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AEF News

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CONNECTING OUR CHILDREN TO THE WORLD

Today's students will be alive
and well in 2050. How do we
equip them for their world?



Asia Education Foundation

ENGAGING YOUNG AUSTRALIANS WITH ASIA



Asia Education Foundation

Since 1992 the Asia Education Foundation has worked with schools, government and non-government education agencies, universities, philanthropic foundations and the corporate sector to:

- promote and support the study of Asia across all curriculum areas in Australian schools
- develop Asia related print and electronic materials for Australian school children
- promote the study of Asia within teacher education
- educate the broader community about the importance of school students undertaking studies of Asia.

This newsletter is a bi-annual publication of the AEF. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training.

www.asiaeducation.edu.au

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AROUND AUSTRALIA 2005: PAGES 4,5



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING: PAGES 6,7



CURRICULUM RESOURCES: PAGE 8



THE ASIA EDUCATION FOUNDATION is a national organization that promotes and supports the engagement of young Australians with Asia. It is a joint activity of Asialink at The University of Melbourne and Curriculum Corporation, with funding from the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training. The AEF works in partnership with government and non-government education sectors in all states and territories.

THIS EDITION OF AEF NEWS is the first to go to every school in Australia. It provides a snapshot of national action, curriculum resources and professional learning support available to all Australian schools, teachers and students. AEF news is bi-annual and the second 2005 edition will be available in October.

CONNECTING OUR CHILDREN TO THE WORLD

There's much talk today about internationalising the school curriculum. But haven't we always studied a lot about other countries? What does 'internationalising the school curriculum' mean in Australia today?

Australia's 2004 Youth Ambassador to the United Nations, Sydney student Thao Nguyen, recently spoke to school principals in Tasmania and Victoria on the sort of education young Australians need to equip them for their world. 'It is undeniable that the current phase of economic and cultural globalisation will not halt soon... young Australians are at an incredible disadvantage when it comes to business, cultural and intellectual engagement with their own region when most students have not studied an Asian language or much about Asia at all.'

Australian lawyer, Jason Yat Sen Li (right), now working in China asks, 'have we entered the 21st century still holding 19th century

mental maps?'

Speaking at a national education conference in April, Li argued, 'Australia's long term prosperity must be seen to be linked to our ability to forge close and productive relationships with Asia. Central to this is China. The sort of education we need for a globally engaged Australia has three characteristics: that Australia is interconnected to its region and the world; that education is inclusive of all Australians; and thirdly, we need education that builds skills and capabilities that allow our young people to compete in times of rapid and constant change.'

The 'map' of the 21st century is being re-drawn. An internationalised curriculum, in Australian terms, has to be seen as one that links us to our own, dynamic neighbourhood. We may need to check that the countries of Asia are well represented in the literature, histories, environments and arts of an education that connects our children to their world. (See poster insert)



"Have we entered the 21st century still holding 19th century mental maps?"

ASIA AND THE WORLD

- 30% of the world's land
- 60% of the world's population
- Two most populous nations: China and India
- Greatest diversity of belief systems in any region: Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity
- Largest Muslim country: Indonesia
- By 2020, 3 of the world's 4 biggest economies: China, India and Japan

ASIA AND AUSTRALIA

- South Korea, Japan and China: 3 of our 4 top trading partners
- 2003 Census: Chinese and Vietnamese background Australians are among the top 5 ethnic groups in Australia
- 800,000 Australians speak an Asian language at home
- 2005 poll, *Australians Speak*: 82% of Australians see Australia as 'important in Asia.'
- 6.4% of our Year 12 students and 3% of university students study an Asian language
- 80% of our international students are from Asia: projected worth of \$38 billion by 2025

ACCESS ASIA AROUND AUSTRALIA 2005

All Australian states and territories support engaging young Australians with Asia and work with primary and secondary government and non-government schools. Here is a snapshot of national action to June 2005. See page 2 for contact details of all State and Territory Advisers.

ACT

Pre schools access Asia The ACT Education Department's Pre School Programme has been briefed about Access Asia and can participate in professional learning programmes to introduce teachers to resources and strategies of use in pre-school programmes. Among a number of new Access Asia schools in 2005 a special needs school will introduce their students to Asia through the *Snapshots of Asia* series. Contact Kratai Visityuthasart.

