

The Chinese Professional and Business Association

Message from the President

Dear members and friends,

What a tumultuous year this has been. Despite initial optimism of the strength of the Australian economy, investor confidence continues to be battered by the Eurozone crises, and relentless “doom and gloom” by the media. Many of you would know that from the beginning of the year, the All Ordinaries had a sustained run of 350 points to a year-high of 4500 in early May. Sadly, it has crumbled under the weight of all the pessimism, and has given up all of the gains just in the last month. Are we back to square one, or is there more trouble ahead?

The year started off well for CPBA - we kicked off the Year of the Dragon with two Chinese New Year celebrations: a Member & Friends dinner at the end of January, and the Annual ACEC Charity Ball in early February. With Chinese New Year coming just a few days before Australia Day, we had double reason to celebrate! Four hundred generous patrons enjoyed what some said was the best Ball yet, and we donated funds towards a Thermocot incubator for the Royal Flying Doctors. Some of you would know that this piece of lifesaving equipment is especially crucial for infants and babies who have to be medically transported via aircraft to specialist hospitals in the capital cities.



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Disclaimer

Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual writers and do not represent the views and policies of the CPBA.

In March, we held the first of our “Drinks & Nibbles” events - over 40 people enjoyed a beautiful autumn evening in a lovely outdoor setting at the Amora Riverwalk Hotel in Richmond. It was a good opportunity to catch up with old friends, and to make new ones. Many first-time guests remarked on what a friendly and welcoming group we are, and that is something that we can truly be proud of.

Our first Chinese Banquet was held in early May, at the Wealth Garden restaurant in Doncaster East. Close to 60 people enjoyed a sumptuous ten course dinner, with Crab Noodles, Steamed Barramundi and other delicacies. Many guests remarked on the good value we were able to achieve on behalf of the members, and that they would go back to Wealth Garden again. During the banquet, we were also inspired and touched by our guest speakers from International China Concern, who do some amazing work with abandoned and disabled children in China.

Our next event is a second “Drinks & Nibbles” function, and will be held at the new PappaRich restaurant in Doncaster. Join us for a few drinks and some tasty Malaysian nibbles! Mark your calendars for Wednesday July 18th, and you can book your spot through David Chow (0419 309 168 or [david.chow@cpba.com.au](mailto:david.chow@cpba.com.au)).

In September, we will be running our popular annual Investment Seminar. This year’s theme is on “Safe Haven Investments”, a timely topic for all of us trying to make sense of the current environment. It is ironic that the rest of the world are starting to appreciate Australia as a “safe haven”, but sadly our media commentators don’t! Mark your calendars for Wednesday September 12th, and you can reserve your spot through David as above.

I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events - in the meantime, stay warm!



**Felix Wong** GAICD  
President CPBA



CPBA Official Web Site

## Interview

## AICD Member Profile

***This is an interview with Felix Wong, CPBA President, on his recent appointment to the Victorian Division Council of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD). The interview first appeared in the March 2012 edition of VIC director, newsletter of the Council.***

1. *Congratulations, on your recent appointment to the Victoria Division Council as a co-opted Councillor for Company Directors. How did you get involved with Company Directors?*

I joined AICD in 2006 when I was appointed as the Managing Director of SG Pacific Holdings. I took the Company Directors Course shortly after, and this provided good grounding for the subsequent directorships and Board work that I have been involved with.

2. *Felix, you have an interesting background working with both Eastern and Western business cultures, can you please share with us your observations?*

I have enjoyed a wonderful career in international business. Over the course of two decades, I have worked with both US and Asian multinationals, and my work has taken me to operations in over 20 countries in North America, Europe and the Asia Pacific.

I've come to realise that the differences in business cultures are not so much attributable to "East vs West", but more "Task vs Relationship". All the Anglo and Nordic cultures (e.g. US, Australia) are generally "task-focused", and the rest of the world isn't! This pretty much explains the different value systems and work practices, and why it can be slow or difficult to form productive working relationships between cultures. But once you understand that dynamic, these natural obstacles are easy to overcome.

3. *What has been a personal highlight for you in your career?*

Some of the joint ventures that I have put together have involved some interesting intricacies between parties, e.g. Asian and Australian partners, or corporate and family-run businesses. Reaching a "win-win" agreement between future partners requires a lot of personal trust and mutual respect, and getting there can sometimes take years! But the final result is very rewarding, and the personal friendships that develop form a good basis for the future of the partnership.

4. *How do you see Australia's presence in the Asia Pacific region evolving over the next 12 - 18 months?*

Australia is increasingly seen as a safe haven for investment, and there is a lot of "capital flight" from Asia. This is not just in obvious areas like mining and property, but is now broadening to a wide variety of sectors. Investors are also starting to appreciate the size and stability of Australia's market economy, but the challenges of understanding and operating in the local environment are not insignificant. To facilitate success, Boards of these companies will need local directors and executives who are comfortable in operating in an environment with different business culture mindsets. ■

## Life

## The Journey Towards Life in all its Fullness

*Gordon and Lyndel recently spoke at the CPBA Dinner, on their journey with International China Concern and their work in China ...*

**W**here a child lives should not dictate whether or not a child should live. These words hang in the air each time we return to China.

In the late 1990s, Gordon was part of a small group of Melbourne businessmen who went on a fact-finding trip to select a beneficiary for their fundraising activities. They travelled to China, Thailand and Cambodia. While in China they visited International China Concern along with three other organisations and found themselves haunted by the visions of children abandoned by their parents; children who had been forgotten and had fallen through society's cracks.

International China Concern (ICC) is an organisation that provides life for the abandoned and disabled in China and also works in the area of abandonment prevention. It was founded in 1993 by David Gotts, a young man from the UK who had a vision to improve the lives of abandoned and disabled children after visiting a friend who was working in an orphanage in Mainland China. Gotts was confronted by the desperate conditions the children were living in and saw babies dying needlessly. It filled him with a desire to bring about change.

As Gordon and his group toured Asia, he recalls that ICC's projects stood out like beacons in a dark world. Because of ICC, abandoned children with disabilities were receiving love and nutrition, as well as the opportunity to receive proper physical therapy and education. The children actually have the opportunity to experience life in all its fullness.

Gordon and his group also visited facilities that were not managed by International China Concern and what they saw challenged them – babies lying in cots, were weak, lifeless and

struggling to live. The group was informed that mortality rates were high, due mainly to a lack of nutrition and ability to manage the challenging medical conditions or disabilities that many of the children had. It was literally a waiting room to die.

The scenes continued as the group toured more of the rooms. They saw children of two and three years of age that were tied to potty chairs for up to twelve hours a day; bare bottoms on cold, hard chairs, with arms and legs tied to them. It was a profound experience for the whole touring party.

Through the work of International China Concern, Gordon is able to report that conditions have changed for the better. Working in joint partnership with the Chinese government for almost twenty years, ICC now has close to 300 children and young adults in its full time care. It employs and trains local caregivers, therapists, nurses and educators to provide homes for life while meeting the nutrition, education, therapy and medical needs of each child.

A further 300 families with disabled children are supported through ICC's Community Outreach Project, a community-based initiative that works to prevent abandonment and keep families together. ICC walks beside families in their darkest hour, providing key services and skills, and allows them to keep the very children they desperately love. With an estimated 87 million people in China with disabilities, this project has huge potential. But it is dependent upon financial resources and volunteers who want to partner with ICC in this new initiative.

ICC works predominantly in the rapidly growing Hunan Province, an area with a current population of 67 million people. ICC has been able to openly advocate for changes to local social welfare policies and now, after almost 20 years, provincial leaders are using ICC as a model of how to develop provincial care policies





and systems. A simple vision to care for a small number of children in 1993 is now resulting in an impact that is greater than ICC could have hoped or expected.

Achieving an impact of this nature doesn't happen without people who are prepared to put aside their own lives, leave their own countries and live and serve in China. Lyndel, an Occupational Therapist from Melbourne, served with ICC in Hunan Province as an international volunteer for eight years.

Lyndel remembers experiencing the injustice, plight and needs of children who were hidden away and forgotten. In 1995 she visited a social welfare centre with David Gotts and witnessed many of the same harsh realities that Gordon and his group experienced. It was on that trip that she met a five-year-old boy named Chen Shi who spent his days lying in bed or tied to a potty chair. An injury at birth had damaged his spine and his family had abandoned him. He was alone, he couldn't walk, there where no wheelchairs, he had no life and no hope.

This impacted on Lyndel greatly. She was a 27 year old living a comfortable, professional life in Melbourne but she was being challenged to make a difference in China. In 1998, she moved to the city of Changsha in Hunan, undertook Mandarin studies and started to adapt to the culture she found herself in. Most of all she came to understand the impact of the one child policy and its impact on girls as well as children with disabilities and high medical needs.

Lyndel just recently returned from a trip to China to attend the opening of ICC's latest community group homes. These homes enable 16 children to live in community-based apartments, attend local schools and learn to live independent lives. While there, she was struck by the booming economy and obvious progress compared to her time living there. Luxury cars, Starbucks and fast train networks made her wonder whether China still needs help.

But, on her last day in China she was struck by the reality that despite the wealth on display, the needs of the abandoned and disabled still exist as they did years ago. She had the

opportunity to visit an orphanage outside of the control of ICC. Walking from room to room, she noticed that there were still the cots, still the children abandoned without reason, still the disparity of care resulting in children dying needlessly.

Stopping at one cot, she lifted back the covers and looked down into the face of a two-year-old boy who suffers from cerebral palsy; he was both contracted and emancipated. A lack of understanding and training in disabilities for orphanage staff had led to the boy's permanent disability and would probably lead to his death. For

Lyndel, it brought home once again the need and importance of the work of International China Concern.

She still talks about Chen Shi, the five-year-old boy she met in 1995. Through the care of ICC, Chen Shi is now in his 20s and had the opportunity to attend university. Today he is a graphic designer living independently in Shenzhen, a southern city close to Hong Kong. He has the latest wheelchair, is on Facebook and enjoys his mobile phone and computer. He received love through his life and has hope for a wonderful future. ICC's desire is to continue to provide other children the same opportunities in their lives as what Chen Shi received.

