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For immediate release

Media Release

2010 Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Asialink Medal
Professor Ross Garnaut AO

Professor Ross Garnaut AO will be awarded the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Asialink Medal at a ceremony in Melbourne this evening, December 7, 2010.

Patron of Asialink, Mr Baillieu Myer AC, will present the award at Asialink's 20th Anniversary Chairman's Dinner, for an 'outstanding record of achievement in improving Australia-Asia relations and enhancing the quality of life in the region.'

Distinguished diplomat and former Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Philip Flood AO, who will deliver the official citation, said: "Professor Garnaut is regarded as one of the most influential Australians of his generation, while in the realm of Australia-Asia engagement, his contribution has been profound.

"Well before Asia was an emphatic part of Australian policy consciousness, Professor Garnaut was developing economic cooperation across the Asia Pacific. He was Assistant Chairman of the first Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference, a direct antecedent of APEC, in 1980," he said.

Professor Anthony Milner, Basham Professor of Asian History, ANU, said Garnaut had achieved a special place in Australian history for his contribution to the making of national policy on Asian engagement, and for his role in helping to re-orient this country. "He has helped us to see more clearly how fundamental the Asian region is to our future."

From 1985 to 1988, Professor Garnaut was the Australian Ambassador to the People's Republic of China. In 1989, he completed a report for the Government, *Australia and the Northeast Asian Ascendancy*, better known as the Garnaut Report, which came to mark an historic point of change in terms of Australia's Asian engagement.

Asialink CEO, Jenny McGregor, said: "Asialink celebrates 20 years this year. The organisation drew inspiration from Professor Garnaut's report and the ideas it espoused. His vision for Australia and our relations in Asia has often been tied to the economic imperative, but it goes far beyond this encompassing the full breadth of people to people links."

Currently a distinguished Professor at the Australian National University and Vice Chancellor's Fellow and Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Professor Ross Garnaut has been at the centre of major decision-making in Australia and our region for almost four decades.

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****The Dunlop Asialink Medal commemorates the life and vision of Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop, an outstanding Australian war hero and doctor who, despite his ordeal as a POW on the Thai-Burma railway during World War II, promoted reconciliation with the Japanese following the war and, until his death in 1993, was committed to building lasting bridges of friendship between Asia and Australia.**

The Medal provides recognition and support for exemplary Australians committed to excellence in both their vocations and their contributions to Australia-Asia relations.

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