

## NTS Bulletin November 2013

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A publication of the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

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Representatives from government, the private sector and international organisations brought their insights, experiences and diverse perspectives to the table, and several specific areas were identified for further discussion at ICAFS 2014: (1) defining avenues to create policies that facilitate private investments in agriculture research and development, logistics and infrastructure; (2) exploring in greater depth the use of stockpiling and food stocks as instruments to maintain price stability; (3) developing the interface between government, the private sector, smallholder farmers and civil society to reach national productivity goals, specifically through the provision of agricultural extension services and induction into climate-smart agricultural practices; and (4) identifying obstacles and pathways towards the harmonisation of regulatory frameworks. ICAFS is set to be held in August 2014 in Singapore.

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## CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS

### News & Commentaries

- Spykerman, Kimberly, 'Singapore to study local impact of global climate change findings', *Channel NewsAsia*, 28 Sept 2013.
- 'U.S.-ASEAN collaboration on environment and science issues', *US Department of State*, 9 October 2013.



- Islam, Syful, 'Watchdog finds malpractice in Bangladesh climate finance', *Thomson Reuters Foundation*, 15 October 2013.
- 'Philippines: Floods worsen situation for displaced persons in Zamboanga', *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*, 18 October 2013.
- Chestney, Nina, 'Global climate spending falling further behind target – Report', *Reuters*, 22 October 2013.
- Doyle, Alister, 'Australia, U.N. spar over wildfires and climate change', *Reuters*, 23 October 2013.
- Redfern, Jerry and Karen Coates, 'Supermarket jungle', *SciDev.Net*, 23 October 2013.
- 'Cambodian flood damage tops \$1bn', *Bangkok Post*, 24 October 2013.
- 'Fukushima moves radioactive water as it braces for Typhoon Francisco', *RT News*, 24 October 2013.
- 'Malaysian tribes protest mega-dam', *Channel NewsAsia*, 24 October 2013.

### **Selected Publications**

- Rosenbarger, Anne, Beth Gingold, Rauf Prasodjo et al., 2013, 'How to change legal land use classifications to support more sustainable palm oil production in Indonesia', Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.

While there is much concern over loss of forest and possible social conflicts as a result of palm oil production, there is still keen interest from government and industry to expand this industry. This brief therefore examines methods to change legal classifications of land to support sustainable palm oil production.

- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Forest and Climate Programme, 2013, *WWF Report 2013 – Building REDD+ for people and nature: From lessons learned across Indonesia, Peru and the Democratic Republic of Congo to a new vision for REDD+*, Gland: WWF.

This report reflects on lessons learned from three years of work building and testing capacities to reduce forest carbon emissions across nearly 15.5 million hectares of the world's most important tropical forests and links these to a new vision for REDD+.

- Knowledge Management Academy, n.d., 'KM Videos: Knowledge management essentials', Online presentations on knowledge management and climate change, *KMA*.

This series of eight videos were produced with the aim of contributing to improvements in knowledge management (KM) processes in international organisations. Filmed during recent training courses conducted in Vienna, they cover key KM essentials – its features, elements and approaches – and feature insights from KM leaders from the non-profit and corporate sector.

### **Events & Announcements**

- 'World Forum on Natural Capital', 21–22 November 2013, Edinburgh, UK.
- 'International Sustainable Built Environment Conference 2014', 28–30 January 2014, Doha, Qatar.

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## **ENERGY AND HUMAN SECURITY**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Yulisman, Linda, 'APEC agrees to joint efforts to develop renewable energy', *The Jakarta Post*, 1 October 2013.
- Yep, Eric and Simon Hall, 'Southeast Asian energy bills set to rise as exports fall, oil imports soar', *The Wall Street Journal*, 2 October 2013.
- 'US, Vietnam sign civil nuclear deal', *Channel NewsAsia*, 10 October 2013.
- 'EAS leaders vow to strengthen food, energy security', *Global Times*, 11 October 2013.
- Walsh, Bryan, 'The renewable boom', *Time*, 11 October 2013.
- 'Thailand signs GMS power project accord with China', *Bangkok Post*, 12 October 2013.
- Khanh, Vu Trong and Simon Hall, 'Vietnam to start building second refinery, a move that will change Asian oil flows', *The Wall Street Journal*, 14 October 2013.
- 'Power swaps can solve potential energy crisis in Asia Pacific: ADB', *The Jakarta Post*, 16 October 2013.
- Ng, Eric, 'Nuclear power popular despite Fukushima: OECD boss Luis Echavarrí', *South China Morning Post*, 19 October 2013.
- 'Myanmar-to-China gas pipeline fully open', *Channel NewsAsia*, 21 October 2013.



