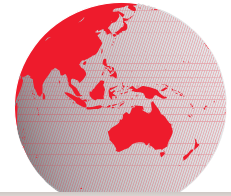




# AUSTRALASIA

ASIA SOCIETY



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

VOLUME 1 JULY 1997

## Prime Minister Launches AustralAsia Centre

The Prime Minister, The Honourable John Howard MP, launched the AustralAsia Centre before an audience of over 400 at Sydney's ANA Hotel on 8 May 1997.



Prime Minister, John Howard, and 1996 Australian of the Year, Dr John Yu, at the AustralAsia Centre launch.

Special guest of the launch was Ambassador Nicholas Platt, President of The Asia Society.

In a speech telecast to government leaders, decision makers, business and the media in 33 countries and territories across Asia and the Pacific, the Prime Minister said that the formation of the AustralAsia Centre had come at an important time in the history of Australia's engagement with Asia.

He indicated that Australia's successful engagement will depend on our understanding and knowledge of the region. "This requires a national commitment to developing closer ties throughout Asia".

The Centre, Mr Howard said, would also draw on the experience of the Asia Society to strengthen understanding in Australia of Asia. "It will complement the efforts of existing Australian institutions like The Asia-Australia Institute, Asialink and the regional studies centres in our universities - and Asia 2000 in New Zealand."

CONTINUED PAGE TWO



"DANCING TO THE FLUTE"  
EXHIBITION  
MARKING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE  
"SAINT SAMBANDAR"  
TAMIL NADU 12TH CENTURY  
COPPER ALLOY  
ON LOAN TO THE ART GALLERY  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
FROM THE ASIA SOCIETY &  
MRS JOHN D ROCKEFLLER  
3RD COLLECTION



## Objectives

### of the AustralAsia Centre

- To promote a greater awareness in the wider Australian and New Zealand communities of the growing importance of the countries of Asia and a deeper understanding of their different cultures and societies. In pursuing this aim it will seek to reach out to the younger generation
- To inject Australian and New Zealand perspectives into the Society's approach to regional issues of importance
- To draw on the networks, the contacts and databases of the Asia Society in the United States and of its Hong Kong Centre
- To develop educational and cultural exchanges, programs, seminars and exhibitions to strengthen links between Australians and New Zealanders and the peoples of Asia
- To cooperate with those existing institutions, foundations and councils in Australia and New Zealand which promote understanding and contacts with Asian countries.

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

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## A New Understanding:

### A Message from Hugh M Morgan AO

*Chairman, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre*

Thursday evening of the 8th May 1997 celebrated the launching of the AustralAsia Centre of the Asia Society by the Prime Minister, the Honourable John Howard at the ANA Hotel in Sydney. The new Centre becomes the second established outside the United States joining that of Hong Kong which commenced in 1991.

It was forty one years ago that John D Rockefeller III brought the Asia Society New York to fruition to develop links with the countries of Asia, promoting understanding and the development of cultural relationships. Its Board of Trustees is drawn from the entire Pacific Region with an International Council of 137 acting as informal advisers for programming and activities in 20 countries.

#### **Energy, commitment and adherence to the highest standards**

Energy, commitment and adherence to the highest standards have characterised the Society's activities since its inception.

The leadership of the

AustralAsia Centre will be under the guidance of Dick Woolcott whose knowledge of and service to Australia in the international arena and Asia in particular has no peer. His knowledge and understanding of Australia's role in the Asia region has been invaluable in bringing forward the successful creation of the Centre.

#### **The AustralAsia Centre will draw upon the unique network of senior relationships already established**

Our new endeavour joins other associations and institutes in Australia and New Zealand whose purpose is to encourage understanding, cultural and business links with Asia. There will be a strong commitment to work with them to enhance the quality, vigour and dedication of each institute's objectives. The AustralAsia Centre will draw upon the unique network of senior relationships already established over its forty one years of work.

To the Prime Minister we express our appreciation of his support.



FROM FRONT PAGE

## **Prime Minister Launches AustralAsia Centre**

The Prime Minister pointed out that the Chairman of the AustralAsia Centre, Hugh Morgan, had recently accompanied him with a group of business leaders on a visit to China. "I am pleased that his interest has been widely supported by the private sector which has funded the establishment of the Centre", he said.

Mr Howard took the opportunity presented by the launch to express his belief in the need for Australia to make a national commitment to developing closer ties with the region. "Our cultural and ethnic diversity gives us a great opportunity to consolidate our personal ties with the countries of our region", he said.

In introducing the Prime Minister, Hugh Morgan emphasised the important role the Asia Society has played in building bridges across the Pacific.



*Australian-Indonesian relations: Mrs Carole Flood, the wife of DFAT head and Asia Society advisory council member, Mr Philip Flood, with Mrs Retno Wiryono, wife of the Indonesian Ambassador to Australia, at the launch.*

He also outlined the high level of participation by Australians and New Zealanders in its activities particularly in respect of membership of its International Council.

