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MEDIA RELEASE

China Matters names Alistair Nicholas Chief Executive Officer

China Matters announced today that its Board of Directors has appointed Mr Alistair Nicholas, a corporate and public affairs executive with extensive China business and policy experience, as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Mr Nicholas will commence his role on 1 August.

Founding Director and current CEO, Ms Linda Jakobson, will continue to engage in the strategic work of China Matters and contribute to the public discussion of the People's Republic of China through her publications and briefings. Ms Jakobson will also assume the role of Deputy Chair.

Mr Nicholas' career covers journalism, government policy, international trade, diplomacy, and senior private sector roles in corporate and public affairs. Mr Nicholas was based in Beijing for 13 years, where he led the government relations and corporate practices of leading global communications consultancy firms. In those roles he provided strategic advice to major multinational corporations about their business operations in China.



Photo Caption: Alistair Nicholas

China Matters Chair, Mr Kevin McCann said: "We face new circumstances, new challenges and new demands as a more confident and assertive People's Republic of China (PRC) articulates its interests on the international stage.

"We can no longer separate our economic and security interests. They go hand in hand in this new world.

"China Matters plays a vital role in advancing sound China policy in Australia. The changes that we have announced today reflect the ongoing investment that we are making

in both the organisational capability and capacity of China Matters to deliver leading edge thinking on Australia's relationship with the PRC.

"We are absolutely delighted that Mr Nicholas has accepted the Board's invitation to lead China Matters through this most important time in the Australia-China relationship.



"The Board is also extremely grateful to Founding Director and current CEO, Linda Jakobson. Ms Jakobson has built a public-policy organisation with a world-class reputation and we are delighted that she will remain deeply engaged in the work of China Matters both as a researcher and our Deputy Chair."

Photo caption: Linda Jakobson and Kevin McCann

About China Matters:

China Matters is an independent organisation that strives to advance sound China policy. We are unique in Australia. We engage business executives, public servants, politicians, and university leaders about challenging policy choices in the Australia-China relationship. We generate public debate about Australia's relationship with the People's Republic of China, which aims to inject nuance and realism into discussions. On the basis of solid China expertise and Chinese-language sources, we research problematic policy issues with the goal of formulating recommendations and providing analysis on how these policy challenges are viewed in Beijing.

China Matters does not have an institutional view.

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Note to editors:

For the full biography of Alistair Nicholas please click [here](#).