Events Driving Global Instability and Risk

US: President Trump impeached by US House of Representatives in Dec 2019
- The House of Representatives voted to impeach Trump for abusing his power to launch investigations into political rival Joe Biden
- Impeachment unlikely to be confirmed by Republican controlled Senate

US-Iran: US-Iran escalation following assassination of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani in Jan 2020
- US airstrike in Baghdad kills Qassem Soleimani, head of the Revolutionary Guards' overseas forces
- Dramatic escalation of tension in the region, with both US and Iran threatening violent retaliation

Colombia:
Countrywide anti-government protests in Nov-Dec 2019
- Nationwide mass protests against the right-wing government of President Iván Duque
- Protesters against changes to the minimum wage, pension and tax reforms, rising corruption and the privatisation of state companies

UK: Brexit looms following Tory election victory in Dec 2019
- The election has given PM Johnson a mandate to complete Brexit
- MPs have approved a tougher version of the prime minister's original Brexit legislation, paving the way for the UK to leave the bloc in January 2020

India: Anti-Citizenship Act protests escalate across India in Dec 2019
- Recent Citizenship Amendment Act excludes Muslims from fast-track citizenship for persecuted religious minorities and refugees
- Violent protests swept across the country against this new citizenship law leading to protests bans being imposed in the states of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka

Iraq: Prime minister resigns amid escalating protests in Oct-Dec 2019
- Prime minister Adel Abdul Mahdi resigned due to rising protests against government corruption and foreign influence
- Over 400 people killed since October, as security forces responded to the demonstrations with a brutal crackdown

Spain: Protests following sentencing of Catalan leaders in Oct-Dec 2019
- Protests erupted in Catalonia after Spain's Supreme Court handed prison sentences to nine separatists
- Thousands of protesters marched to Barcelona airport, resulting in clashes with the police

Hong Kong: Mass demonstrations continue in Oct-Dec 2019
- Eight months of increasingly violent anti-government mass protests
- The protests have prompted investors to pull c.US$5bn out of Hong Kong, casting doubt on its future as a financial centre

Source: Various Press Articles

GREATER PACIFIC CAPITAL

Events Driving Global Development and Progress

Politics, Economics and Society

Environment: Canadian scientists develop plan to plant over 1bn trees in Dec 2019
- New initiative to use specially designed drone systems to plant new trees cheaply and quickly

Environment: Canada committed to exceeding 2030 Paris target in Dec 2019
- Canada's emissions are forecast to be 227m tonnes below what was projected in 2015
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promises further steps to exceed its 2030 climate goal

Politics: Finland picks world's youngest PM to head women-led cabinet in Dec 2019
- Sanna Marin, 34, is the youngest serving premier with a cabinet comprising of 12 women and 7 men

Science & Technology

Politics: US and China phase-one trade deal signed in Dec 2019
- President Trump will travel to China to negotiate a broader pact
- The agreement marks a formal truce in the U.S-China trade war

Healthcare: First vaccine against Ebola approved in Nov 2019
- The vaccine can now be stockpiled and, potentially, distributed more widely than it is now, particularly in Africa

Healthcare: Bionic pancreas for diabetes gets breakthrough status from FDA in Dec 2019
- The bionic pancreas system is a pocket-sized, wearable investigational medical device designed to autonomously control blood-sugar levels

Healthcare: Revolutionary treatment for epilepsy discovered in Dec 2019
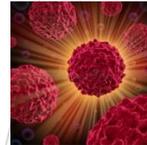- Circuit-based therapy will help offset the side effects of drug therapy and other techniques

Healthcare: New vaccine against typhoid in Dec 2019
- The vaccine can prevent millions of cases of the life-threatening infection worldwide.

Environment: EU Commission launches Green Deal for Carbon Neutrality in Dec 2019
- Goal to make Europe carbon neutral by 2050
- 50 concrete actions for a new growth strategy

Politics: House approves USMCA deal in Dec 2019
- House approves agreement after over a year of talks
- Accord to monitor implementation of standards designed to boost wages in Mexico

Cleantech: New technology can unlock renewable energy for manufacturing in Nov 2019
- Technology offers a renewable energy to some of the most energy intensive and polluting industries in the world

Cleantech: Recycled sewage water used in Egyptian desert to grow 500-acre forest in Dec 2019
- This could convert 1.6m acres of desert into commercial forests that are arable and economically viable

Society: World Bank bonds raise US$2bn in support for SDG target in Dec 2019
- Money raised through 25 Sustainable Development Bonds in 10 currencies

Society: 14 US hospital systems commit US$700m to social determinants in Nov 2019
- Healthcare Anchor Network looking to address issues that affect community health

Cleantech: Rolls Royce building world's fastest all electric plane in Dec 2019
- Rolls-Royce aiming to make the fastest sustainable aircraft in the world
- The aircraft is a key part of the company's new strategy to champion electrification

Technology: New technology developed to to cure cancer in Dec 2019
- This technology restores the ability of specialised killer cells in the body to recognise the cancer cells and kill them, which would result in lower chances of relapse

Economics: c,50,000 people set to receive basic income in Rio de Janeiro in Oct 19
- Part of a major new program to test basic income policies in the country
- The benefit is worth US$64/month, over half the minimum monthly wage

Environment: Tata Power, Rockefeller Foundation plan to build 10,000 microgrids across rural India in Nov 2019
- The microgrids will provide 5m homes in rural India access to affordable and clean electricity

Environment: Japan and China pledge to work together environmental issues in Dec 2019
- Local governments and private entities of the two countries signed 26 memorandums of cooperation on energy saving and environmental projects