NEW SOUTH WALES

China China is the focus for NSW in Studies of Asia for Semester 2, 2005 and Semester 1, 2006. Opportunities to study China in the K-6 and 7-10 syllabuses have been mapped and the following initiatives planned, including: working with a primary school to develop resources that will focus on China in the primary curriculum - Creative Arts, English and HSIE; a series of professional development courses to support the implementation of the resources; an interdisciplinary (History and Geography) approach focussing on China in Years 7 and 8 and a series of professional development courses to support this approach. Contact Lianne Singleton

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Shoebbox of Love Students from 20 Darwin and Palmerston schools filled more than 650 shoe boxes with gifts for children in areas devastated by the Indian Ocean tsunami. With the generous help of Wridgways, the boxes were transported to the Tamil Relief Organisation for shipping to Sri Lanka. The Tsunami Response project was organised by the Northern Territory Asia In Schools Project working in partnership with the Multicultural Council of the NT. Contact Jennifer Ure.

QUEENSLAND

Performing Arts and History/SOSE Queensland Access Asia programme will focus on Performing Arts and the History/SOSE curriculum in 2005. Professional learning events connecting studies of Asia with performing arts educators provide opportunities for participants to explore links between visual arts, media studies and Access Asia resources.



Teachers of History and SOSE showcased units of work connecting Ancient History, Modern History and SOSE with Asia related themes and concepts. Upcoming workshops will be offered in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Toowoomba. Contact Marcia Rouen.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

New alliances Studies of Asia has forged new alliances with other education initiatives including the Asian Languages Professional Learning Project which supported over 90 teachers in 30 schools to explore intercultural language learning. The *SA Internationalising the Curriculum* initiative provided the opportunity for studies of Asia to work with the SA Department's Marketing and International Education Services to prepare schools with international students to develop culturally inclusive curriculum. *Studies of Asia: a Statement for Australian schools* was valuable in supporting this initiative. Contact Lee Grafton

TASMANIA

Portal to Asia Tasmania has introduced a new curriculum framework based around essential learnings. The Department is developing learning sequences around the Access Asia texts: *Inspirations, Images of Asia and the Voices and Visions* China, India, Japan and Indonesia CD-Roms. Using the metaphor of the transit lounge, students will design a series of portals to environments representative of Asian countries. The travel motif is extended to every aspect of the inquiry drawing on the disciplines of the social sciences, the arts,

technology and quantitative literacy. It engages students in forms of communication such as dance, drama, music, media, visual art, languages and IT, as well as technologies of foods, textiles, design and construction. Contact Jan Kiernan.

VICTORIA

Asia Essentials The new Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) calls for a curriculum which prepares students for a future which is 'sustainable', 'innovative' and 'builds strong communities.' Such a curriculum must focus on our near neighbours. The VELS provides many opportunities for a focus on Asia. Linking VELS and studies of Asia is a major theme at 'Asia Essentials' - the annual Victorian Studies of Asia Conference on 2 September. Online curriculum reflecting content in the learning domains of English, Humanities, The Arts, Languages and Civics will be published on the Victorian Access Asia website. Contact Jill Wilson.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Curriculum improvement The WA Curriculum Improvement Programme will add *Curriculum Planning and the Studies of Asia* as an elective module in 2005 in an important statewide strategy. The module will be flexibly structured to meet the needs of all schools who can choose from a 3-day programme to a 2-hour workshop. Session themes link to key areas of the curriculum and include values, citizenship, intercultural literacy plus specific learning area curriculum planning. Contact Pamela Stewart.

IMAGES BELOW LEFT Queensland school students attend the Discovering Democracy Access Asia Day at Queensland University of Technology.
BELOW RIGHT Students from Narre Warren P-12 College all take part in the Access Asia Victoria programme.

WE ARE AN AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY AND CHINA IS BIG

When Charlotte White's Year 8 students do their homework at Harristown State High School in Toowoomba they make seismographs that work and porcelain shoes. The class recently produced 'museum exhibits' for an assignment on Ancient China and Head of Social Science, Charlotte White is impressed with the students' enthusiasm for Asia.

'We are a big agricultural community and China is big with the free trade agreement discussions,' she says. 'And Toowoomba has changed over the past 10 years.' Many students play in a gamelan orchestra as part of Harristown High's Indonesian language programme. Social science courses look at civics and history in China with a comparative focus on Australia and examples of pro-active citizenship in Indonesia.

'It's important that they know something about the region,' says Charlotte. 'Asia is not such an alien thing to them then. Kids of the future need to know.'

