NEW ZEALAND
ASIA INSTITUTE
Te Roopu Aotearoa Ahia

Annual Report
2006
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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Institute is to:

- Initiate and develop a multidisciplinary research program addressing issues concerning Asia and New Zealand;
- Provide a forum for discussion and debate on policy issues and disseminate the output from these activities;
- Develop relationships with external constituencies in New Zealand and the Asia region;
- Serve as the point of access by external constituencies to the University and to its expertise on Asia.
Acknowledgements


The Institute would like to thank the Advisory Board, past and present, for providing guidance and advice in the Institute’s strategic repositioning in 2006.
Overview of Strategic Development

2006 saw the initiation of a new strategic orientation of the Institute. This was determined by the re-affirmation of the Institute’s mission by the Vice-Chancellor in January. This mission of the Institute is stipulated as to

- Initiate and develop a multidisciplinary research program addressing issues concerning Asia and New Zealand;
- Provide a forum for discussion and debate on policy issues and disseminate the output from these activities;
- Develop relationships with external constituencies in New Zealand and the Asia region;
- Serve as the point of access by external constituencies to the University and to its expertise on Asia.

Coupled with the affirmation of the Institute’s new statement, the University appointed a new director to the Institute in February, after an extensive international search. Professor Yongjin Zhang, a China and International Relations specialist, took up his appointment on 1 July to lead the Institute in its new development. Prior to joining the Institute, Professor Zhang served as the Head of the School of Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts at the University of Auckland.

To provide guidance and advice to the Director for the new strategic development of the Institute, the Vice-Chancellor appointed in September a newly constituted Advisory Board to the Institute, with membership of nine high profile politicians, business leaders, government officials and academics. (See Appendix III for details).

Guided by the mission statement of the Institute, a draft document, tabled for discussion at the first meeting of the Advisory Board on 24 November, articulates the Institute’s aspirations and long-term ambitions in the following words:

- Towards a leading think-tank on Asia in the Pacific Rim; serving both the public and private sectors in New Zealand;
- Towards an international centre of excellence in research on Asia;
- Towards the national leadership in brokerage and collaboration on Asia-New Zealand research;
- Towards a pivotal role in coordinating community engagement in the Auckland region and nationally.

More specifically, activities of the Institute aim to contribute

- To national strategic, social and economic policy development in New Zealand’s engagement with the Asia-Pacific region, particularly through engaging in public policy research and debate;
- To enhancing the international standing of the University of Auckland as a world-class university in New Zealand;
- To maintaining the University of Auckland's premier position in the PBRF;
- To making various sectors in the Auckland region as well as the nation more Asia-literate through its innovative training programs;
- To enhancing University of Auckland engagement with Asian communities.

To fulfill the ambitious goals and a myriad of functions identified above for the Institute, it is envisaged that the institutional reinvention for the Institute should take specific steps towards accomplishing tasks in the following four areas:

The institutional repositioning to make the Institute

- A national leader in New Zealand-Asia policy research and consultancy;
- A champion for multi-disciplinary collaborative research capable of mobilizing national and international expertise for its research projects;
- An umbrella organization that fulfils various functions assigned by the University for its Asia-related activities;
A major innovative training centre to make public and private sectors and general public more Asia-literate

**Research capacity/capability building** to concentrate on

- Cultivating available expertise in Auckland as well as across the country;
- Forging strategic partnership with policy research institutes across the nation as well as internationally;
- Fostering international networks of area research centers and high caliber researchers;
- Developing national leadership in research brokerage and collaboration;

**Research programme construction** to consider

- Re-examining the existing research projects and commitments;
- Assessing the critical needs of long-term research;
- Identifying the ‘demand’ and prioritizing;
- Organizing and targeting the ‘supply’.

And

**Knowledge dissemination** to seek to

- Make the best use of the information technology available to re-develop the Institute’s website
- Revamp the publications program of the Institute
- Distribute electronic publications through strategic partners and international networks

On 24 November, the Advisory Board engaged fully in the discussion of the draft strategic plan.

