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THERE WILL BE NO STATE FUNERALS: HISTORY WILL BE THE JUDGE

**By Michael C H Jones
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Cliches may be superficial, nevertheless they help understanding and are therefore useful in the Public Policy debate. Chamber has gradually evolved over the last 5/6 years since the GFC into a Think Tank, on Australia-China Relations in a Global Era, which seeks to influence and implement programmes through three arms of activism consistent with our history since the initial discussions in late 1974 and inaugural AGM on 16th September 1976.

The ACCCI website has acted as a communication channel for Chamber ideas throughout the world, but also it has now laid a very strong foundation or overview, admittedly with great gaps to be expected from a voluntary and non-profit organisation that has never applied for and thus received government monies, for Public Policy activism across a range of Governance issues both multi-level and multi-stakeholder. It is intended to make Submissions to a range of Inquiries both international and national concerning the return of China to global leadership and the role Australia might play in it. Obviously this infers massive structural change in Australia which is unlikely to occur without significant economic and social crisis.

However Chamber has never diverted, and will not, from its Peoples Diplomacy activities whether with Key Cities throughout China, the issues of Chinese Taipei/Taiwan and Hong Kong SAR, as well as China's maritime sphere of influence and therefore relations with the Korea(s), Japan and ASEAN nations. The policies of the USA are central to peaceful solutions and the reason for Chamber's future 2016 interference in their Presidential Election.

In this arm of ACCCI activism Chamber has in recent years extended it's reach throughout the Indauspac Maritime Region (IMR) with ideas on Japan and Indonesia, the South West Pacific, Africa - particularly South Africa and Kenya, and South America with emphasis on Chile and Argentina. West Asia has also been commented upon on the website and in meetings with mid-level policy officials - Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Israel and the new IS phenomenon. Even the EU, and the now failed Russian integration into Europe received a great amount of time and resources in the context of China's SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) role throughout Eurasia. The World Bank and the IMF should have been quickly restructured in the years following China's admission to the WTO at the end of 2001. Is it impossible for Greece to accept the Russian invitation to join BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) as a European "Developing Country" re GBRICS?

As with the USA, the PRC has global responsibilities, and it's policies, economic and political but also because of it's size social and cultural, will increasingly impact the world. After the Second World War "commercialisation" was a euphemism for Americanisation though it's control of international financial institutions, and similarly the Chinese "going global" everywhere simultaneously will bring enormous social and cultural realignments, initially through NGO. That is why Chamber will interfere in the 2017 Chinese Presidential Election.

All things come to an end, people retire and die, organisations lose relevance and/or financial capacity. Chamber has been very fortunate in its stability over forty years with the leadership of founding president Darcy Carter 1974/89 and myself 1987/2015. It has provided the certainty for small and dedicated groups of China minded professionals from a great range of disciplines to voluntarily indulge themselves in long term planning and promotion of ideas, policies and programmes in the domain of Australia China Economic Relations. Unfortunately that era of internationalism/activism seems to have passed, for all sorts of reasons - academics no longer have the time with demands of publish or perish, business people whether Corporates or SME are dazzled and dutched by the Chinese statistics, and retired public servants by gongs and faltery on the lecture circuit. Succession Planning is a major headache for the older European style civil organisations such as ACCCI. That will be the third arm of Chamber activism over the next few years - six months ago at the end of 2014 I announced my intention to retire as President as soon as possible, which means with recruitment and training within 3/5 years.

Hence what is required this year is a more succinct ACCCI narrative for the future based on the themes and consistent with the policies and programmes of the past, most of which are already on the website in Comments. It will arbitrarily benchmark the 2022 500th anniversary of first navigation of the globe, the 2049 100th anniversary of the founding of the Peoples Republic of China, and the 2101 200th anniversary of the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia.

All three dates have enormous significance for the generations of the 21st century. Without globalisation via sustainable international institutions with democratically implemented policies and programmes across all facets of humanity - a never ending existential humanist challenge - the return of the great populations of China and India and later Africa to relative economic prosperity will not be peacefully achieved. Outdated ideas of feral capitalism and the sanctity of state sovereignty will surely morph into a global libertarian socialism which challenges the current leadership elites of both the PRC and USA? The global commons is the property of all peoples irrespective of national boundaries and beyond vested interests of any variety. In a multicultural world global corporates have responsibilities for Human Rights and national political parties are answerable to their membership. International Laws can no longer be extensions of Great Power domestic policies. The Civilizations of past centuries are now irredeemably intertwined such that cultural clash in hundreds of regional skirmishes across the globe are inevitable whether religious, ethnic, ideological etc. For China, the US and Australia the historical circumstances of our national situations are fundamentally different as we face the future. The journeys maybe different but the destination is the same.