



A U S T R A L I A - I N D I A F O C U S

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Visit to India by NSW Premier Hon Bob Carr MP

The Premier of NSW Hon Bob Carr MP, visited India between 1-5 November 2004. Premier Carr was accompanied by the Chairman of the Australia India Business Council (AIBC) and member of the NSW Government's NSW-Asia Business Advisory Council Mr Neville Roach AO, who led a business delegation of some 30 delegates representing 25 organisations. The delegation represented several sectors, especially education, research and development, information and communications technology (ICT), banking and finance, consultancy services and tourism.

Significant business leaders of India held individual meetings with the Premier. These included Mr Ratan Tata, Chairman of Tata Sons; Mr Narayana Murthy, Chairman and Chief Mentor of Infosys; Mr Azim Premji, Chairman of Wipro; Mr Subramaniam Ramadorai, CEO of Tata Consulting Services (TCS); and Mr A K Purwar, Chairman of the State Bank of India. The programme also included several events hosted by peak Indian business associations, including the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the National Association of software and Services Companies (NASSCOM, India's ICT industry body) and the Computer Society of India (CSI, the association of India's ICT professionals). Numerous agreements were formalised during the visit including:



Premier Carr delivered presentations to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of Indian Industries

- An agreement signed by Mr Narayana Murthy and Mr Neville Roach, Chairman of the Smart Internet Cooperative Research Centre (SITCRC), for Infosys to invest some \$800,000 in collaborative research with the CRC – the first major investment by an Indian IT company in an Australian R&D institution.
- The University of New South Wales (UNSW) signed MOUs with both Jawaharlal Nehru University and the University of Pune which included wide-ranging collaboration in research, student and staff exchanges and education projects.
- A Deed of Agreement between TAFE Global (TG) and Tata Consultancy Services, which will see TCS launch a major vocational education and training programme in India and globally based on TG's world class and highly diverse curriculum.
- An MOU between TCS and a group of NSW R&D institutions - SITCRC, the University of New South Wales, the University of Sydney, and the University of Wollongong – to explore collaboration in bioinformatics and health informatics.
- An MOU between Wipro, one of India's top three IT companies, and the University of Wollongong (UOW), to partner in the delivery of Wipro's education and training programmes covering quality standards like Six Sigma and CMM Level 5 and a Master of Computer Applications course.
- An MOU for greater collaboration between the Australian Information Industry Association (NSW) and the Maharashtra branch of NASSCOM, and another between the Australian Computer Society (ACS), and the Mumbai branch of CSI.

Visit to India by NSW Premier Hon Bob Carr MP...continued

Other highlights of the visit included meetings with the Lt. Governor and the Chief Minister of Delhi to promote Sydney's credentials to help with the 2010 Commonwealth Games; a visit to the Laxman Public School to witness students taking a test developed by UNSW to assess English, mathematics and science skills; the opening of the new office of the Snowy Mountains Engineering Company (SMEC) in Delhi; the Premier's reception in Mumbai featuring NSW tourism, which was attended by over 200 guests; a number of scholarships announced by the University of Sydney (UOS), including one co-sponsored by National ICT Australia (NICTA); a seminar hosted by IDP featuring UNSW, UOS, UOW, UTS and the University of Western Sydney, under the banner 'Excellence Australia'; a visit to India's world-renowned TERI (The Energy Research Institute); a discussion with eminent Indian intellectuals on such issues as security, terrorism and global warming; a visit by a group of delegates to a TCS Technology Park in Mumbai set in a beautiful wooded environment; and a cruise on Mumbai harbour hosted by TCS for Directors of many of India's leading technology and management institutions.

Messages of Condolence—Tsunami disaster

On behalf of the Australia-India Council (AIC), I wish to send our condolences to all those affected by the tragic events of 26 December 2004. The tsunami was a shocking, unforeseen disaster that took a terrible toll on India and other countries. In the face of such calamity, Australians have responded with great generosity and sympathy, pledging – both through government and individual donations - unprecedented amounts of material support to the countries affected.

Our thoughts are with all those in India and the region who have lost loved ones and/or their livelihood.

Michael Abbott QC, Chairman, Australia-India Council

On behalf of the Australia India Business Council, I wish to send a message of condolence and support to the victims of the terrible Indian Ocean tsunami, and their families and friends. AIBC members, relatives, friends and business associates have responded generously to help alleviate some of the pain and suffering caused by this massive tragedy.

