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Issues:

- THE THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER DISPUTE – CHALLENGES TO ASEAN DIPLOMACY
- HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT
- MIGRATION
- TRANSNATIONAL CRIME
- WATER SECURITY

Note: Please click on the respective titles or headers for the full report.

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MAIN HIGHLIGHT

The Thai-Cambodian Border Dispute – Challenges to ASEAN Diplomacy

The Thai-Cambodian border once again became the site of violent clashes between the countries' militaries in April. Following bloody clashes at the disputed site adjacent to the Preah Vihear temple on 4–7 February 2011 that saw an estimated 10 people killed, violence erupted again on 22 April despite a ceasefire, with 18 people thought to have been killed and 85,000 people displaced on either side of the border since that day, in the worst fighting witnessed in decades. The recent clashes took place approximately 150 km from Preah Vihear, around the temples of Ta Moan and Ta Krabey in an area claimed by both sides.

There was a significant – if not tempered – amount of optimism displayed in the initial stages of Indonesia's engagement with Thailand and Cambodia (Indonesia is the current chair of ASEAN), with the disputing parties agreeing on 22 February to a historic agreement for unarmed Indonesian observers to be allowed onto the disputed territory to monitor a ceasefire. While Cambodia had requested the UN Security Council's (UNSC) intervention following the February clashes – leading to concerns of ASEAN being sidelined – the UNSC's endorsement of ASEAN's central role in the dispute's settlement was seen to have bolstered Indonesia's

position. Although more than two months later, the observers remain on stand-by in Jakarta – leading to serious concerns regarding ASEAN's capacity to shape the trajectory of the conflict's settlement – there have been positive developments since, with a trilateral meeting on 9 May involving the respective foreign ministers that led to the tentative endorsement of a 'roadmap' for the dispute's resolution. The roadmap was presented in the form of a package proposal, which dealt with issues including the terms of reference of the Indonesian observer mission, the necessity of holding a General Border Committee (GBC) meeting, and the withdrawal of troops from the disputed areas. The Cambodian government has since approved the peace solution.

There are clearly high stakes associated with the border dispute and its settlement. At the heart of the issue is the credibility of ASEAN as a viable regional organisation and its much vaunted goal of achieving an integrated 'community' – politically, economically and culturally – by 2015.

Ultimately, it is increasingly difficult to argue against those that posit that the conflict is a critical litmus test for ASEAN. If the organisation eventually fails to establish an environment conducive to a long-term bilateral solution, it risks setting a dangerous precedent, undermining the body's role in future dispute settlement. Despite the somewhat promising package proposal, given that Thailand's upcoming general elections are slated for 3 July – and due to the domestic political concerns that invariably come into play – the immediate trajectory of the dispute's resolution will by no means be predictable.

Additional Info:

- 'Thai-Cambodia Clashes Continue, Toll Rises', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 April 2011.
- Adamrah, Mustaqim, 'Thai-Cambodian Border Clash an "Embarrassment for ASEAN"', *The Jakarta Post*, 2 May 2011.
- 'Thailand's General Election: Shirt v Shirt', *The Economist*, 5 May 2011.
- 'Border Disputes, Myanmar May Eclipse ASEAN's Progress', *The Jakarta Post*, 5 May 2011.
- 'Effective Mechanism Needed for ASEAN to Settle Cambodian, Thai Border Row', *The Philippine Star*, 6 May 2011.
- Sullivan, Boris, 'Thailand and Cambodia Agree to Roadmap for Troop Withdrawal', *Thailand Business News*, 11 May 2011.
- 'Thai-Cambodian Border Observers in Doubt', *UPI*, 11 May 2011.
- Krumova, Kremena, 'Thai-Cambodia Conflict Does Not End at the Border', *The Epoch Times*, 13 May 2011.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

News & Commentaries

- Sagayam, Andrew, 'More Info Needed on NGO Used for Human Trafficking, Say Police', *The Malay Mail*, 4 April 2011.
- Escalante, Shirley, 'Philippines, Thailand Combat Drugs and Human Trafficking Trade', *ABC Radio Australia News*, 19 April 2011.
- 'Business Zero-tolerance for Trafficking', *CNN*, 20 April 2011 [video clip].
- 'Feds File Human-trafficking Suit against Farm Labor Contractor', *CNN*, 21 April 2011.
- 'Serbia Sent Organ Probe Proposal to UN', *Kosovo Compromise*, 21 April 2011.
- Kristof, Nicholas D., 'What about American Girls Sold on the Streets?', *The New York Times*, 23 April 2011.
- Cohen, Elaine, 'trafficking for Begging: Old Game, New Game', *CSRwire*, 25 April 2011.
- Graham, Euan, 'transnational Crime in the Fishing Industry: Asia's Problem?', *RSIS Commentaries*, 25 April 2011.
- 'PDRM Shares Expertise to Curb Human Trafficking', *Bernama*, 4 May 2011.
- 'ASEAN to Strengthen Fight against Human Trafficking', *Channel NewsAsia*, 6 May 2011.



