



The LSESU Committee of The Alliance

Cordially invites you to

The Golden Triangle: University, Research and Business in the United Kingdom and France, a Comparative Perspective.

Monday November 24th at 6:30 PM in the New Theatre (E171), LSE

The panel will consist of the following speakers:

Maurice Gourdault-Montagne

Ambassador of France to the United Kingdom

Arnaud Vaissié

Co-founder and CEO of International SOS, President of the French Chamber of Commerce in Great-Britain
Co-founder of the "Cercle d'outre-Manche"

Pascal Boris, Hon CBE

CEO of BNP Paribas UK (1999-2007), Honorary President of the French Chamber of Commerce in Great-Britain, co-founder of the "Cercle d'outre-Manche"

Dr Anne Corbett

Deputy Chair of the Franco-British Council and Visiting Fellow at LSE
University Association for Contemporary European Studies Committee Member

Professor Nicholas Barr

Professor of Public Economics at the European Institute (LSE)
Co-author of *Financing Higher Education: Answers from the UK*

The event will start with the presentation by Arnaud Vaissié and Pascal Boris of the report by the French think tank Le Cercle d'outre-Manche "Du Brain Drain au Brain Gain, The Golden Triangle, University, Research and Business" which, proposes a comparative analysis of the two academic systems and of their ability to create wealth. It argues that French universities could learn from their British counterparts.

The presentation will then be followed by a debate on the relationship between higher education, research and entrepreneurship, with the participation of His Excellency the French Ambassador Mr Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, Professor Nicholas Barr, and Dr Anne Corbett. The event will end with a Q&A session with the audience.

The Alliance

Background

- An **alliance** of students and alumni from the **London School of Economics**, University of **Oxford**, University of **Cambridge**, **Sciences Po Paris**, **l'Ecole Polytechnique**, **HEC**, and **ESSEC**.
- A **historical** project under the High Patronage of HM The Queen and the President of the French Republic, with the support of Honorary Presidents Lord Salisbury and le Marquis de Breteuil.
- A **charity** according to UK law and an association under French 1901 law.
- Founded in April 2004 for the **centenary of the Entente Cordiale**.

Goal and Ambitions

- To **strengthen and deepen** the Entente Cordiale among the leaders of tomorrow.
- To encourage student engagement on challenging global issues and become a **think-tank** by organising annual events with leading executives and academics.
- To encourage **networking among alumni and students** from our seven partner schools.
- It ultimately seeks to bring universities, students, and leaders **closer**, by fostering **reciprocal awareness** and encouraging **cooperation** for a common future.

Annual Global Events

- Three global events each year: **Annual Summit, Annual Conference, and Alumni Meeting**.
- **Exceptional venues** between France and the UK.

In the past: House of Lords, Hatfield House, Lancaster House, Chateau de Breteuil, Hotel des Invalides, etc

- **Speakers** from academia, government and business discuss the topic with students.

In the past: Michele Alliot Marie (French Minister of Interior Affairs), Jacques Barrot (VP European Commission), Thomas Fletcher (Private Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Downing St), Lord Grenfell (Deputy Speaker at the House of Lords), Baron David de Rothschild, Baroness Amos (Leader House of Lords), Christophe Lanne (Credit Suisse COO France), Denis Ranque (CEO of Thales), Lindsay Owen-Jones (Chairman of l'Oreal Worldwide), Wafic Said (Business, Philantropist, Founding Benefactor of Oxford Business School), Arnoud de Meyer (Head of Judge Business School at Cambridge), Lord Desai (Professor Emeritus LSE), Howard Davies (Director of LSE).

- **Each event** has a specific **topic to debate** and workshop conclusions are presented in a report of policy recommendations. The **annual report** is presented in person to all FBSA supporters (French and British executive and legislative bodies of government, corporate sponsors, alumni and university representatives).

- Past **sponsors** include: Credit Suisse, Thales, L'Oreal, Invest in France, Pol Roger, Veolia, Apple, EDF, and Eurostar.

Upcoming Events

- Annual Summit: University of Cambridge, on December 12 – 14 of 2008.
- Annual Conference: Chateau de Breteuil, on March 13 – 14 of 2009.
- Annual Alumni Meeting: Palais du Luxembourg, le Senat (tbc) on June 25 of 2009.

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“The Golden triangle: University, Research, Business”

Combining the activities of technology transfer, company incubation and early stage venture capital fund, most of the British universities seem to be a most interesting case study for France.

In the international business world of today, discovery, entrepreneurial mind-sets and innovative processes are the engine of competitiveness. The UK is among the leaders in the high tech sector and key to its R&D success is the quality of its universities, which have become a platform for the development and growth of new businesses.

By means of significant incentives and more flexible contracts, more academics have got involved into start-ups alongside their academic career, while the government has egged on universities to create their own venture capital fund. Over the last ten years, British graduates have also developed a more entrepreneurial attitude, helped by a strong network of 30 000 Business Angels across the country which give their chance to promising 25-year-old entrepreneurs.

By bringing together researchers, capital riskers and entrepreneurs into a market-oriented environment, the UK has shown the wide-reaching results of its wealth creation model. For example, the UK's micro and nanotechnology industry has doubled in size in just two years. All in all, around 200 companies have arisen from the UK's five most active universities between 2000 and 2007 while 40% of the biotechnology companies registered at the London Stock Exchange originate from the “Cambridge Cluster”. Figures also add up: 7 years following its creation, a company in the UK is on average 5 times bigger in terms of employment and market capitalisation than its French counterpart.

