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Variety of the Pacific Security

A report from the 10th National Conference of the Australia, New Zealand and Oceania Research Association *Security in the Pacific*. Warsaw, (14 December, 2018), The Faculty of Military Studies at the War Studies University and the Australia, New Zealand and Oceania Research Association (ANZORA)

The Australia, New Zealand and Oceania Research Association (ANZORA) operating in Cracow organizes every year a national conference on different aspects relating to the Pacific region. Promoting knowledge of the Pacific area in Poland and among Polish scientists and enthusiasts appears to be one of the most significant aims of the Association. It is achieved mainly by organizing annual conferences, on which the members of ANZORA and other honorary guests are able to present their scope of research, experience and finally to debate among themselves. For the first time in the ANZORA's history, the whole organizing process was made with the War Studies University and its Faculty of Military Studies in Warsaw.

In order to satisfy the needs and statutory goals of both partners, the title of the conference had to be adjusted subsequently. Regional security appears one of the most vital issues in the modern disciplines of the security studies, international relations and political studies. Therefore, the title of the 10th ANZORA conference was adopted as: *Security in the Pacific: military, legal, economic, social, climate aspects*.

The last indicator of the title was not chosen by an accident, as the date of the conference (Friday, December 13, 2018) coincided with an official closure of the 2018 United Nations Climate Change Conference, namely the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24), known as the Katowice Climate Change Conference. This in turn was a perfect opportunity to invite also those scientists who were dealing with the environmental issues.

The title appeared indeed voluminous, which attracted the most numerous amount of participants among any of previous ANZORA conferences or seminars. The scientists and

enthusiast of Oceania came from various academic organizations. Besides the War Studies Univeristy, there were representatives of the following institutions: the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Polish Naval Academy, the University of Warsaw, the Jagiellonian University, the University of Silesia in Katowice, the Opole University, the Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Cracow University, the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, the Casimir the Great University in Bydgoszcz, the University of Bydgoszcz, the Kujawy and Pomorze University in Bydgoszcz, and the University of Economics and Innovation in Lublin. The honorary speaker was a representative of the Military Training Centre for Foreign Operations in Kielce. What is worth underlining, the Embassy of Australia and Embassy of New Zealand have taken the honorary patronage over the event.

The guests were warmly invited by the host of the conference, the Dean of the Faculty of Military Studies, Colonel Associate Professor Krzysztof Kwiatkowski. His speech related to the strategic importance of the Pacific as the geopolitical region. He was followed by Lieutenant-General Doctor Bogusław Samol, Head of the Institute of Military Strategy at the War Studies Univeristy. He made his enlightened introduction, based on own warfare experience. Both of the military hosts were underlining the deep necessity of discovering the regional security, as well as the close cooperation between the world of academia and army.

The conference opening was also enriched by the speech of Mr. Konrad Maziarz, Director of the Asia-Pacific Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He arrived to the conference accompanied by the employees of the Department of Japan and New Zealand in the Asia-Pacific Department. Konrad Maziarz depicted the complex relations of Poland with the Pacific Islands States, as well as the Polish interests in this geographically and politically far from Warsaw region. It was also the first time when the representatives of the Polish government appeared on the ANZORA conference. The opening remarks were finalised by reading a letter from the ANZORA President, Doctor Dariusz Zdziech, who was not able to come to Warsaw after his long business trip to the Pacific microstates.

The scientific gathering was divided into three thematic panels corresponding to the interests, as well as the problematic aspects of the speakers' research. Panel I "Military Security in the Pacific" began with a detailed report from the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers (IAPTC), organized between 1 and 4 October 2018, this time in New Zealand. The speakers discussed the reasons for the influential RAMSI mission, importance of the special forces and naval forces in New Zealand, the defence policy of Japan in the Pacific basin, the safety of navigation to Rapa Nui (Easter Island), and the Australian and Chinese tensions in the Antarctic.

After the coffee break, there was Panel II "Legal and Economic Aspects of the Pacific Ocean Security". Speakers in this part of the conference focused on the political security of microstates in the Pacific, Polish interests in Oceania, climate change and its legal implications, the environmental security, the raw material security, the Australian-Chinese rivalry,

as well as the Chinese-American trade war across the Pacific. The participants of the 10th ANZORA conference reached the midpoint of the gathering during the lunch break, as the last panel was the longest one. “The Social and Climate Security of the Pacific Islands” Panel was probably the most varied. Academics analysed here the climate security, the role of NGOs in it, the social security, citizens’ influence in the public sphere in Australia and New Zealand, the new methods of the security forecasting in the Pacific, and finally maintaining the American sphere of control by providing security to the Pacific microstates. Speakers also shared the results of their research on climate migrations and other social issues vital for the development of relatively young democracies in the South Pacific.

The conference was moderated by Doctor Joanna Siekiera from the Faculty of Military Studies, member of ANZORA.

The post-conference book after the 9th ANZORA Conference, entitled “Oceania – an important part of the Pacific” has been just published by the Jagiellonian University Press. The 10th edition of the conference might also be presented in a form of a post-conference book, on this occasion by the War Studies University Publishing House.

The next ANZORA conference is scheduled, in accordance with the Association’s custom, on December 2019. The proud host of the gathering shall be again the War Studies University in Warsaw.

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