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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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This year is the 20th anniversary of the release of the 1994 United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Report, which defined the concept of human security and brought it to international attention. It is thus timely to ask: where is human security today? The following is the second part of a series exploring the evolution of the concept and its impact on security thinking and practice.

20 Years of Human Security: A special focus on food security

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Food security is one of the seven components of human security set out in the 1994 Human Development Report. According to the Report, food security exists when 'all people at all times have both physical and economic access to basic food'. This definition upholds the right of people to be free from the fear of hunger; and emphasises their entitlement to food, whether through producing it themselves, buying it from the marketplace, or through public distribution programmes.

Towards a multi-dimensional perspective

The definition of 'food security' has evolved over the years to reflect changes in policy thinking and realities on the ground. The early focus was on food 'availability'. Later, the importance of 'access' and 'utilisation' was also recognised. As a result of the impacts of food prices on vulnerable populations, 'stability' was added to the mix (see box).

The various dimensions came together in the definition developed at the 1996 World Food Summit. The Summit's declaration states that food security 'exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life'. This widely accepted definition reinforces the multi-dimensional nature of food security and serves to guide policy responses that are holistic and enhances the welfare of populations.

The empowerment perspective

Recently, there have been calls to give greater agency to individuals and communities. According to this view, which is usually advanced within conversations on human rights-based approaches, food security is strengthened when the food insecure are empowered with the means to gain access to resources that will increase their ability to feed themselves. The role of government is thus to provide an enabling environment, through for example policies that support job creation and give the vulnerable greater access to financing to start businesses.

Such discussions highlight the interlinkages between socioeconomic well-being and food security, and reinforce broader trends in the human security discourse to recognise the importance of interconnections and interdependence between and among different issue areas.

The dimensions of food security

- **Availability.** The availability of sufficient quantities of food of appropriate quality, supplied through domestic production or through imports (including food aid).
- **Access (physical and economic).** Access by individuals to adequate resources for acquiring appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.
- **Utilisation.** Utilisation of food through adequate diet, clean water, sanitation and healthcare to reach a state of nutritional well-being where all physiological needs are met.
- **Stability.** To be food secure, a population, household or individual must have access to adequate food at all times.

They should not risk losing access to food as a consequence of sudden shocks (e.g., an economic or climatic crisis) or cyclical events (e.g., seasonal food insecurity).

Extract from: Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), 2006, 'Food security', Policy Brief No. 2.

Core readings

- UN Development Programme (UNDP), 1994, Human development report 1994: New dimensions of human security, New York, Chapter 2.
- World Food Summit, 1996, Rome Declaration on World Food Security.

Also from the '20 Years of Human Security' series

- Evolution of human security, NTS Bulletin, Jan 2014.

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CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS



News & Commentaries

- Sebastien Duyck, Call for urgent action shifting to compensation – A shift of narratives at the Warsaw Climate Conference, Climate Change Policy & Practice, 6 January 2014.
- Indonesian indigenous groups fight climate change with GPS mapping, IRIN, 8 January 2014.
- Anthony Fensom, Asian firms shine at sustainability awards, The Diplomat, 25 January 2014.
- Eugene Robinson, Cold here; hot there: Climate change is real, Washington Post, 28 January 2014.
- Former New York Mayor Bloomberg named Ban's envoy for cities and climate change, UN News Centre, 31 January 2014.
- Joshua Howgego, Why don't human rights NGOs want free science advice?, SciDev.Net, 3 February 2014.
- New Indonesian volcanic eruption halts rescue search, Channel NewsAsia, 3 February 2014.

Selected Publications

- National Research Council, 2013, Abrupt impacts of climate change: Anticipating surprises, Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

This report looks at warming problems that can occur in years instead of centuries. It warns of potential 'tipping points' where the climate passes thresholds, beyond which major and rapid changes occur. It also talks about how governments can prepare for such tipping points in terms of infrastructure and social systems.

- UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS), 2014, Recommendations on the ocean and seas for the UN General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG on SDGs), Policy Brief No. 8, New York, NY.

