



Australian Government



AUSTRALIA-INDIA COUNCIL

Program Report

2008-2009



Front Cover:

AIC Special Awards Ceremony at the Australian High Commission in New Delhi, 6 March 2009

From L to R: Professor Robin Jeffrey, Ms Suzanne Davies, Professor Darvesh Gopal,
Professor Pankaj Singh, His Excellency John McCarthy AO, Dr Jasleen Dhamija,
Dr Alka Pande, Dr Jyotindra Jain, Mr Suman Bery and Mr Tarun Das.

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Australian Government



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The Honourable Stephen Smith MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I have pleasure in submitting the program report of the Australia-India Council, covering the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Suzanne Davies' in a cursive script.

Ms Suzanne Davies
Chairman

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INTRODUCTION

The Australia-India Council (AIC) was established on 21 May 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's purpose is to broaden the relationship between Australia and India by encouraging and supporting contacts and increasing levels of knowledge and understanding between the peoples and institutions of the two countries.

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.

By initiating and supporting a range of activities that have put it on the map, the Council has played a recognised and respected role in promoting the relationship between Australia and India. It has informed and educated Indians about Australia, and it has informed persons interested in the bilateral relationship about the way it is developing. It has furthered the Government's foreign policy and trade objectives and added value to Australia-India relations. A fundamental thrust of the Council's work is to represent Australian capabilities and achievements to the Indian public and opinion-formers.

The Council comprises a board of members with interests in the relationship, drawn from a wide cross-section of the Australian community. Ms Suzanne Davies was appointed Chair of the Council in December 2008.

The Council is supported by a secretariat located in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra and in New Delhi. The Australian High Commission in New Delhi also promotes the Council's activities in India.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to report that the Australia-India Council (AIC) delivered a full and diverse suite of activities in 2008-09. The program was developed from two main sources: projects and programs that the AIC supported through its public grants process, and activities that the Council itself initiated. This has been the AIC's successful practice for many years, and it provides the flexibility necessary to respond rapidly to emerging opportunities and challenges in the Australia-India relationship.

Opportunities and challenges have been very evident in the work of the Council over the past year. There are enormous opportunities in the area that is increasingly dominating debate in both countries – the environment. Australia and India share many of the same environmental challenges, and scope remains for closer cooperation on these matters. After the Council hosted several outstanding Indian environmentalists for highly successful Australian tours, the decision was taken to send one of Australia's best known environmentalists to India. Former Australian of the Year, Tim Flannery, toured India in January 2009 and it was a resounding success. The Council subsequently decided to make the AIC Environmental Tour an annual event.

Advances in technology will need to play a major role in addressing Australia and India's mutual environmental challenges. In 2008-09, the AIC initiated its first recurring program to support greater science and technology linkages with the establishment of the Australia India Science & Technology Research Awards. The Awards facilitate a two-way exchange between young scientists in Australia and India, and are managed by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) in conjunction with the Indian National Academy of Engineering. Fittingly, the focus topic for the inaugural awards was 'Energy generation in a low carbon future'.

Several challenges beset India and the Australia-India relationship in 2008-09. After the horrific terrorist attacks in Mumbai in November 2008, several AIC-supported programs were postponed or cancelled. The AIC Board showed its support for the people of Mumbai by making an official visit to the city in March 2009, to consolidate and extend the Council's valuable networks there.

The complex and often distressing issues surrounding Indian student safety and welfare in Australia also came to prominence in 2009. It is indisputable that these issues have caused harm to Australia's reputation and standing in India that will not be easily overcome. In response, the Council worked closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to bolster the public diplomacy campaign to rebuild Australia's image in India. In 2009-10, we will prioritise activities that showcase

Australia as a culturally diverse and successful multicultural society. We will also redouble our efforts to establish greater links with Indian journalists, to ensure that India's large and dynamic media sector has an accurate understanding of contemporary Australia.

The relationships that the Council and its activities cultivate can add ballast to the relationship when it is tested. I was particularly touched to learn that, in the midst of the media storm on the student issue, one of the Indian participants of an AIC-supported cultural program became a vocal and active advocate for Australia in the Indian media. She wanted her fellow Indians to know that she and her party had interacted with a diverse range of people in Australia, and had received a very warm welcome everywhere.

