

LA TROBE ASIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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Listener ★★★★★

by PeeKayNow – Dec 9, 2015

Fantastically lucid analysis and conversation covering social, economic, and political history and current events. Highly recommended.

Cover Photo :

La Trobe Asia welcomes visiting ECNU Australian Studies students and celebrates 30th Anniversary of partnership

Front Row L-R: James Leibold, GUO Shihuan, JIANG Fuyang, ZHANG Yu, XU Yingjie

Middle Row L-R: Nicholas Barry, Gwenda Tavan, Nick Bisley, Kaori Okano, Kevin Li

Back Row L-R: Bao-Qiang GAO, Beryl Langer, Hugh Davies, Patrick Nugent, Yangbin CHEN

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This report provides a detailed overview of the range of activities undertaken by La Trobe Asia in its second year.

Introduction

La Trobe Asia is intended to oversee all aspects of the University's approach to Asia. La Trobe Asia was established to strengthen and deepen the University's academic engagement in Asia.

La Trobe has a long history of expertise in Asia: it is one of two universities in Australia that teach Japanese, Chinese, Indonesian and Hindi. It pioneered Asian Studies and from its foundation, developed substantive links with Asian universities.

La Trobe Asia:

- Ensures that La Trobe students and staff are provided with expertise on Asia's states and societies.
- Is a knowledge broker on all aspects of the University's work on and in Asia.
- Promotes the University's Asia vision and activities with the broader community in Australia and the region.
- Makes La Trobe a genuinely Asia-focused institution.
- Is a single point of contact for external stakeholders to make best use of the University's Asia assets.
- Leads and informs public debate in Australia about Asia and contributes to public debate in the region.

Governance

La Trobe Asia Steering Committee

The work of La Trobe Asia is overseen by its Steering Committee. The membership of the Steering Committee in 2015 was:

- Professor Keith Nugent, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Chair
- Professor Jane Long, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
- Professor Anthony McGrew, Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Arts, Social Science and Commerce
- Liz Stinson, Director, International (until December 2015)
- Kelly Smith, Pro Vice-Chancellor, International (from December 2015)
- Dr Catherine Itsiopoulos, Head of Department Rehabilitation, Nutrition and Sport, College of Science, Health and Engineering

The Steering Committee met six times during 2015.

La Trobe Asia Advisory Board

La Trobe Asia's Advisory Board provides advice and guidance to the Vice-Chancellor and the Executive Director on developments external to the University, in particular into developments in Asia's tertiary sector, opportunities for partnerships with Asian universities in research, teaching and student mobility. It will also provide external advice on the operations of La Trobe Asia. The first meeting was held on 26 March 2015.

- Steven Foo, Head – Asia Business Development, Australia Post
- Peter Frost, CEO, Deputy Auditor-General, Victorian Auditor-General's Office
- Professor Meenakshi Gopinath, former Principal, Lady Sri Ram College
- Allan Gyngell, former Director of the Office of National Assessments
- Linda Jakobson, Director, China Matters Ltd
- Professor Robin Jeffrey, National University of Singapore
- Dr Geoff Raby, Chairman and CEO, Geoff Raby & Associates
- Emeritus Professor John Rosenberg
- Professor Paul Yip, Director, Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention, The University of Hong Kong
- Professor Khatijah Yusoff, Dean, Faculty of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)

The Advisory Board met once during 2015.

Public Events

Public lectures, forums, and seminars provide a platform for La Trobe Asia to showcase La Trobe University academic talent, to make interventions in issues of public debate and engage the University community. Events were open to staff and students as well as members of the public, and were held across the country.

