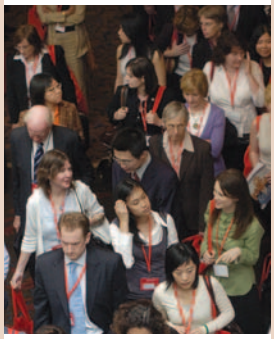
Asialink
The University of Melbourne

ASIALINKNEWS

Issue 24 Spring 2005

ASIA SKILLS

Australia's Future



An impressive line-up of 60 senior business and government speakers made "Asia skills" a central focus for 400 participants at Asialink's one-day conference, AsiaConnect.

Victorian Treasurer, the Hon John Brumby, *at right*, and the Managing Director Asia, ANZ Bank, David Hornery, addressed capacity audiences of young professionals and graduates on November 18.

A total of 400 participants heard that Australian companies were looking increasingly to Asia as a growth platform. Speakers urged professionals to gain the cultural and language skills that would give Australia a competitive edge against trade rivals like the United States.

More than 60 leading specialists in their fields shared their experience and helped to explain the factors leading to Australian commercial success in the region.

"Build relationships" and "learn the cultures" was a major theme of the day. Architect, Rob Stent, of Hayball, Leonard and Stent, said his company often took two interpreters into meetings in China so as not to miss the nuances of discussions.

The ANZ's David Hornery said the main factor underpinning business success in the region was the development of long-term close relationships and cultural understanding. "Many have run aground for want of understanding rituals and protocol," he said.

Business represented included: ACIL Australia, BHP Billiton, Boston Consulting Group, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ericsson, Hudson, Intrepid Travel, Leightons Holdings, Lonely Planet, Orica Mining, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The *Young Voices* panel (left) included: Dorjee Sun, Anthony Klein and Fiona Nixon. Top left: Martha Grossman. Their message: "Build Relationships. Learn the Cultures".

Ministers adopt national policy on Asia in schools

Australia's Education Ministers in six states, two territories and the Federal Education Minister, the Hon Brendan Nelson, have agreed in a landmark joint statement to elevate the importance of cultural studies of Asia in Australian schools.

The National Statement for Engaging Young Australians with Asia in Australian Schools, endorsed by the Education Ministers in November, identifies what young people would optimally know, understand and be able to do by the end of their schooling as a result of studies of Asia in the curriculum.

"This is the part of the world to which we are most geographically connected," the statement says. "Our future is inextricably linked to the strength of the relationships and understandings that we forge with Asian countries."

Under the new policy, Australian students would be able to explain what Asia means, in terms of geography, history, culture and the economy. **continued, page 6**

Asialink
The University of Melbourne

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The Asialink Centre, at The University of Melbourne, is an Initiative of The Myer Foundation.
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Carrillo Gantner AO

In standing down as Asialink Chairman after 14 stimulating years, I reflect on how much Australia has grown in our understanding of and ease with the Asian region. No longer do we debate the importance of this region to our future.

We are now in the more difficult yet more rewarding business of working in, and with, Asia on common challenges and opportunities: Challenges like natural disasters, terrorism, health, environmental sustainability; And opportunities like the rise of China and India, the need for huge investment in regional infrastructure and the staging of major cultural and sporting events.

Pictured left, from top: CEO The Venture Group, Ms Lindley Edwards, with Program Director, Lowy Institute for International Policy, Mr Mark Thirlwell, at the Asialink Dunlop Lecture and Award, at Lowy in Sydney.

PricewaterhouseCoopers' Mr Tony Hallam, greets Australia's new Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Bill Farmer, at the Asialink Ambassadors' series dinner in his honor, kindly hosted by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Asialink is focussed on preparing people for these opportunities. 27,000 people have attended events in the Sidney Myer Asia Centre this year to learn about our region. Our AsiaConnect conference featured 60 speakers inspiring 400 delegates with career opportunities and advice. The Asialink Leadership Program has graduated 300 emerging leaders equipped with essential Asia knowledge and our school education program has trained 200,000 Australian teachers. Over two million people in Asia enjoy aspects of Australian culture each year through Asialink Arts.

As Australia prepares for the East Asian Summit and to host APEC in 2007, Asialink will bring together future leaders from Australia and Asia in business, government and the community.

