

Newsletter: Mark Dybul lecture in two weeks | Australian aid risks | #AAC2016

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Head of Global Fund to deliver 2016 Mitchell Oration

Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, will deliver the 2016 Harold Mitchell Development Policy Lecture in just two weeks' time, so make sure you register soon.

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](#). For those who aren't in Canberra, we'll also be livestreaming it on the web, and will have the stream details online soon.

Australian aid: signs of risk

It's been a tumultuous two years for the aid program with massive budget cuts and the AusAID-DFAT integration. The [2015 Australian Aid Stakeholder Survey](#), a follow-up to the one we conducted in 2013, highlights the risks associated with these changes. The majority of aid stakeholders think that the quality of Australian aid has worsened over the last two years. The survey results shows particularly sharp declines in perceptions of aid program funding predictability, staff expertise, a lack of strategic clarity, transparency, communication and community engagement.

If you missed last Thursday's survey launch, you can catch up on Terence Wood's presentation of the key findings [here](#). Also [read our blog](#), [op-ed](#) and check out the media coverage [here](#).

The full survey report, [Australian aid: signs of risk](#), should be compulsory reading for anyone with an interest in Australian aid.



2016 Australasian Aid Conference wrap

Thank you to everyone who attended and made our 2016 Australasian Aid Conference our biggest and best yet, with packed rooms right up to the very last session, and high-quality papers and discussions throughout.

If you missed the conference, you can watch webcasts of the keynotes and plenaries on [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#) – from Peter Varghese’s opening address ([full text here](#)), to Kitty van der Heijden’s rousing keynote on sustainability, the stakeholder survey launch, discussions on the SDGs in Asia, and the Paris climate talks.

We are currently in the process of uploading Powerpoint presentations to the conference website, [which will be available here](#), and podcasts of some sessions will be available in the coming weeks.

For those who did attend, please remember to complete our [feedback survey](#).

Many thanks to our conference organizers – Ashlee Betteridge, Camilla Burkot, and Macarena Rojas – as well as the volunteers who helped us run the event: Sienna Lake, Husnia Hushang, Sarah Heywood, Stephanie Rowell, Jacqui Battin, Sachini Muller and Gina Zheng.

We’ve uploaded a [whole heap of photos](#) from the conference to our Facebook page, so do take a look and feel free to tag yourself! There was also a lot of action on the conference hashtag on Twitter, [#AAC2016](#).

Pacific labour mobility report launch: postponed

The launch of our new labour mobility report written jointly with the World Bank, earlier scheduled for Friday 26 February, has been postponed. We’ll let you know when it is on.

Upcoming events

2016 Harold Mitchell Development Policy Annual Lecture

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

Blog highlights

Drought: on the ground in [Goroka](#) and [Ethiopia](#)

How to [secure political support](#) for quality education?

Robin Davies [proposes](#) a new humanitarian fund

On the blog

[Zika – a new public health emergency?](#) By Sam Byfield

[If this is the way the world works...](#) by Gordon Peake

[Australian aid: signs of risk](#) by Terence Wood, Camilla Burkot and Stephen Howes

[Political intrigues in the Pacific islands – the dire need for political stability](#) by Transform Aqorau

[Can developing countries afford the SDGs?](#) By Chris Hoy

[Too important to flail: a strategic financing mechanism for humanitarian assistance](#) by Robin Davies

[The importance of national and local politics for improving educational quality](#) by Grant Walton

[El Niño in Ethiopia](#) by Susanne Legena

[Pacific colleagues review NZ development cooperation](#) by Jo Spratt

[PNG drought response: reporting from Goroka](#) by Paul Kelly

[The Pacific's state of independence](#) by Stewart Firth

In brief

[Another new Minister for International Development and the Pacific](#)

[Fortnightly links: geopolitics of conflict, dam failures, aid profiles, and more...](#)

[Australasian Aid Conference Livestream](#)

[Human trafficking in Papua New Guinea – small but significant progress](#)

[Women MPs doubled in Myanmar's new-look parliament](#)

[Canberra book launch: Sean Dorney's The Embarrassed Colonialist](#)

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