

# KIMON VALASKAKIS PH.D

Former Ambassador of Canada to the OECD

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## Curriculum Vitae November 2003

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## **SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS**

*Dr. Valaskakis was until the end of August 1999 the Canadian Ambassador to the OECD. Appointed in 1995 by the Canadian Prime Minister, he sat ex officio on the Board of Governors of the OECD and was the plenipotentiary representative of Canada there. The OECD is a permanent intergovernmental conference and policy analysis unit involving 29 member states and employing 2000 professionals. In 1999 Valaskakis was also chairman of the Board of the OECD Development Centre a subsidiary body of OECD.*

*Valaskakis is presently*

- *President of the Club of Athens – Global Governance Group, an international initiative involving world leaders from the public and private sectors seeking to establish a pre-negotiating forum for*
- *Professeur-honoraire de sciences économiques at the University of Montreal ,*
- *Senior Fellow with FUTURIBLES INTERNATIONAL, a global think tank based in Paris and member of its board of directors*
- *Senior Advisor G8 Research Group*

*Overall, Dr. Valaskakis has pursued four converging career paths. He has been an academic, an executive, a consultant and a diplomat. Holding a Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell University and a French law degree, his **academic** career has encompassed 30 years of teaching at the University of Montreal and other universities in Canada and in Europe. As an **executive**, he has headed the GAMMA INSTITUTE, an international think tank, specialised in forecasting and planning studies and has directed major research projects for the Canadian federal and provincial governments and for various international organizations, in addition to his more recent executive responsibilities as Canadian ambassador. His **consulting** experience involved being the Chairman of ISOGROUP CONSULTANTS an international strategy firm with offices in Montreal, Paris, New York and Sofia Bulgaria and preparing strategic plans for major multinational firms. Finally his **diplomatic** experience has centered around his position as Canadian ambassador and the spin-off activities it has generated, in Paris where the OECD is located.*

*Valaskakis has over the years developed expertise in five areas : global governance, international development, technology strategy, forecasting and planning methodologies as applied to business and government. He has sat on a number of boards of directors including the National Bank of Greece Canada, the North American Society of Corporate Planning, Futuribles International Paris etc.*

*Dr. Valaskakis has published 8 books, over 100 scientific papers and 20 book length monographs. He has been active on the international lecture circuit and has given about 500 public speeches in the last ten years. About a third of these were major keynote or closing addresses. He has acquired expertise and made contributions in a number of areas, which are described in section 3 below. In addition he has received a number of awards and has held numerous directorships.*

## **PERSONAL & EDUCATION**

- Citizenship : Canadian & Greek
- Married and father of three boys.
- Languages: Full fluency in English, French and Greek (with books written in both English and French) and a conversation knowledge of Arabic and Italian.
- Ph.D. in Economics (Cornell University) 1967 Specialization in International Trade and Economic History. PhD. Minor in philosophy of science.
- B.A Economics (American University in Cairo) 1961
- Bachelier de droit (French law degree) 1959
- Law studies at Lincoln's Inn London 1957-1961 (in parallel with the other two undergraduate activities)

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## **CAREER CHRONOLOGY (IN REVERSE ORDER)**

### **Activities 1999-2003**

- President Club of Athens – Global Governance Group
- Senior Advisor G8 Research Group
- Professeur de sciences économiques UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL
- Conseiller scientifique FUTURIBLES INTERNATIONAL
- Administrateur FUTURIBLES INTERNATIONAL
- Senior Visiting Fellow Centre for Resource Management INSEAD 1999
- Visiting Lecturer London Business School 1999
- Administrateur Prospective 2100
- Consultancies for a number of Multinationals and governments

### **Ambassador of Canada to the OECD 1995-1999**

Appointed by the Governor-in-Council in 1995, Dr. Valaskakis has represented Canada on the OECD Council the supreme body of the Organization. As Head of Mission of the Canadian Delegation to the OECD he co-ordinated the work of 16 staff members, including 8 diplomats. His duties included overseeing the management of the OECD together with the 28 other ambassadors to which the Secretary-General reports, negotiating conventions and resolutions on behalf of Canada. He was :

- Chairman of the Council Committee on Decision-Making Reform
- Chairman and of the Board of the OECD Development Centre

Dr. Valaskakis reported to the Canadian Prime Minister through the Minister of External Affairs.

### **Professeur-titulaire, Economics Department, University of Montreal 1966-1995**

Kimon Valaskakis, joined the University of Montreal Economics Department in June 1966 as a lecturer. He became an assistant professor in June of 1967, an associate professor in 1973 and a professeur-titulaire in 1978. Courses he has taught include micro and macro theory, economic history, international trade and development and forecasting and planning.

### **Other Teaching Appointments 1966-1995**

Dr. Valaskakis has been an invited lecturer at Concordia University, the universities of Paris, Versailles, Rennes, Nice and Alicante among others.

