



Regional Programme Australia and the Pacific Activities 2021

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REGIONAL PROGRAMME
AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC

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The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) is a political foundation of Germany, with the vision to promote international dialogue, sustainable development, good governance, capacity building, regional integration and enhance understanding of the key drivers of global developments. It is named after the first Chancellor (Prime Minister) of the Federal Republic of Germany, Konrad Adenauer who embodied Christian-social, conservative and liberal traditions. His name represents the democratic rebuilding of Germany, reconciliation with France, the anchoring of German foreign policy in a trans-Atlantic community of values, a vision of European unity and Germany's orientation towards a social market economy.

German political foundations are unique throughout the world. The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung is associated with Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party. Not many other organisations provide the same expertise in the field of democracy building and dialogue. Although each foundation is affiliated to with a political party, they are organizationally, legally and financially independent and they are funded by the German Government. Their international work is closely aligned with Germany's foreign policy goals.

Through its international activities and projects carried out in collaboration with local partners, KAS makes a substantial contribution to international cooperation, ensuring that Germany lives up to its growing responsibility in the world. Particularly in development policy, the aim of our work is to motivate and enable (young) people to shape their own future by strengthening democracy, the rule of law and promote the principles of a just social market economy. This includes capacity building in the areas of creating sustainable democratic structures, constitutional reform, as well as the support of human rights and peace processes. For this end, we collaborate with government institutions, policy-makers, political centre parties, civil society organisations, academia and the media sector.

A further pillar underpinning the political work is research and consultancy. This is more than just giving advice on current political affairs. We conduct research on the implications of political developments and seek to inform the policy-making process to contribute towards the development of far-sighted, sustainable policies that can help prevent crises.

Worldwide work and Activities in Australia and the Pacific

Currently KAS is present in around 120 countries, with over 100 offices on six continents. With our worldwide networks and long-term partner structures, we aim to contribute to knowledge exchange and policy development in line with our values and goals. Especially across the Asia-Pacific region, the work of KAS is reflective of Germany's commitment to an order based on rules, cooperation and responsible, concerted leadership.

As current global developments – such as a volatile security environment – underscore the common interests of Europe and Australia, KAS' Regional Programme for Australia and the Pacific seeks to foster durable collaboration through dialogue among parliamentarians, representatives of government departments and leading academic/think tank experts, as well as political analysis and consultancy. For the European Union in general and Germany in particular, dialogues with Australia and New Zealand are of special relevance due to our history of strong bilateral and regional relations. Given our shared values and common interests in shaping the rules-based order, there are manifold opportunities for this partnership. Our programmes are dedicated to collaboration and knowledge-sharing to strengthen our collective resilience and ability to find solutions to the pressing problems of our time.



A Word from the Director

2021 has yet again been a year under the defining influence of the Covid-pandemic. Dealing with the pandemic meant we as KAS Australia and the Pacific had to adjust events by converting many of them into virtual formats and concentrating even more on publishing analyses. Australia, New Zealand and the entire region are struggling to adapt their policies to conquer the pandemic and let a normal life and international travel be possible again. Evermore assertive policies by China in the Indo-Pacific region are putting foreign- and security policy at the focus of attention. The impact on bi- and multilateral relations between Australia and its international partners is severe, as demonstrated by the political and diplomatic consequences of the newly formed AUKUS defence alliance. This reminds us - like the tension on the Russian-Ukrainian border in Europe - once more again that "history is not over" and that the protagonists of a free and liberal world order must cooperate even stronger in all parts of the world in order to prevail in the systemic challenge we face. After 16 years under the tenure of Chancellor Angela Merkel, the CDU lost power in Germany, creating new circumstances and challenges for the work of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. The CDU will have a chance to renew itself under a new leadership.

For the second year in a row world politics as well as our private lives have been under the limiting influence of the Covid-pandemic. As the new year 2022 begins, new variants of the virus are challenging governments, health workers and societies worldwide. Especially Australians have had to abide by strict rules from the very beginning of the pandemic in order to battle the spread of the virus. The transition period between a long and rather successful "Zero-Covid"-phase and recent infections by the tens of thousands a day due to the new Omicron-

variant was extremely short, making it difficult to adjust, find and experience ways of living with the pandemic.

For the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, 2021 brought a significant political change: after 16 years in power under the leadership of Chancellor Angela Merkel and with changing coalition partners, the CDU, the party with which we are closely affiliated, lost the federal elections in September 2021. The new German government under the leadership of Chancellor Olaf Scholz consists of

a three-party coalition of the Social-Democrats, the Green Party, and the Liberal Party, leaving the hard seats of opposition to the CDU. This means that it will certainly be more difficult for us to have access to federal German ministries and we no longer have the possibility to work with "our" politicians as representatives in leading government offices. On the other hand, the importance of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung when it comes to networking, driving ahead political topics of importance and enhancing Christian-democratic and Center-right policies in Germany and the world will certainly grow. We are ready to fill this role with life in our daily work.

For the CDU, 2021 brought to an end the long and at times painful process of finding a successor to longtime party leader Angela Merkel, who stepped down from this position in late 2018. The delegate votes of two federal party congresses in 2018 and early 2021 saw a party basically split between the preference for two candidates. Each time, Friedrich Merz, a former federal Parliamentary caucus leader of the CDU/CSU, was a close runner-up to former Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer in 2018 and to Armin Laschet, Minister president of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, in early 2021. After the defeat in the federal elections, in yet another federal party congress, Merz, as the only candidate running, achieved an impressive 95 percent of support. It leaves the new chairman Friedrich Merz in an excellent position to unite the CDU, enable it to take the role as leading opposition party and bring it back to its status as a strong peoples' party of the Center-Right.

As far as the CDU's partner parties are concerned, the Liberal Party of Australia experienced various cabinet reshuffles throughout the year. There was also movement in the National Party of New Zealand, which selected Christopher Luxon - former CEO of Air New Zealand - as their new party leader. In the Pacific region, despite the ongoing pandemic and related border closures, several general elections were held. In the Independent State of Samoa, for example, the newly founded FAST Party under the leadership of Fiame Naomi Mata'afa took over power from the long-term governing Human Rights Protection Party, led by former Prime Minister Tuila'epa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi.

In the past year, the Covid-pandemic forced us to restrict most of our activities to virtual formats, but nonetheless we were still able to conduct events related to our established and most important topics.

A highlight of our work was the special dialogue event "Geoeconomics and Sovereignty in the Indo-Pacific: Integration across Geographies" with the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment at Parliament House in June 2021.

Minister Tehan, a great friend of Europe and Germany, took us on a tour d'horizon on the geopolitical necessity and prosperity chances of enhanced and diversified trade relations, as they will come with the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Australia. Partnering on energy security was another one of the topics Minister Tehan elaborated upon, with special attention on hydrogen. Here, the prevailing production circumstances are favourable in Australia. Germany, on the other hand, is looking for alternative energy supplies in its quest for decarbonising its economy.

Another highlight was our re-occurring Europe-Australia counter-terrorism dialogue: both regions face similar risks with regard to extremism and terrorism, more international cooperation is certainly needed. Unfortunately, the pandemic has proven to be a booster of crude conspiracy theory and self-proclaimed scientific beliefs that are often presented in an undemocratic and sometimes violent way. Societal cohesion, essential in fighting the pandemic, is thus put at risk. As Canberra came out of its lock-down situation in the fall, we were able to hold a hybrid event in cooperation with and at the venue of our esteemed partner, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI). Attendance both in person and online was high as we welcomed German Vice-Minister of the Interior and longtime counter-terrorism expert Prof Dr Guenter Krings MP to give a key-note address and debate with other experts.

The deployment of the Frigate "Bayern", which anchored in the ports of Perth/Fremantle and

Darwin, was a visible sign of the increased political interest of Germany in the Indo-Pacific region. The new Guidelines for the Indo-Pacific of the German government, implemented in the fall of 2020, paved the way for this military mission. This first unilateral, military assignment was a huge effort for Germany, where military deployments need a majority in the German Bundestag. With regard to the troubled past of Germany in the 20th century and the Parliament consisting of 7 highly diverse parties, this majority is never easily obtained. Therefore, we are very thankful for the friendly recognition of this endeavour by all of our partners in the region and a benevolent media coverage as well.

In connection with the Frigate visit, we were further able to partner with the Perth USAsia Centre on the "Europe in the Indo-Pacific"- Publication and launch with the Centre a side-event attended by high-ranking representatives of our partners, the German Embassy and the European Parliament. Our aim in this and future projects of this kind is to facilitate scientific and political exchange in an increasingly challenging geopolitical environment, examining where European Indo-Pacific interests are best placed to cooperate with one another and also establish long-term personal and institutional ties between the two regions. To this end, KAS Australia and the Pacific also tried to accompany the intensifying trade relations between Australia and the EU as well as between New Zealand and the EU, looking at the ongoing negotiations for both free trade agreements. In each case, both sides have an imminent interest for these negotiations to be finalised soon.

No-one can work politically in the Indo-Pacific without dealing with China and its evermore assertive policies in the region. To this end, we are about to publish a major paper on China with our colleagues at ASPI, focusing on the relation China has with the Australian States and Territories and also with the German federal states, the "Laender".

We have to see the overarching, big problem: while the Australian and German states are working on a largely independent level of state- and local authorities, China does this only seemingly, with the influence of the federal level through the Communist Party of China, making this a highly un-levelled playing field we need to observe very attentively.

We further funded the publication of a report by Dr Robert Glasser in support of the launch of ASPI's Centre for Climate and Security Policy. We also provided funding for their research report on climate change related security risks. We will continue to develop a shared understanding of current and evolving climate impacts in the region and the world and identifying practical steps and joint initiatives to address these risks.

On energy policy, we already went into the 4th year of our energy dialogue, this time making it a trialogue including Japan. As in 2020, shared interest in the production of hydrogen, supply chains and questions on certification of hydrogen were elaborated upon by our experts.

