



THINK TANK

News from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Official Opening of the Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade & Negotiations

The date 16 October 2008 saw the official opening of the Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade & Negotiations (TFCTN). Established with an initial donation of \$1.28 million from the Temasek Foundation, TFCTN will embark

upon its agenda of increasing knowledge of trade negotiations and building the capacity of government and business leaders in Asia.

Speaking at the official opening of TFCTN, Mr. Goh Geok Khim, Chairman of the Temasek Foundation, said that the capacity building of trade policy specialists in the region is closely aligned to the foundation's mandate of contributing towards the development of a prosperous and connected Asia, and

that with better trained trade policy specialists, it would hopefully lead to greater economic integration and growth in Asia.

The need for capacity building among developing countries is pressing, as they face a lack of resources and expertise needed to effectively enter into trade negotiations and participate in economic globalization. In his welcome address, Ambassador Barry Desker, Dean of RSIS, emphasized the pressing need

- 1 Official Opening of the Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade & Negotiations
- 3 Distinguished Public Lecture on "China, Asia, and Asian Regionalism"
- 4 Distinguished Public Lecture on "Dynamics of National Development"
- 4 RSIS Monograph No. 14
- 5 Distinguished Public Lecture on "Resilience, Vigilance and Countering Fatigue in a Security Agency"
- 6 The Inauguration of the Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Gold Medal Award in the M.Sc. Programme (Asian Studies)
- 7 Regional Workshop on Energy and Non-Traditional Security
- 8 RSIS Colloquium on "The Asia-Pacific's Evolving Balance of Power and the Future American Role"
- 9 Seminar on "Pandemic Preparedness in Southeast Asia"
- 10 Seminar on "Political and Economic Developments in the Riau Province"
- 10 CENS Global Climate Change Workshop on "Building Consilience between Science, Security and Policy"
- 11 Seminar on "New Developments in Indonesian Jihadism"
- 12 RSIS Alumni Awarded British Chevening Scholarship
- 12 Annual RSIS Staff Retreat



Dean Barry Desker (right), presenting a token to Mr. Goh Geok Khim, Chairman of the Temasek Foundation

for developing countries to participate meaningfully in ongoing economic negotiations. Trade negotiations, according to him, are complex and prohibitive to countries that lack trained officials capable of interpreting the many acronyms and terms of reference. He is, however, confident that by providing government officials and business leaders with high-quality research and training, TFCTN will be able to “contribute to economic growth and development” in Asia in this time of economic uncertainty.

TFCTN is one of the first centres in Asia that provide training and capacity building for trade and negotiations. The centre achieves this through programmes like the TFCTN Executive Programme, specialized executive courses on trade law and trade policy, workshops and conferences, as well as collaborative work with international researchers and practitioners. The first programme, starting at the end of October, will be the TFCTN Executive



Dr. Deborah Kay Elms, Head of the Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade & Negotiations



Guest speaker for the official opening, Professor Robert Z. Lawrence, Albert L. Williams Professor of International Trade and Investment at Harvard University

Programme, a six-week long training programme for mid-level government officials from around the region.

Beyond building competencies of policymakers and top business exec-

utives in world trade, TFCTN will be extending its reach into other areas as well. TFCTN will be assisting the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore, in the hosting of the APEC 2009 Symposium.

The TFCTN Executive Programme

The TFCTN Executive Programme, the first programme organized by TFCTN, is a six-week capacity-building and training programme focused on trade negotiations and economic issues. Participants are drawn from various government agencies and ministries from around the region. These officials include mid-career and senior level staff from trade and industry, as well as finance, agriculture and other government agencies that handle trade policy formulation.

Mid-level government officials from the trade and foreign ministries of Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Laos, the Maldives, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam were in Singapore for the TFCTN Executive Programme, which lasted from 29 October to 5 December.

Programme trainers comprised experts and practitioners from the fields of world trade, international law and economics. Experts like Lim Aik Hoe, Counsellor in the Trade in Services Division, WTO; Patrick Low, Chief Economist and Director of Economic Research and Statistics, WTO, as well as Razeen Sally, Co-Director of the European Centre for International Political Economy, shared their knowledge of topics like intellectual property rights issues related to trade negotiations as well as the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO.

The executive programme provided the government officials with the practical, interdisciplinary knowledge needed to effectively participate in international trade negotiations. The overall objective of the course is to assist regional states in implementing WTO and FTA agreements domestically through training and to create a greater awareness of the rules of various trading regimes. This will help regional and local officials devise strategies to best meet the challenges of—and benefit from—global trade liberalization and economic integration.

