“Have we entered the 21st century still holding 19th century mental maps?”
Is an education focused on ‘western’ learning and traditions adequate for the 21st Century?
Asia Education Foundation
Asia Education Foundation 1992-2007

- The AEF is a Foundation of the Asialink Centre at The University of Melbourne

- Receives annual funding from the Australian Government.

- Works in partnership with all State & Territory education systems.
Engaging Young Australians with Asia

- Study about the peoples and cultures of Asia
- Study about the impact and influence of Asian Australians on Australia
- Reorientation of Australian curriculum to better address the needs of communities and individuals in the 21st Century
Key Activities

- Teacher professional learning
- Curriculum resources
- Support for school programmes
National Statement for Engaging Young Australians with Asia in Australian Schools

Being good neighbours and responsible citizens

Harmonious Australia

Creative Australia

Prosperous Australia
‘Now more than ever we live in one world. We face issues that can only be addressed internationally: sustainable futures, the changing world economy.’

Engaging Young Australians with Asia, Asia Education Foundation, 2005
Young people can only make sense of their world and be active and informed local and global citizens when they develop a sound understanding of the wider global context in which they are operating. The Asian region and Australia’s engagement with Asia are central to that context.’

Engaging Young Australians with Asia: A Statement for Australian Schools, 2005
The Need for a ‘Rethink’

- New Times
- New Challenges
- New Knowledge, Skills and Understandings
...am I in the New World, the Old World or the Next World?

Robin Best
*In China We Trust*
2006

Part of an Asialink touring exhibition
*A Secret History of Blue and White*
The 21st Century: Asia cannot be ignored

Sheer size
60% of the world’s population
30% of the earth’s land
world’s two most populous nations: China and India

Geo-politics
world’s largest Muslim nation: Indonesia
world pressure points: North-South Korea, China-Taiwan, India-Pakistan
interconnected world: population and development pressure on environment, health, resources…..

Rapid economic growth
world’s second largest economy: Japan, and the two fastest growing economies: China and India
2010: China, United States, India and Japan - world’s top 4 economies
New Economic World Order

• China and India – to rise by 2020
• Resources: in 2005, China and India together consumed:
  – 35% of world steel
  – 24% of aluminum
  – 55% of cement
  – 51% of coal
  – 40% iron ore
  – 51% of cotton
  – 12% oil
• These are all set to rise
• Both are nuclear powers
Asia’s contribution to world civilisation: cultural, intellectual and creative enrichment

• greatest diversity of belief systems in any world region: Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity…

• some of the greatest contributions to world heritage of all time
How well prepared are we to respond to different worldviews: rule of law, belief systems, cultural practices, and changing geopolitical alliances and economic power bases?
We've been looking North for too long.

We've been looking West for too long.
New Challenges
From an old world view to a new:

West meets East

Landscape: Body tattoo, 1999, Huang Yan, China
Activity 1

With a colleague, take a few minutes to brainstorm what a ‘new’ world view might include/involve.
‘We [in Australia] have grown up in a society which has historically acted as if the only really important ideas, cultures, beliefs and norms are those with their origins in western Europe and latterly North America.’

Studies of Asia: A Statement for Australian Schools, Asia Education Foundation, 2000
“Asia is now the region of the world whose current emergence is one of history’s greatest catalysts for worldwide change. Australians require new skills, knowledge and understanding related to the Asian region and Australia’s engagement with Asia in order to meet the challenges and opportunities of living and working in the 21st century.”

National Statement for Engaging Young Australians with Asia in Australian Schools
‘The promise of globalization is a shared destiny of nation’s working together to minimize conflict and poverty, restore eco systems, reduce emissions, ban arms trafficking and thrash out an evolving agenda of ethics and fairness to which all can be a party, especially the strong. Its deeper meaning is a belated awareness that we are all connected…

Richard Neville, The Sydney Morning Herald, May 2002
Harmonious Australia

‘…two factors to consider as solutions - one being education and the other being interaction. If they are the solutions, where are they?’

Waleed Aly
Vision for the coming decade

Every child from elementary through to high school, will encounter intellectually challenging material about Asia and Asian American topics integrated into diverse subject areas at appropriate grades…”

Every teacher build knowledge about Asia through formal studies, pre and in service programs, and through travel and exchange programs.”

Asia in the Schools, Preparing Young Americans for Today’s Interconnected World, June 2001
Putting the World into World-Class Education

An international strategy for education, skills and children’s services
Executive Summary

We live in one world. What we do affects others – and what others do affects us – as never before. The world faces major challenges. The UK occupies a unique position in this world. Our vision is of the UK as a confident, outward-looking society and a leading edge economy playing its full part in the world. To support that, we have identified three key goals, each with associated priorities for action:
Bienvenidos a Casa Asia
Para muchos españoles la región de Asia y el Pacífico todavía hoy es percibida con una sensación de misterio, lejanía, desconocimiento...