**President of the  
Gamma Institute  
1974-1995**

Dr. Kimon Valaskakis was President and founder of the Gamma Institute a Montreal-based international think-tank which was described by the Paris newspaper as “un centre de notoriété internationale en Prospective”. Specializing in long-term forecasting studies, the Gamma Institute was born in 1974 as an interuniversity research group of the University of Montreal and Mc.Gill University. In 1989 Concordia University and Ryerson Polytechnic joined GAMMA. In 1984, Gamma became an independent institute and opened a subsidiary in France. It was the subject of a major chapter in Annie Battle’s book Les Travailleurs du Futur and of a special issue of Poland 2000, the journal of the Polish Academy of Sciences.(see Publications section)

**Chairman,  
ISOGROUP  
Consultants  
1990-1995**

Valaskakis was the one of the founders of ISOGROUP Consultants and its first chairman. ISOGROUP is a strategic management firm which has established an international reputation in strategic planning and now possesses offices in Montreal Paris, New York and Sofia.

**Directeur-adjoint  
Centre de Recherches  
en Développement  
Economique  
Universite de  
Montreal 1971-1973.**

Duties included assisting the Centre’s director Andre Raynauld in the management of the centre and directing individual projects in Africa such as the Niger-Nigeria study in 1971-1973. In the course of his tenure Valaskakis acquired some expertise on Third World development.

Dr. Valaskakis was the interim director of the Centre de Recherches en Developpement Economique in 1972-1973

**Professional  
Associations  
And Board  
Memberships  
1980-1994**

- President, Canadian Federation of Future Studies
- Vice-president, l’Association canadienne d’economique,
- Vice-President Cite Libre Magazine
- Board of directors, National Bank of Greece (Canada), North American Society for Corporate Planning, World Future Studies Federation, Futuribles Paris, Prospective 2100, Paris, among others.
- Memberships in various learned societies including among others the Foundation for Advanced Information Research in Tokyo Japan.

## RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Dr. Valaskakis has received an academic prize from the Max Bell Foundation in 1987 for an article on the role of Government entitled ‘Should the Gorging Leviathan become Anorexic’

He was invited over the years to deliver distinguished lecture series including the Conférence Auguste Frigon at the Ecole Polytechnique, the Dunning Trust Lecture at Queen’s University, the Carson Series Lecture at the University of Ottawa and the Prospective lecture at the Conservatoire Nationale des Arts et Metiers in Paris.

In 1997, Professor Valaskakis received the University of Montreal gold medal award for distinguished career service to the University.

Dr. Valaskakis has also been the subject of a number of articles in various periodicals. Five indicators of recognition of work done include :

- (1) A 1982 special issue of the Polish journal Polska 2000, a journal of the Polish Academy of Sciences, which was entirely devoted to the work in the future studies field of K. Valaskakis at the Gamma Institute.
- (2) A 1983 article in the Paris newspaper, Le Monde describing Gamma as a leading international think-tank in the field of future studies and forecasting.
- (3) Chapter II of the book by Annie Battle, Les Travailleurs du Futur, (Paris : Seguers 1986) which focuses on Gamma's contributions as a major international think-tank. The book is a comparison of leading world think-tanks and places Gamma in the company of the RAND Corporation, Stanford Research Institute, the Club of Rome etc.

- (4) A report in the British learned journal *Futures* in 1991 describing Valaskakis as one of the 40 leading world futurists.
- (5) A special report on Canada by the British periodical *The Economist* (June 1991) partially based on Valaskakis, *Canada in the Nineties* book describing Valaskakis as “one of Canada’s most perceptive thinkers.”

## SECTORAL EXPERTISE

### GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

- 2001 article which appeared in an OECD book on 21st Century Governance : *Long-term trends in Global Governance : From Westphalia to Seattle*
- 1999-2002 Numerous speeches and communications on global governance, at INSEAD, London Business School, Academie de la Paix, Futuribles, Academie Diplomatique, Universite du Quebec etc.
- 1999 Unesco Social Science Journal , article: Globalization as Theatre : New Play, New Actors, New Script (Spanish, English, French, Russian)
- 1998 Futuribles article: Mondialisation et Gouvernance, Le défi de la régulation publique planétaire
- 1998 Carson Series Lecturer on the theme Can Globalization be managed: The Challenge of Global Governance

### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 1999 Chairman of the Board of the OECD Development Center
- 1980-1995 Various short-term ad-hoc consultancies in the field of international development.
- 1986-1988: Director, The Future of Education in the Cameroon’s: Problems of Development Planning. Canadian International Development Agency and Cameroon Government.
- 1985-1987: Director OECD-Project on the Future of the Sahel . This project involved co-coordinating an international team of African, European and North American researchers to investigate alternative future scenarios for the Sahel Region in Africa. It was funded by the Club du Sahel and the CILSS and involved 30 participants.
- 1970-1971: Director, Niger-Nigeria Project (Canadian International Development Agency and Centre de Recherches en Developpement Economique, Université de Montréal).
- 1977- 1983: Associate co-coordinator, GPID-Project of the United Nations University in Tokyo. The GPID Project on "Goals, Processes and Indicators of Development" was a five-year endeavor involving twenty-five institutes around the world, eleven from the Western World, eleven from the Third World and three from Eastern Europe. The purpose of the project was to arrive at an integrative, interdisciplinary theory of development. It lasted from 1977 to 1983. Dr. Valaskakis was one of three associate co-coordinators of the second half of the project from 1981 to 1983.

