



Richard Leupen, CEO United Group

UNITED GROUP JOINS ASIALINK CORPORATE

THE ASIALINK CORPORATE program, delivering forums and custom-designed services to business, has continued to expand with leading Australian company, United Group Limited, the latest addition to the \$50,000 platinum sponsors' group.

The United Group is a diversified engineering, construction and maintenance group servicing the energy, mining, government utilities and industrial sectors. The influential group of Asialink platinum sponsors includes BHP Billiton, Janssen Cilag, PricewaterhouseCoopers and GBST.

CEOs, senior Federal and State Ministers and a number of Ambassadors were among guest speakers at Asialink business and public events in recent months.

The Chief Executive of leading financial services company, AXA Asia Pacific, Mr Les Owen, told an Asialink briefing in May that Asia operations contributed 50 per cent of AXA's profit and this was rising.

He said one of the company's key challenges was developing and maintaining high quality local management. AXA operates in eight markets in the region.



For Youth Leader, Thao Nguyen, growing up in multicultural Blacktown, Sydney, was "a gift". A keynote speaker to the 2006 Education Forum, Ms Nguyen called on educators to encourage "active global citizenship". See page 5.



AUSTRALIA: VALUABLE PARTNER IN ASIA

We come to the region with a set of strengths - and we come to the region with goodwill. Australia is seen as a constructive and valuable partner in Asia

ALEXANDER DOWNER at the Asialink Chairman's Dinner

AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, THE HON. ALEXANDER DOWNER, says Australia now has the opportunity to influence events in our own region, and is seen as a constructive and valuable partner.

In a wide-ranging speech to the recent Asialink Chairman's Dinner, the Minister said Asia and Australia had come through some testing times in the last decade but "we have made more progress in the last three years than ever before."

"There are some simply fantastic developments in the region that an Australian Government would not attempt to claim much credit for - Indonesia's embrace of democracy is one example," he told the gathering of 150 Asialink friends and supporters.

"But the simple point is that we are in an incredibly strong position in our economic and strategic relations with Asia as a result of developments over the last three years."

He said Australia had a very strong voice in how an East Asian community developed and, as well as a series of free trade agreements in Asia, "we have managed to build a very solid relationship with China, despite our very different political systems."

Mr Downer paid tribute to the "tireless advocacy" and "outstanding contribution" to Asia Australia relations of outgoing Chairman of Asialink, Mr Carrillo Gantner AO.

Dr Ben Lochtenberg, Deputy Chancellor, The University of Melbourne, announced that in recognition of Mr Gantner's "abiding vision for an Australia fully equipped to engage with Asia", the University had named the state-of-the-art lecture theatre in the Sidney Myer Asia Centre, the "Carrillo Gantner Theatre".

Mr Gantner had been "passionate in his view that the Sidney Myer Asia Centre should be a major resource for both the University and the broader community", the Deputy Chancellor said.

"He devoted much personal time and creativity to the planning of the Centre and was a powerful advocate for the quality of the public facilities and the integration of artworks with Asian Australian inspiration."

The dinner was kindly sponsored by the ANZ Bank. The new chairman of the Asialink Board is Mr Sid Myer, currently CEO of Yulgilbar Group of Companies, Director of The Myer Family Company, The Myer Foundation and a Trustee of The Sidney Myer Estate.

CEO JENNY MCGREGOR

The most common complaint from supporters of Asialink is not having the time to get to our events. Featuring global stars like Vikram Seth and Rui Chenggang, local leaders Tim Costello, Thao Nguyen and Greg Sheridan, and new talent Colin Cotterrill and Angela Savage we range from politics to tea production, from bird flu to dance.

Asialink News gives you a glimpse of our extensive public programs, and downtown and private briefings with Ambassadors, Ministers and business leaders. Transcripts are available at our website: www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au

This year has seen progress in our relentless mission to secure the place of Asia in education. The 2006 National Education Forum concluded that Studies of Asia is no longer merely an option in school curriculum.



