



AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL
ASIA PACIFIC FUTURES RESEARCH NETWORK

www.sueztosuva.org.au

Supplementary Information Annual Report 2005

Contents

Governance	p. 1
Conferences and Activities	p. 3
International Activities	p. 6
ECRs	p. 7

Governance

There were no major alterations to the governance structure of the Network between application stage and operational implementation in 2004-2005.

Change in membership of the Management Committee (MC)

The position of China Node leader was transferred from Professor David Goodman (UTS) to Professor Stephanie Helmelryk Donald (UTS) and the position of Australia-Asia Pacific Node leader moved from Professor Mary Farquhar (Griffith) to Professor Michael Wesley (Griffith). Neither node shifted host institution and instead resulted from new appointments to host institutions.

List of Full MC Meetings:

1. October 15 2004
2. April 29 2005

3. September 23 2005

In addition to these meetings, the MC regularly consults via email on matters as they arise.

Major resolutions at each MC meeting:

October 15 2004

This was the first meeting of the MC as a group since the initial meetings in February to write the application.

- This meeting established the overall parameters and criteria for the project grants rounds and the process for distributing funding to those undertaking network projects.
- We determined the location of the Signature Event on security for 2005 (Brisbane, Griffith University).
It approved the projected budget allocations for the range of activity categories in 2004 and 2005 in the light of the 40% budget reduction from the application.
- The MC confirmed the order of the annual signature themes and identified titles for each of these.
- It decided the parameters for the meeting with the Advisory Council of industry partners.
- It resolved to operate an Open Network—welcoming a broad range of Asia Pacific Scholars
- In the light of receiving 40% less funding than requested the MC resolved to merge three programs (Futures, Partnerships and Training) into one in order to have all three happening within each funded project.

April 29th 2005

The meeting reviewed our activities over the past months in establishing the grants process and building membership communication streams (i.e. Bulletins and Webpage).

- This meeting also sought to build cooperation with ICEAPS through technical support and duplication of grant acceptance forms through ANU's legal and research offices.
- We determined to work with the ASAA's Postgraduate Representative, Ms Lara Vanderstaay in building an Asia Pacific Postgrads and ECR list-serve. We would request ICEAPS support in the technical aspects of this email list on the understanding that it would be useful to that organization as well.
- We sought to create a list of media contact with the support of the ASAA's Promotions Agent, Ms Francesca Beddie.
- The MC discussed the tidying up of the Advisory Board membership in the light of changes in federal government positions.
- We also discussed in detail the criteria for the imminent grants project applications round.

September 23 2005

This meeting was held just prior to our meeting with our Advisory Council.

- We resolved to make a submission to DEST on the RQF guidelines and discussed the appropriate content of such a submission.
- The committee examined spending for the year and the finance documents and allocated remaining monies.
- We examined the equity spread of our allocated grants in terms of gender, university, region-of-study and noted that there were no major concerns in terms of distribution on any of these counts.
- The outcomes from the Signature Event were appraised and the MC resolved to create a more detailed EOI for the 2006 host bid.

- Details of the AUSAID-South Asia agreement were discussed within the other regional Node reports

Subcommittees of the MC meetings

The Project Grants Subcommittee, comprising rotating members of the MC, meet to decide on the allocation of funds as required.

In 2005, the Project Grants Subcommittee met via teleconference 4 times:

May 6 2005, June 10 2005, July 22 2005, October 7 2005

Membership of the respective sub-committees is available on our website in the documentation on each grant round.

- After each meeting the process and criteria for selection were refined and built into procedures for subsequent rounds.
- The details of the projects funded were listed in the first Annual Report document, but they can also be found on our website.

Changes to Network Advisory Council

As a result of the departure of Bill Paterson from First Secretary of the South and Southeast Asian Division of DFAT (on his assumption of the position of Ambassador to Thailand), we invited Mr Michael L'Estrange, Secretary DFAT, to the Council. In addition, to build our strength in the health area we invited Ms Pieta Laut, Executive Director of the Public Health Association of Australia to join. Other than this there have been no other changes to the composition of the Council.

Conferences and Activities

The 30 conferences and workshops sponsored by the network have involved a plethora of students, academics and industry partners.

Each of these events has been of varying size ranging from small workshops of 30 people to larger conferences of over a hundred. The majority of our events involve around 60 people. The smaller events are those that are directed specifically at postgraduate training (e.g. University of Wollongong postgraduate workshop) whereas the larger events include a broad audience of academics, industry partners and members of the public. For example, the Asia Research Forum at the NLA and the Pacific Masculinities Conference at ANU both drew over a hundred participants. Other projects have funded individual speakers to small postgraduate events (e.g. the Postgraduate workshop on Women in Asia) but these speakers then remain to speak at large conferences (e.g. the Women in Asia Conference where over 400 people attended).

The extent of engagement between participants in these programs is also diverse.

- At the intimate postgraduate events, key academics work specifically with small groups of students on their particular research problems—for example in Master Classes. (participants number around 30 in 6 different events)
- In the mid-size events, such as the workshop on Illicit Drugs in the Asia Pacific, a mixture of ECRs, industry partners and senior researchers from overseas and in Australia came together in a program that has produced a special issue of a journal. The program was both intensive and extensive in that it was directed at achieving

broad knowledge dissemination and a concrete research publication output.
(participants number around 100 in 14 different events)

- In larger events, the engagement between participants is necessarily more diffuse since opportunities for intensive engagement are spread more thinly around greater numbers of people. (participants number between 100-400 in 10 different events)

At the commencement of our planning for the year, the Management Committee established a number of **goals for its allocation** of funds.

