

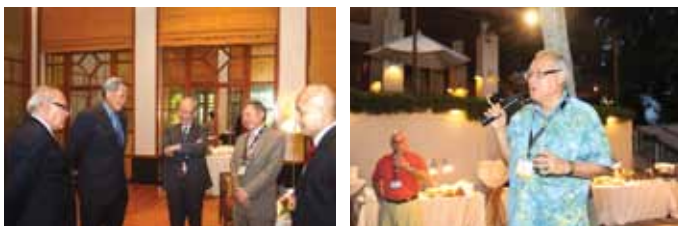
APPSMO XIV: The Military Professional in the New Security Environment

The 14th Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO XIV) was held at the Sentosa Resort and Spa from 6 to 12 August 2012. Organised by RSIS' Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), this year's APPSMO was attended by over 50 military officers from more than 20 countries around the Asia Pacific and Europe.

Defence Minister Dr Ng Eng Hen officiated at the opening of APPSMO XIV. President Tony Tan Keng Yam attended the dinner for participants and speakers at the Rasa Sentosa Resort. The theme of APPSMO XIV was "The Military Professional in the New Security Environment", which focused on the military professional, the challenges he faces in a dynamic security environment that is being shaped by developments in technology, society, operating concepts and doctrines.

As in previous years APPSMO also provided a valuable forum for defence diplomacy, where military professionals, policy makers, practitioners, academics and other experts exchanged views on a broad range of subjects related to regional and international security.

IDSS assembled an impressive range of speakers to speak on technological developments in the military enterprise, the changing roles of military professionals beyond strictly warfighting, and the growing legal-ethical complexities of military operations. Distinguished overseas speakers included Professor Sir Steve Smith of the University of Exeter, Dr Steven Metz from the Strategic Studies Institute at the U.S. Army War College, and Dr James Corum, who is Dean of the Baltic Defence College in Estonia.



RSIS speakers included Professor Pascal Vennesson, Professor Geoffrey Till and Dr Ahmed Salah Hashim. The ST Engineering Dinner Lecture, “An Asian Perspective on Rebalancing”, was delivered by Professor Iwan Azis of the Asian Development Bank, who was visiting RSIS as the NTUC Professor of International Economic Relations. Professor Khong Yuen Foong, RSIS’ Senior Research Advisor, tackled the question “The U.S. Pivot to Asia: Continuity or Change?” during his Distinguished Lunch Talk.

The participants attended seminars on the following topics, which ranged from big picture topics such as “New Dimensions in International Security”, “Military Professionals and Policymakers: Managing Expectations”, “The New Operating Environment:

the Legal and Ethical Dimensions”, and “Whither the Warrior Ethos?: the Changing Role(s) of the Military Professional”, to more operations-oriented topics such as “Future of Warfare: After Counter-Insurgency Operations”, “Conventional Navies in Unconventional Operations” and “Information and Social Media Technologies in Military Operations”.

But it was not just ‘death by seminars’: the participants were taken on a visit to the Republic of Singapore Navy’s Information Fusion Centre, as well as a tour of Singapore’s latest visitor attraction, the Gardens by the Bay. On National Day on 9 August, they joined Singaporeans in celebrating the National Day Parade at Marina Bay.

Contributed by Adrian Kuah

