

AsiaForum

The Asia Forum of Wellington

The Asia Forum in 2005

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 Colin Bell, 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 2005 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 2005 was the Asia Forum Dinner in the Grand Hall at Parliament on Thursday 1st December. This was hosted and addressed by the Speaker of the House, Hon Margaret Wilson. 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 2005 were as follows:

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

John McKinnon

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Wednesday 9 February

CHINA-NZ RELATIONS: LOOKING BACKWARDS, LOOKING FORWARD

Tim Gibson

CEO, NZ Trade and Enterprise

Thursday 3 March

WHAT NZTE IS DOING IN ASIA AND NZTE'S OVERALL STRATEGY

Peter Adams

Executive Director, NZAID

Wednesday 30 March

NZAID'S NEW ASIA STRATEGY

Hon Phil Goff

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Tuesday 5 April

UPDATE ON NEW ZEALAND'S ENGAGEMENT WITH ASIA

HE Mr Charles J. Swindells

Ambassador of the United States of America

Tuesday 31 May

UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS EAST ASIA

Rt Hon Justice Sir Kenneth Keith KBE

Supreme Court of New Zealand

Wednesday 22 June

COURT SYSTEMS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC - IMPLICATIONS FOR NEW ZEALAND

H.E. Mr Kambiz Sheikh-Hassani

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Tuesday 5 July

IRAN'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMME

Charles Finny

CEO, Wellington Chamber of Commerce

Tuesday 19 July

FREE TRADE WITH NORTH ASIA

Dr Stephen Epstein

Director, Asian Studies Institute, VUW

Dr Xiaoming Huang

Senior Lecturer in East Asian Politics, VUW

Terence O'Brien

former Director, Centre for Strategic Studies, VUW

Wednesday 3 August

"CRISIS" IN EAST ASIA?

Professor Salim Said

Professor of Political Science, Muhammadiyah University of Malang,
Indonesia

Monday 5 September

ISLAM AND POLITICS IN INDONESIA

Aldo Matteucci

former Deputy Secretary-General of EFTA, Geneva

Monday 14 September

FTAS: PRAISE AND PREJUDICE

Howard Fancy

Secretary for Education

Tuesday 11 October

ARE WE EQUIPPING OUR CHILDREN FOR THE 'ASIAN CENTURY'?

Rommel Caringal

General Manager of VisionFund Cambodia

Wednesday 12 October

MICRO-FINANCING IN CAMBODIA

HE Dr Allan Hawke

Australian High Commissioner

Tuesday 8 November

CONUNDRUMS, DILEMMAS AND PARADOXES

Asia Forum annual dinner 2005

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

Executive Chair

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