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Preparing for Indonesia's Future



Associate Professor Leonard Sebastian (left), Coordinator of RSIS' Indonesia Programme, with other conference speakers during one of the panel discussions

On 4 November 2008, the Indonesia Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), in collaboration with PT. Ancora International, organized a conference on the theme "The Future of Indonesia Beyond 2014: Prospects and Challenges". In his welcome remarks, Mr. Gita Wirjawan, CEO of PT. Ancora International, set the tone for the conference by emphasizing the critical role which the Indonesian speakers

and participants could play in taking Indonesia beyond 2014. (In December 2008, Mr. Wirjawan donated a generous sum of money to establish the Gita Wirjawan Graduate Fellowship at RSIS. See inset for the story.)

The conference brought together some of Indonesia's prominent young leaders from various backgrounds and sectors to offer a future-oriented perspective in the analysis of Indonesia beyond the 2014 general and presidential elections. The

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Gita Wirjawan Graduate Fellowship



Mr. Gita Wirjawan, Chairman of PT Ancora International

As a professional graduate school of international affairs, RSIS hopes to nurture and prepare young Indonesians for leadership roles through the Gita Wirjawan Graduate Fellowship. Mr. Gita Irawan Wirjawan, Chairman of Ancora International and Senior Advisor of JP Morgan Southeast Asia, has generously donated S\$150,000 for the setting up of the fellowship. Open to Indonesian students admitted for studies at RSIS, each fellowship at S\$30,000, is tenable for one year. RSIS is pleased to be a partner of the Ancora Foundation in helping to build capacity in Indonesia.

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conference addressed critical challenges and prospects across several key sectors, namely, politics, the economy, security, the judicial, and civil society, all of which are expected to be critical for the future of Indonesia in the next twenty to thirty years. The four-session conference also aimed to provide a platform for potential Indonesian leaders and opinion makers to voice their ideas and to exchange views with renowned scholars and observers.

The conference closed with an emphasis on the need to equip these emerging leaders and opinion-makers with the tools needed for an understanding of the changes that lie in the future, through the development of skills like

strategic foresight and strategies, and how to map possible futures for Indonesia.

A day before the conference, some of the Indonesian speakers and participants attended a workshop on future studies organized by RSIS' Indonesia Programme. The closed-door workshop was organized around a future studies framework led by world renowned futurist Prof. Sohail Inayatullah, a political scientist associated with Taiwan's Graduate Institute for Futures Studies, University of the Sunshine Coast, and Prout College. The workshop involved eighteen young leaders from Indonesia's national parliament, major political parties, universities, research institutes, major civil society groups and the media.

Obama's Foreign Policy Challenges



Ambassador Mitchell B. Reiss

On 11 December 2008, Ambassador Mitchell B. Reiss spoke at RSIS' Distinguished Public Lecture titled "From Campaign Rhetoric to Global Leadership: Foreign Policy Challenges for President-elect Barack Obama". In his talk, Amb. Reiss focused on the projection of US foreign policy under Obama and the potential challenges that would take place after he was sworn in as president.

Noting that while Obama's initial position was to end the war in Iraq and to remove some 155,000 US troops within the first 16 months of taking office, a closer examination of his subsequent campaign stance revealed that Obama had only referred to the removal of all combat troops from Iraq within the first 16 months – a nuance that was lost on his more liberal supporters. Amb. Reiss observed that Obama's rhetoric was well phrased to allow room for maneuver and a flexible interpretation of his commitment to withdrawing forces from Iraq.

On free trade issues, Amb. Reiss noted that Obama competed with Hilary Clinton to portray himself as being the tougher of the two presidential candidates. Obama criticised corporations which sent American jobs offshore, pledged to re-negotiate NAFTA and vote against the three free trade deals with Columbia, Panama and South Korea pending before Congress.

Obama had also portrayed that he was the face of change in the conduct of American diplomacy when he said in an interview that he would sit down and negotiate with leaders from countries like Iran, Syria, Venezuela, China, Cuba and North Korea. Although Obama was heavily criticized for his comments, it showed that he had a style that went beyond just "defeating evil" in the realm of diplomacy. It

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signified a shift in attitude towards rogue regimes. Amb. Reiss added that Obama's stance showed that unlike the previous administration, he did not equate talking to enemies with surrender or appeasement.

