



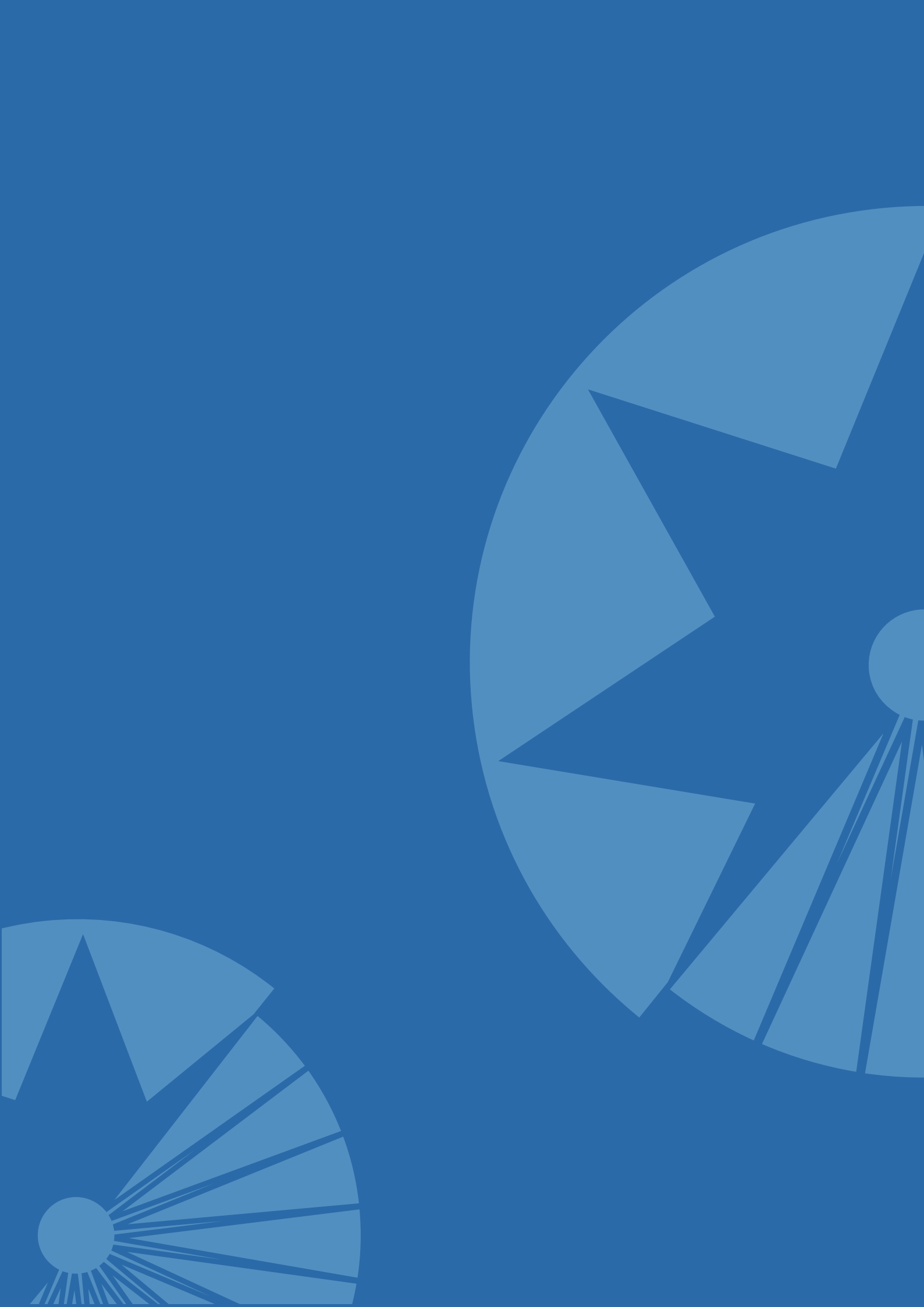
AIYD

Australia India
Youth Dialogue



2012 REPORT

New Delhi & Mumbai, India



Disclaimer

Date

This report is dated 19 April 2012.

Accuracy of information

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, AUSTRALIA INDIA YOUTH DIALOGUE

Friends of the Australia India Youth Dialogue,

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the report of the inaugural conference of the Australia India Youth Dialogue (AIYD) held in New Delhi and Mumbai, India from 30 January to 2 February 2012.

The AIYD represents a significant step towards the creation of a sustainable, long-term relationship between Australia and India, based on greater mutual understanding, engagement, trust and friendship, initiated at the youth level.

By bringing together young leaders from both countries, the AIYD has established an unprecedented initiative in the Australia-India relationship. The dialogue itself is unique and dynamic, and involves direct intellectual, social, cultural and economic exchanges between the best and brightest of Australia's and India's young minds.

For the AIYD Steering Committee, compiling this report has provided us with an opportunity to reflect on our project of passion. We have enjoyed the journey, every step of the way.

We also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our partners, delegates, speakers, board of advisors and other stakeholders.

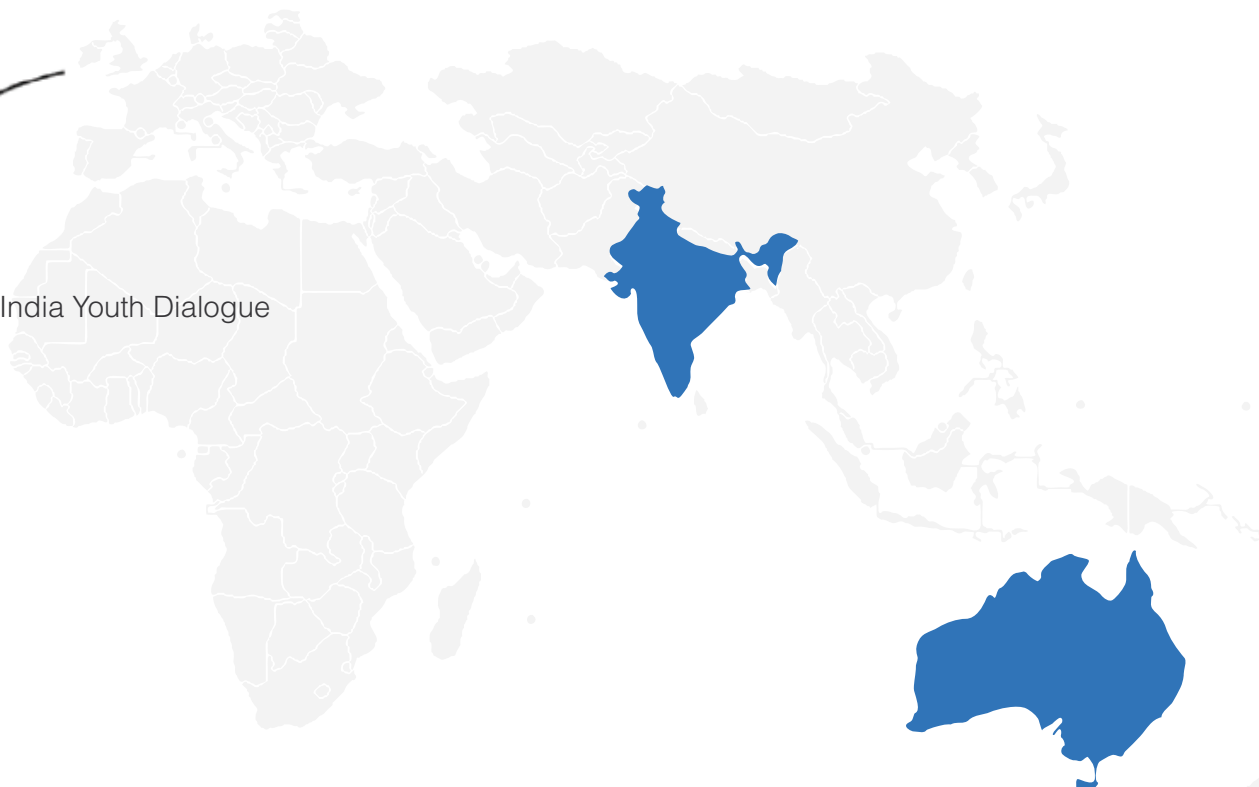
Looking ahead, there is still plenty of work to be done. We are excited and energized by our first alumni, who continue to remain actively engaged in the Australia-India space created by the AIYD. We look forward to their support and contributions in strengthening of the Australia-India relationship in the years to come.

Finally, we look forward to your greater engagement in enhancing this initiative and welcome your feedback and ideas.

Yours sincerely,



Ruchir Punjabi
Chair, Australia India Youth Dialogue



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The inaugural conference of the AIYD brought together a group of 30 young leaders from Australia and India. Both the Australian and Indian delegations consisted of individuals with strong profiles in a diverse range of professional backgrounds and social engagement, including journalism, social entrepreneurship, business enterprise and sports.

The selection process for the inaugural conference was two-pronged:

- For each delegation, ten individuals were head-hunted using carefully chosen criteria; and
- The remaining five delegates on each side were selected through a rigorous application and selection process. The entire selection process was carried out under the oversight, and with the approval of, the AIYD Board of Advisors.

Importantly, a significant number of delegates on both sides had no prior experience of engagement with the other country. This meant the AIYD was able to create fresh linkages and networks between these young leaders. This process was further stimulated by pairing delegates from both sides and housing them in shared accommodation for the duration of the conference.

The AIYD conference program covered four primary themes in the context of the Australia-India relationship:

- Education;
- International security;
- Climate change; and
- Business and the economy.

The program comprised panels with expert speakers in their fields who provided their perspectives on the various topics, followed by an opportunity for questions from the floor. These formal presentations were followed by break-up sessions consisting of roundtable discussions led by different panellists and small groups of the delegates. The outcomes of the roundtable discussions were recorded by delegates and submitted to the Steering Committee for inclusion in this report.

