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VISHAKHA N. DESAI
Appointed President of the Asia Society

Richard C. Holbrooke, Chairman of the Asia Society Board of Trustees, announced that Vishakha N. Desai has been selected to be the Society's sixth president.



She succeeds Nicholas Platt who has retired after twelve years as president.

More detail on page 6

Visit our website at
www.asiasociety.org.au

Ambassador Nicholas Platt Asia Society President Emeritus

IN JULY of this year, Asia Society President Emeritus Ambassador Nicholas Platt travelled to Australia at the invitation of the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre. Ambassador Platt addressed Asia Foreign Policy Update Luncheons in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, as well as an AustralAsia Centre Advisory Council Dinner in Sydney and a private function at Government House, Melbourne.

Ambassador Platt drew on his considerable experience and expertise to discuss the economic development of China and India and the re-emergence of ASEAN as a cohesive force in the region. He described the shifting political landscape in Asia over the last forty years, taking in the thawing of cold war hostilities in the region, particularly between the US and China. Looking ahead he noted that a number of issues are facing the region including, sustainable development, aging populations, terrorism and HIV/AIDS.

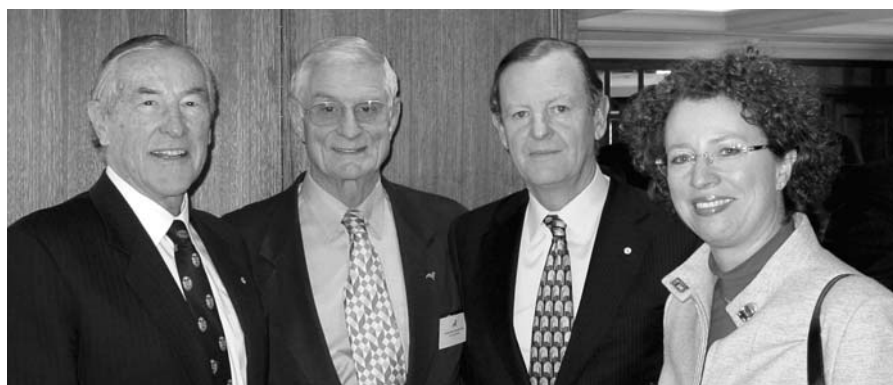
Ambassador Platt has recently retired after twelve years as President of the Asia Society. He was the fifth president of the Asia Society and has spent most of his life working on



Ambassador Nicholas Platt

relations between the US and Asia. He assumed the presidency of Asia Society in 1992 after a 34-year career as an American diplomat in Asia which culminated in service as US Ambassador to the Philippines (1987-1991) and Pakistan (1991-1992).

A transcript of Nicholas Platt's speech is available at www.asiasociety.org.au



L to R: Richard Woolcott AC, Founding Director, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre, Ambassador Nicholas Platt, President Emeritus, Asia Society, Hugh Morgan AC, Chairman and Prue Holstein, Executive Director, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre



Founding Director's Message

THE explosion outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta on 9 September, shortly before this Newsletter went to print, in which 10 Indonesians tragically died, emphasised the seriousness of the continuing terrorist challenge to Australia.

Both Indonesian Presidential Candidates, President Megawati Sukarnoputri and Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY), the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Hassan Wirayuda, the Australian Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, and the Shadow Foreign Minister, Kevin Rudd all strongly condemned the atrocity, attributed to Jamaah Islamiyah, and called for closer cooperation between the two countries in firmer action to combat terrorism.

It is important to keep this event in perspective. The overwhelming majority of Indonesia's Muslims are moderates opposed to extremists and terrorists. It is mostly Indonesians who are killed in such acts and it is the Indonesian economy, which is set back as foreign investment and tourism are affected. The Treasurer Peter Costello's words in an address to the Centre's Annual Dinner on 16 October, 2002, four days after the Bali bombings, are as relevant now as they were then. He said "security problems in Asia are security problems for Australians". Such events should "not lead to a withdrawal of Australian engagement with Indonesia... We must increase our engagement".

I believe with the recent changes of leadership in Malaysia and Singapore, recent elections in the Philippines and the coming Presidential election in Indonesia will provide, whatever the outcomes, including our election on 9 October, opportunities for a strengthening of Government to Government relations with the countries of the region.

