



# Questacon International Engagement

## Questacon is a significant cultural diplomacy asset for Australia

- Strong track record in international engagement
- Built into Questacon's activities from the outset due to the special relationship with Japan
- Excellent relationships with Canberra's diplomatic community
- Host to many international delegations
- Events with various Embassies and High Commissions
- Good working relations with UN
- Questacon supports initiatives from DFAT, AusTrade etc.



## Questacon is a significant science communication diplomacy asset

- Influential member of growing global science centre network
- Science centre capacity building in Indo-Pacific region
- Diplomacy through use of Questacon's portable science communication assets
- Flexible Science Circus model
- Travelling exhibitions and presenters
- Science communication training
- Significant international interest in *Inspiring Australia* national science engagement initiative



# Workshop for Educators

"Hands-up for hands-on:  
Working with Science Centres and Museums"

Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre,  
Bell Village

WEDNESDAY  
20 AUGUST  
2014  
10.00 hrs

University of Mauritius



by Professor G Durant, AM  
Director of Questacon  
The National Science  
and Technology Centre of Australia.

Theme:

**'Inspiring Australia:  
A National Strategy for Science  
Engagement.'**

Monday 18 August 2014  
Lecture Theatre 2, Ground Floor, Academic Complex Tower Block

# Mauritius

- 2014 Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Lecture delivered by Questacon Director
- Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre workshop for science teachers 'Hands-up for Hands-on'
- Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre talk to secondary school students 'A Crystal World'
- Seminar at University of Mauritius 'Inspiring Australia'
- Meeting Minister Jeetah
- Support from High Commissioner
- Significant media coverage



Mrs Abe and Mrs Abbott at Questacon



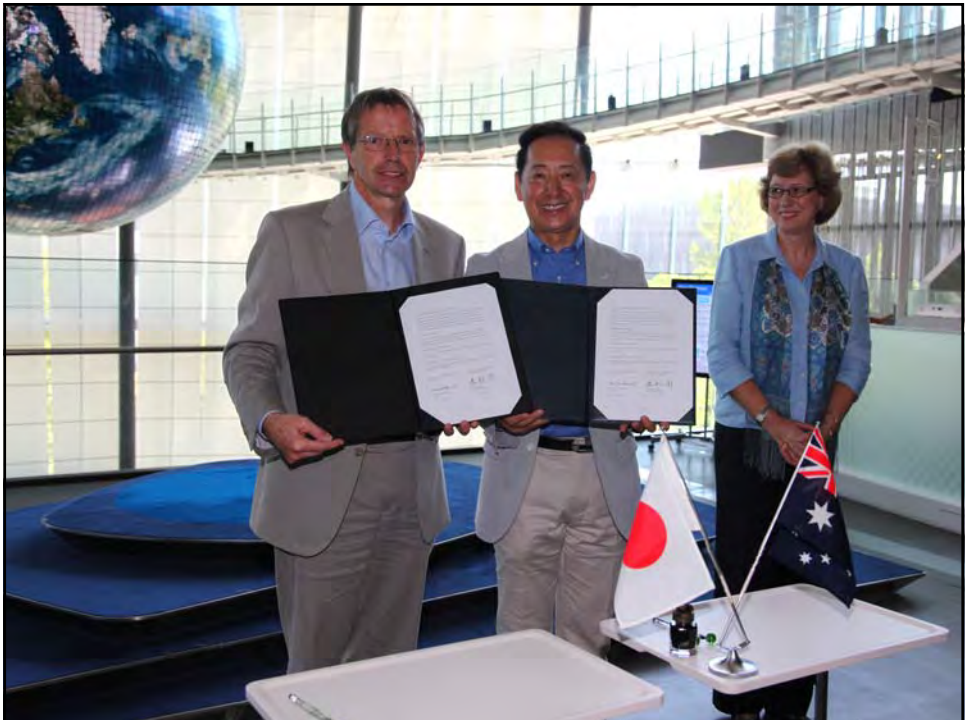
# 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of special relationship with Japan in 2014

- Mrs Abe, Mrs Akimoto and Mrs Abbott visit Questacon, August 2014
- Keidanren Japanese business delegation visits Questacon, July 2014
- Minister Macfarlane hosts 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at Questacon
- Questacon Science Circus tour to Japan, April-May 2014



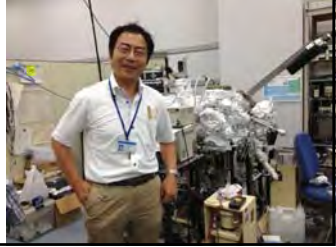
# Japan 2014

- 2014 Science Circus Tour to 5 locations in tsunami recovery areas
- Supported by Australia-Japan Foundation
- In partnership with Miraikan
- Opening events in Tokyo
- Special presentations at Minimisanriku in partnership with the Australian Embassy
- Morioka
- Kuji
- Aomori



