



AUSTRALASIA

ASIA SOCIETY



A newsletter and calendar published as a service to members of the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre

VOLUME 4 MARCH 1998

SAVE THE DATES:

MELBOURNE

24 MARCH 1998
6 – 8pm

Public Briefing:

Perspectives on the Asian Financial Crisis

Contact:

AustralAsia Centre
Melbourne

Tel: +61 3 9650 0998

HONG KONG

6 – 8 May 1998

Conference:

Asia and the Future of World Business Business

Contact:

AustralAsia Centre
Melbourne

Tel: +61 3 9650 0998

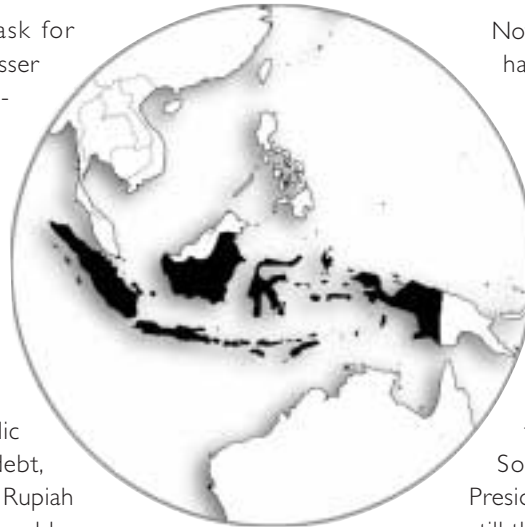
THE OUTLOOK FOR INDONESIA

Our relations with Indonesia remain of fundamental long-term importance, because of its strategic location, size and role in the South East Asia region. So the continuing economic crisis, political uncertainties and the prospect of increasing social tensions are a cause of serious concern.

The most urgent task for Indonesia – and, to a lesser extent now, also for Thailand and South Korea – is to regain the confidence of international financial markets. In Indonesia's case this will involve stabilising the Rupiah, implementing a revised IMF package, finding a solution to the level of public and especially private debt, which the plunge in the Rupiah has made virtually unpayable, and opening the way to political renewal.

Despite doubts about his leadership and quite widespread student protests, President Soeharto was installed as President of Indonesia for a seventh, five-year term on 11 March. Dr B.J. Habibie is Vice President. Key groups in Indonesia, including the armed forces, continue to support President Soeharto in the hope that he will be able to see Indonesia through its present crisis. But as his Government struggles to stabilise the Rupiah and restore confidence in the economy, the risk of social unrest and ethnic tensions is likely to grow as the economic downturn bites deeper.

A three pronged approach will be necessary to overcome the crisis, namely the implementation of a revised IMF package; a solution to the debt problem; and some outline of a political renewal process.



Key groups in Indonesia, including the armed forces, continue to support President Soeharto

Unless the IMF shows some flexibility in its rescue package, there is danger that it will increasingly be perceived, in a nationalist Indonesia, as an American institution, seeking to enforce globalisation and a domestic political agenda through demands for a rigid implementation of its package.

In these circumstances there is a danger that, on the way to ultimate recovery, Indonesia's pro-western market orientation could be eroded. Indonesian culture is resistant to heavy handed externally imposed solutions to its difficulties and the United States and the IMF have not so far handled the situation with sufficient skill or sensitivity.

Now that President Soeharto has been inaugurated for a seventh term what is likely to happen? Pressures for change will continue while the process of political transition may have been retarded, it is nevertheless already under way. At some time between, say, six months and three or four years time, President Soeharto may cease to be President. The armed forces – still the guarantor of the security of Indonesia – as the only relatively well organised, cohesive, and experienced institution in the country, will appoint the next President.

Almost certainly he will be a senior ABRI General. Prediction is always a hostage to fortune, but my guess — and it can be no more than an informed guess — is that a new ABRI President would move to establish a group of Western educated key economic technocrats and advisers, if that had not already been done, in much the same way as Soeharto did between 1967 and 1970, to manage the economy.

