



MEDIA RELEASE

7.30 pm Tuesday, 2nd December 2014

Asialink Business to provide cultural intelligence training to New Colombo Plan students

Asialink Business will deliver cultural intelligence training to mobility students of the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan under a partnership announced today by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The New Colombo Plan is a signature initiative of the Australian Government to give Australia's next generation the knowledge and connections to engage effectively with the Indo Pacific region. Recognising the importance of the Indo-Pacific opportunity for Australia, the Government has committed \$100 million over five years to help Australian undergraduates study and undertake internships in the region in a partnership between governments, universities and business.

Students taking part in the New Colombo Plan will receive cross-cultural training before they travel to the Indo-Pacific, to ensure they gain the most from their experience.

A pilot program will run in 2015 in Melbourne and three locations in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland before being rolled out nationally over five years.

The concept and principal funding originates from the Bennelong Foundation, and additional funding support will come from The Myer Foundation and Asialink, with Asialink Business delivering the training program. Asialink Business is a leader in providing training programs that develop Asia capability and is ideally positioned to build the cultural intelligence of students taking part in this program.

The Project will develop and deliver a range of cultural intelligence training to New Colombo Plan mobility students in capital cities and regional locations.

Asialink's Chairman, Mr Sid Myer AM, said: "The New Colombo Plan is a tremendous opportunity to strengthen Australia's connection with the Indo-Pacific by empowering young Australians to experience and learn from their regional neighbours. Together with the generous support of the Bennelong and

Myer Foundations, Asialink Business is proud to play its part in bringing to life the Australian Government's vision".

Bennelong Foundation's Chairman and Founder of the Bennelong Group, Jeff Chapman said: "The New Colombo Plan is designed to transform young Australians' lives and encourage them to become global citizens. For these reasons, it is an excellent fit with the types of projects that our Foundation looks to support. We back innovative programs that encourage people to take advantage of learning, training and educational opportunities. The pre-departure training for New Colombo Plan mobility students will seek to deliver on this by providing young Australians with global educational opportunities and awareness to develop their learning and promoting Australia's international standing in our region.

"A project of such significance and scale requires partners with the expertise, experience and appropriate infrastructure. We are proud to be in partnership with the Federal Government, Asialink Business and The Myer Foundation.

"Given the importance and objectives of the New Colombo Plan project and the capability of the partners, we have committed to a \$500,000 investment over the next five years."

The Myer Foundation Chief Executive Officer, Leonard Vary said "The Myer Foundation has a long standing interest in building people to people links between Australia and the Indo-Pacific region. Over a number of years we supported a range of initiatives that aimed to facilitate these links however an opportunity to partner with the Australian government and Bennelong Foundation on this project is exciting because we recognise that acting together will magnify our impact. We are proud to contribute to a project that aims to create a generation of Australians that is deeply engaged with the region."

More information about the consortium partners, Contact Fiona Rowland, CEO Bennelong Foundation Fiona.Rowland@bennwealthpartners.com; www.bennelongfoundation.com; www.benngroup.com -

Asialink Business

As Australia's leading centre for building Asia capability, Asialink Business helps Australians develop critical skills, knowledge and networks to better understand and engage with the complexities of the region. It works with business, government, philanthropic and cultural partners to initiate and strengthen Australia-Asia engagement.

Bennelong Foundation

Established in 2002 by the Bennelong Group, the Bennelong Foundation aims to enhance community wellbeing and provide opportunities for positive and lasting change in our community. The Foundation focuses on supporting the areas of

education, training and employment, community health and migrant and indigenous community welfare. The Foundation continues to evolve and innovate within a changing philanthropic environment and has recently confirmed its strategic objective of expanding its reach through collaboration across multiple stakeholders.

Since inception, the Foundation has made in excess of 150 grants to organisations across wide areas of interest, from small grass-roots organisations to well established larger organisations.

The Myer Foundation

Established in 1959, the Myer Foundation engages with the community to promote a just, creative, enlightened, caring and sustainable Australia. The foundation focuses on four critical program areas: Arts and Humanities, Education, Poverty and Disadvantage, and Sustainability and Environment. It helped establish Asialink in 1990 and continues this support today, including Asialink Business's activities in building an Asia-capable workforce.