



Australian
National
University



2018 AUSTRALASIAN AID CONFERENCE

ABSTRACTS

Tuesday 13 February & Wednesday 14 February 2018

JG Crawford Building 132
Lennox Crossing
Australian National University

Development Policy Centre

Crawford School of
Public Policy

ANU College of
Asia & the Pacific

 **The Asia Foundation**

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Tuesday 13 February 2018

OPENING ADDRESS

8.00am, Molonglo Theatre

Chair: Brian Schmidt
Vice-Chancellor, ANU

Senator the Hon Penny Wong Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs

Penny Wong is the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, and a member of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security. Penny was elected to the Senate in 2001 and took her seat in 2002. In 2004, Penny was elected to the Shadow Ministry. Following the election of the Labor Government in 2007, Penny was appointed the Minister for Climate Change and Water. After the 2010 election, Penny was appointed the Minister for Finance and Deregulation. In 2013, Penny was appointed Leader of the Government in the Senate. After the change of Government she was appointed the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate. Penny is the first woman to hold both these roles. Before entering politics, she worked for a union, as a ministerial adviser in the NSW Labor Government, and as a lawyer.

CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

8.30am, Molonglo Theatre

Gordon Hein, Senior Vice President (Programs), The Asia Foundation
Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

8.45am, Molonglo Theatre

Chair: Blair Exell
Acting Deputy Secretary and Ambassador for Regional Health Security, DFAT

Dr Nancy Birdsall President Emeritus, Center for Global Development

The Strugglers

Those who are not poor by conventional international poverty measures but are nevertheless far from the middle class are a large but neglected group in development discourse. In her keynote address, Nancy Birdsall will discuss the challenges they face and their prospects.

Nancy Birdsall is the founding president of the Center for Global Development. Prior to launching the Center, she served for three years as Senior Associate and Director of the Economic Reform Project at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Her work at Carnegie focused on issues of globalisation and inequality, as well as on the reform of international financial institutions. From 1993 to 1998, Birdsall was Executive Vice-President of the Inter-American Development Bank, the largest of the regional development banks, where she oversaw a \$30 billion public and

private loan portfolio. Before joining the Inter-American Development Bank, Birdsall spent 14 years in research, policy, and management positions at the World Bank, most recently as Director of the Policy Research Department. Dr Birdsall is the author, co-author, or editor of more than a dozen books. She has also written more than 100 articles for books and scholarly journals published in English and Spanish. Shorter pieces of her writing have appeared in dozens of newspapers and magazines.

PANEL 1A – Launch of *Inside the black box of political will*
10.25am – 12.00pm, Molonglo Theatre

Chair: Michael Wilson
Assistant Secretary, Governance, Fragility and Water Branch, DFAT

This submitted panel provides a launch for Inside the black box of political will, which presents key findings from the past ten years of the Developmental Leadership Program's (DLP) work. The panel also presents highlights from DLP's recent research on the role of politics and power in developmental change, with case studies from Myanmar and Fiji, as well as a practitioner's perspective.

Inside the black box of political will: findings from 10 years of the Developmental Leadership Program
David Hudson, Claire Mcloughlin, Heather Marquette and Chris Roche
Professor of Politics and Development; Lecturer; Professor of Development Politics, University of Birmingham, and Senior Research Fellow – Governance and Conflict, UK Department for International Development; Assistant Professor, La Trobe University

Reform failure, stagnating institutions, exclusion, and poor services, have typically been viewed narrowly as a problem of lack of political 'will'. A decade of DLP research calls for a move away from this static and reductionist perspective, and towards a more dynamic and temporal view of politics as a process of contestation. The report – drawing on nearly 100 underlying research papers and cases – shows how developmental leadership is at the heart of the political process that drives change. The report shows how this process is one where (1) agents become motivated and strategically aware, and (2) form coalitions with the power and legitimacy to navigate and transform institutions. Through it, (3) leaders, coalitions, and wider social movements can legitimise locally appropriate and sustainable institutions that can improve development outcomes. At the heart of this process, at each stage, the report shows the importance of ideas and values and the role of power in bringing about change. The report concludes with a set of implications for those who would wish to understand and support this political process of change.

Contestation and consultation: the politics of Myanmar's investment law reform
Niheer Dasandi
Birmingham Fellow in Politics and Development, University of Birmingham

This paper provides a detailed examination of the political process behind Myanmar's recent Investment Law. Based on interviews with the key players, the paper details how the deeply contested process of drafting and consultation was an often difficult but essential part of the eventual success of the law. In 2014, the Government of Myanmar decided to introduce a new investment law. Myanmar's Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) led the process, and began working with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) early on in the process. As part of the process, the government held a series of stakeholder consultations on the new investment law, including with civil society organisations, leading to much criticism of the initial draft of the law, and then a more effective revised investment law being passed. While many question the value of public/stakeholder consultations around reform processes in semi-autocratic and transitioning political contexts; the case of Myanmar's investment law demonstrates how consultation processes can be vital in such contexts. The stakeholder consultation helped to address the limitations in knowledge and experience of the different external and local actors involved in the reform, introduced accountability mechanisms for reform leaders, and helped to create a diverse group of actors that provided impetus for the reform of the law. As this paper demonstrates, these factors were crucial in ensuring the success of the new investment law.

Digital feminism in Fiji

Tait Brimacombe

Research Fellow, La Trobe University

This work, completed in collaboration with researchers at the University of the South Pacific, explores the emergence of social media as a site for online activism in Fiji. This project builds upon previous research into the Pacific's 'technological revolution' and the emergence of online platforms as sites for political engagement, resistance and collective action. In particular, this research explores the experiences of a group of young women's rights activists and their engagement with social media for activism and advocacy. During Fiji's 2014 elections, social media – especially Facebook – was widely used as a campaigning tool by candidates. Recent work has shown how social media in Fiji is also evolving as the 'new and safe' space for political discourse: young, technologically savvy citizens are using social media to engage with information that is restricted in the traditional media by political constraints and reporting restrictions. Young people in Fiji increasingly turn to social media for information about political issues and to discuss those issues with their peers, or to find information about their preferred political parties. Further, the internet is among the few spaces outside mainstream politics that are accessible to minorities and women's activists. To examine digital feminism and activism, this study uses qualitative data from in-depth focus groups and interviews, involving graduates of the Fiji Women's Rights Movement's Emerging Leaders Forum and other feminists who use social media for their activism. The study also draws on content analysis of social media, primarily Twitter and Facebook forums such as Take Back the Streets, which was created to document instances of harassment against women.

A Pacific, practitioner view on the politics of contestation

Anna Naupa

Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia

This presentation reflects on the findings from the DLP report – notably the way in which coalitions are formed and how they have to navigate their own social context, but also the incentive structures and traps associated with donor funding and support. This also has implications for the processes of legitimation contained in the report, and in particular will include a practitioner view on the ownership dilemma that external actors face in seeking to support locally-led political processes that may or may not align with donor policy goals.

PANEL 1B – Aid and health

10.25am – 12.00pm, Weston Theatre

Chair: Stephanie Williams

People Health Sector Specialist, DFAT

Family planning in Timor-Leste: collaborative governance?

Belinda Lawton

PhD Candidate, ANU

Whether collaborative governance takes place in the health sector in Timor-Leste is an open question. While there is broad agreement amongst stakeholders that collaborative governance is desirable, what that means is understood in divergent ways and is subject to significant political influence. This presentation examines the Family Planning Policy development, acceptance, withdrawal, reassessment and presentation to stakeholders between 2016 and 2017 through the lens of collaborative governance. The Family Planning Policy has particular resonance given the high birth-rate, high maternal and infant mortality, comparatively low contraceptive access and very high rates of domestic violence in Timor-Leste. Women typically die in their first or fifth pregnancies in Timor-Leste. The study was undertaken as part of a doctoral thesis; more than 40 individuals representing the broad range of stakeholders were interviewed as part of a qualitative examination of collaborative governance within the health field in Timor-Leste. Document analysis was also undertaken. The work took place both from Australia and during three field trips to Timor-Leste in 2017. The Family Planning Policy as a case study offers an insight into how health policy is formed in Timor-Leste and how the separation between church and state is set aside in the context of a nascent democratic nation. It demonstrates the inherent weaknesses and strengths of policy-making in post-conflict fragile states. Family Planning is a policy area that has unique resonance in economically poor and religiously defined states. The Timor-Leste experience may be instructive for other faith-defined countries in the region.

Addressing health outcomes in Papua New Guinea: lessons for donors

Michele Rumsey, Jodi Thiessen, Amanda Neill and Caroline Homer
Director; Research and Development Manager; Research Officer; Professor of Midwifery, WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Development, University of Technology Sydney

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is Australia's closest neighbour. It has a population of over 7 million people, with a life expectancy of 20 years less than in Australia (61 years old), and total expenditure on health per capita is \$109 (compared to \$4,357 per capita in Australia). This results in a critical shortage of health workers and health educators. Most recent estimates of health worker densities in PNG reflect there are six doctors, nurses and midwives per 10,000 population (compared to 157 per 10,000 population in Australia), while WHO recommends a density of 45 per 10,000 to meet population needs of 2030. PNG has one of the highest maternal death rates in the world and it is estimated that at least 1000 midwives are needed in PNG for better outcomes, yet in 2010, there were 293 registered midwives, over half of whom were over the age of 45 and so were projected to leave within the next 5-10 years. It is known that investment in childbirth can quadruple returns in terms of women's and newborn's lives saved, so this research conducted between 2011 and 2016 by members of WHO CC UTS focussed on reproductive health workers as the most effective investment to achieve this outcome. An integrated collaborative approach to research addressed four areas of health, including: strong policies and leadership in government (governance), highly qualified, knowledgeable health workers (education), who adhere to competencies and standards and provide a quality service (regulation) and support themselves through continuing professional development (association). Following a research program, all four areas were addressed resulting in significant impact for reproductive health workers, mothers and their families.

Health phone services in Papua New Guinea: lessons learnt for donors

Amanda H A Watson and Ralph Kaule
Lecturer, ANU; Lecturer, University of Papua New Guinea

This paper analyses the usage of technology for service delivery and, in particular, the use of telephone communication services in aid projects aimed at enhancing the delivery of healthcare in Papua New Guinea (PNG). In-depth interviews were conducted with 24 people in two provinces, all of whom have used, or currently use, telephones for strategic, health-related purposes. Interview data was collected to determine factors leading either to failure or success of health telephone (telehealth) projects. Sustainability is a key factor regarding innovations financed by aid. In PNG, there are examples of aid-funded telehealth projects that have been sustainable and are ongoing, whilst others have not been sustainable and have ceased to operate. A key lesson learnt is that phone services which are open to the public are expensive, requiring long-term investment and strategic, sustained promotional activities. Another key lesson is that phone services which are only accessible to health workers are less costly and can be beneficial in terms of improving health system efficacy and efficiency. Decision-making, team building, and staff motivation are some of the other issues that were identified during this research. It is likely, in PNG and elsewhere, that additional bodies will consider using telephony to increase access to health information and services. While the PNG context is unique in many ways, this research nonetheless provides points worth considering in other, similar contexts.

PANEL 1C – Gender based violence and sorcery

10.25am – 12.00pm, Barton Theatre

Chair: Sharon Bessell
Director of Research, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

Increased usage of GBV services in Sandaun and Western Highlands provinces in PNG following intervention

Mirriam Dogimab, William Yeka, Daniel Tesfaye and Ignatius Mogaba
Project Director; M&E Adviser; Country Director; Deputy Country Director, FHI 360

This research employed a household cross-sectional survey design to sample both men and women using a multi-stage cluster sampling. It measured knowledge of services for GBV by estimating the proportion of women who indicated where they would go if they experience GBV. Most women in the Western Highlands Province (WHP) (65.6%, n=192) indicated they would seek assistance from police for violence by men other than their husbands, while the majority in Sandaun Province (50.3%, n=156) would go to village courts. In WHP, the majority of women would either go to village leaders (30.7%), village courts or family (21.9%), or police (24.5%) for help if violated by their husbands or steady partners. In Sandaun province, most would seek legal services (41.9%), help from police (22.6%) or from family/relatives (21.3%). Only 21.7% in WHP

and 21.0% in Sandaun filed a complaint with police. However, a much higher proportion of women filed a complaint with police (56.7% in WHP and 84.2% in Sandaun) in the previous year following physical or sexual violence, compared to previous years. 13.0% of women in WHP and 20.0% in Sandaun visited a hospital following physical or sexual violence. The proportion of survivors who accessed health care services was 59.6% and 63.2% in WHP and Sandaun respectively. Women and girls in both project areas became increasingly aware that there were services available if they experienced violence, and sought them only in the last year. This may have resulted from the awareness conducted by the Kommuniti Lukautim Oi Meri (KLOM; Community taking care of women and girls) project.

Security and sorcery: Pacific experience and international debates

Miranda Forsyth
Associate Professor, ANU

This presentation will discuss the range of threats to security that emanate from the harmful practices associated with beliefs in sorcery and witchcraft globally. It will outline the emerging international response to these threats and the debates that have been generated in framing and addressing the issues. In the context of these international debates and responses, it will also discuss the prevalence and form of these beliefs and practices in Melanesia, particularly PNG, and the experiences of interventions directed at minimising violence and insecurity in this context.

What we don't hear: gender relations and development in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

Kate Higgins
PhD Candidate, University of Queensland

Pacific Island societies are often noted for their cultural and linguistic diversity, however, calls to be 'context specific' are often put aside or compartmentalised to the 'background section' of development reports, designs and evaluations, and policy guidelines, when addressing issues of gender in development. Gender thinking tends to focus on the individual woman at the expense of paying adequate attention to the gendered relations and the contexts in which these relations are situated. This paper argues that we need to shift our focus to the everyday priorities which men and women organise their lives around, and the ways in which gender relations manifest within these forms of organisation. It begins by drawing upon examples from recent research conducted in villages in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, focusing specifically on gendered relations around land, including bride-price, governance, safety, and community harmony. Then it reflects upon the author's work as a development practitioner in the Pacific, comparing these findings to the common frames and assumptions she has been faced with – and has played a role in reproducing – in development programming. This is done to identify what these frames exclude; that is, what we don't (or choose not to) hear. The paper suggests strategies to bring the voices and priorities of the village and those of development advocates closer together, so as to encourage greater dialogue around gender and development issues, grounded in the everyday realities that women and men face.

The price we pay – can you ever cost violence against women?

Emma Tiaree
Principal Executive, International Programs, CARE

CARE's commitment to working on preventing and responding to violence against women (VAW) is an integral part of its work in both development and humanitarian contexts. VAW is a human rights violation and a barrier to all aspects of women's empowerment. In 2017, CARE drew on 14 studies, including three by CARE itself, which costed violence against women: domestic violence in Bangladesh and Zambia, and sexual harassment in the workplace in Cambodia. In Bangladesh and Zambia, social and economic costs were identified at multiple levels – to the individual, family, society and country. In the Cambodian study, we interviewed more than 1300 garment factory workers and found that more than one in three women were affected and the cost to the industry in lost productivity was US\$89 Million per annum. This presentation will focus on these three studies, CARE's program work to prevent VAW, and the need to urgently act to prevent and respond to VAW, showing costing studies as one way to highlight this massive human rights and development issue.

PANEL 1D – Aid for inclusive trade

10.25am – 12.00pm, Acton Theatre

Chair: Dane Moores
Senior Economic Development Policy Advisor, World Vision Australia

This submitted panel will reflect on the development outcomes of Australia's aid for trade to date from multiple sectors, including government, development banks, NGOs, and the private sector. It will examine the aid for trade agenda through concrete case studies of how market systems have empowered people to lift themselves out of poverty. The panel will also discuss why aid for trade is an important component of a diversified aid portfolio and how it can be better targeted to help poor groups benefit from trade opportunities.

