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<td>Governance</td>
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Cover Image: Chinese lanterns hung up for Lunar New Year. China was the host of APEC in 2014.
The Australian APEC Study Centre

**Highlights**

**Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Total Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$238,362</td>
<td>$1,901,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$2,267,000</td>
<td>$3,391,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 (Forecast)</td>
<td>$4,161,320</td>
<td></td>
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**Program Stats 2014**

**Capacity Building Programs - Gender**

- Women: 65%
- Men: 35%

**Presenters Breakdown (%)**

- Public Sector: 12%
- Industry: 27%
- Academia: 26%
- Multilaterals: 36%

**Average overall rating for our programs = 92%**

**Participants from over 23 countries in the region**

**Australian APEC Study Centre Global Footprint**

The Centre has undergone substantial growth in 2014, maintained and grown relationships with RMIT and key stakeholders, expanding its reach both domestically and across the Asia Pacific region.

**Director’s Statement**

The Centre has grown substantially in terms of output and numbers in 2014, and maintained its status as a pre-eminent institution for capacity building in the Asia Pacific. The Centre’s program and projects in 2014 were delivered with an outstanding level of professionalism enhancing RMIT’s status as a hub of knowledge in the Asia-Pacific region.

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 expertise on regional matters. With its Asia Pacific research as a strategic focus, the Centre has helped fulfill the College of Business’ ‘global engagement’ component of its 2014 strategy.

Key Activities in 2014 included:

- **Establishment of the Regional Investment Analytical Group (RIAG)**
  The Centre, supported by DFAT and endorsed by ABAC and APEC Finance Ministers and Leaders, established RIAG to provide analysis and relevant quantitative indicators as a means of improving sustained investment flows to economies in the region.

- **Urban Infrastructure Network (UIN)**
  The Centre formed the UIN under the Government Partnerships for Development (GPFD) Program and is designed to develop best practices on urban infrastructure development, planning and financing. Three work-streams of regional specialists are involved in preparing analysis and recommendations to be presented in ABAC’s report to APEC Leaders in 2015.

- **APEC and ASEAN Investment Environment**
  Senior leaders from across the APEC and ASEAN regions discussed key policy issues relating to quantitative indicators for investment, investment by state owned enterprises and sovereign wealth funds and the role of international and bilateral treaties.

- **Executing PPP Transactions**
  A highly successful training program on PPPs for senior officials involved in infrastructure policy, planning and implementation from across regional economies was delivered. Senior business groups, international organisations and Australian officials experts participated as presenters.

- **APEC and ASEAN Research Fellowship**
  The Centre designed and implemented the Fellowship in partnership with the Department of Education and Training. Significantly the program will provide financial support for high-achieving female researchers from developing APEC economies to pursue research opportunities in partnership with Australian education and research institutions.

In 2014, the Centre continues to broaden its funding base, which places it in a secure financial situation. Income in 2014 was $3.39 million and is forecast to increase to $4.16 million in 2015. Key to this achievement was the successful bid for $2.5 million funding for a multi-year Commonwealth Government for Development (GPFD) project. Ongoing work includes providing secretariat services to Australia’s APEC Business Council (ABAC) members until mid 2016 and the 5-year funding for the Australia-APEC Women in Research Fellowship.

The Centre’s strategic direction for 2015 will focus on driving global engagement with RMIT and the College of Business and maintain its status as a pre-eminent institution for capacity building in the Asia Pacific. The Centre through all activities will continue to build positive relationships with Australian and Victorian Government departments and multilateral organisations such as APEC, ABAC and ASEAN.

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

The Australian APEC Study Centre (the Centre) supports Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation’s (APEC) strategic, economic, social and educational objectives throughout the Asia-Pacific region through institutional capacity building and applied research.

Background

APEC is the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. Since its inception in 1989 it has grown to encompass 21 members spanning four continents and represents the most economically dynamic region in the world, accounting for approximately 40.5% of the world’s population, 54.2% of world GDP and 43.7% of world trade.

At the APEC Leaders’ Summit in 1993, all APEC member economies agreed to establish APEC Study Centres in the higher education sector to promote APEC’s goals and objectives.

The Centre was first established in 1994 by a consortium consisting of Monash University and the University of New South Wales, then solely by Monash University. In 2009 with the agreement of major stakeholders and the Australian Government, the Centre moved to RMIT University’s College of Business.

