

NTS-Asia

- Security Beyond Borders -

Launch of MacArthur Foundation Asia Security Initiative

29 May 2009

The Four Seasons Hotel, Singapore



Grantee institutes of the MacArthur Foundation Asia Security Initiative

First row, from left to right: Ms Amy Gordon (Director, MacArthur Foundation), Dr Rajiv Kumar (Director, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations), Prof. Wang Jisi (Dean, Peking University), Mr Jonathan Fanton (President, MacArthur Foundation), Dr Surin Pitsuwan (ASEAN Secretary-General), Amb. Barry Desker (Dean, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies), Mr Barry F. Lowenkron (Vice-President, MacArthur Foundation), Dr Kim Byung-Kook (Former President and Founder, East Asia Institute) and Assoc. Prof. Mely Caballero-Anthony (Head, RSIS Centre for NTS Studies).

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The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies received US\$ 2.2 million from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to conduct research in non-traditional security on Friday, 29 May.

The grant given to the Centre is the largest received among the 27 grantee research institutes. It forms the lion's share of the US\$ 2.5 million grant given to the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) to conduct research in non-traditional security and regional security cooperation. The Multilateral and Regionalism Programme in RSIS is the other beneficiary of the grant.



MACARTHUR

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Official Launch of
Asia Security Initiative & Luncheon
29 May 2009



The funding for a period of three years is part of a US\$ 68 million Asia Security Initiative by the MacArthur Foundation to develop new ideas to address Asia's security challenges. The Initiative focuses on three themes: strengthening regional cooperation, preventing conflict in Northeast Asia and building international cooperation to respond to internal challenges.



Dr Surin Pitsuwan, ASEAN Secretary-General, delivering the keynote address

In his keynote address, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan welcomed the Initiative, saying that it “is helping us ask and define that question of how to manage security challenges in a flat world where barriers and borders used to protect us.”

Echoing similar sentiments was RSIS Dean Barry Desker, who noted that the Initiative is “a significant endorsement of the importance of Asian security issues and recognition of its considerable implications for the world at large.”

The grant will also give the RSIS Centre for NTS Studies access to “cutting-edge research to respond to challenges that affect both the well-being as well as the security of states and societies in the region”, he added.

The RSIS Centre for NTS Studies will lead a cluster of seven research institutes and spearhead research on non-traditional security issues facing Asia such as climate change, environment and human security,

energy security, as well as internal conflicts.

Charting the Centre's research direction and development under the Initiative is the Head of the RSIS Centre for NTS Studies, Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony, who is also the Secretary-General of the Consortium for Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia). She has done extensive work in regionalism and regional security in the Asia-Pacific, multilateral security cooperation, politics and international relations in ASEAN, conflict prevention and management, as well as human security. As the work of the Initiative gains momentum, she will apply her expertise to leading three programmes that have been established within the Centre to advance research in the field of non-traditional security.



MacArthur President Jonathan Fanton giving his welcome remarks during the launch

These programmes are namely, the Internal and Cross-border Conflict Programme – which will investigate the dynamics of internal conflicts, human security, and multi-level and multilateral approaches to conflict prevention and resolution in East Asia; the Climate Change, Environmental Security and Natural Disasters Programme – which will study the linkages between state and social resilience vis-à-vis regional climate security, i.e. threats posed to countries due to





the effects of climate change; and the Energy and Human Security Programme which will examine issues of energy and human security, including the political risks involved in nuclear energy.

Research findings will be used to engage policymakers on the importance of non-traditional security in guiding political responses to non-traditional security emergencies and develop strategies to mitigate the risks to state and human security.

In addition, the Centre will be organising a series of events as part of efforts to boost research. In the pipeline is a climate change conference to be held later this year to discuss climate change issues and its attendant security threats, the establishment of a Responsibility to Protect (R2P) working group, as well as the organisation of a R2P workshop early next year.

A Warm Welcome to our Visiting Fellows

The RSIS Centre for NTS Studies is pleased to welcome three distinguished visiting fellows in the second half of 2009 – Professor Zha Daojiong from Peking University, Dr Lorraine Elliott from the Australian National University and Dr Alistair Cook.



