Energy Security in China and India

A research project of the Griffith Asia Institute

With burgeoning populations and an average annual economic growth rate of 6–8% for the past decade, even higher now, China and India have experienced the fastest rates of primary energy consumption growth in the world.

China’s growth rate has been three times and India’s double that of the global annual energy consumption growth rate over the past decade. Their dependence on energy imports has increased significantly – China’s dependence on oil imports increased from 6.8% in 1994 to 47.8% in 2004, while India’s averaged 60.4% over the decade. Meanwhile, the energy consumption per capita is far below the world average in both China (65%) and India (26%).

While both have significant domestic energy resources (hydroelectric, nuclear and coal), they are relatively poor in stocks of oil and natural gas. Coal remains the major contributor to primary energy consumption (67% in China and over 50% in India) but the environmental impacts of burning coal are felt domestically and in the region. Oil consumption doubled in China in the past decade and increased by 60% in India and it will continue to rise with urbanisation and industrialisation. Lack of domestic supplies has forced both countries to search for resources around the globe.

Griffith Asia Institute Director, Professor Michael Wesley and Professor Xu Yi-chong, Institute member, are conducting research into energy developments in China and India, which has been funded by a large ARC Discovery Grant.

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Editorial

History at times seems to move uncannily in cycles. In July 1957, the Australia-Japan Trade Agreement was signed between the governments of Sir Robert Menzies and Nobusuke Kishi. Fifty years later, the government of John Howard, thought by many to be the intellectual descendant of Menzies, and Shinzo Abe, Kishi’s grandson, enunciated a landmark joint security declaration. In 1957 Japan was poised to become the driving engine of Asia’s economic revolution; in 2007 is Japan poised to become the key stimulus of a strategic transformation in the region? And if so, will a closer strategic partnership with Japan be as beneficial and uncontroversial as the 1957 Trade Agreement proved to be in economic terms? Only weeks following the announcement of the Australia-Japan Joint Security Declaration, Indonesia — arguably Australia’s most fraught neighbouring relationship — and China — unquestionably Japan’s most frictional neighbour — announced their intention to negotiate a bilateral security pact. Relations are on the move in the region, and Australia remains vitally interested in and affected by their implications.

Ever attuned to the times, the Griffith Asia Institute has also been on the move. In February we moved into our new, refurbished headquarters on the Nathan campus, allowing us for the first time to co-locate all of our staff and research students. We also welcomed aboard three exciting new members: Professor Xu Yi-chong, Associate Professor Jason Sharman, and Dr Riccardo Pelizzo. Each has already contributed much to the positive intellectual “buzz” that we have within the GAI.

There is much to come this year. June sees us host the China Studies Association biennial conference, plus we have a full program of Perspectives: Asia seminars, research seminars, and specialist workshops and conferences. We look forward to all this with anticipation and trepidation, and welcome your interest in our activities.

Griffith Asia Institute moves with the times

For almost a decade the Griffith Asia Institute has been evolving into a leading research centre. In line with our strategic vision, the Institute continues to grow in reputation as a national resource that symbolises Australia’s need for forward-looking consideration and debate about the nature of Australia’s regional future.

As part of this growth, Institute staff have moved into the newly refurbished premises within the Griffith Business School. This milestone recognises the important role that the Institute plays within Griffith University and acknowledges the valuable contributions that our specialists have made towards increasing understanding of the Asian region. The Griffith Asia Institute currently has more than 50 specialists who conduct recognised research on Australia-Asia relations.

The former offices of the School of Politics and Public Policy, located on level one of the central Business wing (N50) have been tastefully refurbished to provide a modern, stylish environment for the Institute’s core activities in a central location.
Griffith University building partnerships for a sustainable future

Professor Huang Daren, President of China’s prestigious Sun Yat-Sen University (SYSU) and his delegation arrived in Brisbane on 20 March, 2007 to discuss cooperation projects with Griffith University in Civil Engineering and in Environment and Population Health on a local, national and global front.

To mark the commitment of both sides, after months of hard work and exploratory meetings, two agreements were settled at a signing ceremony with Professor Ian O’Connor, Vice Chancellor and President of Griffith University, at the University’s Council Chambers on 22 March. To formalise the ceremony, Griffith University was also honoured to have Mr Zhang, Qing, Vice Consul from the Chinese Consulate in Australia present at the signing.

