



NEWSLETTER

26 MAY 2010

FURTHER ASIA PACIFIC CRIME PREVENTION FORUM

Following the highly successful 2007 Townsville Forum an opportunity has arisen proposal to convene a similar Forum in Adelaide in January 2011.

Preliminary meetings have been held at Kathleen Lumley College, University of Adelaide on 12 April and 25 May and I now report following those meetings.

Those at the meetings have included Judge Andrew Wilson (former National Chairman); Leigh Garrett (SA member); Mr John Murray, Associate Professor Felix Patrikeeff and Mr Jim Lisle.

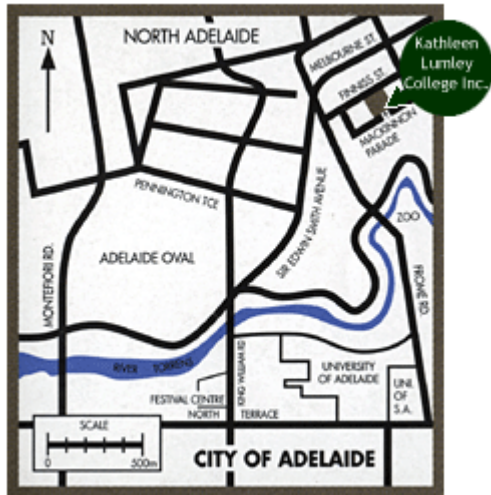
Associate Professor Patrikeeff is Master of Kathleen Lumley College, a postgraduate residential facility associated with the University of Adelaide. He has offered the use of the College as the venue for the Forum.

Asst Prof Patrikeeff teaches at the School of Politics, University of Adelaide. He has researched, supervised and published widely in the areas of Russian/Eurasian & Asian Studies, Geopolitics, Political Economy, Strategic Studies & International Relations. He is the President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs (SA Branch), Vice-President of The Australasian Association for Communist and Post-Communist Studies and is on the Management Committee of The Australasian Society for Inner Asian Studies. His research interests include Strategic culture, leadership and questions of identity in the International Relations of the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Jim Lisle is a retired Superintendent of the Royal Hong Kong Police and through his company Lisle Security Consultants Co Ltd now undertakes consultancy work in the Asia Pacific area. He has a wide range of contacts in the criminal justice area and is undertaking research at the University of Adelaide. Mr Lisle can assist with introductions to key personnel from a number of the proposed participating countries.

It has been agreed in principle, subject to confirmation, to convene a Forum to be held in January 2011 at **Kathleen Lumley College, North Adelaide** of a number of countries from the Asia Pacific Region to discuss crime prevention and community safety.

Kathleen Lumley College would be an excellent venue for the Forum. It is close to the City of Adelaide, the University and shops and restaurants, but in a quiet residential street with parks and gardens nearby.



Kathleen Lumley College



Participating countries at the Forum will be those with large urban populations in the east Asia region.

The suggested participating countries are Peoples Republic of China, Japan, Indonesia, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Macau, Brunei, and South Korea.

Kathleen Lumley will provide a venue for the Conference and accommodation for visitors. Estimated costings have been provided for accommodation, breakfasts and evening meals. These are extremely modest (less than \$100 per day per person).

The suggested dates for the Forum are between **Sunday 23 January and Wednesday 26 January 2011**. The timing takes into account the Chinese New Year in early February and the availability of the College during the University vacation period.

The formal opening would be on the Sunday afternoon at approx 4pm.

Overseas visitors would all have to be self funded. Cost quotations will be provided when invitations are sent out, with draft terms and conditions.

Approximately 30 delegates are anticipated, with a larger group as Observers attending the meetings.

Each delegate would be asked to provide a report on their country focussing on a particular program or activity which is regarded as effective. General discussions and resolutions will follow.

John Murray is preparing a draft program.

A record will be kept and published. Follow up contact is encouraged and hopefully a further conference planned for a few years later.

Sponsors will be sought generally and for specific activities eg welcome reception, trip to the Zoo / Cleland wildlife park / casual BBQ/ Farewell dinner etc.

For the opening ceremony, prestigious guests would be invited. It is suggested that we invite special guests to chair particular sessions.

I seek your views on the proposal, and if you would like to participate in the planning please let me know. We will welcome Executive members of ACPC to attend, chair sessions etc.

I will provide you with updates.

Peter Norman
Chairman

CRIME AND JUSTICE IN THE PACIFIC

Garry Coventry who was involved in the Townsville Forum has commenced a research project on behalf of the Cairns Institute at James Cook University. He is hoping that members or friends of ACPC might provide him and his colleague Dr Mark David Chong with some assistance in this regard.

Garry writes as follows:

“Introduction

First, I should tell you about the background to this project. In October 2007, a Southeast Asia Pacific Crime Prevention Forum, initiated by the Australian Crime Prevention Council (ACPC), was held at the Townsville campus of James Cook University. Delegates from Australia, Cambodia, Fiji Islands, Indonesia, Lao PDR, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Thailand discussed issues regarding ACPC crime prevention frameworks and their relevance to particular countries. I was an Academic delegate at this forum. A list of delegates follows this letter.