My last Chairman's message prompts reflection on Asialink's growth from one part- time staff in a renovated church in Carlton, to a home in the award-winning Sidney Myer Asia Centre. We now have a team of 16 leading Australians on our Board, 40 dynamic staff across Australia, and many wonderful government, corporate and individual supporters. I can think of no greater gift to future generations of Australians than the gift of Asia literacy. The Asialink Board, now to be led by Chairman Sidney Myer and Deputy Chairmen, Philip Flood AO and Peter Yates, together with our exceptional staff, under the continued strong leadership of CEO Jenny McGregor, are committed to this goal and will welcome your support.

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INDIA

Economic Giant

India's economic story is as colourful and vibrant as the country itself. For long an economic disappointment, the sub-continental giant is now stirring. India is home to one-fifth of the world's population, it has the third largest stock market, and a GDP growth rate of five per cent.

As India's High Commissioner to Australia, H.E. Prabhat Shukla, told an Asialink business luncheon in November, the future is bright. Mr Shukla said expectations for Australia's trade relations with India were particularly high. "If you look at the map, between India and Australia it's just straight open sea."

Asialink co-hosted several Indian-focussed events with partner organisations such as the entrepreneur group, TiE, and the Australian Industry Group. The highlight in August was lunch with Indian entrepreneur and founder of Hotmail, Sabeer Bhatia, who told Asialink guests how he launched the pioneering free email service in 1996. Within two years, he had sold Hotmail to Microsoft for US$400 million.

Top: The founder of Hotmail, Sabeer Bhatia, at an Asialink Business Lunch, co-hosted by The Age.
Above: At the Asialink Ambassadors Series with India's High Commissioner, HE Prabhat Shukla.

CHINA

"When China wakes, it will shake the world." **Napoleon**

Taking Centre Stage

Not surprisingly, the rise of China has generated both excitement and trepidation in Australia and the region. Asialink events since May provided much-needed information to help increase understanding of the new China, and to foster greater engagement.

Chinese Ambassador, HE Madame Fu Ying, *pictured above,* addressed a high-level business audience at Asialink's new Ambassador Series luncheons in July. She urged Australians to demonstrate patience and perspective as China adjusts to its growing influence internationally and its myriad internal challenges. "You find what you like in China, you find what you hate in China," she said. Ambassador Fu briefed the Asialink audience on her country's projections for economic growth over the next 15 years.

"Mr China", **Tim Clissold**, told the rollicking story of investing US $400 million in China in the 1990s, and how he "learnt to respect and admire the nation he sought to conquer". Tim has worked in China for 17 years and has traveled to almost every part of the country. He lives in Beijing with his wife and four children.

Harvard **Professor Richard Freeman**, spoke on the challenge of integrating China, India, and the former Soviet Bloc into the world economy. Freeman says we were once told that countries joining global capitalism had only unskilled workers. The data tell a different story: educated as well as less educated labor face economic pressure as the world adjusts to the "great doubling".

Dr Ross Terrill, eminent Harvard University scholar and expatriate Australian, spoke on "What does China want and will it get it?" at a lecture in September. According to Terrill, China is an "ambitious power that seems to know its problems... Overall, China may not be as endurably strong as it seems now to those who fear or admire it."

The University of Melbourne has secured an Australian Confucius Institute for Melbourne as one of 26 being established by the Chinese Government around the world. The institute will act as an important vehicle for cultural learning, language training and exchanges, and also has the potential to strengthen business and economic ties.

Pictured below, seated: University Vice Chancellor, Mr Glyn Davis, signed a letter of intent with China's Consul General Tian Junting on behalf of the National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language. The signing in July was in the presence of (from right), China's Ambassador to Australia, Madame Fu, University Chancellor Ian Renard, Professor Verity Burgmann, and Professor David Holm.

WEAVING, WOKS AND WAR

2005 Asia Centre events

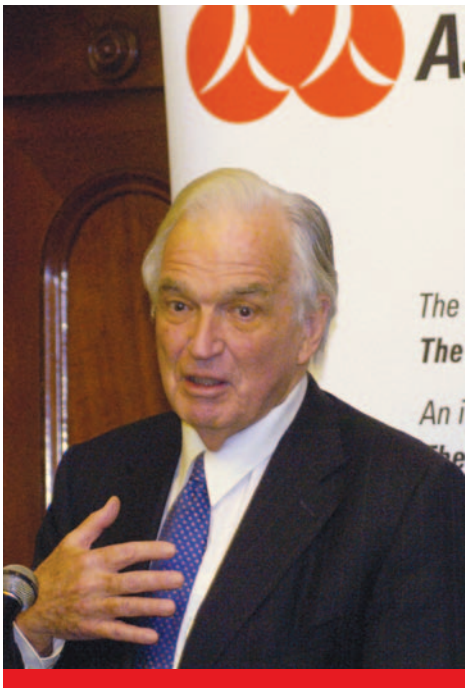
A total of 27,000 people attended 198 Asia-related events in the Sidney Myer Asia Centre during 2005.

