

## ABC Radio Australia celebrates 70 years broadcasting

Monday, 30 November 2009

**MELBOURNE – Radio Australia celebrates its 70 years of broadcasting to Asia and the Pacific with an event at its Melbourne headquarters on December the 1st.**

Radio Australia is the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's international radio and online service. Based in Melbourne it is a service of national importance.

For almost three generations Radio Australia has been providing a trusted Australian voice in Asia and the Pacific that connects regional audiences with high quality news, current affairs and impartial analysis of topical issues.

Now celebrating its 70th year, Radio Australia broadcasts in 8 regional languages providing education and information programs as well as a forum to explore important issues affecting the region.

Radio Australia CEO Hanh Tran says, "This historic occasion comes at a time of increased focus on the Asia Pacific region. We continue to evolve and change as the region develops. In the past 18 months, Radio Australia has launched the only English language FM transmission in Vientiane, Laos, to compliment our network of sixteen 24-hour FM transmissions, we've launched a short-wave service to Burma, developed an online space to communicate stories and experiences of young Indonesians and to top it all, Radio Australia has won an international award for the 'Most Creative Marketing Strategy' in delivering the only Pan-Pacific music competition to the Pacific."

On December 20th 1939 the voice of Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies was heard around the world as he opened Australia's first international broadcast with the now well-known quote, "The time has come to speak for ourselves".

Initially named 'Australia Calling', the first broadcast was aimed to serve Australian troops stationed in Europe and North Africa. At the end of WWII the service was renamed 'Radio Australia' and in 1950 became part of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (now Australian Broadcasting Corporation). Throughout the 50s, 60s and 70s Radio Australia played an instrumental role in providing high quality coverage of news and current affairs for the region.

We've been talking with our neighbours for 70 years.

[www.radioaustralia.net.au/70](http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/70)

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