Group, Bovis Lendlease, Goodman, Redflex and many others which have already settled in our country.

One of the most important Australian investments in Poland is the recent development of the Deep-sea Container Terminal (DCT) in Gdańsk by Macquarie Group (Global Infrastructure Fund II), and the adjacent port's "Pomeranian Logistics Centre" by the Australian Goodman Group. The DCT with logistics facilities allows huge container vessels, operated by Maersk, to directly enter the Baltic Sea from Asia without the need for transshipment at Western European ports. Another recent important Australian investment is the \$A 500 million investment of the Australian Industry Funds Management (IFM) through co-owned company Dalkia Poland in a central heating network (SPEC) in Warsaw, the largest district heating network in the European Union. The privatisation of SPEC extends IFM's investment in Poland to three cities and more than doubles its market share to 25 per cent.

*"IFM was attracted to the asset because of Poland's strong economic fundamentals and the fact that it provides IFM's institutional investors with the potential for greater exposure to a regulated and growing energy sector"* said IFM's global head of infrastructure, Kyle Mangini. *"Fund's \$500m buy in Polish infrastructure"* by Adele Ferguson, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 27.07.2011

Poland serves Australia as a source of modern technical equipment and machinery, goods and passenger vehicles and auto-parts, household equipment, and comfortable and solid furniture. One of the promising products that could indicate a growing trend in Polish exports to Australia in following years is the yacht, a recent rising "star" of Polish exports. Well-known Polish shipyards are already producing superb, luxury yachts and boats (including the biggest 50m long super yachts and catamarans) which are increasingly recognised and awarded around the world. 95% of these yachts and boats is already successfully exported to Western Europe, USA, Australia, and Persian Gulf countries.



**In recent years there has been a broad shift in the nature of incoming foreign investments into**

**Poland – from simple production activities to sophisticated ones requiring technical knowledge, fluency in foreign languages and knowledge of the marketing culture.** Over a third of the overall Polish investment portfolio in 2009 accounted for business service centres and R&D projects. This confirms Poland's enormous educational potential. In fact, every 10th European student comes from Poland.

## KEY DRIVERS IN BILATERAL POLISH - AUSTRALIAN TRADE

Bilateral trade has steadily grown during the last decade peaking in 2008 to over \$A 400 million and subsequently easing to over \$A 337 million in 2010. In recent years Polish exports to Australia have been over 15 times bigger than imports. Despite the global financial crisis and generally difficult trade conditions, Poland's exports to Australia in 2011 were again increasing and reached \$A 183 million at the end of June. At the same time, Poland's imports from Australia were valued at A\$ 13.5 million.

Our major exports to Australia were goods and passenger vehicles, parts and accessories; medicaments; telecom equipment, electrical machinery and household-type equipment and parts; furniture, mattresses and cushions; soap and cleansers; and general industrial machinery and parts.

Major imports from Australia included medicaments; alcoholic beverages; raw hides and skins; fruits and nuts; vehicle parts and accessories; measuring and analysing instruments; and crude minerals.

**So far many Australian companies have identified Poland as a good location for doing business, especially in the areas of manufacturing, packaging, food processing, IT, construction, and education and environment technologies.**

The Polish business presence in Australia is apparent in the range of good Polish products in the market rather than in the volume of direct investments. Raising the quality of products and services has become the best way to create a competitive advantage in the international market. **The good reputation of Polish enterprises which use modern quality-management technologies and systems has become a significant factor in creating a positive image of Poland and its economic potential.** This positive image leads to an increase in exports and the dynamic influx of direct foreign investments into Poland.

