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THE ASIA SOCIETY CELEBRATES



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Annual Dinner 2007 & Special Dinner for the President of the Philippines

SINCE our last newsletter, the Centre has continued a range of activities. Major recent events have included the Annual Dinner in Sydney on 6th June addressed by Prime Minister John Howard and a major dinner address in Melbourne on 31st May by the President of the Philippines, H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The Centre also arranged a successful visit by a senior business mission to Jakarta in 2006, which is reported on page 2.

The Prime Minister, John Howard, who launched the AustralAsia Centre in May 1997, chose Australia's role in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) in 2007 as his theme for the Centre's 10th Anniversary dinner.

He congratulated the Centre "on a decade in helping to build understanding in Australia of Asian countries". He paid tribute to the special contribution of outgoing Chairman, Hugh Morgan, and to the work of the Founding Director Richard Woolcott, both on promoting understanding of Asia and gaining support for the establishment of APEC.



H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President, Republic of the Philippines

Australia is to host the APEC Summit meeting in Sydney in September and Mr Howard focused on a "large and ambitious agenda" for the meeting.

Mr Howard reminded his audience that Australia was "very much present at the creation of APEC" and both sides of Australian politics regarded it as "the region's most important grouping". APEC economies account for more than half of global GDP and nearly half of world trade, he added.

The Prime Minister said APEC had made "a measurable difference to people who live and work in our region". Tariffs across the APEC region have declined from an average of almost 17% in 1989 to just over 5% today, Mr Howard noted. APEC had made an effective contribution to trade liberalisation efforts. While the outlook for world economic growth is positive he said the collapse of the Doha Round would send negative signals.

Mr Howard said he would use Australia's Chairmanship to press for a strong statement in support of the Round. He also noted the Sydney Summit offered an important opportunity to advance climate change. He was critical of the Kyoto Protocol, which, he said, was structurally flawed.



Prime Minister John Howard with Dinner Chairman, Chum Darvall, Chief Executive Officer, Deutsche Bank Australia & New Zealand

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Founding Director's Message

I VISITED Washington and New York in June, during which time I had a useful discussion with the President of the Asia Society in New York, Vishakha Desai, about recent progress and developments related to the Centre, moves in New York to underline the Asia Society's policy of emphasising its global character and plans to hold the next Williamsburg Conference in Indonesia early in 2008.

After ten years our Chairman, Hugh Morgan, has stepped aside and Harrison Young is now Chairman. Hugh has made a great contribution to the establishment of the Centre in 1997 and to its active and successful first decade. He will continue as Chairman Emeritus to support and advise the Centre.

Since our last Newsletter I have attended and sometimes addressed a large number of Asia related functions and activities with the objective of raising the profile of the Centre. In this context I have addressed the Foreign Correspondents Association in Sydney and I delivered the University of Newcastle's 2006 Human Rights and Social Justice lecture last October. I have also maintained close contact with Heads of Asian Diplomatic Missions in Canberra, the Lowy Institute, the Australian Institute of International Affairs (which I have also addressed) and the Australian American Leadership Dialogue on Asia related matters

Charles Goode and I jointly led a mission to Indonesia, which is reported separately in this Newsletter. Following its success the Centre is planning a similar visit to Malaysia. I have also been glad to offer advice to a number of Australian companies and academic institutions with interests in the region, especially in Indonesia.

The Singapore Minister Mentor and former Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew, who was our annual dinner speaker in 2000, hosted a small private dinner in Sydney in April to which I was invited. It was a particularly interesting, Asia related event. Looking ahead forty years, Lee said, China would be "the dominant global power". India's international influence would also increase markedly. He argued that Australia, because of its location (and Singapore), should benefit from the coming shift in economic power and political influence from the United States and Europe to Asia. In the globalised World talent would gravitate to where it was best paid. It was important, therefore, that Australia be competitive in education.