The joint delivery program in Civil Engineering will allow SYSU students to spend their first two years studying in Guangzhou, China then transfer to complete a Griffith University Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering) in Australia. This particular program, initiated by Professor Yew-Chaye Loo, Griffith School of Engineering (Dean of the Faculty at that time) during a visit to Griffith University by Vice President, Xu Ningsheng from SYSU in September 2006, is SYSU’s second collaborative project outside China’s Mainland. The first project was with the Department of Civil Engineering, at the University of Hong Kong.

At the same time, a joint delivery program in Environment and Population Health was being explored by Griffith University’s Professor Cordia Chu, Director, Centre of Environment and Population Health, who led a visit to China to meet with staff from SYSU. This visit soon developed into another joint delivery proposal for a Master of Science in Public Health, available for postgraduate students to complete at least four subjects taught by staff at SYSU in Guangzhou and then apply to complete their second and third semesters with Griffith University in Australia.

Sun Yat-Sen University, founded in 1924 by Dr Sun Yat-Sen, a great leader of the 20th century, is today a very active institution that values scholarship and learning and falls within the top 10 of prestigious universities in China. SYSU is also a part of China’s Central Government 211 Project which grants the top 100 universities in China with special funding. Griffith University first established partnerships with Sun Yat-Sen University in 1987 and developed a number of other very successful joint research initiatives in Environmental Sciences, Drug Discovery, Biotechnology and Water Monitoring. Griffith University has successfully sent a number of Australian students to China to study with Sun Yat-Sen University and Sun Yat-Sen University has sent a number of students and scholars to Griffith University.

As a key addition to such a long standing relationship these continuing collaborations between institutions are of great importance for the development of education and innovation in Australia, China and across the world. This is in view of the rapid advancement of the tertiary education sector in China, necessitated by the unprecedented growth of its economy. Griffith University, having similar strategic directions in learning and research to Sun Yat-Sen University, will draw upon the benefits of its programs, collaborative links and industry to build workforce capacity in the fields of coastal and environmental management and in public health. It will also see students and staff welcome cultural diversity and enjoy the opportunity to work together towards global sustainability.

Present from left to right (standing):
Professor Cordia Chu, Director, Centre for Environment and Population Health, Professor Gillian Bushell, Dean, Research (Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology), Mr Christopher Madden, Pro Vice Chancellor (International), Ned Pankhurst, Pro Vice Chancellor (Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology), Mr Zhang Qing, Vice Consul from the Chinese Consulate in Australia, Professor Xu Ningsheng, Vice President, Ms Xu Yao, Deputy Director, Office of International Cooperation & Exchange.

Present from left to right (sitting): Professor Ian O’Connor, Vice Chancellor and President of Griffith University and Professor Huang Daren, President of Sun Yat-Sen University.
Conference publication – “The Other Special Relationship”

In July 2006, the Griffith Asia Institute hosted a conference titled “The Other Special Relationship: The United States and Australia at the start of the 21st century”. After many months of hard work editing conference proceedings, the book, with the same title, was launched on Friday 16 March, 2007 at the Tattersall’s Club in Brisbane. Editors included Griffith Asia Institute Director, Professor Michael Wesley, Professor Bill Tow, Australian National University, and Professor Jeffrey McCausland and Professor Doug Stuart from the United States College of Defense.

This edited volume examines in detail, from both the Australian and American perspectives, the US-Australia relationship in foreign policy, strategic policy, the economic relationship and the politics of the relationship. In each of these areas, the contributors generally agreed that there were two parts to the relationship. On one measure of solidarity – that of the level of official government-to-government relations – the relationship has shown remarkable constancy. But there is another aspect, discussed in terms of political dynamics and public opinion within each country. At the end of 2006, the political dynamics underlying the Australian-American relationship appear to have reached a cyclical high point, which by its nature cannot be sustained at the current level of intimacy. The challenge in the future is to make sure that the official “solidarity” of the relationship remains insulated from fluctuations in political dynamics and public opinion. There is no reason to believe that this insulation will endure, come what may. A prominent danger is that events within the alliance will begin to resonate with deeper commitments in either population. This should be a key consideration of those who will manage the bilateral relationship into the future.