No matter what policies are adopted now and in the weeks ahead, Indonesia faces a difficult year of hardship with mounting insolvencies, higher unemployment and inflation which will lead to negative growth this year

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THE ASIA SOCIETY AUSTRALASIA CENTRE IS A NON-PROFIT, PRIVATELY-FUNDED ORGANISATION DEDICATED TO FURTHERING UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE COUNTRIES AND CULTURES OF ASIA.



THE OUTLOOK FOR INDONESIA

Naturally, the AustralAsia Centre with its objective of widening understanding in the community of developments in Asia and of the different cultures, especially in South East Asia, is following the evolving situation in the region with concern and sympathy.

Australia has a great stake in East Asia's economic reform and recovery. In this context the most important foreign policy and security issue facing Australia in the months ahead is the outcome of the crisis in Indonesia. I last visited Indonesia in January and have written a separate note on the crisis there for this newsletter to update my previous note to our members last October.



After an executive search, Prue Holstein has been appointed Deputy Director of the Centre from 2 March. The press release announcing her appointment and expressing appreciation of Rosemary Downey's contribution during the Centre's start-up period is published in this newsletter.

Since the publication of our last newsletter the renovation of our Collins Street Office has been completed. It was opened by the President of the Asia Society, Nicholas Platt, on 19 March.

Recently I have undertaken a number of activities on behalf of the Centre. I hosted a private dinner for Indonesian businessman, Sofjan Wanandi, in February. The function was attended by a number of CEOs. Guests included the Chairman and Chief Executive of the ANZ Bank.

I visited Perth to give a lecture at the Art Gallery of Western Australia on 4 March. The lecture was in the context of the Asia Society's exciting Traditions/Tensions exhibition, which the AustralAsia Centre

and the Art Gallery of Western Australia presented during the Perth Festival. Dr Vishakha Desai from the Asia Society in New York also lectured in the series on 22 February. My topic was "East Asia in the Twenty First Century".

As Director of the Centre, I also addressed an audience of 250 guests at the WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry Breakfast Forum on "The Asian Currency Crisis – Collapse or Correction"?

It is important for Australia to maintain its Asian engagement and demonstrate that we were not a fair weather friend.

I said that we were witnessing a painful process involving the transformation of regional economies in response to the pressures of global economic forces. After analysing the crisis in several countries I argued that it was important that Australians, especially Australian business people, should not walk away from the region, because the going had suddenly got tough. It was important for Australia to maintain its Asian engagement and demonstrate that we were not a fair weather friend.

I said I believed that, despite the present gloom and the pain some economies are experiencing, especially Indonesia, we needed to look to the future when the affected economies would stabilise. The economic strengths, which had made East Asia attractive to global investors over the last 20 years, are unlikely to disap-



MR RICHARD WOOLCOTT,
DIRECTOR AUSTRALASIA CENTRE

pear. Whatever the outcome in East Asia, Australia's task is still now – as it has been since the end of World War II – to adjust to the East Asian neighbourhood we share.

and probably also in 1999. So many factors are now having an impact on Indonesia itself and on the markets, it is difficult to foresee when the Rupiah might stabilise and the economy recover. But in time it will.

Australia's influence is limited but, in these circumstances I believe the AustralAsia Centre's approach – and that of the Australian Government – should be informed, understanding of the acute problems Indonesia faces, not too intrusive and supportive of sensitive measures to deal with the crisis.

Richard Woolcott AC



ASIAN ASSETS

By Edmund Capon AM,
Member of the Advisory Council

The Art Gallery of New South Wales has the largest permanent display of Asian Art in Australia which embrace the arts of South, East and South-east Asia, and are constantly being expanded and enriched by new acquisitions. While the Gallery purchases through its own funds, special credit must be given to the Art Gallery Foundation, the Art Gallery Society and generous individuals who through their own passion for Asian art and culture have donated to the collections.