Pictured at left, from top:

A tapestry based on the work of renowned Indian artist, Gulammohammed Sheikh, and woven by four Victorian women, was unveiled by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch and Asialink Chairman, Carrillo Gantner, in August. *Mappamundi* now hangs in the Sidney Myer Asia Centre's Yasuko Hiraoka Room.

KOTO, *Know One, Teach One*, is an unusual hospitality training program helping to change the lives of Vietnamese street kids. Former Sydneysider, Jimmy Pham, and two KOTO graduates, joined Asialink for a cooking demonstration in October.

A capacity Asialink audience of more than 500 turned out to hear celebrated British foreign correspondent Robert Fisk. The journalist, who has written on the Middle East for 29 years, has met and interviewed Osama bin Laden three times, the last time eight years ago, in Afghanistan. He said that at each progressive meeting, the world's most wanted man presented an increasingly paranoid view of power relationships across the planet.



Corby and depictions of Asia in Australia

Dr Harold Clough, *pictured above*, received Asialink's 2004 Dunlop Asia Medal at the height of public anger over Schapelle Corby. In recognition of Dr Clough's lifetime of work in Indonesia and his commitment to Australia-Asia relations, the medal presentation in early June provided an opportunity to inject balance into the growing hysteria.

The Perth-based engineer and businessman made a well-publicised plea for much more to be done to build grassroots ties between the two neighbours, and urged greater teaching of cultural understanding. Dr Clough was optimistic about the Indonesia-Australia relationship. "When I look back on what our relationship was compared to 10 or 20 or 30 years ago, it is much deeper, much stronger now."

Asia, however, continues to have an image problem. Asialink hosted a lively public discussion on the issue: "Corby, Tsunami and Depictions of Asia in Australia", with eminent speakers: Professor Tim Lindsey, Professor of Asian Law and Director of the Asian Law Centre, The University of Melbourne; Dr Krishna Sen, Professor of Asian Media, Dean, Humanities Research Centre, Curtin University; and Rowan Callick, Asia Pacific Editor, *The Australian Financial Review*.

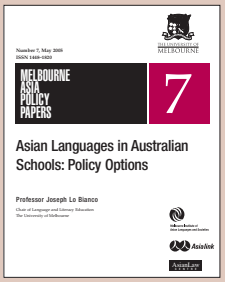
The speakers discussed the role of the media, academia and the government in shaping our views of our dynamic northern neighbours. They asked if we were prepared to give the region a fair hearing in Australia. The event pointed to a lack of inter-cultural understanding as a fundamental concern.

Melbourne Asia Policy Papers

Asialink continues to encourage considered policy discussion through The Melbourne Asia Policy Papers (MAPPs), an initiative of the Melbourne Institute of Asian Languages and Societies, Asialink, The Asian Law Centre, The Asian Economics Centre and the Australian Centre for International Business at The University of Melbourne.

In 2005, two papers were published and two are in progress. ANU Professor Christopher Findlay's *Trade in Services: Policy Options and Implications for Australia-Asia Relations* was released in March, while Professor Joseph Lo Bianco's *Asian Languages in Australian Schools: Policy Options* became the seventh MAPP. Professor Lo Bianco is Chair of Language and Literacy Education, The University of Melbourne.

Professor Gavin Jones of the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore, presented a workshop examining international labor and globalisation issues. His paper, *International Labour Migration: Issues for Australia*, will be published in early 2006.



MAPPs aim to strengthen Australia's engagement with Asia through non-partisan policy option papers. Leading international scholars and experts are invited to present a closed-door, Chatham House rules workshop examining different aspects of Australia's current relations with the Asia Pacific region.

MAPPs are available at www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/cpp/policypapers

OPEN DOORS

The integration of the family into patient care is building momentum in China, as part of a program of reform supported by Asia-Australia Mental Health.

Forty pilot projects across China are achieving concrete improvements for thousands of lives affected by mental illness. In October, Asialink and partners travelled to China to participate in World Mental Health Day activities in Beijing. The group visited the Yuncheng Mental Hospital project where previously locked wards are being opened to the community and to family members.