Curriculum must be more global because students already are. State and territory education policy makers have now recognised that in addition to the economic, trade and security rationale, Asia should be an integral part of a broad liberal education. The policy is now in place and adequate resources must be secured for implementation of real change, identified by education experts as a 20 year project.

Asialink priorities for 2006 include running the successful *AsiaConnect* conference in Sydney to help address the Asia skilled workforce needs of business, building networks into the region through second track initiatives like the *Asialink Conversations* and the *Coolum Forum*, expanding Asialink Arts to include music, and securing a funding base for the rapidly growing Asia Australia Mental Health program.

We are also now well advanced in working with The University of Melbourne to establish The Confucius Institute in Melbourne. This exciting initiative of the Chinese Government will both support the teaching of Chinese culture and language, and undertake research and corporate training programs focused on business in China.

CHAIRMAN SID MYER

Carrillo Gantner AO, stood down in December 2005 after 14 years of distinguished service as Chairman. Carrillo's strong imprint leaves the organisation influential, and focused on making a difference in the Asia Australia relationship. I am looking forward to further developing Asialink and building on our successful past.



Asia is now positioned front and centre on political, commercial and social agendas in Australia. This has been a major and positive change over the last two years. The trading and investment boom, especially involving China, Korea and India, and the recovery of the Japanese economy, still our largest trading partner, is providing material economic benefits for Australia.

However, at Asialink's recent Board Strategy Meeting, we noted that some big issues still exist. Asialink's focus now includes:

- Ongoing promotion of Asian studies. The teaching of Asian culture, history and language, at all levels of education, has suffered in the last five years. Interestingly, at the same time, Asia-focused corporations are requiring more cultural and language training in preparation for working in Asia.
- The need for "Asia-smart" management. We observe that corporations expanding in Asia have difficulty in sourcing management to support their expansion plans.
- The significance of China and India as the world's emerging economies almost compels Asialink to engage with these countries in all that we do in education, arts and culture, health and community and our corporate and public programs.

The transition to a new Chairman has been quite seamless at Asialink. We are fortunate to have a most active and engaged Board and Deputy Chairmen, Philip Flood and Peter Yates, and an energetic and effective staff. All of us are committed to achieving Asialink's goals and welcome your interest and support.

Partners & Corporate Sponsors

Asialink Board

- Sid Myer (Chairman)
- Philip Flood AO (Deputy Chair)
- Peter Yates (Deputy Chair)
- John Curtis
- Prof Glyn Davis AC
- Tom Dery
- Lindley Edwards
- Prof Ross Garnaut AO
- Tony Hallam
- Prof Frank Larkins AM
- Prof Michael Leigh
- Jenny McGregor
- Prof Anthony Milner
- Michael Roux
- Phillip Scanlon AM
- Ian Wilcock

AXA Asia Pacific	Department of Industry, Innovation & Regional Development (VIC)	Foster's International	Insurance Group Australia	Trinity College

CHINA: MAO IN LOUIS VUITTON?

CHINESE MEDIA CELEBRITY AND LEADING ANCHORMAN on Central China Television (CCTV), Mr Rui Chenggang, says Western portrayals of China are at times unfair.

Speaking to an Asialink public audience in May, Mr Rui contrasted the covers of recent *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines showing India as trendy and forward-looking, but China as “Mao in a Louis Vuitton jacket”.

Rui Chenggang reaches a global audience of hundreds of millions and is credited with redefining journalism in China through his broadcasts.

He spoke affectionately of China and said although it was no secret CCTV followed party lines, it was inevitable the broadcaster would face unprecedented pressure from new media groups in the future.



Rui (*above*) has interviewed world business, government, and economic leaders, including Bill Clinton, and is the only Chinese anchorman working on both English and Chinese language programs.



