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## Rehabilitating Terrorists — A Global Imperative



*The Guest of Honour, Mr. K. Shanmugam, Minister for Law and Second Minister for Home Affairs*

**S**ingapore convened the first International Conference on Terrorist Rehabilitation (ICTR) from 24 to 26 February 2009. This conference was organised by RSIS' International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) in collaboration with the Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG), which comprises religious clerics who counsel terrorist detainees in Singapore.

Inaugurated by Mr. K. Shanmugam, Minister for Law and Second Minister for Home Affairs, the ICTR brought together 200 participants and experts from countries that possess rehabilitation programmes, along with those aspiring to start a similar programme. Over 20 internationally esteemed speakers presented papers at the conference, including Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Hadlag, Head of Saudi Arabia's rehabilitation

*Continued on page 2*

## P4Peace.com

P4Peace.com is an online portal developed by RSIS' ICPVTR. The portal was launched by Mr. K. Shanmugam, Minister for Law and Second Minister for Home Affairs, on 24 February 2009 at the Opening Ceremony of the first International Conference on Terrorist Rehabilitation. The web portal seeks to be a platform for discourse on social and peaceful alternatives, and will facilitate information sharing and collaboration by counter-terrorism practitioners and academics.

P4Peace.com aims to counter terrorism and extremist ideologies by promoting peace from all walks of life. It serves to engage the public via both interactive and non-interactive sections like Peace Media, Peace Books, Peace News, Peace Forums, and Guardians of Peace. P4Peace.com aims to bring together the brightest minds in counter-terrorism, and to share information on past successes and failures. It is hoped that the portal can help bridge the gap between terrorist groups and the counter-terrorism community.

*To find out more about p4peace.com, please visit <http://www.p4peace.com/main.asp>.*

*Continued from page 1*

programme, Mr. Tony Heal, Deputy Head of the PREVENT Section from the Office of Security and Counter Terrorism in the United Kingdom, and Major General Douglas Stone, Deputy Commander of the U.S. Marine Corps.

The ICTR addressed four critical areas of terrorist rehabilitation. First, it highlighted the necessity for terrorist rehabilitation to be a global imperative. Second, it drew lessons from the multi-cultural and multi-contextual experiences from the rehabilitation programmes conducted in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Yemen, Iraq, Spain, Uzbekistan, Malaysia,

Indonesia and Singapore. Third, it highlighted that in order for a terrorist rehabilitation programme to be effective and successful, standards must be established and met. Last but not least, the conference addressed the necessity for an effective aftercare programme.

This first ICTR inspired discussion amongst practitioners and policymakers on an international platform. It created a network of specialists in the new domain of terrorist rehabilitation. It is hoped that through their sustained efforts, terrorist rehabilitation will become a global imperative.

## Learning the Lessons from Previous Financial Crises



*Professor Vinod K. Aggarwal*

**O**n 13 March 2009, Professor Vinod K. Aggarwal, RSIS' inaugural NTUC Professor of International Economic Relations, gave a lecture on "The Current Financial Crisis in Historical Perspective" under RSIS' Strategic Trends in the 21st Century Colloquium Series. Prof. Aggarwal, who is Professor and Director at the Berkeley Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Study Centre, UC Berkeley, gave a historical overview of previous debt crises, focusing on the actions of the various actors involved, as well as drawing lessons from the actions taken.

He began by looking at debt crises throughout history. In the 1820s, Britain was a big lender through its banks. This was during a time where there were no regulatory international organisations. An example of how banks took advantage of the public was when a British bank created bonds for the fictitious Latin American Kingdom of Poyas. In the 1860s, the British and the French began to lend money to a number of Latin American countries. Once again, these bonds went into default. The United States was a new actor in the 1920s and it too lent money to Latin American countries. In 1932, one by one, countries in Latin America proceeded to default on their loans.

In all three cases, the key actors were bondholders, which made it more difficult to resolve the crises. There were too many actors holding debts and it was unclear who was holding on to how much debt, complicating the efforts to formulate a solution. In the current crisis, banks have a problem because of the kinds of loans they made and the debts they had.

Concluding his lecture, Prof. Aggarwal said that while the notion that the market would always recover on its own was true, the real question was the length and cost of recovery. Writing down debt did work but it could be a very expensive solution. Since financial crises were not going to go away, governments and institutions should start planning for the next one.

