

NEWSBRIEF



Enhancing Australia's International Relationships

The John Curtin Centre and its International Institute will play a vital role in helping the Australian economy "mesh" into the Asian and Indian Ocean regions, according to the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Kim Beazley.

Speaking in Sydney at a corporate briefing on The John Curtin Centre, Mr Beazley said the Institute's regional focus and location would underpin government and corporate strategies for developing economic opportunities in these dynamic regions.

"This Institute really does fit in with the objectives that the Prime Minister, Mr Keating, has set for our enmeshment in the region," Mr Beazley said.

"We believe that enmeshment — on economic, cultural, social and political levels — is critical to the future survival of our nation.

"And the process of enmeshment is only successfully conducted when it is moved away from government interplay and into the semi-official and private domain.

"The importance of this Institute is that it will provide the semi-official underpinning for government initiatives in this area," Mr Beazley said.

Corporations that wanted to tap into the potential of the Indian Ocean region would find the John Curtin International Institute a particularly useful resource because it was the only such centre with an Indian Ocean focus.

"There are very great opportunities in the Indian Ocean region and very little



Deputy Prime Minister, Kim Beazley discusses plans for The John Curtin Centre with the chairman of the Centre's NSW Advisory Group, Barry Murphy, and its executive director, David Waddell.

being done there in terms of business links," Mr Beazley said.

Exports to Indian Ocean countries represented only a fraction of Australian trade but those markets were growing rapidly. For example, Australia's exports to India were growing at 15 per cent annually and the growth rate for exports to South Africa was 31 per cent. Within the next five years, more than \$250 billion would be spent on infrastructure development in the Indian Ocean region, Mr Beazley said.

Mr Beazley said Western Australia was the ideal place for an Institute focusing on the Indian Ocean and Asian Pacific regions, because of its geographic location and because the local economy was more regionally-oriented than the rest of the country and had stronger regional links.

Chairman of the NSW Advisory Group for The John Curtin Centre fund-

raising committee, Mr Barry Murphy, echoed Mr Beazley's view that Western Australia was an ideal location for an Institute which will work to enhance Australia's regional relationships.

"The John Curtin Centre and its activities will help re-focus many of us from our 'Euro-centric' view of the world, to one that is more focused on Asia, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean regions" Mr Murphy said.

Below: Peter Mason of Schroders and former Westpac managing director Bob White discuss the John Curtin International Institute with the Institute's Dean of Programs, Professor Joanna Barker.



Left: Guests at the Sydney briefing included Inelda Roche of Nutri-Metics International, Norbet Vogel of the Australian Quality Council, Anne Keating of United Airlines, John Sprouster of the Australian Quality Council and Barbara Bell of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.



Major exhibition goes on tour

Australia's political history and hardships of war-time life have been dramatically brought to life in a major exhibition now on show at Parliament House in Canberra.

The exhibition, entitled *John Curtin: A Man of Peace, A Time of War*, covers the life of Australia's World War Two Prime Minister, John Curtin and the impact that the war had on Australia.

The exhibition was developed by the Australian Archives, in conjunction with The John Curtin Centre which partly-funded the exhibition.

After a national tour, it will go on permanent display at the Centre, in the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library.

Opening the exhibition, the Deputy Prime Minister, Kim Beazley spoke movingly of John Curtin's contribution to Australian history

"Curtin's moral courage was enormous," Mr Beazley said.

"He had the courage to bring the troops home, at a stage of the war when it was very likely that large numbers of them would be lost because we did not have command of the oceans.

"He also showed moral courage in confronting his party and political associates," Mr Beazley said.

Mr Beazley's speech also referred to Curtin's understanding that Australia's future would largely be determined by

events in its own region, and drew parallels with the John Curtin International Institute and its regional focus.

The John Curtin Centre

The John Curtin Centre is a national and international centre of learning, created to help Australia build closer links with the countries of the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Regions.

Based in Perth, the Centre combines a unique mix of business and academic disciplines, and includes:

The John Curtin International Institute

The educational heart of the Centre focusing on Pacific, Indian Ocean, and Asian affairs. Its prime objective is to bring together future business and political leaders from Australia, the United States and from the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions to study and research key issues influencing the development, security, stability, prosperity and peace of the entire region.

As the core element of The John Curtin Centre, the International Institute is co-ordinating conferences, short courses and research

projects on business, social and political issues in the Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean regions.

The Prime Ministerial Library

Australia's first prime ministerial library will preserve the cultural heritage of Australia from a period that was both critical and formative to the future development of the nation.

Modelled on American presidential libraries, it will provide a unique educational facility for scholarship and research through the development of comprehensive archives and memorabilia.

The Gallery

The Gallery will provide space for visiting historical and art exhibitions as well as Curtin University's very comprehensive art collection, thereby helping to promote awareness of the arts both within the University and in the wider community.