Discussants:

Ravi Kewalram
Assistant Secretary, Multilateral Trade Policy Branch, Office of Trade Negotiations, DFAT

Cyn-Young Park
Director of Regional Cooperation and Integration, Asian Development Bank

Steven Baker
Practice Leader, Private Sector Development, AECOM

Andy Hunter
Market Systems Development Consultant, World Vision Australia

PANEL 1E – Aid policy, research and effectiveness

10.25am – 12.00pm, Brindabella Theatre

Chair: Cate Rogers
Assistant Secretary, Development Policy and Education Branch, DFAT

So you want your research to influence change? Evidence-based insights for development actors to increase development impact

Joanne Crawford, Juliet Willetts, Jane Hutchison, and Debbie Muirhead
Research & Policy Lead, Individual Deprivation Measures, International Women's Development Agency; Professor and Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney; Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Studies, Murdoch University; Independent Consultant

Good-quality development research improves effectiveness and is an important precursor to innovation. Robustly produced evidence, when well-communicated, can guide resource allocation for greatest impact, provide an understanding of intervention contexts, identify solutions to complex challenges and ways to scale up, evaluate whether decisions made were the right ones for intended beneficiaries, and prepare decision makers and practitioners for emerging challenges. Overlapping interests provide potential to align demand and supply: policymakers require evidence for action, practitioners need to understand and communicate the effectiveness of their work, and universities and other research institutions are increasingly being called upon to demonstrate wider impact. Yet aligning research focus and outputs with need is not straightforward, and research use and influence often lacks research insight, with challenges for evaluating research influence. This paper presents insights and practical suggestions for actors within development institutions, universities and NGOs to increase the development impact of research, informed by initiatives led by the Research for Development Impact Network (RDI Network). These include a study that documented facilitators of research impact in the Australian Development Research Awards Scheme (ADRAS) scheme, efforts to broker and support effective research partnerships, and activities and resources to take stock of and build the capacity of development researchers in effective research communication and engagement. Practical recommendations targeting research donors and research providers are designed to amplify outcomes and impacts from Australian-funded development research, and strengthen the scaffolding connecting ideas and change.

Partnering for more effective aid and development

Philippa Smales and Keren Winterford

RDI Network and Partnerships Manager, RDI Network/ACFID; Research Principal, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney

Partnerships have always been part of the international aid and development agenda, but even more so within the Sustainable Development Goals, which give explicit value to 'global partnership' (Goal 17) to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Existing literature about partnerships and collaboration is rich, focuses particularly on benefits and recommendations for different types of stakeholders, and provides guidance for constructing effective partnerships. While existing resources do highlight the purpose and utility of working in partnership across various stakeholders, the literature is limited to NGO-academic research partnerships within the international development sector. Based on a practical resource recently released by the RDI Network and Institute for Sustainable Futures of the University Technology Sydney, this paper will include guidance on setting up, maintaining, and ending research partnerships. It will also provide advice on potential issues and management strategies, particularly those specific to research, which involves multiple actors across diverse organisational and country contexts and with multiple and diverse objectives in mind. For effective partnerships, there is a need for an explicit focus on, and allocation of more time to, the relationship-building stages of a partnership – rather than just to the design and implementation of a given research project. This paper will outline some questions to think about and actions to take in building relationships. The paper will also explore the value of transformational partnerships and transdisciplinary practice, which draws together multiple sets of expertise and knowledge, to best address complex issues inherent in international development. Different types of collaborative models will also be highlighted by using collated case studies from the sector. Stronger partnerships are crucial both within Australia, and externally with international institutions, NGOs and researchers, in order to generate and use research evidence for more effective aid policy and practice.

Entrepreneurs and aid policy change

Joanna Spratt and Benjamin Day

Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU; PhD Candidate, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

Despite receiving considerable attention over a long period, the questions of why and how states give aid continues to puzzle scholars. After initially seeking to answer this question by examining the influence of international factors, the determinants of aid literature has evolved to where it now typically seeks to explain the aid-giving behaviour of states via the influence of 'domestic determinants'. What remains overlooked is the agency of individuals. This oversight is curious given that the characteristics of aid policy suggest that considerable scope for agency is available to political actors, should they be willing to involve themselves in the aid policymaking process. This paper examines the role of policy entrepreneurs in creating aid policy change, and responds to this oversight in the literature. Drawing on case studies of five types of policy entrepreneurs responsible for effecting recent aid policy change (civil society activist, foreign minister, opposition leader, development minister, and prime minister), we present the key characteristics of successful aid policy entrepreneurs. On the basis of these characteristics, we enumerate the conditions that are conducive to actor-driven policy change. We also consider the impact of individuals in shaping aid policy, relative to other domestic and international factors.

Why do well designed M&E systems seldom inform decision making?

Damien Sweeney and Byron Pakula

Senior Consultant; Principal Consultant and Team Leader (Effectiveness), Clear Horizon Consulting

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is broadly accepted as part of good project design and implementation. However, M&E systems regularly fail to feed back information to improve learning or change actions by managers, donors and decision makers. Clear Horizon, a specialist design, monitoring and evaluation firm supporting DFAT with quality assurance across a number of aid portfolios, conducted a stocktake of M&E investment level systems. While it focused on one country, lessons were further developed based on a broad range of experience. The stocktake found that the majority of M&E plans were well designed, though sometimes overly complicated. However, the quality diminished along the M&E pathway, in relation to implementing the M&E plans, communicating information, and using information for learning and adaptive management. Additionally, it was identified that implementing partners were often dependent on M&E advisers, often with varying approaches, and in some cases, varying quality. Partner-led, participatory and engaging approaches lead to improved reporting and learning. Good M&E ideally involves the participation of program design and program implementation staff to support ownership and understanding of M&E systems. Moreover, engaging donors in the reflection and reporting processes supports communication and facilitates decision-making. Supporting this, evaluation capacity building (ECB) is integral to the quality of M&E systems. Labin et al. (2012) defined ECB as "an intentional process to increase individual motivation, knowledge, and skills and to enhance a group and/or organisation's ability to conduct and use monitoring and evaluation". Delivering

ECB across the range of investment roles and responsibilities over the life of the program helps build and reinforce a culture of M&E, leading to the use of information to generate knowledge that supports adaptive management and learning.

PANEL 1F – Aid and education

10.25am – 12.00pm, Lennox Room

Chair: David Coleman
Senior Education Advisor, DFAT

The sustainability of benefits from educational development projects in Indonesia

Robert Cannon
Independent Consultant

Evidence of the sustainability of benefits from donor support is one indicator of the effectiveness of aid. Have the benefits from the over USD 5 billion in aid provided to Indonesian education in the period 1971-2017 been sustainable? This study presents analyses of 91 end-of-project evaluation reports produced by donors on their work in the Indonesian education sector, and seeks to understand why donors consider benefits to be sustainable or otherwise. Donor evaluation reports show the benefits from 52% of the 91 projects located for the present study are 'likely' to be sustainable. However, when tested against the time-dependent criterion of the 'actual sustainability' of project benefits, that is, sustainability evaluated two years or more after project completion, a more troubling finding emerges. Twenty-two project reports (24% of the 91 projects located for analysis) present an evaluation of the actual sustainability of benefits two or more years after project completion. Only 11 of these 22 projects, or 12% of the 91 projects implemented over more than 46 years, are evaluated as actually sustainable according to donors. Reports also describe three broad groups of strategies to achieve sustainable benefits. First, project design and all activities must address sustainability all the way through to completion. Second, the demonstrable commitment by Indonesian society, particularly government, to sustainability, is necessary. Third, effective management of a complex web of technical matters is essential. As positively biased as they may be, donors' reports nevertheless reveal poor sustainability outcomes from their education projects. The results demonstrate the need to review approaches to sustainability through improvements to project design and implementation. The analysis can also help inform the development of effective change strategies for educational policy and practice by Indonesian authorities.

The Beacon School Initiative: a small-scale project for national education reform in Cambodia

Heidi Peterson and Christine Deng
Former Cambodia Programs Director; Head of International Engagement, Oaktree

The Beacon School Initiative (BSI) was a six-year education project in Cambodia. Oaktree, an Australian international NGO, partnered with the Kampuchean Action for Primary Education (KAPE), Cambodia's largest primary education NGO, to implement BSI. The project operated in a public-private partnership model with the Cambodian government and aimed to develop a new model of schools by working to transform three public secondary schools. The program involved a wide range of initiatives, from teacher training to bio-gardens, but at its heart was an overhaul of school management. This approach was innovative and revolutionary compared to the school norm in Cambodia, where issues such as poor teacher wages and a lack of school accountability means that students often have to informally pay (if they are able) to attend private classes. The project was highly successful in one of the three schools as well as in its advocacy aims. The Cambodian Minister for Education became interested and involved in the project and consequently the Ministry for Education developed a similar program called the New Generation Schools (NGS). NGS was signed into national education policy in September 2016. This paper will discuss the key learnings of the projects, including: the willingness to take risks; creating an equitable partnership between donor and implementer with flexible donor requirements; the importance of project champions; the use of innovative project tools (social media and apps) to allow primary beneficiaries and project staff to directly communicate with senior ministry officials; the challenge of resistance to change and systemic corruption; and the challenge of sustaining community engagement in rural areas. BSI demonstrated that it is possible for a small-scale project to have a significant impact on national policy and reform, but development actors must be open to risk-taking and risk-sharing, developing equitable partnerships, and using innovative project tools.

Aid and teachers in intercultural settings: struggles and strategies by the exchange teachers invited to South Korea

Su Bin (Sarah) Yeo
PhD Candidate, Global Education Cooperation, Seoul National University

This research explores aspects of in-service teachers' transformative learning as a result of education aid in intercultural contexts. Based on Mezirow's (1991) theory of perspective transformation, emphasizing the role of disorienting dilemma, the research adopts a qualitative methodology to describe and analyse the cultural dilemma experienced by teachers from developing countries invited to Korea. As a part of education ODA, the Asia Pacific Teacher Exchange Program has been funded by the Korean Ministry of Education and implemented by UNESCO APCEIU. Six in-service teachers from Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines who participated in the program were interviewed and observed throughout their experiences in a Korean educational setting. Findings addressed various dilemmas arising from being involved in activities in a Korean school setting, for example in the beginning, the participants struggled as they recognized a gap between their desire for challenge and fear of teaching in a new classroom setting. They also experienced significant language barriers in communication. Throughout the program, they confronted disorienting experiences with regard to social acceptance, relationships with students, classroom management, concept of time, the language barrier in and out of school, use of teaching equipment, and perception of others. Towards the end of the exchange program, the teachers continued to confront dilemmas as they held different perspectives about the roles and responsibilities of a teacher, a student, and a school in Korean culture. Findings also demonstrate six common approaches that teacher participants adopted in attempts to resolve their dilemma: as an observer, a participant, a friend, an educator, an ambassador, and an avoider. This qualitative study offers valuable insights for aid effectiveness in the education sector. This study highlights the role of immersive experiences from education aid in an intercultural setting as a potential trigger to promote transformative learning for teachers, who are considered key stakeholders for quality education in our global society.

PANEL 1G – Regional update: trends and issues in Asian development cooperation *10.25am – 12.00pm, Griffin Room*

Chair: Stephen Howes
Director, Development Policy Centre

What is happening to development cooperation in Asia? What are the trends to watch out for and the issues to be aware of? This session looks at both the DAC donors Korea and Japan, and non-DAC donors India and China. Hear from the Presidents of the Korean Association of International Development and Cooperation and the Japan Society for International Development, as well as The Asia Foundation's Director for International Development Cooperation and the Asian Development Bank's Chief Economist.

Discussants:

Heejin Lee
Professor, Graduate School of International Studies, Yonsei University; President, Korean Association of International Development and Cooperation

Anthea Mulakala
Director, International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation

Yasuyuki Sawada
Chief Economist, Asian Development Bank

Tatsufumi Yamagata
Director-General, International Exchange and Training Department, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organisation; President, Japan Society for International Development

PLENARY SESSION:

Civil society in Asian development cooperation

1.00 – 2.30pm, Molonglo Theatre

The role of non-state actors in Asian-led development cooperation has been little discussed. Many assume South-South cooperation is government-to-government and focused on infrastructure. However, Asian providers have vibrant civil societies that are expanding their sphere of influence and practice into development cooperation. This session will discuss the role Asian NGOs have played in lobbying and influencing government policy in Asia on South-South and development cooperation, their activities, and impacts in partner countries. It will also examine how Asian civil society is contributing to the governance and accountability of development cooperation nationally and internationally. The panel will feature civil society representatives from Japan, Korea, China and India.

Chair: Anthea Mulakala

Director, International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation

Jin-kyung Kim

Program Specialist, Civil Society Cooperation Team, Korean International Cooperation Agency

Dr Jin-kyung Kim is a program specialist of the Civil Society Cooperation Team at the KOICA. Her recent publications include “Ch.5 Postwar Reconstruction: Foreign Aid from the United States and South Korea’s Space for Developing Capacity and Strengthening Ownership” in *Korea and the World: Contemporary History and its Implications* (2015, co-authored with Eun Mee Kim). She received her Ph.D. in International Studies from Ewha Womans University.

Supriya Roychoudhury

Independent Analyst: Indian development cooperation

Supriya is currently an independent analyst specialising in India’s development partnerships. She recently served as Emerging Powers Coordinator at Crisis Action, where she was responsible for engaging policymakers and partners in India, Brazil and China to prevent and stop armed conflict. As the former lead of Oxfam India’s foreign policy program, Supriya coordinated its research and advocacy strategy on South-South Cooperation issues. In her current role as an independent analyst and advisor, she has co-led an international research project to develop a sustainability framework for adoption by the BRICS’ New Development Bank. Her research has appeared in various journals and publications, and she is currently co-authoring a study which explores the domestic politics that drive India’s development cooperation strategies. Supriya holds an MA in International Relations from the University of Warwick and a First Class Honours degree in English Literature from the University of Delhi.

Takeshi Komino

General Secretary, Church World Service, Japan

Takeshi Komino currently serves as General Secretary of Church World Service (CWS) Japan, Deputy Director at Community World Service Asia, and Secretary General of the Executive Committee of the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN). He is also a member of the Advisory Group for Humanitarian Policy and Practice for ACT Alliance, which CWS is a member of. Prior to this, he worked as Head of Emergencies at CWS-Asia/Pacific regional office in Bangkok, represented ADRRN as a member of the Regional Steering Group (RSG) for the World Humanitarian Summit regional consultation for North and Southeast Asia, and remains the RSG member for Asia. He also co-founded the Japanese disaster risk reduction (DRR) network, Japan CSO Coalition for DRR, to communicate to the world the lessons from the East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011. He serves as chair for the recently-established Quality and Accountability Network in Japan (JQAN), and as Deputy Secretary of the NGO Unit at Japan Platform.

Haoming Huang

Vice-President, China Association for Non-Profit Organisations

Dr Haoming Huang is a Professor at the China Global Philanthropy Institute, Honorary Chairman of the China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO), and Vice-President of the China Association for Non-Profit Organisation. He is also a Professor at the Institute of Philanthropy, Tsinghua University, at the School of Public Policy and Management, Beijing University of Aeronautics & Astronautics, and at the Chinese

Academy of Governance. He is widely published on NGO work, including a study on Strategy and Route of China's NGO Internationalisation (2015), a case study on Reform and Innovation on Science and Technology NGOs (2015) and NGOs and Sustainable Development – a case study from China, Europe and South America (English version, 2014).