Germany is especially dependent on new forms of generating energy as our growing demand for energy occurs simultaneously with our -possibly over-ambitious - proclaimed goal to stop the use of nuclear and coal-generated energy.

And, finally, we held a virtual seminar on the regulation of big tech companies in the digital era, with a focus on the Australian News Media Bargaining Code, and related German and EU legislation, and published supporting analyses briefs.

As everybody was longing to finally have face-to-face-encounters after the lock-down again, our end-of-year-reception at the Hyatt Hotel Canberra was well attended by diplomats, partners and friends, which we cherished a lot. After all, politics is about people, a handshake, a look in the eye and a trusted relationship will never be substituted by a computer screen, as useful as virtual, on-line meetings may have become for our daily work.



European People's Podcast EPP #41 - Transatlantic Relations (with Bertil Wenger)

<https://smarturl.it/EPP-Podcast?fbclid=IwAR1NzKBHVyUz2GqJzAISOrs82tBXPIYZaqdQAEspGAR5YeKY0HaXNTI9SME>



SBS Deutsch What is the Konrad Adenauer Foundation doing in Canberra?

<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/german/audio/was-macht-die-Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung-in-canberra?fbclid=IwAR215B4ij7cLs-Bi0cscO36QjdSSkwhny8AG6UuTTrb4pFpuQFv5SQWQJQ>

These days we are sadly confronted with scenes that no-one had anticipated to ever happen in Europe again: massive build-ups of Russian troops and weapons of war at the Ukrainian border along-side irresponsible and outright lawless Russian demands for the conduct of nations and international organisations. In the Indo-Pacific and its own neighbourhood, China is trying to implement coercive policies in many different ways. Who would have thought some time ago, that cracking down on democracy in Hong-Kong, denying human right to the Uigurs and other minorities, clashing with India over border issues, imposing unjustified trade sanctions on other nations and trying to extend military influence in the region all would occur at the same time. These worry-some constellations make it abundantly clear, that, as like-minded partners of a liberal and rules-based world order, we must intensify our cooperation in all fields of politics. This is the only way to fight off and withstand aggressive and authoritarian state actors who do not share our vision of peace and cooperation in the world.

As KAS, we will continue to work on the aforementioned topics in the new year and hope for more events with physical attendance, as we are expecting to get a firm grip on the vagaries of the pandemic. We look forward to work on our good relations with partner organisations, parliaments and political parties here in Australia and the region, especially as we are approaching a certainly fascinating pre-election season in Australia after the summer break.

With hopeful anticipation we are looking at the changing border and travel regulations in the region, indicating the possibility of a return of delegation and individual visits that we as KAS would like to conduct again as a core task of ours.

Having just recently arrived in Australia, let me take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to my dear colleagues in the KAS office and especially to my predecessor, Dr Beatrice Gorawantschy, for making my transition into this new and fascinating job so smooth and enjoyable.

And, finally, my sincere thanks go out to each and everyone of you, be it as an interested, individual reader or as representatives of our partners and friends. Without your help, cooperation and interest in our work, we simply could not properly function and fulfil our mission.

Wishing you a successful 2022 and some joyful reading with this report.

Yours sincerely,

Bertil Wenger
Director
KAS Australia and the Pacific

Highlights



1. Bertil Wenger with Dr Mathias Roth, First Secretary German Embassy and Dr Andreas Radtke, Deputy Head of Mission German Embassy. 2. Peter Jennings, Executive Director ASPI, Bertil Wenger and Dr Michael Pulch, Ambassador of the European Union. 3. Bertil Wenger with Fabian Grass, Deputy Head of Mission Swiss Embassy. 4. Dr Beatrice Gorawantschy with Matthew Williams, Honorary Consul of Germany in South Australia. 5. KAS Australia Team with Lucy Turnbull AO, former Chief Commissioner Greater Sydney Commission and Jackie Taranto, former Economic Commissioner Greater Sydney Commission. 6. KAS Team with Lynette Wood, First Assistant Secretary DFAT. 7. National Party of New Zealand meeting the KAS Team in Canberra.

Parliamentary and Political Party Dialogue

“...today’s idea in one country is tomorrow’s policy in another”

From the International Democrat Union’s mission statement¹

International cooperation and multilateral engagement, based on shared principles and common goals, begin with dialogue. Parliamentary diplomacy and inter-parliamentary exchanges play an important role in building bridges between countries to enhance peace, democracy and sustainable development.

Less driven by protocol than meetings between ministers and heads of states, exchanges of ideas, experiences and good practices between parliamentarians and party representatives promote a better understanding of shared challenges: by learning from each other to better address challenges, identify avenues for action and drive meaningful change.

Germany, Australia and New Zealand have highly respected parliamentary systems based on a strong democratic tradition. This places them in an excellent position to work together to develop comprehensive and coordinated policies in response to today’s challenges. Across the Pacific Islands, the further development of inclusive political parties and the rule of law are paramount to sustainable development.

Parliamentary and political party dialogue therefore constitutes a key pillar of our work in Australia and the Pacific region.

¹ The IDU is an inter-parliamentary forum for centre-right parties to exchange views on matters of policy and organisational interest, “so that they can learn from each other, act together, establish contacts and speak with one strong voice to promote democracy and centre-right policies around the globe”.



March 2021

Party Dialogue with Bertil Wenger

Current developments in the CDU and its International Relations

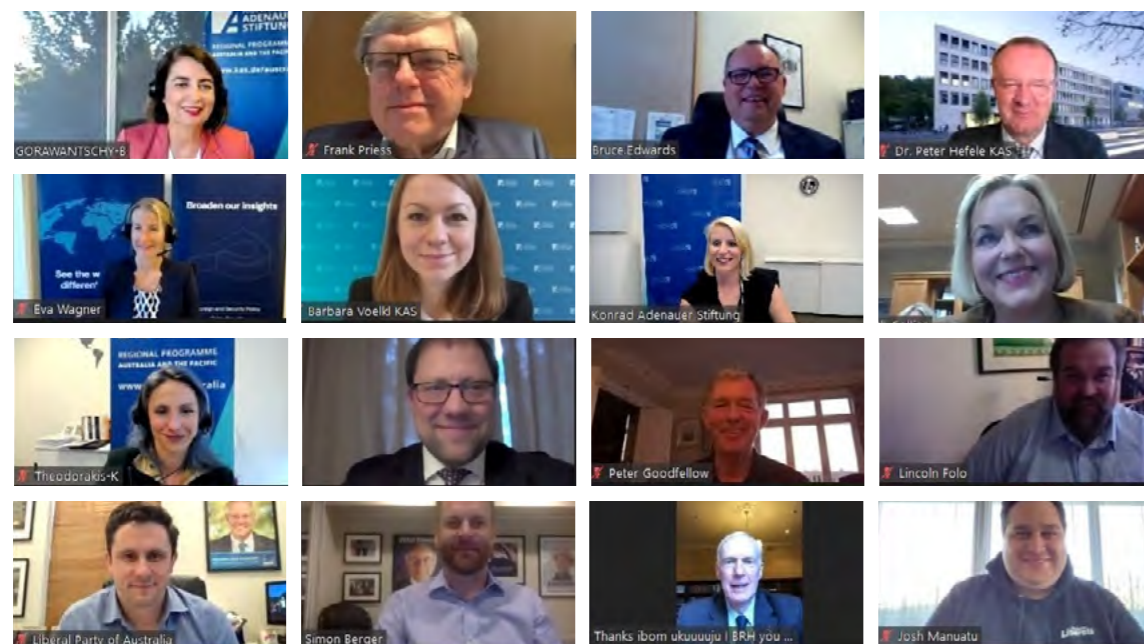
In March, KAS Australia and the Pacific had the privilege of hosting a virtual roundtable with the then CDU International Secretary Bertil Wenger and political party representatives from Australia's Liberal Party and New Zealand's National Party.

In his impulse statement Mr Wenger focussed on three key issues: Firstly, the preceding CDU federal party convention and how the hurdles associated with having to conduct it purely in a digital format were overcome; Secondly, the then newly elected CDU Chairman, Armin Laschet, and his policies - especially with regards to the CDU's international relations policy -, and, thirdly, Germany's 'super election year', with six regional elections and the much-discussed federal election on 26 September 2021.

It became clear that there were many parallels between the challenges outlined by Mr Wenger and those faced by the centre-right parties of Australia and New Zealand,

reinforcing the value of hosting exchanges such as this, even if only in a virtual format, in order to learn from each other. International cooperation and multilateral engagement, based on shared principles and common goals, begin with dialogue.

We highly appreciated the participation and engagement of our guests, with particular mention of the then New Zealand National Party Leader the Hon Judith Collins and Party President, Peter Goodfellow, the Liberal Party of Australia's Federal Vice President Allan Pidgeon and Federal Director Andrew Hirst, both parties' International Secretaries, Greg Hamilton and Bruce Edwards, as well as the Deputy Head of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's Main Department European and International Cooperation, Frank Priess.



