

Mongolian or other Asians, but one Fijian woman was accompanying her Australian husband on a mining project. Pacific Islands wives, often of European men working in Asia, is a growing category.

International tourism for Pacific Islanders has been overwhelmingly to USA, Australia and New Zealand. But Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan are becoming popular destinations for travelling Islanders - especially from the Western Pacific.

Power relations

Pacific Islands in most cases set up diplomatic relations with Australia, New Zealand, North America and Europe, but the proportion of representation in Asia has steadily increased and continues to do so.

The strategic situation, which was polarised by the Cold War, is now fluid and uncertain. Until recently there was little contact between the Pacific Islands and Asia in military/strategic affairs. However these are developing, for good or ill. The most important is between Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, which has been characterised by intimidation and military incursions into Papua New Guinea pursuing Papuans who want independence; as well as cash bribery from the Indonesian commander to the former commander of the PNG force in his capacity of Minister for Foreign Affairs. A generation ago no Asian navy ships appeared in the Pacific, but now those of Japan and China are not uncommon and occasionally those of Indonesia, Korea and others.

Wider consultations on strategic affairs include the PASOLS (Pacific Army Officers Logistics Seminar) conference, the most recent of which is in Fiji in September 1999, involving representatives from the military forces of most ASEAN countries, and the Pacific coast of East Asia, with six independent nations of Oceania, USA and Canada.

[Oceania members of PASOLS are Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Asian members are Brunei, China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.]

The APEC security consultation network CSCAP has so far involved most Pacific Islands nations only

marginally, but they are expected to participate more fully in future.

Possibilities for the 21st century

Despite the Asian economic crisis, interaction between the Pacific Islands and Asia continues to grow. As with European penetration of the Pacific Islands, the early impacts are mainly in hardware: trade and technology. European software followed quickly, especially churches, which also provided the formal education for generations thereafter. Religious inputs from Asia will have a more difficult task confronting an established international religion. Mass media did not exist when Europeans flooded the Pacific, and it is likely to remain dominated from "the West" for some time, but on a slowly reducing scale. Nevertheless, East Asia seems destined to become an ever larger factor in trade, investment, immigration (and as a genetic component of the new populations), and political forces quite quickly, and in cultural issues more slowly.

On isolated Uvea (Wallis Island) last month a Polynesian educator told me "We came from Asia and we will rejoin Asia". Such a statement is still rare in the Pacific Islands, but he may be right.

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These include the Pacific Islander accountants and lawyers in international finance banks (the tax haven banks) in Hong Kong especially, and others in international agencies in Bangkok, Manila and elsewhere.

Pacific Islander airline pilots, aeronautical engineers, air traffic controllers and managers work for Cathay Pacific, Dragon Air, Royal Brunei, Singapore Airlines, and several other airlines and aviation authorities in Asia. People coming from Asia to the Pacific Islands in aviation roles are rare.

Missionaries. Hundreds of Pacific Islanders served as missionaries within the Pacific Islands in the 1800s. Pacific Islander missionaries began moving into Asia in the 1980s with Catholic priests, sisters and brothers serving in the Philippines. A few Pacific Islander Mormons have served in Asia, but the 'big push' came in the 1980s by the evangelical Protestants.

To give an indication of the extent of it I quote some examples of Cook Islander missionaries in Asia. The Cook Islands has a national population of only 16,000, so the proportion of Cook Islanders on missions in Asia is greater than the proportion of Europeans who ever served as missionaries in the Pacific, even at the height of the mission era. And Samoans and Tongans are said to be on missions in Asia on a much greater scale.

Tokerau Jim spent four years as a missionary in India, married an Indian, and is now back in the Cook Islands raising funds and recruiting others to return to India. Akakore Maki was a missionary in the Philippines for ten years, after training in Singapore. He married a Chinese doctor and they are now preparing to start a mission in China. Felix Tuariki spent years in India, Nepal and Indonesia. Taponu was a missionary in the Maldives for ten years. Volley Tangimetua was in Bangladesh for six years, married an American and is now in Singapore preparing for a mission in Myanmar. Henry George spent several years touring Asia in an all-Polynesian evangelical team of singers, dancers and dramatists working with youth groups.

Most missionaries are men, but Aroti Kimipi spent several years on mission in India and Bangladesh. She married an Indian and they are now evangelising in Japan. Sister Elizabeth is in charge of several Catholic schools in the Philippines.

