



- Security Beyond Borders -

Conference on Climate Insecurities, Human Security and Social Resilience

27 – 28 August 2009

The Four Seasons Hotel, Singapore

Flooding the security literature and in the policy reviews undertaken by governments, defence and security think tanks, climate change has increasingly been documented as a ‘threat multiplier’, overstressing societies’ adaptative capacities and creating or exacerbating political instability and violence. Underlying this has been a focus on climate mitigation as a preventive strategy. Less attention, however, has been paid to the importance of adaptation and building social resilience for those communities and countries most affected by climate change, of which there are many in the Asia Pacific.

Organised by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies as part of the MacArthur Asia Security Initiative, this conference



Farmer standing over his parched field waiting for rain.

In this edition:

- Conference on Climate Insecurities, Human Security and Social Resilience
- Opening of a Centre for Non-Traditional Security and Ethnic Development in the Frontier Regions at Talimu University
- Regional Workshop on Security Sector Transformation
- Remittance Festival 2009
- NTS-PD Zhejiang University Succeeds in Application for Research Fund
- Wrap-up Seminar on ‘Climate Change and Security in Bangladesh’
- Seminar on the ‘Humanitarian Work of the Red Cross’
- Upcoming Events
- Recent Publications
- Announcements

aims to examine climate change from a human security perspective to explore social resilience at the national and regional levels. It acknowledges multiple ways of thinking about ‘human security’ in the context of climate change, adopts an interdisciplinary response, and recognises some of the important policy aspects of this debate. Its emphasis on social resilience reflects an NTS approach. It aims to reach a better understanding of the specific implications of climate change for Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia so that specific ‘climate security’ measures can be formulated. As such, strategies for climate change discussed at the conference will be multi-level as well as multilateral in nature, involving not only governments but also regional institutions, local communities and non-governmental actors.

Against the broad purpose of contributing to and advancing knowledge on climate change with a special focus on adaptation, the general objectives of this climate change and environmental security project are to, firstly, conceptualise and clarify the



relationship between social and state resilience to develop a more nuanced approach to regional climate security; and secondly, to analyse and assess regional approaches to building social resilience in the face of climate change to provide evidence-based input into the policy debate on social resilience and climate adaptation.

To 'kick-start' the climate security project, the objectives of this conference are to introduce the project to an academic and policy audience, as well as to identify and explore the key themes that will 'set the scene' for work to come, over the duration of the project.

The conference is the first conference to be held after the official launch of the Security Initiative in May. Participants of this conference are expected to be a mix of academics and policymakers.

Opening of a Centre for Non-Traditional Security and Ethnic Development in the Frontier Regions at Talimu University

19 May 2009

Prof. Yu Xiaofeng, Director of the Centre for Non-Traditional Security & Peaceful Development Studies (NTS-PD), Zhejiang University, China, has been chosen as the Chief of the Academic Committee in the Centre for Non-Traditional Security and Ethnic Development in the Frontier Regions established at Talimu University, Xinjiang, China on 19 May 2009.

The Centre in Talimu University will be a strong research partner with both the NTS-PD and the Centre for Studies of Ethnic Minorities in Lanzhou University in Northwest China. Prof. Xu Lili, Deputy Director of the Centre for Studies of Ethnic Minorities in Northwest China was selected as Executive Deputy Chief of the Centre in Talimu University. Other committee members include scholars from a wide range of research areas, such as ethnology, anthropology, Tibetology, international politics, and NTS studies.

Announcements

Call for Expressions of Interest: Think Tank Initiative

The Think Tank Initiative invites applications from eligible organisations in South Asia and Latin America that are committed to using research to inform and influence social and economic policy. The Initiative will provide multi-year core funding and technical support to successful think tanks. The Call for Expressions of Interest was launched by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) on 27 July 2009. The deadline for applications is 28 September 2009.

Please visit the [Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace's \(WISCOMP\) website](#) for more information.

NTS-Asia Research Fellowship 2009 Research Fellows

The 2009 NTS-Asia Research Fellows are Dr Deepali Gaur Singh, Mr Hamid-ur-Rehman and Ms Siti Masyitah Rahmah. More information on the 2009 research fellowship process and the research projects by this year's Research Fellows can be found on pages 7 and 8.

