

BIOGRAPHY



Christian MASSET

Ambassador of France to Japan

Born January 23, 1957 in Sète (Hérault), Christian Masset graduated from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (IEP) of Paris and the Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Economiques et Commerciales (ESSEC). He chose the Foreign Ministry after the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA - promotion Louise Michel).

He started his career in the Political Affairs Division (1984-1987), then he was appointed First Secretary in London (1987-1989) before joining the Economic Affairs Division (1989-1991). First Counselor in Pretoria (1991-1994), then Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of France to the European Union (EU - 1994-1997) he joined the Office of Foreign Minister, Hubert Vedrine, as Adviser (1997-1999).

Minister Counsellor in Italy between 1997 and 2002, he was Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the European Union between 2002 and 2007.

Appointed Director of Economic and Financial Affairs (DAEF) in 2007, he took the lead of the General Directorate for Global Affairs, Development and Partnerships in 2009 (this new directorate was formed by the merger of DAEF and the General Division of International Cooperation and of Development). As such, he served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Agency for French Teaching Abroad (AEFE - which controls the network of French schools over the world) and of France Cooperation Internationale (FCI - responsible for promoting French technical expertise abroad), and was a member of the board of the French Institute.

He was appointed Ambassador of France to Japan by a decree of the Council of Ministers of France, on December, 21st, 2011.

Married with three sons, Mr. Masset is a Knight of the Legion of Honor and Knight of the Order of Merit.