I would like to acknowledge the generous contributions of corporate members of the AIBC including but not limited to:

- contributions of engineering and construction project management expertise;
- raising funds for rebuilding houses of staff in India;
- the contribution of voluntary services and assistance by staff; and
- the generous offer of many large corporates to match employee contributions.

Members have also responded generously in a personal capacity. The SBS / World Vision Radiothon on 9 January was supported by members and in addition AIBC Victoria donated \$5000. The Council has assisted Australian organisations to promote their efforts to relieve the terrible pain and suffering of those affected in India. Please contact the Secretariat for information on the following appeals:

- Indian Prime Minister's Relief Fund—donations may be made free of any charges through the State Bank of India office in Sydney;
- Tsunami India Relief Fund—organised by Indianlink and the Association for India's Development ; and
- Australian Charity Foundation and Madurai Charitable Trust - working directly with local communities.

Mindful that the needs of the victims will continue for a long time, AIBC is also considering other initiatives during the year to provide additional relief funds and services. We will keep AIF readers informed of further opportunities to contribute.

Neville Roach AO, Chairman, Australia India Business Council



Premier of NSW, Mr Bob Carr joined by Mr Neville Roach, President of the Australia-India Business Council and Mr Ganapathi, Consul General for India, North Bondi beach, January 16, 2005.

Australian cartoons spice up Delhi

Alan Moir, Editorial cartoonist, Sydney Morning Herald, visited India during November 2004 on an AIC grant to study Indian cartooning and to present workshops. His visit generated impressive media coverage and several key contacts were made with Indian institutions with potential for further collaboration.

In New Delhi, an exhibition of his select works was organised at the Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (4-30 November). He also conducted workshops for senior school children and at the Mass Communication Research Centre at Jamia University.



Editorial Cartoonist Alan Moir with children at the Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat

Following a brief visit to Rajasthan to study the local puppetry tradition, Alan conducted a series of workshops in Kochi and in Trivandrum, including at the Kerala Institute of Journalism, and at a newly established Animation studio.

Bar Council of India Delegation to Australia

A delegation of nine members of the Bar Council of India, led by the President, Mr Jaganath Patnaik, and including the Secretary, Mr S. Radhakrishnan, visited Australia from 18 to 23 October 2004. The objective of the delegation was to examine the quality of law degrees of Australian University Law Schools with a view to considering the recognition of Australian undergraduate law degrees as a basis for admission to practise law in India.

The visit follows the successful nineteen member Australian Legal Services Mission to India in March 2004 which was supported by the Australia India Council and led by Solicitor-General Dr David Bennett AO QC, and included Sir Laurence Street, AC KCMG QC, Chairman of the Australian Government's International legal Services Advisory Council (ILSAC) (see "Australian Legal Services Mission to India", *Australia-India Focus*, Issue 29, March-April 2004). One of the initiatives resulting from the Mission to India was a decision to seek recognition of Australian law degrees in India as a means to encourage Indian students to study law in Australia. In taking this initiative forward, in the first instance, the law schools of the Australian National University, Bond University, Griffith University and the University of New South Wales made applications to the Bar Council of India seeking recognition of their law degrees. The Delegation visited these law schools as well as the law school at the Queensland University of Technology.

The Delegation also met with the Hon Paul de Jersey AC, Chief Justice of Queensland, Ms Rachel Hunter, Director-General of the Queensland Department of Justice, Mr Peter Webb, Secretary-General of the Law Council of Australia, and Mr Glen Ferguson, President of the Queensland Law Society, to discuss the development of closer ties between the legal professions of India and Australia.

The full Council of the Bar Council of India is expected to consider the recommendations of the Delegation. The Delegation responded positively to the inspection of the law schools and also appeared satisfied with the core content of the Australian undergraduate law degree. The President of the Bar Council of India also invited the Queensland University of Technology to lodge an application for recognition of their law degree. An IDP Education Australia report (November 2000) noted that India recognises law degrees from 12 law schools in the United Kingdom, 3 in United States of America, 3 in Pakistan, 3 in Bangladesh, 1 in Nepal and several in Singapore, Poland, Uganda and Zambia. Recognition of law degrees by the Bar Council is essential for satisfying admission requirements to practise law in India. The Delegation's visit was funded by the Department of Education Science and Training, the Council of Australian Law Deans and the law schools concerned and supported by the ILSAC Secretariat in the Attorney-General's Department.

