

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: FRIDAY 24 MAY 2013

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



University and State team up to maximise opportunities in the Asian Century

The University of Tasmania is to partner with the State Government in the establishment of a new institute designed to bolster Tasmania's ability to engage with Asia in the 'Asian Century'.

Yesterday's State Budget included a \$200,000 annual funding commitment from the State towards the setting up of the Asia Institute Tasmania at UTAS.

The institute will play a crucial brokerage role in bringing specialist Asia expertise to key stakeholders in business, education, industry and the general community. It was a key component of the Tasmania in the Asian Century White Paper launched by the Premier at the Sandy Bay campus in late March.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen, said the Asia Institute Tasmania was designed to significantly boost the state's engagement with, and cultural awareness of, the Asian region as a whole.

"The potential economic benefits for UTAS and the state are substantial. These benefits will flow directly from the alignment of the institute with our plan to dramatically increase the number of international students we attract to Tasmania, and indirectly through supporting business to engage with Asia.

"In 2012 almost 80 per cent of the 3550 international students enrolled at UTAS were from Asia. In partnership with the State Government we propose to more than double the number of international students studying here by 2018."

Prof Rathjen said that the institute would draw together academic expertise from across the University. "There is considerable Asian expertise at UTAS in a wide range of areas, including language and culture, business, agriculture, law, health and the training programs of the Australian Maritime College.

"We intend to draw on this expertise to offer enhanced degree programs related to Asia, including in-country placements; short courses both for students taking other degrees and for business leaders and other members of the community, and more broadly to attempt to develop an Asia-literate workforce in Tasmania.

“The University has already begun an international search for a Director, and we look forward to making an appointment in the coming months,” Prof Rathjen said.

Media Opportunity:

The University of Tasmania’s Pro-Vice Chancellor - Global Engagement, Professor Peter Frappell, will be available for interview at the conclusion of an art forum in Hobart at 1.30pm today (**Friday 24 May 2013**). The stars of the Indonesian-Australian dance collaboration *Opal Vapour* will perform an excerpt from the show.

Who: Pro-Vice Chancellor (Global Engagement), Professor Peter Frappell; *Opal Vapour* dancer Jade Dewi Tyas Tunggal and musician Rea Soemardjo.

What: Media launch of the Asia Institute Tasmania.

When: Today (Friday 25 May 2013) at 1.30pm.

Where: Dechaineux Lecture Theatre, Tasmanian College of the Arts, Hunter Street, Hobart.

Information released by:

Communications and Media Office, University of Tasmania
Phone: (03) 6226 8518; 0429 336 328 (Peter Cochrane)
Email: Peter.Cochrane@utas.edu.au