

# Think Tank

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**News from the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies**

## 7<sup>th</sup> APPSMO Opens



*Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean opening the 7<sup>th</sup> APPSMO on 4 August 2005.*

**S**ingapore's Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean advocated cooperation among governments and security forces in this increasingly interconnected and interdependent world.

Opening the 7<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO) on 4 August 2005, Mr Teo said that while the power of the US has been a pre-eminent factor for a time, and is likely to continue, he emphasised that China and India could no longer be ignored. He also said that Japan was now determined to become a so-called "normal" country and would claim a more active strategic role. Minister Teo said the dynamic interactions among

these four powers, if properly managed, could be a source of energy and strength for the region.

Recent developments in Kashmir, the Korean Peninsula, and the Taiwan Straits do offer some room for cautious optimism. Mr Teo added that against this backdrop of 'traditional' geopolitical issues, Asia-Pacific countries were also adjusting to deal with the 'globalisation of threats'. In all their diversity and complexity, these threats were demonstrated with the impact of the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the US, and the outbreak of SARS in the region. Mr Teo mentioned that the threat of global terrorism was the most critical and immediate security issue facing many countries today. He added that terrorists had every intention of using chemical, biological, and radiological weapons.

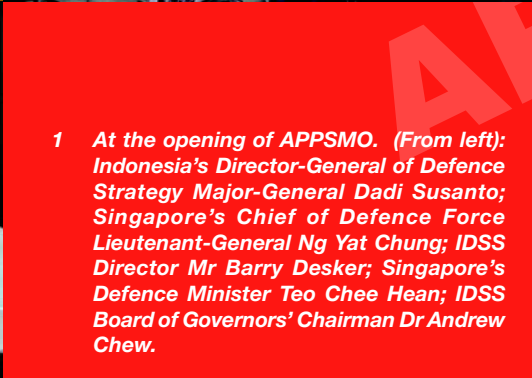
Mr Teo emphasised that international cooperation was vital in order to be effective in dealing with the challenges posed by the emerging strategic environment. He attributed the effectiveness of the

massive humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations after the Boxing Day Indian Ocean tsunami to multilateral cooperation. Mr Teo said regional defence groupings such as the Five Power Defence Agreements (FPDA), Western Pacific Naval Symposium, the Secure Trade in APEC Region (STAR) initiative, and the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Task Force (CTTF), were all very positive developments.

Ultimately, the effectiveness of these cooperative efforts depended on the level of trust and understanding among their members. Mr Teo said APPSMO, as an informal meeting, has an important role to play in fostering this trust and in developing mutual understanding through its various dialogues and interactions.



*Minister Teo speaking with IDSS Board of Governors' Chairman Dr Andrew Chew (centre) and IDSS Director Mr Barry Desker (right).*



**1** At the opening of APPSMO. (From left): Indonesia's Director-General of Defence Strategy Major-General Dadi Susanto; Singapore's Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant-General Ng Yat Chung; IDSS Director Mr Barry Desker; Singapore's Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean; IDSS Board of Governors' Chairman Dr Andrew Chew.

**2** Minister Teo and Mr Desker meeting with APPSMO participants.

**3** Minister Teo and Mr Desker with the two Laotian officers (centre and right).

**4** APPSMO participants: Col A.K. Sharma from India (Left) and Group Capt Shaheen Ghazanfar from Pakistan.

**5** Singapore's CDF Lieutenant-General Ng Yat Chung and Indonesia's MG Dadi Susanto.

**6** APPSMO participants: Col Vibolsopheak Phat (left) and Col Chau Svanh from Cambodia.

**7** Col John Kardos from the US (left) and MG Worapong Sanganetra from Thailand.

**8** IDSS' Professor Khong Yuen Foong chairing the lunch talk presented by US Department of Defense Chief Financial Officer Dr Dov Zakheim.

**9** APPSMO participants at an evening event. (Left to right) Snr Col Yao Yunzhu, LTC Shim Jae Sung, Col RTB Suparmono.

**10** Col Sergey Verkovich and Col Tsubasa Kanno at evening cocktails.

**11** Dr Andrew Chew presenting a token of appreciation to MG Dadi Susanto after the ST Engineering Distinguished Dinner Talk.

**12** LTC Shim Jae Sung in discussion with IDSS Dr Bernard Loo during lunch.

**13** Professor Steve Smith (left) and IDSS' Professor Amitav Acharya.



**APPSMO**

14 Participants from Austria, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia at a morning introductory session.

15 Col John Mitchell from Canada (left) and Col Khamsan bin Ngari.

16 Professor Paul Evans (left) and GP CAPT Stewart Baillie at lunch.

17 Preparing for games at Tanjung Beach.

18 Working out a game strategy.

19 Military officers in sporting action.

20 Capt Tsubasa Kanno on a roll.

21 Group Captain Shaheen Ghazanfar keeping goal.

22 Friendship borne after a good team workout.

23 APPSMO 2005: Everybody's a winner.

24 Celebrating the August birthdays of (from left) LTC Kong Kam Yean, LTC Axel Nilsson and Col A K Sharma.

25 President S R Nathan arrives at dinner accompanied by IDSS Director Barry Desker, and Deputy Director Amitav Acharya.

26 Col Walter Schweizer and Senior Capt Yao Yunzhu enjoying some local delights.

27 President S R Nathan meets participant from Australia, AirCdre Kym Osley.



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# Indonesia's Defence Policy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Singapore Technologies Engineering Distinguished Dinner Lecture by Major General Dadi Susanto on "Indonesia's Defence Policy"

APPSMO participants were given an insight into the reforms of Indonesia's defence policy and structure by Indonesian Director-General of Defence Strategy, Major-General Dadi Susanto. MG Susanto was speaking at the ST Engineering Distinguished Dinner Lecture on behalf of Indonesian Defence Minister Dr Juwono Sudarsono.

He began by saying that globalisation and changes in the global security environment had brought about changes to Indonesia's defence policy. Since the 1998 *Reformasi* in Indonesia, MG Susanto noted that it was apt that a civilian state be built in the country. He said the Indonesian military (TNI) has moved away from its traditional political role and has instead concentrated on achieving professionalism under a centralised structure.

MG Susanto said the traditional threat of Indonesia being invaded by a foreign country is unlikely. Instead, the country faces a larger threat from transnational non-state actors, in the context of terrorism, piracy, and smuggling. He added that it is in Indonesia's national interest that



*Indonesia's Director-General of Defence Strategy MG Dadi Susanto (left) acknowledged the assistance and commitment of international forces to humanitarian operations in Aceh following the Dec 26 tsunami.*

internal violence in Aceh, Maluku, Poso and Papua be contained. However, MG Susanto stressed that the strategic ability to defend Indonesia from external aggression must be maintained. Hence the TNI is building capacity to ensure the territorial integrity of the Indonesian archipelago. He added that the TNI will work with other government agencies to tackle threats in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

On the modernisation of TNI, MG Susanto expressed the hope that Indonesia would be able to develop its own military

equipment in the future. MG Susanto stressed that Indonesia is ready to cooperate with all countries in the quest of stability and peace.

During question-and-answer, MG Susanto acknowledged the assistance of international forces in humanitarian operations in the aftermath of the Dec 26 tsunami, particularly that of Australia. He reiterated that relations between both countries are warm. On TNI's role in Aceh, he said that the TNI supports the existing peace initiative and would not stand in the way of a political settlement.

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