



Asia
Society®

AustralAsia Centre



Programme Report 2009

THE 2008-09 YEAR will be recorded as a year of considerable change at the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre. Not only has there been transition of the executive management, and the office location, but in May 2009 the Centre entered a new Collaboration with Asialink.

The Collaboration brings together two successful organisations, both of which have made significant contributions to the building of Australia's engagement in, and understanding of, the countries of Asia. Over 12 years, the Centre has built an enviable position in corporate Australia where it is now expected that an Asian engagement strategy is a key pillar of an organisation's overall business future. Asialink, 20 years old in 2010, delivers a broad range of programming across education, arts, leadership training, second track dialogues, community health, and corporate and public programs. This programming builds the influence, impact and engagement of Australia, and Australians, in Asia.

From the commencement of discussions, both organisations sought results from the Collaboration that produced better outcomes for all stakeholders. The depth of Asialink's programming combined with the strength of the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre's corporate relationships will, in time, deliver more opportunities and benefits for all stakeholders and a better outcome for Australia.

As the two organisations chart the course forward, it is opportune and appropriate to recognise the contribution of the Centre's founders. Chairman Emeritus Hugh Morgan AC, and Founding Director Richard Woolcott AC started the Centre in 1997, and with the support of the board and stakeholders have built the Centre to where it sits today, as the leading multilateral Asia Australia business organisation. Although no longer directors, pleasingly both Founders continue to be active supporters and contributors to the Centre. We would also like to recognise the generous contribution of outgoing Chairman Harrison Young, now Deputy Chairman, who has steered the organisation through the transition of the last year.

There were a number of other Board changes during the year. Retiring after distinguished service were: Bruce Dungey, Charles Goode AC, Hugh Morgan AC, Fiona Wallace-Smith and Richard Woolcott AC. I am joined as a new Director by: Tim Cox, John Curtis, Professor Glyn Davis AC, Lindley Edwards, Professor Ross Garnaut AO, Jenny McGregor, Professor Tony Milner AM, Professor Abdullah Saeed, Alice Wong and Peter Yates.

Early in the year, Fiona Wallace-Smith was appointed the Centre's Executive Director. Fiona knows the Centre and its stakeholders well after having worked for 12 years at the Centre. This year Fiona has not only managed an organisation in transition but also continued to deliver the Centre's program throughout the year.

Although a cliché, we do live in interesting times. There is now growing evidence that the last two years of financial crisis are drawing to an end with the prospect of a return to a modest level of world economic growth. The turmoil of this crisis has served to accelerate the shift of economic, political and financial might from the west to the east; indeed, Asian economies led the way out of recession. In this environment, Australia becomes more important for Asia. In the last two years Australia has emerged as a destination for Asian investment, and as a source of supply for the commodities essential to grow Asian economies.

Over the last 12 years, the support and contribution of the Members, and all the Centre's stakeholders, has been pivotal in the Centre's success. This support is appreciated and valued, especially in this last year, a year of considerable change.

There is more work to do in building Australia's engagement in Asia, especially with the growing relevance of Australia in Asia. The Centre, now in Collaboration with Asialink, is well positioned to build on its position as the leading multilateral Australia Asia engagement organisation.



Sid Myer – September 2009



Charles Goode AC, ANZ and H.E. Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Private CEO Briefing

Briefing with *H.E. Mr Nguyen Tan Dung*, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Senior Ministers

Melbourne, 14 October 2008

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Dinner

Their Majesties King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain

Jointly organised with *Asialink*

Dinner Benefactors – *EPI Communications, Global Intertrade Pty Ltd, Murdoch University and Navantia.*

Dinner Supporters – *Charter Keck Cramer and the McDonald College*

Sydney, 25 June 2009



Martyn Myer AO, Myer Family Company; Edmund Capon AM, OBE, Art Gallery of NSW and Bernie Brookes, Myer Stores Limited



Claire Schwartz; Professor Steven Schwartz, Macquarie University; Carola G. Vinuesa, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University



Richard Leupen, United Group Limited; Linda Leupen; Julie Rowe; Trevor Rowe AM, Chairman, Rothschild Australia Limited

CEO Delegation to Vietnam

Led by *Richard Woolcott AC*, Founding Director, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre and *Charles Goode AC*, Chairman, ANZ

Vietnam, 15 – 17 April 2009

**Asia Society's
19th Asian Corporate Conference**

**Redefining Asia's Challenges
and the New Role for Vietnam**

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
22 – 24 April 2009

The Private CEO Update Forum offered a private platform for members of the Asia Society Network, business leaders and government ministers from Asia, America or Australia to speak frankly with a senior Australian audience.

