New Colombo Plan will Enhance Two Ways Relationship

This week marks the launch of the New Colombo Plan 2014 pilot program at Parliament House, Canberra. The New Colombo Plan pilot program will encourage a genuine two way flow of students between Australia and countries in the Asia pacific region. The number of Australian undergraduates heading to the other regions will be on the rise to complement the thousands of students that come to study in Australia each year.

“Eighty percent of the international student population in Australia are from the Asia Pacific Region. While many of them has chosen Australia as their study destination, one of the key challenges faced being an international student in Australia, is often the integration with their domestic counterpart”, said Thomson Ch’ng, National President of the Council of International Students Australia (CISA).

“Language and cultural barriers remain as key challenges”, he added.

CISA hopes that the opportunity for Australian students bound to Asia will help bridge the social gap and strengthen the engagement between current international students and their domestic counterparts in time to come.

“This pilot program will provide an experiential opportunity for a two-way exchange in cultures, beliefs, values, languages, ideas, skills and knowledge. It will be a golden opportunity for Australian undergraduate students to carve their international stories in this growing region”, said Mr. Ch’ng.

The New Colombo Plan was launched by the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Julie Bishop MP, in the presence of the Governor General, Her Excellency the Hon. Quentin Bryce AC CVO, who is the Patron of the initiative. Others present at the launch included Senator the Hon. Brett Mason, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, diplomats, and senior representatives from the tertiary education sector. The launch reflected the bipartisan support of the New Colombo Plan.
CISA looks forward to the implementation and the outcome of this pilot program that includes the participation of Japan, Indonesia, Singapore and Hong Kong.


About CISA
Formed in 2010, the Council of International Students Australia (CISA) is recognized as the national peak student representative organization for all international students in Australia. CISA is a not-for-profit, non-politically and non-commercially aligned organisation formed in response to the needs among international students for a unified voice. More information can be found at www.cisa.edu.au.

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