*"Like Germany, Poland is one of the world economies most worth investing in. Foreign firms are in strong positions in a range of sectors due to Poland's competitive tax rates and substantial domestic demand... Poland offers economic strength, a strategic location, a relatively large population and complementary industries for Australian companies looking for an important gateway to European opportunities..."*

*"Focus on Poland"* by Paul Sanda\*, *"Australia – Europe Brief"*, Australian Trade Commission - Austrade, [austrade.gov.au/Europe](http://austrade.gov.au/Europe)

\*Paul Sanda is Senior Trade Commissioner at Austrade's Central and South East Europe Office in Warsaw, Poland





## RECENT EVENTS

### Meeting of the Ambassadors of Poland and the EU with the Heads of Consular Missions of EU Member States in Sydney



On 17 August the Ambassador and Mr. David Daly, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the EU to Australia and New Zealand, met with Heads of Consular Missions of EU Member States in Sydney. The meeting was hosted by the Polish Consul General in the city Mr Daniel Gromann. Ambassador Daly described the role of the EU Delegation, the expansion of the scope of its operations since the Lisbon Treaty, and the developments in the relations between the EU and Australia. He stressed the importance of the support of Member States' embassies, and especially of the Embassy of the country holding the Presidency. Ambassador Andrzej Jaroszyński outlined the priorities of the Polish Presidency of the EU. He emphasised that the embassies of the country holding the Presidency are responsible for coordinating the local consular cooperation of the EU missions and their common actions relating to cultural diplomacy. The addresses of both Ambassadors were followed by an exchange of views with the Consuls General on the topics mentioned above and many others, such as trade relations, public diplomacy, and action on climate change.

### The Ambassador's Lectures on Europe and the Polish Presidency

The Ambassador spoke on "Europe and the Polish Presidency" to the Capital Jewish Forum at the Embassy on 22 August. Among the guests were members of the Australasian Union of Jewish Students who were in Canberra for their annual political training seminar.

CJF Founder and Executive Director, Manny Waks, commented: "It was a great opportunity for members of the Jewish community to hear from the senior Polish diplomat about a range of issues which are of interest and concern to our community. As Poland is the current holder of the rotating European Union Presidency, it was particularly interesting to hear from the Ambassador about Poland's vision vis-a-vis its current leadership role within the EU."



On 8 August the Ambassador addressed the Rotary Club of Canberra on Poland and its Presidency of the European Union. He was welcomed by the Club's President, Phil Byrne, and introduced by former German Ambassador to Australia, Dr Klaus-Peter Klaiber. The meeting was held at the Commonwealth Club.

### The 10th anniversary of the John Paul II Institute for Marriage & Family



On 30 July the Ambassador was the guest of honour at a dinner celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the John Paul II Institute for Marriage & Family in Melbourne. His address on the role of Catholics in contemporary intellectual life in Poland was followed by a response speech by Bishop Anthony Fisher of Parramatta. About two hundred students, professors and members of the Institute, including its President, Archbishop of Melbourne Denis Hart, Director, Bishop Peter J. Elliott, and the Institute's Dean, Associate Professor Tracey Rowland gathered at the Windsor Hotel to celebrate the anniversary and to present annual prizes to the top students of the current academic year.

## Celebration of Miłosz Year in Canberra

“Czesław Miłosz Centenary: A Celebration in Words and Music” took place on 29 July in the Embassy as part of the celebrations of Miłosz Year. The event was organized in partnership with the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs (AIPA), an organization established by the Polish diaspora. The Institute had already organized its own event devoted to Czesław Miłosz in Melbourne on 18 June, and helped organize the celebrations of Miłosz Year in the



Consulate General in Sydney on 30 July.

Czesław Miłosz (1911-2004) was the winner of the 1980 Nobel Prize in Literature. The program for the

celebratory event included recitals and musical compositions which were relevant to, and in harmony with the subjects and the mood of the selected poems. Chris Wallace – Crabbe, a remarkable Australian poet and critic, acquainted the audience with the life of the Polish poet, selecting works from the different periods of his creative activity. The poems were recited in the original by the Polish actor, Krzysztof Kaczmarek, who currently lives in Melbourne. Musical compositions were performed on violin and piano by Brigid Coleridge and Gladys Chua. Among the Embassy's guests were the Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, ambassadors of

EU member states and other members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), members of literary and musical circles, representative of the media, and members of the Polish community. The event was a success, the high quality of the artistic performances appreciated and applauded by the audience.

## “Chopin and other romantics”

On 25 August the Embassy hosted a concert “Chopin and other romantics”, organized by the Friends of the ANU School of Music. The purpose of the concert was to raise money for the statutory activity of the School, i.e. scholarships for students. The ANU School of Music is organizing the Australian International Chopin Piano Competition, a contest initiated and sponsored by the Embassy.