Below: Professor Michael Wesley and Dr Brendon O’Connor with Professor Bill Tow, Australian National University.
Reading thousands of books and walking thousands of miles

‘Du wanjuanshu, buru xing wanlilu’ (reading thousands of books; not as good as walking thousands of miles). This is an old Chinese metaphor which symbolises the importance of learning through empirical study and self experience rather than through reading alone.

In this internet era, we tend to pay little attention to this as information can be accessed so readily. Do we still need to go to another country in order to understand the culture and ideas there? For some people, it is not a must. However, as a PhD student working on Chinese contemporary politics and China’s foreign policy, it would be sensible to visit the country’s capital - Beijing.

Thereby I conducted my first fieldwork to Beijing in January 2007, soon after my confirmation seminar. Before I left Brisbane for the journey, I got a lukewarm response from most of the people whom I emailed and wanted to interview in Beijing. I personally doubted how fruitful the trip would be. However, after arriving Beijing, I telephoned those people again and indicated that I was physically in Beijing and would like to make an appointment with them. Surprisingly most of them welcomed me to their office and spent time chatting with me.

The two weeks stay in Beijing was unexpectedly worthwhile. I met officials from government departments, scholars from universities, representatives from intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). All of them were very friendly. Since they were from different sectors, they represented different views on the same issue. I guess the most challenging work for a research student is to assess and compare their views with information from books and printed materials, and make a judgement of the real situation based on the different information. My experience showed me that people in Beijing are unwilling to reply to email with meaningful information - they simply write one or two ambiguous sentences in their correspondence. In a communist and authoritarian regime, I think it is understandable as vagueness avoids a clear record. However, in face-to-face interviews, people are happy to tell you their opinion. In general I think the whole society is more open than one or two decades ago. People are more willing to discuss and comment on government policy. If I did not physically visit Beijing, I would not have all the valuable information I gained through my meetings.

In a nutshell, I cannot accept or reject the metaphor ‘reading thousands of books; not as good as walking thousands of miles’. However, in the case of China, ‘reading thousands of books’ AND ‘walking thousands of miles’ are both essential for a China scholar specialising in China’s contemporary politics.

Griffith Asia Institute member lectures at Mahidol University

Griffith Asia Institute member, Professor Greg Bamber of the Griffith Business School’s Industrial Relations Department recently visited Mahidol University, Thailand. The University and the Nikom Chandravithun Foundation, both of Bangkok, are sponsoring the translation and publication in Thai of his book: “International and Comparative Employment Relations: Globalisation and the developed market economies” (Allen & Unwin, edited jointly with Lansbury & Wailes). The book has already been translated into several other Asian languages: Chinese, Korean and Japanese.

While visiting, Professor Bamber presented two lectures in the University’s Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities: one on the theme of the book; the other was on trends in postgraduate education and research in business schools.

Mahidol University already has a link with the University of Oxford. Mahidol University has indicated that it would welcome discussion about cooperation with Griffith University. If any colleague would wish to explore such possibilities, they would be welcome to contact Greg Bamber at g.bamber@griffith.edu.au.
The 5th Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art

Ms Katherine Weir, head of the Australian Cinémathèque, curated Australia’s first thematic retrospective on Chinese film, “Hong Kong, Shanghai: Cinema Cities”. The retrospective has been running since 2 March and will continue until 27 May at Queensland’s new Gallery of Modern Art or GoMA. It followed screenings of Jackie Chan’s work in February as part of “The 5th Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art”.

Public lectures are a feature of both the Jackie Chan and Cinema Cities programs. Speakers include guests from both the National Film Archives in Beijing and the Hong Kong film archives. Griffith Asia Institute member, Professor Mary Farquhar, has featured in four public forums and lectures on Chinese cinema since February. Her latest lecture on cinema and childhood in China featured community guest speakers who grew up in China in the 1930s or Hong Kong from the 1950s: Associate Professor David Ip, Mrs Lorena Butcher, and Mr Harold Meston.

The Cinema Cities program includes 60 films that take audiences on a chronological and thematic journey through the interconnected histories of Shanghai and Hong Kong, both important centres of film production. Most films were produced between the 1920s and the 1960s. More recent films look back to, and nostalgically recreate, Shanghai in the 1930s.

