

NTS-Asia

- Security Beyond Borders -

Launch of the RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies
6 May 2008, Traders Hotel, Singapore



RSIS Staff and members of the NTS-Asia Network together with Guest-of-Honour Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources of Singapore (seated 5th from left); Dr Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN (seated 6th from left); and Inaugural Lecture speaker, Prof Alan Dupont, Director, Centre for International Security Studies, University of Sydney (seated 3^d from left).

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University officially launched its Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies on 6th May 2008 at the Traders Hotel, Singapore.

Since 1999, the RSIS has successfully conducted and managed a programme on Non-Traditional Security (NTS). The programme aims at increasing awareness of a range of non-traditional security challenges that

threaten the well-being and security of states and societies in Asia, and the need to develop regional institutional capabilities to respond to these challenges. Its key projects have combined conceptual innovation, empirical research, and policy-relevant analysis and findings.

With the growing interest on NTS issues in the region, the RSIS established the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia) in January 2007, which brings together 14 research institutes and think-tanks from Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia and South Asia. The Consortium, which is led by RSIS, aims to further develop the process of networking and consolidate existing research on NTS-related issues, as well as to mainstream and push ahead the field of Non-Traditional Security in Asia.

The upgrading of the RSIS-NTS programme to a Centre, therefore, marks yet another milestone for the study of NTS in RSIS. The Centre for NTS Studies

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will launch three major programmes of critical concern to the region: Pandemics, Climate Change, and Energy and Security. These research programmes will involve developing research findings into actionable policy recommendations and proposing policy initiatives to address the range of NTS problems facing the Asia-Pacific region.

In officially launching the Centre for NTS Studies, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources of Singapore, Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim, called it a “timely initiative by RSIS to spearhead the study of non-traditional security issues within the region”. He is confident, that the “Centre will raise awareness of the

importance of NTS issues such as climate change, energy security and pandemics, address the needs of governmental policies, as well as conduct incisive and illuminating research in this important field.” He also commended the Centre’s leadership in the wider NTS Asia Consortium, saying that the Consortium is not only “an intellectual hub for NTS but also part of the architecture for regional cooperation into these issues.”

Joining the Minister in the launch was ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Surin Pitsuwan who delivered the keynote address. Dr. Surin, an advocate of the concept of human security, said that he was very glad

RSIS Cambodian Research Fellowship Scheme 2008

The Centre for NTS Studies invites applications for a 3-5 months research fellowship program under the Cambodian Research Fellowship Scheme. This scheme is intended to invite Cambodian scholars to conduct research on NTS issues relevant to Cambodia, at the RSIS, Singapore. The fellowship program will provide scholars studying NTS issues pertinent to Cambodia and the region, an opportunity to engage with other NTS scholars at the RSIS and beyond. This program is also designed to provide a chance to engage with the RSIS network of policymakers, academics and civil society groups who share a common interest in advancing the study of NTS.

This program will commence in June/July 2008. The research fellowship scheme comes with a stipend of S\$4,500 per month (all inclusive), a return economy class airfare and visa related expenses. Two positions are available for 2008. The positions are intended for outstanding active Cambodian researchers working on a wide range of non-traditional security issues. Young scholars are encouraged to apply. The research fellows are expected to produce at least one publication at the end of the fellowship period. The research fellows are also expected to give at least one seminar about their research project/ findings during their fellowship period at the RSIS.

Interested applicants are invited to send their applications via e-mail/ airmail with the following information:

- (i) A research proposal of 1000-2000 words which should include a statement of the aims and objectives of the project, the time period for the project, and the output;
- (ii) Information on one’s expertise in relation to the research that is to be carried out;
- (iii) Two (2) recommendation letters, including one from the applicant’s organization; and
- (iv) A curriculum vitae and a copy of one’s highest level of education reached.

