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Highlights

Program Stats 2013
Capacity Building Programs - Gender

Average overall rating for our programs = 92%

14% of Participants funded by ADBI

Presenters Breakdown (%)

Participants from over 22 countries in the region

The Centre and RMIT’s Strategies
Global in outlook and in attitude. The centre is a truly global entity.
Showcasing urban sustainable cities and pathways for further development for the Asia-Pacific region.
Connected through alumni, key staff and technical experts, global partnerships and strong relationships with global industry.
This year was one of significant achievement for the Australian APEC Study Centre at RMIT University.

The Centre maintained and extended its status as a preeminent institution for capacity building in the Asia Pacific, with more than 400 senior and middle level officials from the region participating in executive level training programs and policy dialogues. Through this broad and deep engagement in the region the Centre has provided RMIT and the College of Business with a powerful and tangible hub for accessing essential expertise on regional matters. The Centre has provided a platform for the College’s realisation of key components of its 2014 strategy identified as ‘global engagement’, with Asia Pacific research as a strategic focus.

The Centre’s programs and projects in 2013 were delivered with an outstanding level of professionalism, thereby bolstering RMIT University’s profile and reputation as a knowledge hub in the Asia Pacific region. Key activities included:

— A policy seminar and complementary research comprised the first two components of a multi-year program on enhancing the investment environment in APEC and ASEAN. This work was completed in partnership with Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and will continue until 2015.

— Working in partnership with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to continue to maintain the APEC Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR) database and to organise an APEC policy symposium on facilitating good regulatory practices for trade and investment in higher education services.

— Facilitation of deep engagement in the work of the Asia Pacific Financial Forum (APFF) and the Asia Pacific Infrastructure Partnership (APIP) through the Centre’s involvement in APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and in APEC forums.

— An APEC Secretariat funded training program on risk management and governance in financial institutions.

— Working in partnership with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to continue to maintain the APEC Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR) database and to organise an APEC policy symposium on facilitating good regulatory practices for trade and investment in higher education services.

In 2013 the Centre was highly successful in attracting new funding which places it on a sound medium-to-longer-term footing. Income in 2013 was $1.9 million and is forecast to increase to $3.12 million in 2014. Key to this achievement was a successful bid for $2.5 million funding from the Commonwealth Government Partnership For Development (GPFD) facility for a multi-year project on promoting infrastructure PPP financing and sustainable urban development, as well as securing a contract with DFAT to provide secretariat services to Australia’s APEC Business Council (ABAC) members until 2016. The Centre has now established itself as the College of Business’s leading research Centre, securing around $3.2 million research funding to be realised over the next three years. The Centre was also successful in attracting research funding from the Australia China Council (ACC).

The Centre’s partnerships have grown extensively with major Commonwealth Departments, regional and international organisations, business and academia. The strength of these partnerships has contributed to the success in winning important medium term contracts.

The Centre’s strategic direction for 2014 will focus on driving ‘global engagement’ with RMIT and the College of Business through all activities and relationships with key Australian and Victorian government departments and multilateral organisations such as APEC, ABAC and ASEAN.

Ken Waller
Director, the Australian APEC Study Centre
About the Australian APEC Study Centre

The Australian APEC Study Centre is a leading centre in the Asia-Pacific region for the advocacy of APEC’s objectives of promoting open trade and investment, structural reform and regional integration through training programs, supporting institutional capacity building, symposia, dialogues and research. It is part of the College of Business at RMIT University.

The Centre’s scope is broad and varied. It incorporates the following areas:

— Trade and investment liberalisation
— Trade in services
— Public private partnerships in infrastructure
— Structural reform and economic integration
— The region’s financial systems and enhancement of supervisory and regulatory capacities in banking, insurance (general and life), pensions, funds and asset management
— Agricultural systems reforms and food security
— Risk management and governance in financial sectors
— Infrastructure financing and managing risk
— Supply chain and logistics
— Financial inclusion

Mission
To support Australia’s involvement in promoting APEC’s objectives for the integration of economies of the region and social and humanitarian advancement.

