



AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL ASIA PACIFIC FUTURES RESEARCH NETWORK

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ARC Asia Pacific Futures Research Network Email Bulletin

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Dear ARC Asia Pacific Futures Network members,

This is a brief message to keep you informed of the progress in regards to the Network.

****Finance and funding schemes****

As a new scheme to the ARC stable there have been a number of teething problems in relation to the connections between the 7 universities who are official partners and "funders" of the network. Legal offices around the country have been exercising their minds on the intricacies of IP and Ethics in relation to cross-university research schemes such as those we plan for the network. As a consequence the funding has not yet been released by the ANU. I anticipate that it won't be too much longer, but apologise in advance for holding back all of your enthusiastic inquiries on applications. We have a "funding application form" ready to go as soon as the money is released and rest assured that I will send it out the minute this happens.

By way of preparing you for the application process there are a couple of things to keep in mind:

- There will be four rounds of applications this year (the last for projects commencing in 2006) and
- funding will normally be at a maximum of \$10,000 per program
- the network can't fund publications or research, but...
- it can fund conferences and workshops that lead to research output
- its main goal is to find new and dynamic research programs that break regional or disciplinary borders to solve significant problems

****Regional Node Activities****

Some of you will already have participated in node activities, but a brief summary is provided below. You will note that Nodes generate inter-regional, interdisciplinary activities as well as nation/region-based programs.

- **SE Asia Node** leader Prof Colin Brown of Curtin convened a meeting of interested parties from around the country on Feb 18 at the ANU where broad goals for SE Asian programs were outlined as well as a themed larger conference on key issues in SE Asia studies.
- Similarly, **China Node** leader Prof Stephanie Hemlryk Donald of UTS convened a meeting on Feb 25th at UTS where a couple of specific programs involving postgraduate training as well as broader programs were foreshadowed. For example 2 postgraduates will be funded to attend a workshop on Fresh and Salt Water to be held at UTS on May 8th.

- **South Asia Node** leader Prof Robin Jeffrey of LaTrobe held a large two-day gathering at UNSW on Feb 21-22, which involved presentation of research papers as well as planning for South Asia-focussed activities. Prof Jeffrey also drew industry-partners to the meeting by way of connecting academic and community interests and needs. These included Stephen Dametto (Aust. Federal Police); Alan Marsh (AUSAID); Chris Birrer (Dept. Defense); Mark Nelson (RC General Practitioners); Neville Roach (Aust-India Business Council); Geoff Herriot (ABC); Peter Tribilco (Public Health Assoc); Janet Neville (LAWASIA); Peter Howarth (DFAT); Jackie Menzies (Art Gallery NSW); Anupam Sharma (Aust-India Film Council).
- **Japan and Korea Node** Leader Professor Purnendra Jain of Adelaide University will host a meeting at University of Sydney on April 15th. Interested people should contact Purnendra. Adelaide University hosted a Symposium on Asia Pacific and the New International Order in January and postgraduate participation was supported by the Network.

****Other Activities****

- **Signature Event:** Conference Theme "Energy Security", August 25-28 (aprox) Griffith University
Professor Michael Wesley of Griffith University will host a major conference on the pressing problem of energy security in the region including both larger sessions and smaller specialist workshops. Key issues to be addressed include: Energy security and competition; Economics of energy security; environmental effects of energy consumption; transnational threats; and human security.
More details on the conference and its workshops will be distributed as they come to hand.
- **International Art Exhibition: Accompanying the Signature Conference "Security, fear and human rights"**
Dr Caroline Turner of ANU and Dr Pat Hoffie of Griffith are curating an art exhibition of works by artists from around the region to accompany the signature conference. Both the conference and the exhibition will be held at Griffith University's Queensland College of Art on Southbank. Both emerging and established artists will be presenting their work. Members of the public will be welcomed to view the exhibition.
- **National Academies Forum: "After the Tsunami: Harnessing Australian Expertise for the Recovery" March 31-April 1 2005**
The four academies are hosting a 2 day symposium aimed at ensuring the medium to longterm impact of Australia's involvement in the recovery from the Boxing Day tsunami is as effective as possible. Scientists, engineers, social scientists and humanities scholars are joining together to discuss key aspects of the problem. The Network has been assisting in the planning for this event and will provide funding to bring Australian and overseas speakers to the event. The event will be held in the Shine Dome, Canberra and several key Network members will be speakers including Professor Jim Fox (ANU), Dr Lenore Lyons (Wollongong), Prof Stephanie Fahey (Uni Sydney) and Prof Robin Jeffrey (LaTrobe)
- **Islam, Human Security and Xenophobia International Conference: November 25-26 2005, Melbourne Arts Centre.**
West Asia and Islam Node leader Dr Shahram Akbarzadeh of Monash University is convening this conference with Deakin University. International keynote speakers

include: Prof James Piscatori, University of Oxford, Prof Bryan Turner, University of Singapore and Prof Bassam Tibi, University of Goettingen, Center for International Affairs.

****Network Participant's Register****

Thanks to all of you who have signed and returned the network participant's form. While you do not have to be a registered participant to join in with network activities, you do have to be registered to be awarded funding. So, on that note, can you let me know of any other colleagues that you would like invited to join (email addresses as well, thanks). Thankyou to those who have already provided new names. These people have been contacted.

Best wishes,

Louise Edwards
ARC Asia Pacific Futures Research Network Convenor