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If you have anything you would like to report for the Bulletin or have any suggestions for future issues – please contact Nicki Davies via email: Nicki.Davies@uts.edu.au

2008 Network Grants

Network Grant Applications – Round One 2008 now open

Grant applications for 2008 are now open with Round One applications due by 5pm Wednesday, 27th February.

Applications should focus on the signature theme for 2008:

- Crossing Borders of Cultural Meanings in the Asia Pacific (Culture and Religion)

2007 Fourth Round Grant Results

The Grants sub-committee which included Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh, Professor Stephanie Donald and Professor Louise Edwards met last month to assess this round's applications. Projects were carefully reviewed and discussed before finally agreeing to award funding to three successful applicants:

Applicant	Affiliation	Project Title
Kishor Sharma and Yapa Bandara	Charles Sturt University	Health and Education Implications of China's Accession to WTO
Devleena Ghosh	UTS	Oceans of Story: Intercoloniality and Networks of Cultural Exchange around the Indian Ocean
Patricia Gray, Christian Enemark and Michael Selgelid	National Centre for Biosecurity (ANU)	Biosecurity Challenges Facing Australia and its Region

A reminder that a summary overview of the many network-funded projects is available online at www.sueztosuva.org.au/successful_apps.php



World Bank's Praful Patel in Canberra

World Bank's Praful Patel visited Australia recently to attend the South Asia and Poverty Dynamics Conference. As Vice President for the South Asia Region Mr Patel has extensive knowledge of the economic and social development of the region. Whilst here, Mr Patel attracted a lot of media attention and conducted interviews with The Canberra Times and took time to have a chat with ABC 666's Alex Sloan.

If you are interested in seeing the Media Monitors transcript in full please contact Nicki Davies Nicki.Davies@uts.edu.au

ALEX SLOAN: Okay, why do you think you can end poverty in a generation?

PRAFUL PATEL:

Well in South Asia for the first time in our analysis we see very strong recent record of growth and improvement in human development. But there are still 300 million people, say for example in India, living under one dollar a day. But this is a continent on the move. It's growing at very high rates; India itself is registering this year we estimate it will grow at nine per cent which is one of the highest growths in the world. So other countries in region Pakistan, Bangladesh are also growing at over six per cent. And their investments in human development, education, health, sanitation facilities, access to clean drinking water, have recently been scaled up and are directly impacting the poor people. And we believe if the scaling up continues, and if the growth of the economy also continues, which we think it will, then the worst form of poverty, as we define people living under one dollar a day can be eliminated in a generation.

ALEX SLOAN: When you say 'scaled up' that's deliberate government policy?

PRAFUL PATEL:

Scaled up both in terms of the physical programs for example in education in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the universal primary education is a goal that will most likely be met by the 2015 deadline that has been committed in the MDG - the Millennium Development Goals. Similarly in health, you know these are countrywide, nationwide programs rather than small projects that cover one district or one state. We are supporting the government's national programs all of which have a goal of eventually covering the whole country to a certain minimal standard of access to health.

ALEX SLOAN: So could you in your working life, could you have believed that you would say this, that you could end poverty within a generation?

PRAFUL PATEL:

No and this is why we are very excited because I think we can say that in the case of South Asia at this time. But let me qualify what I mean here is ending poverty of the worst kind. There will still be poverty because if you take the number from one dollar a day per capita which is the definition we use to define the poorest of the poor, if you now go to two dollars a day, and today in South Asia there are you know almost 800 million people who are living under two dollars a day, and life at that level is still in poverty. But right now I think the most important goal is to address the bottom one dollar a day population. We believe that can be ended.



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2007 South Asia Update and Poverty Dynamics Conference

The *South Asia and Poverty Dynamics* conference took place at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra between 27 and 28 September. **The Network sincerely thanks Tracy Lee and John Fitzgerald for making the conference such a huge success.**

This well-organised event was able to enhance policy makers' knowledge of trends and developments in South Asia and provide networking opportunities for exploring economic, social and political dynamics in the region.



The AusAID sponsored conference hosted by the Network's South Asia Research Facility (SARF) is the second of its five annual conferences. It focuses on current issues and presents commissioned research on key topics nominated by AusAID.

Around one hundred participants took part over the two days including representatives of foreign governments and international organisations, senior public servants, academic specialists, postgraduate students and members of the Press. Of special note was the participation of Mr Nazrul Islam, Counsellor of the High Commission of Bangladesh; His Excellency Mr Jalil Abbas Jilani and Tanveer Khaskheli, High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan respectively; and His Excellency Mr Kusumpala Balapatabendi, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka.

World Bank's Praful Patel delivers opening address

Mr Praful Patel, Vice President for the South Asia region, World Bank delivered the Opening Address on "Economic development in South Asia". Other speakers included Mr Richard Vokes, Asian Development Bank Country Director for Sri Lanka, and researchers from local and overseas universities and from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. DACSA scholarship holders were also active participants.

Conference dinner special guest speaker

Professor Anne Krueger of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and formerly Chief Economist at the World Bank and First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF, gave a special address on the topic "India's Reforms and Prospects" at the conference dinner.





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Node round up

Korea and Japan

Purnendra Jain, Professor and Head of Centre for Asian Studies at Adelaide University is pleased to report the funding of three projects by the Japan/Korea node over recent months:

1. Legal Education in Asia symposium, Asia Law Centre, Melbourne Law School
2. Australian Network for Japanese Law conference in conjunction with the Japanese Studies Association of Australia, ANU
3. Strategic Cooperation in Korean Studies in Oceania and Southeast Asia, University of New South Wales

South Asia

Membership

Nine new members were added to the Node in 2007, bringing the total membership to 45.

Grants

The South Asia Node offered partial funding to support the following three conferences in 2007:

1. First Australian National Sanskrit conference (convened by Drs McComas Taylor, ANU; Anita Ray, LTU; Jennifer Cover, Sydney University in November 2007)
2. Historiography and the Question of Non-Western Pasts (convened by Dr Sanjay Seth, LTU, June 21-22, 2007)
3. Democracy, Development and Civil Society in India Conference (convened by Drs Pradeep Taneja and Salim Lakha, Melbourne University, Sept 20-21, 2007)

AusAID contract

The Node manages the South Asia Research Facility (SARF) which is funded by AusAID to administer targeted (Developing Asia's Capacity in South Asia - DACSA) PhD scholarships, to manage supplementary research and to organise annual conferences on behalf of AusAID.

In 2006, eight candidates out of 290 applicants were awarded the DACSA scholarships. By mid 2007 all of the selected PhD students had been placed with the seven participating universities namely ANU, Curtin, James Cook, Monash, Murdoch, LaTrobe and Wollongong.

Two supplementary research projects were undertaken: one based at Monash University, on Islamic Faith Based Schools, and one based at Murdoch University for research on Environment and Climate Change in South Asia.



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Forthcoming Events

China Node

2007 China Node Workshop

Theme: APFRN 2008 theme - "Culture and Religion"

Time: November 27, 2007 10:00am-3:00pm

Venue: International Studies Lecture Room, Blackfriars Campus, UTS

Other forthcoming events

Asia Pacific Week 2008

Building Australia's Asia Pacific Expertise

ANU CAMPUS 29 January - 1 February 2008

URL: <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/asiapacificweek>

Mental Illness and Contemporary East Asian Communities: Responding to Culture

6-7 February 2008

The University of Queensland

Other events

Don't forget that a vast array of ARC-APFRN funded events are taking place all the time. Detailed information is on the website as it becomes available:

<http://www.sueztosuva.org.au>

Your participation is most welcome and please don't hesitate to spread the word about all events far and wide!