Regional Workshop on Security Sector Transformation

12-14 May 2009

Regional Centre for Strategic Studies

The Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) collaborated with the Global Facilitation Network for Security Sector Reform (SSR), the Democratic Control of Armed Forces / International Security Sector Advisory Team in Geneva, the Institute for Strategic and Defence Studies in the Philippines and the Centre for South Asian Studies in Nepal, to organise a Regional Workshop and Training Session on Security Sector Transformation (SST) from 12-14 May 2009, in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop was conducted under the activities of the Association for Security Sector Reforms Education and Training, of which RCSS is a founding member.

Prof. Amal Jayawardane, Executive Director, participated on behalf of RCSS, delivered the welcome remarks and chaired panel discussions.

The workshop brought together 25 participants exclusively from civil society organisations from 11 countries in South and Southeast Asia in a bid to assist civil society organisations in the region to discuss security sector transformation issues in South and Southeast Asia, and to develop their own training materials, to be used both regionally and nationally.

The Kathmandu workshop was a follow-up to the Security Sector Reform Training Workshop held in Manila in December 2008, where the need to conduct similar SST training in South Asia had been identified. On the first day, participants were offered an overview of the key policies and principles of SST and the various contexts within which SST is conducted. Through the use of case studies, participants were then introduced to various SST related issues in four South and Southeast Asian countries. The key focus on the second day was on SST training. Participants were then introduced to the specific skills and methodologies required to design and deliver SST training and were offered hands-on training in designing and delivering SST modules. The third day highlighted various trends and

processes of STT in the region and explored possibilities for future collaboration.

The workshop was unique as several participants from the Manila training programme were invited to design and deliver training sessions at the workshop. As such, the introductory session on key SST policies and principles, and 4 case studies on the region were conducted by participants. In preparation for the workshop, ISSAT's training team worked closely with these participants to help them design and deliver their respective sessions. The four case studies delivered by participants dealt with the following issues: Security Sector Transformation in the Tribal Areas: Case Study of the Frontier Crimes Regulation in Pakistan; Policing Organised Crime in India: A Case Study of the Mumbai Police; Reforming without Transforming: Challenges and Opportunities for Security Sector Transformation in the Philippines; and Human Rights and Justice Reform in Cambodia. Through these case studies, the organisers hoped to gain more insight on key SSR issues in the region and also encourage discussion and comparison across sub-regions.

The workshop ended with a round-table discussion that identified trends and best practices related to SST, and as presented during the previous two days, in South and Southeast Asia.

Remittance Festival 2009

10 August 2009

The Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit

Migrants and the remittances sent by them are an integral part of Bangladesh's economy. Since the 1970s more than 6.5 million Bangladeshis have migrated to the Gulf, Southeast Asia and other countries in the world as contract migrant workers. Their income sustains millions of households and through them Bangladesh receives much needed foreign exchange. In 2008, remittances reached US\$ 9.2 billion. This is two times higher than the net earnings of the ready-made garments sector of that year, nine times more than Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and five times more than the foreign aid received by the country. Despite a widening trade deficit and relatively low flows of FDI, for the last five consecutive years the country's balance of





payments remained in surplus. This has happened because of the increased inflow of remittances. The global recession of 2008 affected the current account balances of all South Asian countries, except Bangladesh, again due to the continuous flow of remittances. Migrants, who have placed the country on such a strong foothold, should be regarded as the freedom fighters of today. They are the golden sons and daughters of the country; and there is a need to formally recognise and honour their contributions to the country.

It is with this in mind that the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) hosted a mega Remittance Utshab at the ‘Hall of Fame’ auditorium of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre on 10 August 2009. At this festival RMMRU conferred migrant workers and their families, and grassroots level officials with awards. Bank officials, recruiting agency representatives and Union Parishad members were given the Shonar Manush Sheba award. Migrant families were awarded with the Shera

Remittance Baboharkari award for the productive utilisation of remittances. Of significant note was the bestowing of the Shonar Manush award to a returnee migrant for establishing a successful remittances enterprise.

Migrants Rights Protection Committee members, left-behind families, returnee migrants, grassroots level bank officials, DEMO officials of Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training and organisations participated in the fair. This festival was supported by the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment, the Bangladesh Bank, BMET, the Department for International Development, the Manusher Jonno Foundation, other governmental organisations, private banks and exchange houses.

More information on the festival can be found on [RMMRU’s website](#).

