



The Ninth Asia-Pacific Programme for

The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) held the annual Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO) at the Sentosa Resort and Spa from 6–12 August, starting with a welcome dinner on 5 August. APPSMO 2007 marked the first-time participation of Botswana and Sri Lanka in the programme. Their involvement reflects the growing interest among many defence officials in the world in gatherings like APPSMO, which promotes defence and security diplomacy through an extensive series of academic seminars in Singapore. Fifty-three senior military officers from 20 countries took part in the inaugural APPSMO in 1999. In 2007, there were 61 officers from 26 countries who participated.

The academic aspect of the programme was designed to stimulate the participants to consider policy matters from both theoretical and practical perspectives. Distinguished speakers from Singapore and around the





or Senior Military Officers (APPSMO)



world were invited to share their expertise on various policy-relevant topics. They addressed subjects such as the situation in Iraq, civil-military relations, the future of warfare, the role of armed forces today, terrorism and international security, new dimensions in international security, strategy and military leadership, the changing place of Asia in American national security policy, the evolution in military affairs, the media and international conflict, the role of the military in internal conflicts, and defence networking.

Apart from academic discussions, the participants were also treated to a number of other activities, including visits to the SAF Centre for Military Experimentation, Changi Naval Base and military heritage sites across Singapore. Team sports were also organized for the officers. These activities were meant to offer the participants opportunities to interact with one another and to build relationships lasting beyond their stay in Singapore.



What some participants said about APPSMO 2007



Colonel Stephen Gracias (India): "I am delighted to be here and enjoyed the food, the National Day Celebrations and the lectures during APPSMO."



LTC Penkin Maxim (Russia): "APPSMO 07 provided me with a good opportunity to exchange views with other officers on official matters as well as allowed me to meet fellow officers from all over the world."



Captain Curt Chestnutt (USA): "I am impressed by the 'professionalism' of the speakers and the participants of APPSMO 07."