Language program broadens knowledge about Indonesia

ASIALINK'S EDUCATION PROGRAM, THE ASIA EDUCATION FOUNDATION, was pleased to welcome Ambassador for the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Mr Hamzah Thayeb, at the Gala Dinner celebrating the Endeavour Bahasa Indonesia Language Fellowships.

Australian teachers of Bahasa Indonesian joined guest teachers from Indonesia for a two-week intensive language and cultural skills program, held at the University of Melbourne in January. Funded by the Australian Government and managed by the AEF, this inaugural Bahasa Indonesia

program is part of the growing Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships which has sponsored more than 330 teachers since its inception in 2004.

Teachers travel to Japan, China, Vietnam as well as Europe and South America to improve language proficiency and cultural knowledge. 2006 is the first year that Endeavour has included a program for teachers of Bahasa Indonesian, acknowledging the importance of Australia's relationship with Indonesia and the vital part teachers play in broadening knowledge about Indonesia and Islam.



Above: Participants in the 2006 Bahasa Indonesia teachers' program, from left, Ms Carmen Doyle, Ms Grace Hile, Ms Isnawati Abas and Ms Margaret Healy, share images taken at the Gala Dinner. Left: Dr Jane Orton with HE Mr Hamzah Thayeb, Asialink Chairman Mr Sid Myer and CEO Ms Jenny McGregor.

GLOBAL SPREAD OF AVIAN INFLUENZA “A POSSIBILITY”

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION REPORTS THAT OVER 100 PEOPLE HAVE DIED from avian influenza worldwide since 2003, including 14 deaths in Indonesia in the first five months of this year.

Asialink hosted a panel of experts in April to investigate the impact of a flu pandemic and the global and local responses. The forum was broadcast on ABC Radio Australia.

Professor Graham Brown, Interim Director at the new Nossal Institute of Global Health, gave an overview of the epidemiology of the avian virus, and warned its spread was a “very real possibility.”

“What we have to recognise is that despite all we know about the virus, there are huge gaps in our knowledge,” he said.

Dr Robert Glasser, CEO of CARE Australia, said the emergence of new infectious diseases was intricately linked to issues of poverty and development. “These new diseases thrive in conditions which are endemic in developing countries: extreme poverty, rapid environment

change, major social disruptions, high population density, poor sanitation, weak health care systems,” he said.

The clearest example of these links was the case of China over the past decades, he said.

Although to date there was no evidence of human to human infection of avian influenza, the world had seen previous viruses develop highly infectious strains. In 1918, the Spanish flu, with a lethality rate of two to three per cent, killed 15 to 20 million people.

Ms Elizabeth Birbilis (*right*), Senior Policy Officer, Department of Human Services, Victoria, outlined Victoria's influenza pandemic plan.



New infectious diseases thrive in conditions which are endemic in developing countries: extreme poverty, rapid environment change, major social disruptions, high population density, poor sanitation CARE AUSTRALIA

FOREIGN EDITOR MAKES PLEA FOR TREATING CHINA “NORMALLY”



CHINA IS THE CENTRE OF TOO MUCH DEBATE and should be treated as a “normal” nation, according to Greg Sheridan the Foreign Editor of *The Australian*.

Speaking at an Asialink business event in May, Mr Sheridan (*above*) said China was unlikely to be a superpower like the United States. He argued the country was very rationally led and sought to be the first indigenous power in Asia-Pacific, but did not have expansionist aspirations globally.

Mr Sheridan shared his views on the rapidly changing power balances in the region against

the background of his recent interviews with leaders including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Prime Minister John Howard.

He said “nobody has noticed” the tremendous changes taking place in Japan. The country had transcended its pacifist constitution, renegotiated the US alliance, and had deployed troops in Iraq and Cambodia, he said.

Japan’s economy was three times the size of China’s, and even with a declining population, its workforce had grown.

