In introducing Professor Wesley, Vice Chancellor-designate Professor Ian O'Connor paid tribute to the Institute's previous Directors, Professor Bob Elson and Associate Professor Mary Farquhar, and spoke of Griffith University's support for the Institute's new direction.

Speaking to a standing-room-only audience at Griffith University's Southbank Graduate Centre, Professor Wesley presented a public lecture on "Australia's Asia Crisis", in which he presented a case for the revitalisation of Asian studies in Australia's schools and universities. He argued that since the Asian financial crisis, the study of key languages such as Indonesian in Australia had declined and not recovered.

"As a result, Australia’s academic supply of Asia scholars is drying up. Faced with dropping student demand, universities have started closing down or downsizing and merging Asian studies departments. As many Asia scholars retire or retreat overseas, they simply aren’t being replaced."

Professor Wesley said that now, more than ever, Australia needed Asian expertise in order to better understand the ways in which its region would change and influence international affairs over the coming decades. Perhaps as important, he said, was that a better knowledge of its regional neighbours would better help Australian society understand itself.

"Asian countries are different on almost every scale — not only from Australia, but from each other. Almost without exception, the countries of Asia are all going through a process of identity formation, with the countries of their region as a major sounding board. We are not the only country wondering how we relate to Asia. Our own sense of identity and collective self could gain so much from listening closely to these diverse debates."

Professor Wesley argued that there is a pressing need for intellectual leadership in defining why Asia is important to Australia. "This is an issue that needs to be placed at the core of the national interest, above partisan political competition, or changing fashions, or business cycles. A case for interest in Asia needs to be made that will trump the cultural preference for Europe or North America."
Editorial

The launch of the Griffith Asia Institute ushers in an exciting new era for an already dynamic and exciting research institute. In addition to its already-strong record in producing cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research on Asia and the South Pacific, the Griffith Asia Institute will begin to engage in a much more sustained way with the public, the media, and with government. It will seek to play a more prominent role in defining why Asia and the South Pacific are important to Australia, and why we need strong research and vigorous public discussion on Australia’s relations with its region, as a prelude to far-sighted policy.

Over the next months, the Griffith Asia Institute will launch:

- **Regional Outlook Papers** that identify emerging policy issues in the Asian region and discuss their implications for the region and Australia.

- **A Public Seminar Series**, titled “Perspectives: Asia” to rebuild public interest in Asia and facilitate public debate and ideas exchange on Asia. Held monthly in the Brisbane CBD, the series will feature a program of topical and controversial Asia-related subjects, and invite high-profile and high-quality commentators to participate.

- **Regular Public Lectures**, which showcase the talents and opinions of leading thinkers on issues of pressing importance to Australia and its region.

- **Regular Contributions to the National Media**, where Institute members are regular commentators on Asian issues in the Queensland and national media.

I am extremely excited to have been given the opportunity to participate and help shape the work of the Griffith Asia Institute. I look forward to further interaction on a range of issues of vital national importance.

Effective delivery of negotiation education

Critical issues involving world peace, the economy, the environment and many other sectors of society are decided through negotiation. Development of effective agreements in each sector is directly related to negotiator skill and ability. Within this context universities all over the world are studying how to effectively deliver negotiation education. This was the focus of a recent Griffith Asia Institute seminar offered by Dan Druckman, Professor of Conflict Resolution at George Mason University (near Washington D.C.) and currently a Visiting Scholar at the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland. Organised by Larry Crump, a Griffith Asia Institute researcher, the seminar was attended by negotiation educators from Griffith, University of Queensland, QUT and the Queensland Department of Justice.

Participants at this Griffith Asia Institute seminar discussed the differences between teaching and training, considered how negotiation analysis is introduced to students and examined how negotiation education is delivered in various countries.
Griffith Asia Institute events

International workshop on the new economy, knowledge management and growth


Three case studies on India, Ireland and Australia were presented and the fourth paper focused on several benchmarking methods of the information economy. Dr Moazzem Hossain opened the proceedings with the case of India, outlining the current state of the new economy in India and identifying the major factors that have driven the success of the industry during the last ten years. He argued that the telecommunications infrastructure building domestically and the provision of information technology (IT) services to the outside world contributed overwhelmingly to the establishment of the new economy sector in India, creating more than 500,000 jobs in 5000 new businesses during the last ten years.

The case of the Republic of Ireland was presented by Mr Jerome Morrissey, Director of the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) based at Dublin City University. The paper suggests that the Republic of Ireland has been showing strong signs of growth in new exports, particularly with IT/Software services, and argues that Ireland is shaping for the future as a world-class knowledge-based society and an Ireland which is no longer in ‘catch-up mode’ but is a world leader.

