‘Asialink works with business, government, philanthropic and cultural partners to initiate and strengthen Australia-Asia engagement at many levels across sectors. That makes Asialink a “super-connector”.

CARRIE LAM, CHIEF SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION, HONG KONG GOVERNMENT

‘As a nation we are linking with Asia in more ways than ever before and the Country Starter Packs produced by Asialink Business are an invaluable resource for small and medium enterprises who want to build their engagement with Asia.’

THE HON. KELLY O’DWYER MP, ASSISTANT TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS

‘(Australia is) uniquely located on the doorstep of Asia, home to over half of the world’s population, and Australia’s relationship with our Asian neighbours is strong, with deep respect and understanding of Asia’s many cultures.’

ANDREW MACKENZIE, CEO, BHP BILLITON

The Sir Edward ‘Weary’ Dunlop Lecture delivered by Mr Andrew Mackenzie – Chief Executive Officer, BHP Billiton

Cover Image Credit: Juan Ford, Flock Propagation, 2015, vinyl stickers, dimensions variable. Installed as part of the 2015 Nakanojo Biennale, Japan. Image courtesy of the artist and Dianne Tanzer Gallery.
ON OUR REACH

ON OUR REACH

ASIA EDUCATION FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED OVER 56 NEW BRIDGE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS SIX COUNTRIES • Indonesia • Malaysia • Korea • India • China • Australia

ASIALINK ARTS FACILITATED 32 ARTIST RESIDENCIES ACROSS 15 COUNTRIES • Japan • Thailand • Philippines • Australia • India • Malaysia • Turkey • Cambodia • Taiwan • China • Timor Leste • Singapore • Korea • Vietnam • Indonesia

ASIALINK BUSINESS COUNTRY STARTER PACKS HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY ACCESSED BY NEARLY 4,000 AUSTRALIAN ORGANISATIONS

ASIA AUSTRALIA MENTAL HEALTH TRAINED OVER 350 MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC

TRACK II DIALOGUES PUBLIC LECTURES AND BOARDROOM ROUNDTABLES REACHED AN AUDIENCE OF OVER 900 PEOPLE • Malaysia • Indonesia • Singapore • Myanmar • Cambodia • Laos • Philippines • Brunei • Thailand • Vietnam • Japan • Mongolia • Australia
CONTENTS

Message from the Chairman and CEO 4
Background 5
Asialink 2015 Highlights 6
Asialink Business 8
Asialink Dialogues and Applied Research 10
Asia Education Foundation 12
Asialink Arts 14
Asia Australia Mental Health 16
Our Board and Patrons 18
Our Corporate Partners 19
Our Executive Staff 20
2015 was a year of significant progress in Australia-Asia engagement. A milestone Free Trade Agreement was signed with China, our largest trading partner and the benefits have started to flow from other recent FTAs including Japan and Korea. Our ties to Asia were further strengthened through Australia’s membership of the concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement as well as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The Asialink Business Country Starter Packs, Training Programs and events are now delivered nationally to build an Asia capable workforce for Australia and to support the uptake of FTAs and other Asia opportunities.

Loss of Australian government core funding for the Asia Education Foundation in the May budget was a major challenge. Transition funding supplemented by the generous personal donations from our alumni and individual supporters allowed us to put in place a new business model and continue to give our young people Asia skills and networks for Australia’s future prosperity and harmony.

Asialink’s work in Arts, Health and Dialogues and Applied Research provided many opportunities for Australians to collaborate with counterparts from the region in 2015. From visual arts exhibitions in Japan, Turkey and India to training mental health professionals in the Asia Pacific and sharing approaches to women’s empowerment in ASEAN, Asialink builds partnerships of trust and mutual respect.

We hope you find this report of Asialink activities in 2015 valuable and encourage you to follow our work in 2016.
For 25 years Asialink has been at the forefront of Australia’s engagement with the Asian region. Founded in 1990 as an initiative of the Myer Foundation, Asialink reaches across the fields of Business, Arts, Education, Health and Track II Diplomacy to provide greater understanding and enhanced relations between Australia and the countries of Asia.

