2025 AUSTRALASIAN AID CONFERENCE

PROGRAM

#AAC2025

Australian
National
University
DEVELOPMENT
CENTRE

FROM THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Welcome to the 2025 Australasian AID conference.

Thank you for joining the eleventh AAC as we bring together the academic, policy and practitioner communities for the region's premier conference on aid and international development (AID).

We welcome speakers and delegates from across Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the Pacific and further afield to share insights on the world's most pressing development challenges in pursuit of enhanced collaboration, greater impact and better evidence-based policy.

We hope you enjoy the conference over the next few days. We look forward to hearing your ideas and advancing the conversation on the future of AID.

Stephen Howes
Director, Development Policy Centre

Cameron Hill
Senior Research Officer, Development Policy Centre

Aloha Jeon
Program Officer, Development Policy Centre

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Research Officer, Development Policy Centre

Amita Monterola
Research Communications Coordinator, Development Policy Centre

Finn Clarke
Research Assistant, Development Policy Centre

Anthea Mulakala
Senior Director, International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation

Peter Yates
Australia Representative, The Asia Foundation

Hayley Primrose
Program Coordinator, The Asia Foundation

SPONSORS

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The Asia Foundation

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GENERAL INFORMATION

CONFERENCE APP

Download the free official Australasian AID Conference app, Whova, available on Apple or Android. Search for AAC2025.

Whova can be used to view the conference program, customise your conference schedule, network with other attendees and receive last minute schedule updates or announcements.

CONFERENCE VENUE

Crawford School of Public Policy
Australian National University
132 Lennox Crossing, Acton ACT

DINNER VENUE

(ticket holders only)

National Museum of Australia
Lawson Crescent, Acton ACT
(400 metres from the Crawford School)

Both venues are wheelchair accessible.

HEALTH GUIDELINES

Everyone has an important role to play in keeping our campus safe. The venue will be professionally cleaned throughout the day during business hours. Hand sanitiser will be available in all foyers and common areas to help maintain good hand hygiene.

Please do not attend the conference if you have any COVID-19 or flu symptoms including fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or a runny or blocked nose.

Wearing of face masks within ANU venues is optional.

AUSLAN TRANSLATION

Our keynote addresses will be available on Devpolicy Youtube with Auslan translation following the conference.

VENUE ACCESS

The best way to get to the Crawford School is by public transport transport.act.gov.au/home or on foot.

There is limited paid parking available on campus.

Taxi and rideshare services

Wheelchair accessible taxis must be booked ahead. Phone 139 287, email bookings@13wats.com.au or online 13wats.com.au.

ACT Cabs

02 6280 0077 or actcabs.com.au/bookonline

Canberra Elite

02 6126 1600 or SMS your name, pickup address, and pickup time to 0481 072 700

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A taxi from Canberra Airport to ANU campus takes around 20 minutes and will cost approximately $30-$40, depending on traffic.

Shebah

shebah.com.au/ride

Shebah is a all-women rideshare service.

Bus

Bus route 53 stops on Lennox Crossing in front of the Crawford School building. transport.act.gov.au/getting-around/

Light rail

The closest light rail stop is Alinga Street station, a 25-minute walk to the Crawford School building. transport.act.gov.au/getting-around/

E-scooters

Neuron at rideneuron.com. Road rules and conditions apply.

Parking

Very limited paid visitor parking is available on Lennox Crossing opposite the Crawford School building. Parking fees apply between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

Paid parking is also available at the National Museum of Australia, a 400 metre walk from the conference venue.

WIFI

Free wifi internet access is available for conference attendees.

Network: ANU-Secure and for Android: anu.edu.au

Username: **AAC2025**

Password: **ANUAAC**

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Vegan, vegetarian and gluten free options are all available in the main service area. For other special dietary requirements that have been specified, please make yourself known to the catering staff.

PARENTS ROOM

There is a Parents Room available in the Crawford building for use during the Australasian AID Conference. The room has two chairs, a fridge, a sink, a change table and a bin. It is located at Room 2.66 on Level 2.

QUIET SPACE

Seminar Room 9 has been set aside as a quiet space for attendees.

SPEAKER RETREAT

Seminar Room 8 can be used by speakers to prepare for their presentation.

MEETING ROOM

Seminar Room 7 is available for informal meetings.

LUGGAGE STORAGE

Seminar Room 2 is available for luggage storage. Please be advised that the room will not be locked, and the conference organisers will not take responsibility for lost or stolen items.

LOST PROPERTY

Lost property enquires are handled at the conference registration desk.

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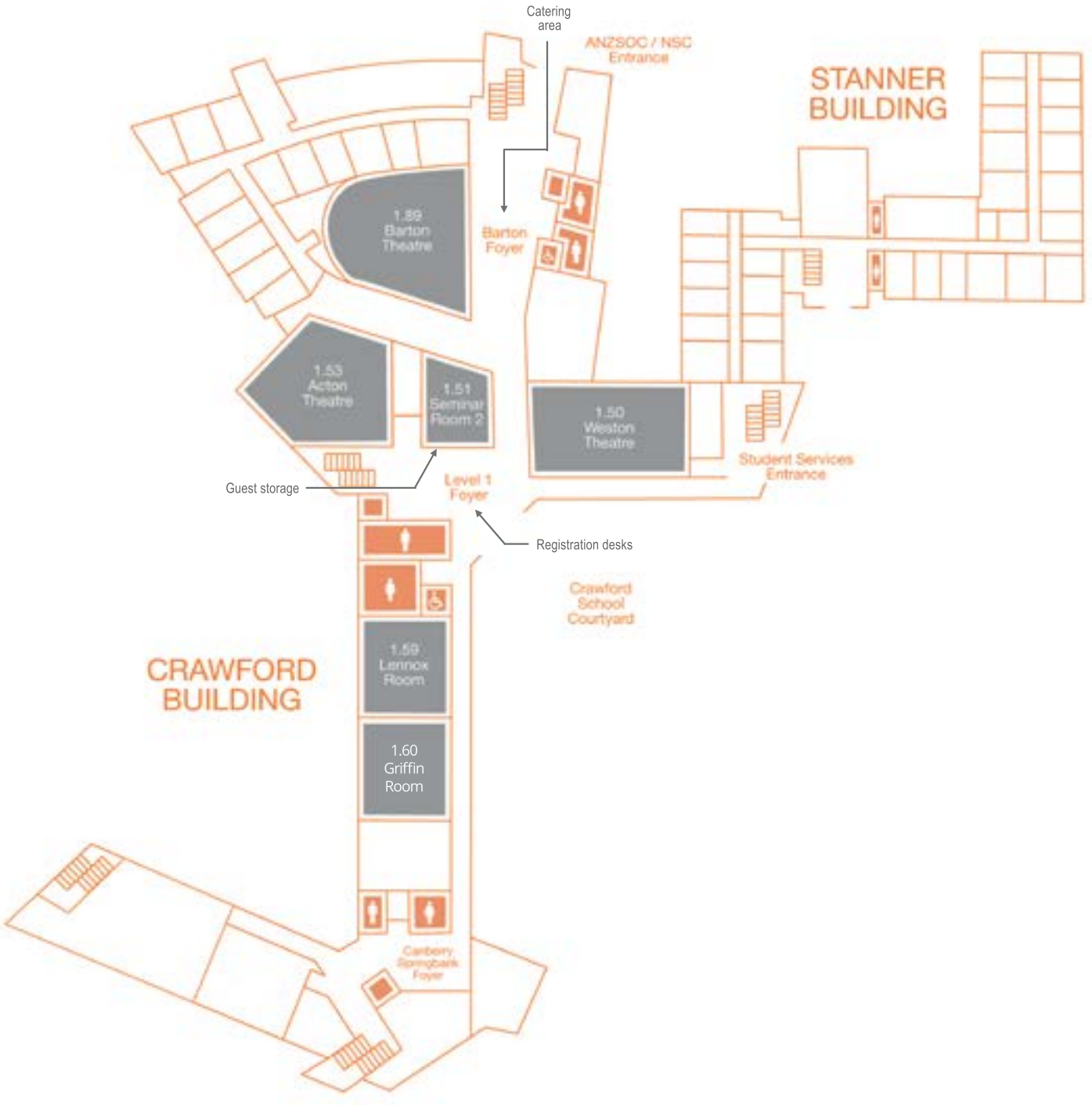
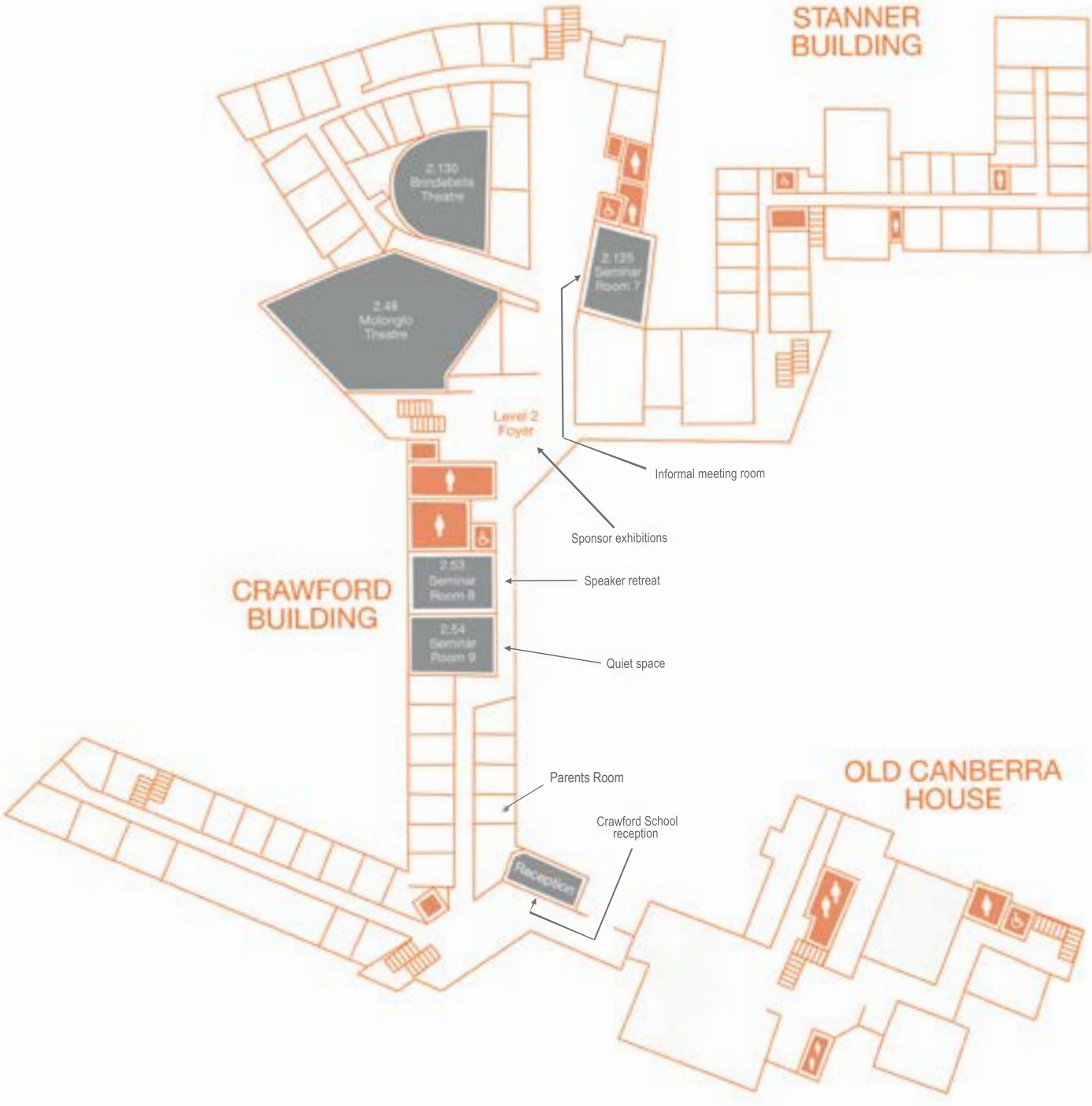
CRAWFORD MAP
LEVEL 1



