



Australian Institute of International Affairs, Victoria

Promoting understanding of international issues

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March 2016 Newsletter

Dear Fellow Members and Supporters of the AIIA,

2016 promises many changes in international politics. The year has opened with difficult questions about the very future of the European Union, and will end with a new President in the White House. Keep in touch with these and other matters of State with the AIIA

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Fellows of the AIIA

We also congratulate and welcome the following people, who have been honoured as Fellows of the AIIA:

The Hon Kim Beazley AC
Geraldine Doogue AO
The Hon Alexander Downer AC
Dr Ken Henry AC
David Irvine AO

The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG
Professor John Ravenhill
Elizabeth Reid AO FASSA
Penny Wensley AC

Kim Beazley appointed our National President

The Hon. Kim Beazley AC last month assumed the role of National President of the AIIA. We wish him the best of careers here after his ambassadorship in Washington.

Upon returning to Australia he has been not only appointed as President of the Australian Institute for International Affairs but also as Distinguished Fellow at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Senior Fellow at the Perth USAsia Centre and Board Member of the Australian American Leadership Dialogue.



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New Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Mr Dustyn Breadmore
Mr Henry Storey
Mr Samuel Kingsley
Miss Melissa Liberatore
Dr Lindsay and Mrs
Elsa McMillan
Mrs Heather Lacey
Mr Hassan Hassan
Mr Stephen Conley
Miss Lale Ramadan
Ms Teresa Hall
Miss Jun Yi Li

Mr Benjamin
Loewenstein
Miss Min Lu
Miss Jean Delos Reyes
Miss Stephanie Le
Quesne
Mr Hugh Congleton
Dr Roger Hurcombe
Miss Casey Williams
Ms Estelle Parker
Associate Professor
Justin and Mrs Sally
O'Day

Mr Egide Nijimbere
Mr Daniel Seehusen
Mr Steven Beutel
Mr Alister Braithwaite
Mr Matthew Blundell
Ms Emily Ireland
Mr Dimitre Artakov
Mr Mohamed Yousuf
Jama
Mr Mahad Warsame
Mrs Antonietta Curtis

On May 25th there will be a General Meeting for all and to welcome New Members

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Australian Institute of International Affairs Study Tour to Sri Lanka July 2016



"We begin with an exciting announcement: we will be running a Study Tour of Sri Lanka this July. Escape the depths of Victorian winter for one of the most naturally abundant and politically interesting countries in the world. Our tour will combine consultations with high level government officials, including state ministers and the head of the constitution reform programme, and a well-rounded cultural and tourist experience. We will scale ancient fortresses and visit an elephant sanctuary, then engage with fellow think tanks, government departments and reputable NGOs." The AIIA Victoria is organising a Study Tour to Sri Lanka departing Australia July 9th and returning July 21st /22nd.

The tour will be led by Mr. David Ritchie who was Australia's High Commissioner in Sri Lanka from 1995 to 1999. David welcomes the chance to lead our Study Tour to see the great changes in Sri Lanka following the insurgency.

We have been working closely with the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Canberra and the Consul General in Melbourne. The High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr Skandakumar commends the AIIA for taking the initiative for this Study Tour and will come to Melbourne to brief Members.

Mr Skandakumar said: "I wish to commend the initiative of the AIIA in organising this Study Tour. In addition to an exposure to our heritage and culture, participants will have a unique opportunity to see firsthand the consequences of a long conflict and the positive steps taken since its end towards rehabilitation, reconstruction and reconciliation. Hopefully with assistance from our international partners these steps will pave the way for prosperity through a modern economy that embraces all our people"



H.E. S Skandakumar

Indeed, our High Commissioner in Colombo, Mr Bryce Hutchesson is also looking forward to our visit.

