

Think Tank

IDSS exists to develop a community of scholars and policy analysts at the forefront of Asia-Pacific security studies and international affairs



News from the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

8th APPSMO Opens

Singapore's Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean said that governments and security forces will increasingly have to work together in this era of globalization.

Mr Teo was sharing his views with the participants from 27 countries at the opening of the 8th Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO) on 7 August 2006. He said that over the last decade, events like the Asian financial crisis, transnational terrorism, SARS, avian flu, and the tsunami of December 2004 have demonstrated that an effective response to these economic, social, and environmental issues confronting us today require cross-border cooperation.

At the geopolitical level, although the US is still the pre-eminent power in the Asia-Pacific region, a rising China and an emerging India are already making their presence felt on the international stage. With a more assertive Japan, and Russia which has every intention of playing a bigger role in the geopolitics of the region, the strategic landscape in East Asia is in a state of flux. The prospects for regional peace and stability will be largely determined by the interplay among these global and regional powers and by their relations with



Left to right: Minister Teo Chee Hean, Mr Barry Desker, Dr Andrew Chew

smaller countries and groupings in the region such as ASEAN.

Mr Teo emphasised that multilateral cooperation is crucial in addressing these diverse and complex threats, and larger geopolitical trends. He highlighted that the armed forces of the Asia-Pacific region are well placed to cooperate and collaborate to attend to such exigencies. The effectiveness of the massive humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations following the tsunami in 2004 was an excellent demonstration of such multilateral cooperation. He reiterated that regional defence and security groupings like the Five Power Defence Arrangements

(FPDA), Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS), Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), were all positive developments towards regional peace and stability.

Ultimately, he underlined the fact that the effectiveness of such cooperative efforts depended on the level of mutual trust and friendship amongst the armed forces. And events like the APPSMO are important building blocks in fostering such understanding.



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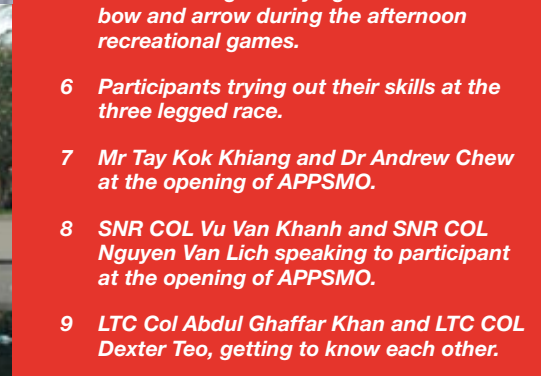
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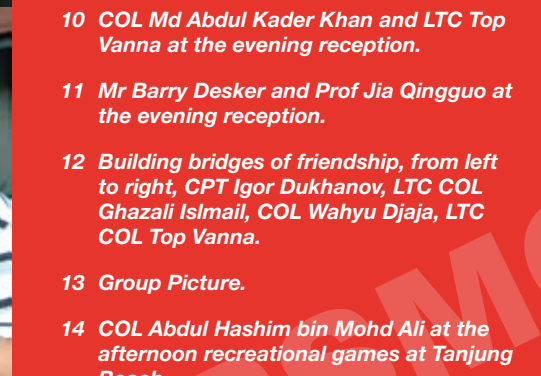
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1 Mr Michael Palmer speaking to participants at the opening of APPSMO.

2 Dr Joseph Liow and Professor Sumit Ganguly at the opening of APPSMO.

3 COL (GS) Peter Harle at the afternoon recreational games.

4 LTC Cheng Teck Meng kayaking during the afternoon recreational games at Tanjung Beach.

5 LTC Lim Fang Jau trying his hand at the bow and arrow during the afternoon recreational games.

6 Participants trying out their skills at the three legged race.

7 Mr Tay Kok Kiang and Dr Andrew Chew at the opening of APPSMO.

8 SNR COL Vu Van Khanh and SNR COL Nguyen Van Lich speaking to participant at the opening of APPSMO.

9 LTC Col Abdul Ghaffar Khan and LTC COL Dexter Teo, getting to know each other.

10 COL Md Abdul Kader Khan and LTC Top Vanna at the evening reception.

11 Mr Barry Desker and Prof Jia Qingguo at the evening reception.

12 Building bridges of friendship, from left to right, CPT Igor Dukhanov, LTC COL Ghazali Ismail, COL Wahyu Djaja, LTC COL Top Vanna.

