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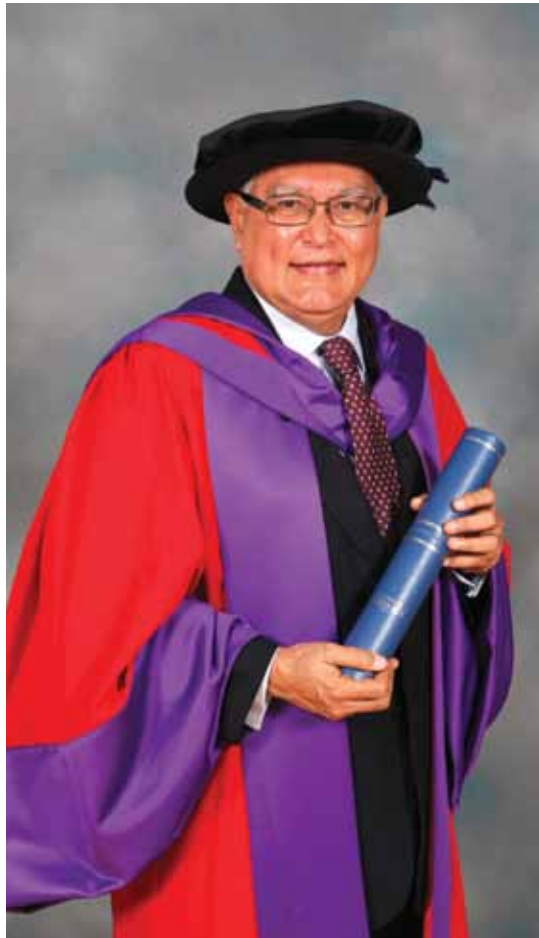
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Dean Barry Desker Awarded Honorary Doctorate by Warwick University



Honorary Graduate Ambassador Barry Desker

“...for his enormous contributions to public life in Singapore, in East Asia and indeed globally; for his scholarship and his academic leadership; and for his friendship, support and commitment to collaborative projects with the University of Warwick.”

– Professor Stuart Croft

Dean Barry Desker was conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by the University of Warwick. He received his degree from Sir Richard Lambert, Chancellor of Warwick University, during a ceremony held at the Warwick University campus in the U.K. on 18 July 2012.

This honorary degree was conferred in recognition of Dean Desker's contributions to public life in Singapore, in East Asia and globally; for his scholarship and academic leadership; and for his support and commitment to collaborative projects with the University of Warwick.

Dean Desker was with Singapore's Foreign Service from 1970, during which he was Ambassador to Indonesia from 1986 to 1993 and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 1982 to 1984. He then served as CEO at the Trade Development Board from 1994 to 2000, where he led the expansion of trade ties with China and India. His service to Singapore continues to this day as Non-Resident Ambassador to Spain and the Holy See.

In his oration, Professor Stuart Croft of Warwick's University cited Dean Desker's close relations with Warwick. He served on the First Warwick Commission, and was a member of the advisory board of a major European Union-funded research programme for five years. He also spearheaded the creation of a double degree programme at the Master's level involving Warwick's Department of Politics and International Studies and RSIS, which involves students studying for one year each in the U.K. and Singapore. The first batch of students from this programme graduated in July 2012. Beyond benefitting students, Dean Desker's efforts have also brought about increased collaboration and a closer working relationship between academic staff of both institutions.

Professor Croft added that Dean Desker's commitment to academia mirrored that of Warwick University – a commitment to do cutting-edge research, in order to attract the best faculty members and top students from around the world.

Contributed by Bernard Chin

RSIS' Beijing Visit: Discussing ASEAN-China Roles in East Asia



Group photo at the China Institute for International Strategic Studies

An RSIS delegation spent five days in Beijing in early July and met with counterparts from 11 Chinese research institutions to discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by the evolving strategic landscape in East Asia.

They exchanged views on China's and ASEAN's roles in the changing East Asian architecture, China-U.S. relations, ASEAN-China relations, regional economic relations and cooperation, South China Sea issues, the U.S. re-engagement of the Asia Pacific region, as well as China-Russia relations, China-Myanmar relations and domestic factors in China's foreign policy formulation.

Through these exchanges, the delegates were able to better understand China's policy towards its neighbours, regional security issues, and the U.S.. The delegates also developed better understanding of how various international and regional issues have been debated in China. The visit further enhanced RSIS' networking with the various Chinese think tanks and research institutes.

The delegation, led by Dean Barry Desker, included Associate Professor Tan See Seng (Deputy Director of the Institute for Defence and Strategic Studies), Associate Professor Li Mingjiang (Coordinator of the China Programme), Ms Jane Chan (Coordinator of the Maritime Security Programme), Assistant Professor Chong Ja Ian (Department of Political Science at NUS), Ms Tara Davenport (NUS Centre for International Law) and Mr Kyaw San Wai (RSIS External Programmes).

The annual trip, organised by RSIS's China programme, included visits to 11 Chinese research institutions: the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, the Institute

of American Studies, the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the China Institute for International Strategic Studies, the PLA National Defence University, the China Institute for International Studies, the Central Party School, Renmin University, the China Centre for International Economic Exchanges, the Department of Border and Ocean Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, and Foreign Affairs University.