Whereas most other Pacific Islanders going to Asia work in the capitals of the economic powerhouses on

the northeast coast, most missionaries work in the outback, in countries of little significance to the Pacific Islands. Also, for the Cook Islands (and possibly for other Island countries but I do not yet have enough data) most missionaries come from the small outer islands, not from the capital island (Rarotonga) where most people live. Cook Islander professionals in Asia, by contrast, come almost all from the main island. A higher proportion of the missionaries are marrying Asians than appears to be the case with the other categories.

Fishermen. Kiribati men were the first to be employed on Japanese tuna ships. The numbers have grown as have the number of countries employing them, mainly Japan, Taiwan and Korea. Most are Micronesian, some are Melanesian. Polynesians are few.

Sportsmen. Professional sport has become an avenue for young Pacific men, overwhelmingly Polynesians and Fijians. The sumo wrestlers - Samoans, Tongans and Hawaiians - had the greatest impact. When Samoan Salevaa Atisanoe (who took the Japanese name of Konishiki Yasokichi) retired, even the New York Times (23 November 1997) described him as one of "the most famous and even influential foreigners in Japan" and Fujiwara Sakuya (Japan Echo April 1998:42) said Konishiki enjoyed a higher profile in Japan than former US Vice President Walter Mondale who was the immensely respected and well known US ambassador.

Polynesian and Fijian footballers play professionally for Asian national and city teams throughout the East Asian corridor. The Hong Kong 7s takes teams from several Pacific Islands countries. A growing range of Islanders play in competitions in Asia, including FESPIC for disabled sports people.

The other direction has seen not so much Asian sportspeople as Asian sports. Sumo has taken on only in Tonga and Hawaii, but Asian-derived martial arts (Kung Fu, Taekwondo etc) are popular throughout the Pacific Islands.

Conferees. The wide-bodied jet and the growing incomes have generated meetings of hundreds of interest groups in the last 20 years. Businessmen, officials of government and inter-government agencies, church leaders, women's organisations, sports and cultural organisations are forming an ever denser network.

Wives. I was waiting to board a flight from Beijing to Ulaan Bataar. Almost all the passengers were

The demography of contemporary interaction

Asians in the Pacific Islands

Indenture of Asian workers ended in Fiji in 1918, and in New Caledonia and Vanuatu at the end of World War II. The 1980s saw new forms of indenture: Asian workers for garment factories, hotels, forestry, fisheries and other occupations. In the beginning mainly Filipino, now the largest numbers are from China. Others come from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, and most recently Vietnam and elsewhere. Illegal entry of Chinese and some other Asian people is becoming a problem for several Pacific Islands countries.

Since the 1960s another flow has been of business people, mainly from Japan, Taiwan and Korea.

Professionals tend to come from the English-speaking nations: India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Burma (Myanmar). In the 1970s church schools in Samoa began recruiting Christian teachers from Kerala in India, and Papua New Guinea began recruiting Filipino teachers. Neither expanded as much as intended, partly because many teachers had problems adjusting to conditions and partly to the quality of English of the teachers. But some recruiting continues. About 7,000 Filipinos now live in Papua New Guinea, mainly technicians, teachers and business people.

Vietnamese are relatively recent, working on Korean fishing boats in Pacific Islands waters, and as factory workers. One current rumpus is allegations of maltreatment of Vietnamese workers in American Samoa in a Korean garment factory which also hires from China, and has few Samoan staff.

The main flow of tourists to the Pacific Islands was from Euro-America, now most tourists to the Pacific Islands are Asian. Over 85% of tourists to Micronesia are Japanese, Chinese or Korean. The most recent inflow is from Vladivostok and Sakhalin. For Hawaii too, most foreign tourists are from Asia. To the South Pacific (which has a much smaller tourist industry) the number from Asia is growing, although still a minority, with direct flights to Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tahiti.

Japan Overseas Volunteers are mainly in technical roles. Korea, Taiwan and China have also sent tech-

nical staff on volunteer-type projects, and United Nations Volunteers has many Asian staff in the region. Volunteers benefit both the sending and the receiving country.

Criminals from Japan, China and Korea are becoming a major issue in several countries, especially in Micronesia, Melanesia and Hawaii, where Asian interests are strongest and pickings richest. The main foci are in tourism and tourist services, money laundering, illegal immigration and the drug trade.

