

Regional Programme  
**Australia and the Pacific**  
Activities 2022



REGIONAL PROGRAMME  
AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC

# Contents

<b>3</b>	The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
<b>4</b>	A Word from the Director
<b>10</b>	Parliamentary and Political Party Dialogue
<b>22</b>	Foreign and Security Policy
<b>32</b>	Cybersecurity
<b>36</b>	Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism
<b>40</b>	Energy Policy
<b>42</b>	Rule of Law
<b>46</b>	Development Policy
<b>58</b>	Publications
60	Periscope
64	Podcast Series
64	Other Publications
66	Digital Snapshot
67	2022 Digital Snapshot Index
<b>68</b>	Meet the Team

## 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 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

The year 2022 finally brought an end to the travel-restricting COVID-measures in Australia and the region. This was a great relief for many Australian and New Zealand families who had suffered from the inability to see one another. For KAS Australia and the Pacific, the ease of restriction mid 2022 meant returning to one of our key functions: serving as a platform for political exchange by means of travelling and mutual visits to Australia/Pacific and Germany/Europe.

One of the highlights of KAS Australia's activities was a delegation from the National Party of New Zealand attending our Head Office's domestic programmes to Germany. This meant that in June we were able to take a small delegation from the New Zealand National Party under the leadership of the Honourable Louise Upston MP to Berlin. In addition to important meetings with stakeholders in the German Bundestag, the Foreign Office and numerous think tanks, the group was also able to attend the 2022 Forum of the International Democratic Union (IDU), the largest Conservative/Centre-Right party association in the world. Against the cruel backdrop of the imperialist, criminal war on Ukraine by Russia and a 2-year-period without in-person-events, the meeting was a great opportunity to renew old friendships, address future challenges for Centre-Right parties, and voice a clear and strong message of support for the brave Ukrainian people.

Volkmar Klein MP, Vice-Chairman of the Germany-Pacific Friendship Group in the German Bundestag and spokesman on development

policy for the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group, was the first to visit Australia in August 2022. Volkmar's visit brought him to Perth, Sydney and Canberra, meeting old acquaintances and forging new ones. Among those were leading party and government representatives like Matt Kean, NSW Treasurer and Minister for Energy, and Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Shadow Minister in the Australian Parliament and WA Leader of Parliamentary Party, to name but two. We were thankful to be invited on a tour of the headquarters of a successful German company operating in Australia, Weidmüller, specialising in products, solutions and services in the industrial environment of power, signals and data.

We were also pleased that we could continue to promote Australia – EU relations in 2022. This could have no better been achieved than with the visit of the Chairman of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, David McAllister MEP. David had a busy week, bringing him to Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra, speaking on numerous occasions such as the celebration of the German national day, at the

annual conference of the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA), where he was the only foreign speaker, and, last but not least, as our guest of honor for this year's KAS Lecture on "The EU – Indo-Pacific relations in times of uncertainty and geo-political power struggle".

A premiere this year was delegating our first KAS Australia "Fellow" from Australia to our KAS head office in Berlin for a 2-month stay of research and interaction with stakeholders in Germany and Europe. Our partner of various projects up to date, Dr Robert Glasser, Head of ASPI's Climate and Security Policy Centre, gladly accepted our invitation. Robert had a successful stay, speaking to leading CDU/CSU-parliamentarians, at the CDU headquarters, and travelling to conferences as far as Hamburg and to KAS' conference venue at the Villa La Collina at Lake Como in Italy. We are aiming at continuing this fellowship-program by organising a return visit from a fellow from Germany to Australia and the region in 2023.

One of the highlights of this year was the visit of a delegation of Bundestag MPs under the leadership of former Minister for Agriculture, Julia Klöckner MP, to Sydney and Canberra. Julia was joined by Dr Guenter Krings – who also made the first German MP appearance after the COVID-lockdown to New Zealand -, Markus Koob MP and Senior Foreign Policy Adviser Dr Christian Forneck. The culmination of their one-week-stay was the first iteration of KAS Australia and the Pacific's Security Conference. This two-day event was designed to bring together foreign policy experts from Germany, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, recognising the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific in terms of a holistic approach on security issues. The well-attended event was a great success and has encouraged us to go for the second iteration as early as 2023 with an aim to make it grow and attract even more participants.

Our work in the region was focussed on our established programmes like our Counter-Terrorism dialogue, which brought experts from Germany to Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. Only

virtual, but nonetheless important in these times of global uncertainty, was our Cybersecurity dialogue, focussing on the topics of foreign interference and the protection of critical infrastructures, and Active Cyber Defence, two issues that have become increasingly important of late.

Sadly, my gloomy remarks in last year's activities report about the Russian buildup of troops in Belarus on the Ukrainian border turned into a sad reality: as of 24 February, Russia, under its fascist leader Putin conducted a vicious criminal heist on a peaceful neighbour, committing outrageous war crimes by killing and raping thousands of innocent civilians and shelling Ukrainian cities and cultural sites to pieces, like the city of Mariupol. Putin's imperialist war has destroyed all hopes that a relation of trust and partnership would be possible with Russia. But so shocking as the attack was, so unprecedented were the reactions of the international community. Many decisions that were taken – from economic sanctions to oil and gas embargos – would not have been possible only little more than 11 months ago. Australia – some 13.000 km away from the war – was one of the quickest in supplying "Bushmaster" vehicles and assuring a steady support of the Ukrainian forces. In his historic speech on 27 February 2022, Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced a series of decisions that go far beyond the current war in Ukraine. This speech ended a series of seemingly endless debates on German security policy, announcing that, from now on, the federal government plans to spend more than two percent of Germany's gross domestic product on defense every year. The Bundeswehr will also receive armed drones and a state-of-the-art successor to the Tornado fighter jet, ensuring Germany's long-term nuclear participation within NATO. And, yes, Russian tanks are fought against with German weapons as you read these lines.

And yet, in the weeks and months following the proclaimed "Zeitenwende" (change of an era) from Chancellor Scholz, the German

Government gave the impression that it was primarily concerned with finding reasons why much needed weapons could not be delivered, rather than trying to help the Ukrainian armed forces in the best possible way. This hesitant stance was met with increasingly harsh criticism from Germany's international partners, for example, from our direct neighbour, Poland. German politics – so the complaints went - is too slow, too hesitant, and not keeping pace with developments. For most international partners, the German announcements were more like the bare minimum that should have been put in place a long time ago. Many had hoped that Chancellor Scholz's "Zeitenwende" speech would herald a new era and that further steps would soon follow the announcements. And finally and thankfully, in early January, Germany agreed – together with France and the US – to deliver infantry fighting vehicles (Germany and the USA) and light combat tanks (France) to Ukraine, a step Chancellor Scholz had up until then avoided, fearing this might be considered as becoming a party in this war.

More courage is needed if we, the West, want to prevail in this war, which is a war against us, the liberal democracies of the world, the European Union, the international rules-based order, and the post WW II European peace accord as well. We cannot shy away from the intimidations of a group of former spies gone rogue, trying to manipulate our minds and judgement. It would be a great sign to the international community if Germany were to take up a leading role in the efforts to supply the brave Ukrainians with the weapons needed to make Russia lose this war and restore the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Nothing else can be the outcome, there is far too much at stake. The question of whether to finally supply main battle tanks to the Ukrainians to be able to re-conquer and hold their territory will be the next chance to show this leadership. Especially in view of the mistakes made by Germany in the past dealing with Putin's Russia, this leadership would not only be welcome, but is expected.

The war in Ukraine forces us to take a closer look at the question, what other security risks we may be underestimating or even neglecting. How do

we contain China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific and elsewhere? What changes are necessary to adapt our foreign and security policies if we are agreeing that there is a "Zeitenwende" and acknowledging that a lot of the guidelines and principles we relied upon in the past have been proven wrong? This review has to be thoroughly carried out and we must not leave our populations behind, assuring that they understand the need and the costs that come with our increased focus on our security and on protecting our way of life.

As KAS Australia and the Pacific we will continue to try to play our role in contributing to this debate. As mentioned earlier, our recent inaugural Security Conference carried out over two days in Canberra was only the first iteration and we will continue this series in 2023. Not only Australia but also Germany sees the increased need for a "Pacific Pivot" towards the Pacific Island States, and thus the German Government has asked us to focus on this region even more than before. This will lead to us engaging in projects in Fiji and Samoa in 2023, but will include the other 11 Pacific Island States in our portfolio at some point in the future as well.

