



INDONESIAN PRESIDENT OPENS ASIALINK CONVERSATIONS

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono pays tribute to the determination and good will of many Indonesians and Australians for their daily contributions to the relationship.

“Despite stereotypes and some differences in position on some regional issues, I can say that our bilateral relationship today is basically one of mutual trust ... But that gift of trust did not come to us like manna from heaven: we both have to earn it.”

HE Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

HE Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's address at the opening dinner of Asialink's *APEC Conversations* in Sydney highlighted the strengthening of ties during a period that has included significant challenges. President Yudhoyono acknowledged that nations with long common borders are often uneasy with each other and Australia and Indonesia have very different cultural and economic backgrounds. He focused on our shared interests and emphasised that we had much to gain from transforming the relationship into a comprehensive partnership and much to lose if we fail.

The President's speech was warmly welcomed by Ministers from the Indonesian and Australian governments, ambassadors and leaders from business, the media and the community.

Painting the World

Through the looking glass: the interior world of Australian artists on show in Chiang Mai, Bangkok, Hanoi and Manila. See page 7



John Citizen *Interior (Orange Chair)*, 2007 syntehtic polymer paint on canvas. Courtesy of the artist and Sutton Gallery, Melbourne

PREMIER SEIZES GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

“Much of the rapid growth we want to tap in to is happening in our own region of the world.”

The Hon John Brumby MP, Premier of Victoria

Premier John Brumby launched the Victorian Government's *Action Plan Seizing Global Opportunities* in October 2007 at an Asialink event. The Action Plan commits the government to issuing an annual Premier's directive outlining key international priorities and establishing the Premier's Business Leaders Advisory Board. Victoria will also create new core posts in South East Asia and an International Co-ordination Office.

These measures represent the most extensive reform ever undertaken across Victoria's overseas operations.



LINKING LATITUDES



L-R: Kathe Kirby, Prof John Webb, Dr Dahle Suggett, Sue Mann, The Hon D Purandareswari

“India has crossed the rubicon on reform. There can be no going back.” HE John McCarthy

Asialink's Education Program took nearly 300 Australians to India for a five-day conference in Delhi and Agra with another two weeks of fieldwork programs across 25 cities and towns. Australian High Commissioner, HE Mr John McCarthy AO opened the conference describing India as “on the cusp of economic greatness” and identifying three ways that Australia is important for India – resources, education and security co-operation.

Keynote speaker Mr P Sainath, Editor, *The Hindu*, gave a contrasting perspective on ‘Incredible India’: “The claims of brilliant success are true for a very small percentage of the population. The digital divide has sharpened and deepened every other divide.”

The Hon Ms D Purandareswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, was the keynote speaker for a day focusing on Global India.

FUNDING BOOST FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND LEADERS PROGRAM



Dr Shekhar Saxena, WHO Geneva speaking at Asia-Australia Mental Health symposium in Melbourne.

In exciting new developments, Janssen-Cilag has announced a substantial funding increase to support Asia-Australia Mental Health and the Potter Foundation has agreed to generously support the Asialink Leaders Program providing scholarships for representatives from the community sector for another three years.



**SID MYER
CHAIRMAN**

In six months of unprecedented work at Asialink standouts included the Asialink

APEC Conversations and the Asia Education Foundation's *Linking Latitudes* India conference building invaluable educational, business and cultural links with this emerging super power.

At home, Kevin Rudd is Australia's 26th Prime Minister and the first to speak an Asian language. Building on the intensification of our relations with Asia over the past decade we welcome the opportunity to work with the Prime Minister with his depth of knowledge of the region. There remains much to be done. We look forward to a greater cultural and language focus in Australian schools. The need for cultural diplomacy in the Asian region remains a high priority. Deeper engagement with Asia brings even more complex issues and requires more sophisticated community understanding. Asialink's long term expertise, contacts and partnerships will contribute to a new level of engagement with our region.

In closing, I would like to pay special tribute to Jenny McGregor, Kathe Kirby, Alison Carroll, Julia Fraser, Meileng Tam and their energetic teams who consistently over deliver for Asialink. Likewise, thanks to our sponsors, our engaged and active Board of Directors and my Deputy Chairmen, Peter Yates and Philip Flood.