I attended a small private meeting on 2nd

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Visit to Indonesia: Business Delegation

THE ASIA Society AustralAsia Centre arranged, with the assistance of the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra and the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, the visit of a business and investment mission to Jakarta on 8-10 August 2006. It was co-led by Charles Goode AC, the Chairman of ANZ Bank and Woodside Energy and Richard Woolcott AC, Founding Director of the Centre.

The delegation included senior representatives from the ANZ Banking Group, Woodside Energy, Deutsche Bank, BlueScope Steel, ASC, BHP Billiton, Santos Ltd, Deakin University, Freehills and Allens Arthur Robinson.

The delegation held discussions with President Yudhoyono (SBY), Vice President Jusuf Kalla, the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Dr Boediono (over a briefing breakfast), the Chairman of the Indonesian Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM), Muhammad Lufti (over Lunch at the Australian residence), the Minister for Industry, Fahmi Idris, the Minister for Finance, Dr Sri Mulyani Indrawati, the Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr Purnomo Yusgiantoro and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Hassan Wirajuda.

The group also had an informative round table discussion with the President, Mohamad Hidayat and four Senior Vice – Presidents of Kadin (the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and an informative private briefing at the Australian Embassy.

In addition, the delegation met over a working lunch with senior representatives of Bank Indonesia, the World Bank, the IMF and a private risk consultant. Ambassador Bill Farmer also arranged a well attended buffet dinner at the Australian Residence which enabled the group to widen contacts.

This was an unusually comprehensive program which included all senior figures in the Indonesian Government relevant to the delegation's interests, with the exception of the Minister for Trade, Dr Mari Pangestu, who was in Australia at the time of our visit. (The Centre and Allens Arthur Robinson had entertained her in Melbourne on 14 August 2006)

This level of reception, the substantive and frank nature of the discussions and media coverage, including television, helped raise the profile of the companies represented, of the AustralAsia Centre itself and, indirectly, that of the Asia Society, New York.

The general view, not only from the discussions with the President, the Vice



His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono,
President of Indonesia

President and Ministers, but also from KADIN, bankers and others was that the macro economic outlook for Indonesia is generally positive. Inflation is under control and reserves are increasing. Expenditure on education is substantial and the service sector is growing quite rapidly.

Private sector representatives agreed that the government's economic management team, coordinated by Dr Boediono, is "impressive". It was, however, necessary to accelerate the passage of revised laws on mining investment, taxation and labour to attract greater foreign investment and to sustain the momentum of economic reform. Implementation of sound policies remains the real challenge.

James Riady, the Vice President for Banking and Finance of KADIN, amongst others, referred to possible problems due to "growing nationalism" and the need for elected members of Parliament to be more sensitive to public opinion than in the past. Several of our interlocutors said, however, that growing nationalist sentiment and the dangers of terrorism were often exaggerated, especially by foreigners. They need not impede investment. The IMF resident representative summed up the general situation with the comment that Indonesia was like "a gold mine in a minefield". While doing business could be complex, the pathways through the "minefield" were in fact becoming wider and more direct under the reform program. Financial returns could be good.

Members of our delegation were impressed by the approach of the President, the Vice President and the Ministers we met to the economic recovery program and by the genuine desire to improve the investment climate.

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Message from Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, Chairman, Asia Society and Vishakha N. Desai, President, Asia Society on the occasion of the AustralAsia Centre's 10th Anniversary

WE ARE delighted to send you this message marking the occasion of the Asia Society's AustralAsia Centre's 10th anniversary.

Australia plays a significant role in the region and the Asia Society, anticipating the Society's unique position and connections with neighbouring countries, included Australia in our purview in the late 1980's.

Over this past decade with the skilled guidance and inspiration of Hugh Morgan, for which we are deeply appreciative, and under the Founding Director, Richard Woolcott with his wide range of contacts in Asia and Executive Director, Prue Holstein and supporting staff, the Centre has played an important role in attracting Asian heads of government, Ministers, as well as Australian business, government, cultural and academic leaders to a constructive and informative dialogue. Australia offers a unique perspective on issues of mutual interest and concern to this global Society. Your part in our vital network of Centers and program outreach has grown exponentially with the need to strengthen the understanding across the complexities of today's world.

