

Comment by Michael C H Jones

It has been a long time coming but ACCCI congratulates the CCCA for this very important initiative and the Sydney venue.

For too long Multiculturalism seemed to include everyone except the Anglo-Saxon and be an excuse for all sorts of exclusive and disruptive behaviour. Ethnic Affairs on the other hand became a battleground between various overseas groups and a playground for vote harvesting by aspiring politicians.

With respect to the Chinese Community in all its diversity there seemed to be a reluctance to insist upon normal due diligence procedures. Too much money has traveled for too long in brief cases and only the laws of the land prevent naming dates, people, places and amounts across all sections of our society but particularly business and politics.

With few exceptions the leaders of the Chinese community over the last 20 years have been at best mediocre with little political savvy and at worst verging on 1930s Shanghai-style gangsters. The loyalty to Australia of many is very questionable.

With this Conference, coming so soon after a pioneering forum at the UTS, the process of accountability has commenced and a debate about the values and attitudes of Chinese Australians well and truly begun. In the context of the WikiLeaks revelations on US Diplomacy, particularly former PM Rudd and the PRC, and current Australian PM Gillard's supine support for simply outrageous attacks on the character of Australian citizen Julian Assange, the role of Chinese Australians in the Australia China Dialogue will be vital.