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ANNUAL REPORT

Cover Image: Awaji Art Circus partners with Next Wave. Artist, Skye Gellmann. Image credit: Kimberley Brewster

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND CEO

Australia's future remains inextricably linked to Asia. However, globalisation, the rise of China and shifting power balance in the region, rising protectionism, security threats, together with transnational challenges, mean growing complexity for Australia's relations with its neighbours. It also presents real opportunities.

As Paul Kelly, Editor-at-Large of The Australian, has said - "Australia's engagement with Asia is a permanent national project."

As Australia's leading centre for Asia engagement, Asialink has been pivotal in forging strong and positive links with our region through innovative programs, and by building networks that matter. For nearly 30 years, we have been creating mutually beneficial Australia-Asia partnerships with governments, business, industry, educators and cultural organisations.

2018 was a special year for Asialink. We started by delving deep into the history of Asialink and our journey in Asia-Australia relations. Asialink: An Uncommon History: 1989 - 2017 highlights many of the ideas, initiatives and individuals that have contributed to driving Australia's closer engagement with Asia. Asialink's long-standing and highly respected CEO, Jenny McGregor AM, was succeeded by Penny Burt, and we welcomed a new Director of Asialink Arts, Dr Pippa Dickson.

In our 28th year, we reached ever larger audiences with powerful messages. We presented four thrilling hypothetical scenarios on the big issues facing Australia and Asia, in concert with the Wheeler Centre and screened on ABC News and iView. We broadcast to millions a short film series that documented the challenges faced by six incredible women leaders in Southeast Asia, for which the Australia-ASEAN Council won a Public Affairs Asia award for Diplomatic Engagement.

Southeast Asia was a special focus for the year. Asialink convened events around the historic ASEAN-Australia Special Summit, by providing practical support for the ASEAN-Australia SME Summit and by running ASEAN-focused export capability development workshops in regional Australia. We coordinated strong Australian involvement in the 12th ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Dialogue held in Kuala Lumpur, including participation by young leaders and New Colombo Plan (NCP) scholars. Our Australia-ASEAN Emerging Leaders Program (A2ELP) again delivered new opportunities and collaborations for social entrepreneurs, and our pioneering BRIDGE School Partnerships Program celebrated ten years in Indonesia and launched in the Pacific.

Asialink Arts commissioned high-profile works in Melbourne, Tokyo and Beijing - and facilitated 24 creative exchanges across Asia, and six across Australia.

Driving Australia's engagement with Asia and providing Australians with the knowledge, capabilities and networks to successfully engage in the region - through diplomacy, business, education and the arts - remains our highest priority.

Finally, we wish to thank Jenny McGregor AM for her outstanding contribution to Australia-Asia relations, as our founding CEO. She leaves an inspiring legacy.

We look forward to continuing the journey with you in 2019.



Andrew Robb
Chairman, Asialink and Asialink Business



Penny Burt
Group CEO, Asialink

BACKGROUND

Asialink is an initiative of the University of Melbourne and the Myer Foundation. As Australia's leading centre for building Asia capability and public understanding of Asia, Asialink delivers an annual program of initiatives that span the arts, education, business, and diplomacy.

During 2018, Asialink continued to build mutually beneficial Australia-Asia partnerships with governments, business, industry, educators and cultural organisations in Australia and Asia.

Asialink remains at the forefront of Australia's engagement with Asia, nurturing understanding and awareness of Australia's role in the region at a critical time for our increasingly interconnected world.

Purpose

Asialink is committed to building an Asia capable, deeply Asia-engaged Australia through innovative programs that deliver insight, skills and networks.

Programs

Asialink Business

As Australia's National Centre for Asia Capability, Asialink Business works across all levels of the workforce to help organisations deepen their engagement with diverse Asian markets, through practical training programs, research, and events.

Asia Education Foundation

Asialink's education arm, the Asia Education Foundation (AEF), provides school leaders, teachers, and students with curriculum resources, professional learning, innovative programs and networks to develop global competency for Foundation to Year 12 students in Australian schools.

Asialink Diplomacy

Asialink Diplomacy helps strengthen Australia's role in Asia by fostering deeper people to people networks, conducting applied research on key strategic issues in Australia-Asia engagement and continuing to participate in and lead Track II activities.

Asialink Arts

Asialink Arts instigates collaborative and flexible partnerships that deliver international, public and professional outcomes for the Australian cultural sector.

Confucius Institute

The Confucius Institute at the University of Melbourne enhances interest and understanding of Chinese language and culture through public access language and business programs, school programs and professional development opportunities.