Asialink delivers high-level forums, international collaborations, leadership training, education, community health and cultural programs in Australia and Asia. Asialink is a key provider of information, training and professional networks with offices in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, as well as a regional chapter in Singapore.

**Purpose**

Asialink is committed to building an Asia capable, deeply Asia-engaged Australia, through innovative programs that build knowledge, skills and partnerships.

**Programs**

**Asialink Business**

As the National Centre for Asia Capability, Asialink Business provides public and in-house learning and capability development programs, practical research products and events to build an Asia-capable Australian workforce.

**Asia Education Foundation**

The Asia Education Foundation provides teachers, education leaders and school communities with the professional development, curriculum resources and in-country experiences required to develop Asia capability and intercultural understanding amongst all Australian students.

**Asialink Arts**

The vision of Asialink Arts is a deeply engaged and Asia-capable cultural sector, able to work in and with the region. Our purpose is to provide leadership for best practice policy in cultural exchange. We explore new models and platforms for cultural engagement with Asia, develop the international capability of arts professionals and assist audiences to better understand the arts of our region. We work collaboratively with a variety of partners in Asia and Australia.

**Asia Australia Mental Health**

Asialink’s mental health program, Asia Australia Mental Health (AAMH), is a consortium of St Vincent’s Health, the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Melbourne and Asialink. AAMH partners with academic, government, community organisations and peak bodies in Asia and Australia to support culturally appropriate community-based mental health reform in the Asia-Pacific region.
Major Achievements

- Launch of the new Asia Education Foundation web portal, which is now the country’s most comprehensive source of curriculum resources, professional learning, research and materials related to Australia’s place in Asia and the world.

- Development of the Australia-Asia BRIDGE School Partnerships Project to involve more than 600 schools as part of AEF’s aspiration to partner with 2,000 schools across Asia; inaugural Australia-India BRIDGE School Partnerships Project launched in New Delhi, India by then Minister for Education the Hon Christopher Pyne MP.

- Launch of Asialink Business capability development programs, with 43 public and in-house programs delivered to over 700 participants nationwide and in four major Asian cities:
  - Singapore
  - Hong Kong
  - Kuala Lumpur
  - Tokyo

- National launch and roadshow of Asialink Business Country Starter Packs, an innovative and practical tool that has been adopted by organisations in all sectors of the economy looking to enter or grow in Asia.

- 2015 Asialink Arts Exhibition Touring Program featured exhibitions in India, Turkey and Japan, attracting an international audience of almost one million people.

- In 2015 the Asialink’s Arts Residency Program involved a total of 36 individual arts professionals, 3 reciprocal residencies and 2 residency laboratories, reaching a total audience of 662,390 across 15 countries.

- 2015 Asialink Conversations Singapore addressed Women in Leadership, a key priority of Foreign Minister the Hon Julie Bishop MP, in partnership with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore and the Centre for ASEAN Regionalism at the University of Malaya in Malaysia.

- Partnered with China’s top Medical Universities and mental health institutes at national and provincial levels to support the Chinese government workplan to train an additional 20,000 psychiatrists by 2020.
ASIALINK ANNUAL REPORT

Leaders Canberra Retreat - The Hon Kelly O’Dwyer MP and participants

In its third year of operation, Asialink Business, the National Centre for Asia Capability, expanded its national reach by delivering an extensive range of capability development programs in a public and in-house environment, practical research products and events to support Australian organisations to successfully engage with Asia.

Key Achievements:

**Capability development**
- Delivered 43 public and in-house training programs to over 700 participants, helping develop the skills needed by Australian organisations to understand and operate effectively with Asia.
- In addition to 9 locations nationally, training took place in Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Kuala Lumpur.

**Programs covered:**
  - Essentials for doing business with China
  - Asia market entry strategy
  - Working in culturally diverse and virtual teams
  - Negotiations and influence in Asian contexts
  - Cultural intelligence
- In partnership with the New Colombo Plan (NCP) Secretariat (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and with support from the Bennelong Foundation and the Myer Foundation, Asialink Business piloted pre-departure cross cultural training for NCP participants.
- The Asialink Leaders program celebrated its 20th year in 2015; 67 Leaders graduated from this flagship program and joined a global alumni community of 640 members.