Please kindly note that the applications should be received by the Centre of NTS Studies the latest by **Friday, 30 May 2008.**

Applications must be sent to:

The Centre for NTS Studies
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
Nanyang Technological University
Nanyang Avenue #S4-B4
Singapore 639798
or
Email: isirene@ntu.edu.sg
REF: Cambodian Res 08

the RSIS Centre for NTS Studies “is serving as the nucleus of those evolving thoughts and conceptualization about non-traditional threats which are affecting and eroding our human security in the region.”

According to him, understanding NTS was extremely important in this new age of an integrated and globalised world where NTS threats like infectious diseases, climate change, and natural calamities are now having more severe impact on human lives across the world. As a result, he said, “One ‘human insecurity’ somewhere, is a ‘global insecurity’ everywhere”. In this regard, the work of the RSIS Centre on NTS Studies is a significant contribution to addressing new security challenges since it is these NTS issues that have eluded our traditional way of managing, controlling and understanding security.

The official launch was followed by an Inaugural Lecture to be delivered by Prof Alan Dupont, Director of the Centre for International Strategic Studies, University of Sydney. Also invited to the launch were selected network members of NTS-Asia who participated in an NTS Curricular Development meeting after the formal launch.

The RSIS Centre for NTS Studies has 6 Research Staff. Joining Assoc Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony (Head, Centre for NTS Studies & Secretary-General, NTS-Asia) and Ms. Sofiah Jamil (Research Analyst) on the team are Assoc. Prof Rajesh Manohar Basrur, Asst Prof Chang Young Ho, Dr Alvin Chew (Research Fellow) and Ms Irene Astuti Kuntjoro (Associate Research Fellow). On behalf of NTS-Asia, we would like to welcome these scholars to the network.

Various activities and initiatives are in the pipeline for the Centre for NTS Studies as it aspires to reach out further to various sectors of society, including scholars, policy-makers and civil society organisations in Asia, to engage in NTS issues pertinent to region and beyond. RSIS, therefore, looks forward to this new leg of non-traditional security studies in the school.

For more information, please visit the Centre’s webpage at www.rsis.edu.sg/nts

**RSIS Centre for NTS Studies’ Inaugural
Lecture on “Paradigm Shift: Non-
Traditional Challenges to Security?”**
**By Prof. Alan Dupont, Director of the Centre for
International Security Studies, University of
Sydney**

In his lecture, Prof Dupont noted that in assessing the capacity to manage global security and risk, it is important to understand how thinking about security has been transformed by the rise of a host of transnational dangers that pose novel challenges for defence and foreign policy. They include climate change, energy dilemmas and the spread of virulent, new diseases such as HIV/AIDS and avian influenza. Often linked, these non-traditional security threats stem not from competition between states, or shifts in the balance of power, but from human-induced disturbances to the fragile balance of nature, the consequences of which may be just as injurious to the integrity and functioning of the state as those resulting from military conflict. They may also be more difficult to reverse or repair, as global warming and the degradation of our planet’s resource base attest. Prudence and sensible risk management suggest that governments in Asia need to take these issues far more seriously by placing them at the heart of their security agendas and adopting more holistic policy responses.

Increasing importance of non-traditional security issues

The traditional security approach is not sufficient to understand the complexity of emerging non-traditional security threats, which are primarily non-military in character. These issues require different responses from the government. Some of those are economic and environmental. The examples are shown by the experience of North Korea’s weapons programme that has affected the capacity of the state, survivability of states and has caused serious economic consequences. Another example is the growth of population and demand on renewable and un-renewable resources in Indonesia. Security margin has become a lot thinner these days. Prof Dupont then went on to cite the examples of climate change, pandemics & energy security.





Climate change should be accounted as a security agenda because it indicates various significant impacts that relate both to state security and human security. Some of the examples of these impacts are:

- Temperature increase in such a short period of time, increase sea level, extinction, affecting crops (water availability, food availability).
- Maritime jurisdiction problem due to the rise of sea level.
- Impact also on spread of infectious disease.
- Impact on migration (climate change refugees) due to resource scarcity or disasters.

