

# Taiwan - the Testing Ground

Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA & Jesse Dass

Tuesday 20 August 2024: 5.30pm for 5:45-7pm AEST - Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

In Taiwan's presidential and parliamentary elections on 13 January the ruling DPP party secured the presidency for a third term, with its candidate vowing to safeguard Taiwan from intimidation while emphasising the need for dialogue with Beijing.

At his recent inauguration in June, President Lai Ching-Te urged China to "choose dialogue over confrontation", echoing their self-proclaimed intention of a peaceful rise within the region.



*What does Taiwan's survival and success – and its threats - say about governance and plurality in the Chinese and Asian worlds, and about the priorities and capacity of the West including Australia?*

This event combines two elements:

1. AIIA Fellow Rowan Callick, vice chair of the Australia Taiwan Business Council, will speak to this topic. He says: "The people of Taiwan haven't sought the role of 'testing ground' – their election in January underlined their understandable domestic priorities – but it has become inescapable. It is vital that Australians understand what's at stake."
2. A report from the group of 15 people from AIIA Victoria who undertook a study tour of Taiwan in April - including its history, culture, tech-savvy economy, and its prospects.



**Rowan Callick OBE FAIIA** is an Industry Fellow at Griffith University's Asia Institute and vice chair of the Australia Taiwan Business Council. He was Asia-Pacific Editor for both *The Australian* and *The Australian Financial Review*, and also China Correspondent for both newspapers. He has won a Graham Perkin Award for Australian Journalist of the Year and two Walkley Awards. He has written three books published in both English and Chinese – most recently *Party Time: Who Runs China and How*. Rowan is also a member of the Advisory Boards of the National Foundation for Australia China Relations, La Trobe University: Asia, and Melbourne University's Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies.



**Jesse Dass** interned at AIIA Victoria, focusing on delivering the 2024 Taiwan Study Tour. He holds a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Global Studies from Monash University. After graduating, he was honoured with the 2022 Huayu Enrichment Scholarship which enabled him to study intensive Mandarin at National Sun Yat-Sen University in Kaohsiung, Taiwan for 6-months. He has travelled to 13 administrative divisions in Taiwan, including outer islands such as Kinmen and Orchid Island. Outside of his internship, Jesse is the New Colombo Plan Alumni Ambassador for Monash University, through which he promotes student mobility in the Indo-Pacific region. He is also the Co-Editor in Chief for the Australia Latam Emerging Leaders Dialogue. Jesse has previously volunteered for other youth-led organisations, such as the Australia Indonesia Youth Association and the Monash Student Association.

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

**Webinar:** Free for AIIA VIC members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10

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