Queensland Government Mining Equipment and Services Trade Mission

The Queensland Government led a mining equipment and services trade mission to Kolkata and Jamshedpur in November 2004 and supported companies from a booth at the International Mining and Machinery Exhibition (IMME). The IMME ran from 24 – 27 November and attracted participants from countries all over the world, including United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, Russia and event sponsors South Africa. IMME is held every three years and is the largest mining trade exhibition in India.

The trade mission program included meetings with Tata Steel in Jamshedpur, mine site visits, dinner and networking functions with key Indian clients. In addition, senior management level meetings were held in Kolkata with Indian public and private sector mining organisations. A range of mining technologies equipment and services were marketed. Queensland companies represented included AMC Consultants, Electrometals Technologies, SIMTARS, Technofast, Thiess, Sedgman, Mincorp and Leica Geosystems.

Mining in India has been controlled by the Government since the country's independence in 1947. Since 1991 the Indian economy has been going through a period of reform and liberalisation. India is one of the world's leading producers of bauxite, coal, iron ore, steel and zinc and is rapidly expanding its production capabilities. The global resources boom is placing pressure on Indian mining firms to improve productivity and achieve greater return on investment. Queensland companies are well placed to assist with this agenda by providing better technologies and improved resource management methodologies.

In June 2004 Coal India, the government owned entity that controls over 80% of coal production in India, allocated 136 coal reserves for privatisation, of which 40 have been allocated so far.

The Queensland Government is pursuing supply opportunities with Indian private sector companies and government entities that are interested in acquiring technology, equipment and services to upgrade mining operations and increase production levels. Representatives from SIMTARS and Thiess spoke at the Indian Mining Summit which was held concurrently with IMME. SIMTARS Director Stewart Bell presented the organisations advance gas monitoring equipment during his presentation – Environment and Safety Measures: Advances in Technology. Richard Swann Thiess Contractors presented Private Sector participation in Mining – Thiess' Global Experience. All 8 participating companies developed strong sales leads and will continue to pursue export opportunities with the assistance of the Queensland Government.

BlueScope Steel ~ Investment in India

On 7 December, BlueScope Steel announced Board approval for an AUD 100 million investment in India to construct three new manufacturing facilities at Pune, Chennai and New Delhi. The facilities will primarily manufacture building materials for the burgeoning Indian market. BlueScope intends to establish a network of 18 sales offices throughout India, with sales to commence in 2006.

Bluescope Managing Director, Kirby Adams, said "we are encouraged by the opportunities available in India. BlueScope Steel has a proven track record over 40 years in successfully building market demand for quality steel products in developing Asian markets. India represents BlueScope Steel's next logical frontier."

BlueScope Steel is also currently engaged in a feasibility study with Tata Steel – one of Asia's leading steel companies – exploring the possibility of forming a joint venture to develop a metal coating and paint factory in India. The study is expected to be concluded by May 2005.



Mining equipment and services representatives at the International Mining and Machinery Exhibition

Radio Australia ~ Understanding Australia Hindi Website



L to R: Dr David Dunstan, National Centre for Australian Studies, Monash University; Jean-Gabriel Manguy, Radio Australia; Dr Peter Friedlander, La Trobe University; Sue Slamen, Radio Australia; Carol Robertson, Australia India Council; Chris Baker, Monash University

Radio Australia has set up a new educational website aimed at the Hindi-speaking audience in India. The first of its kind, the 'Understanding Australia' website (written in both English and Hindi) will give Indians greater opportunity to further explore Australia, and help increase the understanding in India of how contemporary Australians live, work, and spend their leisure time.

Ms Michelle Marginson, Charge d' Affaires at the Australian High Commission, New Delhi, said, "we are delighted that an increasing number of Indians are interested in learning about contemporary Australia. This website will particularly assist the many Indians now choosing Australian institutions for higher studies, undertaking Australian Studies programs in India, or visiting Australia as tourists".

The Head of Radio Australia, Mr Jean-Gabriel Manguy, said audiences in India would benefit from this bi-lingual tool, "these resources benefit not only the Indian nationals seeking further information about Australians and our way of life, but also greatly assist Australia and Australians by encouraging a current and realistic view of our country and our culture".

The website was produced by Radio Australia in conjunction with the National Centre for Australian Studies at Monash University and the Australia-India Council.

