Report Launch

22 August 2012
5.30PM
Victoria University of Wellington
Old Government Buildings
Lecture Theatre One
Lambton Quay, Wellington

Chris Elder and Robert Ayson:
CHINA’S RISE AND NEW ZEALAND’S INTERESTS:
A policy primer for 2030
CSS Discussion Paper No.11, 2012

With commentary from Zhu Feng
Professor, School of International Studies and Deputy Director Center for International and Strategic Studies, Peking University, and 2012 Sir Howard Kippenberger Visiting Professor in Strategic Studies at the CSS.

All Welcome! Refreshments from 6.30-7.15PM

Please RSVP (acceptances only) before 15 August 2012 by email to: css@vuw.ac.nz or by phone: (04) 463 5434

In this launch, Chris Elder and Robert Ayson will examine their Centre for Strategic Studies report into the implications of China’s rise for New Zealand’s long-term interests. This requires going beyond the customary focus on what China’s economic growth means for New Zealand’s prosperity. It means considering the opportunities and challenges that a China which is considerably stronger economically, militarily and politically will bring to a number of the issues that will be important to New Zealand and New Zealanders in 2030. This means thinking differently about international institutions and global governance. It means thinking clearly about what China’s rise means for its Asia-Pacific neighbours and for major power relations including with the United States, and how New Zealand might approach these changing circumstances. It means taking a wise approach to the South Pacific. And it means thinking about domestic changes in New Zealand and their implications for our foreign policy. Expert commentary from one of China’s leading foreign affairs experts will precede a question and answer session where we will invite points of view from the audience. Copies of the report will be available free of charge at the launch.

Chris Elder trained as a Chinese linguist before serving in the New Zealand Embassy in Beijing when it first opened in the early 1970s. He returned to Beijing as Ambassador from 1993-97. In Wellington Chris has served as Director of MFAT’s North Asia Division, and as the Deputy Secretary with responsibility for Asian affairs and security policy in the Asia-Pacific region. He has published a range of papers and articles relating to New Zealand’s interaction with China and with Asia, and edited two anthologies on aspects of China - Old Peking and China's Treaty Ports. He retired from the Foreign Ministry in 2012.

Robert Ayson is Professor of Strategic Studies and directs the Centre for Strategic Studies: New Zealand at Victoria University. He has published on Asia-Pacific security, New Zealand and Australian defence policies, nuclear proliferation, and the relationship between strategic studies and international relations. Following his earlier study of the American strategist Thomas Schelling, Professor Ayson has recently completed a book on the thinking of the Australian born scholar Hedley Bull. He is also Honorary Professor at the New Zealand Defence Force Command and Staff College.