In addition to negotiation techniques, the executive programme provided officials with in-depth knowledge of topics like intellectual property rights issues related to trade negotiations. Other topics covered in the programme included the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO and anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws. The centre made extensive use of case studies and simulations in teaching, which were carefully targeted at the Asian participants in the programme.

Distinguished Public Lecture on “China, Asia, and Asian Regionalism”

– by Professor Zhang Yunling

Professor Zhang Yunling, the inaugural Ngee Ann Kongsi Professor of International Relations and Professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, delivered the RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture at the Marina Mandarin on 29 October 2008. His lecture, titled “China, Asia, and Asian Regionalism”, was chaired by the Dean of RSIS, Ambassador Barry Desker.

Professor Zhang outlined the changes that have led to China’s more active and global external outlook recently. In addition to the change from a passive to a more active approach, Professor Zhang highlighted the fact that China has moved from preferring a bilateral approach to a more regional, multilateral one. He proposed four categories by which China’s new regional outlook can be framed and explained: new regional strategy, new mindset, new policy efforts and new initiatives.

China’s new regional strategy, Professor Zhang explained, was informed and driven by the changing logic of the post-Cold War world. The demise of Soviet-U.S. superpower rivalry has transformed the regional strategic and political environment, causing a dramatic revision of China’s regional strategy. This changed

environment has also resulted in China having to deal with a more complex global environment, rather than the more narrowly defined regional one. This new environment is in sharp contrast to the past, where threats to China had stemmed from the immediate region.

Professor Zhang also highlighted the fact that China’s new strategy, which now includes an economic dimension, also reflected a changed strategic environment in which economic issues and relations have become as salient as the political. He further argued that China’s new strategy reflected the importance of long-term and sustainable economic development as a domestic policy priority. Hence, the overall objective of its strategy was to create a stable and peaceful external environment that was conducive to securing its economic development objective.

In discussing China’s new mindset, Professor Zhang focused on two important key issues. The first was Beijing’s acknowledgement that by opening up and integrating into the globalizing international system, China could benefit more than by adhering to a more closed system. Second, China’s current relations with the traditional great powers re-

flected its advocacy of a multi-polar world. The combination of the two has resulted in a China that is more interested and engaged in regional initiatives.

In terms of tangible policy initiatives, Professor Zhang highlighted two recent significant ones. The first was a concerted effort on the part of Beijing to settle border disputes with its land neighbours, especially Vietnam. The second was an increase in confidence-building measures with India. These two policy initiatives demonstrated China’s increasing willingness to forge new regional partnerships and to participate in regional cooperative initiatives.

Professor Zhang concluded his talk by noting that China’s preferred vehicle for regional initiatives remained the ASEAN + 10 model. This reflected China’s still-cautious approach, and a preference for using existing mechanisms rather than to initiate the building of new ones. In the meantime, it appears that China was committed to a multi-front approach of positively engaging with its neighbours. In sum, China’s current regional outlook projected an emerging power that is cooperative, reliable, consultative and patient.



From left: Professor Zhang Yunling, Sonia Foo of Ngee Ann Kongsi and Dean Barry Desker

Distinguished Public Lecture on “Dynamics of National Development”

– by Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam



Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, President of India 2002–2007 and Professor of Technology and Social Transformation at Anna University, Chennai

On 27 August 2008, RSIS, together with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the CII India Business Forum, had the honour of having Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India (2002–2007) and Professor of Technology and Social Transformation at Anna University, Chennai, as a distinguished speaker in RSIS’s Dis-

tinguished Public Lecture Series. Dr. Kalam delivered an engaging lecture to more than 400 people at the Pan Pacific Hotel, Singapore. Dr. Kalam spoke a day after he was conferred an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering (Honoris Causa) from the Nanyang Technological University. The honorary degree was conferred in recognition of Dr. Kalam’s lifelong achievements in the service of India, his international reputation in science and technology and his contributions to the improvement of India-Singapore relations.

