

The best arts job in the country

**For immediate release
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Chairman of Asialink, Sidney Myer, announced today that after 20 years as Director of Asialink Arts, Alison Carroll will step down from the “best arts job in the country” in June and the search for the new Director has begun.

Mr Myer said Ms Carroll’s enormous energy and commitment had built the Asialink Arts program from a network of one, 20 years ago, into Australia’s leader in regional cultural exchange and debate.

Ms Carroll said: “What other job leads the main agency for cultural engagement with the most dynamic, important part of the world, right on our doorstep? Anything is possible, and it is always exciting. Our geography is our great advantage.”

Following a sojourn with her family overseas, Ms Carroll will return to a part-time advisory role at Asialink, providing high level guidance in the development of potential new projects and continuing to include her extensive Asian networks in Australia-Asia arts collaborations.

“Asialink is delighted that Alison will continue her involvement with the organisation,” Sidney Myer said. “As director, Alison has been instrumental in establishing unique partnerships with arts colleagues all around Asia. Her arts initiatives particularly in Indonesia, Japan, and Korea, and the contribution she has made to the public understanding of the countries of Asia are without peer. Those partnerships, based on building strong relationships over time, are models for international engagement, and followed internationally.”

The Asialink program, which includes visual arts, performing arts, arts management and literature, has sent more than 600 Australian arts professionals on long-term residencies in Asia. Asialink Arts has initiated [an extensive exhibition touring program](#), specialist writers tours, performing arts projects, arts management training programs, internships, curatorial exchanges, and presented the main arts forum for Asian engagement with Australia.

Ms Carroll has undertaken research consultancies around the region, led Australian delegations overseas and represented the country in many guises. She is a regular speaker at international conferences and events, and has served as a member of most funding and advisory boards in Australia, from Federal level (the Australia Council) to state (in South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania) and local (City of Melbourne), as well as for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

In 2007, Alison Carroll was awarded the Australia Council’s Emeritus Medal for her work in Asia Australia engagement in the Arts.

The position will be advertised shortly.

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