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SAVE THE DATE

Asia Society AustralAsia Centre Panel at the Age Melbourne Writers' Festival 2005

Saturday 27 August 2005
CUB Malthouse Melbourne

For further details visit...

www.mwf.com.au

For further details about the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre events and membership please visit our website at...

www.asiasociety.org.au

AustralAsia Centre Welcomes Asian Leaders

THE CENTRE has been particularly busy this year. It is operating in an active and competitive environment in which the Howard Government faces a formidable foreign, trade and security policy agenda during its fourth term, much of it Asia-related.

This Asian agenda includes managing Australia's response to the extraordinary economic growth of China and its consequent increased political influence, the opportunity to build on the recently improved perceptions of Australia in Asia, especially in Indonesia and Malaysia, reinvigorating our relationship with Japan, responding to the opportunities created by India's accelerating growth, strengthening our role in APEC and increasing our political as well as our economic links with ASEAN.

Attendance at the East Asian Summit in Kuala Lumpur in December would be of value to ASEAN itself because of the strength of our economy. It would also be of great benefit in terms of Australia's engagement with Asia, but this will entail acceding to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, an issue which the government is currently addressing. All these activities have led to a greater focus on Asia and a considerable increase in high level visits to Australia which has provided opportunities for the Centre.

Three recent addresses by President Yudhoyono, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and President Musharraf at events organized by the Centre showed that these heads of Government of three major Islamic countries, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan, lead moderate reformist governments, which are opposed to terrorism and extremism and which promote religious toleration.

Continues Page 4...



His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia



The Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia



His Excellency Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of Vietnam



His Excellency General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Asia Society



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AustralAsia Centre Newsletter



Founding Director's Message

THE CHAIRMAN of the Asia Society, Richard Holbrooke, held a meeting to discuss the Society's response to the tsunami tragedy at which I was able to represent the Centre during a private visit to New York in January. A separate meeting with Dr Henry Kissinger to discuss developments in Asia was also useful. He expressed concern about the possible impact of the situation in Iraq on attitudes towards the United States in some Asian countries.

Since our last newsletter there were a number of opportunities to give speeches on our engagement with Asia, including to the Australian Institute of International Affairs at the UWA and to the Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy at the ANU. On 30 March I called on the recently appointed Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Michael L'Estrange and briefed him on the activities of the Centre. I did not attend the 30th Williamsburg Conference in Cambodia having argued that it was time for new blood. This was provided by the Shadow Foreign Minister, Kevin Rudd, a member of our Advisory Council, who attended for the first time.

In May, the Future Summit 2005 provided a useful opportunity to speak and chair the session on Defining Asia, which included Parliamentarians from Japan, Indonesia, India and Singapore.

During a visit to Perth in April, I was able to update our Corporate Sponsors, including Alcoa and UWA, as well as members of our Advisory Council, including the State Governor of Western Australia, John Sanderson on the work of the Centre. On 31 March, our Chairman, Hugh Morgan, Executive Director, Prue Holstein and I attended a dinner in Sydney hosted by the Lowy Institute, at which the Prime Minister made a major speech focusing on our relations with China, South East Asia and the United States.

On 6 June in Singapore, I called on Lee Hsien Loong for the first time since he became Prime Minister in 2004. He said relations between Australia and Singapore were good, although it was important that the issue of Singapore Airlines' access to the trans-Pacific route was addressed by the Australian Government.

Also in June, the Chairman, Executive Director and I visited Bangkok for the Asia Society's Corporate Conference, including a meeting of the Trustees and International Councillors. The conference involves some follow up for me, on a more effective role for International Councillors and a possible Asia Society caravan tour of Indonesia in 2006.

At Asialink's invitation, I addressed its 2005 Leadership program, a selected group of 38 persons, at the ANU on 21 June on Australia's engagement with Asia. I also represented the Centre at the APEC Study Centre Advisory meeting on 28 June.

It has been a very active period since our last newsletter, resulting in substantial demands on the Centre's small staff to which they have responded admirably. With the continued support of our benefactors and sponsors, we are confident the Centre will maintain a high level of activity for the rest of this year and continue to contribute to the deepening of understanding in the Australian community of Asian countries and cultures.

