



June 2020

## Ross Garnaut AC announced as new Chair of the Australian APEC Study Centre Advisory Board

RMIT's Australian APEC Study Centre (AASC) is delighted to announce Professor Ross Garnaut AC as the incoming chair of the Centre's Advisory Board. For more than four decades Professor Garnaut has written, spoken and advised on economic and climate change policy, including advising at Prime Ministerial level, in Australia and in several other Asia Pacific countries. He is the author of numerous publications in scholarly journals on international economics, public finance and climate change. Professor Garnaut is a professorial fellow in economics at the University of Melbourne.

Director of the Australian APEC Study Centre, the Hon Dr Craig Emerson, welcomed Professor Garnaut's leadership: "Ross Garnaut was the main intellectual inspiration for Prime Minister Bob Hawke's successful initiative to propose the formation of APEC in the late-1980s and has continued working on policy matters of direct relevance to APEC to this day, most notably on energy policy."

Dr Emerson paid tribute to retiring chair, Mark Johnson, AO: "Our thanks to Mark Johnson for his wisdom and leadership over the last nine years. With Mark as chair, the Centre has grown and thrived, cementing its role as an influential advocate for APEC."

As a leading policy and capacity building institution in the Asia Pacific region, the AASC is highly regarded as a centre for excellence in driving APEC-related trade and development initiatives.

Since 2009, the AASC has worked within RMIT University to offer valuable global engagement, collaboration and learning opportunities for academics and students. Through working with RMIT University, the centre has developed a wide network of experts in Asia Pacific trade, investment and economic development. These experts assist and collaborate on research and policy development activities as well as share their expertise at capacity-building workshops.

The AASC's role as Secretariat for both Australia's APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and Australia's Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (AusPECC) further strengthens this network, allowing the AASC to combine the interests of academia, business and government, to create practical policy outcomes for APEC.