Democratising the Neighbourhood: The Implications of the Arab Spring for the Middle East and Asia

Canberra, 9-10 December 2011

Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (The Middle East and Central Asia), Australian National University;
Transnational Challenges and Emerging Nations Dialogue (TRANSCEND), School of International Service, American University

Conference Program

Venue: Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, Building 127, Ellery Crescent, Australian National University

Friday, 9 December 2011

0830-0900 Registration and coffee

Official Opening
0900-0915 Professor Mandy Thomas
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Graduate Studies)
Australian National University

Session 1
0915-1045 a) Egypt and Tunisia
Professor Mohammad Selim
Kuwait University/University of Cairo

b) Implications for the Gulf Cooperation Council
Professor Abdulkhaleq Abdulla
United Arab Emirates University

Chair: Professor Robert Bowker

1045-1115 Morning Tea

Session 2
1115-1230 a) Responsibility to Protect Norm: Humanitarianism, Democracy and Intervention
Professor Ramesh Thakur
Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy, Australian National University

b) Morocco and Algeria
Dr Karima Laachir
School of Oriental and African Studies, London
Visiting Fellow Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies

Chair: Professor Amin Saikal

1230-1330 Lunch
Friday, 9 December (Continued)

Session 3
1330-1500  Afghanistan and Iraq
Professor Amin Saikal
Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, Australian National University

b) Democratising Pakistan
Professor Samina Yasmeen
Centre for Muslim States and Societies, University of Western Australia

Chair: Dr Victoria Mason

1500-1530  Afternoon Tea

Session 4
1530-1700  a) Iran’s Perspectives and Response to the Arab Revolts
Professor Shahram Akbarzadeh
Asia Institute, University of Melbourne

b) The ‘Arab Spring’ and Central Asia
Dr Kirill Nourzhanov
Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, Australian National University

Chair: Professor Neal Robinson

1900  Conference Dinner
Venue: The Drawing Room, University House

Saturday, 10 December

Session 5
0900-1100  a) China’s Response
Dr Baogang He
Deakin University

b) Malaysia and Singapore
Dr Alan Chong
Nanyang Technical University, Singapore

c) Burma
Mr Trevor Wilson
College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University

Chair: Professor Amitav Acharya

1100-1120  Morning Tea

Session 6
1120-1235  a) Indonesia’s Response to the Arab Uprisings
Dr Greg Fealy
College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University

b) The Arab Spring and the Asian Summer: Democratisation and Its Discontents in a Rising Asia
Professor Amitav Acharya
American University, Washington DC

Chair: Professor Amin Saikal

1235-1300  Closing Remarks
Professor Amin Saikal and Professor Amitav Acharya

1300  Lunch and Farewell