A summary of the formal sessions appears in the conference summary section of this report.

Through the interaction between delegates during and around sessions, the AIYD has been successful in initiating a unique, enriching and valuable exchange between the youth of Australia and India. A full summary of the outcomes of the inaugural conference appears in the outcomes section of this report.

The overwhelming success of the inaugural AIYD conference symbolises the start of a new chapter in the Australia-India relationship, to be shaped by the youth of the two countries.

OUR PARTNERS

Founding Partners

The AIYD is extremely grateful to the founding partners of AIYD 2012. Their tremendous support has assisted our team and delegates to generate greater networks between both countries and establish the platform for future cooperation and initiatives. The founding partners of AIYD 2012 include:



OUR PARTNERS

The AIYD is extremely grateful for the support of our Dialogue and Associate Partners.

Dialogue Partners



Associate Partners



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Day 1

30 January 2012, The Oberoi, New Delhi

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS



Ruchir Punjabi
AIYD Chair



Navdeep Suri
Joint Secretary Public Diplomacy Division
MEA, India

SESSION

The Australia-India Relationship: A History of Mixed Opportunities



Peter Varghese
Australian High Commissioner to India



Gopalaswami Parthasarathy
Former Indian High Commissioner to Australia

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Australia-India: The Way Forward Through Our Young Leaders



Amitabh Mattoo
Director, Australia India Institute

SESSION

Education in Australia - The Indian Student in Australia: Has the Crisis Been Overcome?



Lachlan Strahan
Deputy High Commissioner to
India, Australia



Govindraj Ethiraj
Planning Commission, Govt of India



Naveen Chopra
Director, The Chopras

SESSION

Education in India: The Skills Shortage: Up-skilling young Indians and young Australians



Geoffrey Conaghan
Commissioner to India from Victoria



Tony White
Director, Franchise India



Dilip Chenoy
CEO & MD, National Skill Development
Corporation

EXTERNAL

Visit to Gandhi Smriti

GALA OPENING DINNER

Keynote address by:



Mr T.K.A. Nair
Advisor to Prime Minister of India

Day 2

31 January 2012, The Oberoi, New Delhi

SESSION

International Security and Forced Convergence: India and Australia



Rajiv Nayan

Senior Research Associate, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi



Shashank Joshi

Associate Fellow, Royal United Services Institute



Lavina Lee

Macquarie University

LUNCH

Suzana Brinkmann, Education Consultant, UNICEF



SESSION

Climate Change: Navigating the Unknown Together



Sudhir Chella Rajan

Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras; Coordinator, Indo-German Centre for Sustainability



Amrita N Achanta

Senior Visiting Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Day 3

1 February 2012, Taj Lands End, Mumbai

SESSION

Australia-India Business: Beyond Resources



Barry Buffier

Deputy Director General, Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services, NSW



Sarat Chandran

Director, Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce

LUNCH

Steve Waters, Consul General of Australia, Mumbai



SESSION

The Economic Report: Current and Future Growth



Pradeep S. Mehta

Secretary General, CUTS International, and Chairman, CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition



Rajesh Chadha

Senior Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research



Reetika Khara (by skype conference)
IIT Delhi

EXTERNAL

Visit to Chabad House, Mumbai

CLOSING DINNER



AIYD in conjunction with Australia India Institute (AI)

Keynote Address: Dr Indu Shahani, Sheriff of Mumbai

Day 4 (Optional)

2 February 2012, Mumbai

NGO ACTIVITY

Reality tours – Mumbai Dabbawalas and Dharavi slum

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Education in Australia

Acknowledging the issues faced by Indian students in Australia in the recent past, delegates came together to discuss ways to move past those issues and make Australia a destination for international students.

Delegates agreed that Australian education providers need to engage and work with local communities in India, as opposed to simply advertising their products locally. Such engagements need to include information on Australian culture and society and assimilation into Australian society.

Delegates considered that distance education (from Australian universities) for Indian students is another avenue with multiple benefits for both Australia and India.

It was agreed that tie-ups and MoUs between the two countries need to be better organised as at present there is little awareness of the existence and detail of such arrangements.

Exchange programs and scholarships for Indian students should also be encouraged.

India could also be promoted as an excellent 'gap year' destination for Australian students.

Education in India

In the area of education, delegates discussed the demographic dividend to be shortly experienced by India and Australia's potential to assist with up-skilling young Indians by supporting the training of educational trainers across key sectors in India. This could be done through a venture-driven approach in using a model which could be franchised. A conglomeration of private enterprises supported by public partnerships was also considered to be of potential value, with a pivotal role to be played by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in India.

Distance learning mechanisms were also considered to be of immense value in this area.

Such initiatives, it was agreed, would need to create local partnerships for delivery to be sustainable in the Indian context and be long-term in order to attract and sustain the interest of Australian education providers.

International Security

As Australia and India are both Indian Ocean countries, delegates pointed out the potential for cooperation in this context, particularly in the area of maritime security.

The rise of China has presented both countries with certain 'unknowns', thus creating a convergence of interests in relation to international and regional security. Common concerns should be discussed in detail to identify areas for cooperation.

Anti-terrorism policy is another area of cooperation which can bring Australia and India closer.

Non-traditional security challenges such as food security, water security and climate change are also of concern to both countries. There could be greater knowledge and experience-sharing on these issues in order to strengthen each country's understanding of and capacity to deal with these issues.

Finally, delegates concluded that given their similarities, Australia and India need to work more closely, particularly in relevant multilateral and regional forums to promote effective governance and leverage off each other's bilateral relationships and policies in international security.

Climate Change

The roundtable on climate change highlighted a number of common concerns between Australia and India, including its effect on agriculture and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The impacts of climate change on agriculture in both countries was discussed, as was the need for clean energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).

Australia and India are located in a region consisting mainly of developing countries which are expected to be severely affected by climate change. Therefore, both are likely to find themselves dealing with the phenomenon of climate refugees in the near future and this could be a potential area for cooperation.

Delegates also considered the area of sustainable development to be a substantial area for engagement between the two countries in the context of climate change.

India's ability to share with Australia its knowledge and experience in local innovation in various areas such as recycling and inter-institute collaboration was also identified as an area of potential collaboration.

Business beyond Resources

The roundtable on 'Business beyond Resources' identified the lack of a culturally-relevant approach to business by both countries in relation to one another.

Delegates suggested that successful companies in each country should be documented and examined as case studies in order to provide more information to those interested in working in this space.

Discussions on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between the two countries should move ahead at a faster pace in order to bolster areas of economic cooperation, trade and investment.

It was also suggested that communities and lobbies in the US and UK have played a very critical role in increasing business activity in both those countries. These business lobbies are well funded and organised and receive the support of their respective governments, and a similar approach could be considered in Australia.

Delegates pointed out that India needs to be more proactive in opening up Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) opportunities and undertake reforms which would facilitate a broader trade relationship with Australia.



External activities

The conference program in New Delhi and Mumbai included carefully selected external activities for AIYD delegates. These activities allowed them to interact informally and also have a glimpse of India's history and diversity.

India Gate, Red Fort and the Welcome Dinner – New Delhi,

After arriving in New Delhi on 29 January, AIYD delegates acquainted themselves with one another and the ancient city. They visited India Gate in the heart of New Delhi, and attended a dazzling sound-and-light show at the magnificent Red Fort in Old Delhi, which was followed by an informal welcome dinner.



AIYD Delegates in front of India Gate

Visit to Gandhi Smriti for the memorial service of Mahatma Gandhi – New Delhi

On 30 January, the AIYD organised a visit to Gandhi Smriti, a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi and the site of his last residence. AIYD delegates attended the annual memorial service in Mahatma Gandhi's honour on the day of his assassination, also known as Martyr's Day in India. At the ceremony, AIYD delegates were privileged to be in the company of the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Vice-President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari, the Defence Minister of India, Mr AK Anthony and the chief minister of Delhi, Sheila Dikshit.

Gala Opening Dinner – New Delhi

The Gala Opening Dinner was held on 30 January at the Oberoi Hotel in New Delhi. Guests included Mr Peter Varghese AO, Australian High Commissioner to India, Dr Lachlan Strahan, Deputy Head of Mission to India, and Geoffrey Conaghan, Commissioner for Victoria to India. Mr T.K.A. Nair, Adviser to the Prime Minister of India gave the opening address, followed by video messages of support from the Australian Prime Minister, Julia Gillard and the Premier of Victoria, Ted Baillieu.



Visit to Chabad House – Mumbai

On the final day of the conference, the AIYD team organised a visit to the Chabad House, one of the sites of the Mumbai 2008 terrorist attacks. The AIYD delegates were taken through the Chabad House by Rabbi Gechtman, the current rabbi of the Chabad Lubavitch Centre in Mumbai, who talked to delegates about how the attacks unfolded on each level of the building. The interaction provided AIYD delegates with raw insight into the harsh realities of such an attack and the impact on victims, their families and wider communities.

Closing Dinner with the Australia India Institute – Mumbai

The conference was formally brought to an end at the Closing Dinner held at the Taj Land's End Hotel, Mumbai. Attendees included Mr Steve Waters, Consul General of Australia and Guest of Honour, Dr Indu Shahani, Sheriff of Mumbai, as well as celebrities from the Indian film industry, AIYD delegates and speakers.



Optional tour – the Mumbai Dabbawalas, Dhobi Ghat and the Dharavi Slum

On 2 January, the AIYD team organised an optional tour for AIYD delegates to meet Mumbai's famous dabbawalas, drive past one of the world's largest open air laundries (dhobi ghat) and tour through the largest slum in Asia, Dharavi.

