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Financial Times - People Emiliya Mychasuk and Emiko Terazono

Crisis lessons

By Emiliya Mychasuk November 29 2008

Across town, countryman **Yoel Zaoui**, of French nationality but born in Morocco and raised in Rome, picked up the banker award at Français of the Year awards organised by investment banker Laurent Feniou. The Goldman Sachs M&A banker inherited the award from his Morgan Stanley counterpart **Franck Petitgas**.



Paris-on-Thames

By Emiko Terazono July 12 2008

With more than 350,000 French expats, London is the seventh-largest French city in the world and investment banker Laurent Feniou is holding the second annual "Oscars" of his countrymen living in the UK capital.

Last year, some 3,500 French expats voted via the internet for the inaugural Français of the Year awards.

Categories include the arts, food and business. EDF Energy boss Vincent de Rivaz won the chief executive category, Franck Petitgas of Morgan Stanley was the top banker, top chef was Pascal Aussignac of Club Gascon, Raphael Ibanez of Wasps rugby club was leading sportsman, while writer Marc Levy won the artist category.

This year, more categories have been added, including entrepreneurs and rising stars. Those on the short list include financiers Bernard Oppetit of Centaurus Capital, the aforementioned Michel Péretié of SocGen, Manny Roman of GLG, Lehman Brothers' Benoît Savoret and Yoël Zaoui of Goldman Sachs. In business, Patrick Cescau of Unilever, André Lacroix of Inchcape, Jean Lemierre of EBRD, Philippe Varin of Corus and Jean-François Cecillon of EMI are nominated.

For the full list go to <http://www.grandes-ecoles-city-circle.com>

French viewing

By Emiko Terazono October 18 2008

Investment banker Laurent Feniou organised a private viewing midweek for the Lanvin impressionist collection, belonging to the family of the French designer, which will be auctioned in December. Among the 150 French expats in London who gathered at Christie's on King Street were Geoffroy de la Bourdonnaye, the new Liberty chief, Jean-François Cecillon, formerly of EMI, Philippe Leboeuf, general manager of Claridge's and designer Roland Mouret.

Snail eggs for all

By Emiko Terazono July 19 2008

Networking was only an excuse at the Bastille Day celebrations hosted by the new French ambassador, Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, at his residence in Kensington, where the champagne - sponsored by Mumm - flowed, while guests were treated to the best of French delicacies - foie gras, a cheese buffet, salmon, breads and ice-creams and sorbets.

Mr Gourdault-Montagne debated with investment banker Laurent Feniou the merits of caviar escargot, or the mousse-like white caviar-like snail eggs, on offer.

Other guests included KKR's Jacques Garaialde, Sanofi-Aventis UK boss Nigel Brooksby, Desmond Cecil of French nuclear group Areva, Accor's Michael Flaxman, Peugeot UK's Pierre-Louis Colin and Anne Glover of Amadeus Capital Partners. Lords (Digby) Jones and Malloch-Brown were spotted as were the ambassadors of Spain and Slovenia.

The garden party, held on Monday, followed a larger party at the Lycée in south Kensington the previous Saturday. Mr Gourdault-Montagne paid tribute to French Resistance veterans who were there but also spoke about the two young Frenchmen recently murdered in Peckham, south London.

The business executives, diplomatic types and other guests were invited between noon and two, and afterwards the door was thrown open to the wider French community in London.