Announcement



CSDS’ Professor Yogendra Yadav Awarded Global South Solidarity Award

The International Political Science Association has honoured Professor Yogendra Yadav, Senior Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), India, with the Global South Solidarity Award “in recognition of outstanding work on the politics of the developing world”. This award was presented (in absentia) at the closing ceremony of the 21st World Congress of Political Science held in Santiago, Chile, on 16 July 2009.

The International Political Science Association (IPSA) is the only world-wide association of professional political scientists. Founded in 1949 with the help of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the IPSA organizes a World Congress of Political Science at different places in the world once every three years. The latest World Congress was hosted by the Chilean Political Science Association in Santiago in mid July?.

The award was made on the recommendation of the Committee on Awards of the International Political Science Association. The Committee comprised Jorge Heine (Chair), Leslie Pal, Irmina Matonyte, Hideo Otake and Anton Bebler.

For more information on the award, please visit the Lokniti website at http://www.lokniti.org/gss_award_for_professor_yogendra_yadav.html

**NTS-PD Zhejiang University Succeeds in
Application for Research Fund**

2 January 2009

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

The Centre for NTS-PD of Zhejiang University successfully applied for the Philosophy Social Sciences Research Fund Projects of the Chinese Ministry of Education in December 2008.

The winning Project titled 'A Research on Building Abilities for Responding to Non-Traditional Security Threats in China' is headed by Prof. Yu Xiaofeng, Director of the NTS-PD. Its main aim is to learn and construct policy-oriented theories and frameworks with regard to NTS issues, as well as to enhance Security Sector Reform in China. This should in the end lead to the building of a system and structure which will increase China's capability in handling NTS challenges, and enhance its cooperation with wider regional and global actors in the area of security governance.

In this project, Prof. Yu will be joined by Prof. Mi Hong, Deputy Director of the NTS-PD; Prof. Wang Yizhou, Honorary Director of the NTS-PD; Prof. Zhu Feng, Academic Advisor; Prof. Hu Shuigen, Research Fellow; Prof. Chen Guoquan, Research Fellow; and Dr Cui Shunji, Research Fellow.

**Wrap-up Seminar on 'Climate Change and
Security in Bangladesh'**

12 August 2009

***Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic
Studies***

A Wrap-up Seminar on 'Climate Change and Security in Bangladesh' was jointly organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and Saferworld, UK at the BISS Auditorium on 12 August 2009. The objective of the seminar was to present to a larger audience, research findings and recommendations on a study of the potential impact of climate change on security and conflict in Bangladesh.

The study found that climate change appears to have a number of negative effects on the economic livelihoods, health and food security of the local population. In turn, these problems fuel increased tension, crime and violence as livelihoods break down and competition for resources intensifies. Bangladeshis are used to dealing with naturally occurring hazards and have developed numerous coping strategies. However, their increasing frequency and intensity is now threatening to overwhelm these coping mechanisms, causing more people to migrate away from their homes, either temporarily or permanently. Field research provided evidence that an influx of migrants was leading to greater competition for resources in destination areas. No primary field research was carried out on the possible links between climate change and regional migration. Nonetheless, there are concerns that climate change will force ever greater numbers of Bangladeshis to migrate out of the country, mostly illegally. The most common destination will be India, and such migration could become a very sensitive issue in bilateral diplomatic relations and has the potential to contribute to regional instability.

In view of these findings, the study made recommendations to mitigate the problems. Among others, they included promoting a cross-governmental approach to climate change and security, ensuring that all climate change adaptation and development programming is conflict sensitive, integrate analyses of the predicted impact of climate change into all future conflict analyses, strengthen the capacity of local governments, begin a debate on the balance between mitigation and adaptation policies, as well as adopt a regional approach to combating climate change and managing migration.

Advocate Mostafizur Rahman, MP, Honourable State Minister for Land, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The seminar was attended by foreign diplomats, representatives from international organisations, the academe, the media, government organisations, businessmen, civil society organisations and NGOs as well as other concerned professionals. The participants also included Mr Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, Dr A. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and Mr Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Journalist and International Analyst.