Amb. Reiss believed that the economic crisis presented the biggest challenge to the incoming administration as a weak economy would affect the power and influence of the US. A strong US economy was necessary to ensure its military power and global economic health since countries would adopt more protectionist policies which would pose as a challenge to US foreign policy and diplomatic influence globally.

With regards to engaging China, Amb. Reiss believed that the Obama Administration could build on the existing good bilateral relationship that has already been established by the Bush Administration. He reckoned that the US could use such grounds for testing China's responsibility as a stakeholder on issues such as the six-party talks, Darfur, energy and climate change and on Iran's nuclear ambitions. Obama also needed to win over quarters of the Democratic party which viewed China as the suppressor in Tibet, as infringing on intellectual property and a violator of human rights, in order to be able to lock in strategic gains from a US-China partnership.

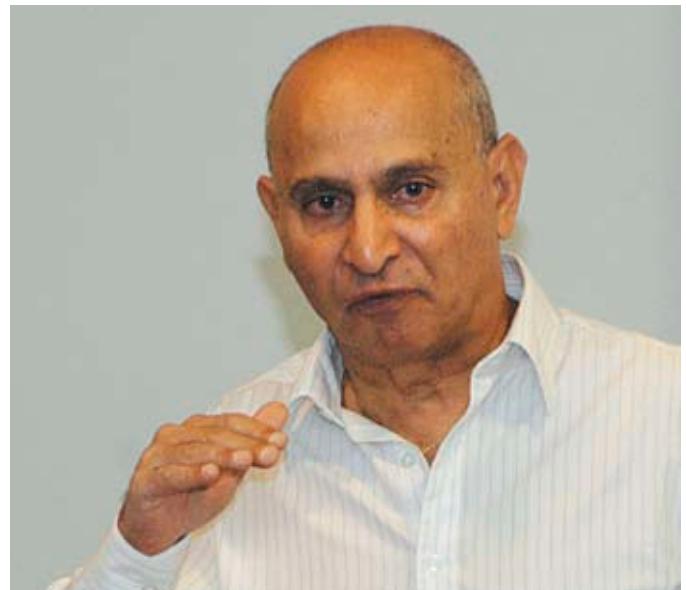
National Security Coordination — The Israeli Experience

On 4 November 2008, RSIS' Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) hosted a talk by Mr. Ilan Mizrahi, the former head of Israel's National Security Council (NSC). Mr. Mizrahi spoke on "The Coordination of National Security: Reflections on the Israeli Experience." In his talk, Mr. Mizrahi drew on his rich experience and outlined the challenges to the effective coordination of Israel's security apparatus.

The first challenge was that Israel's preoccupation with daily tactical threats prevented its decision-makers from dealing with long-range policy decisions or plans. Another issue stemmed from having coalition governments in power. Mr. Mizrahi observed that Prime Ministers without a big majority were often kept busy with the need to keep or preserve coalitions, making deals or compromises along the way to get policy measures passed. This increased the diversity of agendas which people may bring to the table, adding to the complexity of the decision-making process.

The third challenge was that various security and intelligence agencies reported to different or multiple ministries. Exacerbating the situation, agency heads jostling for priority access to the Prime Minister led to competition for his time as well as duplication of the work carried out by the NSC.

In Mr. Mizrahi's opinion, the relationship between the Prime Minister and the decision-making apparatus of the intelligence community was one of the most complicated issues affecting effective coordination. While the Prime Minister wanted "simple" answers from the intelligence community, intelligence often added complexity rather than clarity to issues.



Mr Ilan Mizrahi

Another challenge arose as a result of the increased speed and spread of the media today. The media is often quicker than the intelligence community in reporting on an event, forcing a quick reaction from the Prime Minister. As first impressions count, this can also frame the issue for the Prime Minister before more careful reporting from the intelligence community was received.

Despite these challenges, Mr. Mizrahi explained that the coordination set-up often works because of the professionalism of the security community in Israel. He recounted a maxim to explain this outlook, "good intelligence doesn't mean good policy, but bad intelligence guarantees bad policy."