PANEL 2A – Regional health security: what is Australia's role?

3.00 – 4.30pm, Molonglo Theatre

Chair: Helen Evans
Global Health Alliance Melbourne

Populations in the Asia Pacific region, and globally, face increasingly complex health threats, which call for stronger, locally relevant and high quality health systems capable of addressing prevailing public health issues including emerging infectious diseases. The global response has included the G7-endorsed Global Health Security Agenda, while the Australian response is continuing to evolve, most recently with the launch of the Australian Government's Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security. This submitted panel will discuss the concept of health security, how health security investment should be shaped to strengthen public health systems, and how vulnerable communities can help to shape solutions to health security threats.

Discussants:

Robin Davies
Head of the Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security, DFAT

Barbara McPake
Director, Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne

Amanda McClelland
Senior Officer, Emergency Health Unit, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Nicholas Thomson
Director, Law Enforcement and Public Health, Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne

PANEL 2B – Aid and governance

3.00 – 4.30pm, Weston Theatre

Chair: Veronica Taylor
Professor, School of Regulation and Global Governance, ANU

Land administration aid programs in Asia: success stories and lessons learned

Tony Burns and Daniel Paez
Managing Director; Land Specialist, Land Equity International

Land administration are the rules of land tenure for a particular jurisdiction, and can be formal or informal. These rules commonly comprise an extensive range of systems and processes. The focus of land administration is on three main topics: rights, restrictions and responsibilities. For over 20 years, aid organisations have supported developing countries in Asia in the area of land administration. An early focus was on building cadastre and registration systems for both rural and urban areas. Today, focus has shifted to developing tools for securing land rights for those in economic or social need, as well as improving protection for highly valuable lands from an environmental, social or economic point of view. This paper presents three country case studies of aid projects in land administration in Asia: Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand. A matrix of both positive outcomes and areas for improvement was developed in order to study outcomes for each country. The matrix also allowed comparison between case studies. Results suggest that in most cases, even when difficulties have been faced in the implementation of the aid program, outcomes of investing in land administration are positive from an economic perspective. We found that aid provided to secure land rights to those in rural areas are particularly important to reduce poverty. For urban areas, aid was particularly important to underpin investment in other areas such as transport, education and health. It was also found that

interruptions in land aid programs delay the efficiency of the project significantly. There are also opportunities to improve project outcomes by having better coordination between aid organisations operating in land administration in a particular country.

Policy execution – from theory to practice

Ben French

Senior Portfolio Leader, Oxford Policy Management

Securing sustainable change through public policy in low and middle-income countries is a global challenge, and increasingly, a global debate. Striking evidence shows that 40% of large-scale government transformation programs do not achieve their objectives. Up to 92% of public sector employees do not believe their government is effective at achieving impact. Only eight of the countries traditionally known as developing have built their state capability in the past 50 years. Understanding what leads to effective execution of public policy – moving from policy identification to results on the ground – is critical to understanding how to achieve impact and long term positive development outcomes. Oxford Policy Management (OPM) is studying policy execution in low income countries. We want to understand the process through which public policy is taken from formulation to implementation. It requires a focus on understanding the action and activities required for a policy to result in tangible outcomes. At present, the evidence base is extremely limited. There are only a small and limited number of international experts working in this area. Expanding our knowledge of what works and what does not is critical to providing more effective and diverse solutions to the policy execution challenge. Donors too are looking for innovative policy execution solutions. Across a wider range of sectoral programs, donors have sought to work with governments to address a failure of policy execution through a small and directed set of technical assistance. The focus of each program is different, but all emphasise the need to embed change, to improve the effectiveness and functioning of government, and strengthen management for results. This paper will set out the theoretical framework of policy execution. Drawing together practical experience of delivering programs, and experience from program evaluations, it will outline the key components of successful policy execution in low capacity environments.

Evaluating value for money in international development: the Pakistan sub-national governance program

Julian King and Stephanie Allan

Director, Julian King & Associates Ltd; Senior Consultant, Oxford Policy Management

As aid budgets come under increasing scrutiny from domestic and international stakeholders, one longstanding concern with developmental effectiveness has morphed into an urgent and commonplace obligation for donors and implementing partners to demonstrate: Value for Money (VfM). Despite this, there remains a lack of appropriate methods to support meaningful VfM assessment in the international development sector, and a tendency to fall back on a collection of indicators of variable quality, devoid of an explicitly evaluative judgement. This paper presents an approach to VfM assessment which makes use of explicit evaluative reasoning – with performance criteria and standards tailored to the program context – to support well-reasoned judgements about VfM that also respond to donor accountability requirements. The robustness of this intuitive and innovative approach to VfM analysis is demonstrated through an account of its application on the Sub-National Governance (SNG) Program in Pakistan. A five year, £150m DFID-financed initiative, the SNG program supports reforms in public financial management, planning, and service delivery improvement innovations. It belongs to a category of adaptive and iterative governance reform programs which are particularly poorly served by prevailing VfM methodologies, because their complexity, non-linear causal pathways, and expectations around being responsive to emerging opportunities and learning from successes and failures alike, cannot adequately be captured by quantitative indicators born of a log-frame. By demonstrating how the approach was applied in this case, and how the emerging results were received and used, the authors demonstrate the practicability and robustness of this evaluation-specific VfM methodology.

Are behavioural insights the ultimate isomorphic mimicry?

Cindy Wiryakusuma

Principal Policy Officer, Behavioural Insights Unit, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet

Emulating the success of the UK Cabinet Office and White House Social and Behavioural Sciences Team, developed and developing countries alike are rapidly establishing government “nudge” units to apply behavioural sciences to intractable public policy problems. But what are behavioural insights/behavioural economics, and how can it help achieve development goals? With reference to live, randomised control trials in the fields of domestic violence, education, health and transport, this presentation will reflect on the global experience, relevance and cross-cultural applicability of behavioural insight solutions to developing countries.

PANEL 2C – Gender and politics in practice

3.00 – 4.30pm, Barton Theatre

Chair: Sandra Kraushaar
Assistant Director, Governance Policy, DFAT

The Gender and Politics in Practice (GAPP) research project explores how a gendered understanding of power and politics can make development work more effective. Many development programs tend to look at gender issues and politics separately. Through a series of case studies, this research asks what we can learn from more integrated approaches. The GAPP research is a Developmental Leadership Program (DLP)-led project involving researchers based at the University of Birmingham, La Trobe University, Palladium, RMIT, The Asia Foundation, King's College London, University College London, and the University of Southampton. It is funded by DFAT through the Gender Equality Fund and DFAT's partnership with The Asia Foundation.

Being the first

Ceridwen Spark and John Cox
Senior Research Fellow, RMIT; Research Fellow, La Trobe University

Recent policy and academic writing on women in the Pacific has focused on the barriers women in the region experience when seeking to participate in formal politics. This paper contributes to the small body of work that seeks to explain how some women defy these barriers, are elected to parliament, and achieve high office. The paper focuses on the experiences of three women: President Hilda Heine from Marshall Islands, the Honorable Fiame Naomi Mata'afa from Samoa, and Dame Carol Kidu from Papua New Guinea. All have won senior leadership positions in their respective governments. As the 'first' women to reach the apex of parliamentary politics in the Pacific, their stories offer valuable insights for donors and other reformers seeking to address the gender imbalance both in the Pacific and beyond. From their experiences, we draw out seven 'rules of thumb' that they identify as being important to their political success. This paper's exploration of these insights is followed by a discussion of the critical reflections these leaders offer in relation to donor interventions. Their critiques offer a firm basis for assessing the best use of donor funding to support gender equity goals in the Pacific.

'The Waria of Banjarmasin'

Erman Rahman, Mark Koenig, Bryony Lau, Bambang Ertanto Cahyo Dewa, and Debra Ladner
Director of Local and Economic Governance Programs in Indonesia, The Asia Foundation; Staff members, The Asia Foundation

This paper looks at two years of Program Peduli's work with the transgender *waria* community of Banjarmasin (the provincial capital of South Kalimantan, Indonesia). Program Peduli operates across Indonesia, implemented by The Asia Foundation with support from DFAT and the Indonesian government. As the project developed, ideas from 'Thinking and Working Politically' debates were central to efforts to promote the social inclusion of this gender minority. It integrated working in politically sensitive and adaptive ways, with consideration of the gender dimensions of the *waria*'s situation. It used political analysis to build networks and coalitions of local actors pushing to transform social norms at all these levels. It also successfully lobbied government authorities to formally register Banjarmasin's *waria* association, and engaged key provincial and local government offices to improve social services for *waria*. This approach has yielded significant change in the levels of local social acceptance and access to services for the *waria* in Banjarmasin. The paper explores how the program achieved these results, in part, by using a number of tools and approaches that match expectations of programs that are thinking and working politically, and effectively integrating gender into programming. It also discusses some potential tensions, trade-offs and compromises, particularly between aiming for incremental but tangible change by adopting short-term political strategies versus seeking longer term changes in social norms.

The Pacific Leadership Program and CEDAW in Tonga

Mereani Rokotuibau and Deborah Rhodes
Team Leader, Pacific Leadership Program; Independent Consultant

This paper focuses on the Pacific Leadership Program's (PLP) work with Tonga's Women in Leadership Coalition. In 2015, as part of its ongoing work fostering women's leadership and building the capacity of civil society organisations in the Pacific region, the PLP began supporting a coalition of women's organisations advocating for the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in the Kingdom of Tonga. At that time, the coalition faced fierce public opposition to its

campaign, including major anti-CEDAW demonstrations in the country's capital. In this context, the PLP partnered with the Civil Society Forum of Tonga to provide the coalition with adaptive leadership training, a retreat for reflection and strategy development, as well as research and analysis. This support has enabled the coalition to take an increasingly politically-informed approach, build bridges with opponents, and address the specific gendered challenges it faces. This case is an example of how a politically-informed approach can be necessary to achieve gendered aims. Conversely, it also shows how the links between gender and issues such as religion, tradition and democratisation mean that political analysis is strengthened by a gender lens. However, in this instance, the sheer weight of opposition to CEDAW has meant that taking a politically informed approach has ultimately involved temporarily putting aside the goal of ratification in favour of less controversial causes. The paper also draws upon research into the shifting institutional enablers and constraints in AusAID and then DFAT which shaped the Pacific Leadership Program's ways of working.

From silos to synergy: learning from politically informed, gender aware programming

Helen Derbyshire, Chris Roche, Sam Gibson, and David Hudson

Independent Governance, Gender and Social Development Consultant; Director, Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University; Social Development Specialist, Palladium; Professor of Politics and Development, University of Birmingham

This paper summarises the findings of the Developmental Leadership Program's overall gender and politics research. Recent influential work on thinking and working politically has been justifiably criticised for being somewhat gender blind. Professional siloes and assumptions go a long way towards explaining this. In reality, gender sensitivity and thinking and working politically are two sides of the same coin – both are working processes which aim to understand, engage with and ultimately reform unequal power dynamics to bring about change. There is a great deal to be gained, both conceptually and practically, from these two worlds coming together – mutual learning, better and deeper analysis, greatly strengthened practice, and improved results – but to date there has been little cross over of learning. Both approaches are challenging to implement effectively, and fraught with pitfalls. Many of those who champion thinking and working politically have expressed concern about overly top-down, donor-driven and technical approaches to implementation – which can in turn limit the very local ownership and impact the interventions are meant to achieve. Variations of this same criticism have been directed at gender mainstreaming. Much of the innovation on effective implementation, and on bringing these two approaches together, is coming not from academics but from practitioners. This paper draws on the experience of 15 development programs which are making headway in their work on aspects of power, politics and gender, drawing out commonalities, complementarities, challenges and lessons.

PANEL 2D – Insights from Australia's experiences in agricultural research for development

3.00 – 4.30pm, Acton Theatre

Chair: Thomas Sloan

Executive Manager – Research, Sustineo

Dynamic impact assessment frameworks and their role in changing development contexts

Andrew Alford

Research Program Manager (Impact Assessment), Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

This presentation will discuss frameworks and experiences in capturing the impact of agricultural research across social, environmental, and economic domains. The Australian Centre for International Agricultural (ACIAR) is an investor, knowledge broker and manager of strategic partnerships in agricultural research for development. Together with priorities expressed by the Australian government, ACIAR continuously links its strategic objectives with global sustainable development and climate agendas. ACIAR's partnership model allows partner countries to contribute to the co-design and ownership of research projects and priorities, with the long-term aim of assisting partner countries with addressing agricultural and developmental challenges. The complex linkages between agriculture, human development, economics, and environmental systems requires ACIAR to carry out robust and responsive approaches to assessing the impacts of investments, and the long-term benefits to partners and Australia. Traditionally, impact assessments have had a strong economic focus – applying economic surplus models that capture agricultural, forestry or fisheries productivity improvements and levels of adoption by farmers of new technologies resulting from the research. As stakeholders' articulation of development objectives (including social and environmental impacts) have been refined, a more holistic approach to impact assessments continues to be developed and applied by ACIAR.

The growing complexity of research investments that lead to long-term social and environmental impacts inevitably require rigorous mixed-methods approaches. For example, issues of empowerment of women and girls, long term knowledge and capacity building, and sustainable natural resource management, require integrative approaches that capture measurable impacts and long-term social and knowledge change. Mixed methods incorporate quantitative approaches such as economic methods complemented by frameworks that quantify and qualify changes in social conditions such as gender equity and capacity building as well as environmental impacts. The presentation will draw from ACIAR's experience in adapting impact assessment approaches as development objectives change and the use of mixed-methods approaches grows in the impact assessment field.

Findings from an impact assessment into Australia's investments in giant clam research in the Indo-Pacific

Federico Davila

Senior Consultant, Sustineo, and PhD Candidate, Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU

This presentation will discuss findings from a research impact assessment into Australia's investments into giant clam mariculture over 25 years in the Indo-Pacific regions. In 1982, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) invested in one of its original large fisheries projects aimed at improving giant clam scientific knowledge and mariculture techniques. The projects aimed to deliver a series of technical and capacity building outputs throughout the Indo-Pacific over 25 years, notably in the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and other smaller Pacific nations. The impact assessment explored the extent to which technical outputs from Australia's investments were adopted by partner countries, and the extent to which the knowledge produced during the projects led to long-term capacity and policy changes. The project also analysed the challenges of using giant clams as an economic development tool. Through using case studies of the Philippines and the Solomon Islands, the presentation will discuss major themes in policy and economic barriers, scientific capacity, and environmental contributions of the projects. Major lessons from the \$4 million investments will be discussed, and issues to consider when designing new food-oriented research and development will be proposed.

Factors influencing achievements and impact in collaborative research projects in the Asia-Pacific

Tony Bartlett

Research Program Manager (Forestry), Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, and PhD Candidate, Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) has been commissioning collaborative research for development projects in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors in developing countries for over 30 years. These projects are generally implemented by teams of Australian scientists working in partnership with developing country scientists to address research priorities identified by the partner country. While ACIAR systematically assesses the outcomes and impacts from its projects, it has not systematically studied whether there are predictable factors that determine the relative success of its projects. This talk summarises results from the author's postgraduate research, including developing a new approach for evaluating the relative success of a group of projects from project records, as well as the identification of factors that contribute to either enhanced or diminished success in collaborative research projects. It will draw on findings from three case studies, each involving ten completed ACIAR forestry research projects, from Vietnam, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. It will conclude with some observations on possible explanations for the different results between countries and projects, and highlight how this approach could be used more widely to improve the lesson learning component of project evaluation.