Selected Publications

- Kendall, Virginia M., 2011, 'Greasing the Palm: An Argument for an Increased Focus on Public Corruption in the Fight against International Human Trafficking', *Cornell International Law Journal*, Vol. 44, No. 1.

This article discusses the thorny issue of complicity by public authorities in trafficking in persons. By examining the links between public corruption and human trafficking, it highlights the gap in law enforcement against public officials. The article concludes by making proposals to improve public accountability such as through the Anti-Bribery Convention and inter-state mutual legal assistance treaties.

- Yamane, Takeshi, 2011, 'Promoting Regional Cooperation without Local Capability: Combating Trafficking in Persons in Southeast Asia', Paper presented at the *International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention*, Montreal, Canada, 16–19 March.

This article discusses the transnational impact of globalisation on the trafficking of persons. The article has a specific Southeast Asian focus on the issue of trafficking. In addition to reiterating the role of criminal law enforcement, the piece highlights the need to emphasise protection of victims and their human rights.

- Schloenhardt, Andreas and Mark Loong, 2011, 'Return and Reintegration of Human Trafficking Victims from Australia', *International Journal of Refugee Law*, Vol. 23, No. 2, pp. 143–73.

This article uses Australia as a case study to examine the extent to which victims of human trafficking are subject to return and reintegration processes, a commonly under-represented consideration across policy and literature concerning trafficking in persons. It studies the extent to which these processes are integrated into the core anti-trafficking themes of prevention, protection and prosecution.

Events & Announcements

- '11th High-level Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference', 20–21 June 2011, Hofburg, Vienna.
- 'Judicial Colloquium on Human Trafficking and Forced Labour for Magistrates', 8–9 August 2011, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT

News & Commentaries

- 'Conflict Leads to Afghan Displacement, but Which Side Most to Blame?', *IRIN*, 21 April 2011.
- 'Cambodia-Thailand: 36,000 Displaced by Deadly Border Clashes', *IRIN*, 25 April 2011.
- 'U.N. Panel: Sri Lanka War Crimes Allegations Credible', *CNN*, 26 April 2011.
- 'Bangladesh: Chittagong Rights Violations Continue, Says UN', *IRIN*, 28 April 2011.
- 'Thai-Cambodia Clashes Resume despite Truce', *BBC*, 29 April 2011.



- Pitsuwan, Surin, 'Asia Taming the Cycle of Conflict and Misery', *The Jakarta Post*, 3 May 2011.
- Simons, Marlise and Neil MacFarquhar, 'Hague Court Seeks Warrants for Libyan Officials', *The New York Times*, 4 May 2011.
- 'ASEAN Begins Accepting Rule of Law despite Conflicts', *The Jakarta Post*, 4 May 2011.
- Lutfia, Ismira, 'Violence, Conflict Fueling Poverty: World Bank', *The Jakarta Globe*, 5 May 2011.
- 'Libyan Regime: Tribal Meeting Shows Signs of Support for Qaddafi', *AP*, 5 May 2011.
- 'Syria: US Warns Damascus over Protest Killings', *BBC*, 7 May 2011.

Selected Publications

- Kraft, Herman Joseph S., 2011, *Establishing Good Security Sector Governance in Southeast Asia*, Asia Security Initiative Policy Series No. 14, Singapore: RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies.

This paper takes a timely look at security sector governance (SSG) in light of ASEAN's goal to establish a security community. It argues that instituting SSG, and understanding its limitations and the problems of implementation are critical for ASEAN's success in promoting peace and security in the Asian region.

- Bellamy, Alex J. and Mark Beeson, 2010, 'The Responsibility to Protect in Southeast Asia: Can ASEAN Reconcile Humanitarianism and Sovereignty?', *Asian Security*, Vol. 6, No. 3, pp. 262–79.

