



Fifth National Meeting of China Matters Young Professionals

In partnership with the Australian Centre on China in the World, Australian National University

Building 188, Fellows Lane, The Australian National University, Canberra

8 March 2019

The objective of the meeting is to formulate specific policy proposals regarding Australia's relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC). 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 initiate 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 participants. Each participant is expected to actively participate in the discussion, with remarks no longer than 3 minutes.

1315 Arrival and registration

1325 Participants move to meeting area to take their seats

1330-1345 Welcome

1345-1445 **Session I How should Australia respond to growing nationalism in the PRC?**

Panellists: Mr Joshua Armstrong, Research Assistant, Office of John Howard

Ms Natalia Beghin, Advisor – International Economy Unit, Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet

Ms Hannah Caldwell, Management Consultant

Moderator: Mr James Scullin, National Project Manager, Australia China Business Council

Panellists and participants should discuss rising nationalism in the PRC and its potential effects on Australia. Growing nationalism could potentially lead to a more assertive foreign policy from the Communist Party of China (CPC). To what extent might nationalism affect bilateral relations between Australia and the PRC? Rising nationalism is evident in other areas as well, such as business. Indignant PRC citizens have boycotted foreign products over perceived slights from foreign governments and companies. In Australia, some PRC international students have demanded that their professors remove teaching material deemed "incorrect or insulting" to the PRC.





Key questions:

- In what ways might state-sponsored nationalism in the PRC have an effect on the Australia-China relationship?
- What are the implications of growing nationalism for the PRC's security interests, such as its claims in the South China Sea, or its objective to unify Taiwan with the mainland? How might this affect Australia's interests?
- Anecdotal evidence suggests some PRC international students return home from Australia more nationalistic than when they arrived. What can be done to address this?
- What can Australian brands in the PRC do to mitigate the waning attractiveness of their products due to increased domestic nationalism?

1445-1515 **Session I What should Australia do? Policy formulation**

1515-1525 Session I wrap-up

1525-1605 Afternoon tea

1605-1705 **Session II How can the Australian economy become less dependent on the PRC?**

Panellists: Ms Chelsea Jacka, Project Support Officer, Queensland Health
Ms Jasminah Woodhouse, Senior Manager – Economics & Policy, PwC
Mr Jeff Yu, Macroeconomic Analyst, Bank of China

Moderator: Ms Amy Hallam, Committee Member, Australian Institute of International Affairs WA

Panellists and participants should discuss the dependency of the Australian economy on the PRC. The PRC is our largest trading partner for both imports and exports, while we rank number six for the PRC. Does this present a risk to Australia's national interests? Has the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) only deepened our dependence? Many Australians argue that Australia should diversify its markets and explore more trade opportunities with other countries, but others argue this is unrealistic and we have no control over which countries buy our goods and services. How can Australia continue to develop its economy in light of these challenges?

Key questions:

- Can Australia diversify its exports towards other countries? Are there international examples we can learn from?
- Apart from market diversification, are there feasible ways to reduce Australia's economic dependence on the PRC?
- What potential factors could cause the PRC to stop importing from Australia?





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- What policies could the Australian government implement to combat falls in demand for our resources and other goods and services from the PRC?
- Should Australia pursue a free trade agreement with Taiwan?

1705-1735 **Session II What should Australia do? Policy formulation**

1735-1745 Session wrap-up

Meeting wrap-up

1745 Dinner and networking drinks

2030 Event concludes



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