New South Wales State Office  
Sydney Democracy Forum

Australian Democracy Promotion and Peacekeeping: 
Policy and Research Afternoon

Friday 25 May 2 to 5 pm

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies: Stephen Deady (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)

2 pm Welcome by Stephen Deady and Dr David Pritchard (University of Sydney)

2.10 pm Professor Graeme Gill (University of Sydney) ‘The Dynamics of Democratisation’

2.50 pm Dr Peter Londey (Australian War Memorial) ‘Australian Peacekeeping and the Promotion of Democracy’

3.30 pm Afternoon tea

4 pm Dr Benjamin Reilly (Australian National University) ‘Promoting Democracy in the Asia Pacific Region: The Work of the Centre for Democratic Institutions’

4.40 pm Open discussion

5 pm Drinks
ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

Professor Graeme Gill (University of Sydney) ‘The Dynamics of Democratisation’

Democratisation has been one of the most important processes on the international stage over the last four decades. It has transformed the world as well as being a primary stated goal in the foreign policies of many states. But how does democratisation work? And can it be imposed from outside? What are the bases upon which a successful program of democratisation can rest? These are some of the questions that will be addressed in this presentation.

Graeme Gill is an Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow and Professor of Government and Public Administration at the University of Sydney. He has published widely on Russian and Soviet politics, democratisation and the development of the state. Recent books include The Dynamics of Democratization: Elites, Civil Society and the Transition Process (New York: St Martin's Press 2000) and The Nature and Development of the Modern State (New York: Palgrave Macmillan 2003).

Dr Peter Londey (Australian War Memorial) ‘Australian Peacekeeping and the Promotion of Democracy’

Australian peacekeepers have been in the field since 1947. This presentation shall briefly outline the history and character of Australian peacekeeping before turning to its relationships with democracy and the process of decolonisation. As the United Nations has seen democratisation as a critical part of decolonisation, peacekeepers have been thrown into supervising or conducting elections and plebiscites, with varying levels of success, in many different societies. Australian peacekeepers have been involved in such exercises in Zimbabwe, Namibia, Western Sahara, Cambodia, Mozambique and elsewhere. The challenges they have faced and the ways they have sought to promote democracy shall also be considered.

Dr Peter Londey is a senior member of the Military History Section of the Australian War Memorial. He received his PhD in Ancient History from the University of New England. He is currently writing the official history of Australian peacekeeping and conducting research on the remembrance of war and the war-crimes trials of the Japanese after the Second World War. He is the author of Other People’s Wars: A History of Australian Peacekeeping (Sydney: Allen and Unwin 2004).

Dr Benjamin Reilly (ANU) ‘Promoting Democracy in the Asia Pacific Region: The Work of the Centre for Democratic Institutions’

This presentation will detail the history and activities of the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) and analyse the common features and challenges of democratic transitions in our region. Drawing on the ten years of work by the CDI, it shall also assess the effectiveness of Australia’s current efforts in democracy-promotion and suggest possible ways for enhancing this aspect of our foreign policy.

Dr Benjamin Reilly is the Director of the Centre for Democratic Institutions at the Australian National University. He has advised many governments and international organisations on issues of democratisation, party politics, electoral systems and conflict management, and published widely on these subjects. Dr Reilly has held visiting fellowships at Oxford, Canterbury and Harvard universities. His latest book is Democracy and Diversity: Political Engineering in the Asia-Pacific (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2006).