Aside from exchanging views with such institutions, there was also a dinner gathering of RSIS alumni based in Beijing, at which the delegation members renewed acquaintances and updated them on changes in RSIS. The RSIS delegation also met Singapore's Ambassador to China, Mr Stanley Loh Ka Leung.



RSIS delegation holds discussions with researchers at the Central Party School

Contributed by Kyaw San Wai

New Dynamics in U.S.-China Relations

Is there a power shift taking place between China and the United States? Will U.S.-China strategic rivalry intensify in the Asia Pacific region in the coming decades? How can Asian states shape U.S.-China relations?

These were among the crucial questions on U.S.-China relations discussed at the workshop on the “New Dynamics in U.S.-China Relations”, which was hosted by RSIS’ China Programme on 4 June 2012.

Held immediately after the 2012 Shangri-La Dialogue, one of the main objectives of the workshop was to provide constructive discussion on the latest developments and strategic trends in U.S.-China relations. The workshop was attended by leading scholars and analysts from Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Myanmar, Singapore, the Philippines, and the U.S. They deliberated on the strategic dimensions, sources of conflict and cooperation in U.S.-China relations, and the role of regional states in shaping U.S.-China relations.

In his welcome remarks, Dean Barry Desker highlighted the importance of U.S.-China relations in maintaining a stable and prosperous Asia Pacific region, particularly in view of the Obama Administration’s pivot to Asia. He noted that the U.S. pivot to Asia, if handled appropriately, has the potential to help the transition of China into a responsible great-power by taking more responsibility in the security arena, especially in safeguarding the global commons.

Touching on the impact of U.S.-China relations on the region, Dean Desker commented that while competition between the U.S. and China is beneficial for Southeast Asian countries, the challenge was to ensure that the friendly competition does not deteriorate into conflict.

The workshop was organised into four thematic sessions to allow for an in-depth discussion on U.S.-China relations. The first session set the stage for the workshop with a discussion of the strategic dimensions of the U.S.-China relations, which also included an analysis of the power shift between the U.S. and China. The second session focused on the sources of conflict between China and neighbouring countries, particularly in maritime security in the Asia Pacific region. The third session deliberated on the management of U.S.-China relationship, which included an analysis of ASEAN’s efforts as a facilitator and an interlocutor in U.S.-China dialogues. The last session of the workshop was divided into two sub-sessions to focus on the role that regional states play in shaping the U.S.-China relationship. The case studies included regional middle powers of India, Japan and South Korea, and the ASEAN states of Cambodia, Myanmar and the Philippines.



Workshop participants deliberating on the new dynamics of U.S.-China relations

Contributed by Irene Chan

Seminars by CENS Distinguished Visiting Fellow

The Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) hosted Dr Dan Schueftan as its Distinguished Visiting Fellow from 1 to 14 July 2012. Dr Schueftan is the Director of the National Security Studies Center and a Senior Lecturer at the School of Political Sciences in the University of Haifa, Israel. Concurrently, he is also the Senior Lecturer at the Israel Defense Forces National Defense College.

For the last four decades, he has been a consultant to Israeli decision makers and to the top echelon of Israel's government, such as the Prime Minister's Office, Foreign Ministry, Defense Ministry, and the National Security Council. Dr Schueftan has published extensively on contemporary Middle Eastern history, with emphasis on Arab-Israeli relations, Inter-Arab politics and American policy in the Middle East.

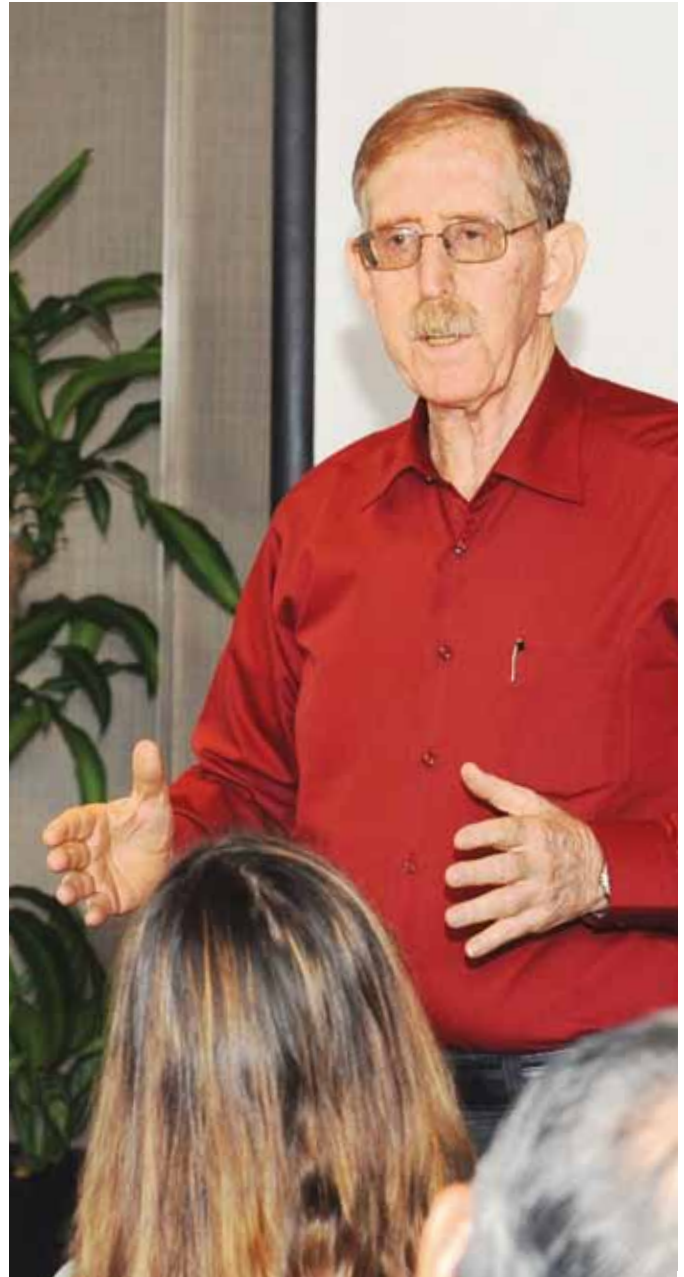
During his two-week visit to CENS/RSIS, Dr Schueftan gave four seminars to invited guests at the Marina Mandarin Hotel. His talks focused mainly on the national security challenges of Israel and its region.