This paper analyses the prospect of the diffusion of the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) concept in Southeast Asia where states uphold the principle of non-intervention. Although states in the region are still reluctant to fully accept the RtoP concept due to their colonial past and domestic concerns, the manner in which ASEAN responded to Cyclone Nargis has been viewed as a step forward. In addition, the ASEAN Charter provides a legal basis for the localisation of the RtoP.

Events & Announcements

- '4th International Summit on Conflict Resolution Education', 8–13 June 2011, Cleveland, US.
- 'PGL 2011, Peace without Boundaries', 22–23 October 2011, Kansai, Japan.

[^ To the top](#)

MIGRATION

News & Commentaries

- Samvisal, Chrin, 'ASEAN Increase Effort to Ease Migration Issues', *The South East Asia Weekly*, 11 April 2011.
- 'ILO Welcomes Indonesian Jobs Pact', *International Labour Organization (ILO)*, 13 April 2011.
- 'Mekong River Wins Temporary Reprieve', *IRIN*, 20 April 2011.
- 'Draw Up Plan, Save Workers', *The Daily Star*, 21 April 2011.
- 'Involuntary Repatriation of Refugees – A Bad Idea', *The Irrawaddy*, 22 April 2011.
- 'Libyan Mountain Refugees Tell of Fearsome Assault', *AlertNet*, 25 April 2011.
- Ansley, Greg, 'Political Nightmare Mounts over Refugees', *The New Zealand Herald*, 30 April 2011.
- 'Corporates Extend Support to Anti-trafficking Steps in Goa', *Daily News & Analysis*, 1 May 2011.
- 'Climate Change: Another Reason to Move, Says ADB', *Eco-Business.com*, 4 May 2011.



Selected Publications

- Mollet, Julius Ary, 2011, 'The Dynamics of Contemporary Local-government Policies and Economic Development in West Papua', *Development in Practice*, Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 232–43.

This article offers a critical analysis of the West Papuan local government's economic development policies and their effect on local West Papuans. It argues that these policies have failed and that this has led to problems such as increased poverty, the deterioration of the population's health condition, etc.

- Kumar, Anand, 2011, 'Illegal Bangladeshi Migration to India: Impact on Internal Security', *Strategic Analysis*, Vol. 35, No. 1, pp. 106–19.

This article examines illegal migration between India and Bangladesh, and the merits of securitising the issue of migration. It discusses the approach the state should take regarding the issue of illegal migration, especially if such migrants are linked to acts of terror in destination countries.

Events & Announcements

- '2011 Southeast Asia Round Table', 19–21 June 2011, Bandung, Indonesia.
- 'International Workshop on Immigration and Economic Growth', 23–24 June 2011, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- 'CRONEM 7th Annual Conference: Global Migration and Multiculturalism – Religion, Society, Policy and Politics', 28–29 June 2011, Surrey, England.
- 'Strengthening Dialogue to Make Migration Work for Development in the ESCAP and ESCWA Regions', 28–30 June 2011, Beirut, Lebanon.

[^ To the top](#)

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

News & Commentaries

- 'Now Criminals Can't Fly Out', *New Straits Times*, 25 April 2011.
- 'Authorities in Asia Seize Wildlife Contraband', *Bridges Trade BioRes*, Vol. 11, No. 8, 2 May 2011.
- 'Europol about Organised Crime, Bulgaria, Schengen', *FOCUS Information Agency*, 4 May 2011.
- Nugroho, Bambang Hartadi, 'Extending Cooperation to Combat Sea Piracy', *The Jakarta Post*, 25 April 2011.
- 'Kenya Finds Illegal Ivory in Boxes Disguised as Diplomatic Baggage', *CNN*, 6 May 2011.
- 'Stop People Smuggling', *Sunday Mail*, 8 May 2011.
- 'Refugee Deal Sends "Strong Signal"', *Herald Sun*, 8 May 2011.
- Fernandez, Butch, 'ASEAN Seeks to Strengthen Antipiracy Drive', *Business Mirror*, 9 May 2011.



Selected Publications

- Wright, Glen, 2011, 'Conceptualising and Combating Transnational Environmental Crime', *Trends in Organized Crime*, 15 April.

This article attempts to conceptualise the issue of transnational environmental crime. It also seeks to present current efforts aimed at combating this phenomenon. The paper discusses various aspects of transnational environmental crime and suggests specific solutions to the problem.

- Van San, Marion, 2011, 'The Appeal of "Dangerous" Men. On the Role of Women in Organized Crime', *Trends in Organized Crime*, 29 March.