In his lecture, Dr. Kalam explained his vision for India to become a developed country through science and technology, which was espoused in his book, *India 2020*. Some of the objectives of India 2020 were: no one below the poverty line; national literacy at 100%; at least 5% of Fortune 500 companies will be Indian; India will have 10% of world trade; every Indian will have either a university degree or quality training with employable vocational skills; e-governance for a corruption-free and transparent governance system; electricity for every village with sanitary facilities reaching every

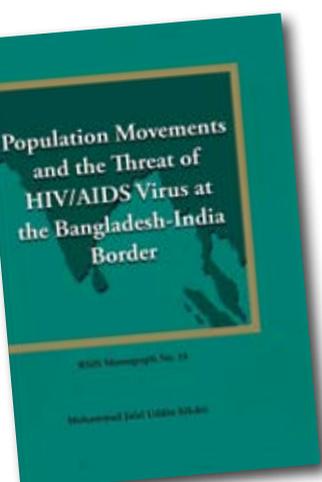
home; a pro-active healthcare system to provide quality healthcare; and increased opportunities for all students to take up courses of their choice in higher education institutions, among others.

To achieve this vision, Dr. Kalam identified five areas for integrated action: agriculture and food processing; education and healthcare; information and communication technology; infrastructure; and self-reliance in critical technologies. He believed that if these five areas are progressed in a coordinated way it will lead to food, economic and national security.

Dr. Kalam also explained that in India’s quest to achieve the vision of “India 2020”, opportunities for investments would be available for other countries. Some of these opportunities can be found in the areas of agriculture and food processing, infrastructure, energy, water management, aerospace and shipbuilding, as well as in transportation.

Concluding his lecture, Dr. Kalam emphasized the importance of nurturing creative leadership, as it would facilitate global competitiveness and help transform nations as knowledge societies.

RSIS Monograph No. 14



This monograph extends the notion of securitization in exploring and framing the concerns over the spread of HIV/AIDS. It claims that the spread of HIV/AIDS, along territorial border regions constitute a security threat that demands urgent and sustained policy attention. Such a security threat is broadly captured from the perspective of human security or non-traditional security (NTS), which places an emphasis on the security of people.

Population Movements and the Threat of HIV/AIDS Virus at the Bangladesh-India Border by Muhammad Jalal Uddin Sikder

In this light, the monograph examines the socio-economic status of people living near the border between Bangladesh and India. By uncovering the realities that explain the nature of cross-border migration and the sexual behaviour and habits of migrants, this monograph seeks to understand to what extent these activities have an effect on their level of socio-economic development.

Distinguished Public Lecture on “Resilience, Vigilance and Countering Fatigue in a Security Agency” – by Mr. Jean Francois Clair

On 12 August 2008, the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) invited the distinguished Mr. Jean Francois Clair, former Deputy Director of the French Internal Security Department (DST), to deliver a lecture on “Resilience, Vigilance and Countering Fatigue in a Security Agency”. Mr. Clair was appointed Deputy Director of the DST in 1999 and retired from service in 2007.

Drawing on France’s experience with terrorism, Mr. Clair talked about four ways in which security agencies can maintain high levels of vigilance and alertness.

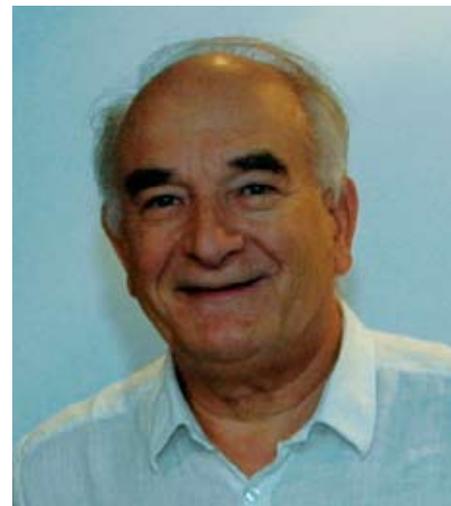
The first was that members of security agencies must stay permanently motivated. Mr. Clair explained that the jihadist threat in Europe had come increasingly from “homegrown activists” that do not belong to organized networks. They are difficult to detect and require constant and stringent monitoring through methods like monitoring of extremist websites, telephone interceptions and physical surveillances in hostile places. Sustained motivation of security agents

is all the more important when the jihadist threat is permanent and will continue to exist in the near future.

Secondly, security personnel must be highly motivated and carefully selected. To attract such people into the security agencies, besides attractive salaries and career prospects, the protection of the identities and activities of security personnel is essential. Their selection should meet stringent security requirements as well as ensure that the candidates have a balanced psychological profile.

Moving on, Mr. Clair explained that security personnel must also have specific training. The most important training will be in the field, through experience gained under the supervision of their seniors and their immediate chiefs. To maintain high levels of motivation, there is a need to provide job mobility so as to avoid the risk of security personnel becoming unmotivated as a result of doing the same tasks for too long.