CRAWFORD MAP
LEVEL 2



WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER | PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

1.30-2.30pm	**Keynote book launch – 'China, the West and the global development finance regime: competitive convergence'** Professor David Skidmore, Department of Political Science, Drake University, USA *Molonglo Theatre* ***	
2.30-3.30pm	**Book launch – 'Between international norms and localised change: gender sensitivity in the Parliament of Fiji'** (Associate Professor Sonia Palmieri, Head, Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University) *Barton Theatre*	**Toolkit launch – 'Conflict, extremism and doing no harm in conflict and crisis settings'** (Deakin University, Plan International) *Weston Theatre***
3.30-4.00pm	Afternoon tea	
4.00-5.00pm	**Report launch – 'Navigating the politics of civic spaces'** (The Asia Foundation) *Barton Theatre*	**Report launch – 'Intersectionality and gender diverse climate change action: toward Pasifika-led policy'** (ACIAR, University of Canberra) *Weston Theatre*
5.00pm	**Welcome to Country and opening reception** *Crawford School courtyard*	

THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER | DAY ONE

7.15am	**Registration; tea and coffee**						
8.00-8.15am	**Conference introduction** *Molonglo Theatre* [Overflow: Weston Theatre, Barton Theatre]*						
8.15-9.00am	**OPENING ADDRESS** The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for International Development, Australian Government *Molonglo Theatre* [Overflow: Weston Theatre, Barton Theatre]*						
9.15-10.45am	**Panel 1a** Labour mobility, diplomacy and development *Molonglo Theatre**	**Panel 1b** Humanitarianism and human rights: the Gaza crisis *Weston Theatre***	**Panel 1c** Localising climate security: climate, aid and peace in in the Indo-Pacific *Barton Theatre***	**Panel 1d** Building effective and accountable states: thought and practice *Acton Theatre*	**Panel 1e** Food security and climate change *Brindabella Theatre*	**Panel 1f** Economics in aid *Lennox Room*	

** Session will be livestreamed*

10.45-11.15am	Morning tea						
11.15am-12.45pm	**Panel 2a** Pragmatic partnerships: development assistance in an age of geopolitical uncertainty and trade turmoil *Molonglo Theatre**	**Panel 2b** Do governance programs make a difference to people? *Weston Theatre ***	**Panel 2c** Whose question, whose answer? Participatory design in every stage of development projects *Barton Theatre ***	**Panel 2d** The Big Five: poly-solutions in an era of perma-crisis *Acton Theatre*	**Panel 2e** Development aid and climate change adaptation: same, same but different? *Brindabella Theatre*	**Panel 2f** Recipient preferences and need in aid *Lennox Room*	**Panel 2g** NGOs, civil society and the state: Bangladesh, Nepal and Laos *Griffin Room*
12.45-1.30pm	Lunch						
1.30-2.30pm	**KEYNOTE PANEL 'The art and science of scale'** Chair: The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Assistant Minister for Productivity, Competition, Charities and Treasury, Australian Government Dr Noam Angrist, Academic Director, What Works for Global Education Hub; Filemon Ray Javier, Undersecretary, Legal and Legislative Affairs, Department of Education, The Philippines; Penny Morton, Minister Counsellor, Australian High Commission, Port Moresby; Eleanor Williams, Managing Director, Australian Centre for Evaluation, Treasury *Molonglo Theatre* [Overflow: Weston Theatre, Barton Theatre]*						
2.30-3.15pm	Afternoon Tea						
3.15-4.45pm	**Panel 3a** Using data analytics to tackle development challenges in Southeast Asia and the Pacific *Molonglo Theatre**	**Panel 3b** Donor competition, influence and aid *Weston Theatre***	**Panel 3c** Indonesia law and justice programs: sustainability, inclusion and effectiveness *Barton Theatre***	**Panel 3d** Local voices, regional impact: locally engaged staff driving development in Southeast Asia *Acton Theatre*	**Panel 3e** The economics of ageing: coverage, costs and impacts of pensions *Brindabella Theatre*	**Panel 3f** From aid to agency: harnessing local leaders to address stunting in the Philippines *Lennox Room*	**Panel 3g** Gender and disability in climate change programming and advocacy *Griffin Room*
4.45pm	Close						
6.00pm **6.45pm**	**Pre-dinner drinks** (ticket holders only) *National Museum of Australia* **Conference dinner** (ticket holders only) **After dinner speech** Dr Helen Durham AO, CEO, Red R Australia *Atrium, National Museum of Australia*						

**Session will be livestreamed*
*** Hybrid session*

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER | DAY TWO

8.00am	**Registration; tea and coffee**						
8.30-10.00am	**Panel 4a** Beyond aid: public finance, philanthropy and Global Public Investment in Asia *Molonglo Theatre* *****	**Panel 4b** Working in contested civic spaces *Weston Theatre ** *	**Panel 4c** Evaluation in public health, WaSH and sexual and reproductive health and rights *Barton Theatre** *	**Panel 4d** Development and conflict prevention in the Indo-Pacific *Acton Theatre*	**Panel 4e** Donor disruptions in aid *Brindabella Theatre*	**Panel 4f** Digital frontlines: cyber-security, humanitarian action and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda *Lennox Room*	**Panel 4g** Taiwan's development cooperation: collaborative pathways to human and planetary health *Griffin Room*
10.00-11.00am	**2025 MITCHELL ORATION** 'China, the Global South and the post-American international order' Eric Olander, Editor-in-Chief, China Global South Project *Molonglo Theatre* [Overflow: Weston Theatre, Barton Theatre]* **Session will be livestreamed* ***Hybrid session*						
11.00-11.30am	*Morning Tea*						
11.30am-1.00pm	**Panel 5a** Interrogating Australia's Pacific integration agenda *Molonglo Theatre**	**Panel 5b** Engaging with social norms for lasting change: lessons from PNG and Southeast Asia *Weston Theatre** *	**Panel 5c** Mobilising private finance for agriculture, infrastructure and climate *Barton Theatre** *	**Panel 5d** Doing more with less: big ideas to boost productivity in aid *Acton Theatre*	**Panel 5e** Rights, resilience and reform: supporting deinstitutionalisation of people with disabilities *Brindabella Theatre*	**Panel 5f** Climate aid effectiveness *Lennox Room*	**Panel 5g** Inclusive rural development in the Pacific and Southeast Asia *Griffin Room*
1.00-2.00pm	*Lunch*						
2.00-3.30pm	**Panel 6a** Reimagining multilateralism: human rights, humanitarianism and global health *Molonglo Theatre**	**Panel 6b** Iterating for impact: how A/B testing improves programs in real time *Weston Theatre ** *	**Panel 6c** Evaluating education programs *Barton Theatre ** *	**Panel 6d** Addressing disability equity and rights: lessons from Indonesia *Acton Theatre*	**Panel 6e** Perspectives on First Nations' approaches to development: past, present and future *Brindabella Theatre*	**Panel 6f** Gendered insecurities and humanitarian response in Myanmar's borderlands *Lennox Room*	**Panel 6g** Local pathways to digital inclusion: lessons from Cambodia, the Philippines, Fiji and Vanuatu *Griffin Room*
3.30-4.00pm	*Afternoon Tea*						
4.00-5.20pm	**KEYNOTE PANEL 'The politics of backlash and the possibilities for transformation in Asia and the Pacific'** Dr Tri Hastuti Nur Rochimah, Lecturer, Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta and Secretary-General of the National Board, Aisyiyah Indonesia; Michelle Reddy, Co-Lead for Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation, Pacific Feminist Fund; Susanne Legena, CEO, Plan International Australia *Molonglo Theatre* [Overflow: Weston Theatre, Barton Theatre]*						
5.20pm	**Closing Reception** - *Crawford School courtyard*						

WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER | PRE-CONFERENCE

1.30PM

*Molonglo Theatre**

KEYNOTE LAUNCH

'China, the West and the global development finance regime: competitive convergence'

Professor David Skidmore, Department of Political Science, Drake University, USA

This book interrogates the evolving dynamics of global development finance amid renewed great power competition, focusing on China's rise as a dominant funder and its impact on the liberal international order (LIO).

Challenging assumptions of ideological bifurcation, the study advances the concept of competitive convergence — a process through which both China and the West have emulated one another's practices rather than diverging into distinct blocs. Drawing on extensive case studies — including the Belt and Road Initiative, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and Western institutional responses — the book reveals how strategic competition has produced a more pluralistic, post-neoliberal development regime. Rather than disrupting the LIO, China's actions have reshaped it from within, reflecting adaptation rather than rupture. This nuanced, empirically grounded analysis offers scholars a fresh framework for understanding institutional change in global governance and the complex interdependence shaping today's multipolar order.

