

Modern Security Challenges and Their Implications to the Military – APPSMO 2010



The 12th Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO) was held at the Sentosa Resort and Spa on 5–10 August 2010. Organized by the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), APPSMO 2010 saw one of the largest participation of military officers since its inauguration in 1999—52 in total. Participants from 24 countries were involved in the programme this year, with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Mr. Teo Chee Hean, officiating at the commencement of the event.

Since its inception 12 years ago, APPSMO has provided a unique and important forum for defence officials and analysts to interact and exchange views on a broad range of subjects related to international security. Delegates participated in a series of seminars and discussions that feature distinguished international speakers. The speakers, consisting of policymakers, academics and senior military officers, addressed a wide range of topics pertaining to security and policy concerns.

APPSMO 2010 focused on the radical transformation in our understanding of security and what this means for the military organisation. Covering the realms of both traditional and non-traditional security issues, emphasis was laid on the new challenges posed to security, which cannot be identified merely with states



and armed forces. The topics addressed included the complexity of fighting small wars and insurgencies, post-war peace building, confronting the threat of piracy and the strategic dimension of controlling important sea-lanes, military transformation and the ethics of war in the twenty-first century, energy security in East Asia, the media and international conflict, transnational terrorism and international security, and the new dimensions in international security.

It was not all work and no play as the participants of APPSMO 2010 were also treated to a variety of activities, including a visit to the Changi Naval Base and a tour of historic and iconic landmarks of Singapore.

As APPSMO 2010 coincided with Singapore's National Day on 9 August, the participants also celebrated with the rest of the nation when they were invited to the National Day Parade held at the Padang.

APPSMO 2010 will be remembered by its participants not only for the many stimulating talks and discussions on relevant security issues but also for the bonding and the relationships built that will last well beyond their stay in Singapore. It is envisaged that by facilitating an informed exchange of ideas, discussions and understandings among senior military officers in the Asia Pacific and beyond, APPSMO 2010 will contribute to the development of stronger and more beneficial ties among the people in the defence community.