*Seminar on
'The Humanitarian Work of the Red Cross'*

19 August 2009

*Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies,
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies*



*Col. (Retd) Chua during a presentation on the
history of the International Red Cross
Movement*

Introduction

On 11 December 2008, the United Nations General Assembly designated 19 August as World Humanitarian Day in recognition of the work carried out by humanitarian personnel worldwide. To commemorate the first World Humanitarian Day, Secretary-General of the Singapore Red Cross, Col. (Retd) Christopher Chua introduced the Red Cross as an international movement and spoke about the local and overseas work carried out by the organisation. Finally, he addressed the challenges facing humanitarian work.

Presentation

Red Cross as an International Movement

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an independent, neutral organisation ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of war and armed violence. In situations of armed conflict, the ICRC coordinates the response by the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Red Crescent Societies are so-named to accommodate Islamic countries and have similar functions as

National Red Cross Societies. The ICRC is mostly funded by states and supra-national organisations such as the European Commission.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is the world's largest humanitarian organisation that operates in non-conflict areas. The organisation was founded in 1919 and focuses on promoting humanitarian principles, disaster response, disaster preparedness and health. It has a unique network of 186 National Societies with 100 million volunteers and is funded through annual funding appeals, emergency appeals and statutory contributions by the Red Cross National Societies. As one of the 186 National Societies, the Singapore Red Cross (SRC) is a voluntary organisation and an auxiliary of the Singapore government. Its overseas work is focused on medical missions, relief distribution and reconstruction in the recovery phase of a disaster.

Challenges of Humanitarian Work

During the initial stages of a natural disaster where assistance may be most urgently required, humanitarian operations tend to be hampered by a ***paucity of information***. Apart from information gathered from the Red Cross National Society located in the affect country, the SRC tries to seek alternative sources of information, such as business networks. Further, as the Red Cross requires approval from the host government before it can proceed to the disaster area, the speed of communication in the aftermath of a disaster is crucial. Hence, destruction of communications and transportation infrastructure would also hamper humanitarian missions.

In addition, there are ***issues of logistics and coordination*** depending on the scale of the disaster and the accessibility of the affected areas. In order to ensure aid packages reach the disaster victims rapidly, the SRC partners the Singapore Armed Forces as the military is well-equipped to rapidly transport aid packages via military planes. However, as numerous humanitarian workers and aid enter the receiving country, the local authorities will have to establish a coordination centre to oversee and coordinate all humanitarian missions to minimise confusion and ensure swift distribution of relief supplies.

Lastly, the *availability of funding* is a major challenge as fund raising in the aftermath of a disaster requires time and the eventual funds raised may be insufficient to last till the recovery phase. Hence, it may be advisable to establish a general disaster fund that can be used to stockpile food and emergency supplies in the initial stages of a disaster, while additional funds raised in the aftermath of the disaster can be used for rebuilding purposes.

Discussion

One participant wanted to know whether the Red Cross works with paramilitaries and insurgents in situations of armed conflict. Col. (Retd) Chua replied that the dynamics in conflict zones require the ICRC to work with not just the government, but also the paramilitaries and insurgents, in order to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected people. However, the ICRC would not divulge the

whereabouts of the insurgents to the authorities.

Another question was raised concerning the role of the SRC in a pandemic crisis. As the Singapore government coordinates pandemic preparedness and response plans at the national level, the SRC assists in temperature checks and the delivery of essential supplies to the people under home quarantine. On the regional level, the SRC shares its business continuity plans with partners in other countries and conducts training in basic healthcare and hygiene.

Finally, a participant interested in volunteering for the SRC asked how the organisation selects its volunteers. Col. (Retd) Chua replied that it is most important to have the passion for humanitarian work as skills and training can be acquired. The SRC conducts courses for volunteers in areas such as psycho-social training, first aid, logistics, and regional cultural sensitivities.

Announcement (continued from page 2)

NTS-Asia Research Fellowship 2009 Research Fellows

The 2009 NTS-Asia Research Fellowship has received 26 proposals, 11 more than last year and double the number of applications received in its maiden year in 2007. This year's applicants come from diverse backgrounds, of which three proposed topics are related to Northeast Asia, nine topics related to Southeast Asia, and 14 related to South Asia. Out of these, the consortium selection committee chose three based on the strength of their research proposals. They are, namely:

Deepali Gaur Singh

Deepali Gaur Singh is a Bangalore-based (in Karnataka, India) academic and media practitioner. She is the author of the book *Drugs Production and Trafficking in Afghanistan*, published by Pentagon Press which focuses on the economy and politics of Afghanistan, and in particular, the effects of the narcotics trade on the security and stability of the region as well as globally. She has a M.Phil. and Ph.D. on Tajikistan and Afghanistan from the Central Asian Studies Division, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Deepali is also a filmmaker and photographer. She has made a film on the situation of immigrants in Germany where she studied at the University of Hanover while on a DAAD scholarship. She has been a member of the Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Heidelberg, Germany as a scholarship holder.

