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From: Kok Cheng TAN [tan@intracen.org]  
Sent: Wednesday, 14 May 2008 10:00 PM  
To: Committee, EM (REPS)  
Cc: tan@intracen.org  
Subject: Submission

From: Kok Cheng TAN  
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To: The Committee Secretary, JSCEM

Dear Sir,

Please accept this submission for the JSCEM's  
Inquiry into the 2007 Federal Election.

Apologies for the other message sent in error  
as I hit the return button too quickly.

I first went to Australia in 1975 as a student  
and was one of the lucky few to obtain  
permanent residency. I gave up my Malaysian  
citizenship to obtain Australian citizenship  
so it was a conscious choice to become an  
Australian.

In 1990, I left Australia to join one of the  
United Nations organizations based in Vienna,  
Austria and have been working with the UN  
system since.

The only reason I left Australia was for  
employment reasons and my plan is to return to  
Australia once I hit retirement age.

Before the internet age, I used to keep in  
touch with what is going on through friends  
and the newspapers sent to the Australian  
missions overseas. Nowadays with the  
internet, I make it a point to read the online  
Sydney Morning Herald every morning.

I have two children born overseas and both  
are Australian citizens by descent. Together

with my wife we come back to Sydney every two years, both to keep in touch with my friends and to acquaint my children with their home country.

I have an apartment in Sydney and bank accounts and my superannuation funds from my former employers. Together with my United Nations pension, I would not be a burden to the Australian taxpayer. In addition, as a UN employee, my 'staff assessment' (kind of tax) is used to offset Australia's contribution to the United Nations.

I find it difficult to accept that I cannot vote just because I am overseas when I do keep in touch with what is going on. As mentioned above, I do contribute to the nation through my 'staff assessment' so I am not getting a free ride.

It would be good if the time limitations can be removed to enable me to re-enroll as I do feel that I would want to have a say in the leadership of a country that I consider and call home.

Thanks for the opportunity to make the submission.

Regards

Mr KC Tan