



December 2008

# AUSTRALIA-INDIA FOCUS

Published by the Australia-India Council & The Australia India Business Council



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## NEW DIALOGUE HELPS ROUND OUT AUSTRALIA-INDIA RELATIONS



**Several dozen leading experts** and former high-ranking officials from India and Australia met in Sydney on 12 and 13 November for the first round of a new non-government forum to share perspectives on international policy challenges.

The Australia-India Roundtable was convened by the Lowy Institute for International Policy and the Indian Council of World Affairs, with support from the Australia-India Council (AIC).

It builds upon an earlier 'second track' process, a bilateral security roundtable which was also supported by the AIC. The expanded forum is intended to cover a comprehensive range of policy concerns facing Australia and India as the two countries deepen ties with each other and their engagement with the world.

At the Sydney meeting, held at the Lowy Institute's Bligh Street headquarters, participants shared viewpoints and looked for areas of policy convergence on issues as diverse as education, climate change, nuclear arms control and energy, and the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Other subjects touched upon in the wide-ranging discussions included the global financial and economic crisis, media misperceptions of Australia and India, and the shifting strategic order in Asia with the rise of China and changes in regional diplomatic architecture.

The forum began with presentations setting out each country's international policy framework. It concluded with an

examination of prospects for the bilateral relationship, including practical policy recommendations.

The Lowy Institute's coordinator of the Roundtable, Rory Medcalf, said that the dialogue had revealed some strong convergences in Australian and Indian views, especially on Afghanistan and the geopolitics of Asia. Clear complementarities in education, including Australia's scope to assist with the development of India's vocational education sector, were also apparent. At the same time, the talks underscored the hard work that lay ahead in attempting to bridge Australian and Indian positions on climate change, he said.

"On nuclear issues, it became clear from the discussion that India and Australia are not going to let their differences on uranium exports seriously damage the wider relationship or get in the way of efforts to find common ground on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament globally," Mr Medcalf said.

The talks took place under the Chatham House Rule, to encourage candour. Diplomats and officials from many Australian policy departments attended as observers. A highlight was an extended discussion with the Secretary of DFAT, Mr Michael L'Estrange. Senior members of the Indian delegation, Ambassador S J S Chhatwal and Ambassador Ashok Kumar, also held meetings in Canberra, including a call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Stephen Smith.

Mr Medcalf said that the agenda and the composition of the delegations would vary from year to year, to ensure that many issues of mutual concern could be addressed in depth. The next Roundtable is due to be held in India in late 2009.



Participants in the Australia-India Roundtable convened by the Lowy Institute and the Indian Council of World Affairs.



## MINISTERS MEET IN NEW DELHI

Indian External Affairs Minister, Pranab Mukherjee and Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister Stephen Smith met in New Delhi on September 12 and discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and importance.

A joint statement issued by the governments of the two countries said the discussions covered a wide-range of subjects, reflecting the increasingly close ties between India and Australia. It stated that India-Australia relations have significantly grown in the recent years encompassing greater political, economic, defence and scientific fields, and people-to-people cooperation.

Recognising the importance of close and mutually beneficial relations between the two important countries in their respective regions, both Ministers agreed to take the level of relations to a strategic partnership and work towards the objective. Both ministers welcomed the increasing dynamism of the economic partnership, and noted in particular the growing diversification of trade and investment linkages.

The complementarity of the two economies pointed to further scope for creating business opportunities in both countries. They noted the progress on the feasibility study on Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and reaffirmed the importance of concluding the study on schedule by the end of the year so that both the Governments could consider recommendations and determine next steps. They also reaffirmed their strong commitment to the successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Round.

The ministers noted the importance of two-way resources engagement between India and Australia and welcomed the ongoing work to develop strategy papers under the Joint Working Group on Energy and Resources, to further enhance Australia-India cooperation.

Building on the initiatives announced at the Foreign Ministers Framework Dialogue in Canberra on 23 June, 2008, the Ministers expressed satisfaction at the conclusion of MOU on Cooperation in Water Management, and establishment of a Joint Working Group on Passports, Visas and Consular Matters.

