

**NTS Bulletin January 2015****2015: A year for reflection**

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2015 is a critical year for global and regional institutions, and for the international community as a whole, as it represents a milestone in the big push for achieving global goals of peace, human security and development since the start of the millennium.

- Globally, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), set by the United Nations (UN) and aimed for 2015, hoped to address problems of income poverty, hunger, maternal and child mortality, disease, inadequate shelter, gender inequality and environmental degradation, through a functioning global partnership for development.
- At the regional level, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) envisioned to become an ASEAN Community by 2015. This required the cooperation of its 10 member states in building its three pillars of an Economic Community (AEC), Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), and a Political-Security Community (APSC), as laid out in the respective blue-prints.
- This year also marks the end of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) 10-year Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) which sought to build resilience among nations and communities globally against disasters, and the 20th anniversary of the landmark World Conference on Women in Beijing which put gender equality on the global agenda.

In this light, the agenda for this year is, expectedly, a review of performances: successes to celebrate, failures to rectify, and resolutions to move forward. In fact, discussions on the UN 2016-2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the ASEAN 2016-25 Strategic Plan and the UNISDR Post-Hyogo Framework have already started.

**The need for convergence on shared global and regional goals**

A cursory performance review shows mixed results. While poverty has been cut in half, UN statistics show one in nine people worldwide remain hungry; amid a 90 per cent primary enrolment level, 58 million remain out of school; although maternal mortality has declined by 45 per cent, women continue to face discrimination in healthcare. Even though communities are better prepared against disasters, the vulnerable still grow in number. Likewise, within the ASEAN region, community building efforts show improvements in indicators above, with caveats of inequitable inter- and intra-country distribution of improvements across rural-urban, income group, and gender divides.

There are many reasons for the mixed results, but the most important condition remains that there is still room for convergence on these shared global and regional goals, and how they should be addressed. After all, actors relied on to achieve the global and regional goals overlap: the same governments, universities, businesses, and non-profits are committing and contributing resources. Without convergence, efforts in addressing the challenges above will lack complementarity, and issues will remain.

## **A review of ASEAN's contributions, and the way forward**

The NTS 2015 Bulletins will provide snapshots on the progress in achieving shared goals, with a focus on the salient and persistent human security and development issues which have plagued the ASEAN region. Brief insights will be drawn, building on global perspectives, to possibly contribute to the forthcoming reflections. This begins with the issue of Natural Disasters: Adaptation and Mitigation, next month.

### **Recommended Readings:**

- United Nations (UN), 2000, United Nations Millennium Declaration.
- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), 2005. Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), 2009, Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2015.
- UN, 1995, Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women.
- UN, 2014, The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014.
- UN, 2014, MDG Momentum, MDG Infographics.
- UNISDR, 2014, Towards a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- World Bank Group (WBG) and ASEAN, 2014, ASEAN Equitable Development Monitor.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Jeff Tollefson, US-China climate deal raises hopes for Lima talks, *Nature*, 26 November 2014.
- David Shukman, World on course for warmest year, *BBC*, 4 December 2014.
- ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN offers support to Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Hagupit, *ASEAN Secretariat News*, 8 December 2014.
- Mely Caballero-Anthony & Julius C.I. Trajano, Lessons of two disasters: Building resilience from within, *RSIS Commentaries*, 9 December 2014.
- Suzanne Goldenberg, Lima climate change talks reach global warming agreement, *The Guardian*, 14 December 2014.
- Sujadi Siswo, Indonesia's Aceh marks 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of devastating tsunami, *Channel NewsAsia*, 26 December 2014.
- Ranjeetha Pakiam, Monsoon surge in Malaysia bringing fresh flood risk for palm, *Bloomberg*, 5 January 2015.
- Feng Zengkun, Climate change not sole cause of weather-related disasters, *The Straits Times*, 5 January 2015.

### **Selected Publications**

- Dahiya, Bharat, 2014, Southeast Asia and sustainable urbanization, *Global Asia*, Vol. 9, No.3.
- Bodansky, Daniel, et al, 2014, Facilitating linkage of heterogeneous regional, national and sub-national climate policies through a future international agreement, *Harvard Project on Climate Agreements*, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.
- Phelps, J. et. al., 2014, Environmental valuation in Indonesia: Implication for forest policy, legal liability and state losses estimates, *CIFOR Brief No. 31*, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Bogor, Indonesia.

### **Events & Announcements**

- 15th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS 2015), 5–7 February 2015, New Delhi, India.
- Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2015, 11–13 February 2015, Bangkok, Thailand.

