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From the Director

There has been much debate in Australia in the last few months on the 'Asian Century' White Paper. The Paper prompts an important question about where Europe, and Australia's relationship with Europe, now sits in Australia's global outlook. The reasons why Australia should continue to strengthen its relationship with Asian countries are presented convincingly in the White Paper: the economic opportunities, the geographic proximity, the contribution towards global reconciliation, and a moral imperative to share resources with those without.



However, the surprising aspect of the Paper, especially given Australia's historical ties, is the relatively slight attention given to other parts of the world, and to the kinds of policies and strategies which should guide Australia's interactions globally. This seems especially unusual given the increasing prominence of information and communication technologies for both social and economic purposes. The consequent collapse in time and space (Australians can now watch the thrilling finale to a 3-week bike race on the other side of the world in real time, often with a better view than many of those who are really there) means that both public events and private transactions can be shared globally as they occur, irrespective of time or place.

The absence of serious consideration of Europe, and more specifically the European Union, seems particularly surprising. Apart from the continuing cultural and political ties shaped by history, the economic significance of Europe to Australia seems likely to continue for many years, decades if not centuries ahead.

Part of the reason, at least, that Europe is neglected is lack of recognition generally in Australia about the progress that has been made in developing the Single Market, and the global significance of the European market. So much attention has been focused on the euro crisis and the sovereign debt problems in some countries that people have lost sight of its overall importance; it has a market of more than 500 million people. Despite the remarkable effort of the European Union in rescuing and stabilising its finance sector in the wake of the North American financial crisis, it has been dismissed as old economy rather than a significant partner in the new.

The pity is that this debate has ignored important evidence. For example, in 2011, the European Union continued to be the centre of global investment, with outward foreign direct investment (FDI) accounting for 43.5 per cent of global outward FDI stocks, while inward FDI into the European Union was 35.6 per cent of global inward FDI stocks. These figures compare with China's 4.9 per cent outward and 5.6 per cent inward), with Japan and Korea holding significantly lesser amounts. Even taken together, the FDI stocks amongst these nations amount to less than half of the contribution of Europe to outward and inward FDI.

Professor Bruce Wilson
July 2013

EU News

Croatia becomes the 28th Member State of the European Union

On Monday 1 July 2013 Croatia became the 28th Member State of the European Union. Croatia's accession marks another milestone in the construction of a united Europe. It also provides fresh evidence of the transformative power of the European Union: torn by conflict only two decades ago, Croatia is now a stable democracy, capable of taking on the obligations of EU membership and of adhering to EU standards.

Croatia's accession shows that the European perspective is real for those countries firmly committed to the EU agenda. It is a clear signal for the region: the EU keeps its commitments if the necessary reforms are delivered and conditions are met.

For more information about Croatia's path towards becoming a full member of the European Union see: <http://www.croatia-in-the-eu.eu/>



EU Related Courses

Contemporary Europe, the undergraduate elective, was offered in 2011 and in online mode in 2012. In October-November 2013, it will be offered in face-to-face mode at RMIT. The course will be coordinated by Aiden Warren.

With the support of their Executive Director, steps are now being taken for the course to be available in the other Australian Technology Network (ATN) Universities (of which RMIT is part).

The online mode has proved particularly beneficial as it permits students from across the University to undertake the course at a place and time which suits them. It was offered as a University Elective to all undergraduate students at RMIT, and attracted students from business and engineering as well as social sciences. As it is available in the online mode, it can be offered as a single elective in other universities.

The Graduate School of Business and Law has adopted a new course developed by the EU Centre, entitled 'The Geography of Innovation'. It is anticipated that this course will be taught for the first time in Spring Semester 2013. It is possible also that it will be a course in an

international Masters of Public Administration, to be led by the University of Glasgow (Scotland).

Academic Activities

ADAPT-r

At the start of this year we celebrated the success of the School of Architecture and Design with "ADAPT-r" ("ADAPT-r" - Architecture, Design and Art Practice Training-research), a project funded under the Marie Curie Actions- Initial Training Network (ITN) of the European Commission, Education and Culture Directorate-General. The Marie Curie Actions are intended to strengthen Europe's knowledge capability in both universities and industry.

Previously RMIT had played a lead role in the consortium of seven university partners that developed the ADAPT-r proposal and was accepted as a full partner able to receive significant support for research activities in Australia. The significance of this achievement is reflected in the fact that this is only the third occasion that a 'third country' partner has been successful in this way; the two previous partners were from the United States and from Japan.

