



AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL ASIA PACIFIC FUTURES RESEARCH NETWORK

www.sueztosuva.org.au

ARC Asia Pacific Futures Research Network Email Bulletin

No. 3 (May 26 2005)

Dear ARC Asia Pacific Futures Research Network Participants,

There have been a number of new developments in the ARC APFRN over the last few weeks that might be of interest.

****Project Grant Applications****

The first round of project grants has been completed and a total of \$74, 890 has been allocated to 10 different projects.

The funds provided support for conferences and workshops ranging from a symposium on drug use in the Pacific, to a winter postgraduate workshop on citizenship and mobility in the Asia Pacific, through to a conference on Islamic philanthropy.

For a full list of the successful applications follow this link to the [grants section](#) of the Suez to Suva Website.

You will be invited to participate in these various events in due course.

A reminder that the second round of applications closes on May 30.

The application form can be downloaded by following the link to [Current Grants Round](#).

****Postgraduate participation****

The Japan/Korea node people have suggested that there is scope for improving communication with postgraduates and postdocs researching Asia Pacific topics. Accordingly, over the next few months, in conjunction with the Asian Studies Association of Australia ([ASAA](#)) and DEST's International Centre for Excellence in Asia Pacific Studies ([ICEAPS](#)), we'll endeavour to build a database of Australian-based postgrads and postdocs. Lara Vanderstaay (UQ), the ASAA's Postgraduate Representative, has undertaken to coordinate this collection of this data with Valerie Shavgarova from ICEAPS.

I will contact you all in due course about the sorts of information we'll need and will count on your help in circulating this among your postgrads and postdocs.

****Connections with Advisory board****

AusAid and South Asia Node

Professor Robin Jeffrey (LaTrobe) commenced very promising discussions with Mr Alan March of AusAid's South Asia and Africa desk. As a consequence the network is currently exploring possibilities of working with AusAid in coordinating a number of programs for enhancing the effectiveness of their programs in the region. Currently there are three possible options: the provision of PhD scholarships for South Asian students to attend Australian Universities (matching funding from the host institution to be sought); the hosting of an annual conference on key issues in

South Asia that brings AusAid staff into contact with academics; providing briefing papers on issues of current concern to AusAid. Currently their key concerns include: Girls' Education, HIV/AIDS, Islam and Human Rights, and Efficacy of Aid programs.

If you are interested in being involved in any of these projects, or in supervising students on these topics, please let me know (apfn@anu.edu.au) and I will add your details to the growing database of experts that we have developing.

****ARC Site Visit****

On April 28th the ARC CEO, Professor Peter Hoj and the Deputy CEO, Mr Greg Harper visited the ANU to talk about progress to date with our network. Their broad goals for the visit were to build contacts with ARC researchers and programs. The Networks are a new scheme for the ARC and so they were seeking insights into the problems and prospects of the Network program as a whole. If you are interested in seeing the diverse sort of activities that the other ARC Networks are undertaking, I have made links to some of their websites on the [Other ARC Networks](#) link.

****Regional Node Activities****

Japan and Korea Node leader, Professor Purnendra Jain (Adelaide University) held a meeting at the University of Sydney on April 15. It was attended by 14 people from around the country. In addition to devising a number of node-specific projects, A/Professor Nanette Gottlieb (UQ) reported on Japanese language research, Professor Ken Wells (ANU) provided an overview of problems and prospects in research in Korean Studies, Professor Peter Drysdale (ANU) reported on trends in Australian research on the Japanese economy, and Dr Kaye Broadbent (Griffith) presented ideas on the way the node could support ECRs.

West Asia and Islam Node leader, Dr Shahram Akbarzadeh (Monash) convened a meeting at the University of Melbourne on May 20. Eighteen scholars from 10 different universities attended the meeting and together they have begun work on enhancing communication of research results including the formation of a moderated email discussion group and the construction of a dedicated webpage.

The **China and Japan/Korea nodes** together sponsored a postgraduate student from UTS, Ivan Cucco, to attend the "China and Japan: Beyond and Behind the Conflict" forum that was held at ANU on May 5th. The forum intended to provide current academic perspectives on the recent tensions between Japan and China. Professors Tessa Morris-Suzuki, John Fitzgerald and Dr Li Narangoa of the ANU hosted the event with ICEAPS providing administrative and coordination support. The keynote speakers were Professors Jia Qingguo (Beijing University) and Fujiwara Kiichi (Tokyo University). Over 150 people attended including undergraduate students, postgraduate students, public servants from the Department of Defence and ONA as well as representatives from the embassies.

China Node: Fresh and Salt Conference May 8-9, UTS

The symposium on water, borders, commons and sovereignty was jointly funded by TfC, APFN and ICEAPS. ICEAPS facilitated links between Australian researchers and speakers on PNG and the Pacific. The APFN sponsored a China strand. The first day of the symposium was dedicated to postdoctoral and postgraduate research. The second and third days brought together Asian and Australian specialists from a wide variety of disciplines. Dr Jane Sayers (Melbourne/Environment Victoria) spoke about her work with environmental education in Beijing, with a particular focus on education on the subject of water management and conservation. She described how children in a primary school program were encouraged to 'screw up a piece of paper and pour water over it' to help them imagine how water catchment and river courses work in practice'. Brooke MacDonald (Melbourne) presented her work on Dams and Resettlement in China, in a workshop setting with

other postgraduates. Professor Michael Webber (Melbourne) presented his work to the symposium on water distribution and agriculture in the North China Plain, developing the overall discussion on borders and the problems inherent in re-directing water according to economic rather than geographically sound strategies of use. Abstracts are available online at www.transforming.cultures.uts.edu.au

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

The Suez to Suva site now includes details of how to register as a participant as well as a full list of currently registered members. If you have colleagues that you think might be interested in joining the network, please feel free to direct them to the relevant [How to register](#) link of the website. The previous email bulletins are also loaded onto the site.

I hope that as first semester winds to a close that you are able to carve some time out to do some research.

Best wishes

Louise Edwards
ARC Asia Pacific Futures Research Network Convenor
<http://www.sueztosuva.org.au/index.php>