### **Selected Publications**

- Asian Development Bank (ADB), 2013, *Energy outlook for the Asia and the Pacific*, Mandaluyong City.

For the period 2010 to 2035, Asia-Pacific's energy needs are projected to grow more than the global average. Energy demand would increase more in the residential, commercial, agricultural and fishery, and transport sectors; and less in the industrial sector. Most of the electricity would be generated from coal and natural gas, with nuclear power gaining more prominence in India and China. Carbon dioxide emissions could increase to 22,113 million tons but improving energy efficiency could reduce emissions by 27.6 per cent.

- World Energy Council, 2013, *World energy resources: 2013 survey*, London.

Oil production has increased by 25 per cent over the last two decades and, contrary to what is commonly assumed, global oil reserves are 60 per cent higher than in 1993. Accordingly, this survey concludes that the main fossil fuels – coal, oil and natural gas – are 'plentiful and will last for decades'. As for other energy sources, it sees a mixed future for nuclear energy as developed countries begin to phase it out and developing countries seek to establish it; while renewable energy is unlikely to contribute significantly to energy supply in the foreseeable future.

#### **Events & Announcements**

- '2013 International Conference on Energy, Environment and Sustainable Economy', 1–4 December 2013, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 'UTES'13-9. Clean Energy Symposium', 25–28 December 2013, Konya, Turkey.

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## **FOOD SECURITY**

#### **News & Commentaries**

- Chan, Gabrielle, 'Tony Abbott vows to get beef trade with Indonesia back on track', *Guardian*, 1 October 2013.
- Mukherji, Biman, 'India gears up to implement food-aid program', *The Wall Street Journal*, 1 October 2013.
- Piotrowski, Jan, 'Switch to organic farming may boost yields and income', 1 October 2013.
- Rowling, Megan, 'Hunger MDG "within reach", but extra push needed – U.N.', *Thomson Reuters Foundation*, 1 October 2013.
- 'Global sugar demand leaves Cambodian farmers landless', *IRIN*, 2 October 2013.
- Chia, Yan Min, 'Singapore can be Asian food capital, says official', *Asia News Network*, 5 October 2013.
- Chomchuen, Warangkana, 'Thailand has no easy options to pay for rice subsidy', *The Wall Street Journal*, 7 October 2013.
- Ranada, Pia, 'Golden Rice: The next GMO battleground', *Rappler*, 11 October 2013.
- Pratuangkrai, Petchanet, 'Growing concern over food security expected to drive demand for Thai rice', *The Nation*, 14 October 2013.
- Ryan, Stan, 'Trade will meet Asia's food needs', *The Wall Street Journal*, 16 October 2013.
- 'China pushes genetically modified food', *The Wall Street Journal*, 23 October 2013.



#### **Selected Publications**

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Food Programme (WFP), 2013, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013: The multiple dimensions of food security*, Rome: FAO.

This report includes the updated estimates of undernourishment and the progress towards the attainment of the millennium development goals (MDGs) and the World Food Summit hunger targets. The report also presents a broader list of indicators that aim to capture the multidimensional nature of food insecurity, its determinants and outcomes. It focuses on six countries, revealing a mixed picture of progress and setbacks.

- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Concern Worldwide, Welthungerhilfe et al., 2013, *2013 Global Hunger Index – The challenge of hunger: Building resilience to achieve food and nutrition security*, Bonn, Washington, DC, Dublin.