Fourthly, the security department must prove its efficiency to both the political authority and the citizens of the country. Without trust from the political authorities, competing insti-



Mr. Jean Francois Clair, former Deputy Director of the Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire (DST)

tutions would be set up, which would dilute the cohesion and efficiency of the core security agencies responsible for security tasks. At the same time, a country’s citizens can prove invaluable because they are important human sources of information. Mr. Clair illustrated this through the example of the search for Action Directe, a terrorist group that committed bomb attacks and killed important French personalities in 1987. They were eventually located with the help of their neighbour, who identified them after seeing their pictures on television.

RSIS and ICPVTR would like to thank Mr. Clair for an open and insightful sharing, tapping from his wealth of experience in counter-terrorism work in the DST.

Titles in IDSS/RSIS Monograph Series

To purchase any of these monographs, please e-mail isgcng@ntu.edu.sg

Population Movements and the Threat of HIV/AIDS Virus at the Bangladesh-India Border (Mohammad Jalal Uddin Sikdar)

Do Institutions Matter? Regional institutions and Regionalism in East Asia (See Seng Tan)

Forgetting Osama bin Munqidh, Remembering Osama bin Laden (Umej Bhatia)

People’s ASEAN and Governments’ ASEAN (Hiro Katsumata and See Seng Tan)

Post-Suharto Civil-Military Relations in Indonesia (Yuddy Chrisnandi)

The Post-Tsunami Reconstruction of Aceh and the Implementation of the Peace Agreement (Aleksius Jemadu)

Fading Away: The Political Role of the Army in Indonesia’s Transition to Democracy 1998–2001 (Tatik S. Hafidz)

Betwixt and Between: Southeast Asian Strategic Relations with the U.S. and China (Evelyn Goh)

The OSCE and Co-operative Security in Europe: Lessons for Asia (Joachim Krause)

A New Agenda for the ASEAN Regional Forum (Tan See Seng, Ralf Emmers, Mely Caballero-Anthony, Amitav Acharya, Barry Desker and Kwa Chong Guan)

Beyond Vulnerability? Water in Singapore-Malaysia Relations (Irvin Lim, Joey Long and Kog Yue Choong)

China’s Strategic Engagement with New ASEAN (S.D. Muni)

Neither Friend Nor Foe: Myanmar’s Relations with Thailand since 1988 (Aung Myoe)

The Inauguration of the Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Gold Medal Award in the M.Sc. Programme (Asian Studies)

On 29 August 2008, RSIS hosted the inauguration of the Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Gold Medal Award in the Master of Science Programme in Asian Studies. The Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Ltd has generously donated \$75,000 to RSIS. With a matching grant from the Singapore Government, this would generate sufficient income every year for a Gold Medal Award and a sum of \$4,500 to be awarded to the top student graduating from RSIS's Master of Science Programme in Asian Studies.

Dr. Andrew Chew, Chairman of the RSIS Board of Governors, and Mr. Ameerali Jumabhoy, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Ltd, signed the Gift Agreement for the Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Gold Medal Award. Witnesses of the signing of the Gift Agreement included distinguished guests like Mr. Abdullah bin Tarmugi, Honourable Speaker of Parliament and Member of Parliament, East Coast GRC; H.E. Sajjad Ashraf, High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; and Mr. S. Chandra Das, Pro-Chancellor of Nanyang Technological University and Chairman of the RSIS Endowment Fund Raising Committee. After the signing of the Gift Agreement, Mr. Yusuf Jumabhoy, on behalf of the Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation, presented a gift to Dr. Andrew Chew.

The Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Ltd was set up in 1992, with funds derived from the family trusts set up by the Jumabhoy family since 1973. The late Mr. Rajabali Jumabhoy was a prominent businessman and patriarch of the Jumabhoy family business. Mr. Rajabali Jumabhoy was also a lifelong associate of Mr. Tan Kah Kee, Mr. Lee Kong Chian and Mr. Tan Lark Sye.



The guest of honour, Mr. Abdullah Tarmugi (left), Speaker of the Singapore Parliament and MP for East Coast GRC, sharing a candid moment with Mr. Ameerali Jumabhoy

Currently, the Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Ltd is chaired and managed by Mr. Rajabali Jumabhoy's sons (Mr. Ameerali Jumabhoy, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Rajabali Foundation Ltd and Mr. Yusuf Jumabhoy) and Dato' Mustafa Jumabhoy. The generous donation by the Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Ltd was made to honour the memory of Mr. Rajabali Jumabhoy, who was also a friend of Mr. S. Rajaratnam.

