Inaugural National Meeting of China Matters Young Professionals

Held at the Australian Centre on China in the World, Australian National University

Canberra, 15 November 2016

The objective of the meeting is to formulate two specific policy recommendations to improve Australia-China relations. The meeting will be conducted under Chatham House rules.

The 'jazz club style' format of the meeting is designed to create a conversation between peers. Each session has three panellists and a moderator. While panellists are expected to help lead the conversation, their initial remarks must be brief (6 minutes), so that the majority of the session is an open back-and-forth among all of the participants. Each participant is expected to actively participate in the discussion, with remarks no longer than 3 minutes.

1515	Arrivals and registration	
1525	Participants move to meeting area to take their seats	
1530-1535	Welcome	Ms Linda Jakobson, Founding Director, China Matters
1535-1655	**Session I**	**How should Australian businesses respond to China's regional ambitions?**
	Panellists:	Ms Erny Wah, Adviser, North Asia and Trade International Division, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
		Mr Isaac Huang, Government Relations Manager for China, Swisse Wellness
		Ms Mercedes Page, Analyst, Thales; Founder and CEO, Young Australians in International Affairs
	Moderator:	Mr Edward Kus, Solicitor, DLA Piper

Panellists and participants should focus on China's ambitions in the Asia-Pacific and assess implications for Australia. The Australian business community has largely benefited from the Australia-China relationship, yet there must be greater awareness of the risks associated with China's growing power and possible threats to regional stability. Participants should make particular reference to the potential economic ramifications of China's strategic behaviour and assess the preparedness of business and government, and how to mitigate negative consequences.

Key questions:
- How do China's strategic and economic ambitions affect Australian business?
- Are Australian businesses prepared for a disruption to the economic stability of the Australia-China relationship?
- How would a bilateral diplomatic crisis impact the Australian economy?
- Does China's 'One Belt One Road' strategy present more benefits or risks for Australian business and government?

1655-1710	Short Tea Break

1710-1825 **Session II** **What should be done to ensure that PRC investment does not compromise Australia's national interests?**

Panellists: Mr Lloyd Bradbury, Associate, Greenhill & Co.

Ms Helen Dai, Foreign Investment Specialist, Foreign Investment and Trade Division, Department of the Treasury

Mr Andrew Kiley, Director, Critical Infrastructure and Protective Security Branch, Attorney-General's Department

Moderator: Mr Timothy Robinson, Associate Director, Corview

Panellists and participants should focus on the implications of Chinese investment for Australia's national interests. On one hand foreign investment is vital to Australia's economic interests; on the other, foreign ownership of Australian assets could pose a number of risks to Australia's national security. Participants should identify the potential risks of Chinese investment and strategies for mitigation. Participants should consider whether there are any viable alternatives to Chinese investment if certain assets are deemed off-limits.

Key questions:
- What is Australia's long-term strategy given the shortfall of capital in Australia?
- What are the genuine concerns about Chinese investment in Australia?
- Are there ways to mitigate these concerns without deterring Chinese investment, such as a 'negative list'?
- How should the Australian government manage public expectations regarding Chinese investment?

1825-1830 Meeting wrap-up by event convener Hannah Bretherton, Project Coordinator and Researcher, China Matters

1830-1915 Networking drinks and canapes.

1915 Event concludes