For more than 50 years, Asia Society has been devoted to strengthening partnerships and deepening understanding between and among peoples, leaders and institutions of the Asia Pacific region, of which Australia is a part, and the US. Our commitment to providing a three-dimensional context across the fields of arts, policy, business, and education continues to be a cornerstone of our work.

The opening of a new center in India last year and construction of new buildings in Hong Kong and Texas will reinforce the Asia Society vision of its founders and prepare us all for a shared future in the "Asian Century".

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Asia Society worldwide, we wish you a fruitful next decade.

Farewell Allan Taylor AM

THE Centre is sad to record that Allan Taylor AM, a member of our Advisory Council and former friend and colleague of the Founding Director, died in Canberra on 19 June.

Allan, a Tasmanian Rhodes Scholar, was a highly effective and admired diplomat. His Asian posts included Pakistan, Thailand and Indonesia where he served first as political counsellor in the mid-seventies. He returned to Indonesia as Ambassador from 1993-1997.

At the time of his death he was Chairman of the Australia-Indonesia Institute. Allan made a substantial contribution to Australia's relations with a number of Asian countries, especially Indonesia. He will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife Carol, their three sons and seven grandsons.

James Morris speaks on the World Food Programme



Professor Richard Larkins AO, Vice Chancellor and President of Monash University with James Morris, Executive Director of the World Food Programme

JAMES Morris, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) spoke at a Private CEO Luncheon Briefing in Melbourne on the major operation of the WFP in Asia. The luncheon was sponsored by Monash University and held in Melbourne in January 2007.



From the Executive
Director

AS THE ASIA Society AustralAsia Centre celebrates its 10th Anniversary, it is a good time to reflect on the reasons the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre was established in Australia.

The AustralAsia Centre was launched in May, 1997 by the Prime Minister. The support for the Centre by the original 14 Founding Members – all major corporations engaged in the Asian region – was a statement of their commitment to the importance of furthering Australia's engagement with countries within the Asian region.

In the fifty or so years since the founding in New York of the Asia Society by John D. Rockefeller 3rd, a preeminent network of political, business and cultural leaders and decision makers has been built throughout the Asian region.

The AustralAsia Centre, through its launch in Australia as an affiliate of the Asia Society has been able to successfully leverage that network as well as its own networks for the benefit of Australian business, government and non-government leaders to further strengthen linkages into the region at senior levels. Through the Centre's establishment, the profile of the role Australia plays within the Asian region has also been raised within the United States.

Today some 65 corporate members support the activities of the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre and the Centre has consistently hosted heads of government, ministers and business leaders from around the Asian region.

2006-2007 has seen strengthened efforts on the part of the Asia Society to continue on its quest to develop into a truly global institution and has enlisted each of the Centres' support in its efforts to do so.

This year, the Centre took a delegation of 10 of its corporate members to attend the 17th Annual Corporate Conference held in Tokyo in May. Already planning is underway for the 18th Annual Corporate Conference being held in Tianjin next May. Given Australia's linkages into China, we can expect to see a greater representation of Australian perspectives presented at the conference.

On programming, the Centre has hosted visiting speakers from Asia Society New York: Dr. Harry Harding, Fellow, Asia Society Center on US-China Relations; Pramit Pal Chaudhuri and Sadanand Dhume, two Asia Society Bernard Schwartz fellows who addressed US relations with India and the Rise of Islam. From Asia Society Hong Kong, the Centre hosted the Hong Kong Center's Chairman, Ronnie Chan, who is also Chairman of Hang Lung Investments.

We can expect to see increased opportunities for AustralAsia Centre members to interact with visitors from the Asia Society networks.

Prue Holstein

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Annual Dinner Address

The Prime Minister used his address to advocate “a new approach for future climate change action that would include all major emitters”. He announced the appointment of the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Michael L'Estrange (also a member of the Centre's Advisory Council), as his special envoy to promote his initiative.