To be a centre of excellence for regional institutional capacity building in policy areas relating to trade, finance, investment, structural reform and the environment.

To associate RMIT University with business activities in Australia and the region and build RMIT University standing in those circles and APEC.

Objectives
To promote Australian strategic and economic interests in the region through cooperation with Commonwealth, the State Government of Victoria and RMIT University.

To promote economic prosperity in the APEC region through capacity enhancement and related research.

To organise conferences, workshops, regional dialogues, symposia, research and training programs involving regional policy makers, regulators and businesses in support of APEC’s objectives and wider regional interests.

To define and promote interests in the region and in particular in China and Vietnam in business, regulatory, academic and official spheres of activity.
Key Activities 2013

The focus of the Centre’s work remains on core objectives of APEC – open markets for trade in goods and services and in investment flows. These goals remain the essential focus of APEC as the forum moves over time to promote regional economic integration. Essential to realise this concept is the strengthening of policy and regulatory institutions in the region’s economies and it is in this space that the Centre has built up its reputation. Our work therefore continues the emphasis on economic growth, trade and services and investment policy frameworks, structural reform, financial system strengthening, food security, supply chain connectivity, investment in infrastructure, international education, and public private partnerships, and broadening financial inclusion.

We have added to this suite of work the promotion of best practices in urbanisation to meet a critical challenge, particularly in the Asian region and in APEC Latin American economies. This will be a major component of our new GPFD project going forward over the next three years and it will involve important groups from Australia, including RMIT, and from the region.

The Centre is coordinating work under the Asia Pacific Finance Forum (APFF) on financial structures and linkages in the region. We are involving the Fung Global Institute in Hong Kong, the University of Melbourne, the World Bank, the Institute of International Monetary Affairs in Tokyo, the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and the Marshall School at the University of Southern California.

We are further developing the coverage of services and of economies in the STAR Database on services. At DFAT’s request we organised a policy based workshop on international education services in August 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A series of workshops for other services sectors is being planned with DFAT over the next three years.

The centre made a successful bid to the Australia China Council to undertake work on ways to promote investment between Australia and China utilising Taiwan as a platform, based on opportunities arising from the improved cross-strait relationship between Taiwan and China following the signing of an Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement. The results of this work will be presented to a forum to be convened at RMIT on 1 May, 2014.

Major AusAID PSLP programs implemented in 2013 included a training program in Singapore on connectivity and ports in March, a forum on financial inclusion in Melbourne, an APEC Secretariat-funded training program jointly hosted with AFDC in Shanghai in May on governance and risk appetite frameworks in financial institutions, and a program on food security (held in Melbourne and RMIT Hamilton) in late May.

The Centre won the contract for the Secretariat to ABAC Australia and has become deeply involved in various activities of ABAC and APEC. We continue our strong relationships with DFAT and Treasury, but also with other Departments of the Commonwealth. We will seek to ensure that, where we can, the Centre will support Australia’s role as chair of G20/B20 in 2014.

Under China’s chairmanship of APEC in 2014, we have developed strong relationships with ABAC China members and with the Chinese Ministry of Finance (MOF). ABAC China supports the work we are proposing on urbanisation through our GPFD project.

Partnerships have been central to the Centre’s success during 2013. They include ADBI, World Bank, IFC, AFDC, ABAC, the Association of Development Financial Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP), APEC and ASEAN Secretariats, and Commonwealth Departments such as AusAID, DFAT and Treasury, and the Victorian State Government.

A range of Australian and regional industry have contributed in a major way to the Centre’s activities, including DHL, Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Mark Lawrence Group, Mastercard, Novatti, Westpac Pacific, DBS, CBA, ANZ, ICBC, Mobile Accelerate, Geoff Mortlock Consultancy, Citigroup, King & Wood Mallesons, Berwin Leighton Paisner LP, ITS Global, WestVic Dairy, Jenkins Beef, and Laureate International Universities.

