



AIIA National Conference 2014
'Foreign Policy for a Top 20 Nation'
Monday 27 October, Hyatt Hotel, Canberra

Outcomes Report

Since 1924, the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) has played a unique role as an independent, non-partisan forum for informed debate on international affairs and Australia's role in the world. Prior to Australia's hosting of the G20 in November, the AIIA's 2014 National Conference brought together some of Australia's leading international affairs experts to discuss Australia's foreign policy objectives and priorities as a top 20 nation.

Highlights included:

- Record participation with 185 attendees
- High levels of youth engagement, with more than 50 students attending
- Extremely successful Masterclass program, which provided a chance for students to engage in an intimate discussion with prominent experts across six fields
- Attendance of representatives from 22 embassies in Canberra, including nine ambassadors and high commissioners
- Dynamic and engaging discussion throughout all sessions
- Significant media coverage in TV, radio and print media
- Ongoing contribution to debate through online discussion





Objectives

The AIIA National Conference 2014 was an opportunity to engage and promote understanding of Australian foreign policy as a top 20 nation. The conference was designed to create informed debate and discussion in the lead up to the G20 Summit held in Brisbane.

Specific objectives of the conference included:

- Provide a forum for expert discussion
- Produce policy recommendations
- Result in some publications of the results
- Encourage media reporting
- Enable corporate exposure of the AIIA and, broadly, an opportunity for the AIIA to showcase itself
- Focus on Australia as a top 20 country



Left: Kate Carnell AO, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Middle: Senator the Hon Brett Mason delivering a speech on behalf of the Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, also officially representing the Hon Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of Australia, Right: The Hon Richard Marles MP, Shadow Minister for Immigration and Border Protection



Australian Institute of International Affairs

Speakers

Australian Foreign Policy

Senator the Hon Brett Mason delivering a speech on behalf of the Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, also officially representing the Hon Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of Australia

John McCarthy FAIIA, National President, Australian Institute of International Affairs

Professor Hugh White AO FAIIA, Professor of Strategic Studies, School of International, Political & Strategic Studies, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific

The Hon Richard Marles MP, Shadow Minister for Immigration and Border Protection

Chair: Zara Kimpton OAM, National Vice-President, Australian Institute of International Affairs



Prof Hugh White AO FAIIA, John McCarthy FAIIA, Zara Kimpton OAM and The Hon Richard Marles MP

Enhancing Australia's Prosperity

Michael Stutchbury, Editor in Chief, *The Australian Financial Review*

Robert Milliner, B20 Sherpa and Senior Advisor, UBS

Mike Callaghan AM, Director, G20 Studies Centre, Lowy Institute for International Policy

Chair: Kate Carnell AO, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mike Callaghan AM, Michael Stutchbury, Robert Milliner, and Kate Carnell AO



Australian Institute of International Affairs

Strengthening Australia's Security

Rory Medcalf, Director, International Security Program, Lowy Institute

Peter Jennings PSM, Executive Director, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Dr Tanya Ogilvie-White, Research Director, Centre for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, Australian National University

Professor Alan Dupont, School of Social Sciences, UNSW

Chair: Professor Peter Edwards AM FAIIA



Rory Medcalf, Dr Tanya Ogilvie-White, Prof Peter Edwards AM FAIIA, Peter Jennings PSM, and Prof Alan Dupont participating in the *Strengthening Australia's Security* session

Contributing to Global Issues

Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs FAIIA, President, Australian Human Rights Commission

Professor Megan Davis, Director, Indigenous Law Centre, UNSW and Member of the United Nations (UN) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Paul Wilson, Acting Assistant Secretary, Parliamentary and Media Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and former Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN and to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva

Chair: Professor Samina Yasmeen AM FAIIA, Director, Centre for Muslim States and Societies, University of Western Australia



Emeritus Prof Gillian Triggs, Prof Megan Davis, Prof Samina Yasmeen AM FAIIA, and Paul Wilson participating in the *Contributing to Global Issues* session



Masterclass Program

Youth engagement was a primary goal of the 2014 National Conference. For the first time the program included a Masterclass program the day before the conference. The Masterclasses offered the opportunity for students and young professionals to engage in an intimate discussion with leading figures in one of six classes:

Defence and Security

Ric Smith AO PSM FAIIA, former Secretary, Department of Defence

Moderator: Cameron Hawker, ACT Branch President

International Law and Human Rights

Professor Gillian Triggs FAIIA, President, Australian Human Rights Commission

Moderator: Associate Professor Shirley Scott, Research Chair

Diplomacy

Geoff Miller AO FAIIA, former Ambassador to Indonesia and former Director-General, Office of National Assessments