R. Holbrooke

Dr Victor K Fung



Prue Holstein,
Asia Society
AustralAsia Centre,
Hugh Morgan AC,
Asia Society
AustralAsia Centre,
Dr Victor Fung,
Li & Fung Group of
Companies &
Harrison Young,
Morgan Stanley
Australia

THE AUSTRALASIA Centre was delighted to welcome Asia Society International Councillor Dr Victor Fung of the Li & Fung Group of Companies, who spoke at a Private CEO Briefing Breakfast last October in Melbourne.

Dr Fung is also the Chairman of the Hong Kong Airport Authority, Hong Kong University Council and the Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council. He is also a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

During the breakfast briefing, Dr Fung provided a timely update on the

economic prospects of Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta. Whilst acknowledging the growing importance of direct investment in China, Dr Fung asserted that the enduring issues in Chinese business – developing legal structures and improving transparency as well as managing pollution and other ecological issues – mean that Hong Kong still has an important role to play in the region.

The breakfast was supported by the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office and sponsored by Morgan Stanley Australia.

Thailand-Australia Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA)

Mr Satit Sirirangkamon, Secretary-General, Thailand Board of Investment spoke on the Thailand-Australia Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA) and investment in Thailand at a Private CEO Briefing in Melbourne in April.

The briefing was held in conjunction with the Australia – Thailand Business Council and sponsored by Minter Ellison

Views from the APEC Leaders Summit

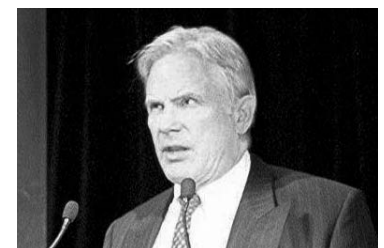
Professor Kenneth Morgan, Visiting Professor of Entrepreneurship & Innovation at the University of Western Australia shared his views on the Summit with Asia Society members at a luncheon briefing in Melbourne in December. Professor Morgan is also the Centre's newly appointed Perth representative.

The luncheon was sponsored by Allens Arthur Robinson.



Professor Kenneth Morgan, University of
Western Australia

His Excellency Mr John McCarthy AO



H.E. Mr John McCarthy AO

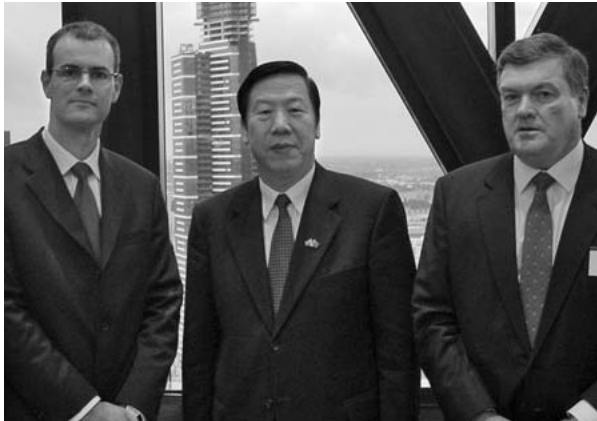
H.E. Mr John McCarthy AO, High Commissioner to India (designate) and former Ambassador to Japan, addressed a Private CEO Briefing in Sydney in November. He spoke on the growing importance of India and of the increasing opportunities to engage with India, especially for the business community.

The luncheon briefing was held in conjunction with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was sponsored by Macquarie Bank.

Dai Xianglong, Mayor of Tianjin

DAI Xianglong, Mayor of Tianjin, spoke recently in Melbourne to 40 corporate members at a Private CEO Breakfast Briefing. Mayor Dai and his delegation were in Melbourne to celebrate the 25th anniversary of sister city relations as a guest of the City of Melbourne (Asia Society Corporate Patron). Mayor Dai, the immediate past governor of

the People's Republic of China, is a member of the CCP Central Committee and is regarded by many as one of China's future leaders. Mayor Dai was able to update the audience not only on investment opportunities in Tianjin but on banking and the economy. The breakfast was sponsored by ANZ.



