



**Australian Institute
of International Affairs**

National Conference 2018

**Australian Foreign Policy:
Making the World Work**

Outcomes Report

*The Australian Institute of International Affairs is an independent national organisation
dedicated to promoting greater understanding of international issues since 1924*

internationalaffairs.org.au

National Conference 2018
Australian Foreign Policy: Making the World Work

The AIIA National Conference 2018 was a remarkable success with prominent expert speakers, provocative and engaging debate and unprecedented media coverage.

Highlights

- Near-record participation with more than 370 attendees
- High levels of youth engagement with more than 130 students and young professionals attending the conference and Masterclass program
- Extraordinary coverage of the conference in mainstream and social media, with #AIIA18 becoming the 5th most popular topic on Twitter Australia-wide and a national trending topic over two days
- Engaging speeches and discussion led by prominent figures and experts
- Excellent feedback from conference attendees, including an overall quality rating of 4.5 out of 5
- Successful Masterclass program held at the Department of Foreign Affairs, which provided a chance for young professionals and students to engage in personal and intimate discussion with the Fellows of the AIIA



Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne

Speakers

Australian Foreign Policy

- **Senator the Hon Marise Payne**, Minister for Foreign Affairs
- **Senator the Hon Penny Wong**, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs
- **Allan Gyngell AO FAIIA**, National President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs
- Chair: **Zara Kimpton OAM**, National Vice-President, Australian Institute of International Affairs

Enhancing Australia's Prosperity

- **Dr John Edwards**, Adjunct Professor, John Curtin Institute of Public Policy and Fellow, Lowy Institute
- **Penny Burt**, Group CEO, Asialink
- **Fiona Simson**, President, National Farmers Federation
- **Professor Mark Beeson**, Professor at the University of Western Australia and Research Chair, AIIA
- Chair: **Tom Rayner**, Director, Deloitte Risk Advisory and National Treasurer, AIIA



From Left: Tom Rayner, Professor Mark Beeson, Fiona Simson and Penny Burt, Dr John

Strengthening Australia's Security

- **Professor Rory Medcalf**, Head of the National Security College, Australian National University
- **Dr Elsin Wainwright AM**, Senior Fellow, US Studies Centre, University of Sydney and Non-Resident Fellow, Center on International Cooperation, New York University
- **Dr Rebecca Strating**, Department of Politics and Philosophy, La Trobe University
- **James Brown**, President of the Returned and Services Leagues NSW
- Chair: **Professor Clinton Fernandes**, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy



From Left: Professor Rory Medcalf, Professor Clinton Fernandes, James Brown, Dr Rebecca Strating and Dr Elsin Wainwright AM

Australia's Contribution to Global Issues

- **Associate Professor Helen Evans AO FAIIA**, Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne
- **Christine Milne**, former Leader of the Australian Greens and former Senator for Tasmania
- **Professor Steven Freeland**, Dean, School of Law, Western Sydney University
- **Professor Toby Walsh FAAS**, Professor of Artificial Intelligence, University of New South Wales
- Chair: **Professor Toni Erksine**, Director of the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University



From Left: Professor Toby Walsh FAAS, Professor Steven Freeland, Christine Milne AO, Associate Professor Helen Evans AO FAIIA

Concluding Remarks

- **John McCarthy AO**, former Ambassador/High Commissioner to the US, Japan, Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand and India and past National President, AIIA
- **Melissa Conley Tyler**, National Executive Director, AIIA



John McCarthy AO FAIIA



Melissa Conley Tyler

Masterclass Program

Masterclasses preceded the National Conference on Sunday 14 October at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Treaties Room. Students and young professionals were selected through a competitive process to attend the diverse and immersive classes, led by experts in their field in one of four classes:

Australia and the Indo-Pacific

- **Dr Sue Boyd FAIIA**, former High Commissioner to Fiji and Bangladesh, Consul-General to Hong Kong and Ambassador to Vietnam
- **Richard Smith AO PSM FAIIA**, former secretary of the Department of Defence and former Ambassador to China and to Indonesia

Diplomacy and Public Diplomacy

- **The Hon Penelope Wensley AC FAIIA**, former Governor of Queensland and senior diplomat with postings as Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador to France, Consul General in Hong Kong, High Commissioner to India and Ambassador for the Environment
- **Dr Alison Broinowski FAIIA**, former Australian diplomat, author and research affiliate at the Australian National University

Intelligence and Diplomacy

- **David Irvine AO FAIIA**, former Director-General, Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), former Ambassador to China and former High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea
- **Geoffrey Miller AO FAIIA**, former Director-General of the Office of National Assessments, former Ambassador to Japan and South Korea and former High Commissioner to New Zealand

Global Issues and International Organisations

- **Associate Professor Helen Evans AO FAIIA**, The Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne and former Deputy Executive Director at The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- **Emeritus Professor Ramesh Thakur FAIIA**, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University and former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations



Diplomacy and Public Diplomacy Masterclass Leaders and Attendees

Masterclass Reception

The **Embassy of the Republic of Poland** in Canberra kindly hosted a reception for Masterclass attendees, speakers and AIIA guests. The reception was well received by all participants.