The tour commenced at Churchgate railway station where we had the opportunity to watch the Mumbai dabbawalas in action. A Mumbai dabbawala fetches a customer's lunch from his home and delivers it to his place of work. With an error rate of one in 6 million transactions, the Mumbai dabbawalas are world renowned for their incredible service. It was intriguing to watch the sophistication involved in the coding and sorting of the lunches.

Thereafter, the AIYD group travelled past the dhobi ghat to the Dharavi slum.

Many people know Dharavi as the largest slum in Asia, but there is much more to this historic area of Mumbai. Dharavi's industries have an annual turnover of approximately US\$ 665 million. During the tour, we visited various industries, including recycling, pottery-making, embroidery, bakery, soap factory, leather tanning and poppadom-making. Most of these products are created in innovative ways and in very small spaces. The tour was an eye-opening and enriching experience for the AIYD delegates and Steering Committee.



Mumbai Dhobi Ghat



A Dabbawala in Mumbai

OUTCOMES OF THE INAUGURAL CONFERENCE OF THE AIYD

The AIYD was founded to provide a forum at which we could bring 15 young Australian leaders and 15 young Indian leaders together to hold constructive dialogue about various issues of significance to the Australia-India relationship. These included the strategic partnership between Australia and India, the education sector, bilateral trade and investment, the resources sector and security concerns.

The primary outcomes of the inaugural conference are summarised below.

Relationships between AIYD delegates

The level of engagement which emerged between the Indian and Australian delegates at the inaugural AIYD conference far exceeded our expectations. The continuing and focused interaction between and amongst the two delegations following the conference is deeply encouraging and indicative of the positive relationships formed at the conference.

The links formed at the inaugural AIYD conference are already proving to be invaluable in progressing the Australia-India relationship. Since the conference, there has been a high level of engagement between delegates and with the AIYD Steering Committee through an AIYD alumni group, formal speaking engagements for delegates organised through the Steering Committee or delegates themselves and casual catch-up sessions.

These include:

- Dinner with delegates in New Delhi - February 2012;
- Dinner with delegates in Canberra - March 2012;
- Dinner with delegates in Sydney - March 2012;
- Visit to Australia by Indian delegate, Rishi Suri - March 2012:
 - Speaking session organised by one of our Australian delegates, Andrew Pickford in Perth for Rishi;
 - Address by Rishi to International Relations and Security students at the Australian National University, Canberra; and
 - Radio interview with Rishi conducted by SBS Radio in Sydney; and
- Meeting between delegates based in Delhi and the South Australian Premier's envoy to India - March 2012



This level of engagement in the short time span since the conference is remarkable and heartening to say the least. Such continuing engagement will no doubt help broaden and deepen the Australia-India relationship and engender positive perceptions of the other in each country.

Taskforces

Two taskforces were created by the AIYD delegates at the inaugural conference:

- Demographic Dividend – up-skilling millions of Indians; and
- Sports Infrastructure in India.

Both taskforces are spearheaded by AIYD delegates who are currently actively engaging with a view to canvassing ideas and bringing together recommendations for the Indian government.

These recommendations will be made formally by the AIYD to the relevant departments of the two governments at the appropriate time.

Broader Engagement

The AIYD considers that the depth of experience of its delegates and the level of engagement between them will permit the AIYD to make submissions as appropriate to both governments in different areas of relevance.

For example, in February 2012 the AIYD made a submission to the Australian Government in response to the White Paper on 'Australia in the Asian Century'. To obtain a copy of this submission, please visit our website www.aiyd.org.

The AIYD has also been engaged with the media in India and Australia, facilitating interviews with delegates as well as the AIYD Chair for outlets such as ABC, NDTV, The Times of India, The Deccan Herald, among others. The AIYD also has a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TheAIYD) and a Twitter account (@AIYouthDialogue). Both are used actively to interact with stakeholders and as forums for the Steering Committee and other members to disseminate the latest news and information of relevance to the Australia-India relationship.

The Australia-India Relationship

On a broader scale, the AIYD has been successful in initiating a unique, enriching and valuable exchange between the youth of Australia and India. We strongly believe, based on the experience of the inaugural AIYD conference, and from feedback received from AIYD delegates, speakers and other stakeholders, that the initiative has added a new and much-needed dimension to the Australia-India relationship.

It may be too early to measure the tangible outcomes of the AIYD. Nonetheless, there is little doubt that it stands to have significant positive impact on the Australia-India relationship.

The overwhelming success of the inaugural AIYD conference has facilitated the start of a new chapter in the Australia-India relationship, to be shaped by the youth of the two countries. This success was made possible through the individual and collective contributions and continuing support of our sponsors, Board of Advisors, speakers, delegates and Steering Committee, for which we are sincerely grateful.

What comes next?

After the success of the inaugural conference of the AIYD, the Steering Committee came together to decide... what next?

The response was overwhelming – AIYD 2013, that's what's next!

With this in mind, the Steering Committee of the AIYD is coming together in late April 2012 to formally commence planning the next conference of the AIYD, to be scheduled in Australia in early 2013.

The Steering Committee is brimming with ideas and bursting with enthusiasm for AIYD 2013. If you would like to offer your support, feedback or ideas, or be part of the AIYD process, please enquire at enquiries@aiyd.org.

AUSTRALIAN DELEGATES

The inaugural conference of the Australia India Youth Dialogue was a success due to the high calibre of young leaders from both countries and their engagement at the conference. We thank them for their participation and look forward to hearing about their successes and endeavours.

For more detailed profiles of our delegates, please visit our website www.aiyd.org.



Anant Dev Tayal

Anant is a young engineer from Perth, Western Australia with a passion for sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region. An unremitting desire to understand his country of origin, India, has already seen him studying as a visiting student at IIT Madras, attending a youth leadership program in Kerala, and attending the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conference as an Australian delegate.

Anant currently works for Energy Australia by day, and by night plans ways to shape humanitarian engineering as his lifetime occupation. He is a leader of Energy with Engineers without Borders and has recently participated in a development experience with other Australian engineers visiting a number of NGOs around Pune, Auroville, Chennai and Mumbai.



Andrej Pavkovic

Andrej works for the Australian Government's international education agency, Australian Education International (AEI), in its National Office in Canberra. He works with a team spread between Canberra and New Delhi to help build education partnerships and policy dialogue between Australia and India.

Andrej completed a Bachelor of Asian Studies at the Australian National University, majoring in Japanese language and contemporary Asian societies and histories. His interest in India's rich culture and its emergence as a global giant was sparked during his studies. Following his studies he gained experience working in state and federal government before joining AEI.



Andrew Pickford

Andrew Pickford is based in Perth, Western Australia and works in the area of policy and strategy across a range of institutions, industries and governments. He has particular expertise in the electricity sector, strategy formulation, scenario-based planning and Indo-Pacific security issues. Mr Pickford is the inaugural ISSA Indo-Pacific Managing Director, a strategic think-tank focusing on the Indian Ocean region. Mr Pickford also holds a number of other positions including Senior Fellow, Mannkal Economic Foundation, Senior Fellow, International Strategic Studies Association and is currently a Center for Strategic and International Studies-Pacific Forum Young Leader.

Andrew is the former Vice President of the Australia-India Business Council (WA Branch). He also sits on the management committee of the Australia Day Council of Western Australia and the Australian Institute of International Affairs (WA Branch).

Mr Pickford is a co-author of Energy Security 2.0: How Energy is Central to the Changing Global Balance in the New Age of Geography, Australia 2050: An Examination of Australia's Condition, Outlook, and Options for the First Half of the 21st Century, and Such a Full Sea: Australia's Options in a Changing Indian Ocean Region.



Ben Doherty

Ben Doherty is South Asia Correspondent for The Age and Sydney Morning Herald newspapers. From a bureau in New Delhi, his brief ranges west and north to Pakistan and Afghanistan, south to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and east to Bangladesh, Nepal and Burma.

In 2009-10, Ben was South East Asia Correspondent for Fairfax Media and for The Guardian newspaper, covering Bangkok's red-shirt riots, Burma's first elections in a generation, and the release from prison of Aung San Suu Kyi. He has also reported from Iraq, Zimbabwe, the Solomon Islands and East Timor. Ben is a former member of Fairfax's press gallery bureau, covering the 2007 federal election and was a Melbourne-based reporter for The Age for three years.



Caitlin Bell

Caitlin Bell joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as a policy graduate in 2009. In 2010, as Assistant Pavilion Director, she provided communications and policy support for Australia's iconic and popular pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo. Caitlin's first diplomatic posting is to Australia's High Commission in New Delhi. Her work includes reporting on India's domestic political scene and forwarding Australia's bilateral relationship with India.

While completing her degree in law and social science at Macquarie University, Caitlin represented Australia on the inaugural voyage of the Scholar Ship – where she joined 200 students from over 40 nations on the seaborne university campus.

Caitlin believes whole-heartedly in the power that young people have to transform society. She has served as the youth representative on the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme's board, volunteered as part of the leadership team for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program in Sydney, and was a Camp Counsellor for the children's charity, Camp Quality. As International Director for Crossland's Rotaract Club she established a scholarship scheme for East Timor's youth to attend leadership activities in Sydney.



Elizabeth Pennell

Elizabeth Pennell is a Senior Associate at the Australian law firm Clayton Utz. Her practice focuses on cross border transactions, particularly mergers and acquisitions in emerging markets and in the energy and resources sector. During 2011, Elizabeth spent six months as a consultant to the leading Indian law firm, Amarchand, Mangaldas & Suresh A Shroff and Co in Delhi, assisting the AMSS team with the provision of advice in relation to the Indian foreign investment regime.

Elizabeth is also a recognized specialist in the law of outer space. In 2010, she was nominated and admitted as a professional member of the International Institute for Space Law, and was a judge for Asia Pacific finals in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot. She has also taught as a guest lecturer in this field at the University of New South Wales.