In Melbourne, the City of Seoul and the City of Melbourne signed an agreement to promote exchange in contemporary mental health care. Signatories were, *pictured seated from left*, Vice Mayor Seoul, Mr Lee Choon-Sik and Lord Mayor of Melbourne, the Hon John So.

THE ASIALINK LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

rethinking boundaries

"Good leaders display a willingness to take risks when they don't know what the outcome is," says Asialink Board member and Leadership Program facilitator, Lindley Edwards. In an article in *The Bulletin*, the venture capitalist says that in the simplest interpretation, a leader is someone who is willing to take responsibility and act in the interests of others.

The Asialink program is directed at developing leadership capabilities within the context of cultural awareness and wisdom. Australian companies need "to employ people who are open to other cultures and are successful not just in a business sense but in their personal dealings," says Peter O'Brien, Managing Director Oceanis Holdings Ltd, the world's leading aquarium developer with projects across Asia.

At right, from top: 2005 Asialink Leadership participants, during a day focussed on Islam; Dorjee Sun, founder, Honey Roasted TV, and Asialink Leadership Alumni.

'WEARY' DUNLOP MEDAL: A call for patience and resolution

Paul Kelly, Editor-at-large of The Australian, *was awarded the 2005 Asialink 'Weary' Dunlop Medal on November 3 at the Lowy Institute for International Policy, Sydney, in recognition of his significant contribution to improving Australia-Asia relations. The following is an edited extract from Kelly's Asialink Dunlop Lecture:*

Australia has reached a new threshold in its approach to Asia. Engagement with Asia is no longer a national dispute; it is a permanent national project. Political and policy differences will continue. But the continuity between the Keating and Howard policy in Asia is far more conspicuous than their differences.

The national perceptions that Australia requires to manage its ties with Asia are within the realm of a bipartisan national strategy:

First, we need to stay positive at a time when the media accentuates the voices of doom. Asia poses many daunting challenges. It is, however, a huge opportunity for Australia. During the age of terrorism we need to hold to this vision. Asia is witnessing the rise of China and India, the emerging giants of the coming century, the transfer of global economic and political power from Europe to Asia and increasing competition within Asia itself.

Second, Asia won't adapt to Australia - it is Australia that has to adapt to Asia. Far too much of the current Australian debate seems oblivious to the transformation now occurring in our part of the world.

> Adjusting to Asia doesn't mean changing who we are [but] Australia has to be careful about the values debate as it applies to Asia.

As a democratic non-capital punishment society with a free media and deep legal tradition, Australians think their values are best. We need to strike the balance between defending the interests of our citizens and respecting other sovereignties whose values differ from our own.

Australia must be alive to the diversity of the region, its growing rivalries and its ancient tensions.

Engagement is a living concept that will be interpreted by each generation. It will remain the central theme, but not the defining paradigm of Australian foreign policy. It is best, however, to see engagement as more than a foreign policy. It is a national project that has no end, a project that demands patience as well as resolution, and a project that is always under consideration because it is incomplete.

NATIONAL ASIA EDUCATION FORUM

Foreign Minister, The Hon Alexander Downer, made a passionate plea to Australian teachers at the Asia Education Foundation (AEF) National Forum. He urged them to ensure students know something about the major cultures of Asia. 'That is not driven by fashion, but by common sense,' he said. The Minister went on to congratulate 'the work of this Forum in helping to provide young Australians with the tools and confidence to engage with the region.'

Keynote speaker, ACT student Sophie Palavestra is just 18 and already a forceful advocate of Asian engagement. By the time she turns 35, by Sophie's reckoning, more people will live in Shanghai than in the whole of the South Pacific, Australia and New Zealand included. In this brash new world without borders, knowledge will be the medium of trade and knowledge of an Asian language the currency of exchange.

Let's dip into our future... What we do know is that Australians will be embroiled in the East Asian region the like of which they've not known till now.
Alexander Downer, Minister for Foreign Affairs at the AEF Forum

'We need', Dr Paul Monk argued in his keynote address, 'to give very energetic thought to how we can incorporate into our curriculum what it means to be an educated and enabled young Australian in the first decades of the 21st century.' 'Certainly parents see a need to engage more with Asia,' said Judith Bundy, President of the Australian Council of State School Organisations.

Dr Trish Mercer from the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training, announced that the AEF would be given a three year contract to 2008 with increased funding, and noted the 'significant role the AEF has played in supporting the education of our young people'.