Welcome Address: HE Michał Kołodziejcki, Ambassador of Poland



UNSW Canberra and Department of Home Affairs Masterclass Attendees



Department of Home Affairs Masterclass Attendees



ANU Coral Bell School and New Colombo Plan Alumni Masterclass Attendees



Masterclass Leader, Alison Broinowski with Fulbright Scholar Masterclass Attendee



Polish Delicacies

Media and Social Media Coverage

International and domestic television and newspaper organisations were well represented at the national conference, and the event received wide coverage in mainstream and social media.

Both the minister and shadow minister fielded doorstep interviews in front of AIIA branding. Domestic coverage included ASPI's *the Strategist*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Herald Sun*, the *Australian* and coverage on national television. Wire coverage meant that the AIIA National Conference was mentioned as the venue of the minister's "first major foreign policy speech" since assuming her new role in such international publications as the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Daily Mail*, the *Times of India*, Canada's *National Post*, the *Taipei Times* and the *New Zealand Herald*. Several publications linked to the AIIA website in their coverage. The hashtag #AIIA18 was the fifth most popular on Twitter Australia-wide that day.

Global, national and metropolitan media organisations that covered the event include the following:

- [American Broadcasting Corporation](#)
- A-PAC TV
- [The Australian](#), also [here](#)
- [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#)
- [Daily Bangladesh](#)
- [Daily Mail](#)
- [The Herald Sun](#)
- [Houston Chronicle](#)
- [Manila Bulletin](#)
- [Macau Daily Times](#)
- [Miami Herald](#)
- [Montreal Gazette](#)
- [MSN News](#)
- [National Post \(Canada\)](#)
- [Navy Times](#)
- [New Delhi Times](#)
- [New York Times](#)
- [News.com.au](#)
- [New Zealand Herald](#)
- [Seattle Times](#)
- STET
- [The Standard \(Hong Kong\)](#)
- [Stars and Stripes](#)
- [The Strategist \(ASPI\)](#), also [here](#)
- [Sydney Morning Herald](#)
- [Taiwan News](#)
- [Taipei Times](#)
- [Times of India](#)
- [U.S. News and World Report](#)
- [Voice of Vietnam](#)
- [Voice of America \(Burmese\)](#)
- [Washington Post](#)
- [Washington Times](#)
- [World News Network](#)
- [Yahoo News](#)
- There was also [ample wire coverage](#) in local outlets around the world.



Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne



Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator⁷ the Hon Penny Wong

Conference Participants

The conference attracted participants from a variety of backgrounds, including:

Diplomatic Corps

- HE Beryl Sisulu, High Commissioner of South Africa
- HE Breandán Ó Caollai, Ambassador of Ireland
- HE Edwin Adjei, High Commissioner of Ghana
- HE Erica Schouten, Ambassador of the Netherlands
- HE Frank Bwalya, High Commissioner of Zambia
- HE George Dolidze, Ambassador of Georgia
- HE Hugo Gobbi, Ambassador of Argentina
- HE István Mikola, Ambassador of Hungary
- HE Jaime Bueno-Miranda, Ambassador of Colombia
- HE Jairo Hernandez-Milian, Ambassador of Costa Rica
- HE Mesaad Al Sulaim, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia
- HE Michał Kołodziejski, Ambassador of Poland
- HE Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, High Commissioner of Bangladesh
- HE Nantana Sivakua, Ambassador of Thailand
- HE Professor Joyce Kikafunda, High Commissioner of Uganda
- HE Wahidullah Waissi, Ambassador of Afghanistan
- Mr, Arnaud Dusaucy, Chargé d’Affaires, Royal Belgian Embassy
- Mr, Matar Almansoori, Chargé d’Affaires, Embassy of the United Arab Emirates
- Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Australia
- Diplomatic officers from the embassies of the United States, Denmark, Sweden, Argentina, Ireland, France, Russian Federation, Norway, People’s Republic of China, Japan, Philippines, Uruguay, Mexico, and Japan as well as High Commissions of Canada, Malaysia, and New Zealand.



