Australia-Japan relationship discussed

Griffith University will host a two day international workshop on understanding how domestic and international forces shape Australian and Japanese views of each other.

To be held in Brisbane on August 18 and 19, the workshop will promote further recognition of the bilateral relationship between Australia and Japan and focus on how best to foster more informed perceptions in Australia and Japan on a variety of issues.

Griffith Asia Institute director Professor Andrew O’Neil said that, since the landmark Australia-Japan Commerce Agreement of 1957, Canberra and Tokyo have crafted mutually beneficial trade, investment and diplomatic ties.

“Japan is one of Australia’s most reliable regional partners in the post-war period," Professor O’Neil said.

“More recently, the politico-security aspects of the relationship have come to the fore with uncertainty in Canberra and Tokyo over the long term engagement of the United States in Asia, mutual concerns about regional nuclear proliferation, and a shared commitment to promoting multilateral security architecture in the region,” he said.

“The contemporary Australia-Japan relationship is characterised by increasing tension over Japan’s whaling program in the Antarctic and growing doubts within Japan over the value placed on the relationship by Australian policy makers, particularly in the wake of China’s rise.”

Representatives from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Japanese Government, media, the Australian Institute of International Affairs, the Japan Institute of International Affairs and academics from Japanese and Australian universities will participate in the two-day workshop.

The workshop is supported by the Commonwealth through the Australia-Japan Foundation which is part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade” and the Japan Foundation.

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