## Asia Society

**Global News and Views** 

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Performing arts collaboration

Performing arts collaboration bridges disciplines

New Task Forces offer recommendations for global challenges

Global education initiatives expand at U.S. schools

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#### Letter from the President



Welcome to the first issue of Global News and Views, a new Asia Society publication that highlights our work around the world. Inside, you will learn more about the exciting partnerships we are building to achieve our mission of strengthening relationships and promoting understanding among the people, leaders and institutions of Asia and the United States.

Discover how our Northern California Center is working with corporations, local and regional governments and others on sustainability issues. Our new Task Force reports seek to focus U.S. policy on tough global challenges. We continue to expand our education initiatives aimed at fostering an internationally competitive education system at American schools. Ongoing institutional and governmental partnerships enable us to continue to offer rich arts and cultural programming.

Whether it is through participation at events at our network of Centers, or by visiting us online at AsiaSociety.org, we hope you will join us soon!

Viskeleh N. Dosan

Vishakha N. Desai President



Society Preparing Asians and Americans for a Shared Future

#### Asia Society Global News and Views • November 2009

organization working to strengthen relationships and promote understanding among the people, leaders and institutions of Asia and the United

We seek to increase knowledge and enhance dialogue, encourage creative expression, and generate new ideas across the fields of arts and culture, policy and business, and education.

ASIA SOCIETY is the leading global and pan-Asian Founded in 1956, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution with offices in Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Seoul, Shanghai and Washington, D.C.

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#### Asia Society's AustralAsia Centre and Asialink Join Forces



Chairman of ANZ and Former AustralAsia Centre Board Director Charles Goode AC with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung at a highlevel briefing hosted by the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre

Asia Society's AustralAsia Centre and Asialink, headquartered at the University of Melbourne, are proud to announce an exciting new collaboration bringing together the country's two leading Australia-Asia organizations in a strategic alliance.

Over the course of the past two decades, Asia Society's AustralAsia Centre and Asialink have independently played vital roles in building Australia's relations in Asia. Both organizations utilize high level forums, international collaborations, school programs and cultural exchanges to promote ties between Australia

and the rest of Asia. The new collaboration will enable the two organizations to leverage each other's core strengths while retaining their independence.

The organizations will share identical Board membership, with Mr. Sid Myer serving as Chairman of both Asialink and now the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre. Deputy Chairmen are Harrison Young, Warwick Smith and Peter Yates.

"Australia's engagement in Asia is growing more rapidly than its engagement with the rest of the world," says Mr. Sid Myer. "At the same time, Asia has become central to the global economy and the global recovery. Australia's future hinges on sound, deep, and strong relationships throughout the region."

An expanded network of corporate leaders across Asia and Australia, he added, as well as greater programming opportunities and access to key thoughtleadership in the Asia-Australia arena will benefit and strengthen both groups.

"Working together will broaden the reach of both organizations, creating greater impact, influence and engagement for Australia in Asia."

For more information, visit AsiaSociety.org and Asialink.unimelb.edu.au.

## Asia Society TASK FORCES

Offer Expert Recommendations for the Region's Thorniest Problems From global warming to U.S.-North Korea relations, Asia Society Task Forces tackle the tough issues facing our world – bringing together leading experts to debate and recommend solutions to policy makers in Washington and beyond.

Previous Task Force reports have become mustreads in policy circles and offer roadmaps for advancing U.S. relations with India, promoting U.S.-China cooperation on energy and climate change, stabilizing Afghanistan and securing global water security.

A new series of Task Force reports being released in 2009-10 is even more global in scope, seeking to shape and focus U.S. policy on North Korea and Burma/Myanmar, deepening collaboration with China on carbon capture and sequestration, and navigating the economic rebalancing underway today. For full reports on these and past Asia Society Task Force reports, visit AsiaSociety.org.