## Ensuring the Security of Food Supply



*Associate Professor Kumar Ramakrishna (right), Head of CENS, with other workshop speakers during one of the panel discussions*

**O**n 16 February 2009, RSIS' Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS), with the support of the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS), organized the Food Defence Workshop at Traders Hotel, Singapore.

Bringing together a mix of international practitioners and academics, the workshop looked at the issue of the intentional and malicious contamination of the food supply chain as well as the different policy approaches various countries had adopted on the issue. The drive for instituting food defence at a policy level arose out of fears that the food supply chain was vulnerable to contamination by terrorists, which could cause damage to public health on a mass scale. To this end, some countries have started to institute policy changes to address these fears.

Given a lack of data and the overwhelming empirical evidence of the public health impact of food safety issues, the notion of food defence as a policy issue is still being debated in some quarters. The goal of this workshop was to: (i) improve the understanding of this issue amongst policymakers in Singapore; (ii) discuss the current state of the art in research efforts; and (iii) gain perspectives from different countries on their approaches to this issue.

The first panel saw Shaun Kennedy, Director of the

U.S.-based National Centre for Food Protection & Defence, discuss some of their current research efforts into food defence as well as sharing the results of a food defence exercise carried out with members of the G8 Group of nations. Beyazit Cirakoglu and Hami Alpas presented on the results of a long-term pilot study into food chain security funded by NATO's Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Committee.

In the second panel, Allan Edwards, Manager of Food Chain Protection within the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, gave a presentation on Australia's approach to food defence, which makes use of a collaborative information sharing network between different government agencies and private industries. The final speaker, Dave Franz of Midwest Research Institute, took a broader view that complemented the other speakers by drawing links between food safety and food defence systems while sharing a possible model for better allocation of resources in this area.

The workshop closed with a roundtable discussion among the speakers and participants, from which two of the main themes were developed — the challenges to improve public engagement as well as inter-agency and inter-government collaboration.

## Dissecting the Nation's Narratives



*“The Nation: Narratives and Community” Workshop*

**N**ational narratives – or the stories that nations tell to connect their past, present and future – are powerful and necessary tools in shaping national identity.

Addressing the complex nature of the Nation and its narratives, RSIS’ Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) brought together a diverse group of experts for the aptly titled workshop “The Nation: Narratives and Community”. Organised jointly with the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS), the workshop took place on 2 March 2009.

The workshop addressed the complex nature of the nation and its narratives in a two-fold manner. First, it fleshed out the relationship between state narratives and counter-narratives. Second, by embracing narratives essentially as a manner of communication, the workshop offered a critical examination of the narrative dissonances in the state-citizen relationship that is expressed and asserted via alternative mediums.

The first panel set the tone of the workshop with a theoretical and philosophical re-examination of the ‘nation’ and the delicate nature of narratives and communication. Following that, the second session presented and evaluated—via case studies—alternative strands of narratives that counter the official thread by the state.

Juxtaposing state-citizen narratives, the third panel illustrated the immense power the military wields in defining and articulating identity. Yet, at the same time, the panel also highlighted the ability of the individual to adapt and appropriate the narrated ideology.

The final panel of the workshop attempted an examination of national narratives by exploring the power and freedom of the creative license and its various media—such as fiction, music and illustration—to amplify the tensions of self/other, race and identity in relation to the nation-state.

## The Way Forward for US-Southeast Asian Relations

**D**r. William C. Thomas, RSIS' Visiting Senior Fellow and Fulbright Scholar, presented at a RSIS seminar on 18 February 2009. Dr. Thomas spoke on the topic "Options for Strengthening US-Southeast Asian Security Relations".

Dr. Thomas identified three main security concerns the US had in this region. First, the U.S. was concerned about the spread of radical Islamic terrorism. Southeast Asia had often been referred to as the second front in the "War on Terror" because of its sizeable Muslim population. As many Middle Eastern Islamic extremists had attempted to export their ideology to Southeast Asia, the US feared it might be re-exported from the region. The US saw Southeast Asia as a door to engage the Muslim world, but recognized that progress could only be achieved over time.

The second concern of the US was China's influence. China was not a direct threat to the US, but it was definitely a competitor, with the perception in the region that China was replacing the US as the major regional power. Statistics, however, showed that this was not the case. Dr. Thomas noted that both the US and China could exert a positive influence in the region.