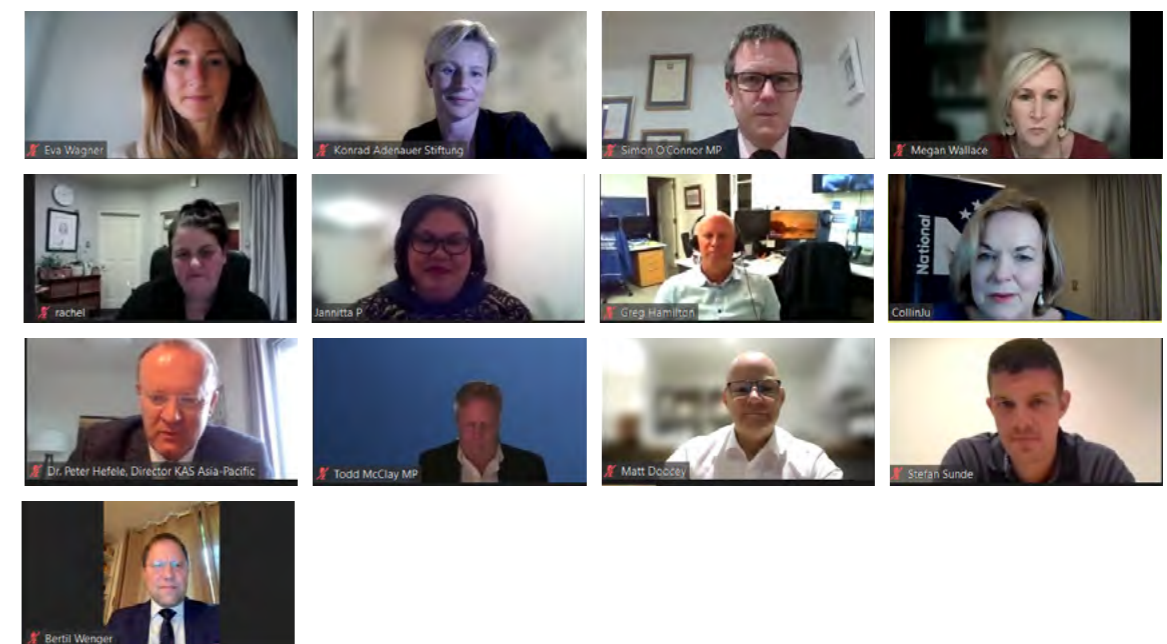
October 2021

Party Dialogue with New Zealand

The CDU after the General Elections and its International Relations

Following a "Party Trialogue" with the Liberal Party of Australia and the National Party of New Zealand in March 2021, our second virtual Party Dialogue was exclusively held with the CDU's New Zealand partner party. Roderich Kiesewetter - Member of the German Bundestag and Deputy Spokesman for Foreign Affairs of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group, had the opportunity to engage in a lively

discussion with various representatives from the National Party, including the then party leader, the Hon Judith Collins. Topics included the CDU after the general elections, current challenges of centre-right parties and the German Policy Guidelines on the Indo-Pacific.



Foreign and Security Policy

Sophia Brook

Programme Coordinator for Research and Analysis (Foreign/Security Policy)

Intense political competition and digital developments have greatly influenced the way we see and understand foreign policy and traditional diplomacy. These complexities have created an increasingly challenging security environment.

In order to avoid being caught off-guard, political decision makers are forced to think ahead more, taking into consideration a wider array of traditional and non-traditional threats. How to navigate strategic uncertainty in the Indo-Pacific, especially with an eye on the changing leadership role of the US in the region, is a formidable challenge for Australia as a regional power committed to upholding the international rules-based order. The European Union is equally facing new economic and security challenges. These include issues arising from digital transformation and emerging technologies. This has led to a clearly articulated vision of 'strategic autonomy' under the new 'geopolitical' EU Commission. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the vulnerabilities inherent in global interdependencies and intensified existing debates about greater resilience, autonomy and various forms of diversification and decoupling. Both Australia and Europe are consequently seeking to take an increasingly active role in shaping the international system.

Here, strategic cooperation centred on

upholding the tenets of the rules-based order is of paramount importance to the kind of stability, security and prosperity that will extend well beyond the Indo-Pacific region. The protagonists of a rules-based international order are challenged in an unprecedented manner these days, especially by China and Russia. Undue Chinese coercive policies stretch from military expansion to trade and informational wars, whereas Russia is evoking the ghosts of war in Europe by militarily threatening Ukraine and other neighbouring countries and trying to wrongfully impose their will on international organisations and independent countries.

The overarching aim of our foreign and security policy analysis is therefore a finer-grained understanding of present geopolitical challenges, through addressing a variety of topics and from various perspectives – with the overarching aim to better identify future challenges and – most importantly - highlight opportunities for cooperation. This will be needed in order for us to prevail in the systemic global challenges which we are about to face in the years to come.

“We want to live up to our responsibility for a rules-based international order, and we want to take an active part in shaping that order. So, we are prepared to defend our interests with active deeds, not just words. And we have to do that more so than in the past.”

Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer
Former German Defence Minister



Arrival of German Navy Frigate Bayern in Perth. Source: German Embassy Australia

Indo-Pacific

Australia, Germany and Europe in the Indo-Pacific – Multilateralism and the Future of International Cooperation in the Region

The Indo-Pacific's centrality to 21st century geopolitics has long been recognised by those in the region. It already hosts 60 per cent of the world's population and is expected to account for more than half of the global economy by the end of this decade. Regional military budgets are expanding at a faster rate than elsewhere. As a consequence, Indo-Pacific concerns have become of increasing strategic interest for countries outside the region as well. A common theme in foreign policy statements in this regard has been a desire to uphold a rules-based international order. To this end, Australia as well as the EU have identified a need for greater sovereignty and strategic autonomy to exercise influence in the international system. This requires new partnerships, as identified in Germany's Indo-Pacific policy guidelines as well as in the recently released EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy.

Germany's decision to send the frigate Bayern on a mission to the region during the second half of 2021 was a significant symbolic act,

intended to signal European strategic commitment to the region. It further forms part of a German commitment to a greater defence and security footprint outside of its traditional comfort zones. It is a tangible signal that Germany is committed to a free, open maritime order and will support its allies in upholding it.

“Our local partners—Australia, Japan, and South Korea—expect us to send a signal, to show our colours, and bring our weight to bear. It's about how we work together with regional democracies and states governed by the rule of law. And about our involvement in regional security dialogues.”

Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer
Former German Defence Minister



October 2021

Europe in the Indo-Pacific Publication Launch

In October, KAS Australia and the Pacific and the Perth USAsia Centre hosted an online event to officially launch the 'Europe's Indo-Pacific embrace: Global partnerships for regional resilience' report. In view of the German Guidelines on the Indo-Pacific and the recently published European Indo-Pacific Strategy, this event aimed to facilitate scientific exchange and strengthen bilateral as well as multilateral cooperation in the face of the Indo-Pacific region's increasingly challenging geopolitical environment.

As the Indo-Pacific evolves economically and strategically, its importance is increasingly recognized by those outside the region, whose desires for global prosperity and security demand closer engagement with Indo-Pacific dynamics. Understanding how Europe and Indo-Pacific actors will interact with the region is vital to all concerned. There is a need for increased knowledge of where European Indo-Pacific interests are best-placed to cooperate with one another, on which issues, and through which channels.

The launch included a keynote address by David McAllister, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, followed by a panel discussion between chapter authors Dr Lynn Kuok, Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Prof. Rory Medcalf, Head of the Australian National University's National Security College, and Veerle Nouwens, Senior Research Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, and a Q&A session, moderated by Perth USAsia Policy Fellow James Bowen. Topics covered included ASEAN's embrace of European approaches to the region, Australia's partnership with Europe and areas of strategic cooperation, the UK's tilt to the Indo-Pacific and an overall discussion of the regional issues to which European partners could make the most significant contribution.

Available online

perthusasia.edu.au/our-work/perthusasia-kas-europe-indopacific-report-2021.aspx

Event Video

youtube.com/watch?v=YJ9na49P2r4

June 2021

Geoconomics and Sovereignty in the Indo-Pacific: Integration across Geographies

Under the heading 'Geoconomics and Sovereignty in the Indo-Pacific: Integration across Geographies', the KAS Regional Programme Australia and the Pacific hosted a special dialogue event with the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment at Parliament House in June.

Minister Tehan gave a keynote speech that focused on increasing areas of convergence between Australian and German/European

interests, highlighting his trip to Europe earlier this year and particularly emphasising the strength and value of the Australia-Germany relationship. His speech drew out key points around the Free Trade Agreements (FTA) between Australia and the UK as well as the EU – which would give Australian producers preferential access to more than 500 million consumers, translating to 'more jobs, growth, economic and trade opportunities and innovation in Australia.'

The Hon Dan Tehan MP during his Keynote speech, Image: Rohan Thompson, Pew Pew Studio





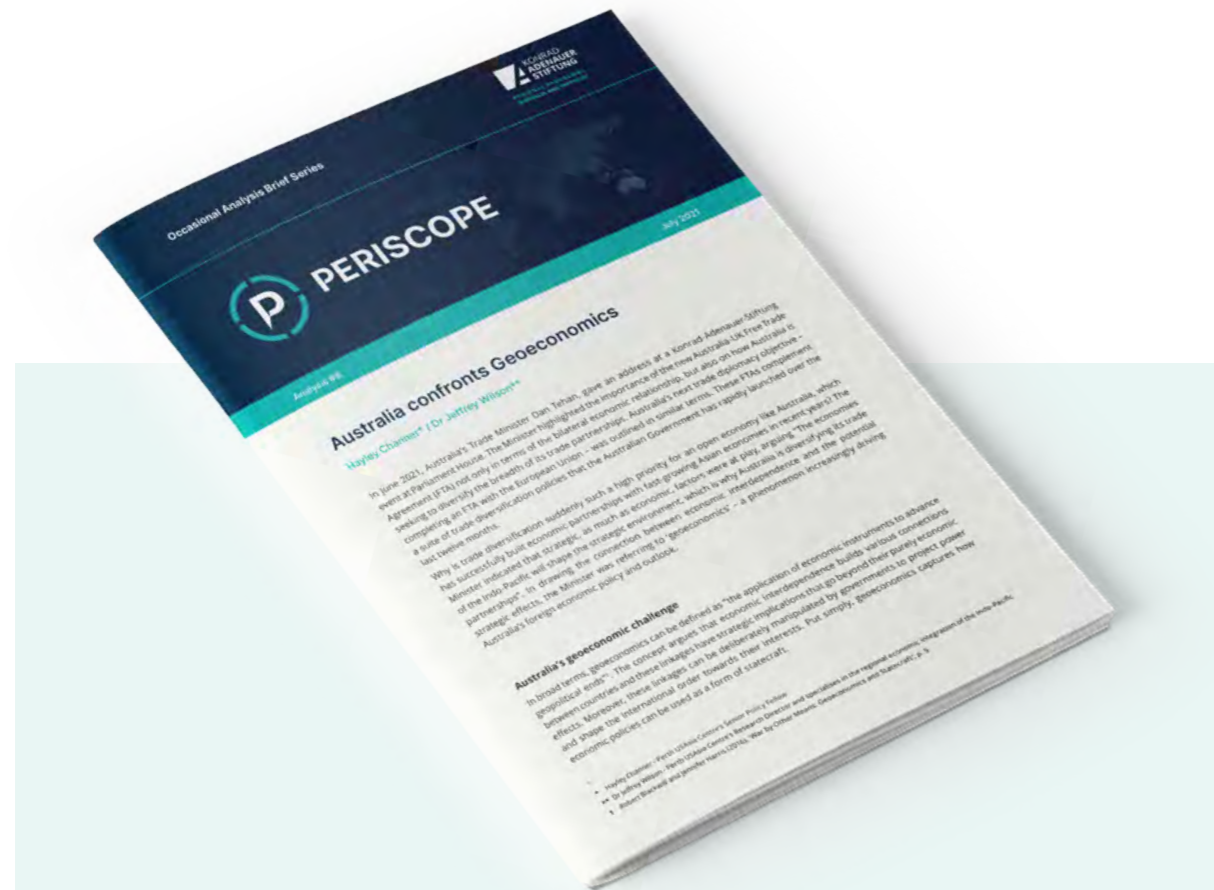
The Hon Eric Abetz during Q&A with Peter Jennings, ASPI. Photo: Rohan Thompson, Pew Pew Studio

