Australia’s contemporary nuclear choices take on great significance in the international arena

The international nuclear order based on the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has been undermined through a confluence of contemporary strategic, security and economic issues – such as the advent of ‘rogue states’, mass casualty international terrorism and a growing desire for alternatives to non-renewable sources of energy.

The response of the United States to these developments, including the formalisation of nuclear cooperation agreements with non-NPT member India, has arguably provided further incentives for states such as Iran and North Korea to continue their proliferation activities. These developments have also informed Australia’s evolving approach to the future of the international nuclear order, including reconsideration of Australian involvement in the global nuclear market.

Griffith Asia Institute Research Fellow, Dr Michael Clarke, was recently awarded a Griffith University Post-Doctoral Fellowship for his project proposal, *Australia and the Non-Proliferation Regime*, which will address an important element of this evolution. This project forms part of a proposed larger research project, headed by Griffith Asia Institute Director Professor Michael Wesley, that will examine the challenges Australia faces in reconciling its long-standing commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and uranium exports within an international context characterised by an international nuclear non-proliferation regime under major stress...
The recent crises in Burma and Pakistan serve as powerful reminders of the fragility of order in some Asian countries, the vulnerability of many to transnational threats, and the increasing complexity of linkages between domestic order and the emerging regional strategic balance. In both crises, the United States, China and India had specific interests, and in both cases all three carefully calibrated their reactions with considerations of regional advantage foremost in their thinking. Both situations continue to evolve, but most analysts would agree that stability and peace would be one of the less likely outcomes possible.

At another level both crises emphasise how the Asian region’s dynamism and unpredictability challenge our own capacities to anticipate, understand and respond. Australia was no less uncertain of how best to respond to each of the crises than most of its neighbours. This only underpins the necessity of further sustained research and discussion on all of the region’s facets and complexities. The Griffith Asia Institute’s expanding research agenda reflects these realities. Our twin thematic foci: on transnational threats and emerging great power balances, address two of the key dynamics of the evolving region.

The year that is now ending saw us complete important research on reforms to the Chinese economy, energy security, China-Japan relations, Burma’s strategic posture, reform in Indonesia, state fragility and state-building, to name just a few.

Next year promises to be even more productive and exciting. From the beginning of 2008 we will be launching several of the programs within the Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security, while moving forward on a range of new research topics. We look forward to welcoming the arrival of Professor Michael Dutton from Goldsmith’s College in London in early December. Michael will take up a Research Chair within GAI, and will provide significant impetus to our China research.

Professor Ravi Kanbur, renowned economist, on 30 October as he addressed a round table discussion with Griffith researchers based on his recent paper titled: Globalization, Growth and Distribution: Framing the Questions. Professor Kanbur argued that official poverty statistics may be missing key elements of the ground level reality of distributional evolution, of which rising inequality may be an indirect indicator.

According to Professor Kanbur many countries are experiencing high growth rates which have reduced poverty but these rate increases have been accompanied by rising inequality.

The Griffith Asia Institute hosted a visit from Professor Ravi Kanbur, renowned economist, on 30 October as he addressed a round table discussion with Griffith researchers based on his recent paper titled: Globalization, Growth and Distribution: Framing the Questions. Professor Kanbur argued that official poverty statistics may be missing key elements of the ground level reality of distributional evolution, of which rising inequality may be an indirect indicator.

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Professor Kanbur is T. H. Lee Professor of World Affairs, International Professor of Applied Economics and Management, and Professor of Economics at Cornell University. Ravi has also served on the staff of the World Bank, as Economic Adviser, Senior Economic Adviser, Resident Representative in Ghana, Chief Economist of the African Region of the World Bank, and Principal Adviser to the Chief Economist of the World Bank.
International collaboration on Islam bears fruit

A landmark reconnaissance of Sufism in contemporary societies across the globe has just appeared in a volume edited by GAI’s Julia Howell and Utrecht University’s Martin van Bruinessen. The volume is the fruit of international collaboration between the Griffith Asia Pacific Research Institute (GAI’s predecessor under Professor Robert Elson) and leading centres of Islamic studies in Indonesia and the Netherlands.