Prof. Zha Daojiong is from the School of International Studies at Peking University. He joins the Centre as a Visiting Research Fellow from 15 June to 11 August. During his time at the Centre, Prof Zha will focus his research on China's perspectives on food security and energy security policy options.



Dr Lorraine Elliott is Senior Fellow in International Relations at the Australian National University and former Reader in International Relations at the University of Warwick in UK. She has also recently taken on the role of Associate Dean (Higher Degree Research) in ANU's College of Asia and the Pacific. Dr Elliott joins the Centre as a Visiting Senior Fellow and lead researcher for the Climate Change and Environmental Security Programme.



Dr Alistair Cook joins the Centre as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the internal and cross border conflict programme on 7 July and will conduct research projects on internal conflicts and human security. Dr Cook is familiar with Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region. As part of research for his PhD candidacy, Dr Cook spent time along the Thai-Burma border. He was also Editor-in-Chief of the Melbourne Journal of Politics. Dr Cook completed his Masters degree in Political Science, focusing on International Relations, Public Policy and Social Science Research Methods at Purdue University, USA in 2004. He received his undergraduate degree from St Andrews University, Scotland, in International Relations in 2002, focusing his honours on conflict management, democracy and the study of terrorism.

Seminar on "The September 2008 Melamine Crisis in China: Implications for US-China Relations"
by Dr Elizabeth Wishnick*

25th May 2009, Monday
RSIS Conference Room 1, Level B4



Dr Elizabeth Wishnick presented her paper in which she examined the political and economic factors that led to the 2008 melamine crisis in China and its consequences for US-China relations. This food safety crisis was over milk tainted with melamine, which sickened nearly 300,000 children and may have led to six deaths. She argued that although the United States and other countries tend to focus on the consequences of China's rising military and economic power, particularly its space programme, the country's weakness in areas of governance such as food safety will pose an even greater challenge. She offered some recommendations on how China and the US could contribute to better governance and accountability in the global food supply chain.

The Melamine Crisis in China

Chinese milk products in September 2008, particularly produced by the Sanlu company, were found to be tainted with the chemical melamine. This led to the recall of major brand-name products because Chinese powdered milk is part of the global food supply chain, and the incident caused ripple effects throughout the world. This was not the first food safety scandal in China; after melamine was found in pet food in the United States in 2007, the

chemical was supposedly banned as a food additive, but was then sold as 'crystallized protein'. There were incidents with other food products over the course of 2007-2009 in China. By December 2008, some 300,000 children had fallen ill and six had died from drinking melamine-tainted milk. Sanlu went bankrupt, with its chief executive officer getting life imprisonment and two men sentenced to death for selling the tainted milk to dairy farms.

The Paradox of Chinese Power

This crisis came at the same period of time when China was celebrating its first manned spacewalk using very high-end technology, putting it on par with only two other countries in the world - the US and Russia. Ironically, Sanlu was the official milk powder supplier to the Chinese space programme. This was the juxtaposition of two very different sides of the Chinese economy, which was pointed out by the Chinese media. The scandal highlighted the weaknesses of the Chinese system, including poor enforcement of the rule of law at the local level, inadequate regulation, lack of accountability, with poor overall governance. Dr Wishnick suggested that we have been focusing too much on one particular reality of China at the expense of another, and this was especially true for US concerns about the consequences of China's rise in terms of military and economic power. But China's weaknesses, not strengths, might be more of a challenge to deal with; where global food supply is concerned, the combination of globalisation and poor governance in one country would have ripple effects throughout the entire global food supply chain. She posed a question about the paradox of Chinese power, which witnessed a space-walk but could not seem to produce a 'decent glass of milk'. She discussed four different reasons, reflecting the economic and political realities in China:

1. There are 'two Chinas': urban and rural. The dairy-producing, rural areas have a poorer financial base, which have struggled to catch up with the urban





centres in terms of income parity. The Sanlu company was located in one such province – Hebei – and there were many incentives to keep it going despite earlier reports about problems. Sanlu was the largest seller of baby milk powder in China, and the second-largest such seller in the world. China itself is the world’s third-largest milk-producing country.