He stressed the point that in the current strategic climate it was imperative to diversify trade relationships. This way, these FTAs reflect the UK's and EU's pivot to the Indo-Pacific and are intended to bring together partners in a changing strategic environment. Besides the significant trade agenda Australia is pursuing with the EU, the Minister highlighted Australia's commitment as a 'reliable, trusted and secure energy partner' that has great interest in energy partnerships with Germany – with hydrogen especially important here. Moreover, Minister Tehan drew attention to the need for well-functioning WTO trade dispute mechanisms and APEC as a crucial platform – not only for further trade liberalisation but also for broader regional problems.

The Minister's keynote was followed by a Q&A moderated by ASPI's executive director Peter Jennings, and we were especially delighted to have Sen the Hon Eric Abetz, Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee for the Liberal Party at the Australian Senate, actively contribute to the discussion. Overall, the event was testament to the growing momentum behind the Australia – Europe relationship, underpinned by shared interests in the Indo-Pacific region.



Top: Chargé d'Affaires Andreas Radtke, German Embassy Australia
 Bottom: Former Director, KAS Australia Dr Beatrice Gorawantschy
 Photos: Rohan Thompson, Pew Pew Studio



Australia Confronts Geoeconomics

Periscope Analysis Brief accompanying Geoeconomics Event

In light of German and European commitment (at the EU as well as individual member state-level) to increase engagement in the Indo-Pacific, a number of key areas of convergence arise between Australian and German/European interests. These require addressing important questions related to geoeconomics and sovereignty, and how such abstract concepts and aspirational goals are interpreted and operationalized.

Given the importance of solid conceptual foundations as we explore these issues,

we were extremely pleased to introduce the first Periscope Analysis Brief on this topic by two formidable Australian experts, Hayley Channer and Dr Jeffrey Wilson from the Perth USAsia Centre. 'Australia confronts Geoeconomics' situates Australia's particular challenges in the wider context of geoeconomics as a prominent feature of international politics in the early 21st century.

Australia confronts Geoeconomics • Periscope (periscopekasaustralia.com.au)



July 2021

55th Otago Foreign Policy School

New Zealand Foreign Policy in a Post-COVID World

Since its inception in 1966, the University of Otago Foreign Policy School has developed into one of the premier events in New Zealand's international calendar. Originally started as a workshop on foreign affairs issues, the School soon attracted the attention of New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which recognised its value as a weekend retreat for officials. Representatives from other government bodies, as well as academics, journalists, diplomats, members of the private sector and NGOs, and interested members of the public also participate regularly.

KAS Australia and the Pacific has supported the School since 2018, with the exception of 2020, when the School had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. The 2021 Otago Foreign Policy School focussed on New Zealand's foreign policy in a post-Covid world. The two day conference explored some of the

challenges facing New Zealand foreign policy in the emerging post-Covid era by considering four interrelated themes: (1) Values and Interests; (2) The enduring importance of trade; (3) The looming challenge of climate change, (4) Small/Middle State leadership and soft power projection. Speakers included New Zealand's Foreign Minister, the Hon Nanaia Mahuta, and Dr Kurt Campbell, the United States National Security Council Coordinator for the Indo-Pacific. For more information: otago.ac.nz/foreign-policy-school/2021/

KAS Australia looks forward to supporting the 56th Otago Foreign Policy School in 2022, see otago.ac.nz/foreign-policy-school/index.html



Keynote delivered by Peter Jennings, Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI)

March 2021

German-Australian Chamber of Commerce 'Canberra Delegation' - China's Great Game

At the beginning of 2021, KAS Australia and the Pacific hosted a closed-door discussion for members of the German-Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and security experts in Canberra.

The focus of the event was on regional connectivity, power asymmetries and security integration as great power politics are said to increasingly influence economic and political developments in the Indo-Pacific. Many commentators suggest the course of the next decade will to a large extent be determined by how China and the United States manage their relationship and respective power resources. But taking a broader perspective, it is important to not only focus on great power rivalries but also consider

the roles and capabilities of other nations in the region and beyond. This includes 'outside states' like Europe in terms of their resources, defence capacities, commitment to cooperation and the effectiveness of their foreign policy.

This closed-door event formed part of the German-Australian Chamber's 'Canberra Delegation', an annual event where members have the opportunity to engage with key policy makers in the 'heart of the nation'. This year, the delegation focused on hydrogen, cyber security, Industry 4.0 and the ongoing negotiations for the Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement.



Top: Speeches by AHK Chairman Dr Jens Goennemann and former KAS Australia Director Dr Beatrice Gorawantschy

Cybersecurity

Sophia Brook

Programme Coordinator for Research and Analysis (Foreign/Security Policy)

In a hyper-connected and highly networked world, technology enables individuals, civil society, non-state actors and institutions to impact on social and political agendas more than ever before. Global power-shifts manifest in competing political models, some of which seek to challenge the liberal order. Developments in cyberspace also reflect these power dynamics.

“A specific common concern is for example threats to critical infrastructure, and more specifically threats from cyberspace that could halt the successful implementation of energy transition that both countries have in common.”

Julia Schuetze

Project Manager International Cybersecurity Policy, Stiftung Neue Verantwortung, Berlin

Our analysis seeks to cover these crucial aspects of contemporary cybersecurity challenges. These range from the geopolitical level and questions about the shifting global order and international cyber norms to offensive cyber operations, private sector/industry perspectives, as well as to the challenges of building the cyber workforce of the future. Grappling with cybersecurity therefore also involves addressing underlying questions on sovereignty, trade-offs between privacy and security, transparency and accountability.

As value partners, Germany and Australia share a very similar approach based on their common value basis. Yet, how ‘cybersecurity is done’ at the policy level sometimes varies significantly. It is important to better understand the key differences in these approaches in order to capture their nuances and inherent possibilities. Accordingly, we see tremendous value in comparative analyses and an exchange of perspectives, especially when there are diverging approaches on certain issues. We are especially alert to gear our programs towards that.

In particular, one key objective of our cybersecurity focus is to assess how and why Australia and Germany/Europe may take similar or different approaches, looking at the varied circumstances they may encounter in specific areas.



Photo Credit: Rob Wicks (via unsplash)

March 2021

What happened in the 2021 cyber-sphere?

According to the Australian Annual Cyber Threat Report, 2020-21 has seen a 13% increase in cybercrime reports, with a higher proportion of attacks categorised as ‘substantial impact’ threats. No sector of the Australian economy has been immune from these impacts, including government agencies at all levels, large enterprises, small businesses, families and individuals.

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, more of our everyday life has moved online. This transition, in many cases, has had to happen at such a rapid pace in order to adjust to the fast-changing pandemic developments that rules and regulations regarding cybersecurity have not been able to keep up. As a result, we have seen an increase in cyber threats, from the exploitation of the pandemic environment through phishing and attacks on health sector databases, the disruption of essential services and critical infrastructure and ransomware, to a rapid exploitation of security vulnerabilities, supply-chain software and services and compromised business email systems. In addition to these threats,

there has been a rise in disinformation campaigns – state-sponsored as well as by organised crime and radical groups, hoping to exploit the system for their own gain – and foreign interference in election campaigns.

As these cyber threats are becoming more and more interconnected on an international scale, a joint approach will be needed to effectively address them. This offers scope for further cooperation between like-minded international partners like Australia and Germany/the EU to coordinate counter-measures and pool resources and capabilities in order to develop actionable policy recommendations.

Snapshot

Saving Journalism and Curbing Platform Power? Australia’s News Media and Digital Platforms Mandatory Bargaining Code • Periscope (periscopekasaustralia.com.au)

Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism

Sophia Brook

Programme Coordinator for Research and Analysis (Foreign/Security Policy)

Our analysis of terrorism centres around the key topics of the contemporary threat landscape, such as emerging forms of extremism and their ideological fusion, whether there are differences in disrupting the radicalization process online, in prisons or local communities or understanding cooperation among terrorist and crime networks/actors.

This includes how global and local dynamics interact in traditional conflict zones/crisis hotspots and beyond – extending the focus to how these forces converge and connect to opposition, even attacks against liberal democracies.

Following the Christchurch attack, it has become increasingly clear that in order to fully grasp today's realities of terrorism, it is necessary to cast the net wider; this means examining specific trends, both emerging and continuing as they manifest themselves across the ideological spectrum.

Given the adaptability, innovation and seeming resilience of terrorist movements and groups, it is often assumed that our responses to these threats are reactive rather than proactive – especially with the added uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its diffused concomitant crises. However, 18 years of the Global War on Terror and a significant investment in counter-terrorism practices have provided a myriad of insights and experiences – both practically and conceptually. These can benefit the debates on how to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on terrorism dynamics and the growing threat right-wing extremism poses to liberal society.

