

# ASIA PACIFIC SECURITY CONFERENCE 2012

CONFERENCE REPORT

12–13 February 2012  
SINGAPORE



**S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL  
OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**  
A Graduate School of Nanyang Technological University

An event of







Asia Pacific  
Security  
Conference

# ASIA PACIFIC SECURITY CONFERENCE 2012

REPORT OF A CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY  
S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (RSIS)  
AND EXPERIA EVENTS PTE. LTD.

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SINGAPORE

S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES,  
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

*This report summarises the proceedings of the workshop as interpreted by the assigned rapporteurs and editors appointed by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University. Participants neither reviewed nor approved this report.*

*The workshop adheres to the Chatham House rule. Accordingly, beyond the paper presenters cited, no other attributions have been included in this conference report.*

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## OPENING REMARKS

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*Ambassador Barry Desker, Dean of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies*

**Ambassador Barry Desker**, Dean of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), in his opening remarks highlighted that the emergence of China and India have very important strategic and security implications in the security environment of Asia and the world. While the world has been exercised very much by economic crises that potentially undermine all national, regional and global efforts at managing the great strategic and security questions, the growing power and prestige of Asia's two great civilisations is equally central to how other nations and regions around the world start addressing their respective futures.

Ambassador Desker noted that the growth of China and India is not one-dimensional. These two Asian countries are not just growing their military powers; but their respective economies, and so-called soft power, are equally important elements of their respective rise.

As these two countries are becoming important global strategic actors, the question is: How do other Asian countries and countries around world start adapting to this new strategic reality?

Ambassador Desker concluded by asserting that it is essential for stakeholders to understand the implications of China and India's rise as they move towards their respective global strategic status.

## GUEST OF HONOUR KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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*Mr. Lawrence Wong, Minister of State for Defence and Education*

**Mr. Lawrence Wong**, Minister of State for Defence and Education, began by remarking that the international community is living in an age of anxiety. The economic challenges and vulnerabilities of America and the European Union, the risks of failing states in other parts of the world, and conflicts breaking out in the Middle East, all carry dangerous consequences. The new world is now less stable, more volatile, and with new powers on the rise, especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Wong noted that the rapid emergence of China and India is causing the shift in the balance of geostrategic weight to Asia; these two Asian powers are growing faster than nearly any other major economy. Meanwhile, other Asian countries are taking off as well; for instance, in Myanmar, change is coming at a rapid pace after years of stalemate and stagnation. Within a decade, economic and technological advances of the Asia-Pacific nations will alter the economic and strategic environment of the world and bring about significant realignments in the region and beyond. The question is whether these changes will occur without disruptive conflicts.

The Minister noted that the foundation for stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the world is ultimately sound and balanced relations between China and the U.S. Both sides have strong reasons to cooperate and manage the relationship for mutual advantage. China sees an over-arching imperative to maintain its internal stability and growth, and is unwilling to risk drastic policy changes which may dislocate the economy. On the other hand, America's interests lie in a stable China that will work with it on mutual concerns like North Korea or nuclear proliferation.

## GUEST OF HONOUR KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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Both Beijing and Washington have thus far embraced the concept of a “constructive partnership” in global affairs. However, potential flash points such as sensitive bilateral trade and security issues exist, which may cause friction between the two major powers. As a result, Asian countries will be forced to choose sides. Thus, if China and the U.S. can accommodate each other on a broad range of issues, the prospects for stability in the Asia-Pacific will be greatly enhanced. A balanced and constructive Sino-U.S. relation will be a great foundation for long-term regional cooperation, and also provide the over-arching framework for the other key relationships in the region, whether between China, Japan, India, or the ASEAN member states.

Due to regional economic growth, Asia-Pacific nations have also increased their defence spending, which presents both opportunities and challenges. On the positive side, as Asian militaries become more capable, these militaries can contribute more to regional security and to tackle the myriad transnational security challenges confronting the region. More importantly, regional military forces are likely to want to cooperate with other militaries on a professional basis, contributing to confidence building in the region. Given the multidimensional and transnational nature of modern security challenges, a single state cannot tackle such threats effectively on its own. However, to avoid misunderstandings, nations in the region will need to manage short-term populist sentiments within their own countries.