The concert was attended by over 120 people, amongst whom was the head of the ANU School of Music, Professor Adrian Walter. At the conclusion of the Ambassador's speech, Professor Walter received a certificate from the Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage for his achievements in relation to the musical heritage of Frederic Chopin. During the evening the most talented students and graduates of the School of Music performed compositions by Frederic Chopin and other European composers. The performances were well received by the audience.



## Piano recital by Edward Neeman

On 13 September the excellent Australian-American pianist, Edward Neeman, gave a recital at the Embassy. The event was organized by the Friends of the International Chopin Competition of Australia, who are working under the patronage of the Ambassador. The aim of the performance was to raise money for the second competition which is planned for April 2013.

During the concert, entitled “The Unique Chopin”, Neeman performed the two cycles of etudes (op. 10 and op. 33). At the end of the concert, members of the audience, consisting of over 100



people, showed their appreciation by applauding enthusiastically for several minutes.

During the event the Ambassador presented to the President of the



Friends, Wanda Horky, the Vice-President, Dr Jolanta Gallagher, and the Artistic Director of the competition, Arnan Wiesel, certificates from the Minister of Culture and National Heritage for outstanding achievements in perpetuating the heritage of Frederic Chopin. Prior to the event, “The Canberra Times” published an article on the Chopin Competition together with a summary of an interview with Edward Neeman.

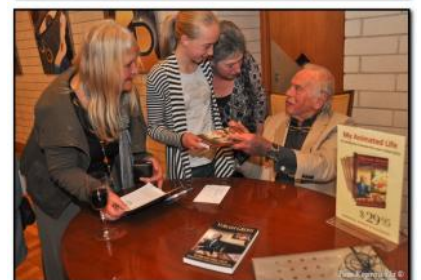


## Meeting with Yoram Gross - Australia's animation pioneer



On 15 September 2011 the Embassy organized a promotional evening for Yoram Gross's autobiography "My Animated Life". **Gross, who was born in 1926 in Cracow**, wrote mainly about his wartime experiences. In 1950 he emigrated to Israel, then in 1968 he settled down in Australia. He is Australia's leading animation producer and director.

The evening's program included speeches by Yoram Gross, the Ambassador, and historian Graham Shirley from the National Film and Sound Archive. The actor, James Scott, read excerpts from the book and scenes from Gross's famous movies were shown. A clip was also shown from Gross's latest production, a short film, "Autumn in Cracow", which he dedicated to the memory of his brother, the scriptwriter and director, Natan Gross. Anna Koprowska, Director of the Canberra Short Film Festival, presided over the event. During the evening Yoram Gross signed his book. It was published in Polish in 2008 under the title "Wybrało mnie życie" and translated into English by Marcel Weyland, the author of the notable translation of "Pan Tadeusz". The income from the book sales was allocated to the Polish Language School in Canberra. The event attracted about 130 people including representatives from the world of politics, diplomacy, the media, culture, and members of the Jewish and Polish communities. Gross's wife Sandra also attended as did a group of Canberra school children who, like so many children in Australia, were raised on Gross's animated movies. According to the guests, the evening was one of the best events organized by the Embassy in 2011. Gross's autobiography was also promoted in the Consulate General in Sydney earlier this year.



Read more:

<http://www.yoramgrossfilms.com.au/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Migration and Multiculturalism Today: the Australian and European Perspectives

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland has the pleasure to announce four symposia focusing on migration and multiculturalism. Both areas attract wide public attention and trigger political debates. Such debates are timely and highly relevant to Australia and Europe. Both topics are strategically important for policy experts and decision-makers in our countries.

The Polish community has significantly contributed to the social development of Australia. One of its most distinguished scientists, Professor Jerzy Zubrzycki, is considered “the father of multiculturalism” in Australia.

The seminars are organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland and the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs in cooperation with local universities. Sessions will be hosted in Hobart, Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra. Among the invited guests are widely recognized scientists from Australia and Europe, including the Polish researchers Professor Marek Okólski, Dr Paweł Kaczmarczyk and Dr Magdalena Lesińska from the Centre of Migration Research. The Centre is an interdisciplinary research unit of the University of Warsaw specialising in studies on migration and cultural

pluralism in Poland and Europe.