Elmer Funke
Kupper, ANZ,
Dai Xianglong,
Mayor of
Tianjin
& Dr Bob
Edgar, ANZ

Kevin Magee, Australian Consul-General to Guangzhou

KEVIN Magee addressed a Private CEO Luncheon in June 2005 on the Guangdong Province, Pearl River and Greater Pearl River Delta. He stressed the importance of the Pearl River and Greater Pearl River Delta for Foreign Direct Investment and exports. Guangdong Province is the single biggest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment of any province in China and 20 percent of Australia's trade with China is with this province. Short

term concerns for China are trade barriers, relations with Japan and currency reforms. Problems in the longer term could arise from: disparities between rich and poor; coastal and inland areas; national unity; corruption; and the emergence of a growing middle class with political demands.

The briefing was held in conjunction with the Australia-China Business Council.



Jim Short, Australia-China Business Council, Kevin Magee, Consul-General to Guangzhou, Prue Holstein, Asia Society & Lyall Howard, Rio Tinto



From the Executive Director

I WOULD like to draw your attention to two matters of significance to the AustralAsia Centre. **Firstly**, 2004-2005 has seen the confirmation of the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre as the most senior level platform in Australia for visiting Asian leaders.

This year the Centre has hosted the President of Indonesia, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Prime Minister of Vietnam and the President of Pakistan. In addition the Centre has also hosted the Mayor of Tianjin, Dai Xianlong, Dr Victor Fung, Li & Fung Group of Companies and the Indonesian Minister of Trade, amongst others.

In presenting this year's programme of Asian leaders and decision makers, the Centre has partnered with like-minded organizations to not only produce a forum that delivers access and profile to the key players but also reaches as broad a business audience as possible. The Centre has also been pleased to be able to partner with its corporate members. We thank all our partners and sponsors for their support during this financial year.

Secondly, I wanted to report briefly on a key outcome of the recent Asia Society Trustees Meeting convened just prior to the Asia Society's 15th Annual Corporate Conference in Bangkok in June. The Chairman, Founding Director and the Executive Director all attended the meeting.

Over the last twelve months, the Asia Society has been working with McKinseys to review its strategic direction.

The Asia Society has been seen from its New York headquarters as essentially an American institution dedicated to the education of Americans about Asian countries and cultures with each of the regional centres conducting programming independent of Head Office. The AustralAsia Centre's role has been to leverage the long-established reputation and networks of the Asia Society to broaden interest and understanding in Australia of Asian countries and their politics, business and culture.

Presentations made at the Trustees Meeting by a number of International Councillors and Asian-based Trustees identified two major developments in the Asian region in recent times. Intra-Asian trade has grown 60% in contrast to intra-European trade, which had only grown 26% in the same period. The point was also made that whereas the theatre of strategic conflict had traditionally been European focused and could now be said to be Middle East focused, in the future the Asian region could become the new focus of tensions.

With the growth in importance of the Asian region, there was, in their opinion, an opportunity for the Asia Society to strengthen its role in fostering intra-Asian dialogue through more active leveraging of its Asian regional centers in Hong Kong, Melbourne/Sydney, Manila and those soon to be in Shanghai and Mumbai.

An important outcome of this process has therefore been the acceptance of the importance of the regional centers to the Asia Society as a whole in bringing Asian peoples together in an environment in which mutual understanding can be fostered. It was also acknowledged that for members of the Centres, **becoming insiders into what is happening not only in the United States but also what is happening in countries within the Asian region other than their own would be an important outcome.**

The Asia Society AustralAsia Centre is pleased to be a member of the Asia Society which today regards itself as a Global Institution.

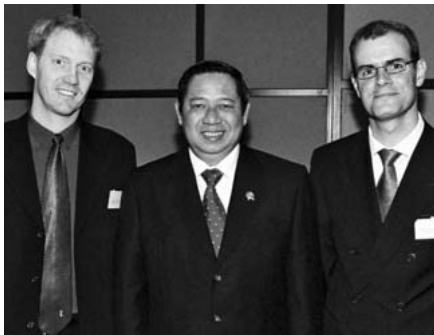
Prue Holstein

...Continued from Page 1

AustralAsia Centre Welcomes Asian Leaders

This has contributed to a better understanding of Islam in the Australian community.

