Australia's strategically important relationship with Japan should not be thrown away over whaling, former Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said at a Griffith Asia Institute lecture last week.

Mr Downer and Japan's Ambassador to Australia Shigekazu Sato spoke at the 'Australia-Japan Relations' Perspectives: Asia lecture at the Gallery of Modern Art on Wednesday (Oct 27) about the existing and future relationship between the countries.

"Whaling has been an ongoing issue and we could take Japan to court, but they could easily just pull out of the whaling convention and the advice to me when I was Foreign Minister was always that we wouldn't win in court," Mr Downer said.

"We shouldn't cut off our nose to spite our face – we need to cast aside our differences and acknowledge there are different cultures with different values."

Mr Downer spoke extensively about Australia's strong relationship with Japan – the third largest economy in the world – and how it had become more "fashionable" to speak about China than Japan.

"The Japanese government has a sense of uncertainty about China and China now has an increasing diplomatic influence," Mr Downer said.

Internal Japanese politics had also created a "confusing impression for the international community", he said.

Mr Downer spoke about his father’s imprisonment in Changi for three and a half years during World War II and how he later became a member of parliament supporting increased trade with Japan in the 1950s.

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Editorial

The year 2010 has been a busy one for the Griffith Asia Institute. The arrival of Dr Wesley Widmaier (from St Joseph’s University, Philadelphia) who specialises in International Political Economy, and Dr Juan Wang (from Johns Hopkins) who specialises in the politics of rural China, rounds off appointments made as part of Griffith University’s Areas of Strategic Research Investment initiative.

Griffith Asia Institute also welcomes Dr Vlado Vivoda (from the University of South Australia). Vlado’s project examines energy security in the Asia-Pacific. GAI now has the highest number of full-time research staff in its seven year history working across a wide range of academically challenging and policy relevant areas…it is an exciting time!

China continues to loom large in GAI’s activities, particularly the Australia-China Dialogue and the annual Emerging Leaders’ forum. The Asia-Pacific Dialogue event at World Expo in Shanghai in August saw a range of experts from China, Australia, and the region discuss the issue of sustainable economic development across Asia.

In September, the annual Emerging Leaders’ forum was held at Griffith’s South Bank campus and focused on the implications of China’s rise for Asia. All in all, the Australia-China Dialogue plays a crucial role in promoting transparency, greater understanding, and closer cooperation between our two countries.

As part of its strategy of building deeper links in the region, GAI concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta, aimed at fostering research links and promoting staff exchange. CSIS Jakarta is one of Indonesia’s leading research think tanks with close links to Indonesian policy makers and a track record of innovative thought on traditional and non-traditional security challenges.

I look forward to further deepening GAI’s links with Japan through the inauguration of an Australia-Japan Dialogue, which was launched with speeches from the Japanese Ambassador and former Australian Foreign Minister the Hon Alexander Downer in late October as part of the Perspectives Asia series. This will be followed by a second track workshop in 2011—funded by the Australia-Japan Foundation— involving Japanese and Australian experts supported by the Japanese Institute of International Affairs and the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank GAI’s supporters—I look forward to joining you at one of our many events in the near future where we aim to promote greater understanding of Asia, and how Australia engages with its region.

In This Issue

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Griffith Asia Institute newsletter

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“He (my father) matured from a horrific situation where he saw a third of his comrades die to understanding, in a sophisticated way, that Japan was part of our future,” he said.

Mr Downer also spoke about security issues and said the three way alliance among the USA, Australia and Japan strengthened the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Sato explained that the first Japanese people immigrated to Australia to work in agriculture and many are buried on Thursday Island.

He said that as strong trading partners and leaders in the Asia-Pacific region, the Australia-Japan relationship was one of his country’s most important relationships.

“We’re (Australia and Japan) the most advanced democracies in the region with freedom and human rights and with the USA a close ally for both of us,” he said.

He said that with China as the largest trading partner for both countries, it was important to maintain good relations, but that the incidents in the East China Sea had made people feel uneasy about relations with China.

“China’s growth is difficult because of its unpredictability, but China can be stable,” Mr Sato said.

“Whaling and things such as the Sea Shepherd make things worse, but we shouldn’t let that get in the way of great relations,” he said.

The inaugural Australia-Japan lecture was supported by the Japan Foundation and is an ongoing project initiated by the Griffith Asia Institute to promote debate about Australia-Japan relations. It will be followed by a workshop mid next year, supported by the Australia-Japan Foundation.
Perspectives: Asia