A report of the *National Forum: Engaging Young Australians* with Asia is available at www.asiaeducation.edu.au

Teachers across Australia develop intercultural understanding

Three new professional learning programmes about culture, beliefs systems and regional issues have been developed by the AEF. Workshops across Australia in October/November skilled teams of educators to deliver the programs in their state.

Developing Intercultural Understanding introduces primary and secondary teachers to approaches for teaching about culture in the humanities, arts and languages curriculum.

The Really Big Beliefs Project supports teaching about belief systems as practised in contemporary Australia. Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Taoism, Shintoism, Judaism, Hinduism and atheism are all covered. The latest publication in the *Access Asia* series, *The Really Big Beliefs Project*, supports teachers to get a start in this important curriculum area.

Regional and global Issues examines key issues impacting on cultures and societies across Australia and the Asian region: the movement and exchange of people, goods and ideas; influences on cultural and community identities; regional cooperation and the challenges of tourism.

The programs can be downloaded at www.asiaeducation.edu.au

Ministers adopt national policy on Asia in schools

continued from page 1
Drafted by Asialink's education program, the Asia Education Foundation, on behalf of the Australian Government, the policy statement brings to fruition a sustained campaign to build agreement.

Businesses welcomed the decision as a major step forward. Mr Charles Goode, Chairman ANZ Bank, said the policy recognised the importance of Asia to Australia's future. It was vital, he said, that the State and Federal governments also provided the necessary funding.

Asialink Executive Director Kathe Kirby said about half of Australia's schools already included some Asian studies in the curriculum, compared to very little a decade ago.

But at least a quarter of schools were not teaching students about Asia at all, while a further 25 per cent were doing so only superficially.

"It's the whole question of really asking ourselves what is it that our children need to know and understand for their future. That's the real bottom line," she said.

The Ministerial Council on Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) endorsed the statement out of session over November.

DESTINATION KOREA

서울 관찰하기, 멀티 미디어 작가 에밀 고 Emil Goh

Asialink's residency program in Korea has turned 10. Since 1995, 31 Australian visual and performing artists, writers and arts managers have undertaken residencies in universities, galleries, museums, theatres and dance companies in Seoul and beyond.

Our first resident was painter **Yvonne Boag** who has since returned to Seoul more than 20 times. At the other end of the decade, **Emil Goh** *(pictured left)* travelled to Seoul's SSamzie Space in 2003 and has stayed ever since. He has exhibited widely and this year was the only non-Korean in the significant *Seoul: Until Now*, at the Charlottenborg Exhibition Hall in Copenhagen.

Queensland musicians **Steve Langton** and **Donna Miller** undertook a performing arts residency at the Haja Centre in Seoul in 2004, building the 'Sound Playground', a permanent collection of percussion instruments made from recycled materials, as well as forming a troupe of young players who have performed throughout Korea and internationally.

In her 2004 residency **Liz Hughes** helped curate the 3rd Seoul International Media Art Biennale, a high profile event featuring 50 international new-media works - including the work of ten Australians - attended by 140,000 visitors. She has also enabled three Korean artists and one curator to attend Experimenta's *Vanishing Point* exhibition held in Melbourne this year, which will now tour in Australia and internationally.

Korea was barely on the artistic radar for Australian practitioners when added to Asialink's residency program 10 years ago. Thanks to the consistent support of the Australia-Korea Foundation and other funding bodies, plus the fantastic stories artists bring home, Asialink's growing number of applicants attests to a genuine interest in engaging with Korea. Today Seoul rivals Tokyo as a destination for Australian artists.

The best of Aussie books in China

I feel alive to a part of the world which is going to play a huge role in our future, and to the contact between our two cultures.

Joan London, touring author

Acclaimed authors Doris Pilkington, *pictured seated at left*, and Joan London headed to China in August, as worthy ambassadors of Australian literature. This, the third in Asialink's Literature Touring Program to China coincided with the publication of Pilkington's *Rabbit-Proof Fence* in Chinese and a busy schedule of appointments with Chinese publishers at the Beijing International Book Fair.

Talks at Shanghai's swanky Glamour Bar and Beijing's Bookworm bookstore, as well as literature departments of universities in both cities made for a dynamic program of events, augmented by many personal conversations with students, academics, writers and expats on culture, language, books and film.