Emily Harrison

Emily Harrison is the founder and Executive Director of Innovaid Advisory Services – a group of international consultants who provide strategic advice and management services to celebrities and corporates on their philanthropy and corporate social responsibility in India.

Emily first came to India in 2007 as a Team Leader with Australian Volunteers International. She led teams of volunteers on community development projects in remote villages in Tamil Nadu where she fell in love with India and made the decision to move to Bombay and start her own company – Innovaid.

Under her leadership, Innovaid has grown into a niche, burgeoning company working with an impressive list of clients, including Australian cricket legends Steve Waugh and Brett Lee, India's only Individual Olympic Gold Medallist Abhinav Bindra, Bollywood actors Rahul Bose, Gul Panag and Anupam Kher and a host of corporates such as Tata AIG, Deccan Healthcare and Thwack.



Hayley Bolding

Hayley Bolding has an extensive background in international development and education in Australia and India. Hayley first travelled to India in 2001 undertaking research in Microfinance and Self Help Groups in Tamil Nadu, beginning a relationship with India that has spanned over a decade. Hayley then moved permanently to Mumbai in 2005, working in Fair Trade and Corporate Social Responsibility before deciding to dedicate her career to non-profit management and the education sector. At the age of 23, Hayley founded a non-profit organisation in Mumbai called Atma (www.atma.org.in). Atma (meaning 'Soul' in Hindi) was the inspiration Hayley envisioned from seeing the educational challenges faced by underprivileged in India. She recognised that the greatest impact could come by building capacity among key leaders, educationalists and organisations who were creating and developing educational change in India. Her vision was, and continues to be, to challenge the struggling mainstream educational status quo and showcase that innovative and child-centred educational approaches are not only possible, but create genuine equalising outcomes for the marginalised.



Jennifer Star

Jennifer Star (nee Purcell) founded an International Education NGO, Tara.Ed at the age of 20. Now in its fifth year, Tara.Ed reaches out to over 1,500 underprivileged children in rural and remote areas of India. By focusing on teachers rather than students, Tara.Ed aims to promote sustainability in education by building star teachers to help students shine.

Jennifer's passion for India was ignited after being selected as a World Vision Youth Ambassador to India in 2004. She has since returned to India on numerous occasions; including a three month stint living and working in the slums of Jaipur and an 18-month placement in Bangalore designing and implementing values education and life-skills programs for urban street children.

As a result of her achievements, in 2007 Jennifer was selected as one of only 75 Goldman Sachs Global Leaders worldwide. She is also the recipient of an Order of Australia Commendation Medallion for service to the global and local community as well as being named a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow and the NSW Young Australian of the Year for 2012.

Now 25 years old, Jennifer is undertaking a research dissertation at Oxford University.



Jeremy Balkin

Jeremy Balkin is an entrepreneur based in Sydney. He is responsible for Business Development and managing the financial affairs of families with wealth in excess of \$100m at Macquarie Bank.

Prior to Macquarie, Jeremy established Apex Equity Group where he sourced alternative investments and syndicated private equity opportunities to wealthy families in South Africa and Australia. Jeremy also worked as an Adviser to The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP and was a bartender whilst studying at University.

Passionate about philanthropy, Jeremy is the Founder of Adventure Capital (www.givewhileyoulive.com) a philanthropic website aimed at challenging the wealthy to share their good fortune during their lifetime. In addition Jeremy sits on the board of two community based charities in Sydney.



Nathan Bracken

Since winning the Bradman Young Cricketer of the Year award in 2001, Nathan Bracken has continued to receive some of the highest accolades in world cricket throughout his career. Nathan is the second fastest Australian to reach 100 international ODI wickets, equal with other bowling legends Shane Warne and Dennis Lillee.

Nathan's high profile in cricket also stretches around the world, having appeared on ESPN Asia, commentating with a number of media outlets in India and writing for a number of media outlets in Dubai. He also donates a lot of his time to charity, having worked with Variety Club, Camp Quality, Bonnie Babies Foundation, McGrath Foundation, UNICEF, Women In Need, Ovarian Cancer Australia and Mayumarri.

As The BME Agency's Director of Sport & Entertainment, Nathan uses his intimate knowledge and experience of the sport and entertainment industry in Australia and internationally to create and manage sport and entertainment related opportunities and relationships across the marketing, events and talent management divisions of the Agency.



Payal Mahindroo

Payal is a Senior Associate in the Corporate group at Blake Dawson, a top tier law firm in Sydney and acts as a mentor and role model to junior staff. She is involved in leading the firm's India practice and particularly enjoys being able to combine her Indian language abilities and professional skills. Payal was appointed the youngest Senior Associate nationally. She has worked in Perth, Queensland and now Sydney on high profile resources and infrastructure transactions, including acting on the largest investment by an Indian company of a listed Australian company's coal assets.

Born in Africa with parents originally from New Delhi, Payal has strong ties to her Indian heritage and cultural values. Payal speaks fluent Hindi. She has actively contributed to different Indian youth organisations, participated in cultural programs and community performing art shows and for many years performed classical South Indian dancing (Bharatanatyam).



Sam Riordan

Sam Riordan is a foreign affairs adviser to the Hon Julie Bishop MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade. He has previously worked for Emeritus Professor Peter Drysdale at the Crawford School of Economics and Government at the Australian National University and for former Senator Russell Troad, Chair of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee.

Sam has served as an executive member of the Australian Institute of International Affairs and the Australian American Association in Canberra. He is a former recipient of the Australian American Association Scholarship, and participant in the Australia America Young Leadership Dialogue and the Lowy Institute for International Policy Youth Leadership Conference.



Sarah Flomersfeld

Sarah currently works for the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) where she is responsible for investment attraction and facilitation in Singapore, Australia's sixth largest source of foreign direct investment .

Prior to this, she held policy research roles in Singapore, Paris and Brussels, with a focus on economic development and national competitiveness.

Sarah holds a Masters in Public Policy from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, and a Bachelor of International Relations from Bond University. She has spent two terms as Senior Editor of the Asian Journal of Public Affairs, which she continues to advise.



Yaara Bou Melhem is a multi award winning broadcast journalist who has worked in the remotest corners of Australia and around the world.

In 2011, she was named the Young Australian Journalist of the Year by the Walkley Foundation for her reporting from Syria, one of the highest honours that can be bestowed on young journalists working from Australia. Yaara also took out the International Journalism category at the prestigious Walkley Awards that same year for her series 'Struggle for Freedom' on the Arab uprisings.

Yaara Bou Melhem

Yaara's first short documentary saw her awarded the Young Australian Television Journalist of the Year in 2009. She was nominated again for the award in 2010 for her stories on asbestos contamination in an Aboriginal community. She won the 2011 UN Australia Media Peace Award for best TV Current Affairs and has previously been a four-time finalist for best TV reporting from the Middle East.



INDIAN DELEGATES



Anika Singh

Anika defines her Life-purpose as 'to work towards a world where I can provide practical, innovative, and action-oriented solutions, and empower my fellow beings to disseminate the message of 'Be the Change'.

She has done her education in Bachelors of Sociology, Masters in Business Economics, and Diploma in Conflict Transformation. She has wide experience in the community sector for over 10 years from grass-root level not-for-profits and education institutes to international organisations like the United Nations. In following her passion, she has acquired skills in community engagements, training and capacity building, networking, fundraising, business leadership, team-building, resource management, media, editing, case-management, counseling and conflict management.

She is currently working at WISE Employment as a Community Engagement Consultant. In her role, she works with schools, community organisations, and disadvantaged communities and empowers them with local job-market knowledge, employment opportunities and support services.



Ashok Giri Durgesh

Ashok Giri Durgesh, is the CEO & Co-Founder of Vindhya e-Infomedia Private Limited (Vindhya), a BPO based out of Bangalore, India. Vindhya, a socio-economic venture started by him is India's and probably the world's first & only for profit organisation which employs people with disabilities (PWD's) as 100% of its production staff. Production staff comprises only of physically challenged, hearing impaired & border cases of autistic individuals. Starting in 2006, the company has grown from 5 PWD's to 300+ PWD's. Vindhya's vision is to employ 5000 by 2017. Ashok, through Vindhya, is the recipient of the Shell-Helen Keller Award from the National Center for Promotion of Employment Opportunity for Disabled People, and outstanding employer from then Finance Minister, Mr. P Chidambaram on Behalf of Canara Bank, one of the largest national banks in India.

Prior to Vindhya, Ashok was in senior positions at R2K Inc and Network Solutions (an IBM company) and Trivium Inc responsible for their operations in Asia. Ashok has been inducted into the World Economic Forum from India as "Young Global Leader" in the year 2010. Ashok graduated in Science from Bangalore and has done a Diploma in Leadership and Public Policy from Harvard University.



Pinky Chandran

Pinky has over 12 years of experience spanning careers across international education, research, training & development and community services. As a key member of the start-up team at IDP Education Australia in Bangalore, she was instrumental in establishing operations, building networks, creating brand value and identifying opportunities for partnerships. She was responsible for facilitating the Articulation Program between Christ College, Bangalore and Griffith University, Australia in 2003 and also coordinated the activities of the IDP Peace Scholarship in 2004. She received two awards from the IDP Global Network; for Outstanding Service to IDP for initiative, leadership and dedication above expectations.

Pinky joined the Jain Group of Institutions to head the Training & Development Division in 2005. A certified practitioner of Neuro-Linguistic Programming from the National Federation of Neurolinguistic Psychology (NFNLP), USA, she has imparted learning to over 2500 individuals on leadership, team building, customer service, personal development, effective interviewing, etc.