Often people hear about this kind of injustice and aren't sure how to respond. ICC knows that not everyone can come to China. But each of us has something to give, whether it is through finances, through local volunteer time or using your skills to train others. Each of us can have a part in helping to bring love, hope and opportunity to a child in need. ■

More information on International China Concern can be found on [www.chinaconcern.org](http://www.chinaconcern.org). If you are interested in finding out how you can partner with International China Concern please contact David Dawson on 0418 700 388.



## Commentary

### Should Australia Offer An Official Apology For Past Mistreatment Of Chinese Migrants To Australia?

*This is a commentary made by **Neil McLean** on the Chinese from the North programme, Plenty Valley FM 88.6, on Friday 16 March 2012*

The Chinese Community Council of Australia, a body that seeks to provide national representation for the country's Chinese communities, is campaigning for official acknowledgement of the mistreatment of Chinese migrants to Australia over the past 150 years.

Some suggestions had earlier been made around this matter that compensation should be provided to descendants of Chinese who were forced to pay high entry taxes in the nineteenth century. A conference run by the Chinese Community Council last year also called for an official apology to be made for past racist treatment, a little like the 2008 apology made by the Parliament to Australia's indigenous people.

The Chinese Community Council, though, is placing the immediate emphasis on the creation of a special fund to promote educational programmes that would raise awareness about the past ordeal of the Chinese in Australia. It would also encourage greater Chinese Australian involvement in public debate and in the political and cultural affairs of Australia as a nation.

In fact the Chinese have been connected to Australia in some way for many centuries. There is some archaeological evidence showing visits by Chinese to the Australian continent as far back as the T'ang dynasty in the 7th and 8th centuries.

But the first organised groups of Chinese came to Australia in the 1820s.

They were brought by employers as a new source of cheap labour, at a time when convict transportation from Britain to Australia was ending. The discovery of gold in Victoria in the 1850s brought many more Chinese to Australia. In 1854 there were 2,341 Chinese in Victoria. By 1858 the number of Chinese had risen to about 42,000.

It was a time of social upheaval, misunderstanding and doubtless open racism. European miners were frightened that the Chinese would encroach on their claims, and threaten wage levels. There was resentment at

the hard working character of the Chinese, including their success in finding new gold deposits on claims that had been abandoned by the white miners. There were minor disputes too, over mining methods and wastage of water by the Chinese in the drier conditions of Australia, compared with southern China.



*Anti Chinese protests, 1861. Source: National Archives of Australia.*

An active anti-Chinese mood spread through Victoria. Expulsion of the Chinese was the cry. On the Bendigo gold fields especially, there were disturbances targeting the Chinese. In coming years Chinese miners and their families would suffer much abuse, discrimination and outright harm. This would spread to gold fields in the other Australian colonies. 'What happened in these years', records the Australian Encyclopaedia in its 1998 edition, 'is a shameful epoch in our history'.

These were some of the worst happenings recorded:

- in 1855 an act was passed by the Victorian Parliament to restrict Chinese arrivals by imposing a £10 - a lot of \$ by today's standards. It led to ships dropping them off in SA ports, where no such tax applied, and then they walked overland to the Victorian gold fields.
- in the north-east Victorian Buckland River gold field in 1856, European miners in 1856 attacked and burned the Chinese camps, driving their occupants into the bush.

- in 1860 riots broke out at the newly discovered Burrangong goldfield, near Young, a NSW town about two hours drive from Canberra on the south western slopes of the Alps. In the most serious event, some 3,000 white miners attacked the Chinese camps, destroying and looting them, and driving the Chinese to relocate some 20km away. These are what are known as the Lambing Flats riots. This was a drawn out series of disturbances, that also involved an attack by angry white miners on a police camp.
- Following the Lambing Flats upheaval, the NSW Parliament brought down the Chinese Immigration Bill which sought to restrict Chinese coming to the gold fields
- in 1876 the Queensland government drafted legislation that would block Chinese immigration. It was initially disallowed by the Colonial Office in London, but was passed the following year.
- The Immigration Act 1901 was one of the first bills passed by the new Australian national parliament. It would all but block Asians from entering Australia for another half century.
- Many older Chinese who had settled in Australia in the latter decades of the 19th century never obtained citizenship, nor did their children. Local Chinese who wanted to bring to Australia their relatives living in China, or in SE Asia, found it nearly impossible.
- The White Australia policy, which officially followed from the 1901 Immigration Act, helped perpetuate discrimination, ignorance, xenophobia and general misunderstanding of Chinese and Asians for many years. Economically, Chinese found it difficult to join the mainstream and often had to endure many insults from Australians of Anglo-Irish background. Indeed Europeans from non-British backgrounds often had a tough time too 'fitting in', as it was pejoratively called.

In Canada in 2006, after years of campaigning by Chinese Canadians, the government officially apologised to thousands of Chinese

immigrants who had been charged a special head tax of \$500 when they arrived in the early 20th century. They also agreed to pay surviving immigrants and their immediate families up to \$18,000 compensation.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper told Parliament that the policies were racist and shameful and had lasting effects on Chinese Canadians.


Even when the head tax had been lifted in 1923, a tight ban was placed on Chinese immigration to Canada for another quarter century.

In New Zealand at a special Chinese New Year event in 2002 Prime Minister Helen Clark issued an official apology to Chinese kiwis for all that had gone on in the past. In one way at least their suffering had been worse than even in Australia or Canada, so far as a head tax was concerned. Chinese migrants had been required to pay about \$A5,000 in today's currency, and the practice continued until 1930. It was estimated that something like \$A750,000 had been collected by this tax during its operation.

I don't know if any compensation plan was drawn up in NZ as in Canada.

So what do we want done in Australia?

- an official apology?
- a statement from the Parliament recognising the contributions past and present of Chinese to Australian society?
- monetary compensation for past wrongs going back to the gold fields?
- more education about the past treatment of Chinese, and more celebration of the vibrancy of Chinese culture in Australia today?

These are questions that the Chinese community may wish to consider more widely, now and into the future. 

*Chinese from the North is presented each Friday night on Plenty Valley FM 88.6. It contains news, commentary and interviews for the interest to the Chinese community and the general community. The programme goes to air 10.00pm - midnight, and contains four half hour sessions, alternating in Mandarin and English. Chinese from the North can be heard worldwide from the Streaming serving available on the Plenty Valley FM website.*



## Observation

# The Bersih Movement - View from Down Under

*Malaysian government under pressure from Bersih movement  
to clean up the country's electoral system*

By **Peter Chong**



*Bersih 3.0 Rally in Fed Square, Melbourne. Source: <http://www.globalbersih.org/>*

**T**he Bersih movement for clean and fair and free elections in Malaysia has had a big impact on the political life of Malaysia. The recent Bersih 3.0 on April 28 brought more than 200,000 people on to Kuala Lumpur's streets in a peaceful rally, while thousands of Malaysians studying or working overseas came out in more than eighty of the world's cities. In Melbourne some 1,500 Malaysian students and residents, along with other members of the Australian community, held a rally and forum in Federation Square. As a Malaysian who was very active in the student movement of the 1970s, it was very heartening to see the large number of young people getting involved with Bersih.

It is clear that same core issue has existed across different generations without being resolved. From the seventies and earlier, right through until today, Malaysians of all walks of life want a fair system to elect their political leaders. Free and fair elections, is that too much to ask? Malaysians want in the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

The first Bersih rally was held in September 2007 followed by Bersih 2.0 on July 9 2011. At Bersih 2.0 the Government tried to stop the protests in Kuala Lumpur and even declared Bersih illegal. The attempt to crush the Bersih

movement failed as more than 50,000 people defied the tear gas and threats of the Government. Indeed, the protest forced the Najib administration to tone down its open hostility to Bersih and establish a bipartisan parliamentary select committee to look into reforming the electoral system. But it has been seen to be but cosmetic window dressing, and does not address failures of the electoral system.

Many have read or heard about the continuing problems in the electoral roll. The Merap project, an ongoing academic study on these issues, revealed that the roll has more than 65,000 people aged over 85 and the oldest voter over nearly 149 years old. Voters in Malaysia, like in a vampire movie, can apparently rise up from the dead on Election day and vote. There are also multiple instances of voters with the same name and dates of birth in the same locality, voters with no house addresses or dozens of voters, in some instances as many as 100 voters living at the same address. Or the same voter registered twice – once under the a military identity and again under their civilian identity. Observers also note the sharp increases in the voter population in seats that move to opposition parties. In fact, tens of thousands of non-Malaysians may get to vote while Malaysians



living abroad are denied their right to participate in the electoral process.

Another problem is that seats held by opposition members have significantly larger populations, compared with government-held seats. It is widely known that the government-held Putrajaya had only about 6,000 voters during the 2008 election but Opposition-held Kapar has more than 112,000 voters, or seventeen times more. It is now estimated that a political party that relied on all the small seats to win power, would only require 15.4 percent of the total votes to form government. So it is technically possible for opposition parties to win 80% of the vote and be denied a chance to form government. So what kind of democracy is this?

What possible excuse can the Malaysian Election Commission have for such blatant gerrymandering? There is no doubt that an election held before the rolls are cleaned up, will be without credibility. At best, such management of the electoral roll is incompetent. At worst, this is straight-out cheating, designed to ensure the Barisan National can hold on to power at any cost. The temptation to hold on to power is also obvious.

The scale of corruption in Malaysia grows every day. Barry Wain, in his book about the former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed wrote that Mahathir squandered over 100 billion ringgit during his term of office.