The Council is uniquely positioned to contribute to Australia-India relations through its ability to develop and nurture warm, productive and enduring relationships with Indian institutions and individuals. We celebrated many of those relationships with the presentation of AIC Special Awards to seven outstanding Indians in March. The Council will continue to play an important role in Australia's efforts to build a deep, broad and enduring relationship with India.

Suzanne Davies
Chair of the Council

BOARD MEMBERS

The Order-in-Council establishing the Australia-India Council provides that the Board should comprise a Chairperson and not fewer than four, nor more than fourteen, other members. The chairperson and members are appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and serve on a part-time basis, receiving sitting fees and travelling allowances in accordance with Remuneration Tribunal determinations. Members are appointed for three year terms. The Board may appoint a Deputy Chair from among its members.

The membership of the board during 2008-09 is listed below, showing the respective dates of appointment and brief personal details as at the close of the reporting period.

CHAIR



Ms Suzanne Davies

Director and Chief Curator of RMIT Gallery in Melbourne and past President of Museums Australia (Victoria); resident in Melbourne.

Member since 2004. Current term expires: 31/07/2010

DEPUTY CHAIR



Mr Sandy Hollway AO

Business consultant with and special interest in promoting Australian capabilities as demonstrated in the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games; resident in Sydney.

Member since 2002. Current term expires: 31/10/2009

MEMBERS



Mr Vinod Daniel

Chairman of AusHeritage and Head, Cultural Heritage and Science Initiatives at the Australian Museum; resident in Sydney.

Member since 2005. Current term expires: 30/11/2011



Professor Robin Jeffrey

Emeritus Professor of Politics, Australian National University and La Trobe University; resident in Canberra.

Member since 2007. Term expires: 31/07/2010



Mr Miles Kupa

Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Member since 2008. Term expires: 30/11/2011

RETIREMENTS



Mr Darren Gribble

Business consultant and former Australian High Commissioner to India; resident in Canberra.

Member since 1997, appointed Chairman 2005. Term expired: 31/7/08

MISSION STATEMENT, FUNCTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

The Australia-India Council advances Australia's interests concerning India by initiating and supporting activities designed to enhance awareness and understanding between the peoples and institutions of Australia and India.

Functions of the Australia-India Council

The **functions** of the Australia-India Council (AIC) are to make recommendations to the Australian Government, through the Minister for Foreign Affairs, for the broadening and deepening of the relationship between Australia and India, with particular emphasis on:

- raising awareness of Australia in India, and of India in Australia;
- promoting visits and exchanges between the two countries of individuals and groups for the purpose of broadening relations in a number of areas, including the arts, commerce, education, the news media, science and technology, and sport;
- encouraging the development of Australia-India institutional links between universities, museums, libraries, technical colleges, research institutes, professional bodies and appropriate non-government organisations; and
- supporting Australian studies in India, and Indian studies in Australia.

Australia-India Council Funding and Objectives

In carrying out these functions, the AIC provides funding for innovative proposals which will, in the Council's assessment, advance the Council's objectives, which are:

- to initiate and support, among influential persons and groups in Australia and India, activities that encourage a greater interest in the development of relations between the two countries, including economic relations;
- to initiate and support exchanges that demonstrate to Indians Australian excellence in the arts, commerce, education, the news media, science and technology, and sport, and that give Indians an opportunity to learn more about the nature of Australian society;
- to encourage Australians to take a greater interest in developments in India, by supporting activities that increase the level and quality of public awareness, and broaden community knowledge and understanding, of India in Australia;
- to initiate, monitor and publicise important developments in the various fields of Australia-India relations;
- to seek targeted, effective publicity for the Council's activities as a means of encouraging wider public appreciation of and support for the Council's role; and
- to seek community involvement in and private sector support for the Council's activities.

ACTIVITIES

The Australia-India Council receives its funding from the Australian Government. In 2008-09, the AIC spent \$617,018.26 on a range of projects either initiated by the Council, or initiated by individuals or organisations who sought and obtained funding under the Council's competitive funding application process.

The Council considered 87 applications for funding during 2008-09 and provided funding for 44 of the projects represented by these applications. The amounts provided for specific projects ranged from \$1,000 to \$50,000.

Funding Application Process

The Australia-India Council's competitive funding application process enables the initiative and enthusiasm of a wide range of individuals and organisations to be encouraged and supported in furthering the Council's objectives of broadening and deepening the Australia-India relationship. The funding application process has also helped to identify areas worthy of more systematic or long-term council involvement.