Since our last newsletter I have made four visits to East Asia. I have given several speeches in my personal capacity and attended a number of Asia-related conferences as Founding Director of the Centre. I also accompanied Nick Platt on a productive and successful visit to Perth.

I visited Jakarta in May (12-14) to attend the Executive Briefing organised jointly by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies and the Australian National University on the coming Presidential election. The briefing was attended by four of the then six candidates, including Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, whose session I was invited to introduce. While the candidates were all opposed to the invasion and occupation of Iraq, they were not seeking to use this to generate Islamic support. Religion is not playing an important role in the elections. A peaceful successful election will also demonstrate that democracy is not incompatible with an Islamic society.

Continues Page 7

High Profile Indonesian Delegation

Private CEO Briefing Luncheon



L to R. Charlie Lenegan, Managing Director, Rio Tinto Limited, Wiryono Sastrohandoyo, former Indonesian Ambassador to Australia, Prue Holstein, and Noke Kiroyan, Chairman, Rio Tinto Indonesia

THE Asia Society AustralAsia Centre hosted Private CEO Luncheon Briefings in Sydney and Melbourne with members of a visiting Indonesian delegation to Australia. The members of the delegation included Wiryono Sastrohandoyo, former Indonesian Ambassador to Australia, Noke Kiroyan, Chairman, Rio Tinto Indonesia, Salim Said, political analyst and commentator, Yuli Ismartono, Executive Editor, *TEMPO* and Mohammad Fajrul Falaakh, authority on constitutional law. The delegation spoke broadly on the political situ-

ation. Democracy had taken root, which meant that Indonesia was less predictable but they still expected a peaceful election on 20 September. Fajrul Falaakh outlined recent moves to strengthen the legal process in Indonesia.

Asia Society member, Blake Dawson Waldron, sponsored the luncheon in Sydney on 30 August, 2004.

The event held in Melbourne on 2 September was sponsored by Asia Society member Rio Tinto Limited.

H.E. Mr Ong Keng Yong – ASEAN Secretary-General

HIS Excellency Mr Ong Keng Yong, ASEAN Secretary-General addressed an Asia Society AustralAsia Centre Foreign Policy Update Luncheon at Sheraton Towers Southgate, in Melbourne in April 2004. The luncheon was well attended by members of the business community, media, academia and the not for profit sector.

Mr Ong visited Australia as a guest of the Australian government to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Australia's dialogue partnership with ASEAN.



H.E. Mr Ong Keng Yong, ASEAN Secretary-General

He spoke on the role of ASEAN in the region and linkages with Australia. The luncheon proved to be very timely given the opportunities for re-energizing the relationship between Australia and ASEAN.

This event was co-hosted with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Victorian State Office and supported by Monash Asia Institute, Asialink, the Australian Institute of International Affairs, Australia-Malaysia Business Council, Australia-Philippines Business Council and the Australia-Thailand Business Council.

H.E. Lieutenant-General (Rtd) Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Political and Security Affairs

CURRENTLY one of the two presidential candidates in the coming Indonesian elections, H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono addressed a Private AustralAsia Centre Dinner in October, 2003. He spoke on recent developments in Indonesia, their impact on business and on opportunities for improved bilateral relations. The event was held in Melbourne in conjunction with Tasman Economics and sponsored by Asia Society member Deacons.



L to R. H.E. Lieutenant-General (Rtd) Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Richard Woolcott AC and Ian McCubbin, National Partner – China, Deacons.

Asia Society's 14th Asian Corporate Conference
12-14 May, 2004

Envisioning the World's Next Great Market: Korea and the Economic Future of Northeast Asia

Grateful thanks to Singapore Airlines for assisting the Australian Delegation to attend the Annual Corporate Conference.

KOREA'S place in the global market and the economic future of north east Asia was the focus of the Asia Society's 14th Annual Corporate Conference held in Seoul, 12-14 May, 2004.

Acting President Goh Kun gave the keynote address during the gala opening dinner of the conference which was attended by more than 600 guests from throughout Asia and the United States.

Sessions focused on the prospects for growth in the Korean economy, the extent of economic, labour market, banking and financial reform, the importance of China to a strong Korean economy, the extent of economic integration into north east Asia, the impact of North Korea on the South and beyond, and the potential for South Korea to become the hub for north east Asia.

Prominent speakers included, Ban Ki-moon, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Hun-Jai Lee, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Finance and Economy, Jung-Je Lee, Chairman, Financial Supervisory Commission, Governor, Financial Super-

visory Service, and Tae-Shin Kwon, Deputy Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Finance & Economy.

