



Second National Meeting of China Matters Young Professionals

Melbourne, 25 August 2017

Biographies of panellists and moderators

Ms Louise Clegg

Louise is a Mandarin-speaking Business Development Manager for Asia at Evolution Health Pty Ltd. Louise has studied at several universities in China including Nanjing and Shandong universities and completed an undergrad at Monash University in Melbourne. She has developed a keen interest in Chinese-Australian business and has worked extensively within Chinese-Australian companies both in China and Australia, including in residential property, retirement living, fast-moving consumer goods, e-commerce and consulting sectors.

Mr Thomas Day

Thomas has broad experience in the Asia-Pacific region where he has worked and studied for over five years. Thomas is the Business Development Manager for Asialink Business' China Practice as well as the External Relations and Projects Manager at the Confucius Institute at The University of Melbourne, where he promotes a greater understanding of China through managing and delivering a range of language, culture, and business training programs. He is passionate about increasing China-literacy amongst the school and business communities in Australia. Through his previous work at the Australia China Business Council, the Australia China Alumni Association, and the Australian Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo, Thomas has developed a passion for and dedication to the Australia-China relationship, as well as in-depth knowledge and understanding of the cultural, political, and economic ties that exist between the two countries.

Mr Paul Hubbard

Paul Hubbard is a senior adviser in the Australian Public Service. He is completing a PhD in the economics of Chinese State-owned Enterprises. Paul was a Sir Roland Wilson PhD Scholar at the Australian National University, a visiting scholar at Peking University in 2015, and was a 2006 Australia Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar in international relations at Syracuse University.

Mr Michael McGregor

Michael McGregor is a Policy Officer in the China Economic and Trade Section at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Canberra. Within DFAT he has worked across a variety of bilateral, multilateral, trade and regional issues. Prior to joining DFAT Michael worked at the Peking University Australian Studies Centre as Research Coordinator between 2013 and 2015. He studied Chinese at Renmin University in 2013 and 2014 and previously worked as a Policy Analyst at the Queensland Chamber of Commerce, focusing predominately on economic policy and state-federal regulatory reform. Michael holds a Master of International Relations (East Asian Studies) and a Bachelor of Management from Griffith University.

Mr Gregory Sadler

Greg Sadler is the Director of risk in the Commonwealth's new Critical Infrastructure Centre. The Critical Infrastructure Centre was established to assess the risks of sabotage, espionage and coercion in Australia's critical infrastructure, with an initial focus on our telecommunications, electricity, water and ports sectors. Greg recently moved to the Centre from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet where he worked for the Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on Cyber Security. Greg has worked on a range of cyber security and telecommunications law matters, including data retention legislation and Australia's accession to the Council of Europe Convention on Cyber Crime. While Greg has a BA/LLB(Hons) from ANU, he began his professional career writing hardware reviews for computer magazines.

Mr Martin Symonds

Martin is currently Assistant Director Regional Strategy in the Department of Defence, responsible for providing policy advice on strategic challenges, focused on the Indo-Pacific region. He is also directing the review and update to the Defence Planning Guidance, which is Defence's lead classified strategy document that amplifies the policy guidance of the latest Defence White Paper. In 2016 Martin was the international policy adviser to the Chief of Joint Operations. In 2015 Martin was posted to China for Mandarin language training. Previous positions include several within Defence's International Policy Division, a Rudd Government taskforce to review the national innovation system, the Lowy Institute for International Policy, and an international policy consulting firm in Washington D.C. He has studied at Australian National University, Georgetown University and the University of New South Wales.

Ms Susan Travis

Susan is an economist, working in academia and the private sector. She is currently developing a public database on Chinese commercial direct investment in Australia at The Australian National University, while also working as a lead analyst at CHIA, East Asia Bureau of Economic Research at the Australian National University. She previously worked on a range of consulting projects as an Associate in PwC's Economics & Policy team. Susan was formerly at China Policy and the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Beijing before returning to Australia to pursue the Master of Economics at ANU. Her research interests are mainly in development economics, with a particular focus on China as a new model for development.

Ms Erny Wah

Erny is an Advisor in the International Division of the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet. Prior to this, she was a trade negotiator at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, where she worked on Australia's Free Trade Agreement negotiations with China, India and Indonesia. She has also worked as a foreign policy advisor on Syria, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, and served as a Diplomat with the Australian Embassy in Cairo from 2010 to 2013.