Mr. Wong referred to the various platforms such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that have emerged to facilitate dialogue and enhance the appreciation of the region’s mutual interests. The Asia-Pacific Security Conference is another important forum where participants from around the world can gather together to address the security challenges facing the region, and to develop a deeper collective understanding of the modern security environment. He pointed out that Asia-Pacific nations have shown their willingness to build concrete defence cooperation mechanisms in recent years. However, the benefit of such endeavours can only be felt if there is continued commitment from regional stakeholders.

Mr. Wong stressed the need for the global community to work together to reach a consensus on the big issues. This is the basis for the mutual security and continued stability in the evolving geopolitical landscape of the Asia-Pacific.

## PANEL 1

### Future Political, Economic and Diplomatic Challenges



*Dr. Tim Huxley*



*Dr. C. Raja Mohan*

**Dr. Tim Huxley**, Executive Director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (Asia), chaired the first panel of the Asia-Pacific Security Conference on the topic of Future Political, Economic and Diplomatic Challenges. He noted that sustained economic growth has brought wealth to Asia Pacific nations. With growing economic and political clout, some states in the region

are beginning to exert their influences. The ambitions of some of the larger states have had the effect of disconcerting the security environment in Asia. At the same time, existing regional mechanisms attempt to manage the rise of emerging powers and their relationships with the rest of the world.

**Dr. C. Raja Mohan**, Adjunct Professor at RSIS and Senior Fellow of the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi, discussed the long term strategic and military consequences of the resurgence of China and India today, and how the rest of Asia can deal with it. First, Dr. Mohan examined the systemic consequences of the resurgence of China and India. The economic changes in both China and India have been the engine driving strategic change in the Asia-Pacific region. Without a doubt, China and India will become the dominant economic forces in the coming decades. If China and India continue their growth tracks, they will become significant, substantive military powers in the coming years.

Dr. Mohan foresaw that the rise of China and India would transform the international system and discussed three aspects of the systemic transformation: space, geometry, and architecture. He argued that the rise of China and India will alter the physical space around them; the traditional sense of space will no longer be valid. For instance, we now often hear terms like the Indo-Pacific that seeks to capture the essence of the shifting dynamic within the region. Second, it will significantly alter the traditional sense of power geometry in the Asia-Pacific region. Though the U.S. is the dominant power, Asian nations may be forced to side with either China or the U.S. in the changing power geometry of Asia. Lastly, the changing strategic trend in Asia will alter the traditional security structure or architecture in the region.

Moving on to the military consequences of the rise of China and India, Dr. Mohan explained that it is not surprising to witness the increase of these two countries' military expenditures. One thing is clear: both China and India will be going to build their own big navies, expand their air forces, and look for military options in outer-space. With increased wealth, it is not surprising for both nations to strengthen their military forces.

## PANEL 1

Dr. Mohan noted that China and India will likely be requested to partake in more international interventions with their enhanced military capabilities. The question is whether China and India will be willing to contribute their forces for the good of the international system. Another potential concern is how both countries will balance their own national interests and their growing international responsibilities.

In conclusion, Dr. Mohan pronounced that this is not only an exciting moment for Asia, but also an exciting moment for the world. China and India have a huge responsibility to reassure the neighbouring states and other regional stakeholders that their rising influence will be peaceful and will lead to harmony and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Associate Professor Jing Dong Yuan**, Acting Director of the Centre for International Security Studies at the University of Sydney, discussed the implications of the geopolitical transformation of the region. China is increasingly expanding its influence over not just the Asia-Pacific region, but towards the broader Indo-Pacific region. He noted that the debate on the rise of China often revolves around numerical terms such as China's GDP and defence expenditure, which underplays China's growing presence as another indicator of its rise.

Professor Yuan noted that the debate in China is whether it should play a more proactive role in global affairs as befits its status as the second largest economy in the world. For Chinese leaders, the concern is how to balance domestic and international demands, and how to exercise the nation's growing influence in a way which promotes its national interest without causing a lot of anxiety for other regional stakeholders. With regard to China's own expectations, China's grand strategy will be considered as the important catalyst. One facet of China's grand strategy has always been sustaining its economic prosperity. China has explored a broader context of security not just within the area of traditional security, but also non-traditional security and economic security as well.