Sufism and the Modern in Islam, published by IB Tauris, comprehensively re-evaluates the character and prevalence of Sufi devotional currents in Islam. In this international year of the Sufi poet Jalaluddin Rumi, Sufism is still highly controversial: reviled by Salafis, it is also hailed by proponents like Syed Hossein Nasr as Islam’s spiritual heart and answer to religious radicalism. Howell and Van Bruinessen’s volume moves beyond rhetoric, stereotypes and hopeful advocacy, bringing together new comparative and interdisciplinary research. It shows how Sufi Muslims have responded to modernisation and globalisation and how various currents of Islamic reform and Sufism have interacted.

Challenging earlier theories of the modernisation of Muslim societies, Sufism and the Modern in Islam demonstrates that Sufi influence on the political, economic and intellectual life of contemporary Muslim societies has been considerable. Although less noticed than the resurgence of radical Islam, Sufi orders and related movements involve considerably larger numbers of followers, even among the modern urban middle classes. The movement demonstrates surprising connections between Sufism and Muslim reformist currents, and the vital presence of Sufi ideas and practices in all spheres of life.

Sufism and the Modern in Islam is the product of a major international conference held in Bogor, Indonesia, in 2003 with support from the Griffith Asia Pacific Research Institute and major contributions from Indonesian and Dutch institutions. Professor Azyumardi Azra, then Rector of Indonesia’s State Islamic University (UII) Syarif Hidayatullah, assigned a team from the UII’s Center for the Study of Islam and Society (PPIM) to the project, and Professor Van Bruinessen joined the organising team, bringing funds from Holland’s Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World and the International Institute for Asian Studies. Professor Merle Ricklefs of the National University of Singapore and Melbourne University, also lent the support of the Melbourne Institute of Asian Languages and Societies.

Leading authorities on Islam in the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, Indonesia and Europe are contributors to the volume. An Indonesian translation of the volume, supported by the Ford Foundation, will be published in Jakarta late in 2007.

ASEAN delegates share views on ASEAN issues with Griffith staff

The Griffith Asia Institute and the Vice Chancellor jointly hosted a visit from seventeen Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) delegates from ten different countries on 9 October. Director Generals, Directors and other senior officials from Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Singapore, Cambodia and the Philippines took part in a round table discussion with twenty Griffith Asia Institute members.

Professor Julia Howell, Deputy Director of the Griffith Asia Institute, chaired the meeting and Mr Vitavas Srvihok, Director General, ASEAN (Thailand) led the delegation in the discussion. The topics discussed included the drafting of the ASEAN charter, counter-terrorism, economic cooperation, relations with the great powers, and ASEAN environmental sustainability.

An informal reception after the discussion provided participants with an excellent opportunity to speak to individual delegates about specific countries and topics of interest.

Left (left to right): Professor Ian O’Connor, Vice Chancellor and President of Griffith University, Mr Vitavas Srvihok, Director General, ASEAN (Thailand) and Professor Julia Howell, Deputy Director, Griffith Asia Institute at the reception for ASEAN delegates.
Australia’s contemporary nuclear choices take on great significance in the international arena

... from page 1

and a bullish world uranium market. The larger project argues Australia’s “grand bargain”, that has framed Australian participation in the non-proliferation regime and the nuclear fuel market since the 1970s, was only tenable in an era of stagnant uranium demand and a stable nuclear balance. However, contemporary nuclear proliferation dynamics and the revival of interest in nuclear energy have accentuated the incompatibility between Australia’s commitment to non-proliferation and the desire to profit from uranium exports.

The contemporary international strategic environment, international non-proliferation regime and nuclear energy market are characterised by developments that not only undermine the basis of Australia’s “grand bargain” but also present challenges and opportunities for the refashioning of Australian policy. Dr Clarke’s project forms a key component of the wider research agenda to examine the interactions between the strategic, regime and market realms of Australia’s nuclear choices. In particular, Dr Clarke’s project aims to provide an account of how stresses on the international nuclear non-proliferation regime affect Australia’s non-proliferation strategy/policy and identify what contributions Australia can make to the international non-proliferation regime. This aspect of Australia’s contemporary nuclear choices takes on great significance as both major political parties contemplate an expansion of Australia’s role in the nuclear fuel cycle through increased uranium exports, greater bilateral nuclear cooperation with other states and the potential for a domestic civil nuclear energy industry.