2. China has a very decentralised economy, with about 400,000 very small-scale food producers in the country, two-thirds of whom have not been properly registered. More of these small-scale enterprises had been established by local governments in order to address the influx of returning migrant workers from urban centres due to the recession. In this environment, Dr Wishnick stated that milk has been sold by millions of individual farmers to unregulated middlemen – the ones accused of adding melamine to milk in order to artificially boost the nitrogen content – who in turn sold them to largely state-owned companies such as Sanlu. Adding melamine masked the milk’s dilution or sometimes their poor quality, and so satisfied the minimum government requirement for protein content – as the test for nitrogen content in milk was the test for protein. Hence, more milk could be sold by adding melamine to fulfil content requirements. Besides Sanlu, 22 other companies were also implicated in this or similar incidents.

3. The timing of the crisis. Although Sanlu knew about this contamination at least as early as August 2008, the Beijing Olympics in that month led central and local authorities to clamp down on news coverage of the issue. In addition, there was the unwillingness of Sanlu’s chairperson – who was also the communist party secretary of Hebei province – to do anything about it. This was only reversed when the New Zealand prime minister brought it to the attention of the Chinese government, following complaints from New Zealand company Fonterra, which owned 43 per cent of Sanlu.

4. Issues of governance. Two reasons that contributed to this incident was that there were no rules regulating non-milk products in milk, and that there were exemptions for major brands from inspection. Measures to put in place to address it, including compensation to victims, led to Sanlu’s bankruptcy.

A new food safety law, which had been in development for some time, came into effect on 1 June 2009. This included calling on social organisations and the media to help focus attention on food safety and report where violations occur. However, Dr Wishnick questioned its effectiveness in the absence of a free press, non-governmental organisations committed to food safety, and a judicial system that is responsive to liability claims from private citizens. She also pointed out legal experts who have cast doubts on the effectiveness of this law due to lack of accountability, corruption due to ‘incentives’, and the incentives themselves – both Western business partners and Chinese firms demand and supply at low prices. This comparative advantage in price gives incentives to ‘cut corners’ on milk production and to avoid inspections which could lead to improvements that in turn could increase costs.

Consequences for the United States

Dr Wishnick commented that although the US also has food safety issues, compared to China it has more channels for monitoring and recompense – in the form of consumer groups, industry associations, media, political and legal system, and availability of legal recourse for victims. Still, it was important for the US to have its own food protection framework, both for its consumers’ benefit and for greater leveraging with China. She highlighted a gap in the US between the number of laws and organisations monitoring food safety and the actual information available to consumers about the sources of their food products. For instance, there were – and still are – no laws to identify sources of dairy and other products imported into the US.

In addition, only 33 Chinese food producers importing food into the US were inspected in the period 2001 – 2007, out of about 1,000 total inspections, which was about one per cent of all US food imports. Based on the low number of total inspections of global food imports, the refusal rate of Chinese products is thus very low. The US on its part has several constraints, such as the incapacity of the Food and Drug Administration due to a low budget to inspect all Chinese food imports into the US. Dr Wishnick said that the US and China have signed agreements to work on food safety, most recently in December 2007, and that Chinese companies that

export goods to the US with a high refusal rate (such as seafood) must register with China's quality-control agency and undergo mandatory inspections. She stated that increased technical assistance from the US to build Chinese capacity was needed, but would be difficult in an environment of decentralisation as well as the current economic crisis.

Conclusion: The Greater Challenge from China

China's weaknesses, more than its strengths, pose the greater challenge to other countries. Strong economic performance has come along with the problems of governance and food safety, which will be difficult to resolve. Resolution would depend on independent efforts and political will inside China, especially at

the local levels. Dr Wishnick believed the central government was aware that such issues would hurt China's reputation, but at the local levels there were more bread-and-butter issues at stake, in terms of employment and social stability. Thus, there is a tension between what local governments would be willing to do or acknowledge, and what the central government would want them to do.

