

# 1<sup>ST</sup> NEW SILK ROADS WORLD FORUM 2018

## Summary Report

The 1<sup>st</sup> New Silk Roads World Forum successfully concluded on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The two-day Forum was held on 15-16 October at the modern city campus of Monash University in the heart of the City of Melbourne, Australia. The 2<sup>nd</sup> New Silk Road World Forum will be held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia in 2019. Dr Geoffrey Chow, Founder and Chief Strategist of the New Silk Roads World Forum handed over the Forum to Professor Dr Wilson Yong who as co-chairman of the steering committee accepted on behalf of the Kota Kinabalu delegation.

The Mayor of Kota Kinabalu, Datuk Yeo Boon Hai gave the keynote address in the morning of the first day of the Forum in Melbourne. The just concluded Forum in Melbourne this year had nine professors from various Australian states and from various countries. They acted as panel discussion moderators and speakers. Other highly qualified and experienced speakers from the academic world and the business world added to the depth and width of the discussions and conversations during the Forum.



Dr Geoffrey Chow (on the left), Founder and Chief Strategist of the New Silk Roads World Forum thanked the Kota Kinabalu Mayor Datuk Yeo Boon Hai (in the centre). He presented the Mayor some Australian mementos.

The Forum held six panel discussion sessions on various aspects of the New Silk Roads. In addition, there were three open and participatory roundtable sessions – the New Silk Roads Entrepreneurs Roundtable, New Silk Roads Women Roundtable and New Silk Roads Art & Culture Roundtable – they gave an opportunity to delegates to participate in intimate discussions of specific topics and issues.



Smiling and happy members of the New Silk Roads Entrepreneurs Roundtable



New Silk Roads Women Roundtable members seated at a table



New Silk Roads Art & Culture Roundtable members in serious discussion.

Conscious of what culture can do to enrich the New Silk Roads, we had a well-known Gu Zheng musician Ivan Ngan to play his own compositions at the Forum dinner. All present appreciated the beautiful music while enjoying dinner. Art displays by local Australian artists, and art from Sabah were enjoyed over wine and conversations throughout the two-day Forum.

Two spinoffs from the Forum were: the creation of the New Silk Roads Research Group and the New Silk Roads Sisterhood Project.



Those interested in research formed the New Silk Roads Research Group during the Forum

Each of the more than sixty delegates who attended the Forum had useful takeaways and some admitted they learned a lot about the New Silk Roads. Anecdotal feedback was very good. The New Silk Roads World Forum in Melbourne was considered a success. We hope to stage a bigger and even better event in Kota Kinabalu next year. All are welcome to attend in 2019.



## What Others Said About The New Silk Roads World Forum So Far

- “Thanks Geoffrey. And congratulations on a successful event, some very interesting discussions and points of convergence for many people I think”.

**Quoted by Professor Tim Winter**

*Professor of Heritage Studies, University Western Australia  
Western Australia.*

- “Thanks Geoffrey. It’s really encouraging to get such positive feedback from participants.”

**Quoted by Dr Damian Lee**

*CEO/MD, DRL Corporation  
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.*

- “Thanks Geoffrey. Congratulations on a successful meeting [forum] and I look forward to participating in future iterations!”

**Quoted by Professor Joseph Liow**

*Dean, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)  
Nanyang Technology University, Singapore.*

- “The pervading sense of goodwill towards this initiative was evident in the absorbed engagement of all participants. The panel speakers provided ample thought-provoking issues which ensured lively discussion during the breaks.”

**Quoted by Ms Ann Sathasivam**

*Partnership Coordinator  
Policy, Research & Social Justice Department, The Salvation Army | Australia*

- “Do let me know if you require any assistance for the next forum. Happy to help in whatever way possible.”

**Quoted by Dr Danny Ng**

*Lecturer in International Business  
School of Business and Law, Edith Cowan University, Australia*

- “Thank you, I really enjoyed Gu Zheng music for the dinner. It was pleasing to the ears and relaxing after a day’s forum.”

**Quoted by Dr Vanaja Karagiannidis**

*Senior Management Lecturer, Melbourne Institute of Technology*



- “Congratulations on the success of the event! You did a remarkable job.”

**Quoted by Professor Kriengsak Chareonwongsak**

*Chairman, National Building Institute of Thailand; Harvard Professorial Fellow  
Former Advisor to the Prime Minister and Former Member of Parliament of Thailand*

- “The round tables produced unexpected positive results and created opportunities for deeper relationship building. A very successful start to an annual event which holds bright promise for the future. Congratulations to all those involved in organising this event.”

**Quoted by Ms Ann Sathasivam**

*Partnership Coordinator  
Policy, Research & Social Justice Department, The Salvation Army | Australia*

- “I enjoyed the 1st Silk Roads World Forum held at Monash University City Campus on 15-16 Oct. 2018. The event was successful.”

**Quoted by Professor Paul Tae-Woo Lee**

*Director, Maritime Logistics and Free Trade Islands Research Center  
Ocean College, Zhejiang University, China.*

**Report written by:**

Mr Nick Chow  
Dr Geoffrey Chow, PhD

Dated: 20 October 2018