



ANNUAL REPORT

Acknowledgment of Country

Griffith University acknowledges the people who are the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we learn and work and pays respect to the Elders, past and present, and extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Griffith University campuses sit on the lands of the Yugarabul, Yuggera, Jagera, Turrbal, Yugambeh and Kombumerri peoples. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' unique relationship with and understanding and ongoing stewardship of these lands. Through collaboration with staff, students and community members we are committed to embedding Indigenous cultures and diverse knowledge systems in our learning and teaching, research, operations, and partnerships.



Griffith Asia Institute
2024
IN NUMBERS



80 **22** **12**

MEMBERS adjunct members

visiting and industry fellows

80 higher degree phd students

4 STAFF



11 BOOKS

9 REPORTS

12 POLICY BRIEFS

200+ journal articles

30+ book chapters

150+ opinion pieces

1,625

newsletter subscribers



5 perspectives: asia lectures

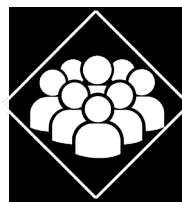
3000+

EVENT ATTENDEES



20 public seminars

33 guest speakers



50+

International Speaking Engagements

63



PARTNERSHIPS

across

17

countries



4 Foundations

5 Government Agencies

7 Professional Associations

16 International Organisations

15 Research Partners



FUNDING

\$3,080,100

GRANT INCOME

\$75,000 donations

\$221,161

consultancies

50 new projects

14,000+

social media followers



28,009

website visitors

GRIFFITH ASIA BUSINESS INTERNSHIPS (GABI)

29

students

26

industry partners

3

countries

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Members of the Griffith Asia Institute,

Welcome to the 2024 Annual Report of the Griffith Asia Institute (GAI). It is my pleasure to share with you the highlights of our achievements over the past year and our vision for the journey ahead.

For over 25 years, GAI has been at the forefront of advancing knowledge and fostering engagement between Australia and its Asia-Pacific neighbours. This legacy was deeply rooted in Griffith University's founding ethos in 1975 which emphasised a strong focus on Asia and environmental sustainability.

As the geopolitical and economic landscape of the Asia-Pacific region continues to evolve, so too must we adapt and refine our role. When I assumed the directorship of GAI in September 2023, we embarked on a strategic process to redefine our ambition in light of contemporary challenges and opportunities. Together with our team and 114 members, we articulated a clear purpose "To foster Asia-Pacific's global leadership in sustainable development", with mutual benefits for Australia and the region.

We are pursuing this purpose by prioritising research excellence, education and meaningful partnerships, underpinned by a commitment to societal impact. To support this, we established three knowledge hubs and four regional hubs aimed at enhancing collaboration and driving innovation.

I am proud to share that we have made significant progress in each area this year. Over the course of this year, we published 11 books, 12 policy briefs and over 200 journal articles. Our events attracted an audience of over 1,100 people outside of Griffith University. We also continued to provide practical learning experiences for our students, supporting 29 students to find internships across Asia and supported 80 PhD students. We led executive education programs across the region on topics ranging from climate finance to digitalisation, from agri-business to innovation. We expanded our regional partnerships and signed MoUs, for example, with Indonesia's electricity utility company Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN) and the National Reserve Bank of Tonga. We worked with leading regional partners such as the Asian Development Bank, UNESCAP, National University of Singapore, Fudan University in Shanghai and of course

Australian partners including Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australian Research Council (ARC), Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA).

Let me also highlight some of the impact generated by GAI:

- The Pacific Hub and the Pacific Island Centre for Development Policy and Research piloted innovative financing mechanisms for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and supported the establishment of the Marshall Islands Monetary Authority.
- The Green Transition Hub secured foundational funding to establish the Green Energy Network – Asia, fostering knowledge sharing on engaging China as a green technology leader.
- Our researchers developed climate-resilient seaweed farming using satellite technology in Indonesia and advanced financing solutions to retire coal-fired power plants in Asia.
- The ARC Centre of Excellence led by Professor Sara Davies made significant strides in building capacity to combat gender-based violence in the Asia-Pacific region.

These achievements underscore our resilience in navigating a challenging research funding environment in 2024 and our ability to attract research income that reached over AU\$3.9 million from grants and commercial engagements.

Looking ahead, we are entering a pivotal period for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. While global challenges and shifting political priorities have deepened, we remain steadfast in addressing real world challenges. We see a unique opportunity to leverage our position as a lynchpin that connects Asia, Pacific and the West. We are inspired

by opportunities such as Australia's potential hosting of COP31 in 2026. This event presents a unique opportunity to contribute to a just and accelerated net-zero transition through cutting-edge research and actionable insights.

We are deeply grateful for the support of Vice Chancellor Carolyn Evans, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) Lee Smith, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Business) Caitlin Byrne, Griffith Business School Dean (Research) Chris Fleming, and our advisory board chaired by Bruce Miller AO until June and then by Ian Kemish AM.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the members of GAI for their unwavering commitment and outstanding contributions throughout the year. Together, we will continue to innovate, institutionalise our successes and shape a brighter future for the Asia-Pacific region.

Sincerely,

Christoph Nedopil
Director, Griffith Asia Institute

A Griffith Asia Institute policy brief, co-authored with the Republic of Marshall Islands Office of Banking Commission, directly influenced the establishment of the RMI Monetary Authority. This initiative strengthens the Government's ability to address risks to the commercial banking sector, ensuring economic stability and fostering sustainable development in the region.

ABOUT GRIFFITH ASIA INSTITUTE

GAI is an interdisciplinary research hub addressing challenges and opportunities across the Asia-Pacific region. Dedicated to promoting sustainable development, GAI drives progress through research, partnerships, and capacity-building in areas like sustainable economics, finance, governance, international relations, and rural development.

GAI's work aligns with Griffith University's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in fostering economic prosperity, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and governance. Through an interdisciplinary approach, GAI addresses diverse regional needs, such as green energy transitions, financial inclusion, and governance. By analysing strategic trends shaping the Asia-Pacific, GAI offers valuable insights for policymakers, business leaders, and communities.

RESEARCH AND FOCUS AREAS

GAI's research tackles critical issues central to the Asia-Pacific, including energy transitions, rural development, governance reforms, and sustainable urban growth.

Amid mounting environmental pressures, GAI provides insights into addressing climate change impacts, enhancing energy efficiency, and fostering green growth.

By collaborating closely with governments, multilateral institutions, and local partners, the Institute ensures its work is both grounded in real-world challenges and directed toward delivering tangible benefits for the region.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND ENGAGEMENT

Beyond research, GAI is deeply committed to capacity building across the Asia-Pacific region. Through education, training, and partnerships, our members work to equip individuals and communities with the knowledge and skills necessary to address contemporary challenges. By fostering collaboration between academics, policymakers, students, and business leaders, GAI creates an environment where innovative ideas and solutions can flourish.

The Institute actively shares its insights through a wide range of publications, seminars, and public events, ensuring that its research reaches both academic and non-academic audiences. These platforms allow for dialogue on key issues, ensuring that GAI's research has a tangible societal impact.

HISTORY OF THE GRIFFITH ASIA INSTITUTE

GAI has a long-standing history of engagement with the Asia-Pacific region. Originally established in 1997 as the Griffith Asia Pacific Council (GAPC), it was designed to coordinate Griffith University's Asia-Pacific activities. In 2001, GAPC was consolidated into the Griffith Asia Pacific Research Institute (GAPRI), which incorporated other centres and programs. In 2004, the Institute was rebranded as the Griffith Asia Institute to reflect its new strategic direction and growing influence.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Looking ahead, GAI remains committed to tackling the region's most pressing challenges. The Institute continues to focus on sustainable development, particularly in areas like renewable energy, climate resilience, and inclusive growth. Through its research hubs, GAI will continue to foster collaboration and drive meaningful change across the Asia-Pacific region.



OUR STRATEGIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Griffith Asia Institute Advisory Council is comprised of industry, government and academic experts and provides strategic advice to the Griffith Asia Institute on its research profile, activities, structure and strategic direction.



BRUCE MILLER AO (Chair to June)

Bruce Miller AO was the Australian Ambassador to Japan from 2011 until 2017, and has a 45-year association with the country. He was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours and awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star by the Japanese Government in 2020.



IAN KEMISH AM (Chair from June)

Ian Kemish, a former senior Australian diplomat with expertise in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, served as High Commissioner to PNG and Ambassador to Germany. Awarded the Order of Australia for his leadership during the 2002 Bali bombing response, he now advises on sustainability in the Indo-Pacific region.



PROFESSOR CAITLIN BYRNE

Caitlin Byrne, Pro Vice Chancellor (Business) at Griffith University, is a former diplomat specialising in Asia-Pacific strategic developments. She holds advisory roles with ACICIS, AP4D, and the Sports Diplomacy Advisory Council, and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, with expertise in international diplomacy.



CLINTON DINES

Clinton Dines worked in the Greater China Region for 36 years, including as President of BHP Billiton China. Specialising in Sino-foreign ventures, Clinton is fluent in Mandarin and holds non-executive directorships. He is a Principal of Moreton Bay Partners advising on business operations in China.



PROFESSOR CHRISTOPH NEDOPIL

Christoph Nedopil Wang, Director of the Griffith Asia Institute, advises governments and financial institutions on green finance and sustainable development. He has authored reports for the UNDP and G20, and his work is cited in major media. Previously, he was the Founding Director of the Green Finance Center at Fudan University.