The AIC funding application process is designed to provide seed funding for innovative projects that will continue to advance the aims and objectives of the Council beyond the term of Council funding, providing significant continuing benefits from what is often a modest initial outlay.

All applications are made using standard documents and are assessed by a standard appraisal procedure, helping to ensure consistency and equity in Council funding decisions.

The Council attaches a number of conditions to its funding, including that all applications be assessed against the following guidelines:

- Individuals or organisations applying for funding should have a substantial record of achievement in the proposed field of activity.
- The activity should be a worthwhile initiative that will contribute to the AIC's objectives of promoting a broader and deeper relationship between Australia and India.
- The activity should have clearly defined objectives consistent with the AIC's objectives.
- Where possible, support requested from the AIC should constitute seed funding to encourage financial assistance from other sources, including corporate sponsors. The AIC may decide to award funding conditional on supplementary funds being raised from other sources.

- Preference will be given to activities that offer prospects of future independent activity as a result of initial AIC funding.
- Where an activity for which AIC support is sought is dependent upon the support of other organisations either in Australia or in India, evidence of the willingness of each such organisation to provide support, either financially or in kind, should be provided. In-kind support may include accommodation and other services provided without charge in either country.
- Where an activity contains an international airfare component, this should be costed as the applicable economy class excursion fare. The AIC will not reimburse applicants for additional expenses incurred because of late bookings or other problems requiring tickets to be paid for at a higher rate.
- AIC funding is normally awarded for a specific financial year. If funding cannot be taken up within the specified period it may be withdrawn. Any delay should be reported in good time with, if required, a request for extension to allow the AIC to consider the circumstances and to take any appropriate action.
- Provision should be made in the application for publicity for and promotion of the proposed activity.

The Council generally meets three times each year to consider applications for AIC funding. It is the responsibility of funding applicants to ensure, by consultation with the AIC Secretariat, that applications are received by the council at least four weeks prior to the Council meeting at which they will be considered.

A summary of the principal AIC-funded activities, both Council-initiated and in response to funding applications from individuals and other organisations working to advance the Australia-India relationship, follows in respect of each Council funding program.

Performance

The five core program areas for the AIC during 2008-09 were:

- The arts (including literature and film);
- Education;
- Social Initiatives (including public health and sport);
- Science, technology and environment (including heritage); and
- Public policy (including media links).

Outcome 1: The Arts (including literature & film)

Objective:

Encourage understanding between Australia and India by developing in each country an appreciation of the quality, diversity and sophistication of each other's arts and culture (including film and literature).

Key Achievements:

Australian Authors Tour: Geoff Page

Eminent Australian poet Geoff Page undertook a speaking tour of India as a guest of the Australia-India Council in October 2008. His tour took him to New Delhi, Jaipur, Chennai and Ajmer, participating in the Mussoorie Writer's Festival and delivering readings at universities and schools in each city. His poems, including some translated into Hindi and Tamil, were read by local poets and students at various events. *Indian Pixels*, a collection of 30 poems written by Geoff Page, provides a lasting testament to his visit.

*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

On the Edge



Artist Joey Laifoo in traditional Torres Strait Islander dress during the On the Edge tour of India

In February 2009, the Australia-India Council supported a tour of India by “*On the Edge*”, an exhibition of indigenous art from Far North Queensland. The exhibition showcased the different cultural affiliations that make up the character of the Far North Queensland Region: Torres Strait Islander, Indigenous, migrant and mainstream cultures. The tour introduced to India the cultural diversity of Australia’s populations in the region and focused on the diversity of cultures and traditions that share the landscape.

On the Edge exhibited at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in Delhi and at the Jawahar Kala Kendra as part of Jaipur’s famed Literature Festival. Indigenous artist and performer Joey Laifoo travelled with the exhibition, representing Torres Strait Islander culture as ambassador and artist. Other artists represented in the exhibition included Dennis Nona, Brian Robinson, Alick Tipoti, Rosella Namok, Arone Meeks, Ceferino Sabertino, Zane Saunders, Anna Eglitis, Ian Horn, Elaine Lampton and Sasi Victoire.