They welcomed the continuing strong relationship between India and Australia in science and technology. In particular they noted the success of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund in attracting high-tech projects, including in innovative fields such as biotechnology, which could have significant commercial spin-offs.

The recent signing of an MOU between CSIR, India and CSIRO, Australia to carry out joint research activities through exchange of scientists/researchers was also welcomed.

The Ministers noted that important people-to-people links were being underpinned by education. In the first seven months of 2008, over 77,000 Indian students have enrolled in Australian institutions – making Australia the second most popular destination for Indian students seeking education overseas.



The Hon Minister for External Affairs, Pranab Mukherjee and Stephen Smith before their meeting in Delhi in September.



## MINISTER MARTIN FERGUSON VISITS INDIA

**The Minister for Resources, Energy, and Tourism, Martin Ferguson AM MP, made a five-day visit to India in November 2008. He met with industry and government representatives to reaffirm Australia's commitment to strong bilateral relationships in the resources, energy, and tourism sectors.**

In Delhi, Minister Ferguson met with several of his ministerial counterparts, including the Ministers of Tourism, Power, Mines, Coal, Petroleum and Natural Gas, and the Secretary of New and Renewable Energy.

During his visit, Minister Ferguson delivered the Opening Address at the 2008 International Mining and Machinery Exhibition (IMME) being held in Kolkata, where more than 50 Australian organisations were represented.

Resources and energy represent around 90 per cent of the value of total Australian exports to India and were worth more than \$A9 billion throughout 2007.

The Minister emphasised both the importance and potential of Australia's resources relationship with India in his opening address.

Minister Ferguson told IMME delegates:

- Australia will continue to be a reliable supplier of commodities to India to support its industrial and infrastructure development;
- Australia wants to invest in the development of India's mining industry to help unlock its wealth for the Indian nation and Australia continues to welcome Indian investment in our own resources and energy sector;



Minister Ferguson with Mrs Ambika Soni, Hon Minister for Tourism and Minister for Culture.



- The Australian mining services and technology sector wants to offer its world-leading products and services to the Indian mining industry to help improve exploration success, mine safety, environmental management, and the efficiency of resource extraction; and
- Australia wants to continue our engagement with India on issues such as energy security and climate change, including carbon capture and storage technology, hydrogen and fuel cell technology, renewable technology, and more efficient industrial processes.

Minister Ferguson said: "These elements are the building blocks for a strong and enduring Australian-Indian partnership in resources and energy for the 21st century.

"Resources and energy will continue to be the cornerstone of India and Australia's bi-lateral trading relationship."

Minister Ferguson also highlighted Indian investment in Australia is growing and he told delegates Australia's transparent and open foreign investment regime should encourage further investment from India.

Minister Ferguson said: "Australia is a country built on foreign investment and we are delighted foreign companies want to invest in Australia, particularly when it is in our national interest and facilitates the development of Australia's resources for the benefit of Australians.

"I hope the growing investment flows between Australia and India will continue in a mutually beneficial way to allow the development of our resources sector and to help meet the growing needs of the Indian economy for our resources."

Minister Ferguson said: "There is already a very strong association between our nations and it is the Australian Government's view that for both nations, the Australia-India relationship is one of the great opportunities of this century.

"India has experienced remarkable economic growth in recent years and India's emergence as an economy of global significance is of the greatest importance to Australia's resources, energy, and tourism sectors."

During his visit, Minister Ferguson also officially opened Tourism Australia's first office in India (in Mumbai). India is one of Australia's fastest growing tourism markets and it provides Australia with a fantastic opportunity.

India is already Australia's 12th largest market in terms of visitor numbers and 10th largest in terms of Economic Value.

Tourism Australia expects 114,000 visitors from India will travel to Australia during 2008 – an annual increase of 20 per cent. Forecasts suggest double-digit growth will continue throughout the next decade and that India will be Australia's 5th largest tourism market by 2017.

"India is a rapidly developing economy and is increasing in global significance. It has a burgeoning middle-class population, to whom travel is important.

"Surveys suggest Indians recognise Australia as a safe and family-friendly destination which offers diverse experiences. Tourism Australia's new office will play a crucial role in further increasing awareness of our country among Indian travellers."