In the light of the numerous failings of the electoral roll, nearly all Malaysians would have expected the Election Commission to acknowledge their shortcomings and pledge to do more to fix the problem. Instead the Election Commission Chairman has claimed that Malaysia's electoral roll is the cleanest in the world. People are astounded by the gall of the Election Commission to make such wild and ridiculous claims in the light of repeated exposures and problems. What will it take for the EC to start work to fix the problems rather than go into denial? That's why tens of thousands of Malaysians came out all over the country and around the world demanding the cleaning up of the whole electoral process, before a new election falls due. It is very important for all Bersih supporters to campaign on until the problem is fixed. ■



*A logo of the Bersih Campaign*

## *The Bersih Movement – A Poem*

By **Fengling** 风铃



*Huge turnout in Bersih 3.0 rally in Kuala Lumpur (28 April 2012). Photo belongs to Shpiks.  
Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/shpiks/7149117591/>*

### 怒吼的吉隆坡

全市黄衣吼震天  
各族醒觉手心连  
无能政要贪财色  
巷尾街头举铁拳

二零零一年四月二十八日，数十万人聚集在马来西亚首都吉隆坡市里广场街道及大小空地，示威抗议政府多年倒行逆施，贪腐无能，大选时为了稳坐江山而弄虚作假。示威集会强烈要求执政党严格遵守干净守法竞选原则，绝对不能耍弄肮脏手段，影响选举结果。否则抗议到底。

风铃

写于 29/4/2012

### Uproars in Kuala Lumpur

The whole city is filled with people in yellow shirts  
They roar to cause heaven to shake  
At long last they are wakening  
Their hearts knit as one  
Hand in hand, and with no fear, they are marching  
warning incompetent, corrupted, lustful and greedy politicians  
not to resort to foul play again in the coming election  
In the streets, squares and alleys,  
protesters of all races raise their iron fists  
to say NO to the ruling party

By Fengling  
29/4/2012

## Special Feature

# Bangladesh Armed Forces: 40 Years on

*Air Cdre (Retd) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury*

**ISHFAQ ILAHI CHOUDHURY** highlights some of the issues that would prepare the Armed Forces to face the challenges of the 21st century.

**B**angladesh Armed Forces, born during the War of Liberation in 1971, marked their 40th birthday on November 21 last year. Forty years is a long time for an organisation to look back at its achievements and shortfalls, take stock of successes and failures and plan for the future. This article aims to highlight some issues that would prepare the Forces to face the challenges of the 21st century.

The Armed Forces that emerged from the ruins of the Liberation War as a battle-hardened guerilla force had to be reorganised into regular forces with its various components. The Army was initially organised into three infantry brigades, but lacked essential equipment like tanks or artillery, vehicles or communication equipment. The Air Force had virtually no aircraft and the Navy no battle ships. Everything had to be built from scratch. If we look at our forces today, we can see that a vast development has taken place over the years. The Army has expanded into many divisions. Tanks, artillery and other heavy equipment have been procured to give the army the firepower and mobility it needs. New air bases have been constructed; modern fighter and transport aircraft and helicopters have been procured. In the same way, the Bangladesh Navy today is much better equipped to defend the sea lanes of communications and the vast sea resources that endow the country. While we inherited virtually no military training institutes in 1971, today we take great pride in our training

establishments that not only cater to our needs, but have been able to attract trainees from friendly countries around the world. Over the last 40 years, the Armed Forces of Bangladesh have been at the forefront of relief and rehabilitation efforts whenever a natural or man-made disaster takes place in the country. They have worked tirelessly, shoulder to shoulder with other governmental agencies, to rescue



*A picture of Bangladesh Military Parade.*

disaster-affected people, bring comfort to them and mitigate their sufferings. The Bangladesh experiences of civil-military cooperation gained in disaster management are now being replicated in many other countries. Our Armed Forces have been the nation's goodwill ambassador across the world as UN Peacekeepers. They have been working to prevent war, bring peace, establish order and set up elected democratic governments. Over the years, Bangladesh had been the largest contributor of troops under the UN flag. For a



relatively new country on the world map, this is no mean achievement.

Having said all this, it also must be admitted that there have been a number of serious breaches of military discipline and leadership failures within the military hierarchy. The price of these has been paid for dearly by the members of the Armed Forces, and indeed, the whole nation. From the assassination of the Father of the Nation on August 15, 1975 to the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman on May 30, 1981, there had been series of acts of violence and indiscipline that had smeared the image of our Armed Forces. As a fall-out of these incidents, we had a decade and a half of martial law or quasi-martial law in the country. This brought the Armed Forces directly into the political arena which resulted in an erosion of military values and principles on one side and impeded the progress of democracy in the country on the other. Despite this rather dark phase of history, our success and achievements comparatively outweigh the failures and debacles. It is with this backdrop that one can plan for a military force that is committed to, and capable of, defending a modern democratic state.

I want to see a military establishment in Bangladesh that would operate under the political control of a democratically elected government. Political control of the military does not mean that the government will play politics with the military nor will it use military forces to achieve political advantage. Political control means the government will ensure that its decisions are implemented by the military, but the details are largely left to the military leadership to work out. It is expected that while the military will not meddle in politics, the politicians too will not drag the military into their arena. In our own neighbourhood, the military's involvement in domestic politics is one of the prime reasons for the failure of democracy in Pakistan, while India, despite having one of the largest and most powerful military forces, has

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***Political control of the military does not mean that the government will play politics with the military nor will it use military forces to achieve political advantage... It is expected that while the military will not meddle in politics, the politicians too will not drag the military into their arena.***

kept the armed forces outside the political fracas. India is not only a stable democracy, but emerging as a major political, economic and military power in the region. While we expect every member of the armed forces of Bangladesh to be politically conscious, they must not be involved in party politics.

Organisational structures of the Armed Forces need to change with the changing times. The task of higher defence management is today shared by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), which deals with budget and routine organisational matters, and the Armed Forces Division (AFD), which deals with the operational, training and logistical aspects of the forces. The two organisations function under the Prime Minister, who holds the defence portfolio too. This dichotomy of administration, a legacy of Martial Law period, is unique not only in South Asia, but probably in the world. A merger of the MOD and AFD into an effective MOD is long overdue. This reorganisation would be in line with the modern democratic states, where top civilian bureaucrats and the military leadership share offices under a Defence Minister. We need to have a full-time Defence Minister, who would be a senior civilian political figure, able to deal with diverse demands from different Services and interest groups. As an apex body we may have a Cabinet Committee on National Security, composed of senior ministers and headed by the Prime Minister, where Services Chiefs would be called in for advice, whenever necessary. Such an initiative would be more in line with the practices in the USA, UK or India.

It is a common practice in most countries around the world to have all three Services Chiefs of the same rank and status. A modern war is invariably a combined military operation where each Service plays its own specialised role, but only through combined and coordinated operations can they ensure victory. In Pakistan, where for much of its history, the Army was in power, the rank of the Chiefs of the three Services is of the same status. In Bangladesh, too, we started with the ranks and status of all three Chiefs being the same. Later, during President Ershad's Martial Law regime, the Army Chief was elevated by one rank above those of the Navy and Air Force. This anomaly, which persists to this day, needs to be corrected.

There is a need to change the force composition in the future. We have to initiate efforts to increase the representation in the military of ethnic and religious minorities, backward classes and the indigenous people. In the same way, we need to recruit more women in the military and remove all gender discriminatory regulations that we have in force. For example, there is no reason for us not to allow women to join as pilots in the Air Force, whereas not only in India, even in a relatively conservative Muslim country like Pakistan, there are women Air Force pilots. In the same way, there is no plausible reason why women cannot be recruited in the combat arm of the Army or in the executive branch in the Navy. Only a few years back, no one thought that there would be women officers in the Armed Forces, but now it is a reality. So, it is only a matter of time before they will be able to choose any field of military profession, not only as an officer but as soldiers too.



*Map of Bangladesh*

I want to see our Armed Forces play an important role in upholding and safeguarding human rights in the country. In the past, there had been incidents of violation of human rights in which members of the Armed Forces were reported to be involved. A force that earns international accolades for restoring and defending human rights abroad must not be accused of violating the same principles at home. We need to include human rights issues in our military training curriculum so that there is greater awareness about it in the defence

community. At the same time, the government and the military leadership must ensure that the basic human rights of the military personnel, as enshrined in the Constitution and the Military Laws are not violated. In this context, we might take up the issue of Military Law Reform, which is long overdue. We need to remember that the British Indian military laws were specially framed for the 'native' troops by the colonial masters. These laws were particularly repressive in nature compared to the Military Laws applicable to the British troops in India. However, we continue to practise these laws virtually unchanged, first during the Pakistan period and even now in independent Bangladesh. Meanwhile, in much of the democratic world including in India, Military Laws have gone through major changes. For example, in Bangladesh there is still no provision of appeal against a judgment passed in a Court Martial. Whereas in USA, UK, Europe and India, detailed procedure is laid out for the appeal. Only last year, India set up a separate Court of Appeal within the Indian Supreme Court to have speedy hearing of Court Martial appeal petitions. In the same way, the power of the government to retire any officer any time without assigning any reason has often been indiscriminately used in Bangladesh. We need to critically analyse and revise the Military Laws to bring those in line with the democratic nature of the state.

Our annual defence expenditure is nearly 2% of our GDP and about 7% of the total annual government expenditure. Next to education, defence gets the single highest allocation in the budget. Yet, people do not know how this money is spent. Unlike the West, there is no parliamentary debate on defence expenditure, or strong parliamentary supervision. In the name of national security, much of the defence expenditure remain outside public view. This gives scope for corruption and mismanagement. I would hope that in this age of "Right to Information", the tax payers will be assured that their money is being spent in the best possible way. Whatever little we know from discussions and seminars, we gather that a very large proportion of the defence budget is actually spent in pay, pensions and administration, leaving very little for operational activities, equipment procurement or training. This is like the tail wagging the dog. We need to restructure our forces in such a way that we are able to cut down on support activities and build our actual war fighting capabilities.

During the last four decades the Armed Forces have been equipped, trained and organised to fight a conventional battle against an external enemy. But the geo-strategic reality is such that there is little chance of a conventional warfare, whereas the dangers of insurgency, terrorism, arms and drugs smuggling, etc., have increased in the region. Because these clandestine forces operate across and beyond national boundaries, it is not possible for any single country to effectively combat the menace. Therefore, our forces need to coordinate and cooperate with forces in the neighbouring countries to effectively deal with these non-conventional threats. Recent joint counter-terrorism exercises by the Indian and Bangladeshi forces were such steps taken in the right direction. Frequent joint exercises with the armed forces of India, Nepal and Myanmar will not only increase the operational efficiency, but will remove many doubts and

misunderstandings among the forces. In the end, I look forward to a well-organised, well-equipped and well-trained military forces to emerge in Bangladesh, whose members will be dedicated to defend a happy, prosperous, secular and democratic Bangladesh. ■

*This article in its slightly abridged form appeared in Bangla in the **Daily Prothom Alo** in its 13th Anniversary Issue on November 4, 2011.*

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***The writer, Air Cdre (Retd) Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, ndc, psc, is the Registrar of BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.***



## PREPARING FOR FINANCIAL CALAMITY

Edmund Lu

*This article is based on the **second** part of an address given by Edmund to CPBA members in August 2011. It includes updates he has done to reflect the more recent situation in world financial markets. The first part of the address was published in the October 2011 CPBA newsletter.*

### A Brief Update (as of April 2012)

Seven months since my presentation, the world's share markets have staged a remarkable rally and US economic reports paint a picture of economic recovery there. It's easy to be lulled into a sense of security by reading news from the popular media, but consider the following:

Greece has defaulted on its debts. Italian bond yields are steadily rising (a sign of investors' lack of confidence). There are currently fears that Spain will require a bailout. The US problems have not disappeared either. Public debt has risen from 98% in August 2011 to over 103% currently, an astounding development in just seven months. The European Central Bank has finally relented and joined the US Federal Reserve, Bank of England and Bank of Japan in massive money-printing.

