

**CHINA AUSTRALIA LITERARY FORUM  
30 August – 2 September 2011**

**NSW Teachers' Federation Conference Centre, 23 - 33 Mary Street, Surry Hills**

In what promises to be an important literary encounter, ten prominent Chinese writers are to visit Sydney for in-depth discussions with their Australian counterparts, and those involved in the translation and reception of their works, in the China Australia Literary Forum, hosted by the University of Western Sydney's Writing and Society Research Group.

**The forum will consider the critical issues that define contemporary Chinese and Australian writing, and prepare the ground for the future exchange of resources and ideas.**

"We're bringing together top contemporary writers from China and Australia for three days of intensive discussion to understand what's going on in literature and publishing in each country, and to consider the potential, as well as the obstacles, for creative interaction", said Professor Nicholas Jose, Chair in Writing at the University of Western Sydney, and a distinguished novelist in his own right.

"This is the first time such a concentration of distinguished practitioners have gathered in this way in Australia. It's exciting to have an opportunity to really talk about what's happening and where things might go in future. Trade dominates Australia's relationship with China. Literature sheds light on the human stories that are just as important."

The China Australia Literary Forum is part of the 2012 Year of Chinese Culture in Australia program.

The Forum will feature a series of panel discussions between the Chinese and Australian writers, and two events open to the public.

The panel discussions will have as their themes 'Writing Across Borders', 'Contemporary Approaches to Literature', 'The Writer and Tradition', 'The Role of the Writer' and 'A Sense of Place'. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided for the discussions. Numbers are limited for this part of the forum and participation is by invitation only.

## Public Events

There will also be two public events: an evening of readings by the participating Australian and Chinese authors, and an Industry Forum focusing on new directions in Chinese and Australian literature and their respective markets. Both these events will be run in English and Chinese and are open to the public to attend, with RSVP essential. (Please refer to attached program.)

Professor Ivor Indyk, also of the Writing and Society Research Group, and the publisher of Giramondo books, points out that, “The symposium will use simultaneous translation so that Chinese and Australian writers can discuss issues of concern to them as writers with full understanding. It should be an excellent opportunity to trade influences and resources, and to open up common ground that might be explored more fully in the future, not only in writing, and in writer-exchanges, but in publishing too.”

**Confirmed Chinese participants include** novelists Zhang Wei (*The Ancient Ship*) and Mo Yan (*Red Sorghum*), new fiction writers Li Er (*The Magician of 1919*) and Sheng Keyi (*Northern Girls*), screen writer Zhaxi Dawa and poet Gao Hongbo, and more. See full list attached. Several of the Chinese authors will also be appearing in Melbourne Writers’ Festival events running on 2-4 September. See <http://www.mwf.com.au> for details.

**Confirmed Australian participants include** Judith Beveridge, Kim Cheng Boey, Lisa Gorton, Ivor Indyk, Gail Jones, Nicholas Jose, Julia Leigh, Michael Wilding, Shane Maloney, John Mateer, Ouyang Yu, James Bradley, Jane Pan, Jing Han and Alexis Wright.

See full forum program attached.

**For all media enquiries or requests for interviews, please contact Hannah Skrzynski:** [h.skrzynski@uws.edu.au](mailto:h.skrzynski@uws.edu.au)

## EVENT SPONSORS



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