

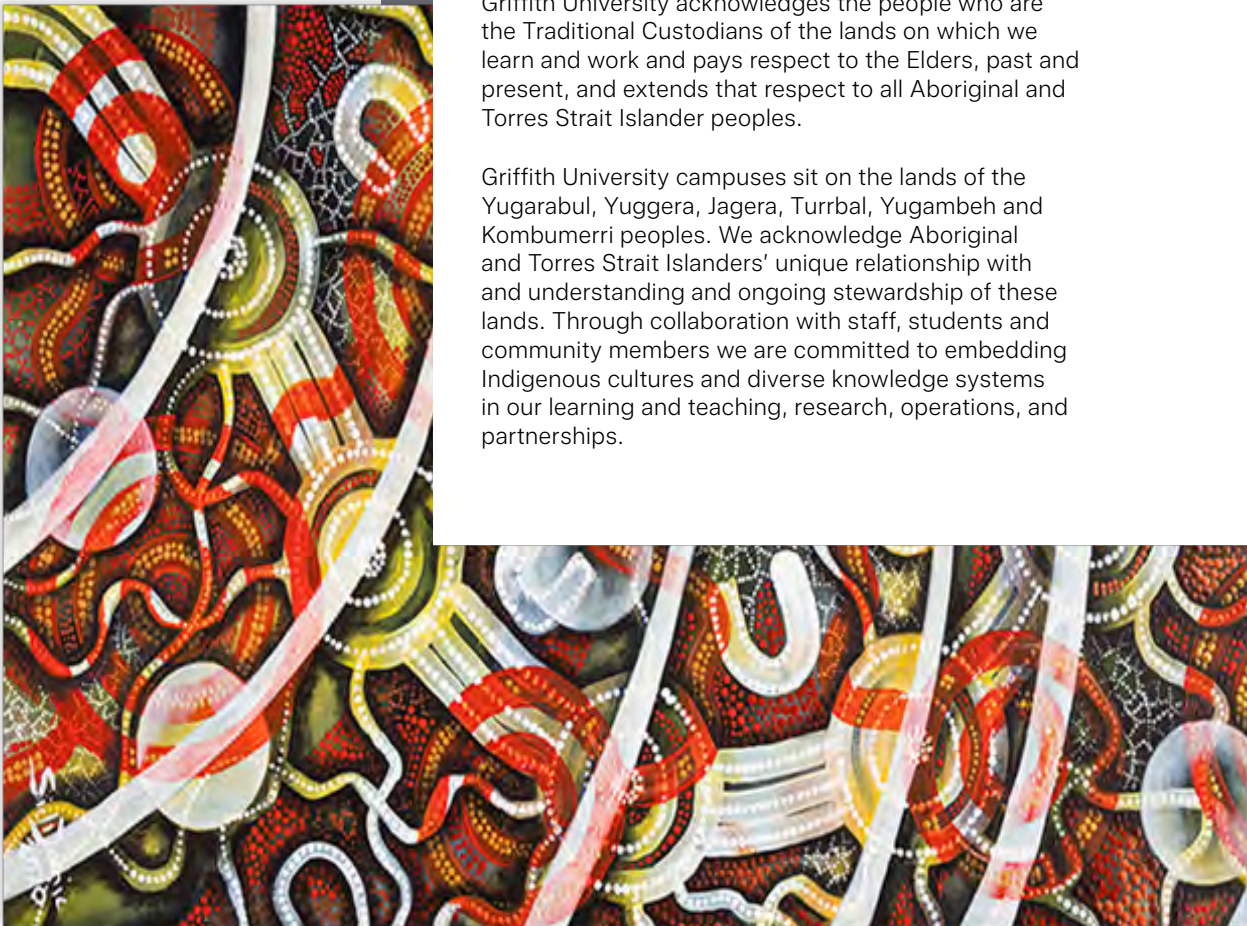


YEAR IN REVIEW

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
2025
 IN NUMBERS



73 MEMBERS
33 adjunct members

100 higher degree phd students
13 visiting and industry fellows



10 BOOKS

12 REPORTS

8 POLICY BRIEFS

260+ journal articles

30+ book chapters

150+ opinion pieces

1,649 newsletter subscribers



4 perspectives:asia lectures

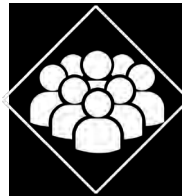
2500+ EVENT ATTENDEES



13 public seminars

33 guest speakers

33 guest speakers



50+ International Speaking Engagements

65 PARTNERSHIPS

across **16** countries



- 3** Foundations
- 6** Government Agencies
- 12** Professional Associations
- 19** International Organisations
- 25** Research Partners



\$5,300,000 GRANT INCOME

\$1,633,911 **118** consultancies projects

GRIFFITH ASIA BUSINESS INTERNSHIPS (GABI)

29 students
26 industry partners
3 countries

15,000+ social media followers



28,009 website visitors

MEDIA

Advertising Space Rate
\$48,504,416

Mentions **1,034**
 Reach **24,000,000**



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear friends and partners of the Griffith Asia Institute,

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Report of the Griffith Asia Institute (GAI). It is my privilege to share key highlights of our achievements over the past year, advancing our purpose of fostering the Asia-Pacific's global leadership in sustainable development.

As regional dynamics in trade, technology, and defence continue to intensify, the resulting complexity has brought both uncertainty and opportunity across Asia and the Pacific. Our goal is to look beyond the daily noise and apply academic rigour to provide peers and partners with evidence-based thought leadership across the many disciplines in which we work.

I am proud to share that this approach has enabled our 120 members to make significant contributions across GAI's eight research areas. Major highlights include new grants from the Australian Research Council—such as Dr Emma Palmer's research on how universal jurisdiction can be applied in the Asia-Pacific to prosecute atrocity crimes in national courts, regardless of where harm's occurred. A team led by Dr Kim Hansoo received a National Foundation for Australia-China Relations grant to showcase Australian excellence in sustainable healthcare services to Taiwanese leaders. Meanwhile, Professor Andreas Chai's team is working with Westpac to strengthen defences against financial crime.

Our work on the green transition has also received generous support from several foundations, including the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. This has allowed us to expand our efforts on the green energy transition, including establishing the Green Energy Network – Asia and advancing research on green industrial transformation with a focus on metals and hydrogen, supporting energy decision-makers across the region.

Our researchers have been recognised as global sustainability leaders. Notable appointments include Professor Sara Davies' selection as one of 16 members of the World Health Organization's Technical Advisory Group on Health, Migration and Displacement (2025–2027), and Professor Susan Harris Rimmer's appointment to the Australian Administrative Review Tribunal (2025–2027).

Over the past year, we have delivered capacity-building programs across the region on topics ranging from climate finance in Indonesia to energy transition in Vietnam, foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific, and Pacific climate resilience—reaching hundreds of decision-makers. We have published over 300 academic articles and book chapters, eight policy briefs, and organised more than 25 public events. A highlight was the 20th anniversary of our Perspectives: Asia public lecture series in collaboration with the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), which featured four exceptional events in Brisbane (I encourage you to read our review of 20 years of Perspectives: Asia). Altogether, our events engaged more than 2500 participants beyond Griffith University. We also supported practical learning for 29 students through internships across 3 Asian countries, and our members supervised 30 PhD completions.

Our partnerships remain a core strength, amplifying the impact of our research. I am pleased to see these collaborations continue to grow across the region—from China to Pakistan, Indonesia to Vietnam, Bangladesh to Tonga, and of course across Australia. Key partners in Australia include the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Australian Research Council (ARC), the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), and the Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC).

GAI has achieved significant growth in recent years. In 2024, our Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) income reached AUD 5.3 million, and in 2025, our external income grew to AUD 7.2 million.

Looking ahead, we see both new opportunities and heightened risks for sustainable development in the region, as we highlight in our annual flagship report—the Griffith Asia Pacific Strategic Outlook. We remain steadfast in our commitment to act as a neutral convener and to advance evidence-based progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia and the Pacific.

I would like to thank all our partners and members for their unwavering commitment and outstanding contributions throughout the year. I also extend my gratitude to Griffith University 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 for their exceptional support in 2025.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year to foster Asia-Pacific leadership in sustainable development.

Sincerely,

Christoph Nedopil
Director, Griffith Asia Institute

Christoph Nedopil developed a UNDP-China-supported framework showing how debt-for-sustainability swaps can financially benefit creditors while advancing development in emerging economies, launched with major Chinese banks and regulators in April 2025.

ABOUT GRIFFITH ASIA INSTITUTE

The Griffith Asia Institute (GAI) is a leading interdisciplinary centre dedicated to advancing sustainable development and regional cooperation across the Asia–Pacific. In 2025, GAI continues to address emerging challenges and opportunities through research, partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives that span sustainable economics, green finance, governance, international relations, and inclusive rural development. Our work supports Griffith University's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promoting economic prosperity, social inclusion, environmental resilience, and strong institutions across the region.

RESEARCH FOCUS

GAI's research examines key issues shaping the Asia–Pacific, including energy transitions, digital and financial inclusion, governance reform, climate resilience, and sustainable urban and rural development. As environmental pressures intensify and regional geopolitics evolve, our researchers provide evidence-based insights to help governments, industry and communities navigate complexity, strengthen resilience, and seize new opportunities. Collaboration with policymakers, multilateral organisations, and local partners ensures our work remains grounded in real-world needs and delivers practical, impactful outcomes.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND ENGAGEMENT

A core part of GAI's mission is building capability across the region. Through education programs, executive training, technical workshops, and multistakeholder partnerships, we help equip individuals and institutions with the skills needed to address contemporary development challenges. Our seminars, publications, and public events foster dialogue between academics, policymakers, students, and business leaders—ensuring that GAI's research informs decision-making and contributes to meaningful societal impact..