For his first seminar on 2 July, Dr Schueftan talked about "The Middle East in Transition" and its implications in the region. He pointed out the role of political Islam, and especially so for the Muslim Brotherhood's future in Egypt. Due to the lack of an active and pluralistic civil society, Dr Schueftan assessed that free elections might not result in a liberal democracy.

At his second seminar on 6 July, Dr Schueftan presented on "Developing Resilience in a Diverse and Changing Society". Specifically, Dr Schueftan gave an overview on Israel's experience in forging a cohesive nation and fostering social resilience in an adversarial neighbourhood. He explained the two courses of action that are taken by Israel: firstly, the effective response to violent threats and secondly, constructive efforts in nation building.

The third presentation on 11 July revolved around the topic "Net Assessment: Challenges and Response". Dr Schueftan talked about Israel's national security challenges, especially the structural challenges in the international arena. He pointed out that Israeli society became the real target since Israel's adversaries failed to achieve victories against its army. Consequently, he opined that the yardstick for an assessment should focus on the Israeli society.

The final seminar on "Coping with an Inclement International Environment" was held on 13 July. Dr Schueftan talked about the adverse policies that Israel faces with international organisations as well as problems in Western public opinion. He identified two constituencies to overcome these challenges and problems: Israel's own mainstream population and the American administration and public opinion.



Dr Dan Schueftan

Dr Schueftan's series of seminars were well received. Besides providing an update of the situation in the Middle East and Israel, the seminars contributed significantly to the understanding of national security and social resilience.

Contributed by Senol Yilmaz

Exploring Prospects for Northeast Asian Regionalism



BG(NS) Chee Wee Kiong, Second Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, gave the keynote address

Experts and scholars from East Asia and the Pacific held a workshop on 6 July 2012, to discuss the prospects for regional cooperation in Northeast Asia. The conference, organised by RSIS' Centre for Multilateralism Studies, explored the question "Is Northeast Asian Regionalism the Centre of East Asian Regionalism?". The workshop highlighted three main themes of Northeast Asian regionalism: the overall form regional cooperation has taken, the security aspects of such cooperation, and ASEAN's role in the Northeast Asian regionalisation process.

First, it was noted that due to the territorial and historical disputes between Northeast Asian states, the region's approach to economic cooperation had been measured and informal. Additionally, speakers observed that the lack of common concerns among Northeast Asian states impeded closer interstate ties. While Northeast Asian regionalism was still at a nascent stage, participants agreed that regional cooperation was gaining momentum. However, it was assessed that U.S. involvement in the Trans-Pacific Partnership acted as a catalyst in spurring China to promote economic cooperation with Japan and South Korea.

Second, despite the growing economic cooperation among China, Japan and South Korea, coordination on security issues had been less forthcoming. Stumbling blocks to closer security

ties included the stalled Six Party Talks, historical and maritime territorial disputes, and the various cultures of the individual Northeast Asian states. It was observed that while Northeast Asian states focused on absolute gains in economic cooperation, they tended to focus on relative gains in security cooperation, thus limiting the extent of collaboration on security issues. It was suggested that the best way for cooperation to proceed in the security arena was to strengthen bilateral ties within a regional multilateral framework.

Third, while speakers agreed that ASEAN had been a platform for improving relations among Northeast Asian states, they also noted that ASEAN could not resolve Northeast Asia's problems. Specifically, ASEAN had been unable to deal effectively with instability arising from Taiwan's disputed sovereign status, maritime territorial disputes in the East China Sea, and tensions in the Korean peninsula. However, it was assessed that Northeast Asian states were unlikely to challenge ASEAN centrality in the near future. This was because ASEAN centrality had been beneficial for China, Japan and South Korea, as the organisation had provided them with an avenue to cooperate with each other, as well as Southeast Asian nations.

Overall, participants concluded that Northeast Asian regional cooperation would be a slow process due to the different interests of the individual states.

Contributed by Sarah Teo

Role of the Media in Spreading People Power in Asia and the Middle East

RSIS and the Asia Journalism Forum (AJF) combined forces to organise a conference on “Reporting People Power: Media and Political Change in Asia and Middle East” from 19 to 20 April 2012



Mr Richard Gizbert, presenter of The Listening Post of Al Jazeera, delivering his keynote address

Academics, media professionals, online bloggers and specialists exchanged views with some 14 Asian journalists attending the 2012 AJF Fellowship at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.