**Dr Elizabeth Wishnick is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Law at Montclair State University and an Adjunct Associate Research Scholar at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University. For more information, please visit http://www.rsis.edu.sg/nts/Events/Elizabeth_Wishnick.html*

Significance of Informal Facilitators in Labour Migration

10 June 2009

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Speakers at a consultation session underscored the need for a better appreciation of the role of informal facilitators in Bangladesh's labour recruitment process. They also called on authorities to bring the informal facilitators under a legal cover. These observations were made at a consultation organised by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) on its premises with a select group of informal facilitators from Dhaka, Tangail and Comilla with the officials of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) in Bangladesh, and RMMRU present.

During the meeting, informal facilitators demanded social and legal recognition for their positive contribution to the nation's economy. They also felt that they have often been made scapegoats when the migration process falls short of its desired goal. They also claimed that recruiting agencies often demand high fees in excess of government stipulated amounts which make the cost of migration high.

Mr Selim Reza, Director, Immigration of BMET, observed that the issue of registration sub-agents merits serious consideration because of their inevitable role in the migration process.

Dr Nurul Islam, another Director of BMET agreed with the idea but observed that with current available

resources, it may be difficult for BMET to regulate the activities of innumerable sub-agents. He stated that the efficient monitoring of 800 recruiting agents in itself has become a daunting task for the agency.

The chair of the session, Dr C R Abrar stated that empirical studies have shown that informal facilitators play very important roles as a conduit of information and financial transactions between the formal recruiting agency and migrants. He observed that the onus should rest on respective recruitment agencies to issue work permits and photo identity cards to its sub-agents and be liable for all actions for the latter. He also suggested that the recruitment agencies should send the list of its sub-agents to BMET which in turn will circulate the same to all upazilas (subdistricts) for aspirant migrants to see. The seminar was organised as a part of RMMRU's ongoing research on informal facilitators which involved a survey of 200 returnees and aspirant migrants and detailed case studies of informal facilitators in four districts.

This write-up has been adapted from a RMMRU [Press Release](#)





**Seminar on "China's Growing Importance as a
Peacekeeper in Africa"
by Professor Ian Taylor**

4 May 2009

Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong

Ian Taylor is a Professor of International Relations at the University of St. Andrews and at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. He is also Honorary Professor at the Institute for African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University.

His presentation in this seminar is a reflection of his extensive depth of knowledge on Africa's political economy and international relations, particularly Sino-African relations, on which he has been researching since 1994. His books include: *China's New Role in Africa* (2009); *The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development* (2007); *China and Africa: Engagement and Compromise* (2006); *NEPAD: Towards Africa's Development or Another False Start?* (2005); (edited) *Africa in International Politics: External Involvement on the Continent* (2004); and *Stuck in Middle GEAR: South Africa's Post-Apartheid Foreign Relations* (2001). He holds a Master of Philosophy from the University of Hong Kong and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Stellenbosch and has taught at universities in China (Beijing and Hong Kong), Uganda, Canada, Botswana, and South Africa. He has visited and/or conducted research in 31 African countries.

**Oriental Outlook interview: "New flu virus
calls for global governance"
by Chen Dan**

2 June 2009

**Center for Non-Traditional Security and Peaceful
Development (NTS-PD), Zhejiang University
Institute of World Economics and Politics**

Against the backdrop of a worldwide spread of the H1N1 virus, *Oriental Outlook* conducted a recent interview with the research team of the Center for Non-Traditional Security and Peace Development (NTS-PD), in Zhejiang University. In the interview, the research team provided a non-traditional security perspective with regard to the implications of the virus and its spread. The research team comprised the

Center's director Professor Yu Xiaofeng, Deputy Director Professor Chen Kun, and Assistant Manager Professor Jiang Li Wang.

The rise of non-traditional security threats

Like Japan and the US, China has seen its fair share of H1N1 viral infections. This incident has inadvertently altered people's traditional view of security and the state.

Indeed the advent of globalisation has led to a change in perceptions of inter-state relations. A flatter world coupled with porous borders has seen the rise of trans-national threats such as the H1N1 virus. We witness as well, a growing incidence of other non-traditional security threats, such as AIDS, climate change, drugs smuggling, piracy and terrorism. All these non-traditional security threats affect not just one country but a region or even humankind as a whole.