These recommendations on oceans and seas are compiled from two civil society consultations conducted in 2013–2014. They cover, among others, sustainable and just fisheries, marine bio-prospecting and the use of marine genetic resources, regulations on seabed mining and support to address the effects of climate change.

- UN Environmental Programme (UNEP), 2014, Assessing global land use: Balancing consumption with sustainable supply, Report of the Working Group on Land and Soils of the International Resource Panel, Nairobi.

This report looks at the management of land-based biomass production and consumption. In particular, it explores how to attain a higher degree of sustainability across different scales: from the management of soils on the field to global land use. The report examines the impacts of global trends – population growth, urbanisation and changes in diets and consumption behaviours – on global land-use dynamics. It considers the consequences of such trends for biodiversity and the supply of food, fibres and fuel as well as the long-lasting implications for resource security.

Events & Announcements

- Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, 10–14 March 2014, Bonn, Germany.
- 6th International Training Course on Climate Risk Management in a Changing Environment, 1–10 September 2014, Bangkok, Thailand.

ENERGY AND HUMAN SECURITY



News & Commentaries

- Eric Yep, Asian refiners get squeezed by U.S. energy boom, The Wall Street Journal, 1 January 2014.
- Fitri Wulandari, Draining Indonesia oil fields raise import need, Jakarta Globe, 2 January 2014.
- Why is renewable energy so expensive?, Economist, 5 January 2014.
- Jas Singh, Five steps to scale-up energy efficiency, blogs.worldbank.org, 6 January 2014.
- Michael Levi, Is solar really 'cost-competitive' with fossil fuels?, Council on Foreign Relations, 7 January 2014.
- David Shukman, China on world's 'biggest push' for wind power, BBC, 8 January 2014.
- John Sfakianakis, Saudi Arabia's essential oil: Why Riyadh isn't worried about the U.S. gas revolution, Foreign Affairs, 8 January 2014.
- Global energy demand growth slowing: BP energy outlook 2035, Economic Times, 20 January 2014.
- Fiona Harvey and Ian Traynor, EU to cut carbon emissions by 40% by 2030, Guardian, 22 January 2014.
- Rangga Prakoso and Tito Summa Siahaan, House of Representatives passes national energy policy, Jakarta Globe, 28 January 2014.

Selected Publications

- Benjamin K. Sovacool, 2013, Energy access and energy security in Asia and the Pacific, Mandaluyong City: Asian Development Bank.

This paper explores issues of energy access and energy poverty in Asia and the Pacific. It suggests that grid extension is the most viable option for urban areas and for around 30 per cent of rural areas; and pro-poor public-private partnership is useful in financing energy access initiatives. The paper recommends selecting appropriate technology, promoting community participation, emphasising maintenance and after-sales service, and building local capacity as ways to improve energy access and eradicate energy poverty.

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

While energy consumption has increased in the past two decades, so have energy reserves. Oil production has risen by 20 per cent, and global crude oil reserves are 60 per cent higher than in 1993. According to the report, share of natural gas in transportation and power generation will grow. Meanwhile, nuclear energy has a mixed future as developed countries begin to phase it out while developing countries seek to establish it. Renewable energy is not expected to contribute significantly to energy supply in the foreseeable future.

- BP, 2014, BP energy outlook 2035.

According to the report, primary energy consumption growth will drop from 2.2 per cent per annum for the period 2005–2015 to 1.1 per cent per annum for 2025–2035 due to a slowing down of the pace of industrialisation in China after 2015. Consequently, energy consumption in the residential, services and agriculture sectors is set to match that of industry. Coal's current large contribution to consumption growth will also diminish rapidly. The report suggests that renewables (including biofuels) will overtake nuclear by 2025, and match hydropower by 2035.

Events & Announcements

- The APAC Smart Grid Conference, 11–12 March 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Biennial Conference on Sustainable Business, Energy and Development in Asia, 17–19 March 2014, Hiroshima, Japan.

FOOD SECURITY



News & Commentaries

- Henry I. Miller, The GMO stigma, Project Syndicate, 3 January 2014.
- Indonesia needs to import more foodstuffs except rice, The Jakarta Post, 8 January 2014.
- World food prices stay high, but steady, The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), 9 January 2014.
- Debiprasad Nayad, Indian slowdown chains millions to the farm, The Wall Street Journal, 12 January 2014.