**JENNY
MCGREGOR
CEO**

Five years ago the Myer Foundation backed Julia Fraser's brave

idea to take Asialink into the field of building mental health capacity in China. Our partnership with St Vincent's Health and the University of Melbourne's Department of Psychiatry has yielded unimagined results. Generous new Janssen-Cilag sponsorship means we can now work with 12 countries to collaborate on culturally appropriate responses to escalating mental health challenges in our region.

The Myer Foundation and members of the Myer family have provided the funding, the guidance and the inspiration behind Asialink's work for 17 years. New three year funding from the Potter Foundation will see these two great icons of Australian philanthropy together supporting the huge task of linking Australia more effectively with our region. I hope this *Asialink News* will give you a taste of the breadth and depth of this work.

Thank you to our Australian and state and territory government funders, corporate and philanthropic sponsors and the inspiring network of people who help make Australia Asia engagement so rewarding.



Asialink Patron Carrillo Gantner AO and Council Member Paul Brasher at an Ambassador Series event



Asialink Board Member Professor Ross Garnaut AO speaking on climate change at the Sidney Myer Asia Centre

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APEC 2020: AN ASIALINK CONVERSATION

“This has been a chance to get to know incredible minds and great human beings.” Walter Braedt, Peru



Asialink hosted 40 leaders from business, government, think tanks and academia from the 21 APEC economies as the successful Sydney APEC leaders forum was winding down. The *Conversations* focused on issues including APEC itself, regional architecture, major powers, capacity building and climate change.

“I really like the style of the *Conversations*. Here you have an equal participation by everyone at every session.”

Dr Kim Jimbo, Japan

Described by the *Financial Review* as one of the most interesting moves towards more diverse input into APEC’s discussions, the *Conversations* provided an intriguing insight into the shared concerns of countries from South America and South East Asia.

For more download the Report of Proceedings at:

www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/our_work/corporate_and_public/international_forums/the_asialink_conversations



Top L-R: Phil Scanlan AM, Peter Yates, Dato’ Dr Michael O.K. Yeoh, Christopher Howard
Bottom: L-R: Kavi Chongkittavorn, Justice Datin Paduka Hajjah Hayati bin Mohd. Salleh, Pichit Likitkijsonboon, Selwyn Pellet, Dorjee Sun

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

“Executive business Chinese, cross cultural and negotiation skills are the key services being sought by Victorian companies as they face their push into China.” Barbara Hilder

Chief Correspondent from the *Economist* in Beijing, Mr Ted Plafker, updated Victorian business people on working in China in a series of sell-out events held in conjunction with the Australian China Business Council, Deloitte, the CEO Institute and the Melbourne Business School. Next year the Institute will bring to Australia one of the world’s foremost experts on innovation in China, Dr Fred Simon.

The Confucius Institute has held briefings and training for over 1000 Victorian business people this year from companies including Amcor, Telstra, Patties Foods, InnoviaFilm, Torian Wireless and Langham Hotel.

Visit www.confuciusinstitute.unimelb.edu.au

BUSINESS TO BE DONE OUT IN THE FIELD



CEO Michael Byrne (picture above) of Linfox Logistics identified growth in Asia as the key to Linfox’s evolution from an Australian to an Asia Pacific company. Mr Byrne highlighted the enormous opportunities outside major cities: “we’re happy to go to a regional centre and stay for a decade.”

See transcript at

www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/events/past

CLIMATE CHANGE



“The least fortunate will be hurt the most by global warming.” Dr RK Pachauri

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize jointly with Al Gore. IPCC President Dr RK Pachauri (pictured above) spoke to an Asialink Australia-India Business Council audience about the projected devastating impact of climate change on the most vulnerable in the Asian region. He called for greater cooperation between government, industry and academia.

Asialink’s *5 Minutes to Midnight* series, featured Dr Graeme Pearman (pictured above top) and Dr Peter Christoff with Professor Ross Garnaut AO.

