

The Tenth Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers



The Tenth Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO) was held at the Sentosa Resort and Spa on 4–10 August 2008. Organised by the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, APPSMO 08 saw one of the largest participation of senior military officers—61 in total—since its inauguration in 1999. Participants from 28 countries, with a record number of four Brigadier-Generals, were involved in the programme this year. APPSMO 2008 also marked the first time Saudi Arabia participated in the event.

The senior military officers participated in a series of seminars and discussions that featured distinguished speakers from Singapore and around the world. The speakers addressed various topics pertaining to security and policy concerns, such as the future of warfare, the rise of private military companies,



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the role of the armed forces in non-traditional security, cultural knowledge and military operations, the media and international conflict, terrorism and international security, and the new dimensions in international security.

It was, of course, not all work and no play. The participants of APPSMO 08 were also treated to a variety of activities including visits to SAFTI Military Institute, the Army Museum, The Arts House and Changi Naval Base. As APPSMO 08 coincided with Singapore's National Day on 9 August, the participants also celebrated with the whole nation by attending the National Day Parade held at Marina Bay.

APPSMO 08 will be remembered by its participants not only for the valuable defence networking opportunities and stimulating academic sessions addressing up-to-date and relevant topics but also for the relationships built that will last beyond their stay in Singapore.



Brigadier General Erwin Dahinden (Switzerland):

"Being in Singapore for APPSMO 2008 allows me to get an alternative perspective of security, different from a Euro-centric one. Furthermore, Singapore is an ideal place, being not only multicultural and successful in world trade; it is also the balcony of Asia, allowing for an international perspective on security."



Captain (N) Mushabab Al-Asmari (Saudi Arabia):

"I am looking forward to engaging other officers in the exchange of views on security issues, especially on anti-terrorism."



Brigadier Naveed Mukhtar (Pakistan):

"It is exceptional to be here at APPSMO 2008. A lot of credit goes to RSIS for inviting officers from 28 countries and for being a great host!"