April to June was a period of intense activity as the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre hosted four Asian leaders on their visits to Australia. Each addressed a senior business audience and provided valuable insights into the relationships between their countries and Australia.



H.E. Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia with Breakfast Benefactors, Andrew Wilson, BHP Billiton Indonesia & Elmer Funke Kupper, ANZ

Indonesia

In April, His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia, spoke at a Foreign Policy Update Breakfast in Sydney. The President, who last spoke at an Asia Society event in Melbourne in 2003, when he was the Coordinating Minister for Political and Security Issues, addressed two main issues in his speech. Indonesia was "moving forward, steadily but surely" in its democratic transition, in the growth of its economy, and in its resilient response to its recent spate of natural disasters.

The President also stressed the improvement in Indonesia-Australia relations. He touched on the Comprehensive Partnership, which he signed with the Australian



The Hon. Bob Hawke AC, Blanche d'Alpuget & Dr Hassan Wirajuda, Foreign Minister, Indonesia



Dinner Benefactor, Nicholas Moore, Macquarie Bank with The Hon Dato' Seri Abdullah Badawi, Hugh Morgan AC, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre & The Hon Warwick Smith, Macquarie Bank

Prime Minister during his visit, and emphasized the importance of cultural and educational exchanges in developing government-to-government and business-to-business relations. Finally, he described the legal and policy changes that the Indonesian government has made to improve the investment climate and reduce the costs of doing business in Indonesia. The breakfast, which was attended by over 300 guests, was presented in conjunction with the Australia-Indonesia Business Council.

Malaysia

Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, provided a contrasting viewpoint in a Foreign Policy Update Dinner, held in Sydney in the same week as the breakfast for the President of Indonesia.

The Prime Minister's speech stressed the Islamic dimension to Malaysian politics and its economy and also shed light on "Islam Hadhari": his government's progressive approach towards Malaysia's multi-racial and multi-religious society. Islam Hadhari posits a number of fundamental Islamic principles, but does so in a way which is acceptable to non-Muslim members of the population and the government.

The Prime Minister, who is also the chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (a grouping of 57 countries), explained Islam Hadhari in terms of Malaysia's "process of continuous learning and renewal", as well as being a fundamentally democratic approach which promotes critical dialogue between the Muslim and the non-Muslim world. He stressed the importance of education and trade in overcoming poverty, extremism, and fundamentalism, and reinforced the significance of the relationship between Malaysia and Australia in this context.



Zeke Solomon, Allens Arthur Robinson with Robert Salteri, Tenix Defence & Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia

Peter Wilson, BlueScope Steel Vietnam presenting gift to H.E. Phan Van Khai Prime Minister of Vietnam





Mark Fraser, Frasers Incorporating Freehills Practice in Vietnam, Richard Woolcott AC, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre, H.E. Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of Vietnam, Prue Holstein, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre & Peter Wilson, BlueScope Steel Vietnam

Vietnam

In May, the Prime Minister of Vietnam, His Excellency Phan Van Khai, addressed a senior audience of over 40 Asia Society members at a Private CEO Dinner Briefing held in Canberra.



Luncheon Benefactor, Phillip Aiken, BHP Billiton with Hugh Morgan AC, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre & H.E. General Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan

Sponsored by BlueScope Steel and Frasers Law Company incorporating Freehills in Vietnam, the briefing was an excellent opportunity for the audience to speak frankly with the Prime Minister and several ministers including the Minister of Education and Training and the Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Planning and Investment, Public Security, and Defence.

Mohammad Aslam, Habib Finance Australia with H.E. General Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan

Pakistan

In June, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency General Pervez Musharraf, addressed a large gathering of senior representatives from the business, government and community sectors with a 40 minute speech in Sydney. In his first visit to Australia, the President spoke frankly about the challenges and opportunities that Pakistan currently faces and detailed his government's responses to issues like the rebuilding of Afghanistan, the global threat of terrorism, resolving the long-standing conflict over Kashmir, and India-Pakistan relations. The president also touched on his well-known "two-pronged approach" of "enlightened moderation": on the one hand urging Muslims to reject extremism and embrace moderation, while simultaneously exhorting the West to study and find solutions to issues that have been at the root of "deep suffering and anger among Muslims" for many years, especially the Israel-Palestine problem.