In summary:

- Over 30 different events (seminars, public forums, delegations, symposiums, launches, showcases, networking) were held in 2015 (see Appendix 1).
- La Trobe Asia partnered with 14 different internal and external groups to present these events and attendance exceeded 1160.
- Speakers including La Trobe University academics covering their area of expertise, as well as visiting scholars and guests such as Dennis Richardson (Secretary, Australian Department of Defence), Kumar Vishwas (Indian Poet and politician), Li Jianjun (Beijing Foreign Studies University), LIN Yi (Xiamen University) and Professor Craig Jeffrey (Australia India Institute).
- Events focused on a wide range of topics and issues in many different countries including refugee protection in the Asia-Pacific region, judicial reforms in China, or Australia-China / Australia-India relations.
- Two smaller seminars/roundtables with visiting prominent Indian academics (T.V. Paul and Ashis Nandy) in Melbourne and a larger panel discussion on Australia-India Relations was held in Canberra in collaboration with the Australia India Institute.
- A *Refugee Protection* public forum was held in collaboration with the La Trobe Law School at the State Library. This event was sold out, with all ticket sales going to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.
- Networking events that showcased the work of La Trobe research were well attended and helped with profile building. It not only showed a strong focus on the region, but demonstrated the excellent working relationship we have with many Asian countries.
- A number of delegations (from Japan, China, Indonesia and India) were hosted and introduced academics to their counterparts from the region with the view to promoting research collaboration with regionally based scholars.



Delegation from Beijing Foreign Studies University and La Trobe University Australian Studies Academics

(L-R: LI Jianjun, XIA Yuhe, Professor Anthony McGrew, Carolyn D’Cruz, Katie Holmes, Sofia Ahlberg, DAI Ning, Nick Bisley, CHEN Lanfang, Sarah Yang-Spencer, DOU Wei, Susan Martin, Gwenda Tavan)

Website

The La Trobe Asia website was improved in 2015 with a new 'landing page' established in collaboration with Digital Marketing. The website continues to be a virtual showcase of La Trobe's Asia work and has many resources including: podcasts, links to recent publications, op-eds, the library's regional resources, news, events, grant information, strategies and research.

The La Trobe Asia website had **12,848 page views** in 2015 (up from 9,185 in 2014), with an average visitor traffic of **37 page views per day**. Peak traffic periods coincided with high-profile public events.

La Trobe University's 'Asia knowledge broker'

A key part of La Trobe Asia's role is to support the Asia focused work of La Trobe staff both academic and professional. In 2015 we collaborated with people across the University including: La Trobe International (LTI), International Relations Office (IRO), La Trobe Abroad, International Development Managers (IDMS), Alumni and Advancement Office (AAO), Schools and Departments from both colleges, individual academics and researchers, student groups.

In 2015 La Trobe Asia had over 680 initial interactions such as information sharing, connecting people both internally and externally, invitations and requests for information or assistance of some kind. 62% of these interactions were with internal stakeholders.

By the end of December 2015, La Trobe Asia's database of contacts had increased to in excess of 1000. Contacts receive regular newsletters and emails alerting them to events or information with an 'open' rate between 30-40%.

Building a knowledge network

- We have continued to work closely to support La Trobe Abroad with New Colombo Plan (NCP) applications and other student mobility issues.
- Work is almost complete on individual Country Briefs for each country in Asia, a resource designed for use within the University and a way to capture all the University's engagement in individual countries from transnational education (TNE), research, alumni, marketing, recruitment as well as general information from external sources such as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to assist with increasing basic knowledge and understanding of Australia's engagement and cultural etiquette tips.
- The China Strategy was endorsed and funded in September 2015 with other country strategies in development.
- Work has continued on the development of a spreadsheet of experts at La Trobe University.

Promote the University's Asia vision and activities with the broader community in Australia and the region

La Trobe Asia has had 172 contacts with external bodies in a range of professional relationships, most notably:

- The Executive Director for La Trobe Asia, in collaboration with Linda Jakobson, Founder and Director of China Matters hosted the China Matters Second National Meeting in Melbourne. The meeting brought together senior figures from business, policy and academia for off-the-record discussions of Australia-China relations including heads of the federal departments of Defence, Immigration and ONA. Participants formulated policy recommendations for the Australian government on each of the session topics.