“Following the Christchurch attack, it has become increasingly clear that in order to fully grasp today's realities of terrorism, it is necessary to cast the net wider”

Through our work we seek to pool expertise from across Australia and Europe as two closely connected regions. Our aim is to critically examine key developments and existing methods and initiatives, including experiences from the operational level, in order to shed light on how current perspectives and practices could be further developed to meet evolving challenges.

Our thematic focus in 2021 was centred on capturing recent developments in the extremism space following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequences this may have on national security dynamics, especially in the form of socio-political fissures and identity politics.

December 2021

7th ASPI-KAS Europe-Australia Counter-Terrorism Dialogue

The 7th ASPI-KAS Europe-Australia Counterterrorism Dialogue on the topic of 'Strategies for a Resilient Democracy' brought together policy-makers and terrorism experts in a discussion about the increasing threat of anti-democratic actors who use the democratic process in order to subvert it. The dialogue included a keynote address by (now former) German State Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior, Prof. Dr Günter Krings, followed by a panel discussion with Q&A with Australian experts Levi West, Director of Terrorism Studies CSU, and Dr Debra Smith, Industry Research Fellow Victoria University. The overall aim of the dialogue was to provide a policy-relevant debate on effective strategies or strategic action-plans against extremist threats to democratic integrity. It also examined what capabilities can follow from putting a more holistic understanding of extremism into practice.

In view of Germany's front-runner role as the first European nation who recognised the need for a democracy 'capable of defending itself against anti-democratic actors who use the democratic process in order to subvert it', a special focus was placed on the insights and experiences from Germany's long-standing efforts in this area. This included the discussion of its '89 Measures Against Racism, Right-wing Extremism and Anti-Semitism'.

The topic of looking to Germany for a comparative perspective and concrete policy ideas for a more comprehensive CT approach lends itself as an excellent connection point for further nuanced discussions on concrete issues and possible solutions to address friction within democracy. Defining and addressing the various extremist threats will be an ongoing arduous task, but doing so in cooperation with like-minded value partners makes this an easier process. We are looking forward to continuing the discussions in a series of projects under the heading 'A New Wave: Existing, Emerging and Converging Forms of Extremism' throughout 2022.

Keynote Address



Prof. Dr Günter Krings
German State Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior (Former)

Speakers



Levi West
Director of Terrorism Studies CSU



Dr Debra Smith
Industry Research Fellow Victoria University



Special Report

A New Wave? Existing, Emerging and Converging Forms of Extremism

Katja Theodorakis

The 'A New Wave? Existing, Emerging and Converging Forms of Extremism' Periscope Analysis Brief by Katja Theodorakis not only complemented our 7th ASPI-KAS Europe-Australia Counterterrorism Dialogue, but also serves as an introductory brief for KAS Australia and the Pacific's project series of the same name, planned for 2022. It examines recent developments in the extremism space in Western democracies following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the aftermath of the Trump presidency: their impact on existing forms of extremism, how they evolve and possibly converge.



Analysis #9 — 10

Resilience and Preparedness for Future CT Challenges

Periscope Analysis Brief Series CT

Some of the perennial challenges for CT – such as social cohesion, maintaining trust between citizens and police/security agencies – have become more prominent through the COVID-19 crisis, evident in new domestic extremism threats, seemingly increasing radicalization at anti-government protests and resistance to governments' COVID measures.

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted that interconnectedness equals interconnected vulnerabilities – a burden our hyper-globalized world imposes on us. Governments are required to make more multi-faceted strategic choices: simply committing to 'degrading and destroying' a designated external opponent is not enough.



The Resilience and Preparedness for Future CT Challenges: Ethics, Education and the Online Environment publication series critically examines key developments and existing methods and initiatives, including experiences from the operational level, in order to shed light on how current perspectives and practices could be further developed to meet evolving challenges.

Top: Katja Theodorakis, Head of Counterterrorism Program, ASPI with Levi West, Director of Terrorism Studies, CSU
Bottom: KAS Australia Director, Bertil Wenger

Energy Policy

Eva U Wagner

Senior Programme Coordinator for Rule of Law, Energy and Development Policy

Energy security and climate change are among the biggest challenges Australia, Germany and New Zealand are facing. In fact, they are global issues that transcend national borders. Yet they are primarily managed at national level.

In an endeavour to overcome borders (and distances) and to foster collaboration between like-minded countries, KAS Australia supports the free exchange of innovative ideas and policy strategies. Energy and climate matters affect the private, public and business sectors alike. They also have a wider impact on foreign and security policy, and give rise to socio-cultural issues. Accordingly, they must be mastered by the political and economic sectors as well as society as a whole. In 2020, the German Government released its Guidelines for the Indo-Pacific (including Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific). The Guidelines inter alia re-affirm Germany's commitment to intensify cooperation with this region in regards to climate protection, climate change adaptation, protection of biodiversity, renewable energies and energy efficiency. Germany and Australia have jointly commissioned a bilateral supply chain feasibility study for green hydrogen. In addition, the two countries have entered into a Hydrogen Accord, including three major initiatives:

1. Establishing the German-Australian Hydrogen Innovation and Technology Incubator (HyGATE) to support real-world pilot, trial, demonstration and research projects along the hydrogen supply chain. Australia and Germany have respectively committed up to \$50 million and €50 million to establish HyGATE.
2. Facilitating industry-to-industry cooperation on demonstration projects in Australian hydrogen hubs.
3. Exploring options to facilitate the trade of hydrogen and its derivatives produced from renewables (such as ammonia) from Australia to Germany, including through Germany's H2Global Initiative, which supports long-term supply agreements with German industry.

June 2020

2021 KAS Australia & EUCERS Energy Dialogue

Green Recovery in the Asia-Pacific Region

The 2021 KAS Australia & EUCERS Energy Dialogue was implemented by way of two virtual seminars. As in 2020, the focus of the dialogue was on hydrogen, which Australia may soon produce in excess of its domestic demand, and Germany and the European Union may need to import in the foreseeable future to decarbonise their economies. Japan was chosen as an additional dialogue partner as it is deemed to be a pioneer in the area of hydrogen, as evidenced, for example, by 'Suiso Frontier', the world's first liquefied hydrogen carrier.

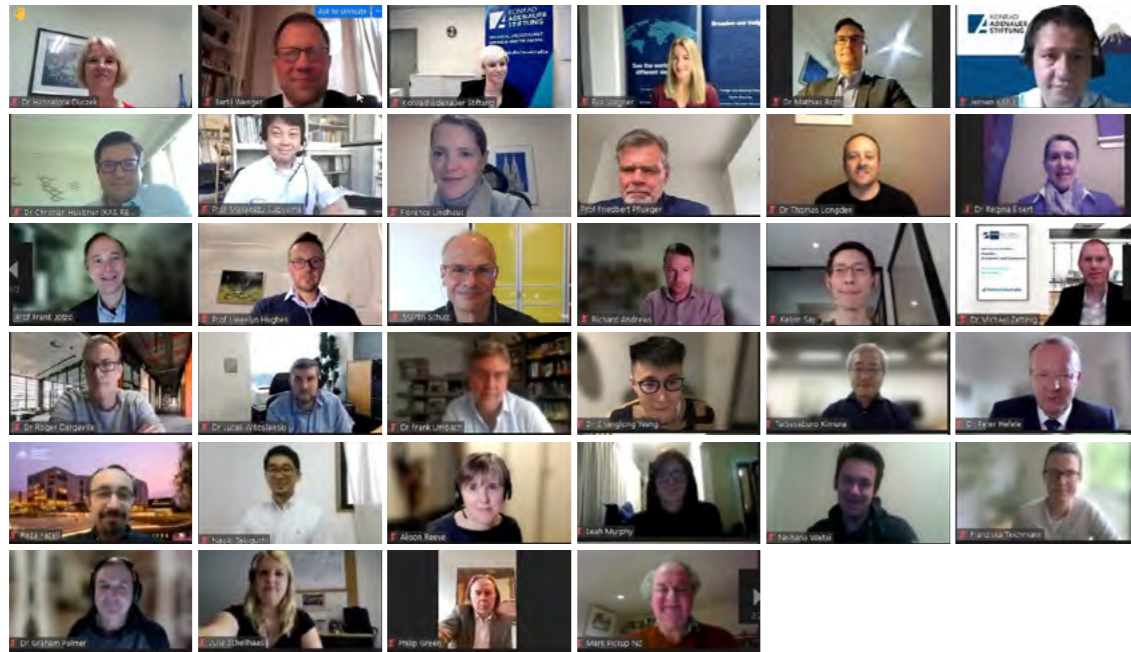
The **first seminar** - held in cooperation with the ANU Centre for Climate and Energy Policy (ANU CCEP) - was a closed expert session on "The Emerging Hydrogen Economies - Shared Interests by Australia, Germany and Japan". Moderated by Prof Frank Jotzo - Head of Energy, ANU CCEP, the event featured experts from each country. In his impulse statement on "Ramping Up the Hydrogen Economy in Germany", Prof Dr Friedbert Pflueger - Director of the European Cluster for Climate, Energy and Resource Security (EUCERS) at the University of Bonn and Managing Partner of Bingmann Pflueger International outlined the German approach. Prof Masakazu Sugiyama - Professor at the Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST) at the University of Tokyo and Hydrogen Envoy of the Queensland State Government used his impulse statement to address "Japan's Hydrogen Demand to Meet Its 2050 Zero Carbon Goal". Ass Prof Llewelyn Hughes from the ANU's Crawford School of Public Policy in his impulse statement on "Global Supply Chains for Hydrogen" took the Australian viewpoint. The impulse statements were followed by a lively discussion of the matters raised in them, including clean versus green hydrogen, the role of carbon capture and storage technology and the transport of hydrogen.