2005 Arts Forum

SUN RISING
Japanese culture today

The 2005 Asialink Arts Forum, Sun Rising, focused on contemporary culture in Japan. Attracting 300 people for a full day's discussion, the forum was led by Ms Akiko Miki, *pictured below*, Chief Curator, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, Professor Tadashi Uchino, Associate Professor, Theatre Studies, University of Tokyo and Stephanie Johnston, Director, Wakefield Press, Adelaide. The most significant discussion of contemporary Japanese culture to be held in Australia, it complements Asialink's current programs in visual arts and dance in Japan, as well as our on-going Residency program there.

Asialink seems to pull it all together - through hard work and an almost incessant barrage of new ideas - and they generally make it fun at the same time. I am pleased to be so "associated".

Ben Strout, Executive Director, Arts Development, the Australia Council, at the 2005 Asialink Forum

CORPORATE I PUBLIC

INSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono *(above)* has faced a multitude of challenges since coming to office a little over a year ago. The country's first directly-elected president has seen the devastating Tsunami, the Aceh peace deal, internal leadership issues, more Bali bombings and the recent halving of fuel subsidies.

Join Asialink in February for an insider's perspective on Indonesia with Dr Dino Patti Djalal. Dr Djalal is the Indonesian Presidential Spokesperson and one of the President's closest advisers.

ASEAN CONVERSATIONS

The *Asialink Conversations* will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in the first quarter of 2006. The "second-track" policy dialogue - an initiative of Asialink Patron, Mr Baillieu Myer AC - is a high-level ASEAN-Australia gathering designed to foster a frank and robust exchange of ideas and to build new networks and friendships. Malaysian PM Dato' Seri Abdullah Badawi addressed the 2004 *Asialink Conversations*, held in Kuala Lumpur.

A NIGHT OF STORIES ABOUT INDIA

Meet Vikram Seth, acclaimed author of *A Suitable Boy* and the newly-released family biography, *Two Lives*. Seth will be in conversation at 'A Night of Stories about India' hosted by Asialink and Readings, March 14, 2006, 6.30pm, Sidney Myer Asia Centre. Register for this free event: 03 8344 4800

EDUCATION

CROSSCURRENTS

The creation of civil societies - establishing the values and systems of governance and laws on which societies are based - is a common experience in the human story. A new *Access Asia* publication, *CrossCurrents*, explores civics and citizenship themes in Asian contexts, both historical and contemporary. How should we be ruled? Who rules? Like the quiet crosscurrents that run deep within great oceans, ideas and beliefs can travel vast distances and touch many shores.

A young Mao, *CrossCurrents*

STUDY TOURS

Eight-three Australian teachers will travel to China, Japan, India, and Vietnam in January to take part in intensive language and cultural training. The tours include home-stays and exchange teaching in local schools. Summer tours run annually. www.asiaeducation.edu.au

LEADERSHIP

NEW PARTNERS

Asialink is delighted to announce a strengthened alliance with United Group Learning in the delivery of the Asialink Leadership Program in 2006.

Led by Dr Margaret Byrne, United Group Learning specialises in building new competencies in cross-cultural intelligence. Asialink's year-long part-time leadership program provides the skills needed to exercise vision in a challenging global context. To apply, go to www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au

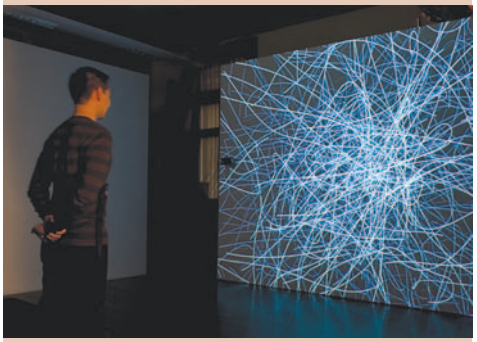
ARTS

Selina Ou, *The Postman*, from *Open Letter*

EXTENDING EXHIBITION BOUNDARIES

Asialink Arts continues to spread its wings across the region with its touring exhibitions program. Due to popular demand the engaging *Open Letter* (partnered with Gallery 4A, Sydney) has been extended at The Metropolitan Museum in Manila until late January and will then conclude its tour at the National Art Gallery in Kuala Lumpur in April. Textile based *Printemps-Été: Akira Isogawa* (partnered with The National Gallery of Victoria) continues its success as it tours to the Ayala Museum in Manila and The Queen's Gallery in Bangkok until June. Also touring is photo-based *Supernatural Artificial* (partnered with Gertrude Contemporary Arts Spaces) which has enjoyed great success in Bangkok.

For images and more information see www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au



George Poonkhin Khut (with John Tonkin), *Drawing Breath V2*, an interactive installation with breath activated video and sound installation views

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