# Japan 2013

- Special relationship with Miraikan and the national Museum of Nature and Science
- Questacon Director Professor Graham Durant and Questacon International Manager Craig Whelan part of the official delegation to Tokyo for the 2013 Joint Science and Technology meeting between Australia and Japan
- The official program included visits to JAXA and NIMS, Japanese research organisations who have presented talks and supported exhibitions at Questacon
- Craig Whelan visited Minimisanriku and other towns in the tsunami-affected region of north-eastern Japan on a planning trip for the 2014 Science Circus tour



## Business Partnerships

Niels Marquardt, CEO @amchamaustralia

- Maureen Dougherty @Boeing Australia
- Dr. Terry Stevenson @Raytheon
- Glenn Frankish @LockheedMartin
- Kirby Anderson @SEAustralia
- Christian Berner @shpbill



US Ambassador's Innovation Roundtable at Questacon



# USA

- US Ambassador's Innovation Roundtable held at Questacon, July 2014
- Business leaders, academics and students gather to discuss innovation and science education
- Australia's Chief Scientist professor Ian Chubb gives a keynote address.





# USA

- Presentations at Questacon by NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and JPL Director Charles Elachi
- *Mission Astronautica* school design challenge in partnership with NASA Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory astronaut training facility, Houston



# USA

- Questacon Director presents at 3 sessions at the 2013 ASTC Conference held at Albuquerque
- Visit to Explora science centre
- Partnership discussions at Exploratorium, San Francisco
- Visit to Tech Museum of Innovation, San Jose
- Visit to RAFT in San Jose to study programs and activities that support science teachers



# Vietnam

- Questacon science circus tour to Vietnam as part of the program to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of diplomatic relations
- 3-city science circus tour to Hanoi, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City
- Public exhibitions and science shows
- Teacher workshops
- Trained local university students as volunteer helpers
- Organised with the assistance of the Australian Embassy in Hanoi
- Supported by DFAT
- Further support from RMIT and University of Queensland
- The tour generated significant media interest





# Vietnam official program

- The Questacon Director participated in a four day official program alongside the science circus tour in partnership with the Australian embassy in Hanoi
- He had a meeting with Science Minister Quan during which gifts were exchanged
- Questacon donated an Emu illusion' exhibit for the first Vietnamese science centre and received a gem encrusted picture in return
- Professor Durant presented a science communication workshop to ministry officials in the presence of Vice Minister and a talk about educational activities in museums at a workshop opened by Culture Vice Minister
- Questacon presented several hands-on exhibits to the Women's Museum in Hanoi



# Vietnam

- Workshops on developing a National Science Week and Science in the Media for Ministry officials in Hanoi, July and August 2014
- 10 –person Vietnamese Ministry delegation spending 2 weeks in Canberra at ANU and Questacon, September 2014, for training in science communication



Questacon Advisory Council Chairman Leon Kempler visits Questacon exhibition on display at PP-IPTEK, Jakarta

# Indonesia

- Questacon Advisory Council Chairman Leon Kempler paid a courtesy visit to PP-IPTEK in Jakarta to view the Questacon *Strike a Chord* exhibition on display there
- Courtesy visit to PP-IPTEK, Jakarta by Questacon Director in 2011 to discuss cooperative capacity building project
- Former science circus scholar Pahia Cooper works as an International Youth Volunteer at PP-IPTEK, Jakarta
- Since 2012, Questacon has been supporting the PP-IPTEK science centre with capacity building workshops





# Indonesia

- Australian Deputy Head of Mission to Indonesia, Dr David Engel, officially opens a capacity building workshop on exhibit development with PP-IPTEK Director Dr Sukro Muhab and Questacon's Dr Stuart Kohlhaagen
- Former Questacon science circus scholar, and International Youth Volunteer Kate Barnard demonstrates topology with linked hands during the workshop
- 3 former science circus scholars have now supported the development of the PP-IPTEK science centre in Jakarta
- Follow-up workshops held in Canberra for 8 Indonesian science centre staff



Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn visiting the Questacon and Australian Education International booth at the Thailand National Science and Technology Fair Aug 2006.



