

Regional Workshop on Energy and Non-Traditional Security

28-29th August 2008

**Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel,
Singapore**



Welcome Address

Ambassador Barry Desker
Dean
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University

Ambassador Barry Desker extended a warm welcome to the participants and thanked Professor Chou Siaw Kiang, Head of the Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore, for his presence at the workshop.

In his address, Ambassador Desker raised three pertinent issues which are crucial with regard to the global development of energy security. They are the increasing emphasis on the security of supply on the part of the oil-producing countries, the security of distributing chains of energy supplies and the increasing reliance on technology-based solutions towards ensuring the security of energy supplies.

However, apart from the conventional focus on the security of demand and supply, Ambassador Desker pointed out that the issue of energy security has a far wider implication on the state. For instance, spiralling energy prices has, especially in more recent times, led to protests from civil society groups and demonstrations from the masses due to rising food prices which is due to the rising costs of factors of production. Also, decades of reliance on the inefficient use of energy has had an adverse effect on global climate change.

Therefore, security in a globalised world has taken on a new dimension from the perspective of traditional military responses, warns Ambassador Desker. Hence, issues such as food security, climate change and pandemics have now been firmly placed on the security agenda and this means that the multidimensional effect of energy security requires that states adopt a multi-disciplinary approach towards addressing their security issues.