The symposium in Hobart will be held on Friday 25 November from 9.30 am to 3 pm, at Parliament House. It is being organised in cooperation with the Research Centre for European Thought in Tasmania. The seminar in Sydney will be held on Monday 28 November from 9.30 am to 3 pm, at the University of Western Sydney. It is co-organized by the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland and the University. The symposium in Melbourne will be held on Wednesday 30 November from 9.30 am to 3 pm, at Monash University, our Melbourne partner.

The symposium in Canberra will take place at the Centre for European Studies (ANU) – our partner in Canberra – on Thursday 1 December from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. The symposium comprises two parts: a morning session on migration and multiculturalism and an afternoon session focusing on migration and labour markets. Polish scholars will participate in the first session and European labour economists in the second: Professor Joan Muysken from Maastricht University in the Netherlands and Professor Tito Michele Boeri from Bocconi University in Italy.

### Poland's Presidency of the European Union: An Agenda with Challenges and Opportunities

#### Public lecture by the Ambassador

**Date:** Tuesday 4 October 2011, 11:00am – 12:30pm

**Venue:** ANU Centre for European Studies,  
1 Liversidge Street (Bldg 67C), Canberra

**RSVP:** [europe@anu.edu.au](mailto:europe@anu.edu.au)

**Read more:** [flyer](#)

### The UN Security Council, NATO, the European Union, the ICC and Libya



Professor Władysław Czapliński graduated from the Faculty of Law and Administration of Gdańsk University in 1977. Since 2004 he has been Director of the Institute of Legal Studies (Polish Academy of Sciences) and is the Head of the Academic Group for European Union Law. He is a

member of German Society for International Law, French Society of International Law and of the Board of Legal Advisers by the President of the Council of Ministers. Professor Czapliński's fields of research include State Succession, State Responsibility, EU Law (Jurisprudence of the ECJ, 2nd and 3rd Pillar of the EU), international

and European law, international responsibility, use of force, succession of states, international recognition, police and judicial cooperation within the EU. His publications include 3 monographs, a textbook of public international law, handbook of jurisprudence of the ECJ with commentaries, numerous articles in Polish and international law journals.

Professor Czapliński is Poland's candidate for the International Criminal Court.

**Date:** 10 November 2011, 5:30pm - 6:30pm

**Venue:** Sparke Helmore Theatre, ANU College of Law (Bldg 5), Fellows Road, Canberra

**RSVP:** [rsvp@law.anu.edu.au](mailto:rsvp@law.anu.edu.au)

**Read more:** [flyer](#)

Organized by the ANU

Supported by the Embassy



## POLISH SCIENTISTS IN AUSTRALIA

Izabela Ratajczak-Juszko

**Małgorzata Krakowiak:** *What were the reasons for your decision to move over fifteen thousand kilometres away from home?*

**Izabela Ratajczak-Juszko:** I moved to Melbourne in August 2010 after spending almost seven years in Oxford, UK. There are at least three reasons why I decided to move. First, my decision was driven by my husband's work relocation. My husband's company arranged our visas which made our move less stressful. Second, the move to



Melbourne was driven by my great passion for adventure and nature. For a European, there is no better place to combine the two.

**- Despite the fact that your husband's work was the initial motivation, the move here did not hinder your professional development. This was unexpected?**

Yes, in fact the move to Melbourne helped to foster my long-held desire for further professional development in an academic environment. This was the third and last but not the least important reason to choose Australia. I joined RMIT University in Melbourne as a Research Fellow under the Innovation Professor Program. I have been heading the Climate Change Adaptation Program's Climate Governance research program which allows me to continue to meet international outreach commitments. My work includes acting as RMIT University's contact on the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. My experience at the UN negotiations started 7 years ago during my previous work with the European Capacity Building Initiative. I focused on capacity and trust building between the EU and developing country UN negotiators. I must also mention that I have just been nominated an

honorary Research Fellow in the United Nations Global Compact - Cities Programme. My role will involve improving communication with two Polish cities, Płock and Wrocław, and strengthening the UNGC Cities Programme's relations with them by researching the social profile and the sustainability of both cities.