There is also the drive amongst many states to find new sustainable sources of energy to meet the increasing demands. One example is the use of nuclear power for source of alternative energy that will decrease carbon rate. Yet, ensuring the safety and security of communities living in close proximity to such energy sources has not been given enough attention.

There should be more concern with regard to infectious diseases due to the increasing seriousness of pandemic diseases. Rather than being just a health issue, pandemic outbreaks have the potential to kill a large amount of people very quickly, where in turn may affect socio-political circumstances. These can be seen by looking at how the epicentre of HIV/AIDS is moving from Africa to Asia, the H5NI virus as the fastest spread of flu virus and is prone to mutation and how the SARS spread affected the economy.

Responses to NTS threats

These NTS issues are interconnected in one another and be viewed in isolation. Thus the governments need a holistic approach on the issues and also need to build cooperation among actors in responding to the issue. Moreover, there should not be a divide between hard security and soft security, but rather to see them as part of a security spectrum with different kinds of threats. Thus different threats require different sets of responses. There are choices of preventative, adaptation and mitigation responses. The current issues of the 21st century are both the concern of human security and state security. With regard to the allocation of state budgets, Prof Dupont questioned why governments were more willing to allocate a large amount of budget for military defence

rather than NTS issues as insurance. In the end, it's the NTS threats that are more likely to occur compared to traditional ones.

Responding to a question on what governments are lacking in addressing NTS issues, Prof Dupont noted that institutional changes are needed, such as the creation of task forces to deal with the issues, greater budget allocation to NTS issues and developing new institutions that relate to the security threats of the 21st century.

Attitudes of policymakers and of the elite also need to be changed, but this cannot happen overnight. This change in attitudes needs to be done via education. Current developments show that people no longer question the importance of the NTS issue. However, getting adequate responses from governments to respond these issues is still lacking. It is therefore imperative to cultivate an interdisciplinary generation of analysts that will elevate the importance of NTS issues that will influence policy-making.

There is also a greater need for governments to see NTS issues in a holistic manner. Greater emphasis needs to be placed on how the solution to one NTS problem may create other problem. For example, the negative impact of biofuels production on food security).

In response to a question on the role of the private sector in addressing NTS issues (such as the production of tamiflu and dengue vaccines by pharmaceutical companies), Prof Dupont agreed that the private sector need to be involved in addressing NTS issues in a holistic manner. However, governments should still take the lead of the efforts. Although the free market plays a critical role, government needs to establish the appropriate policies to ensure a smoother flow of processes and procedures.

In response to a question as to whether regional mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) or East Asian Summit (EAS) are sufficient to address NTS issues, Prof Dupont felt that there is enough existing architecture in the region but the challenge was fine-tuning them to make them work better. The ARF, for instance, should deal with issues that are categorised within the security sphere.

Managing Food Fights from Food Rights in ASEAN ***By Mely Caballero Anthony, Sofiah Jamil & Irene Kuntjoro***

The daily reports of rising food prices across the globe coupled with rising prices of oil appeared to have caught many state authorities by surprise. The state of the global food crisis are reaching the extremes with very poor African communities finding themselves reduced to eating dirt--from making and selling mud cookies (from a mixture of mud, salt and vegetable oil). In Asia, reports of riots breaking out have raised the spectre of potential conflict—raising the urgency for governments in the region, particularly in Southeast Asia to act expeditiously.

These worrying trends not only demonstrate the difficulties that some states' face in meeting their citizens' basic security needs but also further strengthen the notion that poverty and human insecurity can be immensely politically destabilizing and fuel conflict. With calls for a global action to address this problem, is ASEAN doing enough?

The Unfolding Food Crisis in Asia

For many developing countries in Asia, food takes up almost 80% of poor people's income. According to the World Bank the share of food in the consumption basket of the average household in East Asia and Southeast Asia ranges between 31% and 50%, and could be as high as 70 % in countries like Bangladesh. This is in stark contrast to developed countries like the United States where food take up only 15%.