RSIS would like to thank the Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Ltd for their generosity. The donation will go a long way in spurring our students in M.Sc. Programme (Asian Studies) towards high levels of academic excellence.

Dr. Andrew Chew (left), Chairman of the RSIS Board of Governors, and Mr. Ameerali Jumabhoy

New RSIS Master of Science

To provide students with a wider choice of courses, RSIS introduced a new Master of Science Programme, in Asian Studies, in Academic Year 2008. This programme was also designed to take into consideration the historic rise of new powers in Asia, the dynamic political and economic changes involved, and the ensuing security challenges that they present to the region. The programme will strive to help candidates develop an in-depth understanding of these dynamic changes by adopting approaches tested in the disciplines of History, Comparative Politics, International Relations and Economics. The programme also aims to facilitate students to acquire relevant analytical tools and historical perspectives so that they can analyse and make sense of new trends emerging on the Asian horizon. The cutting-edge knowledge and skills offered in the programme are expected to benefit students in their professional careers in the private and public sectors.

Unlike Asian Studies programmes of the West, students reading this programme at RSIS spend their time as participant-scholars in one of the most cosmopolitan and strategically located cities in Asia. Students are

Foundation Gold (Asian Studies)



Programme in Asian Studies

immediately connected and attuned to the latest developments in the region and will have ample opportunities to meet foreign policymakers and prominent Asian specialists from think tanks, non-profit organizations and universities throughout the world. Students will also have the opportunity to hone their linguistic skills further in Singapore, which is home to various communities that converse in many Asian languages.

The Master of Science Programme in Asian Studies is empirically driven and area-centred. There is a strong political economy and security focus in the programme. Key diplomatic, economic, political and security issues that have contemporary policy implications are explored in detail. The programme is tailored to the interests of individual students so that they can also choose to focus on a specific country or develop extensive expertise on certain issue areas. Students are required to take two core courses. In addition, M.Sc. students completing a dissertation will have take five additional elective courses or seven electives (for students in the non-dissertation stream). For more details on the RSIS Master of Science Programme, please visit www.rsis.edu.sg/teaching/Msc.asp.

Regional Workshop on Energy and Non- Traditional Security



Professor S. K. Chou, Executive Director of the Energy Studies Institute, NUS, delivering the opening address at the workshop

RSIS's Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies organized a Regional Workshop on Energy and Non-Traditional Security on 28 and 29 August 2008. The workshop was supported by the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia), which is led by the Centre for NTS Studies.

The workshop examined the attendant issues and challenges in addressing the problem of energy security primarily in the East Asian region and adopted a multi-disciplinary approach in examining the interwoven intricacies of energy security and its impact on the region, state and human security.

The premise of the ensuing discussions was based on the consensus that traditional political thinking on the issue of energy security focused on ensuring supply without much emphasis on the socio-economic and environmental impact as well as the role of non-state actors.

Therefore, the workshop analysed, among other things, the shifting approach to energy security beyond the conventional, state-centric, geo-political approach towards a human security-centric approach.

A total of 26 scholars of varying expertise were convened and grouped under four themes that were split into seven sessions over the two days.

The first day covered two themes—contemporary views on energy security and country studies—which included major players from the northeast and southeast regions, the United States, India and Australia. The second day discussed the non-traditional dimensions of energy security, environmental and socio-economic impact, and the role of the market, technology and civil society.

The workshop concluded that states have indeed begun to factor in non-traditional security issues into their national energy security policy framework, albeit at varying degrees and pace. However, the challenge for most states remains in securing their national energy needs while simultaneously mitigating the impact on the environment with an eye towards sustainable development in the long run.

RSIS Colloquium

“The Asia-Pacific’s Evolving Balance of Power and the Future American Role”

– by Professor William T. Tow

On 2 October 2008, Professor William T. Tow, RSIS Visiting Professor and Professor of International Security at the Australian National University’s Department of International Relations, spoke on “The Asia-Pacific’s Evolving Balance of Power and the Future American Role”.

At the beginning of the colloquium, Professor Tow offered an overview of the concept of balance of power in the Asian context. He contended that the nature of Asia’s balance of power was debatable from the outset because the concept was Euro-centric. Asia, according to Professor Tow, was actually going through a community-building experience that involved the process of determining its own identity on a collective basis through mechanisms and architecture such as ASEAN, the ARF and the new East Asian Summit. These experiences were unique to the region itself, and while Europe’s historical experience could be learnt, they were not identical to Asia’s situation.