“Hong Kong, Shanghai: Cinema Cities” highlights the enduring appeal of the genres, stars and styles established in the ‘golden age’ of Chinese cinema in 1930s Shanghai, and embraced by Hong Kong cinema over the following decades. It is presented midway between the centenaries of mainland Chinese film in 2005 and Hong Kong film in 2009.

The earliest existing Chinese film from the silent-era Shanghai Romance of a Fruit Peddler 1922, about a fruit seller who marries the daughter of a doctor, opened the film festival. Other celebrated masterpieces highlight strains of social and political revolution at the time such as Street Angel 1937, Crossroads 1937, Crows and Sparrows 1949. The festival also presents the upbeat rendition of the famous opera Carmen in The Wild, Wild Rose of 1960.

The program also includes a retrospective of the work of actress Ruan Lingya (known as the ‘Shanghai Garbo’, including her best known film Goddess 1934; the cinema stories of celebrated writer Eileen Chang; the genre of tenement films (responses to crowded, communal living conditions); the songstress films of perennial stars Zhou Xuan, Li Lihua and Grace Chang (Ge Lan); as well as other Chinese cinema classics set in city streets and against a backdrop of political turmoil.

All screenings are free and are held in Cinema A, Gallery of Modern Art. For full film listings and schedule details, please visit the website www.asiapacifictriennial.com/cinema or contact the Gallery for a copy of the free Australian Cinémathèque Calendar.

UN Special Ambassador for the Millennium Development Goals

Her Excellency Mrs Erna Witoelar, United Nations Special Ambassador for the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific, visited Griffith University on Friday 23 February, 2007.

The visit, co-hosted by Centre for Environment and Population Health and the Griffith Asia Institute, included a presentation on “Developing Regional Partnerships in Achieving Millennium Development Goals” by Mrs Erna Witoelar.

Appointed in October 2003 as UN Special Ambassador for MDGs in Asia and the Pacific, Ms Erna Witoelar is the former Minister of Human Settlements and Regional Development and a former member of the National Assembly of Indonesia. She currently serves as member of the Boards of Partnership for Governance Reform and the Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation (KEHATI), while serving as co-chair of the Earth Charter International and the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium.

Pictured above: Her Excellency Mrs Erna Witoelar (third from right) enjoys afternoon tea at the Griffith Asia Institute with students, staff and visitors who joined in welcoming the Ambassador to Griffith.
Recent publications from Griffith Asia Institute members

**Dr Larry Crump**

**Abstract**
It is unusual to find a negotiation not linked to at least one other negotiation. In some domains, such as international trade policy, we can identify negotiation networks with parties simultaneously involved in negotiations in global, multilateral, regional and bilateral trade policy settings. A national government will manage similar issues in all four settings and also manage these same issues with multiple parties in a single setting. International trade policy is one of many ‘linkage-rich’ environments. In this study Larry Crump examines the relationship between two discrete but linked trade treaty negotiations: the Singapore – Australia Free Trade Agreement of 2003 and the United States – Singapore Free Trade Agreement of 2003. Case analysis identifies five structural factors that can shape the nature of negotiation linkage dynamics (the way in which one negotiation influences another negotiation). When these structural factors are present in a negotiation they create strategic choices and consequences for the parties involved. At a behavioural level, role theory can be used to define two functional role types, a link-pin party (Singapore in this study) and linked parties (Australia and the U.S.). Application of such theory and case analysis helps establish guidance for managing the strategic choices and consequences that occur when negotiations are linked.

**Dr James Sneddon**

**Abstract**
This book aims to describe aspects of the Indonesian language as spoken by educated Jakartans in everyday interactions. This style of language is in many ways significantly different from the formal language of government and education, to the extent that it deserves separate consideration. While formal Indonesian has been the subject of a considerable amount of description, very little attention has been paid to informal styles of the language. The variety described here, Colloquial Jakartan Indonesian, is the prestige variety of colloquial Indonesian and is becoming the standard informal style. The description and texts in following chapters are drawn from recordings of natural speech of educated people living in Jakarta.

