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# Centre Activity Report

The Australian **APEC**  
Study Centre

## June 2004 - June 2005



**MONASH**  
University

The Australian APEC Study Centre

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## 1.0 Summary

2004 / 2005 has been an active year for the Australian APEC Study Centre, Monash University. The Centre has been active in promoting trade liberalisation through the hosting of numerous Conferences on Australia's bilateral trade programs with other APEC Economies and has continued its capacity building program through the provision of training programs on financial services regulation and trade liberalisation structural adjustment management.

## 2.0 Conference on an Australia China Free Trade Agreement

With the support of the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Centre, hosted a Conference on the Australia China Free Trade Agreement on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2004 in Sydney, Australia.

The Conference specifically focused on the challenges and benefits presented to both economies from the successful negotiation of a Free Trade Agreement and included speakers and papers presented from trade, industry, government, business and academic representatives from Australia and China, including:

- The Hon Alexander Downer MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Dr Ashton Calvert AC, then Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Fu Chengyu, President, China National Offshore Oil Corporation, Beijing;
- Hugh Morgan AC, President, Business Council of Australia;
- Dr Ken Henry, Secretary, Commonwealth Treasury;
- Hongbin Qu, China Economist, HSBC Hong Kong;
- Alan Oxley, Chairman, Australian APEC Study Centre, Monash University ;
- Professor Yu Yongding, Director, Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing;
- Denny Mooney, Managing Director, Holden Limited;
- Graeme Thomson, Former Australian negotiator with China over WTO accession;
- Her Excellency Madam Fu Ying, Ambassador, People's Republic of China;
- Dr Alan Dupont, Senior Fellow, Lowy Institute for International Policy;
- Paul Kelly, International Editor, The Australian;
- Long Yongtu, Secretary General, Boao Forum for Asia, Beijing;
- Kathryn Fagg, President, Market and Logistics, Bluescope Steel;
- Peter Gallagher, Inquit;
- Vivek Tulpule, Deputy Executive Director, ABARE;
- Dr Len Stephens, CEO, Australian Wool Innovation;
- Larry Ma, Associate Director and Team Leader, PriceWaterhouseCoopers China's Transaction Services Group, Beijing;
- Brian Pilbeam, President, Telstra Asia;
- David Hawes, Head of Government and International Relations, Qantas Airways;
- Bill O'Shea, formerly with Hunt & Hunt Shanghai;
- Ian McCubbin, National Leader, China Business Group, Deacons;
- Heather Ridout, CEO, Australian Industry Group;
- Charlie Lenegan, Managing Director, Rio Tinto;
- Chen Haoran, Chairman, China Chamber of Commerce for Metals, Minerals and Chemicals Importers and Exporters;
- Dr Zhu Min, Executive Assistant President, Bank of China, Beijing;

- Gary Turner, Executive General Manager, International Finance Services, Commonwealth Bank of Australia;
- Daniel Moulis, Freehills;
- Andrew Stoler, Executive Director, IIBE & L, University of Adelaide;
- Dr John Edwards, HSBC Bank Australia; and
- Alex Erskine, Director, Erskinomics Consulting.

The Conference was over subscribed and contributed to significant public and media discussion on the outcomes of an Australia China Free Trade Agreement. The Australian Government and Government of the People's Republic of China are currently completing a scoping study on the opportunities of an Australia China Free Trade Agreement.

### **3.0 Managing Structural Adjustment from Trade Reform Training Program**

With funding support from the Australian Government's Aid Agency, AusAID, the Centre developed and delivered a Training Program on Managing Structural Adjustment from Trade Reform from Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2004 in Melbourne, Australia.

The Training Program, was run by Program Leader, David Harris, and was supported by presenters from industry, Government, including former Government Ministers, and academia. Presenters were drawn from Australia, Japan and New Zealand. 18 participants were trained drawn from each of the Trade Ministries of the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

### **4.0 Managing Regulatory Change in Financial Services: Capacity Building in Prudential Regulation and Risk Management in Life Insurance and Pensions: Investment and Retirement Products Training Program**

With funding support from the Asian Development Bank the Centre developed and delivered a Training Program on Life Insurance and Pensions: Investment and Retirement Products from Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2005 in Melbourne, Australia. This Training Program is the continuation of the Centre's Managing Regulatory Change in Financial Services program that was run from 2000 – 2002 and was endorsed by APEC Finance Ministers.

The Training Program was led by Managing Regulatory Change: Life Insurance and Pensions Program Leader, Dr Jules Gribble, and was supported by presenters and members of the Centre's Financial Services Advisory Board from industry, Government and academia, including the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, Australian Securities and Investment Commission, Ask!T Consulting, Australian Stock Exchange, AXA Asia Pacific Holdings, Commonwealth Bank of Australia Group, the Commonwealth Treasury, Ernst & Young, Macquarie Bank, the National Australia Bank, Standard and Poor's and the University of Melbourne. 19 industry regulators were trained from across member economies of the Asian Development Bank including Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, ROC, Thailand and Vanuatu.

### **5.0 Conference on an Australia Malaysia Free Trade Agreement**

With the support of the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Centre, hosted a Conference on the Australia Malaysia Free Trade Agreement on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005 in Melbourne, Australia.