Crosshatched

‘Crosshatched’ brought together three Indian and three Australian artists from various mediums for an in-depth cross-cultural experience in Australia. Their program included collaborative work, exhibitions, workshops and media interviews in rural Victoria and Melbourne. The project was the initiative of Australia’s Sandra Bowkett and India’s Ms Minhazz Majumdar. The program took place between March and May 2009, when the issues of Indian student safety and welfare were receiving strong attention in the Indian press. Ms Majumdar consequently wrote several articles for the Indian press that focused on the warm welcome the Indian delegation received throughout their Australian visit.



Ann Ferguson and Pradyumna Kumar working on their collaborative project, The Universal Tree

Rasa Unmasked

The Australia-India Council was proud to support the Indian tour in April 2009 of *Rasa Unmasked*, a contemporary dance work by Australia's Lingalayam Dance Company (led by internationally renowned dancer and choreographer, Anandavalli), Malaysia's Ramli Ibrahim and Indonesia's Alex Dea. Anandavalli and Ramli integrated their Indian classical dance vocabularies to choreograph a bold and vibrant new work, underscored by Alex Dea's haunting compositions. Eight dancers performed, accompanied by a cross-cultural orchestra. The Indian tour of *Rasa Unmasked* travelled to Bangalore, Chennai and Delhi.



A performance of Rasa Unmasked

Artist in Residency Program

Managed by Asialink, the Artist in Residency Program enables outstanding Australian visual artists, performers, writers and arts managers to live and work in India for up to four months. The opportunity contributes to developing networks, future exchanges and enhanced collaborations. The program also showcases Australia as a sophisticated, contemporary culture. The AIC partially supported four residencies in 2008-09: Janet Burchill & Jennifer McCamley (Visual Arts), Keri Glastonbury (Literature), Josh Hogan (Performing Arts), and Kabita Dhara (Arts Management).

A full list of grants is included in the Program Expenditure Statement.

Outcome 2: Education

Objective:

Increase knowledge and understanding in Australia of India, and in India of Australia, through the education sectors in each country.

Key Achievements:

AIC Australian Studies Fellowships

The AIC initiated the Australian Studies Fellowships in 2003 to complement the Australian Government's commitment to strengthening educational links between Australia and India. The Fellowships are aimed at established Indian academics and postgraduate students from Indian tertiary institutions with a strong interest in Australian studies. They allow successful awardees to spend up to ten weeks in Australia undertaking special projects drawing on the resources of Australian universities. The Fellowships are administered by a consortium of universities, led by Monash University and supported by the ANU, the University of New South Wales, the University of Queensland and the University of South Australia.

In 2009, Fellowships recipients and their focus topics were: Dr Nina Caldeira, Goa University - *Australia: Multimedia Narratives of Multicultural Nationhood*; Dr Shanta Nedungadi Varma, University of Delhi – *Climate Change and Environmental Security: Comprehending the Discourse in Australia*; Ms Ipsita Sengupta, Jawaharlal Nehru University – *Busy Flaneurs in the Indian Mufassal: A Study of early Australian encounters with India*; Mr Anandarup Biswas, Shibpur Dinabundhoo College, West Bengal – *Sustainable Tourism Development in Australia: Challenges, Strategies and Impacts*; and Dr Sylvia Yambem, Jawaharlal Nehru University – *Understanding Employment Generation within networks of Social Capital: A Study of Indigenous Aboriginals*.

Traffic – Australia and India: Movement. Cities. Knowledge

In December 2009, the AIC supported a three day invitation-only research workshop in India organised by the *Thesis Eleven* Centre for Cultural Sociology at La Trobe University and Indian partners from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi University and Jadavpur University. The project was aimed at developing and consolidating links between Australian and Indian academics in the social sciences. The workshop had three key themes: Movements (Migrations, Diasporas, Refugees, Transnationalisms), Cities (Histories, Texts, Cultures, Systems) and Knowledge (Collective creativity and innovation). The outcomes of the workshop include a number of Visiting Fellowships, the development of formal linkages between the relevant Australia and Indian universities, and several joint publications.



Children's Literature

In 2008-09, the AIC supported two projects aimed at developing academic linkages in the area of children's literature. The first component was the participation of Australia's Clare Bradford, a Professor at Deakin University and President of the International Research Society for Children's Literature, at the International Symposium on Children's Literature in Tamil Nadu, India. Professor Bradford also undertook an extended program in India. The second component was a comparative study of Australian and Indian children's literature by Professor Bradford and Dr Meenakshi Haraharan of Queen Mary's College in Chennai. The project included the translation and promotion of several Australian texts into Tamil.