They reviewed the “Arab Spring” uprisings in North Africa and West Asia and the role of the media in reporting and influencing the phenomenon. New and old media publishers from Southeast and South Asia shared their experience of popular protest movements.

Following a welcome speech by Mr Benedict Cheong, CEO of the Temasek Foundation, which sponsored the AJF, and opening remarks by Associate Professor Cherian George, Head of the AJF and Mr Kwa Chong Guan, Head of External Programmes at RSIS, the conference proceeded in five sessions.

A keynote speech by Mr Richard Gizbert of Al Jazeera set the stage for a lively and engaging conference. The curtain raiser was a forum on “Media and Political Change in Myanmar”

featuring Zeya Thu, Deputy Chief Editor, The Voice; and Aung Tun, faculty member, Myanmar Egress, from Yangon; and Professor Teresita Cruz-del Rosario of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

The session on “Changing with the Times” featured Mr Ashraf Mahmoud, who is the Deputy Director of Al Ahram. Contacted by Mr James M. Dorsey of RSIS, he spoke by Skype from Cairo, about the changes in the mainstream media in Egypt following the Tahrir Square revolution.

The other sessions dealt with “The Power and Limits of New Media”, “Building a Democratic Culture” and “A New Age of Transparency”. The discussions highlighted the key role played by the electronic media and social media, both in the immediate dissemination of news, and in live videos of popular uprisings, which influenced the rise of such protest movements across the region from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean.

Contributed by Mushahid Ali

Impact of Fukushima and the “Arab Spring” on Energy Security

An expert and geopolitical analyst on energy security, Dr Hooman Peimani, has forecast that fossil energy will continue to dominate the global energy mix in the 21st century, while non-fossil energy such as nuclear power will play a small part, for the foreseeable future.

Dr Peimani, Principal Fellow and Head of Energy Security Division, Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore, gave this assessment in a seminar on Energy Security at RSIS last

April, as part of the School’s Series on Practice of Diplomacy and International Affairs.

Dr Peimani began by outlining the major preoccupation of many countries with their quest for energy supplies due to their growing needs. While the availability of supplies was an essential factor, political and environmental considerations could also determine its outcome. In the 21st century, the consolidating multi-polarity of

Continued from page 6

the international system was an additional factor that has created the framework for energy security.

Two major events in 2011—the Fukushima incident of 11 March 2011 and the “Arab Spring” uprisings—though different in their natures, have since made an impact on many countries’ pursuit of energy security.

Dr Peimani noted that the main contributing factors that would affect energy security were availability, affordability and reliability of supplies. They could be affected by domestic political uncertainty like civil unrest, security of the supply routes (because of piracy on the high seas and safety of land routes), and the environmental sustainability of supplies.

Turning to the impact of the Fukushima incident and the “Arab Spring” uprisings on energy security, Dr Peimani opined that the Fukushima incident was not a technology failure, but a technical failure to locate the cooling system sufficiently high enough to be safe from major tsunamis. What happened in Fukushima was not proof of the unsafe nature of nuclear energy. He concluded that Japan would continue to depend on nuclear energy, which

generates 30% of its electricity supply. The countries in Asia, ranging from India and Pakistan to China and Japan, which have on-going nuclear power projects would not be deterred by the Fukushima incident, and would continue to develop their nuclear power plants.

The “Arab Spring” uprisings have created political uncertainties and instability in a number of oil/gas exporting Arab countries of West Asia and North Africa, and this coupled with the possibility that it may expand to the major oil/gas exporters in the Persian Gulf, have raised concerns about the future availability of energy supplies.



Dr Hooman Peimani

Contributed by Tan Seng Chye

RSIS Hosts ASEAN Counter Terrorism Executive Programme

The International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) at RSIS, with the Ministry of Home Affairs Singapore, organised an ASEAN Counter Terrorism Executive Programme in Singapore from 26 to 30 March 2012. The Programme was made possible with generous support from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund.

The ASEAN Counter Terrorism Executive Programme brought together counter terrorism leaders and practitioners from ASEAN countries with the objective of providing a holistic understanding of both the current and emerging threats of terrorism. It enabled regional experts to network, share best practices and formulate strategies to mitigate the threat of terrorism in ASEAN countries.

The five-day programme included presentations from local and foreign experts, as well as field visits to the Counter Terrorism Suite at the Home Team Academy and the Harmony Centre at An-Nahdhah Mosque. The two field visits enabled participants to get a deeper understanding of Singapore’s approach in countering terrorism and the importance of social cohesion through racial and religious harmony.

International speakers were specially flown in for the programme to share their respective expertise in the counter terrorism field. The presentation topics covered trends and analysis of situations in South and Southeast Asia, case studies of past



Mr Tai Wei Shyong, Deputy Secretary (Security) at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore, delivered the inaugural address

terrorist attacks, various approaches in tackling terrorism and the prevention of extremism in affected societies. One of the major highlights of the programme was the Fire-side Chat with Interpol President Mr Khoo Boon Hui.

