



CEO APPOINTMENT

The National Foundation for Australia-China Relations was delighted at the appointment of Gary Cowan as the Foundation's new Chief Executive Officer in late March. Gary is a senior career officer with the [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#) (DFAT) and has served as Australia's Representative in Taipei and earlier in roles in Australia's missions in Beijing, Shanghai, and Tokyo.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Trade and Tourism Minister Don Farrell welcomed Gary's appointment in their [joint media release](#).

Follow the [Foundation's LinkedIn](#) to get the latest news and insights from our CEO's engagements with industries and communities. Learn more about Gary's profile [here](#).



Foundation CEO Gary Cowan

ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENT

The Foundation Advisory Board meets three times a year to provide guidance in the Foundation's work to support government, business and communities' constructive engagement with China, consistent with our national interest.

Appointed by the Foreign Minister, Ms Alice Pung OAM is the newest appointment to the Foundation's Advisory Board. Ms Pung is a Melbourne-based writer and lawyer, and an Adjunct Professor at RMIT University's School of Media and

Communication. She is the author of the bestselling books that have been published internationally, and translated into Italian, German, Indonesian and Chinese. Her books are studied in schools and universities in Australia and abroad. In 2022, Alice was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for services to literature.

The Foundation is delighted to have the opportunity to work with Ms Pung.

2023-24 GRANTS RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Foreign Minister and Trade and Tourism Minister jointly [announced](#) the recipients of the Foundation's 2023-2024 grants round. In total, 27 grants will support a range of activities designed to strengthen cooperation and enhance engagement between Australia and China.

These grants will support Australian industry to re-engage with China in areas of economic importance for Australia, and also support collaboration on climate change, energy, and environment in line with the statement on joint outcomes from the China-Australia Annual Leaders' Meeting.

This grants round is the Foundation's largest for supporting community engagement and people-to-people links. The 2024-25 grants round is planned to be launched in August.

Visit Foundation's [website](#) for the full list of recipients.

FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES

2024 Wang Gungwu Lecture

On 26 February, the Foundation hosted the third Wang Gungwu Lecture in partnership with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). Each lecture features a prominent Chinese-Australian and celebrates their life and work and contributions to Australia.

Ms Ming Long AM, a respected business leader and Chair of Diversity Council Australia was the keynote speaker for this year.

"We are at a time of great disruption, from climate change to AI. We cannot continue to operate the same way we have always done. We will need all the talent and diversity in our

community to create the future we need, to create the future we want. We are stewards of our future and our legacy”.

Ming’s full speech is available on [Foundation website](#).

The Lecture can be seen on [ABC iview](#) and [YouTube](#). Over 250 guests from across government, business and the community attended the Lecture.



2024 Wang Gungwu Lecture keynote speaker Ming Long AM.

The Foundation congratulates Ming for her newly appointed role as Deputy Chair of Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). Read CSIRO’s announcement [here](#).

Engage with China capability program

The Foundation convened its annual ‘Engaging China’ workshop for state and territory government officials, in partnership with Global Victoria, in Melbourne in April.

Over two days, 27 program participants deepened their knowledge of the Chinese political system, economy and activities in Australia. Australian Ambassador to the PRC Scott Dewar, Group of Eight CEO Vicki Thomson and Director of the ANU Centre for Asian-Australian Leadership Jieh-Yung Lo delivered useful presentations.

The workshop forms part of the Foundation’s efforts to promote risk-informed engagement with China in the national interest.



CEO Gary Cowan and Global Victoria CEO Danni Jarrett welcome participants to the 2024 ‘Engaging China’ workshop for state and territory officials in Melbourne

Roundtable Discussion with visiting Singaporean Minister

The Foundation provides a platform for experts and practitioners to exchange perspectives on China, to support informed engagement in the national interest.

On 28 May, Foundation CEO Gary Cowan had the pleasure of hosting a roundtable discussion with Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in Singapore. They were joined by senior representatives from industry, academia and government.

The Senior Minister of State was visiting Australia for a program of senior engagements organised by DFAT’s Office of Southeast Asia.



CEO Gary Cowan and Ms Sim Ann, Singaporean Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Dr Janka Oertel

CEO Gary Cowan hosted a roundtable lunch with Dr Janka Oertel (Director of Asia Programme, [European Council on Foreign Relations](#)) at the Foundation on 12 April.

Dr Oertel, whose trip to Australia was organised by the ANU’s [National Security College](#), offered reflections on Europe’s evolving policies towards China for a small group of senior industry and academic representatives.

The Foundation regularly convenes expert discussions to help strengthen Australian stakeholders’ understanding of China.



CEO Gary Cowan and Dr Janka Oertel

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

ANU: Australia-China Decarbonisation Roundtable

An Australian delegation led by ANU's Professor Frank Jotzo held an Australia-China Decarbonisation Roundtable in Beijing on 8 May. Supported by the Foundation, the roundtable was a valuable opportunity for Australian Government officials and researchers to hear from key personnel at Tsinghua University involved in developing technologies to reduce emissions, including green steel manufacturing. The Foundation's Deputy CEO, Helen Horsington delivered the opening remarks from Sydney.