**Research and information products**
- The Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Small Business, the Hon Kelly O’Dwyer MP, launched in October a practical new tool for Australian organisations, the Country Starter Packs. Five Country Starter Packs were launched in 2015, with another six to follow in 2016.
- Publication of ‘Australia’s Jobs Future: the rise of Asia and the services opportunity’, a report produced in partnership with ANZ and PwC – 200 thought leaders and business representatives attended the launch in April, to discuss the critical role of the services sector to Australia’s economic prosperity.
- Developed four new industry and country-specific case studies to demonstrate key learnings in navigating markets and understanding business practices:
  - Bundaberg Brewed Drinks
  - Nihao Global
  - GreenCo Water
  - Keep Cup

**Business Briefings, advocacy and events**
- Delivered 80+ events nationally and regionally recording over 4,800 attendees. These events featured prominent Australian and international leaders, captains of industry, politicians and public administrators.
  - Examples of the events included:
    - State of the Nation: Indonesia, Thailand, India, China, Japan
    - Business Lunch on “Insights on business opportunities with China”
    - Opportunities for the Services Sector: China, Japan and South Korea
    - Launch of Australia’s Jobs Future report
    - Business briefing from Ms Carrie Lam, Chief Secretary, Hong Kong Government.
- In addition to seven locations nationally, we delivered events in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.
Key Achievements:

- Hosted the signature “Asialink Conversations” in Singapore in collaboration with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore and the Centre for ASEAN Regionalism at the University of Malaya (CARUM), on the theme of women’s leadership in Southeast Asia and Australia. The 2015 Conversations piloted a thematic approach focusing on a key priority of the Australian Foreign Minister – Women’s Empowerment. 40 participants from ASEAN and Australia across government, media, business, and civil society discussed common challenges and effective strategies for change with participant interviews and summaries of research published on the Asialink website.

- In partnership with the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia (ISIS) and the Asia New Zealand Foundation, Asialink delivered the 8th annual ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Dialogue exploring common challenges and identifying policy opportunities for strengthening relations between Australia, New Zealand and the ASEAN member nations. Discussion covered the possible positive and negative consequences of the TPP, current measures and cooperation in countering violent extremism, South China Sea issues, and Southeast Asian anxieties regarding Australia’s refugee resettlement scheme in Cambodia.

- Convened a one-day workshop on leadership and economic diplomacy as part of the Australia Indonesia Centre’s Emerging Leaders Program for a visiting delegation of 30 Indonesian diplomats and trade leaders.

- In collaboration with the Australian Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP), co-hosted the Melbourne meeting focusing on South China Sea issues with a range of Chinese representatives. The meeting included a lunchtime keynote address from then Defence Minister Kevin Andrews on the Defence White Paper.

- Contributed to a number of Track 1.5 and Track 2 dialogues in Asia including the Asia-Pacific Roundtable in Kuala Lumpur, the 2015 ASEAN Civil Service Innovation Conference; the Kyoto ‘Southeast Asia 2015 Conference’; the Singapore RSIS conference on ‘The Future of ADMM/ADMM-Plus’; the CSCAP General Conference in Mongolia; and also the radio forum ‘Should ASEAN be Australia’s priority’ - broadcast by the ABC ‘Big Ideas’ program.

- Hosted public events on issues in Australia Asia relations and boardroom briefings including the Asialink Ambassador Series, a Kompas TV roundtable with Indonesian journalists, dialogue with Singapore’s Senior Minister Teo and the Young Muslim Leaders’ Exchange Forum.

Asialink continued to expand its footprint in the public debate on Australia’s engagement in the region, including through innovative research and policy submissions, diplomatic outreach, and delivering new thinking on Australia-Asia engagement.
Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Noeleen Heyzer delivers the keynote speech at the Asialink Conversations Opening Dinner.
Key Achievements:

• A new AEF web portal, which is now Australia’s most comprehensive source of curriculum resources, professional learning, research and materials related to Australia’s place in Asia and the world.

