

## CHINA BRIEFING 3/10

# CHINA-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS: STRATEGIC AND REGIONAL ISSUES

*"It is hard to think of a single international issue of importance to Australia where China is not a key player on the world stage."*  
(Stephen Smith MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, March 2010).

China's rise to power on the global political and economic scene has significant strategic implications for Australia and the region. Australia's relationship with China, however, is characterised by political and strategic differences as well as complementarities.

The release of the Australian Defence White Paper in May 2009 strained the relationship between Australia and China with its assertion that China's rise poses a security threat. In June 2009, the relationship was further strained by the collapse of the Chinalco-Rio Tinto deal.

At the same time China's and Australia's economies depend on each other for growth. It is this economic growth which will increase China's strategic influence.

In this third China Briefing of the year, the Confucius Institute at the University of Adelaide brings together experts on this topic to present their views about the rise of China and its implications for Australia and the growing national and regional importance of this bilateral relationship.

The Confucius Institute's China Briefings provide up-to date knowledge of the most recent developments in China's political, economic and cultural spheres that are of most concern to the Australian public. The program brings top experts in the field to South Australian audiences to present speeches, talks or forums.

### SPEAKERS

**Hon. Professor Alexander Downer**

Visiting Professor of Politics and International Trade,  
School of History and Politics, University of Adelaide.

**Dr Richard Rigby**

Executive Director of the China Institute,  
Australian National University, Canberra.

**Dr Zhai Kun**

Director of the Division for Southeast Asian and  
Oceanian Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary  
International Relations (CICIR), Beijing, PR China.

The Briefing will be introduced by Professor Mobo Gao, Director of the Confucius Institute, and chaired by Professor Clement Macintyre, Head of the School of History and Politics, both from the University of Adelaide.

### DETAILS

**Date:** Thursday 12 August, 2010

**Time:** 5.00pm registration for a 5.30pm start;  
end - 7.00pm

**Venue:** Level 12, Ernst & Young Building,  
121 King Williams St, Adelaide

(Drinks and finger food will be served.)

**Contact:** [confucius.institute@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:confucius.institute@adelaide.edu.au)  
or 8303 4798

**Admission is FREE but registration is essential.**

**Deadline:** Friday 6 August, 2010

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