HOBART TO SEOUL

Students at Taroon High in Hobart are making a guidebook to South Korea. Imagining that they will live there for a year, they are researching everything from what the schools are like to whether they can watch English TV – and all the important facts in-between. The project builds on the notion of 'inquiry', one of 18 essential learnings outlined in Tasmania's new curriculum framework.

Taroon teacher, Gay Lawless, says Korea was an obvious choice. 'I have a Korean student in the class and there are a number of other Korean students in the school,' she says. Gay says that since starting the project, the students made contact with a Taroon student now living in South Korea. So they have an on-the-ground contemporary resource as well as an in-house one, and they make the most of both.

UNIVERSAL VALUES

Think of a value. Justice, respect for others? What is it that they all have in common? When you talk to Nicola Barkley at St Francis of Assisi in Canberra, the answer is of course obvious. Values cross the boundaries of culture, religion and geography. They are, by definition, universal.

Nicola has been progressively introducing Asian examples into the teaching of values at St Francis of Assisi. For smaller children and the idea of co-operation, Nicola uses the picture book, *Pak Yono's Paddy Field*, published by the NSW Department of Education and Training in 2003. For dignity, *Dia's Story Cloth* has helped because it tells a story – recorded through traditional embroidery techniques – of a Hmong family uprooted because of war.

NEWS FROM DEST

LANGUAGES EDUCATION

The National Statement and Plan for Languages Education in Australian Schools 2005-2008, was developed through the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA). The Statement and Plan, endorsed by all Ministers in March 2005, will provide greater coordination for languages education across the country for the next four years. The Australian Government is committing \$110 million over the next four years under the School Languages Programme to support the teaching and learning of Asian, European and Indigenous languages and Auslan in schools, and community language programmes in ethnic schools. Some 95% of the funds will be allocated to education authorities in the States and Territories and 5% used for strategic national projects in line with the MCEETYA Plan.

NEW CURRICULUM RESOURCES

Two new Australia-Asia resources, developed with Australian Government funding, will be released soon: a student-driven investigation book promoting interfaith and intercultural understanding for middle and upper primary students and another on regional and global issues of relevance to students in the middle years of schooling. The resources will be supported by web-based materials and a professional learning programme. A limited supply of the resources will be distributed free of charge through the professional learning programmes. The resources can be purchased through www.asiaeducation.edu.au

LANGUAGES AND CIVICS EDUCATION PERSONNEL

Ms Judy Gordon replaces Ms Grette Toner as Assistant Director of the Languages and Civics Education Section in the Quality Schooling Branch of DEST following Grette's departure for further studies in March. Judy has a range of expertise as a regional languages consultant attached to the NSW Department of Education and Training as well as teaching Japanese, French and German in NSW and ACT schools.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



SCHOOL LEADERS CONNECT WITH ASIA

More than 200 school leaders from across Australia were involved in Australia-Asia Engagement forums – an initiative of the AEF in partnership with the Australian Principals Associations Professional Development Council (APAPDC).

Forums in each state/territory saw school leaders discussing the importance of study about Asia with leading Asian specialists and hearing first-hand from classroom teachers and students what best practice looks like.

One principal described the forum as ‘reminding me that, as an education leader, I need to act to ensure that Asia has a meaningful place in our school curriculum’. Another leader commented that ‘this was one of the best principal forums I have attended and to walk away with a kit of resources for my staff is fantastic’.

In one state, a Year 12 student’s description of her engagement with Japanese culture and language was a forum highlight. ‘An insight into the profound impact that good teaching in this area can have’, as one principal stated.

Other leaders discussed how study about Asia ‘enhances efforts to internationalise the school experience for students and supports a culturally inclusive environment for students from Asia’.

An update on the studies of Asia has been developed for school leaders and is available at: www.apapdc.edu.au/

ASIA EDUCATION TEACHERS ASSOCIATION The Asia Education Teachers Association (AETA) offers studies of Asia professional learning to teachers. In 2005 AETA will offer the following programmes: Studies of Religion, Meeting Communities, Linking Literature and the Creative Arts K-6, The Contribution of Asia to Global Civilisation: past, present and future. Programmes are offered in metropolitan, regional and rural areas in NSW and ACT. For information contact Julie O’Keeffe (President AETA) on Tel/Fax 02 47 875 974 or at: www.aeta.com

AEF NATIONAL FORUM 100 school educators from across Australia will meet in Canberra in June to discuss the AEF’s new draft national statement, *Engaging Young Australians with Asia*. The programme includes Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Hon. Alexander Downer and ABC broadcaster, Geraldine Doogue interviewing a panel of young Asia engaged Australians.



