



Wednesday, 30 April 2008

Australia 2020 Summit

The Australian Institute of International Affairs was delighted to be involved in the historic Australia 2020 Summit held in Canberra on April 19th and 20th, 2008. The event aimed to bring together 1,000 of Australia's 'best and brightest' to facilitate public debate.

The AIIA was well represented at the Australia 2020 Summit. Participants from the AIIA included National Executive Director Melissa Conley Tyler, WA Branch President Sue Boyd, WA Branch Vice-President Samina Yasmeen and a number of Branch members. Past AIIA Research Chair and current Editor of the *Australian Journal of International Affairs* Professor Michael Wesley played a particularly prominent role as Co-Chair of discussions on "Australia's Future Security and Prosperity in a Rapidly Changing Region and World". He gave a well-received presentation to the plenary session of the Summit which will hopefully encourage increased understanding of the importance of Australia's role in international affairs.

The Australian Institute of International Affairs is strongly supportive of events that encourage the debate and understanding of international relations. "The AIIA was established over 75 years ago with the ideal of stimulating debate and discussion on international affairs" said Melissa Conley Tyler, National Executive Director. "The Australia 2020 Summit has had a positive effect on encouraging debate on policy issues and Australia's role in the world."

"The AIIA will facilitate ongoing discussion on the issues and questions raised by the 2020 Summit, and is looking forward to the positive effect that the summit has on enriching public debate."

Background information

The Australian Institute of International Affairs was established in 1924 as an independent non-political body to promote an interest in and understanding of international affairs. The AIIA operates nationwide with over 1,600 members across seven State and Territory Branches. The AIIA provides a forum for discussion, educates and disseminates ideas via its journal *Australian Journal of International Affairs* and its book series *Australia in World Affairs*.

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