Centre Activities

The Centre is a leading capacity building institution in the Asia-Pacific for policy makers and regulators from APEC and other Asia-Pacific regional economies. To date we have trained over 2500 officials from over 30 countries. The Centre hosts conferences, symposia and dialogues to promote regional understanding, the exchange of information and experience sharing between regional and international policy makers and regulators, the private sector and academia. We publish research and issues papers on matters important to APEC and the region. This work contributes to fostering debate and understanding between Governments, the private sector and academia, and also supports the program development of capacity building initiatives and policy dialogues.

Scope

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

— Trade and investment liberalisation
— Infrastructure financing and managing risk
— Economic integration and structural reform
— Risk management and governance in finance sectors
— Food security
— Supply chain and logistics
— Professional services and international education
— Technology and microfinance
— Research and innovation

The Centre collaborates with partners from a wide network of industry, government, academia and key international multilateral organisations (World Bank, OECD, ADB, UNCTAD, APEC and ASEAN Secretariats).

The Centre is also the Australian APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Secretariat. ABAC is a leading regional forum for public-private sector collaboration on policy issues of importance to the Asia-Pacific region.
Key Activities 2014

The focus of the Centre’s work remains on the core objectives of APEC – open markets for trade in goods and services, investment flows and the promotion of regional integration. The Centre works to achieve these goals through the strengthening of policy and regulatory institutions in the region’s economies. A key focus of the Centre’s work in 2014 has been on structural reform, financial system strengthening, investment in infrastructure and public-private partnerships (PPPs).

The Centre’s primary strategic focus is to develop and deliver capacity building programs that further the priority activities of APEC and with ASEAN. Our focus is based on understanding the priorities set by the APEC leaders and Governments, and translating these requirements into proposals for funding that we can present to the Australian Commonwealth Government and to other funding sources.

The Centre develops and delivers value through its participation in APEC meetings such as ABAC, the Asia Pacific Infrastructure Partnership (APIP) and the Investment Experts Group (IEG). The Centre itself has led and initiated a number of proposals that have been adopted by APEC forums and leaders.

2014 Program Highlights

Capacity Building

The Centre delivered several major capacity building programs in 2014.

— Establishment of the Regional Investment Analytical Group (RIAG)

The Centre, supported by DFAT and endorsed by ABAC and APEC Finance Ministers and Leaders, established RIAG to provide analysis and relevant quantitative indicators as a means of improving sustained investment flows to economies in the region. The Centre will act as a Secretariat and draw on support from partnerships with the World Bank, OECD, UNCTAD, ADB, the APEC Policy Support Unit, ASEAN Secretariat, academics from RMIT and Victoria Universities, the Australian Treasury and a representative of the Productivity Commission.

— Urban Infrastructure Network (UIN)

The Centre formed the UIN under the Government Partnerships for Development (GPFD) Program and is designed to develop best practices on urban infrastructure development, planning and financing. Three work-streams of regional specialists are involved in preparing analysis and recommendations to be presented in ABC’s report to APEC Leaders in 2015. The UIN involves close collaboration with major think tanks, academics, and business groups and with support from the Philippines with mayors and city planners from regional economies.

— Enhancing APEC and ASEAN Investment Environment

Senior leaders from across the APEC and ASEAN regions discussed key policy issues relating to quantitative indicators for investment, investment by state owned enterprises and sovereign wealth funds and the role of international and bilateral treaties.

— Executing PPP transactions

A highly successful training program on PPPs for senior officials involved in infrastructure policy, planning and implementation from across regional economies was delivered. Senior business groups, international organisations and Australian officials experts participated as presenters. A follow up infrastructure program will be delivered in 2015.

— The Centre designed and implemented the Australia-APEC Women in Research Fellowship in partnership with the Department of Education and Training. Significantly the program will provide financial support for high-achieving female researchers from developing APEC economies to pursue research opportunities in partnership with Australian education and research institutions.

— A series of regional workshops in partnership with DFAT aimed at promoting best practices in services including Transport and Logistics and Telecommunications and ICT.

— Expansion of the STAR Database with funding from DFAT and the APEC Secretariat.

China’s APEC Chairmanship

China intensified APEC’s role in infrastructure financing and delivery. The Centre’s Director participated in meetings in China sponsored by the Ministry of Finance to promote long-term infrastructure financing and in development of Public Private Partnership (PPPs) Centre’s Excellence.

The Centre was represented at the APEC Finance Ministers’ meeting which had a strong focus on infrastructure development and financing. The other area of focus was venture capital and the growing importance of electronic payments systems.

