

Australia-India: A Deepening Economic Partnership

Book launch speech notes

Jaqui Lane, CEO and Publisher, FOCUS, at the Indian High Commissioners residence, Canberra

- Welcome guests, Advisory Group members, International and National Government Dignitaries, valued participants of the project, media and guests to the Australian official book launch of *Australia-India: A Deepening Economic Partnership*
- Firstly, we would especially like to thank our honored host this evening, The Indian High Commissioner, Her Excellency, Mrs Sujhatha Singh.
- Thank you also to Mr Peter Yuile, Deputy CEO, Austrade for managing to create perfect symmetry by speaking at both the India launch last week and now the Australian launch this evening.
- This is a major bi-lateral publication project and would not have been possible without the collaboration of the Australian Government's UTSAV initiative from Austrade. The publication complements the UTSAV initiative by contributing to the marketing and promotional platform that strengthens ties between our countries.
- This project was a joint undertaking between Focus and the Utsav Australian initiative of the Australian government, and was initiated by Mike Moignard, Austrade Senior Trade Commissioner, over a year ago
- We also thank the important advisory group members who contributed to the project, all participants in the book, in particular lead participants, Austrade, major participants, Deakin University, Leighton International, Toll (Asia) Pty Ltd. and all key participants, in particular, Asean Focus Group, the Blue Mountains Hotel School and Academies Australasia.
- Without your support this publication would not have been possible.
- Thank you to those who endorsed the project and contributed to the Foreword:- The Hon. Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, The Hon Simon Crean, Minister for Trade, Government of Australia, The Indian High Commissioner to Australia, Mrs Sujatha Singh and the Australian High Commissioner, Mr. John McCarthy.
- *Australia-India: a deepening economic partnership* is a publication that promotes the growing bilateral relationship between Australia and India and the opportunities for further expansion.
- The publication will be distributed as a hard copy and in an electronic version, or both and will be widely targeted to key government and

business leaders in both countries, bi-lateral associations, events and organisations

- Now I have great pleasure in introducing our guest of honour and host this evening, The High Commissioner of India, Mrs Sujatha Singh

Mrs Sujatha Singh, The High Commissioner of India

Summarised notes from Her Excellency's Foreword:

- India is one of the world's fastest growing economies
- Australia's export to India grew by 34 per cent and is Australia's fastest growing market for its service sector exports.
- Both countries have strongly complementary economies.
- Both countries have several features in common
- Free Trade Agreement and high level recent visits from Trade Minister Simon Crean to India and Special Envoy of Prime Minister Shyam Saran to Perth in January.
- The publication will make a lasting contribution of the future growth between Australia and India

Jaqui Lane, CEO and Publisher, FOCUS

- Thank you Her Excellency, Mrs Sujatha Singh
- I have much pleasure now of introducing:

Mr Peter Yuile, Austrade's Deputy CEO (late notice – unable to attend)

There is a wonderful symmetry to being here in Canberra today at this special launch after also being part of the launch of the book in New Delhi last week.

The publishers, Focus, have done a number of publications on the importance of Australia's trade with key trading partners of Australia, including China and Japan – and now India.

This publication on the engagement between Australia and India could not come at a better time in the development of our trade and investment relations.

The new Australian government has demonstrated its strong commitment to India:

- Trade Minister Simon Crean made India one of his first destinations in January this year and has met Minister Nath several times to build their personal relationship.
- Our Prime Minister had a very cordial meeting with Prime Minister Singh during the G8 Summit only two weeks ago.

Trade and investment is growing at a great pace and this publication is designed to make a very constructive contribution to the broadening and deepening of our relationship.

Austrade has supported this publication through the Utsav Australia program, an initiative of the Australian government, through Austrade, to raise the profile of Australia:

- To introduce a range of capabilities and strengths Australia has to offer India; and
- To illustrate the trade and investment possibilities with India that flow from those capabilities across a range of sectors from mining, energy, clean technology, agriculture, infrastructure, education and financial services – to cultural and student exchanges, tourism and sport.

As Minister Crean said – Utsav Australia celebrates the business we have done together, the business we are now doing and the business we can do together in the future.

Jaqui Lane, CEO and Publisher, FOCUS

- Thank you Peter and to your Austrade teams in both Australia and India.
- Thank you again to our host tonight, Mrs Sujatha Singh and to your assistant, Anil Suri for all his support in organising the event tonight.
- Thank you to our Focus team, in particular, International Sales Director, Laurence Shaw who is here tonight and thank you to our International India Project Manager, Cem Ozturk.
- On behalf of Focus, thank you for attending the launch this evening and as Her Excellency stated in her Welcome note, “*we stand at present at a very exciting time in India-Australia relations*”, and tonight is a celebration of the growing bilateral relationship captured in *Australia-India: a deepening economic partnership*.

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