

## National Conference 2016 Navigating the New International Disorder

### OUTCOMES REPORT

The AIIA National Conference 2016 was an outstanding success with prominent expert speakers, provocative and engaging debate and unprecedented media coverage. The National Conference brought together some of Australia's leading international affairs, diplomacy, security, justice and economic experts to discuss Australia's foreign policy priorities and uncertain position in the new international disorder.

*Highlights included:*

- Record participation with over 380 attendees, including more than 25 foreign ambassadors and diplomats
- High levels of youth engagement with more than 130 students attending the conference and Masterclass program
- Extraordinary coverage of the conference in mainstream and social media, with #AIIA16 becoming the 5<sup>th</sup> most popular topic on Twitter Australia-wide that day
- Engaging speeches and discussion led by experts such as the Hon Kim Beazley AC FAIIA and the Hon Michael Kirby AC CGM FAIIA
- Excellent feedback from conference attendees, including an overall rating of 4.5 and a speaker rating of 4.6 out of 5.
- Another successful Masterclass program which provided a chance for young professionals and students to engage in intimate discussion with prominent experts



The opening address was delivered by The Hon Kim Beazley AC FAIIA, AIIA National President

## Objectives

The AIIA National Conference is designed to cultivate informed debate and disseminate a range of views and ideas on Australia's role in international affairs.

*Specific objectives of the 2016 conference included:*

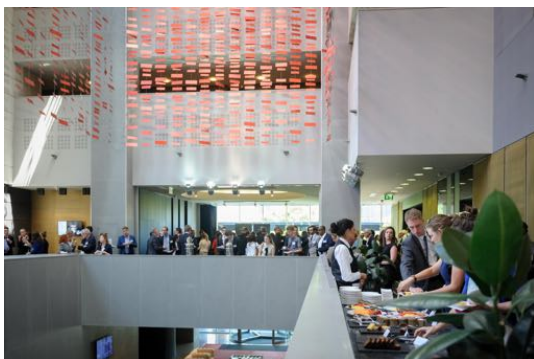
- Providing a forum for expert discussion
- Focusing on policy outcomes
- Engaging the wider community through the dissemination of informed ideas
- Encouraging media reporting
- Providing an opportunity for the AIIA to showcase itself
- Focus on Australia's role as an important actor in world affairs



Conference proceedings in the National Ballroom at the Hotel Realm



HE Hussain Mahdi Al-Ameri (Iraqi Ambassador to Australia) engaging the panel in a discussion



Conference attendees networking during lunch in the atrium of the Hotel Realm



Dr David Lee (ANU) purchasing the AIIA publication, Australia in World Affairs 2011-2015, from AIIA National Office staff

## Speakers

### *Australian Foreign Policy*

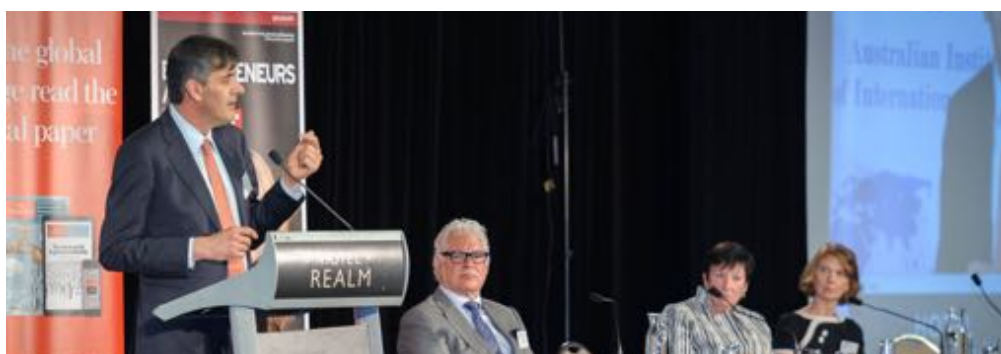
- The Hon Kim Beazley AC FAIIA, AIIA National President
- Allan Gyngell AO FAIIA, former Director-General of the Office of National Assessments
- Senator Richard Di Natale, Leader, The Australian Greens
- Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development
- Chair: Zara Kimpton OAM, National Vice-President, Australian Institute of International Affairs