Dr. Thomas said that the third US security concern was regional stability. He acknowledged that it was evolving, and included both traditional and non-traditional security issues like transnational crime, maritime security and pandemics. Although these issues are viewed as threats, they also provided opportunities for the US and Southeast Asian countries to cooperate and deepen relations.

According to Dr. Thomas, the US had a number of options in its relations with Southeast Asia. First, the US could maintain the status quo. However, the risk would be that US-Southeast Asian relations could coast along with no future. The second option was the Cold War "hub and spoke" model where a key ally in the region was identified and engaged. This was problematic too because US security interests had evolved to such an extent that no one country in the region could singularly assist the US. A third option was the formation of regional forums, or what Dr. Thomas termed "mini NATO's". Such an organisation could be a modification of existing arrangements, such as the East Asia Summit (EAS). The fourth possibility was establishing ad hoc and temporary partnerships. US involvement would, depending on the objectives, vary between that of facilitator and active participant. It did not always have to assume a leadership role. Dr. Thomas observed that Southeast Asian nations tended to favour such an approach, which focused



*Dr. William C. Thomas*

more on the issues, rather than the establishment of a long-term entrenched US presence or commitment.

Dr. Thomas concluded that the future was bright because several thinkers who had advocated these approaches have recently been appointed to senior positions in the Obama Administration. Much of the groundwork to further ties in Southeast Asia had already been done, and all that was required was better coordination to take advantage of these opportunities.

## Keeping the Risk of National Security in Proportion —3rd Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO 09)



**J**ointly organized by the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS) and RSIS' Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) on 13-17 April 2009, the Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO) brought together over 44 high-level operational and policy experts from around the region and beyond. APPSNO 09 provided a platform for participants to share experiences and expertise in dealing with the national security challenges that have arisen since 9/11.

2009 marks the third year of the Programme, having been launched in 2007 as a platform for senior national security officers from around the region to share their “best practices” as well as learn from other experts in the field. Echoing this aim at APPSNO 09's Official Opening, Ambassador Barry Desker, Dean of RSIS, remarked that APPSNO 09 had brought together “the key players dealing with national security issues from across the region and beyond”, allowing them “to work collectively to develop a better understanding of each other's perspectives.”





Addressing the theme of “Thinking Intelligently about Risk”, this year’s Programme subjected the risk management measures that players in the national security field have undertaken to closer scrutiny. The discussions conducted during the Programme addressed the following concerns: in the eight years that have passed since 9/11, have governments and national security agencies reacted disproportionately to perceived threats? How can the national security community respond proportionately to current and future threats? Has the public been effectively engaged on these measures?

To address these concerns, APPSNO 09 gathered an exciting mix of guest speakers with a range of experiences and expertise. Speaking on the subject of Risk and Security was Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones, UK’s National Security Advisor and Shadow Security Minister. Other speakers included Mr. Richard Flax, Head of the Bali Response Team; Mr. Bruce Schneier, British Telecom’s Chief Security Officer and a specialist in cryptography and computer security; Ms. Munira Mirza, Director of Arts and Culture to the Mayor of London; and Professor Frank Furedi, Professor of Sociology at the University of Kent and recognized as UK’s most cited sociologist.

At APPSNO 09’s Official Opening on 13 April 2009, the guest of honour, Senior Minister Jayakumar, also launched the National Resilience Proficiency Badge Programme for Scouts, which will be rolled out to all secondary schools in Singapore this year. This new programme aims to encourage students to understand the concept and importance of resilience, as well as to appreciate challenges and threats facing our national security. Such efforts contribute, at the strategic level, to forging social cohesion as well as enhancing public awareness against the terrorist threat, both of which form key components of Singapore’s fight against terrorism.

## Is an ASEAN Community Possible?



*Ambassador Rodolfo C. Severino*

**O**n 9 February 2009, as part of RSIS' Seminar Series on the Practice of Diplomacy, RSIS was honoured to have Ambassador Rodolfo C. Severino, Head of the ASEAN Studies Centre and former ASEAN Secretary General (1998-2002), to speak on "The ASEAN Charter and the Building of an ASEAN Community".