**Private CEO Luncheon
Future Prospects for the Indian
Economy: Where Australian Trade and
Industry can Participate**

Luncheon with *H.E. Mrs Sujatha Singh*, Indian High Commissioner to Australia

Sponsored by *Blake Dawson*
Melbourne, 17 July 2008



The Hon John C Tsang JP,
Financial Secretary, Hong Kong SAR

Private CEO Dinner

Dinner with *The Hon John Tsang*, Financial Secretary, Hong Kong SAR

Sponsored by *JPMorgan*
Melbourne, 5 August 2008

**Private CEO Luncheon
Australia's Role in a Rapidly Changing
Asia-Pacific Region**

What will be the best arrangements for Australia to deal with a major shift in influence to East Asia in the years ahead?

Luncheon with *Richard Woolcott AC*, Founding Director, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre and the Prime Minister's Special Envoy

Sponsored by *Mallesons Stephen Jaques*
Sydney, 15 September 2008

Private CEO Luncheon

Luncheon with *H.E. Mr Zhang Junsai*, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

Sponsored by *Blake Dawson*
Sydney, 23 September 2008

**Private CEO Dinner
Australia's Role in a Rapidly Changing
Asia-Pacific Region**

Luncheon with *Richard Woolcott AC*, Founding Director, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre and the Prime Minister's Special Envoy

Hosted and sponsored by *Jock Clough*
Perth, 25 September 2008

**Private CEO Luncheon
Australia's Role in a Rapidly Changing
Asia-Pacific Region**

Luncheon with *Richard Woolcott AC*, Founding Director, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre and the Prime Minister's Special Envoy

Sponsored by *Curtin University*
Perth, 26 September 2008

Private CEO Luncheon

Luncheon with *H.E. Dr Geoff Raby*, Australian Ambassador to China

Sponsored by *BHP Billiton*
Melbourne, 1 October 2008



H.E. Dr Geoff Raby, Australian
Ambassador to China

Private CEO Luncheon

Luncheon with *H.E. Dr Geoff Raby*, Australian Ambassador to China

Sponsored by *Commonwealth Bank of Australia*
Sydney, 3 October 2008



H.E. Dr Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of
Trade, Indonesia

Private CEO Breakfast

Breakfast with *H.E. Dr Mari Elka Pangestu*, Minister of Trade, Republic of Indonesia

Organised by the *Australia Indonesia Business Council*

Supported by the *Asia Society AustralAsia Centre* and the *Consulate-General of the Republic of Indonesia*

Melbourne, 13 November 2008

Private CEO Luncheon

The Opposition's Approach to Australia's Links with Asia

Luncheon with *Senator the Hon Helen Coonan*, then-Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs

Sponsored by *PricewaterhouseCoopers*
Sydney, 19 November 2008



Ian Hutchinson, Asia Society; Chris Leptos AM, Ernst & Young; Fiona Wallace-Smith, Asia Society; Lt Gen (Ret'd) Winston Choo and Bob Johnston, Australand

Private CEO Dinner

Singapore's perspective on the Asia Pacific Region

Dinner with *Lt Gen (Ret'd) Winston Choo*, Director, Australand

Sponsored by *Credit Suisse (Australia) Ltd*

Melbourne, 19 November 2008

Private CEO Luncheon

Australia's Role in a Rapidly Changing Asia-Pacific Region

Luncheon with *Richard Woolcott AC*, Founding Director, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre and the Prime Minister's Special Envoy

Sponsored by *Allens Arthur Robinson*

Melbourne, 3 February 2009

Private CEO Luncheon

Luncheon with *H.E. Dr Woo Sang Kim*, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

Sponsored by *ANZ*

Sydney, 26 February 2009

Private CEO Dinner

Dinner with *Chang Zhenming*, Vice Chairman & President, CITIC Group and senior CITIC delegation

Sponsored by *Allens Arthur Robinson*

Melbourne, 2 March 2009

Private CEO Luncheon Roundtable

The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Australia's Economic Engagement with Asia