Pacific Islanders in Asia

Arts, literature and material culture. The first Pacific Islands entertainers to go to Asia were probably Hawaiians performing in Japan especially, before World War II. Sustained performances from the South Pacific began in the late 1960s and have performed regularly in Japan ever since. They are spreading to Taiwan and beyond.

Anhui University in China began publishing Chinese translations of dozens of books and stories by Pacific Islanders over 20 years ago. They may not have much impact on a population of 1.2 billion, but they create pools of awareness, as do similar translations into Japanese from the 1980s. The few Asian books in Pacific libraries are mainly donated by Asian embassies.

Those who have driven along the highway south of Miyazaki in Japan will remember feeling that you are back in Easter Island, not only because of similar terrain, but with all the Easter Island statues in place at the theme park.

Exhibitions of Pacific Islands art have now been held in all major countries of Asia. Pacific Islands collections in Asian museums are generally recent, except for Japan, but growing. At least two theme parks in Japan feature Easter Island statues and Pacific cultures.

Teachers. There may be as many Pacific Islander teachers in Asia as there are Asian teachers in the Pacific Islands. In every other category men are the majority but Pacific Islands teachers going from the Pacific to Asia seem to be mainly Polynesian women who had emigrated to Australia or New Zealand and joined those countries' teacher exchange programmes with Japan, Korea and Malaysia.

Other Pacific Islander professionals are found in the international nodes where they can work in English.

source. Brunei now offers scholarships to Melanesian students of mining engineering - especially oil and gas.

Japan has a college in Kiribati giving a year of full time training for young men preparing for work on Japanese tuna ships.

However, today more Asians are being educated in the Pacific Islands than Pacific Islanders are being educated in Asia. However, they choose extensions of Euro-America in the Pacific. Thus the University of Guam and the College of the Northern Marianas (which plans to assume university status shortly) attract a growing share of their students direct from Asia. Some universities in Hawaii and New Zealand also recruit students from Asia. The first example south of the equator (except for Australia and New Zealand) is the University of Central Queensland which in 1998 set up a campus in Fiji to offer an Australian syllabus at lower cost than in Australia, mainly for students from Asia.

Perhaps the largest number of Pacific Islanders who meet with Asians, other than as workers in tourism, are students in Hawaii. The Mormon Brigham Young University and the YWAM University of the Nations both attract hundreds of Asian and Pacific Islands students and interaction is close, but others meet at many universities in Hawaii. The next largest educational interaction of Pacific Islanders with Asians is in New Zealand and Australia.

Apart from formal education the flow of information and ideas from Asia is limited, although Indonesian, Japanese, Filipino and Malaysian television is received in western Melanesia and western Micronesia, Asia-Pacific Business News is rebroadcast on a number of stations, and the Asia-Pacific programme of CNN also enhances awareness of events, politics and culture in Asia.

The concept of an Asia-Pacific region

The 40 or so United Nations agencies, the Olympic Movement, the World Council of Churches and dozens of other organizations divided the world into regions for administrative convenience. Each region contains hundreds or thousands of millions of people. Where to put Oceania with only 30 million including Australia? Despite its vast area, Oceania's population is only sub-region size in this framework so it was attached

to Asia by extending the name to Asia-Pacific. That forced every programme - intergovernmental, NGO or other - to involve the Pacific Islands in all activities involving Asia. As none of the more than 40 Asia-Pacific organisations has its headquarters in the Pacific, the traffic is mainly one-way.

Asia-Pacific has a payoff for the travel industry, so even Hair Asia-Pacific (an organisation of hairdressers) gets its main sponsorship from the airlines, as well as from suppliers of beauty products.

The Austronesian region is being revealed in ever finer detail by archaeological, linguistic and genetic research. Applied use of the concept of an Austronesian region is new. One new manifestation is the very successful Festival of Austronesian Cultures held in Taitung, Taiwan, and involving Pacific Islander and Southeast Asian participants. It is destined to grow.

Common interests - the NGOs

The number of NGOs linking Asia and the Pacific Islands is now in the hundreds. Most have formed (or the Asia-Pacific linkage between them has formed) in the past 30 years, but the Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Organisation (PPSEAWA), formed in 1928, is still active.