13 Group Picture.

14 COL Abdul Hashim bin Mohd Ali at the afternoon recreational games at Tanjung Beach.

15 SNR COL Zhang Jing-en at the afternoon recreational games at Tanjung Beach.

16 CAPT Andrew G Watts giving LTC Soh Chew Guan a ride on his shoulders at the Tanjung Beach.

17 COL Kungwan Sujin, taking it all in at the Tanjung Beach.

18 The Sentosa Resort and Spa.



19 Dr Rosemary Foot giving the Distinguished Lunch Talk on "The Rise of China".

20 COL Lach Chhoeun at the country presentations.

21 Prof C Raja Mohan at Panel Discussion II.

22 Prof Harry Harding at the Panel II Discussion.

23 Prof Chung Min Lee at the Panel II Discussion.

24 Dr Paul Evans speaking to the participants on the "Prospects for an East Asian Community".

25 CAPT Lin Shaolin at the country presentations.

26 COL Scott A. Howden at the country presentations.



Singapore Technologies Engineering Distinguished Dinner Lecture on "Intelligence and National Security"

On 7 August 2006, IDSS was privileged to have Sir Richard Dearlove to deliver the Singapore Technologies Engineering Distinguished Dinner Lecture at the Raffles Hotel. Entitled "Intelligence and National Security", the lecture was to give APPSMO speakers a better understanding of contemporary security issues within the context of intelligence work. Sir Richard, currently the Master of Pembroke College in Cambridge University, was also the head of the British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) from 1999 until 6 May 2004.

With a persona that could be described as charismatic and perhaps even candid, the veteran of close to 40 years of intelligence experience began his speech in a light-hearted fashion, occasionally displaying flashes of wit and humour that captivated his audience. That, however, did not detract from the salience of the topic. In his lecture, Sir Richard inferred several complications emanating from various global incidents (such as the invasion of Iraq as well as the ongoing Israel-Hezbollah conflict in Lebanon) as reverberations of the September 11 attacks. These complications highlight the complex interplay among different aspects of the security problem that intelligence officers and policy-makers are facing today. In particular, the 61-year old alerted all to the dynamic evolution of the terrorist threat in which its global nature has significantly transformed the role of security and intelligence today. Hence, in order to develop a successful security and intelligence community, one must always be adaptive to geopolitical and cultural mutations by



Sir Richard Dearlove speaking at the Singapore Technologies Engineering Distinguished Dinner Lecture.

taking into account new realities in the strategic landscape.

Ultimately, the key message emphasized a strong need to possess the ability to integrate the strengths of different agencies in their counter-terrorist approaches, without compromising the efficiency and integrity of a "multi-agency". The willingness to work with other foreign services is also imperative, so as to effectively cope with the emergence of non-traditional security threats such as biochemical warfare across state boundaries. In essence, governments can no longer merely rely on conventional instruments of force and coercion in the fight against terrorism but rather, intelligence would have to play a substantial role in finding a flexible solution out of our existing structures. That, according to Sir Richard, is a profound challenge that cannot be ignored.

The lecture was followed by a discussion session where members from the floor engaged in a fruitful exchange with the speaker, probing into issues that ranged from governmental attitudes towards the trend of Islamic radicalization to the politicization of intelligence.

IDSS' 2006 S Rajaratnam Professor of Strategic Studies

Dr Rosemary Foot is presently IDSS' newest S Rajaratnam Professor of Strategic Studies. Professor Foot is currently a professor of International Relations and the John Swire Senior Research Fellow at St. Anthony's College, Oxford University. She holds the chair at IDSS from August to November 2006 and while in IDSS, she is studying counter-terrorism and how it fits into the security order of the region.

When asked about her thoughts on coming to IDSS, Professor Foot shared that she was very impressed by the reputation of IDSS outside the region. She was delighted to see how it has developed from its humble beginnings to what it is today. She also shared that she was highly impressed by the size of APPSMO's participation and the range of topics that was covered during the seminars.

Other scholars who previously held the chair include Professor Stephen M Walt of Harvard University in January 2000, Professor Jack L. Snyder of Columbia University from July to August 2001, and Professor Wang Jisi of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing from 20 February to 9 March 2002.

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IDSS maintains an APPSMO database in which the contact details of every participant from previous APPSMOs are included. This is to enable participants to keep in touch with the friends that they got to know during their stay in Sentosa, Singapore. The website is http://www.idss.edu.sg/networking/networking_APPSMO.html.

Your contact details will likewise be included in this database. To keep our database up to date, we would appreciate it if you could let us know of changes to your appointments and addresses in the future. Please send them to wwwidss@ntu.edu.sg.