Foundation Deputy CEO Helen Horsington delivering remarks at the Australia-China Decarbonisation Roundtable

East Asian Bureau of Economic Research (EABER)

On 8 May, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Secretary, Jan Adams AO PSM, delivered keynote remarks to launch a Foundation-supported report '[A Sustainable Economic Partnership for Australia and China](#)', authored by the [East Asian Bureau of Economic Research \(EABER\)](#) at The Australian National University's Crawford School of Public Policy.

EABER's report contributes to thinking on the transformation of our economic relationship with China as we act to address climate change. The [Australian Financial Review](#) covered the report and the launch event.



Secretary Jan Adams AO PSM at the launch of the EABER report

UNSW China International Business and Economic Law (CIBEL) Centre

On 11 April, Foundation's Deputy CEO Helen Horsington delivered an opening remark at the University of New South Wales's [China International Business and Economic Law \(CIBEL\) Centre](#) conference on Australia China Business in the Digital Age, where experts and business came together to discuss how to navigate complex legal and policy landscapes in a changing digital environment.

The conference is one of the Foundation-funded events aimed at building knowledge and confidence in China's digital commerce and trade landscape.

Watch the full video of the conference [here](#).



Participants at the UNSW CIBEL conference

Queensland Ballet

With support from the Foundation, [Queensland Ballet](#) held a gala event in Brisbane in February to mark the renewal of its partnership with Shanghai Ballet. Dancers from both companies performed an excerpt of *The Lady of the Camellias* as they prepare for Shanghai Ballet to tour Brisbane later this year. The event, which attracted senior attendees and featured a keynote address by the Governor of Queensland, also marked the 35th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Queensland and Shanghai in 2024.



Dancers from Shanghai Ballet perform an excerpt of *The Lady of the Camellias* as part of Queensland Ballet's showcase event in Brisbane in February.

International Education Association Australia

Education and people to people links continue to be an important way for Australia and China to build shared understanding and partnerships.

The International Education Association Australia (IEAA) held its *National Symposium on the Future of Australia-China School Partnerships* in Melbourne on 21 May. The Symposium was a unique opportunity to discuss Australia-China school partnerships.

Foundation CEO Gary Cowan delivered warm remarks to a combined in-person and online audience of 200. The Foundation is pleased the Symposium showcased Australian excellence and strengthen people-to-people connections through school partnerships.

Recording of the Symposium and digital resources will be available on IEAA website.



CEO Gary Cowan addressed to audience at the IEAA Symposium (Image courtesy of IEAA)

Australian Newborn Hearing Screening Showcase Program

Macquarie University and the Australian Hearing Hub delivered the [Australian Newborn Hearing Screening Showcase Program](#) with the support from the Foundation, to improve early detection and intervention of hearing loss for children in China. In April, a delegation of 14 Australian audiology experts and researchers travelled to Chengdu, Shanghai and Beijing to share knowledge and practices in newborn hearing screening and audiology through a series of workshops, roundtables and site visits.



The delegation was received by Australian Ambassador to China, Scott Dewar, at his residence

Dairy Australia

As a recipient of a Foundation 2023-24 grant, Dairy Australia launched their 25-year China Scholarship and Alumni anniversary program with a series of technical workshops and networking events in Changsha and Shanghai during 29 May - 4 June 2024. On the back of the China events, Dairy Australia will host a Chinese dairy delegation in Australia in late June 2024 showcasing Australian capability and making the most of the 25-year investment in the China relationship it's made through their China scholarship program.

CEO Gary Cowan met with Dairy Australia's Managing Director, David Nation, and his team in Melbourne on 18 April ahead of the 25-anniversary program launch funded by the Foundation's grants program.



CEO Gary Cowan with Dairy Australia Managing Director Dr David Nation (Image courtesy of Dairy Australia)

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Foundation, CEO Gary Cowan visited Melbourne in April to engage with the communities and various state government officials. During his visit, Gary met with Jieh-Yung Lo, founding director of the [ANU Centre for Asian Australian Leadership](#) and discussed the ANU's William Ah Ket Leadership Program, which aims to upskill emerging Chinese Australian leaders to be advocates and leaders for their communities. Gary also visited the Museum of Chinese Australian History in Melbourne and spoke with CEO Mr Mark Wang. The Museum established the first nationwide story of the 200-year journey from the first Chinese migrant in 1818 to recent arrivals. The exhibition is a permanent display at the Museum.



CEO Gary Cowan and The Museum of Chinese Australian History CEO Mark Wang

UPCOMING EVENTS

11 July – 3 September	Anhui, China	National Museum of Australia – <i>Ochre and Sky</i> exhibition
5 November – 17 December	Zhejiang, China	National Museum of Australia – <i>Ochre and Sky</i> exhibition
18 Oct	Shanghai, China	Launch event of the documentary of <i>M on the Bund</i>
25-26 Oct	Shanghai and Wuxi, China	Sydney Dance Company - Performance of <i>Ab [Intra]</i> at the Shanghai Performing Arts Festival