#### An Economic Approach to U.S.-North Korea Relations

The North Korea Inside Out Task Force focuses on the economic dimension of engagement with North Korea as a way for the U.S. and its allies to induce and reinforce the DPRK's peaceful transition into a country that can better provide for its people's welfare and engage with other countries in a non-hostile manner. The report does not claim that economic engagement will resolve the nuclear issue, particularly in the near term; but nor will sanctions alone. In the long run, the mechanisms of engagement the Task Force recommends would have a positive, shaping influence on the environment in which Pyongyang makes its nuclear security calculations including the costs and benefits of its nuclear weapons program.

#### U.S. Policy Towards Burma/Myanmar

Chaired by retired General Wesley Clark, the Task Force on U.S. Policy Towards Burma/ Myanmar examines the ongoing political and socio-economic crises in the country and offers a set of recommendations aimed at promoting its long term stability.

Asia Society is also partnering with leading policy institutes in countries throughout Asia -- including Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Japan, Singapore and Thailand -- to bring a regional perspective to this effort. Their reports are being released simultaneously with the U.S. Task Force report, at launch events in New York, Washington and cities across Asia.

#### U.S.-China Collaboration: Carbon Capture and Sequestration

In its latest report, the Initiative for U.S.-China Cooperation on Energy and Climate offers a concrete roadmap for U.S.-China collaboration focusing on carbon capture and sequestration technology. Recognizing coal as an inescapable source of power generation in both countries in the near future, the report offers specific recommendations to further the deployment of carbon capture and sequestration technologies, while addressing the complex political, technical and financial challenges involved. It aims to catalyze cooperation in one critical area of climate mitigation, while strengthening bilateral relations.

#### Rebalancing the U.S.-Asia Economic Relationship

The world is starting to emerge from the global financial crisis of 2008-2009. And until recently, the crisis was sufficiently acute that any attempt to assess long-term impacts and policies gave way to short-term imperatives to keep the system functional. Now, however, while it will be a long while before the world shakes off the negative economic fallout from the crisis, many have started to grapple with the structural issues that precipitated the meltdown.

To this end, the Task Force on Global Rebalancing looks not just at what happened, but at policies that could reform the economic balance of power and shape a new global economic system. It addresses the roots of the global crisis and how to correct them, and at the specific dynamics of the economic bonds between economies in Asia and the United States.

Get in-depth understanding from policy experts, business leaders and government officials at AsiaSociety.org.

#### Successful International Schools Network Expands in Four U.S. Cities

Since 2003, Asia Society has worked in partnership with school districts and charter authorities to create the International Studies Schools Network (ISSN). ISSN is a national network of designdriven public schools that are achieving success in attaining their core mission: to develop collegeready, globally competent high school graduates. The network currently includes 18 schools in urban and rural communities across the United States and serves over 4,000 students in grades 6-12. 85% of all students are minorities and 74% are from low-income families. These schools emphasize global themes, proficiency in at least one foreign language, community service, international travel and exchange of ideas and shared project work with peers around the world.

The ISSN responds to two intertwined imperatives facing American education. The first is the chronic problem of persistently poor academic performance among low-income and minority students. The second is preparing students for work and civic roles in a globalized environment, where success increasingly requires the ability to compete, connect and cooperate on an international scale.

This fall, ISSN is expanding with the opening of four new schools and the addition of two existing schools: The Global Learning Collaborative and the High School for Language and Diplomacy will open in New York City, with other schools in Austin, TX; Chicago, IL; and Los Angeles, CA, also joining the network.

Research shows that ISSN students are doing better academically and graduating at far greater numbers than their peers. In June 2009, eight ISSN schools had graduating classes; the average graduation rate was 92%, of which the college going rate was 94%. An analysis of ISSN schools compared to schools in the same districts with similar demographic profiles shows that from 2004-08, students in ISSN schools achieved at higher levels in 85% of such comparisons. For more information about Asia Society's education initiatives, visit AsiaSociety.org/education.



Students at Vaughn International Studies Academy in Los Angeles.