DR HUONG LE THU

Huong Le Thu is Deputy Director of the Asia Program at the International Crisis Group. She specialises in Southeast Asian regional politics, defence diplomacy, and ASEAN regionalism. Previously a senior analyst at ASPI, she has taught at ANU and held research roles in Singapore and Taiwan.



SUNG LEE

Sung Lee is a Director at PwC Australia and a strong advocate for Australia's engagement with Asia. He serves on multiple advisory councils including Griffith Asia Institute and ANU Centre for Asian-Australian Leadership. Sung is also Deputy Chair of Canberra Grammar School's Board of Directors.



GRAHAM PERRETT MP

Graham Perrett has represented the Queensland electorate of Moreton in the Federal Parliament since 2007. A former teacher and solicitor, he worked in policy roles before politics. He holds degrees in Arts and Law and is committed to education and community. Graham joined the Labor Party to support fairness, equality, and opportunity for all Australians.



CHRIS REES

Chris Rees has 20 years of international business experience and was Australia's first Consul and Trade Commissioner in Fukuoka, Japan as well as Consul General in Osaka. He supported Australian companies globally and developed Austrade's Indigenous International Business Strategy. He is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



PROFESSOR SARAH TODD

Sarah Todd is Vice President (Global) at Griffith University, leading internationalisation efforts. As a global education leader, she serves on several education boards, including the Asia Pacific Association of International Education. Previously, Sarah was Academic Dean of the Otago School of Business and Otago's inaugural Pro-Vice Chancellor (International).

OUR PEOPLE



Our research on China's foreign policy equips Australian policymakers, including Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with critical insights into China's strategic objectives. By fostering constructive engagement and reinforcing the rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific, this work strengthens regional stability and long-term collaboration.



*Dr Harsha Sarvaiya and
Professor Selva Selvanathan.*

OUR TEAM

Professor Christoph Nedopil
Director

Associate Professor Gloria Ge
Deputy Director

Ms Meegan Thorley
Institute Manager

Ms Jill Moriarty
Administrative Officer

Shania Forrester Bidgood
Work Integrated Learning Coordinator

OUR MEMBERS

Associate Professor Alexandr Akimov

Professor Jayatilleke Bandaralage

Dr Helen Berents

Professor Robert Bianchi

Prof Naomi Birdthistle

Associate Professor Kerry Bodle

Professor Caitlin Byrne

Professor Luis Cabrera

Professor Andreas Chai

Professor Cordia Chu

Dr Tom Conley

Ms Tarni Cooper

Dr Anne Cullen

Associate Professor Amanda Daly

Professor Sara Davies

Associate Professor Sameer Deshpande

Ms Maria Dharmesti

Professor Ivan Diaz-Rainey

Dr L. Fernando Distadio

Dr Outi Donovan

Dr John Fan

Dr Hui Feng

Professor Huiyun Feng

Dr Marie-Louise Fry

Dr Bernard Gan

Dr Connie Gan

Dr Max Groemping

Dr Andrea Haefner

Associate Professor Robert Hales

Professor Ian Hall

Professor Susan Harris Rimmer

Associate Professor Luke Houghton

Dr Paul Howard

Dr Fang Hu

Mr Shawn Hunter

Associate Professor Md Sayed Iftexhar

Professor Renée Jeffery

Professor Shireenjit Johl

Associate Professor Kanchana Kariyawasam

Dr Parvinder Kler

Mr Diego Leiva

Professor Leong Liew

Dr Amber Marshall

Dr Stephen McCarthy

Dr Lili Mi

Dr Byung-Seong Min

Professor Reza Monem

Dr Shamsun Nahar

Mr Athula Naranpanawa

Professor Andreas Neef

Dr Akihiro Omura

Dr Emma Palmer

Dr Kirstie Petrou

Dr Anya Phelan

Professor Juliet Pietsch

Associate Professor Shyama Ratnasiri

Associate Professor Robin Roberts

Dr Harsha Sarvaiya

Professor Saroja Selvanathan

Professor Selva Selvanathan

Dr Gunaro Setiawan

Dr Wei Shao

Dr Parmendra Sharma

Dr Marta Sinclair

Associate Professor Tarlok Singh

Associate Professor Dominic Smith

Dr Jen-Je Su

Dr Jiraporn Surachartkumtonkun

Dr Ryan Tang

Dr Sara Thaichon

Professor Dian Tjondronegoro

Dr Neda Todorova

Professor Scott Weaven

Dr Steffen Westermann

Dr Lanita Winata

Dr Victor Wong

Associate Professor Peter Woods

Dr Amy Young

ADJUNCT MEMBERS

Prof Kevin Bardosh

Prof Rajesh Basrur

Prof Colin Brown

Prof Jenny Corbett

Dr Larry Crump

Prof Jon Fraenkel

Mr Pieter Franken

Prof Roman Grynberg

APro Michael Heazle

Prof Iyanatul Islam

Dr Julio Jeldres

Dr Jackie Kauli

Dr Zannie Langford

Dr Wesley Morgan

APro Jane Munro

Ms Greta Nabbs-Keller

Dr Theresa Newton Cain

Prof Andrew O'Neil

APro David Schak

Dr Andrew Selth

Miss Elise Stephenson

APro Matthew Sussex

Dr Park Thaichon

Mr Robert Trojan

Dr Sera Vada

Mrs Erin Watson

Mr Rachmat Witoelar

INDUSTRY FELLOWS

Mr Stefan Armbruster

Rowan Callick

Dr Peter Dirou

Dr Adam Findlay

Rebecca Hall

Mr Mark Hickey

Mr Sean Jacobs

Mr Peter Johnson

Mr Ian Kemish AO

Mr Jack Whelan

VISITING FELLOW

Dr Nobuhiro Hiraya

Dr Peter Layton

PHD CANDIDATES

Ms Duha Mohammad Radwan Abujleedan
Mr Siddhartha Achanta
Mr Festus Adams
Mr Hanan Afzal
Mr Ajanthan Alagathurai
Mr Noore Alam
Mr Md. Abdul Alim
Mrs Iis Alviya
Ms Louisa K Baragamu
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Mr Geoff Ebbs
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Ms Maryam Farooq
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Ms Cera Ghang
Mrs Chithrasheeli Gunaratne
Ms Sama Haddad
Mrs Chandima Jeewanthi Hapu Achchige
Mr Shawn Hunter
Mr Rizky Ihsan
Mr Bagus Ismujati
Ms Rika Isnarti
Mr John Kamau
Mr William Kang
Mr Sherif Keryakes
Mr Ishmael Macharia
Miss Laphatrada Marom
Mrs Seng Maw
Mr Paul McDonald
Mrs Sri Mulyati
Ms Thanam Murugan
Ms Maggie Muurmans
Mr Lukas Nagel
Ms Tahlia Nolan

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Mr David Waters
Mr Ramith Wimalaratna
Miss Xiaolan Xia
Mr Dezhong Xu
Ms Erika Yague
Miss Tianyi Yang
Ms Nicole Yeung
Ms Irenne Yuwono
Mr Yunen Zhang



Lukas Nagel

Supervisors:

Dr Max Grömping
Dr Helen Berents

"You messed with the wrong generation!" Resilience and protest motivations among young Myanmar pro-democracy activists in exile

Lukas's PhD project contributes to debates on collective action, focusing on the role of youth activists resisting military oppression in Myanmar. With a background as a trained peace worker and degrees in China and Asia Studies, Lukas draws on his experience in Southeast Asia to address calls for more methodological and conceptual diversity and creativity in political protest literature, particularly in authoritarian contexts of the Global South. His recent six-month fieldwork along the Thai-Myanmar border employed a mixed-methods approach, incorporating interviews, observations, and online surveys to amplify the voices of these often-overlooked youth activists in exile. By employing an exploratory sequential design and relying on his networks as an international ally of the democratic struggle, his research aims to highlight the complexities of grassroots resistance and to draw the attention of policymakers to the urgent shortcomings in responses to the ongoing crisis in Myanmar.



Rika Isnarti

Supervisors:

Professor Ian Hall
Professor Huiyun Feng
Dr Scott Blakemore

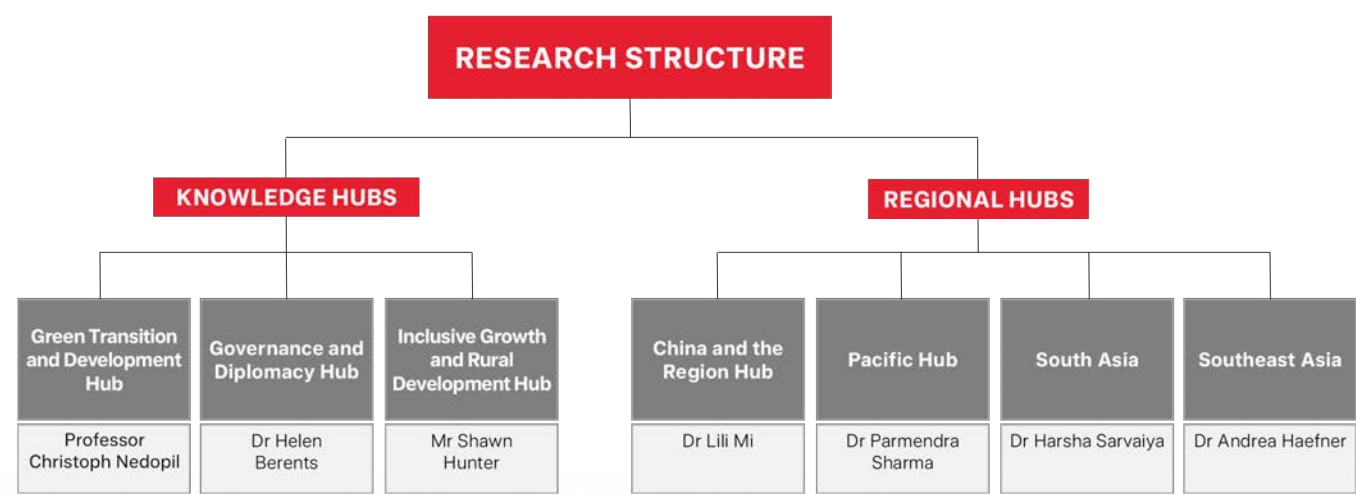
The formulation of energy diplomacy model in a time of energy transition

