



Australia-Philippines Bilateral Relations

Her Excellency HK Yu PSM, FCPA - Australian Ambassador to the Philippines
in conversation with John Richardson

Thursday 4 April: 1 pm for 1:30pm – 2:30pm at Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Since taking office in June 2022, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr, scion of the controversial Marcos dynasty, has reversed his predecessor Duterte's foreign policy direction of spurning the West and courting China. President Marcos has embraced a muscular foreign policy, cementing ties with traditional allies such as the USA and Japan and seeking new relations with countries such as Sweden, France and India while pushing back strongly against Chinese claims and incursions in the South China Seas.



In a first, President Marcos addressed a joint sitting of the Australian Parliament in February this year, emphasising the close cooperation between Australia and the Philippines under the upgraded Strategic Partnership, signed by Leaders last year. Leaders announced a new MoU to implement key priorities of the Partnership, including enhanced maritime cooperation, cyber and critical technology to harden our resilience against cyber-attacks, and cooperation between our national competition commissions. PM Albanese also announced a new \$20 million investment to support the Philippines to reform, and improve access to, its justice system.

Where is the Philippines headed and how will Australia's strategic partnership with the Philippines continue to develop? AIIA Victoria invites you to join Australian Ambassador to the Philippines HE Ms HK Yu PSM in conversation with John Richardson to explore these important questions.



Her Excellency HK Yu PSM, FCPA is the Australian Ambassador to the Philippines. Ms Yu is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was most recently Deputy Head of Mission, Australian Embassy, Tokyo. In Canberra, she served as First Assistant Secretary, Middle East and Africa Division, and held a number of senior roles in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and in the Treasury. Ms Yu holds a Master of Taxation from the University of New South Wales (2000); a Graduate Diploma in Economics, Australian National University (2005); and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Western Australia (1990).

John Richardson is Vice President of AIIA Victoria and was Ambassador to Brazil from 2016 to 2018. Previously Mr Richardson was DFAT State Director Victoria, having served overseas as Ambassador to Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, and as DHM in Australia's Embassies in Germany and Thailand. In Canberra, his early career focussed on Australia's economic relations with Asia particularly Japan.

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In-person: AIIA Premium and Young Professionals members free. AIIA Members \$20. Non-Members \$30. Student Non-Members \$10.

Please note this event will be held under the Chatham House Rule.