

NEWS RELEASE

28 October 2014

**LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AT THE S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL
OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (RSIS)**

1. **SINGAPORE (GMT+8)** – Ambassador Barry Desker, Dean of RSIS at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), has stepped down after 14 years at the helm of one of Asia’s leading professional graduate schools and international affairs think tanks. He is succeeded by Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, who was Singapore’s High Commissioner to Malaysia.
2. Amb Ong took up the position of Executive Deputy Chairman (EDC), a position created under a new RSIS management structure that retained a Deanship for the School. As EDC, Amb Ong is the executive and administrative head of RSIS, and will be responsible for providing overall leadership and strategic directions in professional, academic and administrative matters. He will also manage policy research under RSIS’ role as a think tank.
3. Concurrent with Amb Ong’s assumption of leadership at RSIS, Professor Joseph Liow, formerly its Associate Dean, has been re-designated as the Dean with revised responsibilities. Prof Liow will be the Chief Academic Officer of RSIS, with responsibilities for the conduct, coordination and quality of the School’s academic programmes. He will also lead in the School’s academic development and assist the EDC in the overall management of RSIS.
4. Amb Barry Desker has been re-designated as Distinguished Fellow at RSIS.
5. These leadership changes took effect on 3 November 2014.

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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.

For more information about RSIS, please visit www.rsis.edu.sg.