Professor Tow also put forward the idea that the world has experienced nothing like globalization before—complex interdependence was really the name of the game in today’s international system. That being the case, if the U.S. were to sneeze, the rest of the world would catch a cold, in financial terms. With this level of complex interdependence, the old balance of power construct just would not apply. From a power-balancing perspective, Professor Tow espoused the view that the U.S. theoretically would fit into an Asian balance of power equation as a stabilizer.

Professor Tow asserted that the range and intensity of risk that existed during the Cold War had been replaced by threats from distant and poorly understood corners of the world. He opined that presidential foreign-policy advisors who were intent on deriving sound bites during presidential campaigns may not be the right people to advise the president of the U.S. Therefore, how the transitional period would be handled—between 4 November 2008, when the new candidate would be elected, and 20 January 2009, when the candidate would become president—would be a critical time frame for how stable the international system was going to be.

Besides that, Professor Tow highlighted that the U.S. has some geo-economic weaknesses (energy, finance, etc.), which had undermined its power projection capabilities in terms of how it was able to shape or



Professor William Tow, RSIS Visiting Professor and Professor of International Security at the Australian National University’s Department of International Relations

counter-balance Asian sovereign wealth funds that had underwritten American and European banks. This may be complicated even more by an Obama presidency if he is serious about intensifying U.S. trade protectionism in Asia.

Pondering the notion of U.S. diplomatic influence, Professor Tow questioned whether the U.S. had lost its “soft power”. Notwithstanding this, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs Report (2008) had indicated that most Asian leaders and citizens (outside China) were still hoping that the U.S. could project effective soft power because of China’s ultimate intentions in the region.

Lastly, Professor Tow proposed that there seemed to be a systemic shift in the global balance of power from “advanced democracies” to “emerging developing nations”, as well as a gradual decline of U.S. regional and global leadership, in part because U.S. foreign policy had been myopic, which was particularly distinct in the lack of U.S. involvement in the Asian architecture building.

Seminar on “Pandemic Preparedness in Southeast Asia” – by Dr. Takeshi Kasai

On 20 October 2008, RSIS's Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies invited Dr. Takeshi Kasai, Regional Advisor for the World Health Organization's (WHO) Western Pacific Regional Office, to speak on the state of pandemic preparedness in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Kasai began by emphasizing that pandemics are neither a new security threat nor a phenomenon that belong to the past. He pointed out that it would be impossible to accurately predict the actual effects and the size of pandemics. What is possible, however, is for WHO to develop frameworks for preparing for and dealing with pandemics, and to enable the sharing of information.

Dr. Kasai continued by stating that emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) had brought social systems to their breaking points in the past, and could do so again. The experience of SARS, according to Dr. Kasai, showed WHO that there is a need for better coordination of information between itself and the various health ministries in the Western Pacific. WHO instituted new international health regulations (IHRs) that were designed to help overcome such shortcomings. These new IHRs define the rights, obligations and permissions between WHO and its member states. A “National Focal Point” has now been designated by each member country to enable direct and continuous communication between WHO and national officials of the state. Guidelines have been established with clear criteria

for risk assessment, and a secure website has been established to allow national stakeholders to share information and reports securely and confidentially.

Moving on, Dr. Kasai spoke on the status of avian and pandemic influenza in Asia. A worrisome development in the area of avian influenza is that wild birds have begun to die of avian influenza, even if these birds are normally more resistant to disease than domesticated birds. This also indicated that the virus could now travel outside Asia, by vectors that are largely uncontrollable (the migration of wild birds). On the issue of pandemic influenza, Dr. Kasai stated that there was a total of 387 reported cases of H5N1 in humans as of October 2008, with over 80% of the cases from Asia. At present, H5N1 still has limited capacity for human-to-human transmission. It is, however, entrenched in Asia and cases of animal-to-human transmission do exist. A pandemic risk, therefore, remains. The damage arising from an influenza pandemic has been estimated to be as high as US\$800 billion within a year, in contrast to SARS, which cost only US\$40 billion. The fact that over 96% of pandemic influenza cases are projected to occur in the developing world, which has inadequate resources to meet a crisis of this kind, is also worrisome.