Number, networks, and narratives: evaluating research for development projects over long-term timeframes

Lorrae van Kerkhoff

Associate Professor, Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU

International concerns over aid effectiveness, combined with domestic pressures on both aid and research budgets, have supported growing interest and activity in the field of research impact evaluation. Yet while research programs can demonstrate 'quick wins' in terms of technical impacts in the years immediately following a project or program of work, it is often implicit in research for development (R4D) that there will also be long-term benefits. These are notoriously difficult to capture using traditional benefit-cost approaches, as the attribution of social, economic or environmental change becomes more diffused as time goes by. This paper presents a mixed-methods research impact evaluation approach that aims to capture, articulate and document the long-term impacts of R4D projects. Combining economic analyses with knowledge systems and socio-historical research has been termed the "3N" approach by the authors: numbers, networks and narratives. The paper proposes that while none of these techniques can provide a comprehensive impact

evaluation individually, in combination they complement each other to develop a robust picture of long-term research impact. It illustrates the application of the 3N approach to two programs funded by ACIAR in the 1980s and 1990s. By using this approach, they were able to identify and characterise the role the research programs played in the evolution of in-country responses to complex socio-environmental issues from the time of the research projects through to the present day. The paper concludes with observations about the importance of mixed methods to capture the social and environmental benefits of research for development that are often overlooked in conventional research impact evaluation approaches.

PANEL 2E – The changing aid landscape

3.00 – 4.30pm, Brindabella Theatre

Chair: Fiona Yap

Associate Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

Australian and Chinese scholarships to Cambodia: who gets them and why?

Kongkea Chhoeun

PhD Candidate, ANU

There is great interest in the differences between OECD and Chinese aid, but still few comparative studies. Scholarship is one of the few forms of aid favoured by both OECD donors and China, and so provides a natural, but so far under-explored comparison. In this study, Australia is used as a typical OECD donor, and Cambodia as the aid recipient. This paper is part of a broader study into the differences between Australian and Chinese scholarships to Cambodia, and focuses on the selection process. Based on general perceptions of OECD and Chinese aid, and what is known about how Australian and Chinese scholarships are administered, it might be expected that Australian scholarships would be more meritocratic in their award, and the Chinese scholarships more political. However, this is not what the data shows. Based on a survey of 441 Cambodian Australian and Chinese scholarship holders (or scholars, for short), this study finds no evidence that Australian scholars are more accomplished academically, or that Chinese scholars have closer ties to Cambodia's ruling party. Both groups seem to have similar social backgrounds, more middle-class than elite. There are some differences: Chinese scholars tend to be younger, stay in China longer, are more likely to study undergraduate courses in China, are more likely to be studying rather than working when selected, and are more likely to be male. Chinese scholars are also more likely to study engineering, and less likely to study agriculture and the environment, but equally likely to study economics and public policy. These differences are explicable in terms of a few key policy contrasts (e.g. Australia only offers postgraduate scholarships).

Moving away from aid? The case of Indonesia

Annalisa Prizzon

Senior Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute

Over the past 15 years, 35 low-income countries joined the ranks of the world's middle-income countries. Because of this improved income status, every aspect of the development finance landscape is likely to change for those countries, from the sources of finance and financial instruments available to them, to the volume of aid and the conditions attached to it. One obvious result is their reduced need for traditional forms of aid. They are likely to see a reduction in funding from bilateral donors and a shift from grants to loans. The terms and conditions of sovereign loans from multilateral development banks will become harder. The paper does not have specific evidence to indicate whether countries have strategies for managing their transition from concessional to less-concessional financing. It illustrates the case of Indonesia, which is now eligible only for loans from the World Bank's 'hard' lending window, but the country's graduation to this status has not been smooth. An analysis of the development finance landscape in Indonesia reveals that while the country has been climbing the economic ladder over recent decades, there have also been some significant changes in its relationships with its development partners. The fall in official development assistance (ODA) was filled, in part, by a rise in other official flows (OOFs) – official funding that does not meet ODA criteria. Indonesia has also become a typical example of the 'missing middle' conundrum: public revenues have fallen in tandem with declining external assistance as a proportion of the overall economy. The experience of Indonesia offers some lessons for other countries that will manage the transition from concessional to non-concessional finance, namely adapting flexibly to changing supply terms, applying sophisticated debt management, "bundling" external finance with support for capacity building and prioritising mobilisation of domestic tax revenue.

Between gift-theory and development cooperation: the nature of Indonesian South-South cooperation

Miranda Tahalele

PhD Candidate, ANU

This paper explores the critical components and the nature of Indonesian South-South cooperation that derives from its historical and ideological narratives. It looks at the implementation and policy of Indonesian South-South cooperation as well as the motives narrated through cooperation with other Southern countries. However, the perspective of the recipient country has also identified and shaped cooperation from a historical perspective of moral consciousness. This paper questions how Indonesia constituted the nature of South-South cooperation and how to make it relevant within its national policy. The research is based on findings of seven months of fieldwork: in-depth interviews with policymakers, experts, and related development partners, as well as secondary data collection in Indonesia and Myanmar. The analysis contextualises Indonesia's South-South cooperation within Mauss' gift-theory that sees social relations within the context of the giver, receiver, and reciprocity. These notions remain relevant in identifying and linking the motivation perceived within South-South cooperation in contrast to North-South cooperation. The paper argues that Indonesian South-South cooperation is constructed within the moral assertion of partnership, shared values, trust, and the principle of solidarity, which is often unspoken, and is more about reflecting its national identity rather than power relations. The reciprocity in cooperation is seen as an indirect long-term result that affects the social relationship among countries. As a result, the model of cooperation is unidentified and unstructured, and is often criticised as ineffective. The paper provides a different lens of analysis to the nature of cooperation that emerged within South-South cooperation. As part of the dissertation and to answer why the volume of Indonesian South-South cooperation remains small, this paper concludes that the nature of Indonesia's South-South cooperation is shaped within specific moral senses, and with a particular perspective, concept, and approach.

PANEL 2F – Labour mobility

3.00 – 4.30pm, Lennox Room

Chair: Aedan Whyatt
Director, Pacific Labour Mobility, DFAT

Trade, livelihoods and development in Papua New Guinea's South Fly region: navigating regulatory regimes in the Torres Strait borderlands

Peter Chaudhry, Kevin Murphy, and Mark Moran

Research Fellow; Research Fellow; Professor, Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland

This paper presents two years of research findings from an ongoing University of Queensland ARC Discovery Grant project. The project is exploring ongoing efforts at enhancing wellbeing and brokering economic development in the borderland region between Australia, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Indonesia. Findings show that the Torres Strait Treaty between Australia and PNG serves to construct a complex tiered economy between villagers in the South Fly region of PNG who have rights to travel across the Torres Straits to Australian territory under the Treaty, those who do not, and Torres Strait islanders living on the Australian side of the border. The Treaty also constructs a politics of expectation and frustration that permeates everyday life along the South Fly coast, through which aid and development projects must navigate. Papua Province in Indonesia has emerged as an increasingly attractive destination for South Fly villagers seeking economic and trading opportunities, and an alternative to the strict controls and often fraught encounters they have with Torres Strait islanders. The respective borders between the three neighbouring countries serve then to both draw in and push away South Fly villagers according to the strategic and political priorities of the respective countries, the service regimes and development support they make available, and trading opportunities they prohibit or permit.

Timorese migrant workers in the Australian Seasonal Worker Program

Ann Wigglesworth and Abel Boavida dos Santos

Honorary Fellow, Victoria University; Lecturer, National University of Timor Lorosa'e and PhD Candidate, University of Porto

The Seasonal Worker Program (SWP) has enabled workers from Timor-Leste to participate in seasonal horticultural and hospitality work in Australia since mid-2012. To date, some 1,000 workers have participated. In November 2016, research was conducted involving 50 Timorese who had recently returned from participating in the SWP, to understand their experience of the SWP as well as the benefits it brings to their life in Timor-Leste. In a follow-up study conducted in April 2017, these same workers were re-interviewed to determine what they have done during their six months back in Timor, how migrant workers have spent their money in Timor-Leste, and consider what their future intentions were. It finds that workers return home with aspirations to contribute to local economic development but often do not realise these aspirations. It considers

some of the factors which limit the economic participation of returnees and ways in which the SWP could make a greater direct contribution to national economic development through building relevant skills of young people, particularly in horticulture and hospitality. In addition, the program has had a positive impact on gender attitudes, resulting in a remarkably high number of returnees reconsidering some of their strongly patriarchal attitudes as a result of pre-departure training and experience working in Australia. This research provides valuable insights to understand the motivations of the workers and how the SWP contributes to development in Timor-Leste.

Australian Seasonal Worker Program: mapping remittances for East Timorese workers in Australian country towns

Annie Yuan Cih Wu

PhD Candidate, University of Sydney

The aim of the proposed study is to explore temporary labour migration from Timor-Leste to Australia with a focus on remittances. It examines the effects of remittances in Timor-Leste brought along through the Australian Seasonal Worker Program, which has been running between Australia and Pacific island nations, including Timor-Leste, since the commencement of the pilot scheme in 2008. Despite the scant number of workers from East Timor (327 by the end of June 2017), nearly half of returnees keep working for approved employers within the six months of obtaining a work visa (visa subclass 416). It is acknowledged that the number of Timorese workers have increased reasonably, and overseas remittances have gradually become the aid which benefits rural development in the Timorese context. During the absence of migrants from the communities, what opportunity costs and social costs exist for the households left behind, and how do communities account for and manage their absence? For seasonal workers, the way their experiences in Australia affect their return and how they adjust to the social environment in Australia are also explored in the fieldwork. This project is interested in the influence of remittances on the development of sustainable livelihoods, social relations, community building, and social changes in the 'sending villages' in Timor-Leste. The qualitative methodology, a multi-site ethnography of both Timor-Leste and Australia, is the main approach for this research project. Ongoing fieldwork is taking place in Queensland country towns such as Gayndah, Mundaberra, Caboolture, and Yandina for participant observation and in-depth interviews. Communities that receive remittances in Timor-Leste will be included for a 5-month ethnographic study and observation.

PANEL 2G – Language rights to meet the Sustainable Development Goals

3.00 – 4.30pm, Griffin Room

Chair: Hilary Smith

Honorary Affiliate, College of Arts and Social Sciences, ANU, and Affiliate, ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language

This submitted panel will discuss how language rights are important for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a variety of contexts in Australia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. From a theoretical examination of language rights in the SDGs, it will explore examples of policy, planning and practice in the region.

Dimensions of language rights in the SDGs

Hilary Smith

Honorary Affiliate, College of Arts and Social Sciences, ANU, and Affiliate, ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language

The discussion of language rights has often referred to a distinction between 'negative' or non-discriminatory tolerance-oriented rights, and 'positive' or affirmative promotion-oriented rights, although this division is increasingly being challenged. A more useful distinction may be between language rights for an individual (particularly a child), and language rights for a group or community. At an individual level, the right for a child to use and learn through their mother tongue confers cognitive and psycho-social benefits, resulting in better educational (bilingual and/or multilingual) and social outcomes. At a group level, the rights of communities to use their mother tongues as well as gain access to the dominant language results in better communication and participation in wider society. These rights underpin all of the SDGs, and need to be accounted for in policy and planning by governments, donors and implementing organisations.

The changing ecology of Australian languages

Jane Simpson

The 2016 Australian census provides evidence that the language ecology of Australia is changing rapidly, with respect to the Indigenous languages spoken by children, the Indigenous languages undergoing revival, and the new languages that have developed from the contact between speakers of traditional Indigenous languages and English speakers. Most of the big Indigenous languages still spoken by children have suffered declines in number of speakers. This includes both in remote communities where English is a foreign language, and in some towns - for example in the 2006 census the local Indigenous language Arrernte was reported as the most commonly spoken language other than English. In the 2016 census, Arrernte has been replaced as top by a language from South India, Malayalam, with 406 speakers. In addition, diaspora communities of Indigenous language speakers are developing in urban centres away from the heartlands where the Indigenous languages are spoken. On the other hand, the number of people asserting that they speak revived languages as their home language continues to grow, as does the number of people asserting that they speak a new language such as Kriol or Yumplatok. These changes need to be considered by communities and governments when planning for schools, for interpreter services and for maintenance of Australia's heritage.

Multilingual education for ethnic minorities in Cambodia

Jan Noorlander

Assistant Country Director – Programs, CARE International in Cambodia

In Cambodia, people from ethnic minority communities who do not speak the national language, Khmer, have been largely excluded from formal education. Instruction in a language other than their own negatively impacts school enrolment and completion. Since 2002, CARE has been working with communities, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, and other partners to ensure ethnic minority children commence learning at school in their mother tongue before progressively learning Khmer. The innovative model, based on best practices in multilingual education, was trialled in Ratanak Kiri, a province in the North East part of Cambodia. CARE provided teachers with curriculum and reading guides, teacher training, and ongoing monitoring and coaching. Textbooks and teaching materials were also developed to support students to learn in their home language. Over time, a sustainable model for multilingual education has been successfully developed, with strong government ownership. The model guided development of a Multilingual Education policy framework and a proclamation by the Ministry. It has now been adopted under the Government's Multilingual Education National Action Plan and replicated across the country, ensuring that future generations of ethnic minority children have access to and can succeed in school. By 2018, over 10,000 children will have access. Ongoing longitudinal research has found that school enrolments of ethnic minority children increased six-fold. In addition, students from minority groups achieved the same levels in literacy tests and performed better in mathematics than their peers from mainstream schools who had only studied in one language. Multilingual education provides social benefits as parents and other family members are more able to participate in their children's education, and contributes to the preservation of indigenous languages.

Leave no one behind: including the deaf community in the Sustainable Development Goals

Jen Blyth

Disability Inclusion Technical Advisor, CBM Australia

Around the world, deaf people face systemic barriers to realising many of the basic human rights prioritised in the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In some parts of the world – particularly geographically remote areas – these challenges are exacerbated as formal, documented and widely-shared sign languages do not exist. Here, many deaf people live without language. Without a shared means of communication, people are blocked from accessing education, services, livelihoods, justice, or community decision-making. In these places, deaf people are among those left furthest behind. In the Pacific region, CBM Australia and its partner organisations have observed the geographical and social barriers that prevent deaf people from meeting, building communities and developing sign languages. While some shared sign languages exist, often building upon a foundation of languages introduced by missionaries or volunteers, many deaf Pacific islanders can express themselves only through limited, domestic-focused 'home signs'. These home signs do not constitute expressive or receptive language, and are usually only understood by family members. Without sign language, the isolation experienced by deaf people is extreme, and the barriers to 'a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity' outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development may seem insurmountable. This presentation will seek to outline the first steps – based on global evidence and deaf-driven approaches to language development – to begin including some of the Pacific's most marginalised people through language.

CONFERENCE DINNER
6.30pm, Great Hall, University House

Presentation of the 2018 Mitchell Humanitarian Award

Wednesday 14 February 2018

PANEL 3A – Adaptive programming in theory and in practice

8.00 – 9.30am, Molonglo Theatre

Chair: Alexandra Bridges
Country Director – Australia, Oxford Policy Management

This submitted panel will discuss the theory and practice of adaptive programming and how we can find ways to implement flexible programming within the context of an increasingly results-driven development agenda. Panellists will draw on their experiences to speak to the importance of an adaptive approach to programming, and the implications and challenges of this, from the perspective of bilateral and multilateral donors, implementers and consultants.

