

BIOGRAPHIES

28 October 2014

AMBASSADOR BARRY DESKER



Amb Barry Desker is a Distinguished Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University.

He formerly headed RSIS and the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies from October 2000 to November 2014.

He continues to hold the inaugural Bakrie Professorship in Southeast Asia Policy, which was established in November 2010.

He is a Member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, Singapore, and a Member of the Board of Directors of the Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship.

He was the Chief Executive Officer of the Singapore Trade Development Board from 1994 to 2000 and was Singapore's Ambassador to Indonesia from 1986 to 1993. He was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Gold) in 1992 and the Long Service Award in 1995.

Amb Desker is currently also the Non-Resident Ambassador of Singapore to the Holy See and Spain, and Chairman of Singapore Technologies Marine.

A President's Scholar, he was educated at the University of Singapore, University of London and Cornell University. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by Warwick University in 2012 and by the University of Exeter in 2013.

AMBASSADOR ONG KENG YONG



Amb Ong Keng Yong is the Executive Deputy Chairman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, and Director of the School's Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies.

He was formerly the High Commissioner of Singapore to Malaysia.

Amb Ong holds a LLB (Hons) from University of Singapore and a MA in Arab Studies from Georgetown University, Washington D.C.

He was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre on Contemporary Central Asia, and the Caucasus, School of Oriental and African Studies, London in 2008.

From 1996-98, Amb Ong was the High Commissioner of Singapore to India with concurrent accreditation to Nepal. He held diplomatic posts in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and the United States.

From 1998-2002, he was Press Secretary to Singapore's Prime Minister and held senior positions in the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, and the People's Association in Singapore.

From 2003-07, Amb Ong was the Secretary-General of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Amb Ong was also the Non-Resident Ambassador of Singapore to Iran; Director of Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.

He is the recipient of the Silver Public Administration Medal (1997), Long Service Medal (2002) and Meritorious Service Medal (2008) from Singapore; Medal of Friendship from Laos (2007); and Medal of Sahametrei from Cambodia (2007).

PROFESSOR JOSEPH LIOW CHIN YONG



Prof Liow is Dean and Professor of Comparative and International Politics at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University.

He is concurrently Senior Fellow and Lee Kuan Yew Chair of Southeast Asian Studies at the Brookings Institution in the United States.

Joseph's research interests are in the fields of Asia Pacific security, Muslim social movements, and comparative politics of Southeast Asia.

He is the author and editor of 12 books and monographs including *Dictionary of the Modern Politics of Southeast Asia, 4th edition* (London: Routledge, 2014), *Muslim Resistance in Southern Thailand and Southern Philippines: Religion, Ideology, and Politics* (Washington D.C.: East-West Centre, 2006), *Islamic Education in Southern Thailand: Tradition and Transformation* (Singapore: ISEAS, 2009), and *Piety and Politics: Islamism in Contemporary Malaysia* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009). He is also co-editor of the four-volume Routledge Series *Islam in Southeast Asia*.

Joseph has also published in numerous peer-reviewed academic journals, including *Pacific Review*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Asian Security*, *Asian Survey*, *Journal of Islamic Studies*, and *Modern Asian Studies*.

In addition to his scholarly works, Joseph has also published in major policy journals such as *Foreign Affairs*, *The National Interest*, and *NBR Analysis*.

Joseph has also consulted for several MNCs including Shell, Statoil, BHP Billiton, Monitor 360, and Chevron International, and is a regular commentator in the international media.

Joseph serves as co-editor of the *Routledge Asian Security Studies* book series and associate editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Asian Security*.

He is also on the editorial board of *South East Asia Research*, *Journal of Defense Studies and Resource Management*, and *Journal of International and Global Studies*, and currently sits on the advisory board of the NTU Academic Council.

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About the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

The **S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)** is a professional graduate school of international affairs at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. RSIS' mission is to develop a community of scholars and policy analysts at the forefront of security studies and international affairs. Its core functions are research, graduate education and networking. It produces cutting-edge research on Asia Pacific Security, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Conflict Studies, Non-Traditional Security, International Political Economy, and Country and Region Studies. RSIS' activities are aimed at assisting policymakers to develop comprehensive approaches to strategic thinking on issues related to security and stability in the Asia Pacific.

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