FROM THE DIRECTOR

If you are reading this before June 3, you still have time to register for Canada-Asia 2013 (see details on the following page), one of the biggest events the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada has presented in recent years. Entitled Navigating Asia’s Future, Charting Canada’s Strategy, it will address a wide range of timely topics (such as risks to growth in the region) and feature an outstanding list of Canadian and especially Asian speakers. Examples include Sam Pitroda, Indian Prime Minister Singh’s advisor on innovation; Huibert Vigeveno, executive chair of Shell in China; and Zhang Yunling, Director of the Institute of Asia Pacific Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

We are proud of the fact that we have taken the NCA to seven provinces. We can now add a territory – Yukon. We were recently in Whitehorse where we took part in a workshop on East Asia-Arctic relations which included scholars from Japan, China, Korea, Russia, the United States and Canada. At the same time, we met with Yukon’s Premier, The Hon. Darrell Pasloski, were interviewed on CBC Radio Whitehorse and hosted an NCA event in partnership with Yukon College and the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce. It was a busy three days during which the temperature in Whitehorse was warmer than Toronto, though fortunately it was not too warm to go dogsledding!

The NCA is not just focused on the usual “Let’s increase trade and investment with Asia” themes. Recently, we concluded the Asia Contemporary Speaker Series – a series of lectures by leading international experts on Asian art, presented in partnership with the Canadian Art Foundation and BMO Financial Group – with successful events in Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary.

I would love to hear from you and can be reached at douglas.goold@asiapacific.ca, or at (416) 597-8040 x 205.

Douglas Goold
Director, National Conversation on Asia
Asia is changing rapidly but its future is far from clear. Will the world continue to witness the historic shift from west to east or will the region stumble? What are the opportunities and risks in Asia over the next decade, and what skills, capacities and resources will be needed to respond effectively to them?

Canada-Asia 2013 brings fresh perspectives and on-the-ground insights from leading experts across Asia and Canada. It explores the major economic, political, security and social forces shaping the region today, such as the rise of the middle class, the focus on creativity and innovation and the urgent need for green growth. The conference assesses the implications for businesses and governments of these profound developments and will draw up recommendations for an Asia Strategy for Canada.

The conference is held in conjunction with the 21st General Meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), a network of business, government and academic thought-leaders from 26 Asia Pacific economies.

**Conference Structure:** The conference features a welcome reception and dinner, plenary and break-out sessions, and a customized student program. Click here to view the full program.

www.CanadaAsia2013.ca
China and India: Friends, Foes and Future Partners, Toronto, May 22
The NCA convened a by-invitation luncheon roundtable with Dr. Amitendu Palit, Head of Partnerships & Programmes and Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the National University of Singapore’s Institute of South Asian Studies. Dr. Palit is concerned about growing inequality in India and China and argued that policymakers in both countries need to be patient as their countries transform into fully globalized economies. We are grateful to Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP for hosting.

Lunch with Dr. Fan Gang, Toronto, May 7
The Canada China Business Council – an NCA Supporting Organization – hosted a ‘President’s Lunch’ with Dr. Fan Gang, Director of China’s National Economic Research Institute. The NCA was a supporting organization for the lunch. Dr. Fan, recently rated as one of the ‘World’s Top 100 Public Intellectuals’ jointly by Foreign Policy and Prospect, discussed the state of China’s economy and the transition towards a socially, technologically and environmentally sustainable economic model.

2013 Canada-Japan Trade Symposium: Revitalizing Growth Opportunities Through a Formal Economic Partnership Agreement, Toronto, April 25
The NCA was pleased to be content partner for this invitation-only symposium led by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) in partnership with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ) and Keidanren. The symposium featured industry leaders from Japan and Canada, including Hon. Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia Pacific Gateway, and Norihiro Okuda, Ambassador of Japan to Canada. As content partner the NCA collaborated in a pre-event series of articles entitled Canada’s Asia Rebalancing Act: Why Canada Should Turn Up Trade with Japan, hosted by the Canadian international Council on its website, tweeted from the event and interviewed several of the symposium’s speakers. Video interviews will be available on the NCA website and on the APF Canada video gallery soon.