Dr Singh is currently engaged on research on the Afghan diaspora. Her topic as an NTS-Asia Research Fellow is **Afghan Women in the Diaspora: Surviving Identity and Alienation**. Her NTS-Asia institute of choice is WISCOMP, India.





Hamid ur-Rehman

Mr Hamid-ur-Rehman holds a master's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication and has under his belt over 15-years of journalistic experience with three prestigious English-language dailies in Pakistan. He worked as sub-editor with the daily *The Frontier Post*, Lahore, from February 1992 to March 1994. He joined *The Nation*, Islamabad, as senior sub-editor in March 1994 and worked with the organisation as city editor, sports editor and on the main national news desk till December 2006. Mr Rehman attended the South Asia Journalists Fellowship (1 April – 17 September 2006) in Seoul, South Korea. In June 2006, he participated in one-month Korea Press Foundation Fellowship that developed his interest in North-South Korean unification, as well as related security and other issues. During his stay in Korea, Mr Rehman also interviewed former South Korean President and Nobel Peace Prize winner for the year 2000, Kim Dae-jung.

Mr Rehman's topic during his fellowship term will be **Food and Human Security Issues: North and South Korea**. His NTS-Asia Institute of choice is IIRI, University of Korea.

Siti Masyitah Rahma

Siti Masyitah Rahma has been working at the Health and Welfare Department of the Central Board of Muhammadiyah since 2005. Since her university days, Ms Rahma has been active in the Muhammadiyah, which is the largest Islamic civil society organisation in Indonesia. She joined the Muhammadiyah Student Association in 1999 and volunteered in its social programme. In 2007, she pursued her Masters in Development Studies at the University of New South Wales, Australia. She then went on to join the Avian Influenza Control Team of Muhammadiyah for two and a half years as Programme Manager, where she designed, supervised the implementation, advocacy and monitoring the programme.

She has published Muhammadiyah's Guide Book on Avian influenza Awareness for Facilitators and is interested in humanitarian work, interfaith dialogue and health promotion, especially at the community/grassroots level. Ms Rahma's topic during her fellowship term will be **The Role of NGOs in Combating Avian Influenza in Indonesia: A Muhammadiyah Case Study**. Her NTS-Asia institute of choice is CSIS, Jakarta.

More information on this year's NTS-Asia research fellows can be found on the [NTS-Asia website](#).

Upcoming Events

Conference on 'Climate Insecurities, Human Security and Social Resilience'

Date: 27 – 28 August 2009

Venue: The Four Seasons Hotel, Singapore

Organised by: RSIS Centre for NTS Studies

Please visit the [RSIS Centre for NTS Studies website](#) for more information.

Seminar on 'From Winning the War to Winning Peace: Postwar Rebuilding of the Society in Sri Lanka'

Date: 28-29 August 2009

Venue: Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Organised by: The Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS)

The seminar which is organised by RCSS in collaboration with the Centre for Security Analysis (CSA) in Chennai, India, is expected to provide a unique opportunity to discuss some of the key aspects of the post-conflict peace-building process in Sri Lanka. Eminent experts and academics from Sri Lanka and India are scheduled to participate in the two day event, focusing on the themes of *Economic Reconstruction, Socio-ethnic Cohesion and Political Accommodation*.

Please visit the [RCSS website](#) for more information.

Painting Walls to Mark International Peace Day

Date: 7 September 2009

Venue: Kantale, Sri Lanka

Organised by RCSS

RCSS, as the regional initiator for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict – South Asia (GPPAC-SA) is organising a wall painting activity in the town of Kantale, in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. The event will bring together youths from over 13 schools in the area who come from the Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim communities. The event will coincide with the International Peace Day observances on 12 September. This activity will also be a first in the area that will gather youths of different ethnicities and religions together for over a period of five to seven days. Please visit the [RCSS website](#) for more information.