It's no secret that money-printing has caused share markets to rally strongly since November 2011. The fact is, little has changed - we are in just as great a danger, if not greater, of a coming global financial calamity.

### What Can We Do?

There are at least three dimensions to consider when deciding on our investment approach: (a) how likely, (b) when, and (c) how severe the next crisis will be. Thus, we need a multi-pronged strategy to cover a wide range of scenarios.

#### Strategy No. 1: Selling Options

People instinctively think of protecting their assets against disasters, but the first thing that usually happens in a recession, crisis or outright calamity is that people start losing their jobs and businesses. It is therefore imperative to have an income that continues regardless of economic conditions, employers, employees, suppliers or even customers.

One such income can come from selling Options. Options are highly trade-able instruments in many markets, including stocks, share market indices, foreign exchange and commodities. A full explanation of Options is beyond the scope of this article but for the sake of simplification, *the Purchaser of an Option has the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a product at a previously agreed price within a defined time-frame, once certain conditions are met.*

An example of an Option is an insurance policy. The Purchaser of the policy can make a claim if the insured event occurs before the expiry date. The Purchaser is not *obliged*, but has the *right*, to make the claim. If the insured event does not occur, the insurance company, which is the Seller of the policy, benefits by keeping the premium.

In the long term, which party stands to make more money – Purchasers or Sellers of Options? Based on a CME (Chicago Mercantile Exchange) study from 1997-99, an average of 76.5% of all options held to expiration at the CME expired worthless. Sellers of Options rely on this statistic to generate a consistent income stream of 2% - 6% per month.

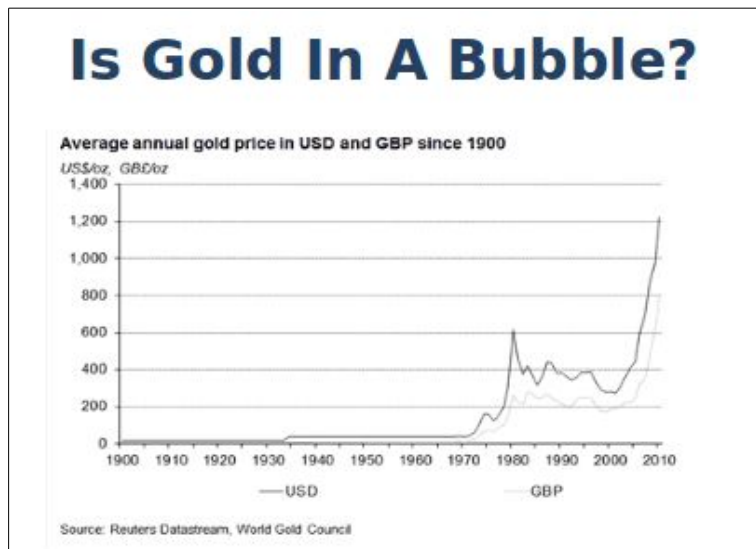
Selling Options is obviously not without risks, but many professionals claim that it is safer than investing in stocks. It is not a difficult skill to acquire, but it does take time (and several failures!) to learn to 'farm' a consistent income from selling Options. An experienced trader can be sure that this income is always there to be made, regardless of economic conditions.

#### Strategy 2: Buy And Hold Property

It is unnecessary to devote much time in this article to property ownership. Families all over the world understand that property's unique combination of safety, capital appreciation, high leverage, low-cost mortgages and rental

income make it the core asset in any sound investment portfolio.

### Strategy 3: Accumulate Gold



During my presentation in Aug 2011, I quoted a respected analyst:

*"The price of gold has gone up for 10 years in a row. We can't think of another market that's ever risen for 10 consecutive years. This is a historical anomaly, and it means something has gone badly wrong with the world's reserve currency" (from Stansberry's Investment Advisory).*

Since that time, gold has increased its spectacular run to 11 years in a row. Something **is** very wrong with the world's reserve currency (the USD) – as evidenced by nearly 20 countries establishing Renminbi swap agreements with China – but that's another story. Gold prices typically increase in response to rampant money-printing, inflation and fears of a financial crisis.

Despite this steady rise, most gold experts believe there is plenty of evidence that gold will continue to increase in price. Consider just one piece of evidence: Chinese investment demand. In 2009, China began encouraging its citizens to buy gold and silver, reversing a ban on gold ownership imposed from 1950-2003. In under ten years, China has gone from relative obscurity to overtaking India as the world's largest gold market. China's gold production has increased by 70% in the last decade and it is now the world's largest producer of gold – but every ounce

produced in China must be sold to the government.

China is not alone in its hunger for gold. Since 2009, central banks have dramatically reversed from being net sellers of gold, to accumulators of gold.

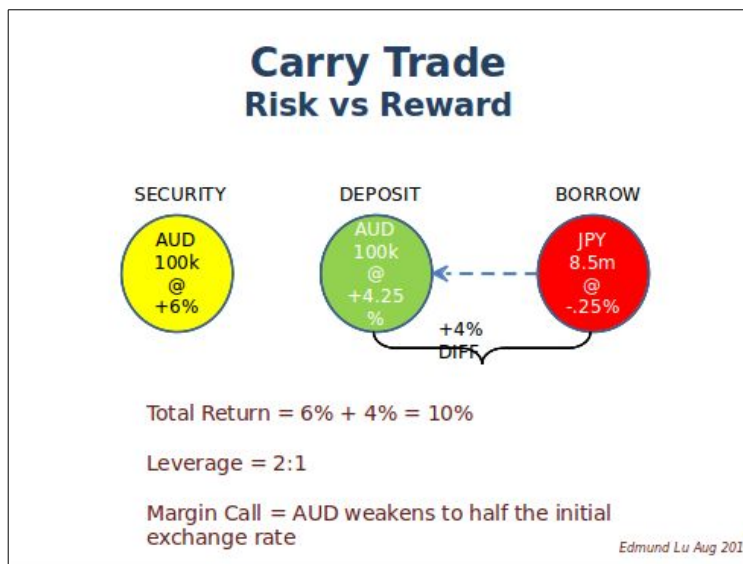
The recent pause in the price of gold has caused many to question whether gold has become too expensive. In my humble opinion, this is simply the calm before the storm and I remain a buyer of gold.

### Strategy 4: Boost Cash Returns Using A Carry Trade

Cash is still King in times of crisis, but it offers very little yield. Investors can boost returns from cash by using a Carry Trade. This is a strategy in which an investor sells a currency with a low interest rate and uses the funds to purchase another currency yielding a higher interest rate. Here is an example:

- Borrow 8.5 Million Japanese Yen (JPY) at 0.25% p.a.
- Convert into AUD 100K (approx.) and invest at 4.25% p.a. in a short-term deposit.
- Earn the differential of 4% p.a.

In the above example, the investor earns an extra 4% p.a. by borrowing Yen (JPY) and converting the funds into AUD. The investor would however, need to begin by holding a sufficient amount of Security in a long-term deposit (say AUD 100K) to buffer against movements in the AUD-JPY exchange rate.



To further boost returns, the investor could borrow even more JPY and convert those funds into AUD deposits. The table above illustrates how an initial security of AUD 100K can be used to earn ever-increasing returns by leveraging up. However, should the AUD-JPY exchange rate start to shrink, the risk of a margin call increases according to the degree of leverage used.

A prudent investor should be satisfied with a return commensurate with a leverage of no more than say, 3:1 (i.e. 14% in the above example). This might not sound like much, but the investor's cash holding would double approximately every 5 years, as shown by the table below:

Interest rate earned p.a.	Years to double (approx)
6%	12
8%	9
10%	7
12%	6
14%	5

The Carry Trade is thus a slow, but effective, way to multiply cash holdings over a lifetime.

#### Strategy 5: Access Your Super Funds

Many people believe they lack the financial means to use these strategies, but have not taken their superannuation funds into account. Instead of earning meagre returns in the share market, new investors can start a self-managed super fund (SMSF) and sell Options using a capital base of just \$20K. Although it costs a few thousand dollars a year to run an SMSF, the potential returns from selling Options far outweigh this cost.

The gross compounded returns from selling Options (ignoring tax and running costs) after 10 years are:

Return per month	Compounded return after ten years
1.5%	597%
2.0%	1,077%
3.0%	3,471%
4.0%	11,066%
5.0%	34,891%
6.0%	108,819%

To put things into perspective, \$50K compounding steadily at only 2% per month would become \$538K after 10 years. Sadly, tax on SMSF profits reduces the total return, but it's still enough to make Warren Buffett green with envy.

## Conclusions

Despite the strong sharemarket rally of recent months, the risk of a global financial calamity has actually increased since my presentation in August 2011. Since we do not know for sure its likelihood, timing and severity, we need to cover as many scenarios as possible.

This article offers prudent and patient investors a choice of strategies that work largely independently of each other. Each investor must choose his own mix of strategies and allocation of funds, based on his personal assessment of the future for global economics:

- Sell Options to generate a consistent income stream each month;
- Buy and hold property for safe, long-term returns;
- Accumulate gold (and silver) to insure against rampant money-printing, hyperinflation and economic disasters;
- Use a Carry Trade to boost returns on cash holdings;
- Start an SMSF and keep compounding the returns – you'll be glad you did in 10 years' time!