The Gallery is committed to the promotion of the appreciation and understanding of Asian art and culture

The Gallery is committed to the promotion of the appreciation and understanding of Asian art and culture as evident in its active exhibition

programme and the establishment of its Centre for Asian Art Studies under the patronage of Goldie Sternberg. The Centre will be conducting a course of thirty lectures on the arts of Asia from neolithic times to the eighth century with experts from Australia and overseas. This will be followed in 1999 by a course on the arts of Asia from eighth to fifteenth centuries, and in 2000 by the arts of Asia from the fifteenth to twentieth centuries.

This year the Centre will be conducting specialised symposia with international experts as keynote lecturers. A special symposium on the arts of Southeast Asia, to be held 9th-10th October, will have as a star speaker Dr Helen Ibbitson Jessup, guest curator at the National Gallery of Art, Washington for the exhibition Sculpture of Angkor and ancient Cambodia: Mille-

CONTINUED PAGE SIX



NEW AUSTRALASIA CENTRE DEPUTY DIRECTOR APPOINTED

The Director of the AustralAsia Centre of the Asia Society (part time), Richard Woolcott AC, announced today the appointment of Prue Holstein to the position of Deputy Director of the Centre. Ms Holstein replaces Rosemary Downey and will be in charge of the day to day operations of the centre. She will also be responsible for developing programs to enhance the knowledge and

understanding of members on Asia related issues.

The AustralAsia Centre, which was launched by Prime Minister Howard last May, is based in Melbourne and aims to widen community understanding of the diverse countries and cultures of Asia throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Woolcott said Ms Holstein brings some 20 years of experience in both a govern-

ment and a private capacity to the position and most recently served in Osaka as Trade Commissioner and Consul. She has also served as Trade Commissioner in Chicago.

Mr Woolcott said the Centre was especially grateful to Rosemary Downey for her role in the start-up phase of the Centre and for her valuable insights and guidance during this period.



PRUE HOLSTEIN
THE NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR
AUSTRALASIA CENTRE



Recent Events

AustralAsia Centre Hosts Private Dinner for Mr Sofjan Wanandi

The Centre hosted a private dinner on 2 February in Melbourne for Mr Sofjan Wanandi, a leading Indonesian businessman and Chairman of the Gemala Group of Companies which also has interests in Australia.

Sofjan was also prominent in the establishment of President Soeharto's New Order Government in the mid-sixties and has since been a Member of the Indonesian Parliament.

Sofjan spoke frankly about Indonesia's financial crisis and the political uncertainties, including the regrettable and inflammatory criticism of ethnic Chinese business people like himself, in the lead up to the Presidential election.

The general thrust of his remarks was that Indonesia was likely to face considerable economic hardship and social tensions with negative growth this year and possibly in 1999.

It looked to Australia as a close and good neighbour for understanding and support during this difficult period.

With its population of 200 million people and great natural resources, Indonesia would always be of great importance to Australia. The situation would stabilise in the future but it would take some time.

AustralAsia Centre lunch for Douglas H Paal

Mr Douglas H Paal, President of the Asia Pacific Policy Centre, a newly formed institution in Washington, D.C. which promotes trade and investment as well as defence and security ties across the Pacific, recently visited Australia. Prior to forming the Centre, Douglas Paal was Special Assistant to Presidents Bush and Reagan for National Security Affairs and Senior Director for Asian Affairs on the National Security Council. Mr Hugh Morgan, Chairman of the AustralAsia Centre hosted the lunch at WMC Limited.

The luncheon presented an opportunity for candid discussion and lively debate on the critical issues facing the Asia Pacific Region.

Visiting US Congressional Delegation

A recent US Congressional Delegation from the House of Representatives National Security Committee visited Australia as guests of the Australian Defence Force.

Members of the delegation included The Hon. Doug Bereuter and The Hon. John L Mica. AustralAsia Centre Founding Members met with the delegation at a supper held at the US Consul-General's residence in Melbourne. The AustralAsia Centre would like to thank the US Consul-General for Victoria, Mr Tex Harris, and Mrs Jeannie Harris for hosting the supper and providing AustralAsia Centre members with the opportunity to meet the delegation informally.