#### A World-Class Fix for American Schools

U.S. President Barack Obama has called for American schools to respond to the demands of the global economy, saying, "In a 21st-century world where jobs can be shipped wherever there's an Internet connection, where a child born in Dallas is now competing with a child in New Delhi, where your best job qualification is not what you do, but what you know – education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity and success, it's a prerequisite for success."

A core goal of Asia Society's Partnership for Global Learning (PGL) is to educate decision makers at all levels – national, state and local – to craft policies that support an internationally competitive education system held to world-class standards. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and other policy opportunities hold great promise for real change. In conjunction with partner organizations, the PGL is focusing on initiatives to benchmark the U.S. educational system against international standards and practices; redesign high schools to prepare graduates who are college-ready and globally competent; invest in teacher training in international subject matter; build national capacity for learning world languages, particularly Chinese and Arabic; and expand international teacher and student exchange programs.

#### **Learning Chinese in American Schools**

As the U.S. education system sees an explosion of interest in establishing Chinese language programs, many schools are struggling with the task of building programs that are effective and sustainable over the long term. Asia Society continues to lead the charge in this arena with the upcoming release of the DVD, "Learning Chinese in American Schools."

The DVD illustrates best practices for establishing high-quality programs, including how a large city and a state have created effective growth models. The chapter "Why Chinese and Why Now?" is designed to help educators and policymakers make the case for Chinese language education.



#### **Heard** @ Asia Society Around the World

Linda Darling-Hammond, Stanford University's Charles Ducommon Professor of Education and former education advisor to President Obama, discusses what the U.S. education system can learn from Asia. (Washington, D.C., July 11, 2009):



"In Singapore, the more recent reform has been characterized by the words, 'Teach Less, Learn More.' They mean open up the curriculum so there is more opportunity for students to

inquire and innovate and pursue their thoughts rather than just going through the curriculum in a blisteringly fast manner...We have focused so much in this country [U.S.] on multiple-choice tests...and yet in high-achieving countries, most assessment is essay examinations, oral examinations and performance tasks that students conduct in the classroom...so we can learn from places that are organizing education in ways that are high-performing. 33

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**Salima Hashmi,** scholar, artist and guest curator of *Hanging Fire: Contemporary Art from Pakistan*, discusses how she framed the exhibition (New York, September 10, 2009):



"Hanging Fire does have quite a few surprises for people who are familiar – or not – with the Pakistani art scene. When Asia Society invited me to curate this show, I was aware that there were

very many approaches to really bringing work from Pakistan to New York. And the most obvious one was, of course, to tell a story beginning at the beginning: after independence, the unfolding of the modern movement, the major figures who have really made Pakistani modern art history, some very significant artists who had influenced generations that are working today.

Honoree **Kobe Bryant** discusses his newly established Asia Fund at the Southern California Annual Gala Dinner (Los Angeles, June 30, 2009):



"There are kids all over the world that need our support, that need our help. It's very important for us to do something about it. Everybody should in their lifetime, when they have the ability to, help

others....You can't just go out and play basketball.. you have to be able to use that in a positive way and that's what we're trying to do. >>>

**Martin Wolf**, Associate Editor and Chief Economics Commentator for the *Financial Times*, on the failure of regulatory reforms (Hong Kong, September 16, 2009):



"Now I think we have a problem. Regulation and supervision won't work and the risk of bankruptcy is zero, and that's simply a structure that guarantees at some point - another crisis.

That worries the hell out of me and I think it should worry anybody. I know they are going to try regulation but I believe it will fail.

**Penny Wong**, Australian Minister of Climate Change and Water, on the importance of climate change negotiations (New York, September 23, 2009):



"In this city [New York] this week we've seen at least a small step forward that the world has taken and it's a step that we needed to take because the risk all of us face knows no precedent and it will

know no rival...and the fact is for the majority of us...nothing in our lifetimes will surpass this challenge. Yesterday we did see some signs that we might just be up to this task but there is a long way to go and unfortunately we don't have much time. This December we have the greatest opportunity to act. The reality is that small steps will not be enough. We need to be going flat out at full throttle all the way to Copenhagen. >>>

South Korean President **Lee Myung-bak** on his country's relationship with the United States (New York, September 21, 2009):



"We will work towards making this alliance into something that will positively contribute towards promoting peace and prosperity around the world...it will be a comprehensive strategic alliance

of the 21st century that encompasses economic, social, cultural, educational, scientific and technological cooperation.