## **ENERGY SECURITY**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Margareth Sembiring and Julius Cesar Imperial Trajano, Renewable energy in Southeast Asia: Priorities and commitments needed, RSIS Commentaries, 28 November 2014.
- Solar shambles, The Economist, 29 November 2014.
- Ignatius Randy K., Addressing energy security, at home and in the region, The Jakarta Post, 1 December 2014.
- Edward McAllister, October oil shale permits in US drop: Is the slowdown here?, The Jakarta Globe, 2 December 2014.
- Yaroslav Trofimov, Analysis: Oil-price drop adds new element to Middle East tensions, The Wall Street Journal, 2 December 2014.
- Ukraine nuclear plant accident poses 'no threat' despite electrical fault: Minister, The Straits Times, 3 December 2014.
- Chularat Saengpassa, Coal plants best choice for now, The Nation, 8 December 2014.
- Grace D. Amianti, Govt to use fixed fuel subsidy next year, The Jakarta Post, 10 December 2014.
- Iris C. Gonzales, DOE teams up with solar energy firms to promote solar usage, The Philippine Star, 14 December 2014.

### **Selected Publications**

- Holly Morrow, 2014, Unconventional gas: Lessons learned from around the world, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University.
- International Energy Agency, 2014, The Asian quest for LNG in a globalising market, Paris.

### **Events & Announcements**

- 2015 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Clean and Green Energy, 14–15 February 2015, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- Mexico Wind Power 2015, 25–26 February 2015, Mexico City, Mexico.

## **FOOD SECURITY**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Iraqi farmers suffer as land seized by militants, IRIN News, 26 November 2014
- Russia curbs grain exports amid rouble crisis, The Peninsula Newspaper, 23 December 2014
- Jack Farchy, Russia faces full-blown crisis, says Kudrin, Financial Times, 22 December 2014.
- South Sudan: UN boosts food assistance as 'very critical' Nile corridor reopens, UN News Centre, 30 December 2014.
- Aynur Karimova, Azerbaijan increases grain fund's reserves to ensure food security, AZER News, 8 January 2015.
- Mandy Zuo, China to grow more potatoes amid struggle to feed world's most populous nation. South China Morning Post, 9 January 2015.
- New partnership for rice development in Africa formed, Sci Dev Net, 8 January 2015.
- Plan of Action to decide agenda of ASEAN-India cooperation: MEA official, The Economic Times, 9 January 2015.
- Andrew Rosati and Noris Soto, Venezuelans throng grocery stores under military protection, Bloomberg, 10 January 2015.

## **Selected Publications**

- Ling Cao, Rosamond Naylor, Patrik Henriksson, Duncan Leadbitter, Marc Metian, Max Troell, and Wenbo Zhang, 2015, China's aquaculture and the world's wild fisheries, *Science*, Vol. 347, No. 6218, pp. 133–135.
- UN Food and Agricultural Office (FAO), 2014, *The right to adequate food in emergency programmes*, Rome.
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and FAO, 2014, *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2014-2023*.
- World Bank Group, 2014, *Enabling the Business of Agriculture 2015*, Washington.

## **Events & Announcements**

- Call for Papers: Fifth International Conference on Food Studies, 18–19 September 2015, Virginia, USA.
- World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2015, 21–24 January 2015, Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.

## **HEALTH SECURITY**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Thailand's public health minister releases enhanced policies for 2015, *Chiangrai Times*, 1 January 2015.
- George Putic, Smartphones becoming tools for diagnosing malaria, *Voice of America*, 7 January 2015.
- Juliana Chan & Yamini Chinnuswamy, Asia braces for Ebola: Is biotech our best bet?, 8 January 2015.
- Robert Walker, Reproductive health: The battle resumes, *The Huffington Post*, 8 January 2015.
- Ibarra C. Mateo, Trial sought for proponents of controversial anti-dengue drug, *GMA News Online*, 8 January 2015.
- Salma Khalik, Health-care jigsaw pieces fall into place, *The Straits Times*, 9 January 2015.
- Agence France Presse, Contaminated equipment behind HIV outbreak in Cambodia village, *News Asia One*, 10 January 2015.
- Govt pushes for more research on herbal medicine, *The Jakarta Post*, 10 January 2015.
- Vietnam's industrial zones create 'massive public health burden', *Thanh Nien News*, 11 January 2015.

### **Selected Publications**

- World Health Organization (WHO), 2014, *World Malaria Report 2014*, Geneva.
- Shickle et al., 2014, Mind the public health leadership gap: The opportunities and challenges of engaging high-profile individuals in the public health agenda, *Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 36, No. 4, pp. 562–567.