Graeme distilled the global scientific evidence in a dramatic presentation whilst Peter discussed the implications for the Asian region. With Chinese government plans to quadruple GDP by 2020, Dr Christoff outlined “Great Green Leap Forward” targets.

Listen to the lecture at

www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/events

A NIGHT OF STORIES



Speaking to a capacity Asialink audience about his new book, *People Like Us*, Waleed Aly (pictured above) outlines his incremental but realistic approach to building understanding between Islam and the West.

Why do we have one billion overweight people and 800 million going hungry? With an introduction from ABC's Peter Mares, Raj Patel addressed this paradox in our food politics in *Stuffed and Starved*.

"Singapore is now regarded by the Balinese as a model for their future" yet at the same time "the Balinese number one job is being Balinese – all other jobs are just moonlighting." Author of *Under the Volcano: The Story of Bali* Cameron Forbes discussed contrasting views of Bali with Melbourne Law School's, Professor Tim Lindsey.

Xue Xinran (pictured below) captures the heart of modern China in *Miss Chopsticks* tracing the lives of three rural sisters. Their shocking new urban environment gives them new careers and they transform in their father's eyes from "chopsticks: utilitarian and easily broken" to "the strong rafters that hold up the roof."

These lectures are part of Asialink's free public lecture series.

Visit www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/events



DATELINES: INDONESIA AND BURMA

"Give young people career options that don't include terrorism." Sidney Jones

Sidney Jones (pictured below) from International Crisis Group spoke only weeks after the capture of Abu Dujana from Jemaah Islamiah (JI). She described JI as a whole social network resulting in "inherited Jihadism" and called for giving young people career options that don't include terrorism.

Connie Levett from the *Sydney Morning Herald* and Alison Tate from ACTU provided rare insider perspectives on the recent uprising in Burma. Connie identified the combination of the rise in internet access, socio political changes in the Junta and the proliferation of journalists as "building blocks" for a revolution. Alison addressed the human impact on the families all across Burma – "host to the longest running civil war in the world."



ASIALINK'S AMBASSADOR SERIES



L-R: HE Mr Bandhit Sotipalalit, Jenny McGregor

Thailand's Ambassador to Australia, HE Mr Bandhit Sotipalalit highlighted the excellent cooperation between Thailand and Australia at the military level to a business and academic audience at Asialink. The bilateral Free Trade Agreement has been another success with a 30% increase in trade in 2005 and another 20% in 2006 he said. Ambassador Sotipalalit looked forward to a further strengthening of the bi-lateral relationship following the Thai elections in December 2007.

HE Dato' Haji Salim Hashim, Malaysian High Commissioner to Australia and HE Mr Bill Tweddell, Australia's Ambassador to Vietnam, also addressed Asialink business and academic audiences.

GROWTH AND GROWING INEQUALITY

Three Asialink lectures focused on global and regional economies. Dr Mark Thirwell and University of Melbourne's Dr Pradeep Taneja discussed Mark's Lowy Institute paper "Second Thoughts on Globalisation." Will policy makers seek to modify or constrain globalisation in the light of issues like growing inequality, security issues and resource competition?

"No Crises and Modest Growth" was Professor Sebastian Edwards from the Anderson Graduate School of Management, UCLA Berkeley prediction for Latin America. He saw no political appetite for reform but also no exposure to catastrophic currency crises.

In Sydney, Asialink's business audience heard Associate Professor Mark Crosby (pictured right) from the Melbourne Business School predict that China will continue to grow at 8% for at least two decades and will probably have a floating exchange rate in 5-10 years.

Selected transcripts available at www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/events



"China will continue to grow at 8% for at least two decades."