While referring to the contribution made by both sides of politics to Australia's growing engagement with the countries of the region, Mr Morgan made special mention of the Prime Minister's long record of activity in this regard.

He also paid tribute to the companies which had underwritten the establishment costs of the Centre and to its new director, Dick Woolcott.



*The men who made the AustralAsia Centre happen: New York Asia Society President Ambassador Nicholas Platt, the Centre's Chairman, Mr Hugh Morgan, and Founding Director, Mr Richard Woolcott, at the launch.*



## From the Director...



**“I have devoted much of my working life to promoting Australia’s engagement with Asia... I would like to devote much of my remaining productive years to continuing to promote a deeper understanding of Asian countries and cultures. I believe I can contribute to this cause through the AustralAsia Centre of the Asia Society.”**

I regard it as a great honour and an important challenge to have been invited to be the founding Director of the AustralAsia Centre of the Asia Society.

In the world of the 21st Century, the successful close engagement of Australia and New Zealand, economically, politically, strategically and socially, with the countries of Asia and the Pacific is of critical importance for the peoples of both countries, situated as we are, on the southern edge of South East Asia.

**Well placed to inject Australian and New Zealand perspectives into the Asia Society’s approach**

Our fortunes and our futures will be linked to an even greater degree than they are already. So, in the evolution of Australia’s and New Zealand’s links with Asia, the more institutions and influential individuals working to inform the wider communities in both countries about the growing

importance of Asia, and to promote a deeper understanding of the societies and cultures of Asian countries, the better.

The United States will continue to play a major role in the Asia Pacific region in the 21st Century and the AustralAsia Centre will, I trust, be well placed to inject Australian and New Zealand perspectives into the Asia Society’s approach to Asian issues.

I have devoted much of my working life to promoting Australia’s engagement with Asia and, since I retired as Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1992, I have maintained my keen interest in the region, including as Chairman of the Australia Indonesia Institute. I would like to devote much of my remaining productive years to continuing to promote a deeper understanding of Asian countries and cultures. I believe I can contribute to this cause through the AustralAsia Centre of the Asia Society.

*Richard Woolcott AC*



## Recent Events:



*Architect and planner Dr Young Hoon Kwaak calls for a global perspective.*

### **A Global Future For Our Cities**

Visionary architect and planner, Dr Young Hoon Kwaak, spoke at a roundtable meeting of the AustralAsia Centre, held on 17 March 1997.

Renowned for his creation of the 1988 Seoul Olympic Park Master Plan, Dr Kwaak detailed his challenging view of a world city network in which citizens share a genuinely global perspective. He encouraged members who attended to “ask not what you can do for your country so much as what you can do for the world”.



*Making economic sense: leading Indian economist, Dr Isher Ahluwalia, explains the business opportunities in India.*

### **Expanding Opportunities in India**

Leading Indian researcher and economist, Dr Isher Ahluwalia, recently visited Australia and was a guest of the AustralAsia Centre.

Dr Ahluwalia who is Research Professor at the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi, discussed the impact of economic reform in India and the opportunities for increased investment, with senior business people, academics and bureaucrats at a number of functions in Melbourne and Sydney.

In Melbourne, she spoke at a lunch co-hosted by the AustralAsia Centre and Alister Maitland, Executive Director, ANZ, and also at a dinner hosted by Bob Prowse, Group Manager – USA and Asia, NAB. In Sydney, Dr Ahluwalia spoke at a business dinner hosted by fellow International Councillor of the Asia Society, Kathryn Greiner.

#### **AVAILABLE FROM THE AUSTRALASIA CENTRE:**

##### **Full text of the following:**

- **“Managing Change in Asia.”** Williamsburg XXV Statement from the 1997 Williamsburg Conference, Hong Kong
- **“Australia and Asia: An Enduring Engagement.”** Address by the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard MP on the occasion of the launch of the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre
- **Speech by Mr Hugh M Morgan AO** on the occasion of the launch of the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre.
- **Welcome remarks by Mr Richard Woolcott AC, Founding Director** on the occasion of the launch of the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre.

#### **IN THE NEXT ISSUE:**

- **Review of recent publications**
- **1997 Williamsburg XXV Conference, Hong Kong**



## Regional Events 1997:

### MELBOURNE July 3

14th Asialink Lecture  
Mr Don Argus  
Managing Director and CEO,  
National Australia Bank  
Limited

Organised by:  
Asialink at The University of  
Melbourne

Contact: Tel (03) 9349 1899

### MELBOURNE June 28 - July 5

Australian Festival of Dance  
"Green Mill Dance"

Organised by:  
Green Mill Dance Project  
Contact: Tel (03) 9682 7113

### NEW YORK April 26 - July 20

"Gods, Kings and Tigers: The  
Art of Kotah" Exhibition of Art  
Works from the Kotah period

Organised by:  
The Asia Society  
Harvard University Art  
Museums

Contact: Tel (212) 288 6400

### MELBOURNE July 7 - 11

8th International Conference  
for the Asian Pacific  
Confederation for Arts  
Education: "The Asia Pacific  
Beyond 2000 Arts Education in  
a Changing World"

Organised by:  
University of Melbourne  
The Victorian College of  
the Arts

Contact: Tel (03) 9904 4240

### SYDNEY July 14

Seminar: "Hong Kong's Future:  
Will Politics or Economics  
Decide?"