Japanese have led NGO relations with the Pacific Islands. This was not because of government funding, in fact Japan only began subsidising selected NGOs in 1989. At least 56 Japanese NGOs deal with the Pacific Islands only or with the Pacific Islands as part of the Asia-Pacific region.

Sister cities was a US initiative in 1956, since extended to sister towns, regions, provinces and states. Few Pacific Islands towns and cities got involved, but Japan and China have in recent years been promoting sister city relations with Pacific Islands nations, involving exchanges of mayors, officials, teachers, media people, school children and others.

Few people are aware just how extensive the network is or how fast it has grown and continues to grow. My tentative list contains 118 Asia-Pacific NGOs, including global NGOs that have a distinct Asia-Pacific programme and headquarters, but I expect that the total is closer to 400.

Kiribati claims about 6% of its people are Baha'i, the highest proportion of Baha'is in the world.

Missionaries from outside the Pacific were almost all European and Christian, but increasingly Catholic priests, brothers and sisters are coming from the Philippines and India, and even a few from Japan. Evangelistic Protestants come from Korea and elsewhere in Asia.

Some aspects of what are regarded as "Asian values", such as emphasis on economic use of time, savings and investment have little parallel in the Pacific Islands, but some political values such as respect for authority and tolerance of corruption have some resonance in some Pacific Islands nations. Asians who deal with the Pacific Islands try to discover the secrets of 'The Pacific Way', and are generally disappointed to find that its main function is to privilege whatever views are expressed by Pacific leaders in any context.

Language

Indonesian, being learned by the Papuans of Irian Jaya, is the only instance so far of a Pacific population learning an Asian language today. Many older Micronesians learned Japanese at school in the 1930s, but few young ones know it - and I am surprised how few are learning it. It is taught as an option in a few high schools in most Pacific Islands countries, often by Japanese volunteer teachers or private schools such as Fusikawa school in Fiji, training travel industry workers to look after Japanese tourists.

Few other Pacific Islanders have acquired Asian languages. Chinese (Mandarin) is taught mainly to Chinese and part-Chinese students. In Fiji, a small percentage of non-Indian people speak Hindi, and they mostly have a working rather than a full knowledge.

Some Japanese academics have learned a Pacific Islands language, but exceedingly few others from Asia.

For the foreseeable future, English will be the main language of communication between Asia and the Pacific, but the number of Pacific Islanders with a command of one Asian language is growing slowly.

Sports and expressive arts

The Indian Cultural Centre's dance team toured the

region from its base in Fiji in the 1970s and 1980s. It was well received, but it closed after the 1987 coup and has not re-opened. The only other artist/entertainers I am aware of from Asia have been Chinese acrobats who follow Chinese diplomatic missions.

Education, information and ideas

Throughout the colonial era students went for higher education mainly to the colonial power. The only students sent to Asia were Micronesians from the Japanese colonies until the early 1940s.

The post-independence movement of students to Asia started in the 1970s when Japan began offering scholarships. Japan remains the most important source of education for Pacific Islanders in Asia. It ranges from two week home-stays in Fukuoka for over 100 children 11 years of age from all over the Pacific Islands, every year, through JICA technological courses for a few months for hundreds of Pacific Islanders every year, to doctoral and post doctoral studies for a few.

India in the 1970s gave post-graduate scholarships, but that did not last as the students found the allowance inadequate, the conditions onerous, and the foods too different. India is now resuming that program, probably revised to be more attractive. USSR, which has the longest Pacific coastline of any of the 42 nations that border the Pacific, also offered scholarships. Few were taken up and only two completed their studies, both Fiji Indian doctors. One Papua New Guinean wrote a book bitterly attacking the severe conditions, intrusive monitoring, and pervasive thought control. Russia may not resume offering scholarships to the Pacific Islands for some time, although the Far Eastern University in Vladivostok wants to begin exchanges and already has a little interaction with Pacific universities.

Malaysia expanded its program for Pacific Islanders (especially Fiji given their special relationship). There are a few in Thailand at the Asian Institute of Technology and Thai universities, and in the Philippines at the Asian Institute of Management, at theological universities (especially Ateneo), on short courses with the Asian Development Bank, or privately with Philippines universities. As a low cost, English-speaking, Austronesian country close to the Pacific Islands, the Philippines could become an important educational

mainly. That was not known by Islanders, or by Asians or Europeans until recently. But with the Asia/Pacific Islands connection being revealed in increasing detail by archaeology and linguistics, it is beginning to have cultural and political significance. It is likely to have a lot more.