The Centre Director chaired a meeting of the APP in Jakarta in November. This was the fourth dialogue with Indonesian ministries. APEC’s focus on infrastructure is continuing in 2015 under the Chair of the Philippines and this is leading to deeper co-operation between the Centre and relevant agencies in the Philippines.

Research

Of particular value to the College is the research credits received by the Centre for our capacity building activities. These do involve a significant public policy research component. In 2014, the Centre contributed $2.27 million in research to the College amounting to approximately 56% of the total achieved by the College of Business. We forecast over $1.5 million in research funding in 2015.

The Centre’s contribution to RMIT was recognised when the Acting Vice Chancellor approved an investment of $160,000 to support the Centre’s research activities. We established the RMIT Asia Pacific Regional Analytics Cluster (RAPRAC) that provides funding to RMIT academics to undertake research related to the Centre’s programs. This is a significant development in deepening the Centre’s relationship with the College of Business and RMIT University more broadly.

These strong relationships are as a consequence of the support we have received from the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Vice President RMIT University, Professor Ian Palmer and Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor, Industry Engagement, Professor Aaron Smith.

Capacity Building Programs 2014

| Training Program: Enhancing the investment environment in APEC and ASEAN economies (Year 2) | PSPF DFAT | 12-18 June 2014 | Melbourne, Australia |
| Training Program: Delivering successful Public Private Partnerships: Transaction skills and capabilities for Public Officials and agencies in APEC economies (APEC, ASEAN, and South Asia) | GPFD DFAT | 2-5 September 2014 | Melbourne, Australia |
| Policy Dialogue: Investing in Taiwan: Exploring opportunities for advancing Australian business interests in China | Australia China Council DFAT | 1 May 2014 | Melbourne, Australia |
| Regional Symposium: Facilitating Good Regulatory Practices in Transport and Logistics Services | DFAT | 15-16 July 2014 | Hong Kong, China |
| Regional Forum: Developing and Financing Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future | GPFD DFAT | 1-2 September 2014 | Melbourne, Victoria |

Staff Additions

Following the Board’s strategic advice, the Centre has taken steps to enhance its institutional strength and has increased its senior staffing levels. In 2014, several appointments were made adding new senior level resources and expanding our technical expertise.

Partnerships

The Centre acknowledges the ongoing and continued support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Australian Treasury, which furthers the Centre’s and RMIT’s strategic focus, capabilities and knowledge in the region. The relationships entail in delivering on that contract places the Centre at the heart of major APEC initiatives and with that comes major insights into APEC’s priorities.
ABAC Secretariat

The Centre was appointed by DFAT as the Secretariat for Australian members of ABAC in 2013.

ABAC is a leading regional forum for public-private sector collaboration on policy issues of importance to the Asia-Pacific region. 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 membership comprises of up to three business leaders from each APEC economy, with members appointed by the Leaders of each economy. ABAC members meet four times a year and represent a wide range of business sectors, including large corporations and small and medium enterprises.

The ABAC Members for 2014 were

Anna Buduls
John W. H. Denton AO
Sir Rod Eddington AO

ABAC Activities

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>ABAC 1</td>
<td>Auckland, New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-14 February 2014</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ABAC 2</td>
<td>Santiago, Chile</td>
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<td>4-7 May 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>APEC Women’s Forum</td>
<td>Beijing, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-23 May 2014</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ABAC 3</td>
<td>Seattle, Washington, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-10 July 2014</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>21st APEC Finance Ministers’ Meeting</td>
<td>Beijing, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-22 October 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABAC Outreach Meeting</td>
<td>Melbourne, Australia</td>
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<td>29 October 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABAC 4</td>
<td>Beijing, China</td>
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<td>5-8 November 2014</td>
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<td>2014 APEC CEO Summit</td>
<td>Beijing, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-10 November 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>APEC Informal Senior Officials’ Meeting (ISOM)</td>
<td>Manila, Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-9 December 2014</td>
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Australia-APEC Women in Research Fellowship

The Australia-APEC Women in Research Fellowship provides financial support for high-achieving female researchers from developing APEC economies to pursue research opportunities in partnership with Australian education and research institutions. The Prime Minister launched it at Leaders’ week in Beijing in late 2014.