Choking The Cash Flow for Terrorism

RSIS' International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) conducted an international workshop on "Countering the Financing of Terrorism" at the Association of Banks in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 14 to 16 January 2009. Held at the invitation of the Government of Uzbekistan, the workshop aimed to strengthen the government and the private sector in Uzbekistan to counter the financing of terrorism. The workshop was attended by representatives of the Central Bank, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General Prosecutor's Office, security and intelligence agencies, law enforcement authorities, the military, and public and private banks.

The main aims of the workshop were threefold. The first was to create awareness among the stakeholders regarding the threat of terrorist financing. The second was to build capacity among government and banking officials in Uzbekistan by providing them the knowledge and expertise required to analyze issues on terrorist financing and how to

counter it. Finally, the workshop also aimed to emphasize the important role of public-private sector partnerships in the war against terror.

This workshop is part of a series of initiatives undertaken by ICPVTR and World-Check, its industry partner. ICPVTR believes that a long-term response to terrorism and extremism involves creating conditions which will be hostile to the terrorists in their operations, recruitment, training and financing activities. This has significantly increased the number of stakeholders from the public and private sectors as well as the general public. More importantly, the burden of actual implementation and enforcement of measures against terrorism in general and terrorist financing in particular is falling on the private sector. Therefore it is necessary to synergize core expertise among respective stakeholders and identify global best practices so that these can be applied at the domestic and regional levels with least resistance and minimum resource commitment on the part of the stakeholders.

ASEAN's Diplomatic Challenges



Ambassador Ong Keng Yong

On 14 January 2009, as part of RSIS' Seminar Series on the Practice of Diplomacy, RSIS was honoured to have Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Ambassador-At-Large and Director of the Institute of Policy Studies, to speak on "Diplomacy in ASEAN and Challenges Facing ASEAN in the Coming Decade"

Amb. Ong pointed out that the coming into force of the ASEAN Charter in December 2008 marked a significant milestone for ASEAN and illustrated the grouping's commitment to move ahead. However, several challenges were hindering ASEAN's progress. The operational coordination of the ten different member countries presents one such challenge, as ten different bureaucracies need to work together in the implementation of the ASEAN guidelines.

Speaking on the challenges posed by political turbulences in member countries, Amb. Ong explained that uncertainties would remain in intra-ASEAN diplomatic interactions, as aptly illustrated in the political turbulences in some member countries like Thailand and Malaysia.

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On the issue of dialogue partners, such as those within the ASEAN+3 framework, while some have been relatively proactive in engaging ASEAN, the same could not be said for all dialogue partners. Political considerations often constitute a stumbling block for greater involvement by other dialogue partners. For instance, the European Union had been cautious in its engagement of ASEAN due to internal political views of the human rights situation in Myanmar.

Speaking on the final challenge, Amb. Ong highlighted the fact that ASEAN diplomacy had helped to manage existing

problems and facilitated cooperation. However, diplomatic manoeuvring was essential towards reconciling the preservation of national self-interest and allowing ASEAN to progress as a regional institution. Managing domestic constituencies in each member country would constitute a crucial facet of ASEAN diplomacy. The sacrificing of certain national self-interests would be necessary and ASEAN member countries would need to be ready for such ‘give and take’ contingencies in order to allow ASEAN to progress.

The People's Liberation Army Marches Forward



The People's Liberation Army in the New Century Conference

Driven by increasing interest over China's armed forces in recent years, RSIS organised a conference on the theme “The People's Liberation Army in the New Century” from 13-14 November 2008.

The first panel of experts addressed recent institutional developments within the PLA, with presentations on evolving Chinese strategy, military doctrine, PLA organizational reforms, and recruitment and training. Of particular note were the PLA's efforts to institute a “dual-track” approach to modernization – ‘mechanization and informationization’ – which in turn would be implemented through a new concept of integrated joint operations (IJO).

The next two panels of the conference addressed recent PLA force structure modernization efforts, examining specifically the country's ground force, air force (PLAAF), navy (PLAN), nuclear and missile forces (the ‘Second Artillery’), and the PLA's emerging space-based capabilities. In general, the speakers found that the PLA was making

across-the-board progress in upgrading forces and expanding overall war fighting capabilities, although some services (naval, space-based, and missile assets, in particular) demonstrated more impressive advancements when it came to force modernization.