This research examines why some emerging Asian countries adopt energy transitions faster than others, despite active participation in international energy forums. As the world urgently needs to decarbonize, energy remains a key focus for climate change mitigation. However, many emerging Asian countries still depend on fossil fuels and face challenges in adopting energy transitions. Despite international assistance and agenda-setting in energy forums, implementation often faces obstacles. This study explores the driving factors and barriers to energy transitions, focusing on the roles of domestic actors—governments, civil society, and businesses. By comparing case studies across Asian countries, it aims to understand how international agendas can be effectively implemented at the local level. The research contributes to the dialogue on energy transition in international cooperation, offering a framework to help emerging countries receive support from international organisations and bridge the gap between global governance and local implementation of energy transitions.

RESEARCH

Our policy-relevant research enhances connections between businesses, government bodies, and other research entities placing our students and researchers at the forefront of national and international dialogue across various fields. Through collaborative partnerships, we seek to address key global challenges and influence policy by fostering practical solutions for sustainable development.

Our research is organised into three knowledge hubs: the Green Transition and Development Hub, the Governance and Diplomacy Hub and the Inclusive Growth and Rural Development Hub. Complementing these are our four regional hubs: China and the Region Hub, South Asia Hub, Pacific Hub and Southeast Asia Hub, as shown below in the GAI research structure.



Our research on climate resilience directly impacts vulnerable farming communities in regional Indonesia by advancing sustainable practices, reducing waste and fostering economic resilience. This work enables these communities to thrive amid environmental challenges and resource constraints, driving long-term sustainability and food security.





Dr Rob Hales and Professor Christoph Nedopil visited PLN's Cerata 192 MW in Indonesia with participants from the Australia Awards course on climate finance.

The Green Energy Network (GEN-A) directly connects Asian energy leaders with China's green energy technology and expertise to scale renewable energy adoption and achieve net-zero by 2050.

GREEN TRANSITION AND DEVELOPMENT HUB



The Green Transition and Development Hub, led by Professor Christoph Nedopil, drives innovative research on sustainable growth in the Asia-Pacific. Focusing on climate finance, green development, and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) frameworks, the Hub addresses the region's urgent challenge of balancing economic growth with environmental protection. As urbanisation and energy needs increase, the Hub supports governments and businesses in adopting greener practices to foster resilient, sustainable economies. Through collaborative solutions, it aims to guide the Asia-Pacific's energy transition and protect critical natural resources.

Examples of our research include:

Advancing circular innovation ecosystems in regional Indonesia: A path to sustainable development

The Australia-Indonesia Circular Innovation Ecosystems project, spearheaded by Griffith University in collaboration with Udayana University, the University of Tasmania, LTKL, and CSIRO, seeks to promote circular innovation across six provinces in Indonesia. Funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), this initiative focuses on designing a strategic roadmap to implement sustainable circular ecosystems. By fostering collaboration between experts from academia, industry, government, and local communities in Australia and Indonesia, the project strengthens district-level partnerships and supports sustainable development goals.

The project recognises the importance of transitioning from the linear "take, make, dispose" model to a circular approach that emphasises resource recovery, reuse, and recycling. This shift is especially critical in regional communities, where empowering local enterprises and small businesses can enhance economic resilience and environmental sustainability.

Leading the research efforts are Dr Anya Phelan and Dr Gunaro Setiawan, who are exploring innovative solutions to advance circular innovation ecosystems in Indonesia. Their work underscores the urgency of addressing environmental and social challenges while supporting local communities in adopting sustainable practices.

Green Energy Network (GEN-A)

The Green Energy Network – Asia (GEN-A) is an initiative by Griffith Asia Institute aimed at empowering Asian energy leaders in policy, finance, and industry to navigate the challenges of a just green transition. This innovative network will foster collaboration with China and other global partners, equipping decision-makers with the tools and capacity to access green finance, adopt cutting-edge energy technologies, and develop sustainable energy storage and distribution systems.

Asia's rising energy demand—projected to grow 3% annually—necessitates a major transformation to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. The region faces pressing challenges, including coal emissions that have surged by 300% since 1990 and now account for 52% of global coal-related emissions.

Led by Professor Christoph Nedopil and Shawn Hunter, GEN-A will catalyse innovation and knowledge sharing across the region, leveraging partnerships with organisations such as the Institute of Essential Services Reform (IESR) in Indonesia, the Pakistan China Institute, and Climate Smart Ventures. The initiative's pilot phase will focus on Pakistan and Indonesia, fostering collaboration with Chinese and international partners to support green energy projects and bridge critical knowledge gaps.

GOVERNANCE AND DIPLOMACY HUB



The Governance and Diplomacy Hub, led by Dr Helen Berents, focuses on key areas such as diplomacy, governance, and peace and security across Asia and the Pacific. Through comprehensive research, the Hub explores international relations and negotiations, addressing the region's fast-evolving challenges. By harnessing Griffith University's multidisciplinary expertise and leveraging extensive regional networks, the Hub provides valuable insights into critical geopolitical trends. This approach ensures that the Governance and Diplomacy Hub remains at the forefront of addressing pressing issues in global diplomacy and governance, offering informed solutions to policymakers and stakeholders in the region.

Examples of our research include:

Forced labour and climate change: Keeping a focus on women and children

A groundbreaking project is investigating Indonesia's policy and business responses to forced labour, with a focus on the compounded vulnerabilities faced by women and children. The research explores how climate change—through rising sea levels and natural disasters—drives forced migration, escalating the risks of forced labour, particularly in coastal villages impacted by land loss. By addressing this critical intersection of climate change, forced migration, and labour exploitation, the project aims to shape both national and global strategies to safeguard at-risk populations.

Conducted in partnership with Indonesia's Badan Riset Dan Inovasi Nasional (BRIN) and Universitas Diponegoro (UNDIP), and supported by the DFAT KONEKSI Knowledge Partnership Platform Australia-Indonesia, this initiative will inform policies to protect vulnerable groups from climate-related challenges.

The research team includes Professors Sara Davies and Susan Harris Rimmer, whose expertise enhances the project's focus on the rights and resilience of women and children affected by these interconnected crises.

Global burden of animal disease initiative: Indonesia case study

This project is piloting the Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) framework in Indonesia to improve animal health among smallholder farmers. By addressing the interconnected challenges of animal health and societal wellbeing, it aims to enhance resource allocation and decision-making, contributing to a One Health vision. The framework establishes a global, standardised data-sharing platform to assess the societal cost of livestock diseases using epidemiological and economic data.

In Indonesia, the project promotes local ownership, compiles data on livestock populations, and estimates health losses in key production systems. It also strengthens south-south collaboration and builds capacity in animal health economics, aligning with other countries implementing the framework. These efforts will guide policy and investment decisions, benefiting Indonesia's agricultural sector.

Led by Dr Dominic Smith and Dr Tarni Cooper, the project aims to improve animal health and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

Results from our study on smallholder cattle value chains and animal health/biosecurity regulations in Lao PDR are being used by Meat and Livestock Australia in the design of a new program of support and capacity upgrading for smallholder cattle producers in Lao PDR to meet upgraded biosecurity requirements.

Associate Professor Dominic Smith conducting in-country research for his project, Reimagining collaboration in the Australian and Vietnam beef cattle sectors.



The Indo-Pacific Initiative for Sustainable Animal Health Cooperation improves livelihoods by reducing animal health-related losses for smallholder farmers across the region and strengthening public health by mitigating disease risks.

INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT HUB



The Inclusive Growth and Rural Development Hub led by Shawn Hunter addresses the inequalities exacerbated by COVID-19 in the Asia-Pacific region. Despite significant economic growth, poverty and unemployment persist—particularly among vulnerable populations. Research focuses on enhancing financial inclusion, digital access, and rural development to benefit marginalised communities. By collaborating with multilateral institutions and NGOs, the Hub members conduct research and capacity-building initiatives, providing practical solutions and expert advice to promote equitable socioeconomic growth and development across the region.

Examples of our research include:

Indo-Pacific Initiative for Sustainable Animal Health Cooperation (IPI-SAHC)

The IPI-SAHC project, a \$1.4 million initiative funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), focuses on enhancing animal health governance in the Indo-Pacific region through sustainable and inclusive practices. The project's objectives include: (1) repositioning animal health governance as a priority for sustainable development, (2) integrating gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) into health frameworks, (3) incorporating small-scale farmers and community animal health workers into the One Health approach, and (4) ensuring research produces practical, actionable outcomes.