Discussants:

Ben French
Public Sector Governance Practice Lead, Oxford Policy Management

Graham Teskey
Leader, Global Governance Practice, Abt Associates

Sakuntala Akmeemana
Principal Governance Specialist, DFAT

Nicola Follis
Regional Business Partner, APAC, Palladium

PANEL 3B – Churches as agents of social change

8.00 – 9.30am, Weston Theatre

Chair: Tracey Newbury
Director – Gender, Equality and Disability Inclusiveness Section, Pacific Aid and Effectiveness Branch, Pacific Division, DFAT

Across the Pacific, where over 95% of people identify as Christian, Churches are core power-holders in society, communities and families. This submitted panel seeks to explore how working with and through Christian Churches theologically and institutionally can be key to effectively challenging the underlying traditional belief systems that hold women as submissive and men as the “head”; that promise that God will save Pacific peoples from climate change; that hold people with disabilities as helpless or worse, cursed; and that justify abuse to children, to enable transformative change.

Theology, the Pacific and climate change

Rev James Bhagwan
Former Director of Communications, Fiji Methodist Church

The intersectionality of gender and disability and the cross-cutting impact of biblical equality theology

Naomi Navoce
Program Officer, UnitingWorld Pacific Office

Theological approach in practice – strategy, programming and learning

Bronwyn Fraser
Acting Associate Director – International Programs (Pacific), UnitingWorld

PANEL 3C – Gender equity

8.00 – 9.30am, Barton Theatre

Chair: Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt
Senior Fellow, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

No magic bullets: economic empowerment and gender equality in India

Annabel Dulhunty
PhD Candidate, University of New South Wales

Ideas of women's empowerment increasingly appear to be based on economic indicators of success, such as increasing a woman's income or employability (Carella and Ackerly, 2017; Cornwall, 2016). In this conception, women's economic empowerment is presumed to be 'smart economics,' mutually benefiting both women and the economy (Chopra and Muller, 2016; Calkin, 2015). Microcredit and self-help groups based on ideas of economic empowerment are continuing to increase at a rapid scale globally (Finnis, 2017). Hence, questioning the assumptions behind these economic models of programming is urgently needed. This paper illustrates that despite the popularity of these economic-based gender interventions, increasing a woman's income and economic standing did not automatically result in improved gender equality. Through extensive qualitative research of self-help groups in West Bengal, India, using a grounded theory methodology, this paper demonstrates the problems with equating economic outcomes with women's overall empowerment. Findings from this study indicate that emphasising economic results can lead to devaluing household and care work, a sense of respect for women based solely on her earning capacity, and a significantly increased labour burden for women. These findings indicate that women's empowerment programming must go beyond a focus on increasing women's earning potential and access to markets. Instead, for gender equality to be realised, development programming needs to focus on attitudinal change of gender norms amongst both women and men.

Gender equality and the high level panel on water – research for influence

Melita Grant, Juliet Willetts and Chelsea Huggett
Research Principal; Professor, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney; Equality, Inclusion and Rights Adviser, WaterAid

In January 2016, the United Nations Secretary-General and President of the World Bank Group convened a High Level Panel on Water (HLPW), consisting of eleven sitting Heads of State including Australia's Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull. The HLPW was devised "to provide the leadership required to champion a comprehensive, inclusive and collaborative way of developing and managing water resources, and improving water and sanitation-related services." As part of efforts to engage with the HLPW, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), with the Australian Water Partnership, commissioned research on the connections between Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 (gender equality) and Goal 6 (water and sanitation), in relation to the HLPW Action Plan. The report, co-written by the Institute of Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney (ISF-UTS) and WaterAid, drew on over 120 academic and grey sources of literature to develop a synthesis that maps evidence of the relationships between SDG 5 and 6, and connects these linkages to the eight action areas of the HLPW Action Plan. It identified three key recommendations for the HLPW to mainstream gender equality and inclusion into its activities: 1) Proactive and deliberate participation of women and gender-discriminated people is needed at all stages of a program/project's cycle, 2) Integration across the SDGs (especially SDG 5 and 6 in this case) leads to more equitable and sustainable outcomes, and 3) Sex-disaggregated and qualitative data underpins good practice in gender mainstreaming. This presentation will outline how the research was conducted through a partnership between ISF-UTS, WaterAid, the Australian WASH Reference Group, the Australian Water Partnership and DFAT, and explains how it has been used to influence the HLPW. It outlines which advocacy efforts in line with the research have succeeded, and what the gaps have been. The presentation makes recommendations about how research and evidence of this nature can be better leveraged by governments and CSOs.

'The Last Taboo': research on menstrual hygiene management in Solomon Islands, Fiji and Papua New Guinea

Yasmin Mohamed, Chelsea Huggett, Alison Macintyre, Donna McSkimming, Dani Barrington, Kelly Durrant and Lisa Natoli

Women and Children's Health Officer, Burnet Institute; Equity Inclusion and Rights Advisor; Health Adviser, WaterAid; Program Director, International Women's Development Agency; Lecturer in Water, Sanitation and Health, Institute of Public Health and Environmental Engineering, University of Leeds; Maternal and Child Health Program Manager; Consultant, Burnet Institute

Managing menstruation effectively and with dignity can be challenging for girls and women in resource-poor settings. This paper explores challenges experienced by girls and women in managing their menstruation in rural and urban sites in Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands (SI) and Fiji, and whether these impact on equal participation in school, work and communities. Through research funded by DFAT, 307 women, men and adolescent girls participated in focus group discussions and interviews. Structured observations of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities were undertaken in schools and workplaces alongside an analysis of the availability/cost of sanitary products. Findings include lack of comprehensive knowledge about menstruation, particularly among girls in PNG and SI. Common beliefs and attitudes around menstruation being "dirty" create stigma for menstruating girls/women, make it more difficult to manage menstruation, contribute to unwanted behavioural restrictions, and negatively impact on emotional well-being. Girls in all countries reported teasing/harassment by boys, contributing to feelings of humiliation/embarrassment and potentially school absenteeism. A wide range of mostly-affordable sanitary products is available in urban PNG and Fiji, and to some extent in rural settings. In SI, reputable sanitary products are expensive and less available. In all countries, girls/women with fewer financial resources face affordability challenges and may rely on home-made solutions (of varying efficacy). In SI and PNG, WASH facilities in schools and workplaces rarely meet the needs of menstruating girls/women. Adolescent girls and women, particularly in SI and PNG, face numerous challenges that influence their ability to manage menstruation effectively and with dignity. These challenges interact, and have the potential to negatively influence physical and emotional health, participation at school, work and in the community, and impact the environment. Programming efforts to improve menstrual hygiene management (MHM) would benefit from a comprehensive approach that considers the broad range of determinants of menstrual health.

Translating gender audit findings into practice

Alice Ridge and Juliet Hunt

Policy and Advocacy Adviser, ACFID; Independent Consultant on gender and development, project design, monitoring and evaluation, research and gender training

The need for development organisations to pursue gender equality through their work is now recognised as a core principle of development. Gender equality is enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals, with a standalone goal on gender equality, and the mainstreaming of gender across all other goals. The ACFID Code of Conduct requires members to "promote gender equality and equity" through organisational commitments, participation in planning and decision-making processes, and monitoring and evaluation. To support this aim, some development organisations use gender audits as a way of assessing their strengths and weaknesses on gender equality in their work, organisational policies, and culture. How effective are gender audits in changing organisational and development practice on gender equality, and what factors increase the likelihood that audit findings will be owned and applied? Drawing on the experience of ACFID and other Australian development agencies who have conducted gender audits in the past 5 years, this paper explores the common strengths, barriers and opportunities that arise both in undertaking a gender audit, and in translating the findings of an audit into practice.

PANEL 3D – Should Australian ODA re-engage in Africa?

8.00 – 9.30am, Acton Theatre

Chair: Bob McMullan

Visiting Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Australia's official development assistance to African countries has shrunk by 85% since 2013-14, making it the biggest loser in the rounds of aid cuts since the Coalition government came to power. This is despite persistently high levels of poverty on the continent. Meanwhile, many Australians donate to development NGOs working in the region, and Australian businesses make efforts to build ties. Australia has expertise in key areas such as mining and agriculture that could be invaluable for African developing countries looking to use resource wealth as a pathway out of poverty, and while not in the current government's area of geographic

focus, the continent presents many opportunities for partnerships. In this submitted panel, speakers will discuss the arguments for and against Australian aid moving back into Africa.

Discussants:

Fessehaie Abraham
Visiting Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Jacqui de Lacy
Vice President – Strategy and Technical Services, Abt Associates

Sally Moyle
CEO, CARE Australia

PANEL 3E – Climate change and the SDGs

8.00 – 9.30am, Brindabella Theatre

Chair: Mellissa Wood
General Manager, Global Programs, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

Sustainability as usual? Deliberating towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Jonathan Pickering and John S. Dryzek
Postdoctoral Fellow; Centenary Professor, University of Canberra

The UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) significantly influenced the rhetoric of development finance following their adoption in 2001, and arguably increased aid allocations to social sectors such as education and health. However, the MDGs were criticised both for having emerged from a donor-driven process that involved little consultation, and for their limited emphasis on environmental sustainability. In contrast, the process leading to the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promised a stronger focus on sustainability, and involved a range of consultations whose scope was unprecedented in the history of the United Nations. These consultations included the MY World survey, which had attracted over 9.7 million responses by late 2017, as well as extensive online and face-to-face discussions. But questions remain as to how well these consultations represented the world's population, the quality of deliberation involved, and how much they influenced the final set of goals. This paper presents a case study of the SDGs process that forms part of a book project (co-authored with John Dryzek) on *The Politics of the Anthropocene*. We find that the process fares moderately well on democratic inclusion, even though representation across geographic and social groups was somewhat uneven, and some concerns that were prominent in consultations were not reflected in the final goals. Several procedural innovations also helped to improve the deliberative quality of intergovernmental negotiations on the SDGs. A degree of rethinking is evident in the shift towards understanding goals for sustainable development as applying universally, not just to developing countries. The greater prominence of environmental concerns in the SDGs compared to the MDGs is also significant, but the SDGs' approach to global ecological risks remains inconsistent and often vague. We conclude with reflections on the implications of the process for future efforts to garner citizens' perspectives on priorities for aid and development.

Big business, CSR and the SDGs: the arc of the deal

Jeremy Stringer
Assistant Director, Private Sector Development, DFAT

An emerging international regime of corporate sustainability reporting standards – sometimes voluntary, sometimes not – is becoming more sophisticated and starting to bare its teeth. 92% of the world's top 250 corporations, with revenues larger than the GDPs of entire countries, report on their sustainability performance. Several studies suggest a link between a company's sustainability performance and its overall performance. While traditional parameters of a companies' environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) standards are still used to assess performance, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) now provide a set of global targets that are informing and providing more rigour to reporting standards. The United Nations Global Compact, the Global Reporting Initiative and the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment are among primary interlocutors for this work on global standard setting. This paper analyses how previous sustainability reporting norms and standards are being influenced by the SDGs, and assesses the potential impacts.

Vulnerability, good governance, or donor interests? The allocation of aid for climate change adaptation

Florian Weiler, Carola Klöck and Matthew Dornan

Lecturer in Quantitative Politics, University of Kent; Research Fellow, University of Gottingen; Deputy Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Developed countries provide increasing amounts of aid to assist developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change. How do they distribute this aid? While donors agreed to prioritise “particularly vulnerable” countries, we know from the general aid allocation literature that donors (also) use aid as a foreign policy tool to promote their own economic and political goals. This paper analyses data on bilateral adaptation aid from 2010 through 2015 to assess to what extent adaptation aid is provided in response to recipient need, that is, vulnerability to climate change impacts, as opposed to recipient merit, that is good governance, and donors’ interests. In contrast to previous research, this paper finds that donors partly take vulnerability to climate change into account: countries that are physically more exposed to climate change tend to be more likely to receive some adaptation aid and also receive more adaptation aid per capita, as do poorer countries, small island developing states and—to a lesser extent—least developed countries. Countries with lower adaptive capacity, however, do not receive more adaptation aid; instead, donors reward well-governed countries with adaptation aid and use adaptation aid to promote their own economic interests. Furthermore, adaptation aid flows very closely follow general development aid flows. The extent to which adaptation aid is new and additional remains thus unclear.

Panel 3F – Aid evaluations and critiques

8.00 – 9.30am, Lennox Room

Chair: David Slattery

Director, Office of Development Effectiveness, DFAT

Community driven development: practitioner perspectives on the possibilities and limits of the model

Bobby Anderson

Technical Specialist, Cardno Emerging Markets

In the last two decades, community-driven development (CDD) has emerged as a popular development implementation model by which communities are facilitated to articulate their own development needs which governments and donors then action. CDD, which began in Indonesia at the end of the Suharto dictatorship, was intended mainly to provide small-scale infrastructure prioritised by communities that would then better maintain the infrastructure which they “owned” by virtue of the participatory methodology which decided the project in the first place. CDD, however, was not only concerned with infrastructure, but with governance, in particular building the capacity of communities to advocate for their needs with local government, and so on. This model was considered a success, especially regarding infrastructure, and has since expanded to Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Myanmar, and more recently PNG. It has proven to be an especially effective community development model in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. From its origins in infrastructure, the model has also expanded to include livelihoods, and service delivery facilities, including health and education. CDD is now viewed in some contexts as a “democracy primer”, in Myanmar in particular, where it also indirectly supports peace processes amongst select insurgent areas where the project is delivering the first government services to benefit communities in decades. CDD is also championed as a women’s empowerment tool in communities, challenging traditional gender participation and decision-making norms. However, the model has its limitations, especially around the utilisation of CDD methodologies to improve governance. The presenter will reflect upon his field experience implementing and monitoring CDD projects in Myanmar (where he is currently supporting the scale-up of two national CDD programs), Afghanistan, and Indonesia, to describe the possibilities and limitations of CDD, especially in areas with weak local government service delivery and other capacities, and in insurgent areas.

Pull mechanisms for overcoming market failure in the agriculture sector

Tristan Armstrong, Tulika A. Narayan, and Denise Mainville

Agriculture Sector Specialist, DFAT; Abt Associates; Chief Economist, Denise Mainville Consulting

Through the AgResults initiative, five G20 donors including Australia are testing the use of pull mechanisms to engage the private sector in providing agriculture technology solutions to smallholder farmers. Drawing on early lessons from the AgResults experience to date and the AgResults Kenya On-Farm Storage pilot in particular, this paper provides guidance for development practitioners interested in incorporating pull mechanisms in their own work. It presents the key elements of pull mechanisms, which include: a development problem to be addressed, “solvers” or private sector actors whom the pull mechanism incentivises, and an

incentive structure and verification protocol. The paper suggests circumstances when pull mechanisms are most likely to be effective as a development tool for donors wanting to develop a market for agricultural technologies that benefit smallholders. It also draws on AgResults' experiences to date to suggest some initial lessons, several of which point to the value of incorporating what economic theory can tell us about the behaviour of economic agents in agricultural markets and the underlying causes of market failure in the provision of the technology. For example, a starting premise is that pull mechanisms that aim to develop a sustainable market for a technology are best designed for development problems that can be resolved by large scale adoption of a technology that has already been proven in the field, and the users of the technology – smallholders – should realise a clear economic benefit from adopting the technology.

Disbursement linked indicators: a new trend in World Bank lending?

