

# AsiaForum

The Asia Forum of Wellington

## The Asia Forum in 2002

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. The Asia Forum was launched in 1997 and is currently coordinated by Farib Sos. He is assisted by a loose grouping of colleagues including Athol Mann, Douglas Day, Donald Kirkcaldie, Bruce Brown, Judge Anand Satyanand and Sokha Mey. Tim Beal handles communications with members and maintains the webpages. 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 off-the-record discussion in Wellington. Our objective is to stimulate informed debate and exchange of views on Asian issues amongst opinion leaders. We also value the support and encouragement of Asia 2000 Foundation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the NZ-ASEAN Combined Business Council and the diplomatic community in Wellington.

The 2002 programme continued the format of previous years with a range of high profile speakers from New Zealand and abroad. Most meetings were held alternatively in the offices of leading law firms Bell Gully Buddle Weir, or Russell McVeagh McKenzie Bartlett & Co and their hospitality and generosity was much appreciated.

### **Supportive Donation**

The Asia Forum has benefited greatly from the support of various organisations, notably Bell Gully and Russell McVeagh in generously providing venues and refreshments. However, there are certain running costs, especially pertaining to communications, which 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 donating should contact Farib Sos, whose contact details are below.



Asia Forum Annual Report 2002

The meetings in 2002 were:

*12 February 2002*

**MIKE GREEN**

Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Governance Issues in Post-Soeharto Indonesia**

*19 March 2002*

**LYNDALL MCLEAN**

Deputy Australian High Commissioner

**Australian Perspectives on Current Asian Issues**

*27 March 2002*

**HON BILL ENGLISH, MP**

Leader of the Opposition

**National Party Perspectives on Asia**

*23 April 2002*

**QIU XUEJUN**

First Secretary (Political) Chinese Embassy

**Tibet: its present and future**

*28 May 2002*

**RICHARD FELL CVO**

British High Commissioner

**The United Kingdom and Southeast Asia: Some personal reflections**

*19 June 2002*

**DENIS WIN THEIN**

Managing Director, Powerhouse Systems Ltd

**Changes in Myanmar and opportunities for New Zealand**

*3 July 2002*

**HE ANUCHA OSATHANOND**

Ambassador of Thailand

**Thai-NZ Diplomacy**

*14 August 2002*

**CHRISTOPHER BUTLER**

Executive Director, Asia 2000 Foundation

**Lanterns and Lecterns: Asia 2000 and the NZ Evolution**

*4 September 2002*

**JOHN MAASLAND**

Chairman, ASEAN NZ Combined Business Council

**ASEAN Free Trade and its linkage with CER**

*9 October 2002*

**NEIL WALTER**

former Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Personal reflections on NZ relations with Asia**

*19 November 2002*

**ASHRAF CHOUDHARY MP**

Labour Party List MP

**Does an Asian immigrant ever become a New Zealander?**

*2 December 2002*

**HON JIM SUTTON**

Minister for Trade Negotiations

**Economic Partnership with ASEAN**

---

Details of the Asia Forum programme can be found at [http://www.apri.ac.nz/Asia\\_Forum/](http://www.apri.ac.nz/Asia_Forum/)

*Principal Coordinator*

Farib Sos, Asia Pacific Research Institute, PO Box 2152  
Tel: +64 4 479 2974; 025 454 727 Email: Farib.Sos@apri.ac.nz