Case studies in Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines will examine animal health governance at regional, national, and community levels, exploring current frameworks, national investments, and local disease prevention efforts. This will help identify effective governance strategies and promote inclusive animal health practices.

The project is led by Professor Sara Davies, Dr Melodie Ruwet, and Dr Michelle Rourke. Their efforts aim to empower local communities, strengthen governance systems, and integrate GESI into decision-making processes, thereby fostering resilient and equitable animal health systems across the Indo-Pacific region.

Bridging the digital divide by enhancing effective usage of digital financial services for the poor

This project, supported by the Citi Foundation and in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank Institute, and MicroSave Consulting, seeks to reduce digital exclusion among low-income populations. The research investigates the barriers preventing adoption of digital financial services (DFS) for individuals at the Base of the Economic Pyramid (BoEP) in developing countries, providing valuable insights for policymakers aiming to create more inclusive digital economies.

The study focuses on marginalized groups, such as women, youth, the elderly, and people with disabilities, who face the greatest risks of digital exclusion. A randomised controlled trial with low-income merchants in Bangladesh will track the adoption of DFS over time, offering insights that will guide strategies to improve digital literacy and accessibility. These findings will inform policies that enhance DFS adoption, empower disadvantaged communities, and support long-term economic resilience.

The project is led by Shawn Hunter, who works alongside a team of researchers dedicated to promoting digital inclusion and fostering sustainable policy initiatives to bridge the digital divide.

CHINA AND THE REGION HUB



The China and the Region Hub, led in 2024 by Dr Lili Mi, investigates the intricate relationships between China and the global community. Our research encompasses vital topics such as sustainable finance, artificial intelligence, and regional integration through globalisation, including initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Researchers examine foreign direct investment (FDI) and capability upgrading, assessing their impact on China's global engagement. Through rigorous analysis and innovative research, we aim to uncover insights into the evolving dynamics of China's interactions with neighbouring countries and the international community.

Examples of our research include:

Discerning China's Foreign Policy Playbook

This research project focuses on understanding China's foreign policy decision-making by examining the perspectives of Chinese scholars. It introduces a novel theoretical model that emphasises the perceptions, signals, and debates within China's academic community. By using elite interviews, textual analysis, and focus group discussions, the project aims to uncover the motivations and strategies behind China's foreign policy across various sectors, including economic, trade, political, and security dimensions.

This research is crucial in navigating the complexities of China's evolving international role and will provide a clearer understanding of its future policy orientations. The findings will offer valuable insights for Australian policymakers, including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), helping to shape a more effective China policy that upholds the rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific.

The project is led by Professor Huiyun Feng, Professor Kai He, and Associate Professor Gloria Ge, who bring a wealth of expertise to this critical area of study.

China Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Investment

This research highlights a major milestone for China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with total engagements surpassing USD 1 trillion since its launch in 2013. In 2023 alone, the BRI saw USD 92.4 billion invested across 212 deals, marking an 18% increase from the previous year. These investments included USD 634 billion in construction contracts and USD 419 billion in non-financial investments.

The year also saw a shift towards sustainable and impactful sectors, with significant growth in green energy investments. This included USD 7.9 billion in energy projects and over USD 7 billion in electricity transmission, alongside an increase in China's investments in technology and critical materials like lithium for electric vehicles, totaling USD 8 billion.

Looking ahead, BRI engagements are expected to continue expanding, particularly in renewable energy, trade infrastructure, and technology, further cementing the initiative's role in global development while navigating geopolitical and environmental challenges. This research is led by Professor Christoph Nedopil.

Our work on China's green finance has directly contributed to a new and ambitious non-financial disclosure standard supported by Chinese ministries to accelerate decarbonisation.



SOUTH ASIA HUB



Our research directly benefits Bangladeshi farmers by delivering practical tools and knowledge to improve soil health, build climate resilience, and boost crop yields.

The South Asia Hub, led by Dr Harsha Sarvaiya, aims to promote engagement and provide in-depth insights into diverse topics, including politics, culture, economics, and human rights. Catering to scholars, policymakers, and enthusiasts, the hub offers valuable resources to deepen understanding of this dynamic region. Our research spans South Asian nations—India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan—focusing on critical areas such as economic development, social transformation, environmental sustainability, governance, health, and education, while leveraging interdisciplinary approaches and regional expertise.

Examples of our research include:

Developing and translating soil health information in Bangladesh to build resilient agricultural systems

A project aimed at enhancing agricultural resilience in Bangladesh focuses on developing a farmer-centric soil health and resilience knowledge framework. This initiative brings together farmers, extension agents, researchers, government agencies, and private sector partners in a collaborative effort to address soil health challenges exacerbated by climate change. Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to climate-related issues such as rising soil salinity, drought, and flooding, all of which undermine agricultural productivity. Traditional farming practices further degrade soil quality, necessitating the development of more resilient systems capable of withstanding these environmental pressures.

The project bridges the gap between scientific research and practical application, providing farmers with accessible, actionable information on soil health. Key activities include co-designing a soil health knowledge framework with stakeholders and implementing a transdisciplinary research model that ensures the knowledge is equitable and relevant. The project prioritises the inclusion of female farmers, ensuring they receive the necessary tools and support to enhance their farming systems' resilience. The research team is led by Professor Cordia Chu and includes other key collaborators. Through this initiative, the project aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices and improve food security in Bangladesh.

Accountability for past human rights violations in South Asia

Transitional justice mechanisms such as truth and reconciliation commissions, human rights commissions, and commissions of inquiry play a crucial role in addressing post-conflict accountability in the Indo-Pacific region. These processes, designed to promote human rights and justice, have been implemented in various countries, including Cambodia, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Indonesia (Aceh), Papua New Guinea (Bougainville), the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Japan, the Philippines, and Taiwan, with a recent focus on South Asia, particularly Nepal and India.

In Nepal, the National Human Rights Commission faces significant challenges in its legitimacy and effectiveness, limiting its ability to hold perpetrators accountable. Similarly, in India, commissions of inquiry, often set up after incidents of communal violence, struggle to achieve their objectives, frequently delayed and hindered by a lack of transparency and the protection of powerful figures. This project seeks to explain the varied responses of South Asian states to human rights accountability, highlighting divergences from global norms. The research offers valuable, empirically-driven insights for Australian policymakers, international organizations, and NGOs addressing human rights challenges in South Asia.

The project is led by Professor Renée Jeffery, whose extensive fieldwork and publications inform this analysis.



The Pacific Hub, established in 2020 by Associate Professor Tess Newton Cain and now led by Dr Parmendra Sharma, is focused on addressing critical issues facing Pacific nations. The Hub emphasises amplifying Pacific voices and collaborating with communities to create meaningful solutions. Our research encompasses livelihoods, culture, diplomacy, governance, and climate change, providing valuable insights into the unique challenges and opportunities within the region. We also promote Pacific literacy through educational initiatives and research dissemination across Australia and beyond.

Examples of our research include:

Strengthening WASH supply chains to support health and resilience

Safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are essential for human health and well-being. Beyond their critical role in preventing disease, safe WASH systems contribute to livelihoods, boost school attendance, uphold dignity, and build resilient communities in healthier environments.

Robin E Roberts, in collaboration with the Griffith International Water Centre, is studying improvements for national WASH supply chains to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for WASH in Vanuatu. The research seeks to identify key issues, constraints, and risks within the existing value chain while exploring opportunities and capabilities to better serve low-income communities. A particular focus is on fostering inclusivity, engaging women, men, adolescents, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups in the WASH supply chain. The study also aims to deepen understanding of supply and demand factors for WASH products and services, paving the way for positive health outcomes and greater preparedness for public health emergencies. Through these efforts, the initiative is set to contribute significantly to advancing health equity and building more resilient communities globally.

Enhancing the ecosystem for entrepreneurship and innovation in the Pacific

This project aims to boost innovation in small-scale enterprises, key to economic resilience in the Pacific. These businesses face significant challenges, such as limited capacity, access to financing, and remote locations, worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Supporting this sector is crucial for economic recovery and sustainable growth.

Funded by the Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC), Griffith Asia Institute is partnering with the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and ACCESS Advisory to explore technology solutions. The project will first assess the entrepreneurial environment in Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, gathering insights on challenges and opportunities.

The second phase will design a technology-focused intervention to improve education and human capital for small enterprises, serving as a model for local organisations to replicate.

Shawn Hunter leads this project, aiming to empower small enterprises and support economic recovery in the Pacific.



The results of the Women's financial inclusion Community of Practice (UNESCAP) program have directly influenced Fiji's national financial inclusion strategy; specifically the Reserve Bank of Fiji's development of a roadmap for achieving gender-specific targets and a review of their sex-disaggregated data policy.



The seaweed project will enable Indonesian farmers to increase yield while reducing CO2 emissions improving the livelihood of over 62,000 coastal households.

SOUTHEAST ASIA HUB



The Southeast Asia Hub, led by Dr Andrea Haefner, addresses critical regional and country-specific challenges across Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, Singapore and Myanmar. Our initiatives target issues like economic development, governance, environmental sustainability, and social progress to foster collaboration and sustainable growth. By integrating local expertise with global best practices, we offer actionable insights for policymakers and community leaders.

Examples of our research include:

Rapid transformation of the Lao beef sector: biosecurity, trade and smallholders

A project funded by ACIAR is working to enhance cattle and buffalo systems in Laos and Cambodia, addressing the rising demand in export markets. With limited impact from past cattle research investments, this initiative will evaluate the relevance of earlier studies and identify fresh priorities tailored to the rapidly evolving beef sector in the Greater Mekong Subregion. The project places a particular focus on smallholder farmers, aiming to integrate them into formal, commercially viable value chains.