Tourism Australia will launch its new marketing campaign created by acclaimed Australian film director and producer, Baz Luhrmann, in India in the first quarter of 2009. The campaign will appear in Indian cinemas, in print, and online.



## NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE AUSTRALIA-INDIA COUNCIL

**Ms Suzanne Davies** has been appointed Chairperson of the Australia-India Council (AIC) for a period of one year. Ms Davies is Director and Chief Curator of the RMIT Gallery in Melbourne, and has led several highly successful events in the Council's Arts program since her appointment in 2004. Ms Davies will be the first female Chair of the Council, and succeeds Mr Darren Gribble, who has retired from the AIC.

The following board members have also been appointed or reappointed:

**Mr Vinod Daniel**, Chairman of AusHeritage and Head of Cultural Heritage and Science Initiatives at the Australian Museum, has been re-appointed to the board for a second three-year term. Mr Daniel is an Australian with Indian roots who has been responsible for many successful AIC Cultural Heritage programs in India.

**Mr Miles Kupa**, Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has also been appointed to the board for a three year term. Mr Kupa, a career officer who recently returned from an appointment as Australia's High Commissioner to Singapore, now has overall responsibility for Australia's bilateral relations with South Asia, including India.

Other board members are **Mr Sandy Hollway AO** (consultant) and **Professor Robin Jeffrey** of the Australian National University.



## CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY (CII) SKILLS SUMMIT

**Education, training and skills** development has emerged as a major focus for India in the past few years due to the size of its youth, with 12.8 million people entering the workforce every year. Currently India has the capacity to train only 2-3 million people per year.

Australia played a prominent role as the partner country in the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Skills Summit held on 17 & 18 September 2008. The potential for collaboration is significant as India looks to countries like Australia for guidance and collaboration.

With over 350 delegates, seven Australian speakers, high level government and industry representation and extensive media, the CII Skills Summit was a major success. Australia was selected as the partner country following a high level VET delegation to India last year. A return VET delegation from India is scheduled for February 2009.

The Indian Minister of State (Labour and Employment), Mr Oscar Fernandes, was the Chief Guest, giving the inaugural address in which he highlighted the importance of education, training and skills development in India. The Secretary (Labour and Employment) also spoke, followed by Mr Jim Davidson, Deputy Secretary, Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

The Australia-specific plenary session which followed the inaugural speeches included an address by the acting

Australian High Commissioner, Mr David Holly. The Education Counsellor, Ms Kelly Raj, and the Branch Manager, Industry Engagement, DEEWR, Ms Susan Hewlett, also highlighted Australia's role as a provider of quality education in VET and Higher Education.

The Summit focused on the 5 key industry sectors of Automotive, Construction, Financial, Health and Retail, with three Australian Industry Skills Council Chairs presenting at sector sessions as follows:

- Ms Kareena Ballard, Chair, Construction and Property Services Skills Council
- Mr John Vines, Chair, Innovation and Business Skills Council
- Mr Dan Hill, Chair, Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council

There were also presentations by German, Swiss, New Zealand and US government and industry representatives.

Mr Sharda Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, gave the closing speech, saying that the Government of India will encourage the States to replicate the Federal Government's National Skills Development Corporation and National Council on Skills Development headed by the Prime Minister. The Indian government will be looking to Australia and other countries for expertise and guidance on a range of issues, including assistance with the development of their new National Qualifications Framework.



The CII Skills Summit was a major success and highlighted the potential for collaboration between India and Australia.



## SUNITA NARAIN DELIVERS THE 2008 “K.R. NARAYANAN ORATION”

The **Australia-India Council (AIC)** was honoured to support the visit to Australia of Ms Sunita Narain, Director of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in New Delhi, Director of the Society for Environmental Communications and publisher of the fortnightly magazine 'Down to Earth'. Ms Narain was in Australia at the invitation of the Australia South Asia Research Centre at the Australian National University (ANU) to deliver the 2008 K.R. Narayanan Oration, entitled “Why environment needs equity: Learning from the environmentalism of the poor to build our common future” on 16 September 2008.