Chair: Professor Stephen Howes, Director. Development Policy Centre, Australian National University (ANU)

** Session will be livestreamed*

2.40PM AFTERNOON TEA

WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER | PRE-CONFERENCE

2.30PM

Book launch – 'Between international norms and localised change: gender sensitivity in the Parliament of Fiji'

Barton Theatre

Presenter: Associate Professor Sonia Palmieri, Head, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Discussant: Romitesh Kant, PhD Candidate, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

This book explores the relationship between an introduced gender equality rule and broader gender sensitivity in the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji. Key concepts of gendered institutional transformation – commitment, capacity and will – are contextualized from a Fijian gender politics perspective to uncover the extent to which actors and processes of this parliament are gender sensitive.

Very little of the global research on gender sensitive parliaments has focused on the Pacific region, despite significant investments from international organisations towards gender sensitive parliamentary strengthening. This investment is often predicated on the assumption that the international actors who have been instrumental in defining the norm are best placed to entrench it in local contexts. The case study of Fiji provides an in-depth analysis of the challenges faced in establishing the roots of cultural political change required to achieve truly gender sensitive parliaments.

Toolkit launch – 'Conflict, extremism and doing no harm in conflict and crisis settings'

*Weston Theatre***

Chair: Mudasser Siddiqui, Deputy CEO, Impact, Plan International Australia

Presenters:

Associate Professor Anthony Ware, School of Humanities and Social Sciences/Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University

Dr Leane Kelly, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Faculty of Arts and Education/Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University

Cathy Seco, Program Director, Plan International Pilipinas (online)

This toolkit was developed through 14 co-design workshops with local development / humanitarian agency teams in Africa and Asia, and trialled with teams in the Philippines, Kenya and Mozambique. The tool is designed for practical use in planning as well as monitoring and evaluation, from the country strategic plan level to local projects. While other conflict sensitivity / "do no harm" tools ignore violent extremism, in the contexts we studied extremism is inextricably intertwined with all other levels of local context.

The tool guides agencies through the process of analysing conflict drivers which include extremism, and the planning of adaptations. It allows teams to analyse the common, complex interplay between extremism and other forms of conflict, including insurgency and armed groups, ethnic or religious conflict, clan or tribe violence, and land and other resource conflicts, as well as their interrelationships. This tool is equally applicable in conflict-affected contexts without extremist elements.

3.30PM AFTERNOON TEA

4.00PM

Report launch – 'Navigating the politics of civic spaces'

Barton Theatre

Chair: Dr Nicola Nixon, Senior Regional Director, Governance, The Asia Foundation

Presenters:

Dr Lisa Denney, Principal Research Fellow and Head, Centre for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University

Serena Nardi Ford, PhD Candidate, La Trobe University

Sam Chittick, Country Director, The Philippines, The Asia Foundation

In an era of shrinking civic space and contested democratic norms, the relationship between civil society and the state is under more scrutiny than ever. The Asia Foundation's latest suite of publications — including PEA in Practice: A Practical Guide to Political Economy Analysis (Nicola Nixon and Lisa Denney), Securing Women's Peace: A Political Economy Analysis of Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines (Serena Nardi Ford) and Navigating policy spaces: Civil society and policy influence in Indonesia and the Philippines (November 2025) – seek to reframe how we understand these dynamics.

Together, these publications argue that civic space cannot be understood as a static arena to be "opened" or "closed". Rather, it is deeply political: shaped by coalitions, bargains and the strategies of both state and non-state actors. For donors, governments and civil society, this means engaging not just in norm-setting but in politically-savvy practice. The session will feature insights from the authors on how civic spaces can be understood as a set of political relationships that can enable – or constrain – progress on effective and inclusive governance.

Report launch – 'Intersectionality and gender diverse climate change action: toward Pasifika-led policy'

Weston Theatre

Co-chairs: Dr Jane Alver and Sarah Goulding, Centre for Environmental Governance, University of Canberra

Presenters:

Ruth Maetala, Co-Lead, Programmes and Innovation, Pacific Feminist Fund

Kevin Akike, Independent Consultant, Papua New Guinea

Almah Kuambu, Technical Advisor, National Orthotic and Prosthetic Services, Papua New Guinea

Rahkel Mercy, PhD Candidate, School of Law, ANU

Discussant: Dr Ingrid van Putten, Research Director, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

This event is launching outcomes of recent research and emerging principles from the Pacific that shift and strengthen priorities toward an intersectional equity lens for climate change adaptation, mitigation and livelihoods research, policy and programming.

An interactive dialogue with Pacific experts will reflect diverse local perspectives of climate change and livelihoods research and practice gaps, highlighting inequalities that exclude women, people with disabilities and other intersectional perspectives. The dialogue will explore reflections on research processes that create space for listening to diverse local experiences and views as central to future research, policy and programming on climate change and livelihoods.

5.00PM

Opening reception and Welcome to Country

Crawford School courtyard

Speaker: Uncle Warren Daley, Ngunnawal Elder

THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER | DAY ONE

7.15AM REGISTRATION

8.00AM

Conference introduction

*Molonglo Theatre**
[Overflow: Weston Theatre, Barton Theatre]

Welcome

Dr Cameron Hill, Senior Researcher, Development Policy Centre, Australian National University

Opening remarks

Laurel E. Miller, President and CEO,
The Asia Foundation

8.15AM

OPENING ADDRESS

*Molonglo Theatre**
[Overflow: Weston Theatre, Barton Theatre]

The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for International Development, Australian Government

Chair: Professor Janine O'Flynn, Acting Dean, College of Law, Governance and Policy, ANU

9.15AM

Panel 1a – Labour mobility, diplomacy and development

*Molonglo Theatre**

The PALM scheme is a key element of Australia's diplomatic engagement with Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste, with its development impact central to its strategic importance. Following rapid expansion during the COVID-19 period and a series of operational reforms, the scheme now operates in a significantly changed policy and social environment. This environment is characterised by shifting migration priorities, softening employer demand, growing regional expectations, and public perceptions influenced by media coverage of worker welfare issues.

This panel explores three different perspectives on the future of the Pacific-Australia labour mobility and migration policies with reflections on three strategic questions: how can the PALM scheme evolve to continue meeting its diplomatic and development objectives; how do special Pacific visa pathways relate to one another and to other visa classes; and what does the future hold for Pacific-Australia migration and greater regional integration?

Chair: Rebecca Worner, Pacific Partner Regional Director, Palladium

Panelists:

Pasuna Tuaga, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Labour and Trade, Government of Tuvalu

Rachel Jolly, Assistant Secretary, Labour Mobility and Engagement Branch, Office of the Pacific, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Dr Ryan Edwards, Fellow and Deputy Director, Development Policy Centre, ANU

> More panels in this session on following page

** Session will be livestreamed*

ABC International Development (ABCID) is the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC) media development unit.

ABCID draws on the ABC's specialist media development and communications expertise, as well as knowledge and relationships across Australia and the Indo-Pacific region.

We support, connect and empower communities by fostering inclusive media, public interest journalism, behaviour change communications and research.

Regional resilience is being profoundly challenged, and media development matters more than ever.

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Australian Government

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

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ACIAR brokers, facilitates, invests in and manages strategic partnerships with public and private research institutions to improve the productivity and sustainability of agricultural systems and the resilience of food systems in partner countries.

Our work supports 6 crucial development objectives

1. Improving food security and reducing poverty among smallholder farmers and rural communities
2. Managing natural resources and producing food more sustainably, adapting to climate variability and mitigating climate change
3. Enhancing human nutrition and reducing risks to human health
4. Improving gender equity and empowerment of women and girls
5. Fostering more inclusive agrifood and forestry value chains, engaging the private sector where possible
6. Building scientific and policy capability within our partner countries

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AAC-2309

Panel 1b – Humanitarianism and human rights: the Gaza crisis

*Weston Theatre***

Manmade famine was declared by the United Nations in Gaza in August 2025. This comes after almost two years of bombardment by Israel of Gaza and experts indicate that half a million people in Gaza face catastrophic hunger. The barring of humanitarians accessing Gaza has been compounded by the attacks on people searching for food.

Credible allegations of genocide of the Palestinian people by scholars and independent experts have led many to question whether the current humanitarian system, international law and the international humanitarian system is fit for purpose. This panel draws together experts who have experience working in and/or analysing the humanitarian and human rights situation in Palestine. Panelists will reflect not only on the horrors which have occurred but will share their reflections on what this crisis means for humanitarianism and human rights more broadly.

Chair: Dr Annabel Dulhunty, Senior Lecturer, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

Panelists:

Ali Shaar, Director, Palestinian Child Institute/ An-Najah National University (online)

Dr Cadhla O'Sullivan, Children's Policy Centre, ANU

Mudasser Siddiqui, Deputy CEO, Impact, Plan International Australia

Dr Rick Brennan, former Regional Emergency Director, World Health Organization

Amra Lee, PhD Candidate, Department of International Relations, ANU

Panel 1c – Localising climate security: climate, aid and peace in the Indo-Pacific

*Barton Theatre***

Climate change is fundamentally reshaping security dynamics across the Indo-Pacific. Forecasts highlight intersecting risks: food scarcity intensifying gendered burdens of care and political unrest; forced migration fuelling land disputes and gender-based violence; maladaptation and misinformation eroding trust in institutions; and openings for transnational crime and extremist groups — all within a shifting geopolitical order marked by declining US development assistance and heightened regional competition.

In this context, "climate security" offers a productive but contested framing for action. Defined narrowly, it risks securitising aid, privileging state agendas, and reproducing colonial hierarchies. Defined inclusively, however, it can illuminate how climate impacts undermine everyday safety, exacerbated by inequalities across gender, class, ethnicity and indigeneity. This panel brings together regional experts, policymakers and development practitioners to explore how aid can move beyond securitisation towards inclusive responses to climate risks. By reframing climate security through local and inclusive lenses, the panel highlights practical next steps for climate adaptation that advance peace, equity and resilience across the region.