## About Edmund Lu

*Edmund Lu is a senior executive who used to manage large firms in Asia and Australia. He has also consulted to over 70 organizations across many industries. Some years ago, he decided to step back temporarily from corporate life and challenged himself to put a lifelong interest in investing to his own serious use. He has since built a portfolio of secure investments and income, using the methodologies he shared in his talk. He may be contacted on [elmconsptyltd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmconsptyltd@yahoo.co.uk).*



Super

## Budget matters for your super

***A \$1.5 billion Federal Budget surplus was unveiled on 9 May 2012, but what's in it for you and how may it affect your super? We took a closer look.***



**Janice Choo**  
(Financial Planner)

In delivering the 2012-2013 Federal Budget, Treasurer Wayne Swan declared Australia to be one of the world's strongest economies, and said that the deficit years of the global recession are behind us.

While this is welcome news, it's also important to look at how this budget may affect your super savings and retirement goals. Knowing what's been proposed gives you the chance to plan ahead of time and to maximise what's available till the end of the current financial year.

### Delayed date for concessional cap

The start date of the higher concessional contributions cap for over 50s will be postponed from 1 July 2012 to 1 July 2014. The previous proposal was to allow individuals aged 50 and over with a superannuation balance below \$500,000, to make up to \$25,000 more in concessional contributions than the standard \$25,000 concessional contributions cap.

Concessional contributions are sometimes referred to as 'pre-tax contributions' such as contributions made on behalf of an employee by their employer and contributions made through salary sacrifice. Details of other contributions regarded as concessional contributions, for self-employed persons for example, can be accessed on the ATO website<sup>1</sup>.

The deferred date now means all individuals, regardless of age and account balance will be subject to the standard \$25,000 concessional cap for the next two financial years.

It's expected that from 1 July 2014, the standard \$25,000 concessional cap will likely have increased to \$30,000 through indexation. Accordingly, the higher concessional contributions cap will then likely begin at

\$55,000.

### Higher tax for higher incomes

A higher tax on concessional superannuation contributions has been proposed for very high income earners. These individuals with incomes higher than \$300,000 will have a superannuation contributions tax of 30 per cent applied to their concessional contributions from 1 July 2012.

Income for this purpose will include all concessional contributions made for or by the individual. If someone is earning less than \$300,000 excluding their concessional contributions, but the inclusion of their concessional contribution pushes their income over \$300,000, then the higher tax will only apply to that part of the concessional contribution, which pushes their income above the \$300,000 income threshold.

### More super for you

There are several proposals aimed at helping you to increase your super balance, which is always good news.

From 1 July 2013, the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution (SGC) made by your employer will gradually increase from nine to 12 per cent by 2019. Plus the maximum age limit for receiving SGC, which is currently at 70, will be abolished. You can use these proposals to work out what impact more super can have on your retirement goals.

What's more, a government low income superannuation contribution payment of up to \$500pa will be available for low income earners, earning less than \$37,000pa, who make or who have an employer make concessional contributions on their behalf, on or after 1 July 2012.

<sup>1</sup> Super contributions – too much super can mean extra tax – concessional contributions. (2011).  
[ato.gov.au/super/content.aspx?menuid=0&doc=/content/00106372.htm&page=3&H3](http://ato.gov.au/super/content.aspx?menuid=0&doc=/content/00106372.htm&page=3&H3)

## What next?

Of course, these proposals will only come into effect once legislated in parliament.

But in the meantime, if you have any questions or are keen to understand how these proposals may affect your personal circumstances and how you may make the most of them, we're here to help. So, please call us. ■

**Janice Choo** (Contact Email: [janicec@communityfinancial.com.au](mailto:janicec@communityfinancial.com.au)) and **Community Financial Services** are **Authorised Representatives of AMP Financial Planning Pty Ltd.**



## What you need to know

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## NOTICE

### World Chinese Economic Forum (WCEF) to be held in Melbourne

**on 12 – 13 November 2012**

Melbourne will play host to the World Chinese Economic Forum this coming November. This is the first time the event has been held outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

It is anticipated to draw business, academic and political leaders from China, Malaysia, the United States, Europe, Australia and elsewhere. The Forum will be opened by Victorian Premier, Ted Baillieu.

China's emergence as a global economic power and the opportunity it generates to build business relationships and exchanges with other countries are anticipated to head up the agenda. The downturn in the world economy and its affects on business are expected to also form part of the discussions.

The two-day Forum is to be held at the Melbourne Convention Centre,  
12 – 13 November, 2012.

Further information can be obtained from William Lye  
on 0412 535 898.

## Marketing

## Can't answer these three marketing questions? **It's time to do your homework**

*Edwin Lucas*

**D**o you plan to build a multi-million dollar business? If yes, that means you believe your business has huge market and revenue potential. But is that a proven fact or just your own speculation?

Do you realize that one of the common causes of business failure is a result of an inadequate understanding of both your market and your potential customers? (Mentioned by an article in *Business Wealth*.

(<http://www.businesswealth.com.au/business/starting/advice/failure.asp>).

The point is that we as entrepreneurs should know exactly what and who we are dealing with. That includes everything about your target customers, your market conditions and size, and whether you have a strong competitive edge for your product/service. This research has to be done before developing a product, launching a marketing campaign, speaking to potential investors, or even before deciding to open the business. Otherwise your business may become the victim.

The following are three significant marketing points that you should take time to answer, honestly assess, deeply research, and re-strategise if necessary:

**Do you target people who urgently need your product/service? Once again, NOT just need, but URGENTLY need**

If you sell headache medication to healthy people, do they need it? YES, they do, for when they have migraine one day, not for NOW. If your target market for handguns is the young female, do they need to have one? Absolutely, in case someone tries to rob her when she walks on empty street. But is having the product a PRIORITY for her? If I were a girl I would say, "I'd rather spend the money to shop at Myer." Better to offer the gun to local gangsters, right?

The question should NOT be whether they need the product, but more of how 'urgent' they need it. Therefore ideally we should target a



*Edwin Lucas*

group or industry that look at your product/services as a priority purchase. Ideally, they should have it now because they are desperate to take away their problem. As a result, they will also be more willing to pay a higher price since they value your product more.

The lesson I learned from selling CRM software to different types of business is that the compelling need for the software is not big enough. The businesses I targeted could easily delay the purchase or choose the cheaper alternatives for their database, such as Excel spreadsheet, Outlook, or Google Docs. However, if only I was targeting businesses that hire many sales consultants, track records of all their sales from the lead generation to post selling activities, or have massive customer database. Such businesses are likely to have a higher appreciation of your software product.

In conclusion, it goes back to the basic principle of targeting the right niche market that needs your product/services the most. As mentioned in a *Simple\_Wealth* article:



(<http://www.simplewealth.com/2010/08/09/where-most-entrepreneurs-go-wrong-choosing-your-target-market>), if you say everyone need your product/services you have a big problem.

### **Next, is your target market big enough to generate the revenue forecast you desire?**

If you want to earn \$10 million revenue let's say in 5 years, and you try to secure 5% of the market, that means the market size must be at least \$200 million. Now, where does the \$200 million come from? Perhaps there are about 100,000 people or businesses in your marketplace and your price is \$2,000 per product.

Of course before you set that price, you must know whether your targeted niche market is willing to pay \$2,000 for one product. If they are willing, can they afford it? If they can, then it goes back to the first point of this article. Is buying your product a priority for them? Lastly, don't forget to research about where you can reach those people and better understand their buying behaviour.

Every entrepreneur must know their market well, especially the size, before they start developing product, open the business, or especially when you seek to raise capital. In equity capital raising, Christopher Golis mentioned in his book *Enterprise & Venture Capital* that if the potential market of the business is lower than \$100 million, the venture capitalist would pass the opportunity. Thus having clear understanding about your market will help you decide the best actions to take in your business planning.

So start getting reliable data about your market from local libraries, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), or market research companies like IBIS World (<http://www.ibisworld.com.au/>) even though you have to pay for some market research information. The other lesson I have learned, don't hesitate to pay for good advice, knowledge and information, as they can save you a significant amount of time and money. Isn't it smarter to spend few grants for reliable information than open a business or develop a product without knowing whether the market is big enough or in a good condition?

### **Thirdly, if you have competitive advantage, how do you plan to protect it in order to stay ahead in competition?**

First question. If there are ten sushi shops next to each other on one street and you own one of them, why should people buy from you and not one of the other nine? Is it because of the taste, the price, the special lunch package, or maybe the long established reputation?

Please don't just say what makes my business unique is 'Our Good Customer Service'. Because in today's competitive environment good service is only a minimum requirement to run a good business. Have you ever heard anyone said, "We have awesome product but our service is just standard!"?

After having competitive advantage that your customers appreciate, how will you make it sustainable? Can it be easily copied by new market entrants or existing competitors? Do you leverage from Patents, Design rights, Copyright, or Trademark? If you do, do you have enough litigation budgets to protect it when someone copies it?

The best ways to stay ahead of competition are being constantly aware of your market (via competitive analysis, focus group, customer satisfaction surveys) and continuous innovation (e.g. processes, distribution channel, technology, product and service offerings) that are valued by the customers. Remember these wise statements: "Advertising people who ignore research are as dangerous as generals who ignore decodes of enemy signals" by David Ogilvy; "Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower" by Steve Jobs. ■

**Edwin Lucas is the Business Development Director of Digital Office Builder ([www.digitalofficebuilder.com.au](http://www.digitalofficebuilder.com.au)), a Web Development company in Melbourne. He educates small business owners to make more money using Online Business tools. Follow Edwin Lucas (<http://www.linkedin.com/in/lucasedwin>) on LinkedIn**

## Medical

# Incontinence



Dr. Lilia Ilina

**U**rinary incontinence (UI) is involuntary leakage of urine. It is a common and distressing problem. Some research shows that one in three women is suffering from urinary incontinence. Most of the causes of urinary incontinence are treatable. However, only one third of people with this condition ask for medical advice from their doctors.