Ms Narain is widely considered to be one of the most influential environmental activists in India. She is a senior adviser to the Government of India on climate change and several other environmental issues, and her work has spanned water management, alternative energies, sustainable development and global approaches to climate change. She was the winner of the 2005 Stockholm Water Prize, an honour often referred to as the ‘Nobel’ of the environment world.

The K.R. Narayanan Oration is an annual lecture featuring an eminent Indian speaking on a topic related to economic development in Australia and India. The Oration has been a

joint initiative of the ANU and the Australia-India Council (AIC) for several years. The AIC provides grant funding to ANU to support the Oration and arranges a program for the speaker. It is one of two prestigious public lectures that the AIC supports in Australia, and the calibre of the speakers from India has been outstanding. The 2007 Narayanan Oration featured Dr Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), who went on to win the Nobel Prize two months after his Oration.



Ms Sunita Narain, Director of the Centre for Science and Environment.

## AUSTRALIA/INDIA PUBLIC SECTOR LINKAGES PROGRAM

**AusAID will be accepting the next Round of proposals under the Australia/India Public Sector Linkages Program from 1-27 March 2009.**

The Public Sector Linkages Program (PSLP) aims to improve public sector capacity for governance and management for nationally determined development outcomes. PSLP offers departments and agencies of Australian federal, state and territory governments, as well as Australian public universities, the opportunity to compete for grant funding that will:

- Transfer capacity building skills and expertise to their public sector counterpart institutions in partner countries; and
- Support strengthening of sustainable development-focused public sector bilateral and regional linkages.

Grants are generally, but not necessarily, between \$50,000 and \$250,000.

Preference will be given to Activity Concept Submissions that:

- Support effective government to government interaction in climate change, water and resource management, agriculture/dryland farming, economic policy, public sector effectiveness, and improve basic service delivery in education and health.
- Are focused on bilateral initiatives in India or are South Asian regional initiatives that incorporate India in a significant way, and
- Are small scale, strengthen key institutions and build their capacity to implement reforms.

**Details on the scheme are available at the AusAID website at:**  
<http://www.usaid.gov.au/pslp>



## INDIA UPDATE SEMINAR

**The 2008 India Update Seminar**, jointly organised by the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific and the University of Canberra, was held in Canberra on 6-7 November. It examined key areas of the Australia-India bilateral relationship, including mining, media, education, economic ties, science, politics and the changing face of cricket.

The distinguished speakers included A.D. Baijal, Tata Steel Group Director, Professor Varun Sahni of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Malcolm Speed (former CEO of the International Cricket Council), Professor Robin Jeffrey of ANU and long-time ABC Asia Pacific correspondent, Graeme Dobell.

Among the many highlights of the Seminar was the Mining Session, chaired by AIBC Emeritus Chairman, Neville Roach AO. It focused on the considerable potential for cooperation and commercial engagement between India and Australia in the mining sector. The two speakers, Mr Baijal of Tata Steel and Mr Mike Moignard of Austrade both emphasized the importance of effective intercultural communication. Both Tata

and Austrade run training and familiarisation courses to inform potential ventures from each nation.

The remarkable growth of India was highlighted in the Media session, which outlined the enormous and growing news media market in India. In contrast to the western world, where print media is in decline, India has a huge appetite for newspapers. There are 62,483 registered newspapers across the country, more than 2000 daily newspapers, and a total national circulation of 119 million. This expansion is also flowing into other media, with 56 24-hour news television channels in India.

The 2008 India Update was the revival of an earlier annual series of India Updates. The high quality of the speakers and attendance has encouraged the organizers to again hold the event annually. One of the suggestions currently under consideration is to hold the next Update in India, entitled the 'Australia Update'.

The Australia-India Council was proud to support the participation of Mr Baijal at the 2008 India Update.



Photograph: James Giggacher of ANU

Mr A.D. Baijal, Tata Steel Group Director, was one of the speakers at the 2008 India Update Seminar.