Japan and China had a bitter relationship, he said. Japan had been more outspoken in condemning China’s human rights violations than any other country. The two could become “ferocious competitors”.

On India Mr Sheridan felt that the success of India would affirm democracy and provide a natural balance to China in regional architecture.

Mr Sheridan generously recognised Asialink as “a great institution with a single-minded pursuit of it’s mission.”

Nobody has noticed the changes taking place in Japan



VIKRAM SETH BEWITCHES ASIALINK AUDIENCE

HIGHLY ACCLAIMED AUTHOR VIKRAM SETH (*above*) held an audience of 450 people captive with stories of his great-uncle and aunt, the subjects of his latest book, *Two Lives*, at an Asialink event in February 2006.

While his personal anecdotes and sensitive readings from the book were extremely moving, evidence of the spell Seth cast some years ago with his stories about India was unmistakable when it was the audience’s turn to ask the questions.

The event, part of the *Asialink Night of Stories* series, was chaired by Hamish McDonald, International Editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. It was co-sponsored by Penguin Australia and Readings Books and Music. Download the iLecture at www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/cpp/transcripts/recent.html



... cricket and the growing self-confidence of South Asia

ASIALINK PUBLIC AUDIENCES HAVE COME OUT IN FORCE THIS YEAR to hear visiting business and government leaders talk on tea, cricket, re-building after the tsunami in South Asia, and the rising self-confidence of India. Japan has also featured as part of the year-long celebration of the 2006 Australia-Japan Year of Exchange.

Leading Sri Lankan businessman, Mr **Merrill Fernando**, the founder of global company Dilmah Tea, and his son, **Dilhan**, spoke in March on business ethics and the company’s continuing contribution to community re-building after the tsunami.

Supporting Sri Lankan cricket and social justice programs, the two businessmen said private sector involvement in poverty alleviation was critical.

“In developing countries especially, it is incumbent upon the handful of companies that have been blessed with international success to relay earnings and benefits to our communities,” Mr Dilhan Fernando said.

In early April, the Sri Lankan Education Minister, the Hon **Susila Premajayanthan**, spoke on education reform in the country. The tsunami destroyed 72 schools and damaged a further 110, affecting more than 92,000 students. More than 40,000 Sri Lankans were killed in the disaster.

Tokyo University Associate Professor **Masaki Taniguchi** gave expert insight into the Japanese electoral system and an analysis of the impact of Prime Minister Koizumi’s reforms and planned departure from office. Asialink hosted this event with the Consulate-General of Japan, Melbourne.

Six spectacular bonsai trees on display from Melbourne’s Northwest Bonsai Group celebrated Japan’s continuing influence on Australia.

Distinguished Australian diplomats, HE Mr **John McCarthy** AO, High Commissioner to India, HE Mr **James Wise**, High Commissioner to Malaysia, and HE Mr **Murray McLean** OAM, Ambassador to Japan, spoke to invited guests at separate Asialink business events.

Mr McCarthy discussed India’s growing self-confidence at an event hosted by PricewaterhouseCoopers. Mr Wise, speaking at a briefing held at the Myer Family Office, gave an overview of Australia’s economic ties with Malaysia. Mr McLean reminded the audience of PM John Howard’s assertion that ‘Australia has no greater friend in Asia than Japan.’



Studies of Asia vital for all students

THE GATHERING HAD “A REAL SPIRIT OF COLLABORATIVE GOODWILL”, it was “extraordinary”, “inspiring”, and it advanced the issue of Asia in the schools to a new level of maturity.

The *National Forum, Engaging Young Australians with Asia 2006*, was held in Melbourne in April and involved more than 130 leading educators and Australian school leaders. Across two days, the forum established beyond question that teaching about our nearest neighbours was no longer an optional extra but an essential part of preparing our future leaders.

The focus was on the uptake of the new *National Statement for Engaging Young Australians with Asia in Australian Schools*, a vision statement for embedding studies of Asia in schools. The statement is endorsed by all Ministers of Education across the eight states and territories, and the Federal Education Minister.