**Duncan McCargo**, author of *Tearing Apart* the Land: Islam and Legitimacy in Southern Thailand, on winning the inaugural Bernard Schwartz Book Prize (New York, September 18, 2009)



"For me, the award is a vindication of the kind of messy, fieldwork-based research that I carried out for a year in Pattani, which involved conducting lots of indepth interviews. These days.

articles based largely on secondary and internet sources. Serious fieldwork is often written off as old-fashioned 'area studies', but I believe that without close on-the ground scrutiny, we cannot hope properly to understand, let alone analyze or address, complex political problems. I very much hope that my award will bring more attention to the Southern Thai conflict, and contribute towards its eventual resolution. 22

## Collaboration with Vietnam Brings Stunning Artworks to Houston and New York

Following more than a decade of planning and coordination with Vietnam's Ministry of Culture and ten of the country's leading museums, over 110 stunning artifacts from that country never before seen in the United States are currently on view in the exhibition *Arts of Ancient Viet Nam: From River Plain to Open Sea.* Following its well-received premiere at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the exhibition travels to Asia Society Museum in New York from February 2 through May 2, 2010.

The exhibition brings together ritual bronzes, fine gold jewelry, terra cotta burial wares, Hindu and Buddhist sculptures and other dazzling objects. According to Nancy Tingley, guest curator of *Arts of Ancient Viet Nam*, "The works in this exhibition are of truly global significance, and evidence of a shared history that predates colonialism by several thousand years. Unfortunately, modern scholarship and archaeological research were interrupted and delayed by the tumultuous decades of the twentieth century."

In the wake of the normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam and resumption of bilateral trade ties, Asia Society worked closely

with the Ministry of Culture to coordinate and secure the loans of the objects. At the same time, the Society's engagement with Vietnam included ongoing business and policy programming, such as hosting President Nguyen Minh Triet in 2007, on what was the first U.S. visit of a Vietnamese head of state since the war, and organizing its Asian Corporate Conference in Hanoi in 2003 and in Ho Chi Minh City in 2009.

Arts of Ancient Viet Nam has been a successful collaboration, providing U.S. audiences with an appreciation of Vietnam's impressive artistic history and its importance as a hub of cultural and commercial exchange from the first millennium BCE through the nineteenth century.

The exhibition is co-organized by Asia Society Museum and Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Lion. Thap Mam, Binh Dinh province. Champa period, late 12th-13th century. Stone. H.  $36\,5/16\,\text{x}$  W.  $19\,\text{x}$  D.  $15\,11/16$  in.  $(92.2\,\text{x}\,48.3\,\text{x}\,39.8\,\text{cm})$ . National Museum of Vietnamese History, Ha Noi, LSb 21187. Photograph by Kaz Tsuruta, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco



Asia Society is presenting a multi-media theatre work The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle, based on the novel by Haruki Murakami, in January 2010.

A new initiative of the New England Foundation for the Arts, the Contemporary Art Centers (CAC) network brings together performing arts curators from arts organizations throughout the United States. The aim is to build connections among peer organizations to support dance and other performing artists working across disciplines. The network comprises leading contemporary art centers whose cutting-edge programming is in performing, visual and media arts.

"The CAC network incorporates an innovative philosophy in line with Asia Society's integrated approach to peforming arts," says Rachel Cooper, Asia Society Director of Cultural Programs. "Through this network, we are sharing international perspectives, cross disciplinary models and new approaches to critical thinking."

CAC members regularly commission and develop new work from a spectrum of artists who bridge the worlds of visual art, performance, music and media such as Asia Society's January 2010 presentation of the multi-media theatre work *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, based on the novel by Haruki Murakami.