Such an institutional reinvention is ambitious and challenging. It will take a number of years to complete. In the second half of 2006, important initiatives were taken, for example, to construct a new governance structure of the Institute (see next page), to articulate the Institute’s key inspirations, to draft a strategic plan for 2007-2009, to launch new publications series and country update programs (see report below), and to seek strategic partnership in collaborative research.

It is also important to note that with the new thrusts of the University of Auckland’s strategy for internationalization, the Institute has been assigned additional and new roles in 2006. This refers to specifically the managerial role with regard to the Confucius Institute in Auckland and the coordinating role concerning the establishment of the New Zealand Centre at Peking University respectively.
Governance Structure, NZAI December 2006

Advisory Board
Confucius Institute

Managerial

Advisory Board
New Zealand Asia Institute

New Zealand Asia Institute

Coordinating

Advisory Coordinating Group
New Zealand Centre at Peking University

Confucius Institute

Interdisciplinary Programs
(Under construction)

Area Studies Centers

NZAI

China Studies Centre

Korean Studies Centre

Japan Studies Centre

NZ Centre at Peking University

Politics and security
Regional/ diplomatic history
Business and economics
Public and social policy

Politics and economics
Highlights of the Year

Guests at the Southeast Asia conference dinner in February

A session at the Korean Ethnic Return Migrant Conference in November

Emeritus Professor Nicholas Tarling at the Southeast Asia conference in February

Mr. Takamichi Okabe, Japanese Consul General in Auckland, speaking at Japan Update in August

The international conference on Southeast Asia: Past, Present and Future

An international conference was held in honour of Emeritus Professor Nicholas Tarling on the occasion of his 75th birthday on 1–3 February. It celebrated Professor Tarling’s significant contribution over the past fifty years to the study of this dynamic region as an eminent historian. Fuller details of the conference are reported in Program of Activities below.

The official establishment of Southeast Asia Studies Centre

The conference also marked the inauguration of Southeast Asia Studies Centre at the Institute. This complements well the three other existing centres, namely, China Studies Centre, Japan Studies Centre and Korea Studies Centre. The Institute was pleased that Professor Tarling accepted his new role as the inaugural director of Southeast Asia Studies Centre.

The ’Breath of Nature’ exhibition at the Aotea Centre

Korea Studies Centre, in collaboration with the Korea International Association for Pure Formative Arts, mounted The Break of Nature at the Aotea Centre in Auckland between 20 February and 3 March. It was the first joint exhibition of works by contemporary Korean and New Zealand artists in Auckland. The exhibition was supported by the Consular Agency of the Republic of Korea, Asia-New Zealand Foundation and the Edge.
New director took up the appointment, 1 July

On 30 June, Professor Barry Gustafson retired from his position as the Acting Director, which he had held since February 2004. During his tenure, Professor Gustafson assisted the University with its review of the Institute’s operation and secured the University’s continued commitment to maintaining the Institute as a public forum for informed policy debates and for developing and maintaining relations with external constituencies in Asia as well as in New Zealand. On 1 July, the Institute welcomed its first director of Asian origin, Professor Yongjin Zhang. An Oxford graduate, Professor Zhang was recently the Head of the School of Asian Studies at the University of Auckland.

Initiating Country Update events

To help build New Zealanders’ knowledge and understanding of their Asian neighbours, the Institute launched a new programme, Country Update Workshop, in August. This is envisaged as part of the Institute’s program of activities to be offered on regular basis. Three country update workshops were run in 2006: Japan Update on 25 August, Korea Update on 12 October, and The ASEAN Update on 16 November.