A total of 18 participants representing 10 ASEAN countries in the programme filled out a questionnaire on its effectiveness using the five-level Likert Scale. All the participants agreed or strongly agreed that the programme objectives were all achieved and the programme was relevant to their line of work. The participants also strongly recommended that the programme be held on an annual basis to benefit more officials in the ASEAN countries.

Contributed by Salim Mohamed Nasir

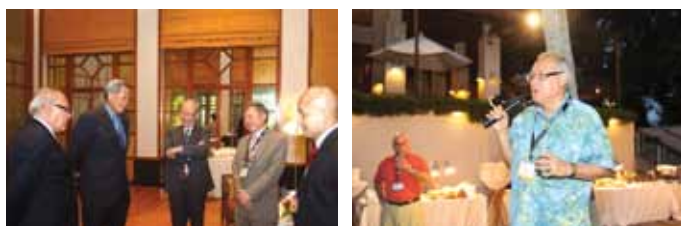
APPSMO XIV: The Military Professional in the New Security Environment

The 14th Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO XIV) was held at the Sentosa Resort and Spa from 6 to 12 August 2012. Organised by RSIS' Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), this year's APPSMO was attended by over 50 military officers from more than 20 countries around the Asia Pacific and Europe.

Defence Minister Dr Ng Eng Hen officiated at the opening of APPSMO XIV. President Tony Tan Keng Yam attended the dinner for participants and speakers at the Rasa Sentosa Resort. The theme of APPSMO XIV was "The Military Professional in the New Security Environment", which focused on the military professional, the challenges he faces in a dynamic security environment that is being shaped by developments in technology, society, operating concepts and doctrines.

As in previous years APPSMO also provided a valuable forum for defence diplomacy, where military professionals, policy makers, practitioners, academics and other experts exchanged views on a broad range of subjects related to regional and international security.

IDSS assembled an impressive range of speakers to speak on technological developments in the military enterprise, the changing roles of military professionals beyond strictly warfighting, and the growing legal-ethical complexities of military operations. Distinguished overseas speakers included Professor Sir Steve Smith of the University of Exeter, Dr Steven Metz from the Strategic Studies Institute at the U.S. Army War College, and Dr James Corum, who is Dean of the Baltic Defence College in Estonia.



RSIS speakers included Professor Pascal Vennesson, Professor Geoffrey Till and Dr Ahmed Salah Hashim. The ST Engineering Dinner Lecture, “An Asian Perspective on Rebalancing”, was delivered by Professor Iwan Azis of the Asian Development Bank, who was visiting RSIS as the NTUC Professor of International Economic Relations. Professor Khong Yuen Foong, RSIS’ Senior Research Advisor, tackled the question “The U.S. Pivot to Asia: Continuity or Change?” during his Distinguished Lunch Talk.

The participants attended seminars on the following topics, which ranged from big picture topics such as “New Dimensions in International Security”, “Military Professionals and Policymakers: Managing Expectations”, “The New Operating Environment:

the Legal and Ethical Dimensions”, and “Whither the Warrior Ethos?: the Changing Role(s) of the Military Professional”, to more operations-oriented topics such as “Future of Warfare: After Counter-Insurgency Operations”, “Conventional Navies in Unconventional Operations” and “Information and Social Media Technologies in Military Operations”.

But it was not just ‘death by seminars’: the participants were taken on a visit to the Republic of Singapore Navy’s Information Fusion Centre, as well as a tour of Singapore’s latest visitor attraction, the Gardens by the Bay. On National Day on 9 August, they joined Singaporeans in celebrating the National Day Parade at Marina Bay.

Contributed by Adrian Kuah



U.S. and Chinese Naval Strategies in the Pacific



Captain John Wood



Mr Christian LeMierre

RSIS recently convened two seminars about the U.S. “pivot” or “re-balance” towards the Asia Pacific, as well as U.S. and Chinese naval strategies in East Asia. The first presentation was by the U.S. Defense and Naval Attaché in Singapore, Captain John R. Wood, on “A U.S. Navy Perspective on Re-Balancing in Asia” on 3 May 2012. He emphasised the importance of Southeast Asia for global maritime trade in which four of the world’s most important choke-points are located, namely the Straits of Malacca, Singapore, Sunda, and Lombok. Disruption to these choke-points could bring enormous disruption to the global economy. Considering the adverse consequences of security disruption to Asian sea lanes, the U.S. Navy has been and will remain committed to this region.

CPT Wood confirmed that the U.S. “pivot” or “re-balance” to Asia will be maritime-focused, with more U.S. Navy assets being deployed to the region. This will include the deployment of up to four Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) to Singapore, and more frequent visits of U.S. warships, including aircraft carriers and submarines. Singapore, he said, provides a geographical advantage for the U.S. Navy due to its strategic location between the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific. The U.S., therefore, regards Singapore as being its indispensable partner, especially when it comes to providing logistical and maintenance support for the U.S. Seventh Fleet, which operates from the Western Pacific to the eastern Indian Ocean.

The second seminar was by Mr Christian LeMierre of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), on “U.S.

and Chinese Naval Strategy in East Asia” on 1 June 2012. He argued that as American troops are being withdrawn from Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. is becoming more attentive toward the rise of China, especially in military-strategic terms.

