

2013 JULY GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Friday 19 July 2013 – 11.00am
UQ Centre, Union Road, UQ St Lucia Campus

Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences and Faculty of Arts

CITATION

Award of Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*
Mr Peter Varghese AO

Chancellor,

Mr Peter Varghese AO is a highly distinguished Australian diplomat and public servant who has served with distinction in many of Australia's most important international posts. As Secretary of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Varghese plays a key role in bolstering Australia's engagement with regional neighbours, and guides Australia to become a more prosperous and resilient nation in the Asian Century.

Mr Varghese was Australia's High Commissioner to India from 2009 to 2012. He dealt with sensitive and complex diplomatic issues surrounding India-Australia relations, including immigration policy, uranium and the wellbeing of Indian students studying in Australia.

He has also served as Director-General of the Office of National Assessments, Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, Deputy Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Senior Adviser (International) to the Prime Minister.

Other overseas posts have included Vienna in the early 1980s, Washington, DC, in the mid to late eighties and Tokyo in 1994.

Mr Varghese graduated from The University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Arts with Honours and received a University Medal in history in 1977. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2010 for distinguished service to public administration, particularly for leading reform in the Australian intelligence community and as an adviser in the areas of foreign policy and international security.

It is a great privilege to have among the UQ community such a distinguished alumnus with such extensive international ties and experience, who as a consequence helps to strengthen our global links.

Chancellor, I present to you Mr Peter Varghese AO, Bachelor of Arts with Honours from The University of Queensland, for the award of Doctor of Letters *honoris causa* bestowed by the Senate of The University of Queensland.