

## Newsletter: New aid tracker website | Aid conference selling out | Myanmar aid lessons | WB VP on Pacific migration

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### Introducing the Australian Aid Tracker

This week we have launched our newest project – the [Australian Aid Tracker](#). If you've ever wanted to find a fast number or fact about Australian aid, this is the place to go. With details about trends, how we fare compared to other donors, which countries and regions we support, and much more, all presented using great graphics, we hope that the site will be a valuable resource.

Read more about the website [here](#) in our launch blog, or see what you can discover from the interactive charts and visualisations yourself [on the site](#). We've also been doing some blogging based on what we've dug up while compiling the aid tracker data—this week we [wrote about](#) Australia's humanitarian effort and how it stacks up internationally.

For the time-poor, we've made [an infographic](#) with some key numbers from the site. And if you want to test your knowledge of Australian aid, [try the aid tracker quiz](#).

The aid tracker project is supported by the Gates Foundation and the Harold Mitchell Foundation. We'll be updating it as new numbers come in through the year.

### Aid conference: don't miss out

Registrations for the 2016 Australasian Aid Conference (10-11 Feb) have already broken the records set in the last two years. Make sure you [register as soon as you can](#) to avoid disappointment. Less than two weeks to go!

If you are wondering what all the fuss is about, [check out this recent blog](#) from the conference convenors.



### **New Deputy Director for Devpolicy**

We are pleased to announce that Matthew Dornan has been appointed Deputy Director of the Development Policy Centre. Matt has been with us since late 2011 as a Research Fellow, and has made significant contributions to the Centre during this time, particularly on our engagement with and work on the Pacific, so we are very happy he has agreed to take on this new challenge.

### **Post-conflict aid: lessons from Myanmar**

Last week we concluded our [three-part series](#) by Simon Richards on the lessons that a Myanmar NGO, Pact Myanmar, has learnt working on a USAID-project in the post-conflict Kayah or Karenni State. Everything is political, from where you work to the staff you hire. Integrated development approaches work well, but the fundamental challenge is to build trust – and how do you prove that to your donor? It's a fascinating account, and good reading prior to the aid conference where there will be sessions relating to Myanmar, aid and politics, and aid and conflict.

### **New Pacific labour mobility report launch by World Bank Vice President**

Labour mobility is now widely accepted as a critical development opportunity for the Pacific. It also benefits the destination countries, including Australia and New Zealand, by filling employment gaps. However, labour mobility opportunities are both low and unevenly distributed across the Pacific. What could be possible if the potential of labour mobility were to be fully realised? What actions can sending and receiving countries take to make this a reality? The new joint ANU-World Bank report *Pacific Possible: Labor Mobility* answers these questions.

[Axel van Trotsenburg](#), World Bank Vice President for East Asia and the Pacific will launch this new report (part of the Bank's [Pacific Possible](#) series) on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February, Barton Theatre, 9.00am. [Register here](#).

### **Afghanistan in 2015: a survey of the Afghan people**

Join us on February 12 (3.30pm-5pm, Barton Theatre) to hear the results of The Asia Foundation's latest annual survey in Afghanistan. Conducted across the country's 34 provinces, the surveys provide an unmatched barometer of Afghan public opinion over time. The 2015 survey reveals views on a range of issues including security, the economy, essential services, governance and political participation, corruption, justice, and gender equality.

This event features experts from The Asia Foundation, as well as a commentary from Professor William Maley of ANU. [Register here](#).

### **Head of Global Fund to deliver 2016 Harold Mitchell Lecture**

Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund, will deliver the 2016 Harold Mitchell Development Policy Annual Lecture.

A leading voice on global health, Mark has been in the top job at the Global Fund since 2012, and previously served as the US Global AIDS Coordinator.

He will be speaking on the topic “Exciting, challenging, frightening times – global health, development and the stuff of innovation”. The lecture will be held at 5:30pm in the Molonglo Theatre, Monday 29 February 2016. [Register here](#).

## **Upcoming events**

### *2016 Australasian Aid Conference*

10-11 February 2016. Limited places left. [Details here](#).

### *Forging a new development future*

With Kitty van der Heijden. Wednesday 10 February, 10am-11am. [Register here](#).

### *What will the SDGs mean for Asia?*

Wednesday 10 February, 1.30pm – 3.20pm. [Register here](#).

### *Launch of the 2015 Australian aid stakeholder survey*

Thursday 11 February, 9.40am – 10.30am. [Register here](#).

### *International climate change: perspectives on Paris*

Thursday 11 February, 1.30pm – 2.50pm. [Register here](#).

### *Afghanistan in 2015: a survey of the Afghan people*

Friday 12 February, 3.30pm – 5pm, Barton Theatre. [Register here](#).

### *Pacific Possible: labour mobility*

Friday 26 February, 9am – 11am, Barton Theatre. [Register here](#).

### *2016 Harold Mitchell Development Policy Annual Lecture*

With Mark Dybul. Monday 29 February, 5.30pm, Molonglo Theatre. [Register here](#).

## **Blog highlights**

Vanuatu's [snap election](#)

Australia: [a humanitarian scrooge?](#)

[How bad is coal?](#)

PNG drought relief: [politically tricky](#)

## **On the blog**

[Management of natural disasters in PNG — not all bad news](#) by Felicity Herbert

[Is Australia a humanitarian scrooge?](#) By Ashlee Betteridge

[Introducing the Australian aid tracker](#) by Ashlee Betteridge

[Vanuatu's general election — some preliminary thoughts](#) by Tess Newton Cain

[For hungry people, an internet connection isn't a priority](#) by Ian Wishart

[2016 Australasian Aid Conference: third time's the charm](#) by Stephen Howes, Camilla Burkot, Anthea Mulakala and Joel Negin

[Connectivity can create islands of opportunity in the Pacific](#) by Natasha Beschoner

[Coal, poverty and energy access](#) by Matthew Dornan

[Aid in contested areas — reflecting diversity in staffing and measurement](#) by Simon Richards

[Politicising drought relief in Papua New Guinea](#) by Colin Wiltshire and Thiago Cintra Oppermann

#### **In brief**

[Fortnightly links: Cuban inequality, malaria, drought, Donald Trump, and more](#)

[Quiz: how much do you know about Australian aid?](#)

[Infographic: introducing the Australian aid tracker](#)

*This is the fortnightly newsletter of the [Development Policy Centre](#) at Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University, published every second Friday.*