Presentación del libro 'El marco de los negocios en China: aspectos prácticos'
Barcelona. 29-03-2006  18.30 h.
Casa Asia presenta el libro El marco de los negocios en China, de Eduardo Morcillo y James Sinclair, consultores senior de InterChina Consulting. Posteriormente se realizará un debate en el que se tratarán diversos temas como los recursos humanos en China, la salida al extranjero de las empresas chinas, las ventajas y desventajas de tener un socio local y las habilidades directivas como claves para el éxito.
knowledge

ASIA KNOWLEDGE WORKING GROUP JULY 2006

PREPARING FOR A FUTURE WITH ASIA

How New Zealand can benefit from Asia's growing influence

asia: nz
foundation
New Knowledge, Skills and Understandings
The Futures Child

So what knowledge, skills and understanding will my children need as they move into adulthood in 2020?
Activity 2

What are the ‘essential’ skills, knowledge and understandings that young people need to prosper in the 21st Century?
Globalisation and education

- Information and ideas now traverse the world with unprecedented speed and frequency
- In the flat world, where everything is interconnected, higher skills and the ability to be adaptable and innovative and to communicate across cultures will be essential to individual and national success

Learning in a Global Age: Knowledge and Skills for a Flat World, Asia Society, 2007.
Equipping our children for the 21st century in Australia, in their region and globally.

New knowledge and new skills required
Let's find out about the Iraqi people... as quick as we can.
25% of schools do not teach about Asia at all; 25% do so only in superficial ways.

Review of Studies of Asia in Australian Schools, Erebus Consulting Partners, January 2002
Where have we been?

• Children’s knowledge and perceptions of Asia stereotypic: “poverty, paddy fields and pandas” (1992)
• School textbooks on ‘Asia’ largely ignored the 20th century and were orientalist (1993)
• 90% of textbooks on Japan were about origami (1995)
• Same 3 topics taught repeatedly about Japan, kindergarten to Year 10: day in the life of a Japanese child, food …and origami (1995)
• Teachers saw Asia as “traditional, exotic, conservative, imposing authority and requiring compliance” with Australia as significantly different (1996)
• Inclusion of anything to do with Asia was surveyed as less than 5% of course content in teacher education. (2001)
“Teacher knowledge still the greatest barrier”

Review of Studies of Asia in Australian Schools,
Erebus Consulting Partners, January 2002
Contemporary Asia

Traditional Asia

Diverse Asia

Asia in the world

Asia and Australia
“Studies of Asia must also be about the proper study of humankind: about what is valued, what is excellent, what is beautiful, what is moving, what is lasting and what are matters of belief.

To insist that the above can be addressed solely through European or Western knowledge, which is still the assumption on which our education is based... is not only a disfigurement and deformity but is ignorant.”

Fitzgerald, S.
Education and the Australian Mind
The Buntine Oration, 1991
By end of schooling young people would optimally know, understand and be able to:

- Understand ‘Asia’
- Develop informed attitudes and values
- Know about contemporary and traditional Asia
- Connect Australia and Asia
- Communicate
91% of the parents surveyed believed that an ability to communicate across cultures was an important skill for all Australians.
A Change model

**EXTERNAL FACTORS**

**SYSTEM LEGITIMATION (EYAA, Curriculum Frameworks)**

- Principal understands advantages of SOAA adoption
- Leadership uses SOAA rationale in school decision-making
- School adopts SOAA change model
- School uses model for staff development and teacher learning about SOAA
- School supports implementation and student achievement in SOAA

**WHOLE-SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION**

- SOAA in School Policy
- Resource Accumulation
  - Teaching/learning units
  - Performances/festivals
  - Student outcomes

**EXTERNAL SUPPORT (AEF and SOAA Advisers, etc)**
An Asia engaged young Australian

In order to prepare students to live, work and learn in their world, studies of Asia and Australia are being included in course content across the curriculum with a balance between in-depth, sustained studies and broader, more general studies that explore themes, topics or issues.
Curriculum change across Australia

• Futures, thinking, identity, communication, personal futures, social responsibility, world futures and interdependence

• From traditional subject silos to interdisciplinary approaches

• Move towards nationally consistent curriculum
Tongue tied
How language studies are facing a crisis.
The Myth of English Language Dominance

Everyone does not speak English. Indeed:

- English as a first language is in decline. Approximately two-thirds of the world’s population will not be able to speak English by 2050.

- The Internet is now multilingual. For commerce, most people prefer to use a website published in the own language. That is why a third of the World Wide Web is not in English and that proportion is growing.

Ass Prof Tony Liddicoat, Canberra, October 2006
In-Country Study Programmes

Study Tours

“I have gained a deeper understanding of internationalism and the need to skill our nation for the demands of a future workplace.”

Gary Campbell, participant China study tour

Since the programmes inception in 1993, over 1500 educators have participated in Access Asia Study Tours. These programmes offer unique professional learning experiences focusing on education, contemporary life, traditional culture and society to support curriculum development in a range of learning areas and contexts.

The AEF works in partnership with education authorities, professional associations, universities, government agencies and funding bodies to implement the Access Asia Study Tours.

Access Asia Study Tours may be tax deductible.

Why participate?  
Study Tours on offer  
Other Programmes managed by the AEF

What does a Study Tour include?  
Scholarships

Curriculum Outcomes  
Registration  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Partners  
Contact
Welcome to Go Korea!

This is a website designed for teachers and students interested in learning more about contemporary Korea. Here you can investigate fascinating aspects of past and present life and culture in this vibrant and changing society.
Welcome to the Asia Education Foundation

The Asia Education Foundation (AEF) provides schools and teachers with a range of services to engage young Australians with Asia through studies of Asia. This website provides information about the range of AEF services offered including:

- curriculum resources
- advice for schools
- professional learning programmes

What's new

Tom and Emma have chosen beliefs for their second “really big” project and have interviewed many people from within their community about their belief systems and how they inform their daily lives. There is also a website with lots of teaching activities.

www.asiaeducation.edu.au/