**- What does your research specifically focus on?**

My academic research in the Climate Change Adaptation Program focuses on the politics of the UN climate change negotiations. More specifically, I have been contributing to the development of international policy on climate change adaptation and finance. Such a policy aims to support developing countries' transition towards resilient and low carbon economies. My work involves attending official UN negotiations on climate change as well as conducting collaborative research with Australian and overseas academics and policy makers. I am interested in the process of transition towards a green economy through effective and equitable climate change governance.

**- Could you tell us more about the "green economy"?**

It is an economy that seeks to bring long-term societal benefits to short-term activities aimed at mitigating climate change. An economy that results in improved human well-being, while not exposing future generations to significant environmental, social and economic risks.

**- Does your work involve issues relating to the Australian context?**

The main area of my work focuses on global policy. However, I also work on local issues related to climate change policy. I strongly believe that an inclusion of local governments and other stakeholders in safeguarding the global environment is the way to ensure a robust policy to combat climate change. Considering that climate governance mechanisms are still very much in the formative stages, at the international, national, state and local levels, I am interested in mechanisms that might strengthen



multi-level governance in Australia. I organized the first Melbourne Roundtable on Climate Governance and Finance in February that brought together a group of policy makers representing the UN, Australian federal, state and local governments, as well as Australian academics and representatives from Non-Governmental Organisations.

**- In this context I have to ask about your view on the carbon tax and emission trading scheme.**

A carbon tax, despite all the negative comments, represents one of the greatest economic transformations and it is one of the most heavily contested, both in the political arena and in the business arena. I strongly believe that the tax will



enhance research and innovation and will help stimulate the development of new and better technologies. The political debate on carbon tax in

Australia seems to have continued far too long, an important voice opposing the tax being that of the leader of the opposition. Establishing a carbon market in Australia would help meet targets under the UN climate regime. Most importantly, it would assist the change to a low carbon and resilient economy as well as control stakeholders' consumption and investment decisions.

**- Would you make any comparison between Australia and Poland in terms of climate policy?**

Australia and Poland share two things in common which hinder a smooth transition into green economies. Both are locked into a carbon-intensive energy production model. And both face lobbying from fossil fuel companies. A common factor is the pervasive presence of a self-interested and conservative energy lobby. In terms of the UN negotiations, Australia is one of the industrialised world's worst polluters per capita, and was part of the push to remove the legally-binding obligation of the new climate regime in favour of a single track climate treaty. Poland, as an EU member, is required to follow the EU target with some exceptions.

**- In your recent research you are mainly focusing on climate finance funds for developing countries. What do you think about the current mechanism for funds allocation?**

The focus of my research on multilateral climate finance lies in the methodology for allocating funds. It is driven by principles of equity and effectiveness as a response to one of the greatest governance challenges of the Adaptation Fund: lack of adequate finance.

A range of countries will be entitled to transfers from multilateral climate funds. However each of these countries will differ in terms of their needs due to their vulnerability and their capacity to adapt to climate change. Where the issue of eligibility of countries for adaptation finance has been defined by their membership of the Kyoto Protocol, prioritization among eligible countries as well as effectiveness assessment have not yet been fully addressed.

**- How do you judge the Kyoto agreement in terms of**

**excluding developing countries from their legally binding obligations to lower carbon emissions?**

Those most responsible for causing the problem are the richer developed countries or rich people in developed and developing countries. Yet those who are most vulnerable to the harshest impacts are some of the world's poorest people. Climate change should be seen as an ethical problem leading to a human tragedy in both industrialised and developing countries.

**- What does the Kyoto Protocol mean for the current climate policy problems?**

The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997 and has been ratified by 184 countries. It has flexible mechanisms for reaching targets such as emissions trading and emissions reductions. Such mechanisms establish an international "carbon market". However, almost two decades later, given the growing urgency of the need to rapidly reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, I think all countries should be accountable for their emissions. The second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol requires a truly global effort. The last three years of the UN Climate negotiations were very important. The main task was to develop a robust



climate regime, agreed to by all countries, which will be ready for implementation in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol that starts in 2012. This was indeed not only a complex but also a politically challenging task. During the negotiations in Cancun last December, for the first time, actions by developing countries to reduce emissions have been officially recognized under the multilateral process. Developing countries will be required to publish progress reports every two years.