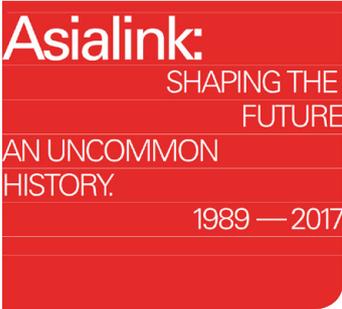
ASIALINK 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Major Achievements

- Powerful contributions to the events and activities associated with the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit, through Business, Education and Diplomacy
- Implementation of Asialink Arts' Global Project Space, providing artists, creatives and arts professionals with new opportunities for connection between Australia and Asia
- Expansion of the Asia Education Foundation's pioneering cross-cultural initiative, the BRIDGE School Partnerships Program, to encompass all ten ASEAN member states and launch in the South Pacific
- Asialink Business supported organisations across all sectors of the economy to distil key trends and understand the complexities of Asian markets through a rich agenda of public events and business forums, along with a media reach of over 32 million readers
- The provocative This is Not a Drill television series explored critical issues in Australia's relationship with the region, with all four events booked to capacity at the Wheeler Centre and broadcast nationally across Australia and online via iView
- Broadcast of The Pioneers - ASEAN Women of 2018 across 30 countries, with the series winning the Asia Public Affairs Award for Diplomatic Engagement
- Publication of Asialink: Shaping the Future. An Uncommon History, documenting the ideas, initiatives, people and events that shaped the organisation from 1989 to 2017



Ani de Leon Brown, Philippines subject for The Pioneers TV series



Asialink's Uncommon History published



Ali Moore hosts This is Not a Drill at Melbourne's Wheeler Centre



Participants of the Australia-ASEAN BRIDGE School Partnerships Program with the Australian Ambassador to Thailand



The Hon Julie Bishop MP attends the Australia-ASEAN BRIDGE School Partnerships Program, hosted in-line with the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit at the Sydney Opera House



Shadow Treasurer
The Hon Chris Bowen MP addresses the
Asialink Leaders Program in Canberra



Australian Ambassador to ASEAN
Ms Jane Duke before she delivers an
address for a business audience at
Ashurst in Melbourne

Participants at an Asialink Business 'State
of the Nation: ASEAN'
event in Sydney



ASIALINK BUSINESS

Key Achievements:

Supporting the next generation of Australian leaders in the Indo-Pacific

- A new partnership with the Australian Government to deliver the New Colombo Plan Alumni Program was announced by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne. The Program will design and deliver targeted professional development, networking opportunities and communications to further support Alumni as they advance in their careers and become advocates for Australia's interests in the Indo-Pacific.
- The flagship Asialink Leaders program continued to bring together outstanding professionals from the corporate, government and community sectors. 59 leaders participated in the program in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, joining a global network of more than 800 alumni.

An emphasis on Southeast Asia

- In the lead-up to the landmark ASEAN-Australia Special Summit – and throughout 2018 – Asialink Business supported the Australian Government and other partners to generate awareness of the Summit amongst the business community, providing practical resources and pathways for the Australian workforce to understand and embrace growth opportunities in Southeast Asia.
- The State of the Nation: ASEAN event series brought together leading industry experts across Australia to discuss opportunities for strengthening business ties between Australia and Southeast Asia, reaching an audience of 2500 businesses nationwide, with grant funding from the Australia-ASEAN Council (AAC).
- Supported regional exporters to get 'ASEAN-ready' through workshops across regional centres including Wagga Wagga, Byron Bay, Newcastle, Wollongong and Tamworth, partnering with the NSW Department of Industry.

Building Asia capabilities for regional Australia

- Partnered with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to provide a comprehensive program aimed at helping all 77 local councils to navigate the delicate cultural differences involved in fostering international business relationships.
- Through the China Host Program, supported around 200 regional tourism operators along Victoria's Great Ocean Road with the tools, knowledge and networks needed to build lasting relationships with Chinese visitors.

Helping Australian small business go global

- With a rich agenda of public events and business forums, along with a media reach of over 32 million readers, Asialink Business helped small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to distil key trends and understand the complexities of Asian markets, with a focus on sharing sector and country-specific insights.
- Working with the City of Sydney, designed and delivered a series of Knowledge Exchange workshops, helping 160 local SMEs to get Asian tourist ready, sharpen their skills in pitching to Asian investors and explore opportunities around Asia's drive to create more liveable and sustainable cities.
- Supported the AFR India Business Summit as a platinum partner and through events, media placements and business resources developed for the President of India's November visit to Australia. Asialink Group CEO Penny Burt was appointed to the Australia-India CEO Forum, the pre-eminent private sector element of bilateral architecture with India.