ASEAN was founded in a challenging period during the region's history. The end of *Konfrontasi*, the uneasy separation of Singapore from Malaysia, the Philippines' claim to Sabah, and Indonesia's internal problems fostered an atmosphere of mutual suspicion. Furthermore, the major power rivalries at the height of the Cold War, coupled with the spill-over effects from China's Cultural Revolution, and the Vietnam War, meant that there was a climate of instability.

By the 1976 ASEAN Summit, norms for interstate relations – the non-use of force in the conduct of foreign policies, non-interference in one another's domestic affairs, and peaceful settlement of interstate disputes – had been formally adopted. ASEAN took shape as an incipient central regional institution, which revolved around economic cooperation.

Amb. Severino stated however that maintaining interstate solidarity and political cohesion within ASEAN was never an easy task. Ethnic diversity, shaky nationhood in some of the member countries, territorial disputes as well as diverse strategic interests within the Association and with major powers were some of the challenges to ASEAN's solidarity and cohesion. In the area of economic cooperation, wide

differences in the levels of economic development, economic structures, policy and technical competence as well as perception of benefits derived from regionalism all led to mutual suspicions among ASEAN member states.

The idea of 'community' could be the answer to the existing problems within ASEAN. The concept of ASEAN as a community, with respect to security issues, could be observed through the following: war being unthinkable among member states, territorial disputes peacefully resolved while norms for interstate relations had been largely complied with, and also the establishment of an elaborate dialogue system to instil mutual confidence, build networks and inculcate a habit of cooperation. Economically speaking, however, ASEAN remains far from being a community.

To bolster the prospects for economic integration, Amb. Severino felt that there is a need to possess a sense of community, whereby regional interests are seen to resonate with national interests. Common values among member states also need to be expanded. The ASEAN Charter, adopted in 2008, for the first time established common norms to guide the internal behaviour of member states. Most notably, the Charter clearly spelt out economic community as the ultimate end-goal of ASEAN economic integration and places the value of consensus squarely on the shoulders of regional leaders' decision-making responsibilities. However, Amb. Severino reminded the audience that the Charter is not a tool which could alter ASEAN's character overnight. The ASEAN Charter would only be useful if member states use it to cultivate a sense of regional community.



## Ending Mass Atrocity Crimes through the Responsibility to Protect



Mr. Gareth Evans

**T**he international community should do its utmost to prevent mass atrocity crimes from occurring again, and this can be accomplished through the doctrine of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). This was the argument of Mr. Gareth Evans, the former Australian Foreign Minister and currently President and CEO of the International Crisis Group (ICG), when he launched his book *The Responsibility to Protect: Ending Mass Atrocity Crimes Once and for All* at a book launch organised by RSIS' Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies on 4 March 2009.

In his opening address, Mr. Evans began by summarising the history and evolution of the principle of R2P, which refers to the protection of states' populations from the four identified mass atrocity crimes of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing. According to Mr. Evans, the precepts of R2P are: 1) the primary responsibility to protect the people in any state lies with the state itself; 2)

the international community has a collective responsibility to assist states in building institutions and preventive measures to ensure that such crimes do not occur; and 3) when the above measures fail, the international community has a collective responsibility to intervene through a range of possible responses. R2P's primary tools are therefore persuasion and support, not military coercion. Thus R2P emphasises preventive action above all.

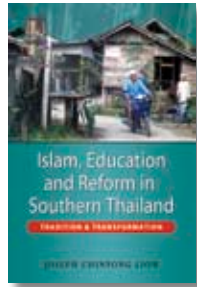
In the extended question and answer session that followed, Mr. Evans explained that recent events have driven the international community to realise that the mass atrocities crimes of the past were unacceptable. The challenge for the principle of R2P is to continually emphasise the use of preventive, persuasive and diplomatic mediation strategies, rather than military force, in order to allay the fears of many countries.

## Staff Publications

*Joseph Chinyong Liow*

### **Islam, Education and Reform in Southern Thailand: Tradition & Transformation**

Singapore: ISEAS



“This is a remarkable piece of scholarship that illuminates general and specific tendencies in Islamic education in South Thailand. Armed with an enormous amount of rich empirical detail and an elegant writing style, the author debunks the simplistic Orientalist conceptions of Wahhabi and Salafi influences on Islamic education in South Thailand. This work will be a state-of-the-art source for understanding the role of Islam and the ongoing conflict in this troubled region of Southeast Asia. This book is significant for those scholars who are attempting to understand Muslim communities in Southeast Asia, but also for those who want deep insights into Islamic education and its influence in any area of the Islamic world.”