From left: Senator Richard di Natale, Zara Kimpton OAM, The Hon Kim Beazley AC FAIIA, Allan Gyngell AO FAIIA and Senator The Hon Penny Wong

### *Enhancing Australia's Prosperity*

- George Megalogenis, journalist, political commentator and former senior feature writer for *The Australian*
- Jennifer Westacott, Chief Executive of the Business Council of Australia and former Board Director and Lead Partner at KPMG
- Dr Elizabeth Thurbon, Associate Professor of International Relations and International Political Economy, University of New South Wales
- Chair: John Goodlad, President of AIIA for WA



From left: George Megalogenis, John Goodlad, Jennifer Westacott and Dr Elizabeth Thurbon

## *Strengthening Australia's Security*

- Peter Varghese AO, former Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Chancellor, University of Queensland
- John McCarthy AO FAIIA, former AIIA National President and former Ambassador to Vietnam, Mexico, Thailand, the United States, Indonesia and Japan and High Commissioner to India
- Professor Greg Barton, Research Professor and Chair of Global Islamic Politics at the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University
- Dr Jennifer Moroney, Director of RAND Australia, Senior Political Scientists
- Chair: Professor Nick Bisley, Executive Director of La Trobe Asia, Professor of International Relations at La Trobe University and Editor in Chief of the Australian Journal of International Affairs



From left: Peter Varghese AO, John McCarthy AO FAIIA, Professor Greg Barton and Dr Jennifer Moroney

## *Contributing to Global Issues*

- The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG FAIIA, former Justice of the High Court and member of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Access to Essential Healthcare
- Geraldine Doogue AO FAIIA, renowned ABC journalist and broadcaster
- Professor Jacqui True, Professor of Politics and International Relations and Australian Research Council Future Fellow at Monash University
- Akram Azimi, Young Australian of the Year 2013
- Chair: The Hon Penelope Wensley AC FAIIA, former Governor of Queensland and former Ambassador to the UN, Ambassador to France and High Commissioner to India



From left: Professor Jacqui True, The Hon Penelope Wensley AC FAIIA, Geraldine Doogue AO FAIIA and Akram Azimi

## Masterclass Program

Masterclasses preceded the National Conference on Sunday 20 November at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Treaties Room. More than 100 attendees aged from 18-40 were selected through a competitive process to attend the diverse and immersive classes, which were led by experts in their field. Students and young professionals from across the nation were given the opportunity to engage in an intimate discussion with leading figures in one of four classes:

### *Diplomacy and Intelligence*

- Geoffrey Miller AO, former senior Australian diplomat and former Director-General of the Office of National Assessments
- Allan Gyngell AO, former Director-General of the Office of National Assessments and founding Executive Director of the Lowy Institute for International Policy

### *Development and Human Rights*

- Dr Janet Hunt, Deputy Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the ANU
- Dr Elizabeth Reid AO, former Resident Coordinator of the United Nations and UNDP Resident Representative in Papua New Guinea

### *Defence and Security*

- Richard Smith AO PSM, former Secretary of the Department of Defence and former Australian Ambassador to China and Indonesia
- Professor James Cotton, Emeritus Professor, Australian Defence Force Academy, UNSW Canberra

### *Media*

- Geraldine Doogue AO, journalist and presenter, ABC
- Graeme Dobell, former ABC and Radio Australia correspondent

The Masterclasses and reception were well received by all participants. The British High Commission in Canberra kindly hosted a reception at the her Residence for all Masterclass attendees and speakers.



Dr Janet Hunt and Dr Elizabeth Reid AO leading the Masterclass on Development and Human Rights

Masterclass attendees and speakers in the DFAT Treaties Room



Geoffrey Miller AO and Allan Gyngell AO leading the Masterclass on Diplomacy and Intelligence

Masterclass participants discussing with leading figures in the field of Development and Human Rights



## Media and Social Media Coverage

The media and social media coverage for the National Conference 2016 was unprecedented with wide reference to the AIIA event across print, broadcast and online platforms both during the day and in the following week.