My thanks go out to each and every one of you be he or she a representative of our partners, a lawmaker or a member of the diplomatic corps or just an individual showing interest in our work. We would like to make this world a better place for the good-willed people and nations of this world and I know that together with you we will make a difference. Without you, we could not perform our tasks.

Wishing you a successful 2023 and some joyful reading with this report,

Yours sincerely,

**Bertil Wenger**  
 Director  
 KAS Australia and the Pacific

## 2022 Office Visits



1. German Ambassador Dr Markus Ederer with KAS Australia's Eva Wagner and Bertil Wenger 2. Brian Loughnane, Deputy Chairman of the IDU with Bertil Wenger 3. Andrew Hudson, CEO and Caitlin McCaffrie, Lead – Australia in the Indo-Pacific from the Centre for Policy Development, with Eva Wagner and Bertil Wenger 4. German Consul General Axel Zeidler with Bertil Wenger 5. Max Duckstein, Policy Advisor East Asia / Pacific, Department Asia and the Pacific KAS HQ with Bertil Wenger 6. Max Duckstein, Juliane Strache, Katharina Lilly, Eva Wagner, Bertil Wenger

## Review & Outlook on 2023

The 'KAS Australia and Pacific Review & Outlook on 2023' provided an overview of the regional programme 2022 themes and projects, an outlook on the focus of 2023, as well as a summary of the international developments that shaped and will continue to shape KAS Australia's work. It further offered an opportunity for face-to-face dialogue and connecting with partners on a personal level.

We would like to thank all our local and international partners for their ongoing cooperation, support and interest in our work, without which our program would not be able to achieve its objectives.

Photo Credit - PewPew Studio



# Parliamentary and Political Party Dialogue

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.

Parliamentary  
and Political Party  
Dialogue

June 2022

## NZ Delegation to Germany

In late June, with Covid restrictions finally permitting, KAS Australia was able to resume its role as a platform for political exchange by the means of travelling and bringing politicians from the region to Germany and Europe.

This year - with the great help of KAS Inlandsprogramme in Berlin - we were able to host a group from the New Zealand Nationals led by the Honorable Louise Upston MP. She was joined by Sylvia Wood, Senior Board Member of the Nationals, their new Federal Manager William Durning, and Senior Advisor Gareth Hollins for a two-week visit to Berlin.

Our long-standing friend Peter Kiely, Legal Adviser of the National Party, was also able to join the group for the first week. The rather long stay was determined by the coincidentally happening IDU Forum in the last week of June, the newly established conference format of the International Democratic Union. It was the first time in more than 20 years that the IDU came to Berlin for such an important, high-ranking leaders meeting, the war in Ukraine asking for a resolute answer to this criminal heist from Russia and its fascist dictator Putin on a peaceful neighbour by the world's largest Conservative/Centre-Right party family. The IDU did not disappoint and was able to amass 250 participants and more than a dozen former and sitting heads of state and government and presidents of Parliaments. In the presence of former Ukrainian prime minister Julia Timoschenko and former president Petro Poroschenko, the IDU made clear that there was no alternative than to support Ukraine and supply its brave soldiers with enough heavy armoury that it will be able to defend its territory and make Russia lose this war. "China" was another big topic of this conference, with our New Zealand participant Peter Kiely taking the floor on the panel "Between commerce and geopolitics - Is there a grand strategy towards the expansion of China?" Next to these important topics, the regular meetings of the IDU bodies

such as the standing committee on elections and campaigns and the regional associations of the IDU were a great chance for our New Zealand participants to refresh old friendships after the Covid-shutdown and exchange thoughts on the challenges for Centre-right parties in a world in turmoil.

The second week was reserved for in-depth meetings with representatives from the CDU/CSU-Parliamentary Group, the Foreign Office, colleagues from KAS - among them the directors of the Department European and International Cooperation Dr Gerhard Wahlers and Frank Priess - and other think tanks and the CDU HQ. The war in Ukraine and the difficult relations with China were the most important topics debated in this week. Our special thanks go out to the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group which was so kind as to receive us with many of their leading representatives such as Deputy Chairman Dr Johann Wadephul, the spokesman on European Policy, Gunther Krichbaum and the Spokesman on Development Policy, our longtime friend Volkmar Klein, among others. The two biggest takeaways from this week were the fact that even longtime security defence experts were unable to dare to predict the course of the war in Ukraine that had started 4 months earlier. The second was the clear realisation of our New Zealand friends that China's actions in the Indo-Pacific would have to be addressed much more thoroughly and with a view to always be able to resist economic and other pressure from China by closer cooperation with like-minded partners. Our thanks go out to our KAS HQ as well for making things fall in place in Berlin.

We are looking forward to the 2023 "Inlandsprogramme", which we will conduct with members of the Liberal Party of Australia.







August 2022

## Visit of Volkmar Klein MP to Australia

In August, KAS Australia and the Pacific had the honour to host Mr Volkmar Klein MP, Member of the German Parliament and Deputy Chairman of the German-Pacific Parliamentary Friendship Group, in Perth, Canberra and Sydney.

During his visit Mr Klein met with members of the Australian Parliament and representatives of the Liberal and National parties, as well as business and university representatives to discuss areas of common concern and German-Australian cooperation, to renew his long-standing connections, and to establish new ones.

The topics of German-Australian cooperation, including in the Indo-Pacific, Germany's engagement in the region and energy security were of particular interest to Mr Klein. The recurring themes during these encounters with Members of Parliament and representatives of the business community in particular were the questions of energy security in light of supply chain and interdependency-related vulnerabilities highlighted by the ongoing war in Ukraine, as well as the question in which areas increased German-Australian cooperation could be the most effective and value-adding.

The discussions highlighted the need for value partners to engage in solution-oriented debates and enhanced trusted exchanges to navigate changing (geo) political and economic tides, as international trade, a rules-based global order, international security, including climate change, and a commitment to multilateralism form a major aspect of stability and security in both Australia and Germany.

September 2022

## Roundtable with Ambassador Green

On 7 September, KAS Australia and the Pacific hosted a roundtable discussion on Australian-German common concerns and prospects for future cooperation with Australian Ambassador to Germany Philip Green.

Participants among others included, EU Ambassador designate Gabriele Visentin, German Embassy Chargé d'Affairs Dr Andreas Radtke, ASPI Executive Director Justin Bassi, National Security College Deputy Director Nicola Rosenblum, Rheinmetall Defence Australia Senior Program Manager Hydrogen Dr Judith Reinhard and AIIA National Executive Director Dr Bryce Wakefield as well as ANUCES Director Anne McNaughton.

The discussion explored German-Australian national and international security concerns and potential areas for future cooperation. There was a general consensus that in view of the current global security climate, with a war in Ukraine and recent developments around Taiwan as well as the growing question of future energy security, a joint approach of like-minded nations is needed. This would provide an alliance that can preserve the international rules-based order and can demonstrate to developing nations that it is a reliable partner.

We highly appreciated the participation and valuable insights of our guests and hope to continue this important debate on future occasions.





October 2022

## Visit of David McAllister MEP to Australia

KAS Australia and the Pacific had the great pleasure to welcome the Chairman of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, David McAllister MEP, to Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane in October.

During his first visit to Australia, Mr McAllister met with a variety of representatives of political organisations, business, the diplomatic corps and academia to discuss current developments in foreign and security policy as well as issues concerning international trade. He was delighted to speak at the German Embassy's national day celebrations in Canberra and deliver a keynote address at the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) National Conference.

Key bilateral and multilateral meetings included discussions with the European and the German Ambassador, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs the Hon. Tim Watts, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate the Hon. Simon Birmingham, Deputy Secretary of Southeast Asia and Global Partners Group DFAT Michelle Chan and former Prime Minister Tony Abbott. In addition, Mr McAllister also participated in roundtable discussions with the Lowy Institute, members of the German-Australian Chamber of Commerce, the European-Australian Business Council, the Australian-German business community in Brisbane, and a group of 19 of the European Ambassadors in Canberra. Recurring topics among others were security in the Indo-Pacific region, the Russia-Ukraine war and the EU-Australian Free Trade Agreement.