This trend, Mr LeMierre said, is indicated by the U.S. adoption of AirSea Battle Concept (ABC) in response to the Chinese Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) strategy. He believes that the U.S. ABC is designed to provide rapid deployment of U.S. forces along East Asia’s littoral seas, while avoiding the display of a strategy of containment toward China. The U.S. is also reconfiguring its forward-based maritime forces towards a more dispersed posture, including, the LCS deployment to Singapore, and re-positioning of Marines from Okinawa to Australia, Hawaii, and Guam.

On the other hand, China’s A2/AD capabilities can be seen as part of a broader strategy to establish a ‘fleet-in-being’ and sea denial to prevent or limit U.S. freedom of action close to Chinese littoral areas. Application of this strategy is evident through Chinese development of the DF-21D anti-ship ballistic missile and deployment of substantial numbers of Type 022 “Houbei” Fast Attack Craft.

Mr LeMierre cautioned, however, that these strategies could degenerate into an action-reaction cycle which could increase the level of animosity and propensity of conflict between the two countries.

Contributed by Ristian Atriandi Supriyanto

Sovereignty in Cyberspace: A Global Architecture for Cybersecurity



Associate Professor Kumar Ramakrishna delivering his welcome remarks at the Cybersecurity Workshop

The workshop on “The Future of Sovereignty in Cyberspace: Developing a Global Architecture for Cybersecurity” was held at the Marina Mandarin from 16 to 18 July 2012. It was jointly organised by the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) and the Global Futures Forum (GFF), with the support of the National Security Coordination Secretariat in the Prime Minister’s Office.

The workshop explored the theme of developing a global governance architecture for cybersecurity. A global approach involving the public and private sectors was required to address the borderless security threats that cyberspace had enabled, ranging from cyber warfare and cyber terrorism to cyber espionage and cyber crime. The workshop saw a good exchange of ideas, with a good mix of cybersecurity practitioners and scholars from the private and public sectors, as well as academia.

The first part of the workshop discussed cyberspace as a potential realm of conflict through the lenses of sovereign prerogative, state responsibility, and international humanitarian law. Panel One of the workshop outlined the rules of the road in administering the global architecture for cybersecurity. The proposed UN code of conduct and dimensions of active defence were explored in the panel. The second panel studied legal limitations and obligations in cybersecurity. The applicability of the laws of armed conflict and legal issues in attributing cyber-attacks to a state were discussed. The third panel examined potential futures of cyber conflict in the military dimension.

In the second section, the workshop examined proposed models for internet governance and technical standards. It kicked off with the fourth panel where speakers shared their organisational experiences in enhancing global cybersecurity readiness. Panel Five highlighted the role of international standards and their impact on the technology marketplace. The involvement of the Atlantic Council discussed in Panel Six was also one of the highlights of the workshop. This panel examined the role of governance models to steer towards the best possible cyber futures. It argued that there are several possible scenarios for the future for cybersecurity. The right governance will steer the world towards the best and avoid the worst.

Finally, the workshop explored the emerging role of non-state actors such as international organisations, multinational companies, entrepreneurs, hackers and activists, as well as criminal syndicates in the international system. Panel Seven examined the interaction between technology and politics as well as contemporary social and economic lives. Panel Eight discussed the role of the private sector in the global architecture for cybersecurity. Finally, the last panel considered how international organisations may incorporate cybersecurity norms in promoting economic and social development as well as promote the freedom of information.

Contributed by Jennifer Yang Hui

Safeguarding Seafarers from Piracy and Sea Robbery



RSIS and ReCAAP ISC brought together maritime stakeholders to address challenges pertaining to piracy and sea robbery

R SIS jointly organised the ReCAAP ISC Piracy & Sea Robbery Conference 2012 in April with the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre, BIMCO and INTERTANKO.

The theme of the conference “Safeguarding Seafarers: A Shared Responsibility” provided a platform for sharing situational updates, exchanging views, and addressing challenges pertaining to piracy and armed robbery against ships among stakeholders. Participants were from government agencies, international organisations, shipping associations, ship owners and operators, maritime industries and research institutes.

Ambassador Pornchai Danvivathana, Governor of Thailand Council, ReCAAP ISC gave the welcome remarks, while Mr Koji Sekimizu, Secretary-General of IMO, gave the keynote address, and Mr Torben Skaanild, Secretary-General of BIMCO, gave the opening remarks. They noted the progress of ReCAAP over the years and the efforts of their organisations in reducing the piracy and sea robbery threat to seafarers.

A total of eight presenters spoke on an array of topics relating to safety at sea, ranging from perspectives of Asian ship owners to legal issues of privately armed guards onboard vessels. Dr Euan Graham of the Maritime Security Programme at RSIS presided over the question-and-answer session.

The conference consisted of two sessions: “Overview and Perspective of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships” and “Safeguarding Seafarers: Citadel and Armed Guards onboard

Vessels”. Among the issues addressed during the sessions, two topics were of exceptional concern to the participants. The first was the problem of under-reporting. A number of presenters expressed their concern that there might be a growing trend of ship owners and operators under-reporting incidents. They were worried this might impede the relevant authorities from accurately assessing the situation.

The other topic of concern was the increasing deployment of private armed guards onboard vessels. While some presenters agreed that there were benefits in the deployment of these armed guards, they were also concerned that ship owners and operators might see the armed guards as a substitute for best management practice.