Mark Crosby

LANGUAGES OPEN THE DOOR TO A BIGGER WORLD



“If I could wave a wand or grant a wish, it would be that every Australian could learn a second language. Language enriches us. A second language allows us to enter a multicultural world that we could otherwise never have imagined or appreciated. It stimulates our imagination and opens our minds to difference. It gives us greater capacity to appreciate diversity. Moreover, it is the most sturdy of defences against prejudice.” Mr Ahmed Fahour (pictured top left), CEO, Australia National Australia Bank, at the National Seminar on Languages Education, 29 November 2007

The Asia Education Foundation was commissioned by the Australian Government to bring together 130 leading educators from across Australia to consider the current level of support in Australian schools for the National Statement and Plan for Languages, 2005-7, and to provide key advice for a proposed new national plan in 2008.

Delegates agreed that languages education in Australian schools requires urgent attention if we are to provide an education for our children that meets the needs of the 21st Century interconnected world. Only 13% of Australian Year 12 students currently study a second language. Of these, 6.6% study an Asian language and this diminishes to 3% of students in the university sector.



Two key challenges stand out. Firstly, the need to raise demand for languages: with students and their parents, principals and education systems. We need the calibre of support provided by Ahmed Fahour and the business sector in demanding languages-literate workers, equipped to do business in a multicultural society and multinational world.

Secondly, demand needs to be met by a supply of quality teachers. This can only be met with substantial investment if Australia is to have any chance of providing languages such as Mandarin Chinese in our schools. Other English-speaking countries like the UK and USA are currently outstripping us in their response to this issue.

Catherine Pierce (pictured below left), Senior Associate, Madgwicks Lawyers says “professional opportunities have come to me as a result of speaking Chinese and French. Early on in my career, for example, I became the major negotiator in a large commercial transaction in China largely because I spoke Chinese.” Catherine was joined at the Languages Seminar by 12 young professionals, from winemakers to defence analysts, who shared their experiences of the power of being multilingual.

Sin May Leong, HR Manager for Jetstar, really brought the message home when she described Jetstar’s rapid growth – eight new Asian destinations in 2006/7 – and the critical importance of culturally literate cabin, ground and management staff. “You need this skill set to be able to successfully expand your business.”

ASIA IN ARTS EDUCATION

The Arts helps students actively investigate the diversity of the peoples, environments, belief systems, aesthetic traditions, celebrations, rites and skills within Asia and Australia.

“Students can explore how artists in Australia and Asia represent their world by comparing paintings, drawings, and sculptures from different times and cultures such as traditions of Australian and Japanese landscape painting or the origin and development of the willow pattern in China and Europe...” an excerpt from *Asia Scope and Sequence for the Arts*

This advice for teachers is an example of what might be included in the arts curriculum in a new guide developed by the Asia Education Foundation: the *Asia Scope and Sequence for the Arts*. The guide shows how a focus on Asia can enhance visual arts, music, drama, dance and media curriculum from lower primary to middle secondary education.

The Arts curriculum guide is the third in a series including the *Asia Scope and Sequences for English* and for *Studies of Society and Environment* developed by the AEF. In a May 2007 report to the CEO’s of all Australian education systems, these guides were assessed as being pivotal to supporting the take-up of the *National Statement for Engaging Young Australians with Asia in Australian Schools* approved by state and federal education ministers in 2005.



Gerry Wedd *Thong Cycle*, 2006, four pieces, band built, oxidation fired, 1200 degrees C, cobalt underglaze, variable dimensions. This work is part of the Visual Arts Touring Program. Photo Grant Hancock.

The guides plus exemplar curriculum units can be downloaded from the AEF’s website. Visit www.asiaeducation.edu.au.

ASIALINK LEADERS FELLOWS REACH OUT

“The leadership presentations all address issues that have currency and create positive change in relationships between Asia and Australia. This material is ripe for putting on a website and getting dialogue, engagement and further reach.” Lindley Edwards



Kate Armstrong's project in Ho Chi Minh City

Australian doctor links chronically ill children with community support in Vietnam.

A key feature of the Asialink Leaders Program is the Workplace Project Module.

The 2008 projects exemplified the broad diversity of the group and the creativity of individual participants.

Financial burdens are one of the greatest difficulties families in resource-poor countries face when their child is diagnosed with a chronic medical condition. Children from very poor families do not survive diagnosis.