While the larger project seeks to investigate the interactions between the strategic, non-proliferation regime and nuclear energy market realms, this project isolates the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, with particular emphasis on Australia’s role in it. The project will investigate the multifarious connections and influences between the international non-proliferation regime and Australian national interests and how this shapes Australian policy choices to secure those interests.

At the international and national level, four key questions have been identified:

• How is the global level of nuclear proliferation changing?
• How do these changes affect Australia?
• What are Australia’s interests?
• How can Australia best secure those interests?

The Politics of Alliance Affinity: The effect on international society

The United States’ global system of alliances, long acknowledged as a major component of international security has recently come under significant stress. A new urgency and determination in US foreign policy since 11 September 2001 has coincided with significant generational and attitudinal change in many of Washington’s allies, leading to heightened opposition and criticism of US foreign and security policies, and serious alliance rifts.

Understanding the causes of stress in alliance relationships is crucial to Australia which has placed the US alliance at the centre of its foreign and security policies. The terminology for understanding alliance relationships is referred to as “alliance affinity” which encompasses the consistency of diplomatic and military support for US actions when requested, the level of interdependence between US and allied military and intelligence structures, and the extent of popular support for the US alliance and US foreign policy generally.

The Politics of Alliance Affinity is an ARC funded project aimed at understanding modern alliance politics by measuring variations in alliance affinity in four key allies of the United States – Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the UK. The project will seek to test whether changes in material power and threats, the intensity of transnational interactions and ideational trends affect perceptions of the US alliance within these four societies, and how reactions to these perceptions result in different levels of alliance affinity.

Professor Michael Wesley, Director, Griffith Asia Institute, Dr Brendon O’Connor, Department of Politics and Public Policy, Griffith University and Professor Bill Tow, Department of International Relations, ANU are the investigators of this project which will run until December 2008. With the assistance of Ms Vanessa Schouten, Senior Research Assistant for the project, the key outcomes of the study will be published articles on alliance affinity and a book.
Managing knowledge, technology and development in the era of an information revolution

When the World Association for Sustainable Development (WASD) executives proposed to hold the 5th International Conference at Griffith University, they asked the Conference Coordinator, Dr Moazzem Hossain to submit a theme based on two agendas: how development is influenced in the era of information revolution, and how individuals are affected in the era of digital divide. Thus, these agendas were put forward and the theme of the 5th International Conference emerged, ‘Managing Knowledge, Technology and Development in the Era of Information Revolution’.

Criticisms of globalisation and the digital divide have, to some degree, waned over recent years. The critics of globalisation have been silenced by China’s phenomenal and sustained growth over the last quarter of a century and the critics of the digital divide have been silenced by India’s unprecedented growth in the area of information and communications technology over the last decade. It is true that the growth of both China and India is unprecedented, however, in per capita terms both countries remain dismally poor when compared with world averages. China’s per capita income is 16 percent and India’s only 8 percent of the world averages of US$9,000. In China the lowest 10 percent of the population enjoy only 2 percent of total consumption, while in India 34 percent live under US$1 a day. Indeed, the benefit of such rapid development remains elusive to the poorer people of these two nations.

Moreover, it remains to be seen what further deterioration of quality of life may take place in the developing Asian, African and Island nations due to climate change and its aftermath. Like globalisation, the effect of climate change has no boundary. Hence, although previously a low profile issue, it has now become a priority for the world’s richest nations including Australia.

Keynote speakers at the conference included Mr Mark Pesce, known internationally as the man who fused virtual reality with the World Wide Web to invent VRML; and Mr Ian Dunlop who has wide experience in energy resources, infrastructure, and international business, and is on the international staff of Royal Dutch Shell.
Perspectives: Asia public seminars in 2007

A key role of the Griffith Asia Institute is to provide a forum for the discussion and debate of important modern and contemporary issues related to the Asia-Pacific and Australia’s role in it.