Efforts were made to reassure the conference delegates generally that the government recognised the need for flexible labour policies, the need to open up markets to ensure free competition and the need for greater transparency and accountability in the investment approval processes.

While it was generally recognised that Korea had come a long way since the crash in the late 1990s with restructuring of the chaebols, cleaning up of non-performing loans and the development of an increasingly sophisticated market, more needed to be done in order for Korea to become a true global leader operating on a true market based system.

Conference delegates were also able to benefit from the informal networking with a wide range of government officials and business leaders from countries around the region including China, India, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan and Kazakhstan.

Australia-US FTA Panel Discussion

SUBSTANTIAL developments regarding the Free Trade Agreement have occurred since the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre presented a luncheon panel discussion on 11 February 2004, on the then proposed bilateral free trade agreement between Australia and the United States. The discussions however, provided a timely overview of the issues. Held in Sydney, the panel, consisting of Alan Oxley, Chairman, Australia APEC Study Centre at Monash University, Meg McDonald, General Manager, Corporate

Affairs, Alcoa World Alumina Australia, John Edwards, Chief Economist, HSBC Australia and chaired by Hugh Morgan AC, Chairman, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre and President, Business Council of Australia, discussed the impact of the FTA on investment.

Corporate sponsors included ANZ Banking Group, Henry Davis York Lawyers and supporters included the American Chamber of Commerce and the Australian Institute of International Affairs (NSW Chapter).



From left to right: Alan Oxley, Chairman, APEC Study Centre, Monash University, Meg McDonald, General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Alcoa World Alumina Australia, Hugh Morgan AC, Chairman, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre and John Edwards, Chief Economist, HSBC Australia



From the
Executive
Director

THE Asia Society AustralAsia Centre has been greatly heartened to see the steady and continuing increase in Australian interest and investment activity in the Asian region over the last two years.

The growing business interest in Asia in particular, has been reflected in the continuing strong programme that the Centre has been able to offer to our membership of government and business leaders visiting from the region and the increased numbers of attendees at those programmes. The Centre has also witnessed a strong growth in subscriptions with a number of new corporate members joining in recent months. We are delighted to welcome Blake Dawson Waldron, Business Council of Australia, City of Melbourne, Clayton Utz, Credit Suisse First Boston, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, JP Morgan Chase Bank, Minter Ellison, Macquarie University, Securrency Pty Ltd, Shell Australia, Transfield Holdings Pty Ltd, The University of NSW, The University of Western Australia and United Airlines.

In the past year the Centre's programming has focused on China with the visits of the President of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Lu Qiutian, the Chairman, Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation, David Eldon, the Managing Director, Morgan Stanley Asia based in Beijing, Jonathan Zhu, Australia's Ambassador to China, H.E. Dr Alan Thomas, the visit of the Asia Society's President Emeritus, Ambassador Nicholas Platt and the Centre hosting two prominent Chinese writers at the recent Melbourne Writers' Festival – Xinran Xue and Xiaolu Guo.

The Centre has also raised the number of programmes with a focus on India, as increasing numbers of the Centre's members recognise the potential of the growing Indian economy.

The Centre also continued to ensure the importance of Australia's relationships with other countries of the region were not obscured by the rise of the importance of China to Australia, through hosting business and cultural programmes with dignitaries visiting from Japan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Philippines, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and the United States of America.

A complete list of the Centre's programmes for 2003-2004 is available on the Centre's website along with selected speeches at www.asiasociety.org.au.

The Centre also had the pleasure of taking a delegation of its corporate members to attend the Asia Society's 14th Annual Corporate Conference held this year in Seoul, Korea.

Prue Holdstein

Australian Ambassador to China

HIS EXCELLENCY Dr Alan Thomas, Australian Ambassador to China addressed an Asia Foreign Policy Update luncheon in July 2004, at the Park Hyatt Hotel Melbourne. There was great support for this luncheon by Asia Society members, many of who took a table at the event, including Deutsche Bank AG, ANZ, National Australia Bank, Allens Arthur Robinson and Alcoa World Alumina Australia. Dr Thomas spoke on the impact of China's continuing eco-



nomical boom on Australia and the region. We are grateful to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Victorian State Office for co-hosting this luncheon.