An International Conference on ‘The Nexus of Traditional & Non-Traditional Security Dynamics: Chinese Experiences Meet Global Challenges’

Date: 18 – 20 September 2009
Venue: Zhejiang University National Science Park, Hangzhou, China
Organised by: The Centre for Non-Traditional Security & Peaceful Development Studies (NTS-PD), Zhejiang University, China

Please visit the [NTS-PD website](#) for more information.

Announcement

Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit Receives Distinguished Award

The Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) received the **Migration Sector Development Award 2008** at the Non-Resident Bangladeshis’ (NRB) Human Capital Development and Opportunities Conference 2009 NRB Human Capital Development and Opportunities Conference 2009 organised by Scholars Bangladesh. The award was conferred on RMMRU by Mr A M A Muhith MP, Honourable Minister for Finance, Bangladesh Government, at the concluding session of the conference on 4 July 2009. The award was given to RMMRU in recognition of their persistence and success in bringing migration into mainstream policy agenda through 15 years of research and advocacy, and for creating a voice for labour migrants. Visit [RMMRU's website](#) for more information.

‘Global Health Security: Role of Strong Health Systems’ by Dr Tikki Pang of the World Health Organization

Date: First quarter of 2010
Venue: RSIS, Singapore
Organised by: RSIS Centre for NTS Studies

The world currently faces a diverse array of serious, trans-national and inter-sectoral health threats ranging from pandemic influenza to the health impacts of climate change and the spread of unhealthy lifestyles and substances leading to epidemics of chronic diseases. As the major international public health agency, the World Health Organization (WHO) has a major responsibility to its 193 Member States in preparing and responding to these threats to health security and human development. Its diverse roles range from providing technical advice on specific issues, to the collection and dissemination of knowledge and the setting of norms and standards, and also to act as a neutral broker in convening dialogue platforms around important issues. Although many of the serious health threats are global in nature, an efficient and sustainable national health system is at the core of a country's capabilities to deal with health crises. Therefore, the strengthening of health systems, especially in the developing world, is a key WHO priority. In an increasingly globalised world, WHO aspires to achieve the highest possible level of health for all people by emphasising the values of equity, solidarity, inclusiveness, transparency and democracy.

The speaker, Dr Tikki Pang is presently Director of Research Policy & Cooperation at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to joining the WHO, he was Professor of Biomedical Sciences at the Institute of Postgraduate Studies & Research, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He holds a Ph.D. in Immunology-Microbiology from the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists (UK), Institute of Biology (UK), American Academy of Microbiology (USA), Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, and Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS); and a Member of the International Molecular Biology Network (IMBN). Also, he is currently Secretary, WHO Research Ethics Review Committee, and Secretary, WHO





Advisory Committee on Health Research. He has published more than 200 scientific articles and seven books. His research interests are in epidemiology, pathogenesis, laboratory diagnosis and prevention of infectious diseases, health research policy, health

research systems, best practices in research, development of research capabilities in developing countries, and linkages between research and policy.

Recent Publications

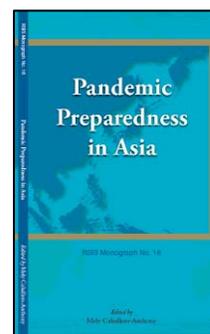
Monographs and Working Papers

Pandemic Preparedness in Asia

12 – 13 January 2009, Marina Mandarin Hotel, Singapore

It is not known when, or where, the next deadly infectious disease will emerge, or how it will spread around the world. Are Asian countries prepared for a pandemic? How are National Pandemic Preparedness Plans to be operationalised at the local level? Are there critical gaps in current planning? Which indicators can accurately determine comprehensive pandemic preparedness frameworks? What are the roles of different societal actors and how are they defined? What are the prospects of enhancing regional cooperation in preparing for pandemics and other public health emergencies?

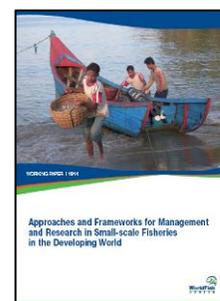
These are some of the questions that this monograph aims to address. It does so by bringing together selected papers presented at a conference on Pandemic Preparedness in Asia, held in Singapore in January 2009. The conference was an integral part of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies' broader project on understanding and assessing the capacity of states and societies in Asia to manage transnational threats, as well as to contribute to the development of crises-management mechanisms in the region.