Since its inception, the Griffith Asia Institute has hosted a number of conferences, workshops and public lectures that include participants from interstate and overseas.

In 2005, the Griffith Asia Institute, in collaboration with the Queensland Art Gallery, launched a successful series of monthly public seminars called Perspectives: Asia to promote public discussion of Australia’s relations with its region, particularly among business and government circles in Brisbane. The Perspectives: Asia seminars have fostered links with interstate and overseas presenters and developed close ties with the Queensland Art Gallery. The Perspectives: Asia seminars are held at the Queensland Art Gallery, South Bank.

In 2007, the seminars were organised around the central theme of “Why is Asia important?” It was suggested that such a provocative theme was needed in response to the prevailing public cynicism and apathy toward Asia in Australia. On the one hand, Asia’s importance to Australia has been narrowly economic or security-oriented; on the other hand, Asia has changed dramatically in itself and in public consciousness, therefore the need for conversation about Asia’s contemporary and future importance was identified.

The result was a diverse set of seminars designed around the different aspects of Asia and its importance to Australia.

Speakers and topics for the seminars included:

- Ms Catherine Armitage (The Australian) The Elephant in the Region: Challenge and change in Australian media coverage of China’s ascendancy
- Mr Tony Wheeler (Lonely Planet) Travellers’ Tales: Australian tourism in Asia and the impact on the Australian psyche
- Professor Stephen FitzGerald (FitzGerald Consulting) While We Weren’t Looking: The new Asia and how it challenges Australia
- Mr John Harrison (adidas-Group) Is India the Next China?
- A panel discussion chaired by Professor Julianne Schultz (Griffith Review), Professor Nicholas Jose (University of Adelaide), Professor Michael Wesley (Griffith Asia Institute) and Ms Jane Camens (New Writing Partnership - Asia-Pacific) In the Neighbourhood: The challenges of Australia’s regional engagement
- Mr Graeme Dobell (ABC Radio) Shock, Horror – Drongo Oz Journo Runs Amok in Asia: How the Australian media assesses the importance of Asian news

Below: Attending the September seminar were (left to right): Professor Mary Farquhar (Professor of International Business and Griffith Asia Institute member), Professor Stephen FitzGerald AO (Principal, FitzGerald Consulting and Chair, Griffith Asia Institute Advisory Council), Ms Leneen Forde (Chancellor, Griffith University), Professor Ian O’Connor (Vice Chancellor, Griffith University), Professor Michael Wesley (Director, Griffith Asia Institute), Professor Marilyn McMeniman (Pro Vice Chancellor, Arts, Education and Law).
Is India the next China?

Mr John Harrison delighted the audience of his Perspectives: Asia seminar with his vibrant presentation titled, 'Is India the Next China?' which provided a first-hand insight to the 'ground-level' realities in these two countries’ rise and entrance into a global marketplace.

With over fourteen years experience in developing detailed analyses of regional markets and emerging trends in China, and over 23 years in the Asia Pacific region, his expertise is now being utilised in the early 'start up' projects of today’s India.

While we weren’t looking

On Thursday 6 September, Professor Stephen FitzGerald AO gave an articulate and comprehensive talk, titled 'While We Weren’t Looking: The new Asia and how it challenges Australia' as part of the Griffith Asia Institute Perspectives: Asia seminar series. The Queensland Art Gallery lecture theatre was almost full to capacity as Professor FitzGerald spoke about the rise of Asia and how it impacts on Australia.

Since 1978, Professor FitzGerald has been the Principal of FitzGerald Consulting, a consultancy for Australian companies in Asia, particularly in China. He is a leading authority on Australia’s relations with Asia and has made a significant contribution to the Australia-China relationship. Professor Fitzgerald was Australia’s first Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China from 1973 to 1976 and is arguably the most high-profile Australian consultant to China. He accompanied Labor Opposition leader Gough Whitlam on his celebrated first trip to China in July 1971.

In the neighbourhood

The most recent Perspectives: Asia seminar ‘In the Neighbourhood The challenges of Australia’s regional engagement was organised to coincide with the launch of the latest volume of the Griffith REVIEW, In the Neighbourhood.

