



#### **Plenary 1 - Population and Policy in Australia's Future** **Napier 102 Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 9-10.30 am**

***The Regional Context of Australian Population Policy***  
**Professor Gavin W. Jones, National University of Singapore**

Australia's population policy issues are very place-specific, yet they are set in a changing international context which raises some interesting and important questions. This paper will focus on the international setting, with particular emphasis on Asia. It will examine the recent decline to ultra-low fertility in some Asian countries, and raise the issue of whether there is anything in Australia's economic-social-cultural-institutional make-up that will prevent Australian fertility sinking to such low levels. The paper will also examine the impact of the stalling of labour force growth as a result of fertility trends in these countries on human resource development policy, including policy to attract skilled labour. Population mobility is surely one of the domains in which the term "globalization" can be given real content. And movement of skilled labour is where the action is now firmly centred. Aspects of Australia's migration and human resource policy will be deeply affected by the realities of population mobility and policy affecting mobility throughout the world. A key question is whether Australia is playing in a zero sum game, or whether there is scope for collaborative approaches to the supply and demand for skilled workers.