We would like to thank all our partners for their support during this visit, with a special thank you to the Delegation of the European Union, the German Embassy and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

November 2022

## Visit of MPs Kloeckner, Krings and Koob to Australia and New Zealand

We were delighted to host a delegation of Members of the German Bundestag in New Zealand and Australia in November.

Ms Julia Kloeckner MdB, Spokeswoman on Economic Policy for the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group and Federal Treasurer of the CDU, Mr Markus Koob MdB, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the German Bundestag, and Senior Foreign Policy Adviser (CDU/ CSU) Dr Christian Forneck visited Sydney and Canberra, where they met with members of the Parliament of NSW and the Australian Federal Parliament as well as representatives of the German Embassy, DFAT and Think Tanks. Dr Guenter Krings MdB, Spokesman for Justice/Legal Affairs of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag, visited Auckland and Wellington, where he met with representatives of the German Embassy and the EU Delegation, MFAT, the Asia New Zealand Foundation, the National Party of New Zealand, before joining the group in Canberra.

In their meetings the MPs discussed German-Australian/New Zealand common interests and concerns, including international trade, supply chains, energy and climate security as well as foreign and national security concerns. During the last two days of their visit, the delegates further provided their expertise as speakers in our first KAS Australia and the Pacific Security Conference, providing valuable insights from a German perspective.



# Foreign and Security Policy

**“It is clear even today that the Indo-Pacific will play an increasingly important role on the world stage in the coming years. The reasons for this are economic issues as well as security aspects and energy policy. Few other regions offer more opportunities and yet also pose such immense challenges for the international order.”**

Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock prior to her departure for the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Indonesia

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, increasingly, non-traditional threats. How to navigate strategic uncertainty in the Indo-Pacific is a growing challenge for Australia as a regional power committed to upholding the international rules-based order.

Undue Chinese coercive policies stretch from military expansion to trade and informational wars. Recent Chinese incursions into Taiwan airspace and increased efforts to expand a sphere of influence into the Pacific by offering security and economic deals, strings attached, have presented Australia with the dilemma of navigating between offering advice and being perceived as ‘more of the same’ by neighbouring states.

The European Union is equally facing new security and economic challenges. With Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, questions of energy- and food-security were added to the debate about secure geographical borders and issues arising from digital transformation and emerging technologies. Russia’s interruption of supply chains and attacks on Ukraine’s grain production once again highlighted the vulnerabilities inherent in global interdependencies. Already existing debates about greater resilience, autonomy and various forms of diversification and decoupling were intensified. At the same time, the previously articulated vision of ‘strategic autonomy’ has been reiterated, combined with a

renewed and re-energised commitment to NATO and a strengthened resolve to uphold a rules-based international order in cooperation with like-minded partners.

Both Australia and Europe are consequently seeking to strengthen their security cooperations, diversify economic partnerships and take up 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 one single region.

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 from various perspectives – to identify future challenges and highlight opportunities for cooperation.



July 2022

## Otago Foreign Policy School - Dunedin/New Zealand

The 56th Otago Foreign Policy School was held in hybrid format with KAS Australia's support again this year, and was concerned with "New Zealand's Role as a Space-Faring Nation". The host university explained its choice of topic as follows:

*The space industry in New Zealand has grown significantly over the few past years. Unlike its Five Eyes partners that have developed their respective space programmes upon the foundations of military research and design within the cold war context, New Zealand's space industry lays within a foundation of the rapid development of commercial space activities. This presents both opportunities and challenges. Currently, New Zealand sits at an important juncture and has the potential to become a global leader as a premier nation-state for Low Earth Orbit activities given both its regulatory infrastructure and unique positioning on the globe. However, it also means that, now more than ever, New Zealand must turn to its Five Eyes partners for security, especially when shaping its foreign policy, and take-stock of the lessons learned from its partners' experiences as it to mould its space policy and framework. To a large extent, this means that New Zealand's space posture needs to account for commercial (regulatory and technological), national (environmental and cultural), and security (national and international) considerations.*

Key themes discussed at New Zealand's premier foreign policy forum included:

- New Zealand commercial, defence, security, and regulatory, postures concerning space activities and development
- International relations between New Zealand and other space-faring nations
- Challenges and opportunities that technological developments, such as cyber security over space assets, may pose
- Collaborative scientific developments that consider environmental impacts from space activities

The presentations and lively discussions showed how difficult it can be for lawmakers to keep up with rapidly growing industries, and the need for internationally harmonised rules.

For more information on the 2022 School, please refer to the programme: [Otago Foreign Policy School 2022 programme, Otago Foreign Policy School, University of Otago, New Zealand](#)



October 2022

## AIIA National Conference

KAS Australia was proud to support the Australian Institute of International Affairs' Annual National Conference.

Under the heading 'New Frontiers, New Challenges' the conference brought together some of Australia's most prominent experts in the field to examine new developments in international affairs and the place of Australian foreign policy in them.

This year, for the first time, the conference also included a European angle, and we were delighted to provide the opening keynote speaker for the event. The Chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs David McAllister MEP presented an EU perspective on Australian foreign affairs and outlined the European Union's own strategy for engagement in the region.

Mr McAllister's address was followed by a speech from Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs the Hon. Simon Birmingham, who emphasised that the conference played a key role in keeping Australian foreign policy informed about the challenges in the world, the opportunities we should seize and how Australia could make an influential contribution in the region, in the global community and in pursuit of national interests.





October 2022

## KAS Lecture with David McAllister MEP

KAS Australia and the Pacific, in cooperation with the ANU Centre for European Studies, was delighted to once again hold the annual KAS Lecture as an in-person event this year. After cancellation due to Covid in 2021, it was great for participants to be able to meet the keynote speaker, ask questions and engage in lively debates during the reception following the presentation.



This year's lecture on 'The EU-Indo-Pacific Relations in Times of Uncertainty and Geopolitical Power Struggles' was delivered by Member of the European Parliament David McAllister, who stressed that the geopolitical shift to the Indo-Pacific region was a reality and a new rallying point for major global players such as the United States and China, and that the resulting competition presented the European Union with new challenges. These challenges included the two big questions of what the European Union's overall relationship with the Indo-Pacific region should be and how Europe could strengthen its own strategic stability, security, prosperity and geopolitical relevance by building a mutually beneficial relationship with the countries of the Indo-Pacific region. He continued by outlining how events in the Pacific region directly affected EU economic and national security and that the EU's engagement in the region was an invitation to partners in the region to cooperate on the basis of common principles and joint interests. The aim was to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific region for all and to promote a rules-based regional security architecture in accordance with democratic principles. The EU's approach was to promote a rules-based international order, a level playing field and an open and fair environment for trade and investment, to combat climate change and to promote connectivity with Europe. He further explained that the EU's Global Gateway and Indo-Pacific Strategies as well as the EU-Australia Framework Agreement were good first steps to greater EU engagement in the region, but that concrete projects were now needed to fortify cooperation, as 'action speaks, not words'. Mr McAllister concluded the lecture with a list of opportunities for future cooperation between Australia and the EU, emphasising that the EU and Australia could both greatly benefit from increased cooperation. David McAllister assured the audience that he would do all he could, on the Brussels floor, to put the EU-Australia free trade agreement in effect in 2023, before the European Parliament elections in 2024.





November 2022

## Security Conference with ASPI

We were excited to hold the inaugural KAS Australia and the Pacific Security Conference on German-Indo-Pacific common security concerns in Canberra in November, supported by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI).

The conference brought together parliamentarians, experts, practitioners and representatives from relevant government institutions, the diplomatic corps, think tanks and academia, including Members of the German Bundestag and the New Zealand and Fijian Parliaments. It created the opportunity for open, policy-relevant exchanges and discussions on common security concerns, potential areas of future cooperation and effective strategies for dealing with the current international security environment. The panel discussions included topics such as the Ukraine-Russia war and lessons learned, foreign policy concerns and geopolitics, international trade and the protection of supply chains, and their implications for national security.

The discussions highlighted the fact that there are many shared concerns, values and interests between Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island nations that offer the potential for increased cooperation and joint approaches in the future. Regarding such cooperation, it is especially important that all nations participate on an equal footing in the debates and that partners learn to listen to each other's expertise in order to develop the most appropriate and effective strategies. In its first iteration, the security conference provided a platform for an initial exchange, with the aim to establish this format as another flagship project of KAS Australia and the Pacific to be continued in the future.