Professor Yuan asserted that there is still a huge gap



*Associate Professor Jing Dong Yuan*

between China and the U.S. in terms of regional influence. Thus, China will take more time to replace the United States in the near future. Moreover, China recognises the fact that it needs to work with the U.S. in some areas though each country's national priorities are in conflict with other side. To manage these challenges, both China and the U.S. need to engage more dialogue with each other.

In his conclusion, Professor Yuan briefly touched on the South China Sea issue. Over the last few years, there have been a number of incidents in the South China Sea. To make matters worse, some have expressed their doubts over China's growing assertiveness towards smaller neighbouring states in Asia. However, Professor Yuan commented that China has learnt the importance of a greater need for dialogue, consultation and assurance.

**Professor Joseph Liow**, Associate Dean, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), started his presentation by identifying the ADMM (ASEAN Defence-Military Meetings) and ADMM Plus (ASEAN Defence-Military Meetings Plus) processes in the context of broader strategic developments in the Asia-Pacific region. He noted that one of the primary concerns for ASEAN is the centrality of the regional multilateral institution, vis-à-vis the major powers. This does not

## PANEL 1

imply that Southeast Asia is the centre of gravity. Rather, the whole idea is to provide the platform for major powers to engage each other. Professor Liow highlighted three broad developments in defence policy in Southeast Asia: First is the increasing prominence and profile of multilateral initiatives after the end of Cold War. Second is the intensification of defence cooperation at both bilateral and multilateral levels among Southeast Asian states and between Southeast Asian states and external powers. The third point is that all these developments have not come at the expense of open regionalism.

The ADMM, when it first convened, immediately raised the prospect of the ADMM Plus, which reinforces the point about open regionalism as a key feature of ASEAN diplomacy. The second is to promote mutual trust and confidence. Lastly, the ADMM is an integral part of the ASEAN Political Security Community concept, which was crafted to meet some of the challenges of the regional developments ASEAN was facing at the time. In terms of the ADMM Plus, the two key features of the process are open and inclusive framework to facilitate the engagement of extra-regional countries and the issue of ASEAN centrality. According to Professor Liow, the ADMM Plus process institutionalises and enhances the existing modalities of assistance between ASEAN states, their dialogue partners, and external powers. However, he also asserted that the



*Professor Joseph Liow*

ADMM Plus has not been an effective regional mechanism to discuss sensitive issues like traditional security issues. However, the ADMM Plus has facilitated bilateral engagements on the side-lines of the meeting.

Professor Liow explored the challenges for the ADMM and ADMM Plus forums. One challenge is the structure of the institution. For example, the ministers meet once every three years; while the ADMM meets annually. Second is the issue of ASEAN centrality. The question is that whether or not the idea of ASEAN centrality undermines the entire ADMM Plus process in the future. Third is the issue of existing traditional security issues. Sooner or later, the process will need to address those sensitive security concerns in the region. Last but not least, there is the question of trust. There is a level of mutual suspicion and mistrust among some ADMM Plus members vis-à-vis each other, certainly between major powers. The issue is how to manage and improve the situation.

### **Panel 1 Q&A**

In the Question and Answer Session, one issue raised was how larger countries deal with smaller neighbours and how these countries manage their borders. For example, the situation between Bangladesh and India with regards to their border issue is underpinned by the fundamental relationship in trade, between cross border trade and security. When the government declares something illegal, it becomes smuggling. What is natural incentive for trade across the border becomes illegal just because the government declares it illegal. But, the fact is when governments do not operate in tune with self-interests of people on the ground, trade will take place because there is demand and supply. Another question was on the issue of the development of regional institutions and why these concerns are not adequately discussed. One of the existing issues is the nature of arms build-up in the region and how they are perceived, read and analysed. For example, there is the issue of submarine proliferation and how that seems to be raising regional concerns. Second, there is the issue of territorial disputes and claims. The South China Sea dispute is not just ASEAN versus China—there are also disputes among the ASEAN member states.