Presenters emphasised that there should be a layered defence in the protection of seafarers against pirates, and the deployment of armed guards should only be one of the considered approaches. They also reminded the participants that there were flag states that prohibit the usage of armed guards onboard vessels and that it would be a huge logistical challenge to have weapons onboard as well.

At the end of the discussion, participants agreed that no measure can substitute for the implementation of Best Management Practice, and that safeguarding seafarers should be a responsibility of all stakeholders.

Contributed by Lim Chee Kia

Regional MARSEC Practitioner Course 2012

RISIS and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) co-organised the 2nd Regional MARSEC Practitioner Course from 4 to 8 June 2012. The course brings together MARSEC practitioners from Singapore, regional and extra-regional navies, as well as law enforcement agencies, and aims to foster interaction, networking and sharing of diverse perspectives.

The programme allowed participants to understand existing regional maritime security architectures in the Asia Pacific region, as well as contemporary maritime security challenges. They shared their perspectives on exploitable vulnerability, porosity and weaknesses in the maritime domain and supply chain, and how to develop collective measures and enhance practicable co-operation.

Professor Joseph Liow, Associate Dean of RSIS, delivered the opening remarks, emphasising to the participants that good order at sea in the region depends on the actions of regional countries and that the course may help build the knowledge and network to facilitate these actions.

Professor Geoffrey Till, visiting Professor in RSIS' Maritime Security Programme (MSP), began the series of lectures by providing a regional framework, while Dr Sam Bateman, Advisor to MSP, shared his knowledge on piracy and sea robbery. Other RSIS lecturers included Dr Marcus Bussey and Ms Jolene Anne Jerard, who lectured on sense-making and maritime terrorism respectively. During the lectures, participants were encouraged to post questions via an online portal system. This allowed the lecturers to answer the students' queries without disrupting the classes.

The organisers also arranged for syndicate work and table-top exercises to better engage the participants. In the maritime terrorism syndicate discussion, participants assumed the role of terrorists and had to formulate workable terrorism plans. In the table-top exercise, participants assumed the role of the Information Fusion Centre (IFC) and were required to make decisions based on the pre-planned scenario that were intermittently fed to them. To add to the realism of the exercise, overseas partners from the Philippines and Indonesia were enrolled, who could provide real-time information when participants contacted them via the online portal.

A number of senior commanders, including Commodore Pranyoto of the Indonesian Navy, Rear-Admiral Thomas Carney of the U.S. Navy and Rear-Admiral Harris Chan of the RSN were invited to have dialogue sessions with the participants. Other than academics and senior operational commanders, industrial stakeholders were also invited to share their views and to interact with the participants.



Dr Sam Bateman giving a lecture as participants post their queries via an online portal

Contributed by Lim Chee Kia

Timor-Leste: A Decade of Independence and Development



Ambassador Roberto Soares (left) and Mr Hugo Fernandes (right) addressing the audience with Associate Professor Leonard C. Sebastian moderating

To coincide with Timor-Leste's celebration of a decade of independence, RSIS' Indonesia Programme held two consecutive public events on Timor-Leste.

The first, a joint seminar by RSIS and The Asia Foundation titled "Timor-Leste: State of the Nation 2012" was held on 24 April 2012. The speakers were Ambassador Roberto Sarmento de Oliveira Soares of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, and Mr Hugo Fernandes, The Asia Foundation's Program Director for the Parliamentary and Ministerial Strengthening Programme in Timor-Leste.

The second event, held on 3 May 2012, was a RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture by H. E. Dr Jose Ramos-Horta, then President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, who spoke on the topic "Securing Our Future: Timor Leste's Role in the Region and Beyond".

Both events highlighted two key themes. The first theme was the state of nation building and developments in Timor-Leste today. The two seminars concluded that Timor-Leste has made significant progress in the areas of economic and social development, security and justice, and defence and security. Above all, Timor-Leste today is a much more peaceful and stable country.

However Timor-Leste has more work to do on state and nation-building, having only recently recovered from a number of major political crises and conflicts. Many challenges still needed to

be addressed, particularly in areas of corruption eradication, justice, as well as defence and national security. Timor-Leste also faced the challenge of normalising its relations with Indonesia, one of its most important neighbours.

The second theme was the significance of the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections that were to take place in 2012. The Presidential Election was conducted successfully with Mr Taur Matan Ruak elected as the new President of Timor-Leste. The Parliamentary Elections took place on 7 July 2012, with the party of Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao obtaining a majority. The outcome of these two events highlighted that while political competition had become intense, the political landscape will not be transformed dramatically.

The successful conduct of the elections has an important bearing on the impending completion of the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and the withdrawal of its 1200-strong police contingent. A successful election outcome will also support the country's intention to become a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Last but not least, it will provide the political capital needed by the in-coming government to ensure further progress and development in Timor-Leste.

The two events affirmed Timor-Leste's place in the region and its eagerness to be accepted as a part of Southeast Asia. It has set its sights on attaining ASEAN membership before 2015 and is confident that that will bring great benefits to ASEAN. They also reaffirmed that the processes of nation building and peace building cannot be accomplished overnight and require strong leadership, wisdom, commitment and patience. As noted by President Jose Ramos-Horta, Timor-Leste celebrated its 10th anniversary of independence with great satisfaction but also with a degree of soul searching.