While the book aims to inform those with a background in linguistics the needs of teachers and learners with little or no knowledge of linguistics is always borne in mind. The work thus does not consider theoretical linguistic issues nor use technical terms which would not be readily understood by most readers.

**Professor Michael Wesley**

**Abstract**
Paul Keating famously said that Asian countries wouldn’t deal with John Howard. The Howard government came to power determined to distance itself from its predecessor’s ‘big picture’ campaign for engagement with Asia. It moved to strengthen Australia’s relationship with the United States. On his first visit to an Asian country as Prime Minister, Howard was quoted as saying that ‘no country should have to choose between its history and its geography’. A succession of issues — its slow response to Pauline Hanson, triumphalism during the financial crisis and East Timor, the rise and recurrence of the ‘deputy sheriff’ tag, its participation in the invasion of Iraq and refusal to rule out pre-emptive strikes — have caused consternation and offence in Asian countries.

This record, especially when compared to the efforts of the Hawke-Keating governments, would suggest that after eight years of a Howard government, Australia should be a regional pariah. But nothing could be further from the truth. Australia’s relations with most Asian countries are very strong; the Howard government proved able to repair damaged relations with China and Indonesia astonishingly quickly; and in attending the 2005 East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Australia achieved membership of every regional organisation it has sought to join.

The Howard paradox not only shows that many of Howard’s critics have been wrong in assessing the damage done by certain statements and actions, it also challenges many of the supposed ‘rules’ that many assumed governed the success or failure of Australia’s relations with Asia. Howard has succeeded despite breaking most of those rules. Exploring the Howard paradox illuminates many of the contemporary realities and requirements of Australia’s engagement with its region, while exploring several often-ignored themes in international relations.
Conferences

5th International Conference of World Association for Sustainable Development
Managing Knowledge, Technology and Development in the Era of Information Revolution
27 October to 29 October 2007
Nathan campus, Griffith University

Similar to previous conferences organised by WASD, this multidisciplinary conference is expected to attract large number of global experts and scholars in addition to WASD members all over the world. Participants include researchers, policy makers, educators, experts, consultants and most importantly companies focused on the creation and commercialisation of technology.

Full details about the conference can be found at: http://www.worldsustainable.org/conferences.html

10th Biennial CSAA Conference
Celebrating Australia China Scholarship
27 June to 29 June 2007
South Bank campus, Griffith University

The Chinese Studies Association of Australia (CSAA) is the professional association for China specialists and post-graduate students in Australia. Its membership includes specialists in the fields of Chinese society and culture.

The 10th biennial CSAA conference will be held at Griffith University’s Southbank campus. Southbank is a city-centre cultural precinct beside the Brisbane River, featuring parks, theatres, restaurants, museum, art galleries, and Griffith University campuses.

Papers have been submitted by researchers on China, Greater China, and the Chinese diaspora and will be presented in panels across disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas related to China studies. For more information, please visit the Griffith Asia Institute website at www.griffith.edu.au/business/griffith-asia-institute.

Diary Dates

Refer to the Griffith Asia Institute Web site for updates on these and other events:

Perspectives: Asia Public Seminars

Seminars are held from 6.00pm – 7.00pm at the Queensland Art Gallery, South Bank.

Thursday – 7 June 2007
Ms Catherine Armitage
Higher Education Editor, The Australian
The Elephant in the Region: challenge and change in Australian media coverage of China’s ascendancy

Wednesday – 1 August 2007
Mr Tony Wheeler
Founder, Lonely Planet
‘Travellers’ Tales’ Australian Tourism in Asia and the Impact on the Australian Psyche

Thursday – 6 December 2007
Mr Graeme Dobell
Radio Australia
"Shock, Horror – Drongo Oz Journo Runs Amok in Asia!!" – How the Australian Media assesses the importance of Asian news

Research Seminars

Seminars are held from 12.30pm to 1.50pm in N72_-1.18 at the University’s Nathan Campus.

Thursday 31 May 2007
Dr Sue Trevaskes
The Yin and the Yang of the Death Penalty Debate in China Today

Workshops

October 2007
Engaging Foreign Policy Debates: The challenges for liberal democracies in a new century

November 2007
International Distinctiveness of Australian Research on Asia and the Pacific