Panel four focused on various economic issues relating to the underwriting of PLA force modernization. It was noted that the Chinese defence budget had grown significantly over the past decade (by more than 500%), but that much is still unknown as to possible extra-budgetary spending or the valuation of such funding in Western purchasing power terms.

The concluding panel addressed issues concerning the emergence of the PLA as a key player in non-traditional defence areas, including support in domestic disaster relief, contributions to international peacekeeping and contingency operations, and the PLA's growing role in military diplomacy and security cooperation.

Ripple Effects from the Rise of Chinese and Indian Power



A panel of discussants at the naval powers conference

On 18-19 November 2008, the RSIS' Maritime Security Programme and the National Maritime Foundation (NMF) of India organized a conference titled "Between Naval Powers: Implications for Southeast Asia of the Rise of Chinese and Indian Naval Power".

Against a broad overview of the regional strategic environment, the conference's first session made some observations on the naval powers. The People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) was noted to be the fastest growing force in China's armed forces currently. As for India, its naval power was no longer regarded as a threat to the region, amidst its commitment to ensuring security and stability in the Indian Ocean. On the issue of US commitment in Asia, it was felt that this was likely to remain unchanged in spite of the current financial crisis.

The other sessions of the conference touched on topics ranging from the regional maritime security environment to confidence building measures in the region. An overview

of the Cooperative Mechanism for the Straits of Malacca and Singapore was presented as well. The mechanism encouraged user states and other stakeholders to voluntarily cooperate with littoral states to enhance safety, security and environmental protection in the Straits. There were also discussions of the Indian navy's on-going development plans, as well as recent and planned deployments.

Concluding the final session, Dr. Sam Bateman, Adviser to RSIS' Maritime Security Programme, reiterated that the purpose of the conference was to examine the implications of the rise of Chinese and Indian naval power, and in particular the impact on Southeast Asia. He noted that there was indeed overlapping interests between the two powers in Southeast Asia as illustrated during the course of the conference. Finally, Bateman emphasized the importance of finding common interests in maritime security, which would eventually bring states together.

Cambodia's Human Security Challenges

On 12 December 2008, RSIS' Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies organised a seminar on two topics, "Human Trafficking in Cambodia: Reintegrating the Unseen Migrants from Vietnam and Thailand", and "Livelihood Strategies Amongst Indigenous Peoples in the Central Cardamom Protected Forest". The seminar was the culmination of a project by two visiting research fellows from Cambodia, Mr. Neth Naro and Mr. Long Sarou, who had spent five months at RSIS under the Cambodian Research Fellowship Programme (see inset.) Mr. Naro began by outlining the problem of human trafficking and repatriation in Cambodia. Poverty in Cambodia had driven many Cambodians to migrate to Thailand and Vietnam, which have seen rising economic standards. However, many ended up being trafficked instead of finding a normal livelihood. The need to reintegrate them back into society has become more urgent as the number of Cambodians repatriated from Thailand and Vietnam has increased.

Mr. Naro outlined seven crucial elements for a successful reintegration programme: the prevention of stigmatization, education, access to job training, legal support, medical and health benefits, availability of social services, and psychological help. Without these elements, reintegration of these victims back into society would fail.

Concluding his presentation, Mr. Naro recommended that beyond expanding the budgets for reintegration, NGOs could also help victims make an assessment of their skills,

and survey the market for the viability of their chosen enterprise or profession.

In the second part of the seminar, Mr. Sarou discussed the adaptation issues faced by the indigenous peoples of the Central Cardamom when the forest became a protected area. He examined the ways in which external actors affected these peoples' livelihood, and how they have responded to external intervention.

After the establishment of the Cardamom protected area, NGOs helped in the monitoring and prevention of illegal logging, land clearing, and wildlife hunting. However, this infringed on the indigenous peoples' rights to use their own resources. Practices such as shifting cultivation were now discouraged by forest rangers. The indigenous peoples who violated this were arrested, causing further problems.

Examining the impact on the indigenous peoples' rural livelihood system, Mr. Sarou explained that while the local community attempted to protect its own livelihood, external actors sought to exploit the natural resources of the Cardamom and ignored the indigenous natural resource management system.

Mr. Sarou concluded his presentation by recommending that external actors should complement the indigenous resource management system, instead of supplanting it. He urged that gains from the use of the Cardamom's natural resources be shared with the local community as well.