The network is based on the previous bilateral cooperation between RMIT and KU Leuven and other existing models, such as the MIT Media Lab in Boston. In the project there are 7 academic partners coming from Belgium, Slovenia, UK, Estonia, Denmark and Australia. In addition there are 26 associated partners in the project, all SMEs, to which each doctoral fellow will be seconded.

The doctoral training will be structured around the joint activities and supervision (coming from both academia and SMEs) and Practice Research Symposia (PRS), which will allow the European partners to draw on the experience pioneered by RMIT in delivering a similar program.

Research

Comparative Regional Policy

This is a major research program of the European Union Centre at RMIT which draws on key expertise associated with the Centre and with RMIT's College of Design and Social Context. This program addresses significant issues which arise in conjunction with the European Union's implementation of its Regional and Cohesion Policies, and the renewed emphasis on regional development policy in Australia and in key Asian countries, such as Korea, China and Vietnam.

The principal focus of the program has been the development of partnerships with key stakeholders in the field, as well as further preliminary conceptual and related field studies. These activities have included:

- In September 2012, the Centre contributed to a Regional Leaders' Summit on establishing development priorities for the Darling Downs and South-Western Region of Queensland;
- Presentation by the EUC Director, Professor Bruce Wilson, on aspects of the project at conferences in Singapore, Hervey Bay (Queensland) and Palmerston North, in New Zealand, and at an event sponsored by the Centre as part of Melbourne City Council's Knowledge Week;
- The Centre contributed to a national policy and research roundtable with senior researchers, focused on a review of current policy and research perspectives in Australia and Europe;
- The Centre played a leading role in the RMIT contribution to a multi-university proposal for a Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) on Resilient Regions. The process of preparation for the proposal enhanced the profile of the EU Centre with other universities and key industry agencies in relation to both the general role as a resource for partnerships with European Union researchers and companies, and specifically in relation to the expertise on comparative regional policy. The EU Centre is sought increasingly to participate in major national research and related activities on regional policy.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=4iz8f7pozg7yz>

Events

Past Activities

European Studies Summer School 2013

The year kicked off with the European Studies Summer School for Secondary teachers, which was held 16-18 January 2013 at the Monash University Law Chambers in Melbourne in partnership with Monash European and EU Centre, European Union Centre at RMIT, ANU Centre for European Studies and the National Centre for Research on Europe, New Zealand.

A three-day intensive program for teachers of: History, Global politics, Social and cultural studies, Economics and European languages, the 2013 European Studies Summer School offered a unique opportunity to engage with expert speakers on topics that complement secondary school curricula:

Day 1: Europe, Power & Leadership

Day 2: Europe & Crisis

Day 3: Europe-Australia Relations

Participation was free for all teachers from Australian and New Zealand secondary schools. A small number of travel and accommodation bursaries were available.

Several themes were covered, such as; global leadership and trade, development and aid, migration and refugees, multiculturalism global security and conflict environmental challenges and climate change.

The program featured interactive sessions with senior academics and practitioners, multiple case studies, interdisciplinary approach and practical suggestions for incorporation of resources into the classroom setting. Excursions to the Goethe-Institut Melbourne, the Australian Institute for International Affairs and the Immigration Museum were included.

2013 Project Directors' Conference

The European Union Centre at RMIT University hosted the 2013 EU Project Directors' Conference in Melbourne from 4-6 March 2013. The Conference was organised jointly with the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE), Education & Culture DG in the European Commission, Brussels, the Department of foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and the EU Delegation in Canberra. The Project Directors' Conference is held annually in the EU or in a partner country, and this was the first time that it was held in Australia.

The conference focused on bilateral student and staff mobility programs between the EU and a number of partner countries, through the EU's Education Cooperation Programme (Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Japan), the EU-US Atlantis Programme and the EU-CANADA Cooperation Programme. Delegates were mainly Australian and international project directors from these programs and other stakeholders, including representatives from the European Commission and project alumni.

RMIT University has been involved in two of these programs, being the lead Australian institution in both the *International Vocational Knowledge and Skills Exchange* program (2008-2011) and the ongoing *Designing the New World: Developing Architectural Education in Response to Climate* program (2010 – 2013).



Visit by M. Xavier Prats Monné

The EU Centre at RMIT was very honoured to have M. Xavier Prats Monné, visiting Melbourne in early March. M. Xavier Prats Monné is the Deputy Director of the Education and Culture Directorate General in the European Commission, and the main policy areas under his responsibility are the modernisation of European education and training systems; mobility policies and programmes, including Erasmus for students, lifelong learning; the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT); and international relations in the field of education and culture. His main recent policy briefs have included the employment aspects of the Europe 2020 strategy.



M. Xavier Prats Monné was at RMIT University for the official opening of the Project Directors Conference and took part in a roundtable meeting, hosted by the EU Centre, with Youth Employment being the major topic.