This paper seeks to explain the phenomenon of attractiveness of male members of criminal groups to women living on the edge of poverty. It argues that a vicious cycle exists whereby young men seek to become 'dangerous' in order to attract the women whose affection in turn inspire new generations of boys to look for a 'career' in crime. In addition to describing the phenomenon, the paper tries to present possible solutions.

Events & Announcements

- '2011 International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies in Forensics', 27–30 June 2011, Bahia, Brazil.
- 'Deviancy Conference 2011–Deviance, Devastation and Decay: Considering Urban Crises', 1–2 September 2011, Grimsby, UK.

[^ To the top](#)

WATER SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Connor, Steve, 'Why Build-up of Fresh Water in Arctic Could Spell Trouble for Britain', *The Independent*, 6 April 2011.
- 'Pressure Mounts to Delay "Dangerous" \$3.5 Bln Mekong River Dam', *Reuters*, 19 April 2011.
- Solomon, Steven, 'Want to Reign Supreme? Control the Water', *The Wall Street Journal*, 30 April 2011.
- 'Ethiopia Freezes Nile Water Treaty in Sign of Thaw with Egypt', *Voice of America*, 2 May 2011.
- Ivanova, Nadya, 'Off the Deep End – Beijing's Water Demand Outpaces Supply Despite Conservation, Recycling, and Imports', *Circle of Blue*, 3 May 2011.
- 'Arctic Experts Warn of Higher Sea Level Rise', *Reuters*, 3 May 2011.



- Brown, Lester R., 'Water Shortages Threaten Food Future in the Arab Middle East', *Earth Policy Institute*, 3 May 2011.
- 'Portable Tech Might Provide Drinking Water, Power to Villages', *ScienceDaily*, 4 May 2011.
- Walton, Brett, 'The Price of Water 2011: Prices Rise an Average of 9 Percent in Major U.S. Cities', *Circle of Blue*, 5 May 2011.

Selected Publications

- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), 2011, *Cities and Climate Change: Global Report on Human Settlements 2011*, Nairobi.

This report reviews the linkages between urbanisation and climate change. It illustrates the significant contribution of urban areas to climate change while at the same time highlighting the potentially devastating effects of climate change on urban populations. It goes on to review policy responses, strategies and practices that are emerging in urban areas to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as their potential achievements and constraints. In conclusion, the report argues that urban areas play a pivotal role in both climate change mitigation and adaptation and identifies strategies and approaches for strengthening this role.

- Cunliffe, David, Jamie Bartram, Emmanuel Briand et al. (eds), 2011, *Water Safety in Buildings*, Rome: World Health Organization (WHO).

Extensive experience shows that poor design and management of water systems in buildings can cause outbreaks of disease. This document provides guidance for managing water supplies in buildings where people may drink water; use water for food preparation, washing or for showers; or use water for swimming and other recreational activities; etc. The target audience for this document includes the full range of actors who influence the overall safe management of water supplies in buildings.

- Water Governance Facility (WGF), Cap-Net, WaterNet et al., 2011, *Training Manual on Water Integrity*.

This training manual is designed to assist capacity builders in developing training and educational programmes on water integrity. The overall goal is to develop institutional capacities and prepare for change through increased knowledge and action on integrity, accountability and anti-corruption in any country or region. The target groups are primarily water managers, capacity builders, regulators and other water decision-makers.

Events & Announcements

- '2011 International Conference on Asia Agriculture and Animal (ICAAA 2011)', 2–3 July 2011, Hong Kong.
- 'The Aquaculture Roundtable Series 2011: Aquaculture Feeds and Nutrition', 17–18 August 2011, Singapore.
- 'Third International Conference on Management of Natural Resources, Sustainable Development and Ecological Hazards', 13–15 December 2011, Shah Alam, Malaysia.

[^ To the top](#)

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About the Centre:

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies was inaugurated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan in May 2008. The Centre maintains research in the fields of Food Security, Climate Change, Energy Security, Health Security as well as Internal and Cross-Border Conflict. It produces policy-relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness and building capacity to address NTS issues and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The Centre also provides a platform for scholars and policymakers within and outside Asia to discuss and analyse NTS issues in the region.

In 2009, the Centre was chosen by the MacArthur Foundation as a lead institution for the MacArthur Asia Security Initiative, to develop policy research capacity and recommend policies on the critical security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific.

The Centre is also a founding member and the Secretariat for the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia). More information on the Centre can be found at www.rsis.edu.sg/nts.