As part of the Perspectives: Asia series, Ms Julianne Schultz (Editor, Griffith REVIEW) led a panel discussion with three of the authors featured in the current issue. The panel discussion focussed on the enormously diverse countries in our neighbourhood. These countries, linked by geography and a long and complicated shared history of trade, colonisation, war and culture, are also home to some of the oldest human civilisations. This region is also emerging as the epicentre of global power in this century.

Panel members included:

Professor Julianne Schultz, Editor of Griffith REVIEW and a professor in the Centre for Public Culture and Ideas at Griffith University. Professor Schultz chaired the panel, drawing the topics together.

Professor Nicholas Jose, Chair of Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide and General Editor of the Macquarie PEN Anthology of Australian Literature. Professor Jose’s chapter Back to the Avantgarde chronicles the rise of contemporary Chinese art.

Professor Michael Wesley, Director, Griffith Asia Institute. Professor Wesley argues that luck may not be enough, as the geo-politics of the region changes in his chapter Location, Location, Location.

Ms Jane Camens, Executive Director, New Writing Partnership (Asia-Pacific). In her chapter A Case for Literary Contamination Jane argues that literature is a tool to cross-cultural understanding.
Mixed Relations: Rewriting the history of Australia’s first settlers

Griffith Asia Institute member, Associate Professor Regina Ganter was recently awarded the Community and Regional History Prize of the 2006 NSW Premier’s Awards and the 2006 Melbourne University Ernest Scott History Prize, considered the most prestigious among Australian historians. Both awards were for her book *Mixed Relations: Asian-Aboriginal Contact in North Australia*. In this book, Regina has produced a history which rewrites the national story through individual accounts that cross multiple racial, ethnic and cultural boundaries.

This attractively produced work inverts Australian settlement history from its conventional focus on the South East to a perspective point in the North. Her focus on race relations moves away from the black/white binary which has preoccupied most writing on the topic to examine the polyethnicty of the North. The book is the product of a period of sustained research and engagement with local communities, reflecting deep archival work in manuscript and visual sources, as well as drawing reflectively on oral histories. This is a work which demands attention in its intellectual challenge to settler historiographies which have privileged simplistic oppositions, proposing a rich new narrative of northern Australia as a place of mixed identities. Her book makes a major contribution to our understanding of race relations in both Indigenous and Australian history.

In this well-produced account the poignant oral histories are matched by a range of historical and contemporary photographs that give the reader a sense of the strangeness and diversity of the communities who have lived across the top of this continent. It combines these with extensive documentary and archival research that charts the many obstacles which repressive governments introduced to prevent movement between groups, mixed marriages and reproduction. Ganter shows how these families and communities have survived to flourish against all odds. Her book makes a major contribution to our understanding of race relations in both Indigenous and Australian history.

**Below (left to right): Prizewinners John Hughes, Regina Ganter, Libby Robin, Klaus Neumann, Christopher Clark, and John Nicholson, with Tom Griffith who gave the awards address and the Hon Frank Sartor, Minister for the Arts, NSW who presented the awards.**

**New business economic program for the Griffith Asia Institute**

Professor Tony Makin, Griffith Asia Institute member will be leading a new research program called the Asia-Pacific Business Economics (APBE) program. This Program will research important business and public policy relevant themes related to the economic integration of the Asia-Pacific region addressing gaps in current understanding of international trade, investment and demographic issues.

Linkages between and within markets for goods, services and assets in the Asia-Pacific (including Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the United States, China, India, South Korea, and the 10 member economies of ASEAN) have become central to business decision-making, profitability and domestic employment prospects to the extent that it is no longer meaningful to interpret the business environment and public policy formulation without sound knowledge of them.

In Australia, only the Economics program of the ANU’s College of Asia and the Pacific, Melbourne University’s Asian Economics Centre and Monash University’s APEC Studies Centre have well established profiles in this area.

