

AsiaForum

The Asia Forum of Wellington

The Asia Forum in 2004

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 1996 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. 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 NZ Foundation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the NZ-ASEAN Combined Business Council and the diplomatic community in Wellington.

The 2004 programme continued the format of previous years with a range of high profile speakers from New Zealand and abroad. Most meetings were held in the offices of leading law firms Bell Gully and Russell McVeagh, or the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank and their hospitality and generosity was much appreciated.

Our major highlight for 2004 also involved Her Excellency The Governor-General, The Honourable Dame Silvia Cartwright who addressed and hosted the Asia Forum Dinner at Government House on Wednesday 1st December. The occasion was also formed part of a fund-raising event for The Cambodia Trust NZ, whose activities are to capacity build land mine victims and produce graduates for The Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics. From the dinner and auction of air tickets and wine, Asia Forum raised \$9000 for the trust. Asia Forum is grateful for the generous support by various individuals and organisations.

Supportive Donation

The Asia Forum has benefited greatly from the support of various organisations, notably Bell Gully, Russell McVeagh, and Hong Kong Shanghai Bank 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.

Those interested in considering a donation should contact Farib Sos, whose contact details are below.



Asia Forum Annual Report 2004

The meetings in 2004 were as follows:

(links to notices, speeches. etc are available from http://www.apri.ac.nz/Asia_Forum/previous.html)

The Right Hon. James Bolger

Former Prime Minister of New Zealand, 1990-97

25 February 2004

NEW ZEALAND AND ASIA: RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE LONG TERM

HE Dr Allan Hawke

Australian High Commissioner

17 March 2004

AUSTRALIA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH ASIA

Colin James

Journalist

27 April 2004

SOME (AWKWARD) QUESTIONS I HAVE ABOUT NEW ZEALAND AND ASIA

HE Primo Joelianto

Ambassador of Indonesia

18 May 2004

THE INDONESIAN GENERAL ELECTION APRIL 2004 : A PATH TOWARDS GREATER DEMOCRATIC RULE

Christopher Butler

Executive Director of Asia 2000 Foundation of New Zealand

15 June 2004

SERIOUSLY ASIA. HOW SERIOUS ARE WE?

Professor Anthony Milner

Dean of the Faculty of Asian Studies, Australian National University

7 July 2004

AUSTRALIA'S SECURITY RELATIONS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA, IN PARTICULAR INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA

H.E. Mr Kambiz Sheikh-hassani

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran

20 July 2004

NEW DIRECTION IN IRAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

Philip Lewin

Chief Executive, Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce

17 August 2004

NZ'S BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH ASIA

Pansy Wong MP

National Party List member

29 September 2004

DIALOGUE IN BEIJING

Reflections on the international conference of Asian political parties held in Beijing in September

Mirmahmoud Moosavi

Senior Research Fellow, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Islamic Republic of Iran

30 September 2004

THE DEVELOPMENT IN AFGHANISTAN FROM IRAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Caroline McDonald

Director, Disarmament Division,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Thursday 28 October

ASIA'S NEW ECONOMIC GIANT: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF INDIA FOR NEW ZEALAND

H.E. Mr Shin Jung-seung

Ambassador, Republic of Korea

Tuesday 23 November

KOREA AS REGIONAL HUB FOR NORTHEAST ASIA: PROSPECTS AND ISSUES

Honourable Dame Silvia Cartwright PCNZM, DBE

Governor-General of New Zealand

1 December 2004

Details of the Asia Forum programme can be found at http://www.apri.ac.nz/Asia_Forum/

Farib Sos

Executive Chair

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