- Cris Larano, Climate change clouds Philippines' dream of rice self-sufficiency, *The Wall Street Journal*, 13 January 2014.
- Petchanet Pratrungkrai, Rice sale to China delayed by legal limbo over 'caretaker' powers, *The Nation*, 15 January 2014.
- Zulita Mustafa, Stern action against operators who increase food prices: Najib, *New Straits Times*, 16 January 2014.
- Samantha Michaels, 27% of children chronically malnourished in Burma dry zone: Survey, *The Irrawaddy*, 17 January 2014.
- World Food Programme, Business scales up action to combat global malnutrition, Thomson Reuters Foundation, 22 January 2014.
- Ronnel W. Domingo, Rice import curbs in effect until 2017, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, 23 January 2014.
- New bid to bridge rice gap, *Bangkok Post*, 28 January 2014.
- Apornrath Phoonphongphiphat, Thai government seeks \$3.95 billion in loans to fund rice scheme, *Jakarta Globe*, 29 January 2014.

Selected Publications

- Sharada Keats and Steve Wiggins, 2014, Future diets: Implications for agriculture and food prices, Overseas Development Institute (ODI) Report, London.

This report examines the implications of economic growth and rising incomes on the consumption of food. Diets have changed in parts of the world where incomes have increased. There has been a documented shift of consumption from cereals and tubers to meats, fats and sugar. This report suggests that future diets that are rich in animal products, especially meats, will drive up prices for meat but not for grains.

- Joseph Baines, 2014, Food price inflation as redistribution: Towards a new analysis of corporate power in the world food system, *New Political Economy*, Vol. 19, No. 1, pp. 79–112.

This paper brings a new perspective to the analysis of the food price crisis. Specifically, it looks at the rise of a configuration of agribusinesses and grain traders (the 'Agro-Trader nexus') that are not mere price-takers. The paper argues that the Agro-Trader nexus has actively contributed to the inflationary restructuring of the world food system by facilitating the rapid expansion of the biofuels sector.

Events & Announcements

- Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty – Integrating Land Governance into the Post-2015 Agenda, 24–27 March 2014, Washington, DC, US.
- International Conference on Food and Nutrition, 29–30 March 2014, Shanghai, China.

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HEALTH SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- China starts relaxing one-child policy, *Channel NewsAsia*, 17 January 2014.
- Shobha Shukla, Multipurpose prevention technologies can transform women's health, *Asian Tribune*, 22 January 2014.
- Vietnamese human genome completed, *Asian Scientist*, 24 January 2014.
- Jane Chung, South Korea expands poultry cull on bird flu fears, *Reuters*, 26 January 2014.
- Medecins Sans Frontieres, It takes a long time for people to rebuild their lives, *ReliefWeb*, 27 January 2014.
- Prime Sarmiento, Asia needs to invest in youth's reproductive health, *Xinhua*, 28 January 2014.
- In Vietnam, unsustainable 'modernization' too much for sanitation services, *Than Nien News*, 1 February 2014.
- Reshma Ailmchandani, New nutritional research centre to promote healthier lifestyles in Asia, *Channel NewsAsia*, 3 February 2014.
- Cancer cases worldwide to jump to 22 million, *The Jakarta Post*, 4 February 2014.
- Emily Tsang and Reuters, Doctors warn of pandemic potential of the new H10N8 bird flu virus, *South China Morning Post*, 6 February 2014.



Selected Publications

- Eran Bendavid, 2014, Is health aid reaching the poor? Analysis of household data from aid recipient countries, *PLOS One*, Vol. 9, No. 1, e84025.

This article argues that the financing of effective interventions, including public health technologies for specific diseases such as malaria, is linked to a decrease in child mortality. The findings from this study could help inform aid allocation and health aid policies, particularly those related to interventions targeted at the poor.