It is now widely recognised that global governance is the key to addressing threats of this nature, but the question that thus arises is: What kind of global governance does the world need?

WHO's role in global health crises

The World Health Organization (WHO) has already been widely criticised in its handling of the H1N1 virus. *USA Today* reported that many Americans said that WHO's health warning in reaction to the swine flu disrupted people's lives. Schools were closed, working parents were forced to stay at home to look after their children, masks and cleaning agents were out of stock, but the flu seemed no more serious than seasonal influenza.

WHO had previously come under attack for its management of the SARS crisis in 2003. At that time when the first cases of SARS first surfaced in Toronto, WHO issued a travel restriction on Canada. The proposal angered Canada immediately. A delegation of Canadian diplomats and journalists flew to WHO's headquarters in Geneva to voice their opposition, leading eventually to WHO lifting travel restrictions to the country. In contrast, these same travel restrictions were met with praise when imposed on Hong Kong, Beijing and Taipei.

The incident revealed the disjoint in attitudes and ideas towards the crisis between WHO and governments.

Global governance, the way forward

Professor Yu Xiaofeng, Director of NTS-PD feels that the existing global coordination mechanisms for dealing with pandemics is inadequate as it is based on a system of proposals and recommendations, when the coping mechanism should actually be standardised and based on legal obligations that all countries should adhere to.

"The establishment of a global consensus and international health laws are necessary, including the establishment of governance principles, objectives, duties, organisational structures, and supervision. This also includes the implementation of a financial mechanism, as well as detailed protocol in pandemic situations. This should be the world's first step towards global governance," said Professor Yu Xiaofeng to *Oriental Outlook*.

In this regard, Professor Yu cited the success of international environmental treaties. For example, the "Montreal Protocol on ozone-depleting substances," used common but differentiated responsibilities for developed and developing countries, with the World Bank providing developing countries with technical and financial assistance and using trade sanctions to enforce rules.

In response to how to make good use of international organisations for global governance, NTS-PD's deputy director Professor Chen Kun pointed out that the primary challenges for international organisations are finding a way to maneuver around the interests of different countries, and trying to overcome the technical barriers formed as a result of differing levels of development in countries.

The key to solving technical problems is solving financial problems. Professor Chen Kun said, "For the establishment of a global health cooperation fund, it would be more feasible for each country's level of funding to correspond to the level of economic development in the country. And when need be, economic measures can be used to overcome the

technical barriers that cause the differences in public health security between countries."

Agreeing with him was NTS-PD's Professor Jiang Li Wang, who noted that "The most effective form of global governance is to be able to coordinate all forces to effectively deal with non-traditional security threats or global issues. This should then result in international stability, peace and harmony".

The above is a loose summary of the article published in Mandarin on the [NTS-PD website](#).

2009 Summer Studies Institute

**21 June – 19 July 2009
University of Hong Kong**

The fourth summer school, Asia as the Global Future, will be held at the University of Hong Kong from 21 June to 19 July 2009. The aim of the school is to enhance students' awareness of the importance of Asia in world affairs. The four-week summer school comprises lectures, seminars, field trips and study tours. A typical day at the school starts with morning lectures and discussions, in which students are exposed to issues in different areas, followed by excursions to special sites, organisations and companies around the city in the afternoon. Each of these fieldtrips comprises an academic component, with renowned scholars, businessmen or community leaders invited as guest speakers of the programme. Special features of this summer school are the field trips and study tours outside Hong Kong, namely, to Macau, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Seoul. These visits enable participants to see, experience understand and compare the different lifestyles and cultures in four very unique cities in China and South Korea. Previous student feedback indicated that the study tours and fieldtrips were key reasons – along with an interest in Asia – for their enrolment in the school.