Launching Regional Analysis publication series

Complementing the Country Update programme, the Institute also launched in the second half of 2006 a new publications series, Regional Analysis. This was marked by the publication of Whither the Six Party Talks? Issues, Stakes and Perspectives in September. The volume was edited by Professor Yongjin Zhang. Ten invited contributors from Australia, New Zealand and the United States offered their succinct discussions on concerns and perspectives of South Korea, China, Japan, the United States, Russia, Australia and New Zealand on the prospect of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

H.E. John Dauth speaking on Australia and Asia

The Institute, together with Minter Ellison Rudd Watts, hosted a public lecture on 11 October by H.E. Mr John Dauth, Australian High Commissioner to New Zealand. Mr. Dauth’s talk Australia and Asia provoked a heated discussion among the audience on issues related to New Zealand’s policies towards and its standing in Asia. Responding to the shared concern from the floor that New Zealand might lag behind Australia in its links with Asia, Mr Dauth suggested that the two countries should perhaps talk more about an integrated approach to Asia, moving towards establishing ‘one system, two countries’.

Dr. Han Seung-Soo’s talk on the geopolitical challenge of the Korean peninsula

Dr. Han Seung-Soo, a former South Korean Foreign Minister, gave a talk at the Institute on 12 October in the midst of North Korea’s nuclear tests on the strategic challenges to the regional peace posed by geo-political confrontations on the Korean peninsula. This event was hosted by the Korea Studies
Centre of the Institute, in collaboration with the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs (Auckland Branch).

Appointment of the new Advisory Board

After Professor Zhang took up the directorship of the Institute, the Vice-Chancellor appointed in September a new Advisory Board to the Institute, which is composed of high-profile political, business and academic leaders. Ms Kerrin Vautier accepted the Vice-Chancellor’s invitation to continue to serve as the Chair of the new Board. Other appointments are Mr Geoff Dangerfield, Chief Executive of the Ministry of Economic Development, Mr Tim Gibson, Chief Executive Officer of the New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Mr Phil Goff, Minister of Defence and Minister of Trade, Mr John Key, Leader of the National Party, Mr Sanjay Khosla, Managing Director of the Fonterra Brands (until December 2006), and Mr Tony Nowell, Chief Executive Officer of Zespri (as from March 2007) as well as two members from the University of Auckland, Professor Barry Spicer, Dean of the Business School and Dr. Chris Tremewan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International).

The First Advisory Board meeting

The new Advisory Board met for the first time on 24 November to consider the strategic development of the Institute.

International Conference on Korean Ethnic Return Migrants in South Korea: Receptions, Perceptions and Identities

In collaboration with the Academy of Korean Studies in Seoul, the Korea Studies Centre of the Institute and the School of Asian Studies jointly organised an international conference to examine the impact of ethnic return migration on South Korea’s demography, labour market, immigration and citizenship policy, ethnic relations, and ethno nationalist understandings and loyalties. See Program of Activities below for fuller details of the conference.

Programme of Activities

- International conference on Southeast Asia: Past, Present and Future

The Institute hosted this conference on 1 – 3 February 2006 to mark the 75th birthday of Emeritus Professor Nicholas Tarling, a founder and long-time Fellow of the Institute. The conference honoured his very much appreciated contributions over fifty years to the study of that dynamic region. Altogether 45 prominent scholars from 31 universities and research institutions in 14 countries throughout Asia, Europe, the Americas and Oceania attended the conference. Notable among them were Professor Wang Gungwu, Director of East Asia Institute of The National University of Singapore; and Professor Tony Reid, Director of the Asia Research Institute, also of The National University of Singapore. This conference marked New Zealand’s continued academic and public interest in Southeast Asia. It was a valuable occasion for these scholars to meet to share their research findings and discuss ways to promote the studies of Southeast Asia in the future.

