



High Performance Engineering Conference



Green High Performance and Other Innovative Solutions From The Advanced Engineering Sector

Long Beach Convention Center, California

16th April 2009

Panellist Biography

Bob Peirce **British Consul General, Los Angeles**

Bob Peirce began his appointment as British Consul General at Los Angeles in June 2005. Before that, from October 1999, he was head of the Political and Public Affairs sections of the British Embassy in Washington.

He joined the British Diplomatic Service in 1977 and has served in China and Hong Kong and at the United Nations in New York, and has also done a consultancy in Uganda. He was Private Secretary to three British Foreign Secretaries (equivalent of the US Secretary of State) - Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr John Major and Mr Douglas Hurd.

Bob Peirce was twice a member of the Hong Kong Government, in the 1980s and again in the 1990s, and from 1993 to 1997 he was the Secretary responsible for Hong Kong's external affairs under Governor Chris Patten. He was involved for most of the period from 1979 to 1997 in the negotiations with China culminating in the handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997.

Before going to Washington, Bob Peirce was the Chief Executive, under Chris Patten's Chairmanship, of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland whose 1999 report has formed the basis of policing reforms in Northern Ireland, following the peace agreement reached in 1998. The report has been hailed by policing experts around the world as a seminal document for policing in a democratic society. In Washington he continued to work with police departments in the United Kingdom and the United States, developing strong links and best practice exchanges between the two countries which have proved invaluable since the attacks of the 11th of September 2001 and subsequent events.