No Miracle: What Asia Can Teach All Countries About Growth, Toronto, April 23
The NCA was delighted to collaborate with East Gallery (an independent gallery specializing in Southeast Asian art) and the Consular Corps Association of Toronto to present a launch of the book No Miracle: What Asia Can Teach All Countries About Growth by Mitchell Wigdor, University of Toronto Law Faculty and Honorary Consul for Malaysia in Toronto. The launch event attracted 50 attendees, and was an excellent opportunity to discuss why some parts of Asia experienced spectacular economic growth in recent decades while enjoying a unique exhibition of contemporary art from Vietnam.
RECENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES (FEBRUARY - MAY 2013)

Breakfast with Indian Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram, Toronto, April 15
The Canada-India Business Council – an NCA Supporting Organization – hosted a breakfast event for India’s Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram, in downtown Toronto, which attracted over 175 attendees. The NCA, which was the event’s only ‘Industry Partner,’ was also proud to host a table.

Canada-China Opportunities in Transition, Ottawa, March 22
The NCA acted as a supporting partner for the Canadian International Council National Capital Branch’s timely conference on Canada-China. In addition to Yuen Pau Woo anchoring the opening session on the economic potential of the two countries’ strategic partnership and acting as a panelist in the closing session which set to define desirable outcomes of the bilateral relationship, several other conference speakers were APF Canada Fellows. At the conference we tweeted extensively and conducted interviews with selected members of the Chinese delegation, including a senior academic from Beijing University, a senior economic planner from China’s National Development and Reform Commission and Amb. Lu Shumin, China’s former Ambassador to Canada. These interviews are available on the NCA website and on the APF Canada video gallery.

The Canada-China Relationship: What’s Beyond Natural Resources?,
Toronto, March 19
We partnered with Bennett Jones in presenting a roundtable with featured guest, H.E. Lu Shumin, Vice President of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs, and formerly Chinese Ambassador to Canada from 2005 to 2008. On this visit to Canada, Amb. Lu headed a delegation China which included senior scholars and high-ranking policy makers from Beijing. China’s rapid urbanization featured prominently in the exchange as did the challenges urbanization represents for Chinese society and policy-makers, and the opportunities it presents for Canadians, particularly in the services sector. Another frequent topic was the complicated Chinese bureaucracy and regulatory frameworks. Amb. Lu responded by observing that while China is very large and therefore complicated, the trend in these areas is improving, especially as fighting corruption and red tape became a focus of the Chinese government at its latest Congress. We are particularly grateful to Hugh MacKinnon, Bennett Jones’ Chairman and CEO, for hosting the session.

Campus Conversations on Asia, Vancouver, March 9
We partnered with the University of British Columbia’s Political Science Student Association and International Relations Student Association on our second Campus Conversations on Asia event in Vancouver. Participants engaged in focused, small-group discussion and debate on foreign policy dilemmas that Canada will face in its engagement with Asia.
**RECENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES (FEBRUARY - MAY 2013)**

**China: The End of Development? INDePth Conference: Interrogating Notions of Development and Progress, Toronto, March 8-10**

For the second year in a row, the NCA supported the student-run INDePth (Interrogating Notions of Development and Progress) conference at the University of Toronto, which examined a cluster of themes related to the contemporary and historical evolution of China as a society and international actor. Over 150 student delegates, some from as far afield as Harvard University and the University of British Columbia, attended the conference which featured keynote addresses by David Mulroney, Canada’s former Ambassador to China, and Fang Li, Consul General of China in Toronto, panel discussions and a debate session among students specializing in Asian studies.

**Next Steps in the Canada-Asia Relationship: Now for the Hard Part, Calgary, March 7**

Yuen Pau Woo spoke as the concluding speaker in the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute’s (CDFAI) dinner series entitled Canada and the World Speaker Series: Asia Pacific. Other speakers in the series, which took place in the fall of 2012 and winter of 2013, were James Boutillier, Special Advisor (Policy) at Canada’s Maritime Forces Pacific Headquarters in Esquimalt, BC; Wendy Dobson, professor at the Rotman School of Management and Co-director of the Rotman Institute for International Business, University of Toronto; and Donald Campbell, Senior Strategy Advisor at Davis LLP and APF Canada Distinguished Fellow.