For more details and applications, please visit www.hku.hk/socsc/si/2009





Recent Publications

Conference Reports

Conference on Pandemic Preparedness in Asia

12 – 13 January 2009, Marina Mandarin Hotel, Singapore

This conference on Pandemic Preparedness in Asia was organised by the RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies to examine the various framings of pandemic preparedness, with the objective of stimulating thinking on the possible approaches that could be adopted by Asia. Bringing together the best medical experts and security analysts from the region and the world, the conference examined various pandemic preparedness models, identified gaps in planning, and determined pandemic preparedness indicators. The conference also involved discussions on the roles of different societal actors in the formulation of operational pandemic preparedness frameworks, and the prospects of regional cooperation. Targeted at a wide ranging audience, including security analysts, health practitioners, the business community and leaders of civil societies, the conference aimed to facilitate the creation of a holistic and comprehensive pandemic preparedness plan applicable on many scales, from local to global levels.



Report of the 2nd NTS-Asia Annual Convention

10 – 11 November 2008, Beijing, China

The 2nd NTS-Asia Annual Convention was hosted by the Institute for Asia-Pacific Studies and the Academic Division of International Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and the RSIS Centre for NTS Studies. This report is a compilation of paper summaries presented during the 2nd NTS-Asia Annual Convention held in Beijing, China.



Merging Boundaries and Shifting Paradigms in Education: A Report **Seema Kakran, Navanita Sinha, WISCOMP, 2009**

Merging Boundaries and Shifting Paradigms in Education is based on the proceedings of a collaborative workshop organised by WISCOMP in New Delhi as part of its Education for Peace Initiative. The Workshop addressed the complexities of ‘teaching’ in a multicultural context like India and sought to initiate a dialogue among teachers on whether a multidisciplinary approach that takes on board knowledge from diverse fields can provide the necessary multivocality that multicultural contexts require.

Research Papers & Policy Briefs

Health & Human Security: From Establishment to Operationalisation

Julie Balen, *NTS Insight*, June 3/2009

The international community is now faced with an influenza pandemic and the rhetoric of global health security has become more urgent. Whilst our preparedness for such an emerging infectious disease is unprecedented, are we continuing to act mostly as crises arise? Here we consider progress to date in pandemic preparedness and explore reasons for our current lack of comprehensive health security. We conclude by reviewing what remains to be done and prioritising the remaining needs.



[Trans-ASEAN Energy Network and Energy Infrastructure Security](#)

Collin Koh, *NTS Insight*, June 2/2009

The current global financial crisis has an impact on energy investments worldwide. However, there is room for optimism within Southeast Asia since Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states remain interested in energy development. In anticipation of a revival in energy demand in a post-crisis recovery, it is important for ASEAN governments to realise that energy security is not simply about securing supplies, but also ensuring energy infrastructure security. The ongoing Trans-ASEAN Energy Network project is used as a case in point in this study.



[Economic Crisis and Labour Migrants: A Test for Human Security](#)

Kevin Punzalan, *NTS Insight*, June 1/2009

As the current global economic crisis deepens, labour migrants have begun to experience the consequences of both political and economic insecurity. How effective are legal frameworks in protecting the economic well-being of migrants in the Asia-Pacific? Can the adoption of a human security approach guarantee migrant welfare? This issue attempts to answer these questions, and to determine if more can be done.



[Resolving Conflict in Myanmar: A Human Security Approach](#)

Pau Khan Khup Hangzo, *NTS Insight*, May 2009

National security in Myanmar has always been equated with state security by the ruling military junta. However, the drive to protect the state has led to insecurities for its people. This paper argues that a comprehensive human security approach offers the best opportunity to address ethnic grievances, thereby resolving Myanmar's long-running internal conflict.



[Fisheries and Aquaculture in a Changing Climate](#)

Policy Brief, The Worldfish Center

Climate change impacts such as more frequent and severe floods and droughts will affect the food and water security of many people. The impact of climate change on aquatic ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture, however, is not as well known. This policy brief, a joint partnership between several agencies, highlights this issue to ensure that decision makers and climate change negotiators consider aquatic ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture at the 15th Conference on Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in Copenhagen, December 2009.





Climate Change: Research to Meet the Challenges Facing Fisheries and Aquaculture
Policy Brief, The Worldfish Center, 2009

This brief examines how the Worldfish Center and its collaborative partners address critical issues such as:-

- Assessing and mapping the vulnerability of fishery- and aquaculture-dependent people to the impacts of climate change, so that responses are appropriately focused;
- Reducing people’s vulnerability to these impacts by identifying appropriate adaptation strategies; and
- Contributing to climate change mitigation by identifying ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon in aquatic production systems.