H.E. General Pervez Musharraf with Ahmed Massod, FirePower Pakistan & Tim Johnson, FirePower Group

Lastly, the President underscored Pakistan's eagerness to strengthen its relations with its neighbours in the Southeast Asia and Asia Pacific regions and the need to reinvigorate bilateral cooperation between Australia and Pakistan, especially in the economic sense.

The Centre wishes to thank its members and table sponsors who contributed so generously to the success of these events, as well as the Ambassador of Indonesia, the High Commissioners for Malaysia and Pakistan and the Charge d'Affaires of Vietnam, for their cooperation and assistance.

The AustralAsia Centre also wishes to thank the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Austrade for their assistance.

The text of the speeches by the President of Indonesia, Prime Minister of Malaysia and President of Pakistan are available at www.asiasociety.org.au



Asia Society AustralAsia Centre Annual Dinner 2005

THE ASIA Society AustralAsia Centre's 2005 Annual Dinner was held on 15 February at the Sofitel Wentworth Sydney. The guest of honour was Mr Yotaro Kobayashi, Chairman of the Board, Fuji Xerox Limited.

In his speech, "Revitalised and Resurgent: Japan's New Business Climate", Mr Kobayashi addressed the structural changes which he believes will lead to an upswing in Japan's economic and business climate, and particularly touched on changes in the



Yotaro Kobayashi, Fuji Xerox Limited
with AustralAsia Centre Advisory Councillor,
Kathryn Greiner

banking sectors which have made Japanese business more internationally competitive and stimulated the growth of the venture capital business. He stressed that this "stronger, more flexible" economy has created many new opportunities for Australian business to explore Japanese markets.

Expanding on this, Mr Kobayashi also touched on the bilateral relationships between Australia and Japan, as well as China and Japan, and spent some time discussing the rise of China. He also compared the American and Japanese educational systems, and emphasized the need for Japanese education to become more flexible and practical, in order to create "how-to oriented" people, better equipped to deal with business in the international context.

The Centre is grateful to all its members and table sponsors for their support of the Annual Dinner. We would like to extend special thanks to Dinner Benefactors, Accor Asia Pacific and Ernst & Young.

The text of Mr Yotaro Kobayashi's speech is available at www.asiasociety.org.au.



Dinner Benefactor, Andy Lang of Ernst & Young, Yotaro Kobayashi of Fuji Xerox Limited & Dinner Benefactor, John Hickey of Accor Asia Pacific

Asia Society's 15th Asian Corporate Conference, Bangkok, 8 – 10 June, 2005

Southeast Asia Rising: A Region Booming Among Asia's Economic Giants

THE ASIA Society AustralAsia Centre combined forces with the Australia-Thailand Business Council to lead a delegation of 20 to the Asia Society's 15th Annual Corporate Conference held in Bangkok, 8-10 June 2005.

A range of issues affecting Southeast Asia's growth potential and the region's economic future were explored. Panel topics included Thailand's economic resurgence

as a sustainable growth model, Southeast Asia's energy and infrastructure needs, trade liberalisation and foreign investment in Southeast Asia's key sectors, enhanced economic partnerships between India and southeast Asia and implications of China's rise and Japan's recovery.

The conference also served as a forum for government and business leaders to come together and focus on the on-going needs of the areas affected by the Indian Ocean Tsunami Disaster and the need for international cooperation in the reconstruction effort.

The conference was opened by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and was attended by 1,000 business and government officials from around the Asia Pacific region.

Other speakers included the new Deputy Prime Minister, Surakiart Sathirathai, the Foreign Affairs Minister, Kantathi Suphamongkhon, Senior



Hugh Morgan AC, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre, H.E. Mr Bill Paterson, Australian Ambassador to Thailand & Kevin Rudd MP, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs



Hugh Morgan AC, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre, H.E. Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand & Hugh Brown, Securrency Pty Ltd

Minister, Singapore, Goh Chok Tong, Laura Cha, Member, Executive Council, Hong Kong SAR, Ong Keng Yong, Secretary General, ASEAN, Kim Hak-Su, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Australian Member of Parliament and Shadow Minister, Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd amongst many others.