### **Events & Announcements**

- Global Health & Innovation Conference, 28–29 March 2015, New Haven, USA.
- The Second Conference on Public Health and Food Safety in Asia, 29–31 March, 2015, Hiroshima, Japan.

## **INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Dennis D. Gray, Dam projects risk reigniting Burma's civil war, The Associated Press, 11 December 2014.
- Timor-Leste's judicial lurch could worsen domestic violence trauma, IRIN, 15 December 2014.
- Nick Cumming-Bruce, 2014 was deadliest year for migrants, international groups says, The New York Times, 16 December 2014.
- Burning issues facing Sri Lanka ahead of January polls, IRIN, 16 December 2014.
- Bree Feng, China to send its first infantry troops to UN mission in South Sudan, The New York Times, 23 December 2014.
- Antje Missbach, Unaccompanied children seeking asylum at risk of exploitation in Indonesia, The Jakarta Globe, 6 January 2015.
- Sri Lanka's Rajapaksa admits defeat in election, BBC, 9 January 2015.

### **Selected Publications**

- Kristen Wall, Jenny Aulin and Gabrella Vogelaar (eds.), 2014, Empowerment and protection – Stories of human security, the global partnership for the prevention of armed conflict, The Hague.
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2014, the World Humanitarian Summit regional consultation for North and South-East Asia (23-24 July 2014), final report, Tokyo.

### **Events & Announcements**

- Conference on the Responsibility to Protect at 10: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities in the Asia Pacific, 26–27 February 2015, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14–18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan.

## **TRANSNATIONAL CRIME**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Malaysia, Australia to combat transnational crimes, New Straits Times, 19 December 2014.
- Apichai Sunchindah, Closer regional ties risk aiding crime, Bangkok Post, 29 December 2014.
- Prashanth Parameswaran, A surge in Southeast Asian transnational crime?, The Diplomat, 2 January 2015.
- Joshua Partlow and Nick Miroff, In fight against drugs, Cuba and U.S. on same team, The Washington Post, 5 January 2015.
- King-oua Laohong, Corruption fight takes centre stage, Bangkok Post, 6 January 2015.
- Amy Sawitta Lefevre, Thai PM urges action on human trafficking as U.S. deadline looms, Reuters, 6 January 2015.

### **Selected Publications**

- The Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime, 2014, The private sector and the future of illicit trade: Next generation smuggling and human trafficking challenges, Geneva.
- Transparency International, Closing banks to the corrupt: The role of due diligence and PEPs, Policy Brief 05/2014, Berlin.

### **Events & Announcements**

- The European Serious and Organised Crime Conference 2015, 22 April 2015, Brussels, Belgium.
- Annual Transnational Crime Conference, 6–8 May 2015, Berlin, Germany.

## **WATER SECURITY**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Kerry Cullinan, Water trucks take over as communities run dry, health-e, 15 December 2014.
- Rep Michael Honda and Michael Shank, We can't let climate change turn droughts, flash floods and mudslides into the new normal, The Guardian, 18 December 2014.
- Kim Arora, From water to women's security, Dharavi girls create apps to lift their quality of life, The Times of India, 20 December 2014.
- Iraqi Diyala residents face ISIS 'water war', al Arabiya, 20 December 2014.
- PM calls for sustainable management of Mekong River water, VietnamNet, 22 December 2014.
- Goitom Gebreluel, Rapprochement on the Nile, Al Jazeera, 23 December 2014.
- US renews commitment to securing water for world's poor, US Department of State, 24 December 2014.
- Leong Ching and Karlygash Karamanova, Place of water in Kazakhstan 2050 strategy, The Astana Times, 25 December 2014.
- Singapore lends hand in Malaysia's flood relief efforts, The Malay Online, 29 December 2014.
- Sharlene Leurig, Why water is not the new oil, News-Journal, 3 January 2015.
- Chris Isidore, Bill Gates wants to turn feces into drinking water, CNN, 7 January 2015.
- Nigar Orujova, Armenia threatening water stability in the region, Azernews, 8 January 2015.

### **Selected Publications**

- Laura Jean Palmer-Moloney et al., 2014, Relating urban-rural dynamics to regional water security, in Socio-Cultural Analysis with the Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Intelligence Paradigm, pp. 30–44.
- Gurudeo A. Tularam and Kadari K. Murali, 2015, Water security problems in Asia and longer term implications for Australia, in Sustainable Water Use and Management Green Energy and Technology 2015, pp. 119–149.

### **Events & Announcements**

- The Dresden Nexus Conference, 25–27 March 2015, Dresden, Germany.
- Call for "2015 Riverprize Award" applications, International River Foundation, Brisbane, Australia.