Ironically, many of the developing countries most affected by food scarcity are themselves biggest producers of rice or wheat. Yet, according to the UN World Food Programme, these countries like Bangladesh and India are amongst the top ten countries receiving rice aid. In fact, 7 out of these 10 countries are from South and Southeast Asia – with Burma topping the list and include Nepal, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. A number of factors explain this perverse situation. Among these include the burgeoning populations of these countries as well as the damage incurred from climate-related disasters such as droughts, floods and typhoons.

Rising prices of crude oil also plays a significant role in fuelling Asia's food inflation, adding another heavy

burden for the region's poor. Higher fuel prices translate into higher fares on public transportation and higher prices of kerosene which is widely used by the poor for cooking. The price of fertilizers have also soared up which in turn contribute to food inflation.

Moreover, the turn to biofuels as alternative energy source has further exacerbated the food crisis. Enticed by the lucrative market, farmers had been growing cash crops such as palm oil and corn oil instead of food crops. Unfortunately, this trend had also encouraged 'slash and burn' methods to clear land, adding to more carbon emission, more damage to the environment and the list goes on.

Food Fights over Food Rights

The old saying "A hungry man is an angry man" is now being played out in parts of the world. In Asia, police forces have to be deployed to reign in the riots that have broken—triggered by the potent mix of hunger, discontent. In Bangladesh, about 20,000 factory workers rioted over high food prices and low wages, injuring at least 50 people – most of whom were police officers who tried to break up the protests. In Indonesia, about 500 protesters took to the streets, demanding that the government bring down food prices. Meanwhile, Philippine authorities had to use the military to guard rice warehouses and provide escort in the transport of rice from the warehouse to distribution stations in the poor areas of the country.

The food crisis has led affected countries to adopt a slew of measures to stabilize the situation. These include reducing rice exports, increasing food handouts and criminalizing hoarders. Despite these efforts, the severity of the food crisis renders national action inadequate and would require multilateral cooperation at the regional and global front.

Why a regional response?

A regional, multilateral response is needed to address the current food crisis because the issue is not as simple as a local food shortage. Perhaps with exception of conflict-ridden areas like Darfur and





closed regimes like North Korea, the global state of food security is far more complex and interconnected in nature. The critical factor in this crisis is not so much the volume of supply but more about implementing the appropriate policies concerning the distribution of food. As argued by Josette Sheeran, the head of the UN World Food Programme, it is the poor governance in food security that creates the problem of food being in the wrong place and at a price the poorest cannot afford. Since the current state of food insecurity is not like those of the traditional famine, many of the short-term policies like providing food aid, controlling food prices and curbing grain exports are clearly insufficient and unsustainable.

What is therefore needed is a re-thinking of food policies to allow for a better kind of global governance on food. This is particularly critical as short-term solutions without thorough deliberation may make matters worse in the long run. In this regard, initiating a regional framework on food security is a small step forward and what better way than to start one in ASEAN now.

Securing Food Security

As proposed by the Philippines government, ASEAN needs to convene a regional meeting to promptly address the current issue of food security that is affecting the region. The meeting could also include the ASEAN+3 counterparts, China, Japan and South Korea as they are also stakeholders of the food supply and demand in the region. This is of critical importance to ASEAN since its members, Thailand and Vietnam, are two of the world's top rice exporters and the Philippines as the one of the world's largest rice importer. Food security should therefore form an integral part of its broader objectives of creating an ASEAN community that is secure and peaceful.

To begin with, ASEAN can take measures to strengthen the implementation of the Agreement on the ASEAN Food Security Reserve given the scenario of a dwindling rice stockpile and the soaring price of basic food and commodities. ASEAN should also maximize the function of the pilot project on East Asia Emergency Reserve with China, Japan, South Korea and the UN World Food Programme and also the ASEAN Food Security Information System

(AFSIS) so that adequate supply of rice could be provided where and when it is needed.