Australia’s Place in the world

Former GAI Director and current Executive Director of the Lowy Institute, Dr Michael Wesley, was guest speaker in July at the Gallery of Modern Art Seminar. Dr Wesley spoke about Australians’ attitudes to the world according to data from a 2010 Lowy Institute poll. According to Dr Wesley, this data can be interpreted in three ways. First, there is much greater diversity of opinion in Australia about where we belong in the world than most elite discourse would suggest. Second, the results betray an ongoing ambivalence and uncertainty about Australia’s place in the world and third, the generational differences hold an important clue to the evolution of Australia’s identity and to how Australians view their country’s place in the world. Dr Wesley discussed the political and contextual circumstances of each generation and the influences of these on their perceptions of Australia’s identity. In particular, there is a range of contemporary forces, affecting the foreseeable future for the 18-29 year olds that makes this group sceptical about Australia’s membership of any regional grouping. According to Dr Wesley these trends carry the markings of a second identity crisis. The first of these is that Asia is changing shape. Trade between East Asia and the Americas in comparison to East Asia’s Trade with South and West Asia demonstrates that Asian countries are increasingly linking to each other through trade and investment, infrastructure and energy linkages. These developments mark the waning of the era of the Asia-Pacific and the dawning of a new, Indo-Pacific era. Dr Wesley commented on the importance of this era in relation to Australia’s place in the world and an emerging new national identity debate stimulated by deep geopolitical shifts in the world around us.

Korea and Australia—Middle Power Cooperation

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, the honourable Kim Woo San, was guest speaker at Griffith Asia Institute’s Perspectives on Asia Seminar in August. Ambassador Kim spoke of Korea’s long history. As it was a unified country for 1300 years, a divided Korea is an anomaly, and the sinking of a Korean naval vessel in March this year has reinforced Korea as an international hot spot.

The Ambassador spoke of Korea’s sustained economic development. In the 60 years since the war with North Korea ended, the dominant feature has been the speed of development and the enormous gap between the south and the north. Today Korea is Asia’s 4th largest economy, a key partner in Asia, a world leader and, together with Australia, a middle power. This relationship needs careful nurturing, but unfortunately, investment flows are low, and the number of Australian students studying in Korea is lower than hoped.

Our bilateral relationship has been very strong since Australian men and women fought in the Korean war, and diplomatic ties were established 50 years ago; strong on security and defence cooperation and upgraded political cooperation. The President of Korea has agreed to keep the relations between the two countries upgraded in future years, but there is a necessity for institutional measures to maintain and improve these bilateral ties.

After the war, rapid industrialisation led to Korea having a rapid rise in GDP within 40 years, with a population of 50 million people. The shipping and automotive industries were established, and now Korea’s export industry is a model of industrialisation and democratisation for the world’s developing countries.

Korea and Australia are moving towards a new level of middle power cooperation. As typical middle powers, economically and militarily they are similar, their geopolitical location, natural resources, and level of engagement in world affairs are similar. Korea and Australia share strong military ties with the USA, both engage in the Asia-Pacific region, and both have increasing roles as middle powers in politics.

Trade growth has increased and volume of trade has doubled in the last 4 years. Australia is Korea’s largest export market, receiving products from companies such as Samsung, Kia and LG whilst importing resources from Australia including coal, iron ore and petroleum.

There has been a rise in the number of Korean tourists to Australia, especially Queensland. Korean students number the third largest group of foreign students in Australia, however the number of visitors coming to Korea is low.

The rise of China is much talked about today, but Korea is not often mentioned. Not many Australian schools teach Korean, and less than 100 Australian students are currently studying in Korea.

Korea can be a strategic partner for Australia with a common vision for bilateral cooperation shared between Australian and Korean leaders.
The 60th anniversary of the Korean War has showcased many events to show respect for what was done during this period. Australia's contribution cannot be forgotten, and Ambassador Kim expressed the hope that this period of history will be better taught in Australian schools.

Korea and Australia have enjoyed friendly relations for the last 60 years, and he asks us all to think strategically, and to promote a better understanding of Korea in the years to come.

Islam and Democracy in Indonesia’s Foreign Policy

Dr Rizal Sukma, Executive Director of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta, Indonesia, addressed Griffith Asia Institute's Perspectives Asia seminar held at the Gallery of Modern Art.

Dr Sukma is an eminent strategic thinker in Indonesia, and on his first visit to Brisbane spoke of the political transformation in Indonesia over the previous 12 years, and its impact on foreign policy. The collapse of the old government and establishment of a new order in 1998 heralded an era of democratic practices, and Indonesia is now a young democracy. This process, however, is still a work in progress and will take many years before it becomes consolidated. Indonesia’s democracy is characterised by a combination of dramatic moments of great optimism and occasional frustration.

Democracy gave the opportunity for Islam to come to the centre stage of political life. In the past, Islam has often been subjected to politics of marginalisation by the state, but it has managed to preserve its social influence among the community in Indonesia.

The revival of Islam and democracy are two political elements in Indonesian politics that are part of Indonesia’s national identity. This identity is non-theocratic in nature, which raises the questions, how resilient is Indonesia’s democracy and does the emergence of Islamic politics serve as a liability for democracy?

