

Comment from Michael C H Jones on invitation from the Lowy Institute

On Monday 26th July 2010, after many years of discussion on the ACCCI Website, finally the Lowy Institute for International Policy in Sydney, through its Distinguished Speaker Series, will host a lunch address on

THE PARTY: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers, by Richard McGregor.

The Lowy promotion states:

Over the last thirty years, China has emerged as a major political and economic power on the international stage, and the pace of this growth has been astonishing. Though China's presence in the global arena continues to grow rapidly, the most remarkable part of this country's transformation has been largely left untold - the central role of the Chinese Communist Party.

In *THE PARTY: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers* former Financial Times China bureau chief Richard McGregor delves into the hidden world of the Communist Party, revealing how this ruling organisation works and how it has contributed to China's rise as a global superpower and rival to the United States.

With more than seventy-three million members, the Party is a phenomenon of unique scale and power. The Party's influence extends to every arm of government, all across the country, and on all official religions, media, and military. In addition, it presides over large, cashed-up state-owned businesses, and exercises control over the selection of senior executives of all government companies, many of which are in the top tier of the Fortune 500 list. Though the actions and decisions of the Party have a global impact, the organisation remains shrouded in secrecy and is unaccountable to anyone.

Drawing upon years of research as a reporter in north Asia, McGregor pulls back the curtain on the functions of this clandestine organisation and examines the role the Party has played in China's exponential rise to global power. McGregor's captivating account sheds light on the history and inner workings of the Communist Party and offers important insights for the future as China continues to solidify its position as the geo-political rival to the United States.

Richard McGregor is a reporter for the Financial Times, and the publication's former China bureau chief. He has reported from north Asia for nearly two decades and currently lives in London.