

# Kevin Rudd lands Asia policy think tank post in US

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**KEVIN Rudd will become inaugural president of the New York-based Asia Society Policy Institute when his research project on US-China relations at Harvard University winds up.**

The Asia Society was formed in the mid-1950s to foster relations between the US and Asian nations. Its new policy institute is designed to bring together policy expertise on Asian security, economic and social issues.

The former prime minister's appointment won praise from a former US secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, who is honorary counsellor to the institute.

"Kevin Rudd is a rare global thinker and a sophisticated practitioner of global policymaking. He has been a key strategist on the future of the Pacific community," Dr Kissinger said.

Mr Rudd said he was honoured to accept the appointment.

"I have long admired the Asia Society and have participated in its work over the past 15 years," he said.

Society president Josette Sheeran said Mr Rudd had strengthened the Asia-Pacific and brought to the post his fluency in Mandarin and engagement in the rest of the region.

The appointment was also endorsed by Barack Obama's former national security adviser, Thomas Donilon, who said as Australian prime minister and foreign minister, Mr Rudd had "played a strategic role in advancing US and global thinking on the rise of China and Asia".

After resigning his Queensland parliamentary seat of Griffith in November, Mr Rudd took up a position as senior research fellow at the Belfer Centre, a think tank associated with Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, where he is working on a project on "alternative futures for US-China relations".

Mr Rudd takes up his new position in January following the completion of the Harvard project but will continue as a non-resident fellow at the BelferCentre. He will also be appointed to the Asia Society board of trustees.