Organised by:  
Research Institute for Asia  
and the Pacific (RIAP) –  
University of Sydney  
Asia Society Australasia  
Centre

Contact: Tel (02) 9290 3233

### PERTH July 22 - 24

Conference: "India and  
Australia: the Indian Ocean  
and APEC"

Organised by:  
Indian Ocean Centre – Perth  
Centre for Policy Studies –  
New Delhi  
National Centre for South  
Asian Studies – Melbourne  
Department of Foreign  
Affairs & Trade

Contact: Tel (08) 9221 7033

### MELBOURNE August 2

Exhibition: "Cities of Asia"  
Inaugural event to introduce  
the Melbourne program of  
TAASA

Organised by:  
The Asian Arts Society of  
Australia (TAASA)  
The Asia Society AustralAsia  
Centre

Contact: Tel (03) 9859 6277

### MELBOURNE August 7

Media Seminar: "Representa-  
tions of Indonesia in Australian  
Press and Documentary Film"

Organised by:  
Monash University  
La Trobe University  
University of NSW  
Contact: Tel (03) 9386 8982

### SYDNEY August 8

Symposium:  
"ASEAN: Globalisation,  
The Next Thirty Years"

Organised by:  
Research Institute for Asia  
and the Pacific (RIAP) -  
University of Sydney  
Contact: Tel (02) 9290 3233

### SYDNEY August 9

Symposium:  
"Chinese Ceramics"

Organised by:  
Centre for Asian Arts  
Studies - Art Gallery of  
New South Wales  
Contact: Tel (02) 9225 1808

### SYDNEY & MELBOURNE

#### August 13 - 17

Lecture Series by:  
Rosemary Scott, Curator  
The Percival David  
Foundation of Chinese Art,  
London

Organised by:  
The Asian Arts Society of  
Australia (TAASA)  
The Asia Society AustralAsia  
Centre

Contact: Tel (03) 9859 6277

### SYDNEY August 14

Lecture: "Regionalism versus  
Multiculturalism - The Way  
Forward for Asian Trade:  
A Malaysian Perspective"

Organised by:  
Research Institute for Asia  
and the Pacific (RIAP) -  
University of Sydney  
Contact: Tel (02) 9290 3233

### HONG KONG

#### June 11 - August 17

Exhibition: "Picturing Hong  
Kong: Photography, 1855-  
1910"

Organised by:  
The Asia Society Galleries  
Hong Kong Arts Centre  
Contact: Tel (852) 523 9922

### SYDNEY June 12 - August 24

Exhibition: "Dancing to the  
Flute: Music and Dance in  
Indian Art"

Organised by:  
The Art Gallery of New  
South Wales  
Contact: Tel (02) 9225 1744

### NEPAL October - November

Asia Circle Study Tour (members)

Organised by:  
The Asia Society- New York  
Contact: Tel (212) 288 6400

## Membership as at 15 June 1997

### Members of the Advisory Council

Dr Klaus Albrecht  
Don Argus  
Edmund Capon AM  
Prof Adrienne Clarke AO  
David Clarke AO  
Rod Eddington  
Hon Gareth Evans QC MP  
Philip Flood AO  
Prof Ross Garnaut AO  
Prof Alan Gilbert  
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Steve Howard  
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Dr Timothy Potts  
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Lyn Williams  
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H E M Dominique Girard  
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Goldie Sternberg  
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Kartar Singh Thakral  
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Richard Thwaites  
Garry Van Egmond  
Sue Walker  
Birgit Woolcott

### ASIA SOCIETY

725 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10021  
(1-212) 288 6400,  
(1-212) 517 8315 fax

### Asia Society AUSTRALASIA CENTRE

Level 3, 175 Collins St  
Melbourne 3000 Australia  
POSTAL:  
PO Box 18200  
Melbourne 3000  
Australia  
(61-3) 9650 0998  
(61-3) 9650 9665 fax

### Asia Society CALIFORNIA CENTER

ARCO Plaza, Level C  
505 South Flower Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90071  
(1-213) 624 0945  
(1-213) 624 0158 fax

### Asia Society HONG KONG CENTER

4/F The Chinese Bank Building  
61-65 Des Voeux Road  
Central Hong Kong  
(852) 2868 6765  
(852) 2877 5343 fax

### Asia Society TEXAS CENTER

4605 Post Oak Place  
Suite 205  
Houston TX 77027  
(1-713) 439 0051  
(1-713) 439 1107 fax

### Asia Society WASHINGTON CENTER

1800 K Street, NW  
Suite 1102  
Washington DC 20006  
(1-202) 833 2742  
(1-202) 833 0189 fax