The Cambodian Research Fellowship Programme

RSIS' Centre for NTS Studies, in collaboration with the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), introduced the Cambodian Research Fellowship Programme in 2008. The two scholars from Cambodia spent five months at RSIS, from 21 July to 21 December, conducting research as well as engaging and sharing experiences with policymakers and other NTS scholars. The fellowship programme will enhance the work of Cambodian scholars working with fledgling research institutes and centres in the country and help these institutes and centres bridge their knowledge gaps. Through the fellowship programme, RSIS aims to not only raise greater awareness about the importance of NTS issues to developing countries in Asia, but also build capacity in meeting these issues in the region.

Towards Mutual Cooperation and Prosperity — The Chinese Way



Ambassador Zhang Xiaokang

Ambassador Zhang Xiaokang, Ambassador and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Singapore, spoke on the topic "China's Foreign Policy and Diplomacy" at an RSIS seminar on 19 November 2008.

Amb. Zhang highlighted the thirtieth anniversary of China's opening up to the world, and global expectations of China to re-establish confidence in the global economy, as marking China's "coming of age" as a major power. She saw China's commitment to its own development as a fundamental necessity in its aspirations for global prosperity. China's

desires to promote similar development goals in less developed countries can be traced to traditional Chinese thought. Amb. Zhang felt that the philosophy, "if some people in the world are still unhappy, it will affect your life somehow," should be applicable to China's external relations.

On the issue of external cooperation, Amb. Zhang explained that China's approach includes a focus on common interests, respect and the narrowing of differences. For example, China's share of international trade has increased from one to eight percent since its opening up. It has become the third largest import market in the world, generating millions of jobs for its trading partners. This relationship will be effective in promoting security and cultural cooperation, putting relations between countries on a firmer footing.

Amb. Zhang also stated that China works to achieve peace and cooperation with other countries through five mutuals - mutual trust, mutual learning, mutual help, mutual cooperation, and mutual benefit. China seeks ultimately to build harmonious relations with other countries based on the concepts of objectivity and empathy.

Concluding the seminar, Amb. Zhang reiterated China's foreign policy goals of developing into a moderate and prosperous country that actively contributes to world peace and common international development.

Responding to Terror in Cyberspace

On 4 December 2008, Dr. Nicholas Thomas from the University of Hong Kong's Centre of Asian Studies spoke at a seminar organised by RSIS' Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies.

Dr. Thomas began his presentation on "Cyber Security in East Asia: Policy Options" by noting that appropriate policies for combating the emerging myriad of cyber security problems are often lacking because securitising actors have yet to properly understand the environment in which they are placed. Moreover, the boundaries of cyberspace are not conterminous with the boundaries of the real world – making the responsibilities for action and resolution difficult at best.

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Dr. Nicholas Thomas

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Dr. Thomas noted that ASEAN has attempted since 1999, to improve regional capacity and resources through the e-ASEAN process. Second, there has been a set of more explicit attempts to secure cyberspace from transnational subversion of national security; especially those stemming from the activities of criminal and terrorist organizations.

With regards to APEC, its responses to cyber issues and threats in the 1990s have focused on issues such as e-commerce, identity theft, and related developments. There was a shift in the late 1990s to a focus on the criminal aspects of cyberspace, and then post 9/11 to focus on cyber terrorism.

While these regional initiatives are commendable, the challenge in combating cyber insecurities lies not just at the regional level but also at the wider international level. Dr.

Thomas provided the example of the European Union's 2001 European Convention on Cyber-Crime, which is considered a landmark treaty addressing cyber security matters at the domestic and regional level. Moreover, the inclusion of Canada, Japan, South Africa and the United States in the drafting process meant that the Convention has reached beyond the boundaries of Europe.

In concluding his presentation, Dr. Thomas explained that the challenge for a state in addressing cyber threats is two-fold. First, it must find and adopt an appropriate balance between regional and international approaches. Second, where the state is a member of a regional organisation, it needs to ensure that regional approaches and international norms do not diverge but instead develop in parallel.