Keynote speakers included Chief Executive, World Vision Australia, Reverend Tim Costello AO and former Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations in New York, Ms Thao Nguyen.

Ms Nguyen urged educators to “engender a



Waleed Aly, Islamic Council of Victoria, part of an expert panel at the forum

sense of global responsibility” among students. Implementation of the statement would “acknowledge that active global citizenship is a key element in the social development of our world.”

Rev Costello said learning about Asia was profoundly important in encouraging young Australians to focus on interests besides those which directly affected them, because “it is not just about us”.

The packed program included a lively student debate presented by members of the Victorian Schools’ Debating Team (*above*).

Three of Australia’s most senior education bureaucrats reflected on the challenges and opportunities for studies of Asia and Australia in their respective systems, and a panel of four experts tackled the big question marks hanging over Australia’s future.

Key messages

STUDIES OF ASIA is no longer an optional extra or a “bolt-on”. It will be taken up in different ways in different states and schools, it is diverse and multi-level, but everywhere it is a vital part of the curriculum.

SCHOOL LEADERS play a critical role in sustainable change, and among these leaders is a renewed vigor and interest in a commitment to studies of Asia.

PARTNERSHIPS WILL BE CRITICAL to the future success of studies of Asia. The growing connectedness across education communities and stakeholders, the majority of whom were at the forum, has been central to success so far. Despite the support and endorsement of all Ministers, implementation lies with educators.

A copy of the Forum Report will be available from June 2006 at www.asiaeducation.edu.au

Australian children studying Asia, understanding their reality, moving out of just their own framework and mentality - empathising, learning, discussing - is profoundly important

TIM COSTELLO Chief Executive, World Vision, at the AEF Forum 2006

GO KOREA!



Legend of Blue, popular science fiction animation, © Seoul Movie, Koreana, V17, No1, Spring 2005

KOREA IS ONE OF AUSTRALIA’S MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS yet many Australians know little about Korea beyond M.A.S.H., Samsung and the automotive industry.

The Government of the Republic of Korea, through its Embassy in Australia, has provided \$82,500 to the Asia Education Foundation to significantly expand students’ understanding about Korea and its contemporary and traditional culture.

A new website, *Go Korea!*, developed for Australian secondary students, features material on the aspirations and interests of young people, popular culture, the environment, family life, and Korea as an economic powerhouse and world leader in new technologies. Includes stunning images from the Korea Foundation’s journal, *Koreana*. Thirty key trainers from each state and territory participated in a national train-the-trainer program to ensure that teachers and students learn more about this dynamic neighbor of ours. Our sincere thanks to the Korean Embassy. Visit *Go Korea!* at www.asiaeducation.edu.au/gokorea



HE Choo Sang-hoon, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea at the AEF launch of *Go Korea!*



Asialink's Ms Julia Fraser with Melbourne and Sydney Leadership Fellows 2005 Graduation

THE ASIALINK LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

rethinking boundaries

Asialink Leadership participants form a snapshot of the rich diversity of Australia's growing involvement in Asia. The 2006 Leadership group is of course no exception. Here are profiles of just a few.

ELIZABETH WARNER is Corporate Development Manager for Bell Shakespeare. Elizabeth started her career in politics, moved to

publishing, and now finds herself working behind the scenes for a performing arts company: Bell Shakespeare. The challenge for Elizabeth is to tour the Company's repertoire within the Asian region.

LIZ KNIGHT is Head of Regional Cards for ANZ. Liz's unit supports credit card, debit card, ATM and associated businesses in 10 Pacific Island nations, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and China working with both ANZ proprietary businesses and joint venture partners. Prior to ANZ, Liz worked for American Express International based in Sydney working in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and India.