1: To spread funding across a diverse range of universities to harness strengths in these locations.

Asia Pacific Studies in Australia is concentrated at the ANU however, the Network aimed to strengthen institutions outside of Canberra where possible by supporting their innovative programs. Nonetheless, in allocating funding during the year we aimed to select the best projects submitted rather than specifying a particular amount of money for any particular category of applications (e.g. region of study or university) and the MC resolved to check against these criteria once a cycle of 3 grant rounds had been completed. At its September meeting the MC examined the spread of applications by university, gender and region of interest to ascertain equity. The statistics revealed that we had achieved our KPI in terms of supporting diverse universities across Australia in their Asia Pacific research agendas. By the end of the year we had provided funding to 14 different institutions for their events: ANU 6; UofW 2; Griffith 1; Deakin 1; UTS 2; UWA 1; UTas 1; UAdelaide 1; UMelb 2; Flinders 1; LaTrobe 1; Curtin 1; NLA 1; Burnett Institute 1. All states and territories were represented in the successful grant applications except the Northern Territory. Both new and well established universities were represented.

2: To fund as many innovative projects as the budget would permit.

Our goal for project grants expenditure was to host as many innovative programs as we can afford within the annual budget. In 2004-2005 the MC's KPI for expenditure was to commit \$200,000 to projects with a primary focus on those that related to "Security and Governance" and "Media and Communication". It was intended that the maximum funding per project would be \$10,000 ensuring that a minimum of 20 projects would receive funding. We nearly fulfilled our KPI by funding \$193,760 worth of projects.

3: To ensure that postgraduates and ECRs were involved as meaningful partners in each of the projects funded.

We aimed to ensure that ARC-APFRN projects should include postgraduates and ECRs as full participants in all of the programs funded. This was achieved by requiring each application to explicitly state how they would support this cohort of researchers. All our conferences and workshops included postgraduate participants and 6 of the funded projects were specifically designed for postgraduates.

Postgraduates and ECRs have been involved in all of the programs and have undertaken leadership and training as a result of their involvement. They have been involved as organisers and speakers for many events and in some cases have undertaken editorial roles in post conference volumes. In all events ECRs and postgraduates have been enabled to meet with prominent academics from interstate and overseas.

4: To encourage cooperation between universities in making applications for innovative projects.

We aimed to encourage universities to cooperate in their devising of projects and noted in the application form that such cooperative ventures would be encouraged. Of the 30 grants funded 12 were multi-university applications. All 30 of the projects funded included participants from multiple universities around Australia and the globe.

5: To encourage interaction between academics and industry partners in projects.

One of our goals for the Network was to build bridges between the academic world and the broader community to ensure that the broadest possible impact for our scholarly work is achieved. Our project grant application forms states this explicitly. We have been very successful in achieving this KPI. Out of 30 projects 14 had industry involvement in planning and/or participation. These partners included a diverse range of bodies from government departments, volunteer agencies, media outlets, migration administrators, health professionals, community activists, law and policing sectors and the scientific community.

International Activities

Our international activities have focussed entirely upon bringing international researchers to Australia (rather than sending Australian overseas). This decision was taken to ensure that as large a number of Australian-based researchers are able to have access to these experts. For example, Professor Nicole Constable was invited to Australia to attend a large conference held at UTS and during that time she participated in the conference by doing a keynote and attending a workshop for ECRs and postgraduates.

As part of our node structure (whereby each node has local responsibilities as well as region-of-study responsibilities) we ensure that when an APFRN-funded visitor comes to an event he/she is invited to either a large event (where many researchers will meet the person) or multiple other sites hosted by the nodes. Accordingly, Dr Duncan McCargo was invited to speak in Canberra, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney during his brief time in Australia.

Our plans for international engagement in the future are to continue with this system since it ensures that a greater number and a greater range of Australian researchers are able to meet with overseas researchers. We also like to take the opportunity to display the quality and extent of our research resources to overseas scholars by bringing them to Australian institutions. We anticipate that subsequent visits by overseas researchers are more likely to occur if they have already made the journey to Australia once before.

Our members maintain strong links with existing bodies and organisations overseas including the International Institute for Asian Studies at Leiden, the American Asian Studies Association and NZ Asia. Members have participated in both discipline-based conferences and Area Studies conferences around the world. The network has not funded Australian participation at overseas conferences yet. To date, the applications made along these lines have not been as strong as those that aim to bring overseas people to multiple Australian sites.

ECRS training in leadership and management

While ECRs have been involved in each of our funded projects we have not yet organised an explicit program on leadership and management. This aspect of our program has yet to come to full fruition. We have concentrated early on the postgraduate area to date and are moving on the ECR aspects in 2006 and 2007. Programs such as that which drew Ms Lara Vanderstaay (Phd student from UQ) into a leadership role in the establishment of the postgraduate and ECR database will be extended and expanded.

Some nodes have been instrumental in mobilising postgraduates and ECRs in their creation of a node identity. For example, the Islam node has established a postgraduate database, available on the network website, that includes details of the projects each student is undertaking. This initiative was undertaken by an ECR at Monash, Ben McQueen, under the guidance of Dr Shahram Akbarzadeh.

One of our programs for 2006-7 is to commission an ECR leadership and management workshop. An EOI overview document is being drafted and will be allocated \$20,000 of network funds.