A transcript of Dr Alan Thomas' speech is available at www.asiasociety.org.au

CHINA BRIEFING – Sydney

Visit by President Hu Jintao

By Richard Woolcott AC, Founding Director

AS the Founding Director of the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre, I was invited to attend the small closed briefing with President Hu Jintao, arranged by the President of the Australia China Business Council and Executive Director of Macquarie Bank, The Hon Warwick Smith in Sydney on 23 October, 2003.

Hu Jintao, speaking through an interpreter, said that since the end of the seventies, China had maintained "rapid" and "sustained" economic growth. This was due to the policies of promoting gaige (reform) and kaifang (opening up). Over the last decade economic growth had averaged 9.4% a year. It was essential to continue to raise living standards in China as, although it was developing rapidly, it was doing so from a low base.

China's sustained growth would provide on going opportunities for an expansion of trade with Australia. Bilateral trade had increased 120 times since diplomatic relations were established in December 1972.

The President emphasised the following four areas of cooperation between Australia and China in the future:

- we should expand our cooperation in traditional sectors, such as energy and resources;
- we should also diversify our economic cooperation into other areas, including services, as Chinese living standards rose;
- there could be new opportunities for Australia through China's development programs in its regions, for example, in the implementation of China's "go West strategy"; and
- it was necessary to "step up the dialogue on economic cooperation and expansion of trade" (a reference to the proposed discussions leading to a trade framework agreement).

President Hu concluded his remarks with the comment that he intended during his visit to "send a strong signal on behalf of the Chinese Government", that it wanted "increased economic cooperation and trade" between China and Australia.

Further commentary on President Hu Jintao's Briefing continues page 7

The Hon Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan

THE HON Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan, Parliamentarian and Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan visited Melbourne in August 2004 to address an Asia Society Foreign Policy Update Luncheon and launch a recently published book titled, *Regional Security in the Asia Pacific: 9/11 and After* by Monash University specialists on security. The event was co-hosted with the Monash Asia Institute.



Mr Ahsan delivered an impassioned and authoritative overview of the security situation in Pakistan and its implications and effects on the region, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mr Ahsan was critical of the Bush Administration's heavy handed military approach to the war on Iraq and Afghanistan, he sees the way forward in political solutions, multilateralism and the strengthening of civil society. Mr Ahsan's visit generated considerable interest in both the print and television media, coverage was received in *The Age*, ABC Radio, Radio National and the ABC's *Asia Pacific News Bulletin*.

Ambassador to the United Nations

ON 19 January 2004, H.E. Mr John Dauth LVO, Australian Ambassador to the United Nations, New York addressed an Asia Society Foreign Policy Update Luncheon in Sydney. His address was a wide ranging discussion of the Asia Pacific and the United Nations from the perspective of the Australian Ambassador. The event was co-hosted with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, NSW State Office.



L to R: Hertomo Reksodiputro, Consul-General, Consulate-General of the Republic of Indonesia, Richard Woolcott AC, H.E. Imron Cotan, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia at the luncheon for H.E. John Dauth LVO, Sydney

Professor Shamsul A.B.



THE ASIA Society AustralAsia Centre was delighted to work in partnership with the Centre for Malaysian Studies and the Monash Asia Institute to present an Asia Foreign Policy Update with Professor Shamsul A.B., Director of ATMA and IKON at the National University of Malaysia.

Professor Shamsul addressed an audience of 80 people at the Monash University City Campus in June. His address was titled, 'Separating Substance from Rhetoric: Malaysia's new Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi – early days in office.' Shamsul, a well known commentator on Malaysian current affairs, delivered an impressive overview of the policies of Prime Minister Badawi, focusing on what differentiates him from the previous Prime Minister, Mahathir.

David Eldon

Chairman, The Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited and Director, HSBC Holdings plc

ON 3 February 2004, Mr David Eldon, Chairman, The Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited and Director, HSBC Holdings plc addressed an Asia CEO Update Luncheon, held in Sydney. The luncheon attracted strong support from corporate members of the AustralAsia Centre including Deacons, Telstra, and Goldman Sachs JBWere.



David Eldon, Chairman, The Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited and Director, HSBC Holdings plc

Mr Eldon drew upon his considerable experience, to speak on the realities of doing business in China.

The luncheon was held in partnership with the Hong Kong-Australia Business Association, supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, and was sponsored by HSBC Australia.

