Attitudes towards Asia: New Zealand, Canada and Australia compared

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Introduction

• Three polls, from 2011
  – Asia New Zealand Foundation
  – Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
  – Lowy Institute for International Policy, Australia

• Comparing warmth

• Importance to future

• Asian investment

• China/India as a threat

• Part of Asia?
The perceived importance of other regions to New Zealand, including Asia, in 2011.

% important to New Zealand’s future (4 or 5 out of 5)

- **Australia**: 86% (2010) vs. 88% (2011)
- **Asia**: 77% (2010) vs. 83% (2011)
- **Europe + UK**: 66% (2010) vs. 69% (2011)
- **North America**: 56% (2010) vs. 59% (2011)
- **South Pacific**: 43% (2010) vs. 51% (2011)
- **South America**: 24% (2010) vs. 31% (2011)
- **Africa**: 9% (2010) vs. 16% (2011)

Statistically significant increase at the 95% confidence level
Please rate your feelings toward people from this country, with 100 meaning you feel very warm and favourable, and 0 meaning you feel very cold and unfavourable.
Warmth comparisons

- **China**: NZ, 70, Australia, 54, Canada, 47
- **Japan**: NZ, 76, Australia, 64, Canada, 61
  - **India**: NZ, 69, Australia, 55, Canada, 51
  - **Singapore**: NZ, 74, Australia, 69
  - **Malaysia**: NZ, 71, Australia, 60
  - **Indonesia**: NZ, 65, Australia, 54
  - **Vietnam**: NZ, 69, Australia, 61
- **Canada**: *Southeast Asia*, 51; Australia, 78 [doesn’t ask about New Zealand]
Importance to future

• New Zealand’s future/Canada’s “economic prosperity”
  – North America (59%)/US (77%)
    – Asia (69%)/China (44%), Japan (25%), India (16%), Southeast Asia (13%), South Korea (8%)
  – But, perceived importance of Asian countries to Canada’s prosperity is in decline
Asian investment

- NZ: 74% agreed good for NZ’s economy that companies in Asia invested in New Zealand’s businesses
  - 29% agreed that New Zealand is allowing too much investment from Asia; 42% disagreed.

- Canada: 55% believe Canada would benefit from more Asian investment (cf. 59% in 2010)

- Australia: 57% of Australians said that the Australian government was allowing too much investment from China (cf. 50 percent in 2009).
China as a threat

• 60% of Canadians believe China’s growing military power is a threat to the Asia Pacific region, cf. 29% of New Zealanders, 46% of Australians

• 33% of New Zealanders said that NZ *would* be harmed if China gained more influence in the world

• 33% of Australians said that Australia *would not* be harmed if China gained more influence

• 43% of Canadians said that ‘the growing importance of China as an economic power is more of an opportunity than a threat’
India as a threat

• ‘The growing importance of India as an economic power is more of an opportunity than a threat’
  – 52% Canadians
  – 22% New Zealanders (“if India gained more power and influence in the world”)

• India will become a military threat
  – New Zealanders: To New Zealand (19%)
  – Canadians: To the Asia Pacific region (39%)
Part of Asia?

- Is New Zealand part of Asia?
  - In 2011, 22 percent said ‘yes’

- Is Canada part of the Asia Pacific?
  - In 2011, 26 percent said ‘yes’ (cf. 30% in 2008; 29% in 2012)
  - British Columbians, in particular, identify strongly with the Asia Pacific region.
  - Younger Canadians have significantly warmer views of Asian countries such as China, India and South Korea but notably cooler views of the United States and Britain.