The project will synthesise findings from previous research in Cambodia, Laos, and nearby Mekong nations to uncover actionable insights. It also aims to identify critical needs and develop strategies for future investments in beef research, capacity-building, and technical collaboration to foster a more sustainable and competitive cattle sector.

This initiative is led by Dr Dominic Smith, whose work bridges regional expertise and development goals to empower smallholders and strengthen local economies.

Using satellite imagery to build climate resilience for seaweed farmers in Indonesia

A project supporting Indonesian seaweed farmers is tackling climate change impacts on the nation's largest marine aquaculture sector. With over 62,000 coastal households reliant on seaweed farming, shifting ocean conditions and unpredictable rainfall patterns threaten livelihoods. The initiative employs advanced technologies like computer vision and machine-learning tools to analyse satellite imagery for monitoring seaweed production. Ground-truthing will utilise oceanographic data and farm diaries, with community input shaping climate resilience strategies.

Supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Knowledge Partnership Program, the project also invests in local capacity building. Six junior researchers from Maluku, East Nusa Tenggara, and South Sulawesi will be trained in social research methods, boosting regional expertise in sustainable aquaculture.

This initiative is led by Adjunct Researcher, Dr Zannie Langford, whose expertise is central to addressing these critical challenges through innovative solutions and local empowerment.



Professor Sara Davies joined a distinguished panel at the International Conference on Women, Peace, and Security in Manila.

Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Professor Sara Davies serves as a Chief Investigator and Deputy Director at the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence against Women (CEVAW), the world's first large-scale research initiative dedicated to addressing all forms of violence against women across Australia and the Indo-Pacific region. Established in response to the urgent need for a cohesive, regional approach to combatting gender-based violence, CEVAW is committed to advancing understanding of the complex drivers behind violence against women and developing evidence-driven, culturally adaptive strategies for policy and systemic change.

Headquartered at Monash University, CEVAW draws on the expertise of 13 Chief Investigators from six Australian universities and a diverse network of 45 partner organisations, including local community-based organisations, international NGOs, and government agencies. Together, they are pioneering initiatives to influence policy, engage communities, and transform practice, leveraging a range of fields from law and public health to economics and security studies. A core feature of CEVAW's approach is its commitment to Indigenous and survivor-centred strategies, which inform its interdisciplinary and Indo-Pacific partnerships to foster sustainable, context-specific solutions.

The Centre's strategic framework centres around the "three I's":

1. **Indigenous:** Empower Indigenous women and victim-survivors, equipping future researchers and practitioners to develop community-focused solutions.
2. **Interdisciplinary:** Explore regional variations in violence against women (VAW), identify under-researched forms, and translate findings into actionable policy changes.
3. **Indo-Pacific:** Establish an interactive Evidence Platform to share effective responses to eliminate VAW across diverse contexts.

By collaborating across these tiers, CEVAW amplifies its reach, capacity, and influence, setting a new benchmark for regional and international efforts to eliminate violence against women. This collaborative approach ensures that the Centre's outputs are not only rigorous and applicable across sectors but also attuned to the unique cultural and structural dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region.

CEVAW has a diverse range of partners, including local community groups, international NGOs, and government agencies, to address violence against women. These partnerships strengthen their capacity to deliver impactful programs and drive policy changes across various levels.



Dr Parmendra Sharma speaking with Central Bank of Solomon Islands Governor, Dr Luke Forau and former Prime Minister, Manasseh Sogavare at the 4th Annual Pacific Research Conference and Leaders' Meeting in Honiara.

Pacific Island Centre for Development Policy and Research

The Pacific region faces unique economic and social challenges, and building local capacity is crucial for sustainable development. Griffith University's Pacific capacity-building program addresses the region's unique economic and social challenges, equipping researchers and policymakers to drive sustainable development. Led by Dr. Parmendra Sharma at the Pacific Island Centre for Development Policy and Research, the program supports the Pacific's financial and policy sector in collaboration with regional institutions.

A central element is the Joint (Policy) Working Papers (JWPs) initiative, which mentors early-career Pacific researchers, many of whom have limited formal research experience. Academics from Griffith University and established Pacific researchers provide guidance, fostering impactful research that bridges academia and policy. The JWPs encourage real-world applications, with selected papers subject to external review and publication, amplifying Pacific voices in global research dialogues.

The Pacific Seminar Series (PSS), introduced in 2024, builds on experiences gained by Pacific fellows at institutions like the Reserve Bank of Australia and ASIC. These seminars feature key regional and international stakeholders, enabling discussions and policy development tailored for the Pacific. Partnerships with institutions such as the IMF and Treasury bolster knowledge exchange and create solutions attuned to Pacific needs.

The Post-Graduate Seminar Series (PGSS) provides advanced training for Pacific PhD candidates, focusing

on critical regional issues like financial inclusion and economic sector growth. This series encourages Pacific-centric perspectives, preparing future leaders to challenge conventional approaches.

The program's Regional Conference and Leaders Forum brings together Pacific policymakers, academics, and industry experts to discuss the region's economic opportunities, especially concerning post-COVID recovery. This gathering fosters dialogue and collaboration to advance Pacific-focused solutions.

Through these integrated initiatives, Griffith's program is fostering a generation of Pacific researchers who are driving research-led solutions at the forefront of policy, building local capacity to address the Pacific's pressing development challenges.

Research by Griffith Asia Institute and the Central Bank of Solomon Islands directly influenced the CBSI Governor to initiate a new policy framework, resulting in an updated strategy for financial sector development to address key economic challenges and fostering economic growth in the Solomon Islands.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Our members play a pivotal role in fostering capacity building across the Asia-Pacific region through workshops, training courses, and knowledge-sharing initiatives. These activities empower stakeholders in government, industry, academia, and civil society to address complex challenges and seize emerging opportunities.

From enhancing technical expertise in areas like renewable energy and digital innovation to advancing policymaking and leadership skills, GAI-led capacity-building efforts are tailored to meet the diverse needs of the region.

Australia Awards Fellowships

The DFAT Australia Awards Fellowships build networks and strengthen partnerships by supporting senior and mid-career officials in development-focused professional activities. Fellowships range from 2 to 52 weeks. In 2024, Griffith Asia Institute members were awarded the following fellowships:

Parmendra Sharma was awarded \$256,710 for his Fellowship "Toward Pacific Digital Economy: Finance, Technology and Policy" (Pacific)

Rob Hales was awarded \$229,121 for his Fellowship "Building capacity for project-ready investment for inclusive climate resilient development" (India)

Saroja and Selva Selvanathan were awarded \$238,202 for their Fellowship "Policy capacity building in ever changing digital economy (Vietnam and Sri Lanka)"

Australia Awards Short Courses

The Australia Awards Short Courses are targeted programs of intensive training for selected cohorts to address specific technical or soft skills gaps.

In 2024, Griffith Asia Institute members led or took part in many Australia Award Short Courses, including (but not limited to) the following:

Course title	Country	Leads
Towards a Knowledge-based Economy: Supporting Indonesia's Research and Innovation Agenda	Indonesia	Dian Tjondronegoro
Standardisation and Product Compliance for Virgin Coconut Oil and Spices (IA-CEPA ECP Katalis)	Indonesia	Robin Roberts
Climate Finance	Indonesia	Rob Hales and Christoph Nedopil
Governing in the Digital Age	Sri Lanka	Dian Tjondronegoro
Australia Awards Short Course in supporting just Net Zero transitions in regional areas of Vietnam	Vietnam	Alexandr Akimov
Promoting Transparency & Accountability in Indonesia's Public Sector	Indonesia	AJ Brown and Reza Monem

As part of a Financial Inclusion Community of Practice established by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and implemented by GAI, Shawn Hunter organised and moderated a workshop in Thailand which brought together regulators and experts from across the Asia Pacific region.



A specialised training program led by Robin Roberts and Ben Mullen (pictured above with Helianti Hillman, founder Javara (centre)) has equipped 20 Indonesian producers with the skills and knowledge to export their products to Australia's retail and food service sectors.



PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Books



Blue Security in the Indo-Pacific

Ian Hall, Troy Lee-Brown, and Rebecca Strating (Eds)

This book introduces the concept of "Blue Security," offering a holistic view of maritime security across the Indo-Pacific. It examines the strategies of 18 states to address threats like piracy, climate change, and resource exploitation, highlighting national, regional, and environmental dimensions. A must-read for understanding this critical region's security dynamics and global significance.



A Myanmar Miscellany: Selected Articles, 2007–2023

Andrew Selth

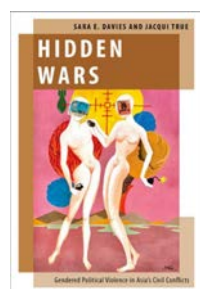
This collection of 72 articles spans Myanmar's political journey from "disciplined democracy" to the 2021 coup and civil war. Covering politics, security, culture, and history, Selth provides nuanced insights into Myanmar's evolving landscape. Essential for anyone seeking to understand the complexities of this nation's turbulent trajectory.



Economic Development and Consumption Patterns in Asian Countries

Shashika Rathnayaka, Saroja Selvanathan, Eliyathamby Selvanathan

This book analyses consumption patterns in Asia using recent data and cross-country comparisons. It explores price and quantity dynamics across diverse development stages, offering valuable insights for economists and policymakers crafting fiscal strategies. A key resource for understanding the region's economic behaviours and growth trajectories.



