

For Immediate Release

Annual forum "will build trust and confidence"

MELBOURNE, 10 April 2013 – Prime Minister Julia Gillard's visit to China and the announcement of annual strategic talks were a significant achievement in strengthening the relationship between Australia and China, Asialink CEO Jenny McGregor said.

"The annual meeting of leaders will be vital in expanding trust and confidence in the relationship between the two nations," Ms McGregor said of the annual talks between the Australian Prime Minister and Chinese Premier as well as other high-level meetings.

"This visit to China is welcomed not only because of the announcement of regular strategic talks but also because it brought together Australian and Chinese business leaders.

"It is through regular meetings like these that we build trust and confidence with our neighbours."

Ms McGregor said Asialink would continue to support the growth of the Australia-China relationship by focusing on:

- Building the capacities of Australians to work with our Chinese counterparts across all sectors
- Supporting the development of Australia's next generation of leaders through expanding networks, skills and knowledge.

"It is critical that we focus on building understanding and skills among our next generation," she said.

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