• Expansion of AEF’s social media footprint via Twitter, Facebook and AEF E-News enabling us to link our 12,000+ followers with likeminded educators across the globe.

• Growth of the Australia-Asia BRIDGE School Partnerships Project to involve more than 600 schools as part of AEF’s aspiration to partner 2,000 schools across Asia:
  • Inaugural Australia-India BRIDGE program launched in New Delhi, India by the then Minister for Education, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, (August 2015)
  • ASEAN Australia Council (Australian Government) funding support secured to partner Australian schools with schools from ASEAN countries.

• Development of new professional learning offerings for school leaders and teachers:
  • ‘Connecting Students to the World’: focused on the use of new technologies to build learning partnerships
  • Inaugural AEF Summer School focused on developing leaders in intercultural capability working to address racism and prejudice in schools
  • Partnership with the Victorian Department of Education to develop a guide supporting schools that undertake overseas professional learning
  • Collaboration with Asialink Business to develop a new course for the Bastow Institute of Educational Leadership enabling Principals to lead implementation of Asia capability in schools.

• Publication of ten reports as part of the AEF’s What Works research series cataloguing effective practice in building student global outlook, Asia capability and intercultural understanding.

• Delivery of overseas study opportunities for 200 teachers and school leaders across Asia, Europe and South America.

• Publication of 300 curated ‘scoop-it’ curriculum resource lists and learning sequences for classroom teachers.

• Expansion of partnerships with business and industry through the Asia Literacy Ambassadors project enabling 5,500 students to develop a global outlook and explore career and life pathways.

In 2015, the Asia Education Foundation (AEF) focused on supporting teaching about Asia, intercultural understanding, community engagement, and the incorporation of higher order skills in the curriculum.
Australian Minister of Education, The Hon Christopher Pyne MP, officially launched the Australia-India BRIDGE School Partnerships Project at Delhi Public School, RK Puram with Australia-India Education Ambassador, Mr Adam Gilchrist AM.

Julie Bishop MP visits an Australia-Malaysia BRIDGE school.
Neverwhere, installation view, Gaia Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey

Snuff Puppets, Giant Puppets of Echigo-Tsumari, Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale 2015, Niigata Prefecture, Japan. Photo: Asialink Arts
Throughout 2015, Asialink Arts’ residents explored new ideas, communities and collaborations. The exhibition touring program exposed contemporary Australian artists to new audiences of almost one million across India, Japan and Turkey. The Arts program partnered with Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, M Pavilion, Monash University of Modern Art, Institute of Modern Art, Multicultural Arts Victoria, Creative Victoria, and the Australia Council for the Arts to host various delegations, forums, sector round tables and performances.

Key Achievements:

- Four international exhibitions:
  - Daniel Boyd: Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Durbar Hall, Kochi, India
  - Neverwhere, Gaia Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
  - Jamie North: Concrete, Tophane-i Amire Culture and Arts Center / Mimar Sinan Fine Art University, Istanbul, Turkey
  - Juan Ford: 5th Nakanojo Biennale, Gunma Prefecture, Japan.

Since 1991, the Asialink’s Arts Residency Program has provided professional development opportunities for over 800 Australian arts professionals across all art forms, in exchange for the sharing of skills, knowledge and networks with host communities in Asia. In 2015, the program involved a total of 36 individual artists and two residency laboratories, who reached a total audience of 662,390.

Asialink Arts Partnerships, Public Programs and Publications

In 2015, Asialink Arts hosted eight round tables, lectures, and seminars, facilitated a delegation for VIC Multi-Arts Professionals to Tokyo and Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale; and produced ‘STORIES’, a series of videos which document the powerful anecdotes behind many of the Asialink Arts projects over the last 25 years.
AAMH at new Kangning Hospital building site, that will include planned Melbourne-Shenzhen mental health training facility.
ASIA AUSTRALIA MENTAL HEALTH

Leveraging its core competencies and experience, as well as over 12 years of involvement in China’s mental health care sector, Asia Australia Mental Health’s major focus in 2015 was to prepare for the commencement of commercial operations in China in Q4 2016, delivering a suite of professional workforce training programs, as well as offering various e-Health solutions for mental health patients.