Asia Society's first CAC project was *Cambodian Stories* by Eiko and Koma in collaboration with ten young Cambodian artists that toured to ten cities throughout the United States. As part of this national consortium, Asia Society will participate in a nationwide 30-year retrospective of Eiko and Koma's work.

In addition to Asia Society, current members of the CAC network include: August Wilson Center for African American Culture (Pittsburgh, PA), DiverseWorks (Houston, TX), Institute for Contemporary Art or ICA (Boston, MA), MASS MoCA (North Adams, MA), Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago, IL), Portland Institute for Contemporary Art or PICA (Portland, OR), REDCAT (Los Angeles, CA), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN), Wexner Center for the Arts (Columbus, OH), and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco, CA). For details about *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, visit WindUpbc.com.

## Global Spotlight: **Ni Xiangyu**



Chinese business leader Ni Xiangyu has been Vice-Chairman of the Administrative Commission of Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area (TEDA) since 2001, working to make

the state-sponsored industrial zone a center of regional development.

Since the Asia Society held its Asian Corporate Conference in Tianjin in May 2008, the global business community has been grappling with a challenging economic landscape. In an interview with Asia Society, Mr. Ni explained how TEDA is adapting, outlining the challenges and opportunities:

"TEDA is gradually shifting...to nine new pillar industries: electronic telecommunication, automotive and auto spare parts manufacturing, equipment manufacturing, bio-pharmaceutical, food and beverage, aerospace, new energy and new materials, petrochemical and service. Advanced manufacturing industries are developing in the direction of high-end, high quality and high tech."

"In facing the financial crisis, TEDA very quickly formulated its '15 measures' ... helping to solve difficulties in small and medium enterprises' financing, encouraging enterprises not to lay off or lay off fewer workers, as well as overcoming difficulties in business operations, residential and commuting cost issues. A good system of government and enterprises working together and seeking common development has been established."



Asia Society Selects Delhi for its 20th Asian Corporate Conference India's new Congress-led government has mandated that its main focus will be to boost the country's economic growth. With a reinforced prerogative to introduce new policies and push forward long-awaited reforms, India is well-poised to accelerate its pace of growth and capitalize on its robust economic potential.

Against this backdrop, Asia Society will bring its signature Asian Corporate Conference to India for the fourth time in the conference's 20-year history. Government and business leaders will

convene in Delhi March 18-20, 2010, to examine cutting-edge issues and trends in India and throughout Asia's dynamic markets.

The two and a half day conference includes an impressive roster of multinationals and organizations operating in Asia. Recent conferences have been held in Tianjin (2008), Tokyo (2007) and Mumbai (2006). For more information about the conference, visit AsiaSociety.org.

With Asia Society's launch of its annual China Business Summit, to be held in 2010 in the inland city of Wuhan, Mr. Ni also commented on how China's diverse cities illustrate the strengths of its different economic zones:

"First of all, the locations are different with Tianjin on the eastern coast of China, and Wuhan—as well as Chongqing—in the central part of China. Tianjin and Wuhan share similarities in the significance of promoting regional development. Both Tianjin and Wuhan have long histories and large talent pools. Second, the industries are different. Tianjin is one of China's coastal industrial bases. Electronic information, automobiles, petrochemicals, metallurgy, biotechnology and modern medicine, new energy and environmental protection have all become powerful and advantageous industries... Wuhan's main pillar industries are metallurgy, machinery, automotives and textiles. In recent years, industries such as steel, automotives and optoelectronics have developed rapidly in this city."

## Global Spotlight: Deepak Parekh



Deepak Parekh has served as chairman of the Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC), India's premier housing finance company, since 1993. During

his tenure, he has led the company's growth and expansion beyond the mortgage sector into the areas of banking, asset management and insurance Mr. Parekh joined HDFC in 1978.

