THE SYDNEY DIALOGUE

ASPI
AUSTRALIAN
STRATEGIC
POLICY
INSTITUTE

PROGRAM

4-5 APRIL 2023

THE SYDNEY DIALOGUE

DAY ONE

0830 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

0840 WELCOME FROM THE AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE

0845 AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OPENING ADDRESS

0900 DISCUSSION

Technology and Intelligence

1000 INDUSTRY KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Geo-Strategic Technology Competition and Why it Matters

1030 MORNING TEA

1100 LEADER LANDMARK ADDRESS

1110 DISCUSSION

Critical and Emerging Technologies:
What are the Technological Game Changers and Why?

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Technology's biggest game changers have the ability to disrupt societies, security and economies around the world. Dealing effectively with these game changers requires informed government decision-making, and closer collaboration between traditionally siloed actors. Geo-strategic technological competition is driving a cycle of action and reaction that has potentially enormous implications for national security and foreign policy. Which technologies meet the criteria of being truly 'game changing'? Why are these the ones we most need to focus on?

1200   GOVERNMENT LANDMARK ADDRESS

1210   NETWORKING LUNCH

1300   LEADER LANDMARK ADDRESS

1310   DISCUSSION

Technology and Society:
Shared Responses to Common Public Policy Responses

Technology can vastly improve social outcomes and solve a range of the most pressing policy challenges on the planet. But it can also do immense damage if unregulated and without appropriate rules and norms to guide how it is applied. Minority groups, young people and women can use technology to protect and empower themselves. And technology offers new ways of managing long-term, systemic and shared issues of international concern such as climate change, disaster relief and human rights abuses. We will consider the transformative potential of technology, and also its capacity to preserve ancient cultures, traditions and languages.

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1410   COFFEE BREAK

1430   LEADER LANDMARK ADDRESS

15OO   IN CONVERSATION ON SPACE

While geopolitical competition has been an ongoing feature of the space domain since the Cold War, the commercial benefits of space have only recently started to be fully grasped. Why is space so important and so inspirational? What is driving the proliferation of new space technologies and human space activity? With continual and rapid evolutions in the space domain, government and industry stakeholders must better understand the shifting geopolitical and commercial trends as well as both the opportunities and risks posed by the unique character of the space environment. From a national security perspective, is space the ultimate strategic high ground? Why?

1530   EMERGING TECHNOLOGY LEADERS Q&A

Younger leaders have a key role to play when it comes to technology. Often highly adept and capable when using and innovating with technology, the next generation need to be actively engaged within discourse and shaping technology. How do some of today's emerging leaders conceputalise both the opportunities and challenges of technology and what can this tell us about where technology is headed?

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1550   DISCUSSION

Global Technology Trends:
The Nexus Between Technology, Geopolitics and National Security

Technology is drastically impacting the trajectory of global geopolitics and national security. On one hand, technology can be used by both nation-state and non-state actors to further economic prosperity, social resilience and national security. Technological interconnectedness can make qualitative differences to our lives. But malicious activity and unforeseen inequities have begun a bifurcation of technological worlds and have accentuated geopolitical competition between the world's great powers. How can the free world's national security leaders exploit the nexus between technology, geopolitics and national security for positive outcomes and to fulfill their national security missions?

1645   AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CLOSING ADDRESS

1730   PUBLIC EVENT

Alternative Tech Futures and the Disruptors

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DAY TWO

0830   WELCOME FROM THE AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE

0835   AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OPENING ADDRESS

0845   DISCUSSION

Securing Technological Advantage Through Investment and Innovation: Creating Value and Competitive Advantage

The full potential of technology can only be unlocked through robust investment and innovation. Emerging technologies need to be given purpose through their application in the real world. How is new and emerging technology translated into capability, and why does quality research and development contribute to an innovation and commercially viable ecosystem? As technologies mature and their potential is better understood, how can targeted investment and policy frameworks contribute to innovation, create value and secure competitive advantage? As competition becomes an enduring feature of today's international landscape, how can countries position themselves for leadership in the technologies that matter most.

0945   LEADER LANDMARK ADDRESS

1005   MORNING TEA

1035   DISCUSSION

*Developing National Resilience Through Cyber Security and
Digital Governance*

*Conceptualising what "good" international cyber governance should look like is
a topic of ongoing debate. While several principles of governance and data
security have been largely agreed upon, considerations such as the right to privacy,
access by the state and the use of private data need to be balanced.
What further complicates the question of governance is the emergence
of competing models of the internet and the rise of malicious cyber behaviour.
Addressing these different factors through cyber governance and strategy is
pertinent in building more resilient states and societies. We explore different
ways that both countries and corporations are responding.*

1135   DISCUSSION

*Disinformation, Coercion and Information Control:
Getting the Safety and Security Balance Right*

*The rapid development of technology, including Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality,
AI, the internet and social media, pose significant challenges for industry and
government. How can we discern truth in an era of deepfakes and information
manipulation? Is the online environment safe? The collection of data for
nefarious purposes such as surveillance is a concern for the safety, security and
privacy of citizens globally, reflecting the borderless nature of a free and open
internet. Government and the private sector must cooperate better in order to
ensure that a secure and trusted online environment can continue to enable
prosperity and help realise human potential.*

1225   NETWORKING LUNCH

1320   SPECIAL SESSION

Spotlight on Ukraine

More than a year has passed since Russia's illegal and immoral full scale invasion of Ukraine. Dual use and military technologies have been key to Ukraine's ability to continue fighting, to provide essential services and to communicate across and beyond the nation's borders. What role has private industry played in this conflict and what commercial capabilities have made their mark on military leaders and planners? How has technology interacted with the human qualities of adaptability and innovation, and how has Ukraine's effective use of technology changed the way we think about conflict and warfare? Reflecting on the lessons from the conflict is relevant in the context of its short and medium term requirements for support, and is also relevant for military strategists more broadly in understanding the ever-changing shape of modern warfare, including the role of leadership at every level.

1435   TECH TALK AND CONVERSATION

1505   COFFEE BREAK

1530   DISCUSSION

New Space: Geopolitical and Commercial Drivers of Opportunity and Risk in the New Space Age

A new space age has arrived, together with a spectrum of economic, security, scientific and environmental opportunities. But it also comes with real risks. Commercial activity in space is a key priority for many nations, offering societal, economic and national security benefits.

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The near future may see the creation of an entire in-space economy, with humans living and working in space. But it also comes with rising competition and a race to be first: to put another human on the moon, to get to mars, to create habitation off-world, to access vast resources. The new space race requires smart investment from governments and the private sectors as well as the creation of an enabling but responsible governance framework. How can we ensure space remains a domain that is safe and secure for exploration, experimentation, communication, and supporting key requirements of all of us down here on earth?

1630   LEADER LANDMARK ADDRESS

1650   CLOSING REMARKS

1700   EVENING RECEPTION

2023 PROGRAM

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