Approaches and Frameworks for Management and Research in Small-scale Fisheries in the Developing World

Neil Andrew, Luisa Evans, Working Paper, The Worldfish Center, 2009

Commonly adopted approaches to managing small-scale fisheries (SSFs) in developing countries do not ensure sustainability. Progress is impeded by a gap between innovative SSF research and slower-moving SSF management. The paper aims to bridge the gap by showing that the three primary bases of SSF management - ecosystem, stakeholders' rights and resilience - are mutually consistent and complementary. It nominates the ecosystem approach as an appropriate starting point because it is established in national and international law and policy. The paper introduces three management implementation frameworks that can lend structure and order to research and management regardless of the management approach chosen. Finally, it outlines possible research approaches to overcome the heretofore limited capacity of fishery research to integrate across ecological, social and economic dimensions and so better serve the management objective of avoiding fishery failure by nurturing and preserving the ecological, social and institutional attributes that enable it to renew and re-organise itself.



Research Papers and Policy Briefs

[Human Trafficking and Infectious Diseases: A Critical Reflection on International Cooperation](#)

Nur Azha Putra, *NTS Insight*, July 2009

The H1N1 outbreak triggered a worldwide coordinated response led by the World Health Organization. Although the full impact of this influenza pandemic has yet to be determined, the scenario in general is one of optimism because the response of the international community suggests solidarity. However, the same cannot be said on the issue of human trafficking where international response appears disjointed. Why the differentiated response? Why are states more cooperative in mitigating infectious disease as opposed to human trafficking? This NTS Insight edition examines states' behaviour in the context of international cooperation.



['Push' and 'Pull': The Determinants of Piracy off the Horn of Africa](#)

Mely Caballero-Anthony, Alistair D.B. Cook, Roderick Chia, Pau Khan Khup, Kevin Punzalan, *NTS Alert*, August 1/2009

Much attention has been given to the phenomenon of piracy off the Horn of Africa since 2008. The overwhelming response thus far has been the deployment of naval forces by some of the world's major maritime states to combat the pirates, thereby showcasing a high-handed traditional military response. While this has succeeded in reducing attacks, piracy has not been eliminated because such an approach is inadequate in addressing its roots causes.



[Putting Food on the International Table](#)

Mely Caballero-Anthony, Irene Kuntjoro, Sofiah Jamil, *NTS Alert*, July 2/2009

Based on the recent Group of Eight (G8) Summit held in Italy, this issue of the Alert will examine international deliberations on food security with a focus on the efforts and challenges facing the G8 and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in formulating comprehensive solutions to address food security. In the section on ASEAN, we highlight ASEAN negotiations with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and examine ASEAN's strategic action plan on food security.



[Water Woes and Food Security](#)

Mely Caballero-Anthony, Irene Kuntjoro, Sofiah Jamil, *NTS Alert*, July 1/2009

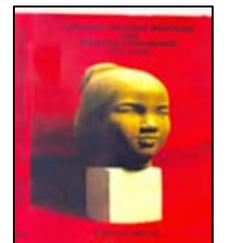
This NTS-Alert examines the nexus between water management and food security in Asia and how climate change exacerbates the adverse impacts that result from poor water management. It then highlights the case of the Mekong River as an example of the dilemma of states and communities in utilizing the river as a source of food, water and energy.



[Chinese Women Writers and Gender Discourse, 1976-1996](#)

Sabaree Mitra, Book, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 2008

This volume seeks to contextualise the activities and writings of contemporary Chinese women writers in the light of wider socio-economic and cultural changes over the period from 1976 to 1996. Until recently, Chinese women writers rarely used the discourse of gender as a relational category. That they have now begun to do so reflects a new consciousness of the role of gender bias in society, and a commitment to changing public





perceptions and stereotypical gender norms. With Chinese women's organisations re-thinking their positions both in relation to the State and in relation to contemporary theoretical debates in Gender Studies, it is important to appreciate the new role played by a large number of Chinese women writers and to evaluate their active contribution to the women's cause.

Green Dam on the Back Burner

Anurag Viswanath, *Business Standard Article*, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 3 August 2009

The article relates the story of the stalled Green Dam project. The project was part of a directive issued by the Chinese Government that made it mandatory for a web-content filtering software known as the Green Dam to be installed into every new computer bought after 1 July in the country. This sparked a furious public backlash which led to the project being placed on the backburner.