Will Brehm

Assistant Professor, Waseda University

The International Development Association and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the World Bank Group use multiple lending instruments for projects. One type is Investment Project Financing (IPF), which funds the inputs of a development project. A second is Program for Results (PforR), which disburses funding when certain outcomes are achieved in a project. The former generally, but not always, works through World Bank procurement and disbursement systems, while the latter works through the financial systems of clients (i.e., national governments). One critique of IPF projects is that they sometimes create alternative structures inside government bodies that are not sustainable since they do not link into government structures. PforR projects, introduced in 2012, typically use disbursement-linked indicators (DLIs) to determine which measurable outcome will trigger disbursement to the government's accounts. The World Bank argues that PforR projects are valuable because they focus on results and use government structures, thus decreasing the time needed for financial oversight (as in IPF projects for instance) while increasing the time spent on technical support by World Bank specialists. The perceived success of PforR has created a new trend: incorporating DLIs in IPF projects. For non-procurable items within IPF projects, the World Bank has begun to use results-based financing. In effect, the World Bank provides a reimbursement to governments after completing agreed-to tasks. This presentation explores the use of DLIs in a collection of World Bank IPF projects. It shows some of the problems with DLIs, including the accounting "trick" that makes this whole financial process possible, as well as the political risk of using government financial structures. The presentation ends by situating DLIs within the larger strategy of the World Bank and argues that DLIs in IPFs offer both risks and rewards.

'Beyond the project': measuring NGO effectiveness at different scales

Jo Hall

PhD Candidate, ANU

The expansion of project monitoring and evaluation systems over the last twenty years is not delivering on its promise of knowing what is or isn't working well in development, including for the NGOs. This is because of the combination of an overly technocratic approach, project fragmentation, the need to address complexity and politics, and a lack of balance in considering partner needs. It may be possible to answer questions around developmental outcomes and impact by considering different levels of thinking, questioning and learning beyond those that occur in single projects – that is, to monitor, evaluate and learn across different scales of work. In addition to the broader need to explore this relatively uncharted territory of capturing, integrating and reporting on outcomes and impact across different scales, the NGOs also have particular needs and challenges that relate to their distinctive role in development. Some consider the significance of NGOs not in their individual work empowering the poor or delivering services, but in the impact of their collective and collaborative effect (Degnbol-Martinussen, 2003: 155), while monitoring and evaluation systems are often narrowly based and focused at the project level. Thinking 'beyond the project' is a challenge for NGOs. Roger Riddell suggests that some NGOs and CSOs take a very narrow view of their work, confined to individual projects rather than 'assessing how they might contribute to making a wider and long-term impact, where their absolute and comparative advantage lies' (Riddell, 2013: 385). Based on research conducted for the Australian Council for International Development, this paper explores the methodological approaches to reporting across different scales of work and recommends seven factors for NGOs to consider when assessing their impact 'beyond the project'.

Panel 3G – Aid, politics and governance

8.00 – 9.30am, Griffin Room

Chair: Nicola Nixon

Director, Governance Growth and Fragility Branch, Development Policy Division, DFAT

Risk, politics and development: lessons from the UK's democracy aid

Susan Dodsworth and Nic Cheeseman

Research Fellow; Professor of Democracy, International Development Department, University of Birmingham

Political risks are inescapable in development. Donors keep them in check with a range of tools, but existing options provide little guidance about how political forms of risk can – or should – shape program design. This paper presents a novel framework that offers practical guidance on how to think about and manage some of these risks. This is based on a review of programs delivered by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, which provides a specific type of aid: democracy assistance. Political forms of risk have a strong influence on that aid, so it provides a valuable example. Our framework centres on two trade-offs inherent in the provision of democracy support. The first relates to the type of approach employed in a program; should it focus on a thematic issue or specific event, or should it focus primarily on an institution and its processes? The second concerns the scope of a program in terms of who it includes. Understanding the costs and benefits of these trade-offs will help development practitioners to make decisions about political risks in a more rigorous and transparent way and, potentially, to shift from a culture of risk-aversion, to one of informed risk-taking.

Opening the black box: managing the aid policy process in Pakistan

Faheem J Khan

Directing Staff, NIM-Islamabad, National School of Public Policy, Pakistan

Scholars have suggested the need to open the 'black box' of the aid delivery system to gain a deeper understanding of how the aid policy process works in practice. This research responds to this gap in the literature by exploring how donors and the Pakistan government interact to manage the aid policy process in the complex aid policy network in Pakistan. Using Klijn and Koppenjan's (2016) process analysis, this research explores specific network management strategies employed by actors to manage foreign aid decisions and facilitate process and network interactions. The findings indicate that in strategic donor-government interactions, incentives, research and informality not only promote collaboration and cooperation, but also enable actors to mitigate stagnation and influence policy decisions. However, the value of donor-led incentives in the eyes of government officials may lead to delaying tactics in managing the aid policy process and/or further strengthen the position of donors to influence policy decisions. A weak research base in Pakistan may open up possibilities for donors to utilise their research to influence policy decisions in donor-government engagement. Informality could also lead to institutional complications in managing the aid process. New insights from this research are valuable in improving existing knowledge about how the aid community interacts with and manages the aid policy process on the ground, which will eventually contribute to the understanding of aid effectiveness.

Do anti-corruption messages motivate citizens to resist corruption? Insights from a social experiment

Caryn Peiffer and Grant Walton

Lecturer in International Public Policy and Governance, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol; Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Anticorruption campaigns often include an awareness component which highlights the negative consequences of corruption; the idea is that awareness will empower citizens to demand change. However, experiences from developing countries suggest that messages that highlight the prevalence of corruption may actually backfire by adding to the belief that corruption is normal. This presentation presents findings from a social experiment conducted in Port Moresby with 1500 people, to understand how Papua New Guineans might respond to different anti-corruption messages. Each respondent was randomly assigned to a group where they had one of four stories and an accompanying visual read to them. The stories, each a separate narrative, emphasised the wide-spread nature, as well as the legal, moral and communal aspects of corruption in PNG. This was compared to a 'control' group - a group of respondents who are not read a story or shown a visual. Findings suggest that respondents are more likely to report and resist corruption when anti-corruption messages emphasise impacts to respondents' local community and kinship group, and that there are significant negative implications from messages that reinforce the widespread nature of corruption. This paper also shows the type of respondents who are more receptive to anti-corruption messages. These findings have significant implications for those seeking to increase citizens' willingness to respond to corruption in PNG and other countries where anti-corruption messages are employed.

How does networked action contribute to change?

Jayne Pilkinton

Performance Analysis Lead, Oxfam

Oxfam's Worldwide Influencing Network advocates for partnerships to support progress towards Oxfam's strategic goals to mobilise 'the power of people against poverty'. Oxfam partnerships often include multiple organisations operating under the shared banner of a network, coalition, alliance or other terms that imply collective action. Many projects use networks as a foundational step for further action and influence, on the assumption that networks will be more effective in bringing about policy and social change than organisations working alone. This assumption, though widely and reasonably held, is not well mapped or validated by research or evaluation. Much of the existing information on networks focuses on internal operation rather than strategies and outcome. Resulting social change is projected rather than measured. There is a gap in knowledge about what networks achieve that is different or better than single-voice influence. Recognising this, Oxfam Australia commissioned a meta-analysis of a small sample of its projects where building networks was the main approach. This presentation will draw on the findings of the meta-analysis and share key learnings from practitioners about: how networks that partner with Oxfam participate in political processes to achieve policies and practices that benefit marginalised people; what change looks like when it is delivered by a coalition, network or alliance; and what the contextual benefits of collaborative civil society action are, compared to other partnerships and strategies.

PLENARY SESSION:

3MAP: the Three-Minute Aid Pitch – ideas to improve Australian development policy 9.40am, Molonglo Theatre

Chair: Joel Negin

Head of School of Public Health, University of Sydney

*What does Australian aid and international development policy need more or less of? This panel presents the best, the most original, the most transformational, the most innovative ideas to get more bang from the 4 billion dollar buck that is the Australian aid program. And to get some new ideas on how to do international development policy differently and better. Following the 3-Minute-Thesis format, rival advocates will battle it out for your vote. For something quick and different, don't miss **3MAP: the Three-Minute Aid Pitch.***

Kate Sutton – Aussie rules for humanitarians

David Hudson – Real politics

Rosanna Duncan – Diversifying talent in aid

Klara Henderson – Turning on health services remotely

Barry Reed – Mouth cancer: late diagnosis, early death

John Langmore – Invest in conflict prevention

Emily Dwyer – Let's talk about sex

Jonathan Pryke – Overhaul aid advocacy

Clay O'Brien – IB4ID

Therese Faulkner – Three aid messages

PANEL 4A – The aid apathy crisis: cutting through in a crowded media

11.00am – 12.30pm, Molonglo Theatre

Chair: Ashlee Betteridge

Program Manager (Research Communications and Outreach), Development Policy Centre, ANU

Unprecedented levels of need, the biggest aid cuts ever, humanitarian catastrophe — all too familiar to hear about in the news, but does the average person care? There are more media outlets and information available than ever before, yet investment in quality international reportage has dropped off as traditional media has

been destabilised. Citizen journalism, blogging and social media have stepped up in their place — but do they have the same ability to influence high level decision-making? For those of us working on aid and development issues, whether on major crises or issues that simmer away for years or decades, how do we cut through in this media environment? This conversation-based panel will bring together journalists, communications practitioners and advocates to discuss the current challenges facing media coverage of aid and development issues, and to propose solutions.

Discussants:

Jo Chandler
Journalist

Sam Bolitho
Senior Media Manager, CARE Australia

Nick Danziger
Photojournalist

PANEL 4B – The future of multilateral development banking

11.00am – 12.30pm, Weston Theatre

Chair: Chris Tinning
First Assistant Secretary & Chief Economist – Development, Multilateral Development and Finance Division, DFAT

This discussion of the recent report by CGD's High Level Panel on the Future of Multilateral Development Banking (MDB) offers a frank assessment of current MDB policies and practices, situating them in the context of new development challenges. For over five decades the multilateral development banks have combined financial heft and technical knowledge to support investments in post-conflict reconstruction, growth, and poverty reduction. However, the geo-economic landscape has changed dramatically in this century. There are new banks, and also new challenges that call for global collective action and financing of the sort the MDBs are well-suited to provide but have been handicapped in doing so effectively. How should the MDBs respond?

Presenter: Nancy Birdsall
President Emeritus, Center for Global Development

Discussants: Susan Engel
Senior Lecturer, Politics and International Studies, University of Wollongong

Yasuyuki Sawada
Chief Economist, Asian Development Bank

PANEL 4C – LGBTIQ+ inclusion in humanitarian and development programs

11.00am – 12.30pm, Barton Theatre

Chair: Stephen Close
Assistant Director – Humanitarian Policy and Partnerships, DFAT

This submitted panel will explore the rationale and methodology for LGBTIQ+ inclusion within humanitarian and development programs. In the decade since the Yogyakarta Principles were developed in 2007, global human rights mechanisms have addressed sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) with increased sophistication. However, rights-based development organisations and humanitarian organisations have been relatively slow to address the rights and needs of LGBTIQ+ people within their programs. Amongst the challenges is the lack of research to inform program design. Recognising this, the UNDP and World Bank have called for the creation of a bespoke LGBTI index to sit alongside the SDGs, and a research revolution into LGBTI inclusion based on indicators in development over 2017-2018.

LGBT exclusion in Indonesia and its economic effects

Lee Badgett

Director, Center for Public Policy and Administration, and Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Global concern about human rights violations against sexual and gender minorities has expanded to include concern about connections between human rights, social exclusion, and economic development. In particular, national and international development agencies have begun to ask how the inclusion of LGBT people might enhance economic development. This study focuses on the situation in Indonesia and shows how the current exclusion of LGBT people in many social settings may hold back the development of the Indonesian economy. The connection between the treatment of LGBT people and economic output is rooted in the same models used to assess the costs of excluding women and other minorities. The exclusion of LGBT people from full participation in important spheres of life diminishes their education, health, and employment. As a result, LGBT people cannot fully develop their abilities, skills, and knowledge – their human capital – and cannot contribute the full value of their human capital to the economy. As the new Sustainable Development Goals make a pledge to leave no one behind in their focus on inclusive development, development plans will increasingly need to include concerns about the treatment of LGBT people. To this end, the UNDP and World Bank are collaborating to develop a bespoke index to track LGBT progress.

Sexuality is the right to choose what gender you are: intersections of gender and sexuality within two development organisations

Gillian Fletcher

Research Fellow, La Trobe University

This presentation reports on research carried out into the conceptualisation of gender and sexuality within two Asia-Pacific development organisations. The research team brought together academics from La Trobe University with a representative of the Institute of Development Studies, UK. The research began by asking representatives of both organisations to identify key documents that had informed their work: analysis of these documents demonstrated the dominance of a categorical approach to both gender and sexuality, in which ‘gender’ is conflated with women and ‘sexuality’ is conflated with non-heterosexual sexual identities. The research team then explored the organisations’ practice through interviews and workshops. Conceptual confusion abounded, as participants tried to impose that which they had learnt on to the everyday lives of those with whom they worked. This presentation will demonstrate the potentially limiting effects this can have on both understanding and responding to the complex ways in which gender and sexuality interact with inequality and marginalisation (above and beyond sexual identity categories). The title of this presentation is taken from comments made during one of the research workshops, when participants were asked to try and explain what they understood by terms including ‘gender’ and ‘sexuality’.

Why is it so hard for aid donors to respond to human rights violations? The politics of donor engagement with Uganda’s anti-homosexuality legislation

Niheer Dasandi

Birmingham Fellow in Politics and Development, University of Birmingham

There is a broad consensus that donor governments should suspend or reduce aid in response to human rights violations. The failure to do this has led to severe criticism of bilateral donors, and accusations of donor complicity in human rights abuses. This paper questions the dominant belief that donors should necessarily cut aid in response to rights violations. It argues that this prevailing view fails to adequately engage with a number of important issues, such as the positive impact of aid, the effects of aid on recipient government action, the politics of human rights in developing countries, and the influence of domestic politics on donor responses. The paper argues that when these issues are considered more carefully, it becomes apparent that while aid suspensions may be the appropriate response in some contexts, in others they may actually have a negative impact on human rights. This argument is demonstrated through an analysis of the donor response to recent efforts to introduce anti-homosexuality legislation in Uganda. The effort to introduce legislation that would severely violate the basic rights of sexual minorities in Uganda began in 2009 and the bill was signed into law in 2014 before being overturned by Uganda’s Constitutional Court a few months later. Throughout this period, bilateral donors sought to prevent the legislation being passed. Donors used a number of different approaches, including aid suspensions, to try to prevent the legislation from being passed and implemented. The case, therefore, provides an opportunity to examine the effects of donor responses on the politics of anti-homosexuality legislation. The case of donor engagement with Uganda’s anti-homosexuality legislation demonstrates the need to better understand the politics of donor responses to human rights violations.

Down by the river: gender and sexual minorities in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response

Emily Dwyer and Jovesa Saladolka

Director, EdgeEffect; Country Director, Oxfam Fiji

The post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) that followed Tropical Cyclone (TC) Winston in Fiji considered the impact of the cyclone on women, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly, and disaggregated the impact by geography, amongst other factors. However it was almost silent on the experiences of Fijians living outside of heteronormative, cisnormative and binary understandings of gender, sexuality and sex characteristics. In this respect, the PDNA was not unique. Global frameworks, collections of principles, clusters, good practice guides and other aspects of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and humanitarian systems are often quiet on LGBTIQ+ inclusion. Is this a concern? Are sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics (SOGIESC) relevant factors for DRR and humanitarian activities? A recent Oxfam Australia research project in Fiji answers yes, and is part of a growing literature including analysis of disasters in the Philippines, India, Pakistan, Haiti, and Indonesia. The DFAT-funded Down By the River project explored inclusion and exclusion of Fijian gender and sexual minorities in DRR before TC Winston and in humanitarian response post-Winston. The research, undertaken by Edge Effect, Rainbow Pride Foundation and Oxfam in Fiji, used a storytelling (talanoa) methodology to centre voices of Fijian gender and sexual minorities. Story analysis revealed key themes in areas including livelihoods, shelter, WASH, violence and protection, and these themes shaped discussion with DRR and humanitarian actors in Fiji in June 2017. This paper will outline the methodology, themes, and proposed next steps through which DRR and humanitarian actors in Fiji can be more inclusive of Fijian gender and sexual minorities. The research may motivate similar engagement with gender and sexual minorities (and intersex people) in other Pacific countries, and it contributes to global efforts to address SOGIESC issues in DRR and humanitarian activity.