### *Mainstream Media*

Articles about the event and references to the speeches and discussions on the day were published by the major Australian media outlets. Of special note, Sky News broadcasted Penny Wong's speech live, ABC Radio's The World Today ran a segment discussion *Navigating the New International Disorder* with a studio interview by presenter Eleanor Hall with editor, Shahar Hameiri, and The Saturday Paper ran two stories in its print edition, one each by Hamish McDonald and Karen Middleton. Based on circulation figures, reference to the 2016 AIIA National Conference may have reached well over 10 million readers/listeners/viewers.

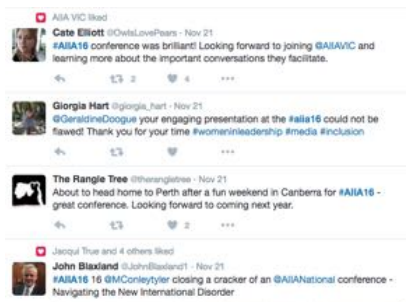
<b>Media:</b>		<b>Reach:</b>
Sky News	Live broadcast of Penny Wong's keynote	Av. 96,000 viewers
ABC Radio The World Today	<a href="#"><u>Segment on Navigating the New International Disorder</u></a>	ABC Radio has weekly reach of >4.8 million listeners
ABC News Online	<a href="#"><u>Report on Peter Varghese speech</u></a>	3.8 million readers
Sydney Morning Herald (online)	<a href="#"><u>Report on Richard Di Natale's Speech</u></a>	3.6 million readers
The Australian (online)	<a href="#"><u>Report on Penny Wong's keynote</u></a>	1.6 million readers
The Guardian	<a href="#"><u>Mention of Penny Wong's keynote</u></a>	2.2 million readers
The Saturday Paper (online and in print)	<a href="#"><u>How will Trump's US act in Asia?</u></a>	271,000 readers
The Saturday Paper (online and in print)	<a href="#"><u>APEC awaits Donald Trumps plans for trade pacts</u></a>	271,000 readers
The New Daily (online)	<a href="#"><u>Report on Peter Varghese speech</u></a>	Unknown

## Social Media

Volunteers posted updates on the event using its hashtag (#AIIA16) on Twitter and Facebook throughout the day. On Facebook, the team boosted one of the posts from the event and this reached more than 2,700 users and had 116 click through to find out more. On Twitter in particular there was broad adoption of the hashtag by people attending the conference and many who weren't attending were able to take part in the discussion of the material. The event was also referred to briefly as #AIIA2016. The combined audience was impressive:

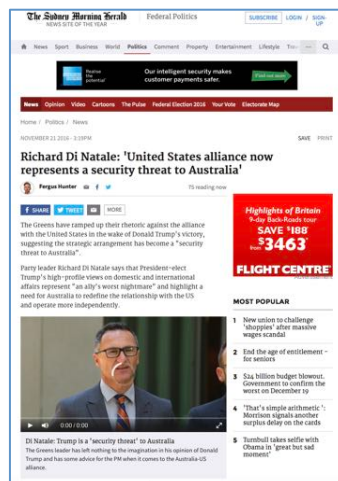
- The #AIIA16 became the 5<sup>th</sup> most popular topic on Twitter Australia-wide that day.
- The discussion reached 280,000 Twitter accounts.
- More than 1,000 Tweets were written about the event

ABC News Online report on Peter Varghese's speech



Tweets with the #AIIA16 hashtag

Sydney Morning Herald report on Richard Di Natale's speech



A conference attendee joining the social media conversation during a session break



## Conference Participants

The conference attracted participants from a variety of areas, including:

