



Asia Education Foundation

Presbyterian Ladies' College Panel Discussion

Event details

Date & Time

Friday 18th March, 2016, 10am-11.30am

NEW Venue

Asialink Boardroom, Sidney Myer Asia Centre, 158/761 Swanston St, Parkville

Participants

- 15 Year 10 Gifted Students currently learning Chinese, Presbyterian Ladies' College
- Michelle Liu, Chinese teacher, Presbyterian Ladies' College
- Susan Knopfmacher, Head of Gifted Education & Extension Programs, Presbyterian Ladies' College
- Asia Literacy Ambassadors Chris Yong and Benjamin Habib
- University of Melbourne graduate Ben McMahon
- Dr Shaoming Zhou, Chinese Program Convenor, Asia Institute, University of Melbourne

Background & Aims

This event is held as part of PLC's Gifted Education and Extension Programs for students to explore tertiary education and career pathways and opportunities with Chinese language skills, and Asia capabilities more broadly. All of PLC students continue on to university after Year 12, and a large proportion of them go to the University of Melbourne to study science, economics, arts or law, among other subjects. This event seeks to provide students with an insight into language study at university and how it can complement other fields of study as well as other opportunities available to language students such as study tours, exchange programs, etc. It also seeks to help students get a better understanding of the importance of language and cross-cultural skills in the 21st century workplace and highlight some of the sectors where such skills will be in demand in the context of Australia's growing engagement with China.

Agenda

- 10.00-10.05am: Welcome and Introduction – Emeline Suteau, Asia Education Foundation
- 10.05-10.15am: Panellists to introduce themselves briefly (*approx. 2 mins each*)
- 10.15-10.45am: Panel discussion facilitated by Emeline
- 10.45-11.15am: Students to ask questions of the panellists
- 11.15-11.25am: Dr Shaoming Zhou to present the Chinese program at Melbourne University
- 11.25-11.30am: Reflection and Close

Panellists

Chris Yong

Head of Operational Excellence, Slater & Gordon Lawyers



Chris is passionate about influencing global organisations and individuals to perform effectively in the Asian Century. He has more than 14 years of global professional services and corporate experience. Chris' areas of expertise include entrepreneurship, business process improvement, strategy development & execution, risk management, assurance & advisory and project management. Chris has a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Melbourne Business School and a Bachelor degree in Information Systems from the University of Melbourne. He is certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC) and a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA).

Benjamin Habib

Lecturer in Politics and International Relations, La Trobe University



Ben is a Lecturer in Politics and International Relations at La Trobe University, Melbourne, where he has given numerous presentations at high schools and community forums. Ben completed his PhD candidature at Flinders University in Adelaide and has worked previously for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Ben is an internationally published researcher and has teaching and field research experience in China, North Korea, South Korea, India, Taiwan and Malaysia.

Ben McMahon

University of Melbourne Graduate



Ben McMahon (孟杰明) is currently undertaking a Masters of Property at RMIT after completing a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Melbourne. Ben started studying Chinese in high school. In 2011, he went to China to study Chinese intensively at Peking University and backpacked all around China. He represented Australia in the 2012 Hunan TV Chinese Bridge University Mandarin Contest. That year he also opened a Melbourne-based Chinese walking tour company and hosted the first season of the Australian Mandarin talkshow *AuMyGa*. In 2014, he went back to China as part of his university degree to study commerce at

Shanghai's Fudan University and was also the Shanghai Chapter President of the Australia-China Youth Association (ACYA). Since returning to Australia and whilst studying he is also part of a Chinese-Australian team designing an APP that promotes multicultural exchanges, he tutors high school and university students in Mandarin, and has started a Chinese "vlog" on Youtube and China's Youku.