A total of 36 papers were presented at the conference. They covered a broad range of issues. Taking a regional approach, some examined the changing political identity of Southeast Asia, intra-regional free trade negotiations, globalisation and regional migrant labour, state entrepreneurship in Southeast Asian transitional economies, and ASEAN’s relations with its three Northeast Asian neighbours, namely, China, Japan and Korea. From a historical perspective, some discussed the uniqueness of British trade relations with Southeast Asia, colonialism and economic decolonisation in the region, and the radicalization of Muslims in modern Southeast Asia. Among the papers were also country-based case studies on a variety of subjects such as employment relations in Malaysia, origins of nationalism in Singapore, the constitutional practice in Brunei, leadership and grassroots community resources in the Philippines, challenges and responses in Indonesia’s foreign policy, and New Zealand diplomatic representation in Southeast Asia. Other papers focused on new research findings of important

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1 The first draft of this part was put together by Dr. Xin Chen. I would like to acknowledge my thanks to Dr. Chen.
historical figures or events in the region. These included Prince Cuong De (1882–1951) and his contribution to Vietnamese independence, Sukarno and the Muhammadiyah Medal, G. C. Wooley and the codification of native customs in Sabah, the 1915 Indian Mutiny in Singapore, and the Japanese occupation and its impact on Malaysian ruler-subjects relations.

The Institute is working on an edited volume with selected papers from the conference to be published in 2007-2008.

Emeritus Professor Barry Gustafson, Acting Director of the Institute, at the Southeast Asia conference in February

In addition to panel discussions, a workshop session was arranged during the conference to assess the future of Southeast Asian Studies around the world. Many participants voiced their concerns over the grave situation that confronts scholars and students working in the field. Similar to most other “Area Studies”, Southeast Asian Studies were seriously on the slide all around the world except, perhaps, in the region itself. As Southeast Asia specialists, they were anxious to strategise how to boost the status of the discipline first in their respective institutions. They commended the Institute for organising this timely conference to promote Southeast Asian Studies. They also applauded the Institute for launching its Southeast Asia Studies Centre at the conference.

- **International conference on Korea Ethnic Return Migrants in South Korea: Receptions, Perceptions and Identities**

The Korea Studies Centre of the Institute, in collaboration with the School of Asian Studies of the University, organised the conference on 27 – 28 November. An internationally selected group of scholars met in Auckland to discuss (1) economic versus ethnic causes of Korean diasporic return migration, (2) socioeconomic marginalization or incorporation of ethnic return migrants in “home” society, and (3) national/ethnic identities and conceptions of the homeland.

Drawing on their interdisciplinary strength, the conference participants explored and suggested a number of conceptual frameworks for understanding this particular phenomenon. More specifically, they assessed the marginalization of Korean diasporic return migrants in their homeland by examining (a) government immigration, citizenship, and social integration policies; (b) the extent of cultural differences between natives and diasporic returnees and the nature of Korea's ethno national identity; (c) attitudes of the host populace toward ethnic return migrants; and (d) attitudes of the host populace toward the countries from which ethnic return migrants came.

It is planned that selected conference papers, with further revisions, will be published as an edited volume by Dr Takeyuki Tsuda from the Arizona State University in 2007-2008.

- **Business Breakfast**

In 2006, the Institute continued this popular forum and hosted two such meetings. On 14 June, the Institute hosted a visiting delegation of four senior Malaysian bankers and academics and organized a Business Breakfast on *Malaysian and Islamic Banking*. This is less than two months after the sixth round of the New Zealand-Malaysia FTA negotiation held on 24 – 28 April. Mr Encik Bakaruddin Ishak, Director, Bank Negara Malaysia, Mr Dato’ Azizan Abdul Rahman, Director-General, Labuan Offshore Financial Services Authority, Professor A Ghaffar Imail, National University of Malaysia,
and Professor Rifaiat Ahmed Abdel Karim, Secretary-General, Islamic Financial Services Board Encik Bakaruddin Ishak, Malaysia, briefed the 40 strong participants from businesses, the University and the wider community how Islamic banking worked as an alternative financial system, why its products were gaining relevance in the global market, and how it might be integrated into the world financial system.

On 14 July, the ASEAN-New Zealand Combined Business Council and the Institute co-hosted another Business Breakfast, at which Dr Raden Pardede, a prominent Indonesian economist, provided an in-depth analysis of the business environment in Indonesia and commented on how and where NZ companies might find opportunities in the archipelago. Many of the participants, mainly from the business sector, expressed their appreciation of the Institute’s continued service to the community through organising such functions.