Photo Credit - PewPew Studio



# Cybersecurity

**“Cyberattacks represent one of the essential threats of our time. Foreign state actors use them as a means of espionage, disinformation or sabotage. Cyber defense contributes to the protection of politics and administration, business, science and civil society.”**

Sinan Selen, Vice-President of the Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz

The last few years have seen an increase in cyber attacks with no sector of the Australian economy immune from the impacts. In our hyper-connected world, technology enables individuals, civil society, non-state actors and institutions to impact on social and political agendas more than ever before.

Recent developments in Europe, Australia and the Pacific Region, with their increasing geopolitical tensions, have highlighted that developments in cyberspace also reflect the changing power dynamics manifesting in changing political systems.

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 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.

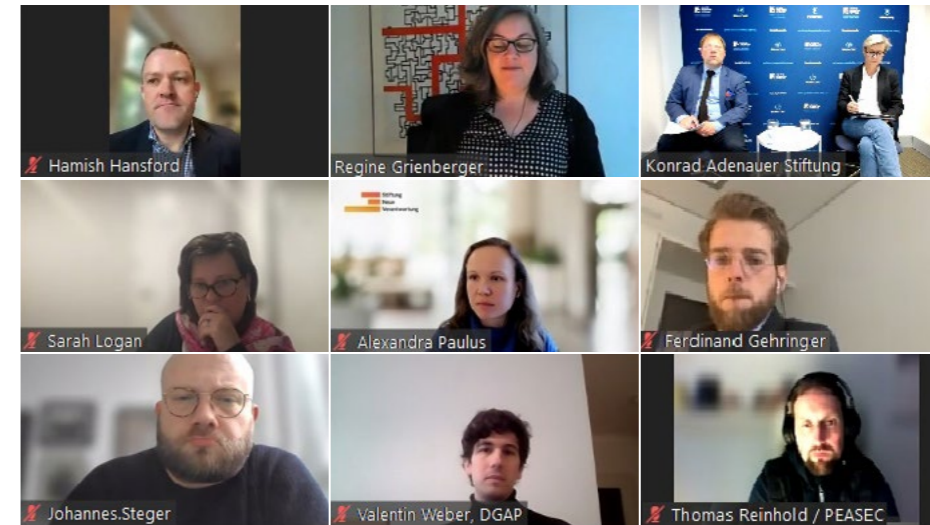
## Cybersecurity Dialogue 2022

The Covid-19 pandemic and developments in the international political field have highlighted not only the interconnectedness of the world but also the associated vulnerabilities. This requires us to look at how we manage global interdependence, particularly in the area of cyberspace, as a politically contested space shaped by hyper-connectivity and lack of overarching global governance. The topic for the entire dialogue series hence centred around multilateral and multi-stakeholder engagement and the potential for increasing cooperation as well as information sharing. While the first discussion in the series focused on foreign interference and the protection of critical infrastructures, session two was dedicated to Active Cyber Defence.

### Session I: Foreign Interference and the Protection of Critical Infrastructures

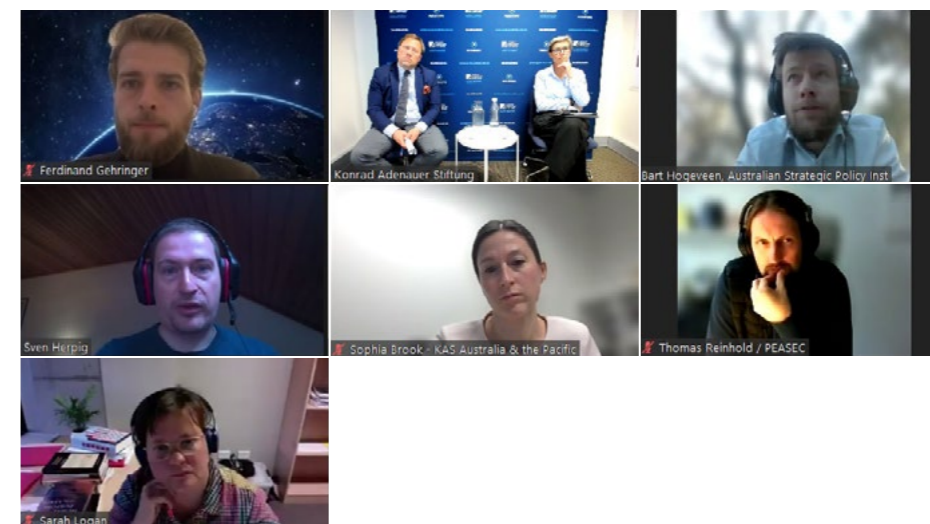
In light of growing regional geopolitical tensions and in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the threats and risks to Australia's and Germany/Europe's critical infrastructure are continuously evolving. We must therefore adapt our approach to the new threat environment if we want to ensure the ongoing security and resilience of these critical assets and the essential services they provide.

Of increasing concern over the last decade, particularly but by no means exclusively to democracies, has been the rise in illiberal and authoritarian states directly and aggressively targeting all levels of society. Disinformation campaigns and the interruption of supply chains as a means of coercion have become a frequent problem, forcing liberal democracies to re-assess their cybersecurity strategies and re-define boundaries. Considering these issues, this session raised interesting questions and implications regarding common threats and respective government measures. This included the questions of what steps would be necessary to make the security of critical infrastructures more robust, which critical infrastructures should be prioritized, which role do they play in the context of national security, and how is this relevant for European- Australian cooperation.



### Session II: Active Cyber Defence

As the field of Active Cyber Defence encompasses a variety of measures, for the purpose of this discussion, the focus was on the actual content, i.e. what encompasses Active Cyber Defence in Australia and what does it mean in Germany. With the recent publication of a German Cybersecurity Agenda (July 2022), the question of what can and should be included in Active Cyber Defence measures has become a main focus of German discussions in the field. At the same time, recent attacks on Australian companies such as Optus and Medibank have renewed the debate on how to prepare for large-scale attacks. In view of the countries' respective and common concerns, a special focus during this part of the dialogue was on the aspect of information sharing, with the long-term aim to facilitate a more immediate direct exchange between the two countries in the future.



# Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism

**“Social crisis situations, in particular, can be instrumentalized to systematically delegitimize institutions and representatives of the state and to discredit the democratic system as a whole.”**

Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz, German domestic intelligence services

The proliferation of anti-pluralistic ideas and decreasing thresholds for violence constitutes a new landmark in the evolving terrorism/extremism landscape. This leads to questions about the thresholds of the new extremisms, and to what extent there is a greater propensity to violence coming from the ‘middle’ of society, rather than the fringes.

This includes the strategic instrumentalisation of anti-democracy narratives by the extremist far right, through non-state as well as adverse state actors, made possible by the easy flow of transnational digital networks.

Our analysis of terrorism centres around the key topics of the contemporary threat landscape, such as emerging forms of extremism and their underlying narratives, the fusion of different ideologies and the mainstreaming of extremist currents and beliefs that is becoming more frequent in almost all Western democracies.

Germany and Australia, in addition to their similar characteristics and shared values, as liberal democracies, have increasingly been linked by the similarities and, in some cases, connectedness of the protest movements that have become more pronounced in the aftermath

of the Covid-pandemic. Orchestrated mass protests like the ‘Convoy to Canberra’ and related simultaneous events in other parts of the world, as for example in Germany and Canada, have highlighted that this connection appears to be part of a wider, global campaign that needs to be examined in more detail.

A particular focus hereby should be directed at the specific mobilization tactics employed by the various extremist groups and movements involved in the exploitation of the multitude of causes for discontent among the general public for their own purposes. This includes the analysis of popular ideas such as reciprocal radicalization, conspiracy theories and underlying narratives, cyber-enabled extremism and the re-framing of existing concepts.

## ASPI-KAS Australia- Europe CT Dialogue

At the end of October/beginning of November, KAS Australia and the Pacific hosted its 8th ASPI-KAS Australia-Europe Counter-Terrorism Dialogue. After a virtual dialogue in 2021 due to the Covid Pandemic, we were pleased to bring back the dialogue in its original format, as a one-week, in-person expert exchange.