In concluding his remarks Mr Howard said he believed APEC could “support an emerging, practical consensus on a global framework for tackling climate change that is more comprehensive, more multi-faceted and more flexible than the Kyoto-style approach”. Australia would approach the APEC meeting in September “with determination and ambition, tempered by realism” to ensure the organisation remains “the pre-eminent forum in the Asia-Pacific region”.

In her address to a large high level audience at a joint Asia Society AustralAsia Centre/Australia Philippines Business Council Dinner President Arroyo described Australia as “a partner of the Philippines in expanding trade, increased security cooperation and cultural relations”. She noted that economic relations stretched back at least 200 years and emphasised the opportunities for further growth and investment in the future.

President Arroyo maintained that her Administration was breaking the back of its “lethargic economic legacy” through firm



Hugh Morgan AC, Chairman Emeritus, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre, Prime Minister John Howard and Harrison Young, Chairman, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre

fiscal and revenue raising measures, cracking down on tax cheats and action against corruption. The President said the country had achieved low inflation, a decreasing budget deficit, low interest rates, a stronger currency as well as six million new jobs.

In the first quarter of 2007 economic growth was 6.9%, the fastest growth rate in nearly two decades, with a 9.1% growth in services. She added that the Philippine's mining sector had opened up but added that economic development needed to go hand in hand with environmental stewardship.

President Arroyo said the Philippines would continue “pro-growth, pro-trade and pro-investment strategies”. The Philippines was, she asserted, “the best place to invest in Asia”. It was also “a strategic location in

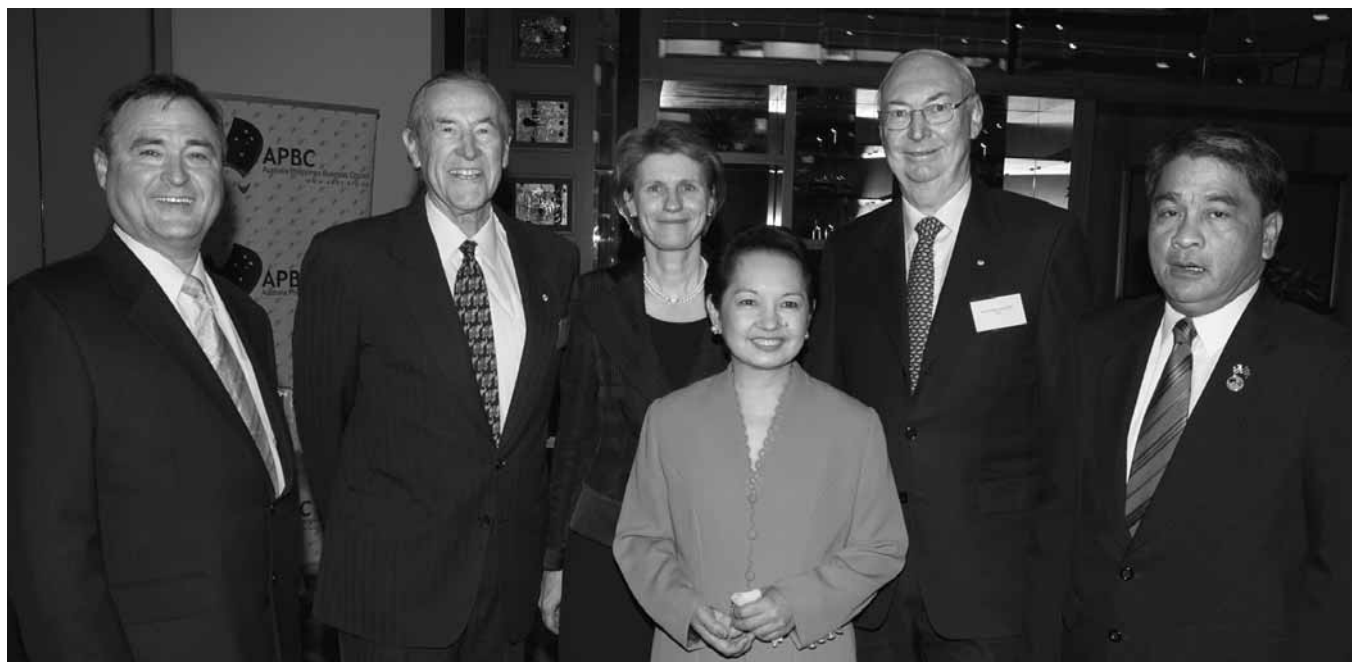
a fast growing region” with a productive, English-speaking workforce.