There are different types of urinary incontinence:

## **Urgency incontinence:**

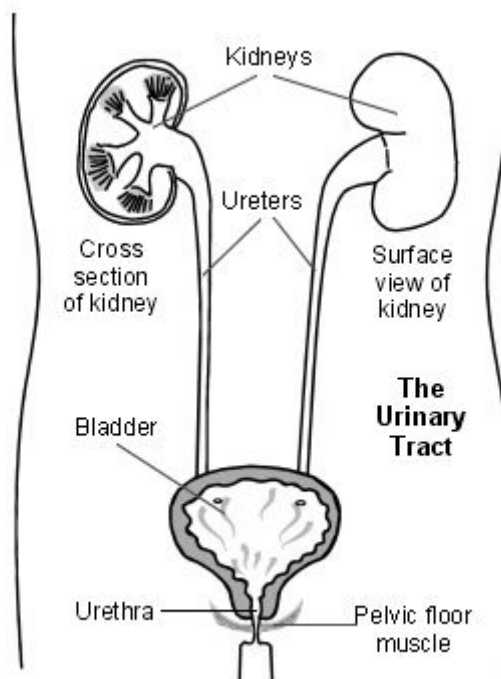
It is the most common type of urinary incontinence in which there is a sudden urge associated with inability to get to the toilet on time, as well as going too often. This is usually due to problems in the nerve signal between bladder and brain; a so-called 'over-active bladder'. Bladder muscle spasms are a main cause of the symptoms.

Most people pass urine 4-8 times a day, or 3-4 hourly. If you are going more frequently than this, and in particular having to get up at night, you should talk to your doctor to see if you have an 'over active bladder'. In some cases you can train your bladder to urinate less frequently and avoid urinating at night. Some medications can also help decrease the symptoms of urgency incontinence.

There are many ways to train your bladder. You can use distraction and other methods to wait longer between urination. For example, when you feel the urgency to go to toilet, try to calm the bladder by techniques such as slow breathing, counting 100 backwards or doing something to distract yourself for a few minutes before walking slowly to the bathroom.

Pelvic floor exercise can strengthen pelvic floor muscles that help to hold urine in the bladder. Squeezing and holding the muscles that are used to stop the flow of urine can help re-strengthen these muscles.

Some foods and drinks can make symptoms worse. Foods like tomatoes, spicy food, citrus fruits and juices or artificial sweeteners can irritate the bladder. Drinks such as caffeinated tea, coffee, some soft drinks, carbonated drinks and alcohol are diuretics, result in increased urine output, can also make the condition worse.



Source: <http://www.patient.co.uk/health/Incontinence-Picture-Summary.htm>

Many people are tempted to decrease the amount of fluid they drink to prevent incontinence. However, this can make the urine more concentrated and aggravate the bladder. You should drink enough to keep the urine in a healthy light yellow colour.

## **Stress incontinence:**

It is also a common type of urinary incontinence. It is when urine leaks due to sudden physical activities, such as coughing, sneezing, running and heavy lifting. It is

caused by weakness in the pelvic muscles that help to hold the urine in the bladder. Pelvic floor muscles can be weakened by age and childbirth.

Treatment options include life style changes such as weight management, cessation of smoking (decreases coughing), pelvic floor muscles exercise, and surgery. Prescription medications usually do not work in this type of incontinence.

More than half of mild to moderate incontinence cases can be improved or even cured by regular and correct pelvic floor exercises over 3 to 6 months.

### **Over flow incontinence:**

This is a constant or episodic flow of urine. It is usually due to obstruction of the bladder or due to nerve damage. You should get it checked out by your doctor.

### **Mixed incontinence:**

Some people experience mixed symptoms. Mostly they experience a combination of urgency incontinence and stress incontinence. If you happen to have more than one, find out which type is more troublesome and focus on it first, then deal with the others.

### **Function incontinence:**

Functional incontinence is due to a physical disability or mental condition that makes it difficult to reach the toilet in time.

Incontinence products such as liners, pads and pants can help with this condition.

### **Neurological incontinence:**

Brain injury or neurological illness such as diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease, Spinal bifida, Multiple Sclerosis can cause the bladder and brain inability to communicate and lose bladder control or unable to empty it properly.

### **Post-micturition dribbles:**

It happens when the bladder doesn't empty

itself completely and leaks after urination. It is commonly caused by prostate enlargement or pelvic floor muscles weakness.

**F**aecal incontinence (FI) is leakage of faecal material, due to loss of bowel control. It is a similar condition to urinary incontinence. It can be very embarrassing and troublesome. In many cases it can be treated.

Bowel incontinence can be caused by the following:

**Constipation:** this is the commonest cause of faecal incontinence, esp. in elderly. Improving diet, drinking more water and doing more daily exercise can resolve this condition.


**Diarrhoea:** due to chronic problems with the bowel, such as inflammatory bowel disease, Crohns diseases and Diverticulitis. It can also be caused by medications, infections and food allergies.

**Decreased physical mobility and social isolation:** resulting in inability to reach the toilet in time.

**Rectum sphincter damage:** due to injury, surgery or complicated childbirth.

**Neurological Impairment:** The nerve supply to the bowel can be damaged by Stroke, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Diabetes, spinal cord injuries, tumours or radiation therapy.

There are **other causes** of FI, such as anal fissure, haemorrhoids, rectal prolapse or cancer.

So talk to your doctor about your condition, and remember in many cases, urinary incontinence and faecal incontinence are treatable diseases. You don't have to put up with it and suffer in silence. 



## Commentary

# MANUFACTURING IN AUSTRALIA - A FUTURE?

*This is a commentary made by **Neil McLean** on the Chinese from the North programme, Plenty Valley FM 88.6, on Friday 9 March 2012*

There has been much discussion in Australia once more about the future of manufacturing in this country. A few weeks back I talked about the car industry in particular and the campaign being led by the trade unions particularly to muster continued government support for it. There is a programme of government support stretching out to 2020, but beyond that there are no guarantees. In fact Opposition leaders, Tony Abbott and Joe Hockey have both spoken of cutting out the assistance programme to the car industry.

But there is wider concern that manufacturing in Australia is dying as the years go by, and the factories keep closing.

The Australian economy after European occupation developed as an agricultural one, exporting key commodities, wheat and wool especially, to Europe. Mining also developed in the 19th century.

Australia never industrialised on the scale of the United States, England or Germany. But manufacturing became its biggest employment sector by the 1920s. Its manufacturing further developed after the second world war. Australia was becoming self-sufficient in making most products, except for very sophisticated ones that were imported from Europe, North America or Japan. The car industry, shipbuilding, metal foundry and forging all developed.

Many of the migrants from Europe, especially those who came to Australia in the 1950s, found work in Australian manufacturing

plants and built their lives upon that base. A lot of the scientific and technical know-how in Australia at that time was based around manufacturing.

But manufacturing's strong presence in the Australian economy has declined over the past half century. About a quarter of Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) came from manufacturing in 1960. Today it's a little less than one tenth.

Some of the key reasons for the decline are:

- The run-down of Australian infrastructure needed to support it - inadequate rail, roads, ports and communications (hopefully to be partly overcome by the national broadband network).
- The strong competition coming from Asian manufacturers
- The narrowing of export opportunities for Australian manufacturers in world markets dominated by the control of



Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-08-01/manufacturing-slump-accelerates/2818942>

powerful multinationals.

- the high Australian dollar - a recent factor only
- weaknesses in labour skills and technology skills
- the uncertain state of industry assistance from government
- the disproportionate influence of the financial services sector - an emphasis on speculative investment rather than making real things for sale. (This especially became a big problem for the US in the lead up to the Global Financial Crisis).

Australia can do some definite things to build up its manufacturing once more:

- Infrastructure developmental - of course this needs big investment
- Expand education and research - build up a workforce that has modern skills
- Encourage, through government support, the development of products central to this age - optic fibre production, solar panels, wind and wave electricity generating equipment, the electric/green car
- rebuild public enterprises where needed to open up new industrial fields. There is no reason for example that renewable energy manufacturing couldn't be built up by public enterprise. In the the two to three decades after the second world war, public enterprises played a big role



Source:  
<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2011/s3306087.htm>

in the development of Australia. Then with the rise of 'free market' economic theories in the the 70s and 80s, Australians and other nations got brainwashed against public ownership. This all needs review.

- Building new export markets in Asia and elsewhere for specialist Australian-produced products.
- Greater flexibility in government assistance programmes to manufacturing during an economic downturn. The case of Germany provides some interesting lessons. During the Global Financial Crisis the German government successfully subsidised firms to keep their operations going, not to close down. Reduced hours for their work force were all supported under this principle. By and large workers were able to survive through, the skill base was held together and company and corporate and personal financial losses did not become so severe as in other countries. As the economic cycle turned a little, many manufacturers could get back up to full production with their workforce and plant mostly in tact.

The trade unions are gearing up for a major campaign to defend Australian manufacturing over the coming year. Building a strong manufacturing industry is important to every society. We don't want to be the world's quarry forever. ■

*Chinese from the North is presented each Friday night on Plenty Valley FM 88.6. It contains news, commentary and interviews for the interest to the Chinese community and the general community. The programme goes to air 10.00pm - midnight, and contains four half hour sessions, alternating in Mandarin and English. Chinese from the North can be heard worldwide from the Streaming serving available on the Plenty Valley FM website.*

## Special Feature

# Stirrings Of Discontent In Sabah & Sarawak For Independence

by Adbul Wahid

*Barely 25 kilometres away from where Prime Minister Najib was busy attending 'staged' functions in Sabah, about 500 protesters called for 'independence' for Sabah.*

**O**n 18 June 2012, Malaysian PM Najib's motorcade was greeted by over five hundred demonstrators with banners demanding independence for Sabah along the Apin Apin Road to Keningau when he made a flying electioneering visit to Sabah in East Malaysia.

According to a news report by the Wikisabah News web newspaper headlined **"Sabah Natives Protest Malayan Rule"** this was an expression of bitter resentment against the Malaysian Federal government for failing to raise the quality of life in one of its richest states.

It said this was "heartfelt show of protest and call for freedom" by the Sabah people. The demonstration was organised by the Sabah State Reform Party (STAR).

Such strong stirrings for independence in East Malaysia have confronted the Malaysian Federal government with a nightmare of an East Pakistan situation developing. Early this year the government increased its troops strength in the two states without any reasons.

### Charges of internal colonisation

STAR party leaders (and also Sarawak opposition politicians) have strongly criticised the Malaysia Federal government for failing to comply with the agreements which were agreed to for the formation of Malaysia. The then Malayan government had signed the "20 Points Agreement with Sabah" and the "18 Points Agreement" with Sarawak containing terms and conditions to protect existing Sabah and Sarawak rights. These included preserving Sabah and Sarawak control over their resources and finances, taking over the local civil service and control over education.