Key Achievements:

- Delivered a range of specialist mental health training programs to over 250 health professionals, government officials and school educators across China.

- Took a leading role in the APEC Roundtable on Mental Health, “Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World”, held in Manila.

- Partnered with Peking University colleagues to deliver a landmark program on Depression in Yangon.

- Collaborated with the Chinese Consulate Melbourne to support the promotion of mental health for over 50,000 Chinese students currently enrolled in Victorian education institutions.

- Secured funding and consolidated local and international partnerships to commercialise AAMH’s IP for the China market.
OUR BOARD AND PATRONS

Asialink Patrons
Carrillo Gantner AO
S Baillieu Myer AC
Prof Wang Gungwu CBE
Rt Hon Sir Ninian Stephen KG AK GC
GCMG CGVO KBE QC

Asialink Board
Chairman
Mr Sid Myer AM
Chief Executive Officer,
S B Myer Family Group
of Companies

Deputy Chairman
Mr Peter Yates AM
Deputy Chairman,
The Myer Family Company Limited

Deputy Chairman
Mr Kee Wong
Managing Director,
e-Centric Innovations

CEO, Asialink
Ms Jenny McGregor

Mr Rob Bazzani
Victorian Chairman, KPMG

Mr Louis Chiam
Partner, King & Wood Mallesons

Professor Glyn Davis AC
Vice-Chancellor, The University of
Melbourne

Mr John W.H. Denton AO
Partner and Chief Executive Officer,
Corrs Chambers Westgarth

Sir Rod Eddington AO
Chairman, JPMorgan

Ms Lindley Edwards
Group CEO, AFG Venture Group

Mr Mark Johnson AO
Senior Advisor,
Gresham Investment House

Mr Mark Laurie
Partner, PwC

Mr Stephen Menzies
Consultant, Ashurst

Professor Tony Milner AM
Basham Professor of Asian History,
The Australian National University

Professor Pookong Kee
Director, Asia Institute,
The University of Melbourne

Ms Heather Ridout AO
Chair, Australian Super

Ms Nicola Wakefield Evans
Non-Executive Director of
Macquarie Group, Lend Lease, Toll
Holdings Limited and BUPA Australia

Ms Alice Wong
Head of International Customer
Services, Bank of Melbourne
OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

Platinum
• ANZ
• BHP Billiton
• Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand
• Victorian Government Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources
• NAB
• PwC
• Mitsubishi Australia
• Telstra

Gold
• Baker & McKenzie
• Herbert Smith Freehills
• King & Wood Mallesons
• KPMG
• Monash College
• MMG
• Westpac

Silver
• Ashurst Australia
• CBD Development Group
• City of Melbourne
• Corrs Chambers Westgarth
• CPA Australia
• e-Centric Innovations
• Pitcher Partners
• Roy Morgan
• Singapore Airlines
• Standard Chartered Bank
• Toll Holdings Limited

Asialink Business Circle
• Advance
• Ambidji Group
• Austrade
• Australia China Connections
• Bluescope Steel
• Business Council of Australia
• La Trobe University
• Macquarie Group Limited
• Riverstone Advisory
• Tourism Australia
• Tradeworthy
• Victoria University
• Visa

19
Our Executive Staff

Jenny McGregor
Chief Executive Officer, Asialink

Mukund Narayananmurti
Chief Executive Officer, Asialink Business

Louise Dunn
Director, Capability Development, Asialink Business

Megan Mulia
Director, Research and Information, Asialink Business

Raj Wilson
Director, External Relations and Marketing, Asialink Business

Professor Tony Milner AM
Director, International

Lesley Alway
Director, Asialink Arts

Julia Fraser
Co-Director, Asia Australia Mental Health

Professor Chee Ng
Co-Director, Asia Australia Mental Health

Kurt Mullane
Executive Director, Asia Education Foundation

Kathe Kirby
Director, Asia Education Foundation

Lisa Hayman
Director, Asia Education Foundation

Georgina Downer
Director, Asialink Diplomacy