Investment Opportunities in Japan



Prue Holstein and Richard Woolcott AC, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre with Peter Collens, Invest Victoria & David Baffsky AO, Accor Asia Pacific

IN October, David Baffsky AO, Chairman, Accor Asia Pacific, addressed an AustralAsia Centre Asia CEO Update Luncheon in Melbourne. Mr Baffsky drew on his 30 years of experience in Japan and spoke on hotel investment opportunities, paying particular attention to the potential of the Japanese mid-market. Drawing on his experiences and those of the Accor Group he emphasized the possibilities in the Japanese domestic tourism industry, especially for those investors who took time to properly understand the Japanese market. Mr Baffsky pointed out the poten-

tial in the Japanese economy, the second-largest in the world, a potential that has, in recent times, been underestimated.

Premier Steve Bracks visits Japan



The Honourable Steve Bracks, Premier of Victoria

THE HON Steve Bracks, Premier of Victoria, addressed an Asia Society CEO Asia Update luncheon in Victoria in November. The Premier, who had just returned from a visit to China and Hong Kong to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Victoria's Sister-State relationship with Jiangsu Province, spoke on trade and investment opportunities for Victorian businesses.

The luncheon was supported by the Australian Institute of International Affairs (Vic) and the Australia-China Business Council (Vic).

Update on Investment in Indonesia

IN MARCH, H.E. Dr Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister for Trade, Republic of Indonesia and Noke Kiroyan, President of the Indonesia-Australia Business Council, visited Australia for a Ministerial Forum in Canberra. Both then addressed an AustralAsia Centre Asia Foreign Policy Update Luncheon in Melbourne.

Dr Pangestu spoke on Indonesia's recent economic development, plans for micro-economic reform and opportunities for investors, as well as commenting on the increased economic stability produced by the country's democratization.

Mr Kiroyan, who is also the Chairman of PT Rio Tinto Indonesia, gave an update on investment in the Indonesian mining industry.

Both speakers stressed that the reform process was underway and priority would be given to the new foreign invest-

Sustainability in China

Mr Tan Ek Kia, Vice President APME Ventures & Development, Shell Chemicals spoke on Shell's approach to sustainable development in China at Daya Bay in the Guangdong Province. He was in Melbourne in April. Shell is concentrating on natural gas and renewable energy and new ways of using coal as well as providing consultancy services on energy efficiency and technological solutions in China. Essential to the success of the Daya Bay development has been estab-



Tan Ek Kia, Shell Chemicals & John Simpson, Shell Australia

lishing a partnership with local government, identifying stakeholders, operating with transparency and implementing international standards of sustainable development.

Speech available on our website
www.asiasociety.org.au

Tourism for a New China: A Growth Story



Dr. Lo Ka Shui, Chairman, Langham Hotels International

IN February the AustralAsia Centre welcomed Dr Lo Ka Shui, Chairman, Langham Hotels International, who spoke in both Melbourne and Sydney in February. Dr Lo spoke on China's tourism industry, its impact on the Hong Kong economy and the outlook for Australian in-bound tourism from China.

Dr Lo is Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of Great Eagle Holdings Limited and Chairman of Langham Hotels International. He is also a director of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, a Vice President of the Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong, and a Board Member of the Airport Authority.

The CEO Asia Update luncheon in Sydney was supported by the Australia-China Business Council and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office and in Melbourne, the Private CEO Briefing was sponsored by Langham Hotels International.



Richard Woolcott AC, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre, Noke Kiroyan, Indonesia-Australia Business Council, H.E. Dr Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister for Trade, Indonesia & Hugh Morgan AC, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre



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Kyoko Young
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*New Member

NSW Representative
Ian Hutchinson

WA Representative
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The Asia Society AustralAsia Centre is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation which leverages the long-established reputation and networks of the Asia Society to broaden interest and understanding in Australia of Asian countries and their politics, business and culture.

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