

Comment by Michael C H Jones
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My father used to tell me "son if you stand on the street corner long enough, the whole world will pass you by". Well ACCCI has been on the Sydney Australian scene for forty years and we have seen a lot of fads and short term personalities in China Relations, many of us started in the early 60s and some of the founders of Chamber pre WW1.

With this link we are back to Urbanisation with a housing focus akin to central business districts in cities. From high strategies of governance at global institutional level to the very basic necessities of life at the socio-cultural district level of Kenya with Chinese examples.

For about five years Chamber has been hammering away at its GERG strategy re Global Economic Relations and Governance in Australia China Relations. We have emphasised connections between domestic and international policies of governments - in China the democratisation of international institutions as well as the democratisation of domestic institutions. Our perspectives have been a combination of Multi-level and Multi-stakeholder governance - the District to the Global, community groups, corporations and bureaucracies of all sorts.

ACCCI is unique for many reasons, one of which has been the promotion of Greater Sydney as a vital historical engine for Australian and Australasian economic prosperity - even today neither side of politics in this country understands this essential fact. Australia's New York/Shanghai remains bottled up, it's energies thwarted by distressing parochialism at all levels of governance with occasional rays of light.

The Chamber's China Key Cities strategy was launched in the mid 1980s and honed through many upgrades and re-focusing according to the dynamics of China's Return to world leadership 1979-2009. Post the PRC joining the WTO at the end of 2001, and with the launch of the ACCCI website in September 2001, gradually the whole of China was covered with some 200 city cooperative agreements, Australia Committees, connections and visits. Austrade and various State Government bodies were forced to lift their games. Even today, though disbanding the China Key Cities Network in 2009 following the GFC, ACCCI maintains a strategic "two-tier" approach to urbanisation in China which takes into consideration the whole gambit of eco-political and socio-cultural governance. The Sydney-Shanghai financial relations has been central to this strategy that stretches to Chengdu and Urumqi.

But Chamber has broadened the thinking of the 1995 and 1996 publications, and the four Australia Programmes of the late 1990s and early 2000s which culminated in the very substantial Invest in Australia publication of 2008/09 circulated to thousands of Chinese organisations, government and private. Via Indauspac-Strategy and Indauspac-Watch, G20 and China Monitors, as well as linking Economic Relations to Governance, Chamber has tracked China's expansion to Australia's maritime region, the region of our National Interest. The Great Game of Global Economic Relations wherein trade treaties substitute for military/territorial adventures, different regional groupings compete for predominance and financial sanctions and cyber penetrations are commonplace. Governance has gone global and State Sovereignty is under severe challenge.

Chamber, being a non-profit voluntary organisation of business leaders, with a well thought out company member operating structure based on Special Projects or Peoples Diplomacy throughout the world, has never felt restricted to Australasia or China, and has concentrated on the urbanisation of cities and the ramifications for rural industries, infrastructures and non-government or commercial-culture. Education and Training, Innovation and Technology Commercialisation, Tourism

Sites and Services, and Inward Investment are constantly the intention for joint Australia China initiatives. We just wish the rest of Australia would wake up?

China is everywhere in the cities, the massively expanding urban centres of maritime Indauspac, but where is Australia - can Greater Sydney power it's way to leadership of the five great cities of this region? Only Sydney can go head to head with New York/Washington, Shanghai/Beijing, Frankfurt/Berlin - Moscow in Eurasia is another story.