PAUL DALGLIESH, Executive General Manager, United Group Infrastructure, Power and Water, has worked 10 years in senior management roles in the engineering industry. He has extensive experience in Asia and Australasia and is currently focussed on growth and strategic positioning of this \$500 million engineering and project delivery division. Paul is also responsible for the personal development of his staff and coaching for high performance. An ex AFL football player, Paul

The Asialink Leadership program brings together an incredible mix of people you might not have otherwise met. I learnt something from each one... how to think differently about complex global issues or about my own leadership approach

LUCY D'ALMEIDA Global Banking Securities Transactions and 2004 Asialink Leadership Fellow

juggles his work in Australia and the region and his Asialink Leadership Program commitments with his studies as a marble sculptor.

KATE HASTINGS is Manager International, Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet. In 1999, after postings to Turkey and Fiji, English-born Kate left the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office to move to Melbourne in 1999 to marry her Victorian partner. She joined the Department of Premier and Cabinet in 2001 and for the past 12 months has managed and advised on the Premier's overseas interests, including his overseas travel, incoming international visitors, Victoria's sister-state relationships (all of which are with equivalent states in Asian countries) and international treaties.

DAVID REES is Manager Janison Solutions, a company specialising in e-learning and training software. He has a particular interest in socio-technical systems and the relationship of technology implementation to organisational culture. He is currently working on establishing e-learning projects in Vietnam.

www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/cpp/leadership

WORKSHOP BUILDS MODERN MENTAL HEALTH CARE

THE GENTING HIGHLANDS, east of Kuala Lumpur, were the setting for an intensive training program held recently for 20 Malaysian Mental Health professionals and Ministry of Health officials.

Asialink, together with Asia Australia Mental Health colleagues from St Vincent's Health and the Malaysian Ministry of Health, delivered a three-day Human Resource Development in Mental Health program.

Working in multi-disciplinary hospital teams from across Malaysia, the workshop located opportunities for service development, and identified individuals who could lead the

initiatives forward. Sessions in leadership skills and program management were facilitated by Asialink staff.

The program was part of a three-stage initiative, assisting The Ministry of Health Malaysia to build a modern system of mental health care.

Based on recommendations from the highly-rated workshop, teams from each of the four main hospitals in Malaysia will study at St Vincent's Mental Health Service over the next two years. Other mental health programs with Malaysia are currently being negotiated.



Dr Nor Hayati Ali, Assoc Prof Dr Ben Thomas Director Nursing St Vincent's Mental Health and Sameerah Shaikh Abdul Rahman during the program



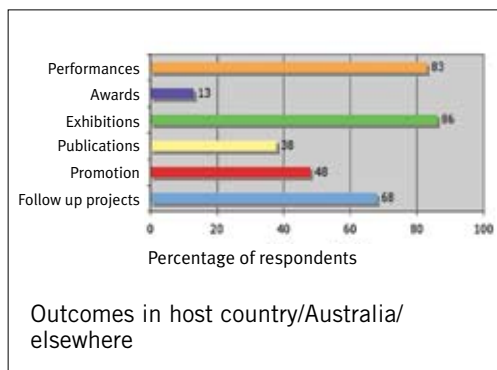
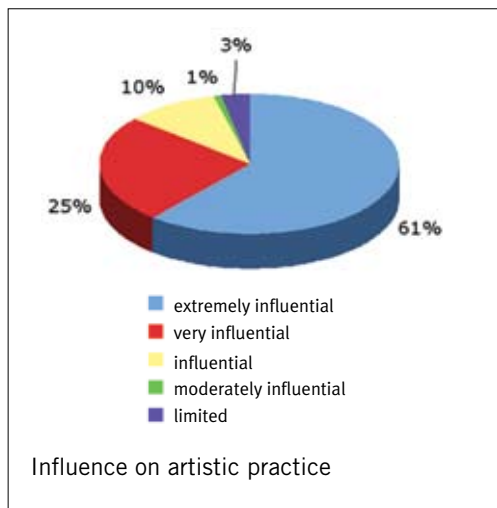
Simone O'Brien conducted her residency in East Timor with the performing arts company *Bibi Bulak (The Crazy Goats)* in Dili. She taught drama, dance, physical theatre and circus skills workshops (pictured above) to *Bibi Bulak* members and young people and was responsible for training the first stilt walker in East Timor. Working closely with the local community, O'Brien created a free site-specific physical theatre performance, *Ikan Bo'ot (Big Fish)* at the Arte Moris Free Art School precinct in Dili.

