

Interview by email of Michael C H Jones, President of ACCCI, by Ms Mimi Chau, Xinhua News Agency (Sydney Bureau) on Monday 5th July 2010

Chau: I'm working on a story about opinions on new Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard and her policies including mining tax. May I ask you the following questions?

Jones: As per usual the full text of my answer to your questions will go on the ACCCI Website in Speeches and Media Releases. Among the range of issues faced by Gillard the three that have been whipped up by the local media, and therefore requiring immediate attention, are obviously the boatpeople, the mining tax and the emissions trading scheme.

Chau: Do you think Gillard's proposed new mining tax at 30% is feasible? If so why?

Jones: As the Gittins article attached to this email explains, most of the figures are boggy and the spokespersons biased. It is now claimed that the mining tax has been reduced to almost 20% or half. However if it is still were 30% it cannot raise the revenue claimed - so either it will not work or other policies will have to be sacrificed. The revenue mess and the political mess are both getting bigger by the day and only media "spin" will save Gillard. Unlikely because Abbott says he will abolish it if elected PM, so the Mining Companies will put the rest of the \$100 million raised (they only spent about \$7 million undermining Rudd) behind Abbott's campaign.

Chau: Would you support Gillard's proposal on "not a big Australia" and training local skilled workers rather than acceptance of more skilled migrants?

Jones: The Australian people are amongst the most conservative in the world - some would say selfish. They want to live off the resources industries forever with as few extra people as possible. Gillard is pandering to the worst elements of insular Australia in an attempt to "out-right" Abbott. Liberals want skilled migrants that other countries have paid to train as well as lower taxes and hence quicker profits; whereas the ALP wants local skilled workers and re-training of their union-affiliate members with a few profitable "ports" along the way.

Chau: Any further comments?

Jones: There are six articles listed below (5 articles plus a link to the 6th). Article 1 mentions foreign policy issues including Israel which is seldom mentioned. Article 5 is very interesting in terms of Australia's growing "elitist" education system. The sixth link SHOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN - this is the real intention of some powerful groups to split Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and Tibet Autonomous Region from China. Rudd was different.

Please email a copy of your final article.

Chau: Thanks Michael for your comments.

May I ask you further questions on your thoughts about the following story?

Jones: This is a great time for a journalist to be reporting on Australia to Asia.

You have to tell your readers that Australians are so insular and parochial that they could not spell "racism" let alone know that they are regularly disparaging to everyone they don't like - look how they treat/disrespect their Prime Ministers unless they are as 'mindless' as themselves. For example 99% of Australians can not understand why John Howard could never be genuinely supported as Vice President of the International Cricket Board - it was an insult to put his name forward.

Chau: Gillard rejects Rudd's Asia vision

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/gillard-rejects-rudds-asia-vision-20100704-zvxx.html>

Jones: With respect to Rudd's Asia Pacific Community concept, if you read my Observations 2 and 3 from December 2009 I clearly restate what I had been saying for 2 years that the concept was dated and therefore not workable - Chamber has been publicly talking about the Indauspac Maritime Community since my 2002 Australia Day Speech in Wuhan China - on the ACCCI Website in Speeches. Of course I developed the concept at TNT in the late 1970s after negotiating TNT into the Pacific Basin Economic Council, so it has been well known in business circles over 30 years - it first appears in the ACCCI Archives in a photo of me in Wollongong in about June 1988 - hence on the ACCCI Website for about 22 years. The Australian Government including DFAT - Labor and Liberal - are very slow.

Just read Observations 5 where in the last few paragraphs I list the Country Members of the G20 - they are predominantly in the Indauspac Maritime Community. Gillard has no choice but to try to get some decent international advisers.

Chau: Also, do you think Gillard's proposal on asylum seeker is mission achievable?

Jones: Concerning asylum seekers I did a Sydney International law paper in about 1974 dealing with diplomatic asylum in Latin America - this was just after the inflows from Chile (both sides re 1970 and 1973) and before the Vietnamese Catholics - good boatpeople - sailed into Australia in the late 1970s and 1980s. Unfortunately we now have the bad boatpeople from Moslem West Asia seeking sanctuary - they are all people smugglers. Gillard has no more chance of moving further to the right than good Christian fundamentalist Tony Abbott. Her only chance is to take a firm stand on principles, defend human rights and the REAL "Australian Way" and accept them all - the fight is to educate the Australian people which means taking on Murdoch's mob if not like Fiji and turning off the "shock jocks" on radio.

More analytically just look at the figures as outlined briefly by Adele Horin in last Saturday's SMH re:

- 1) Only about 3,400 boat people have arrived this year seeking refugee status, many will be refused and sent to other countries
- 2) About 3440 asylum seekers were given refugee status in 2009 from approximately 6200 applicants - so what ? There are over 21 million people in Australia.
- 3) Australia is part of a global community and has responsibilities - even to non-Christians.

4) Compared to other countries we are inhuman re South Africa received last year over 220,000 asylum applications, France 42,000, Malaysia 40,000, Canada 34,000,
5) In all 32 countries received more asylum applications than Australia, on a per capita basis Australia ranked 41st and on a national GDP basis Australia was 71st

Abbott is grotesque in his statements and Julia Gillard who knows better is a disgrace as a Prime Minister. I regularly feel ashamed with my international guests, not only Chinese.

Chau: Thanks Michael, I just noted your email.

May we use your quotes for the next story?

Jones: Yes