OUR HISTORY AND FUTURE

GAI has a long-standing history of engagement with the Asia-Pacific region. Originally established in 1978 as the Centre for Study of Australia–Asia Relations, it was designed to coordinate Griffith University's Asia-Pacific activities. In 1997 the Griffith Asia Pacific Council was established, evolving in 2004 to today's Griffith Asia Institute, a respected regional leader in Asia-Pacific engagement. Through our research hubs and strong partnerships, GAI is committed to shaping a more sustainable, prosperous, and resilient future for the Asia–Pacific.

Our purpose

To propel Asia and the Pacific to become global leaders in sustainable development.

Our values

Excellence
Partnership
Impact



Griffith Asia Institute members, Associate Professor Gloria Ge, Associate Professor Peter Woods, Dr Ryan Tang and Dr Lili Mi.

OUR PEOPLE

OUR TEAM

Professor Christoph Nedopil
Director

Associate Professor Gloria Ge
Deputy Director

Mrs Kelsey O'Brien
Research Support Officer

OUR MEMBERS

Associate Professor Alexandr Akimov

Dr Helen Berents

Professor Robert Bianchi

Professor Naomi Birdthistle

Associate Professor Kerry Bodle

Professor Caitlin Byrne

Professor Joshua Byrnes

Professor Luis Cabrera

Professor Andreas Chai

Professor Cordia Chu

Dr Tom Conley

Dr Anne Cullen

Associate Professor Amanda Daly

Professor Sara Davies

Associate Professor Sameer Deshpande

Dr Maria Dharmesti

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 Grömping

Dr Andrea Haefner

Associate Professor Robert Hales

Professor Ian Hall

Professor Susan Harris Rimmer

Associate Professor Luke Houghton

Dr Paul Howard

Dr Fang Hu

Associate Professor Md Sayed Iftekhar

Professor Renée Jeffery

Professor Shireenjit Johl

Associate Professor Kanchana Kariyawasam

Dr Hansoo Kim

Dr Parvinder Kler

Dr Diego Leiva

Dr Kaiwen Leong

Dr Hai Luong

Dr Amber Marshall

Dr Stephen McCarthy

Dr Freya McLachlan

Dr Lili Mi

Professor Reza Monem

Dr Shamsun Nahar

Mr Athula Naranpanawa

Professor Andreas Neef

Associate Professor Erin O'Brien

Dr Akihiro Omura

Dr Phu Phu Oo

Dr Emma Palmer

Dr Anya Phelan

Professor Juliet Pietsch

Associate Professor Shyama Ratnasiri

Associate Professor Robin Roberts

Dr Melodie Ruwet

Dr Harsha Sarvaiya

Professor Saroja Selvanathan

Professor Selva Selvanathan

Dr Gunaro Setiawan

Dr Wei Shao

Dr Marta Sinclair

Associate Professor Tarlok Singh

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

ADJUNCT MEMBERS

Professor Rajesh Basrur

Professor Colin Brown

Dr Larry Crump

Dr Peter Dirou

Associate Professor Michael Heazle

Professor Iyanatul Islam

Dr Jackie Kauli

Dr Zannie Langford

The Hon Paul Lucas

Emeritus Professor Colin Mackerras AO

Associate Professor Jane Munro

Associate Professor Tess Newton Cain

Associate Professor David Schak

Professor Andrew Selth

Associate Professor Matthew Sussex

Dr Park Thaichon

Dr Katie Woolaston

INDUSTRY FELLOWS

Stefan Armbruster

Dr Adam Banai

Rowan Callick

Rebecca Hall

Mark Hickey

Dr Shawn Hunter

Sean Jacobs

Ian Kemish AO

Ben Mullen

Dr Krista Singleton-Cabbage

Dr Dan Wang

Jack Whelan

VISITING FELLOWS

Dr Peter Layton

Dr Fang Yang

PHD CANDIDATES

Ms Duha Mohammad Radwan Abujleedan	Mrs Chandima Hapu Achchige	Ms Aiza Shabbir
Mr Sai Siddhartha Achanta	Miss Celeste Harris	Mr Vincent Sherry
Mr Kwabena Addai	Mr Francis Hartnett	Mrs Mahdis Smith
Ms Hanan Afzal	Mr Taufiq Ismujati	Mr Alastair Smith
Mr Isaac Ahakwa	Ms Rika Isnarti	Mrs Nirma Sooriya Mudalige
Mr Md Abdul Alim	Mr William Kang	Miss Willasinie Sopapol
Mr Husain Alkarrani	Mr Raghuvir Kelkar	Ms Nirogini Thambaiya
Mrs Iis Alviya	Mr Sherif Hosny Zarif Keryakes	Ms Thanam Murugan
Mr Muhamad Arif	Mrs Most Nilufa Khatun	Ms Thi Cam Nhung Trinh
Mr Zeeshan Azhar	Ms Joanna Klieve-Longman	Mr Duncan Wade Unwin
Mr Said Babangida	Mr Aziz Ladha	Ms Aletheia Kerygma Valenciano
Mrs Malak Ahmad Balubaid	Mr Jeffrey Langley	Ms Anggia Valerisha
Ms Hadasha Bongat	Ms Sarah Leary	Miss Mariel Dominique Verroya
Miss Jessica Booth	Ms Chanel Lucas	Mr Van Canh Vu
Ms Angeline Brown	Mr Salvador Macagno	Mrs Itca Wahyuni
Miss Xinye Cao	Mr Dzunwanus Manar	Miss Catherine Wales
Ms Anne Rachelle Castaneda	Mrs Seng Maw	Miss Xinyu Wang
Mr Jade Connor	Mr Paul McDonald	Mrs Prasadi Wijesinghe
Ms Kelly Daniell	Dr Paul McPhee	Appuhamilage
Mrs Mahamendisge Dasuni Dayananda	Ms Andrea Mrazova	Mrs Eranga Wijeweera
Mr Rodrigo De Luca	Mrs Thilani Munaweerage	Patabandige
Ms Lynsey Devitt	Mr Lukas Nagel	Mr Andrew Wills
Dr Padukka Dharmagunawardene	Mr Jay Naidu	Mr Liyanwalagama Wimalaratna
Ms Jin Dong	Mrs Rajni Nair	Ms Xiaolan Xia
Mrs Savani Edirisinghe	Ms Xuan Ngo	Ms Erika Isabel Yague
Mr Abu Farhad	Mrs Thi Gam Nguyen	Miss Tianyi Yang
Mr Tianyuan Feng	Miss Mengying Qi	Ms Szu-Wei Yu
Mrs Hennadige Fernando	Ms Jayani Ratnayake	Mr Yanzhe Yuan
Mr Yunchao Ge	Miss Mehak Rehman	Mr Muhammad Ashoer Zaenal
Ms Cera Ghang	Mrs Tayyaba Rizvi	Miss Samia Zahra
Mr Conrad Gilbert	Mr Jason Rogers	Mr Kun Zhang
Mrs Yathra Mullage Chithrasheeli Gunaratne	Ms Indra Roy	Miss Yaning Zhang
Mr Samuel Haak	Mr Jhalak Sharma Sapkota	Mr Guobin Zhao
Miss Yao Hao	Ms Aarti Sewak	



Student highlight: Dr Nay Kim

Supervisors:

Professor A J Brown
Dr Andrea Haefner

Social accountability in fighting corruption in Southeast Asia: Cases from the Philippines, Indonesia and Cambodia

Research by Nay shows that stronger citizen oversight can significantly

improve public service delivery and accountability in Southeast Asia. Examining initiatives in Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines, the study finds that embedding citizens within formal accountability processes leads to better institutional performance and higher-quality services.

Evidence from Cambodia's Social Accountability Framework, Indonesia's Open Government Partnership and the Philippines' Citizen Participatory Audit shows that impact is strongest when oversight bodies are independent, have reliable access to information, and can trigger corrective action. These conditions shift participation from symbolic consultation to meaningful governance reform.

While citizen oversight alone cannot eliminate corruption, the research demonstrates clear gains in transparency, service standards and public trust. Initiatives with stable legal mandates, adequate resources and broad stakeholder representation delivered the most durable improvements.

The study highlights a clear policy lesson: investing in independent, well-supported citizen engagement strengthens governance and builds more responsive public services.

CEVAW PhD candidates driving transformative, Indigenous-centred research

CEVAW's PhD research program supports its mission to eliminate violence against women (VAW) by nurturing a new generation of scholars committed to evidence-based structural change. Current candidates Taravat Bamdad, Katy Desmond, Celeste Harris, Joanna Klieve-Longman and Wilasinie Sopapol undertake multidisciplinary, Indigenous-centred research, co-designed with partners and grounded in Indigenous leadership, relationships-first approaches, equity and community benefit.

This approach marks a shift in VAW research. CEVAW scholars move beyond harm minimisation to challenge unequal historical and political structures, producing knowledge that informs just national and regional responses. Their projects form an interconnected network across legal, political, sociological, feminist and Indigenous studies.