The Conference specifically focused on the challenges and benefits presented to both economies from the successful negotiation of a Free Trade Agreement and opportunities that exist and precedents already established for harmonisation between the two economies. Speakers at the Conference included representatives from industry, Government and academia, including:

- Hon Alexander Downer MP, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- The Hon John Brumby MP, Victorian Minister for State and Regional Development and Minister for Innovation;
- Michael L'Estrange, Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Dr Mohamed Ariff bin Abdul Kareem, Executive Director, Malaysian Institute of Economic Research;
- Tim Harcourt, Chief Economist, Austrade;
- Nicholas Coppel, Executive Director, Economic Analytical Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- M R Chandran, Chief Executive, Malaysian Palm Oil Association;
- Jammie Penm, Senior Economist, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics;
- Dato' Mustafa Mansur, President, Federation of Malaysia Manufacturers;
- Leigh Purnell, Executive Director (International), Australian Industry Group;
- Professor Henry Ergas, Head of Competition and Regulatory Economics, Charles River Associates;
- Looi Kien Leong, Chairman, International Relations Association of the Computer & Multimedia Industry of Malaysia;
- Datuk Ali Tan Sri Abdul Kadir, Senior Adviser, Ernst & Young Malaysia and former Chairman of the Malaysian Securities Commission;
- Mark Johnson, Deputy Chair, Macquarie Bank;
- Katie Dean, Economist, the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group;
- Lisa Gropp, Assistant Commissioner, Productivity Commission;
- Professor Peter Lloyd, University of Melbourne; and
- Professor John McKay, Director, Australian APEC Study Centre, Monash University.

## **6.0 Conference on Managing Climate Change: Practicalities and Realities in a post-Kyoto Future**

With the support of international public affairs website, Tech Central Station, the Centre hosted a Conference on Climate Change post the expiration of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012 in Parliament House, Canberra, Australia on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

The one day Conference was the first Conference held on the scientific evidence supporting the Kyoto Protocol following its ratification and included representatives from industry and academia, including:

- Harlan Watson, Senior Climate Change Negotiator and Special Representative, US Department of State;
- Qingqing Zhao, First Assistant Secretary (Science and Technology), Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Australia;

- Alan Oxley, Chairman of the Australian APEC Study Centre, Monash University;
- Dr Graeme Pearman, Director, GP Consultants Pty Ltd and former Chief of the CSIRO Division of Atmospheric Research;
- Professor Bob Carter, Research Professor of Geology, James Cook University, Queensland;
- William Kininmonth, Author of "Climate Change: A Natural Hazard" and formerly of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology;
- Dr John Zillman, President, Australia Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and former Principal Delegate of Australia (1994-2004) to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
- Emeritus Professor Garth Paltridge, retired Director of the Institute of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Studies, University of Tasmania and former Chief Research Scientist of the CSIRO Division of Atmospheric Research;
- Roger Beale, Senior Associate, The Allen Consulting Group;
- Dr Brian Fisher, Director, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics;
- Meg McDonald, General Manager Corporate Affairs, Alcoa World Alumina Australia;
- Professor Aynsley Kellow, University of Tasmania;
- Dr Alan Moran, Director, Deregulation Unit, Institute of Public Affairs; and
- Jon Stanford, The Allen Consulting Group.

## **7.0 Managing Regulatory Change in Financial Services: Implementing Basel 2 Training Program for the Asian Bankers Association**

With the support of the Asian Bankers' Association the Centre delivered its second Training Program for the Banker's Association on Capacity Building in Prudential Regulation and Risk Management in Banking: Implementing Basel 2 from Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2005 in Melbourne, Australia. This Training Program was first provided for the Asian Bankers' Association in February 2004.

The Training Program was led by Program Leader, David Jones, and was supported by presenters and members of the Centre's Financial Services Advisory Board from industry, Government and academia, including the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, Ask!T Consulting, AXA Asia Pacific Holdings, Commonwealth Bank of Australia Group, the Commonwealth Treasury, Ernst & Young, Macquarie Bank, the National Australia Bank, Standard and Poor's and the University of Melbourne. 20 representatives from commercial banks and regulatory agencies in Asian Bankers' Association member economies participated, including representatives from Brunei, the People's Republic of China, Korea, Malaysia and Taiwan, ROC.

## **8.0 Papers and Reports**

The Centre has published four significant papers and reports in 2004 / 2005, including:

- de Ridder, J. & Xavier, P. (Principal Authors), "Stocktake of Progress Toward the Key Elements of a Fully Liberalised Telecommunications Sector in the APEC Region", June 2004;
- Oxley, A. & MacMillan, S., "The Kyoto Protocol and the APEC Economies", November 2004;

- Oxley, A., “The Prospects for Global Collaboration on Climate Change”, delivered at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Buenos Aires, Argentina, January 2005; and
- Oxley, A., “Developing Effective Approaches to Access to Genetic Resources”, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2005.

All papers and reports are available on the Australian APEC Study Centre’s website – [www.apec.org.au](http://www.apec.org.au)

## **9.0 APEC 2007**

The Centre has begun preparations for Australia’s hosting of APEC in 2007, including the APEC Study Centre Consortium Meeting. The Centre has also begun discussions with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding the policy agenda for APEC in 2007.