- **Country-Update Workshops**

Responding to a public demand for updated information on Asia, the Institute initiated regular Country Update program in the second half of 2006. This initiative has received strong support from diplomatic missions of Asian countries in Auckland as well as in Wellington. Between August and November, three country update events were organised by the Institute.

The inaugural workshop took place on 25 August. *Japan Update* featured two distinguished guest speakers from Japan. The Japanese Consul-General in Auckland, Mr. Takamichi Okabe, made a presentation on *Is Japan’s Economic Recovery for Real?*, and Associate Professor Naoko Sajima from Senshu University, on *Japan after Koizumi*.

In the middle of the North Korean missile and nuclear crises, the Institute seized the opportunity of the visit of former South Korean Foreign Minister Han Seung-Soo to New Zealand and invited him on 12 October to the *Korea Update*, at which Dr. Han offered his government’s assessment of and reactions to the situation on the Peninsula. To help New Zealand public keep abreast of and, more importantly, understand the development of the crises, the Institute also published around that time an easy-to-read booklet on the six-party talks on denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. In the short volume, ten invited local and international scholars presented the perspectives of South Korea, China, Japan, Russia, the United States, New Zealand and Australia on this problem-laden issue.
Dr. Han Seung-Soo (second from left) at Korea Update (above)

Associate Professor Naoko Sajima at Japan Update (below)

The third country-update workshop was held on 16 November. At the ASEAN Update, four distinguished Indonesian scholars addressed a crowd of thirty plus interested New Zealanders on Islam, politics and security in Indonesia. Dr Rizal Sukma from Jakarta’s Centre for Strategic and International Studies spoke on the building of perpetual harmony in Indonesia. Dr Bahtiar Effend from Universitas Islam Negeri, or the National Islamic University, discussed inter-faith and intercultural dialogues in Indonesia. Mr Umar Hadi, Director for Public Diplomacy of the Department of Foreign Affairs, spelled out the current government’s visions and strategies for developing Indonesia into a moderate Muslim democracy.

• Public Roundtables and Seminars

In addition to the conferences, Business Breakfasts and country-update workshops, the Institute continued to hold roundtables and seminars on topical issues concerning New Zealand and Asia. As always, the speakers at these public functions were nationally- or internationally-known scholars, diplomats and professionals. They touched upon different subjects and involved university staff and students and the community at large. A number of the seminars were jointly organised with the School of Asian Studies, the Department of Politics and the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs Auckland Branch. Among the major sessions were those addressed respectively by Dr Greg Fealy from Australian National University on Islam in Indonesia: Security Dimensions, Dr Lee Hong Sik from the Korea Institute for International Economy Policy in Seoul on A NZ-Korea Free Trade Agreement, Dr HYUN Jung-taik from the Korea Development Institute in Seoul on Opportunities for Greater Trade and Economic Engagement between New Zealand and Korea, Professor Robert Sutter from Georgetown University on US Polity and Prospects in Asia during the George W. Bush Administration, Professor David S Hong from the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research on Industrial Development Policy – Taiwan-New Zealand, and Professor James Cotton from the University of New South Wales on North Korea Returns to the Six-Party Talks: What is the Prospect?.
Visitors to the Institute

As a key research centre of Asian affairs in New Zealand and an important broker between the University’s Asian expertise in policy advice to NZ government departments, the private sector, the media and international inquiries, the Institute was visited throughout the year by New Zealand and foreign academics, policy analysts, diplomats, government officials, and representatives of the various NZ-Asia Business Councils. Many came for informed and forward-looking analyses and comments on various happenings in Asia, their implications for New Zealand and the latter’s positions. Others came to seek assistance with identification of specific expertise and arrangement for appointments in Auckland.

