

China Matters

Webinar

Live via Zoom 03 July 2020, 3:00pm-4:15pm

Biographies of panellists and moderator

Mr Michael Clifton



Ms Linda Jakobson



Mr Dennis Richardson AC



Mr Peter Varghese AO



Michael Clifton is the CEO of China Matters. He has enjoyed a diverse and varied career including almost 20 years in trade and defence appointments across Asia and the Middle East. A graduate of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, Mr Clifton served in the Australian Army for 20 years before retiring at the rank of lieutenant colonel. He subsequently served a further 20 years with the Australian Trade and Investment Commission until his retirement from the Australian Public Service in December 2018.

Linda Jakobson is Founding Director and Deputy Chair of China Matters, an independent policy institute that aims to advance sound China policy. Prior to founding China Matters, Ms Jakobson was Director of East Asia Program at the Lowy Institute and visiting professor at Sydney University. She has been a student of Chinese politics and the foreign and security policy of the People's Republic of China for the past three decades. She is internationally known for her publications about China's foreign policy.

Dennis Richardson was Secretary of the Department of Defence from 2012 until his retirement in 2017. He has held a number of senior government positions including Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2010-2012), Ambassador of Australia to the United States (2005-2009), Director-General of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (1996-2005), Deputy Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (1993-1996), Head of the Review of the Intelligence Community post-Cold War in 1992 and Principal Adviser to the Prime Minister (1990-1991).

Peter Varghese began as Chancellor of The University of Queensland on 11 July 2016. Prior to this appointment, Mr Varghese's extensive career in public service and diplomacy spanned 38 years and included senior positions in foreign affairs, trade policy and intelligence. Most recently, he served as Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2012-2016). Previous senior appointments included High Commissioner to India (2009-2012), High Commissioner to Malaysia (2000-2002), Director-General of the Office of National Assessments (2004-2009), and Senior Advisor (International) to the Prime Minister of Australia (2003-2004).



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