Research topics include specialist family violence courts in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand; gendered impacts of climate disasters; militarisation and violence in Mexico's "War on Drugs"; resistance to digital surveillance in Chennai; sexual violence by terrorist groups; and geopolitics and colonial legacies shaping Fiji's feminist movement. Together, CEVAW's PhD candidates are generating insights for a future free from violence.



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 four knowledge hubs: the Green Transition and Development Hub, the Governance and Diplomacy Hub, Inclusive Growth and Rural Development Hub and the APEC Study Centre. 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.

KNOWLEDGE HUBS

Green Transition and Development Hub
Christoph Nedopil

Governance and Diplomacy Hub
Luis Cabrera

Inclusive Growth and Development Hub
Sameer Deshpande

APEC Study Centre
Parvinder Kler



REGIONAL HUBS

China and the Region Hub
Hui Feng

Southeast Asia Hub
Andrea Haefner

Pacific Hub

South Asia Hub

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.



Griffith Asia Institute Deputy Director, Associate Professor Gloria Ge.



Professor Christoph Nedopil, Dr Shawn Hunter and Dr Alexandr Akimov with participants of the Inaugural Green Energy Network – Asia (Gen-A) conference.

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



Led by Professor Christoph Nedopil, the Green Transition and Development Hub advances research supporting the Asia-Pacific's shift to sustainable, low-carbon growth. As the region faces rising energy demand, rapid urbanisation and climate risks, the Hub focuses on climate finance, green industrial transformation and effective Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) frameworks. Through interdisciplinary research and collaboration with governments and industry, the Hub provides practical insights to accelerate clean energy adoption, mobilise green finance and strengthen sustainability across infrastructure, supply chains and policy settings. Its work supports a more resilient, inclusive and environmentally secure future for the region. Examples of our activities include:

Accelerating a just green transition in Asia

Asia faces a critical turning point as it works to meet rapidly rising energy demand while transitioning away from coal, which accounts for more than half of global coal emissions. Achieving net-zero emissions by mid-century will require coordinated innovation, investment and policy reform. The Green Energy Network – Asia (GEN-A), an initiative of the Griffith Asia Institute, is helping drive this transformation. By addressing key barriers—such as green finance access, technology choices and capacity gaps—GEN-A equips policymakers, industry leaders and investors to accelerate sustainable energy transitions. Collaboration with China, a global leader in renewable technology and financing, further strengthens region-wide knowledge exchange.

In 2025, GEN-A formally launched in Bali, convening over 40 senior energy leaders to develop practical solutions on scaling green independent power producers, improving utility-financier cooperation and navigating shifting regulatory environments. Through targeted capacity building and strategic partnerships, GEN-A is emerging as a catalyst for just, coordinated and impactful energy transitions across Asia.

Decarbonising China's steel sector: Implications for regional and global trade

Professor Christoph Nedopil is examining China's evolving steel sector and the implications of the 2025–2026 Work Plan for Stabilizing Growth in the Steel Industry. The plan marks a decisive shift toward greener, more efficient production through electric arc furnaces, hydrogen metallurgy, and stricter carbon accounting, supported by targeted financing and integration into carbon markets. While overcapacity will be reduced, demand-side measures will promote high-quality, specialised steel, and existing emissions-intensive production will operate under tighter regulation.

As the world's largest steel producer—responsible for over half of global output and up to 17% of China's emissions—China's transformation has significant global implications. International partners may find opportunities in low-carbon steel supply and green technology collaboration, while coal and coke exporters face mounting uncertainty.

The plan illustrates how industrial policy can align climate goals with economic stability and supply-chain resilience, offering a model for transitioning emissions-intensive industries while sustaining regional trade and cooperation.

GOVERNANCE AND DIPLOMACY HUB



The Governance and Diplomacy Hub, led by Professor Luis Cabrera, continues to advance policy-relevant research on diplomacy, governance, and peace and security across Asia and the Pacific. The Hub examines shifting geopolitical dynamics, regional institutions, and international negotiations shaping the region's future, with a strong focus on practical policy impact. Drawing on Griffith University's multidisciplinary expertise and deep regional networks, the Hub delivers timely analysis and evidence-based insights to support decision-makers navigating complex global and regional challenges. Through collaboration with governments, international organisations, and civil society, the Hub remains a trusted source of expertise on emerging diplomatic and governance issues, contributing to more stable, inclusive, and effective regional cooperation. Examples of our activities include:

Indo-Pacific Initiative for Sustainable Animal Health Cooperation

The Indo-Pacific Initiative for Sustainable Animal Health Cooperation (IPI-SAHC), supported by ACIAR, strengthens inclusive, evidence-based animal health governance, reducing biosecurity risks and supporting resilient communities. The project examines how governments, farmers, industry, and civil society make decisions about animal health and how cooperation can be improved.

In 2025, data collection across Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Fiji was completed, paving the way for analysis, publications, and dissemination in 2026–27. At a regional level, the team implemented a One Health and Animal Health Governance survey, receiving nearly 100 responses from academia, NGOs, and government.

The Annual Expert Panel Meeting in Malaysia brought together Professor Kelley Lee, research assistants, and PCAARRD representatives. Capacity-building activities provided training in qualitative methods, gender equity, social inclusion, and research ethics across all sites, enhancing skills and supporting inclusive, context-specific research. Outreach via webinars and virtual events strengthened regional networks and fostered collaboration across the One Health community.

Youth, Peace and Security: Strengthening Intergenerational Peacebuilding in 2025

In 2025, the Griffith Asia Institute strengthened its leadership in Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) research through a multi-sited project funded by the Folke Bernadotte Academy. Co-led by Dr Helen Berents with international partners, the project examines intergenerational engagement in YPS National Action Plans across Finland, Nigeria, the Philippines and the Democratic Republic of Congo, offering timely insights as the global YPS agenda marks its tenth anniversary.

A key highlight was the Youth-ed Futures of Peace and Security Symposium (28–29 April), the capstone of Dr Berents' ARC DECRA Fellowship. The symposium brought together emerging and established scholars to explore youth-led peacebuilding, with international experts Professor Siobhan McEvoy-Levy and Dr Primitivo III Cabanes Ragandang joining Griffith researchers.

In September, GAI hosted the Regional Commitment, Empowering Youth forum, launching the ASEAN-IPR YPS Regional Study led by GAI researcher Erika Yague, reinforcing GAI's commitment to youth expertise and regional peace and security.



Youth-Led Futures of Peace and Security Symposium (28–29 April), the capstone of Dr Berents' ARC DECRA Fellowship.



An ACIAR-funded Griffith University project, led by Robin Roberts, has enabled more than 200 mango farmers in Dong Thap province to adopt in-field de-sapping and washing technology, improving fruit quality, reducing losses, strengthening market access, and scaling across southern Vietnam.

INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT HUB



The Inclusive Growth and Rural Development Hub led by Associate Professor Sameer Desphane 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 activities include:

Ongoing impact of mango research in Vietnam

Research from Griffith University's ACIAR-funded mango project continues to generate lasting impact beyond the grant period. More than 200 mango farmers in Dong Thap province are now applying the in-field de-sapping process and washing device developed through the project, improving fruit quality, reducing post-harvest losses, and strengthening access to higher-value domestic and export markets. Adoption has extended beyond initial pilots, with the innovation scaled across southern Vietnam by August 2025 through local extension networks and industry engagement. This sustained uptake demonstrates a successful proof-of-concept partnership between researchers, industry, and farmers, and highlights how applied, farmer-centred research can deliver enduring benefits for agricultural livelihoods, supply chains, and regional competitiveness.



The stainless-steel in-field washing unit—designed through the ACIAR project—now widely used by growers to improve fruit quality and reduce post-harvest losses.

Bridging digital financial literacy gaps in the Pacific

Research led by Dian Tjondronegoro, alongside Amber Marshall, Shawn Hunter, and Elizabeth Irenne Yuwono, has produced a data-driven policy brief addressing digital financial literacy (DFL) disparities across Pacific Island nations. Analysing seven countries—Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, Samoa, and Tonga—the study employed a four-dimensional DFL Index and machine learning clustering to assess readiness.

Findings reveal that while traditional financial literacy is high across the region, digital skills, trust, and safe usage of digital financial services (DFS) are key drivers of positive outcomes. Fiji leads the region in DFL, benefiting from advanced infrastructure, high mobile penetration, and strong financial habits. Other nations face challenges linked to connectivity gaps, gender inequities, and limited trust in DFS.

Their policy brief provides evidence-based recommendations, including expanding rural internet access, delivering targeted training for women and youth, enhancing cybersecurity literacy, and fostering public-private partnerships for scalable, localised programs. Together, these insights support inclusive growth and greater digital resilience across the Pacific.

This work demonstrates how robust data analysis and regional collaboration can inform actionable strategies, guiding Pacific Island nations toward a more inclusive and digitally empowered financial future.

APEC STUDY CENTRE



Griffith University has reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to the APEC region through the refreshed and strengthened Griffith Asia Institute APEC Study Centre, a hub dedicated to advancing sustainable development and regional cooperation across the APEC economies.