One feature is the emerging awareness of "Austronesianness" for Polynesians, Micronesians and many coastal Melanesians, along with many peoples of Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia, and the Aboriginal people of Taiwan. Genetic research showing that most Taiwanese have Austronesian blood is likely to be significant for them and for other Austronesians. There may also be a connection to Jomon (Ainu) Japanese.

Current influences of Asian immigrants during the colonial era

The first modern Asians to spread throughout the Pacific Islands were sailors on European ships - especially Indians from Goa and Pondicherry, and later some Malays and Chinese. Next were the plantations workers and miners, mostly indentured for several years work, but many chose to remain. These included Indians to Fiji; people from various parts of the Pacific coast of Asia to Hawaii; Chinese to almost everywhere; Indonesians and Vietnamese to New Caledonia and Vanuatu; Japanese to Micronesia. Next came the small traders, mainly Chinese and Japanese, but also Indian in Fiji.

The descendants of those who came as, or who became, traders and officials, are forging some of the most important relations with the countries of origin today. Thus the main trade between India and the Pacific is facilitated by Fiji Indians. Almost the only trade with Vietnam is via the children of Vietnamese workers who came before World War II. Much of the linkage with China is via Chinese and part-Chinese in the Pacific. And north of the equator, part-Japanese are prominent in trade with Japan.

In international politics this trend is equally marked. The only head of government from Oceania who is received by the Emperor and treated far above the normal level for a leader of a country even many times that size, is President Kuniwo Nakamura of Palau, whose father was Japanese. Palau gains much from this relationship. The first President of the Federated States

of Micronesia, Tosiwo Nakayama, was likewise half Japanese, and other Micronesian heads of government have been also. Sir Julius Chan, twice Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, whose father was Chinese and mother Melanesian, has long had business connections with China and as Prime Minister cultivated political relations with China. One of his sons works there. The fact that a leader is partly of a certain heritage does not necessarily mean that he will use the connection for national or commercial advantage, but in many cases he does.

The hardware of current Asian interaction

Trade and technology

Trade is mainly the exchange of manufactures from Asia for primary products from the Pacific Islands. The exports are mainly minerals and timber from Melanesia, fish mainly from Micronesian waters, pearls and produce from Polynesia. Mineral exports are likely to expand, but timber will shrink because it is being extracted beyond sustainable rates. Fish exports may grow, but maintaining sustainability will be difficult.

Technology was imported almost exclusively from Europe and its extensions. Now it is increasingly from Northeast Asia. Asian cars and electronics replaced Euro-American from the 1960s. The scale is now moving to ships, which for a long time were bought second hand out of Europe, but such vessels are no longer available and shipowners are turning to Asia. Air Fiji includes Chinese Harbins in its fleet, as does Air Kiribati. Growing proportions of food, garments and construction materials are also coming from Asia.

Trade with Asia is not well reflected in the statistics because many Asian manufactures enter the Pacific Islands as imports from Australia or USA because firms in those countries have the franchise for proprietary items for the whole Oceania region. Nevertheless, Japan alone accounts for about 30% of trade with the Pacific Islands, including nearly half that of Solomon Islands and Tonga, and nearly one third of that of Papua New Guinea. Direct imports have increased along with increased shipping and air services.

Air services between the Pacific Islands and Asia were virtually non-existent for decades after those with

USA, Europe, Australia and New Zealand were established. But the 1980s saw a swing to Japan, then Taiwan, Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore. A company is awaiting landing rights from the Government of India to fly from Fiji to Singapore, India and London. By 1994 there were 20 direct flights from Guam and Saipan to USA (including Hawaii), but 221 a week - 11 times more - to Asia. The same trend, at a smaller scale, is evident throughout the region.

Despite the Asian economic crisis, the East Asian Corridor is the fastest growing source of commercial interaction with the Pacific Islands. Exports of Pacific produce and manufactures are skewed by preferential trade access and in some cases guaranteed prices far above world market rates, but neither will last. Preferential trade with Europe (under the Lome convention), with Australia and New Zealand (under SPARTECA and other agreements), and with USA (under various preferential agreements) is already shrinking. Most concessions are likely to disappear as the World Trade Organisation strengthens. On a "level playing field", exports to Asia are likely to expand - although Asia may pay lower prices than they now get.