PANEL 4D – Engaging with Asia’s advanced middle income countries

11.00am – 12.30pm, Acton Theatre

Chair: Sakuntala Akmeemana

Principal Governance Specialist, DFAT

Most countries in the Indo-Pacific region have undergone substantial developmental transformation over the past few decades, and many have achieved, or are close to achieving, advanced middle income country (AMIC) status. Despite gains to date, some countries face tough challenges ahead. In later stages of development, a combination of lingering first-generation constraints and new economic, political, and social challenges inevitably arise and can delay or derail further progress. The rising impacts of climate change, demographics, and especially automation are likely to make successful transitions even harder. Australia has a major stake in the future prosperity and stability of these countries, yet it is roughly at the beginning of this phase that traditional bilateral aid from all donors phases out. To remain effectively engaged, new forms of responsive, low-cost, high-impact cooperation better adapted to post-aid AMIC contexts must be developed. This panel will offer an overall framework for thinking about the challenges ahead in Asia’s AMICs, what Australia might be able to offer through innovative programming, and how all this fits within the new foreign policy as articulated in the White Paper.

Discussants:

Michael Wilson

Assistant Secretary, Governance, Fragility and Water Branch, DFAT

Sam Chittick

Philippines Country Director, The Asia Foundation

William Cole

Senior Advisor – Program Strategy, The Asia Foundation

PANEL 4E – The state of the NGO sector: Australia’s development NGOs in a changing world

11.00am – 12.30pm, Brindabella Theatre

Chair: Susan Pascoe
President, ACFID

The world is changing, and with it the roles of Australia’s development NGOs. This submitted panel will focus on the findings of the first ever ‘ACFID State of the Sector Report’, a comprehensive study of the state of the Australian development NGO sector. The study draws on numerous data sources to describe the nature of Australia’s development NGOs: their sizes, their funding sources, their staff makeup, the extent to which they cooperate, the work they do, and how they learn.

Presenters: Terence Wood
Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Raewyn Lans
Member and Stakeholder Engagement Lead, ACFID

Discussant: Marc Purcell
CEO, ACFID

PANEL 4F – Aid in conflict

11.00am – 12.30pm, Lennox Room

Chair: Alan Ryan
Executive Director, Australian Civil-Military Centre

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in conflict-affected contexts: an alternative development partnership between an international non-governmental organisation and a non-state armed group in Shan State, Myanmar

Sharon Bell
PhD Candidate, Massey University

As the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is advanced, ascertaining how conflict-affected contexts can impact achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is vital. The United Nations (UN) considers conflict to be the leading risk to development progress. Conflict-affected contexts have high rates of poverty, limited access to crucial services such as healthcare, and made little progress towards achieving the UN’s Millennium Development Goals. Shan State, Myanmar provides such a context, facing critical shortages in its health and education services. A global development agenda of state- and peace-building in conflict-affected contexts has meant that international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) have been criticised for undermining state legitimacy. Meanwhile, non-state armed groups (NSAGs) have been established in areas like Shan State, Myanmar, as alternative regimes which seek self-determination as well as wanting to provide for the social and economic wellbeing of their people. Little is known about how a development partnership between an INGO and a NSAG can contribute towards alternative and localised approaches to meeting the SDGs. This paper reports on the case study of such a partnership in Shan State, Myanmar. It draws on qualitative fieldwork conducted in a community on the Shan State-Thailand border in 2015 and 2016. A capabilities approach is used to examine the effectiveness of the partnership in enabling local capabilities to achieve development outcomes. It argues that the INGO-NSAG partnership functions as a legitimate ‘multi-stakeholder partnership’ that the UN calls for in SDG 17, to ‘strengthen the means of implementation’ of the SDGs. The paper also discusses the contradictions of the partnership, and the limitations caused by a reduction in international donor funding for alternative responses to development issues. These threaten to compromise the achievement of the SDGs in conflict-affected contexts.

The foreign aid and terrorism nexus: analysing the cost of (in)security in Somalia (2001-2016)

Yasmin Hassen
PhD Candidate, National Security College, ANU

This study is concerned with the relationship between foreign aid and terrorism in Somalia. In the public imagination, Somalia evokes certain images. An image of a society ravaged by lawlessness, clan-based wars,

famine, piracy, and failed states. We have expectations of how Somalia should behave as well as numerous assumptions on how Somalia should be governed. Somalia is simultaneously the lead Somali character in Captain Phillips (infamous) for the 'Irish...I'm the Captain now' catchphrase, and the autocratic dictator Siad Barre. Foreign aid has often been used to secure the national interests of donor nation-states. This study is intended to augment the body of research on how failed states that have been identified has safe havens for terrorist organisations, such as Somalia, use foreign aid. Put crudely, its assignment is to sort out how and under what conditions foreign aid works as an auxiliary in the global war on terror. To better understand this issue, the paper explores how the five major bilateral donors use a securitisation discourse to achieve their own security outcomes at the expense of the recipient's security. This paper concludes by offering two contributions to the aid-security literature: first, an analysis of how aid securitisation facilitates an (in)security paradigm in Somalia; and second, a more nuanced understanding of how aid securitisation is politically understood, performed and enacted, and its implications for (in)security.

Rethinking aid to Palestine: towards fiscally sustainable governance

Anas Iqtait

PhD Candidate, ANU

Since 1994, international donors have invested more than \$31 billion in Palestine to support the peace process and promote development. This aid has played a vital role in sustaining the Palestinian economy, providing needed humanitarian relief, and financing the Palestinian Authority's (PA) operations. However, in light of increasing research on the ineffectiveness of aid in Palestine, this paper critically analyses the dynamics shaping donors' objectives and aid delivery mechanisms, utilising the Australian Aid Investment Plan for Palestine 2015-2019 as a case study. In particular, it investigates the effects of aid on the fiscal sustainability of the PA and argues that donor policies have indirectly impeded the development of a fiscally independent governance mechanism in Palestine since 1994. Adapting a theoretical framework of political economy analysis and fiscal sociology, the findings of this paper propose the structural changes necessary for the PA to grow independent of international aid, and for donors to play a more sustainable role.

Narratives of donor accountability: the case of donor support to Myanmar's peace processes

Tamas Wells

Research Fellow, University of Melbourne

The notion of accountability has received considerable attention within development literature, including a growing focus on the accountability of Northern donor agencies themselves. Scholarly analysis of donor accountability in development literature often focuses on technical examination of accountability mechanisms. Yet the way accountability is understood and communicated amongst actors associated with aid programs has received less attention. Using the example of donor support to peace processes in Myanmar, this article examines the way that accountability is narrated within donor agencies and amongst international and local networks of peace activists and analysts. When attached to simplified stories, the word accountability takes a variety of meanings and serves to position donors in different ways, as 'self-serving', 'even-handed' or ' beholden to the Myanmar government'. Examination of how accountability is narrated within and around aid programs reveals limits to negotiation about donor aid accountability mechanisms.

PANEL 4G – Issues in humanitarian aid

11.00am – 12.30pm, Griffin Room

Chair: Jamie Isbister

First Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian, NGOs and Partnerships Division, DFAT

Measuring the impact of localisation

Kate Sutton and Josie Flint

Director; Leader, Humanitarian Advisory Group

There is an increasing focus on operationalising World Humanitarian Summit commitments to localise humanitarian action. In the Pacific, recent research has revealed that local humanitarian action will only be achieved with changing power dynamics and transformed relationships in the region (Australian Red Cross 2017). Whilst humanitarian and development actors are working on different approaches to localise humanitarian action, few are considering how they will measure the success of changed approaches. Humanitarian Advisory Group is undertaking research to address this gap. The first research paper under the Humanitarian Horizons project (due for publication in December 2017) seeks to address this gap, and define an approach for measuring the impact of localisation in priority countries in the Pacific region. The paper seeks

to explore the most appropriate methods to measure localisation actions and impact, including the unique aspects of power shifts, relationship strengthening and capacity exchange.

Going local: achieving a more appropriate and fit-for-purpose humanitarian ecosystem in the Pacific

Peter Walton and Fine Tu'itupou Arnold

Director of International Programs, Australian Red Cross; Secretary General, Cook Islands Red Cross

Australian Red Cross is amplifying the call for humanitarian system change with the publication 'Going local: achieving a more appropriate and fit-for-purpose humanitarian ecosystem in the Pacific'. This locally-orientated research adds significant weight to a growing international evidence base around the "localisation" of humanitarian action, which emerged from the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). A significant outcome of the WHS was the "Grand Bargain" agenda, which commits to directing 25 per cent of overseas development aid to local actors. In addition to more flexible funding, the Grand Bargain demands that humanitarian organisations better coordinate their actions, reduce duplication and inefficiency, and avoid activities that undermine local efforts. In response, this research adopted a localised approach, which featured Pacific-based researchers undertaking locally-determined data collection methods (shadowing, visioning and key informant interviews) to draw out the unique perspectives of Pacific humanitarian actors. Their subsequent views on localisation suggest that, despite improvements, the humanitarian system in the Pacific in its current form is unlikely to meet current and future demands. The resulting call for humanitarian system reform demands change across individual, organisational and sectoral levels – more change than the international community has anticipated. The research identifies the need for collective action towards more localised approaches to financing, capacity building, and human resources. Importantly, this requires a change in power relations that promotes national-level leadership and locally-owned decision-making. Red Cross is using this research to inform its engagement with Pacific national societies and support the call for change more broadly across the humanitarian sector.

PLENARY SESSION:

Health security and medical research

1.30pm, Molonglo Theatre

Chair: Jo Chandler
Journalist

Ebola, MDR-TB, malaria. Infectious diseases will continue to threaten the health and well-being of people across our region and the world. The Australian Government has announced a major regional health security fund. How can Australia best support countries to prevent and respond to infectious diseases? What is a health security approach in any case? What should the balance be between research and operations? And should it all be left to DFAT or should we establish a medical ACIAR? Join our expert panel as we debate the biggest new initiative in the aid program since the Coalition came to power.

Panellists:

Brendan Crabb

Director and CEO, Burnet Institute

Professor Brendan Crabb AC PhD FAHMS is an infectious disease researcher with a special interest in malaria. His research group develops and exploits genetic approaches to better understand malaria parasite biology, principally to help prioritise vaccine and drug targets. Since 2008, he has been the Director and CEO of the Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health Ltd (Burnet Institute). He is the past-President of the Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI), and currently a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (FAHMS), serves on the Council of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) of Australia and on the boards of both AAMRI and Research Australia. Internationally, he serves on the International Advisory Boards of both the Sanger Institute (UK) and the Vaccine Science Portfolio Advisory Committee at PATH/MVI (USA). In his home state of Victoria, Professor Crabb serves on the Victorian Government's Science, Medical Research and Technology (SMART) Panel and is President of the Victorian Chapter of AAMRI.

Blair Exell

Acting Deputy Secretary and Ambassador for Regional Health Security, DFAT

Blair Exell is a senior career officer with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). He is currently Acting Deputy Secretary of DFAT and was previously First Assistant Secretary of the Development Policy Division, leading on Australia's development policy to guide Australia's aid program. This includes priority sectors of health, education, governance and cross-cutting themes (e.g. disability). Blair is also Australia's first Ambassador for Regional Health Security, with the role to focus global attention on the needs of our region, strengthening national health systems and preparing the Indo-Pacific to respond to emerging health threats. Blair graduated in Economics from The Australian National University in 1991 and began his career in the not for profit development sector in Cambodia and Vietnam in 1993, before joining the Australian Government's aid department (formerly AusAID) in 1997. Blair has been the senior aid representative based in Cambodia, Solomon Islands and Indonesia and was the Development Coordinator for the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands in 2006-07.

Mary Moran

Executive Director, Policy Cures

Dr Moran has over 20 years of experience in health policy and practice, including 10 years specialising in neglected disease policy. She has conducted projects for a wide range of public and multilateral health organisations with a focus on policy solutions for emerging issues related to neglected disease R&D. In 2004, Mary founded the research group that became Policy Cures at the London School of Economics & Political Science, later transferring it to the George Institute for International Health in Sydney. Prior to forming the group, she was a diplomat and policy analyst with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade; Director of Medecins Sans Frontieres Access to Essential Medicines Campaign in Australia; and a Europe-based policy advocate with MSF on issues relating to access to medicines for neglected patients. Mary is an Honorary Senior Lecturer at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and an Expert Adviser to the World Health Organisation, European Commission, European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), OECD and the Wellcome Trust.

PANEL 5A – Anti-corruption and development assistance at a crossroads

3.30pm – 5.00pm, Molonglo Theatre

Chair: Paul Heywood

Sir Francis Hill Professor of European Politics, University of Nottingham; Director of the British Academy; DFID Anti-Corruption Evidence Programme

Too often there has been a gap between academic analysis seeking to explain the how and why of corruption, and the reality of activists trying to address it on the ground. We need to recognise not only that corruption is complex and multi-faceted, but also that to have any real impact requires sensitivity to the specific contexts in which it takes place, and especially what is politically possible. That means working closely with colleagues who are faced with actually implementing anti-corruption measures. This submitted panel provides an in-depth look at some of the research funded through the British Academy/DFID Anti-Corruption Evidence Programme.

Curbing corruption in development aid-funded procurement

Olli Hellmann and Elizabeth David-Barrett, Mihaly Fazekas and Lili Márk

Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Sussex; Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Sussex; Director, Government Transparency Institute, and Visiting Professor, Central European University; PhD Student, Central European University

Donors are under increasing pressure to ensure accountability and transparency in the allocation of funds, yet have only blunt tools available to monitor whether recipient governments use aid for agreed purposes. To address this problem, an innovative methodology for analysing big data from major aid agencies to calculate more accurate and targeted indicators of corruption in aid-funded procurement has been developed. These indicators are employed in a multi-method research design to explore how the risks of corruption in aid allocation are affected by 1) different institutional control mechanisms and 2) the socio-political context in recipient-countries. The findings aim to guide donor agencies in the future development of more efficient

delivery and monitoring mechanisms, while the data analysis tools can be incorporated into donors' evaluation frameworks beyond the life of the project.

Decentralisation, multilevel governance and corruption

Hamish Nixon, Alina Rocha Menocal and Paul Smoke

Director of Decentralisation and Citizen Participation, Papua New Guinea Governance Facility, Abt Associates; Senior Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute; Professor of Public Finance and Planning, New York University

Our research applies a comparative and multilevel approach to decentralisation and corruption both within and across two countries: Nigeria and Bangladesh. It explores the differing prevalence, dynamics and impacts of corruption in these different decentralised contexts; the effects on corruption of local and national factors related to the quality of decentralisation; and the implications for anti-corruption measures.