## PANEL 1

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The next question was posed on the absence of Europe in terms of strategic relevance in the Asia-Pacific region. By economic size, Europe should matter. But, the problem is that whether Europe is actually a collective political actor. Given Europe's own focus on integration for the last two decades and recent economic difficulties, a collective political role of Europe seems some distance away. The other question is how serious is the European Union commitment to the Asia-Pacific region. On China's engagement with Europe, China is indeed maintaining a high profile relationship with Europe. China has extensive engagements with Europe, focusing on high technologies in Europe. China is interested to engage more with the European Union. Given the European Union is one of its major important markets, the economic recovery of the European Union is very important.

Another question was about the absence of the Middle East in the strategic landscape of the Asia-Pacific region. East Asia's prosperity today is linked to energy sources from the Gulf and Middle East, and Africa as well. Saudi Arabia itself has adopted a policy of greater engagement with East Asia. China has already become the single largest customer of Saudi Arabia's petroleum. So, the

linkages between East Asia and West Asia are going to create a new situation. The nations in the Gulf and Middle East will play an important role in terms of economic growth and security in the Asia-Pacific. China is certainly showing its interest to enhance its cooperation with the nations in the Middle East, particularly with Saudi Arabia. The bilateral relationship between China and Saudi Arabia is increasingly expanding to other areas of economic cooperation.

Lastly, the question was posed on what the nations like Singapore and Australia can do in coming years in the Indo-Pacific region. Singapore and Australia are located in the hinge between the two great oceans. Due to the rise of China and India, the region which has become the area to be watched. Thus, it is logical for both Singapore and Australia is to work together in this region. Interestingly, Singapore and Australia have been active participants of the Indian Ocean Association for Regional Cooperation though India was not enthusiastic for these two countries' involvement. However, due to the changing security landscape of the Asia-Pacific region, Australia, India, and Singapore will be more likely to foster greater economic and security cooperation.

## PANEL 2

### Military Modernisation: Opportunities and Challenges



*Mr. Richard Bitzinger*



*Rear Admiral (Ret.) Yang Yi*

**Richard Bitzinger**, Senior Fellow at RSIS, chaired the second panel on Asia-Pacific military modernisation. He noted that due to strong economic growth and desire to protect growing national interests, nations in the Asia-Pacific region have been modernising their militaries. Having secured enough means to increase defence spending, some are able to procure very sophisticated

defence platforms and systems. At the same time, there have been some concerns about the nature of the procurements.

The first panellist, **Rear Admiral (Ret.) Yang Yi**, Director of the Institute for Strategic Studies, University of National Defence, highlighted China's efforts in developing its economy while modernising its military at the same time, particularly its naval force. According to RADM Yang, it is important how China will use its growing influence, how to promote, build better external relationships, especially with neighbouring nations. Moreover, it is also important to understand how regional stakeholders perceive China's military build-up.

RADM Yang noted that Operation Desert Storm in 1991 was a shocking moment for China's military leaders, who realised the disparity between the PLA and western military forces. The Chinese leadership then decided to invest and modernise its military. Moreover, agitation movements for Taiwanese independence in the mid and late 1990s also influenced the military and strategic planners in Beijing. Since then, Chinese military modernisation programmes have accelerated. Many important projects were launched then to develop and build the advanced weapon systems. These indigenous programmes were supplemented by overseas arms acquisitions, in particular from Russia.

Since the 2008 Presidential Election in Taiwan, China's military development has evolved. As China's economy increasingly depends on foreign trade and energy supply, China's military, particularly the PLAN, are bearing new missions. One of them is to contribute to global and regional stability, such as the PLAN's involvement in anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden.

RADM Yang commented that the increase of China's military expenditure is very natural due to China's fast growing economy and consequent need to secure its resources. However, he noted that the increase of China's military expenditure is relatively low in comparison with civilian expenditures like education and public health. He emphasised that while China is

the second largest global economy, it does not possess the second strongest military in the world. Therefore, China wants to develop appropriate military forces in order to keep up with its economic and international status, although it does not aspire to be another global superpower. He further stated that China always tries to resolve its disputes with other neighbouring states through diplomatic means and negotiations.