# Thailand

- History of providing touring exhibits to National Science Museum, Bangkok
- Exhibition sales to Thailand
- Questacon retired volunteer providing science communication training at National Science Museum
- Visit to Questacon in 2014 by Prince
- Thai delegation discussions on science engagement and teacher development



# Singapore

- Exhibition development workshops at Science centre Singapore
- Videoconference linking science centres and school students in Singapore, China and Australia
- Presenting project work on theme of water management from the perspective of students in 3 countries
- Collaborative *ScenaRioS* project with Association of Science and Technology Centres
- Also working with United Nations Information Centre for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific in the context of the Rio +20 Summit





# China

- Questacon Science Circus presenters toured schools in each of the three cities in 2010
- Questacon supports the Australia Pavilion at the Shanghai Expo with 'Emu illusion' exhibits that were subsequently donated to science centres and museums in Guangdong, Shanghai and Beijing



# Brunei Darussalam

- Questacon's *Measure Island* exhibition opened at the Oil and Gas Discovery Centre in Brunei by Hj Suhaila Hj Abd Karim, Deputy Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Education
- Australian High Commissioner His Excellency Todd Mercer attended the opening



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HOME ASPAC 2014 REGISTRATION PROGRAMME ACCOMMODATION & TRAVEL USEFUL INFORMATION



Conference  
Details

The Oil and Gas Discovery Centre will be hosting the 14th Annual ASPAC Conference 2014. Bringing forward the theme "Building A Community Through Science".

[MORE INFO](#)



Conference  
Schedule

Comprising on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2014, the ASPAC 2014 Conference will be held at the Oil and Gas Discovery Centre and The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

[MORE INFO](#)



Conference  
Registration

Have your opinions on "Building a Community Through Science" voiced out during the conference. Be part of the show and register yourself now!

[MORE INFO](#)

# Brunei Darussalam

- Questacon-led pre-conference workshop at the 2014 ASPAC (Asia-Pacific science centre network)





# South Korea

- Questacon supports AEI in an expo to promote study in Australia with the 'Science on the Move' exhibition
- Questacon participates in ASPAC Conference 2013
- Pre-conference workshop on presenting science shows
- Presentation in conference sessions



## Other countries

- UNESCO approached Questacon to deliver some hands-on activities in Dili, 2003
- Questacon has provided advice to science centre staff in Malaysia, the Philippines, Oman and Taiwan
- Questacon book of simple science demonstrations is translated and distributed in Laos
- Questacon Director Professor Graham Durant is invited to undertake a peer-review of Madatech in Haifa, Israel
- Questacon Director joins Australia-Israel Leadership Forum led by Prime Minister Gillard



# Middle East

- Qwestacon is invited to participate at the Abu Dhabi Science Festival 2012
- There are frequent requests for support from various Middle Eastern countries
- Qwestacon provides advice to support the initial development of a science centre in Karachi developed by the Foundation for the Diffusion of Scientific Knowledge in Pakistan





# Africa

- Qwestacon and the Centre for the Public Awareness of Science at the Australian National University support a cohort of South African science centre personnel with an extended training course in Canberra
- Qwestacon and the Centre for the Public Awareness of Science at the Australian National University run a pre-congress workshop for 90 staff from 11 African countries on the occasion of the 6th Science centres World Congress held in Cape Town 2011



# Africa

- Questacon has significant involvement in the 2011 Science Centre World Congress in Cape Town
- This leads to the idea of Science Circus Africa to support science centre capacity building in Africa
- A 4-country Science Circus Africa pilot tour was led by Dr Graham Walker from the ANU in 2014 with support from Questacon
- The tour visited Botswana, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa
- The one presenter delivered science shows for 11,250 students over 4 weeks
- 125 local science show presenters received training during the tour
- SKA presentations delivered
- Support from Questacon Pilot for possible Science Circus Africa 5-country tour in 2015



Imagine if southern African student's science classes made them do this.



## EUROSCIENCE AT QUESTACON 14-18 July 2014

DISCOVER THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE  
OF EUROPEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY!



Australian  
National  
University



Presented in collaboration with the ANU Centre for European Studies.

# European Union

- Euroscience Week at Questacon July 2014
- Partnership with ANU Centre for European Studies
- Attended by several ambassadors and embassy staff members
- Follow-up discussions underway





# Netherlands

- In association with the Embassy of the Netherlands, Dutch marine archaeologist Professor Martin Mjanders presents a public lecture at Questacon



Science Centres World Summit  
Mechelen, Belgium, 2014

# Belgium

- Questacon represented at Science Centres World Summit 2014 in Mechelen
- Questacon staff member Brenton Honeyman on International Planning Committee for Summit and presenter at Summit
- Questacon Advisory Council member and Nobel Laureate Professor Brian Schmidt participates as a member of the Science Centres World Summit Honour Committee
- Jenny Odgers from Shell Australia presents about impact of Shell Questacon Science Circus