The Australian case was presented by Mr James McAdam, General Manager of the Australia Information Industry Association (AIIA) based in Canberra. This paper originated from an Australia-wide industry survey conducted in 2003, preliminary results of which were presented in the workshop. The information economy in Australia has been making strong progress over the last decade, and is one of the areas of fastest growth and innovation in the Australian economy. Mr McAdam argued that the recent survey will shed new light on the issue of the industry’s participation in the IT/software outsourcing arena in the future.

The final presentation was made by Professor E. Antony Selvanathan, of the Griffith Business School, on benchmarking. Professor Selvanathan highlighted several methods for measuring prices, profitability and productivity of the new economy products.

A wide variety of issues was addressed in the open discussion forum in the afternoon. In particular, the challenges for India and Ireland were debated with the identification of the major shortcomings of these two structurally disparate economies. Local and multinational companies must be drafted to build education facilities at secondary and higher secondary levels. Support at the local level by big business should also be guaranteed to supplement additional government spending in this field.

Above: Mr James Morrissey, Director, National Centre for Technology in Education, Dublin City University, with Dr Moazzem Hossain, Griffith Asia Institute, at the workshop in Brisbane.
Griffith University signs an Agreement with Indonesia’s Ministry of Health and the University of Indonesia

On 18 October 2004 Griffith University signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Letter of Intent – Plan of Operation with the Ministry of Health in Indonesia and the University of Indonesia to work towards future initiatives in Public Health in Indonesia. Alison Atwell represented Griffith University to witness the documents, which will be countersigned by Professor Max Standage, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Health) of Griffith University. The signing of this agreement is an important step for Griffith University, which has successfully bid on two occasions for senior practitioners within the Ministry of Health in Indonesia to upgrade their training.

Griffith University collaboration with premier Chinese psychological institute

Between 8 and 13 August 2004, Associate Professor Ian Glendon of the Gold Coast School of Applied Psychology represented Griffith University at the 28th International Congress of Psychology (ICP) in Beijing, an important four-yearly event attended by over 6000 psychologists.

Associate Professor Glendon renewed research relationships and made valuable new contacts with Chinese academics. Fluent in Mandarin and Cantonese, his wife, Mimi Glendon, performed a translating and facilitating role. With Melbourne University’s Dr Bernd Rohrman, Associate Professor Glendon organised an ICP symposium entitled “Risk Taking and Risk Communication”. Associate Professor Glendon’s presentation was “Comparing Organisational Risk Perceptions in Australia and Hong Kong”.

Following the Congress, Associate Professor Glendon was Visiting Scholar at Beijing’s prestigious Institute of Psychology. Comprising only academics and postgraduate students, the Institute is the only psychology institution of its type in China. Discussions with Institute staff resulted in agreement to develop collaborative research into organisational risk perceptions and risk management, with Griffith University as the focal institution.
RENNY PHIPPS
Asian Studies graduate

I graduated in 1981 and went on to do Honours in 1982 in Asian Studies at Griffith University.

Throughout my undergraduate years I had focussed on China as the cornerstone of my studies, in the belief that opportunities in that country would soon abound and that I would be well qualified to exploit these opportunities and profit accordingly. Alas, I was about three to four years too early for the real explosion in Australia-China economic relations, but had to put food on the table in the meantime.

After the compulsory stint working full-time in the hotel trade, I was able to secure a job with Queensland Treasury, where I found that the non-China specific skills I had acquired at Griffith (politics and economics) to be of considerable use in my new vocation. These skills, accompanied by the ethos to “think outside the box” (again encouraged by my time at Griffith) were instrumental in my achieving several promotions within a short space of time and broadening my experience substantially.

In 1986, I was seconded from Treasury to assist in the establishment of the Queensland Industry Development Corporation (QIDC). Due to my economics background and a newfound expertise in corporate finance, I eventually assumed control of a $20m Venture Capital Fund managed by QIDC. By 1992, I had engineered the Corporation’s entry into a number of investments spanning industries such as medical technology, building materials and composite and information technologies.

Upon leaving QIDC in 1993, I again gained employment with Queensland Treasury, and in 1997 became a Director in its Structural Policy Division.

Since then, my focus has turned to the freight transport industry. Whilst this is a significant diversion from my previous roles, it is nevertheless proving to be quite challenging and enjoyable. It’s also nice to get into a job that requires a fair bit of travel.

My current role is Principal Advisor in the Rail, Ports and Freight Division of Queensland Transport where I deal with a range of issues of state and national significance for the transport sector of the economy.

