



# Australia's G20 Presidency: Update and Outlook

**Dr Heather Smith**, Australia's G20 Sherpa

**SPEAKER • Dr Heather Smith** is Australia's Group of Twenty (G20) sherpa – the special representative of the Prime Minister. As G20 sherpa, Dr Smith is overseeing summit preparations and chairs sherpa meetings. Prior to her appointment as G20 sherpa in September 2013, Dr Smith had responsibility for economic, industry, infrastructure, environment and strategic policy matters in her role as Deputy Secretary Economic and Strategy at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Before joining the department in May 2013, Dr Smith was the Deputy Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with responsibility for the Americas and Africa, North Asia, international security issues, G20 and the international economy.

**SYNOPSIS •** As G20 president in 2014, Australia has been establishing the foundation for outcomes at the Brisbane Leaders summit in November. Australia's presidency, and the choice of Singapore and New Zealand as guests, has fostered greater interaction with the Asia-Pacific. Singapore's seat at the G20 table reflects the unique characteristics of the G20 forum with its mix of both advanced and emerging market economies. The value of the G20 involves building consensus on issues pertinent to these economies, given they represent around 85 per cent of global gross domestic product, over 75 per cent of global trade, and two thirds of the world's population.

Now almost six months into the G20 presidency, Australia's Sherpa, Dr Heather Smith, will present an update on progress to date in preparing the agenda for the Brisbane summit. Having proven its worth in its response to the global financial crisis, the G20 is now shifting its focus to driving sustained global economic growth. For 2014, Australia has developed a streamlined agenda, in consultation with members, around two key themes: promoting strong economic growth and employment outcomes by empowering the private sector; and building a more resilient global economy.

**CHAIR •** More information on the chairperson will be released soon.

**WHEN •** Tuesday, 20 May 2014,  
5:15-6:30pm

**WHERE •** Seminar Room 3-1,  
Manasseh Meyer Building,  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public  
Policy

469G Bukit Timah Road,  
Singapore 259774

View on Google Maps:  
<http://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/mm-3-1>

**RSVP •** Admission is free. Please  
register at  
[lkyschoolevents@nus.edu.sg](mailto:lkyschoolevents@nus.edu.sg)