Children's literature is a rapidly growing market in India, and academic interest in children's literature is also growing. The AIC's support of these projects is part of a strategy to increase the knowledge in India of Australia's high quality literature for children and young adults. An AIC Author's Tour featuring authors who write for children and young adults will be part of the AIC's suite of activities in 2009-10.

A full list of grants is included in the Program Expenditure Statement.

Outcome 3: Social Initiatives, including public health and sport

Objective:

Demonstrate Australian excellence and develop institutional links between Australian and Indian Universities, research institutes, professional bodies and appropriate NGOs on social issues, particularly public health and sport.

Key Achievements:

Visit to Australia by Crown Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil

The Council provided grant funding to ACON, Australia's largest community-based gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) health and HIV/AIDS organisation, to support the visit to Australia in October 2009 by Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil, Crown Prince of the former princely state of Rajpipla in western India. The Prince, who made international headlines when he publically declared his homosexuality, is the Founder and Chair of the Layshya Trust, an organisation dedicated to HIV/AIDS education and prevention in India. The Prince undertook a diverse program in Sydney and Melbourne, meeting with State and Federal Ministers, Australian GLBT groups, former High Court Justice Michael Kirby, and leading health institutes for HIV/AIDS management and treatment. He gave a public address in Sydney and a range of television, print and radio interviews.



Mark Orr (President of ACON), Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil and Suzanne Davies (AIC Chair)

Border-Gavaskar Cricket Scholarships

Since 2000, the AIC's Border-Gavaskar Cricket Scholarship program has permitted promising young Indian cricketers to receive at least four weeks of specialist coaching at the Cricket Centre of Excellence in Brisbane. Many past recipients of the Scholarships have gone on to achieve selection in the international team. In 2009, the Border-Gavaskar recipients were: Abhinav Mukund (batsman), Jitendra Patil (bowler) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (all-rounder).



Abhinav Mukand (l) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (r) during their program at the Cricket Centre of Excellence

AIC Female Cricket Scholarships

In 2009, the AIC supported the second round of the AIC Female Cricket Scholarship program. This is the sister program to the Border Gavaskar Scholarships, and allows promising young female Indian cricketers and coaches to receive two weeks of specialist coaching and development at the Cricket Centre of Excellence in Brisbane. The recipients of the scholarships in 2009 were Harmanpreet Kaur (player), Punam Raut (player) and Venkatacher Kalpana (coach).



L-R: Kalpana, Kaur and Raut

Duchenne Foundation

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) is the most prevalent form of muscular dystrophy, affecting one in 3,500 males. The average life expectancy for patients afflicted with DMD varies from early teens to mid-30s. There is no known cure for DMD, so treatment is generally aimed at controlling the onset of symptoms to maximize the quality of life. Internationally renowned Australian physiotherapist, Helen Posselt, is an expert in managing this condition through physiotherapy.

The AIC supported the travel of Ms Posselt to present a keynote speech at the Inaugural Indian DMD Conference in Bangalore. The conference attracted over 500 Indian delegates and allowed Ms Posselt to develop extensive linkages with Indian parents and health professionals.

A full list of grants is included in the Program Expenditure Statement.

Outcome 4: Science, Technology & Environment

Objective:

Demonstrate in India the quality, sophistication and diversity of Australian research and development, products and services in science, technology, environment and heritage.

Key Achievements:

Tour of India by Tim Flannery

In January 2009, the Australia-India Council hosted a highly successful four-city tour of India by prominent Australian scientist, author and climate change activist, Professor Tim Flannery. Professor Flannery, who was named 'Australian of the Year' in 2007, gave a series of talks on the theme "We are the Weather Makers: The Story of Global Warming" in Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad and New Delhi.

Professor Flannery's tour included engagements at some of India's most respected and influential academic, corporate, environmental and scientific institutions. He addressed IIT Bombay's 'TechFest', Tata Power, the Nehru Science Centre, the Confederation of Indian Industry and the National Science Centre. He delivered the prestigious 'Vikram Sarabhai Memorial Lecture' at the Ahmedabad Management Association, and launched the new Gujarat University Management Education Centre on Climate Change. Professor Flannery also received significant print and television media coverage during his Indian tour.