ASIA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Key Achievements:

Study Programs in Asia

- Delivered a series of immersive international study programs continuing to connect Australian educators with their counterparts across the Asia-Pacific region. The programs to China, Singapore, and Bhutan provided educators with the experiences and skills to build their intercultural learning and the professional practice to implement teaching and learning approaches to support the Australian curriculum.

BRIDGE School Partnerships

- Launched the inaugural BRIDGE (Building Relationships through Intercultural Dialogue and Growing Engagement) Pacific chapter to include Samoa, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, with the new initiative announced by Foreign Minister the Hon Julie Bishop MP at Parliament House in Canberra. BRIDGE now operates in 17 countries across the Asia-Pacific region.
- Celebrated ten years of forming people-to-people links through the Indonesian BRIDGE chapter with an anniversary event at the first BRIDGE schools in Surabaya. Building on its alumni engagement, AEF hosted a series of 31 expansion programs delivered across Australia and Indonesia, including the Ambassador Principal Lecture series developed with the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia.
- Expanded the ASEAN-BRIDGE chapter to include all ten member states, with 166 teachers completing the initial intensive learning program, BRIDGE graduated its largest teacher cohort to date. In recognition of this milestone, AEF hosted an event at the Sydney Opera House attended by the Foreign Minister, Australian Ambassadors to the region, members of DFAT as well as BRIDGE alumni.

The BRIDGE School Partnerships Program is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and implemented by the Asia Education Foundation.

Go Global Student Programs

- Delivered nationwide student-led forums involving over 1500 students across 140 schools.
- Delivered the largest ever Australia-ASEAN Youth Forum as part of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in Sydney. Seventy students from across New South Wales and South Australia attended, along with Ministers the Hon Julie Bishop MP and the Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells MP.
- Launched the inaugural Global Goals Primary Forum as part of the Engaging Students with the World series, delivered in partnership with the Queensland Department of Education and Training.
- Facilitated the Globally Engaged Learners series, which supported 100 students from low socio-economic, regional and rural areas across Victoria to build their intercultural capabilities as young Australians, with the support of the Victorian Department of Education and the Andrews Foundation.

Professional Learning

- Designed and delivered a six-month blended model of professional learning; the Building Global Citizenship Course with the Bastow Institute for Educational Leadership. It inspired Victorian Government school leaders to develop ambitious and targeted intercultural learning projects in their school communities.
- Signed an MoU to establish a partnership with Yutong Culture Centre in Victoria to design and facilitate tailored programs for Chinese educators and students focusing on areas such as special education. AEF also worked with Melbourne Graduate School of Education to support the development of measurement tools for intercultural capabilities.



Ms Anne Myerscough from Darwin High School (NT) and Ms Elizabeth Ba Than from Thuringowa State High School (QLD), at the 2018 Australia-ASEAN BRIDGE School Partnerships Program welcome reception at the Sydney Opera House



70 students from New South Wales and South Australia participate in the ASEAN-Australia Youth Forum



70 students from New South Wales and South Australia participate in the ASEAN-Australia Youth Forum

ASIALINK DIPLOMACY

- The broadcast series *This is Not a Drill* explored four of the big issues facing Australia's relationships with Asia in the coming decades, presented by Ali Moore to live audiences at Melbourne's Wheeler Centre and broadcast on the ABC and iView. Expert panels tackled a hypothetical crisis on the South China Sea, a pandemic, a cybersecurity breach and the challenges facing our growing cities.
- The second Australia ASEAN Emerging Leaders Program (A2ELP) brought together social entrepreneurs from Australia and all ten ASEAN member countries. This year was a particularly special one for the program, as delegates participated in the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit and attended a high-level roundtable with Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull. Following successful programs in Australia, alumni travelled to Southeast Asia to explore initiatives in Jakarta, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur and strengthen the relationship with locally based alumni, all supported by the Australia-ASEAN Council (AAC).
- Asialink co-convened the ASEAN-Australia Dialogue: Partnering for Security; Prosperity in Uncertain Times, in collaboration with 10 other institutions around Australia. The Dialogue was held as part of the lead-up to the Australian Government's ASEAN-Australia Special Summit, with support from the Australia-ASEAN Council (AAC).
- The 2018 Asialink Conversations were held in Beijing in September and focused attention on Australia and ASEAN's navigation of China relations. The two-day structured discussion, presented with the University of Melbourne's School of International Studies and Peking University, explored the theme Norms, Principles and Rules – rethinking the equation, in the areas of geo-strategic order in the Asian region, trade and investment and maritime management. This initiative was supported by the Myer Foundation.
- In the lead-up to APEC 2018 in Papua New Guinea, the ASEAN-Australia New Zealand (AANZ) Dialogue in Kuala Lumpur addressed China's growing influence in Southeast Asia and Oceania, trade strategy and economic partnership, presented with the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia (ISIS-Malaysia) in partnership with the Asia New Zealand Foundation.
- The Pioneers: ASEAN Women of 2018 highlighted the achievements of six remarkable women, giving specific attention to the obstacles these individuals have faced while trying to do what they love. Supported by the Australia-ASEAN Council (AAC), the series aimed to reorient perceptions of Southeast Asia – depicting young, vibrant and increasingly mobile communities. Broadcast throughout 40 countries in the Asia Pacific region through ABC Australia, it reached a combined audience of over 120 million through network partners. The Pioneers was awarded the 2018 Asia Public Affairs Gold Standard for Diplomatic Engagement.