Chair: Dr Siad Darwish, Research Associate, University of Melbourne

Panelists:

Ambika Vishwanath, DFAT Maitri Research Fellow, La Trobe University

Dr Anouk Ride, Research Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Paulo Baleinakorodawa, Executive Director, Transcend Oceania (online)

Christine Lindell, Technical Advisor, Conflict and Fragility, World Vision Australia

Panel 1d – Building effective and accountable states: thought and practice

Acton Theatre

Self-serving or benevolent? A systematic review of elite capture in foreign aid

Bret Hart Larracas Gutierrez, PhD Candidate, Centre for Health Economics, Monash University

Aid effectiveness in Afghanistan

Dr Nemat Bizhan, Senior Lecturer, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Chair: Hannah Bleby, Director, Development Advisory Services, DFAT

Panel 1e – Food security and climate change

Brindabella Theatre

Climate change and nutritional vulnerability: insights from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

Tracy Yuen, Pacific Health and Nutrition Technical Advisor, Save the Children Australia

Dr Betty Barkha, Pacific Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion Technical Advisor, Save the Children Australia

Blue foods systems as a nature-based solution for climate resilience

Nat Burke, Head of Regenerative Climate, World Wildlife Fund Australia

Making food security work multidisciplinary: taking food system resilience from concept to action

Harry Campbell-Ross, PhD Candidate, Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU

Chair: Jane Bastin-Sikimeti, Director, Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Security, DFAT

Panel 1f – Economics in aid

Lennox Room

Do more aid inflows function as a blessing or a curse? Understanding the governance implications of foreign assistance in developing countries

Nadya Setiawati, Postgraduate student, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

Muh Fajrul, Postgraduate student, University of Queensland

Fiscal impacts of foreign aid in Sri Lanka

Iyoma Priyadarshana, PhD candidate, KDI School of Public Policy and Management, South Korea

Associate Professor Seohyun Lee, KDI School of Public Policy and Management, South Korea

Cracking the emergency door: an empirical investigation of economic openness on international humanitarian assistance

Ega Kurnia Yazid, Research Fellow, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia

Chair: Victoria Dimond, Senior Economist, DFAT

10.45 MORNING TEA

** Session will be livestreamed*
*** Hybrid session*

Panel 2a – Pragmatic partnerships: development cooperation in an age of geopolitical uncertainty and trade turmoil

*Molonglo Theatre***

Shifts in development cooperation are bringing a new focus to pragmatic, interest-driven partnerships that emphasise relationships over global development agendas. This trend in development cooperation builds on recent moves to align aid policy more closely with foreign policy and national interests. Similarly, shrinking ODA budgets, declining aid dependence by Asian governments, and reduced donor leverage are also driving this fundamental change in the rationale for development cooperation. At the same time, more self-interested assistance policies could amplify critiques of Western aid: donor-driven agendas, transactional models, and the marginalisation of local institutions.

What will the shift towards pragmatic, interest-driven partnerships mean for development practice and policy? Will this entail a lower priority for long-term development objectives and values-driven programs? Is there a need and a way to maintain focus on core development principles in this new era? This panel will examine these dynamics and the policy changes now underway, including Australia's 2023 International Development Policy and Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040, as well as Asian governments' perspectives on how cooperation can strengthen trade and investment ties with middle power partners.

Chair: Anthea Mulakala, Senior Director, International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation

Panelists:

Thomas Parks, Vice President, Strategic Partnerships, The Asia Foundation

H.E. Arjaree Sriratanaban, Thai Ambassador to Australia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

Bill Costello, Assistant Secretary, Southeast Asia Development Policy and Programs Branch, DFAT

Manon Dumas, Canadian Deputy High Commissioner to Australia, Global Affairs Canada / Affaires Mondiales Canada

Panel 2b – Do governance programs make a difference to people?

*Weston Theatre***

This panel will explore the impact of governance work; what is required for effective change in formal and informal governance systems; and how and when can sustained change in those systems be detected. The Subnational Governance Program in Nepal and the Governance for Resilience Program in the Pacific are funded by the Australian Government. Both are long-term programs, working through varied relationships and networks of government and community stakeholders and partners.

The panel will include brief description of the two programs alongside the key challenges in communicating the value and complexity of governance reform. The different research methodologies and findings used by each program will also be presented, noting the challenges of substantial research inquiry within development programs. The panel will contribute to learning about effective support for complex areas of change such as climate resilience, health sector strengthening and women in leadership. It will also explore processes required to fully understand the value of this work, from a methodological and political / cultural perspective.

Chair: Dr Nicola Nixon, Senior Regional Director, Governance, The Asia Foundation

Panelists:

Carolyn O'Donnell, Director of Impact, The Asia Foundation

Dr Jeevan Baniya, Deputy Director, Social Science Baha, Nepal

Associate Professor Apisalome Movono, Tourism and Sustainable Development, University of the South Pacific, Fiji (online)

*** Hybrid session*

Panel 2c – Whose question, whose answer? Participatory design in every stage of development projects

*Barton Theatre***

In international development, "participation" is widely endorsed but inconsistently practiced, particularly in how problems are defined, solutions are designed, and results are measured. This panel explores what it means to centre community leadership and participatory design across all stages of the development lifecycle: leadership alignment, project design, implementation and evaluation.

We begin by recognising a fundamental challenge: that is, what constitutes a valid question or a credible answer often depends on who is asking and answering. Government officials may prioritise feasibility and compliance. Donors may focus on attribution and measurable returns. NGOs may emphasise scale and institutional sustainability. Researchers and evaluators often pursue methodological rigour and replication. Community leaders and everyday citizens, however, tend to prioritise relevance, relationships and practical change. Generational dynamics will also be addressed. The panel will explore how to foster spaces for shared leadership across generations and institutions. This panel asks not just how to include communities, but how to co-create, co-own and co-define success.

Chair: Jasmin Johnson, Executive Vice President, PEMANDU Associates, Malaysia

Panelists:

Ethel Tebengi, Farmer and former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Solomon Islands

Dato' Seri Dr Idris Jala, Chairman and President, PEMANDU Associates, Malaysia (online)

Dr Michael Woolcock, Lead Social Scientist, Development Research Group, World Bank

Panel 2d – The Big Five: poly-solutions in an era of permacrisis

Acton Theatre

What does it take to remodel aid and development funding infrastructure to respond to a world swept up in permacrisis — a relentless convergence and state of conflict, climate catastrophe, authoritarian resurgence and systemic rollback of rights? As we bear witness to today's polycrises in the 21st century — from Afghanistan's gender apartheid to the wars in Ukraine, Myanmar, and Sudan — we are reminded that crises are pervasive and unfolding in a continuum. Notably, the Asia-Pacific region is at the epicentre of these intersecting crises.

Drawing on experiences from the Amplify-Invest-Reach (AIR) Partnership forged between five key funding players in the region — Australia's DFAT and four Women's Funds in Asia and the Pacific — the session will highlight five key lessons from its first phase to provoke discussion and catalyse diverse perspectives on how stakeholders are rising to meet this moment, or pivoting their strategies to better serve the needs of their communities. The session will highlight examples of innovations in risk management, flexible grantmaking and partnerships that have enabled locally led and intersectional responses, linking areas such as gender equality, disability inclusion, economic empowerment, climate resilience and humanitarian response, among others.

Chair: Vicky Yee, Executive Director, Women's Fund Fiji

Panelists:

Anisha Chugh, Executive Director, Women's Fund Asia

Ruth Maetala, Co-Lead, Programs and Innovation, Pacific Feminist Fund

Alison McLachlan. Assistant Director, GEDSI Performance Unit, DFAT

> More panels in this session on following page

Panel 2e – Development aid and climate change adaptation: same, same but different?

Brindabella Theatre

Since its sixth assessment report, Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has highlighted that addressing climate change impacts in developing countries through adaptation also has the potential to progress the Sustainable Development Goals. Since many donor governments finance climate change adaptation through their aid budgets, there seems to be consensus that this also works in the reverse – that is, effective development assistance can also help advance climate adaptation goals.

While, intuitively, this makes sense, is it always the case that the same strategic framework and the same amount of money will result in meeting these two objectives? And when, and under what circumstances, should climate adaptation and development assistance be combined, be separated or should the progress of one objective take priority over the other? Regardless of whether development or climate objectives take priority, both considerations require integration into project planning from the very beginning rather being treated as an afterthought. This integration should explicitly identify the additional financial, technical and human resources that will allow donor partners to meaningfully help address both challenges at the same time.

Chair: Jennifer Tran, PhD Candidate, Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU

Panelists:

Dr Melanie Pill, Research Fellow, Climate Change, Lowy Institute

Akka Rimon, PhD Candidate, School of Regulation and Global Governance, ANU

Dr Terence Wood, Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Panel 2f – Recipient preferences and need in aid

Lennox Room

Preferences for in-place and relocated living among climate-vulnerable communities in Fiji: a discrete choice experiment

Dr Rohan Sweeney, Associate Professor, Monash University

"Real" recipient preferences for aid allocation and local control: a discrete choice experiment

Jack Hennessy, PhD candidate, Centre for Health Economics, Monash University

The greatest need: approaches to, and analyses of, aid

Yash Moitra, Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, Cornell University, USA

Chair: Estelle Stambolie, Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Panel 2g – NGOs, civil society and the state: Bangladesh, Nepal and Laos

Griffin Room

Understanding grassroots development practices in Bangladesh: a Freirean perspective

Dr Owasim Akram, Postdoctoral Researcher, Örebro University, Sweden

The space in-between: gaps in development decision making and civil society-led development programs in Lao PDR

Francesca Earp, PhD Candidate, James Cook University

Chanthalangsy Sisouvanh, Executive Director, Rural Development Agency, Laos

Rewiring democracy and development: a citizen-led governance approach from Nepal

Bijay Chhetri, Senior Program Officer, Subnational Governance Program, The Asia Foundation, Nepal

Chair: Dr Lisa Denney, Principal Researcher and Director, Centre for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University

12.45PM LUNCH

** Session will be livestreamed*
*** Hybrid session*

1.30PM

KEYNOTE PANEL

*Molonglo Theatre**
[Overflow: Weston Theatre and Barton Theatre]

'The art and science of scale'

There is growing evidence on "what works" in improving development outcomes. Yet, often when proven interventions are taken to scale, effectiveness diminishes or disappears. This panel explores the emerging science of scale and implementation, as well as diving into real-world examples of ongoing scale-up efforts.

It will explore regional examples in Australia, the Philippines and PNG, as well as new global structures, such as the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel and the What Works Hub for Global Education. It will also explore the potential for more embedded evidence structures to ensure evidence is a central part of the implementation and scale-up process, including evidence labs within government units and nimble adaptive learning approaches such as A/B testing.