The program on the topic of 'Strategies for Resilience' brought together policy-makers and terrorism experts in a series of discussions, held in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne, about the increasing threat of anti-democratic actors who use the democratic process in order to subvert it. 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. This year, KAS Australia invited German expert Miro Dittrich from the Center for Monitoring, Analysis and Strategy (CeMAS) in Berlin to Australia, to share his expertise and insights on far-right propaganda, networking, and radicalization in digital spaces. One of our own KAS-Experts on CT, Felix Neumann, was also part of this visit.

The resulting discussions highlighted a variety of common concerns and areas of CT for increased German/European-Australian cooperation. We are looking forward to continuing the discussions in Germany/Europe in 2023.



# Energy Policy

Climate change and energy security remain 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**<sup>1</sup> (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 adaption, protection of biodiversity, renewable energies and energy efficiency. In the same year, Germany and Australia jointly commissioned a bilateral **supply chain feasibility study** for green hydrogen. The results show that the German-Australian hydrogen bridge could already be realised before 2030.<sup>2</sup> In 2021, the two countries entered into a **Hydrogen Accord**<sup>3</sup>, 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

In 2022, the Australia-Germany Hydrogen Incubator's (HyGATE) first funding round opened.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Germany – Europe – Asia: shaping the 21st century together": The German Government adopts policy guidelines on the Indo-Pacific region - Federal Foreign Office (auswaertiges-amt.de) (1 September 2020)

<sup>2</sup> HySupply: German-Australian Feasibility Study of Hydrogen (bdi.eu) (27 June 2022)

<sup>3</sup> Australia and Germany partner on hydrogen initiatives | Ministers for the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (13 June 2021)

<sup>4</sup> Australia-Germany HyGATE Initiative funding round now open - Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) (8 March 2022)

# Rule of Law

According to the United Nations, the rule of law is fundamental to international peace, 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 coronavirus pandemic. Governments did not always "get it right". Courts held some of their actions to be disproportionate, and ordered remedies where available. Another situation in which the rule of law is of particular importance is in the context of general elections, as evidenced for example by the 2021 general elections in Samoa.

By way of its Rule of Law Dialogue, KAS Australia aims to connect Germany and the European Union with Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. Our objective is to increase the mutual understanding of these countries and regions, to foster idea and knowledge sharing and thus to contribute to the ongoing rule of law debate.

June 2022

## Inaugural KAS-ANUCES Roadshow Rule of Law - The EU Green Deal with a focus on The Just Transition Mechanism

The 2022 KAS-ANUCES Roadshow Rule of Law represents the inaugural event of what is meant to be an ongoing cooperation and series of events in regards to rule of law matters of concern to Australia and the Pacific Region on the one hand and Germany and the European Union on the other.

This year, KAS Australia and the ANU Centre for European Studies have arranged for a delegation from Canberra, including Scott Wyatt – Adviser for Energy and the Environment from the EU Delegation (EUDEL Canberra), to travel to Newcastle. For those of our readers unfamiliar with Newcastle and the Hunter Valley, the region is one of Australia’s oldest and most productive mining regions affected by the ongoing energy transition. As per our local partner principle, we have teamed up with the University of Newcastle’s (UON) Institute for Regional Futures (IRF) to organise various meetings and a hybrid seminar to discuss with local and regional stakeholders the EU Green Deal with a focus on the Just Transition Mechanism. The Deal was passed by the European Parliament in 2020 and aims to establish Europe as the first climate neutral continent by 2050. Underpinning the Green Deal is the European Climate Law – the binding legislative framework for the delivery of the the EU’s commitments. The objective of the Roadshow was to discuss questions including the way to a carbon-neutral future, how the rule of law can be shaped to support the energy transition and how to secure public acceptance in the entire process.

In Newcastle, the delegation had the opportunity to meet the Coordinator of the Hunter Jobs Alliance, the Chairman of the Port of Newcastle, representatives from the Department of Regional NSW, several local mayors, academics, and others, to discuss one of the EU’s most ambitious legislative projects on the one hand and Newcastle and the Hunter Valley’s efforts towards a just energy transition on the other. Facilitated by Prof Roberta Ryan – Executive Director, UON IRF, the hybrid seminar featured:

- Anne Ploeger – Adviser to Hildegard Bentele, German Member of the European Parliament (online)
- Scott Wyatt, Advisor – Energy, Environment, Fisheries, Forestry, EU Delegation to Australia
- Warrick Jordan – Coordinator, Hunter Jobs Alliance
- Anne McNaughton – Director, ANUCES
- Bertil Wenger – Director, KAS Australia





# 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 IndoPacific, 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.



June 2022

## Pacific Update - Suva/Fiji

KAS Australia and the Pacific is pleased that the 10th Pacific Update was held in person again this year, after the regional conference was cancelled in 2020 and held in virtual format in 2021. Dubbed to be the premier forum for the discussion of Pacific matters of concern, the conference took place from 28 to 30 June 2022 at the University of the South Pacific in Suva/Fiji.

Jointly organised by the ANU Development Policy Centre and the USP's School of Economics, the conference was opened by USP's Vice Chancellor Prof Pal Ahluwalia, his Excellency Lionel Rouwen Aingimea, the President of Nauru, and the Hon Pat Conroy MP, Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Government of Australia. Keynote addresses included an address by Prof Stephen Howes from the ANU's Development Policy Centre on "The Pacific post-pandemic – an economic update". As in previous years, the conference covered a range of topics, including gender equality, aid effectiveness, Fiji's economy, economic recovery, Papua New Guinea's economy, social protection, labour mobility in a changing region, maximising development impacts, and understanding social impacts. In economic terms, the experts agreed that the Pacific Region is at risk of a "lost decade", and that there would be tools available to mitigate the effects of the ongoing pandemic and related border closures. Whilst there were less participants attending the conference in person this time, the number of participants watching the live stream has increased significantly since the event was last held in person (2019). If you missed the conference, you can find recordings and transcripts of the presentations here:

[2022 Pacific Update | Development Policy Centre \(anu.edu.au\)](https://www.developmentpolicycentre.anu.edu.au/2022-pacific-update)

KAS Australia looks forward to supporting the Pacific Update again next year.

October 2022

## Planning Workshops - Apia/Samoa and Suva/Fiji

KAS Australia's Director and Senior Programme Coordinator for the Pacific, accompanied by KAS Germany's Policy Adviser for East Asia and the Pacific, Max Duckstein, have had the privilege to visit Samoa and Fiji this year. The purpose of the trip was to foster existing and to establish new ties with these 2 Pacific island states.

In Samoa, the Delegation had the pleasure to meet HE Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, who showed great interest in KAS Australia's activities and openly shared her experience with the US Pacific Summit from which she had recently returned. Having lived in Apia for more than 30 years, the German Honorary Consul Taulagi Christa Szegeedi and her family proved to be an invaluable source of local knowledge and information. In a meeting with the UNDP Samoa, the Delegation was briefed on the UN organisation's upcoming projects in regards to the digitalisation of the judiciary (e-courts), the implementation of the UN Convention on People with Disabilities, and other matters. The visit also provided KAS Australia with an opportunity to discuss its future cooperation the University of the South Pacific in Samoa. As per its Vice-Chancellor Prof Pal Ahluwalia, the University is inter alia planning to set up a think tank on democracy, and to organise a regional economic recovery conference next year.

On arrival in Fiji, KAS Australia was kindly briefed by the German Honorary Consul Monika Oldenburg in regards to the country's current situation and greatest challenges. KAS Australia was also able to meet Prof Biman Prasad – Deputy Opposition Leader from the National Federation Party of Fiji, who was running for the party in the 2022 general elections and emerges as the new Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in the new coalition government after the December 22 elections. In KAS Australia's first meeting with the PIF Secretariat, the Delegation could introduce the Foundation to the regional body and discuss the prospects of a possible future cooperation, including in regards to strong institutions and the rule of law. KAS Australia also called upon its colleagues from the EU Delegation, and other existing cooperation partners.

Upon its return to Canberra, the Delegation had the pleasure to brief the German Ambassador HE Dr Markus Ederer and the new German Special Envoy to the Pacific Beate Grzeski on the insights gained during the trip, which are meant to inform our future engagement in the Pacific region in general and the 2 countries in particular.





October 2022

## Inaugural Pacific Meet + Greet in Canberra

On 15 October, KAS Australia hosted its Inaugural Pacific Meet + Greet in Canberra.