# UK

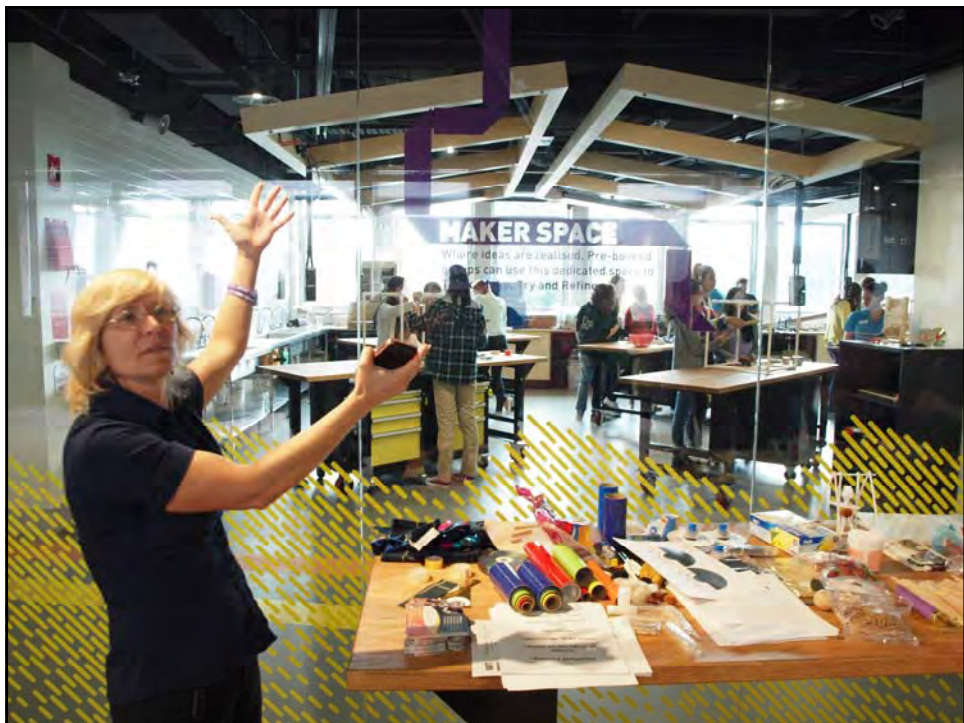
- Questacon displays 'Mechanics Alive' exhibition in 2008 supported by the British High Commission and opened by Her Excellency Helen Liddell
- Support through the Inspiring Australia grant introduces the *Famelab* postgraduate science communication program to Australia
- Questacon is working with British Council to expand *Famelab* program to Australian capital cities in 2015





# United Nations

- 2014 UN International Year of Crystallography national launch event at Questacon
- Questacon supports other UN initiatives such as the International Polar Year and the International Year of Astronomy
- Questacon is supporting the development of a program for the 2015 UN International Year of Light.



# International visitors to Questacon

- US science teacher educator Coral Clarke presents workshops for trainee teachers at the Questacon Technology Learning Centre
- Ugandan school visits Questacon and entertains visitors with a song in the Questacon Foyer
- Staff from the China Science and technology Museum in Beijing join the Shell Questacon Science circus for a fact-finding visit



# International visitors to Questacon

- NASA Administrator Charles Bolden presents a schools videoconference
- Vietnamese Ministry of Science and Technology delegation visit
- Vietnamese Science Minister Quan and delegation visit Questacon
- The Director of Japan's National Institute of Materials Science presents a talk about frontier research at Questacon
- Professor Makoto Asahima, Executive Director of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science presents a talk about Japanese science policy





# International visitors to Questacon

- National Youth Science Forum students link to CERN scientist Rolf Landua via a videoconference link from Questacon's Japan Theatre
- Paul Doherty, Co-Director of the Exploratorium Teacher Institute visited Questacon to help in the development of workshops for a tri-lateral science centre capacity building workshop in Indonesia
- Miraikan's Isao Yamasaki visits the Shell Questacon Science Circus on tour in south coast New South Wales as part of the preparation for the 2014 science circus tour to Japan



# Canberra diplomatic community

- Social events at Questacon for diplomatic families and friends
- Informal meetings at functions
- Visiting delegations
- Bilateral discussions about activities



# Questacon is a significant cultural diplomacy asset for Australia

- Through Questacon, Australia has a competitive advantage
- All countries are seeking to develop their economies through knowledge and skills
- Questacon is one of the world's most influential science centres
- The *Inspiring Australia* national science engagement strategy is the world's most coherent national program and of great interest to a range of countries
- These assets have significant potential for diplomacy through science and science education





## Questacon is a significant cultural diplomacy asset for Australia

- Questacon engages internationally to help build the science centre sector, for commercial reasons and to support Australia's diplomatic efforts
- In the absence of core funding for international engagement, Questacon has to have an opportunistic approach undertaking projects abroad and these inevitably have to be short term interventions
- Questacon cannot currently meet all of the international requests for help meaning that there is unrealised potential and missed opportunities for soft diplomacy