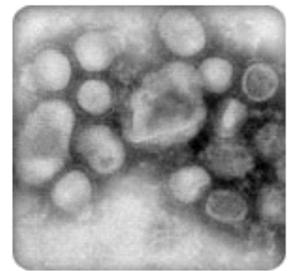
According to this report, Global Hunger Index (GHI) scores continue to vary considerably across countries; and South Asia and Africa south of the Sahara are still home to the highest GHI scores. Overall, however, there has been progress since 1990, with 23 countries having significantly reduced their hunger scores (by 50 per cent or more).

#### **Events & Announcements**

- 'True-cost Accounting in Food and Farming', 6 December 2013, London, UK.
- 'Food Futures: Towards Sustainable Production and Consumption', 9–10 December 2013, London, UK.

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# HEALTH SECURITY



## News & Commentaries

- Mann, Zarni and Samantha Michaels, 'Burma removes 1,000 doctors from blacklist', *The Irrawaddy*, 10 October 2013.
- 'Compulsory detention for drug use undermines treatment in Laos', *IRIN*, 11 October 2013.
- Boseley, Sarah, 'Study links low birthweight to air pollution and traffic', *Guardian*, 15 October 2013.
- 'IARC: Outdoor air pollution a leading environmental cause of cancer deaths', *WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer*, 17 October 2013.
- 'Latest China smog emergency shuts city of 11 million people', *Thomson Reuters Foundation*, 21 October 2013.
- 'Lifedata, Globe set to showcase app platform HealthCloud', *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, 26 October 2013.
- Barron, Laignee, 'Sex education a "big challenge"', *The Phnom Penh Post*, 28 October 2013.
- Capelouto, Susanna, 'New cases of deadly virus emerge in Middle East', *CNN*, 1 November 2013.
- Lo, Wei, 'Poultry market closures best way to slow spread of H7N9, study finds', *South China Morning Post*, 1 November 2013.

## Selected Publications

- Merrett, Gemma L. Buckland, 2013, 'Tackling antibiotic resistance for greater global health security', Briefing Paper No. 2013/02, London: Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House).

This article highlights that antibiotic resistance has potentially catastrophic economic, social and political consequences. It examines the paucity of incentives to conserve antibiotics and lack of initiatives to develop new antibiotics. It also discusses the merits of a one-health approach and calls for a globally coordinated and innovative multi-stakeholder approach.

- Rottingen, John-Arne, Sadie Regmi, Mari Eide et al., 2013, 'Mapping of available health research and development data: What's there, what's missing, and what role is there for a global observatory?', *The Lancet*, Vol. 382, No. 9900, pp. 1286–307.

This article argues that substantial gaps in health research and development (R&D) remain, especially in low- and middle-income countries where there is low investment to improve data. It suggests the establishment of a global observatory on health R&D, to enable adequate financing for priority areas, target areas with low resources and improve investment decisions through avoiding duplication.

- World Health Organization, 2013, *Global Tuberculosis Report 2013*, Geneva.

This report looks at the progress on achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs) related to tuberculosis (TB), and identifies several priorities going forward: (1) reaching missed cases; (2) addressing multi-drug resistant TB as a public health crisis; (3) accelerating response to TB/HIV; (4) increasing financing to close resource gaps; and (5) ensuring rapid uptake of innovations.

## Events & Announcements

- 'Health Systems in Asia: Equity, Governance and Social Impact', 13–16 December 2013, Singapore.
- 'Call for submissions: 10th Asia Pacific Travel Health Conference', Deadline: 7 January 2014.

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# INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT



## News & Commentaries

- Burke, Jason, 'Sri Lanka's economic boom fails to erase painful civil war memories', *Guardian*, 8 October 2013.
- 'Ban calls for enhanced partnership with Southeast Asian bloc to promote peace, development', *UN News Centre*, 10 October 2013.
- Provost, Claire, 'Future development goals: "The tough work is about to begin"', *Guardian*, 21 October 2013.
- Nichols, Michelle, 'Violence against Muslims threatening Myanmar reforms: UN envoy', *Reuters*, 24 October 2013.
- 'UN: Act to end attacks on health workers', *Human Rights Watch*, 24 October 2013.
- Sembiring, Margareth, 'The Mindanao peace process: Can Indonesia advance it?', *RSIS Commentaries*, No. 200, 28 October 2013.
- 'Bangladesh: No justice in mass trials for mutineers', *Human Rights Watch*, 29 October 2013.
- San, Yamin Aung, 'After reforms ethnic media emerge in Burma, but challenges remain', *The Irrawaddy*, 31 October 2013.