Dr. Kasai concluded the seminar by pointing out what needed to be done in terms of research, exercises, planning and core capacity development. More research in terms of the modelling of the



*Dr. Takeshi Kasai, Regional Advisor,
WHO Western Pacific Regional Office*

spread and severity of a pandemic in developing countries is necessary and urgent. He also highlighted that patterns of seasonal influenza burdens should also be given attention, as they may be a litmus test of public health infrastructure. Improvements to existing pandemic preparedness plans should also be undertaken in the region, in accordance with WHO guidelines and their new emphasis on a holistic pandemic-response and mitigation strategy. Standard operating procedures should also be created and tested using exercises, to ensure that the plans are operationalized even at the ground level. Finally, Dr. Kasai reminded the audience that readiness is a direct result of building core capacity in public health infrastructure

Seminar on “Political and Economic Developments in the Riau Province” – by Bapak drh. H. Chaidir

On 31 July 2008, the Indonesia Programme of RSIS invited Bapak drh. H. Chaidir, former Speaker in the Riau Province Regional House of Representatives and candidate for Governor in the recent Riau gubernatorial election, to speak on “Political and Economic Developments in the Riau Province”.

Bapak Chaidir shared with the audience that it was the first time that the position of Governor for the Riau Province was available for direct election. Previously, the governor was elected by the Provincial Parliament. According to Bapak Chaidir, this change was a result of the implementation of regional autonomy in Indonesia. The separate regions within Indonesia now have a chance to man-

age the development within their region and are no longer dependent on the central government’s approval for development planning. Evidently, the implementation of regional autonomy has affected the election system at the provincial and district levels, where locals have a chance to participate in local elections.

Speaking on the relations between Singapore and Riau, Bapak Chaidir emphasized the importance of the relationship. He considered Singapore to be an important centre of capital and technology. Riau’s relationship with Singapore is all the more crucial as resource-rich Riau does not have adequate capital for exploration and development of the resources.



Bapak drh. H. Chaidir, former Speaker of the Riau Province Regional House of Representatives

Essential to attracting investment to Riau, Bapak Chaidir highlighted the concept of political stability and security. With about 300 land conflicts over the past five years in Riau, there are still problems to be solved. By providing a climate of certainty for the investors, more investment and capital will flow into Riau for its development projects.

CENS Global Climate Change Workshop on “Building Consilience between Science, Security and Policy”

On 14 July 2008, the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS), with the support of the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS), organized the Global Climate Change Workshop on the theme, “Building Consilience between Science, Security and Policy”. The workshop brought together a stellar cast of local and international thought-leaders to speak on and explore further facets of the climate change conundrum.

The first speaker for Panel One, Professor Arnulf Grubler, presented on the importance of adopting a scenario-based approach in climate change assessment and management. The second speaker, Associate Professor Wong Poh Poh, focused his analysis on the geographical region of the Asia-Pacific and lectured on the impact and implications that climate change would have on the coastal communities and ecosystems of that region.

Panel Two looked at the connections and inter-relationships between climate change and national security. The first speaker, Professor Brahma Chellaney, gave a highly illuminating talk on the strategic elements of climate change and highlighted the various security-related effects that climate change might potentially engender. The second speaker, Dr. Tapani Vahtoranta, added further to the richness of the discourse by stressing the issue of “security’s ambiguity” and how this would impact the perception of climate change’s nexus with international security.

The last panel focused on the question of crafting effective policies for climate change. Speaking first, Dr. Jurgen Kropp argued for a climate change policy that combined GHG (global greenhouse gas) emission mitigation in tandem with proactive and efficient adaptation strategies. Dr. Peter Read, on the other hand, advocated for an alternative mitigation strategy that emphasized the removal of carbon from the atmosphere.

This workshop also had the privilege of hearing from Mr. Philip Ong, Director (Climate Change) at the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, Singapore. Mr. Ong, who spoke from the perspective of a practitioner, shared in great length about the “Singapore approach” towards environmental challenges.

The workshop closed with a roundtable discussion, where further ideas and perspectives were debated and canvassed.

Seminar on “New Developments in Indonesian Jihadism” – by Sidney Jones

On 29 October 2008, RSIS was privileged to host Ms. Sidney Jones, Senior Advisor on the Asia Program with the International Crisis Group. Ms. Jones is an expert on Indonesian terrorism and Islamic radicalism and has produced reports on Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and its operations in Indonesia and the Philippines.

Ms. Jones spoke to RSIS students and staff, media and others guests about “New Developments in Indonesian Jihadism”. According to her, while JI as a political organization is weakening, its social network remains strong. The potential for violence could come from smaller groups, not exclusively comprising JI members, but rather a fusion of jihadi outfits and organizations. However, the biggest danger came from what Ms. Jones called the “nothing-to-lose” group, comprising extremists who are fugitives. This group included Mas Selamat Kastari, the JI leader who escaped from Singapore’s Whitley Road Detention Centre in February 2008, and Malaysian Noordin Mohammed Top, who is Southeast Asia’s most wanted terror suspect and the alleged mastermind of the two Bali bombings.