It was clear to me at this Forum that concerns about criminal justice, social justice and crime prevention frameworks mean different things to different countries. In Fiji, for example, concerns were expressed about military coups, whereas an issue of prominence in the Solomon Islands were past acts of genocide. Of course, such

matters across the Pacific are complex and matters about community safety vary markedly from country to country. In essence, this is what this project is about.

The Focus of the Project

Permit me to expand upon these earlier remarks. I would like to take matters further from our introductory discussions in October 2007. As a concept, *crime prevention* (and by definition, *community safety*) varies. Different nation states adopt different stances regarding the construct and meaning of the ACPC's rhetoric and publications regarding crime prevention, despite there being strong interest in forging linkages within the Asia/Pacific region. The meaning and systems of crime prevention programming in Australian society does not readily translate into other nation states. There are fundamental differences in systems of governance, history, culture and economics which shape understandings of these concepts and how best to deliver community safety, in terms of objectives, parameters and specific programs. Problems are vastly different across states. To us, these kinds of theoretical and more localized issues require examination.

For delegates in October 2007, crime prevention was seen to be a continuum which has 'key coding points' that are more appropriate for some countries than others. To be addressed across the region, for example, are issues concerned with genocide, political/military coups, systems of punishments for tertiary crime prevention purposes, and primary as well as secondary crime prevention strategies including situational crime prevention, social development crime prevention, community development, capacity building and social/political action. Where specific nations are currently located on this continuum (as well as intend to be in the future) between programs that are predominantly focussed on situational crime prevention, and those that largely concentrate on social crime prevention, requires critical understanding.

In sum, all countries would eventually agree that they have a problem with crime, though relative, but may differ as to what to do about it. The focus of prevention efforts in each of these countries is not the same. The '*drivers*' differ. For example: types of crime, level of crime, who deals with it, at which stage should intervention occur (i.e. primary, secondary or even tertiary) and where is social development, empowerment, social justice on this scale?

The Montreal based International Crime Prevention Council (ICPC), the United States Federal Government, The Australian Federal Government and the ACPC organizations, for example, could benefit from some qualitative case study data about the Pacific region, at least in terms of target aid and community development activities with respect to crime and justice programs. It is important to us that this information is shared across the Pacific for strategic planning for each nation state.

We are proposing to undertake a pilot study focused on a sample of Pacific states. The key focus is to explore the extent to which ACPC models of crime prevention have currency within these states. To analyse that key question, however, requires recognition of different conceptualizations of the state across the region, its transformation from earlier days of colonization to the era of globalization, and whether the ICPC, US Federal Government, Australian Federal Government and ACPC proclamations, for example, represent cases of international institutions' attempts to systematically intervene in the sovereignty and national affairs of such states. That does not mean, however, that some ideas originating in Western industrialised countries have no value in being considered elsewhere, within a locally considered and community empowered context. After all, we are being transformed globally in both economic and transformation of ideas terms.

Further, many initiatives being currently deployed in the West (e.g. restorative justice types of programs) have a strong background in Pacific Island cultures. Globalisation, therefore, may be regarded as a mutual exchange of ideas and specific program information that might or might not be considered as being appropriate within a different community context.

Proposed Methodology

Due to limited funding available at this time, it will not be possible to conduct one week site visits to more than four Pacific Island states during 2010. We propose the following initial methodology and respectfully request your assistance in the following areas:

- Administration of a short survey to be distributed to a sample of judicial, criminal justice system and government personnel in about eight Pacific Island study sites. This survey will focus on understandings of crime prevention, community safety and governance related concepts of how to achieve such outcomes in both the national and local context of current trends that shape the lives of citizens.
- Final selection of case countries for field visits, based on a literature review of contemporary crime prevention practices, available crime rates and modes of governance which might impact on crime prevention policies/programs.
- With kindly assistance from contacts such as you, to conduct a series of semi-structured interviews on-site in selected case countries to further explore survey findings.

Please note that the survey and semi-structured interviews will not be conducted until full ethics approval is granted by James Cook University's Research Ethics Committee to guarantee anonymity of respondents.

Anticipated Project Outcomes

The key outcomes of the project to be delivered in late 2010/early 2011 are as follows:

- A Final Research Report detailing the study's findings. A draft of this report will be circulated to interviewees prior to its completion for comment and clarification of findings.
- The Report will then be submitted to ACPC for their consideration, and through that organization it is expected it will be forwarded to the ICPC.
- The Report will also be submitted to relevant Pacific Island, Australian and US Government agencies (in Australia, for example, particularly AusAID, the Australian Federal Police, the Attorney General's Department, the Federal Court of Australia and the Australian Electoral Commission), the sum of which have programs targeting international cooperation, public sector linkages programs and commitments to building resources in democracy and governance.

What Can You Do Now?

To conclude this introductory letter, I ask you to take a little time to respond with your comments, ideas about the project and whether you would be able to provide contact details for a small number of colleagues in your country that might be willing to assist

us in this project. At this time, we would like to communicate with representatives of the judiciary, police and government.

To those of you I met when you attended the October 2007 forum, I look forward to working with you again. To others who might be interested in this important research, I hope to maintain communication with you and meet with you later this year.

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