We have utilised RMIT facilities in Melbourne and Hamilton, Victoria and we have run programs in Singapore, Shanghai, Beijing and Kuala Lumpur. Over 400 people from across the Asia Pacific region have been involved with our activities in 2013. Activities funded by the Victorian Government have been limited to engagement in specific projects. We participated in an Islamic Finance Road show in May 2013, the Premier’s trade mission to Indonesia in June 2013 and the Premier’s Asian Food Strategy Taskforce visits to Japan and China. We have worked with Farm Services Victoria, Betterbeef Network, and Regional Development Victoria on the Food Security Program.

With the integration of aid programs into DFAT, the Government has also specified that the primary aim of the aid program will be to support economic diplomacy and promote economic growth. The Centre hopes this will widen the coverage of programs supported by GPFD to focus on activities directly related to economic growth, and thereby, the core business of the Centre.

We believe significant benefits are now flowing between RMIT and the Centre. We also note the opportunities that are surfacing in which the Centre will help contribute to the vision that RMIT has established: global, urban and connected.
## Capacity Building Programs and Workshops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilitating trade and improving supply chain connectivity in ASEAN economies via good regulatory practice affecting ports and terminals</td>
<td>AusAID PSLP</td>
<td>11-16 March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory environments to promote financial inclusion in developing APEC and other regional economies</td>
<td>AusAID PSLP</td>
<td>20-22 March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing Supervision of Financial Institutions’ Risk Appetite Frameworks</td>
<td>APEC Secretariat Support Fund in partnership with AFDC</td>
<td>20-24 May 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food security and sustainable agricultural development in APEC developing economies</td>
<td>AusAID PSLP</td>
<td>22-28 May 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar and Policy Dialogue on enhancing the investment environment in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economies</td>
<td>AusAID PSLP</td>
<td>16-18 September 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*In partnership with DFAT*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symposium: Facilitating good regulatory practices for trade and investment in higher education in the APEC region</td>
<td>DFAT</td>
<td>20-21 August 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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DHL Singapore Hub site visit, ASEAN Connectivity Training Program
ABAC Secretariat

We were appointed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as the Secretariat for Australian members of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) in June 2013.

The council comprises 3 business members appointed by Leaders of the 21 APEC economies. It provides a platform for business to provide advice and input into the APEC policy-making process, which focuses on regional economic and financial market integration, trade and investment liberalisation, infrastructure development, supply chain connectivity and other issues.

ABAC meets four times a year and represent a wide range of business sectors, including large corporations and small and medium enterprises.

The ABAC Members for 2013 were:

Mark Johnson AO
John W. H. Denton
Anna Buduls

ABAC Activities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABAC Meeting 3</td>
<td>8-10 July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APEC Women’s Forum</td>
<td>6-8 September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APEC Finance Ministers’ Meeting</td>
<td>17-19 September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABAC Briefing for the Prime Minister, The Hon Tony Abbott MP</td>
<td>24 September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABAC Meeting 4 and APEC CEO Summit</td>
<td>1-7 October 2013</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The Director, Mark Johnson and John Denton were part of the ABAC delegation to present ABAC’s report to Finance Ministers in Bali and to gain their endorsement of the proposal to establish an Asia Pacific Financial Forum (APFF) and the Indonesian/Australian proposal to promote infrastructure in the region.
Funding

Income in 2013 was just under $2 million. The centre’s financial position remains sound with three new multi-year contracts.

Income is forecast to rise to over $3 million in 2014 and 2015. We have significantly increased our contribution of research income for the College of Business.

The Centre has been successful in widening its sources of funding to include work commissioned by DFAT, the APEC Secretariat and other sources. Partnership agreements with the Commonwealth government have been a significant contributor to securing the medium-term financial strength of the Centre. We continue to explore ways to further expand the diversity of our funding base.