Dr Sukma said that there are four reasons to believe that the role of Islam is crucial for the development of democracy:

1. Indonesia’s Islam is moderate in nature and there is a commitment to preserving the pluralistic nature of the state. Tolerance and respect for differences in religion are central to Indonesians’ belief.
2. The democratic process would not have happened without the active participation of pro-democratic Islamic leaders.
3. Islamic political parties are bound to participate in politics within the agreed framework of non-theocratic and democratic rules.
4. Indonesia’s formal democratic political state has created a space in which Islamic leaders can work.

Muslim politics have a high stake in preserving democracy in Indonesia. This has impacted on foreign policy by recognising and reflecting its new emerging national identity. Indonesia has always been characterised as a natural leader of South East Asia, and is the third largest South East Asian democracy in the world. Leaders take pride in this and in the moderate Muslim nature of this national identity and consider that it should continue. Islam in a moderate form is part of Indonesia’s foreign policy and is a moderating voice between Islam and the world and within Islam itself. The changing domestic context within which foreign policy has to be formulated and executed constitutes an important effect of political change on foreign policy. Within a democracy, foreign policy is no longer a dominant actor.

As democracy begins to consolidate, the state is required to allow and incorporate participation of the society and other stakeholders in policy making.

The emergence of democracy and Islam has now manifested in their incorporation as an asset and efforts have been made to find an effective way to manage this at the international level. Indonesia is aware that the image of Islam can be unpleasant, therefore democracy in Indonesia requires a new image of moderate Islam, inside and outside the country.

The impact of the political transformation is evident in Indonesia’s growing confidence in projecting the value of democracy and moderate Islam in foreign policy, and Indonesia is active in ASEAN in promoting democracy. Democracy is projected into foreign policy through Indonesia’s view of how its own neighbourhood in South East Asia should evolve, and regarding Islam, seeks a moderating voice.

In order to demonstrate this, Indonesia needs to project a pluralist and moderate face of Islam, and has organised road shows using religious leaders who have visited various parts of the world. Also, interfaith dialogues have been organised and promoted, and interglobal and regional cultural dialogues have incorporated Islam into foreign policy in terms of empowering moderate groups. The government has also cultivated an image of Indonesia as a model for the marriage of Islam and democracy, and offered to play a moderating role.

Dr Sukma said that Indonesia’s foreign role may have changed and expanded, but the inclusion of Islam and democracy clearly registers that it is time to embark on a new course for foreign policy, and ongoing changes are still elusive. The Indonesian economy is undergoing tremendous problems with slow progress in a recovery, and a lack of investment in infrastructure. All government officials and economists know the problem, but that it is not being addressed urgently is disturbing.

Indonesia believes that it deserves respect and it is constantly wary of external influence. The manifestation of this attitude is clearly reflected in its antagonism and the suspicion towards any external interference in domestic affairs or immediate external environment. Often, Indonesia’s irritation for not always being able to achieve the desired state of affairs is finely balanced with its sense of regional entitlement.
So the dynamics of domestic politics also sets the limit within which changes in foreign policy can be carried out.

1. Nationalism has always been at the heart of Indonesia's foreign politics and this highly nationalistic country has often served not only to limit the range of choices in its foreign policy but to define the course of action its foreign policy makers are obliged to take.

2. Foreign policy has been subjected to competing political agendas of various forces. There is a risk that a decision could become a divisive issue for domestic politics.

3. The limit of change is reflected in the problem of state identity which continues to generate a dilemma of dual identity - that of state identity which has never been defined as Islamic, and Islam and political identity.

4. Co-religionists should inform the conduct of Indonesia's foreign policy.

Indonesia's foreign policy has often been limited by incompatibility between the institutional preferences of those in the foreign ministry and the personal preference of the president, and at present, the foreign ministry's preference is to focus on East Asia, where Indonesia matters more. It is necessary to balance this focus with the president's taste for a larger Indonesian role in global affairs.

Foreign ministers have to express continuity, to give a lasting sense of regional entitlement – this brings about elements of continuity in the form of a lasting sense of regional entitlement and continued uneasiness of extra regional powers, the limited accommodation of Islamic consideration in foreign policy, and the need to invoke the distinction between form and substance in foreign policy.

Dr Sukma concluded by saying that, for the future, Indonesian foreign policy is likely to continue on the same path as it has done for the past 40 years.

MOU Signing

During Dr Sukma’s visit, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Griffith Asia Institute and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta was signed. The agreement encourages collaboration between the two centres and advancement of research on Asia and the Pacific. Some of the areas of common interest covered under the Memorandum of Understanding include: Regional security and regional institutions in Asia; International political economy and geopolitics; Foreign policy studies, and Non-traditional security issues.

The Political Economy of Religion in China

Since the rise of the “clash of civilization” thesis and the September 11 2001 attacks, political scientists have increasingly analysed the interaction between politics and religion. In the case of China, international news focuses on Tibet (Tibetan Buddhism), Xinjiang (Uyghur Muslim), and Ningxia (Muslim), and often constructs an antagonistic and oversimplified relation between religion and politics in China. In addition, the common understanding of coercive Chinese government towards society—especially religious actors such as Falungong believers—tends to overshadow the multidimensional relations among politics, religion and economy. Less obvious are the myriad ways in which religious actors (in the form of individuals, networks and organized groups) interact with state agents.