The estimated cost to those staying in Four/Five Star hotels will be \$2,300 per person sharing and \$3,200 for single occupancy. We have also arranged for a lower cost accommodation in Three Star hotels with dual occupancy costing \$1,680 and \$2,350 for single occupancy. These amounts cover all accommodation, breakfasts and dinner, transport in a private, Air-Conditioned coach with an English speaking National guide and one Standard Local Mobile Sim Card per couple. With fluctuations in exchange rates these amounts may change a little. The above costs do not include air fares, lunches and entry to some sites.

The Tour starts in Colombo with a briefing at our High Commission. We then will travel to places such as Jaffna, Kandy and Ratnapura and see some of Sri Lanka's 8 World Heritage Sites.

Meetings are planned with several government, and non-governmental experts and leaders and institutions. We will also further our relationships with like-minded organisations and NGOs.

Sri Lanka has now emerged from its Civil War and is poised for greater economic development. There could not be a more opportune time to visit Sri Lanka given its political stability and its emerging economic development.

Sri Lanka is one of the most beautiful islands in the world with Dutch, Indian, Portuguese and British influences. It is thus filled with many cultural treasures as well as having much natural beauty. It was the headquarters for the British Army for the Far East in the Second World War.

We invite expressions of interest in participating in this Tour by [clicking here](#) to register your interest providing your name and contact details.

A deposit of 20% of the cost would need to be made by April 30 and the final payment by June 18th.

The AIIA will be having two or three Information evenings in the coming weeks the first being on April 7th with the Sri Lankan Consul General in Melbourne, Mr Prasanna. The Tour is being coordinated by Sean Jesudason, AIIAV Council Member, any suggestions and queries contact sean.jesudason@internationalaffairs.org.au

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Forthcoming Events at Dyason House

Topic	Speaker	Month	Date
Cuba - Obstacles, Opportunities and Optimism	H.E. Mr Jose Manuel Galego Montano, Ambassador of Cuba	March	Thu 17 th
Wrestling with the Zika Virus: Knowledge gaps, policy conundrums and international response	Prof Cameron Simmons, Melbourne University	March	Tues 22 nd
Global Efforts against Financial Crime	Clive Scott, IMF Singapore	April	Tue 12 th
Australia in Geneva: Interests and Issues at the United Nations	H.E. Mr John Quinn, Ambassador to UN Geneva	April	Wed 13 th
Dangerous Global Warming - Fact or Fiction? Limits of the Paris Accord. (Luncheon event)	Des Moore, Institute for Private Enterprise	April	Thu 14 th
<i>Africa topic (tbc)</i>	H.E. Mr Mark Sawers, Ambassador to Ethiopia and the African Union	May	Thu 12 th
Crimes Against the Environment under International Criminal Law (Law Week Partner Event)	Prof Steven Freeland, Western Sydney Uni	May	Mon 16 th
General Meeting/Networking Event	AIIAV President/Council	May	Wed 25 th

All Events commence at 6.00 pm unless otherwise stated. Other Events will be added, so **please watch out for your Flyers**.

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New Interns

We welcome two new Interns to the Victorian Branch.

Megan Giles has joined AIIA Victoria as a Programme Support/ Communications Intern. She'll be researching and reporting on speakers for the event. Megan graduated with a Master of International Development from RMIT last year, and her research centred on postcolonial tourism and how young people gain social and cultural capital through Third World travel. Megan works in the marketing department at Save the Children Australia and has interests in global trade, gender studies and postcolonial theory.

Matt Barrett is acting as President's Intern, in which he'll be aiding Patrick Moore with the organisation of Study Tours, liaising with visitors and reporting on some events we host. Matt studied philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford and is now a tutor at Trinity College.

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GENERAL INTEREST

Get reading. Here is the definitive list of material which will leave you far less ignorant than you are now: <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2015/12/what-were-reading-recommended-books-from-2015/>

Programme highlights so far this year

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

It was with great excitement that the AIIA welcomed a delegation from the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) to an intimate roundtable discussion on 12 February. KAS is a global leader in political thought and a home for debate and intellectual curiosity in the spirit of modern Germany's first Chancellor, the eponymous Konrad Adenauer.