Dr Kate Armstrong's project links families in Vietnam with locally successful NGOs that offer micro-finance, enterprise development and vocational training in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. The long-term goal for the project is that when a child is diagnosed, the family's financial

status is urgently assessed, and specialist assistance instigated.

China has now overtaken Japan as the most popular Asian destination for Australian bottled wine but entering this market still poses challenges. Luisa Rust from Austrade's project shares knowledge and experience within the Australian wine community of the China market.

Currently the public are asked to provide information on criminal offences by calling Crime Stoppers. Cath Cole from NSW Police, has used her workplace project to improve the reach of Crime Stoppers to people from non English speaking backgrounds particularly Mandarin, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Arabic and Cantonese communities. The project provides access to online information in their own languages and aims to improve community confidence in reporting crime.



2008 Asialink Leaders

Partnerships to address a global problem



Top L-R clockwise: Prof Jack Cheng, Assoc Prof Chee Ng, Prof Xie Bin, Prof Yu Xin, Prof Bruce Singh, Prof Helen Chiu
Bottom: Prof Louise Edwards and Margaret Goding with students from Hangzhou Xinhua primary school

The other side of the China wealth story is the increased pressure on the country's underdeveloped mental health system influenced by urbanisation and industrialisation. Around 32.5 million people are affected by depression with some 300,000 new schizophrenic cases diagnosed each year and 50 to 70 per cent of these people remain untreated. Around 5 million people have dementia and each year a quarter of a million commit suicide.

Asialink's Health program, Asia-Australia Mental Health, (AAMH) signed three new agreements in September to support Chinese colleagues to address this daunting situation. The signing ceremony was hosted by Ms Susan Dietz-Henderson, the Australian Consul-General in Shanghai.

An AusAID funded project will support disaster related mental health care to protect children and beyondblue, Australia's national depression initiative, and China Psychiatric Association will collaborate to raise community awareness about depression and reduce stigma in China. As an important first step, UTS Institute of International Studies has translated appropriate sections of the beyondblue website into Mandarin and made them available on the internet, providing people in China with a valuable source of information on depression and anxiety.

Visit www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/our_work/health_and_community/mental_health

ONLINE For more information on applying for the 2008 Asialink Leaders Program visit www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/our_work/leaders



Performer: Shona Erskine Cinematography: Mark Pugh and Sue Healey *Will Time Tell?* - a collaboration with five Japanese dancers

Asialink has produced a luscious 24 page publication documenting and celebrating the *Asialink Japan Dance Exchange 2005-6*, which included collaborative dance works created by

Australian choreographers Tess de Quincey, Kate Denborough, Sue Healey, Jo Lloyd and Leigh Warren, and their Japanese colleagues. Copies are available at Asialink.



Thea Mai Baumann *The Last Vestige*, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (July 2007)

ARTS RESIDENCIES

Throughout 2007 participants in Asialink's Residency Program have pushed the boundaries of their art and broadened the reach of cultural exchange in the region. The wonderfully eclectic nature of these engagements have included Xan Colman and Tamara Searle utilising Community Cultural Development practices to create theatre on the Thai/Burma border, Julien Poulson playing with master musician Kong Nay – the Ray Charles of Cambodia, Thea Mai Baumann curating an experiential installation on a junk boat on Vietnam's Mekong River, and Julie Janson working with Indonesian students on a new play, *Tsunami Tsunami*. These and many more stories like them are living evidence of the cross-cultural creativity which our Residency Program fosters.

A new group of residents will shortly embark on the enriching and engaging experiences of artistic exploration in Asia.

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

PAINTING THE WORLD

The October launch of the touring exhibition *The world in painting* in Chiang Mai marked the beginning of an extensive journey for this show which includes work by some of Australia's leading painters: Gordon Bennett/John Citizen, Amanda Davies, Diana Georgetti, Raafat Ishak, James Morrison, Boxer Milner Tjampitjin, Nancy Naninurra Napanangka and Elizabeth Newman.

Developed in partnership with Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne and curated by Deputy Director Zara Stanhope, this exhibition presents personalised worlds that range from domestic interiors to dream-like landscapes. After touring South East Asia the exhibition will return to Heide, opening late July 2008 and then tour Australia with the support of NETS Victoria. Publication support has been generously provided by the Gordon Darling Foundation.



