Asia Capability Forum

5 November 2026

ASEAN-Australia Centre

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY China Studies Centre

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY Sydney Southeast Asia Centre



Program

Time	Session
8:50am	**Welcome to Country**
8:55am– 9:00am	**Opening remarks** • **Professor David Goodman** | Director, China Studies Centre, University of Sydney
9:00am– 9:50am	**Panel 1: Solving the language pipeline: Asian languages in crisis | Indonesian literacy in Australia** *Moderator:* **Ms Fiona Hoggart** | Head of ASEAN-Australia Centre • **The Hon Tim Watts MP** | Chair of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education; Special Envoy for Indian Ocean Affairs • **H.E. Dr Siswo Pramono** | Ambassador for the Republic of Indonesia to Australia • **Mr Robert Brink** | Director of Indonesia Development and Partnerships Section, DFAT Indonesia Branch at Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade • **Professor Sharyn Davies** | Director, Herb Feith Indonesia Engagement Centre, Monash University
9:50am– 10:05am	**Morning Tea**
10:05am– 10:55am	**Panel 2: Universities as guardians of sovereign capability: Hubs, compacts and research** *Moderator*: **Ms Susannah Patton**, Director, Asia Engagement, RMIT • **Mr David Turvey** PSM | Chief Executive Officer, Australian Tertiary Education Commission • **Mr Ryan Neelam** | Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Australia-India Relations • **Professor Michele Ford** | Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, University of Sydney • **Ms Laura Marshall** | USYD PhD candidate
10:55am– 11.45am	**Panel 3: Building Asia capability beyond the classroom: Government, business and the future** *Moderator*: **Mr Andrew Phong** | ASEAN-Australia Centre and New Colombo Plan (NCP) Alumni • **Professor Nicholas Farrelly** | Pro Vice-Chancellor (Arts and Society), University of Tasmania • **Ms Hannah Wade** | Manager, Southeast Asia and South Asia Section, International Policy and Regions Branch, Australian Trade and Investment Commission • **Mr Sam Wall** | Program Lead, Australia-Asia Fellowship and W100 Network, Westpac Scholars Trust • **Ms Ella Whan** | USYD Arts/Law student, NCP Alumni and 2026 Westpac Australia Asia Fellow
11:45am– 11:55am	**Closing remarks** • **Associate Professor Dwi Noverini Djenar** | Chair of Indonesia Studies, University of Sydney • **Dr Jia Ying Neoh** | Senior Lecturer in Humanities and Social Sciences Education, University of Sydney
11:55am– 12:00pm	**Presentation of the Joint Communiqué** • **Professor Avril Alba** | Head of the School of Languages and Cultures, University of Sydney • **Professor Greg Fox** | Director, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, University of Sydney
12:00pm	**Lunch**