African Policymakers and Business Leaders Learn from Singapore



The African delegation with Mr. Ngiam Tong Dow (sixth from left), and Dean Desker (fifth from left)

On 15-18 February 2009, RSIS was the host to a delegation of African policymakers and business leaders. Led by Dr. Greg Mills, Director of the Brenthurst Foundation of South Africa, the 12-member delegation included Mr. Victor Bernardo, Mozambique's Deputy Minister for Planning and Development, and Dr. Neva Makgetla, Lead Economist in the Development Bank of South Africa, Mr. Rudi Dicks, Director of the National Labour and Economic Development Institute of South Africa, and Mr. Ravindra Naidoo, Group Chief Executive of the Development Bank of South Africa.

This visit is the second of its kind. Like the first in July last year which then included Dr. Luisa Dias Diogo, the Prime Minister of Mozambique, the objective of this visit is to learn at first hand how Singapore has transformed itself from a Third World country to a First World country within

a generation, especially the social and economic policies accounting for the transformation. As the host and co-organiser of the visit, RSIS coordinated the visitors' programme and arranged their meetings with Singapore's policymakers and government-linked organisations. It was the success of the first visit in 2008 that prompted the Brenthurst Foundation and RSIS to organise this second visit to learn more about Singapore's economic success story.

The four-day programme included meetings and discussions with the PSA, JTC Corporation, International Enterprise Singapore, Economic Development Board, Singapore Business Federation, Singapore Cooperation Enterprise, as well as RSIS. A highlight of the visit was a roundtable discussion with Mr. Ngiam Tong Dow, a former top civil servant who contributed much to Singapore's economic transformation.

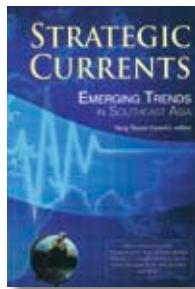
Staff Publications

Yang Razali Kassim (Editor)

Strategic Currents

Emerging Trends in Southeast Asia

Singapore: RSIS

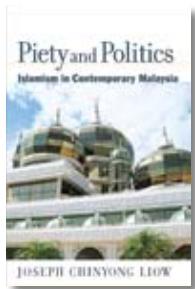


Southeast Asia is going through a new phase. The region is experiencing new challenges as well as changes in its geostrategic and economic environment. Such changes have become more evident over the last few years, as manifested in a range of issues such as climate change, ASEAN identity, regionalism and religion. This volume reflects some possible emerging trends in the region, as captured in a series of essays written for the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University.

Joseph Chinyong Liow

**Piety and Politics:
Islamism in Contemporary
Malaysia**

New York: Oxford University Press



Malaysia, home to some twenty million Muslims, is often held up as a model of a pro-Western Islamic nation.

The government of Malaysia, in search of Western investment, does its best to perpetuate this view. But this isn't the whole story. Joseph Chinyong Liow shows that over the last several decades, Malaysian politics has taken a strong turn toward Islamism.

Conventional wisdom suggests that the ruling UMNO party has moved toward Islamism to fend off challenges from the more heavily Islamist opposition party, PAS. Liow argues, however, that UMNO has often taken the lead in moving toward Islamism, and that in fact PAS has often been forced to react. Indeed, the ruling regime has proven equally strident in its Islamist predilections—so much so that at times it can be difficult to tell them apart. The result, Liow argues, is a game of “piety-trumping” that will be very difficult to reverse, and that has dire consequences not only for the ethnic and religious minorities of Malaysia, but for their democratic system as a whole.

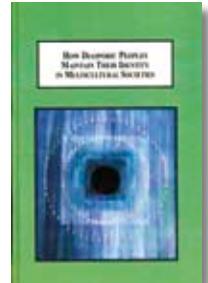
Liow also explores the role of Islamic civil society movements in negotiating and redefining the parameters of Islamism. These movements and coalitions have located themselves at the forefront of major debates over religious freedoms, civil liberties, constitutional rights, the sanctity of shari'a, and the nature and manifestation of the Islamic state.

Both of these dynamics underscore the rise of Muslim conservatism in Malaysia, and constitute major challenges to our understanding of the nature of politics in the country. Piety and Politics offers a comprehensive analysis of the growing role of Islam in the last quarter-century of Malaysian politics.