The local reality of politics and religions in China is far more complex. Some local governments collect sales tax from street vendors during religious festivals as government tax revenue. Some local governments reframe religious activities as “traditional culture” and invest in developing special zones to attract tourists. Some local governments adopt a hands-off policy involving little interaction with local religious actors.

Variations of local state policies towards religion imply a potential change in local power and economic structure that can affect the trajectory of China’s local development. Local state orientations towards religious activities can introduce certain actors and industries (such as bureaus of tourism, culture and service sector) into the centre of local development, while marginalizing others (such as bureaus of industry and the manufacturing sector).

Such development models are more dependent on external consumers and are consequentially subject to external financial conditions. A study of such variations will also address an important paradox increasingly confronted by the Chinese government: as a function of its political institutions, China’s Party–State has unintentionally motivated a group of local officials to support a competing source of authority – religion. China has legitimized its central authoritarian rule by communist ideology, economic development and nationalist sensation.

Whereas the political future of state agents as a whole depends fundamentally on the legitimacy of the Communist Party, short-term incentives of economic growth driven by cadre evaluation and promotion system have motivated state agents to accept and support a competing source of legitimacy – religion.

For example, local officials even broadcast state policies such as family-planning during temple fairs. In the long run, such local policies will generate tension between the authority of China’s Party–State and social authorities such as religious leaders.

GAI research fellow Dr. Juan Wang’s current work focuses on the diversity of attitudes towards religious activities among China’s local governments. To understand causes of such variations, she investigates the immediate political and economic returns brought about by religious actors to local states.
Australia–China Futures Dialogues

Second Track Dialogue: Achieving Sustainable Economic Development in the Asia–Pacific

Asia will confront some serious transnational challenges in the early part of the twenty-first century. Foremost among these will be achieving sustainable economic development in an era of rapid climate change. This is a challenge that cannot be met by one country alone — it requires regional cooperation among like-minded countries and a leading role for government and non-government organisations. Above all, it will require new and innovative approaches that are ambitious while at the same time relevant to policy makers and corporate leaders. This was the focus of the Australia–China Futures Dialogues Second Track Dialogue held in the Australian Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo as part of the Queensland Government and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Oceania Month activities on 12 August 2010.

This Dialogue brought together a range of high level experts from government, academia and business, with the purpose of formulating new approaches and innovative ways of thinking about sustainable economic development in twenty-first century Asia Pacific. A primary focus of the dialogue was on the issues of climate change and tourism.

Sessions included:

**Sustainability and Its Meanings in the 21st Century**
This session explored the key conceptual and practical dimensions of sustainability.

**The Impact of Climate Change on Economic Sustainability**
Climate change remains central to thinking about economic sustainability in the Asia Pacific. Is this likely to continue over the next decade? This session addressed the strongly interdependent relationship between climate change and economic sustainability from the varied perspectives of the corporate world, academia and government.

**Sustainable Tourism and Economic Growth**
Tourism remains a crucial sector in the economies of the Asia–Pacific, yet it is often overlooked in discussions concerning sustainable economic development. Having regard for the potentially detrimental impact that tourism can have on the natural environment is a key concern of many countries in the region. Australia and China – both of which have a heavy focus on tourism and a national priority of preserving important aspects of their national environment – have much to offer in terms of promoting understanding in the region about managing tourism in a sustainable way. This session explored these themes.
Emerging Leaders’ Dialogue: China’s Rise and Its Implications for Asia

The rise of China is the single most striking phenomenon in international relations today. Yet, there remains an equally striking lack of consensus among observers about the implications of China’s rise to great power status. This turns primarily on perceptions of whether China will seek to challenge US primacy in Asia and exert its authority over countries in the region.

Some argue that China has no intention of seeking to impose “hegemony” on Asia and that its paramount concern will remain the preservation of internal stability via continued high levels of economic growth and the defence of territorial sovereignty. From this perspective, Beijing will seek to play a constructive role in improving regional cooperation in Asia: China will not seek to dominate regional affairs and, in line with its historical approach to international relations, will not have aggressive designs on other states.

This viewpoint is the declared position of the Chinese government and has strong currency among China studies experts in the West.

Others, however, maintain that China will not be content to play “second fiddle” to the United States in Asia and will, over time, pursue a more assertive leadership role in Asia in keeping with what Beijing sees as its rightful great power status in the region. From this perspective, China will behave just as all other great powers have behaved throughout history: It will aspire to exercise control over its own “sphere of influence”, if necessary through the use of force. This viewpoint is associated particularly with the realist school of international relations, and has particular currency in the halls of foreign and defence ministries in Asia and beyond.

This discussion formed the theme for the 2010 Emerging Leaders’ Dialogue held in Brisbane from the 27-29 September, 2010.