Rishi Suri

Rishi Suri is a senior editor convening international affairs at The Daily Milap, India's oldest and largest circulated Urdu daily newspaper. He is an internationally recognized journalist known for his strong views and opinions on global politics and diplomacy. His interviews with various international personalities and heads of states and his articles on different subjects in the Middle East have been widely acclaimed and appreciated.

Rishi is a certified diplomatic correspondent by the Ministry of External Affairs in India and has been part of various international delegations and programs, the most recent being the International Visitor Leadership program run by the State Department of the United States of America.



Rohan Mukherjee

Rohan Mukherjee is a PhD student in the department of politics at Princeton University, focusing on international politics and the rise of China and India. Prior to studying political science, he worked in international development and received a Masters in Public Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton.

Rohan holds a Bachelor's in philosophy, politics and economics (PPE) from the University of Oxford. His professional experience so far has spanned grassroots development work among indigenous communities in rural India, public policy research and analysis on education, housing and urbanisation for a prominent Indian think tank, and a stint with the National Knowledge Commission, a high-level government body set up by the Indian Prime Minister to recommend transformational changes for India's education and research infrastructure.

In July 2011, Rohan and three others co-founded the Youth Forum on Foreign Policy (YFFP), an independent, non-partisan initiative designed to promote debate on foreign policy issues among young Indians, and to represent their views to practitioners and scholars of Indian foreign policy.



Rustam Sengupta

Russ graduated from INSEAD with a burning desire to do something different and work for developing those less fortunate than himself.

He has been a banker for Standard Chartered Bank in Singapore, a consultant for Deloitte Consulting in US and a researcher for ICOS Vision Systems in Belgium, having lived and worked in five countries across the globe. He also holds a Masters in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Irvine besides the MBA from INSEAD.

After quitting his finance job in September 2009, Russ has been working with NGOs, manufacturers and villagers to design and develop the Boond products, model and supply chain.



**Sarathbabu
Elumalai**

Sarathbabu Elumalai is a Young Indian Entrepreneur, social worker and politician. He is an alumnus of Indian Institute of Management (Ahmedabad) and Birla Institute of Technology and Science (Pilani). He is the winner of several awards, notable among them the PEPSI-MTV Youth Icon 2008 and 'Example to Youth Award' 2008. His story is a true motivation for people aspiring to rise up in life through sheer hard work.

Sarathbabu completed his matriculation from King's Matriculation Higher Secondary school in Chennai and graduated in Chemical Engineering from BITS Pilani. He worked in Polaris Software for three years and pursued his MBA from IIM-A. It was post his MBA that he started Food King, a food catering service in 2006. His vision was to offer employment to illiterate and semi-illiterate people through Food King.

One of his biggest achievements is becoming an Honorary Rotarian. He has also won the CNN-IBN Award for Young Indian Leader 2011, RITZ Chennai Youth Icon 2010 and many more youth awards.



Shankar Vanavarayar

Shankar Vanavarayar is the Correspondent/President of NIA Educational Institutions and Executive Director of Sakthi Auto Motors Ltd., a part of the Sakthi Group based out of Coimbatore. Shankar Vanavarayar has a Bachelors Degree in Commerce from PSG Arts and Science College Coimbatore, an MBA from the Cardiff University in the UK and a Masters in International Education Management from the University of Leeds, UK.

Shankar plays various roles in the US\$1 billion Sakthi Group. Presently, he plays a passionate and dynamic role in the management of NIA Educational institutions which educate more than 12,000 students from school to higher education.

Shankar has been a part of the Confederation of Indian Industry's Young Indians for the past six years, playing various roles from chapter to national positions of Strategy, Communication and Events.



Shayamal Vallabjee

Shayamal is a Sports Scientist, Entrepreneur and Lecturer, having worked with some of the world's best athletes. With over 10 years of experience in the industry, Shayamal has had the opportunity to work with the Davis Cup & Cricket Teams of India and South Africa. He currently works with a number of top players on the ATP Circuit.

Shayamal is equipped with an amalgamation of knowledge and experience, including a degree in Sports Sciences, a postgraduate degree in Exercise Science and a diploma in Sports Management. He is director at Digi-Sports - an organisation geared towards the performance enhancement of athletes - and is an exercise consultant to the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls. Shayamal is also a self-published author having written two books on sports science and medicine in cricket.



Shrey Goyal

Shrey Goyal is a graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology at Kharagpur, India. While there, he founded a clean energy project, Urja, which has since been deemed an Ashoka's Youth venture, and won the Oxford Youth Business Development Challenge in 2009, besides support from the Lemelson Foundation, Engineers Without Borders - USA, GE India, and the Al Gore Sustainable Technology Venture Competition. Shrey has previously worked in the spaces of innovation in microfinance and social enterprise consulting, and was a consultant for OECD-PISA with the World Bank, India. As a Villgro Fellow for 2011-12, he is working with First Energy, Pune, a former BP subsidiary providing biomass-based clean energy solutions for low-income customers, and is rolling out their new village-level-entrepreneur model.

Shrey is the founder of AnaGenesis, a social enterprise that provides research-based solutions as well as strategy and business development support to other social enterprises and international development projects across India, Haiti, and the US. AnaGenesis creates experiential learning opportunities for students and young professionals, while facilitating Industry-Academia collaboration and promoting intercultural competence in the development sector.



Shruti Jagirdar

Shruti Jagirdar is currently a Legislative Assistant to a Member of Parliament, Baijayant 'Jay' Panda. An interest in policy-making led her to apply for the highly competitive LAMP Fellowship Program with PRS Legislative Research. She was one amongst the 46 accomplished young persons selected from across India for this program and she now works with Mr. Panda in preparing briefs on issues of national and regional importance, analyzing legislation and preparatory work required for speeches in Parliament, televised debates and newspaper articles.

A graduate in Statistics, Economics and Mathematics from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai she had worked at an i-bank, a leading business publication and in economic research initiatives prior to joining the fellowship. Shruti takes a keen interest in issues that relate to primary education in India and once worked with well-known playwright Anju Makhija to build small libraries for NGOs in her native Mumbai to develop the reading habit among children. She has also worked with

Microsoft's 'Project Shiksha,' a programme in partnership with the Government of Maharashtra, to train rural school teachers in the use of computers in education.



Siddharth Ramana

Siddharth Ramana is an India-based consultant for Realite-Eu and www.worldanalysis.net. He is a visiting fellow with the Institute for the Study of Asymmetric Conflict (ISAC), a contributor to the International Analyst Network and a visiting lecturer with the Indian Foreign Service Institute. He has previously worked in research positions with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (India), the British American Security Information Council (UK) and the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (Israel).

His research interests include nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear safety and security, and terrorism in West Asia and South Asia. He has written extensively on these topics, and has given media interviews on the same. He is presently working on his latest paper outlining Pakistan as a factor in India-Iran relations.



Smita Sharma

Smita Sharma is a journalist with India's leading 24/7 Hindi National News Channel IBN7, part of the largest media group of the family Network 18. She occasionally reports for sister concerns of IBN7 including CNN-IBN, CNBC, CNBC_Awaaz and IBN Lokmat.

She has been in this profession since 2003, after she specialized in Radio and Television Journalism from the premiere Indian Institute of Mass Communication in New Delhi.

Currently Associate Editor for Foreign Affairs, she handles Foreign Policy and Global Developments for the Channel. She has been keenly reporting on International Developments, has interviewed several Heads of States and leading Politicians across the globe over a period of time. Pakistan remains her special focus and forte, with frequent travels across the LoC to capture socio-economic as well political developments in the neighbouring country.



Sonal Kapoor

Sonal Kapoor, Founder Director of Protsahan India Foundation, a young non-profit that is making waves across the globe for innovatively using creative education for at-risk street children rescued from red light areas, slums, drugs and disabilities. A microbiologist-MBA who quit the herd mentality of 9-5 work schedules to follow her heart and bring change to transform lives.

Sonal is considered one of the most inspiring young social entrepreneurs in the world and was recently covered and interviewed by Economic Times, Times Of India, Asian Age, Tehelka, Your story, CNBC and several others. She was recently chosen to represent India at the World Bank-IMF, Annual Meetings 2011 in Washington DC. She blogs for the World Bank, has spoken at several Tedx conferences and strongly believes that it is the youth that can bridge gaps and foster healthy dialogue amongst nations today.



Srijan Pal Singh

A progressive farmer, an Electrical Engineer and Management graduate from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. At IIMA, Srijan was head of the student's council and was engaged in a variety of social and developmental activities and projects with the police, local political institutions and MPs, NREGA, Public Distribution System and many youth organisations. He was awarded the IIMA Gold Medal for the Best All-rounder student from the graduating batch of 2009.

Currently, he is currently working with Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in promoting various missions like What Can I Give, Energy Independence for the nation, nuclear and space missions, and PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas). He also takes lectures on community action and development in Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and Indian Institute of Management, Indore and writes in various journals on development issues.



SPEAKERS

We thank all our speakers who came from far and wide to speak at the inaugural conference of the Australia India Youth Dialogue. Our speakers included academics, senior policy advisors, business leaders and diplomats.

For more detailed profiles of our speakers, please visit our website www.aiyd.org



Amitabh Mattoo

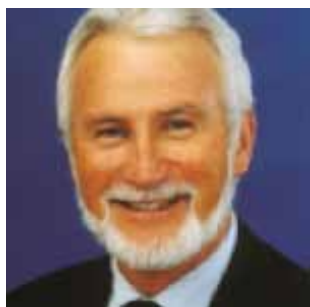
Professor Amitabh Mattoo is the inaugural Director of the Australia India Institute and Professor of International Relations at the University of Melbourne. He is concurrently Professor of Disarmament Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Professor Mattoo is also President of the Indian Association of International Studies.