### FORECASTING & PLANNING (PROSPECTIVE)

- Numerous articles on PROSPECTIVE in various journals
- Teaching Prospective at U de Montreal and Europe
- Dr.Valaskakis has developed models to integrate "environmental scanning" (also known as business intelligence) in planning models and has published the results in a number of scientific articles. He has tried to show how trend analysis could be used for better management and to avoid "strategic surprise."

### TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY

- 1988-1993: various technology strategy studies for a number of firms in the private sector and government departments (both federal and provincial) in addition to international agencies
- 1991-92: Director of Study for the Montreal Chamber of Commerce on the use of information and telecommunication technologies in two fields: Aerospace firms in the Montreal area and Pulp and Paper firms in Québec.
- 1991: Study for the Human Resource Scanning Association on the impact of technology trends on work and working.
- 1991: Co-director : Aerospace Industries: Analysis and Prospects (Project conducted for the Aerospace Industry Association of Canada.

- 1989-91: Director Enabling Studies for the Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC). This series of studies looked at the strategic use of information technology as a productivity multiplier and competitiveness enhancer.
- 1988-1990: Studies on technology strategy for the CRIT (Centre de Recherche de l'Informatisation du Travail) and Hydro-Québec on the concept of "filière technologique" applied to informatics, to hydro-electricity and to superconductors.
- 1979-1983: Director, Information Society Programme. Gamma co-coordinated a multi-client programme involving the key players in the telecommunication and computer fields. 12 private sector firms and five government departments jointly funded it. It featured seminars, studies and planning exercises in both these high technology fields.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- 1974-1980 Director The Conserver Society Project. The Conserver Society Project was the first major Gamma Project and was funded by fourteen agencies and departments of the Federal Government of Canada, including, Environment Canada, Science Council, Privy Council Office, National Research Council etc.
- 1979 co-author : The Conserver Society (NY : Harper and Row)

#### HEALTH MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

- 1987- 1992 Various consultancies and seminars in the Health field
- 1987: Trend Analysis and the Future of Health. Project conducted for the Ministère de la Santé et du Bien-Etre Social, Government of Québec.
- 1992 : Trend Analysis for the Pharmaceutical Industry conducted for Rhone Poulenc- Rohr

#### CANADIAN ISSUES

- 1983-1986: Director: Prospective de la langue française au Québec project of the Conseil de la Langue française. This project involved looking at the future of the French language in the light of demographic, technological, political and economic trends.
- 1983-86: Director, The Future of the French Language Project (Conseil de la Langue Française). This project looked at major trends affecting the survival of the French language in Québec and Canada and led to the development of a number of scenarios concerning the future of French and its implications for linguistic policies. Author of Prospective de la Langue Française au Québec (see Publications section).
- 1990: Author of the future of a book entitled Canada in the Nineties, Meltdown or Renaissance (see Publications section).
- 1976-1978: Associate-director, Future of Québec Project, (Office de Planification du Québec). This project commissioned by the Québec Government involved an executive committee of five associate director and 40 university researchers from Université de Montréal, H.E.C., Mc.Gill University, Ecole Polytechnique, Université du Québec and Laval.
- 1980: Author of a book on Québec independence and the implications of sovereignty. K. Valaskakis, Le Québec et son destin international Editions Quinze , Montreal 1980 (see Publications section).
- 1986-1988: Director ETA Project. This was a multi-client project looking at major trends in Canada and their impacts on each client member. The project involved 15 sponsoring private corporations and government departments.
- 1982-1984: Director, The Future of the National Capital Region Project, National Capital Commission, Ottawa. This project which occurred in the period 1982-1984 was an analysis of the prospects for the National Capital region of Ottawa-Hull, in the light of the future of Canada. It involved political, economic and symbolic variables. Dr. Valaskakis directed a joint Gamma-NCC team of twelve people.
- 1991-1992: Director of a multi-client corporate study sponsored by the Montreal Board of Trade and funded by 20 corporations. The study entitled QUEBEC-CANADA 2000 dealt with Canada-Quebec relations and their impact on Canada's international competitiveness.
- Co-author of a book on the Québec referendum entitled, The Delusion of Sovereignty.
- 1992-1993: Federal Liberal Candidate (Riding of Chateauguay)
- 1980-1993: Various consultancies and strategic plans for the City of Moncton, the Council of Maritime Premiers, the Governments of PEI, Ontario, Alberta etc.