Ms. Jones noted good law enforcement as one of the reasons

why JI is weakening. Likewise, major internal divisions on issues like leadership and direction and lack of community support had contributed as well. As a result, more members are moving to join legitimate, above-ground non-violent organizations in Indonesia like Dewan Dakwah, the Islamic Propagation Council. On the other hand, some members of such groups are getting recruited into clandestine organizations, which blurs the line between clandestine and above-ground organizations in Indonesia.

Ms. Jones pointed out radical Islamist preacher Abu Bakar Bashir’s new group, Jemaah Ansharut Tauhid, as an example of the trend. In her report, she did not think the new group has the potential to be violent as long as it remains above ground and its members operate openly. Mr. Bashir had served almost 26 months in jail for conspiracy over the 2002 Bali attacks before he was released.

Ms. Jones also touched on what drove jihad in the region. While anger over the conflict in Iraq was not enough to push for jihad locally, communal conflict will. She cited the Mindanao issue between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) as



Ms. Sidney Jones, Senior Advisor, International Crisis Group

an example. Peace talks between the two parties collapsed in August 2008. She reported that there are about 50 Indonesians, Malaysians and Singaporeans operating in Mindanao and some of these jihadists might feel obliged to help rogue elements of the MILF. Therefore, there is a stronger need to strengthen security and focus on these individuals.

In conclusion, Ms. Jones stated that while the threat in Indonesia is ongoing, the overall capacity for groups to undertake violent action against foreign targets has steadily declined.



Panelists from a session of the workshop (from left): Associate Professor Wong Poh Poh, NUIS; Professor Arnulf Grubler, Yale University; and Dr. Chang Youngho, RSIS

RSIS Alumni Awarded British Chevening Scholarship

Every year, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the British Council award the British Chevening Scholarship to talented graduates and young professionals all over the world to enable them to study in the United Kingdom.

This year, two RSIS alumni have been awarded the prestigious scholarship. Mr. Alvin Tan Poh Heng and Mr. Samuel Chan Ling Wei were awarded the scholarship to pursue the Master of Law in Public International Law at the University of Nottingham and the Master of Science in Russian and East European Studies at St. Antony's College, University of Oxford, respectively.

When asked about the advantage of being an RSIS alumnus in apply-

ing for the scholarship, Mr. Samuel Chan had this to say:

I am very grateful to the following RSIS staff and visitors for their comradeship, invaluable advice and encouragement: Gerard Chaliand and Kumar Ramakrishna for their mentorship and academic references; Khong Yuen Foong, Neil MacFarlane (2008 S. Rajaratnam Professor), Iqbal Singh Sevea and Caleb Liu for their academic and social insights into Oxford; Ron Matthews, Raja Mohan, Joseph Liow, Tan See Seng, Bernard Loo, Emrys Chew and Joey Long for their candid views and concern. As with my experience in Afghanistan, I endeavour to contribute

12–13 January 2009
Pandemic Preparedness Conference
Marina Mandarin, Singapore

16 January 2009
Distinguished Public Lecture:
“Does the Elephant Dance? Some Speculations on Contemporary Indian Foreign Policy”
NTU Lecture Theatre 23, Singapore

16 February 2009
Workshop on “Food Defence and Security”
Traders Hotel, Singapore

19–20 March 2009
Sentosa Roundtable 2009
The Sentosa Resort & Spa, Singapore

my knowledge and experience of Russia and East Europe to future M.Sc. students at RSIS.”

RSIS congratulates the two alumni for being awarded the prestigious scholarship and looks forward to more good news from our alumni.

Annual RSIS Staff Retreat

On 1 August 2008, RSIS held its annual staff retreat at the Republic of Singapore Yacht Club. The annual event was an opportunity for senior staff members of the School to reflect on recent accomplishments and discuss plans and significant issues informally. The premises of the club, which overlooks a yachting marina, provided an ideal setting for the occasion.

As in previous years, the staff retreat focused on core issues pertaining to teaching and research, in the context of RSIS as a professional graduate school of international affairs. Administrative issues came under the spotlight as well. In light of RSIS's rapid growth and expansion, the staff retreat was a useful opportunity for senior staff members to network, share and see the many changes in the proper perspective. The staff retreat was followed by a buffet dinner by the sea.

