



Australian Institute of International Affairs and Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy Joint Public Forum

"Assisting Disrupted States: Lessons Learned and Future Prospects"

Stephen House, 32 Thesiger Court, Deakin
Thursday 29 October 2009

Outcomes Report

This report summarises the outcomes of the *Assisting Disrupted States: Lessons Learned and Future Prospects* joint public forum organized by the Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy and the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

Highlights included:

- Presentations by seven expert speakers including keynote presentations by Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC and Professor William Maley
- Inauguration of Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC as a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs (FAIIA)
- Recording of event by the Australian Public Affairs Channel (A-PAC) and subsequent broadcast of the event in full
- Positive feedback from attendees and participants with a high appreciation of the organisation of the event and the quality of speakers
- Papers and presentations distributed widely through www.aiia.asn.au

Objectives

The public forum explored aspects involved in assisting disrupted states, and approaches toward understanding the complexity surrounding their existence and behavior. Expert commentators in their fields provided their insights to representatives from government, non-government, diplomacy and academia as well as the general public. The focus of discussion took a comprehensive approach, and included the following topics:

- Evolution of Australian policy toward disrupted states;
- Security and policing in military and peacekeeping missions;
- Social development and humanitarian aspects in disrupted states;



Professor Maley addressing the forum

- Building the rule of law in disrupted states;
- Institutional development: Developing and protecting the state structure;
- Promoting gender inclusion in disrupted states;
- Aid and institution building in disrupted states.

Feedback

Feedback from attendees showed an appreciation for the event and the high quality of speakers with an average of 4.4 and 4.8 out of 5 respectively.

Attendees noted the following as highpoints:

- “The quality of the speakers was fantastic and made for an interesting, informative, and enjoyable public forum”
- “I especially enjoyed the presentations by General Sanderson and Dr Harris-Rimmer
- “Nice spread of topics”
- “Focused on key lessons”
- How has the event added to your understanding of disrupted states?
 - “I was exposed to a couple of viewpoints I hadn’t come across before such as Professor Maley’s explanation of ‘warlords’ and Dr Harris-Rimmer’s feminist perspective
 - “A deeper understanding of the impact of aid dependency and the importance of internal factors in disrupted states”
 - “...a better idea of the challenges in dealing with disrupted states”
 - “...the role of women in the reconstruction process”



Ms Alison Chartres

Wider Impact

The forum was recorded by the Australian Public Affairs Channel (A-PAC) and has been streamed a number of times on the website (<http://www.a-pac.tv>) and on Foxtel and Sky television channels.

Papers are available on the AIIA’s website:

<http://www.aiia.asn.au/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=87>

The AIIA is also currently discussing whether some papers may be able to be published in the *Australian Journal of International Affairs*. This will ensure that the forum will have a wide impact on an ongoing current debate.