

30 August 2013

Media Announcement:

The Australian Studies Centre at Peking University,  
in collaboration with the Foundation for Australian Studies in China

Are pleased to announce the upcoming conference:

***Australia's China/China's Australia  
Past, Present & Future***

**21-22 September 2013  
Peking University, Beijing, China**

The conference titled 'Australia's China/China's Australia: Past, Present and Future', will be held from 21-22 September 2013 at Peking University.

Professor David Walker, the inaugural BHP Biliton Chair for Australian Studies in China at Peking University, has announced this as the first key event in what will be a significant and diverse program of initiatives aimed at enhancing the mutual understanding and engagement between people of Australia and China.

The September conference will explore the major challenges to knowing Asia and assess the strengths, limitations and opportunities for closer engagement with China. Held in the immediate aftermath of the 2013 Australian federal election, the conference will provide an ideal opportunity to reflect on the history of engagement and its likely future.

The conference line up will feature 26 high profile speakers from Australia and China, including; **Hugh White** (Australian National University), **Zha Daojiong** (Peking University), **Geraldine Doogue** (ABC), **Paul Kelly** (The Australian), **Li Youwen** (Beijing Foreign Studies University), **John McCarthy** (Australian Institute of International Affairs), **Chen Hong** (East China Normal University), **Christine Halse** (Deakin University Australia), **Han Feng** (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) and others. (Full speaker profiles in attached program PDF).

The conference, to be opened by Her Excellency Ms Frances Adamson the Australian Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, will address three key themes; the nature of the strategic relationship with China, the purpose and politics of Asian engagement and what it might mean to be Asia/China literate.

Media are invited to attend the event, although places are limited, so registration in advance is required. Participating Australian and Chinese speakers, and organizer Professor David Walker, are available for interview by appointment.

\*For all RSVPs and media interview requests, please contact Hannah Skrzynski, conference coordinator, on [hannah.skr@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.skr@gmail.com) or +86 13146010487.

## **Foundation for Australian Studies in China**



### **About Peking University**

Peking University (PKU) located in the dynamic Haidian District of Beijing, is a major research and teaching university and a member of the C9 league. It is colloquially known in Chinese as Beida (北大, Běidà). The University was established in the late nineteenth century and supports learning in the social sciences and humanities, basic and applied sciences and in the fields of medicine, management and education. Famous throughout China, the university is known internationally for its outstanding faculty and aims to become one of the world's best universities.

The Australian Studies Centre is located near the famous West Gate of the PKU campus. The conference venue is near the towering Beida pagoda. Peking University features both striking modern architecture and elegant traditional buildings and is celebrated for its beautiful campus, shaded walking paths and numerous lakes. The campus grounds are known as the Yan Yuan (the garden of Yuan) which date from the eighteenth century.

### **About the Foundation for Australian Studies in China**

The Foundation for Australian Studies in China (The Foundation) is a not-for-profit organisation registered in Australia. The Foundation supports existing and future initiatives in the area of Australian Studies in China to create sustainable and effective educational programs in China which improve the understanding of Australia in China. The Foundation plays a significant role in the promotion of Australian Studies in China and will further expand and strengthen research and teaching alliances and links between Australian and Chinese universities. The Foundation provides grants and scholarships to Australian and Chinese professionals.

The Foundation is supported by BHP Billiton, Universities Australia, the Australia-China Council of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, Allens and Linklaters, PWC Australia and Riverstone Advisory.

### **About the BHP Billiton Chair of Australian Studies**

A key initiative of the Foundation is the BHP Billiton Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University (the Chair). On November 26 2012, two Australian Ministers announced the appointment of the inaugural Chair as Professor David Walker from Deakin University. In February 2013, Professor Walker and his wife Professor Karen Walker relocated to Peking University.

It is the first high profile, privately funded Australian professorial position in China, and is a reflection of growing academic engagement between the two countries. The Chair is an initiative of the Australia-China Council, the Foundation for Australian Studies in China, BHP Billiton, Peking University and the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education.

See attached Conference program for full profile of Professor Walker.