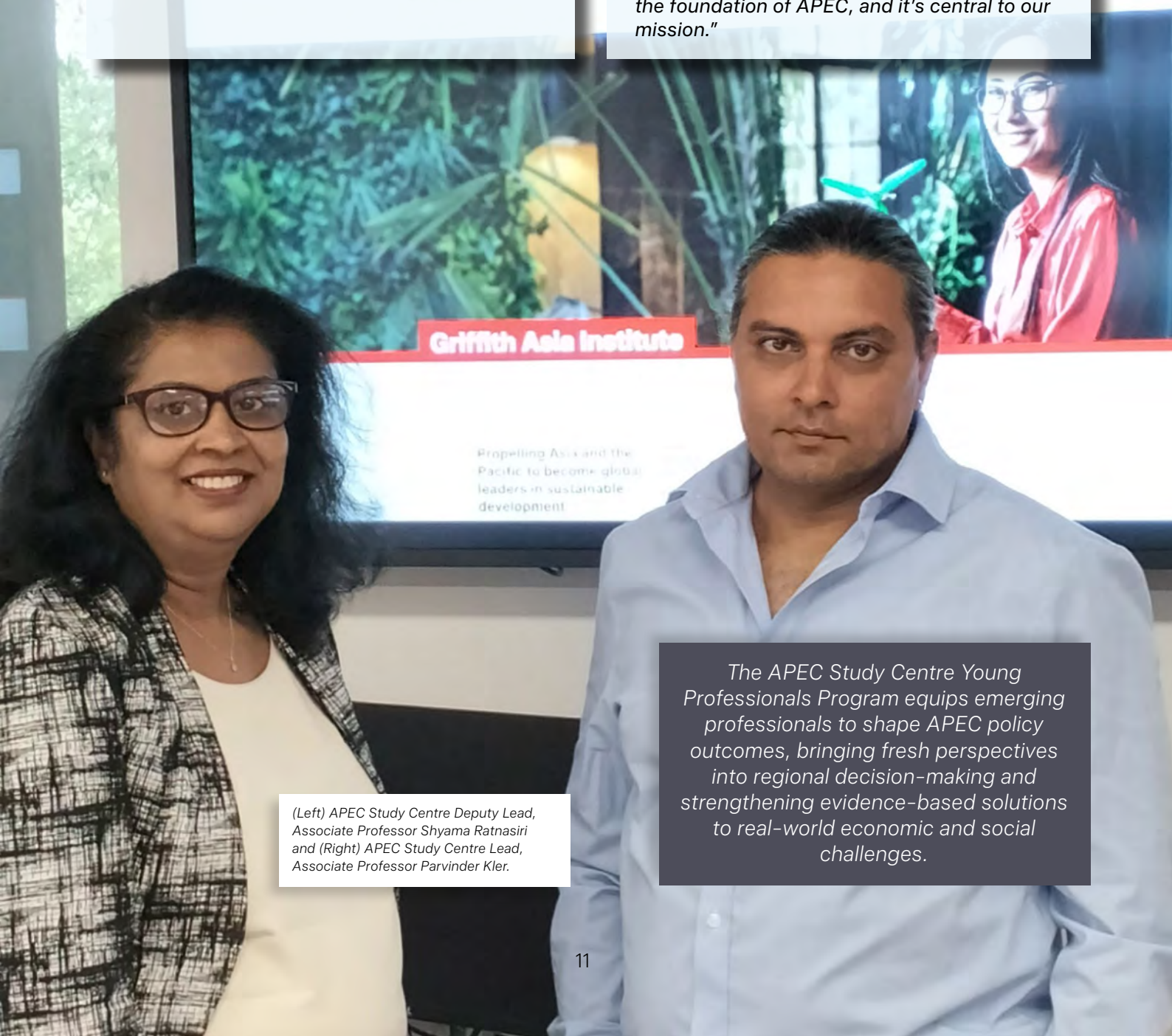
Building on the strong foundations laid by its earlier leadership, the Centre continues its role within the APEC Study Centres Consortium—a global network supporting research and capacity building across APEC's 21 member economies. Operating from within the Griffith Asia Institute, the Centre will deliver rigorous, policy-relevant research aligned with APEC priorities, including sustainable growth, trade, labour markets, migration, health systems, social inclusion, and climate resilience.

Centre Lead of the APEC Study Centre, Associate Professor Parvinder Kler, said the renewed focus comes at a critical moment for Australia's regional engagement:

"The regions encompassing the APEC economies are navigating profound transitions—from demographic shifts and labour mobility to climate challenges and digital transformation,"

Associate Professor Shyama Ratnasiri, Deputy Centre Lead said:

"Griffith Asia Institute's APEC Study Centre is part of a network of universities and we are proud to be part of it. That collaborative spirit is the foundation of APEC, and it's central to our mission."



(Left) APEC Study Centre Deputy Lead, Associate Professor Shyama Ratnasiri and (Right) APEC Study Centre Lead, Associate Professor Parvinder Kler.

The APEC Study Centre Young Professionals Program equips emerging professionals to shape APEC policy outcomes, bringing fresh perspectives into regional decision-making and strengthening evidence-based solutions to real-world economic and social challenges.



Led by Dr Hui Feng, the China and the Region Hub explores how China's economic, technological and geopolitical transformation is reshaping the Asia-Pacific and the wider world. Our research focuses on key drivers of this change, including sustainable finance, artificial intelligence, and new forms of regional connectivity such as the Belt and Road Initiative. We also examine foreign direct investment and capability upgrading to assess how China's global engagement influences—and is influenced by—regional development, trade and governance.

Through interdisciplinary, policy-focused research, the Hub provides evidence-based insights into China's evolving role in global affairs and its interactions with neighbouring countries. Our work helps governments, industry and research partners navigate emerging opportunities, manage risks and understand the broader implications of China's actions for sustainable development, economic resilience and strategic stability. Examples of our activities include:

Equipping Taiwanese healthcare leaders for climate-resilient system management: A showcase of Australian excellence

Climate change is placing growing pressure on health systems worldwide, requiring new approaches to ensure continuity of care during climate-related shocks. Building on Australia's long-standing leadership in sustainable and climate-resilient healthcare, Griffith Asia Institute members Hansoo Kim, Connie Gan, Mark Avery, and Josh Byrnes have secured support from the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to deliver the Program to Equip Taiwanese Healthcare Leaders for a Climate-Resilient System (PETALS).

Commencing in January 2026, PETALS is a comprehensive, blended training program for 25 emerging hospital leaders in Taiwan. Combining online learning, in-country workshops, and an Australian study tour, the program develops skills in climate-ready health systems, emergency preparedness, health economics, and leadership. Led by Dr Hansoo Kim, PETALS strengthens Australia-Taiwan collaboration and showcases Australian excellence in building resilient, sustainable healthcare systems across the region. PETALS combines self-paced online learning, and face to face workshops in Taiwan with a study tour to Australia. The course materials will be available in English and Mandarin.

China Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) investment database and report

Research led by Christoph Nedopil in 2025 provides the most comprehensive assessment to date of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) investment trends, revealing unprecedented levels of engagement in the first half of the year. BRI activity reached record highs, with USD 66.2 billion in construction contracts and USD 57.1 billion in investments, making 2025 H1 the strongest six-month period since the initiative began.

Energy dominated China's overseas engagement, reaching USD 42 billion—double 2024 H1 levels—driven by record oil and gas investments exceeding USD 30 billion, particularly in Nigeria. At the same time, green energy reached new highs, with USD 9.7 billion invested across wind, solar and waste-to-energy projects, delivering nearly 12 GW of installed capacity.

The metals and mining sector also surged to record levels, alongside strong growth in technology and manufacturing, especially solar PV, EV batteries and hydrogen. Africa and Central Asia emerged as leading destinations, while private firms drove investment momentum. The research highlights a stabilising but increasingly strategic BRI, focused on renewables, mining, supply chain resilience and new technologies.



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



The South Asia Hub advances policy-relevant research and engagement across one of the world's most dynamic and complex regions. Covering India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan, the Hub brings interdisciplinary expertise to issues spanning politics, economics, culture and human rights. Our research addresses critical regional priorities, including inclusive economic development, social transformation, environmental sustainability, governance, health and education. Through collaboration with scholars, policymakers and practitioners, the Hub provides evidence-based insights that deepen understanding of South Asia's evolving challenges and opportunities and support informed decision-making across the region. Examples of our activities include:

Soft balancing China: India's evolving strategy

Professor Ian Hall's research examines India's evolving strategy toward China following the 2020 Galwan clash, where twenty Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese troops were killed. The incident marked a major turning point, exposing India's strategic vulnerabilities and prompting New Delhi to reassess its engagement with Beijing.

Published in *International Affairs*, Professor Hall's work highlights India's adoption of a "soft balancing" strategy through multilateral and minilateral groupings, including BRICS, the Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) forum. Rather than risk direct confrontation or economic disruption, India has employed calibrated tactics—denial, delay, trivialisation, and exclusion—to frustrate Chinese initiatives, strengthen its relative position, and signal resistance to Beijing's assertive behaviour.

Examples include delaying BRICS expansion, refusing to convene RIC meetings, constraining China's influence within the SCO, and revitalising IBSA to promote Global South cooperation outside Beijing's orbit. This research offers valuable insights into how mid-sized powers can strategically counterbalance stronger neighbours through selective institutional engagement and diplomatic signalling.

Women, energy, and justice: Examining household cleaner energy use in Sri Lanka

Professors Selva and Saroja Selvanathan and Maneka Jayasinghe examined how gender shapes access to cleaner household energy in Sri Lanka, highlighting energy transition as a critical issue of justice and equity. Women—particularly in low-income households—are the primary users of household energy and are disproportionately affected by reliance on traditional biomass fuels, which pose serious health risks and limit economic participation.

