International Beijing event focuses on future

Thought leaders from across China, Australia and the Asian region will come together in Beijing as part of an international project to explore challenges and opportunities of the rising ‘Knowledge Economy’ for Asia’s future.

The Australia China Futures Dialogues is a joint project of Peking University Beijing, Griffith University Australia and the Queensland Government which aims to build understanding between Australia, China and the region.

The three year project will bring together the region’s leading experts to explore the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The first initiative of the Dialogues is the Second Track Dialogue: Our Future Knowledge Economy to be held at the Summer Palace, Beijing on March 28.

The dialogue will explore knowledge requirements of 2020, the benefits of collaborating, priorities and costs involved with planning and building our future knowledge infrastructure and what policies are necessary to reach the desired outcome.

President of Peking University Professor Zhou Qi Feng said the Australia China Futures Dialogues would help ensure the power of the Knowledge Economy was harnessed to the benefit of the region.

“We are living in an age of information explosion and the accumulation of knowledge is happening at an exponential rate,” Professor Zhou said.

“Technology is shaping humanity, society and the whole world with an unprecedented force.”

Griffith Asia Institute Director, Professor Michael Wesley said there had never been a more important time to foster forward thinking, planning and cooperation between the countries of the Asian region.

“The Australia China Futures Dialogues is an important step in assuring a closer relationship in our region. We are delighted such a prestigious group of participants have joined the Second Track Dialogue to discuss Our Future Knowledge Economy,” Professor Wesley said.

“Part of our contribution to the Asia Pacific Knowledge society is to think hard and discuss frankly the implications, dangers and promises of the path we have embarked on.”

This will be the first of three annual events held as part of the joint project, with the second event to be held in Brisbane, Australia later in the year, followed by an Emerging Leaders’ Dialogue event in Beijing. Fellowships will also be developed to enable Australian students to study at Peking University and Chinese students to study at Griffith University in Australia.

An ideas paper based on the Our Future Knowledge Economy discussions will be distributed to participants and regional governments.

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