Chair: The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP, Assistant Minister for Productivity, Competition, Charities and Treasury, Australian Government

Panelists:

Dr Noam Angrist, Academic Director, What Works for Global Education Hub, University of Oxford, UK

Filemon Ray Javier, Undersecretary, Legal and Legislative Affairs, Department of Education, The Philippines

Penny Morton, Minister Counsellor, Australian High Commission, Port Moresby

Eleanor Williams, Managing Director, Australian Centre for Evaluation, Treasury

2.30PM AFTERNOON TEA

3.15PM

Panel 3a – Using data analytics to tackle development challenges in Southeast Asia and the Pacific

*Molonglo Theatre**

This panel will showcase how advanced data analytics and novel data sources are being applied to address pressing development challenges in South-East Asia and the Pacific. With the rapid expansion of Big Data, access to administrative datasets, and new AI and machine-learning techniques, there are unprecedented opportunities to inform development policy and program design in the region. Yet, the potential of these tools remains largely under-utilised and under-appreciated by the development community.

By attending this session, participants will be exposed to cutting-edge empirical applications that demonstrate practical and feasible uses of data analytics in policymaking. The panel will highlight both methodological innovations and policy implications and will discuss the broader scope for greater use of data-driven approaches in development practice.

Chair: Professor Beth Webster, Director, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, University of Melbourne

Panelists:

Dr Diana Contreras Suarez, Senior Research Fellow, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, University of Melbourne

Dr Christopher Hoy, McKenzie Research Fellow, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, University of Melbourne

Dr Kushneel Prakash, Postdoctoral Fellow, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, University of Melbourne

> More panels in this session on following page

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Panel 3b - Donor competition, influence and aid

*Weston Theatre***

Impact of aid information on attitudes towards donor-recipient disputes: experimental evidence from Timor-Leste

Dr Ghulam Dastgir Khan, Assistant Professor, Hiroshima University, Japan (online)

Strategic competition in foreign aid: a dynamic model of Australia-China rivalry in the Pacific

Professor Martin Davies, Department of Economics, Washington and Lee University, USA (online)

Aid effectiveness for building influence in Papua New Guinea: an opportunity for rural development

Dr Mark Moran, Visiting Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Chair: Bridi Rice, CEO, Development Intelligence Lab

Panel 3c – Indonesia law and justice programs: sustainability, inclusion and effectiveness

*Barton Theatre***

Gender, law, and development aid: women's rights and legal challenges in Indonesia

Desi Yunitasari, Postgraduate, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne

Devi Yusvitasari, Postgraduate, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne

The use of the Cost of Justice approach as a mechanism for expanding access to justice and the role of international development partners in Indonesia

Dio Ashar Wicaksana, PhD Candidate, School of Regulation and Global Governance, ANU (online)

Gladys Nadya Arianto, Researcher, Indonesia Judicial Research Society (online)

How Indonesia's justice system advances gender justice through strategic international aid

Marsha Maharani, Researcher, Indonesia Judicial Research Society

The role of international aid in co-creating people-centred justice policy evaluation: lessons from Indonesia's access to justice and legal development index

Arsa Ilmi Budiarti, Postgraduate, University of Melbourne and Senior Researcher, Indonesia Judicial Research Society

Chair: Mira Sulistiyanto, Senior Analyst, Development Intelligence Lab

Panel 3d – Local voices, regional impact: locally engaged staff driving development in Southeast Asia

Acton Theatre

DFAT Locally Engaged Staff (LES) play a critical but often overlooked role in delivering Australia's foreign policy and development objectives. Positioned at the intersection of policy ambition and on-the-ground reality, LES bring deep contextual knowledge, trusted networks, and the ability to adapt programs to shifting political, economic and social environments. The panel will bring together LES from three Southeast Asian countries — Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines — to share grounded examples of how localisation commitments translate into action, and the lessons learned when navigating complex political economies, evolving priorities and diverse partnership models.

The panel will directly address current debates on locally led development, localisation and equitable partnerships, priorities in Australia's international development policy and in global aid discourse. By drawing insights from three distinct contexts, it will offer evidence-based reflections that can inform the design and implementation of development programs well beyond Southeast Asia.

Chair: Bill Costello, Assistant Secretary, Southeast Asia Development Policy and Programs, DFAT

Panelists:

Astari Widiastomo, Senior Program Manager, Economic Governance, Australian Embassy, Jakarta

Hoai Nam Nguyen, Senior Program Manager, Australian Embassy, Hanoi

Pablo Lucero, Portfolio Manager, Governance, Australian Embassy, Manila

Panel 3e – The economics of ageing: coverage, costs and impacts of pensions

Brindabella Theatre

The Asia-Pacific region is undergoing a demographic transformation. In over 20 countries, people aged 60 and above already comprise more than 10% of the population and, by 2050, this figure will exceed 20% in as many countries. These ageing trends have economic, social and fiscal implications, and the role of pension systems in addressing these implications will become increasingly critical.

This panel will discuss the demographic trends of ageing across Asia and the Pacific, and speak to the structures, costs, coverage and impacts of contributory and non-contributory pensions across the region. It will also explore gender issues, including the care and support burden on women and women's access to social protection in old age.

Chair: Karen Bray, Director, Economic Policy and Partnership Section, Office of the Pacific, DFAT

Panelists:

Philip O'Keefe, Professor of Practice, Centre for Population Ageing Research, University of NSW

Karishma Huda, Team Leader, Partnerships for Social Protection (P4SP)

Eseta Nadakuitavuki, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection, Fiji

Panel 3f – From aid to agency: harnessing local leaders to address stunting in the Philippines

Lennox Room

One in three Filipino children is malnourished and stunted, or too short for their age — and this has been the case for the last 20 years. The Malusog at Matalinong Bata Coalition, supported by The Asia Foundation, advocated for a targeted First 1,000 Days Grant to address stunting within the biggest social protection program of the Philippines, the "4Ps" program. To date, the Department of Social Welfare and Development has reported an initial 126,000 beneficiaries since the policy was implemented in February 2025.

The goal is to increase this number to 180,000 beneficiaries in the succeeding years within the 4Ps program. This policy is projected to impact approximately 7% of the possible stunted population in the Philippines.

The goal of this panel is to illustrate how international organisations and development partners can help drive change through a deliberate investment in and enablement of local leaders, both from civil society and government. It further aims to demonstrate that a clear and shared theory of change among these stakeholders and political actors is indispensable to creating sustainable and relevant reforms in their own context for their own development challenges.

Chair: Sam Chittick, Country Representative, The Philippines, The Asia Foundation

Panelists:

Regina Pasion, Senior Program Officer, The Philippines, The Asia Foundation

Lyonel Tanganco, Co-Convenor, Malusog at Matalinong Bata Coalition, The Philippines

Justin Muyot, Co-Convenor, Malusog at Matalinong Bata Coalition, The Philippines

Panel 3g – Gender and disability in climate change programming and advocacy

Griffin Room

Feminist financing models for women-led ecological restoration and economic resilience: case studies from Indonesia
Melisa Apriyani, Indonesia Program Manager, Women's Earth Alliance, Indonesia

Energy justice through a GEDSI lens: findings from the gender, disability and energy in the Pacific White Paper

Grace Gardiner, PhD Candidate, University of NSW

Beyond women's leadership: why men and boys matter for gender-just climate action
Dr Athena Nguyen, Senior Manager, Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion, CARE Australia

Chair: Dr Annabel Dulhunty, Lecturer, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU

4.45PM CLOSE

** Session will be livestreamed*
*** Hybrid session*

6.00PM

Pre-dinner drinks

National Museum of Australia
(Ticket Holders Only)

6.45PM

Conference dinner

(Ticket Holders Only)
Atrium, National Museum of Australia

AFTER-DINNER SPEECH

Dr Helen Durham AO, CEO, RedR Australia

Dr Helen Durham AO is the CEO of RedR Australia, an elected member of the Standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and a Board member of Geneva Call.

She has 30 years' experience in the humanitarian sector having served as the Director of International Law and Policy for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva as well as various roles within Australian Red Cross and ICRC in the Asia Pacific region.

Helen also has significant field experience in the Middle East and Africa and has led diplomatic negotiations in New York, Brussels and Geneva. She is widely published, in particular in the area of women and armed conflict and is a Professorial Fellow at Melbourne Law School.

Atrium, National Museum of Australia

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER | DAY TWO

8.00AM REGISTRATION

8.30 AM

Panel 4a – Beyond aid: public finance, philanthropy and Global Public Investment in Asia

Molonglo Theatre ***

Asia's development journey, rooted in rapid growth, social transformation and dynamic regional cooperation, has generated distinctive models of engagement. For instance, rather than plugging fiscal gaps, in many parts of Asia, aid increasingly targets last-mile interventions in nutrition, education, gender inclusion and climate resilience. As donors, countries such as India, China, Indonesia, and Thailand are also increasingly shaping development cooperation with an emphasis on South-South solidarity, non-interference and pragmatism. Asia's growing wealth and philanthropic networks hold vast potential for narrowing the region's Sustainable Development Goals financing gaps. Asia is well positioned to bridge divides between Northern donors and Southern priorities, and to test new frameworks that look differently at the mechanisms and architecture of global cooperation and development and the norms on which they rest.

Drawing on The Asia Foundation's work on the future of development cooperation and financing, this panel will explore how ODA can be reimagined as a catalyst for systemic change; what lessons can be drawn from Asia's evolving donor landscape; how private and philanthropic capital can be better harnessed; and how frameworks such as Global Public Investment might reorient international cooperation toward fairness, solidarity and shared responsibility.