Using four waves of Sri Lanka's Household Income and Expenditure Survey (2006–2019), the research analyses gendered differences in cleaner energy use, with a particular focus on de jure and de facto female-headed households. Advanced econometric methods are applied to identify how household structure, wealth, and decision-making authority influence cooking and lighting energy choices.

The findings reveal persistent disparities in access to cleaner cooking fuels, shaped largely by financial constraints and household assets, while lighting transitions show fewer gender differences. The project provides evidence-based insights to inform policies that promote affordable clean energy, empower women in energy decision-making, and support a more inclusive and just energy transition.



The Pacific Hub focuses on the priorities and perspectives of Pacific nations, placing Pacific voices at the centre of research and engagement. Working closely with communities, the Hub addresses critical challenges including livelihoods, culture, diplomacy, governance and climate change. Its research highlights both the vulnerabilities and strengths of Pacific societies, offering policy-relevant insights that support resilience, self-determination and sustainable development. Through education, public dialogue and research dissemination, the Hub also strengthens Pacific literacy across Australia and internationally. Examples of our activities include:

Strengthening crisis communication and media resilience in the Pacific

In August 2025, the Griffith Asia Institute co-hosted an international workshop with the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF) to enhance crisis communication and counter disinformation across the Pacific. The two-day event in Brisbane brought together more than 50 media leaders, journalists, and officials from 15 countries to share practical lessons on responding to natural disasters, health emergencies, and the growing spread of false information.

Dr Eve Chiu, CEO of the Taiwan FactCheck Center, showcased Taiwan's innovative tools—including chatbot reporting and AI-assisted monitoring—to combat online misinformation. Participants also examined Pacific-specific communication challenges, from multilingual emergency messaging to safeguarding remote communities reliant on radio and word-of-mouth channels.

Delegates visited the ABC's emergency broadcasting facilities, highlighting the role of trusted media in regional resilience. As Australia's first GCTF-hosted event, the workshop reinforced the value of international cooperation in supporting Pacific nations facing climate, disaster, and information security pressures.

Moving to remain in place: Micro-mobilities and climate adaptation in Fiji and Samoa

This project examines how communities in Fiji and Samoa use micro-mobilities and circular migration as adaptive responses to climate change, allowing people to remain connected to place while strengthening resilience to escalating climate risks. Led by Andreas Neef, the research moves beyond narratives that frame migration solely as a permanent solution or last resort, instead highlighting everyday, short-distance and temporary movements that support livelihoods, safety, recovery and social continuity.

Focusing on gendered climate risks, the project explores who can participate in these mobility strategies, who is excluded, and how mobility by some reshapes the responsibilities, care burdens and vulnerabilities of others. Particular attention is given to barriers faced by women, people with disabilities, and those constrained by social and cultural norms. By analysing how micro-mobilities and circular migration function in practice, the research provides evidence to inform more equitable climate adaptation, migration and planned relocation policies across the Pacific, supporting community-led resilience while preserving livelihoods, social ties and cultural continuity.



Participants of the GCTF workshop, Communication during a time of crisis held in Brisbane, Queensland.



Our researchers convened Indonesian government representatives, academics and women tourism operators in Sulawesi, delivering skills in digital tourism and financial decision-making, launching an online platform that boosts incomes, resilience and sustainable tourism.

SOUTHEAST ASIA HUB



Led by Dr Andrea Haefner, the Southeast Asia Hub undertakes policy-relevant research on the region's most pressing challenges, spanning economic development, governance, environmental sustainability and social change. Covering countries including Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, Singapore and Myanmar, the Hub combines local expertise with comparative and global perspectives. Through close engagement with policymakers, practitioners and communities, our research delivers practical insights that support collaboration, resilience and inclusive, sustainable development across Southeast Asia. Examples of our activities include:

Exploring justice without borders: New research on universal jurisdiction in the Asia Pacific

Dr Emma Palmer from Griffith Asia Institute has been awarded an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) to examine how universal jurisdiction can be used to prosecute atrocity crimes in the Asia-Pacific.

Universal jurisdiction allows domestic courts to investigate and prosecute crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide regardless of where they occurred or the nationalities involved. Dr Palmer's research will analyse how this principle is interpreted, adapted, and applied across the region.

The project will contribute to international relations scholarship on norm adaptation while generating practical insights to strengthen justice mechanisms and inform policy and practice. It will also support collaboration between legal practitioners, officials, and institutions working to address impunity.

By comparing approaches taken by intergovernmental organisations such as ASEAN and the African Union, the research will identify strategies that can enhance accountability and improve access to justice for victims of atrocity crimes in the Asia-Pacific.

Empowering women: Advancing sustainable tourism business in Sulawesi

An Australian Indonesia Institute-funded initiative strengthens women entrepreneurs in Sulawesi's tourism villages to build sustainable, digitally enabled, and financially resilient businesses. Addressing persistent gaps in digital literacy, sustainable business practice, and financial decision-making, the project supports women's participation in the tourism economy and community wellbeing.

A key milestone was a three-day symposium in Makassar, led by Dr Jiraporn (Nui) Surachartkumtonkun, Dr Gunaro Setiawan, Dr Haroon Iqbal Maseeh, Dr Wei Shao, and Muhammad Ashur Zaenal, bringing together Australian academics, Indonesian government representatives, women tourism operators, community organisations, and local leaders.

The team is now developing an online learning platform offering accessible training in sustainable business models, digital innovation, and financial literacy, supported by locally relevant case studies and practical tools.





Professor Sara Davies (far left) and Research Fellow, Dr Phyu Phyu Oo (far right) co-hosted a workshop on women's experience of sexual and gender based violence during conflicts in Papua New Guinea with CEVAW Affiliate, Lilly Be Soar, Voices for Change, Papua New Guinea.

Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Professor Sara Davies is a Chief Investigator and Deputy Director of 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. Established to meet the urgent need for a coordinated regional response to gender-based violence, CEVAW advances evidence-based, culturally responsive strategies to drive policy, legal, and systemic change.

Headquartered at Monash University, CEVAW brings together 13 Chief Investigators from six universities and more than 45 partners across community, NGO, and government sectors, combining interdisciplinary expertise with Indigenous and survivor-led approaches to deliver research with real-world impact.

A major CEVAW milestone in 2025 was the international conference *Justice Denied: Fighting Widespread Impunity for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*, co-hosted with the Australian Institute of International Affairs Victoria in Melbourne on 2–3 June. The conference convened more than 200 survivors,

researchers, diplomats, practitioners, and policymakers to confront persistent impunity for conflict-related sexual violence. Discussions examined gaps in accountability, assessed tools such as the Murad Code and investigative protocols, and explored innovations in evidence-gathering, sanctions, plea bargaining, and peace processes. The event generated concrete outcomes, including commitments to establish a regional CRSV Collaborative Network, convene a biennial conference, and expand survivor-centred research through CEVAW's Evidence Platform.

CEVAW's work is also deeply embedded in local contexts. In November 2025, Professor Davies and Research Fellow Dr Phyu Phyu Oo co-hosted a workshop in Papua New Guinea with CEVAW Affiliate Lilly Be Soar (Voices for Change). Bringing together women's civil society organisations, police, and government representatives from seven Highlands provinces, the dialogue addressed sexual and gender-based violence linked to electoral and tribal conflict. Participants shared experiences, identified protection gaps, and collaboratively developed locally grounded Women, Peace and Security action plans, strengthening responses to violence in conflict-affected communities.



CEVAW co-hosted with the AIIA Victoria, *Justice Denied: Fighting Widespread Impunity for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV)*, the first international conference of its kind held in Australia.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Our members play a vital role in building practical capability across the Asia-Pacific through targeted workshops, training programs, and knowledge-sharing initiatives. These activities support government officials, industry leaders, academics, and civil society to respond to regional challenges and seize emerging opportunities.

GAI-led capacity building spans technical and policy domains—from renewable energy, climate finance, and digital innovation to leadership, governance, and evidence-informed decision-making—designed in close collaboration with partners to ensure relevance, impact, and lasting benefits.

Australia Awards Fellowships

The DFAT Australia Awards Fellowships strengthen regional networks by supporting senior and mid-career officials to undertake development-focused professional activities lasting from two to 52 weeks. In 2025, Griffith Asia Institute members were awarded the following fellowship:

Course title	Country	Leads
Scaling finance for Indigenous climate adaptation solutions in the Pacific	PNG, Fiji, Micronesia, Samoa, Vanuatu	Christoph Nedopil, Christopher Fleming, Andreas Neef and Anne Leitch

Australia Awards Short Courses

Course title	Country	Leads
Improving Indonesia's capacity to regulate irradiation treatment providers for horticultural exports	Indonesia	Robin Roberts
Enhancing Artificial Intelligence (AI) development and innovation – policy and practice	Indonesia	Dian Tjondronegoro
Foreign Policy: Strategic Equilibrium in the Indo-Pacific	Indonesia	Caitlin Byrne and Ian Hall
Supporting Net Zero transitions in regional areas of Vietnam	Vietnam	Alexandr Akimov and Christoph Nedopil
Accessing Climate Finance (Regional) Short Course	South Asia and Mongolia	Robert Hales and Christoph Nedopil



Participants of the Australia Awards Indonesia Short Course: Enhancing Artificial Intelligence (AI) development and innovation – policy and practice.