Opening the discussions, M. Prats Monné spoke of the broad approach being adopted in Europe to address youth employment issues, commenting that it was a major issue for the European Union at present, and had been recently highlighted as a major priority by the European Council.

The event continued with an exchange of views between participants about their experience of successful initiatives in Australia, and their possible relevance to European circumstances. Also attending the roundtable were senior RMIT staff with knowledge of the Australian education system, skills formation and youth employment programs, and grounded experience in working on program delivery in various settings.

Other past Centre activities:

February 2013

Annual Public Lecture: *Losing our minds: environmental pollution as a threat to intellectual capacity of future generations?* (Delivered by the Centre's Inaugural International Visiting Fellow, Professor Barbara Demeneix).

February 2013

Seminar: *Italy: Elections, economic crisis and Europe*

February 2013

Seminar: *Lessons for regions from the new EU smart specialisation strategies*

March 2013

Seminar: *Germany's Current Migration and Integration Policies within the European Framework*

April 2013

Seminar: *Reflections on urban regeneration activity within England*

April 2013

Seminar: *Democracy in Europe following the Italian Elections*

April 2013

Seminar: *Australia, Europe and Clean Energy: The role of Austrade*

April 2013

Seminar: *The Afghanistan Dilemma*

May 2013

Roundtable discussion: *Education for the Global Age*

May 2013

Lecture series: *Carlos Ruiz Zafón*

May 2013

Seminar: *How do European cities manage public transport and land use integration*

June 2013

Roundtable presentation: *Australia's Defence White Paper 2013: Future Uncertain?*

Upcoming Events

9 – 11 September 2013, Canberra – Joint EU Centres Conference: *Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive: Researching the EU from Australia and New Zealand*



The four EU Centres at the Australian National University, Monash University and RMIT University and the New Zealand EU Centres Network are convening together an International Conference. At a time when the EU has high ambitions and faces critical challenges, this conference will bring together researchers from various disciplines to share their insights into the issues confronting the European Union over the next decade.

Keynotes will be presented by Dr Brendan Nelson, former Australian Ambassador to the European Union and NATO, Professor Jacqui True, a specialist in Gender and international relations from Monash University, and Professor Giles Scott-Smith, Ernt van der Beugel Chair in the Diplomatic History of Atlantic Cooperation from the University of Leiden. The Contemporary European Studies Association of Australia (CESAA) will present a plenary panel, while other presentations will be arranged in parallel streams which address the themes of:

- a) EU and the World: regionalism, challenges and bilateral relations
- b) Prospects for the EU?
- c) EU and Asia-Pacific
- d) Creative cultures and connections

This conference is relevant to postgraduate students, early career researchers and experienced academics/practitioners.

Location: Hedley Bull Centre, Building 130, Liversidge St, Australian National University, Canberra.

Please register for the conference at:
<http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/smartsustainable/> by the 30 August 2013.

**18–20 November 2013, Hong Kong, Conference:
Conference: Cities Learning Together - Local
Communities in the Sustainable and Healthy
Learning City**



In the spirit of learning partnerships, the European Union Centre at RMIT is very pleased to organise this Conference in conjunction with PASCAL and in partnership with the host, Hong Kong Institute of Education, and with CITYNET, the Society for Participatory Research in Action (PRIA), the Hong Kong United Nations Education and Vocational Training Centre (UNEVOC), the Asia Pacific Universities Community Engagement Network (APUCEN), the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE) and the East Asian Forum for Adult Education (EAFEA).

The Conference will focus on present and future action, mainly within local neighbourhoods in big cities, to build green, safe, healthy, communities which are economically viable and sustainable. It will be structured so that there are interactive sessions on Days 1 and 3, and opportunities for field investigations in Hong Kong on Day 2. The Conference will address the key questions around What works in different contexts around the world and why? What can be adopted and adapted between different regions, cultures and traditions, especially East and West, in this the 'Asian century'?

This will be a practically-oriented dialogue between European Union and older OECD approaches and those of East Asia and other non-EU regions. It will explore tensions, connections and syntheses between:

- Central policies and administration, and local, collaborative action, involving public, private, academic and civil society sectors;
- Economic growth and balanced social development;
- Short-cycle problem-solving and long-term action to contain and reduce global warming as aspirations and economic activity in the non-OECD world continue to outstrip those of the old West.

