

# AsiaForum

The Asia Forum of Wellington

## The Asia Forum in 2003

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 led and chaired by Farib Sos. He is assisted by a group of colleagues including Gary Blick, Douglas Day, and Sokha Mey. Tim Beal handles communications with members and maintains the webpages with assistance from Damon Lynch. 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 2003 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, or Russell McVeagh 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.



The meetings in 2003 were:

**Sir Dryden Spring**

Chairman, Asia 2000 Foundation  
25 February 2003

**THE ASIA/NZ CONNECTION: IMPLICATIONS FOR TRADE**

**Dr Tim Beal**

Victoria University of Wellington  
19 March 2003

**CRISIS IN KOREA: CAUSES AND PROSPECTS**

**Simon Murdoch**

Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
29 April 2003

**NEW ZEALAND'S RELATIONS WITH ASIA**

**Professor Gary Hawke**

Head, School of Government  
Victoria University of Wellington  
27 May 2003

**MULTILATERALISM, REGIONALISM, BILATERALISM - WHAT WILL  
BE THE ASIA-PACIFIC CONTEXT FOR NEW ZEALAND?**

**Alan Oxley**

Chairman, Australian APEC Study Centre  
10 June 2003

**ASIAN DIRECTIONS AND THE AUSTRALASIAN DESTINY**

**Malcolm McGoun**

NZ Ambassador to Vietnam  
25 June 2003

**VIET NAM: DRAGON RISING AGAIN**

**Helder Da Costa**

Tertiary Education Manager, Asia 2000 Foundation  
16 September 2003

**FUTURE ECONOMIC DIRECTIONS OF TIMOR-LESTE**

**Dr Kim Ki-hwah**

International Chair of the Pacific Economic Co-operation Council International  
30 September 2003

**MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE KOREAN ECONOMY-IMPORTANCE  
IN BILATERAL AND REGIONAL TERMS**

**Alan Williams**

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
15 October 2003

**THE GREATER MEKONG SUB-REGION OUTLOOK**

**Douglas Day**

Managing Director, Human Resources International  
11 November 2003

**SOME FACETS OF CHINA**

**Dr Don Brash**

Leader of the National Party of New Zealand  
2 December 2003

**NEW ZEALAND'S ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP WITH ASIA**

---

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 4 914 5240; 0274 454 727 Email: farib.sos@apri.ac.nz