- 'China to continue active support to and participation in UN peacekeeping operations', *China Military Online*, 1 November 2013.
- Zarni, Maung, 'Myanmar's drive for peace', *The New York Times*, 3 November 2013.
- 'PM: Malaysia meets all MDG targets before 2015', *The Malay Mail*, 4 November 2013.
- 'Thousands of protesters march in Bangkok against amnesty bill', *Voice of America*, 4 November 2013.

### Selected Publications

- Ferstman, Carla, 2013, 'Criminalizing sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers', Special Report No. 335, Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace.

This article reviews current practices in criminalising sexual exploitation and abuse committed by peacekeepers in host countries and highlights the difficulties in pursuing accountability. It notes that little progress has been made despite increasing focus on this issue. It also discusses the key recommendations in an expert report released by the UN and attempts to fill in the gaps in the report.

- Karlsrud, John, 2013, 'Special representatives of the Secretary-General as norm arbitrators? Understanding bottom-up authority in UN peacekeeping', *Global Governance*, Vol. 19, No. 4, pp. 525–44.

This article examines how special representatives of the UN Secretary-General have used their experience in the field to influence peacekeeping-related norm change processes in the UN system. Cote d'Ivoire and Afghanistan are case studies.

### Events & Announcements

- '6th Asia Pacific Mediation Forum Summit', 9–11 December 2013, Manila, Philippines.
- 'Short Course on Urban Refugees', 9–13 December 2013, Bangkok, Thailand.

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## TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

### News & Commentaries

- 'Zimbabwe poachers kill 80 elephants, poisoning water holes with cyanide', *Reuters*, 25 September 2013.
- Fedotov, Yury and John E. Scanlon, 'Wildlife crime ranks among trafficking in drugs, arms and humans', *Guardian*, 26 September 2013.
- Calamur, Krishnadev, 'India, China top list of nations with most slaves', *NPR*, 17 October 2013.
- 'Wildlife victory: Shark fin falls from favor in China', *The Japan Times*, 20 October 2013.
- Huang, Ryan, 'India "ransomware capital" of APAC, with cyberfraud at \$4b in 2013', *ZDNet*, 23 October 2013.
- 'Smuggling of human flesh pills continues despite intensified crackdown: Data', *Yonhap*, 28 October 2013.
- Baker, Aryn, 'Conservative Saudi Arabia is becoming a hotbed for amphetamines', *Time*, 29 October 2013.
- 'Japan loans scandal deepens as bank admits yakuza loans', *AFP*, 1 November 2013.
- Whitehead, Eleanor, 'Africa: The killer curse of counterfeit drugs', *AllAfrica*, 1 November 2013.



### Selected Publications

- Walk Free Foundation, 2013, *The Global Slavery Index 2013*.

The Global Slavery Index ranks 162 countries using a combined measure of three factors: estimated prevalence of modern slavery by population, a measure of child marriage, and a measure of human trafficking in and out of a country. The countries with the highest numbers of enslaved people are India, China, Pakistan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Russia, Thailand, Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar and Bangladesh. Taken together, these countries account for 76 per cent of the estimated 29.8 million in modern slavery.

- Kroll, 2013, *2013/2014 Global Fraud Report*, New York, NY.

Seventy per cent of the companies surveyed as part of this report were victims of a fraud attack in 2013, up from 61 per cent in 2012. The companies faced on average 2.3 different types of fraud that affected 1.4 per cent of revenue. One in ten companies surveyed reported that fraud cost their companies over 4 per cent of revenue. The theft of physical assets was the most common type of fraud, with 28 per cent of companies falling victim to it.

- World Bank, 2013, *Pirate trails: Tracking the illicit financial flows from pirate activities off the Horn of Africa*, A World Bank study, Washington, DC: World Bank.

