

PUBLIC LECTURE

CENTRE FOR ARAB & ISLAMIC STUDIES

The Middle East & Central Asia

&

ASIA-PACIFIC COLLEGE OF DIPLOMACY

Regional Cooperation Strategy of Afghanistan

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Tuesday 22 April, 5.30pm-7.00pm
Lawlink Lecture Theatre, Building 7, Fellows Rd, ANU
The Australian National University

This lecture is free and open to the public

Afghanistan's location at the confluence of nation states has not only created rivalry from regional countries but also from of non-regional players. This is partly because of geography and partly due to the fact that the region is rich in natural resources but also because of Afghanistan's deficiencies in proactive regional diplomacy. Although the dynamics of rivalry have changed, they still remain a potential source of instability.

The breakup of the former Soviet Union and the emergence of new economic giants and power players in the surrounding regions (China and Japan in the Far East, India in South Asia, the Russian Federation and to some extent Kazakhstan in Central Asia, and Turkey, Iran and the UAE in the Middle East) have created new challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation. The war on terror and the presence of international forces in Afghanistan have added a new dimension to the coordination of regional interests. Afghanistan will have to engage in the international political arena but to begin with, it has to ensure effective regional cooperation for its own benefit. So, what will Afghanistan's regional cooperation strategy be over the next five years? That is a key question that this lecture seeks to address.

For further information, please contact:

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No RSVP required