ACCESS ASIA STUDY TOURS

IN CHINA Gary Campbell, Principal of Auburn South Primary School, participated in an Access Asia study tour to China in April. He said, ‘internationalising the school curriculum can be an abstract concept. My experiences on the China study tour provided concrete opportunities for our school to make changes in our curriculum and to develop links between students and teachers in Beijing and Melbourne’.

The study group met with the Australian Consul General in Shanghai who provided a first hand update on contemporary China. A talk by *The Age* China correspondent, Hamish MacDonald, in Beijing challenged the group to rethink their perspective of China and its future.

INDIA, CHINA, KOREA AND VIETNAM /CAMBODIA: 2006

Access Asia Study Tours offer educators the opportunity to learn about Asia through first hand experience. Tour programmes focus on contemporary life and traditional culture to support curriculum development in The Arts, Studies of human society and environment, English, Languages, Technology, Values, Civics, Health and more.

The study tours support you to develop curriculum that increases students’ knowledge and understanding of:

- Australia’s close neighbours – the Asian region
- Your own multi-cultural and multi-faith communities
- The values of understanding, tolerance, respect, inclusion and care and compassion
- The skills of cross cultural communication
- Creativity and imagination through the rich cultural and historical heritage of Asia.

IMAGES BELOW LEFT Speaker, Thao Nyugen, 2004 Youth Ambassador to the United Nations at the Victorian Principals Engaging with Asia Forum, May 2005; and Thao Nyugen (right) with (l-r) Deborah Patterson (Principal, Templestowe Valley Primary School), Jill Wilson (AEF Adviser, Victoria), Julie Atkinson (Vice Principal, Pascoe Vale Girls School) and Max Raynor (APAPDC). **BELOW CENTRE** NT Teacher, Julie Morgan visits Xiehe Bilingual School in Shanghai as part of the Access Asia Study Tour to China, April 2005. **BELOW RIGHT** Anne Spencer (left), Manager of the Asian Languages Professional Learning Programme, with teachers from Loreto College, Adelaide at the Day 3 Workshop of the ALPLP.



DIY TOURS

Programmes are designed to suit your budget and schedule. They provide flexibility to organise your own airfare so that extra time can be spent in country and include the option to bring a partner, colleague or friend.

MONSOON WEDDING? BRIDE AND PREJUDICE? A PASSAGE TO INDIA?

If these are your only connections with India – think about how much more you can learn if you go. The AEF's Access Asia Study Tour to India departs in early January 2006.

The India Study Tour provides:

- insights from those that really know contemporary India. Meet with a foreign correspondent, Australian Embassy staff, specialists on Indian arts and culture and stay with an Indian family
- Contrasts – visit an ultra modern school and a 16th century Mogul palace
- Insights into major faiths – explore Hindu temples and visit Mosques
- Opportunities to develop professional contacts with educators and schools
- Experienced leaders with a passion for India.

With over 10 years experience in developing study tours for educators to India – this tour will enrich your teaching and expand your horizons. The study tour may be tax deductible.



LANGUAGES EDUCATION

...it has become evident that the teaching of culture is embedded in even the simplest language acquisition and that intercultural language learning allows students to reflect on their own changing and variable cultures... students were engaged in looking at both the English and Indonesian language... they realise that there are differences within their own culture as there are within Indonesia, a country, like theirs, that is changing. – Sally Wright, Language Coordinator, South Hobart Primary School. A participant in the Asian Languages Professional Learning Programme.

The AEF manages three Australian Government funded national professional learning programmes to support languages education. The **Asian Languages Professional Learning Programme** supports schools and teachers in all states and territories to develop innovative approaches to languages teaching focused on intercultural language learning. The 18-month programme, operated as a partnership between the AEF and the Australian Federation of Modern Languages Teachers Associations, is due to finish mid-2005. www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/aef/alplp/

As a language teacher, I need to teach not only the language but also the culture. The Endeavour programme gave me in-country experience to know what the modern China is. The country's image will be correctly presented in the classroom. – Doreen Yang, NSW Participant, China 2005 Endeavour Programme.