Tim Flannery speaking at a CII Forum in Delhi, accompanied by Australia's Deputy High Commissioner to India, Dr Lachlan Strahan

Photo by Graham Crouch

AusHeritage Workshops

AusHeritage is Australia's peak body for cultural heritage management organisations, with approximately forty members including national and state collecting institutions, private and public heritage conservation services, and universities with heritage studies.

The AIC has supported AusHeritage to deliver targeted workshops to share Australian expertise in cultural heritage management in cities all over India. The program began in 1998 when AusHeritage conducted workshops in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India, INTACH, universities and museums.

In October 2009, AusHeritage delivered a workshop for Museums in Kerala on preventive conservation and conservation assistance to the Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum. The events generated positive media coverage for Australia in India and a large number of valuable people-to-people links between Australian and Indian heritage practitioners. A number of valuable ongoing long term links with Indian senior bureaucrats and politicians have also been established.



*Members of the AusHeritage Delegation meet Priyanka Gandhi at the Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum in Delhi.
L-R: Vinod Daniel, Priyanka Gandhi, Heather Mansell and Kristin Phillips*

A full list of grants is included in the Program Expenditure Statement.

Outcome 5: Public Policy Activities, including media links

Objective:

Increase awareness and understanding of Australia in India, and of India in Australia, particularly amongst people and institutions who have the capacity to influence others.

Key Achievements:

Australia-India Roundtable

In November 2008, the AIC provided significant funding support (from 2007-08 program funds) to the inaugural Australia-India Roundtable, convened in Sydney by the Lowy Institute for International Policy and the Indian Council of World Affairs. It built upon an earlier 'second track' process, a bilateral security roundtable which was also supported by the AIC.

The expanded forum covered 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. The diverse topics discussed included education, climate change, nuclear arms control and energy, and the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Australia and India each sent over ten participants to the forum, including academics, media commentators and former high-ranking officials.



Australia-India Strategic Lecture



Ambassador Gharekhan delivering the 2009 Australia India Strategic Lecture at the Lowy Institute for International Policy in Sydney

Ambassador Chinmaya Gharekhan, Special Envoy to the Indian Prime Minister on West Asia and the Middle East Peace Process and formerly a senior Indian and UN diplomat, delivered the third annual Australia-India Strategic Lecture in May 2009 at the Lowy Institute for International Policy in Sydney. His topic was 'India's Security Challenges - Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Neighbourhood'. It was Ambassador Gharekhan's first visit to Australia, and he undertook an extended program in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney. He delivered further public addresses in Melbourne and Canberra, met with senior officials, Professor Kim Beazley and other leading commentators on the region. He also conducted media interviews for television, print, and radio outlets.

The Australia India Strategic Lecture is a joint initiative of the Lowy Institute and the Australia-India Council (AIC).

2009 K.R. Narayanan Oration

The K.R. Narayanan Oration, jointly hosted by the AIC and the Australia South Asia Research Centre at the Australian National University (ANU), has become one of Australia's most prestigious India-related annual events. The 2009 Oration was delivered on 2 November by Professor Roddam Narasimha, Chairman of the Engineering Mechanics Unit at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), and Pratt & Whitney Chair in Science and Engineering at the University of Hyderabad. Professor Narasimha has had a distinguished fifty-year career in aerospace science at India's leading scientific institutions, and has also served three terms on the Indian Prime Minister's Scientific Advisory Council. His Oration topic was: "Rocket Science, Other Science: A Trajectory of Indian Science & Technology from the 20th to the 21st Century". Professor Narasimha visited a range of academic and scientific institutions during his visit to Australia, and delivered seminars at RMIT in Melbourne and at the University of Sydney.



From L to R: VK Sharma (India's Deputy High Commissioner to Australia), Professor Raghendra Jha (Executive Director, Australia South Asia Research Centre, ANU), Professor Mandy Thomas (Pro-Vice Chancellor - Research, ANU), Professor Roddam Narasimha and Professor Chennupati Jagadish (ANU) at the 2009 Narayanan Oration

Photo by Darren Boyd

2009 Australia-India Council Special Awards



Australia's High Commissioner to India, His Excellency John McCarthy AO, speaking at the AIC Special Awards in New Delhi

Seven Indians who made exceptional contributions toward strengthening Australia-India relations toward strengthening Australia-India relations were awarded Australia-India Council Special Awards in New Delhi in March 2009. The awards were presented at a ceremony at the Australian High Commission to Mr Suman Bery (public policy); Mr Tarun Das (community, health and sport management); Dr Jasleen Dhamija (art), Professor Darvesh Gopal (education); Dr Jyotindra Jain (culture); Dr Alka Pande (art); and Professor Pankaj Singh (education).