Funding Sources

- AusAID
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
- APEC Secretariat
- Victorian Government
- Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)
- The Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC)
- Taipei Economic and Cultural Office
- Bank of Indonesia
Advisory Services

**DFAT on response to APEC Leader’s Statement on Higher Education – March 2013**
The centre participated with RMIT leadership and International office in a stakeholder consultation with DFAT about the APEC Leader’s Statement on Cross Border Education Cooperation. Annexure D of the statement focused on enhancing the mobility of students, researchers and education providers and the existing network of bilateral agreements.

**Australia in the Asian Century Consultations DFAT Education Sector Roundtable – May 2013**
The Director and the Senior Manager participated in the Education Sector ‘Australia in the Asian Century’ Industry Consultation.

**Roundtable on RMIT in the Asia Century – May 2013**
The Senior Manager participated as a panellist in a roundtable on the Federal Commonwealth Asian Century White Paper.

**Strategy for Creating Asia Capability in Victoria Public Service – May-June 2013**
The Centre and experts across RMIT were part of the consultation process with the State Services Authority (SSA) for the development of a strategy for creating Asia capability in the Victorian Public Service.

**Asia Century Futures Initiative: Australia-Indonesia Dialogue and Griffith APEC Centre launch – 19 November 2013**
Key Partners

The Australian APEC Study Centre has a well-established network of partners and collaborates with key regional and international institutions, Australian and Victorian government agencies, and universities and research centres across the Asia-Pacific. The Centre also has linkages with industry in Australia and in the APEC region ensuring strong business engagement in all its activities.

Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)
ADBI is an arm of the Asian Development Bank and is a leading regional centre for research and the creation and dissemination of information and knowledge on development in the Asia and Pacific region. In October 2011, AASC and ADBI signed a Coordination Note involving three areas of cooperation – capacity building, research and partnership and publication.

Asia Finance and Development Centre of Shanghai (AFDC)
AFDC’s is an internationally-recognized platform for regional communication and cooperation, capacity building in the fields of finance and development, and contributes to stable and sustainable economic growth. AFDC and AASC have successfully collaborated on projects in the area of promoting financial regulatory and supervisory practices as well as risk management of financial institutions.

APEC Secretariat
The APEC Secretariat operates as the core support mechanism for APEC, providing coordination, technical and advisory support as well as information management, communications and public outreach services. The APEC Secretariat has provided funding for AASC capacity building training programs and research projects.

ASEAN Secretariat
The ASEAN Secretariat’s 2015 vision is for a strong and confident ASEAN Community that is globally respected for acting in full compliance with its Charter and in the best interest of its people. The Secretariat has been a strong supporter of the Centre’s programs and many ASEAN Secretariat representatives have participated in capacity building programs conducted by the AASC.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
OECD’s mission is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of its members and is a leading global innovator in economic and social policies. OECD senior experts regularly participate in and contribute to AASC training programs, forums and symposia on investment and trade facilitation, governance and innovation.
The World Bank (WB)
The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank regularly participates and contributes to AASC training programs, forums and symposia on supply chain connectivity, investment and trade facilitation, and governance.

Association of Development Financing Institutions in the Asia Pacific (ADFIAP)
ADFIAP is the focal point of all development banks and various financial institutions engaged in the financing of development in the Asia-Pacific region. The AASC has a Memorandum of Understanding with ADFIAP to establish closer links and cooperation focusing on three major components of: capacity building, research, and partnership and publication.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)
The ADB is a leader in regional development banking, dedicated to improving the quality of life for people in Asia and the Pacific who are poor and unable to access essential goods, services, assets and opportunities. The ADB has provided support to AASC’s capacity building programs through its expert presenters and panelists/moderators.

Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC)
The Centre has partnered with FDC in work developing tools to assess the quality of financial inclusion regulatory frameworks in the region.