The program was launched on 21 November 2007 at Griffith’s South Bank campus with guest speaker, Alan Oxley presenting a talk on *Climate Change Policy and Australia’s Asian Pacific Destiny – protecting the future.*

Alan Oxley is one of Australia’s most authoritative advisers on international trade policy. He has an enormous depth and spread of experience, drawing on nearly twenty years of practice, first in government as a successful trade negotiator and then as an influential advisor to the private sector.
Collaboration supports new writing from Asia and the Pacific

The launch of the Asia-Pacific Writing Partnership, a Griffith University initiative to support new creative writing from Asia and the Pacific, took place in late September.

The launch, co-hosted by GU and one of Indonesia’s 12 public teacher education universities, Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha, brought together academics and literati from Australia, Asia, the Pacific islands at the 2007 Ubud Writers’ Festival.

The Partnership supports diversity of cultural expression, and literature that crosses borders. It champions the notion that literature enhances understanding between cultures and seeks to create stronger international interest in new writing from the region. (See GAI’s website).

The Partnership has had a small presence at literary events in Asia and Australia for the past 18 months, but the official launch in Bali marked the start of a more focused collaborative effort. The launch took place after the first meeting of the Board, made up of highly acclaimed writers and academics from Australia, The Philippines, Fiji, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, United States of America, and the United Kingdom.

Attending the launch were writers, academics, publishers and literary festival organisers from China, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and East Timor.

Griffith’s Vice Chancellor and Griffith Asia Institute helped by providing seed funding for the Partnership. The initiative has also received funding from the Australian Copyright Agency Limited (CAL), Asialink, University of Technology Sydney and the Australian National University’s International Centre of Excellence in Asia Pacific Studies.

Jane Camens, a PhD candidate at Griffith who developed the initiative, said that identification of new funding sources was a key item on the Board’s agenda.

For more information about the Asia-Pacific Writing Partnership, contact Jane Camens via email jcamens@bigpond.net.au or telephone (+61) 02 6685 9886.

Bilingual Anthology launched at Writers’ Festival

Ms Jane Camens, a contributing author of a unique bilingual (Bahasa Indonesian and English) anthology, titled “TERRA” helped launch the publication at the recent Byron Bay Writers’ Festival. Jane is the Executive Director of the Asia-Pacific Writing Partnership which was launched in Bali at the Ubud Writers Festival in September.

TERRA is a unique and timely publication representing the best prose and poetry from over 40 guest writers at WordStorm, the NT Writers’ Festival. It is the first bilingual publication of its kind with leading and emerging writers from the Austronesian region published in English and Bahasa Indonesian languages.

At a time when ‘Terror’ too readily dominates preconceptions throughout the region, particularly between Indonesia and Australia, this anthology offers a welcome and illuminating exchange of themes and ideas of local and universal import. In short, the anthology represents an outstanding selection of (mostly) previously unpublished contemporary literature from Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australia, East Timor, Indonesia and Singapore on matters of individual and political relevance to our region: freedom, belonging, fear, insecurity and identity.

Right: Griffith Asia Institute member and Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Writing Partnership, Jane Camens (left), joins fellow authors at the Byron Bay Writers’ Festival.
Member news

Defining critical research in multiparty negotiation

Sage Publications has contracted with Dr Larry Crump (Griffith Asia Institute member) and Professor Lawrence Susskind (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) to compile a four volume set that will define the critical research in Multiparty Negotiation. The first volume introduces the research field. Volume Two will focus on public dispute resolution including environmental negotiations. Volume Three will examine complex legal disputes. Volume Four will investigate organisational and international negotiations. The entire set is scheduled for publication in mid-2008. After 25 years of development the field of multiparty negotiation has achieved sufficient maturity to define the critical knowledge across these fields.

Griffith scholars contribute to blueprint of ideas for a future industrial relations system

Australia is lagging behind international best practice when it comes to dignity in workplaces, according to Griffith Asia Institute Associate Member, Professor Greg Bamber and Griffith Business School colleague Professor Bob Russell. Their research was published recently in the Australian Charter of Employment Rights.

Professor Bamber endorsed international calls for an emphasis on 'decent' work. "In an enlightened democratic society, employment should afford people opportunities to work with dignity," Professor Bamber said. "This is crucial to a satisfying work life, yet workplaces often pose challenging obstacles to the experience of dignity. Abuse, bullying, harassment, mismanagement, low-trust, surveillance or the unchecked operation of labour markets may all get in the way of productivity, job satisfaction and the capacity to lead a rewarding life."