**- What are upcoming challenges for global climate change policy?**

In four months' time, all governments, UN officials and stakeholders will meet in Durban, South Africa, to determine a global deal on climate change. The convention in Durban can establish the basis for a fair, ambitious and binding global climate change regime.

**- Thank you very much for this interesting conversation. Thank you.**

*Izabela Ratajczak-Juszek: Research Fellow, RMIT University, Melbourne*

*The interview was conducted by Małgorzata Krakowiak.*



## OFF THE BEATEN TRACK THE CRACOW-CZESTOCHOWA UPLAND



The Cracow-Czestochowa Plateau (*Jura Krakowsko-Czestochowska*) is a limestone-rich highland formed during the Jurassic period. The Plateau extends from Cracow to Czestochowa. Its scenic landscape features spectacular rock formations, caves, ravines, and gentle hills. There are also picturesque meadows, rivers and forests which characterize the typical Polish landscape. The highest hill - the Castle Mountain (*Góra Zamkowa*) - is 504 meters high. The outstanding feature of the Plateau is the Ojcow National Park which encompasses some of the most beautiful upland areas. The Park will soon be entered onto the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The Plateau's natural beauty perfectly coexists with man's creations. In the Middle Ages, along the Plateau and perched on rocky formations, a network of castles was built as part of a defense system. Today some of the castles lie in ruins but over the centuries they have been re-shaped into imaginative and mysterious forms. Owing to their transformation the whole system of castles is now called Eagles` Nests Trail (*Szlak Orlich Gniazd*). One of the best preserved sites is the Pieskowa Skala Castle. The lower castle, with two cylindrical towers on the steeply sloping east side, was built in the first half of the 14th century by King Casimir the Great. In the 16th century it was modernized by the creation of a Renaissance arcaded courtyard in the northern Italian style with sculptural decoration of a Dutch character. The Castle's



unique atmosphere and beautiful architecture have inspired many artists and filmmakers. Pieskowa Skala provided the setting for a number of famous Polish historical films.

Another well preserved castle is Ogrodzieniec. As well as attracting ordinary sightseers, the castle puts on 'ghost' evening sessions and stages historical shows, presented by a local knights' brotherhood. All the other castles - with their surrealistic forms and atmosphere evocative of the past - attract artists, historical associations, brotherhoods

and ordinary people who want to escape from their everyday routine.

The Cracow - Czestochowa Plateau is also a paradise for adventurers. Many hiking tracks have been made along the Eagles` Nests Trail which is already 190 km long. The Trail can be cycled, walked, ridden on horseback, or driven by car. The Plateau is one of the best spots in Poland for rock climbing

and caving. A unique attraction - unique within the whole of Central Europe - is Błędowska Desert which is located within the upland. This tiny desert of drifting sand and dunes is only 32 km<sup>2</sup> in area.

Read more:

<http://zamki.res.pl/woj-sl.htm>  
<http://zamki.res.pl/woj-malop.htm>  
<http://www.jura-it.pl/index.php?lang=en>  
<http://www.zamek-ogrodzieniec.pl/en>  
[http://www.ojcow.pl/english/index\\_1\\_en.htm](http://www.ojcow.pl/english/index_1_en.htm)  
<http://www.jura.info.pl/index.php?lang=eng>

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## Polish Presence at 60<sup>th</sup> Melbourne International Film Festival

Four Polish co-productions participated in the 60<sup>th</sup> edition of the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) in July and August and director **Lech Majewski** was one of the international guests of the festival.

Born in Poland, Lech Majewski studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw before moving on to the National Film School in Łódź. After he completed *The Knight*, martial law was declared in Poland in 1981, and Majewski emigrated to the UK and then to the USA. In 2006 the Museum of Modern Art honoured him with a retrospective of his work – the first-ever full retrospective of a Polish film maker.