## POET GEOFF PAGE TOURS INDIA

**I thought perhaps eight lines would hold them,  
store the details that I've seen,  
but India has proved much wider  
than any LA movie screen.**

**The sounds are too loud for the soundtrack;  
the filmstock's problems are the same;  
the images are small explosions.  
Everything's outside the frame.**

*Geoff Page*

***Indian Pixels***, a collection of 30 poems by eminent Australian poet, Geoff Page, provides a lasting testament to his recent tour of India as a guest of the Australia-India Council.

Geoff undertook an eight day tour in October 2008, During the October tour, participating in the Mussoorie Writer's festival and a one-day poetry seminar in Ajmer; and spoke at universities and schools in Mussoorie, New Delhi, Jaipur and Chennai. His poems, including some translated into Hindi and Tamil, were read by local poets and students at various events.

Geoff's tour was part of the Australia-India Council's Australian Authors Touring program, which aims to showcase the best of Australian writing and writers in India. The program also complements the AIC's Australian Studies program, which promotes the study of Australia in India and the establishment of academic linkages.

A small brochure containing a collection of Geoff's poems that he specially selected for his India tour was produced and distributed at his featured events. It was very well received as an excellent introduction to his work, and also proved to be a good souvenir for the participants, many of whom were lucky enough to secure the poet's autograph on it!

The tour included readings and talks at the famous Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Dayanand College in Ajmer, Rajasthan University in Jaipur, the Modern School in New Delhi, the University of Madras, and St Michael's School in Chennai.

The success of Geoff's tour was aptly captured by Professor Sudha Rai, Head of the Department of English at Rajasthan University in Jaipur. "We had quite an in-depth and fascinating introduction to Australian culture and history. Thank you so much for bringing us this rare and prolific writer."



Australian poet, Geoff Page, who participated in the Australia-India Council's Australian Authors Touring program.



## UNSW SAFETY EXPERTS TO ASSIST MUMBAI

**A team of safety and risk** experts from the University of New South Wales will investigate the systemic failures which allowed a small group of terrorists to hold a city of some 18 million people hostage.

The visit to Mumbai by academics from the School of Safety Science and the Centre for Risk Management follows a new co-operation agreement between the UNSW and the University of Mumbai, one of the world's largest networks of campuses with hundreds of thousands of students spread across scores of city colleges.

UNSW, which signed an interim Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Mumbai in December, will partner with Indian academics in developing strategies for addressing external threats across the extensive campus network and its environs.

"They have a serious crisis on their hands and we can help them in their time of need to understand how to develop the skills to deal with threats of terrorism, injury and harm," said Professor Paul Barach, Director of the NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre, and Head of the UNSW's School of Safety Science.

UNSW trains the largest number of students in the world in safety, and its expertise includes strategic risk assessment of threats

such as terrorism, climate change and toxic spills as well as the development of world class systems to respond to "injurious" events from disasters, to road accidents and gun violence.

In signing the MOU, the Sherriff of Mumbai, Dr Indu Shahani, said: "It is overwhelming to see the positive response from young people. I am getting so many messages from my students saying they want to help out. This is the spirit that is going to fight terrorism."

Dr Shahani, who is also Dean of Commerce and Economics at the University of Mumbai, said the MOU with UNSW was an important vote of confidence in India's financial capital.

Professor Barach said the initial visit to Mumbai will gather the data needed to understand external threats to the campuses and the city, before developing strategies and training programs alongside and cooperation with Indian researchers.

The MOU will pave the way for greatly expanded links in a range of key areas of expertise at UNSW including safety science, risk management and counter-terrorism, nanotechnology, biotechnology and solar energy. UNSW is also planning to introduce Hindi language classes in future, as part of an expanding Indian studies program. The visit of the University of Mumbai delegation to Sydney was facilitated by Austrade.



Sheriff of Mumbai and Principal of HR College of Commerce and Economics Churchgate, Dr Indu Shahani (Centre) with academic delegates.



## NEWS UPDATE

**Melbourne-based Hallmark Editions** has taken up the responsibilities for operating the national secretariat for the Australia India Business Council. Hallmark will be responsible for membership administration, sponsorship, financial management & reporting, marketing and communications through all mediums including the website, secretariat administration and the annual AIBC National Conference/Dinner.