- Sanjay Basu, David Stuckler and Martin McKee, 2014, An alternative mechanism for international health aid: Evaluating a Global Social Protection Fund, *Health Policy and Planning*, Vol. 29, No. 1, pp. 127–36.

This article presents a baseline model for a global fund for social protection aimed at internationally financing care for the ill and disabled. The authors emphasise the need to pay attention to within-country inequalities when selecting which metrics of need would affect fund distribution among low- and middle-income countries.

Events & Announcements

- 11th International Conference on Urban Health, 4–7 March 2014, Manchester, UK.
- World TB Day, 24 March 2014.
- 6th Annual Asian Oncology Summit, 11–13 April 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT



News & Commentaries

- Eliane Coates, 'Myanmar's ASEAN chairmanship: Will it lead to national reconciliation?', *RSIS Commentaries*, No. 012, 20 January 2014.
- Peter Fray, *Analysis: Will asylum policy cost Australia's Abbott dear?*, BBC, 21 January 2014.
- Thailand imposes state of emergency over unrest, BBC, 21 January 2014.
- Lawi Weng, *Govt not recognizing scale of land-grabs in Burma: Lawmakers*, *The Irrawaddy*, 22 January 2014.
- Localizing treatment for emotional trauma in Cambodia, *IRIN*, 24 January 2014.
- Floyd Whaley, *Philippines and rebels agree on peace accord to end insurgency*, *The New York Times*, 25 January 2014.
- Mushfique Wadud, *Minorities targeted in Bangladesh political violence*, *IRIN*, 31 January 2014.
- Shibani Mahtani and Myo Myo, *Report hints of strength of anti-reform sentiment in Myanmar*, *The Wall Street Journal*, 2 February 2014.

Selected Publications

- Maria Anna Rowena Luz G. Layador, 2014, *Of auxiliary forces and private armies: Security sector governance (SSG) and conflict management in Maguindanao, Mindanao*, *RSIS Working Paper No. 267*, Singapore.

This paper examines security sector governance (SSG) in situations of conflict, with the peace process in Mindanao as a case study. It points out that weaknesses in SSG in Mindanao have complicated the efforts to manage the conflicts in the area and hindered the peace process there.

- Nazila Ghanea, 2013, *Intersectionality and the spectrum of racist hate speech: Proposals to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, Vol. 35, No. 4, pp. 935–54.

This paper focuses on the concept of racist hate speech. It takes issue with existing approaches to dealing with hate speech; and argues that the evolution of hate speech has made it necessary to adopt an intersectional approach to hate speech that understands the concept of hatred in a broader sense.

Events & Announcements

- Poverty and Social Protection Conference, 9–11 March 2014, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Women and Girls at Risk Working Group Workshop, 24–28 March 2014, Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- Young Scholars Research Assistantship, Deadline: 10 April 2014.

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TRANSNATIONAL CRIME



News & Commentaries

- Chris Larano and Josephine Cuneta, Philippines says drug raid shows presence of Mexican cartel, The Wall Street Journal, 27 December 2013.
- Carol Kuruville, International child 'cybersex' ring busted in the Philippines, New York Daily News, 16 January 2014.
- Hundreds of Rohingya Muslims at Thai 'people smuggling' camp, The Straits Times, 27 January 2014.
- Johan Bergenas and Monica Medina, Break the link between terrorism funding and poaching, The Washington Post, 1 February 2014.
- Bryan Harris, Mexican cartel smuggling cocaine into Hong Kong amid booming demand for drugs, South China Morning Post, 2 February 2014.
- David Eimer, Burmese smugglers get rich on Yingluck Shinawatra's £13 billion Thai rice subsidies, The Telegraph, 4 February 2014.
- Subir Bhaumik, Smuggling of China-made weapons in focus, Al Jazeera, 4 February 2014.
- Watchdog shows illicit money flows in the Philippines, Yahoo News Philippines, 4 February 2014.
- Christopher Round, Al Shabaab linked to illegal ivory trade, The International, 6 February 2014.

Selected Publications

- The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, 2013, Human trafficking in South-east Asia, Policy Brief, Bangkok: The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Australian Aid and Global Alliance against Traffic in Women.