The critics say that for over 48 years both Sabah and Sarawak were treated as "internal



*Sabah natives protest Malayan rule*

colonies" by the ruling Malaysian National Front Party led by the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO). They say that UMNO has worked hand in glove with its compliant state governments to ignore the 18/20 Points Agreement in plundering and reducing these resource rich territories to be the poorest parts of Malaysia. This plunder has seen the draining of oil wells and stripping bare timber land in both Sabah and Sarawak at the expense of real economic development of the two states. According to a World Bank report, in 2010 Sabah had the unenviable status of being the poorest state with Sarawak next in line. This has been made possible by massive corruption, cronyism and abuse of power.

The assurances and guarantees to preserve and protect local rights were given by Britain and the Malayan government to former British colonies of Sabah and Sarawak to make their proposed new Federation of Malaysia more acceptable in the face of widespread local popular opposition and fears of being re-colonised in Malaysia. At the time many critics opposed the British Malaysia Concept as neo-colonial scheme to consolidate the colonial administration of the 3 Borneo colonies Brunei (originally included in the concept) Sabah and Sarawak with Malaya and Singapore under Malayan rule.



Malaysia was formally incorporated on 31 August 1963 amidst continuing opposition, in the wake of Britain's suppression of the anti-Malaysia Uprising in Brunei in December 1962 and the spread of the Sarawak guerrilla independence war from 1962 to 1990.

### **“Malayanisation” of Sabah & Sarawak**

Over 48 years both Sabah and Sarawak have seen the agreements broken repeatedly by the Federal government. It proceeded to “Malayanise” Sabah and Sarawak by taking over of the local civil service and others spheres of life and especially seizure of the oil resources. All this was the source of serious dissatisfaction with the Federal Government by the first two Chief Ministers of Sabah and Sarawak.

In the 1970s the UMNO government seized control of both Sabah and Sarawak oil under the Petronas Act and gave back only 5% of oil royalties. It is estimated that over 50% of the Malaysian national income is currently derived from Sabah and Sarawak petroleum and taxes. According to its critics, a lot of the 95% oil royalties and income have been squandered by the UMNO government in a series of grand building projects.

An American Dr. Fred r. Von der Mehden, a Professor at Rice University in the US, carried out a study of Petronas, the Malaysian National Petroleum Corporation in March 2007. He made the following conclusions:

“Petronas was given unopposed control over the nation’s petroleum resources. The company received its powers from the 1974 Petroleum Development Act. That piece of legislation granted Petronas ownership and exclusive rights and powers over Malaysia’s hydrocarbon resources. Thus, Petronas, as the holding company, has never been privatized and has continued to state that it has no intention of being privatized. At the same time, the government acts as a shareholder and receives dividends”.

Professor Von der Medhen said “The Constitution guaranteed oil revenues to Sabah and Sarawak when they became part of Malaysia in 1963.... However, through some financial inducements and political pressure the states succumbed to Petronas’ monopoly position. In part, this was accomplished through the 1974 Petroleum Development Act, which granted royalties to the petroleum-producing states of Terengganu, Sabah, and Sarawak.

This agreement was further aided by the fact that the same political coalition dominated not only the national government, but also most state governments at that time.”

The passing of the Petroleum Act could not easily have been achieved without Kuala Lumpur first removing from office the first Chief Minister of Sabah Donald Stephens (1964) and Stephen Ningkan of Sarawak (1965) respectively who had resisted Kuala Lumpur's attempts to persuade them to agree to hand over their state oil rights.

### **Federal Government rejected review of Malaysia Agreement in 1973**

In 1973 Sabah and Sarawak politicians had asked for a review of the Malaysia Agreement. However, the then Prime Minister Razak flatly refused this and it soon became clear why the Federal government wanted to avoid a review. A review would raise issues of control of state resources and Federal breaches of the Agreements at a time when Kuala Lumpur had planned to seize control of the major resource of Sabah and Sarawak. This became a reality in 1974.

The abuse and misuse of Sabah and Sarawak wealth by Kuala Lumpur and its neglect of the 2 states is the fuel that is stoking the fires of independence in both states.

Professor van der Medhen pointed out that the two most noteworthy “mega-projects” have been the building of the Twin Towers, the then highest building in the world, and the construction of the new national government administrative centre Putrajaya in the late 1990s.

The two building projects were built at a cost of over RM15 Billion – a large part of which had come from Sabah Sarawak oil money.

The Professor said: “Both of these projects brought a series of criticisms. It was claimed that there was government coercion of Petronas to provide the financing and that these 'mega projects' were illustrations of Prime Minister Mahathir’s self-glorification. Why should a small country such as Malaysia construct a monolith like the Twin Towers?”

Many Sabah and Sarawak politicians have increasingly criticized the 5% oil royalty as miserly and demanded a greater share. The Opposition united front PAKATAN, comprising the Justice Party, Party Islam and Democratic Action Party, has promised a 20% payment of

oil royalties. This shows that Malayan politicians understand the sensitivity of the issue, in the context of the grinding poverty in both states, and the rising nationalistic aspirations of Sabah and Sarawakians for their own independence outside the Malaysia Federation.

### **“S’pore’s exit nullified Malaysia Agreement”**

Leading the rising calls for independence have been STAR politicians like the Chairman Jeffrey Kitingan and Deputy chairman Daniel Jambun.

The STAR party has raised a series of arguments supporting their claim that the Malaysia Agreement was voided by Singapore leaving the federation in 1965, causing a change of the original Malaysia concept which was to include four equal partners. Sabah and Sarawak are therefore no longer bound by it.

(Article in Wikisabah News:

<http://wikisabah.blogspot.com.au/2011/09/spore-s-exit-nullified-malaysia.html>)

The Malaysia Agreement which was made between four equal partners and independent states- the Malayan Federation (independent in 1957), Singapore (self-governing in 1959), and Sabah and Sarawak (both granted independence in 1963). Sabah and Sarawak have not been treated equally since 1963. They have instead become the 13th and 14th States of the Federation of Malaya, not equal partners with Malaya in Malaysia.

### **“Malaysia was a bad idea”- said Jambun STAR Dep Chairman**

The Star Deputy Chairman, Mr. Daniel Jambun, in a recent news report in Wikisabah News (May 15 2102) alleged that it was “the mother of all lies” to say that Sabah became independent through Malaysia. Sabah, he pointed out, became independent on 31 Aug 1963 “before it was swallowed up by Malaya 16 days later under false pretences”.

“We thought that we had helped form a new Federation, Malaysia, where Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore and Malaya would be equal partners,” said Daniel. “Instead, we came out from the tiger’s mouth (Britain) and landed in the crocodile’s mouth (Malaya).”

He claimed that Singapore was kicked out from Malaysia in 1965, two years later, when the island resisted attempts by Kuala Lumpur to re-colonize it in the wake of the British departure.

Brunei, according to him, had deep suspicions about Malayan leaders and stayed out from the Federation at the 11th hour.

Daniel said that the party is being guided by international law and the interpretation of the United Nations Security Council on what constitutes “internal colonization”.

He cited South Sudan, which became independent in July last year, as a classic study on “internal colonization”.

“The UN found that South Sudan, where the people are mostly Christians and Blacks, had been internally colonised by the Muslim Arab government in Khartoum in the north,” said Daniel. “The UN Security Council approved the partition of the country and the independence of South Sudan.”

Citing facts, figures and statistics, Daniel claims that the proof of internal colonization is based, among others, on the declaration of the World Bank at the end of 2010 in Kota Kinabalu that the state was the poorest in Malaysia. There are parallels here with the story of oil-rich, dirt-poor South Sudan, he said.



*Picture of housing for the poor in Sabah.*

In short, Star attributes the grinding poverty of Sabah — Sarawak as well — to the internal colonization of these two states in Borneo by the Malaya-run Federal Government in Putrajaya. Malaysia, fumed the Star deputy chief, is a bad British idea initially meant to protect their commercial interest in their former colonies.

### **Exchanging “British colonialism for Malayan colonialism”**

Malaysia, for Sabah and Sarawak subsequently meant exchanging British colonialism for Malayan colonization. Brunei, he reiterated, saw through the Malaysia scam and stayed out of the Federation at the 11th hour. “Singapore

was trapped just like Sabah and Sarawak but managed to escape in 1965”.

“Look where Brunei and Singapore are today compared with Sabah and Sarawak,” said Daniel. “The S’pore/Brunei currency is worth RM 2.50 sen. At the same time, their cost of living is very much lower than in Sabah and Sarawak.”

Under the Malaya-controlled Federal Government, internal colonization has been the cruel fate of Sabah and Sarawak, complained Daniel. “Impoverished hordes are rushing into our states to marginalize and disenfranchise us and make us even poorer.”

Money, or rather the lack of it, is the key factor in the internal colonization of Sabah and Sarawak, explained Daniel. He stressed that the Federal Government takes 95 per cent of oil and gas revenue in the inner waters of Sabah and Sarawak and 100 per cent of these resources in the outer waters.

“This is an illegal act as pointed out by the Sabah Law Association which has since declared that the Petroleum Development Act (PDA) is unconstitutional,” said Daniel. “If the PDA is unconstitutional, the so-called oil agreement between Sabah/Sarawak and Petronas does not exist.”

At the same, the party has discovered that almost all other revenue is being taken away by the Federal Government. “Last year, such revenue amounted to RM 40 billion,” said Daniel. “Those who are interested in the details can Google YouTube for Dr Jeffrey Kitingan’s speeches on the issue.”

Of the National Budget of almost RM 200 billion for this year, Daniel remains perplexed that Sabah and Sarawak have been allocated only “a measly RM 4 billion each”. He does not know how much of this amount has been actually released to the two states.

Nevertheless, he finds it odd that Peninsular Malaysia is getting almost RM 192 billion although the 1963 Malaysia Agreement envisaged the all three territories in the Federation — Sabah, Sarawak, and Peninsular Malaysia — would be equal partners. To add insult to injury, continues Daniel, Peninsular Malaysia-owned gaming, plantation and shipping companies in Sabah, as in Sarawak, are siphoning away billions every year from the state.

“The evil National Cabotage Policy (NCP)

continues to enrich a handful of ship owners in Peninsular Malaysia who are linked to MCA and have the Ministry of Transport in the pocket,” he said. “It’s these ship owners who are bankrolling the politics of MCA.”