In conclusion, the President said she was optimistic about the prospect for peace, stability and economic growth in the South East Asian region. She hoped Australia would continue to play a profitable part in this growth.

The President also participated in a question and answer session after her address.

Copies of the speeches of Prime Minister John Howard and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo are available at www.asiasociety.org.au

FOOTNOTE: The 21 APEC member economies are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, The Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, USA and Vietnam.



L to R: Gavan Collyer, Vice President, Australia Philippines Business Council, Richard Woolcott AC, Founding Director, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre, Karen Wood, Chief Governance Officer, BHP Billiton and Dinner Chairman, H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines, Charles Goode AC, Chairman, ANZ and Dinner Chairman, H.E. Mr Ernesto de Leon, Ambassador for the Philippines

Ronnie Chan, Chairman Hong Kong Center

RONNIE Chan, Chairman of the Asia Society Hong Kong Center and the Hang Lung Group addressed a Private CEO Luncheon Briefing for Asia Society corporate members in Melbourne in June 2007. The luncheon was sponsored by Corporate Benefactor of the Centre, Mallesons Stephen Jaques.



Ronnie Chan, Chairman, Hong Kong Center, Nicola Wakefield-Evans, Managing Partner - Practice, Mallesons Stephen Jaques and Hugh Morgan AC, Chairman Emeritus, AustralAsia Centre

Engaging with India

THE Vice Chancellor and President of Monash University, Professor Richard Larkins AO spoke on how Monash University is engaging with India. Professor Larkins addressed a senior business and academic audience and told them that the potential for India in science and technology is high. This is understood by business and industry with large investment from multinationals in research in India.

He shared Monash University's vision to share in the development of India and gain from the investment by governments and industry in research and research training by forming a joint research academy with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. The CEO Asia Update Luncheon was held in Melbourne in August 2006.



Martand Joshi, Consulate General of India, Hugh Morgan AC, AustralAsia Centre, Richard Larkins AO, Monash University & Richard Woolcott AC, AustralAsia Centre

United Group Managing Director and CEO



Prue Holstein, AustralAsia Centre, Richard Woolcott AC, AustralAsia Centre, Richard Leupen, MD & CEO, United Group Limited and The Hon Warwick Smith, AustralAsia Centre

US Ambassador to Australia

THE AustralAsia Centre hosted an Asia Foreign Policy Update luncheon in February 2007 in Sydney for H.E. Mr Robert D McCallum Jr, Ambassador for the United States of America. The Ambassador gave an update on the Bush Administration's policy on Asia. He assured the audience that despite problems in the Middle East, the US has not been distracted from maintaining its important relationships with Asia.



Mimi McCallum, Richard Woolcott AC, AustralAsia Centre and Ambassador Robert D McCallum Jr

RICHARD LEUPEN, the Managing Director and CEO of the United Group Limited, since 2000 addressed a large and senior audience at a luncheon organised by the Centre in Sydney on 31 July. United Group is a leading infrastructure and services group, which now conducts substantial activities in Asia, Australia, The United States, New Zealand and Europe.

Based on 30 years experience in engineering and management, Mr Leupen outlined United's rapid growth, its strategy and its increasing interest in Asia. He said United's market capitalisation had grown from \$80 million in 2000 to almost \$4 billion at present.

