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CISA, ECC & iSTUDENT Organized International Student Forum in Sydney

Today the 27th of March 2013, the Council of International Students Australia (CISA) together with the Ethnic Community Council and iSTUDENT has organized an International Student Forum called 'My Study, My Career' in conjunction with the City of Sydney's Living in Harmony Festival 2013. This one of a kind forum is being held at Lower Town Hall, Sydney NSW, the state that caters close to about 200,000 international students.

CISA, ECC and iSTUDENT established that the objective of this forum is to enhance international student's awareness on local opportunities. The organizing bodies also found it essential to educate international students on strategies in engaging with local communities as well as to inspire international students to participate in various volunteering opportunities in line with developing their career skills apart from the much other essential intent to bridge gaps for international students studying in Australia.

Among the key speakers include the National President of CISA, Mr Aleem Nizari, Councillor Robyn Kemmis representing the Hon. Clover Moore, the Lord Mayor of Sydney as well as Mr. Matt Kean MP, Member for Hornsby representing the Hon. Victor Dominello MP, the Minister of Citizenship and Communities. This forum is targeted to all new, current and graduating international students studying at any tertiary education institutions including universities, private colleges, TAFE institutions as well as language centres.

The event coordinator, Mr Thomson Ch'ng stated that "People often communicate with each other via Facebook, Twitter and instant messaging system as we entered into the era of social media and technology, the International Student Forum 2013 will create a space of conversation for the international student community and also the engagement with the wider community, generating flows of information, perspectives and ideas exchanges on a range of issues concerning students especially on the topics of career and local opportunities."

"This forum came just in time to discuss on the report published by the International Education Advisory Council (IEAC) chaired by Michael Chaney. Much of the report concentrates on improving international student's experience in Australia as well as to ensure sustainability and high quality of Australia's International Education. Such a forum will promote good practice in social interaction between international students and domestic students and most importantly with the community." said Mr. Nizari, President of CISA.

The two sessions in this forum will focus on international student's local experience and career opportunities available. On the other hand, the forum was successful in bringing the relevant stakeholders who are involved in international education sector, working in close

ties with peak student representative bodies, community groups and tertiary education providers.

“Over the last few years, international student community has formed an important part of the culturally and linguistically diverse communities in New South Wales. ECC aims to continue its effort to engage and provide community support to fellow international students in New South Wales through partnership projects and events, such as the international student forum,” concluded Mark Franklin, Executive Officer of ECC NSW.

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