He claims, based on pending cases in Court, that thousands of hectares of NCR land in Sabah, as in Sarawak, have been seized under one pretext or another by Peninsular Malaysia-owned companies. “The result has been our people becoming landless and being pushed to join the urban poor in the squatter areas created by illegal immigrants,” said Daniel. “Here, they are caught in a vicious cycle of poverty, ignorance and disease.”

(Article on Sabah poverty:

<http://wikisabah.blogspot.com.au/2012/05/star-rich-sabah-poorest-state-in.html>)

### **Taking matters up with UN Security Council**

In the ultimate analysis, Daniel warns that the Federal Government has no choice but to reverse its internal colonization policies in Sabah and Sarawak “or we would have no alternative but take up the matter with the United Nations Security Council”.

In addition, he wants the Federal Government to reimburse the Sabah and Sarawak Governments for the disproportionate revenue taken from the states since 1963. This reimbursement, supervised by the UN Security Council, can be spread out over 50 years but must carry compound interest of 8 per cent per annum until full and final settlement, he suggested.

“The restoration of Sabah and Sarawak to the pink of financial health is the key to resolving the grinding poverty of the two states brought about by internal colonization,” said Daniel. “Petronas must get out from Sabah and Sarawak and stay out.”

Since the above report Jambun has come out to openly call for self-determination for Sabah as an independent country (not part of Malaysia).

Some political analysts believe that Sabah and Sarawak are inseparable from the Federation. However, this is countered by arguments that no conglomeration of states can be compelled to remain as a union where there is driving force and reason to separate. These are as seen in the examples of East Timor, Southern Sudan, the Irish independence struggle and even in Scotland's planned independence



referendum from 300 years of English rule. The break up of the Soviet Union is a good example that unequal unions cannot last. To the hopeful Sabah Sarawak nationalist it seems nothing is impossible. The two territories have only been part of Malaysia for over 48 years and it is

premature to declare that they are eternally melded to Malaya. The all powerful Indonesia could not hold onto East Timor in the face of the determined resistance struggle for independence. ■

## Opinion

### Will Australia Strive To Be An Independent Nation?

*Richard Wong*

*This title may surprise or shock some readers. After all the Federation of Australia was established in 1901. How come we are now talking about whether Australia is an independent nation or if it will strive to be an independent nation ...*

It has been a long time since many of our leading politicians, Labor and Liberal/National, paid much attention or showed much pride about Australia becoming a really independent country. People like to assume that we are a nation and that means an independent nation. The reality in the recent decades is that Australia has hardly distinguished itself on the international scene as an independent country.

Australia should be friendly to all nations and have good and close relations with other countries. It is good to see that Australia is a good friend of USA and other countries. The problem is we always end up as the "Little Boy" or "Little Soldier" of the Superpowers in history. We become a dependency or appendage of the superpowers.

For example, when US launched the Vietnam War, Australia was dragged into the war by the US Superpower in the name of the Alliance Forces. Australia has not taken a separate and independent view whether it was wise to engage in this infamous war of invasion. In the end, the Alliance Forces were defeated and pushed out of Vietnam. Of course, before the defeat, the Anti-Vietnam War movements



Former Prime Minister **Malcolm Fraser** delivering the 2012 Whitlam Oration. Source: [http://australianpolitics.com/images/2012/06/12-06-06\\_fraser-whitlam-oration2.jpg](http://australianpolitics.com/images/2012/06/12-06-06_fraser-whitlam-oration2.jpg)

throughout the world had raised doubts about the war and called for withdrawal from the unjust war.

Unfortunately, only a few Australian politicians seriously review how Australia will act if a similar situation arises again. Are we going to be an appendage of the superpower and allow the country to be dragged into any new wars launched by the big powers ?

Since the Vietnam War, we now see Australia submissively agreeing to be part of the US invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. When the US big power is engaging in any wars, Australia is always conscripted into the wars whether they are just or unjust. There have

been so many innocent people bombed and killed in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. Big powers are always involved deeply in these wars.

Australia is fortunate to have a former Prime Minister, Mr. Malcolm Fraser, pointing out that Australia is foolish and naive to rely on American military power for its security. He says recently that too many people in Australia believed that if we support America in its wars, they will support us on military and security issues. But he cautioned that great powers only ever act in their own interests.

Mr Fraser emphasises a number of factors that will secure the future of Australia: "Our skill, our own strength, our own diplomacy, wisdom, our contribution to our region, our contribution to the overall security of that region".

Mr. Fraser further points out that our major interests are in East and South-East Asia. "Our secure and peaceful future depends on our relationships with countries of the region", he says, "We must rely more on ourselves".

He further says that Australia cannot buy security by supporting America unconditionally. "Unconditional support diminishes our influence throughout East and South-East Asia. It limits our capacity to act as an independent and confident nation".

"I believe that in dealing with countries in our own region, we need to show a greater strength of independence and a greater strength of mind. We need to increase our sophistication in our approach to relationships throughout East and South-East Asia". said Mr. Fraser.

I totally share the view of Malcolm Fraser when he stresses that "Independence of mind and recognition of Australia's national interest will become more important in the light of developments in the relationship between China and the US. "The only solution that I can see of minimising the potential friction between these two major powers is by co-operation."

"This should contribute greatly to peace, security and progress throughout our entire region", he pointedly adds, "A major part of Australian policy should be to work for such a result".

Mr. Fraser says that if we continue on a path of unthinking compliance with American policy, we will very soon find that we have made ourselves irrelevant to East and South-East Asia, politically and strategically.

It is time that Australia breaks with subservience to America and adopt its own independent mind. "Subservience has not and will not serve Australia's interests. It is dangerous to our future", said Mr. Fraser.

There are a number of regional wars taking place now. Human suffering is enormous. If the international conflicts are not resolved fairly and peacefully, there is a great danger of a Third World War. This will be a catastrophe for the human race. The big powers should know that differences cannot be resolved by military means.

Mr. Fraser concluded that "We need to articulate Australia's national interests as a country allied to but separate from the US. We need leadership that will tell Australians in plain terms that our security ultimately depends on ourselves and the relationships we build with the countries of the Western Pacific and of East Asia. It is our relationship with these countries that will determine our security."

As the international conflicts and regional wars continue to spread, Australia should also play a role to promote world peace, to stop any potential new wars. To do this, Australia will need to stand up and strive to be an independent nation. Only by adopting this approach, will our country gain respect and support from its neighbouring countries as well as other parts of the world. ■

## Achievement

# Young Chinese Achiever

**Arthur Lin** reflects on his recent win in Snooker and Spellmasters competitions

*This is a story of a Chinese boy who has made remarkable achievements in Snooker Competitions. Apart from his own determination and patience in developing his skills, his success results from good teaching by his coach and years of support from his parents. With continued personal development and persistent training, we are likely to see a new champion, possibly at the national level, in the years to come. – Editors.*

**A** Year 8 student at Viewbank College, I'm the 2012 Victorian Under 15 Snooker Champion, and one of two 2012 Victorian Billiards and Snooker Association (VBSA) junior snooker scholarship recipients. ([www.vbsa.org.au](http://www.vbsa.org.au)).

I'm also a Round Two senior winner of Spellmasters, which is a not-for-profit organisation which helps to promote English language skills as well as self esteem and confidence. ([www.spellmasters.com.au](http://www.spellmasters.com.au)).

In September, I will represent the Victorian Junior Snooker Team at the national championships in Albury, NSW. This will be my third time to be selected to compete for Victoria. In November, I will represent my school in the Spellmasters grand final. This will be my fourth time to have qualified for the finals.

I started showing passion for the sport of snooker when I was 8 years old. My Dad and I used to play pool for a couple of hours at a local pub on weekends. Soon, he saw my talent in the sport. After a year playing at the pub with Dad, we started playing on a full size snooker table. This was about the time when he started looking desperately for a coach.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009, we went to the Legends Entertainment Centre, and found a coach by the name of Bruce McPhee, who had coached numerous snooker champions in the past and present, one being Neil Roberson, the 2010 Professional Snooker World Champion. I started tuition with Bruce on weekends, and then training time expanded to 5-6 times a week. At first the routines I practised were the basic shots of snooker: the run-through shot, the stun shot, the screw shot, plus all variations in between.



Arthur Lin with his coach after winning the 2012 Victorian Under 15 Snooker Championship.

In the following year, more drills were introduced to me that tested my break building and cue ball control, such as the line-up, and continuous colour ball positioning. In 2010, I was the runner-up in the Australian Under-12 Snooker Championships. Then on September 22 2011, aged 11, I played my first pub pool team pennant competition. Our eight-ball team were the premiers of the season. I also played in the house championships at Legends, and won the American ten-ball and nine-ball championships.

In 2011, I was the runner-up in the Victorian Under-15 Snooker championships and in the Victorian Under-15 eight-ball championships. I played the Australian Junior Snooker Championships in Queensland at Redlands RSL, and finished third in the country. Meanwhile in the Spellmasters, I was in the second division in May and top four in the senior group grand final.

Since I first started snooker, I have had 26 total clearances in line-up, including a 147 three times. My highest competition break is 97 and



my highest break against myself is 123. In Spellmasters competitions, I have had two first places, one second place and one third place.

Today, I display a lot more passion than ever for this sport of snooker and for the Spellmasters competitions. My coach, my parents and my teachers are impressed about my sport and academic achievements. People can watch my snooker movie clips from Youtube "Arthur Lin Snooker" or

["www.legendsentertainmentcentre.com"](http://www.legendsentertainmentcentre.com) ■



*Arthur Lin and his dad, James Lin at the Spellmasters Award Ceremony.*

## Upcoming CPBA Drinks & Nibbles, July 18th (Wednesday)

Our next event is a "Drinks 'n Nibbles" evening, where members and guests can socialise and network in a friendly environment. Join us for a few drinks and some delectable Malaysian nibbles at the new PappaRich restaurant in Doncaster.

Details as follows:

Date: Wednesday, July 18th  
 Location: PappaRich Doncaster (private bar area)  
 540 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster (just off the Eastern Freeway)  
 Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm start  
 F&B: Nibbles till 9.00pm (drinks on personal account)  
 Cost: \$25 for members and guests  
 Info: David Chow (0419 309 168 or [david.chow@cpba.com.au](mailto:david.chow@cpba.com.au))

To book, please make an EFT payment to the following account:

Name of account: Chinese Professional and Business Association of Victoria  
 BSB/ Account number: 013-160 / 2953-66594