Top research students from Australia, China and across the Asia Pacific region came together to debate these issues over a three day program of events. In its deliberations, the Forum focused on the following three issue-areas:

1. China’s motives and aims in Asia. Are they narrow or wide-ranging? Do they conflict with, or complement, what other regional countries want?
2. China’s strengths and vulnerabilities as a regional actor. To what extent will China’s internal challenges (e.g. uneven development, ethnic cleavages, population size) serve to constrain what it can achieve externally in Asia?
3. The policies other countries—including Australia—should be pursuing in their interactions with China. Should countries encourage or discourage a stronger China in the region?

The Dialogues were opened by GAI Director Professor Andrew O’Neil followed by a keynote address by Dr Richard Rigby, Executive Director of the ANU’s China Institute, and an expert panel discussion with panelists sharing their views on the “China debate”. Activities associated with the Dialogue also included discussions with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and a reception co-hosted with the Australia China Business Council.

Consul General Mr Ren Gongping, People’s Republic of China in Brisbane with Emerging Leaders at the joint Australian China Business Council and Dialogues reception. Below participants from the Dialogue.
Qld Treasurer addresses Chinese leadership on innovation

The Australia-China Futures Dialogues Annual Leader’s Lecture was held on 21 June 2010 at the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong (CEALP), Shanghai and formed part of the Queensland Government’s State Week activities held during the Shanghai World Expo 2010.

The lecture was presented by Queensland Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development, Mr Andrew Fraser, where he addressed a group of 80 director–generals and regional mayors, including officials from Beijing and the Xin Jiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, in the west of China.

Supervised by the Central Organisation Department of the Communist Party of China, CEALP is responsible for the development of China’s senior leaders and executives across the government and major state-owned enterprise sectors with a focus on social improvement and economic development.

Its students are intermediate and top-level government officials, including ministers and high-level officials from the central government, governors from China’s provinces, mayors and executives from local governments and state owned enterprises, managing directors and business executives.

The CELAP lecture is part of the Australia China Futures Dialogues, a collaboration between the Queensland Government, the Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University and Peking University.

The Dialogues aim to generate discussion and learning between Queensland and China on how the Asia-Pacific region will evolve in the next 20 years and how this evolution can be shaped.

Australia–China Futures Dialogues Visiting Fellowship awards

Congratulations to the five recipients of the 2010 Australia China Futures Dialogues Visiting Fellowship awards. These awards are to support researchers from Griffith University and Peking University to undertake research at either institution for a period of up to three months. The fellowships aim to:

- Encourage student exchange and enable exemplary students and scholars to undertake research in China or Australia;
- Strengthen ties between Australia and China and mutual understanding of each country’s cultures and traditions;
- Build capacity for future Australia–China relations, research collaboration and training opportunities.

A summary of recipients and their research programs are below:

**Yuping Wang**

This joint project with Peking University examines the teaching of English and Chinese in China and Australia respectively. The project will explore the potential of Wimba-supported language exchange in improving the communicative competence and intercultural understanding of language learners.

**Shuming Hou**

This project will be undertaken with the Centre for Constitutional and Administrative Law at Peking University. It aims to map the nature and scope of business transparency reform in China and determine to what extent this transparency reform is grounded in rule of law and principals. Ultimately this project will help to identify and recommend best regulatory practice as it concerns the protection of Australian business interests within the practical context of China’s developing legal system.

**Yan Wang**

With the support of the School of Public Health at Peking University, this project aims to identify challenges, issues and influencing factors relating to international cooperation in HIV/AIDS prevention and control in China. International collaboration is growing in importance, particularly in the context of global health challenges and sustainable development. There are many challenges in implementing international cooperation programs for HIV/AIDS, and this project will look at recommendations for strategic health management and policy development in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention and control.

**Shanding Zhou**

China’s political culture, with a focus on changes in the Chinese Communist Party’s ideology and political system is the focus of Shanding’s research. The project will explore and identify changes and achievements, as well as problems and challenges. The aim of the project is to help better understand China’s political development and policy making, contribute to debates on theories and practices of its political reforms and highlight the necessity for new approaches in China studies.

**Adrian Cheung**

The concept of corporate sustainability not only stresses the importance of profit making but also the concerns for environment, society and the next generations. Corporate sustainability research is still in its infancy in China largely because it is not mandatory for companies to issue sustainability reports. The proposed research will examine whether the concept of corporate sustainability is valued by investors in China’s stock market.

It will also create training and networking opportunities for Australian legal and financial advisors who wish to understand China’s changing regulatory environment.

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Publications

Dr Ashutosh Misra

‘India–Pakistan: Coming to Terms’

Launched by the Vice President of India, Sri M. Hamid Ansari 29 September 2010.

