

The University of Melbourne

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China achievements deserve greater recognition: Asialink CEO

MELBOURNE, 12 April 2013 – Australia’s relationship with China has been significantly strengthened by this week’s visit to China by Julia Gillard, senior ministers and leaders of business, Asialink CEO Jenny McGregor said.

“The breakthroughs by our politicians, public servants and business people will be increasingly apparent in coming months and will have benefits for years,” Ms McGregor said.

“These historic inroads deserve greater acknowledgement and appreciation.

“It is clear from the agreement on annual leadership talks, other initiatives forged ahead of the visit, and the warmth and success of the business forum that our relationship with China has been significantly strengthened.

“I don’t think that has been fully recognised or appreciated.”

Initiatives announced this week include:

- Annual leaders’ meeting and ministerial dialogue;
- Greater cooperation on aid delivery in the Asia-Pacific;
- Senior Australian and Chinese business leaders to hold bi-annual meetings and regular personal contact;
- Currency deal giving Westpac and ANZ rights to directly trade Australian dollars and Chinese yuan;
- Education training aimed at keeping business people out of trouble when operating in China;
- Australia Week in China campaign in 2014 to promote tourism, trade and investment opportunities;
- First round of the AsiaBound program providing grants for Australian students to study in Asia.

“Some initiatives have been overlooked in the day-to-day coverage but together they demonstrate a big step forward in improving our Asia capability and our friendship with China,” Ms McGregor said.

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