The special event was attended by the German Ambassador Dr Markus Ederer, the new German Special Envoy to the Pacific Beate Grzeski, the Deputy Head of Mission of the Austrian Embassy Viktoria Wagner, the Special Envoy to the Pacific of the Swiss Embassy Emmanuel Bichet, the Deputy Head of Mission of the EU Delegation in Canberra Fedja Zlobec, the Director of the Australian National University's Centre for European Studies (ANUCES) Anne McNaughton and various representatives from the Pacific diplomatic corps.

The gathering in Canberra provided KAS Australia with the opportunity to introduce the Foundation and its activities. The European attendees could engage with the Pacific in a multilateral and informal way allowing the Pacific attendees to discuss the region's current challenges with the European diplomatic corps.

KAS Australia looks forward to continuing the event in 2023.



November 2022

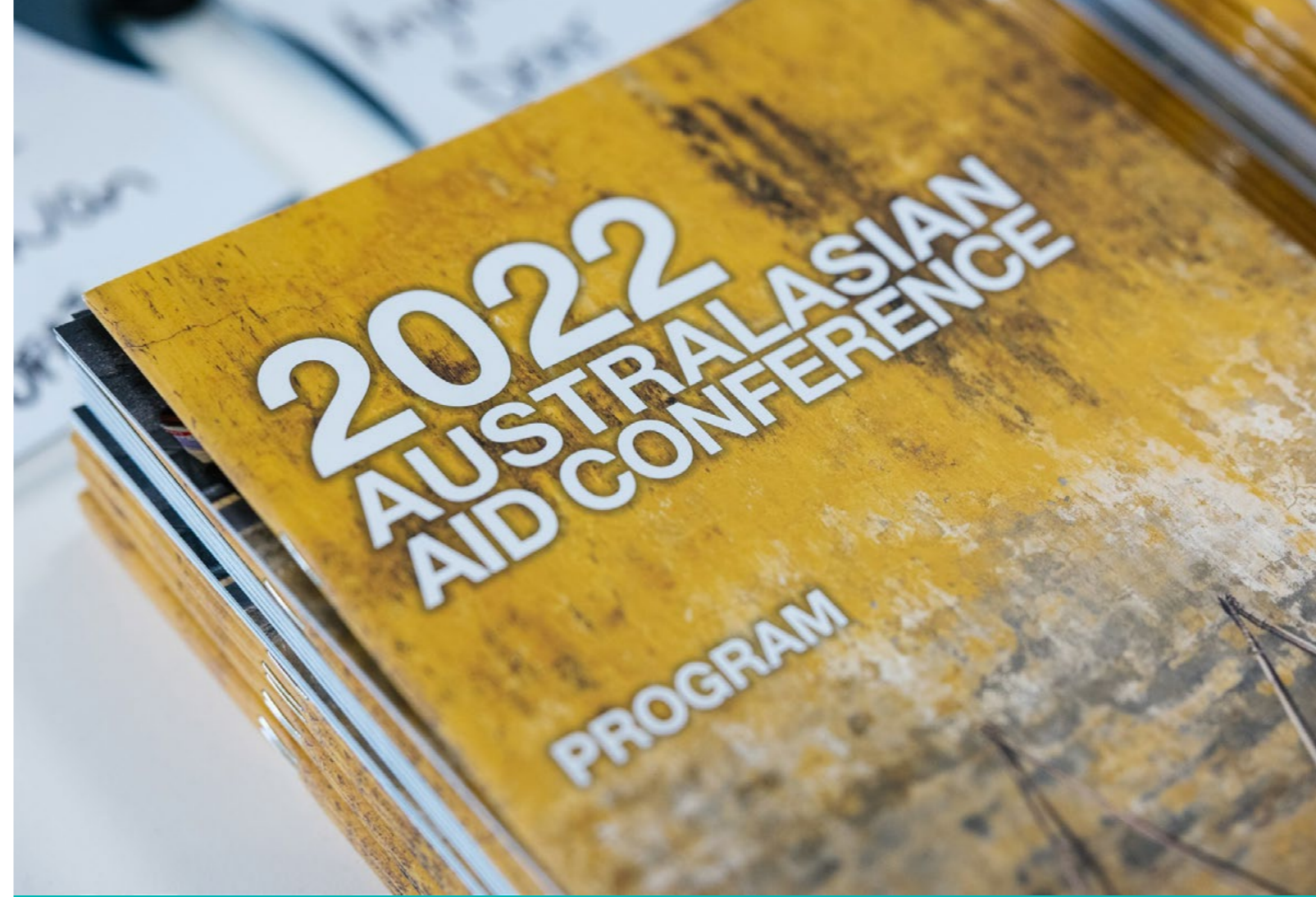
## Australasian Aid Conference- Canberra

KAS Australia has proudly supported the Australasian Aid Conference organised and hosted since 2014 by the Australian National University's Centre for Development Policy (Devpol). Since then, the Conference has become an integral part of the Australian and regional aid calendar.

According to Devpol, the aim of the Conference is to bring together researchers from across Australia, the Pacific, Asia, and beyond who are working on aid and international development policy (the AID in the conference title) to share insights, promote collaboration, and help develop the research community. With more than 650 people registering in 2020 [2021 was cancelled due to the pandemic], the AAC has established itself as Australia's premier aid and development conference. The importance of the event is inter alia evidenced by the fact that the Opening Address was (yet again) held by the current Minister for International Development and the Pacific of the Australian Federal Government, Hon Pat Conroy MP.

KAS Australia was able to engage with local and regional experts, academics and other stakeholders in regards to the Pacific's current challenges. In turn, participants could inform themselves about KAS Australia's activities, be it by speaking to its Director and/or Senior Programme Coordinator for the Pacific, or by picking up one of Periscope publications from our information stall.

Photo Credit - Alexandra Orme Photography



## Ongoing Projects

### 1. The Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Select Pacific Island States

KAS Australia has proudly supported the Institute of Small and Micro States' (ISMS) research project on the protection of intangible cultural heritage in select Pacific island states, namely Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu. In the words of ISMS:

*The nexus between the protection of intangible culture heritage, rule of law, and security and peace has been widely acknowledged by UNESCO and the European Union. To prevent destabilisation and in order to foster the rule of law, adequate measures for the protection of intangible cultural heritage must be adopted along with measures seeking to mitigate the effects of climate change. As a result of its vulnerability to climate change, the Pacific has led the fight against climate change while also starting to consider what role cultural heritage and its legal consolidation can play in combatting climate change and strengthening resilience, thereby promoting stability and the rule of law. Unlike many forms of cultural heritage, such as monuments and sites, intangible forms of cultural heritage can in principle be relocated together with their communities of origin. If traditions and customs remain alive within communities, their resilience to climate change and relocation may be strengthened, resulting in stability and peace within their host country and the region. However, adequate measures must be taken at the right time and in the appropriate manner in order to ensure the continued exercise of intangible forms of cultural heritage. As policy and lawmakers in the Pacific are currently focussed on advancing climate action, it is crucial to support the research efforts into the role of intangible cultural heritage and the urgent need to manifest and to preserve intangible cultural heritage in order to combat climate change effects, strengthening resilience and to ensure stability based on the rule of law.*

The objective of this project is to contribute to the research into these matters, and related matters. More precisely, ISMS and KAS Australia aim to facilitate a robust legal and policy framework to protect intangible cultural heritage in the Pacific Islands, which may also serve as a role model for other countries and regions.

The outcome of the research is scheduled to be published as part of KAS Australia's Periscope Paper Series in the first quarter of 2023.

### 2. Sanguma – Sorcery in Papua New Guinea

The prosecution of alleged sorcerers is still common practice in Papua New Guinea. The phenomenon represents a major impediment to peace and thus the democratic stability of this Pacific Island State. In an endeavour to contribute to the ending of such cruelties, KAS Australia supports "Handmade's" documentary on the phenomenon. Produced with the aim to educate the people, to ensure the reintegration of victims and offenders alike, and to put an end to the practice once and forever, the documentary is currently being shot with the support of local stakeholders.

The documentary is scheduled to be released in the course of next year. In the meantime, we suggest that you watch the short film that our cooperation partner has already completed on the matter:

<https://vimeo.com/650412724>



# 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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](#)

# Periscope Briefs

## Resilience and Preparedness brief series

The Resilience and Preparedness for Future CT Challenges: Ethics, Education and the Online Environment publication series, which we first started in 2021, 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. We concluded the series with two more briefs by Australian author Kristy Milligan, who examined the ideologies and motivations of the protesters that congregated in the 'Convoy to Canberra' earlier this year and took a closer look at the seemingly increasing use of manifestos by perpetrators to justify terrorism.