Climate Change: Research to Meet the Challenges Facing Fisheries and Aquaculture

The Worldfish Center, *Policy Brief*, 2009

Climate change poses new challenges to the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture systems, with serious implications for the 520 million people who depend on them for their livelihoods and the nearly 3 billion people for whom fish is an important source of animal protein.



Fisheries and Aquaculture in a Changing Climate

The Worldfish Center, *Joint Policy Brief*, 2009

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 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP-15 in Copenhagen, December 2009.



Government Policies and Private Enterprise Development in China: 2003-2006

Shiyong Zhao, *China & World Economy*, Volume 17 Issue 4, pp. 36-52

The relationship between government policy and economic development has been a long-standing topic of academic research and policy debate. The government of a transitional economy plays an important role in the process of economic development. Over the past three decades, the Chinese economy has been growing very rapidly, in particular because of the rapid development of the private sector. However, the performance of private enterprises is still affected by government policies. In the present paper, we examine the changes in large Chinese private enterprises' performance during the period 2003–2006, and test the determinants of such changes. We conclude that the Chinese Government's discriminating policies against private enterprises are the main cause of the private sector's downturn.

Solution to the Dilemma of the Migrant Labor Shortage and the Rural Labor Surplus in China

Guifu Chen, Shigeyuki Hamori, *China & World Economy*, Volume 17 Issue 4, pp. 53 – 71

Since 2003, China's labour market has been facing two co-existing crises: a rural labour surplus and a severe shortage of migrant labour. Using data from the 2000 China Health and Nutrition Survey questionnaire, which covers 288 villages in 36 countries, this paper attempts to find a solution to this dilemma. Specifically, a

multinomial logit model, a Mincer-type model and a probit model are applied to examine the effect of educational level on the employment choices for rural labourers, and on the wages and the employment status of migrants. Based on the results of our analysis, we propose the implementation of policy aimed at increasing the educational level of rural dwellers, in conjunction with other policies to eliminate all artificial barriers, to facilitate the migration of rural labourers.

[Budget Structure and Pollution Control: A Cross-country Analysis and Implications for China](#)
[Li Zhang, Xinye Zheng, China & World Economy, Volume 17 Issue 4, pp. 88-103](#)

In published literature, the differences in environmental performance across countries are typically explained using the Environmental Kuznets Curve. The Environmental Kuznets Curve states that pollution initially increases with economic growth. Once GDP per capita reaches a certain level, the relationship reverses. In the present paper, we provide an alternative hypothesis, where budget structure plays an important role in explaining the variations in pollution across the world: the lower the business-related taxes as a share of total tax revenue, the higher the property tax in total tax revenue and the higher the ratio of public health expenditure in total expenditure, then the stronger the incentive for pollution control and the lower the pollution level. Our empirical findings reveal that the budget structure does have an important impact on pollution control. The policy implication of this research is that effective control of environmental pollution requires changes in tax structure and expenditure assignment. This research has important policy implications for China's tax system reform and pollution control efforts.

Commentaries

[Migrant Workers and the Right to Labour](#)

Nur Azha Putra, *RSIS Commentaries* 82/2009, 19 August 2009

[Why Did the Voters Vote?](#)

Sunny Tanuwidjaja, *The Jakarta Post*, 14 August 2009

[Aung San Suu Kyi's Verdict: Implications for ASEAN](#)

Alistair D.B. Cook and Mely Caballero-Anthony, *RSIS Commentaries* 79/2009, 12 August 2009

[Unsurprising Election Landslide, Uncertain Future](#)

Sunny Tanuwidjaja, *The Jakarta Post*, 11 July 2009

[Oil Pipeline from Myanmar to China: Competing Perspectives](#)

Zha Daojiong, *RSIS Commentaries* 74/2009, 24 July 2009

NTS Asia Secretariat

Secretary- General
Mely Caballero Anthony

Programme Officer
Cheryl Lim

Research Analyst / Webmaster
Sofiah Jamil

Associate Research Fellow
Irene Kuntjoro



Editorial Team

Mely Caballero- Anthony
Cheryl Lim
Sofiah Jamil
Irene Kuntjoro

www.rsis-ntsasia.org
www.rsis.edu.sg/nts

NTS_Centre@ntu.edu.sg