Hidden Wars: Gendered Political Violence in Asia's Civil Conflicts

Sara E. Davies and Jacqui True

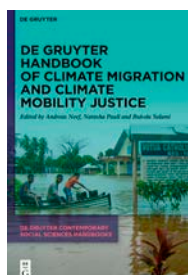
This book examines the intersection of gender inequality and political violence in Asia's conflict zones. Through new data and interviews, it explores how gender shapes violence and reporting silences, offering strategies for prevention and response. An essential resource for peacebuilding and gender studies.



Climate Politics in Oceania: Renewing Australia-Pacific Relations in a Warming World

Susan Harris Rimmer, Caitlin Byrne, Wesley Morgan

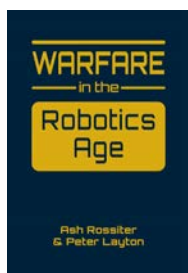
This book critiques Australia's climate policies and highlights Pacific nations' leadership in global climate diplomacy. It urges Australia to adopt stronger action for sustainable development and regional cooperation, offering critical insights for reshaping Australia-Pacific relations in the face of climate challenges.



De Gruyter Handbook of Climate Migration and Climate Mobility Justice

Andreas Neef, Natasha Pauli and Bukola Salami (Eds)

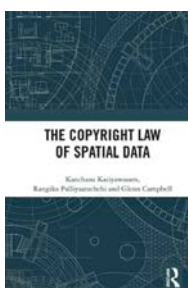
Drawing on a wide range of disciplinary traditions and featuring Indigenous voices and youth perspectives, this book introduces new conceptual frameworks and empirical studies to examine the unique challenges facing people on the move and those staying behind.



Warfare in the Robotics Age

Ash Rossiter and Peter Layton

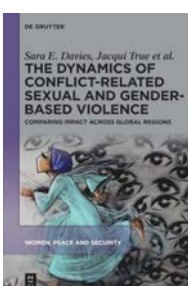
This book explores the transformative impact of robotic systems and AI on modern warfare. It examines technological developments in the US, China, and Russia, analysing opportunities, challenges, and risks in robotic warfare. A must-read for those interested in defence and international security.



The Copyright Law of Spatial Data

Kanchana Kariyawasam, Ragika Palliyarachchi, Glenn Campbell

This book compares copyright frameworks for spatial data across Australia, the US, and the EU. It explores legal challenges posed by emerging technologies like AI and drones and provides policy recommendations for balancing intellectual property rights. Essential for legal scholars and industry professionals.



The Dynamics of Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Sara E. Davies, Jacqui True, and Co-Authors

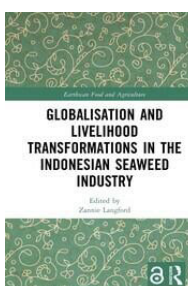
This book examines global patterns of sexual and gender-based violence in conflicts from 2010–2020. It highlights regional differences, state-led violence, and prevention strategies, contributing to global discussions on SGBV. A vital resource for those working on peacebuilding, gender, and human rights.



Youth and Sustainable Peacebuilding

Helen Berents, Catherine Bolten, and Siobhan McEvoy-Levy (Eds)

This volume explores youth-led peacebuilding efforts in global conflict zones, challenging traditional approaches. Through case studies, it highlights youth-driven initiatives and offers insights into bridging institutional frameworks with grassroots activism. A must-read for youth studies and peacebuilding professionals.



Globalisation and Livelihood Transformations in the Indonesian Seaweed Industry

Zannie Langford

This book examines Indonesia's booming seaweed industry and its impact on rural livelihoods. It explores the global market, socioeconomic dynamics, and women's roles in the industry, offering insights into sustainable development and agrarian transformation in a globalised world.

Research reports

Members' reports published by Griffith Asia Institute

Enhancing the ecosystem for entrepreneurship and innovation in the Pacific

Shawn Hunter, Sameer Deshpande, Ron Bevacqua, Jeff Liew and Peter Morgan

Driving economic resilience: Pacific Trade Investment's decade of progress

Luke Houghton

Unity and Discord in the Pacific: Negotiating the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus

Larry Crump

China Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Investment Report 2023

Christoph Nedopil

China green finance status and trends 2023–2024

Jing Zhang, Ziyang Song and Christoph Nedopil

China coal exit: Phase down of coal-fired power in Pakistan and Vietnam

Christoph Nedopil, Lawrence Ang, Matt Carpio and Mengdi Yue

China's investment in the Asia Pacific 2023 report

Christoph Nedopil, Jing Zhang and Lili Mi

China Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) investment report 2023

Christoph Nedopil

Griffith Asia-Pacific Strategic Outlook 2024: Unlocking Asia Pacific's global leadership in sustainable development

Christoph Nedopil and Gloria Ge (Eds)

Members' reports published elsewhere

De-Banking in the Asia-Pacific Region

Thomas Johnson, Awais Farid Khan, Bob Trojan, Marek Dubovec, Shawn Hunter, Andreas Chai, Sharon Thorpe and John Fogarty

Measuring the impact of the National Financial Literacy Program for Youth: Case Study

Shawn Hunter

Inclusion and diversity: Addressing financial exclusion in the age of enhanced compliance

Shawn Hunter

Macroeconomic diagnostics for decent jobs, social protection and just transitions

Yan Islam, Luca Fedi and Sher Verick

ASX100 Business Values Review: A 2023 Review of the Espoused Cultural Values of ASX100 Companies

Nicholas Barter, Christopher Fleming, Rebecca Park and Anya Phelan

Policy briefs

Developing the agriculture sector through youth entrepreneurship: The case of Vanuatu

Rebecca Bogiri

Future made in Australia? Evaluating Australia's 2024 green energy related policies

Christoph Nedopil and Jing Zhang

Engaging China for sustainability in Asia: Collaboration, competition or choppy waters

Christoph Nedopil, Chen Gang and Lili Mi

Chasing the Asia-Pacific green 'Just Transition' opportunity

Christoph Nedopil, Rob Hales, Lawrence Ang and Fabby Tumiwa

Managed transition vehicle: Financing mechanism for early phase-down of Chinese sponsored coal plant

Christoph Nedopil, Lawrence Ang and Mustafa Hyde

Building capacity: Climate-resilient development and gender-inclusive entrepreneurship in Mongolia

Jargalmaa Ganzorig, Dagilsuren Uuganbaatar, Batkhoo Bud, Bolor Bold, Rob Hales, Dhara Shah and Tapan Sarker

Development outlook: Exploring the opportunities of Southeast Asia

Andrea Haefner and Sovinda Po

Confronting labour market challenges in South Asia: An SDG perspective

Mohammad Nazmul Avi Hossain and Iyanatul Islam

Leaving nothing to chance: Sustaining Pacific development beyond 2024

Anna Naupa and Tess Newton Cain

Learning from international experience: Improving institutions for climate-resilient MSMEs

Lhagvanorov Dashzeveg, Elberel Tumenjargal, Khaliunbat Batdorj, Purevdorj Teeden, Tapan Sarker, Dhara Shah and Rob Hales

Climate-resilient micro- small- and medium-sized enterprises in Mongolia: Understanding challenges

Bayarmaa Khurelchuluun, Odontuya Sukhbaatar, Dhara Shah, Tapan Sarker and Rob Hales

COP28 Brief: Unpacking China's stance and unravelling implications

Jing Zhang and Christoph Nedopil

Working papers

Developing the agriculture sector through youth entrepreneurship: The case of Vanuatu

Rebecca Bogiri

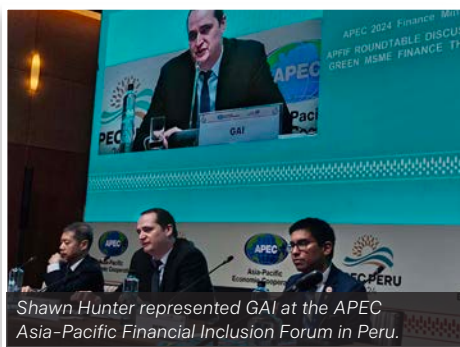
Future made in Australia? Evaluating Australia's 2024 green energy related policies

Christoph Nedopil and Jing Zhang



Participants of the 2024 Members' Retreat

ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS



Shawn Hunter represented GAI at the APEC Asia-Pacific Financial Inclusion Forum in Peru.



Christoph Nedopil delivered a keynote at the Asialink Leaders event, Brisbane.



Dian Tjondronegoro delivered a session at the Australian Awards Indonesia workshop.



Caitlin Byrne presented a session at the Australian Awards Indonesia workshop.



Anja Phelan joined an expert panel on waste and climate war at the World Science Fair in Brisbane.



Renee Jeffery (keynote speaker) and Susan Harris Rimmer at the United Nations Association Human Rights Day Event at St Stephen's Cathedral Brisbane.



Robin E Roberts delivered a keynote at the Global Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship Conference in Manila.



Emma Palmer speaking on sustainable infrastructure and the role of international law in Ho Chi Minh City.



Parmendra Sharma convened the 4th Annual Pacific Research Conference and Leaders' Meeting in Honiara.