The primary point of contact at Hallmark is Simon Davis who can be contacted on +3 8534-5070 or [simon.davis@aibc.org.au](mailto:simon.davis@aibc.org.au). Simon will be supported by Joanne King +3 8534-5070 [joanne.king@aibc.org.au](mailto:joanne.king@aibc.org.au).

Planning is already underway for a number of key events including the 2009 AIBC National Conference/Dinner which will take place on 20 May 2009 in Sydney. For expressions of interest to present/sponsor at this prestigious forum which is likely to include a delegation from India, please contact Simon Davis.

### Brian Hayes appointed special envoy

**Australia India Business Council** Chairman, Brian Hayes, has been appointed as South Australia's special envoy to India, a role previously held by cricketer Darren Lehmann.

Mr Hayes said he hoped to build on the progress made by the business delegations sent to India over the past four years. "What I have in mind, and think this is shared by the Premier, is to tap into some of the wealth that India has which is continuing to grow at the moment," Hayes said.

"In this State we've got skills, we've got intellectual capacity in a whole series of areas. We've got winemaking, we've got the mining boom coming up, we've got infrastructure which is going to be built, but we don't always have the necessary money to get all these projects up and running."

### Indian retailers sample local produce

From Australia's iconic vegemite to virgin olive oils, snack foods to gourmet sauces, and wines to fresh juices, quality Australian

## INDIA RECOGNISES AUSTRALIAN ARBITRAL AWARDS

India has recently added Australia to the list of countries from which it will recognise arbitral awards. As a result, arbitral awards made in Australia are now enforceable in Indian courts.

Australia has recognised foreign arbitral awards made in India for a number of years, so the change to the Indian law provides for a harmonisation of the Australian and Indian systems. India's move to enable enforcement of Australian arbitral awards should help to bring greater certainty to commercial deals between Australian and Indian companies.

**Information relating to international commercial arbitration in Australia is available at: [www.icdr.gov.au](http://www.icdr.gov.au)**



Brian Hayes accepting the award for Ambassador of the year from Brian Cunningham, Chief Executive, DTED

food and beverages are coming to Indian supermarkets this festive season.

Three Indian supermarket chains – SPAR, Hypercity and Nature's Basket – and Indian import and distribution company Epicure Foods, have spent 10 days in Melbourne, Tasmania and Sydney to source quality Australian products for their fast-growing stores.

Cookies, confectionery, cereals, canned vegetables, juices and other products from 22 Australian companies are already on SPAR's shelves in Bangalore. "About 35 to 40 per cent of snack foods are imported", says Mr. Satish S.V., Business Manager of SPAR Max Hypermarket.

Mumbai-based HyperCity's category managers, Ms. Shweta Mohile and Mr. Y.V. Rao, said, their company was looking at unique products – Australian leatherwood honey, macadamia nuts, shortbreads – which can capture a niche market.

Godrej-owned Nature's Basket has already placed an order for salad dressings and sauces, cereals, honey, olive oils, biscuits and crackers. "There is a wide range of cuisine available in Australia and we have noticed that retailers can ask manufacturers for specific products tailored to their specific



markets," says Mr. Sudhir Kadav, Operations Manager of Nature's Basket.

The visit, organised by Bemco with support from the NSW Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD), followed a successful "Taste Australia" promotion held in Bangalore last November that introduced Indian consumers to more than 120 new food and beverage products from 22 Australian companies.

As Australia becomes more aggressive in its exports to India and the Indian retail market grows, in the coming years, Australian products would be represented far more in their product range, says Mr. Sanjay Tandon, Managing Director; and Mr. Murali Shanker, CEO (Operations) of Epicure Frozen Foods and Beverages.

## Food and wines on display at IFE India 2008

The Australian Trade Commission showcased award winning wines, beverages and gourmet food products from Australia at IFE India 2008 – the international food, drink and hospitality exhibition.

Organised from 2 to 4 December 2008 at New Delhi, the Australian Trade Commission had put together the "UTSAV Australia Pavilion" featuring award winning wine producers and suppliers of processed foods from Australia.

