

Media Roundup Issue 36 (02/09/17 – 08/09/17)

1. US-China trade war over North Korea would hurt Australia: Bishop

03/09/2017

James Elton-Pym
SBS News Online

Australia should do what it can to prevent a trade war between its two biggest trading partners – the United States and China – in the wake of a North Korean nuclear weapon test, foreign minister Julie Bishop has said.

US president Donald Trump said he was “considering” stopping all trade with countries that do business with the isolationist regime, writing on Twitter on Sunday.

The trade ban would presumably apply to China, which is by far North Korea’s most significant trading partner.

“Clearly China and the US are major trading partners for Australia, so we want to avoid any kind of trade war between China and the United States,” Ms Bishop told SBS World News on Monday.

Read more:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2017/09/04/us-china-trade-war-over-north-korea-would-hurt-australia-bishop>

2. Corporate concerns over China tensions harming trade

04/09/2017

Glenda Korporaal
The Australian

Australian business leaders have urged the federal government to support China’s Belt and Road Initiative amid increasing concerns that political tensions between Canberra and Beijing could harm trade relations.

"In recent discussions I have had in Beijing, it is fair to say that there is a level of challenge in the relationship," John Denton, the chief executive of law firm Corrs Chambers Westgarth told *The Australian*.

"As seen from the Chinese perspective, there is a notable tenor coming from Australia which is emphasising the relationship with China more through a security lens than an economic lens," he said.

"There will always be friction in the Australia-China relationship as we are friends, not allies, and we operate with very different economic systems."

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/corporate-concern-over-china-tensions-harming-trade/news-story/c158d1a075000ebf99daddc95fa5f859>

3. End the isolation of Chinese students in Australia

04/09/2017

Alexander Joske

Sydney Morning Herald

In 1989, Liu Xiaobo rushed to Beijing to join student protesters at Tiananmen Square. He was a devoted fighter not just for the rights of pro-democracy students, but all Chinese people. When Liu said "I have no enemies", he meant it.

As the gunfire of the Tiananmen massacre died down, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate was urged by Australian diplomats to seek refuge overseas. He chose to stay in China and was soon jailed.

Liu became one of China's most devoted activists and intellectuals until his death last month after being denied adequate treatment for liver cancer.

Sadly, the spirit of protest, liberalism and human dignity that inspired Liu and the protesters of 1989 has all but vanished among Chinese students today.

Read more:

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/end-the-isolation-of-chinese-students-in-australia-20170902-gy9iv6.html>

4. Economists want Fulbright-style body to drive China exchanges

04/09/2017

**Rowan Callick
The Australian**

Top economists from Australia and China have decided to lobby their governments to set up a permanent Australia-China Commission to drive policy, research and scientific exchanges.

This would parallel the Australian-American Fulbright Commission that was set up after World War II to cement stronger links with the US.

The Australian and Chinese economists – led by Peter Drysdale, head of the East Asia Bureau of Economic Research at the Australian National University, and Zhang Xiaoqiang, director of the China Centre for International Economic Exchanges – believe that such a “well-resourced, independent” commission would “provide a new and positive point of reference in the relationship”.

The relationship’s health, they said after a recent forum in Beijing, “defies negative commentary and underscores the analysis” of the Australia-China Joint Economic Report published a year ago.

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/economics/economists-want-fulbrightstyle-body-to-drive-china-exchanges/news-story/03b0e049780c995dd6c46938bafac0c5>

5. Chinese online retail giant JD.com seeks Australian AI experts

04/09/2017

**Damon Kitney
The Australian**

China’s biggest online retailer, JD.com, is planning to recruit at least 100 Australian data scientists to supercharge its rollout of artificial intelligence technologies across its multi-billion-dollar empire.

Paul Yan, who oversees JD’s digital advertising and marketing business, said JD.com was in talks with a number of Australian universities to develop a range of AI technologies.

"My goal with my team is to try to recruit AI talent to JD. We have lots of AI projects happening at JD and we really need a lot of talent. We are trying to hire as much talent as possible," Mr Yan told *The Australian* during a brief visit to Australia.

"JD really likes Australia and we are selling a lot of Australian products on JD.com. Australia is a very important market for us," Mr Yan said.

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/companies/chinese-online-retail-giant-jdc-om-seeks-australian-ai-experts/news-story/4d056bfb3963f45f5b6419f15fb425c9>

6. ASX queries 50 Chinese companies on capital flows

05/09/2017

Nick Lenaghan & Su-Lin Tan
Australian Financial Review

The Australian Securities Exchange has asked around 50 Chinese companies listed on the stockmarket whether they are experiencing any issues transferring capital into or out of China.

The ASX query was prompted after one Chinese company suspended trading last week because it could not meet its August 31 deadline to lodge its half-year results.