Up to 10 fellowships will be awarded each year for five years (2015-2019). Researchers will be hosted by Australian education and research institutions for between one and four months. The Centre will administer the fellowship, supported by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive the fellowship, applicants must:

— Be a female citizen or permanent resident of one of the following eligible APEC economies: Chile, People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Thailand or Vietnam
— Have a PhD degree
— Nomination agreement with an Australian academic institution or organisation

Selection Criteria

The following are the selection criteria and their relative weighting:

1. A record of high-level academic achievement and research experience relative to opportunity in the applicant’s chosen field of study (30%)
2. A well-defined research program with anticipated outcomes (40%)
3. Statement on how the international research would further the applicant’s academic and/or professional career (15%)
4. Statement on how the international research opportunity will benefit Australia and the applicant’s potential to foster ongoing collaboration and cooperation between Australian and home economy (15%)
Funding

Revenue growth exceeded forecasts in 2014, which amounted to $3.39 million. We are on sound long-term footing particularly with our first 5-year contract with the Department of Education and Training.

In 2014, the Centre contributed $2.267 million in research to the College amounting to approximately 55% of the total credits achieved by the College of Business. We forecast over $1.5 million in research funding for 2015.

Funding Sources

- APEC Secretariat
- Asialink
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
- Department of Education and Training

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.

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.

Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)
ADBI is a subsidiary and the think tank of the Asian Development Bank. It is a leading centre for the creation and dissemination of information and knowledge on development in the Asia-Pacific region.

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

APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)
ABAC is a leading regional forum for public-private sector collaboration on policy issues of importance to the Asia-Pacific region. The Australian APEC Study Centre has been an active contributor to the work of ABAC and provides secretariat services to Australia’s ABAC members.

APEC Secretariat
The APEC Secretariat operates as the core support mechanism for the APEC process providing coordination, technical and advisory support as well as information management, communications and public outreach services. The APEC Secretariat has provided funding for 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 for the Centre’s programs and many ASEAN Secretariat representatives have participated in capacity building programs conducted by the Centre.
Future Strategies and Activities for 2015

The Centre’s close involvement in APEC forums means that it is well placed to develop funding proposals focusing on regional economic priorities supporting APEC Leaders and Ministers. It is expected that the Commonwealth Government will continue to prioritise economic aid and development programs related to the reform challenges facing the region.

An important aspect of the GPFD facility is the promotion of Australia’s business expertise and interests in the region. Through our contacts with industry, we have a strategic interest in bringing that expertise into our funding proposals and aligning government and business interests.

Our close relationships with DFAT, Treasury and other Commonwealth agencies are particularly relevant to our understanding of the issues the government wishes to pursue in regional economic and social forums and maintaining these relationships remains a strategic priority. We worked with Treasury on developing the G20 Global Infrastructure Hub in Sydney.

The Centre is organising ABAC 3 in Melbourne in August 2015 on behalf of the Commonwealth Government and ABAC Australia. For this large event we are working with a range of government agencies including DFAT, Treasury, Austrade, the Mining Taskforce, Department of Employment, Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development and the Victorian State Government.

We will maintain effective working relationships directly with regional forums, such as the APEC, ASEAN Secretariats and G20 to ensure that we understand their needs for capacity building activities in their member economies.

We will continue to build deep engagement with the College of Business and with RMIT more broadly. The challenge is to further expand the linkages with RMIT’s broad objectives to become a global university. Our primary role is capacity building and an advocacy centre for APEC and its values.

DFAT
DFAT advances the interests of Australia and Australians internationally. Through the Department’s aid program the Centre receives funding for several projects.

The Centre also works closely with the Department’s APEC branch on facilitating trade and investment in services work and through the ABAC Australia secretariat function. DFAT experts and senior staff also regularly contribute to the Centre’s training programs and policy dialogues.

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 people around the world. OECD senior experts regularly participate in and contribute to the Centre’s training programs, forums and symposia on investment and trade facilitation, governance and innovation.

Treasury
As a central policy agency, the Australian Treasury is responsible for developing Australia’s economic policies and for managing the national budget. Treasury experts and senior staff regularly contribute to the Centre’s training programs and policy dialogues, as well as providing advice on program development.

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. The ADB has provided support to the Centre’s capacity building programs through its expert presenters and panelists and has funded participants.

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 the Centre’s training programs, forums and symposia on supply chain connectivity, investment and trade facilitation, and governance.

