

MEDIA RELEASE

**Announcing the 7th Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC)
Conference**

Innovative Partnerships: Australia and China

Engagement in Education, Science and Technology

21 – 24 November 2019, University of Sydney Centre in China, Suzhou

Hosted by

**University of Sydney Centre in China, Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP)
Dushu Lake Science and Education Innovation District**

Convened by

**Professor Pookong Kee, BHP Chair of Australian Studies
at Peking University**

Co-organised by

School of International Studies (SIS) at Peking University

Sponsored by

The Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC)

With support from

**Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Victorian Government Trade and Investment Office (VGTI) China**

The 7th FASIC conference is titled *Innovative Partnerships: Australia and China Engagement in Education, Science and Technology*. The Conference will bring together over 100 participants from China and Australia from a range of academic and professional backgrounds to discuss current research, reflect on recent Australia-China engagement achievements and identify opportunities for the further development of knowledge ties.

The conference will showcase Australia and China's close and productive ties in education, science, technology and other fields of specialised knowledge. In announcing the new National Foundation for Australia-China Relations in March 2019, the Australian government foreshadowed additional support for promoting further ties in areas such as agriculture, infrastructure, health, ageing, the environment and energy.

This year's conference host, University of Sydney Centre in China, located at the Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP) Dushu Lake Science and Education Innovation District, is itself a product of international collaboration. The University of Sydney Centre in China focuses on knowledge exchange, innovation, and development between China and Australia. The themes of the conference offer an unprecedented opportunity to embark on an in-depth discussion of existing and emerging themes, including but not limited to: education, innovation, technology, environment, urban development, life sciences, social sciences, and the humanities.

The FASIC Conference is convened by Professor Pookong Kee, BHP Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University, and sponsored by the Foundation for Australian Studies in China, with support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Victorian Government Trade and Investment Office (VGTI) China, and other co-sponsors and supporters.

Professor Kee says, "The seventh FASIC Conference celebrates and strengthens Australia-China knowledge exchanges, and offers an exciting opportunity for researchers, practitioners and students of related fields to contribute to lively and constructive dialogues. Major Australian government announcements designed to strengthen innovation and science links with China, and the 40th anniversary of the State of Victoria and Jiangsu Province sister state relationship, make this conference a timely opportunity to reflect on successful models of collaborative education and explore new models for future Australia-China engagement."

Mr Tim Dillon, Victorian Commissioner to China says, "Education has been integral to the long-standing cooperation between Victoria and Jiangsu and

China more broadly. Over these four decades we have had exchange programs for students and teachers, R&D funding schemes to promote research and commercialization, joint teaching programs with our leading institutions – we are continually looking for ways to expand our educational cooperation.”

Mr Michael Milne, Executive Director of the University of Sydney Centre in China says, “The University of Sydney’s Centre in China is delighted to be hosting the FASIC conference in 2019 and to partner with FASIC around our shared vision. This conference will provide opportunities for participants from China and Australia to exchange ideas and discuss matters of shared interest. It will strengthen existing ties and create new opportunities for collaboration.”

For conference updates visit www.fasic.org.au.

Media enquiries: Featured speakers and conference convenor, Professor Pookong Kee, are available for interview on request. For all media enquiries, please contact Mr John Paul Grima jpgrima@asic.org.au.

Attending the Conference: To register your expression of interest in this conference, please visit <http://asic.org.au/form/> and complete the online webform by 20 September 2019. As places are limited, attendance is by invitation based on conference theme and timing of registration.

About the Foundation for Australian Studies in China

The Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC) is a not-for-profit organisation registered in Australia. FASIC supports initiatives which deepen awareness of Australia in China across a range of disciplines and fields of study. FASIC plays a significant role in the promotion of Australian Studies in China and looks to further expand and strengthen research and teaching collaboration between Australian and Chinese universities. FASIC provides grants and scholarships to Australian and Chinese professionals. A key initiative of the Foundation is the BHP Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University, which is located within the School of International Studies at Peking University.

FASIC is supported by BHP, the Australia-China Council of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and HHK Advisory.

For more information visit www.fasic.org.au.

About Professor Pookong Kee, BHP Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University



Professor Kee is the third BHP Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University. Prior to taking up the Chair in February 2019, he was Director of the Asia Institute at the University of Melbourne.

He has held various academic and public-sector positions in the Asia-Pacific region, including as Director of the Chinese Heritage Center in Singapore, Professor of the Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies at the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan, as well as Assistant Director of Australia's Bureau of Immigration and Population Research. His recent teaching and research interests relate mostly to Asia-Pacific affairs, especially on international migration, diasporas, cultural diversity and Australia-Asia relations.

About the University of Sydney Centre in China

Based in the Suzhou Industrial Park, Dushu Lake Science and Education Innovation District, the University of Sydney Centre in China is a purpose-built facility, offering a flexible space to provide visitors with an inspiring Australian learning and teaching environment. With a seminar theatre and breakout group areas, a boardroom with teleconference facilities, workspaces for visiting students and academics, and open spaces for cultural and public events, the centre is designed as a meeting place for interaction and collaboration so as to support the development of knowledge networks, collaboration and the exchange of ideas. The Centre is the representative office of the University of Sydney in China.

For more information visit <http://sydneyuniversity.cn/>.

About The School of International Studies at Peking University

The School of International Studies at Peking University is the first school dedicated to teaching and research on international affairs among comprehensive Chinese universities. It is an important institution for the training of specialists in international affairs, diplomacy and foreign policy. It has 55 academics, with 28 full professors, 21 associate professors and 6 assistant professors in its five teaching departments, three research institutes and more

than twenty research centres. Close to a third of its 1,076 full-time registered degree students are international.

For more information visit <http://www.sis.pku.edu.cn/index.htm>.

#FASIC7

Please follow the conference on social media with the #FASIC7 hashtag.

Previous conferences:

1st FASIC Conference - 2013, Peking University, Beijing

2nd FASIC Conference - 2014, Renmin University of China, Beijing

3rd FASIC Conference - 2015, East China Normal University, Shanghai

4th FASIC Conference - 2016, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou

5th FASIC Conference - 2017, Jiangsu Normal University, Xuzhou

6th FASIC Conference - 2018, Sichuan Normal University, Chengdu



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