'Islands of integrity': understanding the politics of corruption reduction

Heather Marquette, Caryn Peiffer and Rosita Armytage

Professor in Development Politics, University of Birmingham, and Senior Research Fellow – Governance and Conflict, UK Department for International Development; Lecturer in International Public Policy and Governance, University of Bristol; Research Fellow, University of Birmingham

This study examines services or institutions that have managed, against the odds, to become 'islands of integrity' in contexts of systemic corruption. Drawing on statistical analysis of the Global Corruption Barometer as well as in-depth qualitative case studies in South Africa (police) and Uganda (health), it asks whether successful corruption reduction can be attributed to improved institutional operation or better enforcement, to key individuals or coalitions of willing actors, or a combination of all these. It also considers what the international community can do to better support these processes. This project is funded under the British Academy/Global Challenges Research Fund Sustainable Development Grants program and is affiliated with the BA-ACE program.

Implications from the research for development policy and practice

Kristian Futol

Assistant Director, Law and Justice Section, DFAT

This presentation reflects on the implications that practice-oriented anti-corruption can have for the design and implementation of more effective anti-corruption interventions in a rapidly transforming world.

PANEL 5B – Working with national NGOs

3.30pm – 5.00pm, Weston Theatre

Chair: Stephen Howes

Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Throughout the region, Australia is a major funder of national NGOs. Yet, such funding pales into insignificance in relation to the funding provided to Australian development NGOs. Has the Australian aid program got the balance right? Or should much more funding be provided directly to national NGOs? Are there lessons to be learnt from the localisation initiative in the humanitarian sector? What are the benefits and what are the challenges of being a national NGO recipient of Australian aid? How should national NGOs be funded? In this session, we hear from leaders of and advisers to national NGOs, all of whom have received funding from Australian aid. They will tell their stories, and put forward what they would like to see more of, and less of, from Australian aid.

Discussants:

Shamima Ali

Coordinator, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC)

Stephanie Copus-Campbell

Executive Director, Oil Search Foundation

Juliet Hunt

Independent Consultant and Adviser to FWCC

PANEL 5C – Getting to gender transformation in Ethiopia’s agricultural sector **3.30pm – 5.00pm, Barton Theatre**

Chair: Jayne Curnow
Research Program Manager for Agricultural Systems Management, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

Many development projects claiming to be gender responsive or gender sensitive operate upon assumptions or use proxy measures as intervention points. When the project finishes we know little about sustainability, the combination of approaches that are required, or the enabling environment needed for systemic change. This submitted panel will explore the research and practice surrounding the barriers and opportunities facing rural women engaged in agricultural livelihoods in patriarchal Ethiopia; how gender is approached and conceived; what promising practices and opportunity structures exist; how gender norms are changing and how this can enable and constrain innovation; the social norms that impact women’s roles and controls in the spheres in which they engage (household, community, networks and institutions, enabling environment); and how to design gender sensitive research and questions.

What three different quantitative surveys tell us about gender

Dagmawit Greif and Kristie Druza
PhD Candidate, Giessen University; Gender and Social Development Research Manager, CIMMYT

This presentation examines the results from data mining three wheat-focused datasets: CIMMYT Pakistan wheat dataset with total sample of 317, a CIMMYT Ethiopia wheat panel dataset with total sample 1978 and an IFPRI-Ethiopian pilot input voucher household dataset total sample of 591. Using descriptive statistics including estimation of mean, proportions, and production of charts along with t-tests and chi-square tests, it presents results on the division of labour questions and sampling strategies. It finds that two out of three samples are taken according to crops/yields, or climatic conditions and are not representative of the population. The surveys mostly have a low representation of youth and two out of three have a low representation of women. This makes comparisons by sex and age and across regions difficult. The presentation argues that in the era of big data we should be cognizant of the way that we ask questions in surveys, who is involved in survey design, the response range offered, and the sampling approach, as all have a bearing on how gender sensitive the results are (and thus how visible women are in our datasets).

Doing gender: gender audits, gender mainstreaming and agricultural research

Lemlem Abebe
Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research

The Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research completed its first gender audit in 2017. This presentation will discuss how a government agriculture research institute mainstreams gender, where they get support for gender, and the results of the gender audit tools (bibliometric analysis, documentation review, online survey, focus group discussions and key informant interviews). It will also discuss how the results are regarded internally, the strengths and weaknesses of the audit methodology, and future plans.

Studying gender norms

Mulunesh Tsegaye
Gender and agriculture researcher, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT)

What are the social norms that impact women’s roles and ability to innovate? Have gender norms changed, and how does this affect agricultural productivity? A summary of the Ethiopia-specific findings from a global qualitative comparative research initiative that examines how gender norms and agency shape, and in turn are shaped by, local innovation processes in agriculture and natural resource management (NRM). Known as ‘GENNOVATE’ the study began in late 2014 and aims to build greater knowledge of the connections between gender equality and agricultural development. In Ethiopia, 138 women and 137 men from wheat growing households (a household where more than 50% of household income is from wheat) participated in the research across four sites. The research used the following standardised data collection instruments: literature review, key informant interviews, community profiles, semi-structured interviews (on innovation pathways and individual life stories – with adult men and women) and single-sex focus group discussions (ladder of life –

with poor adults, capacities for innovation – with middle class adults, and aspirations of youth – with older adolescents and young adults) which were coded and analysed in Nvivo.

Failing to learn or learning to fail? A meta-analysis of gender and agriculture program evaluations and what we have learnt about gender practice in Ethiopia

Emily Springer and Kristie Druzca

PhD Candidate, University of Minnesota; Gender and Social Development Research Manager, CIMMYT

If we want to transform gender relations in the agriculture sector then we need to understand what works (and what does not work) for gender/social norm changes in agricultural development projects in patriarchal societies. However, the academic evidence base is weak. This research examines the gender results from 24 agricultural program evaluations (collected from 44 stakeholders) in Ethiopia. After establishing inclusion and exclusion criteria, only three programs have evidence (rigorous mixed methods) on how a cycle of reproducing gender inequalities can be interrupted and how to better address gender dynamics in project design, monitoring and evaluation, and programming. The paper concludes that evaluations are not the right learning tools for understanding gender and that a richer understanding of social norm changes exists in what can be described as 'internal learning documents'. Furthermore we present results from the stakeholder interviews on gender mainstreaming and transformative practices to highlight the inconsistency in gender mainstreaming and the lack of learning and collaboration around what works to transform gender inequality.

PANEL 5D – Joint funding mechanisms for humanitarian response

3.30pm – 5.00pm, Acton Theatre

Chair: Kate Sutton

Director, Humanitarian Advisory Group

In a time where the humanitarian funding gap is greater than ever before, humanitarian agencies are required to think innovatively and creatively about how to meet this need to meet current and future mandates. Experiences in other countries have shown significant dividends, however, there have also been challenges and risks both at the agency and consortium levels in initiating joint appeals. Humanitarian Advisory Group's recent desk research and subsequent think piece present an exploration and critical examination of evidence of the effectiveness of joint funding mechanisms, including the advantages and the risks for the sector. This proposed panel discussion seeks to present some of those findings and bring together key players to discuss the issues outlined in the think piece, particularly the appropriateness and viability of establishing a joint funding mechanism in the Australian context.

Discussants:

Peter Walton

Director of International Programs, Australian Red Cross

Jamie Isbister

First Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian, NGOs and Partnerships Division, DFAT

Manisha Thomas

Coordinator, Emergency Appeals Alliance

Jo Pradela

Director, Policy and Advocacy, ACFID

Melissa Gill

Managing Partner, The Behaviour Architects

PANEL 5E – Aid and aid workers

3.30pm – 5.00pm, Brindabella Theatre

Chair: James Gilling

First Assistant Secretary, Contracting and Aid Management Division, DFAT

Putting public support for Australian aid into perspective

Chris Hoy

PhD Candidate, ANU

This paper presents the results of two online nationally-representative surveys whereby randomly selected treatment groups received ‘information interventions’ aimed at boosting support for aid. The first survey examines the impact of information about how Australia compares to other rich countries with regard to aid generosity, refugee intake and addressing climate change (Australia ranks either 15th or 16th out of the 20 richest OECD countries for each of these issues). This builds upon work by Wood (2016) that shows comparing Australia’s aid generosity with the UK boosted support for aid, whereas providing other information had no impact. The survey in this paper shows public support for aid is much lower than support for action on climate change and slightly lower than support for increasing the refugee intake. The provision of information boosted support for aid and climate change by around 4-5 percentage points, but not for increasing the intake of refugees. In the case of aid, information about how Australia compares to other rich OECD countries increased support among Coalition and Green voters, but not among Labour voters. In fact, information increased support for aid among Coalition voters to the point that there was no difference between them and Labour voters. Econometric analysis shows that having a university education and being left leaning was associated with support for both aid and climate change, after controlling for other factors. This analysis also showed richer Australians were more likely to favour government action on climate change, but not on increasing aid. The second survey builds upon a study conducted in the United States by Nair (2015) that showed information about where respondents rank in the global income distribution boosted support for aid (this survey will be conducted in November 2017 and the results will be available shortly afterwards).

Does the geographical distribution of Australian aid make sense?

Helen Ware

Professor, University of New England

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has had a strong and consistent commitment to devoting an increasing share of our shrinking aid budget to “aid to our region”. In 2014-15, Australia’s top ten bilateral aid recipients in descending order were: Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Solomon Islands, Vietnam, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, Myanmar and Bangladesh. The Middle East, together with North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, each received less than 5% of our bilateral aid. Whether the geographical distribution of the Australian aid program makes sense clearly depends upon the purposes of the program and the judgement criteria used. This paper reviews this distribution through a number of lenses: political efficacy; support to middle income countries; poverty reduction; health impact; rural/urban balance; and gender equity. It also asks the question: if there are absolute minimum standards of aid provision in various sectors such as primary education and access to clean water for all, how far does Australia’s aid program contribute to meeting these targets even for “our region”? Are there ways in which the same regional balance could still serve to deliver more development per dollar? Finally, the Australian regional pattern and local foci are compared with those of other bilateral aid donors, as well as of the United Nations agencies and international financial institutions.

Aid worker mental health: explorations of aid worker wellbeing and development of an online intervention

Tarli Young

PhD Candidate, University of Queensland

Aid workers confront multiple stressors that hinder their ability to deliver aid effectively; such stressors impact the workers, their organisations and aid beneficiaries. Despite the impactful role of stress, there is limited research on aid worker mental health. Using a mixed methods cross-sectional online survey, we have collected data from 415 aid workers from diverse backgrounds. This study pairs measures of mental illness, wellbeing, and burnout with qualitative data on perceived stressors, expectations and motivations. Our results indicate that aid workers generally have poor mental health with low levels of wellbeing and high levels of depression, anxiety, stress and burnout. Of particular concern are the specific sub-groups who are particularly vulnerable, including workers who are short-term with a lower income, younger, international, or women. Contrary to predictions there was no significant difference between humanitarian and development workers and very little difference for those working in emergency contexts. This lends support to the qualitative data which highlights

that the major stressors identified by aid workers relate to interpersonal issues rather than security problems. It was also found that aid workers' resilience, psychological flexibility and levels of meaning were significantly negatively correlated with mental health issues. As there are currently no psychological interventions targeting aid workers, this data highlights the need to focus effective interventions on aid workers' well-being. This paper proposes an intervention based on acceptance commitment therapy, evaluated through a pilot and a randomised control trial. Given that the efficacy of aid work is largely dependent on the quality of delivery, it is hoped that this intervention will be beneficial to aid workers, aid organisations and aid recipients. This presentation will share data on aid worker mental health and plans for the proposed intervention.

PANEL 5F – Aid impacts

3.30pm – 5.00pm, Lennox Room

Chair: Jenny Corbett

Distinguished Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

Does child sponsorship make a difference? Case studies from five countries

Simon Feeny, Matthew Clarke, Gill Westhorp, and Michael Jennings

Professor, RMIT; Professor, Deakin University; Professor, Charles Darwin University; Associate Professor, SOAS University of London

Child sponsorship is a development phenomenon with a history dating back almost 100 years. There are over 9 million sponsored children across the globe with close to USD 4 billion provided by private donors each year. Yet, despite its enduring presence, significant outreach and funds raised, there is a paucity of rigorous evaluations publically available. This is not to say that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which implement child sponsorship activities do not undertake regular and close monitoring and evaluation of these programs, but that these are generally internal documents, not widely circulated or reviewed. This lack of review sits in stark contrast to the very significant research and publication around the effectiveness and impact on other development programming. In this context of limited evidence alongside fundraising success, it is not unusual that child sponsorship is a contested and controversial approach to development programming and development. This research considers the impact of child sponsorship as implemented by one child sponsorship non-governmental organisation (NGO): World Vision International (WVI). Private donors predominately, but not exclusively, from wealthier Western countries, donate more than USD1.3 billion each year to support World Vision's child sponsorship programs in more than 1600 locations across 95 countries. This financial support supports over 4 million sponsored children and affects a further 120 million children within these programs. Given this footprint, WVI is the world's largest child sponsorship NGO. This evaluation considered case studies in five countries: Ethiopia, Georgia, Peru, Senegal and Sri Lanka. Using a mixed methods approach, it finds that child sponsorship can make a positive difference to the lives of sponsored children and their communities in both psychosocial and material well-being.

Does foreign aid promote investment in imported capital goods in Africa? An empirical investigation

Sabit Otor and Matthew Dornan

Research Associate and Deputy Director, Development Policy Centre

Existing literature has demonstrated that imports of capital goods are an important determinant of technological transfer and productivity growth in developing countries. Given the critical importance of these goods, this study investigates whether official development assistance (ODA) enables African countries to acquire capital goods imports from industrialised advanced countries. We employ a dynamic gravity model of international trade and apply it to a large dataset of donors, recipients and exporters of the imports over the period 1995-2014. We find that the total ODA from all DAC member countries to Africa is significantly associated with increases in Africa's imports of machinery and transportation equipment goods from the five top producers and exporters of these goods. Furthermore, when we exclude the top exporters' ODA from the total ODA (i.e. to remove donors' own aid effects on their own exports), we find that non-exporters' ODA is still significantly associated with increases in the machinery and transportation equipment imports. Our results highlight the importance of the income effects of ODA (cf. the goodwill and tied ODA effects in the literature), while also identifying a mechanism via which ODA promotes economic development.

PANEL 5G – Thinking politically and working differently: DFAT’s skills programs in the Pacific

3.30pm – 5.00pm, Griffin Room

Chair: Simon Barns
Senior Manager, Development Programs, Scope Global

Insights gained through two DFAT-funded skills programs in the Pacific – the Vanuatu Skills Partnership and the Tonga Skills Program – contribute to the existing body of knowledge on successful efforts to ‘think politically and work differently’, and show how a ‘fit for purpose’ approach to implementation can navigate complex political environments to achieve tangible development results. This submitted panel will give practical examples of ‘thinking politically and working differently’ with particular regard to the importance of building local teams, creating an authorising environment for local decision making, working strategically within the political context to incentivise and catalyse collaboration and authentic reform, and illustrate how this can build shared ownership between government partners and the Australian aid program.

Discussants:

Fremden Yanhambath
Director, Vanuatu Skills Partnership

‘Uhila Moe Langi Fasi
Team Leader, Tonga Skills

Anna Gibert
Strategic Adviser, Vanuatu Skills Partnership and Tonga Skills

Anthony Bailey
Scope Global Contractor Representative Tonga Skill and Skills Supply Adviser, Vanuatu Skills Partnership

Christelle Thieffry
Senior Program Manager – Education, Australian High Commission in Vanuatu

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Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney

The Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney conducts independent project-based research and consultancy for a range of clients including government, civil society organisations, and the private sector. In the Asia-Pacific region we address issues including development effectiveness; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); climate change adaptation and gender equality.

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If you would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities for the 2019 conference, contact Ashlee Betteridge, Program Manager, Development Policy Centre on ashlee.betteridge@anu.edu.au.