

EMMA LESLIE

Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*)

Chancellor, it is a privilege to present to you and to this gathering, for the award of Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*), Ms Emma Leslie.

The University Council has resolved to confer this award on Ms Leslie in recognition of her outstanding contribution as a respected and sought-after international leader in conflict resolution in the Asia-Pacific. Raised in Bathurst, Ms Leslie, the granddaughter of the former Bishop of Bathurst, Dr Ernest Kenneth Leslie, attended primary and high school in Kelso. She has a Bachelor of Arts in History and Politics from the Australian National University, a Graduate Diploma in Education from Charles Sturt University – Bathurst campus, and a Master in Development Studies from Deakin University.

Ms Leslie has worked in the Asia Pacific region since 1993, commencing her engagement on peace and development with the Anglican Board of Mission, the National Council of Churches in Australia and Responding to Conflict in the United Kingdom. In 1997, she began her life and work in Cambodia with the Campaign to Ban Landmines, working on mitigating land conflict of demined lands. Ms Leslie also worked as a training consultant on peace and development for the Cambodian Development Resource Institute, wrote a peace and disarmament curriculum for Cambodian high schools with the Working Group for Weapons Reduction. She has served as a board member for the Youth Resource Development Program and Cambodian Youth for Peace and an Advisor to Friends Economic Development Association.

In 1997, with a small group of colleagues she co-founded the regional peace practitioners' network, Action Asia, focussed on supporting people working to combat violent conflict in the Asia Pacific region.

In 2008, she co-founded the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS) with her husband Soth Plai Ngarm. CPCS is home to a range of interconnected programs that promote the advancement of peace processes, research and learning which has worked actively in Timor Leste, Myanmar, Philippines and Sri Lanka. The Centre developed the MA in Conflict Transformation Studies in collaboration with the Pannasastra University in Cambodia, and Ms Leslie acted as Course Director between 2005 and 2008.

Ms Leslie is currently the Director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies in Cambodia and as an Associate of the UK based organisation Conciliation Resources. Since 2011 she has served as a member of the International Contact Group, which actively supports the peace negotiations between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Front in Malaysia, and has had observer status at several rounds of Myanmar Government peace talks with ethnic armed groups. Twice a year Emma teaches United Nations personnel mediation at the Swedish government institute the Folke Bernadotte Academy.

These various roles have proven her to be a strong negotiator and educator of peace having been involved in high level peace talks in Asia, and as a regular presenter and publisher of papers on conflict, disarmament, peace building and conflict transformation.

Ms Leslie's work aligns well with the University's own work in Cambodia and the Asia-Pacific, and its commitment to international conflict resolution through the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture and PACT. Her career is a testament to the work of the Faculty of Education in early childhood and school education, and the Australian Government focus on engagement in the Asia Pacific through the New Colombo Plan and the Asian Century strategy.

Chancellor, I now present Ms Emma Leslie, a person who has made, in the words of Charles Napier Sturt, a significant contribution to the "public good" through her work as a teacher, internationally recognised peace-builder and global citizen.

Dated this Seventeenth Day of December Two Thousand and Fourteen