This report investigates the flow of ransom money paid out to Somali pirates operating in the Indian Ocean. It observes that between USD339 million and USD413 million were taken in ransom from the hijacking of ships off the coast of Somalia and the Horn of Africa between 2005 and 2012. Much of this was used to fuel a range of criminal activities globally. The report calls for coordinated international action to address the issue, and it sets out how the flow of illicit money from the Indian Ocean can be disrupted.

### Events & Announcements

- 'Southwest Conference against Trafficking', 17–19 January 2014, Pomona, CA, USA.
- 'XVIIth World Congress of Criminology, 10–14 August 2014, Monterrey, Mexico.

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## **WATER SECURITY**

### News & Commentaries

- 'Johor to review price of raw water', *The Star*, 26 September 2013.
- Li, Zhifei, 'Indian threat-mongering over water resource disputes dangerous fantasy', *Global Times*, 7 October 2013.
- Green, Peter S., 'Water desalination capacity climbs on power, energy needs', *Bloomberg*, 15 October 2013.
- Davison, William, 'Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan mull new probe Nile Dam impact', *Bloomberg*, 21 October 2013.
- Bradsher, Keith, 'China tries to clean up toxic legacy of its rare earth riches', *The New York Times*, 22 October 2013.
- Kershner, Isabel, 'Pollen study points to drought as culprit in Bronze Age mystery', *The New York Times*, 22 October 2013.
- Paris, Gilles, 'China sweeps aside civilians in rush for hydropower', *Guardian*, 22 October 2013.
- 'PUB celebrates 50 years of overseeing Singapore's water systems', *The Straits Times*, 26 October 2013.
- Ahmad, Reme, '\$1.6b tunnel to transfer water to KL from Pahang', *AsiaOne*, 3 November 2013.



### Selected Publications

- Mason, Nathaniel, 2013, 'Uncertain frontiers: Mapping new corporate engagement in water security', ODI Working Papers No. 363, London: Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

This paper surveys a range of innovative private-sector activities in water that are predominantly, though not exclusively, driven by multinational companies in the food and beverage sector. It recommends that private-sector engagement be based on principles such as transparency, institutional accountability, and investment geared towards equitable and sustainable outcomes.

- Centre for Environmental Design of Renewable Energy (CEDREN), 2013, *Handbook of environmental design in regulated salmon rivers*.

Hydroelectric dams are widely seen as detrimental to fish species. This handbook, however, notes that it is perfectly possible for rivers to produce more fish and more electricity at the same time. By understanding the needs of migratory fish and controlling the flow of the river to accommodate their lifestyle, breeding success can be improved. At the same time, by adapting and improving turbine capacity and making it more flexible, more energy can be produced.

- Scholes, Mary C. and Robert J. Scholes, 2013, 'Dust unto dust', *Science*, Vol. 342, No. 6158, pp. 565–6.

This article describes how the productivity of many lands has been dramatically reduced as a result of soil erosion, accumulation of salinity, and nutrient depletion. It argues that great civilisations have fallen because of failure to prevent the degradation of the soils on which they were founded and warns that the modern world could suffer the same fate.

### Events & Announcements

- 'Workshop on Mountain Development in the Yangtze River Basin', 10–14 December 2013, Chengdu, China.
- 'Peri-urban', 8–10 July 2014, Sydney, Australia.
- '9th Conference on Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems', 20–27 September 2014, Venice, Italy / Istanbul, Turkey.

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**About the Centre:**

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies, based in the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), was inaugurated by Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan in May 2008. The Centre maintains research in the fields of Climate Change, Food Security, 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.

The Centre is the Coordinator of the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership (2012–2015) supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. It also serves as the Secretariat of the initiative.

In 2009, the Centre was chosen by the MacArthur Foundation as a lead institution for its three-year Asia Security Initiative (2009–2012), to develop policy research capacity and recommend policies on the critical security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific. It is also a founding member and the Secretariat for the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia).

More information on the Centre can be found at [www.rsis.edu.sg/nts](http://www.rsis.edu.sg/nts).

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