### Research, Education and CT: Different ends and common purposes

Kristy Milligan

This brief examines the challenges academic researchers, educators and counter-terrorism (CT) practitioners face in working towards their shared purposes of combatting and preventing terrorism. Academic research and CT practitioners constitute two sides of the same coin; sharing a common general purpose, despite having different ends. This brief will draw on the framework developed by West & Campion to highlight the importance of education as an essential element in bridging the divide between the academics and practitioners and their contribution to the achievement of CT outcomes.

## Rule of Law briefs

### The Rule of Law and an Independent Judiciary in Samoa

Taulapapa Brenda Heather-Latu

The concept of being 'mua i malae' in the Samoan language, which when translated means: 'being first to achieve something or reach a goal', has been a national mantra for Samoan leaders in the Pacific region since independence, as the country has placed a strong focus on being the first Pacific state to innovate, to achieve, to adopt and to try new policies and strategies in order to advance its own interests, often before its neighbouring states and territories. To meet those goals, Samoa has actively sought and requested regional and international aid, grants and loans, as well as the support of bi- and multilateral development partners.



### The Anti-Social Movement: The 2022 Convoy to Canberra and Freedom Movements

Kristy Milligan

This brief examines the ideologies and motivations of the protesters that congregated in Australia's federal capital, Canberra, in early 2022. The self-proclaimed 'Convoy to Canberra' movement called for the mass mobilisation of protesters seeking to abolish Covid-19 mandates instituted during the pandemic. These freedom movements across Australia became known by various names, with the stalwart Canberra contingent being colloquially and pejoratively known as 'the Cookers'.

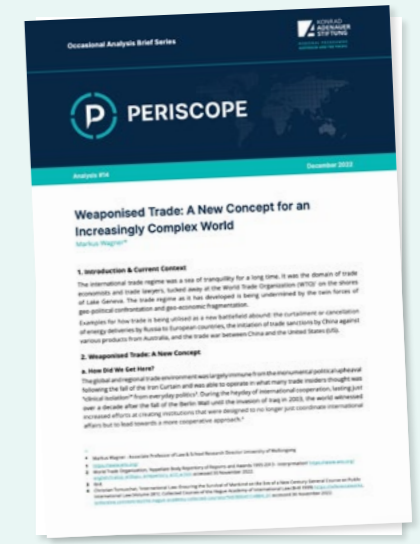


### Weaponised Trade: A New Concept for an Increasingly Complex World

Markus Wagner

The international trade regime was a sea of tranquillity for a long time. It was the domain of trade economists and trade lawyers, tucked away at the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the shores of Lake Geneva. The trade regime as it has developed is being undermined by the twin forces of geopolitical confrontation and geo-economic fragmentation.

Examples for how trade is being utilised as a new battlefield abound: the curtailment or cancellation of energy deliveries by Russia to European countries, the initiation of trade sanctions by China against various products from Australia, and the trade war between China and the United States (US).





## Periscope Papers

### The Dilemma of Multiculturalism and its Exploitation by Extremists: Insights from the Swedish Perspective

Edited by **Sophia Brook & Katja Theodorakis**

A Conversation with Gabriel Sjöblom-Fodor. A researcher specializing in the study of religious community work in the countering of violent extremism and extremist narratives.



### A New Wave? Publication Series

In 2022, we continued our 'A New Wave? Existing, Emerging and Converging Forms of Extremism' project, first introduced in the ASPI-KAS 7th Counter-Terrorism Dialogue 2021. The project intended to capture and examine 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.

This year, the project included a series of papers on a variety of related topics by selected authors from Germany, Australia, New Zealand and the USA, which we are looking forward to publishing at the beginning of 2023.



### Thinking Patterns Underlying Narratives of Violent Extremism and Conspiracy Theories

by **Mahmoud Pargoo**

The Covid-19 pandemic that started in early 2020 brought to public attention the commonalities between violent extremists and Covid deniers and conspiracists.



### A New Wave? Volume I: The Terrorism and Extremism Landscape



### A New Wave? Volume II: Case Studies



### A New Wave? Volume III: Resilience and Prevention

## Podcast Series

This podcast series is created to raise awareness and broaden understanding of current affairs in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. Delivered in the format of '3 questions, 3 answers', we quiz experts in their field.



### Select Periscope Podcast Series

#1/22

Featuring Dr Robert Glasser – Head of the Centre for Climate and Security Policy of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute



### Select Periscope Podcast Series

#2/22

Featuring Katja Theodorakis, then Head of the Counterterrorism Program of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute

## Other Publications



### Länderbericht: Regionalprogramm Australien und Pazifik

June 2022

## ASPI Partnered Publications

### Taking the Low Road

February 2022



In February, ASPI and KAS Australia officially launched the 'Taking the low road' report on the changing nature and influence of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) engagement with civil society across Australia's states and

territories. While this book offers fascinating case studies of Peoples Republic of China (PRC) engagement with Australian subnational entities, China's global reach means that many countries have had similar experiences. This also includes Germany.

Since Germany and China developed close economic ties in the 1990s, bilateral investment promotion and political exchanges on the state level (Länderebene) have become an important pillar in the two countries' exchanges. However, from the Chinese side, such relations never take place purely at the state level but are centrally coordinated by the People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, which is connected to the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee. Such activities are therefore more and more in line with the basic ideas of the party.

Recently, China's increasingly assertive behaviour, its application of coercive mechanisms in its foreign relations and reports of human rights violations have led to Germany reassessing its relationship and strategy in dealing with China. In view of this, it has become more important for decision-makers, economic actors and the German public to get a full picture of economic and political links in China's engagement at the Länderebene.

<https://www.aspi.org.au/report/geopolitics-climate-and-security-indo-pacific>

### The Geopolitics of Climate and Security in the Indo-Pacific

February 2022



Climate change is much more than an environmental crisis – it is a systemic crisis that will transform the geopolitical landscape. And the consequences for the Indo-Pacific, already the most exposed region in the world

to climate hazards and home to the world's fastest growing populations, economies and geopolitical rivalries, will be profound.

This publication explores the escalating effects of climate change on the region's already fragile human systems, from great-power competition and militaries, governance and politics, food and water insecurity, and ethnic separatism, to energy and trade systems, sovereign risk and digital disinformation.

What emerges is a vivid demonstration of the dangers of underestimating the systemic connections between those factors, including how risks in one thematic area amplify risks in others, completely reshaping the regional security picture.

The Forward by Dr Robert Glasser is followed by the below Parts:

- Part 1: A climate scenario: the Indo-Pacific in 2035
- Part 2: Human Security and climate change in 2035
- Part 3: Regional conflict and climate change in 2035
- Part 4: Economic disruption and climate change in 2035
- Part 5: Climate stress and regional institutions in 2035
- Part 6: Conclusions and policy recommendations

In the words of General Angus Campbell, Chief of the Australian Defence Force, who held the keynote address on the occasion of the book launch:

"[We] hope that [the book] will inspire many to take heart, and to take action".

<https://www.aspi.org.au/report/geopolitics-climate-and-security-indo-pacific>

## 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.

### AUSTRALIA – A Constitutional Monarchy With Republican Potential

February 2022 | <https://periscopekasaustralia.com.au/australia-a-constitutional-monarchy-with-republican-potential/>



### SOLOMON ISLANDS – Security made in China?

April 2022 | <https://periscopekasaustralia.com.au/solomon-islands-security-made-in-china/>



### PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM – Regional Solidarity Restored, For Now

June 2022 | <https://periscopekasaustralia.com.au/pacific-islands-forum-regional-solidarity-restored-for-now/>



### Zeitenwende and the Indo-Pacific

May 2022 | <https://periscopekasaustralia.com.au/zeitenwende-and-the-indo-pacific/>



### Energy Crisis: Australia on the Brink of Blackouts

June 2022 | <https://periscopekasaustralia.com.au/energy-crisis-australia-on-the-brink-of-blackouts/>



### Germany's continued engagement in the Indo-Pacific – The Luftwaffe goes Pitch Black in the Northern Territory

August 2022  
<https://periscopekasaustralia.com.au/germanys-continued-engagement-in-the-indo-pacific-the-luftwaffe-goes-pitch-black-in-the-northern-territory/>



## 2022 Digital Snapshot Index

[periscopekasaustralia.com.au/digital-lens](https://periscopekasaustralia.com.au/digital-lens)

- #1/21 AUSTRALIA – A Constitutional Monarchy With Republican Potential

---

- #2/21 Global Order, Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity – Why what happens in Ukraine matters to Australia

---

- #3/21 Condemnation, Sanctions, Lethal and Non-Lethal Aid and Criticisms – Australian Reactions to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

---

- #4/21 NEW ZEALAND – National Party Ahead in Latest Polls

---

- #5/21 Geopolitical Considerations and Disaster Relief – The Future of the ADF

---

- #6/21 SOLOMON ISLANDS – Security made in China?