These visitors included Mr David Taylor, Director of the North Asia Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Nigel Moore, Director of the Southeast Asia Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Mike Chilton, Director of MFAT’s Auckland Office, Ms Pam Dunn, Adviser (Asia), Office of Deputy Secretary Programme 1, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Dr. Rebecca Foley, Director of Research, Asia New Zealand Foundation, Dr James Kember, New Zealand Ambassador to Hanoi, Mr Chris Butler, former Executive Director of Asia New Zealand Foundation, Dr Ooh Che-chang, South Korean MP from the Uri Party, Mr Jiang Guangping from the All China Youth Federation in Beijing, HE Mr Munawar Saeed, High Commissioner for Pakistan in New Zealand, Mr Liu Linlin, China’s Economic & Commercial Counsellor to New Zealand, Mr Bai Xia, China’s Commercial Consul in Auckland, Mr Fergus McLean, Executive Director, Korea-New Zealand Business Council, Mr Stephan Sakalian, Senior Advisor, International Committee of Red Cross Regional Delegation in Southeast Asia, Ms Ana-Marie Pamintuan from the Philippine Star, Mr Rajan Moses from the New Straits Times in Malaysia, Mr Iwan Ungsi from the Jawa Pos in Indonesia, Mr Megumi Nishikawa from the Mainichi Shimbun in Japan, Mr. Wen Yang, Chief Editor, New Zealand Herald (Chinese Edition), Hannah Belcher, TV Director, The Gibson Group, and Ms Diane Ying from Commonwealth Magazine in Taiwan.
Conclusion

The arrival of a full-time director and the appointment of the new Advisory Board, both in the second half of the year, are important for the new strategic development of the Institute. A draft strategic plan for 2007-2009 articulated the long-term ambition and aspirations of the Institute and outlined critical steps to be implemented in the short and medium term in the repositioning of the Institute in moving towards achieving its goals.

A lot of challenges remain. In 2007, the Institute will focus on research capability/capacity building, inter-disciplinary research program construction, identifying deliverables for both private and public sectors, forging strategic alliance relationship with other policy research institutes both within and beyond New Zealand, and seeking innovative ways of knowledge dissemination. Most challenging of all is the huge gap between the ambitious mission goals and aspirations articulated and the resources that the Institute has at its disposal. (See Appendix I) This needs to be addressed with wisdom, innovation and collective efforts.

Professor Yongjin Zhang
Director
New Zealand Asia Institute

February 2006
Appendix I

Staff publications

(A) Books - authored research:


(B) Book Chapters:


(C) Journal articles:


(D) Books edited


(F) Scholarly reviews and comments:


(G) Conference papers:


(K) Professional and Technical Reports


(L) Other works

ZHANG, Y. Our Place in Asia, The Press, 14 July.
Appendix II

Advisory Board of the New Zealand Asia Institute

Chair:

Kerrin Vautier    Research Economist

Members:

Geoff Dangerfield    CEO, Ministry of Economic Development
Tim Gibson    CEO, New Zealand Enterprises and Trade
Hon. Phil Goff    Minister of Trade and Minister of Defence
John Key MP    Leader of the National Party
Sanjay Khosla    Managing Director, Fonterra Brands (until December 2006)
Tony Nowell    CEO, Zespri Group Ltd.
Professor Barry Spicer    Dean of Business & Economics, University of Auckland
Dr. Christopher Tremewan    Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), University of Auckland
Appendix III

Staff members of the New Zealand Asia Institute

Professor Yongjin Zhang  Director (as from 1 July)
Professor Barry Gustafson  Acting Director (until 30 June)
Dr. Xin Chen  Research Fellow and Programme Officer
Emeritus Professor Nicholas Tarling  Fellow and Director of Southeast Asia Studies Centre
Professor Paul Clark  Director of China Studies Centre
Professor Wei Gao  Associate Director of China Studies Centre
Associate Professor Reiko Aoki  Director of Japan Studies Centre (until November 2006)
Professor Tom Barnes  Associate Director of Japan Studies Centre
Dr. Young-hee Lee  Director of Korea Studies Centre
Mr. Pradeep Kanthan  Manager, External Relations