

# Asian future in the spotlight

AUSTRALIA'S changing role in Asia in the context of the emergence of China and India will be the centrepiece of the third Future Summit, supported by *The Australian*, to be held in Brisbane next month.

Speaker Kenneth Courtis, from Goldman Sachs Asia, said the rise of China and India was reshaping the Asia's economic and political order, with important implications for Australia.

"At this very moment we are witnessing an unprecedented emergence of new wealth and a massive shift in the dynamics of global consumption to Asia," Mr



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Courtis said. "It is also a period when some see the re-emergence of China — and perhaps later India — not just as drivers of the world economy but also as threats to the maintenance of the standard of living in the west,

including in Australia."

The Brisbane conference, to be held on May 11-12, is being organised by the Australian Davos Connection, whose chairman, Michael Roux, said other topics to be discussed included global warming, public health and international safety.

Speakers will include Alexander Downer and Kevin Rudd; India's High Commissioner in Australia, Prabhat Prakash Shukla; demographer Bernard Salt; and executive committee member of the Islamic Council of Victoria, Waleed Aly.

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