The **second seminar** - held in cooperation with the Australian Smart Energy Council, the German Energy Agency (DENA) and the Renewable Energy Institute of Japan (REI) - was a public session on "The Certification of Hydrogen in Australia, Germany and Japan", that is, one of the shared interests identified during the first virtual seminar. Moderated by Dr Emma Aisbett - Fellow, School of Regulation and Global Governance and Associate Director, Research, Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia-Pacific Grand Challenge, Australian National University (ANU), the event featured experts from each country. In her presentation, Katharina Sailer - Expert, Bioenergy and Renewable Gases, DENA outlined "The German and EU Certification Requirements for the Import of Hydrogen from Australia and Japan". Scott Hamilton - Senior Advisor for Hydrogen Australia and the Smart Energy Council talked about hydrogen certification schemes and projects in Australia. Dr Seiichiro Kimura from the Renewable Energy Institute addressed the status of hydrogen certification in Japan. Dr Frank Umbach - Research Director, EUCERS provided a summary and outlook.

A recording of the seminar is available here: vimeo.com/651801967

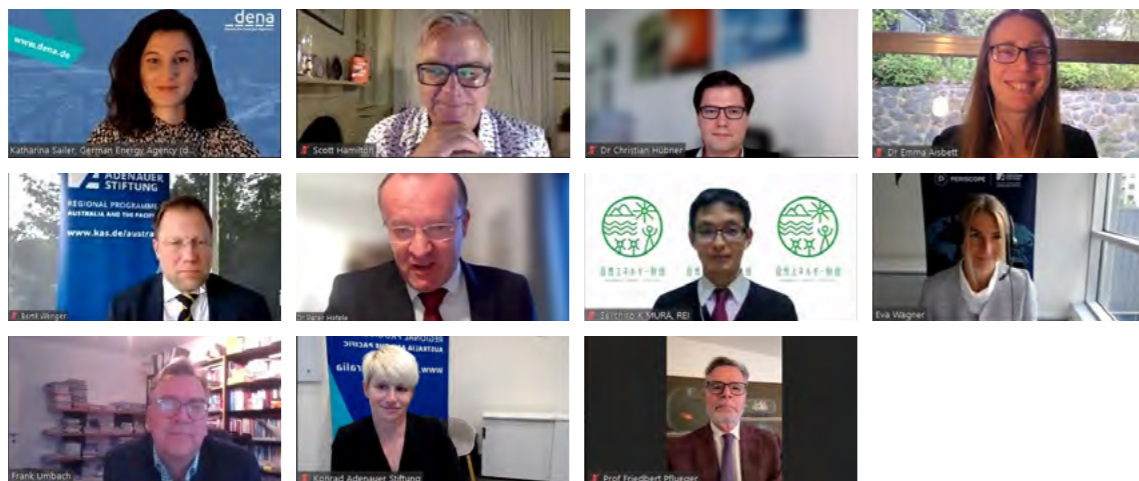
The Emerging Hydrogen Economies - Shared Interests by Australia, Germany and Japan

July 2021



The Certification of Hydrogen in Australia, Germany and Japan

November 2021



Volume 6

The Era of Hydrogen Economies: Shared Interests by Australia, Germany and Japan

The Era of Hydrogen Economies - Shared Interests by Australia, Germany and Japan includes the following contributions:

- Foreword
by Dr Peter Hefe
- Introduction Trilateral Dialogue for Hydrogen - Australia, Germany and Japan
by Ass Prof Llewelyn Hughes
- Hydrogen in Australia
by Ass Prof Llewelyn Hughes, Dr Thomas Longden and Prof Frank Jotzo
- Hydrogen in Germany
by Prof Friedbert Pflueger
- Hydrogen in Japan
by Prof Masakazu Sugiyama

Volume 7

Hydrogen Certification in Australia, Germany and Japan

Hydrogen Certification in Australia, Germany and Japan includes the following contributions:

- Foreword
by Bertil Wenger
- Hydrogen Certification in Australia
by Max Hewitt
- Certification of Renewable Hydrogen in Germany and the European Union as an Import Requirement
by Katharina Sailer and Toni Reinholz
- The Certification of Low-Carbon Ammonia and Hydrogen in Japan
by Dr Seiichiro Kimura
- Conclusions
by Dr Emma Aisbett

Rule of Law

Eva U Wagner

Senior Programme Coordinator for Rule of Law, Energy and Development Policy

According to the United Nations, the rule of law is fundamental to international peace and security and political stability, to achieve economic and social progress and development, and to protect people's rights and fundamental freedoms.

Rule of law and development are strongly interlinked, and strong rule of law-based societies should be aimed at as an outcome of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The rule of law requires the separation of powers, an independent judiciary, and open and transparent law-making by elected representatives. Its principles enable people to openly criticise the law and administration and to assemble freely. They mean that the law is applied equally and fairly and accessible for everyone. The principles also prohibit arbitrary treatment and torture, assume that people are innocent until proven guilty, may remain silent when being interrogated and are not required to incriminate themselves. In addition, they prevent civil or criminal prosecution for an offence unknown to the law when committed, and prohibit people to be adversely subjected to a retrospective change of the law.

While the rule of law may be more or less well established in some countries, the principles are non-existent or fall short of the required standard in others. And, even if they are well established in a country, they are nothing that may be taken for granted. Rather, their implementation must be actively monitored, be discussed and be recalibrated, if and when necessary. The importance of the rule of law has become particularly obvious during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Governments do not always "get it right". Their actions may, for example, be disproportionate and, if so, there must be remedies available. KAS Australia aims to connect Germany and the European Union with Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific so as to increase mutual understanding, and to foster idea and knowledge sharing between policy makers, legal experts, and other stakeholders. More precisely, we seek to foster the ongoing rule of law debate, including current issues such as the regulation of big tech companies in the digital era, the interaction of law and politics, and opportunities and limits of rule of law states.

"The importance of the rule of law has become particularly obvious during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Governments do not always 'get it right'."

June 2021

Rule of Law Dialogue with Australia

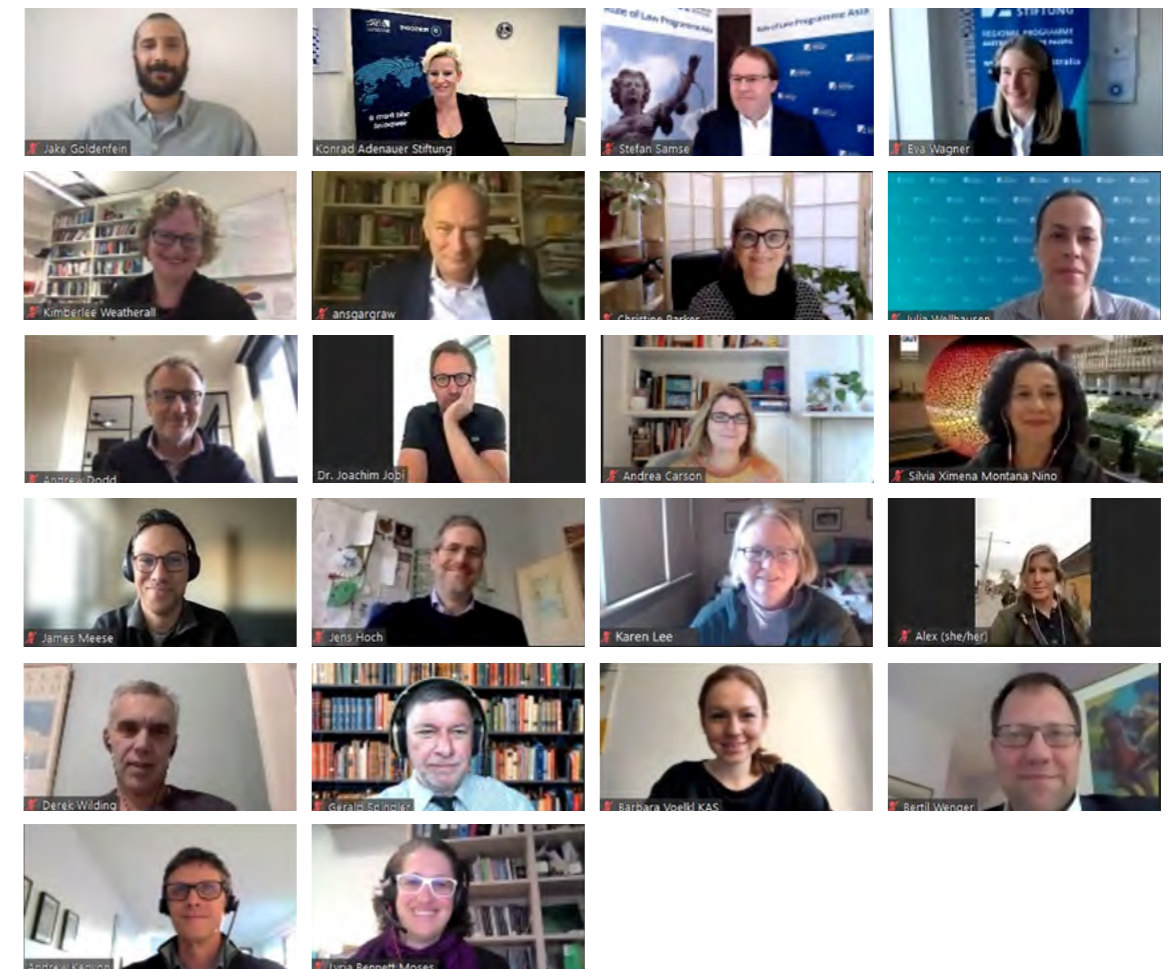
The Regulation of Big Tech Companies in the Digital Era

KAS Australia has continued its Rule of Law Dialogue with Australia by way of a virtual seminar in cooperation with the Melbourne Law School (MLS) on the regulation of big tech companies in the digital era. Chaired by Prof Andrew Kenyon from MLS, the event featured Dr Jake Goldenfein from MLS, Prof Gerald Spindler from the University of Goettingen, Prof Kimberlee Weatherall from the University of Sydney and Dr Joachim Jobi from the German collecting agency Corint Media.