Deciana Speckmann (DFAT) and Prof Peter P.T. Cheung (Federation for Self-Financing Tertiary Education) at the Higher Education Services Symposium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

SMART Infrastructure Facility, University of Wollongong
SMART Infrastructure Facility is a research leader and educator in ‘integrated’ infrastructure planning and management. The Facility partners with the Australian APEC Study Centre on the work in the area of public-private partnerships in infrastructure.
Strategies and Activities for 2014

The nature of Commonwealth funding has changed. Future projects will be larger, with a multi-year funding and focus. Multi-year projects require more intensive input in their design and in the monitoring and evaluation of project activities, which are required to involve a range of coordinated objectives. They also require deeper collaboration with partners in design and implementation. The corollary of this is that the Centre has to be involved more actively in the policy work of APEC, ABAC, ASEAN and APEC Secretariats, is very well placed. We anticipate that the Commonwealth’s declared intention to focus aid on promoting economic growth and structural reforms will be more prominent in future rounds of GPFD programs.

The Centre is embedded in the College of Business and both are benefitting significantly from this union, as is RMIT more broadly. The Centre is promoting linkages between RMIT’s Design Research Institute (DRI) and the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies (GUSS). The Centre is also collaborating with SMART Facility at Wollongong University. Our multi-year program on sustainable urban development will also involve partnerships in research and urban design and infrastructure.

The concept of future cities, design, infrastructure and sustainability are central visions of RMIT and the Centre aims to find links through its various activities to the APEC and ASEAN agendas in developing RMIT and Australia’s interests. Similarly, through our work with Taiwan, we are seeking to find ways to support work going forward between the Design Research Institute and the National Taipei University of Technology.

Participants in Seminar and Policy Dialogue on Investment Environments in Beijing, China
As a consequence the Commonwealth's move to multi-year funding, the deep partnerships now evolving with RMIT and the opportunities noted in this report, the strategic objectives of the Centre are:

— focus on winning multi-year projects and deepening relations with key Commonwealth Departments to design and implement solid capacity building projects
— seek regional partnerships that will advance RMIT and the College of Business's regional and global strategies
— seek significant research components in the design of projects bids
— develop existing partnerships and constantly review opportunities for new partnerships with regional and global organisations, business groups and associations so as to strengthen the Centre's role in the region
— drive engagement with RMIT and associate with its vision to be a global university with an urban presence and focus on design and innovation
— continue to develop relationships with the Victorian Government
— maintain the Centre's sound financial position and operating surplus.

Expert Panel: Dr Yuqing Xing (ADBI), Ken Waller (AASC), Dr Geoffrey Nicoll (University of Canberra), Adj Prof Gerard Brennan (University of Canberra), Dr Melanie Mili (ASEAN Secretariat), Andreas Reid Tagle (Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs) at the Seminar and Policy Dialogue on Investment Environments in Beijing, China

### Upcoming Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APEC/ABAC 2014 Annual Lecture</td>
<td>30 April 2014</td>
<td>Melbourne, Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Speaker will be Hon. Andrew Robb AO, Australian Federal Minister for Trade.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Investing in Taiwan: Exploring opportunities for advancing Australian business interest in China</td>
<td>Australia China-Council, DFAT</td>
<td>1 May 2014</td>
<td>Melbourne, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APEC and ASEAN Investment Environment Program</td>
<td>AusAID now DFAT</td>
<td>12-18 June, 2014</td>
<td>RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towards Regulatory Best Practice in Transport and Logistics Services</td>
<td>DFAT</td>
<td>15-16 July 2014</td>
<td>Hong Kong, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPFD Multi-Year program - Promoting infrastructure PPP development and financing, sustainable urban development and cross border coordination in APEC and South Asian economies</td>
<td>DFAT</td>
<td>First Biennial Forum on meeting the challenges of urbanisation</td>
<td>1-2 September 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executing PPP transactions training program</td>
<td>DFAT</td>
<td>1-5 September 2014 (TBC)</td>
<td>Melbourne, Australia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Media and Publications

Our newsletter was distributed to the Centre’s subscriber base of circa 5,000+ people:

**APEC Currents** – Errol Muir continued as the editor of this publication. Mr Muir is an Adjunct Professor in the RMIT School of Management.