Given that the current food crisis is now being referred to the silent tsunami—ASEAN can no longer afford to wait for the crisis to spiral into catastrophic proportions.

**Mely Caballero-Anthony, Sofiah Jamil and Irene Kuntjoro are, respectively, Associate Professor, Research Analyst and Associate Research Fellow at the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University.*

Other Recent Events

NTS Curricular Development Meeting **6 May 2008, Traders Hotel, Singapore**

One of the objectives of establishing the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia is to push for the mainstreaming of NTS studies in our research, teaching and policy work. With several network member institutes already going beyond researching NTS to teaching it, the meeting aimed to explore the possibility of having a shared and/or common curriculum or perhaps, a syllabus to start with.

Among the issues that were raised included :-

- Is NTS an emerging discipline? Is there enough depth/breadth for NTS studies to be developed as a sub-field in security studies?
- What are some of the theoretical issues encountered in studying/teaching NTS? (e.g. influence of epistemic communities in framing NTS issues, dynamics of decision making, types of political regimes, problems relating to inter-state cooperation--unequal gains, individual (state) versus common interests, etc).
- Given the argument that the boundaries between NTS and TS are artificial, what is the relationship between the two? What are the linkages?
- What are the common approaches used in understanding or studying NTS?
 - The Copenhagen School of Securitisation
 - Human Security

- Common Security
- Comprehensive and Cooperative Security
- As we explore a new paradigm in terms of pedagogy, should the NTS syllabus push toward greater inclusiveness that looks at a wide range of actors (governments, civil societies, private sectors, and others)?
- How do we mainstream gender into our approaches?

**Searching for Peace in Afghanistan:
Collaborative Possibilities for Youth in
Peacebuilding : A WISCOMP Roundtable**
27 April 2008, WISCOMP

The roundtable brought together some 30 experts, scholars, practitioners, Afghan students, Indian youth organizations and representatives of governments from Afghanistan, India and other countries to reflect upon the challenges and possibilities for Afghan youth in becoming an integral part of peacebuilding processes. The discussion provided spaces for dialogue in the context of ethnic political conflict, and more especially as an approach to augment practices of coexistence in multi-ethnic and multi-cultural societies. Moreover it examined why and to what extent the youth have and can take part in peacebuilding through dialogue, education and processes of conflict transformation.

The discussion was fruitful in furthering WISCOMP's knowledge and understanding to better contextualize the current peacebuilding issues in Afghanistan, the role of India and other governments' in peacebuilding initiatives. The discussion also provided a platform to share the lessons learnt from successful or thwarted peacebuilding processes in Afghanistan. The focus in essence was exploring possibilities of capitalizing on the capacities of Afghan youth for conflict transformation.

**International Conference on 'The Experiments
with Democracy in East and Southeast Asia:
Two Decade After**

2-3 May 2008, University of Hong Kong

The conference evaluated the achievements of and explore the continuing challenges to the new/revived democracies that have emerged in East and Southeast Asia some two decades ago. It built on works carried out at the Centre on regional development with democratic forms of governance. The conference featured four sessions, focusing on East and Southeast Asia but with a sub-focus that explores the China case occasionally. The first session was devoted to examining the past achievements of and emerging challenges to the new democracies. The second sought to evaluate the political/democratic institutions that have since emerged, while the third reviewed the impacts of the transition on the global and regional processes and vice versa. Finally, the fourth session examined the social and political developments subsequent to the transitions.

New Appointment

Prof Peter DeSouza from the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, has assumed the post of Executive Director of the prestigious Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) in Simla, India.

Formerly known as the Viceregal Lodge the Indian Institute of Advanced Study's building had witnessed the most turbulent phase in Indian history – the slow coming of the Viceroys, their cloaks and ermine tippets to their sudden and swift departure. It saw the change in its inmates from politicians and generals to professors and scholars.