Participants from the second Australia ASEAN Emerging Leaders Program (A2ELP)

University of Melbourne Vice Chancellor's Fellow Ali Moore hosts the first This is Not a Drill series to a packed audience at Melbourne's Wheeler Centre



2018 Australia-ASEAN Emerging Leaders Program (A2ELP) meet in Sydney



2018 Australia-ASEAN Emerging Leaders Program (A2ELP) participants meet with Prime Minister The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP



Yasmin Rasyid speaks in Malaysia as part of The Pioneers: ASEAN Women of 2018





Dias Wuri in Melbourne as part of the 'Tulis' 2018 two-way Australian-Indonesian writing exchange

Awaji Art Circus partners with Next Wave. Artist, Skye Gellmann. Image credit: Kimberley Brewster



ASIALINK ARTS

Key Achievements:

Creative Exchange Program

- Implemented the Asialink Arts' Global Project Space (GPS), an initiative designed to create international opportunities for Australian and Asian artists, creatives and arts professionals to foster meaningful engagement in the region. The GPS provided development, networking and presentation opportunities to 30 artists and arts professionals, with a further emphasis to showcase the work developed on exchange when artists return to Australia. Twenty-four Australian artists and arts professionals developed work in Asia, and six artists from Asia participated in programs in Australia.
- Other highlights from 2018 included the Melbourne launch of 2017 alumni Tess Maunder's publication 'Absolute Humidity', plus an MTalk at the M Pavilion Summer Program, showcasing the exchange experience and work of three prominent Asialink alumni.
- Research commenced to highlight the considerable Asialink Arts Alumni. Since 1991, Asialink Arts has supported nearly 1000 Australian artists in engagements in Asia. The overall program of activities has provided professional opportunities for over 1,500 Australian and Asian arts professionals. Artists and cultural workers from all sectors and at all career stages have been supported. The 'Alumni Initiative' aims to illuminate the impact of the exchange program on the practice of individual artists, their communities and Australia-Asia arts engagement more broadly.

Commission Program

- Lisa Roet's giant inflatable Gibbon installation - "Skywalker" - was presented at The Opposite House Hotel, Beijing, coinciding with Earth Hour and a forum on Design, Science and Conservation, which together reached an audience of over two million.
- Heather B Swann's "I let my body fall into a Rhythm" was a new work presented at BUoY Arts Center, Tokyo as part of Australia NOW; and The Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne.

- Japanese experimental sound artist Asuna performed '100 Keyboards' live at The Substation as part of the Melbourne Festival, and stage two of the Awaji Art Circus commission was delivered in partnership with Next Wave, featuring the distinctive performance art of Skye Gellmann.

Strategic Projects

- Funding was received for the newly formed project 'Start-up Creative'; a collaboration led by Asialink Arts in partnership with Asialink Diplomacy, ACMI X, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian High Commission in New Delhi and Unboxed, to introduce, internationalise and develop market readiness for Australian start-up creatives within the context of the Indian creative industries ecosystems.