RADM Yang asserted that the development of China's naval power is not a disaster for the U.S. and other Asia-Pacific stakeholders. China does not intend to deprive America its freedom of navigation in the region. He suggested that China and America should overcome the zero-sum mentality and avoid falling into the security dilemma. He expressed his concern about recent U.S. strategic plans in the region, in particular the newly released military strategy in the Asia-Pacific. He argued that U.S. raised tensions in the region and jeopardised regional peace, stability and prosperity.

RADM Yang concluded by highlighting that China is interested and ready to build a cooperative maritime partnership with the U.S. and all the countries in the region. He emphasised that China will do its part to maintain peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Brigadier General (Ret.) Gurmeet Kanwal**, Director of the Centre for Land Warfare Studies in New Delhi, examined India's military modernisation and its technological transformation in response to its strategic challenges. He began his presentation by highlighting the forces of integration and the forces of disintegration that the world is facing. For instance, globalisation is the force of integration, but the proliferation of nuclear technologies and international terrorism are the forces of disintegration. All of these considerations influence India's military modernisation efforts.

BG. Kanwal explained that there is a shift to move from threats to vulnerabilities. Though threats are well defined, the concept of vulnerability is not clearly identifiable as threats. In this context, threats that India is facing are well defined. First and foremost, India's

territorial disputes with its neighbouring countries, China and Pakistan, are well known. Furthermore, India has increasingly identified China as a major strategic concern that has tried to encircle India by building strategic relationships with India's neighbouring countries. This strategic encirclement of India is known as the "String of Pearls" strategy. Another concern to India is its immediate neighbour Pakistan and its proxy war in Kashmir for over two decades.

According to BG. Kanwal, India's military modernisation is about achieving overwhelming firepower supremacy. In order to achieve military supremacy, India will acquire the necessary capabilities and weapon systems for potential conflicts in South Asia. As far as India's internal security is concerned, the armed forces will remain committed to internal security and counterinsurgency duties for the foreseeable future. However, at the same time, there is a need for the army to come up with suitable strategies to discharge these internal security responsibilities without undermining its operational readiness for future conventional conflict.

BG. Kanwal concluded that in its quest to modernise its military, the Indian armed forces will spend approximately US\$100 billion over the next 10 to 15 years. The first facet of the Indian modernisation



*Brigadier General (Ret.) Gurmeet Kanwal*

process is the replacement of obsolescent weapons and equipment. The second step will be the upgrading of military capabilities like C4I2ISR, network centricity, and preparation for effect-based operations. He also noted that homeland security will also be a substantial part of its modernisation efforts.

**Dr. Michael J. Green**, Senior Advisor & Japan Chair at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, and Associate Professor at the School of Foreign Service, in Georgetown University, started his presentation by noting how military modernisation in the Asia-Pacific region, emerging doctrines, military strategies, operational concepts are shaping dynamics in regional relations. According to him, military modernisation will be an important factor in the power politics in the Asia-Pacific region, but not necessarily a dominant factor.

Though there are many discussions about multi-polarity versus bipolarity in the dynamics of Asian security, Dr. Green argued that the region is not in a bipolar era yet; in fact, it is not even close. In regard to multi-polarity he argued that Asia has witnessed the emergence of Asian nations, such as the rise of India, dynamism of Korea and Indonesia and Japan as important major regional powers. In this multi-polar context, smaller and medium powers can impose “influence cost” on big powers. For

example, during the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s America had experienced the reaction of a growth of Asian regional institutions and initiatives to counter the heavy handedness of the U.S. led international organisations.

Beijing has also learned that if China’s foreign and defence policy moves are too assertive or threaten the basic strategic stability in the region, the region’s smaller and medium powers can impose influence cost on Beijing. Dr. Green argued that was what happened in the ASEAN Regional Forum meetings in response to China’s assertiveness towards the South China Sea and the East China Sea in recent years. Furthermore, some of the U.S. allies and friends in the region have tried their own strategic realignments in order to enhance and reinforce their positions. For instance, Australia and Japan signed the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation in 2007, which for Japan was the first bilateral security cooperation outside of its bilateral security alliance with the U.S.