Norman Vasu

**How Diasporic Peoples Maintain their Identity in Multicultural Societies:
Chinese, Africans and Jews,**

New York: Edwin Mellen Press

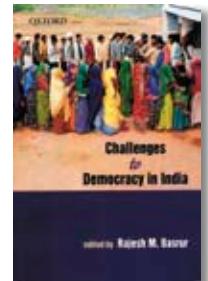


This book critically assesses two contemporary approaches to multiculturalism, namely Liberalism 1 and 2. The central argument forwarded here is that although Liberalism 1 and 2 are commendable approaches to the management of difference in a polity, they are unable to secure long-term inter-group harmony owing to the static understanding of identity that underpins both approaches. To highlight the shortcomings of Liberalism 1 and 2, this thesis examines the relationship between diasporas and more sessile communities. Diasporas have been specifically selected for this purpose for two reasons. Firstly, most comprehensive discussions on multiculturalism have not employed the experience of diasporas in their research. Secondly, as the number of diasporas are set to grow and as the term is traditionally used in a negative way in reference to a ‘difficult’ minority, there is a need to examine approaches towards multiculturalism through diasporic eyes. The three diasporas employed within are the Chinese, African and Jewish diasporas.

Rajesh M. Basrur (Editor)

Challenges to Democracy in India

New Delhi: Oxford University Press



This book is a selection of lectures organized by the Nehru Centre, Mumbai. The speakers are among the most respected public personalities in India. It addresses crucial questions about the functioning of Indian democracy and the seemingly intractable problems facing it. Critical issues examined in the lectures include the persistence of elitism in contrast to the ideals of constitutional democracy, the severe decline of probity in public life, the gulf between the rulers and the ruled, the paradox between public faith in the political process of democracy and the failure of institutions, the dangers of judicial governance,

Staff Publications

the relationship between democracy and education, and the adverse consequences of unbridled economic liberalization and globalization. The contributors identify linkages between issues that have traditionally not been recognized as connected, for example the development process and the rights of indigenous peoples, caste oppression, patriarchy and gender discrimination, the centralized structure of political parties and mounting corruption, and underdevelopment, inequality, and comprehensive security.

*Sam Bateman &
Ralf Emmers (Editors)*

**Security and International Politics
in the South China Sea : Towards a
Co-operative Management Regime**
London: Routledge



The South China Sea has long been regarded as a major source of tension and instability in East Asia. Managing the risk of possible conflict over disputed claims in the South China Sea has been a significant challenge for regional relations. This book explores international politics and security in the South China Sea. It outlines the history of the South China Sea disputes, and the efforts that have been made to resolve these, assessing the broader strategic significance of the region for major geopolitical powers. In addition, new challenges have emerged of resource management, environmental protection, and most recently, of the security and safety of shipping against the threats of piracy and maritime terrorism. The book discusses the convergence of traditional and non-traditional security issues now appearing to provide a basis for co-operation in the South China Sea. It shows how the challenge of establishing co-operative relations is now being met, largely through agreement between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China in 2002 on the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and a range of recent measures for functional co-operation.

*Geoffrey Till, Emrys Chew &
Joshua Ho (Editors)*

Globalisation and Defence in the Asia-Pacific : Arms Across Asia
London: Routledge



This edited volume examines the impact of globalisation on the economies, security policies and military-industrial complexes of the Asia-Pacific region.

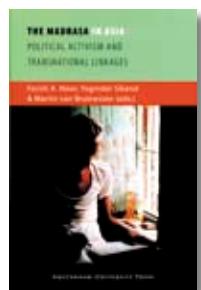
The work is structured into three main parts. The first explores globalization and its general effects on the policy-making of the nation-state; the second section looks at how globalisation affects a country's threat perception and defence posture within the specific context of the Asia-Pacific region; while the third explores how it impacts on a state's allocation of resources to defence, and how economic globalization affects the defence industry, with specific reference to the procurement policies and practices of different states across the Asia-Pacific.

Farish A. Noor, Yoginder Sikand &

Martin van Bruinessen (Editors)

**The Madrasa in Asia: Political
Activism and Transnational
Linkages**

Amsterdam: Amsterdam
University Press



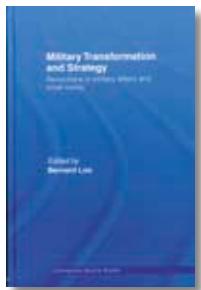
Since the rise of the Taliban and Al-Qaida, the traditional Islamic schools known as madrasas have frequently been portrayed as hotbeds of terrorism. For much longer, modernisers have denounced madrasas as impediments to social progress, although others have praised them for their self-sufficiency and for providing "authentic" grassroots education. For numerous poor Muslims in Asia, the madrasa still constitutes the only accessible form of education.