A select group were treated to a presentation by Dr Klaus Schüler, Federal Director of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany. If Chancellor Merkel is credited with building Germany's solid political and economic foundations for the 21st century, then Dr Schüler is most certainly one of the architects. The so-called "mastermind of the Merkel-machine" was appointed Federal Director of the CDU in 2009 and, as such, was responsible for the party's campaign of 2013, in which Ms. Merkel won a third term as Chancellor with the best election result for the CDU in two decades.

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Belgian ambassador

European history seems to be a story of crisis after crisis, each met head on and swiftly dealt with by enlightened and gallant statesman. Far from this romantic notion, explained HE Jean Luc Bodson, Belgian ambassador to Australia, modern European leaders are battling on many fronts. Still nursing bruises from the financial crisis, waves of migration, Russian imperialism and cultural disharmony threaten the very fabric of the European Union.

In an insightful talk, Jean Luc explained that monetary union without common fiscal policy, such as Europe has, ties the hands of leaders to solve complex problems. Tugging at its fringes, places such as Ukraine are struggling with their European identity, a fact that one Mr Putin appears happy to exploit. You are either in the union, or you're not, Jean Luc believes, referring to a proposed Brexit but, in his view, Europe benefits from having more power players at the table. Germany could use the help.

As a polity, Europe itself is not the same place as it was 50 years ago. Once homogenous populations are swamped by immigration from porous Border States like Greece and Turkey. This in turn creates deep divisions in society and is giving rise to a multitude of issues. The harder it gets, it would seem, the less there is anyone can do about it.

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Taiwan's Elections

Professor J Bruce Jacobs, Emeritus Professor of Asian Languages and Studies at Monash, spoke last week on the recent and remarkable legislative and presidential elections in Taiwan. So overwhelming was the popularity of Tsai Ing-Wen and her party, the DPP that she won over 56% of the vote in a three-way contest, becoming Taiwan's first female president.

Prof. Jacobs noted that this latest oscillation in party popularity represents a maturing of Tsai Ing-Wen's politics, and a marked shift in the identity of Taiwanese voters. The internal discomfort with being or not being Chinese seems to be fading, one gets the sense that young Taiwanese identify as exactly that, rather than being not-mainland-Chinese. They are forging their own way ahead. A level of neglect in the economy also means there is plenty of room for the new government to make its mark.

Brexit

Sir Nigel Broomfield, ex-UK Ambassador to East Germany and, later, Germany, addressed us under Chatham House Rules. However, statements made earlier at a different location indicate he is a staunch supporter of Britain staying in the EU. He entertained a packed house with anecdotes from his time in the diplomatic service and a lively Q&A session followed. Sir Nigel fielded numerous enquiries on the arguments posited by the "ins" and those by the "outs", whether Britain itself could remain unified without the EU and also the implications for Australia when the UK votes in late June this year.

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Past Events

Set out below is a list of all Events held so far this year. Total attendance at the events below is over 350.

Topic	Speaker
Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation: closed-invitation Roundtable lunch	Dr Klaus Schüler; (organised by AIIA National Office)
Migration, Terrorism and other Crises: the European Model under Threat?	H.E. Mr Jean-Luc Bodson, Ambassador of Belgium
The Past and Future of War	Prof Azar Gat, Tel Aviv University
Social Swings and Nuclear Roundabouts - North Korea in 2016	Dr Ben Habib, La Trobe University
Lunchtime Roundtable (in conjunction with Australian Intercultural Society)	Kerim Balci, Editor-in-Chief of Turkish Review Journal
Taiwan's Presidential and Legislative Elections - Implications for the Region	Emeritus Prof Bruce Jacobs, Monash University
The UK and The EU - The many implications of "Brexit"	Sir Nigel Broomfield KCMG

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Thank you to all who make all this possible: Council Members, Volunteers, Interns. Peta and many others.



Patrick Moore
President
AIIA Victoria