

APPSMO 2013: The Future of War

The 15th Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO 2013) was held at The Sentosa Resort & Spa from 5 to 11 August 2013. Organised by RSIS' Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), APPSMO was attended by more than 50 military officers from over 20 countries around the Asia Pacific and Europe.

The theme of APPSMO 2013 "*The Future of War*" focused on the features and trends in the future of warfare across the key domains and their potential impact on the military profession. Mr Chan Chun Sing, Acting Minister for Social and Family Development and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, officiated at the opening of APPSMO 2013. Mr S. R. Nathan, the 6th President of Singapore, attended the dinner for participants and speakers at the Rasa Sentosa Resort as the Guest of Honour.

As in previous years, APPSMO 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 the outlook of warfare in the future, the redefining of war-fighting concepts, and the prospects of civil-military cooperation. RSIS speakers included Professor Pascal Vennesson, Dr Ahmed Salah Hashim, and Dr Michael Raska. Distinguished overseas speakers included Major General Yao Yunzhu, Director of China-America Defense Relations, Academy of Military Science, Professor Beatrice Heuser, Chair of International Relations at the University of Reading and Dr John Nagl, Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security.



The Distinguished Dinner Talk on the topic *“Wielding Strategic Communications in Complex Operations”* was delivered by General (Ret.) John R. Allen, RSIS Distinguished Speaker; Distinguished Fellow of Foreign Policy, The Brookings Institution; Former Commander of the International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces - Afghanistan. Dr Wayne Mapp, Former New Zealand Minister of Defence, touched on the topic *“Lessons Learned from Stability and Security Operations in the Asia Pacific”* during his Distinguished Lunch Talk.

APSSMO participants attended seminars and plenary sessions dealing with *“Dimensions of War and Strategy,”*

“Defining War in the 21st Century,” “Warfare in New Domains: The Future of Asymmetric Operations and Information Warfare,” “Civil-Military Cooperation in a Coalition Environment,” and *“Challenges to the Military Profession: Impact of Emergent Technology and Issues of Legitimacy.”*

The participants also visited the Republic of Singapore Navy’s Information Fusion Centre and toured other places of interest such as the Army Museum and the Singapore Discovery Centre. They also joined Singaporeans in watching the National Day Parade at Marina Bay on 9 August.

Contributed by Chang Jun Yan

