



# An ANZSOG Institute for Governance Event

## THE PARLIAMENTARY TRIANGLE

### *at the*

## National Press Club

Thursday 29 November at 12 Noon

# Understanding Afghanistan—from relief to development

## Concept

*Members of a film crew shooting the popular soap opera, Solidarity, are congregated at the foot of a pistachio tree in the centre of Alingar village in Laghman, East Afghanistan. The Director of the soap turns to a member of the newly formed Community Development Council and asks him:*

*"Why is this National Solidarity Programme important to you?"*

*The villager is quick to reply:*

*"The programme weakens the power of warlords. Decisions are now being made by us and because of jobs and opportunities people do not want to fight. There have been many years of war but the NSP gives us hope and we know that the world is supporting Afghanistan. We are Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Pashtun, Communist, Mujahedin and we were divided but this programme helps us come together."*

Contemporary media reporting of Afghanistan depicts a country ravaged by persistent conflict; of experienced and capable Taliban fighters drawing NATO forces into an increasingly bloody conflict; and of a resurgent Taliban gaining in strength and bringing a fledgling democracy to its knees. Not a day goes by without new reports of suicide bombings, assassinations and mounting civilian and military casualties. It is this backcloth of unrelenting conflict that lends credence to the West's traditional perception of Afghans as bloodthirsty warriors perpetually at war and rejecting a path to development. While not denying the existence of serious security problems in Afghanistan, nor the resoluteness of the Taliban insurgency, this Parliamentary Triangle seminar will investigate a different image of Afghanistan - of a people desperate for a chance to live a peaceful co-existence and to achieve the most basic living standards for its future generations. A people tired of war and factionalism, intent on choosing freedom and a path to development.

With this aim in mind the ANZSOG Institute for Governance has brought together a panel of leading international and Afghan development thinkers and practitioners to consider three key questions:

What is the 'development' story in Afghanistan?

What are the major obstacles to moving from relief, to recovery, to development?

How can Australia continue to support Afghanistan's development efforts in a post-NATO world?

The panel will be facilitated by ABC's Virginia Haussegger and include Professor Sultan Barakat, Professor Mark Evans, Fatima Gailani, Dr Nouria Salehi and Tony Preston-Stanley.

## Social purpose

The purpose of this event is fourfold: to raise public consciousness of the development gains which have been achieved over the past decade in Afghanistan partly as a consequence of Australia's financial, military and technical support; to draw attention to the potential threats to those gains; to investigate mitigating strategies; and, to encourage progressive dialogue between Afghanistan and Australia.

## FACILITATOR



### ADJUNCT PROFESSOR VIRGINIA HAUSSEGGER

Virginia is the face of ABC TV News in Canberra. She is an award winning journalist and commentator whose extensive media career spans more than 20 years. Her work has taken her around the world reporting for Australia's leading current affairs programs: Channel 9 (A Current Affair), the 7 Network (Witness) and ABC TV (7.30 Report).

As a columnist and feature writer Virginia is widely published across Australian media. Her outspoken views on women and their place in contemporary society have been the source of much public debate and media commentary. Her seminal article on feminism and childlessness was ranked by The Age newspaper as among the most significant opinion pieces published in its 150 year history. Virginia's book *Wonder Women: the myth of 'having it all'* was launched by Julia Gillard in a live broadcast at the National Press Club. She has also written extensively on gender and social justice in Afghanistan, and is a contributor to the publication *Afghanistan and Australia's Role* (ed. Amin Saikal MUP 2011).

In 2010 Virginia received an honorary appointment as Adjunct Professor at the ANZSOG Institute for Governance, where she is working with Professor Meredith Edwards and Professor Mark Evans on a 'Talking Heads' series Celebrating the Contribution of Women to Public Sector Excellence.

## PANEL SPEAKERS



### PROFESSOR SULTAN BARAKAT

Sultan is the Founding Director of the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU), which was established at the University of York in the United Kingdom in 1993. He is internationally known for having pioneered both scholarship and practice in the field of post-war recovery. Among his principal achievements has been the shaping of a generation of academic and practitioner leaders, both in the UK and overseas, in the fields of post-conflict reconstruction, disaster management and recovery, humanitarian assistance, conflict management and foreign policy. Sultan was also the Director of the prestigious UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Senior Chevening Fellows Programme on Conflict Resolution, 2006-2009. He has also served as a Senior Adviser and Consultant to the United Nations, the World Bank, European Union, DFID, ILO, IFRC, the Dutch and Norwegian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, United States Institute of Peace, the Higher Education Funding Council for England and a variety of governments and international non-governmental organizations including CARE and Tiri. In 2005-2006, he led a seminal evaluation of the National Solidarity Programme in Afghanistan with Mark Evans, one of the largest post-conflict reconstruction projects in recent history, for the World Bank and Afghan government and he currently leads the Fragile States Development Consortium which is providing expertise to the UK's Government Departments (DFID, FCO, MoD) regarding stabilisation, recovery and development in conflict-affected states.