On Asian-Pacific defence modernisation, Dr. Green noted that defence spending in the region has remained fairly steady. Though there is a growing strategic realignment of the United States towards the Asia-Pacific, this does not indicate a possibility of arms race in the region. The general trend of regional military modernisation in the region is to improve and acquire naval capabilities. On the other hand, the U.S. is working on the “Air-Sea Battle” concept, which revolves around the concept of ensuring access to its strategic interests, particularly in an area that is less optimal. Since the concept demands more interoperability, integration, agility and flexibility of the U.S. armed forces, Dr. Green suggested that China must understand that it is not a recipe to increase the U.S. firepower in the Pacific.

Dr. Green concluded his presentation by noting that the strategic competition in the Asia-Pacific region does not jeopardise regional peace and stability. Both China and the U.S. understand the importance of a stable and fruitful bilateral relationship. However, more must be done to promote regional prosperity, The U.S. and other regional plays in the Asia-Pacific



*Dr. Michael J. Green*

## PANEL 2

region must assure China that their efforts to maintain strategic equilibrium and balance of power are not same as the containment policy against China, and strive for greater understanding between all stakeholders.

### Panel 2 Q&A

A question was posed about the general idea of military modernisation. To minimise misunderstandings, it is essential not to perceive another side's military modernisation as a threat. Misperception could lead to a miscalculation that could cause catastrophic results. Without a doubt, future wars will be more lethal. However, this does not mean that it will be more damaging. Due to advancement of military technologies, the casualties and collateral damages in future conflict may be decreased substantially. On the other hand, the rapid advancement of military technologies and the continued misunderstanding of adversary's intention and action may generate accidental conflict in future.

The second question related to Japan's strategic relevance in the Asia-Pacific region. Due to Japan's recent setbacks, one may think it is no longer a powerful regional strategic player. However, Japan is the third largest economy as well as one of the largest defence spenders in the world. It will be a huge mistake to think less of Japan being a strategic player in the region. Japan's Self Defence Forces are extremely capable. In fact, Japan has demonstrated its well-trained and equipped forces in the aftermath of the tsunami in 2011. Japan will be involved more in international peacekeeping operations; the Japanese government has relaxed its arms export constraints on joint arms development with third country. The third question related to China's "Near Sea Doctrine". Due to growing capabilities of China's PLAN, the PLAN is able to project its power, keep its vital sea-lanes open, and conduct rescue operations for its own national interests. The "Near Sea Doctrine" is embodies Chinese objection to the U.S. Navy's intelligence gathering along the Chinese EEZ or coast lines.



Panel 2 Q&A

## DISTINGUISHED LUNCH TALK



*General Gary L. North, Commander of the USAF Pacific Air Forces*

**General Gary L. North**, Commander of the USAF Pacific Air Forces, began by pointing out that nations in the Asia-Pacific, including the United States, share collective economic and security interests, which transcend the national territorial boundaries. The increased globalisation and interdependency drives the international community to work together and ensure security and stability in the region.

Outlining the importance of the Asia-Pacific region, General North noted that four of the top ten global economies are in the region: China, Japan, India and the United States. This is a vastly important and dynamic region. Due to America's commercial interest and security ties, America today is just as committed as it ever was to the region. Not only does Washington understand that its own prosperity is linked to the prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, but many countries in the region also openly favour the enduring U.S. presence in the region.

Remarking on the increasing military spending in the

region, General North pointed out that such increase is not only a reflection of economic growth, but also of the uncertainty in the region. As globalisation has linked the nations in Asia to other areas of the world, Asian nations are not collectively ready to meet traditional security challenges as well as non-traditional security challenges. The countries in Asia must be ready to act and respond quickly by ensuring that the right capability and right capacity is at the right location, at the right time, in the Asia-Pacific region.

The evolution of security architecture, the new fiscal constraints, and emerging technologies combine to transform the capabilities; General North acknowledged that these will surely set U.S. military on a whole new direction. The scope and scale of the new U.S. defence budget will require the U.S. military to improve the way in which the military develops and acquires military capabilities and capacities. The military must ensure it has the necessary military capabilities to contribute to joint and coalition

## DISTINGUISHED LUNCH TALK

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operations in order to address the full spectrum of military and non-military challenges successfully.

General North explained that the major military focus of the U.S. Pacific Air Forces is to optimise operational effectiveness through greater integration with joint and international partners. Due to combat operations of recent years, the U.S. military understands that no nation can do it alone.

