**La Trobe Asia – Making a Difference in the Asian Century - Video**

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| Professor Nick Bisley, Executive Director La Trobe Asia |
| La Trobe Asia was established to strengthen and deepen La Trobe's already outstanding connections with Asia, it's part of a recognition by the university of the huge importance of the transformation of Asia, and what it means, both for the region we're a part of and for the world. And La Trobe Asia sees itself as a thought leader, on Australia's engagement with Asia. We want to shine a light on the great things that La Trobe people do in and with the region, and use this to help advance the national debate about Australia's place in the region. |
| Liz Stinson, Executive Director, International |
| One of the things that led to the establishment of La Trobe Asia, was the recognition across the university at all levels, that we are doing a lot of, there is a lot of activity going on, between La Trobe and many different parts of Asia. We thought at the time that there was great value in consolidating our understanding, consolidating the knowledge that we have across the university about all those activities that are underway; whether it's collaborative research, whether it's teaching arrangements, whether it's about outbound student mobility or inbound students of course. We wanted a focal point, if you will, so it was really to create that hub and that focus. |
| Dr Ian Woolford, Lecturer, Hindi |
| La Trobe has a very strong Asian studies program, we have an Asian studies major and we offer courses in the history, the culture, the politics, the economics of many Asian countries. La Trobe University offers Indonesian, Chinese, Japanese languages and it's one of only two Australian Universities to offer Hindi language, and we build on several decades of excellence in teaching and research, in Hindi. Our library is known to have one of the better South Asia collections in all of Australia, especially in the area of social sciences and the humanities, and all of this builds on a very strong foundation of engagement with India. This opens up tremendous opportunities for teaching and research for both faculty and students in India and in Australia. So I would invite you to come to La Trobe and study Hindi and in Hindi I would say at La Trobe University,  ला ट्रोब यूनिवर्सिटी आएइ  हमारे साथ हिंदी पढ़िए  इंडिया के बारे में पढ़िए  भारत के बारे में पढ़िए  (Come to La Trobe University  Study Hindi with us  Learn about India  Learn about Bharat [i.e, India]) |
| Dr Paul Pigram, Head of Department of Physics |
| One of the key features of the La Trobe nanotechnology program is a study tour to Asia. We've run five of these study tours so far, and one of the incarnations of this activity is to visit Japan. It provides the students with the opportunity to visit some of the leading research organisations in the Tokyo region including AAST and NIMS, that have a particularly strong focus on the nanotechnology domain. We work in collaboration with the National University of Singapore and also with the University of Tokyo, for the students it's quite a life changing experience. They bring their Australian context with them but their eyes are open to what's happening in Asia and around the world through this experience. It's a fundamental part of our student experience and it's one of the highlights, of the nanotechnology program at La Trobe University. |
| Joshua Watson, student going on exchange to Yonsei University |
| Well growing up in England, Asia seemed really far away, it seemed like a completely distant land, you'd see it on the news, you'd see important events happening there, but there was no kind of tangibility the same way that the rest of the European Continent had. When my family moved to Australia, I suddenly found myself slap bang in the middle of Asia and that was kind of an eye opening experience as well. Suddenly the countries that I saw around me on the news were right there and having a direct influence. Coming back to university I was given the opportunity, to go abroad and studying politics and history and try to find a Korean Arc throughout that all, South Korea seemed like the prime opportunity. If I'm going to continue my study with a Korean flair, it would be very beneficial to speak the language, but also I mean, I've managed to study Korea from the Australian perspective and the Western perspective so much and it would be really interesting to see how they teach their politics, how they teach their history from their perspective as it is such an important region. |
| Dr Jasmine Westendorf, Lecturer, International Relations |
| My research is about peace processes and civil wars and why they often fail to establish lasting peace, so why it is that we often get peace agreement in civil war contexts, but in the ten to fifteen years after those agreements we see either a resurgence of violence, or quite severe instability and insecurity within that state. Here at La Trobe we get a lot of students who are really interested in going out into the world and making a difference, when I ask my first years what they want to do, they all want to be diplomats or they want to work for the UN, or they want to be ambassadors. And a lot of them are concerned about what is going on in our region, because they've travelled to countries in Asia, perhaps a lot of them have family ties to countries in Asia and so certainly I think our responsibility or part of what we do in our teaching is to help them make sense of the region that we live in, in Australia. And make sense how they as global citizens can actually enter that world and make some difference to, particularly our region, but then also the world more broadly. I think the reason why it's important for researchers here at La Trobe and in Australia to focus on the Asia region, is because it is the context in which we operate, and were in a pretty unique position to help the world and help Australia make sense of what's going on in the region and figure out ways to engage with that region. Other regions in the world get a lot more attention from other places, Africa is very much the domain of the UK and Europe, South America is very much the domain of other scholars globally and Asia can be an area that's received less attention, perhaps because it's so far away from everyone else, and we're in the lucky position of being quite close to Asia and being able to do really effective research, because it's not far to go and there are the community connections in Australia that can ground that research. |
| Triet Nguyen Dinh, International Student from Vietnam |
| La Trobe gave me an excellent scholarship on my ATAR score and again I consider that’s a very important incentive, and determination for me to continue my study in Australia and to pursue what I'm really interested in. Since I came to La Trobe in my first year, I was appointed as the Vice President of the La Trobe Vietnamese Student Association and I held that position for two years. In that position not only did I have a chance to engage with the Vietnamese and international student community at La Trobe, but I also had a chance to engage with the broader international student community in Australia. I had the chance to go to, and to attend the Council of International Students in Australia Annual Conference in Brisbane, and also the Asian Youth Summit held here in Melbourne. And last year I was awarded another scholarship to go to the University of Leicester, in the UK for exchange for one semester. And being abroad for the second time, while I'm abroad from home, is actually a very exciting opportunity and now when I came back here, I found all of that were very useful to me to be a better global citizen I guess. |
| Joanna Shaw, International Development Manager |
| At La Trobe International we have around six thousand international students at any one time across our seven campuses, and around 80% of those are students from Asia, so Asia's a really important cohort for us and within that group of students we've got a lot of students who are sponsored by their host governments, or by the Australian government or by a partner institution or organisation. And those sponsored students tend to be, the future leaders of tomorrow, so they come from countries where they are in the public service or they're working in a non-government organisation and they are sponsored by their government to come here for further studies, whether that be a Masters or a PHD. Our international students who are sponsored by their host government, they come here for anywhere from two years to four years post graduate, they get the full education and then the expectation is they return to their positions in their home countries, in government or in their non-government organisation or in their university. And they take with them the skills and education from La Trobe but also that Australian experience, so they've been living and studying alongside Australians and they understand what the Australian community is about. |
| Liz Stinson |
| As a University, we want our graduates to be as prepared as they possibly can be to take up employment opportunities anywhere in the world. One of the positives that Australia has going for it, relative to other English speaking countries in the world, is that we are the country most closely linked to Asia, we are so well placed to enable our graduates to gain that Asian perspective in ways, in my opinion, that for instance students in the United States, in Canada, in Britain, and so on may find more challenging. |
| Professor Nick Bisley |
| La Trobe Asia is going to take the university to the forefront of national debate about the region. We're going to ensure more of our students are studying in Asia, we can understand all of our students understand more about the region and most importantly we're going to ensure the debate about Australia's role in Asia and its role in the region more generally is informed by the best knowledge and cutting edge experience that La Trobe researchers, teachers and students can bring to bear. |