



Media Release

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Great Expectations: Obama's Foreign Policy

The world is watching the new Obama Administration and analysing each of its initiatives. The Australian Institute of International Affairs is hosting its major event for 2009 looking at Obama's foreign policy and its implications for Australia and the region.

The AIIA's invitation-only National President's Forum brings together senior government policy makers and experts on the US foreign policy, security studies and international relations to discuss the new administration's foreign policy and its relationship with Australia and the rest of the world. It will be held at Parliament House in Adelaide on 5 May 2009 followed by a reception at Government House.

The Forum will clarify the Obama administration's emerging approaches to international issues including the global financial crisis, war on terrorism, poverty and nuclear non-proliferation. The Forum will produce solid policy recommendations for Australia in responding to the directions of the new administration's foreign policy.

Even though the discussion will be held under Chatham House rule to enable a frank exchange of views, media representatives are welcome to attend and to interview speakers and participants in the event. Key speakers include:

- The Hon Alexander Downer, former Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Dr Michael Fullilove, Director of the Global Issues Program, Lowy Institute for International Policy
- Professor William Tow, Department of International Relations, ANU
- Dr Rod Lyon, Program Director, Strategy and International, ASPI
- Professor Robert O'Neill AO, Member of the Board of the Lowy Institute for International Policy and Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs
- Associate Professor Lyn Carson, Academic Program Director, United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney

Senior representatives of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Defence, Office of National Assessments and Defence Science and Technology Organisation have all confirmed that they will be involved

The Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) was established in 1924 as an independent non-political body to promote an interest in and understanding of international affairs. The AIIA operates nationwide with 1600 members across seven State and Territory Branches. The AIIA provides a forum for discussion, educates and disseminates ideas via its journal *Australian Journal of International Affairs* and its book series *Australia in World Affairs*.

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