The Institute which was housed in the building on 20th October 1965 grew to become 'an internationally recognized centre of high creativity and excellence'. It had its years of dormancy but after that it grew and is still growing to achieve new vistas and conquering new horizons. As a residential centre for research, it encourages creative thinking in areas of deep human significance. In this sense the Institute serves as a tribute to the memory of that great seer and profound scholar

On behalf of NTS-Asia, we would like to congratulate Prof DeSouza on his new position in IIAS.





This conference was sponsored by the Chiang Chin-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange and the Hang Seng Bank Golden Jubilee Education Fund for Research.

Foreign participants at this conference included the following:-

- Professor Amitav Acharya, Director, Center for Governance & International Affairs, University of Bristol, United Kingdom
- Professor Ledivina V. Cariño, University Professor Emeritus, National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines, Philippines
- Professor Chu Yun-han, Professor, Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica, Taiwan
- Professor Chua Beng-Huat, Professor, Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore, Singapore
- Professor Bruce Cumings, Department Chair, Department of History, The University of Chicago, USA
- Professor Kevin Hewison, Director, Carolina Asia Center, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
- Professor Jude Howell, Director, Centre for Civil Society, London School of Economics, United Kingdom
- Professor Michael Hsin-Huang Hsiao, Executive Director, Center for Asia-Pacific Area Studies (CAPAS), Academia Sinica, Taiwan
- Professor Hyug Baeg Im, Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Korea University, South Korea
- Professor Takashi Inoguchi, Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, Chuo University, Japan
- Dr. Satoru Mikami, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Faculty of Political Science and Economics, Waseda University, Japan

- Professor Randall Peerenboom, Professor, School of Law, La Trobe University, Australia
- Professor Doh C. Shin, Korea Foundation Chair Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Missouri at Columbia, USA
- Professor Mark R. Thompson, Professor, Institute of Political Science, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany
- Professor Joseph Wong, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto, Canada

Commemorating International Women's Day
8 March 2008

To celebrate the United Nations' International Women's Day, RMMRU organized a seminar on the Rights of Female Migrant Workers. This seminar was the opening event to a major campaign launched by RMMRU on 'Safe Labour Migration' in collaboration with the Manusher Jonno Foundation. A rally was also organized prior to the Seminar at the National Museum and an art competition for budding young artists at Charulaka Institute, Dhaka University.

Launch of WISCOMP's "Closer to Ourselves" Website

Close to Ourselves began as an idea in November 2006 as WISCOMP's 5th Annual Conflict Transformation Workshop drew to a close in New Delhi, India. For 6 years the Workshop alumni had engaged in dialogues of life and intellectual exchange – discussions on confidence-building measures and peace accords, movies and careers. It was just felt an opportune to embark on a dialogue of common action, collaborative exploration to record the personal transformation on the challenging and inspiring journey towards peace in South Asia. *Closer to Ourselves* is a collection of these records, which developed steadily in 2007.

For more information visit <http://www.wiscomp-ctstories.net/>

**Accelerating Inclusive and Sustainable Growth:
Indonesian perspectives and reflections on
global experience**

26 March 2008, CSIS Indonesia

On March 26, CSIS, along with the Institute for Economic and Social Research (LPEM) at the University of Indonesia, hosted a presentation by Professor Michael Spence, Nobel Prize laureate and current Chairman of the Commission on Growth and Development. Professor Spence is perhaps best known for his research on signaling theory and information economics. He used this visit to CSIS to explain the Commission's work and to highlight some of its findings. A panel discussion about the implications of the findings on Indonesia's own economic development followed his remarks.

Professor Spence summed up the Commission's mission as accelerating and sustaining growth and poverty reduction around the world. Toward this end, the Commission has tried to identify and highlight the key research, insights, and questions related to economic growth and poverty reduction. Among the many themes he addressed were the role of government in facilitating and promoting economic development, the challenges of integrating into the global economy, India and China's high growth experiences, and the "common ingredients for growth." As Professor Spence pointed out, however, these issues are not without controversy.