The book unravels a much discussed, debated and examined subject of international politics, ‘enduring rivalry’, in this case between India and Pakistan. The book presents a framework of negotiations which cuts through five case studies, Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, Rann of Kutch Accord of 1968, Siachen glaciers, Sir Creek and Tulbul/Wular project in the course of analyses, spanning 260 plus pages. The main thrust of this book is to suggest how both sides have been able to resolve their disputes in the past, what were the factors that facilitated the resolution and in the process what major impediments had to be overcome by the two sides. Dr. Misra’s strongly argues that, despite being locked into a pattern of enduring rivalry, states can still sit, negotiate and produce agreements and the book explains how India and Pakistan have achieved this in the past.

The book focuses more on cooperation than conflict and presents a picture which is not as conflictual and confrontational as has been historically construed. At a time when the Indo–Pak peace process is facing its stiffest challenge in years the book offers several useful insights which could help push the peace process forward. The findings of the book are also very relevant for other enduring rival dyads in the international system which are faced with the difficult task of resolving disputes amidst hostilities.

Professor O. Yul Kwon

‘The Korean Economy in Transition’

This informative book provides a comprehensive examination of the dynamics of institutional reform and the transition of the South Korean economy. The analysis, based on an institutional approach, stretches over three decades of remarkable economic success under a state-led system, through the 1997 financial crisis, to the current market-oriented system.

O. Yul Kwon presents in-depth impact analyses of institutional reforms (economic policy, regulations, culture and politics) on areas such as the transitions of the overall economy, external economic relations, the business, financial and public sectors, and labour relations and social welfare. For each of these topics, institutional reforms are assessed against reform objectives and in comparison with other countries, and operational efficiency of relevant organisations is also analysed.

The Korean Economy in Transition provides valuable information for the academic audience, policymakers, and others interested in the South Korean experience.

Associate Professor Julia Howell


Dr Andrew Selth

Civil–Military Relations in Burma: Portents, Predictions and Possibilities, Regional Outlook No.25 (Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University, Brisbane, 2010), found at http://www.griffith.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/214938/regional-outlook-volume-25.pdf


‘Does Burma have a WMD program?’, The Interpreter, Weblog of the Lowy Institute for International Policy, 7 June 2010, found at http://www.lowyinterpreter.org/post/2010/06/07/Does-Burma-have-a-WMD-program.aspx


‘Democracy and shadow play in Burma’, Caixin Online, 2 September 2010, found at http://blog/english.caing.com/article/35/

‘Myanmar’s elections and the problems of prediction’, Opinion Asia, 6 September 2010, found at http://opinionasia.com/80/MyanmarElectionPrediction

‘Despite its flaws, Burma’s poll may induce change in the political landscape’, The Australian, 8 September 2010, found at http://www.theguardian.com/news/world/burmass-poll-may-induce-political-change/story/ebf90b–1225911554587

‘Myanmar: Who’d be so bold as to predict the future?’ South China Morning Post, 8 September 2010

‘Burma’s armed forces: does size matter?’, East Asia Forum, Weblog of the East Asian Bureau of Economic Research, Australian National University (forthcoming)


Member News

The Development of Civility in Chinese Society

Congratulations to Adjunct Associate Professor David Schak who has been successful in receiving a grant from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for US$40,000 over the next three years.

Despite the Confucian emphasis on courtesy, civility, i.e. consideration of others including strangers and the public sphere, this has not generally been achieved in Chinese society. Taiwan, despite a major government campaign in the 1960s and many minor ones before and since, has been criticised as lacking a sense of public morality. However, David has demonstrated that since the 1990s when it democratised and saw the growth of civil society, it has seen rapid and profound improvements in public sphere deportment. Aside from caring for public space and facilities and better treatment of strangers, the changes include identity shifts from subject to citizen and from belonging to a closed, primordial community to membership in a pan-Taiwan polity, changes which empower political minority groups and encourage benevolent government interactions with the populace. David also sets out conditions that, prima facie, hinder or assist the development of civility (Pacific Affairs, 2009, 82(3):447–465).

This research project will examine the state of civility in the PRC, where the Chinese Communist Party called for the creation of ‘new socialist man’. Even before 1949, and since 1980, the PRC has had almost constant top-down, government-initiated campaigns with similar aims — and with similar, poor results — as those in pre-democratization Taiwan. In fact, the PRC and Taiwan are very similarly culturally and, over most of the century-plus since they have been governed separately, have been subject to a similar political culture, diverging only twenty years ago when Taiwan democratised. Aside from examining the state of PRC civility, the project will test the model derived from the study of Taiwan as well as attempt to answer the question, why have two highly authoritarian Chinese governments, Taiwan from 1945 to 1989 and the PRC since 1949, been so ineffective in reforming public behaviour?

Overcoming Misperception in Australia-Japan Relations

Professor Andrew O’Neil and Associate Professor Michael Heazle have been successful in winning a grant from the Australia-Japan Foundation in 2011. This project examines how perceptions and misperceptions in Australia and Japan influence the nature of the bilateral relationship. A collaborative effort between the Griffith Asia Institute, the Japan Institute of International Affairs and the Australian Institute of International Affairs, the project promotes the importance of the Australia-Japan relationship in both countries. This will be achieved through a workshop involving key stakeholders in Japan and Australia in 2011. Participants will contribute to a policy outcomes paper outlining proposals on how best to foster more informed perceptions in Australia and Japan on issues of mutual concern in the relationship.