Foundation for Development Co-operation (FDC)
FDC is an independent Australian Foundation committed to enabling better development outcomes in the Asia-Pacific region through collaboration and innovation. The Centre has partnered with FDC in developing tools to assess the quality of financial inclusion regulatory frameworks in the region.
Our strategic objectives are as follows:

- Focus on winning multi-year funding projects and deepening relations with key Commonwealth Departments to design and implement capacity building projects which meet Australia’s economic and social developmental objectives
- Advance RMIT and the College of Business regional and global strategies
- Seek significant research components in the design of project bids, which contributes to excellence in projects and to the provision of research funding to RMIT
- Develop existing partnerships and review opportunities for new partnerships with regional and global organisations, business groups and associations strengthening the Centre’s role in the region
- Deepen relationship with the Victorian Government
- Maintain the Centre’s strong financial position and growth

In 2015 the Centre will specifically focus on the following activities:

- Effectively implement RAPRAC to involve RMIT academics and others in research and associated work relating to public policy issues
- Publish a series of papers on Investment related matters drawing on recent programs
- Explore innovative technology partners and new technology for our activities.

Upcoming Activities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing the investment environment in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economies (Year 3)</td>
<td>DFAT PSLP and ADB</td>
<td>2-6 March 2015, Melbourne, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia Pacific Infrastructure Partnership (APIP) Dialogue</td>
<td>DFAT GPFD</td>
<td>4 March 2015, Tagaytay City, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing Best Practices in the Operations of a PPP Agency: Structuring and Resourceing a PPP Project Teams’ Capacity Building Program</td>
<td>DFAT GPFD and ADB</td>
<td>9-12 June 2015, Melbourne, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) meeting</td>
<td>DFAT/Treasury</td>
<td>10-13 August 2015, Melbourne, Australia</td>
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</table>

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 led the Centre through its transition from Monash University to RMIT in 2009. He directs the Centre’s strategic and operational activities and growth to a position where it is now a pre-eminent centre in the APEC region.

He is the co-ordinator of the Asia-Pacific Infrastructure Partnership, the Advisory Group on APEC Financial System Capacity Building and was the coordinator of the Financial Economic Working Group (FEWG) in 2014. His work covers trade and investment, financial market connectivity and other regional integration and structural reform issues at the centre of APEC’s agenda.

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 a 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 the Centre’s activities relating to operational, financial, human resource, profile planning, performance and reporting.

Prior she worked as a consultant advising international companies on strategy, marketing and product development. She worked in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam for several years and is an expert on the region.

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.

Margot Kilgour
Senior Manager
Douglas H. Brooks was appointed in late 2014 and oversees the Centre’s research activities. Previously he was Assistant Chief Economist and Director of the Development Indicators and Policy Research Division at the Asian Development Bank. His research focused mostly on the areas of international trade and investment, infrastructure development and connectivity. He has also worked as the Acting Director of Research and a Senior Research Fellow at the Asian Development Bank Institute in Tokyo, as Director in the Country Economic Analysis Department of the Export-Import Bank of Japan and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, and as an economist in the United Nations system, US government and academia.

Lisa Barker is the Lead Staffer for 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.

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 Arts (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.

Michael Fairbairn joined the Centre in December 2014. He is currently managing the delivery of ABAC 3 to be held in Melbourne in August 2015. Michael has significant experience managing industry programs and providing strategic policy advice across the public and private sectors. Prior to joining the Centre, Michael managed the resources program and international activities for Industry Capability Network Victoria, assisting Australian industry to access opportunities in the mining and oil and gas sector as well as other major infrastructure projects globally. Michael has a Masters of Public Policy and Management from the University of Melbourne and is currently completing a MBA (Executive) from RMIT University.

Dr Bekzod Abdulaev
Research Fellow

Bekzod joined the Centre in early 2015 as a Research Fellow. He completed a PhD in Economics at La Trobe University and a Master of Arts in Economics at Reading University in the UK. He has taught economics, quantitative and econometrics courses both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at La Trobe University since 2011. Prior to this, he worked for the Government of Uzbekistan at the Centre for Social and Economic Studies under the Cabinet of Ministers. He was directly involved in building fiscal policy and acted as a national consultant for several international programs including UNDP, USAID and European Commission.

Bekzod’s role in the Centre focuses on research, analysis and econometric modelling of policy developments in APEC countries.
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 completing a Master of Business (Banking and Finance) at Monash University.

Errol Muir has been editor of ‘APEC Currents’, the Centre’s newsletter since 2011 and is also responsible for producing the Centre’s new series of research publications.

He is Program Director, for Monash University’s Bachelor of International Business degree and is an Adjunct Industry Fellow at the Monash Business School. Prior to joining the Centre, he worked in the Commonwealth Department of Trade and the Department of Primary Industry, and for Rio Tinto Limited, one of the world’s largest mining and metals companies. His teaching interests include international trade policy, business and international strategic management and human resource management.

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