Lisa Roet's 'Skywalker' presented at Beijing's Opposite House

A Chinese Teachers Professional Development Workshop – organized with the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Victoria (CLTAV) with Professor from Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU)

作为第二语言的汉语综合课 教学模式

张宝林

北京语言大学 语言科学院

教学模

张宝林

北京语言大学 语



Confucius Institute
Chinese New Year "Chahuahui"
墨尔本大学孔子学院
新年茶话会

2018 Chinese New Year Cultural Workshop - 'Chahuahui'

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

Key Achievements:

Public Access Programs

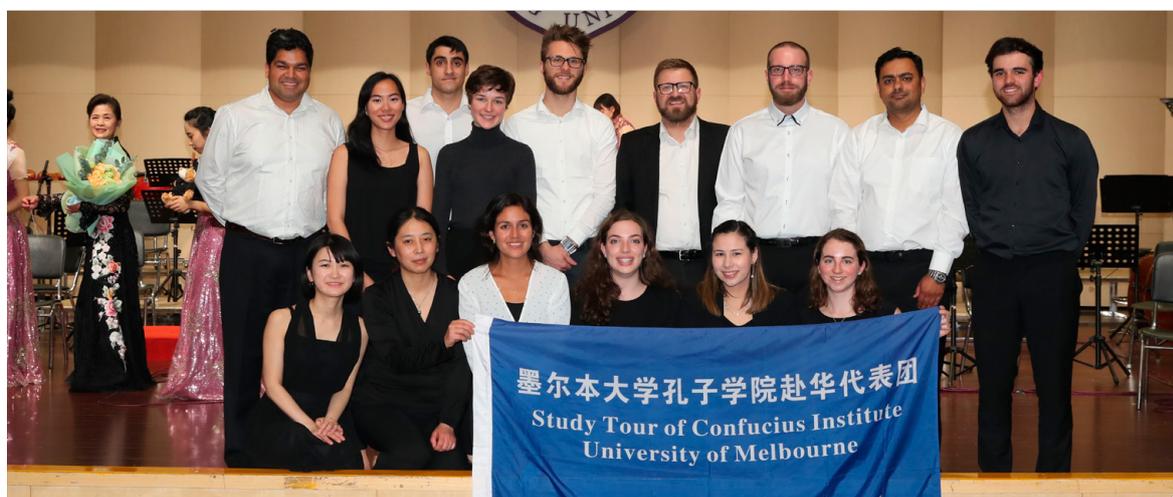
- The Institute provided Chinese language tuition to participants at four different proficiency levels. There were 545 students enrolled in the language and cultural classes with a total of 1735 contact hours.
- The Institute continued to deliver Business Chinese and tailored cross-cultural training for the Australian business community, including companies and organisations in legal services, education, the automobile industry and real estate. There were 14 programs offered throughout the year.

School Programs

- The Institute has formed a strong partnership with the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Victoria (CLTAV). Throughout the year, the partnership conducted joint events including the 2018 Victorian Chinese Language Teachers' Annual Conference, and a series of language competitions for Victorian schools.
- Upon invitation, the Institute visited different schools in Victoria to deliver cultural and art workshops, including Chinese calligraphy and painting, paper-cutting, Chinese knot making and Chinese dance. These workshops were delivered to 15 schools, reaching a total audience of 1268 students and teachers.

Professional Development

- The Institute conducted four China Study Programs with different organisations and partners, including the Building Global Citizenship Study Program with the Department of Education and Training, the 2018 CI Principal Tour and Arts Teachers' Tour with Asia Education Foundation, and the China Study Program for University Students and Young Professionals with Nanjing University. Participants had the opportunity to visit Chinese schools and universities, Australian government offices in China, as well as Chinese and Australian businesses, to gain a deeper understanding of the engagement of the two countries in different sectors.
- The Institute continued to support Chinese language teachers by providing professional learning workshops, including: the Implementation of Revised VCE Study Designs; the Teaching of Chinese as a Foreign Language; the Use of Chinese Corpus Database in Writing.



The 2018 Emerging Young Leaders Study Program to China

OUR BOARD AND PATRONS

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Professor Wang Gungwu CBE

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Group CEO
Asialink

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Gold

- Queensland Government (TIQ)
- Monash College
- KPMG
- ANZ
- BHP Billiton
- CPA Australia
- City of Perth
- City of Sydney

Silver

- Ashurst
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth
- e-Centric Innovations
- City of Melbourne

OUR EXECUTIVE STAFF

Jenny McGregor AM

Chief Executive Officer, Asialink (to July 2018)

Penny Burtt

Group Chief Executive Officer, Asialink (from July 2018)

Mukund Narayanamurti

Chief Executive Officer, Asialink Business

Hamish Curry

Executive Director, Asia Education Foundation

Erin Watson-Lynn

Director, Asialink Diplomacy (until January 2019)

Sarah Bond

Director, Asialink Arts (until October 2018)

Professor Tony Milner AM

International Director, Asialink

Julia Gong

Director, Confucius Institute

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