University reforms in the UK have come a long way over the past 25 years. However it was not any easier to convince all parties involved in the UK of the need for change than it is today in France. In the 1980s, many British universities were reluctant to implement Margaret Thatcher's reforms on the transfer of intellectual property to universities and its commercial deeds. But under the firm encouragement of both Tory and Labour governments, “Blue sky” researchers have managed to burry the hatchet with the business world.

The reforms promulgated in the UK three decades ago have helped the academic environment become the driver of entrepreneurship and wealth creation it is today, with universities, research and technology-related new business creation defining a “Golden triangle”. Will French universities now rise to the challenge?

Le Cercle d'outre-Manche is a French London-based think-tank which aims to develop a benchmarking approach in order to depict the best practices of both France and the UK. Over the last four years, the “CoM” has published four reports:

"Du brain drain au brain gain" ...Ou comment le Royaume-Uni fait de l'Université et de la Recherche des acteurs clefs dans la création d'entreprises. (October 2008)

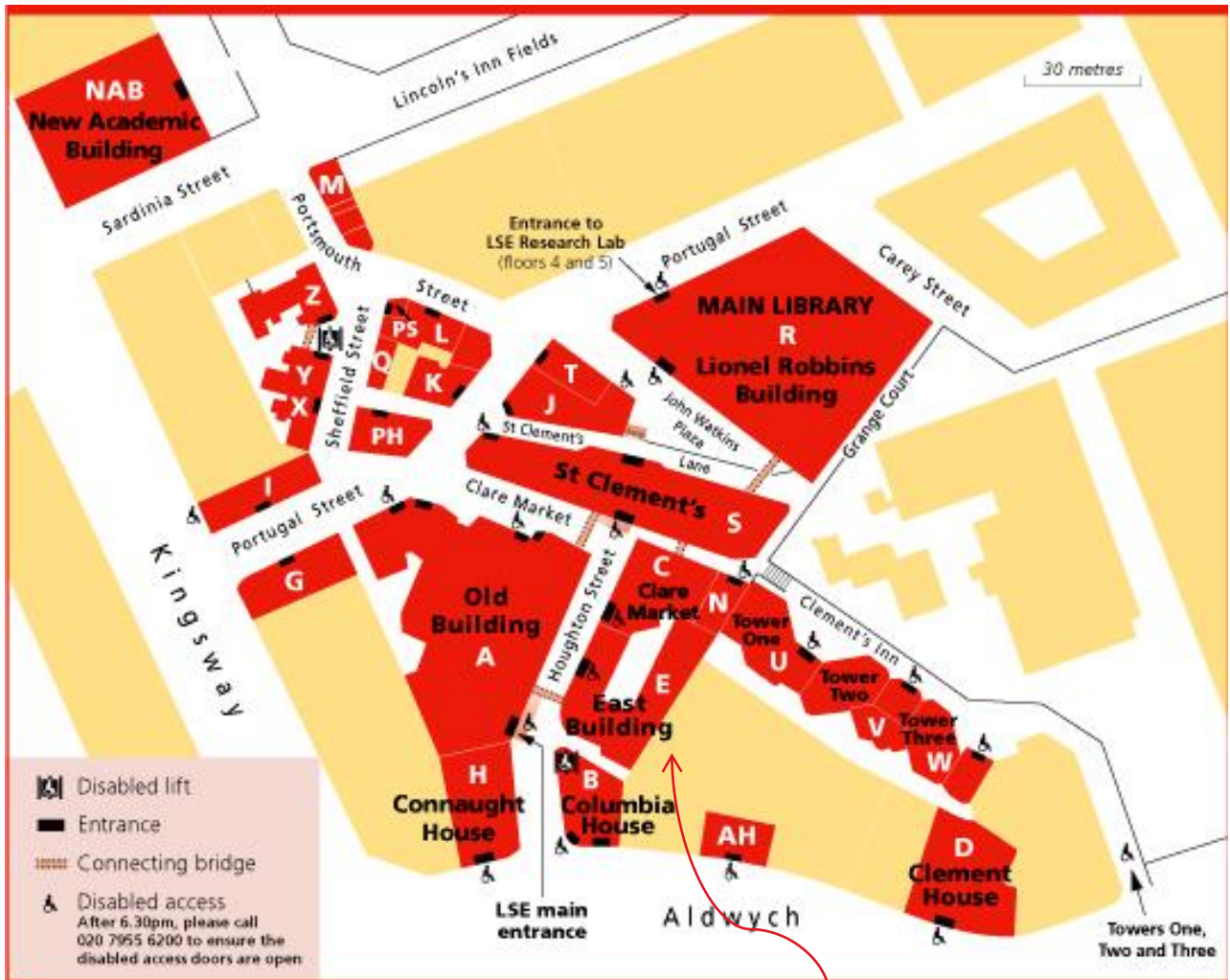
"6 mois, 6 mesures" ...pour que la France repasse devant le Royaume-Uni. (June 2007)

"My neighbour is rich" ...Ou comment la France peut s'inspirer du réformisme permanent d'Albion pour accélérer son retour à l'emploi et à la croissance. (October 2006)

" Sous-emploi français, plein-emploi britannique: un paradoxe bien peu cordial "

...Ou comment la France peut s'inspirer des bonnes pratiques du Royaume-Uni pour gagner la bataille de l'emploi et de l'attractivité. (November 2004)

Finding the New Theatre at LSE:



The New Theatre is in the East Building.

Alliance Members will show you the way from Houghton Street as of 18:00