China Matters Second National Meeting

(L-R: Richard Maude, Director General, Office of National Assessments; Professor Michael Wesley, ANU; Professor John Dewar, Vice-Chancellor, La Trobe University; Professor Nick Bisley, Executive Director, La Trobe Asia; Linda Jakobson, Director China Matters; Dr Stephen FitzGerald, China Matters; Chris Moriatis, Secretary Attorney-Generals Department; Professor Bates Gill, ANU; and Mr Dennis Richardson, Secretary, Department of Defence)

- La Trobe Asia has strengthened relationships with: Asialink, the Australia India Institute (All), Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources (ECODEV), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the diplomatic community in Melbourne and Canberra, East China Normal University (ECNU), Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC), and the Institute for South East Asian Studies (ISEAS).
- La Trobe Asia supported the Melbourne South Asia Studies Group (MSASG) post graduate conference where students from across Melbourne came to present their work to a

knowledgeable audience of peers. Professor Craig Jeffrey, the new Director for All presented the keynote address.



- La Trobe Asia continued to use its mailing list and website as a tool to publicise the work of researchers and academics at the University, showcasing stories about students and staff.
- La Trobe Asia published its first print publication *Asia Rising*, a 12 page print publication focussing on Asia related research that received funding through the La Trobe Asia Grant Program. The publication is intended to provide a high quality showcase of research talent for use with external parties, to improve internal knowledge and promote La Trobe researchers.



Making La Trobe a genuinely Asia-focused institution

- The Research Grant Program was established in 2014. Just under \$60,000 was disbursed to 13 researchers in July and August. To date, seven articles have been accepted for publication and three others have been submitted to journals. The remaining two researchers are still working on their research and writing and hope to finalise their articles for publication in 2016.
- In 2015 just over \$60,000 was disbursed to a further 14 researchers in May. These researchers are still finalising their data collection and hope to be able to submit by the end of 2016, although two have already had articles published and another has submitted a paper to a journal.
- The La Trobe Asia Visiting Fellows grant program was launched in 2015 with four Fellows to visit La Trobe in 2016 from National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Kyushu University and Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology.

Lead and inform public debate in Australia about Asia and contribute to public debate in the region

La Trobe Asia and Asian related experts and research has had **53 interactions** with the media, including the following highlights:

- The Executive Director published 16 Op-Eds in national and international venues, there have been 17 other Asia focused Op-Eds from 11 other academics at La Trobe University published in 2015.
- The Executive Director has made numerous media appearances, including appearing on Sky News, The Project, ABC Breakfast and Radio National. He has been quoted in The Guardian, Australian Financial Review, Straits Times, Japan Times, Economist, and the South China Morning Post.
- 13 journal publications, three book chapters and 3 books were published in 2015 and highlighted on the La Trobe Asia website (under Publications) and at least 25 recorded media references related to the Asia-focused of many at La Trobe University has been noted.
- La Trobe Asia continued to develop the 'Asia Rising' podcast, discussing news and views on Asia's states and societies. There were twenty episodes released in 2015 via iTunes with recordings of seminars and lectures appearing in the SoundCloud feed. In 2015 there were **116,547 downloads** of Asia Rising content.