The Search for Financial Transparency or National Advantage

Professor Jason Sharman was guest speaker at the Tax Competition and Global Standards Annual Thought Leadership Conference in Zurich on 17 September 2010. Professor Sharman spoke on the topic “The Search for Financial Transparency or National Advantage?” The conference provides a high-level platform for debate and information exchange for influential individuals from the fields of science, culture, finance and politics. It aims to identify the status of tax competition, the related global standards and their impact on the Swiss financial centre.

One Hundredth Anniversary of Muhammadiyah

Associate Professor Julia Howell participated in a panel of foreign experts invited to address a session of the five-yearly Congress and one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Indonesia’s second largest Islamic association, the Muhammadiyah. The Congress, or ‘Muktamar’, brought together the organisation’s officials from all over Indonesia to elect a new chairman, and was opened by Indonesia’s President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. Two GAI research students, Alim Qibtiyah and Ahmad Muttaqin, also attended the Muktamar as observers and were active in a number of activities associated with the Congress.

International Scholarly Award

A collection of books on conflict management by Griffith Business School academic Larry Crump has received international recognition. Dr Crump from the Department of International Business and Asian Studies was recently honoured for his four-volume set of books entitled “Multiparty Negotiation”.

Co-edited with Lawrence Susskind from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the International Association for Conflict Management (IACM) chose “Multiparty Negotiation” as the 2010 Outstanding Book at their 23rd annual conference in Boston. The IACM awards banquet was held at Harvard Business School on June 26th with about 250 conference participants attending.

Dr Crump said it was great recognition for the Business School. “We track the development of multiparty negotiation across multiple disciplines – highlighting key historical studies and contemporary cutting-edge research, although our publisher markets our collection as a reference work to libraries. No single study has previously charted the development of multiparty negotiation because literature is found is so many fields of study” Dr Crump said.

The 1st volume serves as an introduction to the field by examining issues unique to multiparty negotiation such as coalition building and process management (e.g., mediation and facilitation). The 2nd volume establishes our knowledge about conflict management by exploring the relationship between deliberative democracy and public dispute resolution.

The 3rd volume investigates litigation and legal transactions by focusing on complex legal disputes, mass torts and class action. The 4th and final volume considers organisational and international negotiations by examining negotiations within organisation and between organisations, and by investigating diplomacy in bilateral and multilateral settings.

Sage published the collection in 2008 in association with the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School.
Dr Wes Widmaier

Dr. Widmaier’s research spans the realms of International Political Economy, International Security, and International Relations Theory, addressing the interplay of ideas, crisis and change. In the International Political Economy setting, his current work expands on a longstanding interest in economic crises, from Great Crash to the Asian crises, to address the causes and consequences of the Global Financial Crisis. Put broadly, he argues that “consensus causes crises,” arguing most recently that the pre-GFC “Washington Consensus” on the limited need for regulation not only inhibited policy flexibility, but also presaged the ongoing Keynesian counter-reaction, spurring the greater use of fiscal policy and macroprudential regulation.

Moving into this post-GFC setting, Dr. Widmaier’s research highlights likely challenges to Keynesian policies in addressing what is likely to be the dominant problem facing the Australian economy – as well as the broader Asian region – that of cost-push, commodity price inflation. In the International Security realm, Dr. Widmaier’s research addresses the interplay of power transitions, the construction of threats, and their implications for change, with a specific stress on U.S. policy shifts from periods of crusading liberalism to pragmatic retrenchment. Building on past research tracing constructions of the Cold War, the Vietnam War, and War on Terror, his current research addresses tensions between the Obama administration’s pragmatism and its need for domestic support.

Finally, across these security and economic concerns, Dr. Widmaier has addressed International Relations Theory debates over the nature of ideas themselves, arguing that a focus on elite paradigmatic debates has often obscured everyday popular influences on policy.

Professor Alex Bellamy

The Griffith Asia Institute welcomes new appointment Professor Alex Bellamy. Professor Bellamy is the Australian co-chair of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) study group on the responsibility to protect (RtoP). Established in 2009, and chaired by AUSCSCAP, CSCAP Indonesia, CSCAP Philippines and CSCAP Canada, the group’s mandate is to explore modalities for the role of regional arrangements in implementing the responsibility to protect in the Asia-Pacific region. The group held its scoping and first full meeting in Jakarta, a second meeting in Manila this September and will meet for a third and final time in Phnom Penh next March, after which it will issue a consensus based report on the issue that will frame a CSCAP memorandum to be tabled at the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The key issues under discussion include the establishment of a regional early warning system for genocide and mass atrocities, extending the capacity of regional arrangements to conduct preventive diplomacy to resolve crises before they escalate, improving dialogue and cooperation between the region and the UN, and strengthening regional capacities to deploy peacekeepers, police and humanitarian workers when required and requested.