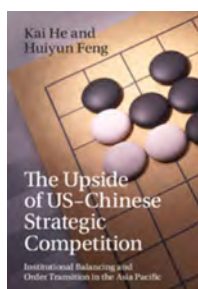
Through Australia Awards Indonesia, Dian Tjondronegoro significantly improved policymakers' ability to operationalise OECD/NIST AI governance frameworks, with governance literacy rising by 32%.



PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Books

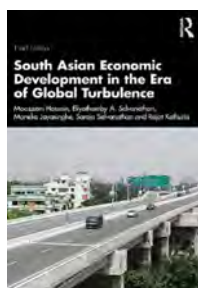
In 2025, members of the Griffith Asia Institute produced an array of scholarly books that reflect the depth, diversity and global reach of our research community. Their publications span critical themes shaping the Asia-Pacific and beyond—from great-power competition, economic transformation and sustainable development to gender, entrepreneurship, conflict, digital disruption and youth-led peacebuilding. These works not only advance academic debate but also offer practical insights for policymakers, industry leaders and community organisations. Together, they exemplify GAI's commitment to generating impactful, multidisciplinary knowledge that informs regional understanding and supports evidence-based solutions to complex global challenges.



The upside of US–Chinese strategic competition: Institutional balancing and order transition in the Asia Pacific

Huiyun Feng and Kai He

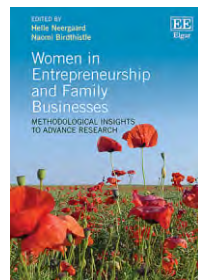
This book challenges assumptions that US–China rivalry inevitably leads to conflict. It argues that competition, when channelled through institutions, can produce stabilising outcomes in the Asia Pacific. Analysing post-2008 geopolitical shifts, the authors show how institutional balancing strengthens regional governance, enables cooperation, sustains public goods, and mitigates escalation risks.



South Asian economic development in the era of global turbulence

Moazzem Hossain, Selva Selvanathan, Maneka Jayasinghe, Saroja Selvanathan and Rajat Kathuria

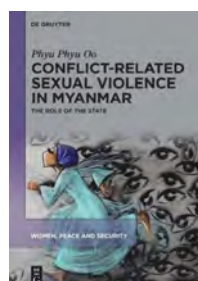
This textbook analyses South Asia's economic development from 2000 through the post-COVID period, highlighting growth achievements alongside persistent vulnerabilities. Using comparative regional analysis, it examines institutional capacity, inequality, political leadership, climate risks, and technological change, including AI. The book provides students and researchers with a rigorous framework for understanding South Asia's evolving development challenges.



Women in entrepreneurship and family businesses: Methodological insights to advance research

Naomi Birdthistle

This book emphasises the importance of innovative methodologies for advancing research on women in entrepreneurship and family firms. It critiques traditional approaches that overlook gendered realities and showcases qualitative and mixed-methods designs that capture complexity. The volume offers practical guidance for producing more inclusive, reflexive, and impactful gender-focused scholarship.



Conflict-related sexual violence in Myanmar: The role of the state

Phyu Phyu Oo

This book examines the Myanmar state's contradictory role in preventing conflict-related sexual violence. Drawing on document analysis and interviews conducted around the 2021 coup, it shows how militarisation, gendered power, bureaucratic resistance, and impunity undermine prevention efforts. The study offers grounded insights and policy guidance for accountability in militarised contexts.



Digital video advertising strategies: Grow your brand with online videos

Nirma Jayawardena, Mitchell Ross, Sara Quach, Park Thaichon and Abhishek Behl

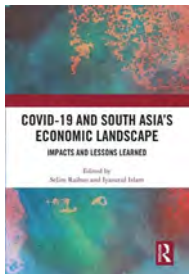
This practical guide examines how organisations can use digital video advertising to strengthen brand engagement. It explores emerging formats including augmented and virtual reality, blockchain verification, and AI-driven targeting. Combining theory with case studies, the book provides actionable guidance on strategy, measurement, integration, and return on investment in competitive digital markets.



Youth leading change: Emerging sites of knowledge in peace and conflict

Katrina Leclerc, Erika Isabel Bulan Yague and Helen Berents

This volume highlights young people as critical knowledge producers in peacebuilding and conflict transformation. Drawing on cases from multiple regions, it situates youth expertise within the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. The book challenges traditional hierarchies, demonstrating how youth-led insights drive justice, resilience, and community-based peace across conflict-affected societies.



COVID-19 and South Asia's economic landscape: Impacts and lessons learned

Selim Raihan and Iyanatul Islam (eds)

This edited volume analyses the economic impacts of COVID-19 across South Asia and selected Asian economies. It examines trade, vaccination effects, poverty dynamics, gendered impacts, and policy responses. Written for specialists and non-specialists, the book offers comparative insights and practical lessons to strengthen economic resilience against future shocks.



Elgar encyclopedia of political communication

Alessandro Nai, Max Grömping and Dominique Wirz (eds)

Published in December 2025, this encyclopedia provides an authoritative global reference on political communication. With over 400 entries by nearly 600 scholars, it covers core theories, methods, and emerging debates across media, elections, and information processing. Moving beyond Western-centric perspectives, it is an essential resource for scholars and policy professionals.



Digital disruption in hospitality, AI and emerging technologies: A roadmap to personalised experiences, enhanced operations, and revenue growth

Park Thaichon

This book explores how artificial intelligence and emerging technologies are transforming hospitality and tourism. It examines data-driven personalisation, operational efficiency, immersive media, and revenue optimisation through real-world cases. Addressing strategic and organisational challenges, it provides hospitality professionals and students with practical guidance for building competitive advantage in a digitally disrupted industry.



Digital disruption in hospitality, Sustainable hospitality: A global perspective on people, planet, and profit

Park Thaichon, Pushan Kumar Dutta, A. K. Haghi, and Soumi Dutta

This book explores how digital transformation and sustainability are reshaping the hospitality industry. It shows how technologies such as automation, data analytics and environmental monitoring support sustainable operations across people, planet and profit. Combining global perspectives with case examples, it offers a practical framework for integrating innovation, improving resilience, and advancing responsible, future-ready hospitality.

Research reports

China Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) investment report 2025
Christoph Nedopil

Green independent power producers (IPPs) in Asia
Christoph Nedopil, Fabby Tumiwa, Mustafa Sayed,
Muhammad Aulia Anis, Rika Isnarti and Umar Farooq

China green finance status and trends 2024–2025
Mengdi Yue and Christoph Nedopil

China Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Investment Report 2024
Christoph Nedopil

The Sustainable Development Goals: A workbook for family businesses
Naomi Birdthistle

Supporting Small-Scale Entrepreneurs in the Pacific Region
Ron Bevacqua, Shawn Hunter, Sameer Deshpande and Peter Morgan

Geopolitics, non-traditional security and political dynasties in Southeast Asia
Andrea Haefner and Sovinda Po

Placing People at the Heart of Policy: First Independent Review of the Human Rights Act 2019
Susan Harris Rimmer

Sustainability Assurance Quality and Cost of Debt: Evidence from Australia
Thi Kim Xuan Ho, Shireenjit Johl, Robyn Cameron and Ingrid Millar

Understanding the Indian Diaspora in Australia
Charles-Edwards E, Bernard A, Zajac T, Pietsch J, Wilson T, Nguyen T, Jatrana S, Siriban C, Wu G, Laukova D, Wong CY

Future directions for waste management and circular economy initiatives in First Nations communities in Queensland, 2025
Anya Phelan, Julienne Senyard, Sooriya Mudalige

Australia: Policy insights on growth financing
Naomi Birdthistle, Paatrice Braun, Antoinette Flynn, Braun and Robyn Eversole

Griffith Asia-Pacific Strategic Outlook (GAPSO) 2025

The Griffith Asia-Pacific Strategic Outlook is the flagship annual publication of the Griffith Asia Institute, bringing together timely policy briefs on the region's most pressing strategic, economic and development challenges. Drawing on emerging research and expert analysis, the 2025 edition offers evidence-informed insights to support decision-making on sustainable development across the Asia-Pacific. The Outlook provides a platform for innovative ideas and early findings, contributing to informed public debate and practical policy engagement across government, industry and civil society.

Policy briefs

A con-job: Why Trump is pushing fossil fuels at the world's expense
Christoph Nedopil

Time to develop an Asia-Pacific Green Development Agenda
Christoph Nedopil, Dhruva Purkayastha, Hemant Mallya, Kavita Vij, Nitin Bassi and Shuva Raha

Reimagining disability: Is inclusion a macroforce that will shape Asia and the Pacific for the next
Dian Tjondronegoro, Elizabeth Kendall, Shawn Hunter and Elena Mayer-Besting