From November 2002 until early December 2008, Professor Mattoo was the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jammu. Professor Mattoo serves on the Council of the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA), the Governing Council of Pugwash, the Nobel prize winning NGO, on the Academic Advisory Committee of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, and is a Director of the India-Afghanistan Foundation (established by the governments of India and Afghanistan). Professor Mattoo was a member of India's National Security Council's Advisory Board and a member of the task force constituted by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Global Strategic Developments.



Amrita N Achanta

Amrita Narayan Achanta is currently working in TERI, the Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi, as a Senior Visiting Fellow in the Earth Sciences and Climate Change Division. TERI is an independent not-for-profit research institution working in the areas of energy, environment and sustainable development. She has done her BSc. Honours (Zoology), MSc.(Zoology) and BEd. from the University of Delhi and a MA (International Relations) from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston. This is her second stint in TERI, having also worked from 1989-1997. While at TERI she was involved in policy research on climate change, the Climate Change Convention, the Biodiversity Convention, and trade and environment. During her tenure here, she has edited a book on climate change: *The climate change agenda: An Indian Perspective*.



Barry Buffier

Barry Buffier was appointed Deputy Director General in the New South Wales Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (formerly Industry & Investment NSW), in July 2009 following a major reform of the NSW Public Sector into super-departments. He has responsibility for facilitating business investment; increasing business competitiveness; marketing the strengths of Sydney and New South Wales; supporting research, industry and innovation; advocating and developing tourism and the arts; and managing the portfolio of liquor, gaming and racing.

Barry was previously the Director General of the NSW Department of State and Regional Development from January 2008 to July 2009, and the Director General of the NSW Department of Primary Industries from 2004 to 2008.



Dilip Chenoy

Dilip is currently Managing Director & CEO of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). The NSDC is a Public Private Partnership whose objective is to skill 150 million people in India by 2022 by fostering private sector investment and initiatives in training and skill development in 20 high growth sectors and the unorganized segment.

He is also on the Governing Council of a Management School. Prior to NSDC, Dilip was Director General of the advocacy group for the automobile industry in India, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), where he was responsible for setting the technical, economic and social responsibility agenda for the automobile industry. Before joining SIAM, Dilip was Deputy Director General responsible for Industry Sectors and Associations Council (ASCON) covering, Agriculture, Life sciences and ICT in the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Dilip was the CII spokesperson and coordinated CII's international work relating to the ASEAN.



Geoffrey Conaghan

Geoffrey Conaghan commenced as Commissioner to India in December 2009. The Commissioner was a senior executive at Melbourne Airport between 1994 and 2009, in roles including marketing, corporate affairs and International airline business development.

His career also included 9 years in the vocational education and training sector. Between 1985 and 1994 he held various positions with Tourism Training Australia, including founding Executive Director of the Tourism and Hospitality Industry Training Board, 5 consecutive terms between 1998 and 2009 as a Director of Tourism Victoria, the Government's Tourism Commission and he was a board member of The Central Melbourne Group Apprenticeship Scheme 1991-1994, serving as Chairman 1992-1994.



**Gopalswami
Parthasarathy**

Born on May 13, 1940, Ambassador Gopalswami Parthasarathy is a career Foreign Service Officer who retired from Service on May 31, 2000. Prior to his entry to the Indian Foreign Service Mr. he was a Commissioned Officer in the Indian Army (1963-1968), after having graduated with a B.E. Degree in Electrical Engineering from the College of Engineering, Guindy, Madras in 1962 He has served as Ambassador of India to Myanmar, 1992-95, High Commissioner of India to Australia 1995-98, High Commissioner of India to Pakistan 1998-2000 and High Commissioner of India, Cyprus (1990-92). He also served in Indian Missions abroad as Second/First Secretary, Embassy of India, Moscow (1969 -1973), Deputy High Commissioner to Tanzania (1974-1976), Counsellor, (Political and Press), Embassy of India, Washington D.C., (1978- 1981); and Consul General of India, Karachi (1982-1985).

In New Delhi, Ambassador. Parthasarathy was Deputy Secretary in the Foreign Secretary's Office (1976-1978). He has served as Spokesman, Ministry of External Affairs and Information Adviser and Spokesman in the Prime Minister's Office with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi (1985-90). He has been a member of Indian Delegations in several international conferences including summits at United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement and SAARC.



Govindraj Ethiraj

Govindraj Ethiraj is former Founder-Editor in Chief of Bloomberg UTV, a 24-hours business news service launched out of Mumbai in 2008. Prior to that, he worked with Business Standard newspaper as Editor (New Media).

Earlier, he spent five years with television channel CNBC-TV18 where he worked from near start-up point. Before CNBC-TV18, he worked with The Economic Times newspaper as Corporate Editor in Mumbai for five years, looking after the corporate and markets news bureau. He also worked with Business World for three years. He began his career with Business India magazine.

He is a Fellow of The Aspen Institute, Colorado. He is presently co-authoring a book on India's efforts to give over a billion residents a unique, biometric identity - after concluding a short, voluntary stint with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) - before returning to full-time journalism shortly.



Indu Shahani

Indu Shahani, Principal of H.R. College of Commerce & Economics was appointed Sheriff of Mumbai on Jan. 5, 2008 and is now serving in her third term. The Sheriff of Mumbai is an honorary post and is a link between the citizens and the Government, providing an opportunity to make a difference within the communities of Mumbai.

Dr. Indu Shahani's nomination to Boards of large National and Global Companies has provided the impetus to the platform for significant collaboration between Industry and Academia, as well as bringing diversity to the Boards of these Corporations given the width of her experience.



Lachlan Strahan

Lachlan Strahan has been Deputy Head of Mission at the Australian High Commission in New Delhi since February 2009.

A senior career officer, Dr Strahan joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1993. He has previously served overseas as Second Secretary at the Embassy in Bonn (1995-1998) and Counsellor (Political) at the Embassy in Seoul (2002-2005).

In Canberra, Dr Strahan has worked in a range of positions. He was Assistant Secretary of South and West Asia Branch (2008-2009), Assistant Secretary of Images of Australia Branch (2006-2008), Director of the China Economic Section (2005-2006) and Director of the Chemical and Biological Disarmament Section

(2001-2002). Dr Strahan has a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honours from the University of Melbourne and a PhD from Monash University. He is the author of *Australia's China* (1995) and *Day of Reckoning* (2005). Dr Strahan is married with two children.



Lavina Lee

Lavina Lee is a lecturer in the Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations at Macquarie University, Sydney.

Lavina has a combined law and commerce degree from the University of NSW, a Master of Arts with distinction from King's College, University of London, and a doctorate in International Relations from the University of Sydney.

She was previously a consultant with Control Risks Group, and held a research position with Chatham House, London. Her research interests include the nuclear non-proliferation regime, nuclear disarmament, Indian security and nuclear policy, the role of culture and norms in international relations, legitimacy and US foreign policy, and international law on the use of force.

Her research is currently focused on prospects for closer strategic cooperation between India and Australia in Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific.



Navdeep Suri

Navdeep Suri is a member of the Indian Foreign Service since 1983 and currently heads the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs. He has earlier served as India's Consul General in Johannesburg and as head of the West Africa Division.

Mr. Suri's first diplomatic assignment was at the Indian Embassy in Cairo, followed by a three-year stint in Damascus before a return to headquarters in New Delhi in early 1991 where he was closely associated with efforts to project India as an investment destination.

Mr. Suri speaks Arabic and French, has a Masters degree in Economics and has written on India's Africa policy and Public Diplomacy and on the IT outsourcing industry. His translation of Pavitra Paapi, the classic 1930s Punjabi novel, has been published by Penguin as 'The Watchmaker'.



Naveen Chopra

The industry veteran, Naveen Chopra pioneered the concept of overseas educational consultancy in India. The project dates back to the 1990s (1995 to be precise), where a profound realization on how unorganized space was, with reference to studying abroad, led to the development and growth of the entire advent. Realizing the importance of an education consultancy, he along with his wife Natasha, incepted 'The Chopras', an overseas education consultancy firm.

It is his sagacious background that allows The Chopras to successfully understand and support decisions of aspiring students who want to consider studying abroad.



Peter Varghese

Peter Varghese took up his position as Australian High Commissioner to India in August 2009.

Prior to his posting, he was for five and half years the Director General of the Office of National Assessments (ONA) in Canberra.

From June to December 2003, Mr Varghese worked in the Prime Minister's personal office as the senior foreign and defence policy adviser to then Prime Minister John Howard.

Mr Varghese is a career officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which he joined in 1979. He has served in Vienna (1980-83), Washington (1985-88), as Minister (Political) in Tokyo (1994) and as High Commissioner to Malaysia (2000-2002).

In 2010, Mr Varghese received an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), for distinguished service to public administration, particularly in leading reform in the Australian intelligence community and as an adviser in the areas of foreign policy and international security.



Pradeep S Mehta

Pradeep S Mehta is the founder secretary general of the Jaipur-based Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International), one of the largest consumer groups in India, with offices in London, Lusaka, Nairobi, Hanoi and Geneva. Established in 1983/84, CUTS International has now completed 25 glorious years. Mehta studied at The Scindia School, Gwalior (higher secondary), St Xavier's College at Calcutta (B. Com) University and law at the Rajasthan University, Jaipur.

Mehta serves/has served on several policy making bodies of the Government of India, related to trade, environment and consumer affairs, including the National Advisory Committee on International Trade of the Ministry of Commerce and its working groups. He chairs the Advisory Board of the South Asia Network on Trade, Economics and Environment, Kathmandu.



Rajesh Chadha

Rajesh Chadha is Senior Fellow at the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in New Delhi. He received his B.Sc. (Physics) and M.A. (Business Economics) from the University of Delhi and Ph.D. (Industrial Economics) from the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi. He has teaching and research experience at Hindu College, University of Delhi and NCAER, New Delhi of more than 35 years. His areas of specialization include international trade, Foreign Direct Investment, agricultural markets and competition and regulatory reforms.

