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ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AUSTRALIA AASA

Message from Australian Patron: Ms. Alison Broinowski

All the founder-members of the Asian Association for the Study of Australia, from Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Singapore, and Australia, are to be congratulated on their initiative in forming the Association. Two clear needs emerged from the 'Outside Images of Australia' conference in Perth in 1992: for more knowledge of Australia in the Asia-Pacific region, and for more help from Australia in generating that knowledge. AASA is a timely response to those needs.

I have recently been speaking with members of the Australian Studies Association of North America, and earlier with the British Association for the Study of Australia. In Japan in the 1980s I was closely involved with the development of Australian Studies. Everywhere I admire the enthusiasm and effort of these dedicated friends of Australia, and hear the same appeal for textual material to support research and teaching.

As Australian Patron of AASA, I hope to have the support of all AASA members in advancing the cause of Australian Studies and in ensuring that they are much better resourced in the future.

I congratulate the President, Vice-Presidents and Committee Members on their election and look forward to the opportunity of meeting them all at the University of Kerala in Trivandrum. Just writing such names stirs Orientalist yearnings which I should not harbour in this day and age. But since Australian Studies and Asian Studies are parallel, if not identical, I confess to them and hope for corrective enlightenment in December.*

Ms. Alison Broinowski, writer and diplomat, has spent over fifteen years living and working in Asia: Japan, South Korea, the Phillipines, Iran, Jordan and the U.S.A. Her book The Yellow Lady (OUP, 1992) which traces cultural interchange between Australia and Asia has been one of the most talked-about books in the field. More than any other individual, she has persuaded Australians of the need to acknowledge the immense importance of the reality of Asia.

Vice-President: Prof. K. Radha (Kerala Univ., Trivandrum)

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Committee Member: A/Prof. Kateryna Longley, Murdoch University

S. Queensland: Prof. Ken Goodwin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Univ. of S. Queensland

Also present at this meeting was Mr. Nicholas Hasluck, QC, who represented the Australian writers invited to the Conference: Beverley Farmer, Robert Drewe, Mundrooro Nyoongah. It was decided unanimously to request Professor C.D. Narasimhaiah to be the Asian patron of the newly formed AASA; an Australian patron would be approached at a later date. It was decided that a Newsletter be issued twice a year. Professor K. Radha offered to organize the first conference at her University at the end of 1996, an offer which was received with warm applause.

An application to the Australia-India Council has been made with the project of launching the Association.