From Left: Allan Gyngell AO FAIIA, HE Michał Kołodziejski, Zara Kimpton OAM

Organisations

- Asialink Business
- Australian-American Fulbright Commission
- National Farmers Federation
- Returned and Services League NSW
- Sri Public Sector Reform
- Ministry for Peace Australia
- World Citizens Association of Australia

Business

- Robert Ward & Associates
- Cardno
- Cornerstone Group
- Deloitte
- GHD
- Huawei Australia
- Woodside Energy



AIIA VIC Office

Government

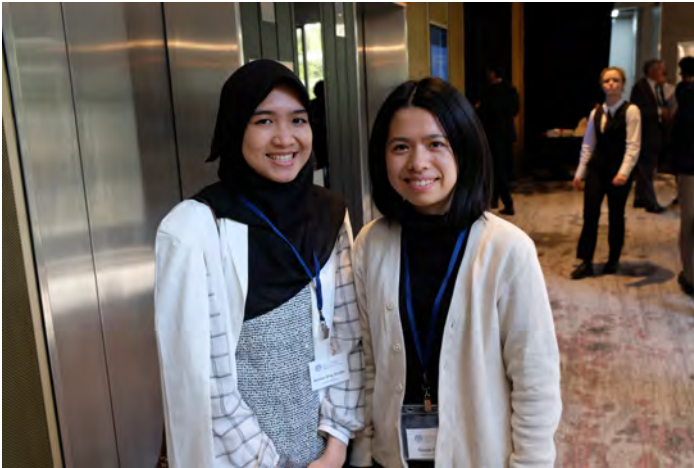
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Home Affairs
- Department of Defence
- Department of Finance
- The Treasury
- Australian Defence Forces
- Royal Australian Navy
- Australian Federal Police
- Public Transport Victoria
- Queensland Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
- Sea Power Centre Australia, Department of Defence



Attendees from Department of Home Affairs

Education

- ANU Centre for European Studies
- ANU Coral Bell School
- ANU National Security College
- Australian National University
- Burgmann Anglican School
- Curtin University
- James Cook University
- La Trobe University
- Macquarie University
- Monash University
- United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney
- University of Adelaide
- University of Canberra
- University of Melbourne
- University of New South Wales
- University of New South Wales Canberra at ADFA
- University of Sydney
- University of Tasmania
- University of Western Australia
- Western Sydney University



University of Melbourne Attendees



New Colombo Plan Alumni Attendees



ANU Coral Bell School Attendees



Burgmann Anglican School Attendees

Sponsors and Partners

The success of the National Conference and Masterclasses was made possible by the contributions of sponsors and partners. Sponsors and partners were able to engage conference guests with stands, branding and promotional items.

Major Partners

- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- New Colombo Plan
- Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Canberra

Session Sponsors

- Asialink Business
- UNSW Canberra
- Monash Gender, Peace, and Security

Masterclass Partners

- Department of Home Affairs
- ANU Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs
- University of Melbourne
- Attorney-General's Department

Publishing Partner

- Routledge Taylor & Francis



Feedback

Very positive feedback was received for the National Conference. The overall quality was rated 4.5 out of 5. Participants ranked the venue 4.5 out of 5 and organisation 4.6 out of 5.

Attendees were very enthusiastic about participating in future AIIA events. The following feedback was received:

- *“Masterclasses were excellent and a good value add!”*
- *“Just keep achieving excellence!”*
- *“(It) challenged my thinking on traditional constructions/notions of security & particularly Australia’s engagement.”*
- *“Some conferences you go to and you can tell if they are working or not. That Conference was working!!”*

Notable Feedback

“Congratulations on a splendid conference and thanks to you and your team for your great effort. We really enjoyed it. I found the Masterclass participants a very rewarding lot of young people.”

Dr Alison Broinowski, Vice-President of Australians for War Powers Reform

“The recent AIIA Conference and Masterclasses were an excellent experience. I heartily recommended to my supervisors that future Fulbright postgraduate scholars should attend the Masterclasses if possible, and hope that they can benefit as I did. Thank you for your work in overseeing and organizing these activities which were a blessing to me.”

Stanley Schwartz, Sponsored Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar Attendee

“Thanks for the great reception last night. I heard a lot of good feedback from the NCP alumni on the master classes. They seemed to really enjoy them.”

Sarah Lendon, Director of New Colombo Plan Alumni, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

“Thank you for all your hard work organising the Masterclasses, I know the other graduates and I got a lot out of the experience.”

Lauren Carmody, Sponsored Department of Home Affairs Attendee

Acknowledgements

The AIIA gratefully acknowledges the National Conference Organising Sub-Committee:

- Allan Gyngell AO FAIIA, National President
- Zara Kimpton OAM, National Vice-President, AIIA
- Melissa Conley Tyler, National Executive Director, AIIA
- Dr. Bryce Wakefield, National Deputy Director, AIIA
- Angus Esslemont, National Operations Manager
- Christopher Adam, AIIA ACT
- Greg Wills, AIIA Vic
- Ian Lincoln, AIIA NSW
- Amelia Shaw, AIIA Queensland
- Kim Boyer, AIIA Tasmania
- Tom Bettinson, AIIA National Office

The AIIA also gratefully acknowledges the work of AIIA volunteer staff in organising this event:

- Tian Zhang
- Kevin Marco Tanaya
- Angela Chen
- Tommy Chai
- Yip Lew Ching
- Matt Longworth
- Allison Kephart
- Stephanie Rowell
- Lauren Skinner
- Maria Bergmann
- Tessie Sun
- William Chua
- Adam Bell