Dissemination and Adoption of Milkfish Aquaculture Technology in the Philippines

Policy Brief, The Worldfish Center, 2009

This brief highlights several important lessons learned:-

- Strengthen extension systems to better disseminate improved milkfish hatchery and nursery technologies;
- Enhance the efficiency of milkfish grow-out culture by introducing restrictive feed management and polyculture with shrimp;
- Train producer communities to add value by processing their milkfish harvest; and
- Improve milkfish farmers’ access to credit.



AsiaFish: The Best Can Become Better
Policy Brief, The Worldfish Center, 2009

AsiaFish is the most comprehensive analytical model available for Asia’s seafood markets, and additional funding and collaboration can extend it to enable more complex analyses and projections or to serve other regions.



India’s Security Dilemma vis-à-vis China: A Case for Optimum or Sub-optimum restraint?: A Report
Sankhya Krishnan, RCSS, Policy Studies 47, 2009

This study seeks to evaluate whether India has succeeded in moderating the sources of insecurity in its relationship with China to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation. It examines the hurdles that remain in expediting a settlement to the territorial dispute, the need for India to upgrade its defence capabilities in the light of China’s military modernisation, and the concerns arising from the uncertainty surrounding China’s intentions.



Beyond the Security Impasse: State, Development and People: A Report
Romana Monzur, RCSS, Policy Studies 46, 2009

The purpose of this paper is to explore the non-territorial conceptions of political identity, for example ethnic identities, and critically examine the impact of state development projects on the marginalized communities especially on the *Adivashi* communities of Bangladesh and how the structural inequities of state structures and policies become a source of insecurity for not only the *Adivashi* communities but for the state as well. This study seeks to provide a new dimension in national development strategies and their impact on state-citizens for whom states adopt these strategies. It also discusses the implications of taking the *Adivashis* seriously as citizens for radically re-thinking security.



[Human Trafficking in Cambodia: Reintegration of the Cambodian illegal migrants from Vietnam and Thailand](#)

Neth Naro, RSIS Working Papers No. 181

The root cause of human trafficking in Cambodia is poverty wherein the poor wish to find income opportunities and hence became victims of trafficking into Thailand and Vietnam. In the process of helping those victims to return to their home countries, reintegration is considered crucial to help them meet better living conditions. However, after the reintegration programme the victims are still facing income difficulties due to the inability of those rendering aid to look more in-depth with regard to the concept of job training and employment. This paper therefore seeks to examine whether reintegration is really helpful in assisting victims to obtain a better job and contribute towards helping their families. If reintegration is not really helpful, and the root cause of trafficking still remains, then the reintegration process will not succeed. Successful reintegration should resolve an entire range of problems faced by the victims and their families; in particular, poverty as the root cause of human trafficking has to be addressed. This working paper is the result of the research conducted during the author's fellowship in RSIS under the RSIS Centre for NTS Studies' Cambodian Research Fellowship Programme in 2008.

[Livelihood Strategies Amongst Indigenous Peoples in the Central Cardamom Protected Forest, Cambodia](#)

Long Sarou, RSIS Working Papers No. 180

At present, the indigenous people in the Central Cardamoms Protected Forest (CCPF) are facing a problem in trying to improve their livelihoods. Their natural resource-based livelihoods are being challenged by the various impacts of governmental policy, as well as social, cultural and ideological issues that have arisen in recent years. This study asks what these challenges are and how they impact upon these indigenous peoples' livelihoods. The main objective of this study is to understand the various interventions by the government with regard to natural resource management policies, and how NGOs and other actors such as migrants and investors are affecting the livelihoods of the indigenous people. Therefore, this paper discusses the different interventions and different agenda these players have, and how these interventions fit in with local perspectives and agenda, particularly in the case of the CCPF. It also examines the livelihood diversification strategies that indigenous people use to cope with the challenges of such interventions. This working paper is the result of the research conducted during the author's fellowship in RSIS under the RSIS Centre for NTS Studies' Cambodian Research Fellowship Programme in 2008.