The experts engaged in a lively discussion of the various approaches taken by Australia, Germany and the European Union (EU).

The event was supported by analysis briefs of the Australian News Media Bargaining Code and corresponding German and EU legislation.

See page 34 for supporting publications



Analysis #5

The Australian News Media Bargaining Code

Jake Goldenfein

The News Media Bargaining Code is Australia's response to calls to redistribute advertising revenues between digital platforms and News Media Organisations (NMOs). Newspaper circulations and advertising revenues have declined with the growth of online news. In Australia, print advertising revenues are predicted to decline a further 14.5% between 2019 - 2024. Advertising has always generated more profit than newspaper subscriptions, but online advertising has proved less lucrative for NMOs than print, and the ratio of print to online advertising revenue is decreasing. There are multiple causes, including new forums for advertising spend, the growth of behavioural advertising (where advertisers bid on ad space according to the likelihood of influencing consumer behaviour, informed by rich profiles and inferences about user behaviour and preferences) over contextual advertising (ie advertising based on the features of a website or piece of content), and platforms' control of the profitable ad-tech ecosystem where NMO ad inventory is sold online.



The Australian News Media Bargaining Code

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- 1. Introduction
2. Background
3. The Code
4. Key provisions
5. Implementation
6. Conclusion

Analysis #6

The Regulation of Big Tech Companies in the Digital Era

Prof Dr Gerald Spindler

"The empire strikes back" - this could be the title not only of a Star Wars movie but also of the recent movements of legislators across the globe, in particular the European Union, concerning activities and business models of big technology enterprises such as the famous GAFA (Google - Apple - Facebook - Amazon). Regulators are responding to traditional industries complaining about being exploited or discriminated against by, and growing monopoly-like power of, big technology companies. Complaints relate to the exploitation and use of third-party created content such as news, while simultaneously refusing access to important data, thus constraining the creation of new business models. The complaints also touch on crucial issues for democracies such as open discussion of political issues or spreading of fake news, without incurring liability or denying responsibility for acting as gatekeepers for the services in question.



The Regulation of Big Tech Companies in the Digital Era: The German and EU viewpoints

1. Introduction
The empire strikes back" - this could be the title not only of a Star Wars movie but also of the recent movements of legislators across the globe, in particular the European Union, concerning activities and business models of big technology enterprises such as the famous GAFA (Google - Apple - Facebook - Amazon). Regulators are responding to traditional industries complaining about being exploited or discriminated against by, and growing monopoly-like power of, big technology companies. Complaints relate to the exploitation and use of third-party created content such as news, while simultaneously refusing access to important data, thus constraining the creation of new business models. The complaints also touch on crucial issues for democracies such as open discussion of political issues or spreading of fake news, without incurring liability or denying responsibility for acting as gatekeepers for the services in question.

- 1. Introduction
2. Background
3. The Code
4. Key provisions
5. Implementation
6. Conclusion



See the world from a different viewpoint

- Foreign and Security Policy
Cybersecurity
Terrorism / Counter-Terrorism
Energy Policy
Rule of Law
Development Policy

Development Policy

Eva U Wagner

Senior Programme Coordinator for Rule of Law, Energy and Development Policy

The South Pacific Island states have rather diverse political systems and populations. Their developmental stages vary greatly. Nonetheless, they face similar challenges, including human and state security, natural disasters and resource scarcity.

The Boe Declaration on Regional Security issued by the Pacific Islands Forum leaders' meeting in 2018 reaffirms that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the region. There is also rising strategic competition for supremacy by major powers. China's growing influence has triggered the United States and its regional allies Australia, New Zealand and Japan to develop closer ties with the region. Likewise, the German Government announced its intent to strengthen its engagement with the Indo-Pacific (including Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific). Under the 2020 Policy Guidelines for the Indo-Pacific, Germany inter alia seeks to intensify its cooperation with regional institutions. To this end, the German Government has committed to send high-level representatives to summit meetings and to promote additional projects as a dialogue partner of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

An exchange of government and non-government actors in the region may help to understand the complex dynamics. However, it cannot substitute the sustainable dialogue with the Pacific Island states themselves. Sustainable development and security is impossible without stable democracies, which, in turn, are impossible without the rule of law. KAS Australia therefore seeks to address a range of development policy issues with a focus on the United Nations' sustainable development goals (Agenda 2030), in particular, peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16). More precisely, we seek to promote good governance, institution and capacity building and regional integration as well as the development of inclusive political parties and the rule of law throughout the region.

"KAS Australia therefore seeks to address a range of development policy issues with a focus on the United Nations' sustainable development goals (Agenda 2030), in particular, peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16)."

International Dispute Resolution and Climate Change

In 2020, KAS Australia supported the development of the Institute of Small and Micro States online training course on international dispute resolution and climate change, aimed at stakeholders in small states in general and Pacific Island states in particular. The course was launched in 2021 and has since attracted participants from countries around the world.

The course allows stakeholders to gain a basic understanding of international dispute resolution and its importance for small states. The objective is to equip participants from Pacific Island, Caribbean and African Small States with international dispute resolution capacity. The course allows participants to make informed choices regarding international dispute resolution by:

1. Fostering awareness of the different dispute resolution mechanisms and climate change/environmental issues (law reform).
2. Providing basic International Dispute Resolution awareness for a large number of stakeholders. Including judges, government officials, legal practitioners, business owners, academics and NGOs.
3. Familiarising participants with environmental law related issues and the importance of the various dispute resolution mechanisms in light of possible environmental/climate change claims.

Find out more at:

edge.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WellingtonUniventures+IDR101x+2021/about

September 2021

Pacific Update

The Australian National University's (ANU) Pacific Update was first held in 2012 at the Crawford School of Public Policy. Meanwhile jointly hosted by the Australian National University's Development Policy Centre and the University of the South Pacific's School of Accounting, Finance and Economics, the annual conference has since developed into the premier forum for discussion of current economic, social, political, and environmental issues in the region.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 Pacific Update in its 9th iteration was held online. The conference focussed on various topics, including politics and regionalism, food security and supply chains, gender, economics, agriculture and health systems.

You can find a recording of the conference here:

Pacific Update | Development Policy Centre (devpolicy.crawford.anu.edu.au/pacific-update)

Taking the role of observer in 2021, KAS Australia looks forward to getting actively involved in the event again in 2022.

Publications

Publications are an important part of KAS Australia’s activities in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. They ensure that the research we commission and carry out is made available to a greater audience, and may be used for future reference. Contributions cover the topics on which we are focussed, namely foreign and security policy, counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, rule of law, energy and development policy, as well as related socio-economic matters. They are published independently, in support of, or following specific projects.

Periscope is not only the name of our complimentary website but also the title of our serial publications issued in two formats. Our Periscope Paper Series includes either longer analyses or several analysis briefs on associated issues, whereas we use our Periscope Brief Series to publish individual analysis briefs.

Periscope
periscopekasaustralia.com.au

Digital Snapshot is a regular digest that offers a panorama view and analysis of media and think tank articles on current affairs in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region.

Digital Lens • Periscope
periscopekasaustralia.com.au

Podcasts
As of 2022, our new Periscope Podcast Series will complement our digital snapshots, and be published alternatively or in addition to them. There will also be special podcast editions outside the scope of our Periscope Podcast Series.

Digital Lens • Periscope
periscopekasaustralia.com.au

Special Reports are published on an ad hoc basis, often to cover important events such as general elections. One example would be the Country Report issued prior to the German Federal Elections held in 2021.

Analysis Brief • Periscope
periscopekasaustralia.com.au/briefs/german-elections-2021

Cooperation Partners’ Publications
Finally, we also support research and distribute publications by our esteemed cooperation partners that are of relevance to this region and Germany as well as the European Union. One example would be the Perth USAsia Center’s report on ‘Europe’s Indo-Pacific Embrace: Global partnerships for regional resilience’ published with KAS Australia’s support in September 2021.

Perth USAsia - Europe’s Indo-Pacific embrace: Global partnerships for regional resilience

Analysis #4

APEC in New Zealand: A Year of Meeting Digitally

Dr Alan Bollard

New Zealand has commenced its 2021 hosting of APEC. A decision was made early that all meetings would be held virtually, breaking with tradition. Though inevitable, this decision was not popular amongst the APEC community, where diplomats and trade negotiators have traditionally relied on face-to-face meetings for their business. Early experience from the New Zealand year is that remote meetings have proved a very effective way to transmit information, but it has been much harder to negotiate positions at a distance.

APEC is a unique international organisation. It is composed of economies not countries (including three economies listed by APEC convention as China, Hong Kong SAR, and Chinese Taipei). It is a voluntary arrangement, not ratified by member economies, and not subject to national law, so its declarations and programmes are not legally binding on members. Each member effectively holds a veto, and hence APEC only moves forward with broad consensus. As such, it cannot force change in contentious areas. But it has been successful in the past at sourcing new ideas about trade and development policies in the Asia-Pacific context, promoting best practice and harmonising among its members, and integrating economic flows.



Special Report

German Elections 2021

Bertil Wenger

In September 2021, KAS Australia released a pre-election report on the then upcoming federal elections in Germany, authored by its new Director, Bertil Wenger. The report provides you with an in-depth analysis of the run up to the elections held on 26 September 2021, including the pre-election polls, possible coalitions and the candidates for the role of chancellor (prime minister).



July 2021

Tools of the Trade: Unpacking the EU's Open Strategic Autonomy Trade Strategy and what it could mean for the EU-AUS FTA

What is Open Strategic Autonomy?

John Fitzgerald

The European Commission recently adopted a new trade strategy called Open Strategic Autonomy (OSA), which seeks to integrate sustainability objectives, security requirements, and economic openness into a single trade strategy.

Aligning these three pillars indicates a recommitment to the trade and sustainable development chapters of agreements and sees a championing of the 'Green New Deal'. Its goal is to maintain open, fair, sustainable, rules-based trade in response to the challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, international tensions, and sustaining the multilateral rules-based order.