Chair: Anthea Mulakala, Senior Director, International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation

Panelists:

Patsian Low, Chief of Markets and Deputy CEO, AVPN

Simon Reid-Henry, Peace Research Institute, Oslo (online)

The Hon Swarnim Wagle, Member of Parliament, Nepal and former Chief Economic Advisor, UN Development Programme, Asia-Pacific

Dr Nicola Nixon, Senior Regional Director, Governance, The Asia Foundation

Panel 4b – Working in contested civic spaces

*Weston Theatre***

Quiet partnerships, lasting change: technical cooperation on human rights in Southeast Asia

Leanne Smith, Chief Executive, Australian Human Rights Commission

Public service media as a regional anchor for public interest values

Dr Prashanth Pillay, Manager, Research and Evaluation, ABC International Development

Jo Elsom, Head, ABC International Development

Capitalism, political agency and strategic adaptation for political survival in land dispossession in Cambodia

Len Ang, PhD Candidate, Department of Political and Social Change, ANU

Resilience under pressure: how CSOs and INGOs in Vietnam adapt to authoritarian restrictions and aid cuts

Dr Nguyen Van Bao, Economist, International Rice Research Institute (online)

Chair: Carolyn O'Donnell, Director of Impact, The Asia Foundation

Panel 4c – Evaluation in public health, WaSH and sexual and reproductive health and rights

*Barton Theatre***

Empowering adolescent girls through digital health: a multi-country assessment of the Oky app's impact on menstrual health and sexual and reproductive health and rights

Sarah Adams, Program Coordinator, UNICEF Australia

Evaluating the One Health frontline field epidemiology training program of PNG

Bethseba Peni, Surveillance Officer, West New Britain Public Health Authority, PNG (online)

Strengthening systems for inclusive climate resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services in Cambodia

Dr Raksmey Ang, Centre for Natural Resources and Environment, Cambodia Development Resource Institute

Chair: Camilla Burkot, Senior Technical Advisor, Global Health Division, DFAT

> More panels in this session on following page

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Panel 4d – Development and conflict prevention in the Indo-Pacific

Acton Theatre

As geopolitical tensions rise and climate-related stressors increase, the nexus between development and security becomes increasingly critical for regional stability. Australia has a history of working on these conflict and fragility issues with regional partners: how can it best engage in the contemporary environment?

The discussion will address three key questions: what are the primary risks and emerging threats to regional stability that Australia should be concerned about; how is the Australian government currently approaching conflict prevention across the development, diplomatic and defence spectrum; and how can Australia refine its approach moving forward, considering lessons from past interventions and seeking new levers for policymakers? Panelists will critically examine Australia's current aid and security policies, discussing their effectiveness in addressing root drivers of conflict and insecurity. They will discuss different approaches to peacebuilding that might offer opportunities to work with regional partners, as well as unpick how conflict prevention issues fit within an increasingly crowded development agenda and budget.

Chair: Dr Tania Miletic, Senior Research Fellow, School of Social and Political Sciences and Co-Director, Initiative for Peacebuilding, Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne

Panelists:

William Leben, Senior Analyst, Development Intelligence Lab

Dr Anouk Ride, Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Johanna Podlesak, Director of Pacific Programmes, Conciliation Resources

Panel 4e - Donor disruptions in aid

Brindabella Theatre

Emerging donors in action: tracking, boosting and shaping development

Grace Stanhope, Research Associate, Lowy Institute

Riley Duke, Research Fellow, Lowy Institute

America's politics, Australia's development cooperation

Victoria Cooper, Senior Analyst, Development Intelligence Lab

Stuck in the middle: what the tensions within aid can tell us about a third way forward for development

Lucy Pennington, PhD Candidate, Monash University

Chair: Dr Cameron Hill, Senior Researcher, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Panel 4f – Digital frontlines: cyber-security, humanitarian action and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

Lennox Room

Cyber tools are increasingly deployed in modern warfare and conflict, reshaping the ways in which harm is inflicted on communities and humanitarian systems. Tactics include pervasive digital surveillance — for example, monitoring individuals' movements or communications in ways that expose activists, women or minority groups to heightened risks — alongside online harassment and digital violence. Internet shutdowns, which disrupt access to information and essential services, have become a recurrent tool of control, while state-sponsored cyberattacks against networks and critical infrastructure undermine humanitarian action and destabilise health, education and energy systems. Disinformation and misinformation campaigns further erode trust, manipulate public opinion and disenfranchise vulnerable groups, often silencing women's rights defenders and peacebuilders.

This panel will explore the range of digital threats confronting humanitarian and civil society actors in conflict and post-conflict settings, including peacebuilders, human rights defenders and women's rights activists. Panellists will identify opportunities for strengthening digital protection, embedding UNGP-aligned due diligence and

accountability in company practices, and advancing policy and advocacy measures to safeguard humanitarian space and uphold human rights on the digital frontlines.

Chair: Beth Eggleston, Co-Founder and Director, Humanitarian Advisory Group

Panelists:

Svetlana Zens, Program Manager, Article 19, UK

Rachel Jin, Founder, Xeon Global

Andrew Kobylinski, Policy and Political Affairs Officer, International Committee of the Red Cross

Panel 4g – Taiwan's development cooperation: collaborative pathways to human and planetary health

Griffin Room

Planetary health focuses on safeguarding human well-being within the ecological boundaries that sustain it — linking health outcomes with climate resilience, biodiversity, food systems and equity, and calling for cross-sector solutions that reduce risk while strengthening local systems. This panel examines how the International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF) advances collaborative, multi-level pathways to planetary health, drawing on evidence from Paraguay, Palau and Tuvalu.

Together, these TaiwanICDF projects illustrate multi-level, collaborative pathways — spanning policy, institutions, and communities — that operationalise planetary health in emerging and vulnerable contexts. The panel will distil design and scaling lessons for practitioners seeking to align digital health, nutrition-sensitive agriculture and behaviourally informed approaches.

Panel chair: Yun-Ching Tseng, Director, Research, Development and Evaluation Department, International Cooperation and Development Fund, TaiwanICDF

Panelists:

Yu-Jie Li, Assistant Specialist, International Cooperation and Development, TaiwanICDF

Yu-hsuan Su, Associate Professor, Graduate Institute of Development Studies, National Chengchi University, Taiwan

Kelvin Chen, Specialist, Technical Mission of Republic of China (Taiwan), Palau

Chih-Wei Shih, Specialist, Technical Mission of Republic of China (Taiwan), Tuvalu

10.00AM

2025 MITCHELL ORATION

*Molonglo Theatre**
[Overflow: Weston Theatre, Acton Theatre]

'China, the Global South and the post-American international order'

Eric Olander, Editor-in-Chief, China Global South Project

The Trump administration's ongoing withdrawal of the US from much of the post-war development architecture that it helped build has raised fundamental questions about the extent to which China might seek to fill the resulting global financing, institutional and normative gaps.

Drawing on his expertise as the editor-in-chief of the China in the Global South platform, Olander's Mitchell Oration will explore the opportunities and constraints informing Beijing's emerging approach, including through initiatives such as its Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative and the recently announced Global Governance Initiative. His address will also explore the potential implications for China's role in development cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Chair: Professor Jane Golley, Head, Arndt-Corden Department of Economics, ANU

11.00AM MORNING TEA

** Session will be livestreamed*

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Panel 5a - Interrogating Australia's Pacific integration agenda

*Molonglo Theatre**

The Australian Government is increasingly pursuing arrangements that more deeply bind Pasifika economies, security sectors and communities to Australia. From labour mobility and banking guarantees to treaties, NRL teams, security partnerships and telecommunications acquisitions, these agreements often complement development aspirations and, at times, contradict them.

This session will interrogate whether 'integration' is Australia's unwritten Pacific policy and examine the complex tensions involved through the lens of recent Pacific developments including the Falepili Union, Pacific Banking Guarantee, labour mobility and migration, and the Digicel acquisition. It will ask: if integration is Australia's latest Pacific priority, what will it take to make these deals more transparent, strategically coherent and developmentally informed? And where does this leave the aid program?

Chair: Dr Darren Lim, Senior Lecturer, School of Politics and International Relations, ANU and Host, Australia in the World podcast

Panelists:

Bridi Rice, Founder and CEO, Development Intelligence Lab

Jan Hutton, First Assistant Secretary, Pacific Integration Division, Office of the Pacific, DFAT

Natasha Turia, PhD Candidate, Department of Pacific Affairs, and Research Officer, Development Policy Centre, ANU

> More panels in this session on following page

** Session will be livestreamed*
*** Hybrid session*

Panel 5b – Engaging with social norms for lasting change: lessons from PNG and Southeast Asia

*Weston Theatre***

Social norms are a significant factor that shape the way women perceive and engage with leadership and economic opportunities, and influence how men and women engage in violence prevention. In PNG, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, social norms are slowing movement towards greater gender equality despite increasingly robust legislative and policy environments. Understanding and engaging with gender-related social norms, including supporting positive shifts in attitudes and behaviours, holds potential to accelerate progress towards gender equality, but evidence of effective strategies remains limited. This panel will present analysis and explore emerging practice around normative change across multiple country contexts and explore why this approach is relevant to advancing gender equality.

It will share analysis from the Social Norms, Attitudes, and Practices Survey 2024 (SNAPS) deployed to a representative sample of urban 18-to 40-year-olds in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam. The panel will also share lessons from a local Indonesian organisation engaging a young urban audience to make movement towards gender equality more widely seen and understood. It will demonstrate emerging insights and practice from PNG, from the perspective of Business Coalition for Women's 'Poroman Walkabout Wantaim' (men as allies) pilot project aimed at integrating a social norms approach by engaging with men for violence prevention and allyship.

Chair: Ayesha Lutschini, Team Leader, PNG Women Lead

Panelists:

Evonne Kennedy, Executive Director, PNG Business Coalition for Women

Elise Stephenson, Deputy Director, Global Institute for Women's Leadership, ANU

Gumilang Andika, Manger, Community Initiatives, Kopernik, Indonesia (online)

Panel 5c – Mobilising private finance for agriculture, infrastructure and climate

*Barton Theatre***

Financing the future of food in Nepal

Safa Fanaian, International Water Management Institute, Nepal (online)

Climate finance: catalysing inclusive development

Garron Hansen, Senior Vice President, Chemonics International
Ratri Wakeling, Executive Director, Pollination

Aid, markets and mobilisation: identifying linkages between DFAT ODA and private-sector participation

Justin Larson, Senior Manager, Climate and Energy Programs, RTI International

Turning mispriced risk into development impact: a triple-bottom-line model for ODA-financed infrastructure

Natalia Beghin, Senior Consultant, Economics and Trade, Alinea International

Chair: Erin Anderson, Technical Director, Asia Pacific, Cowater International

Panel 5d – Doing more with less: big ideas to boost productivity in aid

Acton Theatre

As aid budgets are drastically cut around the world, figuring out how we can do more with less is critical to the sector. While Australia's aid budget has avoided significant cuts in recent years, the pressure remains to demonstrate the effectiveness of aid and achieve more complex and varied outcomes from the development assistance program within the existing budget envelope. Identifying ways to improve productivity is key.