He has been Visiting Scholar in the Department of Economics, University of Michigan, the Department of Economics, University of Melbourne and consultant to the World Bank and to the Australian Government.

He has many national and international publications to his credit.



Rajiv Nayan

Dr Rajiv Nayan is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. He has been working with the Institute since 1993, where he specializes in export control, non-proliferation, and arms control. Rajiv was a Visiting Research Fellow at Japan Institute of International Affairs, Tokyo, where he published his monograph- Non-Proliferation Issues in South Asia. He was also a Visiting Fulbright Scholar at the Center on International Cooperation, New York University. He holds a Ph.D. and a Master of Philosophy in Disarmament Studies and a Master of Arts in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. In his doctoral dissertation, he studied implications of the Missile Technology Control Regime for Indian security and economy. He has published his papers in academic journals, and as chapters of books. He has contributed articles to numerous newspapers.

He is a member of the Export Controls Experts Group and Multilateral Security Framework in NorthEast Asia of the Council for Security Cooperation in Asia Pacific (CSCAP). He is also on the Executive Council of the Indian Pugwash Society. In recent months, Rajiv has been participating in different Non-Governmental Organisations' meetings on nuclear security. He is an Indian partner of Fissile Materials Working Group (FMWG) which is a Washington-based group of Non-Governmental Organisations active on nuclear security. He is also a member of international Coalitions of Non-Governmental Organisations on Chemical Weapons Convention and Arms Trade Treaty.



Reetika Khera

Reetika Khera studied at the Delhi School of Economics (MA and Ph.D.) and Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex (MPhil). For her Ph.D., she worked with Jean Drèze and conducted a primary study of drought relief works in eight villages of Rajasthan. The thesis looked at the effectiveness of public interventions (such as relief works and the public distribution system) to prevent famines. She was a post-doctoral Research Associate at Princeton University where she worked with Angus Deaton on child nutrition. Before joining IIT-Delhi she was involved in various field activities in India including surveys, social audits and "research for action" related the National Rural Employment

Guarantee Act (NREGA). Another important part of her work has been to encourage and train university students to participate in these activities. More than 200 students from Delhi University and elsewhere have participated in surveys and other field activities under her guidance. She has published many articles in international journals, magazines and newspapers on issues of food security, NREGA, education, child nutrition and elections in India.



Sarat C Chandran

C. Sarat Chandran is the Director of the Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce which plays a significant role in promoting trade relations between India and Australia.

Sarat Chandran has done his Master's in Development Economics from the London School of Economics and has since worked with Commonwealth Development Institute in London and Sears Corporation in Chicago. Returning to India, he has headed International Marketing divisions of several major companies in the country.

He has also been a Consultant to the World Bank on issues relating to India's economic development. He has been writing extensively on management and socio-economic issues for leading news papers and magazines in the country.



Shashank Joshi

Shashank is a London-based doctoral student of international relations at Harvard University's Department of Government, and an Associate Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London . Shashank has a keen interest in security studies, military affairs, South Asia and the Middle East, and the the foreign and security policies of India, and civil-military relations.

Shashank has taught both economics and politics as a supervisor and teaching fellow at Cambridge and Harvard and worked for the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Moscow on electoral analysis and democratic training projects, Citigroup in New York in their regulatory reporting division, and in RUSI's Asia Programme on India and global security issues.

Shashank has written for a variety of academic, policy, and mainstream outlets, including The New York Times, The Telegraph, The Guardian, The Independent, The Financial Times, Foreign Policy, Orbis and (forthcoming) Journal of Strategic Studies.



Steve Waters

Mr Waters is a senior career officer of the DFAT.

His most recent appointment has been as Assistant Secretary, Pacific Engagement Task force, in which role he was responsible for the formulation of new policy initiatives, and subsequently their implementation, during the year of Australia's chairmanship of the Pacific island Forum (2009-10). Prior to that he was Assistant Secretary East Asia, responsible for Australia's relations with greater China.

Mr. Waters took up his position as Consul General in Mumbai in late July 2010.

Mr. Waters holds a Bachelor of Art degree with combined honours in Oriental Studies and Political Science from Melbourne University.



Sudhir Chella Rajan

Sudhir Chella Rajan is Professor and Head at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Madras. He is also the Coordinator of the Indo-German Centre for Sustainability. Previously, he was a Senior Fellow at Tellus Institute where he led the Global Politics and Institutions Program. He has an extensive 20-year research background in transportation, energy systems, and the institutional and political context of environmental policymaking. He is broadly concerned with the interactions among social, political, technological and environmental factors relating to sustainable development. His research has included energy and environmental scenario analyses, studies on the politics of power sector reform in developing countries, and analysis of institutional reform measures to reduce corruption. Prior to joining Tellus Institute, Dr. Rajan worked at the California Air Resources Board, the International Energy Initiative, and as an independent consultant for the United Nations Development Programme.



Suzana Andrade Brinkman

Suzana Andrade Brinkmann is an education consultant with UNICEF-India (New Delhi) conducting research on elementary education reform in government schools. In the past she has worked for three years as a Senior Consultant to the Government of India's Ministry of Education, advising on how to improve the quality of government teachers, teacher training programmes, curriculum and assessment systems across India, under the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' (Education For All) programme. She is currently pursuing a PhD in education from London University's Institute of Education, researching how Indian teachers' cultural beliefs affect their teaching styles, and how to design effective teacher training programmes that are able to bring transformation in teachers' beliefs and practice. She is also involved with Gyanankur Schools in Pune (www.gyanankur.com), which she helped set up to provide low-cost quality education to underprivileged children. Suzana has completed an M.A. in International Education Policy from Teachers College, Columbia University (NY), as well as a Masters of Education from Queen's University, Canada.



T.K.A. Nair

Shri T. K. A. Nair, Adviser to the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, was Principal Secretary to Prime Minister till he took over his present assignment on 3rd October 2011. Before joining the Prime Minister as Principal Secretary in May, 2004 he was Chairman of the Public Enterprises Selection Board, Govt. of India.

Shri Nair has to his credit an unblemished record of distinguished service spanning over four and a half decades with the State Governments of Punjab and Kerala and the Government of India. He was born on the Punjab cadre of the Indian Administrative Service and in the hierarchy of the Punjab administration he held several important positions including those of the Managing Director, Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation and Principal Secretary, Department of Industries.

Before joining as Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Shri Nair was actively associated with several governmental and non governmental organisations including Lead India and the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Thiruvananthapuram and several corporates.

Shri Nair has been the recipient of several awards including the Rotary Sake of Honour Award, Global Organisation of Person of Indian Origin Honour Role, K.P.S. Menon Award 2009, Swami Vivekananda National Award – 2011 and Bharat Ratna Gulzarilal Nanda Bharat Sevak Award – 2011.



Tony White

Tony White is a Director of Franchise India Holdings Limited.

Tony is an Australian who has been resident in India for the past 10 years. Tony has a finance background and has held senior positions both in Australia and India and understands the business and cultural dynamics of both countries. Tony's key focus areas include international brand representation, market entry strategies, partner selection and brand expansion through franchising.

Tony currently heads Gloria Jean's Coffees business in the Indian subcontinent, Middle East and Africa covering 13 markets. Tony also sits on the Board of Franchise India Holdings Limited and regularly speaks on small business development and entrepreneurship across India.

STEERING COMMITTEE PROFILES



**Monika
Barthwal-Datta**

Monika Barthwal-Datta specialises in non-traditional security and critical security studies, with a regional focus on South Asia. She is currently leading a two-year research project on Food Security in Asia at Centre for International Security Studies (CISS) at the University of Sydney, funded by the US-based MacArthur Foundation. The project analyses emerging issues around Food Security in Asia and the Pacific, and their strategic and human security implications.

Before joining CISS, Monika was a Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Sussex, UK. She has also taught International Politics and Security Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University College London (UCL) and Royal Holloway College (RHUL), where she was awarded her PhD in 2010.



Rommel Varghese

Rommel Varghese is a final year student of Economics and completed his International Relations/Political Science degree at the Australian National University. Rommel currently interns at the Australian Parliament focusing on Foreign Affairs and Trade. He has worked as a freelance journalist and has reported on politics in Australia and from the Middle East and South Asia. He has advised and lead youth based think tanks and organisations in Australia, including Lions Australia NSW, Left Right Think Tank and Asia Pacific Youth Organisation. In 2010-2011 he was the Deputy Project Director of ANU Asia Pacific Week, an economic and strategic conference funded by the College of Asia and the Pacific and the Vice Chancellor.

Prior to commencing full time studies at the ANU, Rommel worked at Pricewaterhouse Coopers in Sydney working on major banking, property and NGO clients. He also worked for News Limited's subsidiary News Digital Media. Rommel has represented Australia and presented in premier international security and political economy conferences for emerging young scholars like the Harvard University's Economic and Security conferences at Cambridge and Singapore. Rommel is a recipient of the Australian Defence Force Academy Award for Leadership and Young Citizen of the Year by Hornsby Shire Council in its centenary year. Rommel is passionate about strengthening the Australia-India relationship through its emerging youth base and creating ventures that will build this partnership in the long term.



Ruchir Punjabi,
Chair

Ruchir Punjabi is the Founder and Managing Director of Langoor, a web services and products agency with offices in Sydney, Australia and Bengaluru, India. Ruchir is the Founding Chair of the Australia India Business Council NSW Young Professionals Chapter and currently the Vice-Chair of the same. Ruchir is the Vice President of International Advertising Association Australia Young Professionals, a member of the Australian Interactive Media Industry Association (NSW) Committee, the Australia India Business Council NSW Management Committee and a former member of the Australian Web Industry Association National Committee.