Housing Wealth, Financial Wealth and Consumption in China

Jie Chen, Feng Guo, Aiyong Zhu, China & World Economy, Volume 17 Issue 3, pp. 57-74

The present paper uses the model-dependent and the model-independent approach to measure the renminbi (RMB) exchange market pressure (EMP) and the central bank's intervention using monthly data from January





1999 to June 2008. It is determined that the RMB has been under great appreciation pressure over the past decade. However, the pressure has been weakening since 2005. The two approaches provide significantly different results in terms of the estimated RMB EMP indices and the estimated central bank's interventions. The differences may lead to different predictions of potential currency crises. According to the estimation of the RMB EMP, and based on the model-independent approach, the paper shows that China has been under threat of an appreciation currency crisis since 2008. Therefore, China should adopt a more flexible exchange rate regime to prevent a potential crisis.

Minimum Wage Regulation in China and Its Applications to Migrant Workers in the Urban Labor Market

Yang Du & Weiguang Pan, *China & World Economy*, Volume 17 Issue 2, pp. 79 – 93

Using data at micro and city levels, the present paper explores the policy evolution of the minimum wage system in China, and examines its coverage for migrant workers. The analysis indicates that the minimum wage policy has been substantially improved in terms of both coverage and the level of the minimum wage standard, but that the current policy tool that relies on the monthly wage rate is ineffective. Because migrant workers tend to work more hours, use of an hourly wage rate is more appropriate than a monthly wage rate.

Analysis of China's Renewable Energy Development under the Current Economic and Technical Circumstances

Dan Shi, *China & World Economy*, Volume 17 Issue 2, pp. 94-109

At present, the development of renewable energy relies mainly on government support. The government invests in a considerable number of projects to improve public welfare and to assist in poverty relief. If China is to replace fossil fuels on a large scale with renewable energy sources, the production costs and prices of renewable energy must be brought down. All countries are facing the challenge of moving to a more secure and low-carbon energy system without weakening economic and social development. In this regard, China is facing an even greater challenge in terms of economic cost, as cheap coal remains the main energy form. Technical innovation and industrialisation in the area of renewable energy is an important means of lowering cost. China is in for a period of high-speed development of its economy and the rising demand for energy is irreversible. If the technical progress and development speed of renewable energy lags behind the growth in demand, it will be difficult to realise the improvement of its energy structure.

[Carbon Motivated Regional Trade Agreements: Analytics and Simulations](#)

Yan Dong and John Whalley, *Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Science*, April 2009

This paper presents both analytics and numerical simulation results relevant to proposals for carbon motivated regional trade agreements summarized in Dong & Whalley (2008). Unlike traditional regional trade agreements, by lowering tariffs on participants' low carbon emission goods and setting penalties on outsiders to force them to join such agreements, carbon motivated regional trade agreements reflect an effective merging of trade and climate change regimes, and are rising in profile as part of the post-2012 Copenhagen UNFCCC negotiation. By adding country energy extraction cost functions, we develop a multi-region general equilibrium structure with endogenously determined energy supply. We calibrate our model to business as usual scenarios for the period 2006 to 2036. Our results show that carbon motivated regional agreements can reduce global emissions, but the effect is very small and even with penalty mechanisms used, the effects are still small. This supports the basic idea in our previous policy paper that trade policy is likely to be a relatively minor consideration in climate change containment.

Creating Robinhoods: The Insurgency of the ULFA in its Early Period, Its Parallel Administration and The Role of Assamese Vernacular Press
Uddipan Dutta, WISCOMP, 2008

A part of the Discussion Paper series, this media analysis of the press reportage of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) movement in the 1980s traces the trajectory of sub-nationalism in Assam and the role of symbols in this movement. Using the metaphor of Robin Hood—a symbol of resistance and a champion of natural justice, Dutta attempts to answer two central questions. Whether the ULFA cadres were portrayed in the vernacular print media as Robinhoods? What was the role of media in the creation and/or perpetuation of this image? It specifically locates how the ideas of martyrdom, enemy and welfare as propagated by the ULFA were reported in the press stories. The study raises some pertinent questions about the complex position of media within socio-political movements.

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