

# Japan-Australia Free Trade Agreement: How likely and who benefits?

Symposium involving  
**Professor Yukiko Fukagawa and  
Associate-Professor Ann Capling**

10:30 am – 12.30 pm, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2006  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Exchange Plaza

Prime Ministers Howard and Koizumi met in April this year to discuss a joint study into the feasibility of a bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The FTA also has a significance that extends beyond trade to geopolitical issues. Towards strategies that might maximise harmonious outcomes, key questions include:

- Is agricultural trade liberalisation a necessary stumbling block?
- What other sensitive trade and investment issues could prove stumbling blocks?
- Do regional political dynamics now work in favour of a comprehensive FTA?
- What are the implications of this FTA for leadership in multilateral institutions such as WTO and APEC by Japan and Australia?

## **Professor Yukiko Fukagawa, Waseda University**

*Yukiko Fukagawa* is a Professor in the School of Political Science and Economics, Waseda University. Apart from being a well published academic expert on trade issues, Professor Fukagawa worked on the Japan-Korea FTA from the beginning of the discussions in 1998. She has also been involved in various research projects on economic cooperation between Japan, Korea and China, including the official ones on the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) and potential FTAs. She holds an M.A. from Yale University (international economics) and a Ph.D from Waseda University (economic history). Her recent publications include *Korea-Japan FTA: Toward a Model Case for East Asian Economic Integration* (Korea Institute for International Economic Policy 2005).

## **Associate-Professor Ann Capling, The University of Melbourne**

Ann Capling is Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science at the University of Melbourne. Her main areas of expertise are Australian trade policy, the multilateral trade system, and global economic governance. Her recent books include *All the Way with the USA: Australia, the US and Free Trade* (University of New South Wales Press 2005), and *Australia and the Global Trade System: From Havana to Seattle* (Cambridge University Press 2001).

**The Asia Research Centre** at Murdoch University has established itself over more than a decade as an international leader in the study of social, political and economic dynamics within East and Southeast Asia.

This symposium is facilitated by the assistance of a 2006 Australia-Japan Year of Exchange Grass-roots Support grant.

Light lunch and refreshments provided. No charge for attendance but registration required by 31<sup>st</sup> July to Tamara Dent, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University on 9360 2263 or T.Dent@murdoch.edu.au