A strong believer that companies must serve the community and society, under his leadership, HDFC has supported education, child welfare and medical research projects as well as initiatives assisting senior citizens and the disabled. He is a recipient of Padma Bhushan, an Indian civilian honor and other awards. Mr. Parekh serves as Non-Executive Chairman of Glaxo SmithKline, India's Infrastructure Development Financing Company

(IDFC), Lafarge and Siemens. He is also on the Indian boards of Castrol B P, Hindustan Unilever, Indian Hotels, Mahindra & Mahindra and the International boards of SingTel (Singapore) and WNS (U.S.).

Mr. Parekh's involvement with Asia Society includes service on the institution's Global Council and a founding member on the advisory board of the India Centre in Mumbai. He is an active supporter of Asia Society's business programming on India, including the India's Financial Markets conference held annually in New York. He and his wife Smita Parekh, Head, National Committee of India for United World Colleges, are among the honorees at the Society's November 2009 New York Annual Dinner, *Couples Beyond Borders: Global Forces.* For details about the dinner, visit AsiaSociety.org/specialevents.

### Northern California Center Focuses on Sustainability

At a time when sustainability has been embraced by virtually every major corporation, it is hard to believe that a few short years ago it ranked near the bottom of most companies' agendas — a reflection of the relative lack of interest by the general public.

That view has clearly changed. According to a recent study by the Aberdeen Group, a market research company, corporations increasingly see a strong environmental record as inextricably tied to their long-term viability and success.

It is not only corporations who are making this connection. As the Asia Society's Center on U.S.-China Relations advanced in a Task Force report in January 2009, the world faces no greater challenge in the 21st century than climate change and U.S.-China cooperation is essential to finding a solution.

About four years ago, Asia Society's Northern California Center (ASNC) made sustainability, whether at the level of corporate business practice or as a matter of state policy, a key program priority. Over time, it has become the Center's single most important area of focus.

ASNC has organized programs in both the Bay Area and China focused on everything from cleantech and global warming to biodiversity and organic cuisine. For example, in spring 2009 ASNC hosted a conference on green cities that was the first to bring together investors, architects and urban planners from six countries on both sides of the Pacific.



Honorees Steven Chu, Peter Darbee and George Lucas at the 2008 Northern California Annual Dinner, "Leading the Way to a Sustainable Future."

Working with Asia Society's Southern California Center in Los Angeles, ASNC recently received a five-year grant from USC's Marshall School of Business and UCLA's Anderson School of Management to create a California-wide approach engaging academics, policy makers and business leaders in a series of conferences and workshops to address key issues such as water, energy, urban planning and transportation. With the support and participation of its members, ASNC looks forward to continuing to strive towards a brighter, greener future.

#### **Asia Society Centers**

#### **AustralAsia**

Level 4 Sidney Myer Asia Centre Parkville, Victoria 3010 Australia asiasoc@asiasoc.org.au

#### **Hong Kong**

13/F Baskerville House, 13 Duddell Street Central, Hong Kong hk@asiasoc.org

#### India

12th Floor, Arcadia, 195 NCPA Marg Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021 Maharashtra, India admin@asiasociety.org.in

#### Korea

Lotte Hotel Seoul, Suite 615 1 Sogong-Dong, Jung-Gu Seoul, Korea 100-070 CPO Box 3500 askoreacenter@gmail.com

#### **New York**

Asia Society and Museum 725 Park Avenue New York, NY 10021 info@asiasociety.org

#### Northern California 500 Washington Street, Suite 350

San Francisco, CA 94111 sanfrancisco@asiasoc.org

#### **Philippines**

AIM Conference Center, 2nd Floor Benavides Street (corner Trasierra Street) Legaspi Village, 1260 Makati City, Philippines info@asiasoc.org.ph

#### Shanghai

4th Floor, No. 5 Zhong Shan Dong Yi Road Shanghai 200002, China chloez@asiasociety.org.cn

#### Southern California

350 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 480 Los Angeles, CA 90071 nconner@asiasociety.org

#### Texas

4605 Post Oak Place Drive, Suite 205 Houston, TX 77027 txcenter@AsiaSociety.org

#### Washington, D.C.

1575 Eye Street, NW, Suite 325 Washington, DC 20005 AsiaDC@AsiaSociety.org

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