Ruchir sits on the Board of International House at the University of Sydney and is a former President of the University of Sydney Union. Ruchir was also actively involved in raising awareness and helping mitigate problems around issues faced by International students in Australia from 2005 - 2010.



Sanushka Seomangal,
Secretary

Sanushka Seomangal is a Senior Associate in HWL Ebsworth Lawyers' Sydney office where she specialises in corporate finance and corporate law. With particular expertise in public and private equity fundraising, initial public offerings (IPOs), and mergers and acquisitions involving both private and listed companies, Sanushka also advises her clients on general corporate matters.

Sanushka holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Natal, South Africa, a Master of Applied Law from the University of Queensland, Australia and a Master of Business Law from the University of Sydney, Australia.

Sanushka has a particular interest in India and is also the Chair of the Australia India Business Council NSW Young Professionals Chapter and a member of the Women in Business Chapter Committee of the Australia India Business Council NSW.



Shaun Star

Shaun Star completed his Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws (with first class honours) from Macquarie University in 2010 as the top graduating student and received a Vice Chancellor's commendation for his academic excellence. Shaun was awarded the Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Award in 2010. After further studies at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, Shaun worked as a foreign legal consultant at the Law Offices of Nandan Kamath in Bangalore since until September 2011.

He commenced his Masters in Law at Oxford University in the United Kingdom in September 2011. Prior to moving to India, Shaun worked at one of Australia's leading law firms, Clayton Utz, in Sydney.

Shaun is currently editing a book which compares the Australian and Indian legal systems. Shaun is passionate about strengthening the Australia-India relationship, and in particular, he would like to engage more young leaders from Australia to experience and embrace India's rich culture.



**Vidyananda
Vijaya Sagaram**

Vidyananda Sagaram is the Director - Strategic Projects at the Victorian Government Business Office (VGBO) India. He completed his engineering from Bangalore University and Masters in Telecommunication Engineering from Monash University, Australia in 2003. He started his career as a data officer with Telstra and after two years, moved to a position at Hobsons Australia, an innovative technology and integrated marketing solutions provider for universities in Australia. During his tenure at Hobsons, Vidya engaged across various levels with the universities in Australia to enable them to increase their market share from India.

He returned to India in 2008 to manage La Trobe University's business development activities in India and notably doubling their student intake despite the challenging situation in the market.

Since 2009, Vidya has been working for the Victoria Government in India, initially managing their skilled and business migration portfolio for South and South East Asia market and now their corporate and government relations, which has a strong focus on working with the various chambers, associations and local governments.



Zubin Pratap

Zubin Pratap is a corporate lawyer based in Melbourne. Zubin is an alumnus of the National Law School of India University, and spent 4 years practicing at leading law firms in India (including as a litigator in the Supreme Court of India) until he moved to Baker & McKenzie in Melbourne, in 2007 to pursue a practice in M&A. At present Zubin is Legal Counsel at Telstra Enterprise & Government, practicing in Information Technology and Communications. Zubin is one of the few lawyers in Australia who is qualified to practice in both India and Australia.

This unique qualification has empowered Zubin to understand and assimilate the social, cultural, economic, and pragmatic realities of both countries and incorporate this insight into his practice. He believes that the youth is uniquely poised to promote, nurture and grow the relationship between Australia and India, and that the traditional western focus of the subcontinent must necessarily shift to meet the challenges and opportunities of a world dominated by nations in the eastern hemisphere. Zubin believes in identifying and preparing leaders amongst the youth and harnessing their potential to mould the outcomes of tomorrow.

BOARD OF ADVISORS

The AIYD Board of Advisors consists of a network of esteemed leaders and professionals who have contributed and/or continue to be engaged at the forefront of Australian-Indian relations. Their role is to help ensure that the structure and content of the AIYD reflects the issues facing the relationship between both countries. The following esteemed leaders and professionals are members of the AIYD Board of Advisors.



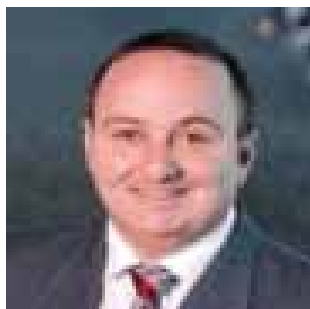
Dipen Rughani

*President, Australia
India Business
Council NSW*

Dipen Rughani, a leading authority on trade and investment for the Australia-India corridor, founded Newland Global Group, a business which consults to large, reputable organisations in the public and private sector such as the Department of Education and Training NSW Government (TAFE NSW), Coca Cola Amatil, Gujarat Government, Hindustan Petroleum, to name a few.

Since 2009 Dipen has been President of the Australia India Business Council (AIBC) NSW chapter and a director of the National Executive Committee. AIBC is Australia's premier non-government organisation whose purpose is to promote bilateral trade and expand Australia-India commercial ties.

In his earlier career, Dipen held numerous highly successful senior executive roles in the software (Geac Computers), conferencing (Global Management Strategies), automotive (Hyundai) and logistics and supply chain (Mayne Nickless) industries.



Geoffrey Conaghan

*Commissioner to India,
State of Victoria,
Australia*

Geoffrey Conaghan commenced as Commissioner to India in December 2009. The Commissioner was a senior executive at Melbourne Airport between 1994 and 2009, in roles including marketing, corporate affairs and International airline business development.

His career also included 9 years in the vocational education and training sector. Between 1985 and 1994 he held various positions with Tourism Training Australia, including founding Executive Director of the Tourism and Hospitality Industry Training Board, 5 consecutive terms between 1998 and 2009 as a Director of Tourism Victoria, the Government's Tourism Commission and he was a board member of The Central Melbourne Group Apprenticeship Scheme 1991-1994, serving as Chairman 1992-1994.



John Simons

*Executive Dean of Arts,
Macquarie University*

Professor John Simons is Executive Dean of Arts at Macquarie University.

He was educated at the University of Wales and the University of Exeter. He previously worked at the universities of Wales, Exeter, Winchester, Edge Hill and Lincoln and has held visiting Professorships in the USA. In 1993 he held a fellowship at the Huntington Library. In the 1990s he worked in various Eastern European countries on projects to rebuild universities after the fall of communism.

He is now treasurer of DASSH, on the council of the charity Voiceless, co-chair of the board of 2SER (a community radio station) and a TEQSA auditor. He has published very widely on topics ranging from Middle English romance to the history of cricket. Lately he has concentrated on animals and his chief publications are *Animal Rights and the Politics of Literary Representation* (2002) and *Rossetti's Wombat* (2008). He has two monographs appearing in 2012. He is a published poet.



Peter Varghese AO

*High Commissioner
of Australia in India*

Peter Varghese took up his position as Australian High Commissioner to India in August 2009.

Prior to his posting, he was for five and half years the Director General of the Office of National Assessments (ONA) in Canberra.

From June to December 2003, Mr Varghese worked in the Prime Minister's personal office as the senior foreign and defence policy adviser to then Prime Minister John Howard.

Mr Varghese is a career officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which he joined in 1979. He has served in Vienna (1980-83), Washington (1985-88), as Minister (Political) in Tokyo (1994) and as High Commissioner to Malaysia (2000-2002).

In 2010, Mr Varghese received an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), for distinguished service to public administration, particularly in leading reform in the Australian intelligence community and as an adviser in the areas of foreign policy and international security.



Rohit Manchanda

Rohit has been the Director, Trade & Investment – India for the New South Wales Government since October 2009. He is responsible for attracting foreign direct investment, trade and other business and directing promotional activities for New South Wales (NSW).

Rohit has worked both in government and the private sector over the last seventeen years and prior to his current role, Rohit was Chief Representative in India for the Mayor of London's Office and the London Development Agency (LDA).

*Director, NSW Trade
& Investment - India*

Rohit worked for the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) in Mumbai from 2002-2007 and was awarded the 'Global Austrader Award' in 2006.



Sujatha Singh

*High Commissioner
of India in Australia*

Mrs. Sujatha Singh has been the High Commissioner of India in Australia since October 2007

Her overseas assignments have been as Second Secretary in Embassy of India, Bonn (1978-82), First Secretary, High Commission of India, Accra (1985-89), Counsellor, Embassy of India, Paris (1989-92), Deputy Chief of Mission and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP at Embassy of India, Bangkok (1997-2000) and Consul General of India at Milan (2000-04).

At Headquarters, she has been Under Secretary looking after Nepal (1982-85), Director, Economic Co-Ordination Unit (1992-95), attended the National Defence College at New Delhi (1995) and Joint Secretary at the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi (1996-97). Her most recent assignment was as Additional Secretary responsible for West Europe and the EU in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.



Vinod Mirchandani

*Associate Director,
Australia India
Institute*

Vinod Mirchandani, Associate Director, is now based in Melbourne and provides a base in India for the Institute to increase its in-country engagement. He also provides strategic advice in developing its priorities and programs. He has over 10 years of experience in account management, business development, implementation of service strategy, staff training and development, market research and change management.

Vinod's Masters is from the University of Buckingham and he has completed the first year of a PhD in Marketing at the University of Melbourne.

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Beyond our partners, the Australia India Youth Dialogue has received tremendous support, advice and inspiration from:

Asialink

Austrade

Australia America Young Leadership Dialogue

Australia-China Youth Dialogue

CII Young Indians

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (especially the Australian High Commission in India)

The Indian Consulate in Sydney and the Indian High Commission in Australia

A number of other individuals, through countless coffees, chais, lunch and dinner meetings without whose support this initiative would not have been possible.



CONTACT

All enquiries should be directed to:

Australia India Youth Dialogue Limited (ACN: 151 657 322)

68/330, Wattle Street

Ultimo, NSW 2007

Australia

Email: enquiries@aiyd.org

Web: www.aiyd.org