**East Asia-Arctic Relations: Boundary, Security and International Politics, Waterloo, March 5**

Douglas Goold and APF Canada’s Charles Aruliah participated in the policy workshop in Waterloo that followed the academic roundtable in Whitehorse (see below). Please find the report on the project’s academic workshop here, and the report on its policy workshop here.
NCA in Yukon, Whitehorse, March 1-3
Dr. Eva Busza, APF Canada’s Vice President of Research and Knowledge, and Douglas Goold, Director of the National Conversation on Asia, took part in a series of activities in Whitehorse, Yukon, in early March. In addition to meetings with local policy makers and an interview on CBC Radio Whitehorse, Eva and Doug met with senior administrators at Yukon College, including Kim Barnes, its President, Rick Karp, President of the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and Hon. Darrell Pasloski, Yukon’s Premier. We partnered with the Whitehorse Chamber and Yukon College on our inaugural NCA event in the Yukon, entitled Why Asia is so Important for Canada Now, and Eva and Doug acted as discussants in a policy roundtable entitled East Asia-Arctic Relations: Boundary, Security and International Politics. The roundtable, of which the NCA was acknowledged as a supporter, brought together scholars from China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, the USA and Canada to discuss East Asia’s interests in the Arctic as part of a project organized under the auspices of the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) in partnership with the Japan Foundation. It was a packed three days and even so, Eva and Doug were able to find time enjoy the northern outdoors with a unique dogsled excursion. All the while, the temperature in Whitehorse remained higher than it was in Toronto!

DocuAsia Forum 2013, Vancouver, February 28-March 7
The NCA was a Community Partner for this Metro Vancouver documentary and performance festival which explores contemporary Asia-Canada relations. In addition to films about illegally prospecting for gold in the leftovers of large industrial gold mine sites in Mongolia and the relocation of a factory from Germany to China, the Forum presented Extraction, a Mandarin/English documentary theatre about social transformation and diplomatic intrigue in boomtown Fort McMurray, Alberta. APF Canada Senior Fellow Hank Bull acted as a discussant at a panel discussion after a performance of Extraction. To see the full DocuAsia Forum 2013 line-up, click here.

Responding to the Rise of Asia: Challenges for Canada and Quebec, Montréal, February 19
Le Conseil des relations internationales de Montréal (CORIM; in English: The Montreal Council on Foreign Relations, MCFR) hosted Yuen Pau Woo for a luncheon address as part of its business series. The luncheon was attended by 165 members of the Montreal business and policy communities. Pau argued that Canada and Québec should thoroughly engage Asia to take best advantage of the region’s growing economic, political and cultural global positions. Pierre Lortie, Senior Business Advisor, Fraser Milner Casgrain and co-author of Securing Canada’s Place in Asia: Means, Institutions and Mechanisms, the report of our NCA Task Force on regional institutional architecture in Asia, introduced Pau.
Le Canada et le Québec à l’heure de l’Asie : Évolution des perceptions face à la région asiatique, Montréal, February 19

APF Canada’s Charles Labrecque led a student-focused session in the evening at l’Université de Montréal’s Centre d’études de l’Asie de l’Est (CETASE). The presentation drew on results of our National Opinion Poll of Canadians’ Views on Asia and argued that Canada and Québec should increase Asian engagement.

Online Conversation: What is the most pressing development challenge in the Asia Pacific region in the next 10 years?, February 4