Perspectives:Asia Seminar Series

Established in 2005 as a collaborative initiative between the Griffith Asia Institute and the Queensland Art Gallery's Australian Centre of Asia Pacific Art, the *Perspectives:Asia* series has become a cornerstone for public engagement on contemporary issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Designed to foster dialogue on culture, politics, and society, the seminars also promote deeper understanding of Australia's evolving relationships with its regional neighbours.

Over the years, *Perspectives:Asia* has featured an impressive range of speakers, offering fresh insights into topics spanning sport, cooking, fashion, art, and politics. Each session invites discussion on the dynamic interconnections between Australia and Asia, encouraging cultural appreciation and mutual awareness across disciplines.

This year's program continued this tradition, showcasing thought-provoking discussions and expert voices on key regional themes. Highlights included the following topics and speakers:

- **29 February 2024**

The importance of women's voices in conversations around conservation

Robyn James, Gender and Equity Director in Asia Pacific at The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Madlyn Ero, Partnerships Program Manager for the Solomon Islands Program at The Nature Conservancy and leads TNC's gender equity work in Solomon Islands Dilly Maezama, one of the founding members of KAWAKI.

- **11 April 2024**

Climate politics in Oceania

Professor Susan Harris Rimmer, Dr Wesley Morgan (co-editors), Associate Professor Tess Newton Cain (author) and Mary Maselina Harm (respondent).

- **20 June 2024**

How to get China right?

Dr Ruan Zengze, Consul-General of China, Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China (Queensland)

- **22 August 2024**

The 2024 National Defence Strategy

Major General (Retired) Professor Adam Findlay, Australian Defence Force

- **17 October 2024**

From Paris to Brisbane: The impact of the Games for the Asia-Pacific region

Dr Caroline Riot (Director of Games Partnerships and Engagement, Griffith University), Leata Alaimoana (Queensland Trade Commissioner for the Pacific), Kerry Petersen, Brisbane 2032 Chief Impact Officer and Papua New Guinea Olympic athletes Adrine Monagi and Georgia-Leigh Vele



Dr Ruan Zengze, Consul-General of China



Griffith Asia Institute events

Conference	
4th Annual Pacific Research Conference The Business of Finance in PICs: Balancing Profitability and Access to Finance	Governors, Pacific Banks and senior officials and monetary organisations from the Pacific region
Public lectures	
Security in the Indo-Pacific after the US elections	Charles Edel
Where Will Taiwan's New Team Take the Island – and the Indo Pacific?	Rowan Callick
Innovative Approaches to Mobilise High Impact Climate Finance	Mara Bún and Robert Hales
Six issues to unlock Asia-Pacific's global leadership in sustainable development	Andrea Haefner, Robert Hales, Shawn Hunter, Iyanatul Islam, Christoph Nedopil and Tess Newton Cain
Green Economy – Opportunities for Australia and China	Gobind Kalsi, Chanjie Qin, Brendan Herriott, Christoph Nedopil and John Zhong
The Political Thought of Xi Jinping	Steve Tsang, Rowan Callick and Susan Trevaskes
Public webinars	
Innovation and Leadership in Tourism and Hospitality	Kaye Chon
Monetary policy frameworks in Australia and New Zealand: Insights from experts	Anthony Brassil and Lewis Kerr
Dancing with the dragon: Leveraging opportunities for global growth	Ker Gibbs, Mark Fischer, Carl Hinze and Gloria Ge
Regulatory framework, innovation, sandbox and licensing: Insights from experts	ASIC and APRA presenters
Research seminars	
The world state of our concept: Global international relations and Indian visions of world order	Luis Cabrera
Diversity in foreign direct investment and environmental innovation of emerging market firms	Ryan Tang
Privatising Poverty	Ron Bevacqua
Climate politics in Oceania, Australia's role in global efforts	Wesley Morgan
The value of livestock in Indonesia – economic and social aspects	Dominic Smith, Tarni Cooper and Galey Tenzin
The trauma of exploitation: Temporary migration and workplace unfreedoms	Christina Stringer
The macroeconomic effects of COVID-19 vaccinations in five Asian countries	George Verikios
Great Power Tech Competition: Critical technologies, supply chains, and weaponised interdependence in US-China relations	Scott AW Brown
Unity and Discord in the Pacific: Negotiating the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus	Larry Crump
Policy dialogue	
Enhancing Pacific Ecosystems for Entrepreneurship and Innovation	Pacific senior officials and industry leaders



Participants of the 4th Annual Pacific Research Conference and Leaders' Meeting in Honiara.

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

Griffith Asia Institute and the Center for Strategic and International Studies present:

PUBLIC LECTURE

'SECURITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC AFTER THE US ELECTIONS'

Charles Edel
Centre for Strategic and International Studies

In-person only event

Australian Institute of International Affairs
Queensland

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
GRIFFITH ASIA INSTITUTE

Rowan Callick **Mark Harrison** **Douglas Hsu** **Kai-Ping Huang** **Chun-Yi Lee**

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY | **GRIFFITH ASIA INSTITUTE**

The Political Thought of Xi Jinping

STEVE TSANG
OLIVIA CHEUNG

Rowan Callick (Interviewer) **Steve Tsang** (Author) **Sue Trevaskas** (Moderator)

28 August 2024 **Make it matter**

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY | **GRIFFITH ASIA INSTITUTE** | **UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO** | Center for Business Studies and Innovation in Asia-Pacific

JOINT WEBINAR

Dancing with the dragon: Leveraging opportunities for global growth

11:00am-12:15pm | 18 July (Brisbane)
9:00am-10:15am | 18 July (Shanghai)
6:00pm-7:15pm | 17 July (San Francisco)

Ker Gibbs (Discussions) **Mark Fischer** (East Asia Super League) **Carl Minze** (H&L Games)

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY | **GRIFFITH ASIA INSTITUTE**

WEBINAR

A joint RBA and RBNZ presentation: Monetary policy frameworks in Australia and New Zealand

Anthony Braxill
Reserve Bank of Australia

Lewis Kerr
Reserve Bank of New Zealand

Join us online!

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY | **GRIFFITH ASIA INSTITUTE**

RESEARCH SEMINAR

Great Power Tech Competition: Critical technologies, supply chains, and weaponised interdependence in US-China relations

12:00-1:30pm
Thursday 22 August 2024
N72_-118 Nathan campus, Griffith University

Scott AW Brown
University of Dundee

Member engagement

At the Griffith Asia Institute (GAI), we believe that impactful research thrives on meaningful engagement with the broader community. Our members are committed to advancing knowledge and fostering partnerships that address critical challenges and opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region. Whether through collaboration with government bodies, industry stakeholders, or community organisations, GAI strives to bridge academic insights with real-world impact. We actively promote dialogue and encourage diverse perspectives to create inclusive solutions for complex global issues. Our initiatives not only enhance academic excellence but also drive actionable change in the region, contributing to long-term, sustainable development.

Among the many engagements, several members took part in a joint event by the Griffith Asia Institute (GAI) and Australian Institute for International Affairs (AIIA) Queensland showcasing the "Griffith Asia Pacific Strategic Outlook" (GAPSO), discussing the pressing issues facing the Asia-Pacific region. From climate change to democratic resilience, the GAPSO offers fresh insights and actionable recommendations for a sustainable future. Speakers included Christoph Nedopil, Rob Hales, Tess Newton Cain, Shawn Hunter, Andrea Haefner, and Lili Mi.

Outcomes from our research symposium held in Hanoi 2023 informed Government Decree 106/2024/ND-CP on "Policy Regulations to Support Efficiency Improvement in Animal Husbandry," issued on 1st August 2024. This will guide future livestock support policies in Vietnam.

Engaging with the community

GAI members actively contribute to local and regional communities, offering expertise to support initiatives that empower individuals and drive sustainable development. From participating in grassroots projects to facilitating capacity-building workshops, we prioritise building relationships that create value for communities across the Asia-Pacific. Our work in areas like inclusive growth, digital access, and rural development demonstrates a commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind.

Shawn Hunter led a workshop at the Japan Fintech Festival titled: *Inclusion and Diversity: Trapped in the shadows – Addressing financial exclusion in the age of enhanced compliance*. This workshop was hosted by the Griffith University Academy of Excellence in Financial Crime Investigation and Compliance in conjunction with the International Law Institute.

Professor Renee Jeffery was the keynote speaker at the United Nations Association Human Rights Day Event celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Shawn Hunter, Associate Professor Sameer Deshpande, Dr Akihiro Omura, Professor Shireenjit Johl and Professor Andreas Chai at the Japan Fintech Festival in Tokyo.



Associate Professor Gloria Ge and Dr Lili Mi welcomed a delegation from Henan Academy of Social Science, China, led by Prof Wang Chengzhe, the Academy's President. The visit included notable members such as Dr Wang Xintao, Dr Gao Xuan, and Dr An Xiaoming, who brought valuable insights from their respective fields.

Connecting academia with practice

GAI's interdisciplinary approach ensures that our members are not only scholars but also active contributors to the broader ecosystem of knowledge and practice. Through events, seminars, and strategic partnerships, we create platforms for dialogue and collaboration across sectors. Our networks span local, national, and international levels, fostering connections that amplify the impact of our work.

Dian Tjondronegoro co-led a post-course workshop "Towards Knowledge based economy: Supporting Indonesia's research and innovation agenda" in Semarang, bringing together 26 participants from diverse institutions to reflect, network, and discuss strategies for advancing Indonesia's research and innovation landscape. By fostering partnerships between academia, industry, and government, the program is a significant step towards a knowledge-based economy in Indonesia—one where research and innovation are at the heart of sustainable growth.

