

Event backgrounder: Supporting brief for the launch of the Centres of Asia-Pacific Excellence

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
From:	Section 9(2)(a)
Date:	3 April 2018
Reference:	E/18/00162

Purpose

1. You are hosting the launch of the Centres of Asia-Pacific Excellence (CAPEs) on 11 April 2018. This briefing provides you with information about the CAPEs to support your attendance at the launch.

Background to the CAPEs

2. The CAPEs were established following Budget 2016 where \$59.75 million was allocated to fund three CAPEs over a six year period from 2017 to 2023. The funding included \$0.75 million for TEC's implementation costs and \$0.125 million for evaluation.
3. The purpose of the CAPEs is to contribute to the development of Asia-Pacific knowledge and language skills in New Zealand and to enhance economic, trade, political and cultural relationships with the region. The CAPEs are intended to excel nationally and internationally in their areas of expertise, and to ensure broad dissemination of knowledge and skills through collaborative processes. We monitor the CAPEs' performance using a Performance Measurement Framework (PMF).
4. The CAPEs must deliver on the following policy objectives:
 - a. More New Zealanders with appropriate language and cultural skills of the Asia-Pacific region.
 - b. Enhanced public awareness of the importance of the Asia-Pacific region.
 - c. Better understanding of how the study of Asia-Pacific languages and cultures leads to success in the region.
 - d. Enhance links between New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific region.
5. CAPEs will achieve this through initiatives such as educational programmes for small and medium enterprises wanting to grow their understanding of the Asian and Latin American markets. CAPEs will facilitate student and faculty exchanges and train language-capable graduates for New Zealand exporters, MFAT and other government agencies with posts offshore. They are intended to be the first port of call for education, research and information for students, academics, and businesses both in New Zealand and in the target countries.

6. The TEC carried out a competitive funding round in 2016/2017 to select the Universities that would lead the three CAPEs. The University of Auckland hosts the North Asia CAPE and Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) hosts the South-East Asia and Latin America CAPEs.

7. Funding allocations are as follows:

CAPE	Hosted By	Total Funding Amount
North Asia CAPE	University of Auckland	\$21.906m
Latin American CAPE	Victoria University of Wellington	\$19.204m
South East Asia CAPE	Victoria University of Wellington	\$18.640m
Total		\$59.750m

The CAPEs are now established and performing as expected

8. The CAPEs commenced on 1 July 2017. They spent the following six months in an establishment phase, establishing governance, management and staff structures; putting in place relevant systems such as financial management and reporting arrangements; clarifying stakeholder engagement plans; formalising delivery partner arrangements; and developing their business plans for 2018. The establishment phase ended on 31 December 2017. The CAPEs are due to report on the establishment phase on 30 April 2018.

9. Finalised business plans for 2018 were submitted to the TEC on 14 December 2017. Those plans have been agreed with the TEC and their implementation is underway. The TEC holds regular monthly meetings with CAPE directors to stay abreast of progress and to provide support or advice where necessary. The TEC is generally happy with the progress made by the CAPEs.

10. CAPE directors report that governance structures are now in place and staff positions are being filled, e.g. programme managers were appointed recently. CAPE directors also report that the CAPEs' website has been launched and initiatives and activities are underway, as noted below.

CAPEs' activities are showing positive initial results

11. This section describes CAPEs' activities, and provides examples of some of their achievements so far.

12. Supporting Business growth in each CAPE region of expertise:

- CAPEs provide short courses aimed at building business people's knowledge and cultural understanding to prepare them to operate and thrive in respective regions and markets.
- The Southeast Asia CAPE delivers the Southeast Asia tours aimed at providing first-hand experiences of South East Asia countries to help business people understand the business environment and opportunities in the region.
- All CAPEs provide networking opportunities to help New Zealanders engage with businesses from their respective regions.

13. Education Opportunities:

- This year six Māori university graduate students were awarded North Asia business scholarships. They travelled to Taipei City and spent six weeks at the National Taiwan University. They learned mandarin, established business networks and explored the cultural, historic and linguistic connections between Māori and the indigenous people of Taiwan. Those students have recently returned. Their videos and interviews describing the benefits of their visits will be made publicly available on the CAPEs website.
- The North Asia CAPE offers fully funded opportunities for first year students to study abroad for two weeks in China, Korea or Japan. The programme is open to all New Zealand students through a competitive application process.
- The ASEAN@50 Fellowships funds three to six leaders from ASEAN universities, research institutes, think tanks and businesses to undertake research and public engagements in New Zealand throughout 2018. These fellowships were delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- The Latin American CAPE partnered with Young Enterprise to send eight outstanding high school students to Sao Paolo in December 2017. Students were exposed to Brazilian peers, start-up companies and entrepreneurs.

14. Conferences, Business Workshops and Resources:

- The North Asia CAPE Secondary School Leadership Conference brings together secondary school students studying Chinese, Korean and Japanese for a one day language and culture conference at the University of Auckland.
- The CAPEs organise, promote and support Public talks, to heighten the public's awareness of the business opportunities in the regions covered.
- A number of resources are available to business and students via the CAPEs' website.

Risks and issues to be aware of...

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Tertiary Education Commission

3 April 2018

Hon Chris Hipkins

Minister of Education

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