The "necessary and sufficient conditions" for economic growth, Professor Spence said, remain a mystery. As a result, decisions about what policies and strategies should be pursued to alleviate poverty and achieve development must be made under conditions of uncertainty and with due regard for the specific circumstances of any given country. Stressing that there is no 'one size fits all' solution to such tricky questions, Professor Spence noted the importance of strong and competent leadership to developing and sustaining policies that support growth and poverty reduction.

Following his presentation, Dr. Chatib Basri of LPEM, and Mr. Sandiaga Uno, Chairman of the Indonesian Young Entrepreneurs Association (HIPMI), commented on the relationship between

Indonesia's experience developing its economy and fighting poverty, and that of the rest of the world.

**CSIS, Indonesia co-hosts Williamsburg
Conference**

6 April 2008, Bali

CSIS co-hosted the 36th annual Williamsburg Conference organized by the Asia Society on 3-6 April in Ubud, Bali. The Williamsburg Conference brought together top leaders from Asia and the United States each year to discuss challenges facing the Asia-Pacific community, and to develop creative approaches for addressing them.

This year, the conference was organized around two themes: "The Role of Islam in Multi-Cultural Asia" and "The Changing Role of the United States in the Region." The first day of the conference saw individual panel discussions addressed the varying influence of Islam throughout the region, the challenges of Islamic extremism, and how leaders from both sides of the Pacific might work to address these challenges and to overcome the suspicion and hostility that has so often characterized discourse about Islam's role in Asia. On the second day, panel discussions centered on the current state of U.S. engagement in the region, what implications the upcoming U.S. presidential election might have for the U.S.'s role in the region, and what counsel Asian countries might have for a new U.S. administration. On the final day, conference delegates heard from a new generation of Asia's leaders regarding how they see the future of the region and the U.S.'s role in it.

Throughout the wide-ranging discussions and the lively question and answer sessions that followed, the journalists, scholars, and diplomats in attendance returned time and time again to the common themes of globalization and the reaction to it, the changing geopolitics of the region, and difficulty in attaining theoretical and semantic clarity about the relationship between Islam, terrorism, and the non-Muslim world. The discussions reflected a common understanding that while these issues require scholarly rigor, they are also pressing public policy concerns with which all governments in the region will have to contend.





Conference participants also had an opportunity to see the breathtaking scenery around Ubud in central Bali and to learn from local experts about the island's unique history and culture, as well as its current social and political conditions. Excursions and entertainment included traditional Balinese dance and gamelan performances, an introduction to Ubud's renowned painting tradition, and opportunities to sample the island's cuisine.

Rizal Sukma from CSIS discussed Islamic radicalism and extremism in Asia, while Jusuf Wanandi and Hadi Soesastro participated as conference delegates. Other Indonesian participants included Ali Alatas, Azyumardi Azra, Dewi Fortuna Anwar, Edwin Soeryadjaya, Endy Bayuni, Pia Alisjahbana, and Sofjan Wanandi. Former CSIS Executive Director and current Indonesian Minister of Trade, Mari Pangestu, delivered the keynote address.

Recent Developments at Zhejiang University

There have been several developments regarding NTS in Zhejiang University. Several research programs and projects have been initiated. These include the following:-

- Building Capacities/Abilities to Respond to NTS in China (with the support of the Ford Foundation, 2008- 2010)
- Accelerating the Spread of the Social Security Systems of Urban and Rural Residents (Key Projects of National Social Science, 2008- 2010)
- Building Rural Public Health Service System in Zhejiang Province (Major Commissioned Issues of Zhejiang Government, 2006-2008)

In terms of teaching NTS, an NTS course, entitled NTS and Public Crisis Management, was adopted in March 2008 into the University's Masters in Public Administration. In April 2008, the Centre for Non-Traditional Security and Peace Development (NTS-PD) began cross-disciplinary courses for young teachers of NTS & Public Crisis Management.

NTS Asia Secretariat

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