The Special Awards were established by the Australia-India Council in November 2007 to mark the 15 year anniversary of the Council, and to acknowledge the many outstanding Indians who have made the Council's work a success.

A full list of grants is included in the Program Expenditure Statement.

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW

Establishment

The Australia-India Council was established on 21 May 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.

Program Report

The Council reports to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Council has elected to submit an program report on its activities over the previous 12 month period to the Minister.

Auditors Report

The Australian National Audit Office, as part of its examination of the accounts of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, examines the financial affairs of the Council.

Membership

Article 2(1) of the Order-in-Council establishing the Australia-India Council states that the Board should comprise a Chairperson and not less than four nor more than 14 other members. On 30 June 2009, the Council consisted of a Chairperson and four members, including the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with responsibility for India. All Members are appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Meetings

The Australia-India Council met on two occasions during 2008-09:

60th meeting in Canberra, 9 December 2008

61st meeting in Canberra, 6 May 2009

Remuneration

Members receive sitting fees for attendance at Council meetings and for other agreed Council business, at rates determined under the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973*, as amended, for part-time members of non-statutory bodies.

Members are also eligible for travel allowances at rates determined under the Act and for reimbursement of travel costs incurred on Council business.

Secretariat and staffing

Article 2(2) of the Order-in-Council states that the Council shall have a secretariat provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The principal functions of the Australia-India Council secretariat are to make recommendations to the Council's board on program expenditure and other matters, to implement board decisions and to provide administrative support. This support includes project development, implementation and assessment.

During 2008-09, the secretariat was located in the South and West Asia Middle East and Africa Division in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Staff members who served in the secretariat during the reporting period are listed below:

Ms Heather Neate, Director

Ms Leeanne Keogh, Project Officer

Contact Details:

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Australian High Commission, New Delhi

Two locally-engaged staff at the Australian High Commission in New Delhi work exclusively on the programs and activities of Australia-India Council.

Staff members who served in the secretariat during the reporting period are listed below:

Ms Asha Das, Country Manager

Ms Aparna Gupta, Project Officer

Australian High Commission

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Industrial Democracy and Equal Employment Opportunity

Secretariat staff members are covered under the industrial democracy and workplace Diversity provisions of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as the Department's Certified Agreement.

Freedom of Information

In the reporting period the Council did not receive any applications under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

AUSTRALIA-INDIA COUNCIL FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE 2008–2009

ARTS & CULTURE (including Film and Literature)	(\$)
Australian Author’s Tour - Geoff Page Tour of India by Australian poet, Geoff Page, October 2008	14,717.03
Asialink 2009 Artist in Residency Program, India, January – December 2009	30,000.00
Janet De Boer, The Textile Forum for Textile Arts (TAFTA) Speaking in Stitch	10,000.00
Dr Sasi Victoire & Joey Josia Laifoo ‘On the Edge’ Tour, February 2009	20,000.00 5,000.00
Sharon Rundle Understanding ties between Australia and in India in Contemporary fiction	1,000.00
Divana films - Safina Uberoi Screening and Lecture Tour of India	5,000.00
Sandra Bowkett “Crosshatched” Artist Exchange Program	10,000.00
Nataraj Cultural Centre Spirit of India Concert series, March 2009	10,000.00
Tigereye Productions Sharing Stories	11,984.00
Lingalayam Dance Company Rasa Unmasked	9,500.00
Australian Art Orchestra Into the Fire	15,000.00
Australian Authors Tour support costs for 2009 tour	305.76
TOTAL	142,506.79

EDUCATION

(\$)