Luncheon roundtable with *The Hon Simon Crean MP*, Minister for Trade

Sponsored by the *Export Finance and Insurance Corporation*

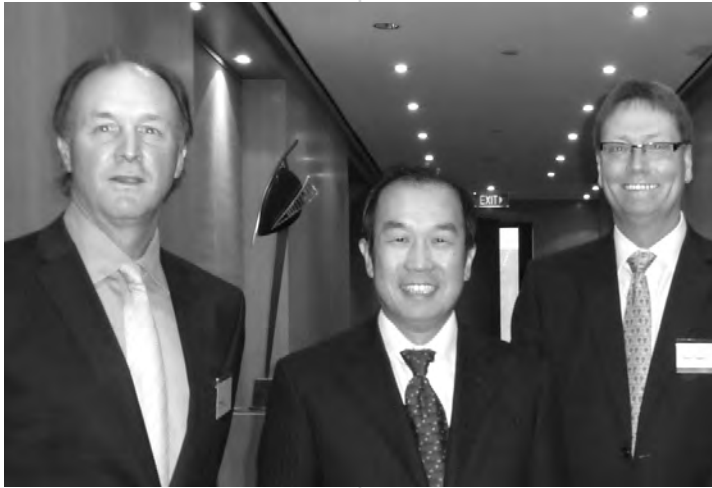
Sydney, 21 May 2009



The Hon Simon Crean MP, Minister for Trade



Chris Barnes, Australia Indonesia Business Council and Commonwealth Bank of Australia; Fergus Ryan, Commonwealth Bank of Australia; H.E. Dr Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister for Economics, Indonesia; Sid Myer, Asialink and Asia Society and Richard Woolcott AC, Asia Society



Sid Myer, Asialink and Asia Society; H.E. Mr Zhang Junsai, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China; and David Fagan, Clayton Utz

Private CEO Luncheon

Luncheon with *H.E. Dr Sri Mulyani Indrawati*, Finance Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia

In conjunction with the *Australia Indonesia Business Council*

Sponsored by the *Commonwealth Bank of Australia*

Melbourne, 22 May 2009

Private CEO Luncheon

Luncheon with *Professor Yuan Ming*, Director of the Institute of International Relations, University of Peking and Member of the Board of the United Nations Foundation

Sponsored by *Mallesons Stephen Jaques*

Sydney, 11 June 2009



The Hon John Brumby MP, Premier of Victoria

Private CEO Luncheon

Luncheon with *H.E. Mr Zhang Junsai*, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

Sponsored by *Clayton Utz*

Melbourne, 19 June 2009

Private CEO Luncheon

The Japanese economy and opportunities for joint participation in infrastructure projects in Japan, Australia and Asia

Luncheon with *Takumi Shibata*, Chief Operating Officer, Nomura Securities Co., Ltd.

Sponsored by *Blake Dawson*

Sydney, 30 June 2009

The CEO Asia Update Forum

offered a public platform for business leaders, either Australia-based or visiting from Asia. These events offered a senior Australian business audience access to business leaders as well as timely insights into events in Asia as they unfold.

Premier's China Update Luncheon

Luncheon with *The Hon John Brumby MP*, Premier of Victoria

In conjunction with the *Australia China Business Council*

Melbourne, 5 August 2009

The Arts and Culture Programme offered a range of events to profile Asian cultures as well as highlight the contributions being made by Asian Australians to the Australian community.

Chairman's Luncheon

Luncheon with *Dr Melissa Chiu*, Museum Director and Vice President, Global Art Programs, Asia Society New York

In conjunction with the *National Gallery of Victoria*

Melbourne, 28 July 2008



Dr Melissa Chiu, Asia Society

Public Lecture

Chinese Contemporary Art: 7 Things You Should Know

Dr Melissa Chiu, Museum Director and Vice President, Global Art Programs, Asia Society New York

In conjunction with *KAZARI Collector* and *The Asian Arts Society of Australia*

Melbourne, 28 July 2008

Book Launch

Kashgar: Oasis City on China's Old Silk Road

In conjunction with the *Monash Asia Institute* and the *National Gallery of Victoria*

Melbourne, 24 March 2009

Asia
Society



AustralAsia
Centre

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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