FRANK THOMPSON
Modern Asian Studies graduate

Since graduating from Modern Asian Studies in 1992 Frank has had a diverse and interesting academic and professional career that has led to his current position as NGO-Cooperation Program Manager within AusAID.

In the early 1990s Frank managed his own Toowoomba based business before moving to the Northern Territory where he consulted and delivered training in management. This work took him to various remote Aboriginal communities where he also collected data on Indigenous Governance that was the basis of his Master of International Management dissertation. He completed his Masters through Northern Territory University in 2000 around the same time as completing a Grad Diploma Ed (FET) externally through University of Southern Queensland.

In 2000 Frank was awarded an ARC Linkages Grant to complete his PhD. This project involved domestic research as well as research in Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. In the last year of his PhD he lectured part-time in International Relations and then worked full time as Policy Officer for Burma, Sri Lanka and the Pacific at the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) in Canberra.

Frank says that his background in Asian Studies paved the way to his work with ACFOA and then to his current AusAID position. As Contract Manager he is involved in developing, awarding and monitoring aid contracts in Indonesia, East Timor and other parts of Asia.

Frank has fond memories of his years at Griffith, and has drawn upon the knowledge and skills that he developed during his BA in all of his subsequent work. “It was a great place to study in terms of quality of education, the beautiful environment and the friends that I made”, Frank said. He looks forward to aid postings to Asia in the future and to polishing his Mandarin skills in China.
YVETTE MCKEOWN  
International Business graduate

I completed my BA in International Business in 2000. The best part of doing this degree at Griffith is that you can focus on one area or take a broad array of subjects. My subjects included Korean studies, Spanish, International Politics and even Export Management. I always wanted to work in Singapore, but never thought I would end up in New York!

After graduating, I received an internship with the Citigroup Private Bank in NYC and was then hired as an employee. I relocated to New York in 2001 and am now a Client Service Officer for Citigroup’s High Net Worth clients in the NorthEast. My academic experience at Griffith prepared me for this international lifestyle, not to mention my current position, which involves performing large financial banking and investment functions for my clients.

In the last year, I have received my Stock Broker’s licence with the NASD, allowing me to trade stocks on any exchange in the US. I work with clients directly who, might I add, are some of the wealthiest in the US.

I plan on becoming an Investment Banker or Foreign Exchange Trader in the coming years. With all of my experience with Citigroup, I plan to return to my hometown of Brisbane in 2008 in the hopes of continuing my career in the financial industry.

On a recent vacation to Brisbane, I met some young American students who were going to spend a semester at Griffith University at Nathan Campus. I was only too happy to share with them my experience at Griffith, which added to their excitement. I am proud to be a graduate (and product) of Griffith University. I feel that it motivated me to accomplish so much for my age – 26.

Griffith Asia Institute was a major sponsor of the Financing Development Colloquium organised by The Foundation for Development Cooperation on the Gold Coast, from 12 – 14 August 2004. A number of Griffith Asia Institute members participated in the Colloquium, including Professor Michael Wesley and Professor Yan Islam, who each moderated a conference session. Panellists included Dr Julia Howell, speaking on religion and development, Dr Bernard Bishop, speaking on Foreign Direct Investment, and Dr Anthony van Fossen, speaking on taxation issues.

The Financing Development Colloquium brought together over 130 delegates, including representatives of AusAID and the Australian Treasury, as well as from the private sector and NGOs. The UN, IMF, The World Bank, UNESCO and UNCTAD India were also represented. Lead speakers included Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University (by video), Professor Ajit Singh (Cambridge University) and Professor Anthony Clunes-Ross (University of Strathclyde). The Colloquium was a great success. It set a new agenda for increased understanding of the whole range of financing development issues – trade, investment, private capital flows, and global public finance – establishing a platform for influencing key policy and decisions makers. More information is available on the FDC web site at www.fdc.org.au
Recent publications from members of the Griffith Asia Institute

SPECIAL ISSUE OF “POLICY AND SOCIETY”

As a result of a Griffith Asia Institute International Workshop, generously sponsored by the Japan Foundation, held in February 2003 in Brisbane, a Special Issue of the journal Policy and Society on “Policy Leadership in Japan” was published in 2004. The volume includes articles by many of the presenters at the workshop, including the convenor of the Workshop, Associate Professor Javed Maswood from Griffith Asia Institute, Aurelia George Mulgan, Go Ito, Purnendra Jain, Miranda A. Schreurs and Quansheng Zhao.