*Raymond Scupin, Professor of Anthropology and International Studies, Lindenwood University, USA*

“Few books address the sensitive issue of Islamic education with empathy as well as critical distance as Joseph C. Liow’s “Islam, Education, and Reform in Southern Thailand.” He examines global networks of religious learning within a local Thai as well as regional Asian context by brilliantly revealing the intersections between religion, politics and modernity in an accessible and illuminating manner. Traditional educational institutions rarely receive such sensitive and balanced treatment. Liow’s book is a tour de force and mandatory reading for policy-makers, academics and all of those interested in current affairs.”

*Ebrahim Moosa, Associate Professor of Islamic Studies, Department of Religion and Associate Director, Duke Islamic Studies Center (DISC), Duke University, USA*

“Islam, Education, and Reform in Southern Thailand is Joseph Chinyong Liow’s critical attempt to map out the reflexive questioning, locations of authority, dynamics and contestations within the Muslim community over what constitutes Islamic knowledge and education. Through the optics of Islamic education in Southern Thailand, Liow manages to brilliantly portray the ways in which Muslim minority negotiates their lives in the local context of violence and the global context of crisis of modernity.”

*Chaiwat Satha-Anand, Senior Research Scholar, Thailand Research Fund, Author of “The Life of this World: Negotiated Muslim Lives in Thai Society”*

*See Seng Tan (Editor)*

### **Regionalism in Asia**

Abingdon: Routledge

Especially since the end of the Cold War, research on and around the international relations of Asia has grown exponentially and, to make sense of what is now a vast and unwieldy corpus of scholarly literature, this new four-volume collection from Routledge’s Critical Issues in Modern Politics series brings together the best and most influential work in the field.

The first of the four volumes explores ASEAN and international relations theory. Volume II, meanwhile, focuses on the Association’s history and evolution from 1967 to the present day. Volume III examines pan-Asian intergovernmental regionalisms by collecting the most important thinking on the ‘new regionalism’. Vital questions addressed here include the nature of Asian intergovernmental institutions; the overall lack of strategic coherence; whether aims and agendas overlap; conflict or complement; and the implications for the region as a whole. Finally, Volume IV brings together crucial work on non-governmental or unofficial multilateral processes to examine the regionalization processes in Asia and the efficacy of these bottom-up processes in influencing policy and regional security discourse.

With a full index, together with a comprehensive introduction newly written by the editor which places the collected material in its historical and intellectual context, this Routledge collection is an essential work of reference. It is destined to be valued by scholars, students, and researchers of Asian international relations, politics, history, and current affairs as a vital resource.

#### **Volume I: International Relations Theory and ASEAN**

- Part 1: Studying Southeast Asia
- Part 2: Explaining ASEAN: Competing/Congruent Theories
- Part 3: Is ASEAN a Security Community?
- Part 4: Rationalism vs. Constructivism

#### **Volume III: Regional Order and Architecture in Asia**

- Part 10: Regional Environment of Asia
- Part 11: Multilateral Ideas and Institutions in Asia
- Part 12: Debating the ARF
- Part 13: Debating the AFTA, APEC, and ASEAN+3

#### **Volume II: ASEAN and Regional Security of Southeast Asia**

- Part 5: ASEAN Evolution: From ‘Pre-birth’ to ‘Adolescence’ to ‘Young Adulthood’ to ‘Mid-Life’
- Part 6: ASEAN Regionalism: The ASEAN Way
- Part 7: ASEAN Enlargement: Challenges and Prospects
- Part 8: ASEAN Conflict Prevention: The Search for Peace
- Part 9: ASEAN Extra-regionalism: Engaging the Great Powers

#### **Volume IV: Non-official Diplomacy and Activism in Asia**

- Part 14: Regional Security Discourse in Asia
- Part 15: ‘Track 2’ Contributions to Regional Security
- Part 16: ‘Track 3’ Contributions to Regional Security
- Part 17: State: Civil Society Dilemmas

## Distinguished Visitors in March

In March 2009, RSIS was honoured to host three distinguished visitors to share their wealth of knowledge with policymakers, research scholars and members of the public. They were Professor Vinod K. Aggarwal, Professor Stephen M. Walt and Dr. Ashley J. Tellis.