### *Diplomatic*

- HE Dr Hugo Javier Gobbi, Ambassador of Argentina
- HE Mr Paul Maddison, High Commissioner of Canada
- HE Mrs Clemencia Forero-Ucros, Ambassador of Colombia
- HE Mr Andres Unga, Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia
- HE Mr Yogesh Punja, High Commissioner of Fiji
- HE Mr Lars Backström, Ambassador of Finland
- HE Dr Hussain Al-Ameri, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq
- HE Mr Abdolhossein Vhaji, Ambassador of Iran
- HE Mr Sumio Kusaka, Ambassador of Japan
- HE Mr Isaiya Kabira, High Commissioner of Kenya
- HE Dr Sabri Kicmari, Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo
- HE Mr Chuluunhuu Batlai, Ambassador of Mongolia
- HE Mrs Erica Schouten, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- HE Mr Fook Seng Kwok, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore
- HE Dr Igor Bartho, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic
- HE Ms Helena Drnovsek Zorko, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia
- HE Mr Manuel Cacho, Ambassador of Spain
- HE Mr Par Ahleberger, Ambassador of Sweden
- HE Mr Pedro Zwahlen, Ambassador of Switzerland
- HE Dr Obaid Al Al Ketbi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates
- Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Australia
- Mr Giscard El Khoury, Chargé d’Affaires, Embassy of Lebanon
- Diplomatic officers from the Embassies of Ireland, United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Norway, Iran, Kingdom of Thailand, Colombia and the British High Commission

### *Government*

- Attorney-General’s Department
- Department of Communications and the Arts
- Department of Defence
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Health
- Department of Immigration and Border Protection
- Department of the Environment and Energy
- National Archives of Australia
- New Colombo Plan

- Royal Australian Navy
- The Office of National Assessments
- Ministry of Defence

### *Organisations*

- Australia Zimbabwe Business Council
- Business Council of Australia
- CSIRO
- Energy and Minerals Institute
- Global Citizen
- RAN Seapower Centre – Australia
- Thankyou
- The ABC
- The Australian Greens
- The Australian Labor Party
- WWF Australia
- Young Diplomats Programme

### *Business*

- AFG Venture Group
- Asean Focus ZGroup
- Fremantle Ports
- Haileybury
- Johannessen Legal & Migration
- KPMG
- RAND Australia
- Stafford Lawyers
- Westpac

### *Academia*

- ANU Centre for European Studies
- ANU Crawford School
- ANU Security and Defence Studies Centre
- Australian Defence Force Academy
- Australian National University
- Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Studies, ANU
- Deakin University
- Melbourne School of Government
- Monash University
- University of Canberra
- University of Melbourne
- University of New South Wales
- University of Queensland
- University of Sydney
- University of Western Australia
- University of Western Australia

## Sponsors and Partners

The success of the National Conference and Masterclasses was made possible by the contributions of sponsors and partners. Sponsors and partners were able to engage conference guests with stands and promotional items.

The sponsors were as follows:

### *Major Partners*

#### **The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

DFAT has sponsored the AIIA for more than 40 years via its International Relations Grant Program and generously supported the 2016 National Conference and hosted Masterclasses the day prior to the event.

#### **The Economist**

The Economist sponsored the AIIA for the first time with a \$27,000 worth of advertising on the website and digital version of The Economist and discounted subscriptions for AIIA members and National Conference attendees.

#### **British High Commission Canberra**

The AIIA hosted the Masterclass reception for all participants and speakers at the British High Commissioner's residence.

#### **The ANU Centre for European Studies**

The ANU Centre for European Studies sponsored the AIIA for the first time at the conference with a generous grant of \$10,000.



Allan Gyngell and sponsor and partner banners at the National Conference (from left): DFAT, ANU Centre for European Studies, the AIIA, The Economist and The British High Commission

## *Session Sponsors*

### **Global Citizen**

Global Citizen sponsored the conference session, 'Australia's Contribution to Global Issues' with a grant of \$5,000.

### **Monash University**

Monash University sponsored the conference session, 'Strengthening Australia's Security' with a grant of \$5,000.

## *Masterclass Partners*

### **New Colombo Plan**

The New Colombo Plan sponsored the Masterclasses with a grant of \$2,500 and provided ten Masterclass participants.

### **Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Studies, ANU**

The Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Studies sponsored the Masterclasses with a grant \$2,500 and provided ten Masterclass participants.