Gloria Ge and Lili Mi hosted a distinguished delegation from the Henan Academy of Social Sciences, one of China's largest social science institutions, led by Prof Wang Chengzhe, the Academy's President. The visit included notable members such as Dr Wang Xintao, Dr Gao Xuan, and Dr An Xiaoming, who brought valuable insights from their respective fields.

Partnering with government and policymakers

Through thought leadership and evidence-based research, GAI serves as a trusted advisor to policymakers. Our members regularly engage with government agencies to provide insights on pressing issues such as trade policy, regional security, and sustainable development. By contributing to policy dialogues and offering actionable recommendations, GAI supports informed decision-making that enhances the region's progress and stability.

Shawn Hunter presented at the annual APEC Asia-Pacific Financial Inclusion Forum (APFIF) Policy Dialogue held in Urubamba, Cusco, Peru. This year's event was particularly special as it marked the first time in the initiative's long history to be held in a Latin American economy. Building upon the work of APFIF in 2023 which focused on green financing for MSMEs, this year's Policy Dialogue provided a deeper examination of the role of technology in enabling green MSME finance. Key points of discussion included the need for creating an effective data ecosystem, the potential of AI, and the role of policymakers in promoting awareness and building trust in technology solutions within the finance sector which can aid the green transition of MSMEs and help APEC achieve its climate goals.

Collaborating with industry

Recognising the vital role of business in driving innovation and economic growth, GAI actively collaborates with industry leaders. From advising on strategies for market entry in Asia to exploring sustainable business practices, our research informs and inspires practical solutions. These partnerships create pathways for knowledge exchange, ensuring that academia and industry work together to address shared challenges.


Parmendra Sharma convened the 4th Annual Pacific Research Conference and Leaders Forum in Honiara under the theme "The Business of Finance in PICs: Balancing Profitability and Access to Finance" Bringing together over seventy Pacific policymakers (including Governors), academics, regulators, multilateral organisations, business leaders, and civil society from the wider Asia-Pacific region.

Driving real-world impact

By engaging with diverse stakeholders, GAI enhances its mission to contribute to the sustainable development and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region. Whether through research projects, policy advocacy, or community initiatives, our members are dedicated to making a difference.

Sara Davies joined a distinguished panel at the International Conference on Women, Peace, and Security in Manila titled "National Action Plans on Women, Peace, and Security: From Vision to Reality," to share insights on translating Women, Peace, and Security policy into impactful action. Over 700 people were in attendance at the conference, including over 100 country High-Level government delegates.

The APEC Business Advisory Council advanced key policy recommendations presented at the 2024 APEC Asia-Pacific Financial Inclusion Forum, that were endorsed by APEC Finance Ministers, driving regional efforts to enhance financial inclusion.



Dr Jing Zhang, Dr Lili Mi, Professor Christoph Nedopil and Shawn Hunter with participants of the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de la Empresa (IESE Business School) workshop in Brisbane.

GRIFFITH ASIA BUSINESS INTERNSHIPS

The 2024 Griffith Asia Business Internship Program (GABI) this year led by Dr Anne Cullen has welcomed 29 students undertaking for-credit 6-week internships across three different destinations in the Indo-Pacific, placed with a variety of diverse small-medium sized host organisations!

With 16 students in Tokyo, Japan, 8 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and 5 students in Seoul, South Korea from early November through to mid-December, each student will complete an internship related to their respective business disciplines – including marketing, international relations, Asian business, tourism, hospitality management, international business and finance.

This year, 21 of the 29 students are financially supported by New Colombo Plan Mobility Grants, a scheme funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The grant scheme's purpose is to support students to travel to the Indo-Pacific to increase their knowledge of the destination's culture and customs as well as establishing long lasting connections within the region. This purpose aligns with the GABI's program overarching aim of increasing our student's cultural competency skills, their Asia literacy as well as broadening their perspectives and readying them for potential global careers.



Participants from the Japan cohort of this year's GABI program showcase their enthusiasm and commitment to fostering cross-cultural engagement and leadership.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are a pillar of GAI's success. We proudly partner with domestic and international organisations across a variety of sectors including universities, industry, government agencies, foundations, and professional associations.



Partner testimonials

Our industry partners play a pivotal role in translating research into real-world impact. Through collaboration, we address critical challenges, seize emerging opportunities, and co-create innovative solutions across the Asia-Pacific region. These partnerships extend beyond traditional boundaries, blending expertise from diverse sectors to enhance sustainability, economic growth, and societal wellbeing.

In this section, we celebrate the shared achievements made possible through these collaborations, showcasing testimonials from partners who have worked closely with us to deliver meaningful change. Their insights highlight the value of these partnerships and the mutual benefits they generate, reinforcing our commitment to fostering impactful, long-term relationships.

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"Our longstanding partnership with the Griffith Asia Institute has been instrumental in our efforts to promote inclusive growth and development across Asia and the Pacific, especially in the Pacific. Through joint research and capacity building initiatives, we've co-published impactful papers, organized influential conferences, and expanded our networks. The partnership has allowed us to address critical economic development challenges while exploring new opportunities for co-operation, including in areas such as digital financial inclusion and small-scale enterprise development. Together, we've built a strong foundation for future research projects that will lead to beneficial policy innovations for the region."



Peter J Morgan
Asian Development
Bank Institute (ADB)

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"Over the past three years, our collaboration with the Griffith Asia Institute (GAI) has been highly beneficial in advancing the United Nations' mission of building a more sustainable future. GAI's exceptional research expertise and extensive networks have played a pivotal role in identifying effective policy approaches for financial inclusion and gender equity. Their workshops have empowered policymakers, and their support for ESCAP's Feminist Finance Forum underscores our shared commitment to these critical issues. We look forward to continuing this impactful partnership."



Elena Mayer-Besting
United Nations Economic
and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific
(UNESCAP)

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"Pakistan China Institute (PCI) is proud to partner with Griffith Asia Institute on green and sustainable energy transition in Pakistan and Asia. Griffith Asia Institute's professionalism and expertise in managing projects, understanding local context, working with diverse partners from the region and driving practical impact through excellent research has been most welcomed with our network of government and business partners in Pakistan and in the region."



Mustafa Hyder Sayed
Pakistan China Institute

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"The green and just energy transition is one of PLN's core challenges in particular and Indonesia in general. We are proud to partner with Griffith Asia Institute and Griffith University to shift these challenges into opportunities. By 2024, our teams collaborated closely to develop actionable solutions for the phasedown of coal plants, establish robust climate finance standards, and enhance governance frameworks. This partnership has been instrumental in advancing our shared vision of a sustainable energy future. With the signing of an MoU, we are excited to deepen this collaboration in the years ahead and work together to create impactful change."



Herry Nico Siagian
PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara
(PT PLN) (Persero)

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"During the Australia Awards program both in Jakarta and in Australia, I gained so much valuable knowledge and experience. Each session always presents new insights that enrich my knowledge."

As for the benefits in business, we have received several offers of co-operation with multi-national and global companies because of our achievements in company profile one of which is participating in the Australian Awards."

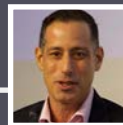
Suriyanah, ST
PT Ganesha Abaditama



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"ACCESS Advisory has worked with GAI on various research and capacity building projects. Examples of collaborations include organising seminars for policymakers and industry experts from across the Asia-Pacific region to develop best-practice approaches for financial inclusion, supporting policymakers to design their "gender roadmap" toward greater financial inclusion of women, and conducting joint research on digital financial service adoption in Pacific Island countries."

Through these collaborations, GAI has demonstrated an exceptional ability to leveraging its networks in Australia and across the Asia-Pacific region to facilitate high quality research and capacity building of our partners. GAI's capacity in this regard has been particularly impactful on sustainable development issues including environmental economics, financial sector development, and impact assessment."



Ron Bevacqua
ACCESS Advisory, Inc.

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"Collaborating with the Griffith Asia Institute on digital adoption in Asia has been a truly enriching experience. Together we are navigating the complexities of digital transformation across diverse Asian markets. Griffith's commitment to fostering innovation and driving impactful change is evident in every aspect of our partnership. We look forward to continuing our work together to drive meaningful progress in the region."



Akhand Tiwari
Partner, MSC

CONNECT WITH US






Griffith Asia Institute (GAI) offers a wide range of opportunities for individuals, organisations, and communities to engage and support our mission of fostering Asia-Pacific progress and sustainable development.

Whether you're interested in subscribing to our events, newsletters, or podcasts, exploring research partnerships, pursuing professional development, or collaborating with our researchers, we are here to connect. We also welcome enquiries about consultancy services, donations, and sponsorship of events or initiatives.

For those interested in supporting our research, engaging us for commercial consultancy, or becoming a funding partner, reach out to discuss how we can work together.


Thinking of advancing your academic journey? Enquire about our research degrees or professional development opportunities tailored to your interests.

Our office is based at Griffith University's Brisbane South (Nathan) campus, and we'd love to hear from you! Connect with us via email, online, or through our social media channels. Let's work together to create impactful change in the Asia-Pacific region.

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Dr Lili Mi, Associate Professor Tess Newton Cain, Dr Andrea Haefner, Associate Professor Rob Hales, Shawn Hunter and Professor Christoph Nedopil at the launch of the Griffith Asia-Pacific Strategic Outlook at the Australian Institute of International Affairs in Brisbane.



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Support impactful research and events in the Asia-Pacific region.



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