

20 August 2019

Indo Pacific Influencers Gather for Defence Conference

Over 500 leaders and influencers, and 35 speakers hailing from across the Indo Pacific region and the United States gathered at Crown Towers Perth for the WA Indo-Pacific Defence Conference convened by the Perth USAsia Centre for Defence West on behalf of the WA Government, to discuss the defence industry which in 2018 employed close to 80,000 Australians across Australian Defence Force members and public service employees.

Both sides of government were represented with Federal Ministers Linda Reynolds and Melissa Price, as well as Shadow Ministers Richard Marles and Matt Keogh and Premier Mark McGowan presenting on the day, as well as government and business representatives across the defence industry.

The conference marked the State Government's decision to bid for the moving of the Collins class Full Cycle Docking to Western Australia in the national interest.

Perth USAsia Centre CEO Professor Gordon Flake said it was fantastic for the Centre to convene the Conference once again this year, working with the State Government to raise awareness of the opportunities available for the nation's defence industry across the Indo-Pacific.

"This conference has proved integral to the defence industry, bringing together representatives from major player countries to discuss issues that matter, and supporting small medium enterprises to become export ready and competitive globally," Professor Flake said.

Presentations throughout the day pointed the fact that Western Australia is Australia's Indian Ocean State, and is home to strategic and defence assets that are nationally unique.

"It is undeniable that there is a need for government and industry to work in a coordinated and cooperative manner domestically and with international partners."

"We were also fortunate to welcome so many from across the region, with delegates hailing from India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea and Singapore," Professor Flake said.

The event program featured an exhibition with businesses travelling to Western Australia from across the nation showcasing their defence industry products and services during the conference break times.

Videos of presentations delivered on the day can be accessed at <https://perthusasia.edu.au/events/past-conferences/defence-forum-2019>

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