Bi-lateral investment—Gujarat

A delegation of business and government leaders, led by the Chief Minister of Gujarat, visited Sydney and Melbourne in December 2004 to invite Australian businessmen to invest in infrastructural projects in Gujarat.

The delegation highlighted opportunities to invest in the development of ports, cold stores and warehouses along the 1,600-km coastline in Gujarat. The six-day visit to Australia of the delegation coincided with an announcement by Gujarat NRE Australia to enter into a strategic alliance with BHP Billiton Illawarra Coal in Sydney.

At a dinner hosted by Gujarat NRE Australia chairman, Arun Kumar Jagatramka, the company outlined its investment in "NRE No 1 Mine" (the first Indian investment in a mine in New South Wales) and its plans to use Illawarra Coal's processing facilities in Port Kembla to convert the raw coal into high quality coking coal.

The Gujarat NRE-BHP Billiton alliance will provide for the coking coal to be then used by Gujarat NRE in its coke ovens operations in Gujarat. The Gujarat NRE-BHP alliance is planning to use specialised mining equipment to increase production over the next three years to as much as 2.0 million tonnes per annum.

New South Wales Mineral Resources Minister Kerry Hickey also addressed the gathering and expressed hopes that there would be more collaboration between New South Wales and Gujarat and other Indian states. India's High Commissioner Prabhat Shukla and Consul General Madhusudan Ganapati also attended the function.

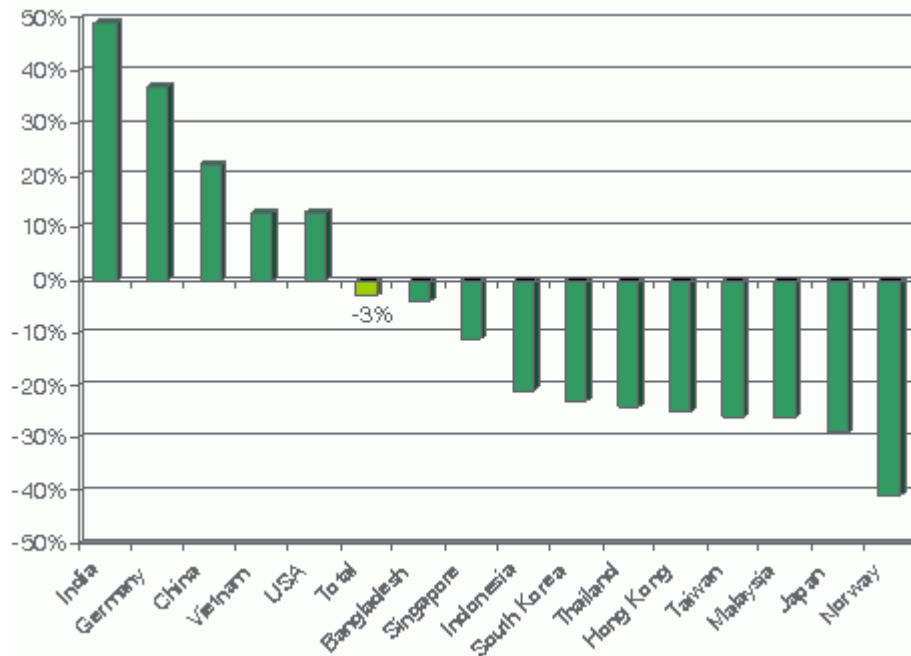
Strong growth in international students from India

Two years ago, IDP Education Australia predicted strong growth in international students from India choosing Australia. The student recruitment drive in India has meant a 59% increase in IDP recruitment to Australia in 2003 and a further 39% in 2004, well ahead of the total US market (down 2.4% in 2004) which has traditionally been India's number one destination.

IDP is Australia's leading international education organisation and each semester gathers detailed responses from all 39 universities on international student enrolments through all sources, not just IDP recruited students. The analysis of this data provides the first preliminary overview of international higher education in Australian universities.

IDP has released results for Semester 2, 2004, which shows that the total number of international students in Australian universities increased by 6 percent since Semester 2, 2003. International students onshore in Australia increased by 11 percent. However, students studying by distance or on a campus offshore declined by 4 percent.

The following chart is an overview of international student enrolments in Australian universities for Semester 2, 2004.



Stay up to date with trends impacting on student enrolments through the IDP e-newsletter. To subscribe, email your contact details to research@idp.com and quote "AIBC".