### **Melbourne School of Government**

The Melbourne School of Government sponsored the Masterclasses with a grant of \$2,500 and provided ten Masterclass participants.

## *Publishing Partners*

### **Routledge Taylor and Francis**

Routledge Taylor and Francis publishes the Australian Journal of International Affairs for the AIIA.

### **Oxford University Press**

The AIIA publishes the *Australia in World Affairs* series with Oxford University Press, along with the last two publication recipients of the AIIA's publication support grant.



Sponsor and partner banners at the National Conference book stalls (from left): DFAT, New Colombo Plan and Routledge Taylor and Francis

## Feedback

Very positive feedback was received for both the conference and Masterclass program. Participants ranked the speakers 4.6 out of 5, quality of discussion 4.4 out of 5, format 4.4 out of 5, venue 4.4 out of 5, organisation 4.6 out of 5 and overall quality 4.5 out of 5. Attendees were very enthusiastic about participating in future AIIA events. The following feedback was received:

*“I thought it was an excellent panel session and instructive as well as enjoyable. Thank you also for the presentation of the magnificent award. I am proud to have this in my chambers.”* – Michael Kirby AC CMG FAIIA, former Justice of the High Court and member of the UN Secretary-General’s High Level Panel on Access to Essential Healthcare

*“I wish to note that the National conference was very informative event and it was a success.”* – HE Chuluunhuu Batlai, Ambassador of Mongolia to Australia

*“Yesterday’s conference was superb! Thank you for outstanding organization.”* – Jacqui True, Professor of Politics and International Relations and Australian Research Council Future Fellow at Monash University

*“Congratulations on pulling off a successful meeting yesterday! I talked to several students after my session, which was great fun.”* – Jennifer Moroney, Director of RAND Australia, Senior Political Scientist

*“The range of speakers was magnificent, and articulated a range of views that constituted a lively debate”* – anonymous feedback

*“Congratulations on a superb conference yesterday! It was my first attendance, and I was impressed beyond measure by the line-up and quality of speakers. Thanks to all at National Office, and the army of Interns and Volunteers for putting it all together.”* – Alastair Roff

*“I just wanted to congratulate you and the team on an excellent National Conference on Monday. I really enjoyed all the speakers and especially the networking aspect! These conferences really allow for younger people to speak to the older, more experienced individuals!”* – Will McEniry

## Acknowledgements

The 2016 National Conference was made possible through the generous support of the following sponsors and partners:

- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- The Economist
- British High Commission Canberra
- The ANU Centre for European Studies
- Global Citizen
- Monash University
- New Colombo Plan
- Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Studies, ANU
- Melbourne School of Government
- Routledge Taylor and Francis
- Oxford University Press

The AIIA would like to thank all participants in the conference, particularly the speakers and moderators.

The National Conference Organising Committee included:

- Melissa Conley Tyler, National Executive Director, AIIA
- Zara Kimpton OAM, National Vice-President, AIIA
- Rory MacNeil, National Operations Manager
- Miles Kupa, AIIA ACT Vice President
- Christopher Farnham, AIIA ACT Vice President
- Greg Wills, AIIA Vic
- Matthew Di Leo, AIIA Vic and DFAT
- Sinead Ferris, AIIA Vic and DFAT
- Ian Lincoln, AIIA NSW
- Madge Mukund, AIIA for WA
- Emeritus Professor Peter Boyce, AIIA TAS President
- Annabel McGilvray, Director of Communications
- Amelia Shaw, AIIA QLD

The AIIA gratefully acknowledges the work of AIIA staff in organising this event:

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| ○ Supriya Benjamin | ○ Emma Brockhurst    |
| ○ Carolina Dolan   | ○ Madeleine Durand   |
| ○ Zoe Glasson      | ○ Lisa Green         |
| ○ Ante Malenica    | ○ Brendan Martin     |
| ○ Rhea Matthews    | ○ Paulina Parviainen |
| ○ Amy Prosser      | ○ Ella Pyman         |
| ○ Steven Warwick   | ○ Flavia Zimmerman   |