Prof. Aggarwal, who is Professor and Director of the Berkeley Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Study Centre at UC Berkeley, visited RSIS as the School's first NTUC Professor of International Economic Relations. The Professorship was established in 2007 through a generous donation by the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) and its associates. During his visit, Prof. Aggarwal addressed a colloquium at NTU (see page 2), delivered a lecture organized by the Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade & Negotiations, and gave a seminar at RSIS. He also organized a one-day meeting of trade officials from Singapore, Japan and the United States at RSIS to brainstorm Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation issues.

Prof. Stephen M. Walt, the Robert and Renée Belfer Professor of International Affairs, and former Academic

Dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, visited RSIS in his capacity as the School's consultant. Besides exchanging views with RSIS' management and faculty, Prof. Walt also gave a colloquium and seminar during his stay.

In the case of Dr. Ashley J. Tellis, Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and former Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs at the US Department of State, the visit was made under the School's Distinguished Speakers Programme. During his visit, Dr. Tellis gave a seminar at RSIS as well as addressed the staff and students of the Singapore Command and Staff College in SAFTI Military Institute.

Besides their well-attended talks, the three distinguished visitors called on senior policymakers in various government ministries, and were hosted to tea by President S R Nathan. They were also hosted to lunch by Mr. Lee Seng Tee who is a friend and generous supporter of RSIS. A highlight of their visits was their participation at an RSIS roundtable on "The First 100 Days of the Obama Administration: Foreign and Security Trajectories", together with RSIS' Prof. Khong Yuen Foong and Prof. C. Raja Mohan.

## Staff Publications (cont'd)

*John Harrison*

### **International Aviation and Terrorism: Evolving Threats, Evolving Security**

Abingdon: Routledge



This book examines terrorism's impact on the international aviation security regime, with a focus on the role of the United States.

Tracing the historical development of the international civil aviation system, the volume examines how it has dealt with the evolving security environment caused by international terrorism. It begins by exploring the practical implications of the debates over the meaning of 'terrorism' and how the international civil aviation community developed practical solutions to avoid the debilitating debates over the concept while crafting important, if weak, international conventions. As a major civil aviation power, the United States was a predominant influence in security developments in the 1960s and 1970s, yet US civil aviation policy failed to keep pace with the changing nature of the terrorist threat. The commanding position that the United States maintains in international civil aviation provides a microcosm of the promise and perils faced by the world's sole superpower. The author examines US efforts to upgrade civil aviation security in the wake of 9/11 and the impacts of these developments on the

international civil aviation system. The detailed discussion of terrorism past and present places the threat in its proper context for both the international civil aviation community and its largest individual actor, the United States.

*Richard Carney (Editor)*

### **Lessons from the Asian Financial Crisis**

Abingdon: Routledge



Nearly ten years after the Asian Financial Crisis, financial turmoil has reappeared and this time it is ravaging the world's wealthiest countries and dragging the global economy along for the ride. It forces one to reflect on the last major financial crisis to afflict the global economy, and to consider whether there are any similarities, and whether there are any lessons from that crisis that we can apply to the current one.

Written by a distinguished group of individuals from government, the private sector, international organizations, and academia, this book provides an overview of developments in the main affected countries during the Asian Financial Crisis, as well as the lessons learned and corrective measures taken at the country, regional, and international levels. Importantly, attention is also paid to the areas where substantial improvements are needed.

## Visit by American Journalists from East-West Centre's Senior Journalist Seminar 2009

A delegation of senior American journalists recently visited RSIS for a briefing on the topic of "Singapore's Initiatives against Terrorism". The visit which took place on 30 March 2009 was part of East-West Centre's Senior Journalist Seminar; a dialogue, travel and exchange programme for journalists from the United States and Asian countries. The group of senior American journalists comprised senior editors

from Fox News, CNN, Los Angeles Times, Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, as well as The Economist.