Great outcomes for arts residencies

ASIALINK ARTS' RECENT EVALUATION OF OUR RESIDENCY PROGRAM asked 371 past residents for their rating of their experience in Asia, and what outcomes have occurred as a result.

Eighty six per cent of respondents have said their time was very or extremely influential to their artistic practice, and 86 per cent of visual arts respondents undertook exhibitions, only slightly fewer held performances, and 68 per cent had follow-up projects. Also, pleasingly for Asialink, 92 per cent rated our management of the program as excellent or very good.

Visit www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/arts/residencies



BEHIND THE SCENES AKIRA

Akira Isogawa, one of Australia's most celebrated designers, embeds timeless beauty and femininity in his exquisite contemporary design.

KRITIKA BUABUSYA, *art4d*, Bangkok

RECENTLY OPENED AT THE QUEEN'S GALLERY IN BANGKOK, *Printemps-Été: Akira Isogawa* continues to excite crowds on its Southeast Asian tour. After receiving rave reviews in Manila and Singapore – as part of the 2005 Arts Festival – Bangkok is the third destination for this National Gallery of Victoria/Asialink venture.

The Australian Embassy in Thailand conducted a day-long Fashion Seminar to coincide with the exhibition, with speakers from fashion, textile and education industries. Raffles Design Institute Bangkok also presented a catwalk show by some of their leading fashion graduates adding to the opening night festivities.

Drawing audiences behind the scenes of an Australian fashion house, the exhibition gives a privileged view of Akira's design process from initial design inspiration – in the form of collage – to fabrication, to the final presentation of his Spring/Summer Collection 2005.



Akira Isogawa and Katie Somerville, curator Australian Fashion & Textiles NGV, on opening night in Singapore

DANCING THE DIVIDE: NEON RISING

2006 SEES THE EXPLOSION OF *NEON RISING*, Asialink's dance exchange program with Japan. The program includes some of Australia's best choreographers – Leigh Warren, Sue Healey, Kate Denborough, Tess de Quincey and Jo Lloyd – creating a kaleidoscope of new choreographic works.

Kick-starting the season was Jo Lloyd's high energy dance performance and video installation, *Public=Un+Public*, presented through BankArt, Yokohama. This was followed by a sell-out season at the Chunky Move Studio in Melbourne early this year (pictured).

Big things are in store for Leigh Warren's work *Wanderlust*, with presentations planned for Yamaguchi Cultural Centre, Theatre Tram and Setagaya Public Theatre in Japan. Other works premiering in Japan will be Kate Denborough's *Ink*. This visual feast featuring live tattooing on stage will showcase at Dancebox, Osaka, and then tour to Matsuyama and Yokohama.

Promoting reciprocity, the Japanese artists will visit Sydney as part of a partnership with

Critical Path. Japanese vocalist Ami Yoshida and musician Otomo Yoshihide will work with Tess de Quincey on a series of *Impro-Labs*, featuring improvised performances to be presented through The Studio, Sydney Opera House.

Sue Healey will continue work on her new dance video/installation *Will Time Tell*, engaging in choreographic, improvisation and filming work with Japanese dancers through The Drill, Sydney.

All the works celebrate *2006 the Year of Exchange* between Australia and Japan.