Find out more:
periscopekasaustralia.com.au/tools-of-the-trade-unpacking-the-eus-open-strategic-autonomy-trade-strategy-and-what-it-could-mean-for-the-eu-aus-fta/



photocredit: pixabay-278918 (via pexels)

Strategic Insights

April 2021

ASPI Centre for Climate and Security Policy

In 2021, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) launched its new Centre for Climate and Security Policy, headed by Dr Robert Glasser. In support of its launch, the Centre published – with KAS Australia's support – Dr Glasser's report on "The Rapidly Emerging Crisis on our Doorstep".

[The rapidly emerging crisis on our doorstep | Australian Strategic Policy Institute | ASPI](#)

This Strategic Insight report warns that within a decade, as the climate continues to warm, the relatively benign strategic environment in Maritime Southeast Asia - a region of crucial importance to Australia - will begin unravelling. Dr Robert Glasser, Head of ASPI's new Climate and Security Policy Centre, documents the region's globally unique exposure to climate hazards, and the increasingly significant cascading societal impacts they will trigger.

Dr Glasser notes that hundreds of millions of people living in low-lying coastal areas will not only experience more severe extremes, but also more frequent swings from extreme heat and drought to severe floods. The diminishing time for recovery in between these events will have major consequences for food security, population displacements and resilience.

According to Dr Glasser, 'Any one of the numerous increasing risks identified in the report would be serious cause for concern for Australian policymakers, but the combination of them, emerging effectively simultaneously, suggests that we're on the cusp of an overlooked, unprecedented and rapidly advancing regional crisis.'

The report presents several policy recommendations for Australia, including the need to greatly expand the Government's capacity to understand and identify the most likely paths through which disruptive climate events (individually, concurrently, or consecutively) can cause cascading, security-relevant impacts, such as disruptions of critical supply chains, galvanized separatist movements, climate refugees, opportunistic intervention by outside powers, political instability, and conflict.

Dr Glasser also proposes that Australia should identify priority investments to scale-up the capability within Defence, Foreign Affairs, the intelligence agencies, Home Affairs and other key agencies to recognise and respond to emerging regional climate impacts, including by supporting our regional neighbours to build their climate resilience.



International Report

#1/21

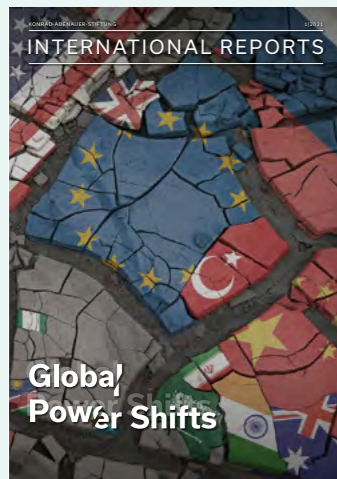
Global Power Shifts

“A New and Less Benign Strategic Area” - Australia as a Strategic Power in the Indo-Pacific Region,

by Beatrice Gorawantschy and
Barabara Völkl

When Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison unveiled his country's new defence strategy in 2020, he announced a shift towards “a new and less benign strategic area”. With the dawn of a new era, defined by the end of the unchallenged hegemony of the US and the seemingly unstoppable rise of China, Australia is starting to view itself as a regional power and the guardian of a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific. The geoeconomic and geostrategic balance of the Indo-Pacific has perhaps shifted more rapidly and dramatically than in any other region of the world. With its key position in the South West Pacific and Eastern Indian Ocean, Australia is taking on a proactive leadership role – together with like-minded partners in the region and around the globe.

International Reports 1/2021 (kas.de)
(pp. 44-58)



Country Reports

October 2021

Australien, AUKUS und die Auswirkungen der Kündigung des australisch-französischen U-Boot Projektes

Bertil Wenger und Sophia Brook

The joint statement by Australia, the United States and Great Britain on the joint establishment of the AUKUS Security Agreement in mid-September 2021 caused a stir in both the media and international politics. Not least because of the associated termination of the Australian-French submarine agreement adopted in 2016 at the contractually latest possible date. Australia's motives for joining AUKUS and accepting potential anger from France can be explained by looking at Australia's recent foreign and security policy interests.

This report is only available in German.
link: kas.de/en/web/australien/laenderberichte/detail/-/content/australien-aukus-und-die-auswirkungen-der-kuendung-des-australisch-franzoesischen-u-boot-projektes



Digital Snapshot

A potpourri of current affairs topics from Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific brought to you by KAS Australia and the Pacific. Our digital snapshots showcase selected media and think tank articles to provide a panorama view and analysis of the debate in these countries.

#1/21

New Zealand - APEC 2021

February 2021 / by Eva U Wagner

In 2021, New Zealand hosted the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) under the theme *Join. Work. Grow. Together.* For the first time in the forum's history, all meetings were held virtually. While the host country's decision to go virtual was comprehensible with a view to the ongoing pandemic, the decision gave rise to cybersecurity concerns. The Digital Snapshot provides the reader with background information on the economic forum, the host country's agenda and its priorities, the achievement of which will be seen in the next few years.



Photo Credit: Martin Sanchez (via unsplash)

#06/21

The Quad Joint-Leaders Meeting: A New Era of Strategic Leadership in the Indo-Pacific?

March 2021 / by Katja Theodorakis

The virtual summit between the Australian Prime Minister, India's PM Modi, Japan's PM Suga and US President Biden was a first in many regards: it marked US President Biden's first multilateral meeting since taking office, it was the first ever first ever meeting between the leaders of the Quad nations (not just their foreign ministers) and, for the first time also produced a joint statement as well as an op-ed in the Washington Post.



Photo Credit: John Blanton (via unsplash)

Digital Snapshot

(Continued)

#7/21

Tuvalu - Digital Transformation

March 2021 / by Eva U Wagner

This Digital Snapshot is concerned with Tuvalu's digital transformation agenda. One of the world's smallest independent nations, Tuvalu comprises nine low-lying coral atolls. Half of its estimated population of 11,000 lives in the capital Funafuti. Apart from climate change and rising sea levels, with only one ATM and no online banking, accessing cash ranks amongst its biggest issues. In response, the government is considering the introduction of blockchain technology. The objective is for the country to become a paperless society, with all of its legislative, executive and financial data stored online in a public ledger. The idea is also to replace its cash economy with a new digital currency, rather than using one of the cryptocurrencies currently available.



Photo Credit: ev (via unsplash)

#9/21

"Officially a Terror Organization, Religiously or Ideologically Motivated, Online, Offline, 'Onlife?'"

April 2021 / by Katja Theodorakis

This snapshot offers a brief overview and explainer on the significance of a number of interesting debates and developments in regards to extremism/terrorism that took place in Australia and New Zealand in 2021, all to varying degrees related to the Christchurch attack and touching on fundamental questions/ issues. and radical elements of society.



Photo Credit: Todd Quackenbush (via unsplash)

#11/21

Lines in the Water: German and European Security Engagement in the Indo-Pacific

April 2021 / by Katja Theodorakis

In 2021, Germany sent a warship to the Indo-Pacific – and it was a big deal. The frigate Bayern stopped in Perth and Darwin as part of a journey flanked by engagements with allied nations and organizations. To the conventional eye, this may have seemed trivial, or even insignificant, a largely ceremonial move without real strategic effects. This edition explains why the strategic effect of a physical German defence presence in the region, as a previously reticent military actor, should, however, not be underestimated.



Photo Credit: Steve Jones (via unsplash)

#16/21

Samoa - A FAST end to an Era of Political Dominance?

June 2021 / by Eva U Wagner

In April 2021, the Independent State of Samoa held general elections (see Digital Snapshot #8/21). Since then, events have unfolded thick and fast. Digital Snapshot #16/21 outlines the most crucial details needed to understand the events, including information on the women quota provided for under the country's constitution, and the issues it has caused for the newly founded FAST female party leader, who has since become Samoa's Prime Minister.



Photo Credit: Paul Schellekens (via unsplash)

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periscopekasaustralia.com.au/digital-lens

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Meet the team



Bertil Wenger

Director Regional Programme Australia and the Pacific

“Having had a long experience in international party politics, always in close cooperation with KAS in Berlin, heading the regional office Australia and the Pacific provides a great opportunity for me to work in a geopolitically evermore important region and on a fascinating continent with its great people.”



Eva U Wagner

Senior Programme Coordinator
Rule of Law, Energy and
Development Policy

“Having a background in law, KAS Australia provides me with the opportunity to see the world from a broader viewpoint. It is exciting to work at the intersection of law and politics, and rewarding to foster collaboration between the two countries and regions that I call home.”



The KAS Australia and the Pacific Team
(from left to right): Juliane Strache, Anne Angelo, Bertil Wenger, Eva U Wagner, Katharina Lilly, Sophia Brook
(Photo Credit: Rohan Thomson, Pew Pew Studio)



Sophia Brook

Programme Coordinator Research and
Analysis Foreign and Security Policy

“My background is in international relations, with a focus on Australian foreign and security policy. I joined the KAS team recently and am looking forward to leading a variety of engaging projects that enhance our understanding of great power competition in the Indo-Pacific and what this means for Australian, German and European relations.”



Anne Angelo

Financial and Administration Manager

“It is great to be a part of KAS’ amazing contributions to Australia and the Pacific region. Having worked in accounting firms and corporate groups in accounting and financial analysis, I provide financial guidance and support to the KAS activities.”



Katharina Lilly

Administration Officer

“Having joined KAS in September 2020, I support the team on the administrative side. I have a background in hospitality and travel, having worked in different countries in Europe, Africa and now Australia. I enjoy the international factor in my work here at KAS and being part of the amazing KAS network. I am delighted to be able to contribute to the variety of KAS projects.”



Juliane Strache

Office, Events and
Communication Manager

“With extensive experience in hospitality and events management my focus is on delivering successful events through the planning and execution of various programmes. Having been with KAS Australia for over a year, I enjoy being part of such a versatile and proactive team and thoroughly enjoy the various projects I can be part of.”

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CP = Country Programme
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