Merger between AICC (Vic) and AIBC

The AIBC and the Australia India Chamber of Commerce in Victoria have united to form a single Australia-India business association in Victoria under the banner of AIBC (Vic). The new Victorian Chapter will have close to 100 members giving it the capacity to deliver benefits to AIBC members not only in Victoria, but throughout Australia.

"The merger is the result of the hard work and leadership of the Victorian heads of the two associations, Mr Harish Rao and Mr Shabbir Wahid. As the single united Victorian voice for everyone interested in Australia-India business links, AIBC (Vic) will have considerably more influence with governments, businesses and communities of both countries." said Neville Roach, Chairman of the AIBC.

"Also, with its larger membership and resources, AIBC (Vic) will be able to organise an even richer programme of events and other activities than in 2004. The merger is a great example of one plus one will equalling 3, 4 or more!"

2005 Spirit of India Tour ~ Ustad Rashid Khan

Eminent Indian classical singer Ustad Rashid Khan, at the invitation of the Nataraj Cultural Centre, will tour Australia during March next year for the **2005 Spirit of India Tour**. Since 1980, the Nataraj Cultural Centre has brought leading Indian artists and musicians to Australia to perform and expose our audiences to the richness of Indian culture. Rashid Khan is an exponent of the *Rampur gharana* (a style of singing whose provenance is Rampur). It is a highly developed form of music, rooted in the ancient Vedic chant. Its themes are love and devotion, both secular and spiritual.

Mr Khan has developed over the years from a child prodigy to respected maestro. He is known for his extraordinary control over melody and rhythm. His performances usually end with a '*taraana*' by audience demand (a very difficult form of rare virtuoso singing). Rashid Khan has been a Scholar Musician at the prestigious ITC Sangreer Research Academy in Kolkata for a number of years.



Indian classical singer Ustad Rashid

Mr Khan has tour dates in Perth (2 March), Adelaide (4 – 5 March), Melbourne (6 March), Canberra (7 March), Brisbane (9 March), and Sydney (20 March), before heading on to Wellington and Christchurch in New Zealand. The 11-concert program is presented in conjunction with the Australia-India Council, Perth International Arts Festival, the WOMAdelaide Festival, the Judith Wright Centre in Brisbane, and NZ WOMAD. For more information on the 2005 Spirit of India Tour, please contact the Nataraj Cultural Centre at mohindar@ozemail.com.au, or by phone/fax on 613 971973354.

Invest Australia—Mission to India

Invest Australia's second mission to India aimed to elevate Australia's profile as investment destination to one of the world's fastest growing and increasingly important and influential economies. Invest Australia representatives met with Indian corporates expanding internationally with a desire to invest in Australia. The Australian government encourages foreign direct investment (FDI) in areas including clean coal technology, oil and gas, power generation as well as renewable and other energy related investment. "We wish India to consider Australia as the most preferred destination for FDI. India is already Australia's seventh largest trading partner and we are working towards strong and consistent growth in FDI from India", said Anthony Donnellan, Investment Manager, India at Invest Australia.



L to R: Mr Partha Sen, Austrade; Mr Anthony Donnellan, Invest Australia; Mr Richard Swann, Theiss; Mr Paresh Shah, Western Australian Trade Office; Mr Stan Sielaff, Dept of Premier and Cabinet, Qld; Mr Michael Moignard, Austrade; Mr Martin Walsh, Austrade; Mr Anjana Beniwal, Austrade.

Major Indian investments in Australia include that by India's Oswal Group to construct the world's largest ammonia plant at Karratha close to the North-West Shelf project in the state of Western Australia. Among other substantial investments in Australia from Indian companies includes Sterlite Industries which has acquired two copper mines in the state of Tasmania in Mt Lyell and a copper and gold mine in the state of Queensland at Charters Towers. The Aditya Birla Group has also acquired the Nifty copper mine in Western Australia and the Mt Gordon mine in Queensland. Asian Paints also acquired Pacific Paints in Queensland.

"Apart from energy and resources Australia is also seeking FDI from India in areas like biotechnology, agribusiness, bio-fuels advanced manufacturing, automotive and financial services" said Phillip Martin, Investment Manager, Energy and Infrastructure. Major Indian IT companies including Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, Satyam and Infosys have a presence in Australia delivering contractual services along with other research and development activities.