Mr Alasdair Morrison

Chairman and CEO, Morgan Stanley Asia



L to R. Alasdair Morrison, Denis Davies, Melbourne Head of Office, Freehills, Eric Mayne, Managing Partner Practice, Mallesons Stephens Jaques

ALASDAIR Morrison, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Morgan Stanley Asia addressed an Asia Society audience in November 2003, at the Australian Club, Melbourne. The private luncheon provided guests with an excellent opportunity to hear a former Taipan's perspective on Hong Kong, China and the Asian region. The luncheon was sponsored by Morgan Stanley Australia Limited.

Jonathan Zhu

Managing Director, Morgan Stanley Asia

AFTER HIS planned visit to Sydney in March this year was cancelled due to sandstorms grounding his plane in Beijing, Mr Jonathan Zhu, Managing Director, Morgan Stanley Asia addressed an Asia CEO Update luncheon in August 2004, at the Four Seasons Hotel Sydney. Addressing a senior business audience, Mr Zhu provided a timely update on the financial markets in China, including the developing mergers and acquisitions market. The luncheon was supported by the Australia China Business Council and the International Banks and Securities Association of Australia.

Ambassador Lu Qiutian

President, Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs



Hugh Morgan AC, Chairman, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre and Ambassador Lu Qiutian, President, Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs

AMBASSADOR Lu addressed a Private CEO Briefing Luncheon in May 2004, in Melbourne. He discussed the potential for economic cooperation and cultural exchanges between Australia and China. The luncheon briefing was sponsored by Morgan Stanley Australia Limited and supported by the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China, Melbourne.

Dr Twatchai Yongkittikul

Secretary General, the Thai Banker's Association and Adviser to the Minister of Finance, Thailand

DR TWATCHAI visited Australia as a guest of the Australian Government and spoke at an Asia Society Private CEO Briefing Luncheon in Melbourne in December 2003, at the Sheraton Towers Southgate. He discussed the state of Asian economies, the World Trade Organisation and the Australia Thailand Free Trade Agreement. This briefing was supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and sponsored by Sheraton Towers Southgate.



Charles Goode AC, Chairman, ANZ Banking Group and Dr Twatchai Yongkittikul

Private CEO Briefings

Dr V J Kelkar

Adviser to the Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance, Government of India



Asia Society AustralAsia Centre Advisory Council Member and Chairman of the Australia-India Council, Mr Michael Abbott QC with Dr V J Kelkar at a Private CEO Briefing Luncheon, Melbourne, 29 April 2004

DR V J Kelkar addressed the topic of India on the threshold of a 'Golden Age of Growth' and focused on the economic reforms being currently undertaken in India and the anticipated growth rate for the Indian economy in the future. The luncheon held in Melbourne in April 2004, was generously sponsored by the Monash Asia Institute and supported by the Australia-India Council.

Ryuichiro Yamazaki

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for International Trade and Economy, Japan

THE Asia Society was delighted to host Mr Yamazaki the current Chief Negotiator for the World Trade Organisation negotiations for Japan in both Sydney and Melbourne.

Mr Yamazaki is also Chief Negotiator for the Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations with Mexico and adjunct Professor of RMIT University.

The luncheon in Melbourne in April 2004, was sponsored by RMIT University and supported by the Consulate-General of Japan (Victoria). In Sydney, the luncheon was sponsored by Blake Dawson Waldron and supported by the Consulate-General of Japan (NSW) and the Australia Japan Business Cooperation Committee.



Ryuichiro Yamazaki

Cultural Events

The Age Melbourne Writers' Festival 2004

Xinran Xue and Xiaolu Guo A Bifocal Interview

THE ASIA Society AustralAsia Centre has been a proud supporter of the Age Melbourne Writers' Festival since 2000. The Centre's aim has been to highlight the work and voices of Asian and Asian-Australian authors by sponsoring and co-hosting a number of panel discussions canvassing issues such as cross-cultural identity, myth, politics and gender. This year's compelling event, 'A Bifocal Interview', did not disappoint our supporters and regulars. Author and agent provocateur Linda Jaivin, interviewed authors Xinran Xue and Xiaolu Guo, steering the discussion over the rocky terrain of topics such as life and writing inside and outside China.