Scholars discuss issues of global security in Australia and Asia

Griffith Asia Institute's commitment to stronger Australian ties with its neighbours in Asia was displayed at a symposium on 'Australia and Asia in the 21st Century: Issues of Global Security', organised by the Institute for Advanced Studies, at the University of Western Australia on 17th August.

Scholars from Australia, China, and India spoke on various themes including US-China relations in the East Asian context; China's global culture; the role of NGOs in China; global governance and global security; India-Australia energy cooperation; Australia-India convergence in 'New Asia'. Professor Michael Wesley and Dr Ashutosh Misra, represented the Institute at the symposium.

Professor Wesley spoke about the prospects of Australia-China relations in the context of China's 'peaceful rise'. He said that there is significant dissonance in Australia's view of China and the United States' view of China. In Australia, China is seen primarily as an economic opportunity, unlike in the US. In Australia, there was a growing sense among analysts and policy-makers that China was developing a strategic restraint system with regard to Australia to neutralise its role in East Asia.

Dr Misra presented a paper on India-Australia energy cooperation, highlighting a case of cooperation in the renewable sector, which has not been given as much attention as other energy resources. Recognising the vast potential for cooperation in the field, Australia and India established a Joint Working Group (JWG) on energy and minerals in 2000. In June 2005 the JWG specifically looked into renewable energy. Australia has committed to an exchange of information on renewable energy to facilitate the identification of possible proposals for joint research and development with Indian institutions.

Left: Contributors to the Australian Charter of Employment Rights, including Griffith Business School professors Greg Bamber (right) and Bob Russell (4th from the right).
**Members’ publications**

**Professor Greg Bamber**


Abstract
The opportunity for people to work with dignity is crucial to a satisfying work life, yet workplaces often pose challenging obstacles to the experience of dignity.

The book contains chapters on topics that constitute the new charter of employment rights by social scientists and employment relations lawyers from across Australia as well as a forward by former Prime Minister Bob Hawke. The book is likely to become a blueprint of ideas for a future industrial relations system, and a valued resource for employers, unions and universities.

**Dr Larry Crump**


Abstract
This article explores negotiation linkage dynamics (how one negotiation influences or determines the process or outcome of another) by examining three bilateral trade treaty negotiations conducted by the governments of Australia, Singapore, and the United States from 2000 to 2004. After developing a temporal framework of negotiation linkage, the study examines how one negotiation can influence another negotiation when time is treated as an independent variable and negotiation processes and outcomes are treated as dependent variables. The study’s finding can be used to help negotiation scholars and practitioners strategically manage the opportunities and challenges inherent in the negotiation linkage dynamic. The study concludes with a proposed research agenda and a temporal enhancement of the negotiation paradigm.

**Professor Julia Howell**


Abstract
This book comprehensively re-evaluates the character and prevalence of Sufi devotional currents in Islam. In this international year of the Sufi poet Jalaluddin Rumi, Sufism is still highly controversial: reviled by Salafis, it is also hailed by proponents like Syed Hossein Nasr as Islam’s spiritual heart and answer to religious radicalism. This volume moves beyond rhetoric, showing how Sufi Muslims have responded to modernisation and globalisation and how various currents of Islamic reform and Sufism have interacted.

**Professor Colin Mackerras**

Mackerras, C. (2007) ‘The Historical Context’, in Katherine Palmer Kaup, ed., *Understanding Contemporary Asia Pacific*, Lynne Rienner, Boulder, London, pp. 33–75. This chapter covers the history of East and Southeast Asia from the earliest times till the end of World War II. It discusses the rise of civilization in these areas, the origins of Confucian ideology, the introduction of Buddhism and Islam, and the emergence and high points of Confucian, Hinduised, Buddhist and Islamic states. It discusses the beginnings of Western influence and ‘the age of commerce’. Finally, there is a description and analysis of colonialism and imperialism, and the subsequent rise of various forms of nationalism.

