



AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL ASIA PACIFIC FUTURES RESEARCH NETWORK

www.sueztosuva.org.au

ARC Asia Pacific Futures Research Network Email Bulletin No. 6 (January 17 2006)

Dear ARC-APFRN Colleagues,

I hope that this first network bulletin finds you well rested after the Christmas break. There are a number of activities and events that have occurred since the last formal bulletin that I thought I would draw to your attention.

South Asia Node Collaboration with AusAID

In November the ARC-APFRN signed a 5 year \$1.55 million contract with AusAID designed to enhance the efficacy of their programs in South Asia. The contract established the South Asia Research Facility at LaTrobe University with Professor Brian Stoddart as the responsible officer and Ms Tracy Lee as Executive Officer. The initial contact with AusAID grew from the inaugural South Asia Node meeting hosted at UNSW in February 2005 and was followed-up by Professor Robin Jeffrey, South Asia Node leader.

There are three prongs to the contract. (1) An annual conference updating AusAID on key current issues and including specifically commissioned research on key topics of their nomination, (2) Targetted research projects on a selection of topics (3) PhD scholarship program for 6 students from the South Asia region.

Calls for your involvement in the many activities and programs will be made in due course, including involvement in hosting PhD students.

A steering committee has been established to oversee the program consisting of ARC-APFRN and AusAid members. The committee comprises: Peter Callan, Stephen Howes and Lisa Hannigan from AusAID; Professor Stoddart and Dr Linda Bennett from LaTrobe; Professors Robin Jeffrey and Raghav Jha from ANU; Professors Marika Vicziany and D.P. Chaudhri from Monash and Professor Louise Edwards from UTS.

A major feature of the success of the collaboration with AusAID grew from the Network's ability to draw on research expertise around Australia regardless of institutional affiliation. Many network members provided adhoc advice and expressions of willingness to participate in the program. Thanks goes to all of you...you are too many to name individually, but those involved were primarily South Asia and Islam node members. Finally, in working through the lengthy processes of

negotiating this contract and its many drafts I would like to thank Robin Jeffrey, Lisa Hannigan and Kerry Groves in particular for their patience and enthusiasm. Advice from the Legal and Research offices at both LaTrobe and ANU was also instrumental in securing this successful collaboration. Congratulations are due to all involved and we look forward to a very active South Asia research agenda in cooperation with AusAID over the next five years.

Management Committee Movements

As you would have noticed above there have been two relocations for Management Committee members over the summer. Professor Robin Jeffrey has taken up the position of Convenor of ANU's College of Asia and the Pacific and Director of the Research School of Asia and Pacific Studies. He will continue to serve as South Asia Node leader while at ANU, but the administration of the node will remain at LaTrobe. Congratulations to Robin on this new position.

I have made a shift to UTS, taking up a position of Professor of China Studies in the Institute for International Studies. I am in the process of negotiating the relocation of the administration of the network to UTS. UTS currently hosts two other Research Networks and welcomes the APFRN to its fold. The transfer is a lengthy and complicated process involving numerous contractual agreements. I hope that this transition will not cause any inconvenience to you and your involvement in the network's activities. I will endeavour to limit the inconvenience as much as possible. My ANU email is forwarded to UTS for the next little while, but the new address is Louise.Edwards@uts.edu.au or arc_apfrn@uts.edu.au

Name change for West Asia/Islam Node to Islam Node

The node members for West Asia have renamed themselves, with the support of the Management Committee, to Islam Node. They felt this reflected more accurately the scope of their activities.

Network Convenors' meeting and annual reports

The ARC hosted a meeting of all 20 network convenors in November designed to provide advice to us on how to present our Annual Reports, due soon. The ARC-AFPRN is in the happy position of having acquitted almost all of our funds and also of successfully convening numerous conferences and workshops. I foresee no problems with the reporting process but will call on your help as it is needed. In particular, I would appreciate final reports from those of you who received funding in 2005 as soon as possible.

New ARC Applications

If you were a participant on the original Network application submitted in March 2004, the network will appear as an item in your GAMS page. If this is the case and you are applying for an ARC grant in this coming round, you will need to include a progress report for the network. I have the progress report written and will email it to you on request. All you need to do is simply slot it into your application. Only those with the Network appearing in their GAMS page need to worry about this step.

Events past and future

Check out the network's SueztoSuva site for events recently hosted and forthcoming. In November and December conferences on Pacific Masculinities, TV in Asia, Philanthropy in Muslim Countries, Islam and Human Security, Migration, and Tamil Tigers were among the many events that took place under the auspices of the APFRN. This year there is already listed events on "Media and Identity" and "Communicating across the Pacific". [Web link <http://www.sueztosuva.org.au> and following the "Events" link.]

Project Grants Round 2006

Closing dates and parameters for these have yet to be determined. I'll let you know as soon as they are done. I know from the many emails received that there are plenty of you waiting to hear more about these. Thanks for your patience.

Best wishes with the remainder of the non-teaching period,

Louise Edwards

Convenor

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