The irrepressible Jaivin is familiar to the Asia Society, having presented her own book *The Monkey and the Dragon* at an Asia Society 'Meet the Author' event in 2001. Jaivin succeeded in creating an intimate atmosphere in the Merlyn Theatre, CUB Malthouse, allowing authors Xinran and Xiaolu to reveal their thoughts and motivations for writing. Xinran Xue, who delighted audiences in 2002, returned to the Festival to discuss her recent book *Sky Burial*, joining her was Xiaolu Guo, a filmmaker by trade and author of some six novels. Xiaolu's book *Village of Stone*, which she discussed in the interview, is her first to be published in English.



From left to right. Prue Holstein, Xinran Xue, Xiaolu Guo and Linda Jaivin at the 2004 Age Melbourne Writers' Festival, 22 August 2004

Continued from Page 1

New Asia Society President

The AustralAsia Centre welcomes the appointment of Dr Vishakha N. Desai as President of the Asia Society

SINCE 1990 when she was named the Director of the Galleries, Dr. Desai has had a distinguished career at the Asia Society, where she has assumed major roles and responsibilities, her most recent being Senior Vice President and Director of the Museum and Cultural Programs.

Vishakha N. Desai received her B.A. from Bombay University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. The recipient of numerous grants and fellowships, Dr. Desai has also published extensively on traditional Indian and contemporary Asian art.

Asia Society Chairman, Ambassador Holbrooke remarked, "Dr. Desai's appointment as president represents a series of exhilarating firsts. Through her thirteen years of personal and professional dedication to our organization, she brings an unprecedented understanding of arts and culture in the broader social, political, and economic context. Dr. Desai's strengths and vision combined make her the ideal leader for this important and dynamic organization."

Continued from Page 2

Founding Director's Message

I attended, together with our Chairman, Hugh Morgan, the Australian American leadership Dialogue in Washington from 10–12 June. It provided excellent networking opportunities with senior officials from the former Clinton and the present Bush Administrations, including Richard Armitage. I spoke on the impact of American policies on countries in South East Asia, including Indonesia.

I participated in the National Forum on Australia's Engagement with Asia, also with our Chairman, in Canberra on 13 August, organised by the ANU and Asialink. Prime Minister Howard and Shadow Foreign Minister Rudd addressed the Forum. It was notable that their stated post-election policy objectives in Asia were close. There was a consensus at the Forum that while 11 September had drawn Australia closer to the United States, it had not changed our location in the world and our need to maintain balanced foreign and security policies. It was also emphasised that regional cooperation in com-

bating terrorism was increasingly important. However, other major issues such as the spectacular economic growth of China and India, regional security matters, in particular the North Korean problem and China/ Taiwan, and the further development of regional institutions such as APEC and ASEAN must be accorded equal importance.

I also attended a worthwhile conference, organised by the Lowy Institute and the International Peace Academy in Sydney from 2–4 September on Asian Approaches to Peace and Security. Much of the emphasis was on the potential of problems related to Taiwan, North Korea, Kashmir, terrorism and the Spratley Islands dispute to cause instability in the region.

It is clear that Australia will face a substantial agenda of major issues in Asia in 2005. Hopefully, the Centre will be able to make, with the continued support of our benefactors and sponsors, a constructive if modest contribution through its programs.



Continued from Page 4

President Hu Jintao's Briefing

By Richard Woolcott AC, Founding Director

Commentary

China's surging economy offers opportunities for increased trade and economic cooperation. Apart from his firm and uncompromising position on Taiwan as an inalienable part of China and a rejection of any external interference in China's internal affairs – attitudes which he emphasised in his address to the Australian Parliament on 24 October – Hu's generally more subtle and accommodating diplomacy was intended to dispel any previous concerns in the region and to demonstrate that China wanted to cooperate more closely with its East Asian neighbours. (At the APEC meeting in Bangkok, for example, Hu had projected China as an essentially benign neighbour and had suggested a free trade agreement with the ten ASEAN member countries by 2015).

I consider President Hu was also trying to draw an unstated and subtle contrast with the United States' preoccupation with Iraq and its own primarily anti-terrorist agenda. He also did this in Canberra with, I believe, considerable success on the day after the briefing.