This online conversation coincided with International Development Week (February 3-9) and promoted dialogue on development priorities in the Asia Pacific region. Contributors of opening ‘perspectives’ came from a broad range of professions – a Canadian development NGO, a law firm, a trade and development consultancy, a policy research think tank in Indonesia and academia – and identified a variety of priorities including food security, development financing, inequality, social inclusion and political change. Respondents identified non-inclusive institutions, human rights and corruption as the Asia Pacific region’s most pressing challenges. This is certainly fertile ground for debate, especially given that the Canadian International Development Agency, Canada’s lead agency for delivering official development assistance, will soon become a part of the Department of Foreign Affairs. What do you think is the Asia Pacific region’s most pressing development challenge? Have your say here.
## Upcoming NCA Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td><strong>Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians Annual General Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>APF Canada Senior Fellow Joe Wong, Director of the Asian Institute at the Munk School of Global Affairs, will address the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians on June 5 in Toronto, dealing broadly with the imperative for Canada and Ontario to engage more fully with Asia. The speech will be under the banner of the NCA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 7-11</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td><strong>A Century of Chinese Cinema: Roundtables &amp; Talks</strong></td>
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<td>We are delighted to be co-presenting TIFF’s <em>A Century of Chinese Cinema: Roundtables and Talks</em> series in partnership with the Asian Institute at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto. <em>A Century of Chinese Cinema</em> is a comprehensive exploration of Chinese film, art and culture taking place from June 6 through August 11, featuring a major film retrospective of 80 titles and visits from some of Chinese cinema's biggest names. The <em>Roundtables and Talks</em> series brings together leading academic experts from China and around the world for lectures, roundtables and discussions over the festival's opening weekend. Full details of the Roundtables and talks series are available on the <a href="#">NCA website</a>.</td>
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<td>June 19</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td><strong>Rising Innovation Systems in the Asia Pacific: Implications for Canadian Innovation Systems</strong></td>
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<td>APF Canada Research Associate Rahim Rezaie will present his latest research to the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal.</td>
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Asia Contemporary Speaker Series

Beijing Art Now, Vancouver, March 11
Contemporary Art in Japan: Visions and Views of the Universe, Toronto, March 15
From Cultural Revolution to Avant-Garde: The Rise of Chinese Contemporary Art, Calgary, April 18

Following successful events in Toronto in November and Montreal in January, we presented the concluding three lectures in the Asia Contemporary Speaker Series in March and April in Vancouver, Toronto and Calgary.

The series’ third lecture took place at the Vancouver Art Gallery on March 11 with Philip Tinari, Director of the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing, discussing Beijing Art Now.

Later the same week, Mami Kataoka, Chief Curator at the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo, spoke on the topic Contemporary Art in Japan: Visions and Views of the Universe to a sold out audience at the Art Gallery of Ontario.


The series was presented in partnership with the Canadian Art Foundation, BMO Financial Group and the National Conversation on Asia and our sponsors.
Collaborative Roundtables with the Munk School of Global Affairs

In late March and early April, the NCA brought three separate roundtable sessions to the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto, broadening the opportunity for students to engage with experts on a range of elements of Canada’s contemporary relationships with Asia:

**The Canada-China Relationship: What’s Beyond Natural Resources?, Toronto, March 19**

Following the business-focused roundtable that Ambassador Lu led earlier in the day on March 19, he gave a student-focused talk at the Munk School of Global Affairs which we co-presented with the Munk School’s Asian Institute. Joseph Wong, the Asian Institute’s Director, and APF Canada Senior Fellow, introduced and moderated the session. The talk marked a homecoming of sorts for Amb. Lu as he was an undergraduate at the University of Toronto in the 1970s as a member of the first group of students from Mainland China to study in Canada. In Amb. Lu’s first year, a total of nine Chinese students studied in Canada. Today that number is over 60,000.

**Globalization of Innovation and the Role of China and India: The Case of Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Sectors, Toronto, March 25**

The NCA partnered with the Munk School of Global Affairs’ India Innovation Institute (III) to present a fully-subscribed session that dealt with rising innovation capacities in China and India in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical sectors and what this means for Canadian companies and policy-makers. Rahim Rezaie, Research Associate at both APF Canada and the III, was the featured speaker. The roundtable was introduced by the Asian Institute’s Director, Joseph Wong, and moderated by APF Canada’s Jordan Dupuis.

**Is India Getting Enough of a Bang for its Military Buck? Challenges and Future Directions, Toronto, April 3**

The following week the NCA again partnered with the III for a session which examined India’s military procurement systems in historical context and asked whether the Indian military is getting value for money. The speaker, Vandana Kumar, a Financial Advisor with India’s Western Naval Command and III affiliate, was well-positioned to lead the discussion; she felt the Indian military could streamline its procurement process to achieve far better value for money while obtaining more appropriate equipment.
NCA Website Relaunch

In March we relaunched the NCA website by giving it a bold new look and feel, improving navigation and streamlining all our interactive features including blogs, online conversations and social media connectivity.