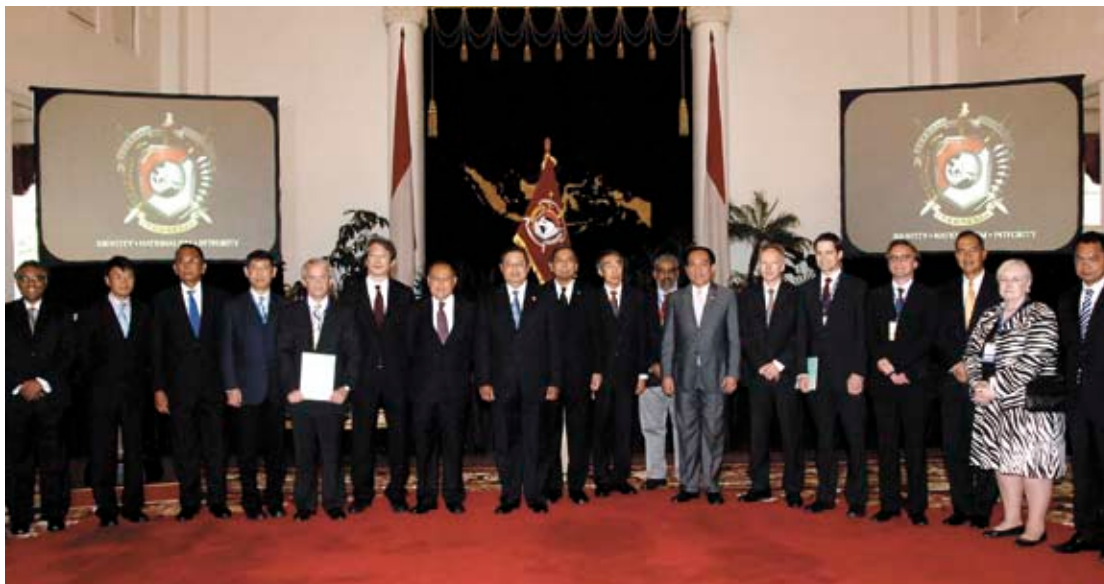
Briefing the American journalists were Dr. Norman Vasu, Mr. Mohammad Feisal Hassan, as well as Mr. Muhammad Haniff bin Hass. Dr. Vasu, who also chaired the briefing, spoke on the building of resilience in responses to terrorist attacks. Mr. Muhammad Haniff presented on Singapore's response to Jemaah Islamiyah's militancy, while Mr. Mohammad Feisal spoke on the work conducted by Singapore's Religious Rehabilitation Group.

## RSIS Forges Closer Ties in Indonesia

On 11 March 2009, the Indonesian Defence University (IDU) was officially established at the State Palace of the Republic of Indonesia. Initiated by the Indonesian Government, the IDU aims to be an integrated institution of higher learning specialising in defence studies. RSIS contributed to IDU's establishment by assisting a team from the Indonesian Department of Defence (DepHan) in developing the curriculum for its Master degree in Strategic Studies, as well as in providing ideas to conceptualise an international conference to launch the new university.

The official ceremony for IDU's establishment was immediately followed by a two-day conference titled "Indonesia 2025: Geopolitical and Security Challenges," organised by DepHan in collaboration with RSIS' Indonesia Programme. Other collaborators included the Asia Foundation, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, and the Ancora Foundation. Beyond providing an academic setting to review Indonesia's geopolitical and security challenges, the conference helped to facilitate international recognition and linkages for IDU.

The conference participants included RSIS' scholars, internationally renowned academics, and prominent young Indonesians. The first three sessions of the conference discussed issues related to the future of Asia-Pacific regionalism, reform in the security sector, and maritime security in Southeast Asia. The final session, titled "Young Leaders Forum: The Indonesian Perspectives," involved the participation of prominent emerging Indonesian leaders representing the business sector, the military and academia.



Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (eighth from left), President of Indonesia, with other speakers at the IDU's inauguration ceremony. He is flanked by Dr. Juwono Sudarsono (ninth from left), Indonesian Minister of Defense, and Amb. Barry Desker, Dean of RSIS (seventh from left)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

28-29 MAY 2009

OFFICIAL  
LAUNCH OF THE  
ASIA SECURITY  
INITIATIVE

29-31 MAY 2009

8TH SHANGRI-LA  
DIALOGUE

15-17 JUNE 2009

NADI WORKSHOP  
ON MARITIME  
SECURITY

3-10 AUGUST 2009

11TH ASIA-PACIFIC  
PROGRAMME FOR  
SENIOR MILITARY  
OFFICERS

*To be included in RSIS' mailing list for talks and seminars, please email your name, organization and job title to [iswyseng@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:iswyseng@ntu.edu.sg).*

## THINK TANK

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