---

- #7/21 The Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) – What does it entail and how was it received?

---

- #8/21 SOLOMON ISLANDS – Australia's Red Line in the Pacific

---

- #9/21 Australia in the run up to the election

---

- #10/21 Zeitenwende and the Indo-Pacific

---

- #11/21 Geopolitical storms brewing in the Pacific Islands

---

- #12/21 Energy Crisis: Australia on the Brink of Blackouts

---

- #13/21 PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM – Regional Solidarity Restored, For Now

---

- #14/21 New Surveys Paint Picture of Contemporary Australia

---

- #15/21 Melting the Ice – Two steps forward and one step back as Australia and China attempt to reset relations

---

- #16/21 Germany's continued engagement in the Indo-Pacific – The Luftwaffe goes Pitch Black in the Northern Territory

---

- #17/21 PAPUA NEW GUINEA – 2022 General Elections

---

- #18/21 Australia and the Solomon Islands – Walking the Tightrope

## 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.”



**Juliane Strache**

Office, Events and Communications 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.”



**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.”



**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.”



**Geniebel Gacusan**

Financial and Administration Manager

“I have worked with not for profit organisation focused with community service before joining KAS in June 2022.

Having an accounting background, I am responsible with the financial management side and any accounting related matters to support the team in completing the KAS yearly measures.

It is a great opportunity to be part of KAS and to see all the contributions they bring in Australia, the Pacific Region and Worldwide.”



# Foreign and Liaison Offices of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

CP = Country Programme  
RP = Regional Sector Programme  
LO = Liaison Office



- Latin America**
- 1 Argentina Buenos Aires CP
  - 2 Bolivia La Paz CP
  - 3 Bolivia La Paz RP Political Participation of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America
  - 4 Brazil Rio de Janeiro CP
  - 5 Chile Santiago de Chile CP
  - 6 Costa Rica San José CP
  - 7 Guatemala Guatemala City CP
  - 8 Honduras Tegucigalpa LO
  - 9 Colombia Bogotá CP
  - 10 Colombia Bogotá RP Rule of Law Programme Latin America
  - 11 Mexico Mexico City CP
  - 12 Panama Panama City CP
  - 13 Panama Panama City RP Alliances for Democracy and Development with Latin America
  - 14 Peru Lima CP
  - 15 Peru Lima RP Energy Security and Climate Change Latin America
  - 16 Uruguay Montevideo CP
  - 17 Uruguay Montevideo RP Promotion of Political Parties and Democracy in Latin America
  - 18 Venezuela Caracas CP

- Europe and North America**
- 19 Albania Tirana CP
  - 20 Armenia Yerevan CP
  - 21 Belgium/Brussels Brussels CP
  - 22 Belgium Brussels Multinational Development Policy Dialogue
  - 23 Bosnia and Herzegovina Sarajevo CP
  - 24 Bulgaria Sofia CP
  - 25 Bulgaria Sofia RP Media Programme South East Europe
  - 26 Estonia Tallinn LO
  - 27 France Paris CP
  - 28 Georgia/Azerbaijan Tbilisi RP Political Dialogue South Caucasus
  - 29 Greece/Cyprus Athens CP
  - 30 United Kingdom/Ireland London CP
  - 31 Italy/Malta/Vatican City Rome
  - 32 Canada Ottawa CP
  - 33 Kosovo Pristina LO
  - 34 Croatia/Slovenia Zagreb CP
  - 35 Latvia Riga CP Baltic States
  - 36 Lithuania Vilnius LO
  - 37 Lithuania Vilnius CP Belarus
  - 38 Moldova Chisinau LO
  - 39 Montenegro Podgorica LO
  - 40 North Macedonia Skopje CP
  - 41 Austria Vienna CP
  - 42 Austria Vienna RP Multilateral Dialogue
  - 43 Poland Warsaw CP
  - 44 Romania Bucharest CP
  - 45 Romania Bucharest RP Rule of Law Programme South East Europe
  - 46 Sweden Stockholm RP Nordic Countries
  - 47 Switzerland Geneva RP Multilateral Dialogue
  - 48 Serbia Belgrade CP
  - 49 Slovakia Bratislava LO
  - 50 Spain/Portugal Madrid CP
  - 51 Czech Republic Prague CP
  - 52 Ukraine Kiev CP
  - 53 Ukraine Kharkiv CP
  - 54 Hungary Budapest CP
  - 55 United States New York Multinational Development Dialogue
  - 56 United States Washington CP

- Sub-Saharan Africa**
- 57 Ethiopia Addis Ababa CP
  - 58 Ivory Coast Abidjan RP Political Dialogue West Africa
  - 59 Ivory Coast Abidjan RP Security Policy Dialogue Sub-Saharan Africa
  - 60 Ghana Accra CP
  - 61 Cameroon Yaoundé RP Energy Security and Climate Change Sub-Saharan Africa
  - 62 Kenya Nairobi CP
  - 63 Kenya Nairobi RP Rule of Law Programme Sub-Saharan Africa (English-speaking countries)
  - 64 Democratic Republic of the Congo Kinshasa CP
  - 65 Mali Bamako RP Sahel
  - 66 Namibia/Windhoek Windhoek CP
  - 67 Nigeria Abuja CP
  - 68 Senegal/The Gambia Dakar CP
  - 69 Senegal Dakar RP Rule of Law Programme Sub-Saharan Africa (French-speaking countries)
  - 70 Zimbabwe Harare CP
  - 71 South Africa Johannesburg CP
  - 72 South Africa Johannesburg RP Media Programme Sub-Saharan Africa
  - 73 South Africa Cape Town LO
  - 74 Tanzania Dar Es Salaam CP
  - 75 Uganda/South Sudan Kampala CP

- Middle East**
- 76 Algeria Algiers LO
  - 77 Israel Jerusalem CP
  - 78 Iraq Erbil LO
  - 79 Jordan Amman CP
  - 80 Jordan Amman RP Gulf States
  - 81 Lebanon Beirut CP
  - 82 Lebanon Beirut CP Syria/Iraq
  - 83 Lebanon Beirut RP Rule of Law Programme Middle East and North Africa
  - 84 Morocco Rabat CP
  - 85 Morocco Rabat RP Energy Security and Climate Change
  - 86 Palestinian Territories Ramallah CP
  - 87 Tunisia Tunis CP
  - 88 Tunisia Tunis RP Political Dialogue Southern Mediterranean
  - 89 Turkey Ankara CP
  - 90 Turkey Istanbul LO

- Asia and the Pacific**
- 91 Australia/Pacific Canberra CP
  - 92 PR China Beijing CP
  - 93 PR China Shanghai CP
  - 94 Hong Kong RP Energy Security and Climate Change Asia-Pacific
  - 95 India New Delhi CP
  - 96 Indonesia Jakarta CP
  - 97 Japan Tokyo CP
  - 98 Japan Tokyo RP Social and Economic Governance Programme Asia
  - 99 Cambodia Phnom Penh CP
  - 100 Kazakhstan Nur-Sultan CP
  - 101 South Korea Seoul CP
  - 102 Malaysia Kuala Lumpur CP
  - 103 Mongolia Ulaanbaatar CP
  - 104 Myanmar Yangon CP
  - 105 Philippines Manila CP
  - 106 Singapore RP Media Programme Asia
  - 107 Singapore RP Rule of Law Programme Asia
  - 108 Singapore RP Regional Policy Dialogue Programme Asia
  - 109 Thailand Bangkok CP
  - 110 Uzbekistan Tashkent RP Central Asia
  - 111 Vietnam Hanoi CP

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