**Speakers**

**MR. JOHN MCCARTHY AO FAIIA**

**Former Australian Ambassador to Indonesia (1997–2001)**

John McCarthy has served as Australia’s Ambassador to a number of countries including: Vietnam (1981-83), Mexico (1985-87), Thailand (1992-94), the United States (1995-1997), Indonesia (1997-2001) and Japan (2001-2004). Mr McCarthy has also served in Damascus, Baghdad and Vientiane. For the period 1994-95, John was Deputy Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra. In 2004 he was appointed as High Commissioner to India, serving in this role until 2009.

Born in Washington D.C. Mr McCarthy was educated at Cambridge University where he received a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws degree. He is a barrister-at-law and practised in London from 1965 to 1966. He worked with the New York law firm of Shearman & Sterling from 1966 to 1967 and joined the Australian foreign service in 1968. Mr McCarthy has held roles as National President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, Chair of the Australia-India Council, Deputy Chair of the Australia-India Institute, Chair of the Advisory Board of the Griffith Asia Institute. He is the Co-Convenor of the Australia -Indonesia Dialogue.

**MR. BILL FARMER AO**

**Former Australian Ambassador to Indonesia (2005–2010)**

Bill Farmer joined the Australian foreign service in 1969 and served in the Australian diplomatic missions in Cairo, London and Fiji. He was subsequently Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations; Ambassador of Australia to Mexico, the Central American Republics and Cuba; and Australian High Commissioner in Papua New Guinea (1993–1995) and Malaysia (1996–1997).

Mr Farmer was Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (1997–1998); from 1998 to 2005, Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs; Secretary of the Department of Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs; and Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs. He was then Australian Ambassador to Indonesia from 2005-2010.

In 2010, Mr Farmer was appointed to the High-Level Panel of Review of the Australian Aid Program. In 2011, he conducted an Independent Review of the Australian Livestock Export Industry. In 2012 he chaired an Independent Review of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. In 2014, Mr Farmer was appointed Senior Advisor to the Australian Government on the Kokoda Initiative between Australia and Papua New Guinea. He is a member of the Board of the Asia Society Australia and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust Australia. He was awarded the centenary medal in 2003 and was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in 2005.

**THE HONOURABLE PENNY WENSLEY AC FAIIA**

**Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva and in New York**

Penny Wensley joined the Australian Foreign Service in 1968 and pursued a highly distinguished career as a diplomat, representing Australia in a wide range of overseas posts and senior policy positions until 2008, when she was appointed as Governor of the State of Queensland-a position she held for six years, until 2014.

Following a first posting to Paris (1969-73), Ms Wensley served as Deputy Head of Mission in Mexico (1975-77), then Wellington, New Zealand (1982-85), before being appointed Head of Mission, as Consul-General, Hong Kong (1986-8). Her subsequent Ambassadorial postings were as Permanent Representative to the UN, Geneva (1993-5), Ambassador for the Environment (1992-6), Permanent Representative to the UN, New York, (1997-2001) High Commissioner to India, accredited as Ambassador to Bhutan (2001-2004) and Ambassador to France, accredited also to Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Monaco (2005-2008). In all her Head of Mission appointments, Ms Wensley was the first woman officer to occupy these posts for Australia.

In the Ministry in Canberra, Ms Wensley served successively in the Central and Southern Africa Section, Europe Section, Staffing Unit, Executive Secretariat, and as Head of the East Asia Branch, North Asia Division, International Organisations and Legal Division and Europe Division.

Ms Wensley led Australian delegations and represented Australia at many international conferences and multilateral negotiations. and has been recognized nationally and internationally for her contribution to the UN and UN initiatives. She played a significant role in the negotiation of several landmark UN agreements and Conventions, including the Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biodiversity and Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification. She chaired or co-chaired a number of major UN bodies and international negotiating processes, including the first UN Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the first UN Special Session on HIV/AIDS, the UN Budgetary and Finance Committee and the International Coral Reef Initiative.

An Arts Graduate (Hons1) of the University of Queensland (UQ), Ms Wensley has been awarded Honorary Doctorates by UQ, Griffith University, the Queensland University of Technology and James Cook University. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2001, a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in 2010. She was named a Grand Officer of the National Order of Merit of France in 2009.

Named an Honorary Fellow of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand, in 2014, in recognition of her active engagement with the development of national and international responses to global environmental challenges, Ms Wensley is currently Chairman of the Council of Australian Institute of Marine Science and of the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee, established to advise the Australian and Queensland Governments on implementation of the Long Term Sustainability Plan for the Great Barrier Reef.

**MILES KUPA**

**Former High Commissioner and Ambassador**

Miles Kupa has extensive experience within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and most recently has served as High Commissioner to Malaysia. Mr Kupa has previously served as a Deputy Secretary as well as in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as head of the Foreign Affairs Branch and was chief of staff to the then Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade. Overseas, Mr Kupa has served as High Commissioner to Singapore, Ambassador to Thailand, Ambassador to the Philippines, Ambassador to Iraq, deputy head of mission in Jakarta, with earlier postings in Egypt, France and Thailand. Mr Kupa holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honours degree from the University of Melbourne. Mr Kupa speaks Indonesian, Thai and Malay. He is also currently the AIIA ACT Branch Vice President.