

Board of Directors

Doug Ferguson
Chairman
Alexandra Holcomb
Deputy Chair
Andrew Michelmore AO
Deputy Chair

Evie Bruce
Christopher Campbell
Swati Dave
Grant Dooley
David Epstein
Stuart Fuller
Jennie Lang AM
Wayne Spanner
Alice Wong
Su-Ming Wong

Advisory Council

Frances Adamson
Kate Axup
Bruce Bowers
Don Boyd
Dr Michael Brand
Nicole Brigg
Terry Campbell AO
Cathryn Carver
Jennifer Cermak
Benjamin Chow AO
Peter Coleman
Mark Crean
Nicholas Curtis AM
Gerard Dalbosco
Chum Darvall AM
John Denton AO
Al Donald
Maureen Dougherty
Sir Rod Eddington AO
Dr Stephanie Fahey
Karen Fifer
Bruce Gosper
Peter Grey
Nihal Gupta
Paul Kelly
Stephen Loosley AM
Andrew Low
Andrew MacIntyre
John Meacock
Hugh Morgan AC
Andrew J Parker
Trevor Rowe AO
Darren Rudd
The Hon Warwick L
Smith AM LLP
Stephen Spargo AM
Peter Varghese AO
Richard Woolcott AC
Dr Alex Yasumoto

Chief Executive Officer

Philipp Ivanov

Global Officers

Chan Heng Chee
Co-Chair

John L. Thornton
Co-Chair

Betsy Z. Cohen
Vice Chair & Secretary

Lewis B. Kaden
Vice Chair

Lulu C. Wang
Vice Chair

Robert Niehaus
Treasurer

Josette M. Sheeran
Lulu and Anthony Wang
President and CEO

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

Asia Society will have a home in Melbourne

Global leader in Asia policy and business will have a home in Melbourne.

HONG KONG, 31 MAY 2018 - Asia Society, the leading global institution forging closer ties between Asia and the world, will soon have a home in Melbourne.

The new Asia Society Australia Centre will bring a world-class institution and programming to Australia's global city. The Centre will expand the organisation's work in Australia over the last 21 years educating and supporting organisations, businesses and people to strengthen ties in the Asia Pacific region.

Premier **Daniel Andrews**, in China promoting partnerships, trade and investment opportunities, made the announcement today after meeting with Chairman of Asia Society Hong Kong Centre and Asia Society Global Chair Emeritus Mr **Ronnie Chan** in Hong Kong.

The Melbourne Centre will promote a holistic understanding and engagement with Asia and be the Australian and the Southern Hemisphere home for the Asia Society's global programs in policy, education and the arts. The Melbourne Centre will strengthen Asia Society's national footprint and impact with presence in two of Australia's major capital cities. The Centre will also serve as the Australian hub for the Center for Global Education at Asia Society, focussing on its ground-breaking work in global competence education.

The Melbourne Centre will bring together leaders, experts and policy makers to address challenges and opportunities in Asia and Australia's relations with the region.

The Victorian Government's Asia Society partnership will similarly strengthen Victoria's reputation as Australia's foremost leader in Asia engagement and help drive further success in areas like business and education.

(Continued over page...)

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

“The new Asia Society Australia Centre will be the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, and with our strong relationship with Asia through the arts, education, policy and business, it's only right it will be based in Melbourne.

"The new Centre will build on our already strong ties with Asia and showcase Melbourne as Australia's business and cultural gateway to the region."

Quotes from Asia Society

Ambassador **Chan Heng Chee**, Asia Society Global Co-Chair said: “The Melbourne centre is an exciting new addition to Asia Society's global network of 14 centres. The Centre will draw on Asia Society's global convening power and network of leaders and changemakers to generate ideas and promote collaboration between Australia and Asia. This will also enable a stronger Australian voice in the discussions on the future of Asia”.

Philipp Ivanov, CEO of Asia Society Australia said: “As the global centre of gravity shifts to Asia, Australia's trade, investment and talent mobility is increasingly centred in Melbourne. As Australia's international education capital, the top destination for tourists from Asia, the home of one of the largest and most diverse Asian-Australian communities and Australia's top exporter to Asia, representing a quarter of Australia's economic activity, Victoria is set to benefit from the rise of Asia.”

Doug Ferguson, Chairman of Asia Society Australia said: “Asia Society Australia and the Victorian Government are natural partners in the development of a critical piece of Melbourne's intellectual infrastructure – a national and internationally-recognised and connected centre for engagement with Asia in the heart of Australia's global city.”

The Hon **Warwick Smith** AM, Asia Society Global Trustee and Chairman Emeritus of Asia Society Australia said: “Asia Society Australia Centre will be an important addition to our national institutions for engagement with Asia. It will bring its unique multidisciplinary strengths and an unparalleled global network spanned across three continents to help shape the future for Australia in Asia.”

- ENDS -

Media enquiries:
Philipp Ivanov
+61 2 8199 9402
pivanov@asiasociety.org

NOTE TO EDITORS

About Asia Society Australia

The leading national centre for engagement with Asia, Asia Society Australia is the Australian centre of Asia Society, the pre-eminent global organisation and leading force in forging closer ties between Asia and the West through arts, education, policy and business. Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd, Asia Society is a

non-partisan, non-profit institution with centres in New York, Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Mumbai, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, Sydney, Tokyo, Washington, DC, Zurich and soon, Melbourne. For more information visit <http://asiasociety.org/australia>