For further information about this conference visit:
<http://www.rmit.edu.au/eucentre>

Further information on Centre activities is available on the website at: <http://www.rmit.edu.au/eucentre>

Funding Opportunities

Marie Curie Actions

Closing date: The application process runs until 14 August 2013

The European Commission is inviting bids for the final tranche of Marie Curie fellowship grants allotted under the current seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7, 2007-13). Some €227 million, the highest single amount made available through the Marie Curie Actions fund, will be awarded to around 1000 experienced researchers this year.

The following two types of fellowships are open to non-European nationals:

- International Outgoing Fellowships (IOF) offer researchers the chance to acquire new knowledge in a high-level organisation outside Europe. As part of the grant agreement, the researchers have to return to Europe and share this knowledge.
- International Incoming Fellowships (IIF) enable researchers from outside Europe to be trained within a European institution.

Marie Curie individual fellowships support the mobility of

researchers within and beyond Europe – as well as helping to attract the best foreign researchers to work in the EU. Individual fellowships will continue to be provided under the new Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions as part of the Horizon 2020 programme, which starts in 2014.

For more information please visit:
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-223_en.htm

RMIT EU Centre: Funding now available for International Visiting Fellowship, 2013-14
Closing Date: 30 August 2013

Applications for funding are now open under the RMIT EU Centre to assist an academic group attract an international leader from the European Union, expert in their field, to spend up to a month at RMIT to present lectures, seminars and/or other activities relevant to teaching, learning and research.

The grant of \$7,450 is to support travel and accommodation costs ONLY with receipts and tax invoices to be submitted to the Centre by 30 April 2014.

The visit is to include at least one public lecture or seminar of interest to not only staff and students of RMIT but also the wider community. The event is to be co-badged with the EU Centre and to be held on an RMIT Campus.

Preference will be given to applicants from one of the following fields which are in accordance with the RMIT strategic priorities for research and development. This does not however, exclude candidates from other fields.

- Designing the future
- Smart technology solutions
- Improving health and lifestyle
- Sustainability and climate change challenges
- The future of cities

Successful fellows will also be encouraged to take part in other activities with the EU Centre, and to prepare a report on their visit for the Centre's website.

Applications close **30 August 2013** and are to be submitted by email to eucentre@rmit.edu.au.

Further information is available on the EU Centre website
<http://www.rmit.edu.au/eucentre>

The CAESIE Stage One Priming Grants are now open!
Closing Date: Applications close Friday 11 October 2013

Under the Stage One Priming Grants initiative, AU\$5,000 (approx. €4,000) support is available for small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) in Australia and the European Union to develop a relationship with a researcher or research organisation (in the opposite region) through initial meetings and discussions focused on forming a relationship. To be eligible, SMEs should have identified

a possible collaborative relationship with a researcher/research organisation partner. Assistance with finding a partner is available through the CAESIE [Expression of Interest process](#).

Download the Stage One Priming Grants Guidelines and Application Form at: <http://caesie.org/priming-grants-1/>

Stage Two Priming Grants (AU\$5,000/approx. €4,000) may be available to successful Stage One applicants to formalise partnerships (e.g. further travel) and/or assist with applying for major research and development funds in Australia and Europe.

CAESIE

Connecting Australian-European Science & Innovation Excellence (CAESIE) is a bilateral partnership initiative between the European Union and Australia.

This initiative is specifically targeted to enhance science and technology collaborations between SMEs and researchers who focus on making a significant contribution to addressing some of the world's grand challenges including:

- clean energy
- healthy ageing
- sustainable cities.

CAESIE is part of the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

CAESIE offers:

- free assistance and brokerage to establish early stage collaborative links between researchers and SMEs in Australia and Europe, for knowledge exchange and research and development (R&D) product development.
- assistance with identifying government-funded programs and incentives in Australia and Europe for major project development and other opportunities for research and innovation.

CAESIE will explore Australian cooperation in research activities coordinated or networked among European Union member states and will provide information to support research-to-research links between Australia and the European Union.

For more information visit the CAESIE website:
<<http://caesie.org/>>



Student Interns

Student interns undertaking placements for their RMIT course requirements are also able to spend a term of approximately three months with the Centre.

During this time, the students benefit from being involved in the decision making and activities of the Centre as well as undertaking their research project incorporating aspects of Europe-Australia relations.

Students interested in undertaking placement at the EU Centre can contact Fran Martens at franny.martens@rmit.edu.au.

EU Centre Publications

Report:

- Comparative Regional Policy Research Program

Policy Briefings:

1. Skills Formation in Australia: Lessons from Germany
2. Productivity in Australian Industry: How does the debate look from Europe
3. Research Needs for Disaster Resilience and Development

Working Papers:

C. Duke: *Transposing Concepts: Lifelong Learning and Learning Regions*

B. Wilson: *Regional Policy After Lisbon: Implications for European Union Relationships*

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