Mr Leupen continued that United had "not been a player in Asia seven years ago". Now, however, it had a "major focus" on its operations in Asia. China was, he said, undergoing "massive growth". China was consuming 1.7 billion tons of oil equivalent per annum. It planned to build 30 nuclear power stations and was opening a coal fired power station every month or so. Other countries in Asia, especially India, were also growing rapidly. He expressed the opinion that "we are not in a short term cycle; we are in a super cycle, which is not going to stop soon".

As industrial production in Australia slowed, United believed that this would be counter-balanced by enormous opportunities in infrastructure developments both in Australia and Asia, especially China. Mr Leupen said that his philosophy was that if an activity was not conducted effectively and successfully in Australia, then it was unlikely that it would work well overseas. Also, in the era of globalisation you have to be a global power to succeed.

Mr Leupen took questions and an interesting discussion followed a thoughtful and forward-looking speech, which was appreciated greatly by the audience. The CEO Asia Update Luncheon was hosted by The Hon Warwick Smith, Deputy Chairman of the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre & Chairman - NSW & ACT, ANZ Bank.

Seminar with Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO)



L to R: Manuel Panagiotopoulos, Australian & Japanese Economic Intelligence (Moderator); Chris Nailor, IMA Asia; Hugh Morgan AC, AustralAsia Centre; Dr Takeshi Terada, Waseda University and Mike Harvie, Toyota Motor Company Australia

THE ASIA Society AustralAsia Centre and the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) held a seminar in November 2006 on East Asia Economic Integration and Ways of Enhancing the Australia-Japan Relationship in Sydney.



Dr Takashi Terada, Waseda University

Speakers at the Seminar included: Hiroshi Tsukamoto, JETRO; Hugh Morgan AC, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre; Andrew Low, Macquarie Bank; Akira Okabe, Toyota Motor Corporation; Manuel Panagiotopoulos, Australian & Japanese Economic Intelligence (Moderator); Chris Nailor, IMA Asia; Dr Takeshi Terada, Waseda University; and Mike Harvie, Toyota Motor Company Australia. The President of JETRO, Hiroshi Tsukamoto gave the keynote address at the luncheon which followed.



Hiroshi Tsukamoto, President, JETRO; Hugh Morgan AC, AustralAsia Centre; Prue Holstein, Executive Director, AustralAsia Centre and Noburo Inamoto, Managing Director, JETRO

The Age Melbourne Writers' Festival 2006 – Scented Pavilions



Panelists: Christopher Kremmer, Romesh Gunsekera and Glen Duncan

THE ASIA Society AustralAsia Centre has supported the Melbourne Writers' Festival since 2000. The Centre's sponsored panels have dealt with issues such as cross-cultural identity, myth, politics and gender. This year's panel looked at whether the Indian sub-continent – is an idea or a feeling.

The panel was moderated by Hamish McDonald, Asia Pacific Editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*. Hamish was joined by writer Glen Duncan whose latest novel *The Blood-*

stone Papers brings the Anglo-Indian experience to the literary table. Also on the panel was Romesh Gunsekera who also spoke of the expatriate experience in his latest book *The Match* which dealt with coming home, cricket, growing up and falling in love. The third panelist was Christopher Kremmer, whose latest literary non-fiction, *Inhaling the Mahatma* is a sprawling portrait of India and also an intensely personal story about coming to terms with a dazzlingly different culture.

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Founding Director's Message

August in Sydney with the President of the World Bank, Bob Zoellick, during his day visit to Sydney. He outlined the priorities he sees for the Bank, including its role in Asia and the importance of working for "sustainable and inclusive globalisation". He spoke frankly about the desirability of a cooperative relationship between the United States and China.

I have maintained my senior level contacts with Indonesian leaders and the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Dr Boediono, the Minister for Finance, Dr Sri Mulyani Indrawati, and the Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr Purnomo, have all agreed to address the Centre when they next visit Australia.

Since the last Newsletter I have written a light-hearted book *Undiplomatic Activities*, which is being published by Scribe Limited on 1st September and have been invited by Penguin to consider a serious book next year about developments in Indonesia after Soeharto.