General North explained that one solution to achieve the integration and interoperability is the “Air-Sea Battle” concept. It is a joint initiative to further integrate the capabilities and efforts of the U.S. military to address the multiple domains of challenges. The concept not only will help the U.S. to support the regional security and stability, or global security and stability, but it will also allow the U.S. to address the emerging threats such as anti-access and area denial (A2/AD) systems.

General North pointed out that the U.S. forces in the Pacific are dedicated to develop and nurture partnerships throughout the region. For instance, the U.S. Pacific Command seeks a better relationship with China, particularly in terms of improving transparency in China.

General North concluded his talk by highlighting that the Asia-Pacific region has enormous potential for progress through strong and lasting relationships and partnerships, and advancement of both freedom and prosperity. Accordingly, Washington wants regional stakeholders to know that it is always committed to meet challenges in the region together. The U.S. and its allies and partners in the region must work together for mutual respect, trust, and honesty. He said events like the Asia-Pacific Security Conference provide a great opportunity to refresh and improve the relationships as the nations in the region collectively move to the future.

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

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## Sunday, 12 February 2012

### Opening Dinner

- 7:00 pm Registration
- 7:30 pm Welcome Address  
*Ambassador Barry Desker*  
*Dean, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)*
- 7:35 pm Opening Dinner
- 9:00 pm End of Opening Dinner

## Monday, 13 February 2012

- 8:00 am Registration
- 8:30 am Introductory Remarks  
*Ambassador Barry Desker*  
*Dean, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)*
- 8:35 am Keynote Address by Guest of Honour  
*Mr. Lawrence Wong*  
*Minister of State, Ministry of Defence & Ministry of Education*
- 8:50 am Panel 1  
**Future Political, Economic and Diplomatic Challenges**  
Widespread and sustained growth has brought wealth to Asia Pacific nations. With growing economic and political dynamism, some regional states are wielding increasing influence. The aspirations of some of the larger states have had the effect of unsettling the security landscape, particularly on the back of rising military expenditures and historical tensions. Existing regional mechanisms seek to manage the rise of emergent powers and their relationships with the rest of the world.
- Dr. C. Raja Mohan, Adjunct Professor, RSIS; Strategic Affairs Editor, The Indian Express, New Delhi*
- Associate Professor Yuan Jing Dong, Centre for International Security Studies, University of Sydney*
- Professor Joseph Liow, Associate Dean, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)*
- Chairman*  
*Dr. Tim Huxley, Executive Director, The International Institute for Strategic Studies (Asia); Corresponding Director for Defence and Military Analysis*
- 10:20 am Tea Break

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

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10:50 am	<p>Panel 2 <b>Military Modernisation – Opportunities and Challenges</b> Asia Pacific nations are modernising their armed forces as a result of strong economic growth and desire to safeguard growing national interests. With the means to increase defence spending, some nations have procured sophisticated defence systems to strengthen their military forces. However, some concerns have been raised about the nature of those arms acquisitions in light of regional tensions.</p> <p><i>Rear Admiral (Retd.) Yang Yi, Research Fellow, Institute of Strategic Studies, National Defense University, China</i></p> <p><i>Brigadier General (Retd.) Gurmeet Kanwal, Director, Centre for Land Warfare Studies, Institute of Defence Analyses, New Delhi</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Michael J. Green, Senior Adviser &amp; Japan Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies, USA; Associate Professor, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University</i></p> <p><i>Chairman</i> <i>Mr. Richard A. Bitzinger, Senior Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)</i></p>	12:20 pm	Lunch and Distinguished Lunch Talk <i>General Gary North</i> <i>Commander, Pacific Air Forces, United States Air Force</i>
		2:30 pm	End of Conference

## **ABOUT RSIS**

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The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) is a professional graduate school of international affairs at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. RSIS' mission is to develop a community of scholars and policy analysts at the forefront of security studies and international affairs. Its core functions are research, graduate teaching and networking. It produces cutting-edge research on Asia-Pacific Security, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Conflict and Non-Traditional Security and International Political Economy. RSIS' activities are aimed at assisting policymakers to develop comprehensive approaches to strategic thinking on issues related to security and stability in the Asia-Pacific.





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