Capitalising on Emerging Growth

Economic growth rates in developing Asian countries will escalate to unprecedented levels, said Sir Charles Court, former Premier of Western Australia and long time Patron and supporter of The John Curtin Centre.

The outstanding rates of growth achieved by Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Singapore in the past 20 years will be surpassed by growth in the newer, emerging, economies such as Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, he said.

"The newer, emerging, nations will take off more quickly because they have the opportunity to learn and earn from the experiences of their developed Asian neighbours."

A ready market

"Countries like Vietnam and Indonesia will benefit from the increased capital investment and expertise provided by their developed neighbours, who will also be a ready market for their products."

"However, the economic growth and other significance of China in the Asian and world scenes will overshadow the smaller emerging countries. It will gain much from the established success stories of the developed Asian countries and economies. It will also gain much from the rest of the world in its desire to woo an expanding world power", said Sir Charles.

The John Curtin Centre in Perth is uniquely located to help business and government take advantage of this spectacular and escalating growth, if Australians are prepared to work to win their rightful share, he said.

The Centre is strategically located in relation to the key markets of S.E. Asia, and is thus in a favoured position to help enhance Australia's international relationships, he said.

Indian Pacific region

"However, we must also be looking west. The countries in the Indian Pacific region will become of increasing importance", he said.

"South Africa is emerging from its troubles, and this success will flow on to the surrounding African nations, as is happening in Asia.

"A successful South Africa will be the 'locomotive' that will set the pace for its neighbours in the rest of Africa."

"To complete the picture you have the populations, land masses and economies of the Middle East, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh linking up with Asia."

Nexus

"The John Curtin Centre is ideally located at the nexus of the Indian Ocean and the Asia-Pacific regions", he said.

Sir Charles Court said that, at the end of the day, people were paramount.

"The Centre's function is not only to enhance Australia's international economic role. It is equally important to enhance Australia's social, cultural and political relationships, understandings and significance.

"It has been wise to concentrate on getting its educational heart, the John Curtin International Institute, up and running so quickly with programs of direct relevance to all Asian and Indian-Pacific countries", he said.
World Leaders Lend Support

Messages of support for The John Curtin Centre have been coming in from all round the world. George Bush, former US President, and Warren Christopher, US Secretary of State, have both written to the Centre to express support and encouragement.

"The Centre will memorialise Curtin's contribution to the development of the Australian-American alliance and it will stand as a symbol of the continuing strength of our relationship", said George Bush.

Warren Christopher pledged support and said that, for half a century, the United States and Australia have enjoyed an extraordinary relationship based on shared interest and a sense of common purpose.

"The Centre will provide opportunities for young people from America, Australia, and the nations of the region, to develop their leadership capabilities" he said.

Alongside the heavy-weight corporate donors, including BHP, Heinz, Motorola, CRA, Amcor, BankWest, Western Mining Corporation and Alcoa is the strong support of the Australian and West Australian governments and The Centre's Patrons who include Prime Minister Paul Keating, John Howard, Leader of the Opposition, Sir Charles Court, former Premier of Western Australia, and Sir Laurence Brodie-Hall.

EVENTS UPDATE

- A major international conference on drugs and alcohol, to be run by the John Curtin International Institute, the National Key Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse and the World Health Organisation, is planned for early next year.
- The Institute is also planning a conference on economics, work, health and human rights targeting women's health, and an international research program to examine renewable energy in India is underway.
- A forum on agribusiness, and a graduate program to be run with the Institute of Chartered Accountants, are also scheduled for early next year.
- The Scenario Planning Unit, to begin in early 1996, is progressing well.
- The exhibition "John Curtin: A Man of Peace, A Time of War" goes on tour around Australia following its highly successful launch in Canberra. The exhibition will go on permanent display, after the tour, in the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library.
- The Library has also been adding to its Collection of original material from the John Curtin era. Mint-condition stamped envelopes, including one autographed by Ben Chifley's nephew, John Chifley, have been donated, and the Library has acquired a complete run of original copies of the West Australian newspaper from 1923-1958.
- The promotion and development of the John Curtin Gallery has generated considerable interest and major state and national galleries are prepared to lend artworks and co-operate on shared exhibitions.