

# Governance diplomacy

*Strengthening governance  
in the Asia Pacific region*



## The world's largest directors institute

For more than 40 years, the AICD has been committed to excellence in governance. We are the world's largest directors institute, a founding member of Global Network of Director Institutes (GNDI) and received the NSW Premier's Emerging Exporters Award in 2017. Our 41,000 members form an influential network of global leaders in 75 countries across Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East, Europe and America.



## Our international engagement

Since commencing our international operations a decade ago, we have provided governance training to more than 1,000 directors and senior executives from across the world, including Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Solomon Islands, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Our programs include our flagship five day International Company Directors Course, our three day International Foundations of Directorship and various short courses, such as Boardroom Effectiveness for Women. We have also helped improve the performance of international organisations through our customised in-house services.

## Our contribution to global governance

Our work makes a valuable contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 16 to promote peace, justice and strong institutions. Our programs help promote the rule of law (16.3), reduce the risk of corruption and bribery (16.5), develop transparent institutions (16.6) and strengthen the institutions of governance in developing countries (16.8).

The Australian Government's Foreign Policy White Paper 2017 details a renewed commitment to promoting good governance, democratic institutions and civil society internationally. Our work reinforces Australia's aid policy, which identifies effective governance, policies and institutions as one of six priority areas for the Australian aid program.

## Our Governance Diplomacy program

Under our Governance Diplomacy program, we have helped strengthen governance in our region.

- **Fiji:** we delivered the Fiji Foundations of Directorship, scholarships for female directors and provided advice on the creation of the Pacific Corporate Governance Institute in Suva.
- **Papua New Guinea:** we delivered the PNG Directors Course, Boardroom Effectiveness for Women Program and partnered with DFAT on the launch of the Pacific Leadership and Governance Precinct in Port Moresby.
- **Indonesia:** we delivered the International Company Directors Course, International Foundations of Directorship, director briefings on bribery, corruption, corporate fraud and whistleblowing and provided scholarships under the Australia Awards Indonesia Program.
- **Myanmar:** we provide advice on the creation of an Institute of Directors.
- **Solomon Islands:** we are working with partners to deliver governance training.
- **Thailand:** we have licenced previous course material to the Thai Institute of Directors.
- **Vietnam:** we have delivered the International Foundations of Directorship.



## Australia's reputation for strong governance

Our work contributes to Australia's reputation for strong governance. In 2016, Australia was benchmarked number one in Asia for corporate governance by the Asian Corporate Governance Association. Australia performed strongly on financial reporting, continuous disclosure, board composition, financial literacy, political and regulatory environment, auditing, corporate culture and shareholder rights.

Australia's reputation for strong governance reinforces our public diplomacy messages that we are a trusted and reliable partner, with an open and resilient economy, and committed to regional prosperity, peace and security.

## Our international partners

Our international partners include DFAT, Austrade, chambers of commerce, universities, professional associations and other director institutes. We have regional advisory committees in Fiji, Hong Kong and Singapore.

## How we assist

We are able to deliver governance and leadership training to suit the needs of stakeholders in the region, as listed below.



| Program                                   | Overview   | Duration  |
|---|--|-----------|
| International Company Directors Course    | Based on global governance principles, this course covers director's duties, the international legal environment, risk and strategy, financial performance and board effectiveness, and is suitable for directors and senior executives from around the world.                           | 5 days    |
| International Foundations of Directorship | Designed for senior executives and aspiring directors, this course gives a detailed understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a director. Participants will develop a comprehensive understanding of governance, strategy, risk and finance from an international perspective. | 3 days    |
| Boardroom Effectiveness for Women         | This course provides female participants with knowledge of the competencies of effective leaders. It examines the role of female directors as leaders and considers ways in which women leaders can enhance their leadership skills to improve board and organisational outcomes.        | 1 day     |
| In-house programs                         | Bespoke programs can be created for the client's board and senior management team customised to the needs of the client and delivered in a location of their choice.   | As needed |
| Licencing Agreement                       | Course materials based on the previous version of the International Company Directors Course can be licensed to director institutes in developing countries for the purposes of delivering their own educational program.  | Annual    |
| Scholarships                              | Scholarships to attend courses can be awarded under the AICD's International Scholarship Program. Scholarships for AICD public courses can also be awarded under other programs, such as Australia Awards or Endeavour Scholarships program.   | Variable  |

For more information please contact

Edward Palmisano MAICD  
Head of International  
**t:** +61 2 8248 6600  
**e:** epalmisano@aicd.com.au

Anna McCrea AAICD  
International Programs Executive  
**t:** +61 2 8248 8434  
**e:** amccrea@aicd.com.au

---

#### **Copyright**

Copyright strictly reserved. The text, graphics and layout of this guide are protected by Australian copyright law and the comparable law of other countries. The copyright of this material is vested in the Australian Institute of Company Directors. No part of this material can be reproduced or transmitted in any form, or by any means electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval systems without the written permission of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

© Australian Institute of Company Directors 2018