Ding Sheng Xin Finance went into suspension on August 29 but did not cite the reason why it could not meet its reporting deadline in its company announcement.

While the ASX declined to identify the specific company involved or its issues, its suspension from trading spurred the ASX to seek assurance on whether other Chinese companies had any problem in funds transfers.

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.afr.com/real-estate/asx-queries-50-chinese-companies-on-capital-flows-20170905-gyb2tb>

7. China strategy for world rankings takes off

06/09/2017

Bernard Lane

The Australian

Tsinghua University has overtaken the University of Melbourne in *Times Higher Education's* global league table as China's strategy for world-class institutions bears fruit.

Greater China is also on the march, with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology outstripping the Australian National University, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong leaving behind the University of Sydney and the University of Queensland.

Oxford and Cambridge universities take the top two positions in today's league table, and most of the top 20 are from the US.

However, *Times Higher Education's* rankings director Phil Baty said "the big story this year is the continued rise of China, with two institutions in the top 30 for the first time, and other improvements from across Asia".

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/china-strategy-for-world-rankings-takes-off/news-story/2e8c03070893681809891a437e3e2d74>

8. Matthew Ng parole case to put spotlight on China's influence over Australia

07/09/2017

Tom Iggulden

ABC News Online

China's influence over the Australian Government will be questioned in the Federal Court today.

Chinese-Australian businessman Matthew Ng is challenging strict parole conditions put on him by the Government after his release from jail for fraud and embezzlement.

“Once you’re in Australia, Australian rules apply and they need to be applied in a fair way,” supporter Tom Lennox told AM.

Jailed in China in 2010 for 11 years, Mr Ng was transferred to Australia four years later under a treaty with Beijing.

He served another 18 months before being freed, but has since been subjected to onerous parole conditions, including a cancelled passport, monthly reporting to a parole officer and a requirement to seek permission to travel outside New South Wales.

Read more:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-07/matthew-ng-parole-case-china-australia/8880348>

9. Intellectual freedoms challenged by universities uncritical embrace of China

07/09/2017

John Fitzgerald

Australian Financial Review

Who would have imagined this time last year that international educational co-operation between Australia and China would generate so many headlines in 2017?

In March, Australian academic Feng Chongyi was prevented from leaving Guangzhou and subjected to interrogation. The matter reached the offices of the Australian Prime Minister and the Chinese Premier. In a number of separate incidents, Australian university lecturers have been denounced on Chinese social media for offending the patriotic sensibilities of their students. And in mid-August, an intimidating convoy of luxury sedans slowly toured the campuses of UTS and Sydney University bearing the slogan “anyone who offends China will be killed ...”.

It does not take much to offend China. One offending lecturer in Australia used a standard-issue map in class that varied from official Chinese maps of the contested China-India border. Another used a third-party document listing Hong Kong and Taiwan separately from China. A third lecturer was pilloried on social

media and on the web for displaying a message in Chinese and English that read “I will not tolerate students who cheat”.

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.afr.com/news/policy/education/intellectual-freedoms-challenged-by-universities-uncritical-embrace-of-china-20170903-gya1pk?btis>

10. Chinese students keen to stay at home

08/09/2017

Rowan Callick

The Australian

On Monday 18-year-old Li Yiran will attend the first lecture of her four-year business administration degree at Peking University.

She had considered joining friends to study in Australia but decided to stay in China because Peking “ranks at the top level, both within China and internationally”.

“Its academic quality can challenge any international peers,” she said.

Peking’s perpetual challenger for the top slot in China, Tsinghua University, has overtaken the University of Melbourne in *The Times* Higher Education’s latest annual global league table, published this week.

Tsinghua now sits at 30, only three spots behind Peking – which is usually rated China’s top university.

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/chinese-students-keen-to-stay-at-home/news-story/43b2ee8a95abf4938de2ead85b1424ee>

11. Aussie tech duo switch from Chinese property buyers to tourists

08/09/2017

Angus Grigg

Australian Financial Review

The Australian founders of a popular Mandarin-language real estate portal have launched their latest tech play, swapping Chinese property buyers for tourists heading overseas.

Andrew Taylor and Simon Henry, who started Juwai.com before selling out in January, have teamed up with the South Australian Tourism Commission to launch UWAI, an app for Chinese speakers going overseas.

Adelaide is the first city to be covered by the service, which went live on Friday with 850 businesses on its platform.

The app enables tourists to scan a QR code with their smart phone for Chinese-language information on landmarks, restaurants, shops and other experiences.

Read more (Paywall):

<http://www.afr.com/business/tourism/aussie-tech-duo-switch-from-chinese-property-buyers-to-tourists-20170908-gydkqe>