CORPORATE | PUBLIC

EDUCATION

ARTS

LEADERS' FORUM

Asialink, at the request of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Alexander Downer, will host the high-level East Asian leaders' meeting, the Coolum Forum, to be held in Thailand 2006/07.

The Coolum Forum was initiated in 1999 by the Australian and Thai Foreign Ministers to bring together future leaders from politics and government. This 5th forum will, for the first time, include representation from business and academia.



David Hornery, Managing Director Asia, ANZ, speaking at *AsiaConnect Melbourne* in 2005

ASIACONNECT SYDNEY

Capitalising on the success of *AsiaConnect Melbourne* 2005, Asialink will hold a careers conference in Sydney highlighting opportunities and career advantages in Asia.

AsiaConnect will feature concurrent industry - focused panels examining how professionals in a wide range of sectors can effectively engage with Asian countries and cultures.

An impressive line-up of 60 senior business and government speakers shared their experience with 400 young professionals and graduates at *AsiaConnect Melbourne*.

EUROPEAN ECONOMISTS ON CHINA & INDIA

Meet eminent British economists, Lord Meghnad Desai and Professor Victor Bulmer-Thomas, at an Asialink free lecture in the Carrillo Gantner Theatre, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, August 17.

Lord Desai who is Professor Emeritus at the London School of Economics and Professor Victor Bulmer-Thomas, Director of Chatham House, the London home of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, will speak from the perspective of Europe on the rise of China and India.

LANGUAGE FELLOWSHIPS

The AEF will again manage the Endeavour Language Teacher Fellowships on behalf of the Australian Government in 2007. ELTF aims to improve language proficiency and cultural knowledge through intensive language and culture study programs overseas.

The 2007 program will see a significant increase in the number of Fellowships available nationally to practising teachers of Chinese and Japanese. The Indonesian program will be held in Darwin for teachers of Bahasa Indonesia. A new feature of ELTF is the inclusion of trainee (pre-service) language teachers. Applications close June 9. Visit www.endeavour.dest.gov.au



Lois Barndon, Dalkeith Primary, WA, visiting a shrine during the Japan Endeavour Program 2006

TEACHING AUSTRALIAN

School students in Indonesia will learn about Australia – its history and contemporary society – following a 12-day cross cultural program involving senior Indonesian educators and curriculum leaders.

The program, funded by the Australia-Indonesia Institute and managed by the Asia Education Foundation (AEF), supported the development of greater understanding of Australia and the creation of education links between the two countries. Seven participants attended lectures on Australian studies at the University of Melbourne, and a six-day homestay in schools.

Potentially hundreds of Indonesian schools will teach about Australia as a result of the program. The delegation was welcomed to Melbourne by the Consul General, Mr Wahid Supriyadi.



Manila performance by Paschal Daantos Berry, an Asialink Performing Arts resident

BLIND DATES & FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Asialink Arts' annual forum this year on June 19 and 20 will focus on Arts Residencies in Asia and Australia. International speakers include Aki Hoashi, ARCUS Project, Japan; Kang Min Jay, Treasure Hill, Taiwan and Daravuth Ly, Reyum Institute of Arts and Culture, Cambodia. Together with speakers from around Australia the panellists will discuss the place of residencies in arts programming and their value for individual arts workers, hosts and the wider community. Contact Penelope Aitken at p.aitken@asialink.unimelb.edu.au

Aki Hoashi, Director, ARCUS, Japan (below) will speak at *Blind Dates & Foreign Affairs*



VISUAL ARTS IN JAPAN

Asialink has advertised for Expressions of Interest in our new 2006-8 Australia-Japan Visual Arts Program, comprising exhibitions, forums and curatorial exchanges. It follows our 2002-4 program which toured seven exhibitions of contemporary Australian art in Japan. As before, the core program is supported by the Australia-Japan Foundation and the Australia Council. Visit www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/arts/projects

SUBSCRIBE ASIALINK EMAIL: access@asialink.unimelb.edu.au