Moderator: John Goodlad, WA Branch President

Media

Graeme Dobell FAIIA, former ABC and Radio Australia correspondent

Moderator: Colin Chapman, AIIA NSW President

Academia

Professor Samina Yasmeen AM FAIIA, University of Western Australia

Moderator: Associate Professor Felix Patrikeeff, SA Branch President

Aid and Development

Dr Janet Hunt FAIIA, former Executive Director of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid

Moderator: Alison Broinowski Visiting Fellow, Faculty of Asian Studies, Australian National University

Following a competitive process, 50 students were selected to participate in the program, which received enormous praise from students and speakers alike. The Masterclass program was followed by a welcome reception at Government House that noted the beginning of the National Conference. All Masterclass students were invited and all attended, with many identifying it as an incredible opportunity. The reception was generously hosted by the AIIA's patron His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of Australia.



Masterclass student Saran van Bronswijk asking a question during a panellist discussion



Participants

Speakers and participants came from a variety of organisations that included:

Diplomatic:

- Ambassador of Argentina
- Ambassador of Colombia
- Ambassador of Finland
- Ambassador of Hungary
- Ambassador of Kenya
- Ambassador of Mongolia
- Ambassador of Poland
- Ambassador of Timor-Leste
- Ambassador of Saudi Arabia
- High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea
- Deputy High Commissioner of Canada
- Deputy High Commissioner of Malaysia
- Embassy of Belgium
- Embassy of Denmark
- Embassy of France
- Embassy of Japan
- Embassy of Korea
- Embassy of the Netherlands
- Embassy of the Philippines
- Embassy of the Slovak Republic
- Embassy of the State of Qatar
- Embassy of the United States of America
- Taiwan Economic and Cultural office

Government:

- Attorney-Generals Department
- Australian Parliament House
- Department of Defence
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Immigration and Border Protection
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Australian Human Rights Commission



**Cam Hawker,
President AIIA
ACT Branch asks a
question during the
*Strengthening
Australia's Security*
session**

**Masterclass
student Oscar
Dowling
engages during
a panel
discussion**





John McCarthy FAIIA, National President AIIA in discussion with John Lord AM FAICD, Chairman Huawei Technologies Australia



John Goodlad, President AIIA WA and Phillip Flood AO FAIIA enjoying a break between sessions

Academic Institutions and Think Tanks:

- Australian Defence Force Academy
- Australian National University
- Australian Strategic Policy Institute
- Australian-American Fulbright Commission
- Centre for Policy Development
- University of Sydney
- Lowy Institute for International Policy
- Murdoch University
- University of New South Wales
- University of Queensland
- University of Western Australia
- Stratfor
- United Nations Association of Australia
- Flinders University

Business:

- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- CMAX Communications
- Emery Partners
- Norton Rose Fulbright
- Huawei Technologies
- *The Australian Financial Review*
- UBS
- The Australian Financial Security Authority



Media

The conference was attended by multiple media representatives, including:

- Australia's Public Affairs Channel
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation
- Sky News
- Win News
- Fairfax Media



An audience question during the *Strengthening Australia's Security* session

In the weeks following, the conference generated significant media coverage including:

Television and Radio

- Sky News broadcast
- Australia's Public Affairs Channel (A-PAC) for broadcast on pay TV
- AIIA's YouTube Channel AIIAvision: <http://www.youtube.com/user/aiiavision/>
- ABC – PM
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-04/australia-pulls-out-of-membership-of-new-asian/5866588?section=business>

Print and Online

- Sydney Morning Herald '*Richard Marles talks down adopting boat turn-backs strategy after Labor revolt*' <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/richard-marles-talks-down-adopting-boat-turnbacks-strategy-after-labor-revolt-20141027-11cckv.html>
- Sydney Morning Herald '*Federal Politics Live: October 27, 2014*' <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/the-pulse-live/federal-politics-wrap-october-27-2014-20141027-3ixpr.html>