One potentially productivity-enhancing idea being debated amongst international development experts around the world is that of "radical simplification": fewer programs, fewer countries and less complex programs with clearer outcomes. Less radical, but potentially more practical, ideas could relate to productivity in delivery modalities, procurement practices, market structures and / or workforce capabilities, all of which still promise to be controversial and provocative! Panelists will be asked for their one big productivity-enhancing idea. Responses will depend on the outcome the panelist believe the aid program is trying to achieve, or is best placed to achieve, but all promise to be interesting. The audience will also be invited to debate the ideas presented and contribute their big productivity-enhancing idea for the aid sector, which the panel will be asked to respond to.

Chair: Amanda Robbins, Founder and Director, Equity Economics and Development Partners

Panelists:

Dr Jenny Gordon, Honorary Professor, Centre for Social Policy Research, ANU

Dr Christopher Hoy, McKenzie Research Fellow, University of Melbourne

Andrew Cumpston, Assistant Secretary, Pacific Economics and Trade, Office of the Pacific, DFAT

Panel 5e – Rights, resilience, and reform: supporting deinstitutionalisation of people with disabilities

Brindabella Theatre

Deinstitutionalisation is a critical process in realising the rights of people with psychosocial disabilities to live and be included in the community, as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Transforming Communities for Inclusion Global, CBM Australia and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has supported a range of initiatives to strengthen OPD leadership on deinstitutionalisation, including research, advocacy projects and peer learning.

The three presentations reflect different facets of this work and, together, they demonstrate the power of rights-based, locally led approaches to advancing deinstitutionalisation and provide insights into how development actors can support these efforts more effectively.

Chair: Aleisha Carroll, Research, Evaluation and Effectiveness Lead, CBM Australia

*** Hybrid session*

Panelists:

Robyne Leven, Assistant Director, GEDSI Performance and Effectiveness Section, DFAT

Agus Hasan Hidayat, Representative and Founder, Transforming Communities for Inclusion Global and Executive Board member, Indonesia Revolution and Education for Social Inclusion

Sera Osborne, Office Manager, Psychiatric Survivors Association of Fiji

Panel 5f – Climate aid effectiveness

Lennox Room

Whose change counts? Rethinking development evaluation through most significant change in Cambodia's Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary's REDD+ Project

Phoury Bun, REDD+ Research and Impact Advisor, Wildlife Conservation Society, Cambodia

Tracing change: how effective are Australian-funded climate adaptation programs?

Jenny Tran, PhD Candidate, Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU

Chair: Dr Terence Wood, Fellow, Development Policy Centre, ANU

Panel 5g - Inclusive rural development in the Pacific and Southeast Asia

Griffin Room

Inclusive agricultural value chains: a win for business and community

Melissa Collins, GEDSI Adviser, PHAMA Plus
Tu'iLautala Maú, Inclusion and Results Measurement Officer, PHAMA Plus, Tonga

Impact evaluation of the AGROW Project in Cambodia: methodological insights from a mixed-methods approach

Pirom Khiev, Research Fellow, Cambodia Development Resource Institute

Inclusive agriculture in Timor-Leste: empowering people with disabilities through climate smart agriculture

Renato Zrnic, Team Leader, Farming for Prosperity (TOMAK), Timor-Leste
Modesto Lopes, National Program Manager, Farming for Prosperity (TOMAK), Timor-Leste

From subsidies to systems: lessons from Australia's gender-responsive market development program in Vietnam

Hoai Nam Nguyen, Senior Program Manager, Australian Embassy, Hanoi

Chair: Robyn Alders AO, Honorary Professor, Development Policy Centre, ANU

1.00PM LUNCH

2.00PM

Panel 6a – Reimagining multilateralism: human rights, humanitarianism and global health

*Molonglo Theatre**

Geopolitical competition, institutional fragmentation and global aid cuts have placed unprecedented, and in some cases existential, pressure on the multilateral system established in the postwar era. These pressures have, in turn, heightened longstanding calls for reform across the range of the United Nations and specialised agencies to advance inclusiveness, effectiveness, and efficiency. There has also been the rise of alternative global and regional mechanisms that sit outside this system, including the G20, the BRICS and China's proposed new "Global Governance Initiative".

This panel will explore these pressures, the prospects for meaningful reform and new forms of cooperation in three specific areas: human rights, humanitarianism and the global health architecture. Panelists will explore emergent forms of multilateral, mini-lateral and plurilateral cooperation among middle powers and like-minded countries, including at the regional level, in these areas. These will be assessed in terms of the opportunities, the gaps, the risks, and what role Australia can best play.

Chair: Helen Durham AO, CEO, RedR Australia

Panelists:

Leanne Smith, Chief Executive, Australian Human Rights Commission

Fiona Tarpey, Senior Humanitarian Advisor, British Red Cross

Dr Esperanza Martinez, Head and Professor of Practice in Health and Human Security, ANU

Panel 6b – Iterating for impact: how A/B testing improves programs in real time

*Weston Theatre***

This panel explores how A/B testing can help governments and implementers continuously improve programs as they scale. RCTs remain the gold standard for causal evidence but are often costly and slow. At the other end, routine monitoring data is fast but rarely measures the outcomes that matter most — such as children's learning. It typically tracks inputs and processes, leaving major questions about impact unanswered.

A/B testing fills this gap. It offers rigorous, rapid, and routine evidence embedded directly into program delivery to improve effectiveness and strengthen cost-effectiveness. By comparing alternative approaches — delivery models, training methods, or incentive structures — governments and implementers can generate actionable evidence in weeks, not years. This enables faster course correction, better resource use and sustained impact at scale. Tests can broadly be grouped into those enhancing effectiveness at low cost or those reducing costs while maintaining impact, both leading to gains in cost-effectiveness and scalability. The panel brings together researchers, evaluators and practitioners at the forefront of this movement.

Chair: Harry Greenwell, Director, Australian Centre for Evaluation, Treasury

Panelists:

Dr Claire Cullen, Head of Research and Innovation, Youth Impact
Azeez Gupta, Co-Founder, Rocket Learning, India (online)
Ben Tan, Director, Right-Fit Evidence Unit, Innovations for Poverty Action

Panel 6c – Evaluating education programs

*Barton Theatre***

Education in transition: post-pandemic learning realities in South and Southeast Asia

Dr Sabyasachi Majumdar. Assistant Professor, Notre Dame College, Bangladesh

Bridging the digital divide: educational technology and equity outcomes for ethnic minorities in Vietnam

Melanie Book, Head of Humanitarian and Global Programs, Save the Children Australia
Oanh Thu Thi Nguyen, MEAL Coordinator, Save The Children International, Vietnam

Evaluating an adaptive education program: the case of INOVASI

Rasita Ekawati Purba, Manager, Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning, INOVASI (online)
Ingga Danta Vistara, Adviser, Education System and Policy, INOVASI (online)

Chair: Belynda McNaughton, Senior Education Adviser, DFAT

Panel 6d – Addressing disability equity and rights: lessons from Indonesia

Acton Theatre

The Australia-Indonesia Partnership Towards an Inclusive Society, or INKLUSI, is working to increase the participation of marginalised groups in, and their benefit from, Indonesia's sociocultural, economic and political development. INKLUSI works with government and civil society partners to advance their work in gender equality, the rights of people with disability and social inclusion. INKLUSI supports the Indonesian Government's agenda for inclusion, including through national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This panel will bring together three Indonesian CSO partners of the INKLUSI program and a senior government official who together collectively have been working on social policy for more than two decades, to discuss their experiences (both success and the challenges) in implementing effective policies for people living with a disability. With a focus on access to basic services, our panelists will reflect on both their personal and organisational experiences in advocating, influencing and developing local and national policy, and supporting policy implementation in various sectors, for advancing disability equity in Indonesia's development.

Chair: Tirta Sutedjo, Director of Poverty Alleviation and Social Welfare, Ministry of National Development Planning, Government of Indonesia

Panelists:

Dr Tri Hastuti Nur Rochimah, Secretary General of the National Board, Aisyiyah Indonesia

Muhammad Joni Yulianto, Executive Director, SIGAB Indonesia

Muhammad Aditya Setiawan, Head of Holistic Rehabilitation Program, Yakkum Rehabilitation Center, Indonesia

*** Hybrid session*

Panel 6e – Perspectives on First Nations' approaches to development: past, present and future

Brindabella Theatre

Aid policy and the marginalisation of indigenous people: a case of Australian aid in Nepal

Bishal Mahato, Researcher, Madi Municipality, Nepal

Dr Sanjaya Mahato, Visiting Researcher, Kathmandu University Department of Public Policy and Management, Nepal

A tale of two rising sea levels: Australia's domestic and regional climate adaption dilemma

Alasdair Hill, Postgraduate, Murdoch University/ ANU

Will DFAT's new Guidance Note on First Nations' Approaches enhance development cooperation?

Zara Maddigan, International Development Adviser, Ninti One Limited

Rod Reeve, Managing Director, Ninti One Limited

Chair: David Poulton, Senior Consultant, Alinea International

Panel 6f – Gendered insecurities and humanitarian response in Myanmar's borderlands

Lennox Room

This panel showcases XCEPT's research on displacement, conflict and humanitarian response in and around Myanmar, with a particular focus on gendered dimensions of insecurity. Drawing on fieldwork and remote methods, the panel explores how militarised environments — from refugee camps in Bangladesh to IDP communities in Kachin — become extensions of the battlefield, shaping lived experiences of violence, protection and aid.

Together, the panel offers a diverse view of humanitarian response — from governance to grassroots — and speaks directly to the conference's themes of aid effectiveness, localisation and the politics of protection. It invites reflection on how gender and security shape both the vulnerabilities of displaced populations and the systems meant to support them.

Chair: Dr Ruth Citrin, XCEPT Consortium Executive Director, Chemonics International

Panelists:

Dr Anas Ansar, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, North South University, Bangladesh

Tasnia Khandaker Prova, Climate Research Lead, Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University, Bangladesh

Virginie Baudais, Senior Researcher and Director, Sahel and West Africa Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Sweden

Panel 6g – Local pathways to digital inclusion: lessons from Cambodia, the Philippines, Fiji and Vanuatu

Griffin Room

Across the Asia-Pacific, the digital divide remains a significant barrier to inclusion. This session will showcase innovative and collaborative approaches led by three different organisations across Cambodia, Fiji, Vanuatu and the Philippines, aimed at bridging the digital divide and strengthening inclusion. The suite of initiatives demonstrates how empowering individuals, families and communities with skills and confidence to engage with digital platforms can open pathways to more equitable access to services and opportunities.

