

PRESS RELEASE – ADC FORUM – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 June 2014

PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON AUSTRALIA'S NORTH

The Northern Development Summit – to be held 26th to the 28th of June in Queensland – has officially opened its doors for public registration to join the debate on the future of Australia above the Tropic of Capricorn. The public can now register to attend the Summit to participate in a dialogue for shaping the future of Australia's North, including the Commonwealth Government's Northern Development White Paper.

The Summit will cover how multiple forces are now pushing the concept of northern development into an imminent reality – forces like Australia's projected population growth, the future of the mining boom, a growing middle-class Asia, climate change and food security, market-driven development initiatives pushing governments to act and plan for rapidly accelerating change.

Major General John Hartley, AO, representing the Advisory Council for the Summit, says the Northern Development Summit is revisiting issues that have been discussed on and off since Federation.

"The difference this time," says John Hartley, "is that global trends are pushing our hands to act, and to act rapidly."

The Summit will be an opportunity for the public, leaders from small and large businesses, community representatives and other interested individuals to participate in an event which will influence the future development of their Nation.

John Hartley is leading a group at the Summit focused on food security and is working with scientists, industry and government to uncover the real possibilities underlying soil enrichment and water management in the face of climate challenges.

"Can we, for example, become the food-bowl of Asia?"

"I'm not sure - there are still many opposed camps where careful trade-offs need to be heard and synthesized," says John Hartley. "Certainly with the proper management of water and with measures to regenerate our soils, we can considerably increase food production."

"I do think that new scientific and technical capabilities have unearthed opportunities that might have been thought impossible not that many years ago. In fact, local market-driven activities are already underway by a number of farmers."

"But the real need is to make sure all of these many efforts are integrated, planned, and rolled out in a way that maximizes the integrity of the North and serves its people. Hence the Summit opening wide its doors to all participants."

Summit speakers include Minister for Trade and Investment the Hon Andrew Robb, Chairman of AACo and Nufarm Ltd Donald McGauchie AO, Vice Chancellor of James Cook University Professor Sandra Harding, Chairman of Desert Knowledge The Hon Fred Chaney AO, former ambassador to China Geoff Raby, and Senior World Bank Economist Douglas Zhihua Zeng, an international expert in Special Economic Zones.

Recent commentary around the Summit has suggested the vision for Australia to share in massive prosperity from careful development of the North represented a lost opportunity in the recent federal budget to outline a pathway to national prosperity.

For more information on registration, please visit www.adcforum.org

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ADC Forum (Founded as the Australian Davos Connection) is a not-for-profit leadership organisation founded in 1996 by the Australian members and participants of the World Economic Forum.

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ADC Forum is an independent not-for-profit organisation delivering high-level strategic leadership forums including the annual Australian Leadership Retreat on Hayman Island and the annual Future Summit.



Major General J. C. Hartley, AO

Major General John Hartley graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1965. He served twice in South Vietnam. During these tours he was wounded three times and twice mentioned in dispatches. As a General, he headed Army's Training Command, was the Director of the Defence Intelligence Organisation, Deputy Chief of the Army and commanded Army's 38,000 combat forces. He is a graduate of the University of Queensland, the US Army War College, Army's Command and Staff College and the Joint Services' Staff College. He became a Member of the Order of Australia in 1987 and an Officer in 1992. He was awarded the US Army Commendation Medal three times, the US Air Medal for Valour, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and is a Knight Commander of the German Order of Merit. He has written articles on defence and security, lectured at universities and been a commentator on SBS and radio.

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ⁱ See Gottliebsen, R (19 May 2014) *Tony Abbott's big budget mistake*. Business Spectator.

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