Analysis

- The Interpreter '*Can Australia remain a top 20 nation?*' <http://www.lowyinterpreter.org/post/2014/10/23/Can-Australia-remain-a-top-20-nation.aspx>
- ASPI Strategist '*Australia as US satrap*' <http://www.aspistrategist.org.au/australia-as-us-satrap/print/>
- Peter Jennings '*Being a Top 20 Defence Player*' <http://www.aspistrategist.org.au/being-a-top-20-defence-player/>
- Andrew Carr '*Learning to Act like a Major Power*' <http://www.aspistrategist.org.au/learning-to-act-like-a-major-power-australia-as-a-top-20-nation/>
- Rod Lyon '*Near or Far? The choices of a top 20 nation*' <http://www.aspistrategist.org.au/near-or-far-the-choices-of-a-top-20-defence-nation/>



Exhibitors

The success of the event was facilitated by the contributions of exhibitors. Exhibitors were able to engage conference guests with stands and promotional items. Stands were set up in the antechamber, which was available to guests during session breaks. The exhibitors were as follows:

- **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**

DFAT has supported the AIIA for over 40 years via the *International Relations Grant Program*, and generously supported the 2014 National Conference.

- **Routledge Taylor & Francis**

Routledge Taylor & Francis is the publishing body that assists the AIIA to produce the *Australian Journal of International Affairs*.

- **Scope Global**

Formerly Austraining International, Scope Global is an international project management company that works on international development and education programs.

- **Odyssey Travel**

Odyssey travel is a not-for-profit organisation seeking to engage socially aware travellers in historical, exotic and remote areas of the world.

- **Australian Institute of International Affairs**

The AIIA utilised the National Conference as a method of promoting and engaging recent publications. These included: *The Ministers for Foreign Affairs (1960-1972)*, *Emerging Scholars 2014*, *R.G. Casey: Ministers for External Affairs*, *Australian Foreign Policies: Controversies and Debates*.



Adrian March, AIIA, at the AIIA bookstall in the antechamber during a session break



Feedback

Very positive feedback was received for both the National Conference and Masterclass program. Participants rated the speakers 4.4 and organisation 4.5, with the overall satisfaction from the conference at 4.4 out of 5. Attendees were very enthusiastic about participating in future events. Excitement for the next conference is already mounting. The following feedback was received:

'Congratulations on organising such a successful gathering' (Peter Jennings PSM, ASPI)

'An excellent event...contemporary, diverse and policy-relevant ideas' (Rory Medcalf, Lowy Institute)

'Congratulations on a terrific conference...this event puts AIIA on the national map' (Alison Broinowski, ANU)

'Impressed with the quality and enthusiasm of the audience engagement' (Professor Alan Dupont, UNSW)

'Successful in presenting thoughtful and practical discussion of issues relevant to Australia in so many areas... Well done to all involved in this successful event' (Geoff Miller AO FAIIA)

'It was sincerely a magnificent presentation with a beautiful panel of speakers. A very high level on each topic' (Cédric Prieto, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of France)

'Really enjoyed the conference, the speakers were truly impressive and I feel I learnt a lot' (Michelle Harwood, AFSA)

'I cannot remember an international affairs conference with so many under 25s participating, and asking so many questions' (Colin Chapman, AIIA NSW)

'Great to meet the young people...well worth doing & I enjoyed it too!' (Dr Janet Hunt FAIIA)

'The Masterclasses were fantastic! ... Government House was an additional bonus, which blew our expectations out of the water' (Patricia Dias, ASPI)



Acknowledgements

The 2014 AIIA National Conference was made possible through the generous support of:

- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Routledge Taylor & Francis
- Scope Global
- Odyssey Travel

The Australian Institute of International Affairs would like to thank all participants in the conference, particularly the speakers and moderators.

The organising Sub-Committee was comprised of:

- Mr John McCarthy AO FAIIA, National President, AIIA
- Ms Zara Kimpton OAM, National Vice-President, AIIA
- Ms Melissa Conley Tyler, National Executive Director, AIIA
- Mr John Robbins CSC, National Deputy Director, AIIA
- Mr Cameron Hawker, President, ACT Branch
- Mr Colin Chapman, Past-President, AIIA NSW
- Mr Geoffrey Ewing, President, QLD Branch
- Mr Stuart Bryson, Council member, ACT Branch
- Ms Madge Thomas, Council member, AIIA in Western Australia

The event would not have been possible without the dedication of the volunteer organising team:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Ms Sarah Hatley | • Mr Andrew Dunn-Lobban |
| • Mr Alex MacLaurin | • Ms Rachelle Saad |
| • Mr Nathen Fair | • Ms Hale Yildiz |
| • Ms Patricia Dias | • Ms Elise Terrell |
| • Ms Kate Wright | • Mr Adrian March |



**Australian Institute of International Affairs
Fellows Awards**