The **Endeavour Language Teaching Fellowships** provide 120 three-week fellowships for teachers of Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, French, German, Italian and Indonesian. Managed by the AEF, these programmes are advertised in May of each year and take place the following January. In 2006 a new programme for teachers of Indonesian will take place in Melbourne. www.dest.gov.au/schooleducation/

The **Linking Languages in the Primary Curriculum** programme will support teachers and schools to link languages across the curriculum and showcase best practice in intercultural language learning. A resource book and professional learning programme will be available in 2006.

ACCESS ASIA STUDY TOUR PROGRAMMES TO INDIA, CHINA, KOREA AND VIETNAM / CAMBODIA WILL OCCUR IN JANUARY AND APRIL 2006. OPPORTUNITIES TO HOST EDUCATORS FROM ASIA ALSO OCCUR THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST, CALL AARON O'SHANNESY ON 03 8344 3584 OR EMAIL aasp@asialink.unimelb.edu.au

CURRICULUM RESOURCES

ASIA EDNET

Asia EdNet gives me a starting point for lesson materials – like contemporary stories, excursions and other teachers' experiences. Asia EdNet user, Survey 2005

Asia EdNet is an ICT network open to all educators interested in studies of Asia and Asian languages. Over 1000 members participate in the online discussion group.

Asia EdNet is easy and offers teachers: a free email-based discussion group to share resources and ideas; a regular newsletter with Asia related website resources, media updates, and events; an online directory of over 450 evaluated websites; a self-paced online tutorial that helps you use new technologies creatively and critically.

To subscribe to Asia EdNet, send an email to asiaednet.help@asialink.unimelb.edu.au with 'subscribe' in the subject line. Here are two websites to get you going:

- Asia EdNet Learning Activities (hotlists, treasure hunts, subject samplers, webquests, and scrapbook) www.curriculum.edu.au/accessasia/network/learnact/index.htm
- Asia EdNet Website Directory (directory for searching for specific countries of Asia, lesson plans, and reviews and bibliographies) www.curriculum.edu.au/accessasia/network/online/weblinks.htm

NEW AEF WEBSITE www.asiaeducation.edu.au

The new, bigger AEF website contains a huge range of lesson plans, ideas and resources. You can download professional learning workshops and reports and purchase Access Asia curriculum resources.



INSPIRATIONS

In 1996 Sydney based artist Ah Xian began using traditional Chinese porcelain techniques to make forms of the human body. The artist includes characteristically Chinese designs with his figures from the *China China* series, partly because they are beautiful in themselves, and partly because they reflect his own inescapable Chinese heritage, whether he is living in Sydney or China. They, like he, will always bear their cultural identity.

Work by Ah Xian is included in the Access Asia big card kit, *Inspirations, Art Ideas for Primary and Middle Years* (2004, RRP \$59.95). Fifteen A3 laminated cards are accompanied by background information for the teacher, stimulus materials, looking activities, classroom discussion ideas, making activities, references and links across the curriculum. The kit comprises contemporary and traditional art images from 9 Asian countries. The author, Ann MacArthur, Coordinator of Asian Programmes at the Art Gallery of NSW, believes you can get a better picture of a culture or people by understanding something of their art.

Image: Ah Xian (b.1960), *China China Bust no 3* 1998, porcelain, cast from figure, with hand painted cobalt underglaze. Collection: Queensland Art Gallery

ACCESS ASIA PUBLICATIONS

The AEF has published over 65 award-winning text and CD Rom resources in the Access Asia series for Australian classrooms. Texts can be purchased at www.asiaeducation.edu.au

JAPAN DIARY

What will I want to wear when I arrive in Japan NEXT WEEK? ... I'll be in a different bedroom, living with a Japanese family, talking, eating and sleeping in Japanese. – From Amy's diary

Amy Deerson and Taro Nakagawa are changing places for six months and they are taking their diaries with them.

Japan Diary is a novella in two parts for lower and middle secondary English and Japanese LOTE students. Amy and Taro are two students who

exchange families, schools and countries for 6 months. Along the way they keep illustrated diaries describing their experiences, adventures and discoveries. RRP \$15.95

THE REALLY BIG BELIEFS PROJECT

Fresh from their successful investigation of rice in *The Really Big Food Project*, Emma and Tom are doing another project together. And this time they are investigating belief systems of the people at their school and in their community.

The Really Big Beliefs Project is a hard cover, large format, full-colour primary project book for middle to upper primary students. Written by Meredith Costain, the book contains loads of information, interviews and thoughtful commentary by our two intrepid investigators.

A website with teaching ideas and activities to be used with the book will be available via the Asia Education Foundation website. RRP \$39.95

