

# Asia Forum

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The Asia Forum of Wellington

## The Asia Forum in 2000, looking towards 2001

The Asia Forum brings together people in Wellington with a scholarly and informed interest in contemporary Asian affairs. It draws on a wide range of opinion leaders and has members of the diplomatic, government, political, academic, business and private communities. It was started in 1997 by British diplomat Roger Hargreaves and Wellington banker Yvonne Yang. With their departure the Asia Forum coordination is now in the hands of Farib Sos. He is assisted by a loose grouping of colleagues. Tim Beal handles communications with members and maintains the web pages. The Asia Forum complements, and cooperates with the NZ Institute of International Affairs, the Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce and the education institutions in Wellington although our emphasis is on informed, off-the-record discussion.

The 2000 programme was even busier than the previous years with 14 meetings. The year started with a presentation from the former NZ Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Rt Hon Don McKinnon on the eve of his departure to take up the position of Commonwealth Secretary-General. It concluded with a talk from one of New Zealand's most experienced, and stimulating, diplomats, Terence O'Brien. In between came presentations from former and serving NZ diplomats, the ambassadors of the Republic of Korea and of the United States, the Chancellor of Victoria University (himself a former Foreign Minister) and speakers from Australia, Malaysia, Britain, and the United States.

Most meetings were held in the premises of leading law firms Bell Gully Buddle Weir, or Russell McVeagh McKenzie Bartlett & Co, and their hospitality and generosity was much appreciated. We also enjoyed the hospitality of the British High Commission and a further meeting was hosted at the Park Royal Hotel by BT Financial Group.

The 2001 programme is in the process of being put together. As previously, there will be flexibility to allow for the passing through Wellington at fairly short notice of Asian experts. Speakers in line for 2001 include Hon Philip Burdon (Asia 2000), Dr Peter Adams (until recently NZ ambassador to China), and Joe Pope (TradeNZ).

### **Supportive donation**

The Asia Forum has benefited greatly from the support of various organisations, notably Belly Gully and Russell McVeagh, in generously providing venues and refreshments for our meetings. However, there are modest running costs, especially pertaining to communications, which also have to be covered. The Asia Forum is therefore seeking donations from organisations or individuals who support our objectives and who wish to join with us in providing an opportunity for informed and stimulating discussion of contemporary Asian issues amongst opinion leaders in Wellington.

Those interested in considering a donation should contact Farib Sos, whose address details are on the first page.

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The meetings in 2000 were:

*8 February*

**RT HON. DON MCKINNON, MP**

**Personal reflections on Asia: Implications for New Zealand**

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

*9 March*

**DR JIM HOARE**

**British perspectives on the security of North Asia**

Research Analyst, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

*14 March*

**HON RUSSELL MARSHALL**

**Internationalisation of New Zealand Education: The Asian dimension**

Chancellor, Victoria University of Wellington

*5 April*

**LEWIS COHEN**

**US-Japan Trade Negotiations: The view from Washington**

Lewis Cohen is a former diplomat and trade negotiator with a particular expertise on US Japan trade issues in the office of the US Trade Representative. For the last 8 years he has run a consulting business (SI-WEL International) and has represented the international interests of Toys R Us in Washington and Tokyo. He is a member of the staff of the President's Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiation.

*18 April*

**TIM GROSER**

**Asian crisis- two years on: Reflections from a New Zealand perspective**

Executive Director, Asia 2000 Foundation

*24 May*

**HE MR BONG-JOO MOON**

**The Korean Peninsula : Election and Inter-Korean Summit**

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

Educated at Seoul National and Georgetown Universities, Ambassador Moon has served in San Francisco, Libreville, Tokyo, Geneva and Beijing. Prior to posting to NZ in 1999 he was Director-General, Asian and Pacific Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT).

*28 June*

**BRUCE BROWN**

**New Zealand and Asia: Some personal recollections and current reflections**

Bruce Brown has had a distinguished and wide-ranging diplomatic career. His postings in Asia included

Malaysia, Pakistan, Iran and Thailand, from which he also covered Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Burma. After leaving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade he was Director of the NZ Institute of International Affairs, 1993-7. He chairs the institute's Research and Publications Committee and has edited *New Zealand in World Affairs*, Vol III, 1972-90.

*12 July*

**ROY FERGUSON**

**NZ Perspectives on Korea Recent economic and political developments in Korea and NZ's relations with Korea.**

NZ Ambassador to the Republic of Korea

*1 August*

**HOOD SALLEH**

**Dr Mahathir and Modern Malaysia**

Chair of Malay Studies, VUW

Hood Salleh was Professor of Anthropology at the National University of Malaysia before taking up the Chair of Malay Studies at Victoria University in 1997. His main fields of interest are indigenous notions of leadership and the study of environment. He studied at the University of Western Australia for his first degree (1970) and obtained a Bachelor of Letters (1974) and a Doctor of Philosophy from Oxford University (1978).

*30 August*

**FRANK WILSON**

**ASEAN Post Ministers' Forum and trends in the region**

Director, South and Southeast Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

*27 September*

**LYNDALL MCLEAN**

**Myanmar: Prospects for change**

Deputy Australian High Commissioner;

Lyndall McLean has served in Korea, China, Cambodia, Vietnam and, most recently, as Ambassador to Myanmar.

*18 October*

**HE MS CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN**

**The Challenge of Globalisation**

United States Ambassador

Carol Moseley Braun is the first former U.S. Senator to hold the post of American Ambassador to New Zealand. She has a BA from University of Illinois and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Chicago. She has worked in private legal practice, and as an Assistant United States Attorney. She has the distinction of being the first woman from Illinois elected to the Senate and was the sole African-American in the Senate from 1992-1998.

*2 November*

**BRYCE HARLAND**

**China, Taiwan and the WTO**

Bryce Harland was educated at Victoria University of Wellington and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Bryce Harland had a long and distinguished career in the foreign service before taking up the directorship of NZIIA. His postings include High Commissioner to the UK 1985-91; Permanent Representative to the United Nations 1982-85; Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Wellington 1976-82; (First) New Zealand Ambassador to China, Beijing 1973-75

Publications include : Collision Course: America and East Asia in the Past and the Future (Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore 1996).

*11 December*

**TERENCE O'BRIEN**

**New Zealand foreign policy and Asia**

Teaching Fellow in International Relations at VUW. Founding Director, Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS, NZ) 1993-99; Former diplomat served as Ambassador to UN, to European Union (EU), to UN at Geneva including WTO, and as Representative to Cook Islands.