



Connecting Theory and Policy

Reflecting on the Work of Institutes of International Affairs

Presented by

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Outline

- Overview of Institutes of International Affairs
- Why Are They Important?
- Different Models
- Common Dilemmas
- Aim of Roundtable
- Case Study: the Australian Institute of International Affairs



DGAP

Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Auswärtige Politik e.V.





General Overview

- First wave of institutions grew out of the Versailles Peace Treaty negotiations 1919
- British Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) and American Council on Foreign Relations were the first established
- Now at least 110 institutes of international affairs around the world
- Some institutes are think tanks; others are not
- Some are closely allied with or attached to government; others are independent





Institutes' activities include:

- Membership
- Events
- Training
- Professional education/diplomat training
- Research
- Publications
- Second track dialogue
- Lobbying
- Media
- Youth activities
- Public awareness
- Networking
- Advocacy and/or facilitating between parts of government





Why Are They Important?

- Source of advice to policy-makers
- Second track diplomacy
- Public understanding
- Training and education





Different Models

Simpson 2007 identifies five models:

- Founders
- Sisters
- Partisan
- Niche
- Dependent

Simpson analyses the differences between institutes as showing different trade offs between independence and influence

Influence	Independence
Reputation	Legal status
Size	Structure
Activity	Ideology





Common Dilemmas

A meeting of 39 representatives of institutes from 29 countries held in 2008 identified a number of common dilemmas:

- Academic v. Policy
- Influence v. Independence
- Public Engagement v. Target focus
- Dispersed v. Central
- Knowledge Provided v. Knowledge Needed
- Regional v. Global
- Publicity v. Exclusivity
- Attention v. Effectiveness
- Impartiality v. Policy Engagement
- 'People who pay' v. 'People who matter'





Reflections

“This is the first time that an international affairs institute has organised a meeting that deals with the very survival of our think tanks”: *Dr Thomas Mathew, IDSA, India*

“We need a strategy to survive. One similarity between our institutes is the need to survive”: *Dr Otmar Höll, Austrian Institute for International Affairs*

“This meeting may be a case of one beggar telling another beggar where to find the bread”: *The Hon. Russell Marshall CZNM, New Zealand Institute of International Affairs*

“Institutes have a permanent place in this sphere. The problem is that we are not getting the attention we did in the past because there are too many forces. But the basic function of these institutes remains the same and is more important than before”: *Mr Syed Mohammad Fazal, Pakistan Institute of International Affairs*

“We’re all in this together”: *Ambassador Mark Johnson, World Affairs Councils of America, USA*





Aim of Roundtable

This session brings together a group of institutes of international affairs from around the world to discuss the role that such institutes play in connecting theory and policy in international affairs.

Each speaker has been asked to speak on his or her institute and:

- its aims and activities
- its role in connecting theory and policy
- any current challenges

Each speaker will talk for under 10 minutes to allow time for discussion of common themes at the end of the session.

The Roundtable will also provide a forum for participants to share experiences and identify areas for future growth and collaboration.





Case Study of the Australian Institute of International Affairs





Australian Institute of International Affairs

Aims

The AIIA's mission is to promote interest in and understanding of international affairs in Australia

It is an independent, non-profit organisation

The AIIA's constitution prevents it from expressing an opinion on any topic in international affairs

The AIIA uses the model of “providing a platform for debate”





Australian Institute of International Affairs

Activities

- **Events**
more than 150 speakers per year nationwide
- **Publications**
including the *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, various book series and pamphlets
- **Collaboration**
including second track dialogue with other institutes of international affairs
- **Youth Engagement**
including school programs, careers fairs, young professionals' networks and internships





Role in Connecting Theory and Policy

- Policy events
- Publications
- Second track dialogue





Current Challenges

- Funding
- Volunteer support
- Branch structure
- Newer think tanks
- Adapting to demographics and technology





Speakers

- Prof Jan Melissen, Netherlands Institute of International Affairs, Netherlands
- Dr Cornelius Adebahr, The German Council on Foreign Relations, Germany
- Mr Mats Braun, Institute of International Relations, Czech Republic
- Dr Laurence Weinbaum, Israel Council on Foreign Relations, Israel
- Ms Aurora Adame, Consejo Mexicano de Asuntos Internacionales, Mexico
- Mr Alberto Sepulveda, Instituto de Relaciones Internacionales, Chile
- Dr Eduardo Platon, World Affairs Council of America New Orleans