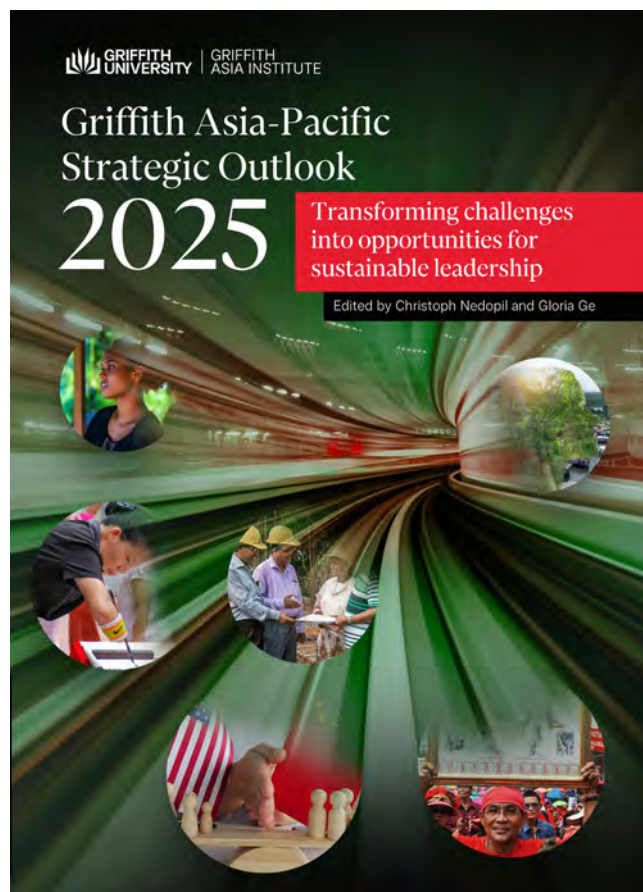
Living with uncertainty in Pacific island countries
Peter Dirou, Luke Forau and Parmendra Sharma

Geopolitics, non-traditional security and political dynasties in Southeast Asia
Andrea Haefner and Sovinda Po

Rethinking fiscal policy to finance SDGs in South Asia
Mohd Avi Hossain and Yan Islam

China in Asia in 2025 – a reliable rock in a stormy sea?
Christoph Nedopil and Jean Dong

Bridging digital financial literacy gaps in the Pacific: A data-driven policy roadmap for inclusive growth
Dian Tjondronegoro Amber Marshall Shawn Hunter Elizabeth Renne Yuwono



ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS

Perspectives:Asia

On 24 July, Griffith Asia Institute (GAI) and the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) celebrated 20 years of Perspectives:Asia, a flagship public lecture series dedicated to deepening Australia's engagement with the Asia-Pacific. Launched in 2005 as a partnership between GAI and QAGOMA's Australian Centre of Asia Pacific Art, the series has become a vital platform for exploring regional culture, politics, and society through accessible public dialogue.

The anniversary event at QAGOMA's South Bank venue reflected on two decades of collaboration, featuring reflections from founding contributors, partners, and current leaders. Speakers highlighted the series' enduring impact in fostering cultural understanding, informed debate, and community connection as Asia's influence and Australia's regional responsibilities continue to grow. As GAI Director Professor Christoph Nedopil noted, Perspectives:Asia remains a space that "informs, challenges and inspires" amid accelerating geopolitical and social change.



Professor Caitlin Byrne (Pro Vice Chancellor Business), Professor Michael Wesley (Deputy Vice Chancellor (Global, Culture and Engagement) University of Melbourne), Professor Christoph Nedopil (Director, GAI), Professor Emeritus Julianne Schultz AM (Griffith Review) and Mr Chris Saines, Director QAGOMA.



Professor Caitlin Byrne (Pro Vice Chancellor Business), Tarun Ganesh (Curatorial Manager of Asian and Pacific Art, QAGOMA), The Hon Tim Watts MP, Professor Christoph Nedopil (Director, GAI) and Associate Professor Gloria Ge (Deputy Director, GAI)

Griffith Asia Institute events

Conference hosted by GAI	
Youth-Led Futures of Peace and Security DECRA Symposium	Dr Helen Berents
Protest and Democracy in Indonesia: Strengthening civil society amidst democratic backsliding	Professor Luis Cabrera and the Governance and Diplomacy Hub
Conference in partnership	
Communication during a time of crisis: Practical approaches and lessons learned in the Pacific	With the Global Cooperation & Training Framework, GCTF
Green Energy Network – Asia: Inaugural Network Conference	With Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESFR), Fudan University and Climate Smart Ventures
Green Energy Network Conference, Beijing	With Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), Institute for Essential Services Reform (IESFR), Fudan University, Tsinghua University and Climate Smart Ventures
Perspectives:Asia Lectures	
The Asia Pacific Triennial: Looking back, looking Forward	Rhana Davenport ONZM (Ackland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki), Dr Morris Low (UQ), with Chris Saines QAGOMA, moderated by Rhuben Keehan, QAGOMA
Celebrating 20 years of Perspectives: Asia	Professor Julianne Schultz, Professor Michael Wesley, University of Melbourne, with Professor Christoph Nedopil and Chris Saines, moderated by Professor Caitlin Byrne
Laughing Through the Tears	Cheng Lei, Author and Sky News Presenter
Australia's Asia Capability	The Hon. Tim Watts MP
Research seminars and roundtables	
Tending the Herd, Defending the Land: Animal Health, Gender, and Politics in Indian Livestock Systems	Devashish Saurav, PhD Candidate, Michigan State University
Who Gains from Tariff Cuts? Gender-Specific Labor Market Adjustments and Trade Liberalisation	Dr Nguyen Tran, Research Fellow within the Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics at Griffith University
Empowerment Through Travel: Experiences of Middle Eastern Migrant Women in Australia within the Asia-Pacific Context	Dr Zara Zarezadeh, Lecturer within the Department of Tourism and Marketing at Griffith University
Contextualizing child labour reforms: Education policy, legal bans, and female child labour in rural South India	Professor Alberto Posso, Head of the Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics at Griffith University
Myanmar and the Perils of Prediction	GAI Adjunct Professor Andrew Selth
A Critical Review of ASHAs – The Backbone of India's Rural Health System	Andy Bhanot, Senior Consultant in Marketing Research and Behaviour Change Communications, Project Concern International India and Professor Dianne Shanley, Clinical Psychologist and Co-Lead of the Changing Health Systems (CHESS) research group at Griffith University
Roundtable discussion: China and the Economy	Dr Dan Wang, Industry Fellow
Queer justice in the Asia-Pacific	Dr Caitlin Biddolph, University of Technology Sydney

Public events	
Our Time of Old Wars Being Refought in New Ways Hosted: Griffith Asia Institute in partnership with AIIA, Brisbane	Dr Peter Layton
Trump's tariffs and China's Trade: What's Next? Hosted: Griffith Asia Institute, online	Dr Dan Wang, Bert Hofman, National University of Singapore, James Laurenceson, Australia–China Relations Institute and Professor Christoph Nedopil
No Time to Waste: What Geopolitical Challenges (Can) Mean for Asia-Pacific Development Opportunities Hosted: Griffith Asia Institute in partnership with AIIA, Brisbane	Professor Christoph Nedopil and Professor Dian Tjondronegoro
Green Energy Transition in Asia: Aligning Finance, Policy and Equity Hosted: Griffith Asia Institute in partnership with London Climate Action Week, Centre for Sustainable Finance and Pakistan–China Institute, London	Dr Shezra Kharal, Minister of State for Climate Change, Pakistan, Dr Ma Jun, Institute of Finance and Sustainability, Suba Sivakumaran, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Dr Uli Volz, SOAS University of London, Mustafa Hyder, Pakistan China Institute, and Professor Christoph Nedopil
China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Investment Report 2025 Hosted: Griffith Asia Institute, online	Professor Christoph Nedopil
Do we have a Putin or a Russia problem? Hosted: Griffith Asia Institute in partnership with AIIA, Brisbane	Professor Peter Tesch, Adjunct, University of Queensland and Associate Professor Matthew Sussex, Adjunct Griffith Asia Institute
Regional Commitment, Empowering Youth: A Discussion Forum on ASEAN-IPR Regional Study on Youth, Peace and Security Hosted: Griffith Asia Institute, Brisbane, hybrid	Dr Helen Berents and Erika Isabel Bulan Yague
PNG at 50: what was, what is, and what comes next for Australia's nearest neighbour? Hosted: Griffith Asia Institute in partnership with AIIA, Brisbane	Dr Irene Semos, University of Queensland, Sean Dorney AO MBE CSM PAIIA, Retired Journalist, Dulciana Somare-Brash, Senior Political Adviser, Sean Jacob, GAI Industry Fellow and Associate Proessor Tess Newton Cain
Multilateralism in Peril: Implications for Australia Hosted: Griffith Asia Institute in partnership with AIIA, Brisbane	Professor Susan Harris Rimmer
Special Event: What's Really Happening with the Chinese Economy Hosted: Griffith Asia Institute in partnership with AIIA, Brisbane	Dr Dan Wang, Industry Fellow
Zeitenwende: Four years on. From Turning Point to Turning the Page Hosted: Griffith Asia Institute in partnership with AIIA , Brisbane	Dr Christian E. Rieck , University of Potsdam
Energy Transition through virtual power plants in Indonesia, online	Dr Zainal Arifin, PLN Institute of Technology
Other events	
A Safe Space for CRSV Dialogue in Myanmar CEEVAW workshop in partnership with Monash University	Dr Phyu Phyu Oo and Professor Sara Davies
Griffith University Research & Perspective for COP31 Pacific Senior Officials.	In Partnership with the Climate Action Beacon
CEEVAW Workshop on Women's Safety in Conflict in PNG	Dr Phyu Phyu Oo and Professor Sara Davies

Member engagement

Protest and Democracy in Indonesia

Aurelia Ananda, Luis Cabrera, and Max Grömping organised a workshop on 'Protest and Democracy in Indonesia' at Griffith University South Bank Campus on 5 December. The event, supported by Griffith Asia Institute, invited experts on Indonesian civil society and representation Prof Edward Aspinall (ANU) and Dr Sally White (ANU). Also presenting at the workshop were Titi Anggraini (Perludem), Paramita Mohamad (Communication for Change), Dr Susilo Wibisono (Murdoch University). It provided an opportunity to reflect on how civil society plays a role in promoting democracy in Indonesia in the current political climate. HDRs were also given an opportunity to discuss their research with experts on Indonesian politics. Aurelia presented her research on barriers to women's political

Professor Cordia Chu with PhD students, Noore Alam (QLD Health), Dr Dicky Budiman (Indonesian Security Council), Li Ting (Shenzhen Third People's Hospital), Dr Tuan Phan (Research Fellow), and Dr Paul Barnes Senior Research Fellow) attending a Symposium workshop.