This year Lech Majewski came to MIFF with his new film *The Mill and the Cross*, an extraordinary work that takes the viewer inside the story of a remarkable painting: Flemish painter Pieter Brueghel's 1564 masterpiece *The Procession to Calvary*, an immense work of art that draws together the events of Christ's crucifixion with that of Flanders' sacking by Spanish forces. *The Mill and the Cross* combines stunning digital effects with live actors and horses to venture into the world of the painting itself, blending the boundaries of reality, fact, fiction and art. It stars Rutger Hauer as Breughel, along with Michael York and Charlotte Rampling as Mary. ([www.themillandthecross.com](http://www.themillandthecross.com))

Other Polish co-productions shown at MIFF this year included:

- *Tomorrow Will Be Better* (Poland, Japan 2010) – a quiet, humble film by acclaimed Polish writer-director Dorota Kędzierzawska about the indignities of childhood and the persistence of hope.

The film tells a story of three Russian orphans who, dreaming of a better life, head toward the border with Poland, convinced that on the other side they will finally find something to call home.

Winner of a Generation Kplus award at the 2011 Berlin International Film Festival, *Tomorrow Will*



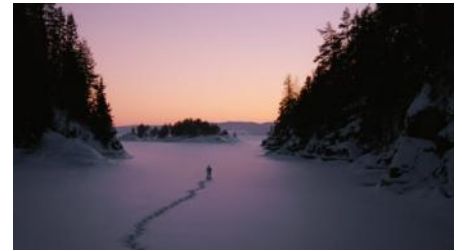
*Be Better* is a miracle of cinematic restraint, a beautifully shot, unsentimental ode to the indomitable nature of innocence.

([www.kidfilm.pl](http://www.kidfilm.pl))





- *Essential Killing* (Poland, Norway, Ireland, Hungary 2010) – a hypnotic and silent manhunt thriller directed by Jerzy Skolimowski, staged against a spectacular landscape. The film is about an unnamed Taliban soldier, captured



and flown to a mysterious eastern European country for interrogation, who manages to escape and is pursued by his former captors through vast, snowbound forests. The film was the Winner of the Special Jury award and Best Actor at the 2010 Venice Film Festival. ([www.essentialkilling.com](http://www.essentialkilling.com))

- *Winter's Daughter* (Poland, Germany 2011) – a touching story about a young girl determined to track down her biological father. Eleven-year-old Kattaka suddenly learns that her biological father is a stranger, a Russian sailor named Alexi. Fighting through her initial anger and disappointment, she resolves to track him down – and so begins an epic journey when Kattaka leaves Berlin to travel east, toward the Polish seaport where Alexi's ship is docked. By turns inspiring and moving, *Winter's Daughter* takes us on an eccentric road trip into Eastern

*Adapted from MIFF sources*



Europe, as a girl faces her fears to find out where she belongs.

## Rose Petal Jam. Recipes & Stories from a Summer in Poland



Beata Zatorska and Simon Target  
(Photo: Tom Koprowski)

*Rose Petal Jam* is an irresistible blend of recipes, travel and memories, written by Beata Zatorska and beautifully illustrated with photographs by Simon Target. After 20 years in Australia, Beata returns to the village in Poland where she was raised by her grandmother, a professional cook. She spends the summer exploring her country with her English husband Simon and recreating her grandmother's delicious family recipes. The result is this glorious book – a ravishing reverie of recipes, memoirs, paintings and poems that celebrate the beauty of Poland.

The book has already received a number of very positive media reviews. *Daily Telegraph* called it “a magic book: full of charm and warmth.” *Most Food Journal* described it as “sumptuous and heartwarming – with stunning photography,” while *Lovereading.co.uk* considers it “delightful on so many levels – a visual feast.” In turn, *The Polish Times* sees it as “a priceless gift and cookery guide for Polish migrants and cooking enthusiasts worldwide, but also a precious guide to Poland and Polish culture.”

The official launch of the book in Australia took place at the Consulate at the end of August.

[www.rosepetaljam.net](http://www.rosepetaljam.net)

## *Drive Blues* – Anna Kijanowska's Piano Recital

Anna Kijanowska, a US-based Polish pianist, has returned to Australia after her successful 2010 tour. She performed at the Consulate in mid-August, presenting a recital *Drive Blues. Avant Garde Music by Polish and International Composers*.

