

# AsiaForum

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The Asia Forum of Wellington

## **The Asia Forum Report For 2007**

Two thousand and seven was a great source of inspiration and support from a number of distinguished individuals and opinion leaders from various interests and professional backgrounds, from abroad and from New Zealand, in sharing their perspectives with Asia Forum. As usual our Forum continued to focus on off-the-record discussion and exchange of views on numerous topical Asian issues that occurred during the year.

Asia Forum continues to strive and focus its effort to help facilitate informed debate and the concerns of New Zealanders in engaging with Asia. The Forum gratefully values the opportunity to collaborate and cooperate with the NZ Institute of International Affairs, the Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce, the education institutions in Wellington and business organisations. We also value the support and encouragement of the Asia NZ Foundation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the diplomatic community in Wellington.

Our 2007 programme continued the format of previous years with a range of high profile speakers from New Zealand and abroad leading the discussions. Our meetings were mostly held monthly in the offices of leading law firms Bell Gully, Russell McVeagh, and the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank, who generously provided refreshments and meeting facilities. Our gratitude also goes to Catalyst IT Ltd for hosting our website. Their hospitality, generosity and continuous support were much appreciated.

### **Highlight of the Year**

The highlight for 2007 was the Annual Asia Forum Dinner hosted by His Excellency The Governor-General and Patron of the Asia Forum, The Honourable Anand Satyanand, on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October. The dinner provided an opportunity for the celebration of the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic relations between Japan and New Zealand. Asia Forum was privileged to have Dr Sachio Semmoto, Founder, Chairman & CEO of EMOBILE Ltd as the keynote speaker for the occasion.

Asia Forum is grateful for the generous support from various individuals and organisations for this significant event.

### **Vision for the Future/Looking Ahead**

Asia Forum has been over the years led and chaired by Farib Sos on a voluntary basis. He has been assisted by a group of colleagues including Colin Bell, Douglas Day, Sokha Mey, and Tim Beal.

Asia Forum is embarking on just over 12 years of its existence and it is a great challenge to sustain and maintain its activities. The Forum is keen to have further input and support from interested individuals and organisations to ensure its continued existence, as a viable entity in providing a platform for constructive discussion and a positive contribution towards New Zealand-Asia relations.

Asia Forum would welcome continuous support in every aspect from any individual or organisation that would assist in making Asia Forum a viable and sustainable entity for many years ahead.

### **Contribution**

The Asia Forum has benefited greatly from the support of various organisations, notably and extensively from Belly Gully. However, there are certain running costs, especially pertaining to communications, which have to be covered. The Asia Forum is therefore seeking contributions 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 such a contribution should contact Farib Sos, whose contact details are shown below.

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The meetings in 2007 were as follows:

**Philip Burdon**

Chair of Asia:NZ Foundation

*Tuesday 27 February*

**REFLECTIONS ON THE ASIA: NZ FOUNDATION AGENDA 2007-2010**

**HE Mr Munawar Saeed Bhatti**

High Commissioner of Pakistan

*Wednesday 21 March*

**PAKISTAN: SOUTH ASIA'S OTHER GIANT ECONOMY- OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW ZEALAND**

**Professor Guo Zhenzhi**

Qinghua University, Beijing

*Wednesday 4 April*

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS “PROPAGANDA” AND CHINESE TELEVISION**

**John McArthur**

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Former NZ Ambassador to Japan

*Tuesday 17 April*

**JAPAN UNDER SHINZO ABE**

**Dr Alex Tan**

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Canterbury University

*Tuesday 8 May*

**CHINA - NEW ZEALAND – TAIWAN: THE TRADE IMPLICATIONS OF A TRIANGULAR RELATIONSHIP**

**HE Mr Lee Joon-gyu**

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

*Tuesday 5 June*

**KOREAN PENINSULA UPDATE**

**Tim Gibson**

CEO, NZ Trade and Enterprise

*Tuesday 12 June*

**EMERGING ASIA AND MATURE ASIA: EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN CHALLENGING MARKETS**

**HE Mr Zhang Yuanyuan**

Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China

*Thursday 5 July*

**THE PEACEFUL RISE OF CHINA**

The Wellington branch of the United Nations Association cordially invited members of the Asia Forum to

**Dr Tim Beal**

Victoria University of Wellington

*Thursday 12 July*

**NORTH KOREA: PROSPECTS FOR PEACE**

**Dr Lance Beath**

School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington

*Wednesday 29 August*

**NEW ZEALAND CAPABILITY: LESSONS FROM ASIA**

**Dr James Kember**

Ambassador to Viet Nam

*Wednesday 5 September*

**VIET NAM: CHARM, CHANGE, CHALLENGE AND CHANCE**

**Peter Van Ness**

Contemporary China Centre, Australian National University

*Wednesday 10 October*

**CHINA AND UNITED STATES: COMPETING VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF EAST ASIA**

**Dr Milton Osborne**

Faculty of Asian Studies, Australian National University

*Wednesday 24 October*

**CHINA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA: WHY CHINA IS NOW THE REGION'S PARAMOUNT POWER**

**Peter Beck**

Executive Director, US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea

*Monday 12 November*

**AFTER THE SUMMIT: NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA - WHERE NEXT?**

**Denis Win Thein**

Businessman

*Wednesday 21 November*

**MYANMAR: AN INSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE**

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

*Executive Chair*

Asia Forum, PO Box 2152

Tel: +64 4 914 5240; 0274 454 727 Email: farib.sos@apri.ac.nz