The collective lesson across these contexts is clear: digital inclusion is most effective when approached through multiple entry points, embedded in culturally relevant, locally delivered programs that can endure well beyond initial investments.

Chair: Darian Clark, CEO, CUFA

Panelists:

Rany Teng, Country Manager, Cambodia, CUFA

James Sinclair, Program Officer, The Asia Foundation – Pacific Islands

Corin Mitchell, Global Executive Director, SMEC

3.30PM AFTERNOON TEA

4.00PM

KEYNOTE PANEL

*Molonglo Theatre**
[Overflow: Weston Theatre and Barton Theatre]

'The politics of backlash and the possibilities for transformation in Asia and the Pacific'

Across Asia and the Pacific, progress on gender equality has stalled or even reversed. Women remain concentrated in insecure jobs while governments underinvest in safe work and the care economy. Automation and AI threaten sectors where women are overrepresented, and parliaments and political parties remain overwhelmingly male-dominated. Online spaces, meanwhile, have become fertile ground for harassment, disinformation and hypermasculine influencers. These are not inevitable trends, but the outcomes of systems and choices. Backlash in the region is often tightly focused on gender, reinforced by narratives of "family values", religious conservatism and political hypermasculinity.

This panel will look at how to disrupt these patterns. Speakers will explore how women's leadership is holding space under pressure, how men's engagement can challenge entrenched systems rather than reinforce them, and what it might take to build locally-grounded, gender-transformative movements capable of halting regression, and shifting values and institutions over the long term.

Chair: Dr Nicola Nixon, Senior Regional Director, Governance, The Asia Foundation

Panelists:

Dr Tri Hastuti Nur Rochimah, Lecturer, Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta and Secretary General of the National Board, Aisyiyah Indonesia

Michelle Reddy, Co-Lead for Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation, Pacific Feminist Fund

Susanne Legena, CEO, Plan International Australia

Closing remarks

5.20PM

Closing reception

Crawford School courtyard

CONFERENCE HOSTS

DEVELOPMENT POLICY CENTRE

devpolicy.anu.edu.au/

Development Policy Centre (Devpol) is a think tank for aid and development serving Australia, the region, and the global development community. Devpol undertakes independent research and promotes practical initiatives to improve the effectiveness of Australian aid, to support the development of Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands region, and to contribute to better global development policy.

Devpol was established in September 2010 and is based at Crawford School of Public Policy in the College of Law, Governance and Policy at the Australian National University.

THE ASIA FOUNDATION

asiafoundation.org/

The Asia Foundation is an international nonprofit organization working to solve the toughest social and economic challenges in Asia and the Pacific.

Informed by more than 70 years of experience and deep local knowledge, we work with trusted partners across more than 20 countries to improve lives and expand opportunities.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

The 2025 Australasian AID Conference is generously supported by our sponsors. Please visit the AAC2025 exhibitors in the Molonglo Theatre foyer to learn more.

ABC INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

abcinternationaldevelopment.net.au

ABC International Development (ABCID) is the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC) media development unit.

ABCID draws on the ABC's specialist media development and communications expertise, as well as knowledge and relationships across Australia and the Indo-Pacific region.

We support, connect and empower communities by fostering inclusive media, public interest journalism, behaviour change communications and research. Regional resilience is being profoundly challenged, and media development matters more than ever.

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

aciar.gov.au

ACIAR supports Australia's national interests by investing in collaborative research and capacity-building partnerships to improve the livelihoods and resilience of smallholder farming, fishing and forestry communities in the Indo-Pacific.

To achieve this, ACIAR partners bilaterally and multilaterally with governments and institutions to grow food more efficiently, increase food system resilience, improve human nutrition, empower women and girls, reduce poverty, and manage natural resources sustainably to adapt to increasing climate variability.

These partnerships optimise economic, social and environmental benefits for partner countries, and contribute to the development of our international and Australian partner institutions' research, policy and leadership capacities.

CHEMONICS

chemonics.com

Chemonics promotes meaningful change around the world. Building on 50 years of experience in 160 countries, our global network of experts works collaboratively with governments, the private sector, civil society, and academia to design and deliver inclusive, multidisciplinary programs and people-centered solutions.

To operate effectively in the world's most complex and dynamic environments, we invest in what we know works: data, applied technology, media, and a disciplined project management approach that delivers results with speed, precision, and measurable impact.

Whether providing emergency humanitarian assistance following the earthquake in Myanmar, enhancing digital banking in the Philippines, or engaging private sector partnerships to drive innovative climate financing mechanisms worldwide, we are committed to connections — global and local, human and technological — that allow learnings to efficiently flow and adapt between experts, projects, and countries. Wherever we work, we combine technical depth with local insight to help people live healthier, more productive, and more independent lives.

COWATER INTERNATIONAL

cowater.com

Founded in 1985, Cowater International is a leading global development consulting company dedicated to advancing inclusive, sustainable growth. Headquartered in Ottawa, Canada, and with corporate hubs in Auckland, Canberra, Brussels, London, Nairobi, Singapore, Stockholm and other global centres, Cowater has successfully delivered more than 2,500 projects across 95 countries.

We partner with governments, the private sector and civil society to design and implement innovative, evidence-based solutions that strengthen institutions, improve service delivery, and promote social and economic inclusion. Our work spans critical areas such as governance and institutional reform, trade and private sector development, gender equality, climate resilience, and sustainable infrastructure.

In the Asia-Pacific region, Cowater has a long history of collaboration — supporting national and local governments to build resilient economies, enhance public financial management, and deliver better outcomes for citizens.

Our diverse and multidisciplinary team brings together global expertise and local insight to help partners achieve lasting impact. Guided by a commitment to results, inclusion, and partnership, Cowater International continues to work every day toward one goal: building a better tomorrow for the people we serve.

DT GLOBAL

dt-global.com

Creating Impact. Transforming Lives. Partnering for a Better World.

DT Global is shaping a future where sustainable development and innovation empower individuals, communities, and nations. We work in partnership with local stakeholders to foster inclusive prosperity, social equity, and environmental stewardship. Our global team of 2,500 staff and experts work in over 90 countries to solve complex problems in the peacebuilding, governance, economic development, environment, and human development sectors. With a track record of technical excellence and more than 60 years of international development experience and relationships, we deliver innovative solutions that transform lives.

PALLADIUM GROUP

thepalladiumgroup.com

Palladium is in the business of making the world a better place, and we believe that collaborative models and systemic approaches are the way to achieve progress and success. For 60 years, we've been working with governments, businesses, and investors to solve the world's most pressing challenges. We help our clients to see the world as interconnected – by formulating strategies, building partnerships, mobilising capital, and implementing programs that create lasting social, environmental and financial impact. With a global network of over 2,000 positive impact professionals operating in over 90 countries, our clients rely on us to bring local knowledge, unparalleled technical expertise, and an impact-focused precision to bear on their most complex projects.

We've been a proud member of the GISI family of companies since 2022, complementing our global capabilities and rich history in development with their own deep bench of construction, engineering, and infrastructure expertise.

RESPOND GLOBAL

respondglobal.com

Respond Global is a specialist firm committed to strengthening the systems that support and protect communities. With deep expertise in designing and delivering large-scale capacity building programs, Respond Global partners with governments, NGOs, philanthropists, and international organisations to enhance existing structures and ensure they remain effective in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world.

The firm provides comprehensive advisory, program implementation, and management services, all designed to empower communities and build sustainable capability for the future. At the heart of its mission is enabling communities to reduce vulnerability, strengthen resilience, and respond decisively in times of crisis. Whether addressing public health emergencies, tackling the impacts of climate change, supporting

disaster response and recovery, or guiding policy and strategic planning, Respond Global delivers trusted, evidence-based solutions informed by real-world experience.

Respond Global also operates the innovative HELPR program in Vanuatu — the first of its kind in the region. Leveraging its HELPR-1 vessel, the program supports the Vanuatu government in delivering multi-sectoral services to hard-to-reach communities. With a team of more than 30 Ni-Vanuatu staff, HELPR provides a sustainable framework for critical service delivery, ensuring remote communities receive the support they need now and into the future.

SMEC

smec.com/au

International Development Specialists

Healthy, sustainable cities and communities.

For 75 years, SMEC has built a reputation as a trusted partner on major Transport, Water, Energy and Urban projects around the world.

SMEC is committed to positively impact the people, the environment and the clients and communities we serve.

Through our network of global specialists, our teams draw on deep expertise and systems thinking to simplify the complex and deliver integrated engineering solutions across a range of diverse environments.

Across the world, SMEC has planned and implemented international development projects that spur inclusive economic growth, support sustainable development, and improve livelihoods.

SMEC's International Development expertise spans the following areas:

- Physical Infrastructure
- Economic Governance and Public Sector Reform
- Social development and Climate Resilience
- Program Management: Design, Monitoring and Evaluation
- Environmental and Social Advisory

As part of the Surbana Jurong Group, we have a global workforce of over 16,000 people across more than 40 countries.

TETRA TECH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

intdev.tetratech.com.au

Tetra Tech International Development, part of the Tetra Tech family, is a global leader in development consulting, partnering with communities and stakeholders to deliver lasting, positive change.

With over 40 years of experience across the Indo-Pacific, we design and implement sustainable solutions that foster human development, strengthen community resilience, and build robust infrastructure for thriving societies and a thriving planet.

We manage complex, multi-year programs in collaboration with local partners for clients including national and international governments, bilateral donors, and the private sector.

Our multi-sectoral expertise includes human development; economic development, trade, private and civil society engagement; human security including humanitarian response and civil defence capability; climate and infrastructure resilience supporting climate finance, energy transition and disaster resilient communities. We drive program impact through design, evaluation, research underpinned by our inclusion and locally led development capability.

Through data-driven, inclusive, and practical approaches, we deliver measurable impact — empowering people, strengthening systems, and creating sustainable pathways for development.

CONFERENCE MATERIAL

Speaker and panel presentations will be available after the conference at:
crawford.anu.edu.au/devpolicy/2025-australasian-aid-conference

Keynote sessions will be livestreamed on Devpolicy Youtube.

Some sessions in Barton and Weston Theatres will be available on YouTube in the month after the conference.

CONFERENCE APP AND FEEDBACK

Download the Whova conference app and register as a user.

Search for the event and use invitation code **DevpolAAC2025** to join.

Question and answer for keynote sessions will use the Whova app.

The Conference Feedback Survey is under **"**Additional Resources" on the AAC2025 home page in the Whova app.

IMAGES

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