Hailed by *The New York Times* (2007) as "an excellent young Polish pianist," Anna Kijanowska has distinguished herself internationally as a recitalist, chamber musician and concerto soloist. A devoted promoter of the music of Karol Szymanowski, her recording of his Mazurkas has already gained substantial recognition and was named by Adrian Corleoni of *Fanfare Magazine* as "superior to any other interpretations that came before or after hers." Mr. Muse of the *Classik Reviews* called the performance a "revelation," while Mr. Leonard of *All Music Guide* noted, "Kijanowska's performances are amazingly virtuosic, astonishingly charismatic, astoundingly empathic and completely compelling." Anna Kijanowska is currently on the faculty of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.



(Both photos: Tom Koprowski)

The programme of *Drive Blues* included works by Polish composers Hanna Kulenty, Grażyna Bacewicz, Wojciech Kilar and Kazimierz Serocki, as well as by Lei Liang, Avner Dorman, Sophia Serghi and Hannibal. The music, although so different from the Chopin classics which she played in Sydney last year, received an enthusiastic reception from the audience.

## European Film Festival at Macquarie University

The European film festival *Europe: Unity and Diversity* took place at Macquarie University in early September. It was organised jointly by the Department of International Studies at Macquarie University and EUNIC (the European Union National Institutes for Culture) and the Alliance Française, the Goethe-Institute, the Instituto Italiano di Cultura and the Instituto Cervantes with support from the Polish and Russian Consulates. It provided a glimpse into historical developments in different parts of Europe and into contemporary life in Europe within and across borders.

Among the 10 films presented at the festival was *Little Rose*, a Polish film by Jan Kidawa-Błoński (2010), a melodramatic expose of how government agents infiltrated and informed on groups of writers and artists in the communist Poland of the 1960s, and a gripping tale about the price one is willing to pay for love. The film has won the Grand Prize: The Golden Lion for the best film at the 35<sup>th</sup> Polish Film Festival Gdynia 2010 as well as a number of international awards (<http://littlerosemovie.com>).



Daniel Gromann, Polish Consul General in Sydney, addressing the Audience; behind him, from left to right, are the directors of the Instituto Cervantes, the Goethe-Institute, the Instituto Italiano di Cultura and Alliance Française



## Polish Archaeology in Sydney

Professor Karol Myśliwiec from the University of Warsaw was one of the special guests of the 2011 Annual Egyptology Conference organised by the Australian Centre for Egyptology at Macquarie University in August. A scientist with a long career as a field archaeologist on a wide range of sites in Egypt, he discussed Polish-Egyptian excavations in Saqqara, where he is currently working. He also met members of the Polish community in Sydney at the Consulate, where he delivered a presentation about *70 Years of Polish Archaeology in Egypt*.



Prof. Karol Myśliwiec (Photo: Tom Koprowski)



A team of scholars from the University of Warsaw directed by Prof. Kazimierz Michałowski carried out their first excavations in Egypt back in 1937. After a long interval caused by World War II and its aftermath, Prof. Michałowski returned to Egypt in 1956 with a research program which initiated a longstanding cooperation between Polish and Egyptian specialists. In the past 50 years it has resulted in several important archaeological-conservation-reconstruction projects, of which Deir el-Bahari and Alexandria are the flagships. Polish missions have worked in the past or are working now at 26 sites. Their research program has increased the knowledge of Ancient Egyptian history. The richness and variety of archaeological finds from the last phases of Pharaonic Egypt and the Ptolemaic, Roman and Byzantine periods, originating from Polish excavations, have contributed to the studies of ancient urban agglomerations in Egypt.

## Evening with Renata Buziak

Renata Buziak is a Polish-born photographic artist living in Brisbane. For the last several years she has been developing a unique process she calls the 'biochrome' where images are inspired and created by environmental processes – a fusion of art and science. Renata has been a recipient of a number of art awards including the Thiess Art Prize 2005 and the RBWH Art Award. She has exhibited nationally and internationally and her work can be found in public and private collections.

Renata presented her work at the Consulate at the end of August. The function included an introduction of her from her childhood in *Afterimage* monograph, which embraces Poland and a performance her innovative and experimental works by eurythmist Jan Baker-based on memories of places and events Finch.



R. Buziak (Ph. T. Koprowski)