Three APEC Current editions for 2013,


In 2013, the Centre increased its global media and publications. With renewed interest in Free Trade Agreements, Alan Oxley was rated as RMIT Media expert of the week in October:

‘Trade and investment in higher education services’ Regional Policy Symposium

The Asia Pivot in Higher Education by Jason Lane and Kevin Kinser in The Chronicle of Higher Education, 8 November, 2013

‘International sustainable agriculture in focus’, RMIT News, 9 July 2013

‘Addressing higher education services in the APEC region’, RMIT News, 5 September 2013


Op-ed, RMIT University Research News, Volume 4 No 5 August 2013 about RMIT and an outline of the Australian APEC Study Centre and its regional engagement

Op-ed, Farm Weekly, ‘Farmers push for FTA with China’, 3 June 2013 by Lisa Murray. Quoting about the authenticity of the Trans-Pacific Partnership


Treasury changes its tune on FTA investor-state provision, AFR, 22 Oct 2013

China is shaking up the trade world, AFR, 9 Oct 2013

Reform in Asia opens doors to trading places, AFR, 5 Jan 2014

Japan, not China, could lead trade policy, AFR, 15 May 2013

Christopher Ziguras, ‘APEC’s Bold Higher Education Agenda: Will Anyone Notice?’ The Boston College Center for International Higher Education. Number 75: Spring 2014

Op-ed, The Australian, ‘Bali talks to open way for Asian financing and deals’, 19 September 2013. About the benefits of the Asian Region Funds Passport in boosting growth in financial services helping to make Australia a finance hub for the region

Radio interview, China Radio International (CRI) Today Show, ‘APEC Show’, 11 October 2013 Panel Discussion about the 2013 APEC Summit

[http://english.cri.cn/8706/2013/10/11/2861s791703.htm](http://english.cri.cn/8706/2013/10/11/2861s791703.htm)

Radio interview, The Voice of Russia (Radio VR), ‘Burning Point” Show’, 7 October 2013 Discussion about what the Asian Pacific region can expect from 2013 APEC Summit and new challenges in the region


Radio interview Margot Kilgour, 3WM, Horsham, Country Today with Sandra Moon, 2 July 2013 on the APEC agricultural policy officials that visited RMIT University, Hamilton as part of the May 2013 “Food security and sustainable agriculture development in APEC developing economies” Training Program. The interview was also broadcasted from the following 2 stations: 3SH (Swan Hill), 3YB (Warrnambool)
Key Staff

Alan Oxley is Chairman of centre and one of Australia’s most authoritative advisers on international trade. Before establishing his consultancy in 1990, Alan was a career diplomat. He represented Australia in Singapore, at the United Nations in New York and in Geneva. He transferred to the Trade Department in 1985 and served as Australian Ambassador to the GATT, the predecessor of the World Trade Organization, until 1989. Alan graduated from Monash University with honours in 1970 where he studied Asian history and politics.

Ken Waller is Director of Centre and was appointed to the position in 2007. He is presently the Coordinator of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Finance and Economics Working Group and co-ordinator of the Asia-Pacific Infrastructure Partnership and the Advisory Group on APEC Financial System Capacity Building. He is also the chairman of the Centre’s Financial Advisory Board. Ken had an extensive career at the Australian Treasury. He was Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions Division during a period of major financial reforms in the 80’s and subsequently advised on relations with the IMF, World Bank and EBRD. He was senior Australian Treasury representative in London, and Beijing and Executive Director for Australia on the Board of the ADB. He is a graduate of London University with a Bachelor of Science (Economics), and Honorary Professor of Finance and Economics at Zhongnan University, Wuhan, China.

Margot Kilgour has been with the centre since May 2009. She is responsible for managing the centre’s activities relating to operational, financial, human resource/staffing and profile planning, performance, monitoring and reporting. Prior to joining the Centre she worked as a consultant advising international companies on strategy, global marketing and product development. She has worked in Canada, and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam for several years. Margot has a BA in International Relations and Political Science from the University of British Columbia in Canada and a Masters of International Business from the University of Melbourne.
Lisa Barker is the Lead Staffer of the ABAC Australia Secretariat and joined the centre in June 2013. She is a lawyer with experience working at senior levels in both government and private sector roles, particularly in the Asia Pacific Region.