Leading Chinese economist speaks on APEC and its impact on the Chinese Economy

Professor Zhang Yunling recently addressed a lunch hosted by Mr Hugh Morgan, Chairman of the AustralAsia Centre. Professor Zhang, Director of the APEC Policy Research Centre at the Chinese Academy of Social Science, Beijing, was in Australia to address an international conference at The Australian National University on the liberalisation of the Chinese Economy: the role of APEC and the WTO. Guests included members of the AustralAsia Centre Advisory Council, senior business representatives and academics. Founding Member, Mr Michael Robinson, Arthur Robinson & Hedderwicks sponsored the lunch.





Mandala: The Architecture of Enlightenment

by Denise Patry Leidy &
Robert A.F. Thurman
(Asia Society/Tibet House)



While this volume was produced to accompany a current exhibition co-organised by the Asia Society and Tibet House in New York, it stands as the quintessential survey of the place of man-

dalas in the Hindu-Buddhist world in Asia.

What are mandalas? Co-author Patry Leidy explains that mandalas “represent manifestations of a specific divinity in the cosmos and as the cosmos” and are seen as “sacred places which, by their presence in the world, remind a viewer of the immanence of sanctity in the universe and its potential in himself.”

Mandalas can be made in many materials including sand, thread and butter although the most readily recognised are the brightly coloured and complex paintings of Tibet and, to a lesser extent, Nepal. In Tibetan life, they are used to decorate and sanctify temples and homes, in initiation rites for monks and rulers and in specific roles such as a support for the corpse in cremation.

Mandalas: The Architecture of Enlightenment demonstrates very clearly that mandalas, whether two or three dimensional, are both rich religious symbols and extraordinarily beautiful and diverse works of art. The works, pictured in this book, incorporate the vitality of existing Tibetan religious traditions and indicate to us just how widespread the art of mandalas has become.

Of particular interest is a coloured sand particle mandala created at the Asia Society Galleries by the monks of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s Namgyal monastery in Dharamsala.

This book is superbly illustrated in colour and black and white and contains a series of explanatory articles as well as several essays by other scholars.



Lee Kuan Yew: The Man and His Ideas

by Han Fook Kwang, Warren
Fernandez and Sumiko Tan
Singapore: Times Edition, 1998



The unfathomability of any person, if taken seriously, is profound and ultimately unknowable. When he is still alive, still active, and still a powerful (for some even a threatening) public figure, the difficulties are enormous.

That is why this elegant volume on Singapore’s elder statesman, at first reading, could easily be dismissed as hagiography. Its authors’ naive admiration for their subject can be grating. For readers accustomed to a robust democratic culture, where politicians are open to relentless critical scrutiny, then, this book will not be satisfying.

The story it tells is from Lee Kuan Yew’s personal perspective. Lee is candidly acknowledged for the “many hours he spent with us in interviews for the book, and for his advice and encouragement throughout.” Even so, readers are given some fascinating insights into the evolution of Lee’s political thinking. His early experiences in coping with the Japanese during their occupation of Singapore in World War II were singularly influential.

His ability to appear to cooperate, in order to outwit his Japanese masters, became a brilliantly honed skill. He was able to use this skill with deadly effect later on, to outwit the communists in the run-up to independence and afterwards. And he has exhibited a ruthlessness with his political opponents ever since which is based on the realities he experienced in his early public life.

In short, despite its hagiographical tone, there is some wonderful material in these unadorned interviews with Lee, giving us real insights to the man’s character and a clearer understanding of how he sees his country’s – and his region’s – future.

The second half of the book is a selection of Lee’s speeches over the years. From his first election speech (for the Labour Party in the

UK!), through the major issues which Lee resolved while in office, we have assembled here a marvellous source, giving access to the political ideas of a highly significant Southeast Asian leader.