Million-dollar shine on Indo-Australian film ties

The 35th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which was held in Goa from 29 November to 9 December 2004 include an Australian package of five films known as 'Raw Edge', and two new release Australian features selected to screen as part of the prestigious 'Cinema of the World' section.

'Raw Edge', developed with the assistance of the Australia-India Council (AIC) and IFFI, was curated by Rebecca Williams from Sydney based production company films and casting TEMPLE, and consists of a hand full of acclaimed Australian films released over the last decade. Titles include; *The Boys*, *Walking on Water*, *Lantana*, *Praise*, and *Chopper*, with the films showcasing a large array of Australian actors who have since entered the international limelight..

IFFI's 'Cinema of the World' section included two very different Australian films; *Somersault*, a coming of age story directed by newcomer Cate Shortland, and *A Man's Gotta Do*, a comedy by Chris Kennedy.

Mr Michael Abbott QC, Chairman of the Australia-India Council, has been quick to support this year's Australian film package and the cross cultural appeal of Australian cinema. "The Australia-India Council is proud to support the participation of Australian films in the 35th International Film Festival of India. This provides Indian audiences an opportunity to see the exceptional work of contemporary Australian film makers."

The Australia-India Council supported a small film delegation including head of the Australia India Business Council's Film Arts Media Entertainment chapter Mr Anupam Sharma. Other members of the delegation included director Chris Kennedy and producer John Winter.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST—AUSTRALIA

- 2005 Arts of Asia lecture series "Focus on Faith" Tuesdays 1-2pm The Domain. Term 1: 1 March to 7 June. For further information email: annm@ag.nsw.gov.au
- "What it takes to be a global leader" featuring the Chairman of WIPRO Mr Azim Premji, Monday 14 February, NSW Trade and Investment Centre L44 225 George St Sydney. Contact Frances Bryce Email: atsevents@business.nsw.gov.au

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST—INDIA

- Indo-Australasia Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet – 21st to 23rd February'05 (Engineering). If you are interested in participating please contact Mr J Branko at the Indian High Commission as soon as possible. The Engineering Export Promotion Council will offer incentives to delegates attending from Australasia, including generous assistance with airfare, food and accommodation.
- Austrade Retail Mission to India 21-26 February 2005 Email: Sandeep.Khurana@austrade.gov.au
- Global Entrepreneurs' Meet 3rd International Conference, 5&6 February 2005, Hotel Grand Hyatt, Mumbai Email: Mr Shree Shirodkar shree@indiabiz.com.au
- For further events in India, please refer to the website of the Indian Consulate General (Sydney) www.indianconsulatesydney.org/Programme_of_Events_India.pdf; and the High Commission of India (Canberra) www.highcommissionofindiaaustralia.org/Impevents_pg.htm

Australia-India Focus

The Australia-India Focus newsletter is produced bi-monthly by the Australia-India Council and the Australia India Business Council.

Australia-India Focus aims to inform our readers on the range of cultural and business activities occurring between Australia and India.

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The Australia-India Council (AIC) was established in 1992 in response to a recommendation by the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, following an inquiry into Australia's relations with India.

The Council initiates or supports a range of activities designed to promote a greater awareness of Australia in India and a greater awareness of India in Australia, including visits and exchanges between the two countries, development of institutional links, and support of studies in each country of the other.

The Council offers support, in the form of funding, for projects likely to contribute to the development of the relationship, within the context of AIC objectives and guidelines.

For more information, visit www.dfat.gov.au/aic

The Executive Director, AIC
PO Box E8 Kingston ACT 2604
Telephone +61 2 6261 3839
Facsimile +61 2 6261 1304
E-mail: ausindia.council@dfat.gov.au

The AIBC is a national NGO and is recognised by the Australian government as the peak body for promoting business links between Australia and India.

The AIBC is the first point of contact by government and business representatives from both countries seeking access to industry, business and government leaders of both countries.

The AIBC maintains close relationships with strategic government agencies, the diplomatic corps and industry bodies, and also has an affiliated counterpart in India, the India Australia Joint Business Council.

The AIBC has representatives and members across all states and territories in Australia, and has three different membership categories available.

For more information, visit www.aibc.org.au

The Executive Director, AIBC
GPO Box 3271, Sydney NSW 2001.

Telephone : +61 2 9258 7858
Facsimile: +61 2 9258 7888
E-mail: info@aibc.org.au