Australian Institute of International Affairs

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

8:30AM: REGISTRATION OPENS

9:00AM-10:30AM: WELCOME TO COUNTRY AND KEYNOTE SPEECHES

- **AUNTY VIOLET SHERIDAN**, SENIOR NGUNNAWAL ELDER
- **TED O'BRIEN MP**, SHADOW MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
- **DAVID MCALLISTER MEP**, CHAIR, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
- **GARY QUINLAN AO FAIIA**, AIIA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

10:30AM: MORNING TEA

11:00AM-12:30PM: MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

RISE OF THE MACHINES: AI, CYBER POWER AND THE BATTLE FOR TRUTH

- **OLIVIA SHEN**, DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM, UNITED STATES STUDIES CENTRE
- **DR ZENA ASSAAD**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY DEFENCE INSTITUTE
- **PROFESSOR TOBY WALSH FAA FTSE**, CHIEF SCIENTIST, AI INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
- **THE HON TIM WATTS MP**, SPECIAL ENVOY FOR INDIAN OCEAN AFFAIRS

INDEPENDENCE DAY? MIDDLE POWERS AND ALLIANCES IN AN AGE OF DISRUPTION

- **DR SERENA KELLY**, VICE-PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
- **DR CHARLES EDEL**, SENIOR ADVISER AND AUSTRALIAN CHAIR, CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
- **SUZANNAH JESSEP**, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ASIA NEW ZEALAND FOUNDATION
- **PROFESSOR CHUNG-IN MOON**, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, YONSEI UNIVERSITY; VICE-CHAIRMAN, ASIA-PACIFIC LEADERSHIP NETWORK
- **PROFESSOR HIDEYUKI MIURA**, PROFESSOR, KYORIN UNIVERSITY; SPECIALLY APPOINTED PROFESSOR, INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE TOKYO

BRACE FOR IMPACT: HOW THE EU AND AUSTRALIA ARE PARTNERING FOR STABILITY IN A DISRUPTIVE WORLD (PARTNER EVENT WITH THE EU DELEGATION)

- **JASON COLLINS**, CEO OF EUROPEAN AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL
- **CAROLINE MILLAR GAICD**, FORMER AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE EU AND NATO
- **PHIL HOGAN**, FORMER EUROPEAN UNION TRADE COMMISSIONER; CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL, UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION
- **DAVID MCALLISTER MEP**, CHAIR, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
- **H.E. LAWRENCE MEREDITH**, EU AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA AT EU DELEGATION TO AUSTRALIA

12:30PM: LUNCH

SPEAKER BIOS

PLATINUM PARTNER

KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG

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AIIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

1:30PM-3:00PM: AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION

FRIEND WITH BENEFITS? AUSTRALIAN STATECRAFT AND ITS OUTCOMES FOR REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- **EMERITUS PROFESSOR PAL AHLUWALIA FASSA FAIIA,** FORMER VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC; CHAIR IN TRANSNATIONAL DIASPORAS AND RECONCILIATION STUDIES, UNESCO
- **GRACE TINETALI-FIAVAAI,** JOURNALIST
- **DR MERRIDEN VARRALL,** FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, VANTAGE GEOPOL
- **DR PICHAMON YEOPHANTONG,** HEAD OF RESEARCH AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, CENTRE FOR FUTURE DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY, DEAKIN UNIVERSITY
- **DR FITRIANI,** SENIOR ANALYST, ASPI

CLOSED ENCOUNTERS? THE NEW ECONOMICS OF INTERNATIONAL DISRUPTION

- **DR HUW MCKAY,** VISITING FELLOW, THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY; FORMER CHIEF ECONOMIST, BHP
- **DR JOHN EDWARDS,** NONRESIDENT FELLOW, LOWY INSTITUTE; ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, JOHN CURTIN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC POLICY, CURTIN UNIVERSITY
- **HAYLEY CHANNER,** DIRECTOR ECONOMIC SECURITY, UNITED STATES STUDIES CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
- **RACHEL THOMPSON,** FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

THE PERFECT STORM: AN AGE OF DISASTERS, AN AGE OF RESILIENCE (PARTNER EVENT SUPPORTED BY THE JAPAN FOUNDATION)

- **KEITH PAOLO LANDICHO,** RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, HADR PROGRAMME, INSTITUTE OF DEFENCE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES, RSIS
- **DR MISA TOMONO,** JUNIOR RESIDENT (EMERGENCY MEDICINE), JAPAN INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH SECURITY
- **EMMA O'HARA,** MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING SPECIALIST, CARE IN TIMOR LESTE
- **GIBSON GALA,** PAPUA NEW GUINEA HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS MANAGER
- **JOHN AUGÉ,** ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIA CHAIR AT CSIS

3:00PM: AFTERNOON TEA

3:30PM-5:00PM: AUSTRALIA'S STRATEGIC CHOICES IN A DISRUPTED WORLD

- **THE HON FRANCES ADAMSON AC FAIIA**, FORMER SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE, PREVIOUS GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND INTERNATIONAL ADVISER TO THE PRIME MINISTER
- **EMERITUS PROFESSOR HUGH WHITE AO FAIIA,** EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF STRATEGIC STUDIES, AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
- **DR HUONG LE THU FAIIA**, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE ASIA PACIFIC PROGRAM, INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP
- **JENNIFER PARKER,** NONRESIDENT FELLOW, LOWY INSTITUTE; PRINCIPAL, BARRIER STRATEGIC ADVISORY
- **GREG SHERIDAN AO FAIIA,** FOREIGN EDITOR, THE AUSTRALIAN

5:00PM–5:30PM: CLOSING REMARKS

- **DR BRYCE WAKEFIELD,** CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

6:30PM: RECEPTION AND GALA DINNER

- **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: THE HON RICHARD MARLES MP**, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER FOR DEFENCE