Monash University Australian Studies Fellowships 2009, January – December 2009	50,000.00
Professor Bruce Bennett Travel to India to deliver Keynote speech at ‘Nation & Pluralism’ Seminar	2,395.81
Professor Julie Wolfram Cox Travel to India to deliver Keynote speech at the NAPSIPAG Conference	3,000.00
Ms Ann Doolette, Australian Qualifications Framework Council Travel to India to deliver Keynote speech on Vocational Education and Training at the FICCI Summit, August 2008	3,571.98
Katherine Thomson Travel to India to deliver Keynote speech at the Women’s International Playwrights Conference	4,000.00
Professor Stephen Muecke Postcolonial Strategies in Travel Writing	1,660.00
Resource Material and Outreach Purchase and freight - Australian Studies resources for Indian institutions	7,408.50
Thesis Eleven Centre for Cultural Sociology ‘Traffic – Australia and India: Movement. Cities. Knowledge’ Research Workshop	12,800.00
Professor Clare Bradford, Deakin University Children’s Literature Scholarship	9,500.00
Professor Santosh Sareen (JNU) Travel to Australia to present at the “Home and Away” colloquium in Canberra	1,599.72
Himachal Pradesh University Nation and Plurism Seminar	3,582.16
Professor Richard Nile Travel to India to present at the Nation and Pluralism Seminar	1,500.00
Indian Association for the Study of Australia Landscapes & Rivers: Symbolising Cultural linkages between Australia and India	4,248.90
Dr CA Cranston Adjunct Professorship at University of Madras 2009	3,509.24
Education.au ICT in Education: Knowledge Exchange	5,660.00

Asia Education Foundation	20,000.00
Leading 21st Century Schools: Australia-India Principals Exchange	
Professor Pankaj Singh	4,999.28
Keynote speech at ASAL Conference and Australian program	
IASA	4,005.00
Publication of 2008 IASA Conference Papers	
Thesis Eleven Centre for Cultural Sociology	5,756.00
Family Ties: Security, Socialization and Affect in Indian Families	
TOTAL	149,196.59

SOCIAL INITIATIVES (including public health and sport) (\$)

Cricket Australia	
2009 Border-Gavaskar Men's Cricket Scholarships	25,000.00
2009 AIC Female Cricket Scholarships	17,000.00
Professor Paul Komesaroff, Monash University	12,000.00
Tribal Communities Health	
Duchenne Foundation	4,103.60
Travel support for Helen Posselt to give keynote speech at Inaugural Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Conference in Bangalore, February 2009	
ACON	20,000.00
Tour of Australia by Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil, Founder of the Lakshya Trust	
Nossal Institute for Global Health	12,000.00
Documentation of the Community Health Clustering Model	
Assoc Professor Shantha Wilson Rajaratnam	4,800.00
Developing the field of Chronobiology in India and Australia	
Dr James Wood, University of New South Wales	6,000.00
Infectious Disease Modelling Training Workshop	
Western Australian Institute for Medical Research	7,500.00
Comparison of patterns of diabetes and abnormal glucose and insulin between Australia and India	
TOTAL	108,403.60

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY/ENVIRONMENT	(\$)
AusHeritage Cultural Heritage Workshops – Kerala and Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum	18,960.00
2009 AIC Environmentalist Tour of India Tim Flannery	19,571.54
Dr Kamaljit Vilkh International Food Convention	3,000.00
Australian Academy of Technological Science & Engineering (ATSE) Australia India	40,000.00
Dr Daniel Ryan, University of Sydney Innovative technologies for the remediation and reuse of molasses process water	10,000.00
Dr Reena Tiwari, Curtin University India Slum Action Plan	6,248.37
Dr Anita Smith, La Trobe University Travel to India to present a keynote speech at the INTACH Urban Renewal Seminar	4,000.00
Professor Peter Hodgson, Deakin University Travel to India to present a keynote speech at the 4th University Industry Council Symposium	4,000.00
TOTAL	105,779.91

PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM (including media links) (\$)

Australia India Business Council	3,200.00
Australia India Focus Newsletter	
Australia-India Media Seminar	20,195.64
University of Canberra	5,000.00
India Update Seminar 2008	
Australia-India Strategic Lecture	16,177.31
Ambassador Chinmaya Gharekhan	
Law Council of Australia	20,000.00
Bar Council of India Study Visit	
AIC Special Awards	9,078.09
Award gifts and presentation event in Delhi	
Australia South Asia Research Centre, ANU	22,480.33
2009 Narayanan Oration by Professor Roddam Narasimha	
International Media Visit (IMV)	15,000.00
Contribution to program for eight Indian Journalists, June/July 2009	
TOTAL	111,131.37

BOARD & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE	(\$)
Board - Meetings & Representational Activity	12,367.91
Board Delegation Trip to India, March 2009	42,080.30
Secretariat and General Administrative Costs - Canberra & Delhi	7,104.87
	61,553.08

TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURE	617,018.26
TOTAL BOARD & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	61,553.08
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	678,571.34