The Centre has been under pressure in responding adequately to the evolving situations in East Asia, characterised by the extraordinary growth in China; growth in India, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore; the potential of Indonesia; and the recovery of the Japanese economy. The Centre's small staff has responded admirably to these pressures. We can only continue to promote our objective of securing greater understanding in the community of Asian countries and cultures with continuing corporate support for which we are most grateful.



Continued from Page 2

Visit to Indonesia: Business Delegation

The pace of implementation, slow parliamentary processes and bureaucratic inertia, however, still pose difficulties. The recently established Presidential Development Unit is designed to minimise such problems. The delegation was also pleased by the willingness of all those on whom it called to listen to frank expressions of concerns and by a stated intention to consider and respond to such concerns.

On all calls Richard Woolcott stressed on behalf of the delegation that the business community and Australians generally wanted to see a stable, unified, peaceful Indonesian neighbour growing in economic prosperity. This would be in our mutual interest. He also commented to the President and the Vice President that the success of democracy in Indonesia would not only be important for Indonesia itself but globally in demonstrating that Islam and democracy can be compatible.

ABC Chairman

DONALD McDonald, then Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) spoke on the ABC's continuing commitment to international broadcasting over the last decade. He spoke of the "resurgence" of our international services and that "the need for these services has grown over the

decade, in parallel with Australia's bipartisan foreign policy objective of growing engagement with regional neighbours.

The CEO Asia Update Luncheon was sponsored by the City of Melbourne.

A copy of the transcript of the speech is available at www.asiasociety.org.au



Jean-Gabriel Manguy, Radio Australia, Donald McDonald AC, Australian Broadcasting Corporation and Richard Woolcott AC, AustralAsia Centre

Australia Thailand Institute Visits Thailand

THE EXECUTIVE Committee of the Australia Thailand Institute (ATI), chaired by Tim Fischer AC, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, of which I am a member held its 7th board meeting in Rayong on the Eastern Seaboard of Thailand between 12th and 17th July.

It was the first visit of the Executive Committee to Thailand in the two years since the ATI was inaugurated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, the Hon. Alexander Downer in June 2005 to further promote Australia's bilateral relations with Thailand and to expand institutional, cultural and people-to-people links.

Some five days were spent meeting with ministers, former and current members of Parliament as well as Australian business representatives.

The Executive Committee visited and heard from senior executives from BlueScope Steel, ANCA, Kingsgate Mining and the Laem Chabang Port Facility and were impressed by the commitment and the success of these

significant Australian investments. It was also asserted that the Thailand Australia Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA) had been a win-win for both Thailand and Australia despite Thailand enjoying a trade surplus for the financial year just ended. The agreement has not only driven export growth for each of the two nations, but also encouraged growth in investment both ways.

Meetings with current and former members of the Thai Parliament provided a good picture of what can be expected over the next few months. The current military government has drafted a new Constitution in only eleven months which is to be put to a Referendum on 19th August. If passed, elections would be held in 4-6 months.

Whilst concern was expressed about protectionist tendencies in the proposed legislation being put before the Thai Parliament, it was suggested these concerns could be addressed in the future.

Prue Holstein



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ASIA SOCIETY AUSTRALASIA CENTRE

Level 1, 175 Collins St

Melbourne VIC 3000

PO Box 18133

Collins Street East

Melbourne VIC 8003

Australia

(61 3) 9650 0998

(61 3) 9654 6680 fax

asiasoc@asiasoc.org.au

www.asiasociety.org.au

www.asiasociety.org

www.asiasource.org

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Prue S Holstein

Executive Director

Fiona Wallace-Smith

Director, Programmes &

Company Secretary

Daphanie Teo

Programme Officer

Mila Sudarsono

Administrative Officer

The Asia Society AustralAsia

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ASIA SOCIETY

New York

725 Park Avenue

New York NY 10021, USA

Tel: 1 212 288 6400

Fax: 1 212 517 8315

REGIONAL CENTRES

AustralAsia Centre