Elizabeth Newman *Untitled 2004*, incised fabric, installation view, courtesy of the artist and Neon Parc

INDONESIA-AUSTRALIA ARTS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Samuel Indratma *Urban Apartment* installation, open for inspection until December 2007
Visit www.melbourne.voc.gov.au/arts

SKILLING UP: AUSTRALIANS AND INDONESIANS LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

Asialink Art's Indonesia-Australia Arts Management Program has produced impressive stories of achievement over its nine-year history and the most recent intern to visit our shores was no exception. Yogyakarta-based visual artist Samuel Indratma did an internship at ArtPlay in Melbourne in June when he was invited by the City of Melbourne's Laneway Commission to create an artwork in the city's laneways. The work, cheekily titled *Urban Apartment*, was a unique opportunity to offer a very Indonesian perspective on city living.



Watublapi musicians in Flores, Eastern Indonesia 2007

EASTERN INDONESIA - NORTHERN TERRITORY PARTNERSHIP

Asialink has piloted a partnership between arts practitioners from the Northern Territory and Eastern Indonesia who work in and with remote regional communities. The project involves local indigenous communities taking the lead in the promotion of their cultural traditions and identity through a series of creative exchanges, performances and exhibitions.

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

Corporate & Public Programs

AUSTRALIA INDIA INSTITUTE PROPOSAL



HE John McCarthy AO

Asialink is supporting the University of Melbourne to establish the Australia India Institute. The institute will provide leadership in research, graduate training, executive briefings, policy advice and knowledge transfer for the benefit of India and Australia and the broader Asia Pacific region.

INDEX OF AUSTRALIA ASIA LINKAGES



Image courtesy of stock.xchng

Asialink is working with the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research to produce a report on the extent and nature of socio-economic linkages over the past decade and going forward. It will provide valuable data for industry analysts and policy makers about Australia Asia engagement across focus topics including politics, migration, trade and investment, education, business and humanitarian issues.

Education

LEADING 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS: ENGAGE WITH ASIA



L-R: Tom Croker, Andrew Blair

The Asia Education Foundation has received \$1.5 million from the Australian Government to target primary and secondary school principals from across Australia. A new professional learning program that aims to build up an influential cohort of school leaders will occur over 2008/9, taking off in May with a National Forum of 260 principals and system leaders. The five peak professional associations for school principals will partner the AEF in this strategy with the support of all state/territory education systems.

LINKING INDONESIAN AND AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS



Students learning about Australia in Yogyakarta

The AEF has been invited to work with the Australia Indonesia Institute on a new major strategy to link Indonesian and Australian teachers, students and schools. This has been made possible by a very generous grant from The Myer Foundation which will bring 60 Indonesian teachers to Australia to be hosted by our schools as the first step in establishing and supporting school-twinning links that will see the program reach far more people than the initial Indonesian and Australian participants. The program provides a major catalyst to expanding knowledge of Indonesia and Islam in Australian schools and in re-charging the study of Bahasa Indonesia which is on the decline.

Arts

ART UNDER YOUR SKIN



Louise Paramor *Show Court 3 2007*, plastic. Courtesy the artist and Nellie Castan Gallery.

Our latest touring exhibition, *Under my skin*, explores artistic relationships to place, culture and people, following the stories of five Australian artists creating new work following Visual Arts Residencies in Asia.

Undertaking a residency can often be life changing and the impact of such an intense experience can be simultaneously isolating and exhilarating. The exhibition traces the reasons for Emil Goh spending time in Korea, David Griggs in the Philippines, Pat Hoffie in the Philippines and Vietnam, Megan Keating in Taiwan and Louise Paramor in India and Singapore.

Exhibition curators Sarah Bond and Georgia Sedgwick have invited past Visual Arts Residents from 1993 to 2007 to be included in this exhibition.



David Griggs *Blood on the Streets 2007*, production still, dvd, 17:40 min (edition 6)