### PROFESSOR MARK EVANS

Mark Evans is the Director of the ANZSOG Institute for Governance and a specialist in institution-building and governance. Before taking up this role he was Head of the Department of Politics at the University of York in the United Kingdom where he played a key role in helping to develop the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit. Mark has played an international role in supporting good administrative practices in public administration in developed and developing contexts as well as the reconstruction of public administration in war-torn societies. He has acted as a senior policy advisor, delivered training and managed evaluation projects in 22 countries including Australia, Afghanistan, Brazil, China, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, the UK, and Vietnam. He is the author, co-author or editor of 23 books in his field and has been the editor of *Policy Studies* since 2005. Recent applied research projects in Australia include evaluations of Austrade's integrity systems (2011), the National Water Commission's role in Australian water governance (2011), (2011), and DEEWR's 'Home to Work' employment program (2011). Mark is

currently working as international advisor to the Office of the Presidency in Brazil for the development of a new federal social participation policy to be launched in November 2012 and he is also working with the Strategic Engagement team at the Murray Darling Basin Authority on the role of localism in the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.



#### **FATIMA GAILANI**

Fatima has been serving as the president of the Afghan Red Crescent Society since 2004. She is the daughter of Pir Sayed Ahmed Gailani, the leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan who fought against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s. After graduating from Malalai High School in Kabul, Ms Gailani obtained a BA and subsequently an MA in Persian Literature and Sufism in 1978 from the National University of Iran. She also earned an MA in Islamic Studies from the Muslim College in London in 1994. She lived in exile during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and acted as spokesperson in London for the Afghan Mujahideen. She attended the Bonne Conference on Afghanistan in 2001. After her return to Afghanistan she was chosen as a delegate to the Emergency Loya Jirga - Grand Council - of June 2002 and was appointed as a constitution drafting and ratifying commissioner. Ms Gailani is the author of two books (Mosques of London and a biography of Mohammed Mosa Shafi).



#### **DR NOURIA SALEHI, OAM**

Nouria is a highly respected nuclear physicist and biophysicist whose vital medical research including the use of radioactive isotopes to detect and treat various forms of cancer benefits many Australians. Born in Afghanistan, Nouria completed her post-graduate studies and worked in France before moving to Australia in 1981. For 30 years, she has combined this demanding career with volunteer activities in both Australia and Afghanistan. Demonstrating her commitment to her country of birth, Nouria has established an organisation to support projects giving Afghans essential skills and opportunities. These include vocational training and literacy programs for women and young people in Kabul and nearby villages as well as accredited formal training programs for science teachers. Every 6 months Nouria travels to Afghanistan to support and monitor these projects. Back in Australia, she works with Afghan migrants helping them adapt to their new country and a new life through educational opportunities. A charter member of the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Nouria has received a number of awards, including the Bringing Communities Together Award, the Award of Excellence from the Afghan Ministry of Education and Victoria's Senior Australian of the year in 2012.



#### **TONY PRESTON-STANLEY**

Tony served as a senior policy adviser and manager in the Australian Public Service in both central and line Ministries; as a Ministerial adviser on fiscal policy; and on a diplomatic posting to the US. He retired from The Treasury in early 2000 having worked as well in the Ministries of Finance and Defence since 1980.

Since that time he has been engaged as a senior adviser in a range of post conflict transitional countries including Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia. He was international head of the Central Fiscal Authority of Kosovo for nearly two years in what has been described as one of the most successful examples of institution building in the first phases of reconstruction of Kosovo. He has since worked primarily on budget, centre of government and machinery of government development in transitional and post conflict countries advising the offices of Prime Ministers, Ministers and senior officials as well as assisting in multilateral initiatives in civil service and related reforms with emphasis on public financial management and effective governance. He has established developed legislation for organic budget laws, procurement laws, Auditing and Treasury Regulations as part of the development of improved process in public administration in several countries. In three countries he also took an active part in developing the basis for better standards of civil services. More recently he has worked in Education Ministries to assist them with planning and execution of strategies developed within medium term expenditure frameworks.



**We look forward to seeing you at what promises to be an important event.**

**Registration**

**Members: \$50.00 and Non Members: \$70.00 to register please go to the Institute website:**

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