Appendix 1

| Name of event | Date of Event | Type of Event | Partner | Country | Number attended |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| Professor T.V. Paul | 9-Mar-15 | Roundtable (by invitation) | Australia India Institute | India | 10 |
| Joint Institute of Mathematics for Industry | 12-Mar-15 | Launch | Department of Mathematics and Statistics | Japan | 50 |
| China Women's News/Swisse | 20-Mar-15 | Delegation | SHE | China | 13 |
| Professor Ashis Nandy - Studying Mass Violence from a Distance of 50 Years | 27-Mar-15 | Roundtable | Australia India Institute | India | 25 |
| Australia Indonesia University Executives Knowledge Sharing Project | 22-Apr-16 | Delegation | La Trobe International | Indonesia | 22 |
| Milenge - Melbourne | 12-May-15 | Morning Tea/Networking | | Australia | 19 |
| Milenge - Melbourne | 26-May-15 | Morning Tea/Networking | | Australia | 10 |
| Milenge - Bendigo | 3-Jun-15 | Morning Tea/Networking | | Australia | 14 |
| Milenge - Melbourne | 9-Jun-15 | Morning Tea/Networking | | Australia | 9 |
| Book Launch | 17-Jun-15 | Launch | Department of Languages and Linguistics | Indonesia / Japan | 33 |
| East China Normal University | 29-Jun-15 | Delegation | Department of Languages and Linguistics | China | 11 |
| ECNU 30th Anniversary Celebration | 22-Jul-15 | Morning Tea/Networking | Department of Languages and Linguistics | China | 21 |
| India Calling | 24-Jul-15 | Symposium | La Trobe International | India | 30 |

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|---|-----------|------------------------|---|-------------|-----|
| Beijing Foreign Studies University | 10-Aug-15 | Delegation | ASSC | China | 15 |
| Professor Li Jianjun - Australia through the eyes of the Chinese | 11-Aug-15 | Seminar | ASSC | China | 15 |
| Student Movie Presentation Evening | 14-Aug-15 | Public Forum | Department of Politics and Philosophy | China | 50 |
| Tohoku University | 17-Aug-15 | Delegation | LTLT | Japan | 9 |
| South Korean Consul-General | 17-Aug-15 | Lecture | Department of Politics and Philosophy | South Korea | 40 |
| President and Judges of the High Court of the Guizhou Province | 24-Aug-15 | Lecture | La Trobe Law School | China | 50 |
| Dr Kumar Vishwas - The Life of Poetry in Modern India: Culture, Politics, and Song | 28-Aug-15 | Lecture | Department of Languages and Linguistics | India | 50 |
| Conversation about Refugee Protection in the Asia-Pacific Region | 1-Sep-15 | Public Forum | La Trobe Law School | Multiple | 180 |
| Milenge - Mildura | 3-Sep-15 | Morning Tea/Networking | | Australia | 10 |
| Australia-India Relations | 8-Sep-15 | Public Forum | Australia India Institute | India | 55 |
| Professor Lin Yi - A Failure in 'Designed Citizenship' | 10-Sep-15 | Lecture | Department of Politics and Philosophy | China | 15 |
| Ideas and Society: Fear and Greed? Australia-China Relations | 21-Sep-15 | Public Forum | Ideas and Society | China | 80 |
| South Asia - Citywide | 4-Nov-15 | Conference | Melbourne Studies in South Asia Group (MSASG) | Multiple | 40 |
| Research Showcase | 11-Nov-15 | Symposium | | Multiple | 44 |

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Tiffin Talk | 12-Nov-15 | Seminar | Australia India Institute | India | 50 |
| China Matters Second National Meeting | 20-Nov-15 | Conference (by invitation) | China Matters | China | 45 |
| La Trobe in China - Engaging with the Dragon | 23-Nov-15 | Symposium | La Trobe International | China | 40 |
| Consul-General, Fukuoka | 26-Nov-15 | Delegation | AgriBio | Japan | 5 |
| Book Launch | 30-Nov-15 | Launch | Department of Politics and Philosophy | Multiple | 81 |
| Dr Meenakshi Gopinath | 7-Dec-15 | Delegation | Monash University | India | 12 |
| A History of Ruins, or History in Ruins: Memory, Heritage and History in East Asia | 17-Dec-15 | Seminar | Department of Politics and Philosophy | Japan | 12 |
| Total number of events | 34 | | Total number of partners 14 | Total attendees | 1165 |