AustralAsia Centre

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Asia Society AustralAsia Centre Programme Calendar

MELBOURNE

Private CEO Briefing Luncheon

By invitation only
Dr Victor Fung,
Chairman, Li & Fung Group
and Chairman, Hong Kong
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The Australasian Club
Melbourne

Sponsored by Morgan
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14 October 2004
For more information
Contact: (03) 9650 0998

MELBOURNE

Asia CEO Update Luncheon

'Investment Opportunities
in Japan',
Mr David Baffsky AO,
Chairman, Accor Asia
Pacific Corp Limited
Sofitel Melbourne
25 Collins Street
Melbourne
19 October 2004
For more information
Contact: (03) 9650 0998

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NEW YORK

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For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NEW YORK

Exhibition

When Gold Blossoms –
Indian Jewellery from the
Susan L. Beringson
Collection
Asia Society & Museum
725 Park Avenue, NY
14 Sept – 10 Dec
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

WASHINGTON D.C.

Lecture

Thailand and the United
States: Two Centuries of
Partnership with Dr.
Surakiart Sathirathai,
Foreign Minister of
Thailand
Mandarin Oriental Hotel,
1330 Maryland Avenue,
SW, Washington
20 September
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NEW YORK

Study Mission

TeachAsia Course –
Understanding Islam in
Asia: Basic Concepts
Asia Society & Museum
725 Park Avenue, NY
20 September – 24 January
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

TEXAS

Meet the Author

Queen of Dreams
by Chitra Divakaruni
Brazos Bookstore, 2421
Bissonnete, Houston Texas
21 September
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

HONG KONG

Discussion

China's Economy: Will
There Be a Soft Landing?
with Fan Gang
Ritz Carlton Hotel, Chater
Rooms 1 & 2, 3 Connaught
Road, Hong Kong
22 September
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NEW YORK

Evening Meeting

K. Natwar Singh, Minister
for External Affairs, India
Asia Society & Museum
725 Park Avenue, NY
27 September
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NEW YORK

Breakfast

Meeting with HE Kamal
Kharrazi, Minister for
Foreign Affairs, Islamic
Republic of Iran
Asia Society & Museum
725 Park Avenue, NY
28 September
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NEW YORK

Citigroup Asian Distinguished Leaders Series

Luncheon with H.E. Dr.
Surakiart Sathirathai,
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of Thailand
Asia Society & Museum
725 Park Avenue, NY
30 September
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NEW YORK

Citigroup CEO Forum Series

Charles Prince, CEO,
Citigroup
Asia Society & Museum
725 Park Avenue, NY
14 October
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NEW YORK

Exhibition

Asian Games – The Art of
Contest
Asia Society & Museum
725 Park Avenue, NY
14 October – 16 January
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NEW YORK

Luncheon

Prospects for Investment in
China's Subregional
Economic Zones,
Keynote address by
Vincent Lo Hong Sui, CEO
of Shui On Group
Collaboration with
Hong Kong Association of
New York

Asia Society & Museum
725 Park Avenue, NY
15 October
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NEW YORK

Symposium

From Dice to Go: Asian
Games Through the Ages
Asia Society & Museum
725 Park Avenue, NY
16 October
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Public Forum

The Global Challenge of
Human Security: Lessons
on Environmental Justice
from Asia
500 Washington Street,
Suite 350, San Francisco
20 October
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Public Forum

New Hope for India:
Leadership in the Fight
Against AIDS
500 Washington Street,
Suite 350, San Francisco
25 October
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NEW YORK

Lecture

Economics of Outsourcing
to Asia – Keynote Address
by Catherine Mann
Asia Society & Museum
725 Park Avenue, NY
29 October
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NEW YORK

Citigroup Asian Distinguished Leaders Series

Sadako Ogata, President,
Japan International
Cooperation Agency;
Former UN High
Commissioner for
Human Rights
Asia Society & Museum
725 Park Avenue, NY
10 November
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NEW YORK

Citigroup CEO Forum Series

Hari Bhartia, Co-Chairman
and Managing Director,
Jubliant Organosys Ltd.
Asia Society & Museum
725 Park Avenue, NY
16 November
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NEW YORK

APEC 2004

Breakfast Briefing
Latin America/ Asia Pacific
economic integration
and/or results from the
APEC CEO Forum
Asia Society & Museum
725 Park Avenue, NY
25 February
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

NEW YORK

Special Event

India and the United
States: A Post-Election
Prognosis – Brooks
Entwistle, India/Asia
Analyst, Goldman Sachs.
In collaboration with World
Policy Institute.
World Policy Institute
2 December
For more information
www.asiasociety.org

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