Workshop on women's experiences of sexual and gender-based violence during conflict

Professor Sara Davies, Melodie Ruwet and Research Site Lead Naomi Woyengu conducted interviews and consultations in Papua New Guinea, engaging directly with communities and stakeholders as part of ongoing research on gender, health and security. The visit reflects CEVAW's commitment to locally grounded, partnership-based research that centres lived experience and regional expertise. In November 2025, CEVAW Deputy Director Professor Sara Davies and Research Fellow Dr Phyu Phyu Oo also co-hosted a workshop on women's experiences of sexual and gender-based violence during conflict, alongside CEVAW Affiliate Lilly Be Soar from Voices for Change PNG. Together, these activities strengthen dialogue, build local capacity, and support evidence-informed responses to violence against women in fragile and conflict-affected settings.



Professor Luis Cabrera with participants of the Governance and Diplomacy Hub's workshop on Protest and Democracy in Indonesia.

International Symposium for One Health Research and Practice

The 2025 International Symposium for One Health Research and Practice brought together global experts to advance collaborative solutions to emerging health threats. Building on earlier One Health milestones—including the 2014 global research network launch and the 2019 Pearl River Declaration—the event strengthened momentum toward coordinated cross-regional action.

Griffith Asia Institute member and Director of the Centre for Environment and Population Health (CEPH), Professor Cordia Chu, served on the organising committee and helped shape the program. The Symposium convened specialists across public health, animal health, agriculture, environmental science, AI, and health economics to address growing global health security challenges. Discussions will culminate in the Pengcheng Declaration, outlining practical, collaborative steps to address current and future infectious disease risks.



Professor Sara Davies (right) and Research Fellow Dr Phyu Phyu Oo (left) met with CEVAW Affiliate, Naomi Woyengu, and her research team from the Hauskuk Initiative in Madang, Papua New Guinea.



Professor Ian Hall with the participants of the Australia Awards Foreign Policy: Strategic Equilibrium in the Indo-Pacific Short Course.



Youth leading change book launch

The hybrid Brisbane launch of *Youth Leading Change: Emerging Sites of Knowledge in Peace and Conflict* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025) was co-hosted by the Griffith Asia Institute, Saint Paul University's Conflict Research Centre, and the University of Winnipeg Global College.

Edited by Katrina Leclerc, alongside Erika Isabel Bulan Yague and Helen Berents, the book brought together youth scholar-practitioners and senior academics from around the world to highlight young people as knowledge producers at the intersections of peace and security.



Associate Professor Helen Berents, Erika Isabel Bulan Yague, Katrina Leclerc, Shayne Wong and Shadi Rouhshahbaz.

Visitors

Professor Andrew Selth

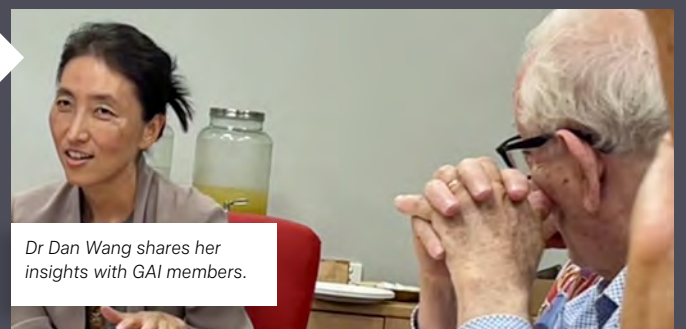
In October, Griffith Asia Institute hosted Adjunct Associate Professor Andrew Selth for a seminar on Myanmar and the Perils of Prediction. Drawing on four decades of experience, he examined evolving assessments of Myanmar's civil war and stressed the importance of evidence-based analysis.



Dr Stephen McCarthy, Professor Andrew Selth and Dr Andrea Haefner.

Dr Dan Wang

In November, GAI welcomed New Industry Fellow Dr Dan Wang, Director of Eurasia Group's China team, for a series of discussions on the Chinese economy. Her visit provided timely insights into key economic trends, policy challenges, and implications for regional and global markets.



Dr Dan Wang shares her insights with GAI members.

Dr Fang Yang

During 2025, Dr Fang Yang from Xiamen University visited GAI to collaborate on research focused on China's green Belt and Road initiatives. The visit supported joint work with GAI's Green Energy Network and strengthened research links on sustainability and infrastructure development.

Members out and about...



Christoph Nedopil



Dian Tjondronegoro



Cordia Chu



Caitlin Byrne and Andreas Chai



Tess Newton Cain



Sara Davies



Cordia Chu



Shawn Hunter



Robert Hales



Robin Roberts



Helen Berents



Yan Islam and Larry Crump



Caitlin Byrne



Lili Mi



Melodi Ruwet and Sara Davies



Luis Cabrera



Gloria Ge

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Professor Sara Davies appointed to WHO panel on health, migration and displacement

Professor Sara Davies of Griffith University has been elected to the WHO's Technical Advisory Group on Health, Migration and Displacement for 2025–2027. Launched in Geneva on 25 November 2025, the TAG supports global efforts to improve health outcomes for migrants, refugees and displaced populations.

Joining 16 international experts, Professor Davies provides independent scientific and technical advice to support WHO's Global Action Plan on refugee and migrant health. In 2025, she was also highly commended in the Vice Chancellor's Excellence Awards for Research Supervision, recognising her leadership in mentoring emerging scholars.



Professor Sara Davies

Professor Susan Harris Rimmer appointed to the Administrative Review Tribunal

Professor Susan Harris Rimmer has been appointed as a General Member of Australia's Administrative Review Tribunal (ART), commencing 17 March 2025, following a rigorous merit-based selection process by an independent panel.

Replacing the former Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the ART strengthens transparency, accountability and public trust in administrative decision-making. Professor Harris Rimmer brings expertise in public policy, human rights and governance. The Griffith Asia Institute warmly congratulates her on this significant national appointment.



Professor Susan Harris Rimmer

Professor Andreas Chai recognised for excellence in fraud and financial crime training

The Academy of Excellence in Financial Crime Investigation and Compliance Micro-credential Program received Regulation Asia's 2025 Best Compliance Training Initiative in Fraud and Financial Crime award. Established in 2022 by Griffith University and the Commonwealth Bank, the program integrates criminology, forensic accounting, law and data analytics.

Over 2,500 employees across Australia, India and New Zealand have completed the training. The award recognises the leadership of John Fogarty, Sharon Thorpe and Greg Hogarth, and the collaborative academic–industry model contributing to a more resilient financial system.



Professor Andreas Chai

GRIFFITH ASIA BUSINESS INTERNSHIPS

Led by Dr Andrea Haefner from the Griffith Asia Institute (GAI) and supported by the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan (NCP), the Griffith Asia Business Internship (GABI) program provides students with immersive, for-credit international internship opportunities in Tokyo, Seoul and Kuala Lumpur.

In 2025, GABI welcomed 29 students who undertook six-week internships from early November to mid-December. Placements aligned closely with students' disciplines, spanning marketing, international relations, Asian business, tourism, hospitality management, international business and finance. These internships offered hands-on exposure to professional environments while deepening students' understanding of regional business and policy contexts.

Nineteen students received financial support through NCP grants administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, enabling participation while fostering cultural literacy, regional knowledge and long-term professional connections. This support strongly aligns with GABI's core objectives of strengthening employability, intercultural communication and problem-solving skills.

Students consistently described the Asia Ready Program—a three-day pre-departure academic intensive—and the GABI experience as inspiring and transformative. Dr Haefner noted that GABI continues to play a vital role in strengthening Australia-Asia engagement by combining applied learning with enduring regional partnerships.

"GABI not only provides professional experience but also fosters long-term connections that build mutual understanding and collaboration between Australia and our Asian neighbours."



Klyzeah Castanares, Bachelor of Law (Honours) and Bachelor of International Business, Internship at Ugajinlaw in Japan and Tenisha Wilkey, Bachelor of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Internship at BS Code in Japan



Dr Andrea Haefner (right) with GABI students who attended Day 1 of the Asia Ready Program

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.



CONNECT WITH US

Griffith Asia Institute (GAI) offers diverse ways for individuals, organisations, and communities to engage with and support our work advancing sustainable development across the Asia-Pacific.

From subscribing to our events and newsletter to exploring research partnerships, professional development, and collaborative projects, GAI is a hub for connection and exchange. We also welcome enquiries about consultancy services, philanthropy, and sponsorship opportunities that support high-impact research and engagement.


If you are interested in partnering with us on funded research, engaging our expertise through commercial consultancy, or supporting our work as a funding partner, we invite you to get in touch to explore opportunities for collaboration.

Looking to advance your academic or professional journey? We offer research degrees and tailored professional development opportunities aligned with your interests.

Based at Griffith University's Brisbane South (Nathan) campus, our team welcomes enquiries via email, online, or through our social media channels. Let's work together to create meaningful and lasting impact across the Asia-Pacific region.

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