Lisa currently works as an international law and trade policy consultant. She works on trade related aid and development projects with Australian and regional government and business organisations. She is part of a continuing ASEAN trade project based in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Lisa is a member of the Fairtrade Australia & New Zealand Board and in 2013 worked for Red Cross Australia, assisting in the hosting of the statutory meetings of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, setting their forward humanitarian agenda.

Briony joined the Centre in 2011 and is responsible for the management, development and implementation of training programs, symposiums, conferences and other Centre activities. Briony also undertakes research activities in the development of detailed funding applications and reports for external stakeholders.

Prior to joining the Centre Briony worked in the International Education sector in the areas of international student recruitment, alumni relations, and student mobility.

Briony has a Bachelor of Art (Hons) in International Studies and History, as well as a Diploma of Modern Languages in Indonesian from the University of Melbourne and is currently undertaking a Masters of Public Policy and Administration.

Elissa joined the Centre in March 2011. Her role focuses on program development, management and the implementation of capacity building training programs, symposiums, dialogues and other Centre activities. She is responsible for managing the Centre’s role as the Asia-Pacific Infrastructure Partnership (APIP) Secretariat, which also involves the coordination of APIP Dialogues.

Elissa has a Bachelor of Visual Arts from James Cook University, a Graduate Certificate of Arts & Entertainment Management from Deakin University and is currently completing a Masters of Project Management at Swinburne University.

Nofel has been working with the Centre since April 2012, where his role focuses on policy research and analysis to develop capacity-building programs delivered by the Centre.

Prior Nofel worked at the Australian Treasury in Canberra as an International Financial Markets Analyst with a special focus on linkages between the financial sector and the real economy.

Nofel has completed a Bachelor of Commerce and Economics with Honours and a Masters of Applied Econometrics, both at Monash University. Nofel’s Master’s thesis examined the key determinants of recovery rates on defaulted bonds and loans in the post-global financial crisis period.
Jack Gelvezon joined the Centre in July 2011. His role primarily focuses on the monitoring and evaluation of the centre’s work.

Prior to this, he was a consultant at the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP). Based in Manila, Philippines, ADFIAP is the focal point of development banks and a financial institution engaged in financing development in Asia-Pacific region and currently has more than 130 member-institutions in 44 countries.

He also worked at the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) for 30 years. DBP is a state-owned development bank, which provides banking services to small and medium scale agricultural and industrial enterprises. Jack spent more than five years with the Small and Medium Enterprise Department of the bank designing and managing lending programs for MSMEs.

Jack has a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of the Philippines.

Cassandra has worked with the Centre since January 2012. Her role focuses on the implementation of the centre’s capacity-building programs and undertaking research.

Prior to joining the Centre, she worked in Beijing as the CSR and Membership Liaison at the China-Australia Chamber of Commerce (AustCham Beijing) and as the International Political Economy Researcher with a focus on China at the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies at Victoria University.

She has completed a Bachelor of Arts (International Studies) at RMIT University and is in the process of completing a Masters of Business (Banking and Finance) at Monash University.
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The Australian APEC Study Centre Advisory Board 

Mr Mark Johnson AO 
Chairman of the Board 

Mr Bruce Kean AM 
Past Chairman of the Board 

Mr Alan Oxley 
Chairman, Australian APEC Study Centre 

Prof Ian Palmer 
Pro Vice Chancellor (Business), College of Business, RMIT University 

Mr Ken Waller 
Director, Australian APEC Study 

Mr John Larkin 
Assistant Secretary, APEC Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 

Amb Richard Woolcott AC 
Former Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 

Prof Andrew Macintyre 
Deputy Vice-Chancellor International and Vice-President at RMIT University 

Mr Sam Rosevear 
Deputy Secretary, Policy, Department of State Development, Business and Innovation 

The Financial Services Advisory Board 

Mr Ken Waller 
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