This brief provides an overview of human trafficking in Southeast Asia. It notes that human trafficking in the region is principally for forced labour, utilises formal or informal recruitment mechanisms, and targets women, men and children, and sometimes entire families. Although all eight countries in the study have legal frameworks in place to combat trafficking and ASEAN has already initiated anti-trafficking regional instruments, they still struggle with the implementation of relevant laws.

- Dev Kar and Brian LeBlanc, 2014, Illicit financial flows to and from the Philippines: A study in dynamic simulation, 1960–2011, Washington, DC: Global Financial Integrity.

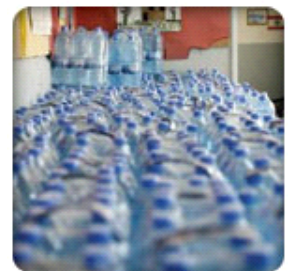
According to this report, the Philippines lost at least USD132.9 billion in illicit financial outflows from 1960 to 2011 – mostly due to crime, corruption and tax evasion. Furthermore, illicit inflows to the Philippine economy over the same period amounted to USD277.6 billion, primarily due to technical smuggling (underinvoicing of exports and imports). The report warns that illicit funds undermine the Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP) growth, reduce domestic savings, drive the underground economy and facilitate crime and corruption.

Events & Announcements

- International Conference on Anti-Corruption, Good Governance and Human Rights, 27–28 March 2014, Madrid, Spain.
- International Conference on Digital Forensics and Cyber Crime, 18–20 September 2014, New Haven, CT, US.

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WATER SECURITY



News & Commentaries

- Giulio Boccaletti, Scaling up water sustainability, Project Syndicate, 15 January 2014.
- Water security in the kingdom ... a far-fetched dream?, Saudi Gazette, 18 January 2014.
- Ray Rivera, Frank G. Runyeon and Russ Buettner, Inside city's water tanks, layers of neglect, The New York Times, 27 January 2014.
- Amid drought, California says it won't allot water to local agencies, Al Jazeera, 31 January 2014.
- Record Brazil heat pressures crops, energy prices, government, Reuters, 31 January 2014.
- Adam Nagourney and Ian Lovett, Severe drought has U.S. west fearing worst, The New York Times, 1 February 2014.
- Amy Kazmin, Coke bottles go unfilled in central India, Financial Times, 2 February 2014.
- Ari Phillips, Pakistan has a month's worth of water left – and 5 percent of its tree cover, Climate Progress, 3 February 2014.
- Kunal Bose, Water shortage leading to rethink on irrigation strategy, Business Standard, 3 February 2014.
- Pakistan sponsors clean drinking water projects in Sri Lanka, ColomboPage, 3 February 2014.

- Don't drink up: Water, water everywhere, not a drop to drink, The Express Tribune, 4 February 2014.
- Sharon Udasin, January driest month in ages for many regions in Israel, The Jerusalem Post, 4 February 2014.

Selected Publications

- Mark Giordano and Tushaar Shah, 2014, From IWRM back to integrated water resources management, International Journal of Water Resources Development.

The authors draw attention to the potential pitfalls and unintended harm that come from implementing integrated water resources management (IWRM) strategies do not take into account the local context and real-world problems. The paper argues that IWRM is often pursued as an end in itself rather than used as a toolkit to help address water management issues, to the detriment of better water management.

- International Water Management Institute (IWMI), 2014, Wetlands and people, Colombo.

This report highlights the value and importance of wetlands by drawing from a wide range of case studies from Asia, Africa and Latin America. It notes that wetlands have a direct impact on the local environment, ecosystems and livelihood of communities, and it advocates a more local, community-driven approach to wetlands conservation and management. The report also argues that agriculture, tourism and water use are not necessarily incompatible with the conservation and protection of wetlands.

Events & Announcements

- Sustainable Water Management Conference, 30 March – 2 April 2014, Denver, CO, US.
- International Conference on Water Resources and Environmental Management, 13–15 May 2014, Antalya, Turkey.
- Water, Energy and Climate Conference: Solutions for Future Water Security, 21–23 May 2014, Mexico City, Mexico.

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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).

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