



Australian Institute of International Affairs

Contact: Melissa Conley Tyler, National Executive Director
Mobile: 0409 765 787

Media Release

28 July 2009

Inaugural Singapore-Australia Dialogue

The bilateral relationship between Australia and Singapore is one of Southeast Asia's most comprehensive; it is strategic, deep and broad-based. Both countries have cultivated a strong partnership; one which is proving to be robust even amidst the global financial crisis.

In line with enhancing the strong relationship between the two countries, the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) and the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) jointly present the Inaugural Singapore-Australia Dialogue. This Track 2 dialogue follows the biennial Singapore-Australia Joint Ministerial Committee (SAJMC) meeting, which will be held in Singapore.

On 27 July, the Ministerial Launch of the Singapore-Australia Dialogue will be held in the National Library of Singapore. The Hon Stephen Smith MP, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and His Excellency George Yeo, Singapore Minister for Foreign Affairs, will speak on bilateral relations between the two countries and the role of each country in the Asia-Pacific region.

On 28 July, a roundtable discussion will be held at the Regent Hotel. A select group of experts on Asian studies from both Australia and Singapore has been invited to join the dialogue. Key speakers include:

- Mr Richard Woolcott AC, Former Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Ambassador Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore
- Professor James Cotton, Australian Defence Force Academy, University of New South Wales

Topics to be discussed include:

- Regional Security and Cooperation,
- Economic Issues in the Global Financial Crisis,
- Multiculturalism within and between countries, and
- Moving the Region Forward Post-Global Financial Crisis

Following the roundtable, a reception will be hosted by His Excellency Doug Chester, High Commissioner, Australian High Commission in Singapore.

The Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) was established in 1933 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, it also educates and disseminates ideas via its journal *Australian Journal of International Affairs* and its book series *Australia in World Affairs*.

Contact: National Executive Director Melissa Conley Tyler - 0409 765 787.