The leadership generation represented by Lee Kuan Yew is in the process of handing over to a new generation. This is happening in the midst of a major economic crisis in East and Southeast Asia. It is fascinating to juxtapose the thoughts of Lee Kuan Yew to those current events. The book is thus a powerful measure of whether, and how far, political thinking must now change in Southeast Asia.

Allan Patience
Professor of Political Science and
Asian Studies
Victoria University of Technology



Asia Society Events

PERTH 5 Feb – 29 March 1998

**Contemporary Art in Asia:
Traditions/Tensions
Perth Festival**

The exhibition explores dynamic patterns of interaction between local sensibilities and an increasingly global culture. See installations, paintings, sculpture and feel the new Asia.

Organised by:

Asia Society New York in association with the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre and The Art Gallery of Western Australia

**The Art Gallery of Western
Australia**

Contact:

Tel (61-8) 9492 6600

NEW YORK 11 Feb – 3 May 1998

**Great Cities, Small Treasures: The
Ancient World of the Indus Valley**

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Pakistan, this exhibition features more than 100 objects from the Indus Valley civilization that flourished between 2600 and 1750 BCE in the area that is now Pakistan. Sculpture, ceramics, metalwork, seals and other artifacts, reveal the urban sophistication of this civilization.

The Asia Society Galleries

Contact: Asia Society New York
Tel (1-212) 288 6400

QUEENSTOWN

20-22 March 1998

Williamsburg Conference

Organised by the Asia 2000 Foundation of New Zealand and the Asia Society New York

Contact: Phillip Turner

Tel: +64 4 471 2320

(By invitation only)

MELBOURNE 24 MARCH 1998

**Public Briefing - Perspectives on the
Asian Financial Crisis - Report from
Williamsburg XXVI**

Panelists:

Malcolm Binks, Vice President, Merrill Lynch & Company Ltd.
Dr X L Ding, Research Fellow, The Australian National University
Ambassador Yoshio Okawara, President, Institute for International Affairs
Ambassador Abdul Sattar, Vice President, Islamabad Council on World Affairs
Mr Richard Woolcott AC, Director, AustralAsia Centre

In-depth discussion with five distinguished Asia specialists who will provide interesting insights on the unfolding financial turmoil in Asia.

Contact: Fiona Wallace-Smith,
Asia Society AustralAsia Centre.
Tel: +61 3 9650 0998
Fax: +61 3 9654 6680
e-mail: fionaw@asiasoc.org.au

NEW YORK 26 MARCH 1998

**The International Asian Art Fair
Benefit Preview**

The highly acclaimed Art Fair returns to New York for the 3rd year. Be among the first to view the offerings by attending the Asia Society benefit preview.

Contact: Tel: +1 212 327 9368

HOUSTON 1 May 1998

**1st Annual Asia Energy Conference:
Meeting Asia's Energy Challenges in
the 21st Century: Business, Political
and Strategic Implications for the
United States and Asia**

The conference will discuss broad trends of energy development in Asia and explore potential for US-

Asia collaboration in addressing issues raised by the US and Asia by increasing energy needs.

Contact: Jill Bloomberg

The Asia Society Texas
Tel: (1-713) 439 1107
e-mail: jillb@asiasoc.org

HONG KONG 6-8 May 1998

**9th Annual Asia Society Corporate
Conference in Asia**

**Engines of Growth: Asia and the
Future Of World Business**

Business and policy leaders from the U.S. and Asia examine the future of the regional economy and assess Asia's ability to project its growth record

**Hong Kong Convention and
Exhibition Centre**

Contact:

Asia Society AustralAsia Centre
Tel: (03) 9650 0998 or
Asia Society New York
Tel (1-212) 288 6400 ext. 304
e-mail: hk98conf@asiasoc.org

NEW YORK 1-3 JUNE 1998

Asia on My Mind

The Society's series of benefit dinners featuring celebrities from the worlds of entertainment, business, fashion, media and the arts is back by popular demand! Guests include Tom Brokaw, Richard Holbrooke, David Henry Hwang, Sonny and Gita Mehta, Morley Safer and many others