**Dr Stephen McCarthy**


Abstract
Political science has long argued that democratisation will lead to political stability. This claim cannot, however, be made in the Asia-Pacific region where new democracies have all experienced instability. This paper examines the military coups of 2006 in Thailand and Fiji to illustrate how domestic variables can impede upon democratisation and yet remain important considerations for maintaining political legitimacy and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Mr Andrew Selth**


Abstract
Since the advent of a new, outward-looking military government in 1988, Burma has come to occupy a position of considerable importance in the Asia-Pacific strategic environment. Burma’s burgeoning relationship with China has attracted particular attention, not least because of the stream of reports in the news media and, to a lesser extent, academic literature, claiming that China has established several naval bases and intelligence collection stations in Burma. This apparent intrusion by China into the northeast Indian Ocean has strongly influenced the strategic perceptions and policies of Burma’s regional neighbours, notably India. A close examination of the available evidence, however, suggests that there are no Chinese military bases on Burmese soil, a fact conceded by senior Indian officials in 2005. China still has a strong strategic interest in developing bilateral relations with Burma but, based on this analysis, it would appear that China’s presence in Burma, and its current influence over Burma’s military regime appear to have been greatly exaggerated.
Griffith graduate honoured to be invited to APEC 2007

by Carlene Duffy

Griffith University Graduate and founding managing director of Vietnam’s hugely successful noodle franchise Pho24, Dr Ly Qui Trung, was honoured to be one of the elite few invited to attend this year’s APEC 2020, a two-day forum, which followed the APEC meetings hosted by the Australian Government in Sydney. In fact, Trung was delighted to be one of the two Vietnamese businessmen to receive an invitation.

APEC 2020, sponsored by the Asialink Foundation of the University of Melbourne, brings together 42 representatives (two from each APEC member economy) of prominent business and government leaders. The event convenes to address issues primarily affecting trade and investment liberalisation and business facilitation in the Asia-Pacific region. According to Trung, topics discussed included “climate change, energy and security.”

Trung, who was made adjunct professor for Griffith Business School earlier this year, reveals the forum enlightened him as to how he, as a business leader, can contribute to the greater issues affecting the region. “Entrepreneurs nowadays must be well aware of what is occurring now and in the future to stay competitive in the global market,” he said.

A business leader in a developing country, equipped with a first-class education, Trung offers invaluable insight into the failings of his home country in response to environmental sustainability. “It should be the responsibility of the people,” says the forward-thinking intellectual. “Australian children receive education on recycling but this does not happen in developing countries such as Vietnam,” he said.

An authority on franchising and brand building, Trung will stand up with representatives from blue chip organisations, Westpac bank and Gloria Jeans Coffees, to give a guest lecture to Griffith’s Executive MBA students in late October. He will also use the opportunity to promote his most recent book publication, titled, “Brand Building for Small to Medium sized Vietnamese Enterprises,” which was launched on October 12 this year. “Sharing my experience and insight is happiness,” reveals the franchising connoisseur.

Back in his home city, Ho Chi Minh, Trung recently moderated a conference with world renowned marketing guru, Professor Philip Kotler and twenty of Vietnam’s most prominent business leaders, an occasion that “showed that the Vietnamese business community has widely opened up to the world,” said the passionate Vietnamese patriot.

The successful food franchiser was thrilled to know he was in the right business when Kotler referred to Vietnam as “the Kitchen of the world.”

The Pho24 chain infiltrated the Australian market recently with the opening of a Sydney store, located on George Street.

Above: Dr Ly Qui Trung, Director Pho24, Vietnam’s hugely successful noodle franchise.

Diary dates

Refer to the Griffith Asia Institute website at www.griffith.edu.au/business/griffith-asia-institute/ for updates on these and other events:

Perspectives: Asia public seminar

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

Thursday 6 December 2007
Mr Graeme Dobell
Shock, Horror, Aussie Journo Run Amok in Asia: How the Australian media assesses the importance of Asian news

Workshop

Tuesday 18 - Wednesday 19 December 2007
Engaging Foreign Policy Debates: The challenges for liberal democracies in a new century
Ship Inn Function Room S06_2.02 South Bank