We invite you to join the conversation online:

The National Conversation on Asia continues to promote expert task forces and an extended network of partners, advisors and supporters.

**Task Forces Underway**

**Human Rights**
This task force is chaired by Pitman Potter, Senior Fellow of APF Canada and Hong Kong Bank Chair in Asian Research at the University of British Columbia, and has convened groups of experts to address Canada’s human rights policy towards Asia.

**Asia Competence**
The Asia Competence Task Force will consider what Canada’s priorities should be with respect to building the various dimensions of Asia competence, with a particular focus on language training, internships and other on-the-ground experiences, and introducing more Asia content into the curriculum. It is being co-chaired by David Mulroney, Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Canada’s Ambassador to China from 2009-2012, and China-based Janet De Silva, Dean, Ivey Asia, who has more than 10 years of China CEO experience with Sun Life Financial and a private enterprise.

**Completed Task Forces**

**Asian Regional Architecture Task Force**
In early September 2012 we launched the report of our NCA Taskforce on Regional Architecture entitled *Securing Canada’s Place in Asia: Means, Institutions and Mechanisms*. The report argues for a comprehensive engagement that extends beyond a commercially focused, bilateral-centered approach and offers 17 recommendations for Canada to advance a full-scale engagement with Asia. The task force was chaired by Don Campbell, APF Canada Senior Fellow and Senior Strategy Advisor at Davis LLP.

**Canada-Asia Energy Futures Task Force**
Entitled *Securing Canada’s Energy Future*, this task force’s final report was released in June 2012. The task force was co-chaired by the Honourable Kevin Lynch P.C., Vice Chair of BMO Financial Group, and Kathy Sendall, former Senior Vice-President at Petro-Canada.

**Conversations with Canadian Leaders: Canada as an Asia-Pacific Nation**
Conducted by the Public Policy Forum (PPF), this project examined Canadian leaders’ views on Asia through in-depth interviews. Its findings were released in late April 2012 and are available on the [project website](#).
NCA PROGRAMS AND COLLABORATORS

Partners Group

The NCA is pleased to be working with 15 corporate partners representing multiple sectors and regions. Their contributions are vital to our initiative’s success and we look forward to continuing to engage with our partners in activities across the country.

Futures Group on Asia

The Futures Group on Asia (FGA) is a panel of prominent Asia experts, thought leaders and practitioners from across Canada. The group is co-chaired by the Hon. David Emerson, Canada’s former Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Joseph Caron, Canada’s former Ambassador to China and Japan and former High Commissioner to India.

FGA members contribute their insight, analysis and ideas on issues shaping Canada’s future with Asia and act as NCA ambassadors and connectors.

Supporting Organizations

Over 25 organizations have agreed to be National Conversation on Asia Supporting Organizations. The ongoing participation of these national, provincial and local champions helps bring the NCA to new audiences across the country. We look forward to continuing to work with NCA Supporting Organizations, including our collaborating with the Canadian Art Foundation in the Asia Contemporary Speaker Series in cities across the country.
Op-eds and media mentions include:

CBC Radio Whitehorse, 1 March 2013
Live on-air radio interview with Douglas Goold and Eva Busza on Canada’s arctic in Asia’s future

19 February 2013
“Les Québécois doivent se tourner vers l’Asie” (Quebecers must turn to Asia)

20 February 2013
"Le Québec doit cesser de bouder les cultures asiatiques"

20 February 2013
"Qui a peur de la Chine?” (Who’s Afraid of China?)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Conversation on Asia is a Canada-wide, multi-year initiative that is building a community of Canadians who believe that Asia is essential to Canada’s success. We are helping to develop, to build support for and to deliver that vision in our communities, our companies and through our governments. The NCA is made possible with the vision, commitment and generous support of our private sector partners. We greatly appreciate their contributions. #NatConv

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