For information call

Tel: New York (+1 212) 327
9235 or AustralAsia Centre
(+61 3) 9650 0998

LOS ANGELES 4&5 JUNE 1998

**EMASIA '98: The Third Annual
Leaders' Forum on Entertainment
and Media in Asia on June 4 and 5
in Los Angeles**

Key government officials meet with leaders of the entertainment, media and technology industries from the US and Asia-Pacific regions

Contact: Tel: +1 213 624 0945 or
<http://www.emasia.com>

SEATTLE 15-16 June 1998

**Hong Kong One Year After
Transition: Business Opportunities
and Policy Challenges**

What is the prognosis for Hong Kong to maintain its position as one of Asia's most important financial, business and banking centres, trans-shipment points, and transportation hubs? Asia Society's 3rd annual Business and Policy Conference, taking place one year after Hong Kong's historic return to Chinese sovereignty, will be the key international forum to evaluate its economic and business prospects for the future.

**Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Seattle,
Washington**

Contact:

Tel: (1-212) 327 9312
email: seattle@asiasoc.org

SINGAPORE October

(date to be confirmed)

**Securing Asia's Future:
The Evolution of Retirement
Finance in Southeast Asia**

An in-depth look at the policy and implementation issues facing retirement finance and pension management in the region, including the implications for capital markets and long term investment.

Contact:

Tel: (1-212) 288-6400 ext 344,
e-mail: pensions98@asiasoc.org



Regional Events Calendar

SYDNEY Until 20 Oct 1998

Luncheon lecture series:

**The Arts of Asia:
Neolithic to Eighth Century**

Organised by:

The Centre for Asian Art Studies
at the Art Gallery of New South
Wales

Contact: Tel: +61 2 9225 1893

MELBOURNE 25 March 1998

China Forum:

**China & the Overseas Chinese
Business Networks**

Speaker:

Mr Chin Tan

Organised by:

The Australian Institute of
International Affairs

Contact: Tel: +61 3 9654 7271

SYDNEY Until 29 March 1998

Exhibition:

**Bhupen Khakhar: homoerotic
lyricism from India**

Organised by:

The Art Gallery of New South
Wales

Contact: +61 2 9225 1744

SYDNEY 31 March 1998

Lecture:

**China: The Prospects for
Regionalism, Capitalism, &
Democracy**

Speaker:

Prof. David Goodman, Director,
School of International Studies,
Sydney University of Technology

Organised by:

The Australian Institute of
International Affairs

Contact: Tel: +61 2 9247 2709

SYDNEY 2 April 1998

Luncheon Briefing:

**The Impact of Asia on Australian
Ratings**

Speaker:

John Cuncliffe, Moody's Investors
Service P/L

Organised by:

Research Institute for Asia and
the Pacific

Contact: Tel: +61 2 9290 3233

HOBART 2 April 1998

Thailand's Music and Dance

Organised by:

Australia-Asia Society of Tasmania

Contact: 6247 6941

SYDNEY 8 April 1998

Evening Lecture:

**The Outlook for Indonesia after
Presidential Elections**

Mr Richard Woolcott AC,
Director of the Asia Society
AustralAsia Centre & Chairman
of the Australian Indonesia
Institute

Organised by:

The Australian Institute of
International Affairs

Contact: Tel: +61 2 9247 2709

SYDNEY 10-20 April 1998

**EAT! Performance Installation -
Matthew Ngui**

Venue:

Museum of Contemporary Art

Contact: Tel: +61 2 9252 4033

MELBOURNE 15 April 1998

Seminar:

**Expanding Horizons: Taiwan &
Australia's Future**

Guest Speakers:

Mr Benjamin Liang, Dr Bruce
Jacobs, The Hon Ron Bowden
MLC, Mr Noel Maughan MLA, &
Mr Jeff Turner

Organised by:

Australian Institute of International
Affairs & Taipei Economic &
Cultural Office, Melbourne

Contact: Tel: +61 3 9654 7271

**SYDNEY, TOWNSVILLE,
ADELAIDE, CANBERRA &
MELBOURNE**

19 April – 13 May 1998

NATIONAL TOUR

by Elizabeth Barber, Professor of
Linguistics and Archaeology,
Occidental College, LA.

