

## A BRIEF NOTE ON CHAMBER'S FOCUS ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND THE ASSOCIATED RESPONSIBILITIES OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The new ACCCI mission “slogan”, as it appears on the homepage, is *Australia-China Relations in a Global Era*. It reflects a focus on multilateral or global relations rather than on bilateral relations. It emphasises economic relations (economic warfare) rather than military confrontation and it brings out peaceful means for national security.<sup>1</sup> Corporate governance is viewed in terms of what corporate boards do, how they give due regard to minority shareholders and how they act in responsible and ethical ways within the context of local, state or provincial, national, extra-national regional and global markets. Public administration (or public sector governance) is how institutions and agencies of sovereign governments manage their affairs within their respective jurisdictions and, at the same time, relate to (cooperate with) other national and international institutions.

Chamber views this focus as an extension of the earlier interest in trade and investment relations since, within the past decade, those relations have become increasingly multilateral and global in nature. Moreover, the important issues are no longer in the making of trade and investment agreements, but in the capacity of the corporate sector and the public sector to maintain previously established trade and investment agreements in the way that was initially intended or was changed by consensus.

Links on this page illustrate practical solutions to governance issues, particularly in regard to the *process of seeking solutions*. We are still the Australia-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry, but we look at Australia-China relations through a global lens. We seek examples of problem-solving with corporate governance and public administration involving Australia's and China's major trading and investment partners with a view to describing them and also seeking ways to improve them.

Chamber will also focus on examples of *governance within levels*:

- 1) Global Governance – especially the institutions that were established to facilitate global activities.
- 2) Regional Governance – including formal and informal alliances and cooperative activities among nations, thus making this a level between nation-states and global institutions.
- 3) National Governance – including-federal-territory relations and issues of state sovereignty.
- 4) State Governance – including federal-state relations and issues as to how state or provincial governments maintain the integrity of regions within their respective jurisdictions.

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<sup>1</sup> Some readers may understand this better if we use the term *realpolitik*, especially with the original emphasis on political power combined with practical politics in roughly equal proportions (this rules out the more extreme connotation with cohesive and Machiavellian politics).

5) City Governance – including structural reform in the organisation of local government units and the relation of each to the others and to the metropolitan area as a whole.

6) Local Governance – including the ways local governments interact with businesses and households within their respective jurisdictions.

The manner in which examples of governance within these six levels are to be treated will become apparent when the examples are collected and commented upon.