The New Colombo Plan – Australian Undergraduates Gaining Regional Experience

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The New Colombo Plan is a signature initiative of the Australian Government which aims to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific in Australia by supporting Australian undergraduates to study and undertake internships in the region. Internships and mentorships are a key component of the program to support the creation of regionally capable and work ready Australian graduates.

The New Colombo Plan is encouraging Australian universities to develop innovative and creative international experiences for their students in the Indo-Pacific region for credit, or as mandatory components of their degrees.

The New Colombo Plan Secretariat is working with businesses in Australia and the region, to identify internship opportunities and link them with universities and students.

This roundtable will:
• Provide an overview of the New Colombo Plan (NCP);
• Identify innovative internships, work and learning experiences that Australian universities have developed for their students under NCP to date; and
• Explore the challenges and opportunities universities identify in developing these experiences in an international context.

The Roundtable will provide 40 minutes for speakers to present some background. This will be followed by 30 minutes of Q&A during which participants will share their experience of the challenges and best practice in international work integrated learning.

Key Words: International, internships, New Colombo Plan