



Working with the Asia Region
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About Asia:NZ

- Set up in 1996 as the Asia 2000 Foundation by Ministers Burdon and McKinnon
- Not for profit, supported by public & private funding
- Strong links with international think-tanks: Lowy (Sydney), AsiaLink (Melbourne), ISEAS (Singapore), IISS (London)
- Board of Trustees, appointed by Minister of Foreign Affairs (McCully)
- 17 staff – Auckland & Wellington: Business, Education, Culture, Media, Research & Policy
- 20 Honorary Advisers – esteemed in Asia



The role of Asia:NZ

Preparing NZ for a future with Asia

- Helping NZ teachers and students to become more Asia literate
- Identifying young leaders articulate in Asian and NZ cultures
- Equipping business leaders to engage with Asia on- and off-shore
- Leading debate and informing opinion through research on Asians in NZ and New Zealanders in Asia
- Promoting Asian cultures and festivals
- Influencing the media's portrayal of Asian peoples and the Asian region
- Leading and participating in regional dialogues



Asia:NZ Grants Programme

- Under the research programme, Asia:NZ awards grants to emerging and established researchers and assists a number of organisations to deliver speeches, seminars and conferences.
- Emerging Researcher Grant
- Big Issues Grant
- Conference Support Grant



Key Issues relating to Asia and Health

- Differences in countries and cultures
- Demographic shift within New Zealand
- Asian practitioners in New Zealand
- Climate Change
- Migration and Pandemics
- Mental Health

Asia: Important to not lump all together

What does Asian mean? The term is much more fluid than the widely accepted umbrella definition, which does not take into account the cultural, historical and linguistic diversity of the 27 countries forming the Asian region.



Asia: Important to not lump all together

- Differences in cultural and religious practices when it comes to health issues
- Preferred use of traditional forms of treatment
- Consent and trust





Asia's Demographic Importance

- Between 1986 and 2006, there was a sevenfold increase in the number of NZ residents born in Asia. The numbers of Chinese and Indian rose by 800 per cent.
- The largest increase in Asia-born residents was for people from South Korea (from 390 to over 28,000) and Taiwan (from 165 to over 10,000)



Asia's Demographic Importance

- About one-fifth of all Asians in the 2006 Census were born in NZ.
- Beyond 2026, inevitably the Asian population will grow to exceed the Maori population – there are fewer than one million Maori and 4.3 billion Asians in the world's population
- 1 in 4 people living in Auckland were born overseas



Asian Practitioner's in New Zealand

- In 2006 18% of New Zealand doctors were Asian
- Foreign-born doctors working in NZ rose from 36% in 1986 to 52% in 2006
- Of those doctors who migrate to NZ, nearly a fifth record Asian ethnicity – however country of birth does not always correlate with ethnicity or education
- High number of health professionals that migrate to NZ with Asian ethnicity are from Pacific or African countries.

Climate Change

- Asian countries already stretching the limits of environmental systems that support public health
- Populations become vulnerable to effects of climate change
 - Refugees and migration – e.g. of Indonesia, mass migration to cities, recent environmental disasters in Pakistan and India
- Spread of disease





Migration and Pandemics

- Asian countries unprepared
- Water-borne diseases
- Impact on labour market
- Security concerns as a result of pandemics – e.g. of Indian concerns of terrorist orgs from Pakistan
- A pandemic could be more dangerous in a politically unstable state



Mental Health

- Asian population in New Zealand under-utilise mental health services
 - 2002 – of nearly 88,000 mental health clients seen by DHB's only 1.9% were Asian, despite making up over 6.5% of the NZ population
- Could be due to NZ's immigration policy of selecting young migrants
- Asian students within NZ – many away from support networks

Further information

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