Lecture topics include:

The mummies of Xinjiang and
The world's oldest textiles.

Organised by:

The Asian Arts Society of
Australia

Contact: Tel: +61 2 9225 1893

MELBOURNE 20 April 1998

China Forum:

**Postsocialist Cinema in Postsocialist
China: Understanding contempo-
rary China through its film industry**

Speaker:

Mr Chris Berry, Lecturer,
Cinema Studies, La Trobe
University

Organised by:

The Australian Institute of
International Affairs

Contact: Tel: +61 3 9654 7271

SYDNEY 22 April 1998

Book Launch:

**Lodestar China by Mrs Jocelyn
Chey**

Organised by:

The Australian Institute of
International Affairs

Contact: Tel: +61 2 9247 2709

BANGKOK 23-25 April 1998

**Business Mission to coincide with
visit of PM John Howard to
Thailand**

Organised by:

Australia-Thailand Business
Council

Contact: Tel: +61 2 6273 2311

SYDNEY 25 April - 24 May 1998

Exhibition:

Wang Youshen

Organised by:

The Art Gallery of New South
Wales

Contact: Tel: +61 2 9225 1744

MELBOURNE 2 May 1998

Symposium:

**The grand heritage of Indian
architecture**

Speakers:

Hugh O'Neill, John Gollings, and
George Michell

Organised by:

The Asian Arts Society of
Australia Inc. (Victoria)

Venue:

The Conference Centre,
Meat Market Craft Centre,
42 Courtney St, Nth Melbourne

Contact:

Tel: +61 3 9326 9389

MELBOURNE 14 May 1998

Free Concert, 1.10 – 2.00 p.m.

**Japanese traditional and contempo-
rary music**

Grand Master Tajima Tadashi
(shakuhachi) is joined by Tokimura
(koto) and Anne Norman also on
shakuhachi

Venue:

Music Auditorium, Performing
Arts Centre, Monash University,
Clayton

Contact: Larry Boyd

Tel: +61 3 9905 3233

MELBOURNE 13 - 14 June 1998

**Proposed Australia Asia Young
Leaders Program Conference**

In conjunction with:

The International Herald Tribune
"Australia Summit"

Organised by:

Australia Young Leaders Program
Contact: +61 2 9210 6972

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(1-202) 833 2742
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Asia Society Representative Offices

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ASIAN ASSETS

num of Glory. A highlight of the year will be the Patron's lecture on the evening of Friday 25th September, to be given by Chinese art authority Jessica Rawson whose distinguished career includes the publication of definitive books on Chinese art, and is the author of Ancient China: Art and Archaeology, Chinese Ornament: The Lotus and the Dragon; and Chinese Jade through the Ages.

The Centre will be offering a course on the art of modern Japan to coincide with the significant exhibition Modern Boy Modern Girl, Modernity in Japan 1910-1935, the first ever exhibition to present the impact of modernity on all schools of Japanese art. In addition it will be organising small workshops on specific aspects of the collection, for example Japanese woodblock prints and Chinese ceramics.

The Centre for Asian Art Studies is a central component of the Gallery's more substantive plans for its Asian art and cultural programmes, which include the construction of a second gallery of Asian art.

Asia Society

NEW WEBSITE AT

www.asiasoc.org

The Asia Society's new site has share the award for "Best Innovative Presentation of Content" for a non-profit site with the World Wild Fund for Nature, WWF. The award was presented in February 1998. The site was described as a key extension of the Asia Society's mission to promote a constructive and informative approach on Asia. The site uses a wide range of content, including the latest Web technology to display videos of Asian artwork. It also features recent conference transcripts.