This book sheds light on the dynamics of Muslim education and activism at the grassroots and provides an overview of the social, educational, and political roles of madrasas across Asia, from China and Indonesia to Iran.

Bernard Loo (Editor)

**Military Transformation and Strategy:
Revolutions in Military Affairs and
Small States**

London: Routledge



This book explores the idea of a 'revolution in military affairs' (RMA), which underpins the transformational agenda of the US military, and examines its implications for smaller states.

The strategic studies literature on the RMA tends to be American-centric and directed towards the strategic problems of the US military. This volume seeks to fill the gap in the literature and establish an intellectual framework that can assist smaller powers in their respective approaches to this issue.

RSIS' First Ph.D. Promoted Associate Professor

Dr. Adam Dolnik, RSIS' first doctoral recipient, has recently been promoted to Associate Professor at the University of Wollongong's Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention (CTCP). The recent promotion to the rank of Associate Professor is an endorsement of the RSIS model of creating professionally relevant academics.

In 2003, Adam joined the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) at RSIS to work on his Ph.D. Supervised by Professor Rohan Gunaratna, Head of ICPVTR, Adam completed his Ph.D. and was given the opportunity to conduct counter-terrorism training in ten Southeast Asian countries.

As a prolific researcher and author, Adam's work has been published in numerous edited volumes and a variety of international journals. The academic recognition of his contribution to terrorism research can be documented by his appointment to the editorial board of *Terrorism and Political Violence*, a leading journal in the field.

The recognition of the practical relevance of Adam's work can be seen in the demand for his services among various counterterrorism bodies around the world. To date, Adam has delivered more than twenty specialized training courses and over 100 presentations for various audiences.

RSIS Annual Staff Dinner

The poet William Blake once wrote that whilst birds and spiders build nests and webs, man builds friendships. RSIS staff lived up to these words of wisdom when they gathered at the Singapore Cricket Club for the annual staff dinner on 19 January 2009 to strengthen their bonds of camaraderie and friendship. Led by the emcees, Ms. Sofiah Jamil and Mr. Seng Woei Yuan, it was an evening of food, fun and cheer for the staff members. Besides enjoying the party games, they were entertained by the singing of Ms. Ava Patricia Cabiguin Avila and Ms. Nur Azlin Mohamed Yasin of the ICPVTR.



First participant in ICPVTR's Journalism Programme receives Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship

Namal Perera, a defence and security correspondent in Sri Lanka, was the first participant in ICPVTR's unique Counter-Terrorism Journalist Programme (CTJP). The CTJP aims to assist the media in gaining a fuller understanding of terrorism and political extremism and helps to create a wider societal norm and ethic against extremism and its violent by-product, terrorism.

Namal was with ICPVTR in July 2008, during which he worked on the Centre's innovative Victims of Terrorism Website project. He helped in developing a template to provide the victims of terrorism in Sri Lanka information on the full range of assistance available to them. Additionally, the website provides the survivors of terrorist attacks a safe portal to share their stories of loss to assist them in grief management.

Namal won the prestigious Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship, which provides a year of professional enrichment in the United States for experienced professionals from designated countries throughout the world. Fellows are selected based on their potential for leadership and their commitment to public service in either the public or private sector. Namal is pursuing his fellowship at the University of Maryland.

UPCOMING EVENTS

12 - 24 APRIL, 2009

3RD ASIA-PACIFIC PROGRAMME FOR SENIOR NATIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS

22 APRIL, 2009

CONFERENCE ON PIRACY AND SEA ROBBERY: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS, ENHANCING SECURITY

13 - 14 MAY, 2009

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY CONFERENCE 2009
Co-organised with the Republic of Singapore Navy

9 - 10 JUNE, 2009

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY

Interested in being included in RSIS' mailing list for events? Please email your name, organization and job title to iswyseng@ntu.edu.sg.

THINK TANK

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