According to Michael Carter, Trade Commissioner, Australian Trade Commission, "Australia has a strong international reputation for producing fresh and high quality food. Our recent Australian Sea Food and Wine festival across India has created significant awareness of the quality, taste and range of Australian food and wines amongst discerning Indian consumers and hospitality trade. At IFE India 2008, we have a range of producers and suppliers of wines & gourmet processed foods from Australia that are interested in supplying to the hospitality and organised retail sector industry in India".




**For more information on accessing Australia's supply capabilities across the spectrum of food and beverages .from Australian companies, please email to [utsavaustralia@ustrade.gov.au](mailto:utsavaustralia@ustrade.gov.au)**

## Mohan Monteiro to step down

After many years of dedicated service, Mohan Monteiro, President of AIBC NSW Chapter had decided to step down and Dipen Rughani, will be the incoming President, commencing from January 2009.



Mohan has been the backbone of the NSW Chapter for several years and under his leadership and guidance, the Chapter has grown from strength to strength. The NSW Chapter of the AIBC will continue to build on the strong foundations



## AUSTRALIA INDIA BUSINESS SUMMIT 2009

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**Sofitel**  
**Sydney, Wednesday 20 May 2009**  
**Conference 8.45am-5.00pm**  
**Dinner 7.00pm**

The Australia India Business Council will hold its annual conference on **May 20, 2009.**

**Venue:** Sofitel Sydney Wentworth Hotel

The conference will review the dynamic trade and investment developments between the two countries in mining, IT, education and related fields.

**Details of the conference will be updated at [www.aibc.org.au](http://www.aibc.org.au)**

that Mohan has imparted. We take this opportunity to thank Mohan for his hard work and leadership and wish him all the very best for his future.

## Tata buys into geothermal energy

Tata Power has announced that it would acquire a 11.4 per cent stake in Geodynamics Ltd, an Australian company specializing in geothermal energy, for approximately \$45 million. Geothermal energy is the natural heat emanating from within the earth.

Both companies have also agreed to review the potential of geothermal prospects outside Australia. This alliance also helps Tata Power in securing a foothold in the growing renewable energy market in Australia.



Geodynamics has developed enhanced geothermal exploration interests in three Australian States including the licence for exploring 2000 sq. km. of area in the Cooper Basin, which is spread across South Australia and extends into Queensland.

Mr. Prasad Menon, Managing Director, Tata Power, said, "the partnership strengthens the company's renewable portfolio and creates opportunities to get a foothold in the growing renewable energy market in Australia".

## Events

• **27 January - 5 February**, speaking tour of India by climate change activist Professor Tim Flannery. Please see <http://www.india.embassy.gov.au/ndli/aic.html> for details.



AIBC SA was named International Chamber of the year 2008 in the Council for International Trade and Commerce SA Annual Awards. Pictured: Ken Meek (centre) and Rajini Wood (right) accepting the award from the Deputy Premier of SA, Hon Kevin Foley.



The 'India to the Max' AIBC business mission to India in October, led by former test cricketer Max Walker, was successful in building on trading links, according to the participants. The mission visited Mumbai, New Delhi, Agra and Chennai and was the first delegation to visit India following the signing of the sister city strategic alliance between Melbourne and New Delhi. Pre-arranged business matching ensured that it was time well-spent and the mission ended its tour at New Delhi for the first day of the 3rd Test between Australia and India.



## 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. The views expressed within this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Australia-India Council or the Australia India Business Council. Articles may be reproduced freely with acknowledgement.

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Australian Government



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](http://www.dfat.gov.au/aic)**

**Or contact: The Executive Director,  
AIC PO Box 5363 Kingston ACT 2604  
Telephone +61 2 6261 3833  
Email: [ausindia.council@dfat.gov.au](mailto:ausindia.council@dfat.gov.au)**



*Australia India  
Business Council*

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

The Council runs business events in major capitals of Australia and runs trade delegations to India.

**For more information, visit [www.aibc.org.au](http://www.aibc.org.au)**

**Or contact: National Secretariat AIBC  
99 Bay St Brighton Vic 3186  
Telephone: +61 3 8534 5070  
Fax: +61 3 8534 5140  
Email: [secretariat@aibc.org.au](mailto:secretariat@aibc.org.au)**