Investment

Japanese investment was substantial and unchallenged in Micronesia during its period as the colonial power. Investments from elsewhere in Asia were almost non-existent, though Indian entrepreneurs in Fiji and Chinese entrepreneurs in many countries had small investments built up from savings and hard work. Today, East Asian investors (mainly Japanese, Chinese and Korean) are prominent in fishing, logging, hotels, tourist services and construction. A small but growing share of mining interests in the region are Asian owned. Air New Zealand, the largest operator in the South Pacific islands, now has Chinese Malaysians as its main owners.

The software of interaction

The sovereignty market

As elsewhere, trade used to be all in goods. Now it is increasingly in non-material rights, and in services. Perhaps the biggest resource the smaller Pacific Islands nations have for sale is sovereignty. Many Asian ships

are registered in Vanuatu or the Marshall Islands. Many Asian companies are registered in tax havens in Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Vanuatu or elsewhere. Thousands of Asian people carry an 'extra' passport from a Pacific Islands nation. Tonga's main client for satellite spaces and services seems likely to be China and other nations of Asia. Japan is building its space shuttle landing station in Kiribati, where both China and Japan already having space tracking stations.

Another major sovereignty product is votes in international forums. Pacific Islands consumers have to pay private owners in the industrialised nations for patent rights and franchises, whereas governments in the industrialised nations pay the Pacific Islands in aid for votes in the 40 or so international agencies, from the United Nations General Assembly to the specialised agencies. Until a decade or two ago these votes were cast more on principle, now increasingly on conversion value to benefits to the nation (or to the decision-maker personally!). For example, the reason Japan is allowed to continue whaling is because Japan 'bought' the votes of enough small Pacific and Caribbean countries. Similarly Japan spent a lot of resources getting its man as regional Asia-Pacific head of WHO. This process goes on all the time.

Votes are a major factor in the market for foreign aid. Japan is the largest aid donor to the Pacific Islands and the Pacific Islands vote is cast for Japan more than for any other Asian nation.

Ideology, religion and values

Maoism was a minor titillation in academia, but it evaporated. Few Pacific Islanders adopted Asian religions or are much influenced by them, except for Islam. There are now one or more mosques in most Pacific Islands nations, whereas there were none except in Fiji a few years ago. The new mosques are used both by Asian Muslims and by Pacific Islander converts, of whom there were almost none until recently.

Hindu Indians, Buddhist Chinese and Shinto Japanese did not try to teach their faiths in the Pacific or seek converts to them. The Hare Krishna Movement swept through Pacific capitals in the 1980s but soon faded. The Baha'i faith, from origins in Iran, is established throughout the region in small numbers, and

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Overview

Periods of significance, each of which builds on the previous ones, are

1. The Papuan/Aboriginal period from up to 50,000 years ago
2. The Austronesian period from about 4,000 years ago.
3. The West European period from about 400 years ago, with which we might distinguish between:
 - a. The early impact of European technology, disease and belief
 - b. The period of colonial government - which averaged about 100 years
 - c. The post-colonial period from say the 1970s.
4. The East Asian period from the year 2,000 onwards.

Regions of Asia of most significance for the Pacific Islands are:

1. Most important by far is Coastal Northeast Asia - ie. the northern half of the East Asian Corridor, from Kaohsiung to Vladivostok, but mainly Japan, Korea, coastal China and Taiwan.
2. South East Asia - especially Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
3. West Asia - especially India.
4. The rest.

Regions of Oceania of most significance to Asia

1. Australia, New Zealand and Hawai'i
2. Micronesia for tourism, tuna and access to USA
3. Melanesia for minerals, timber and other primary resources
4. Polynesia (excluding Hawai'i and New Zealand) for sovereignty purposes.

Topics of most significance in the Asia-Pacific Islands relationship

1. Raw materials for Asia (minerals, fish, timber, agricultural produce)
2. Asian investment and manufactures for the Pacific Islands
3. Asian aid for the Pacific Islands
4. Pacific Islands sovereignty rights eg. Pacific Islands votes for or against Asian nations or interests in international forums; sale of passports (including diplomatic ones), tax havens, flags of convenience for ships, aeroplanes, satellites, Internet domain names, telecommunications country codes etc.

The Significance of the Past for the Future

The coming political value of common ethnic heritage

Pacific Islanders originated from Asia exclusively or