At the first meeting, the group reached a consensus about the meaning and scope of the responsibility to protect principle and also arrived at some concrete proposals for consideration by the ARF generated by the first meeting.

These included:
1. Establishing an open-ended inter-sessional meeting to examine ways of strengthening regional control of small arms and light weapons (SALW).
2. Establishing a regular dialogue with the United Nations.
3. Establishing region-to-region dialogue on both the track one and track two levels in order to identify best practices and lessons learned relating to RtoP implementation.
4. Establishing a voluntary peer review mechanism to assist states with implementation of their primary responsibility to protect.
5. Utilizing diplomacy as a core element of its implementation of the RtoP.
6. Establishing a Risk Reduction Centre, housed within the ARF Unit.
7. Using the eminent and expert persons group in the ARF to assist with early warning and diplomacy and to oversee the establishment of a framework for early warning that should be configured to conduct fact-finding and goodwill missions when requested by the ARF Chair.
8. Establishing a process of inter-sessional meetings to consider the development of regional capacity to deploy, at short notice, humanitarian aid, civilian support and/or peacekeepers when requested by the host state or UN Security Council.

The group’s second meeting explored these and other proposals in more depth, and the third meeting will discuss the draft final report in more detail.

Professor Bellamy has also just been elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.
Griffith University recognised for QLD-China relations

Griffith University won the award for ‘Best Practice in Queensland – China Collaboration Award’ in the Higher Education category at the QETI Queensland – China Education and Training Awards for Excellence, on 22 June, during the Shanghai 2010 World Expo.

Griffith Vice Chancellor and President, Professor Ian O’Connor received the award from The Hon. Tim Mulherin MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries in a ceremony held at the Australia Pavilion attended by 120 representatives, including institutions and Government representatives from China and Australia.

The award recognises outstanding achievement in developing positive collaborations with Chinese institutions and industry groups.

Professor O’Connor thanked the University’s international partner institutions and governmental support agencies, in both Australia and China.

“Griffith University’s history shows a long standing commitment to internationalisation,” said Professor O’Connor.

“Our founding Chancellor, Sir Theodor Bray, had a vision to establish Australia’s first School of Modern Asian Studies and cultivate good relations between Asia and its neighbours around the Pacific Rim,” he said.

“Griffith University is cognisant that in developing collaborations, it is vital to engage with local, State and Federal Government agencies wherever possible.”

“This ‘partnership’ model is evident in most of what we do – whether it be the Australia-China Dialogues with Peking University and the Queensland State Government, or the Healthy Cities initiative with Shanghai and Hangzhou, which involve regional and State Government agencies from both sides of the equator.

“This is why tonight’s award is so special to Griffith University.”

“It recognises the contributions of our valued partners from both China and Australia, and their tremendous commitment to addressing global issues facing the region.”

“I thank each of our partners and I look forward to our collaborations prospering for many years to come,” he said.

Two Griffith graduates were also honoured with ‘Highly Commended’ awards in the Alumnus of the Year Research; and Higher Education categories respectively, for their academic success and outstanding work experience which have contributed positively, not only strengthening Queensland’s links with China, but also in enhancing the quality of education and training that Queensland offers.

Professor LIU Qiyong, a 2006 Griffith graduate with a Master of Science in Public Health, who currently holds several positions within the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, was recognised for his research in the sustainable management of vector disease.

Ms Ariel LIUO Haoming, a 2007 Griffith graduate with a Master of Science in Public Health, was recognised for her role as the Vice-Chief Occupational Health Inspector at the Guangdong Institute of Health Inspection and for her work in drafting occupational health legislation and training using the skills she acquired at Griffith.

Queensland Education and Training International (QETI) works in close collaboration with private and public providers to strengthen the international education and training industry in Queensland and ensure its sustainability.

For more information contact: International Relations, Ms Shelly Maller (s.maller@griffith.edu.au) or Ms Carlene Duffy (c.duffy@griffith.edu.au).

Indonesian Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies (Lesperssi): Visit to GAI

Following meetings in Canberra, representatives from the Jakarta-based Indonesian Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies (Lesperssi - Lembaga Studi Pertahanan dan Studi Strategi), flew to Brisbane on 7 June to visit Griffith Asia Institute and meet with Director, Professor Andrew O’Neil. Lesperssi is a non-government foundation committed to enhancing democratic oversight of Indonesia’s security forces. Program Coordinator, Beni Sukadis and Senior Researcher, Henwira Halim, were warmly welcomed by GAI staff, with whom they shared their insights on security sector reform in Indonesia and maritime security challenges faced by Indonesia, including governance and interagency coordination issues. The Griffith visit program, organised by GAI PhD candidate, Greta Nabbs-Keller, also included a visit to the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development in Indonesia (CESDI), where representatives met with CESDI Director, Dr Peter Davey, and Indonesian postgraduate students studying in the Faculty of Environment.