



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
VICTORIA

OPENING OF 2015 AUSTRALIA CHINA BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Saturday 31st October, 2015

Councillor Susan Riley, Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne

Mr SONG Yumin, Consul-General of the People's Republic of China

Dr Ruchong Ou, President of the Australia Chinese Association for Biomedical Sciences

Professor David de Kretser, AC, Former Governor of Victoria

Professor Peter Doherty, Nobel Laureate and resident academic at the University of Melbourne

Professor Anne Kelso, CEO of the National Health and Medical Research Council

Professor Zihe Rao, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Professor Hong Yan, Deputy President of Xi'an Jiao Tong University, China

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

First, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are gathering and pay my respects to their elders, past and present, and to any elders present with us this morning.

I am pleased to be here this morning to welcome you back to Melbourne for the 2015 Australia China Biomedical Research Conference.

This important conference highlights two important aspects of life in Victoria, both brought into sharp focus for me in these early months of my time as Governor.

The first is the strong relationship between China and Victoria. The second is the importance to our state of biomedical research and collaboration.

China is Australia's biggest two way trading partner. But that economic relationship is underpinned by our strong historic, government-to-government and people-to-people connections.

I now have a privileged perspective of those connections.

In 1979, Victoria and Jiangsu province commenced a sister-state relationship, a relationship that has flourished, and is one of the most enduring international relationships for both jurisdictions.

In July I was able to host over two hundred school students from Jiangsu Province as a part of the celebrations marking our 36 year relationship. Watching those youngsters with their host schools, teachers and families was a delight to behold. The cultural exchange, the language and the friendships will no doubt stand both Jiangsu and Victoria in good stead in the future.

Last month, I was pleased to welcome to Government House Ms Carrie Lam, Chief Secretary for Administration of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

And late in September I was able to host the Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Awards, which support educational exchanges of undergraduate and post graduate university students between Australia and Asia.

The very next day, I received a delegation from Yunnan Province, who came to Victoria seeking to begin a new friendship, and to find ways to work together into the future.

This 5th Australia China Biomedical Research Conference is very much a part of these strong ties that bind Victoria and China.

Victoria is recognised for its leading role in biomedical and health research.

In the course of this conference, you will hear from some of Australia and China's most renowned speakers across the fields of cancer research, immunology, cardiovascular and metabolic disorders as well as neurosciences and degenerative diseases.

Of particular interest to me is this conference's Young Investigator Awards. Open to current or recently completed PHD or MD students, the awards give these young scientists an invaluable opportunity to present their research to industry leaders in a poster session held during the conference.

I congratulate you on this initiative. What an outstanding opportunity you are extending, and what wonderful dividends we can expect, for both jurisdictions.

To those of you who have travelled far to be here today, we thank you and we welcome you to Melbourne, where we encourage you to explore the many treats this city has to offer, including a horserace that stops the nation on Tuesday. I note that your conference, I am sure coincidentally, finishes just in time for the Melbourne Cup. I hope some of you might be able to pause after the intellectual ferment of the next few days and enjoy what is truly a very special time in our city.

To all of you here, I wish you all the very best for a most successful conference.

Congratulations to the Australia China Association of Biomedical Sciences for organising the 2015 Australia China Biomedical Research Conference, which I now have the pleasure to declare open.

Thank you.