This book by Dr John Butcher, a member of Griffith Asia Institute, published by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, 2004, is the first history of the marine fisheries of Southeast Asia. It takes as its central theme the movement of fisheries into new fishing grounds, particularly the diverse ecosystems that make up the seas of Southeast Asia. This process accelerated between the 1950s and 1970s in what the author calls “the great fish race”. Catches soared as the population of the region grew, demand from Japan and North America for shrimps and tuna increased and fishers adopted more efficient ways of locating, catching, and preserving fish. But the great fish race soon brought about the severe depletion of one fish population after another, while pollution and the destruction of mangroves and coral reefs degraded fish habitats. Today the relentless movement into new fishing grounds has come to an end, for there are no new fishing grounds to exploit. The frontier of fisheries has closed. The challenge now is to exploit the seas in ways that preserve the diversity of marine life while providing the people of the region with a source of food long into the future.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS


William Case has published “Malaysia: New uncertainties for an old pseudo-democracy” in the most recent (October) issue of the leading journal, Comparative Politics (City University of New York).

Dogs, Smiles and Wats: Griffith University student Peter O’Donnell on exchange in Thailand

The first thing you notice about Thailand is how friendly the people are. Smiles greet you from the moment you board the plane to the time you get off your first red-taxi (paying the ‘foreign’ price of course). The second thing you notice is that signs or menus aren’t written in English, and that not many people speak English. The third is the abundance of dogs in the streets.

I arrived in Thailand in February 2004 as part of Griffith University’s student-exchange program (in-country Thai language and culture course). I am currently in my second semester here (40cp each semester) studying Thai at Chiang Mai University, and enjoying myself immensely. In-class language study is set at two to four hours a day, Monday to Friday, so there is plenty of time to pursue other interests. On weekends, I like to take bus trips to neighbouring towns and provinces, and in my longer breaks I have travelled extensively throughout Thailand (46 provinces so far) as well as to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Singapore, Hong Kong and Macau. Before coming here, I studied two months of intensive Thai at Griffith University Nathan Campus over the 2003–4 summer semester, and this gave me enough survival-Thai to get past the initial culture-shock.

Peter O’Donnell (centre front) with classmates in Thailand.
When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, there was a regrowth of Turkic identity and nationalism in those republics with Turkic populations, such as Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Turkish influence increased, and in 1995 Turkish funding led to the establishment of the Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

This University, which is named after the Kyrgyz ancient hero Manas, has held a series of congresses on Turkic civilization, the second of them held early in October 2004 at the Manas University in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

Two of us were chosen for this student exchange, and as soon as we arrived in Chiang Mai, the University set up a ‘buddy’ system to help us integrate into the Thai way of life. I have taken advantage of this system by visiting many of our buddies in their home towns, and have seen much of Thailand this way.

I have enjoyed all my time here and would recommend the experience to all.

The Second International Congress on Turkic Civilization

BY COLIN MACKERRAS

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, there was a regrowth of Turkic identity and nationalism in those republics with Turkic populations, such as Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Turkish influence increased, and in 1995 Turkish funding led to the establishment of the Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

This University, which is named after the Kyrgyz ancient hero Manas, has held a series of congresses on Turkic civilization, the second of them held early in October 2004 at the Manas University. Participants included scholars from Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Russia, Iran, Japan, China, and Western Europe, with one from the United States. I was the only Australian.

The languages used in the Congress were Russian, Turkish, English and Kyrgyz, in that order of importance. I found it ironic and interesting that, despite the fact that the whole point of the Congress was to promote the identities of Turkic civilization, Kyrgyzstan’s scholars did not give their papers in Kyrgyz, but in Russian. The reason is very simple: they think they will be better understood if they speak Russian. The only two papers given in Kyrgyz were by a Chinese and a Japanese scholar.

The opening session of the Congress, attended by several hundred people, took place in Bishkek’s biggest hall. It included a major speech by Kyrgyzstan’s National President Askar Akaev, and one by the famous Kyrgyz writer Chinghiz Aytmatov.

My paper, included in the opening session, was called “The Role of Ancient Turkic States in World History” and dealt with social and governmental developments in three ancient states from the sixth to the thirteenth centuries. It highlighted the differing religions the Turkic peoples have embraced over their history and their generally tolerant religious traditions.

Along with nineteen others of the more senior Congress participants, I was received by President Akaev in the presidential palace. Security was moderately but not particularly tight. In the past Kyrgyzstan suffered some ethnic tensions in the south but, unlike Uzbekistan, has been free of terrorism.

At the closing session of the Congress I was given an honorary doctorate from Manas University. This was in recognition of work I have done on ancient Turkic states, almost all of it carried out from the ancient Chinese histories and other Chinese sources.

The standard of papers was generally high, and the Congress well organized. As a former small Soviet republic trying to establish its own national identity, Kyrgyzstan is an interesting country and I enjoyed my stay there greatly.