Dr Jose Ramos-Horta, then President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Contributed by Meta Silvyani Suwandi

RSIS Collaborates with ETH Zurich on MBA (Executive) Programme



Participants from the Southeast Asian Security module conducted by RSIS

RSIS conducted a Southeast Asian Security module for ETH Zurich's MBA (Executive) Programme from 23 to 27 April 2012, following more than two years of negotiations. This Programme, which already has external partners in the U.K. and the U.S., had been interested in getting an Asian partner for their Programme. RSIS was identified as its preferred Asian partner.

As part of the introduction, the Embassy of Switzerland hosted the ETH Zurich staff and course participants, along with participating RSIS faculty, to a welcome dinner held at the Swiss Club on 25 April.

This Southeast Asian Security module, coordinated by Associate Professor Alan Chong, was intensive, with seminars held twice daily. The module's syllabus comprised seminars on a range of topics, including an introduction to Southeast Asia's politics and history, the evolution of regional security initiatives from ASA to SEATO to ASEAN, and military modernisation in Southeast Asia. These seminars were conducted by RSIS faculty, including Mr Richard Bitzinger, Associate Professor Li Mingjiang, Assistant Professor Lee Dongmin, Associate Professor Alan Chong, Associate Professor Tan See Seng and Associate Professor Ralf Emmers. The module culminated with a certificate presentation by Professor Ron Mathews, Head of Graduate Studies at RSIS.

At the end of the Programme, participant feedback with regards to the RSIS-taught module was overwhelmingly favourable. Most participants recommended that this Asian leg of their MBA (Executive) Programme become a regular feature of future Programmes.

Contributed by Bernard Loo

Examining Rio+20's Outcome

Rio+20 saw several positive outcomes, the most high-profile of which was the decision to establish Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) next year. The SDG topics will encompass all three aspects of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental - and will seek to perpetuate momentum in international development work beyond the poverty-eradicating mission of the Millennium Development Goals, which will lapse in 2015.

Rio+20 also saw other accomplishments. Governments, private companies, and multilateral agencies committed themselves to voluntary pledges worth \$513 billion toward a series of development projects. Eight international development banks agreed to invest \$175 billion to sustainable public transport systems over the next decade. Private sector companies pledged to contribute \$50 billion to a plan to provide energy to the entire global population by 2030. However, the degree to which these pledges will be fulfilled remains uncertain, particularly in a time of persistent global economic downturn.

Rio+20's outcome document, *The Future We Want*, attempts to call attention to a cornucopia of the world's most pressing development issues, from food security to mining. However, its hope to address these challenges while upholding states' "common but differentiated responsibilities" and "providing opportunities and benefits for all citizens and all countries" seems to err on the side of breadth while lacking depth.

Additionally, the language of the document appears oblique, repeatedly "reaffirming," "recognizing," and "strongly urging," but

"committing" to little. The deletion of several major commitments, including specific targets for cutting carbon emissions and a \$30 billion fund for sustainable environmental activities in developing countries, further weakens the document.

Much of Rio+20 focused on the "green economy," an effort led by developed Western nations, which aims to create jobs and profits through low-carbon, resource-saving businesses. The robustness of the framework, however, has come under fire. Part of the green economy involves potentially placing economic value on environmental services provided by nature, an approach that some argue "financializes nature." Further, this framework has been criticized for not considering the most immediate concerns of the developing world, including malnourishment; the burden of tropical, communicable, and neglected diseases; and access to clean water, sanitation, and electricity.

Several experts note that the most important outcome of Rio+20 is that it catalyzes a global call to make sustainable development priorities central to global thinking and action. In the aftermath of Rio+20, we wait with bated breath to see whether this will come to be.

Contributed by Ong Suan Ee

This opinion-editorial by Research Analyst Ong Suan Ee was posted on the Global Roundup website of the Council of Councils (CoC). The CoC was launched by the U.S.-based Council on Foreign Relations earlier this year, with RSIS as one of 22 Founding Members and one of only two think tanks from countries not members of the G20 group of countries invited to join the Council. Ms Ong contributed this article to Global Roundup following a request by the CoC to member institutions.

Staff Publications

*Edited by Joseph Liow,
Nadirsyah Hosen*

Islam in Southeast Asia

I Routledge, 2009. 4-vol. set
SBN: 978-0-415-47680-5



The Islamic community in Southeast Asia is widely regarded as one of the most moderate and tolerant in the Muslim world. While most of the region's Muslims are Sunni and fairly orthodox, the Islamic faith as practised in the region has historically been a syncretic blend of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and folk religions. The syncretic roots of Southeast Asian Islam also underscores the pluralistic nature of Islam in the region today, where Muslims have generally lived peacefully in religiously mixed communities, even in areas where they constituted a large majority.

Alongside these pluralistic trends in Southeast Asian Islam are some alternative streams of social-political activism that threaten its traditionally inclusivist character. While most Southeast Asian Muslims are known for their moderation, there has historically been a very small but vocal minority who have been drawn to the more puritanical or extremist variants of the faith. In addition, there is a gradual but clearly discernible trend of conservatism among the general Muslim population, particularly in Malaysia and Indonesia, which has given rise to exclusivist attitudes towards non-Muslims.

Farish A. Noor

Islam on the Move: The Tablighi Jama'at in Southeast Asia

Amsterdam University Press, 2012
ISBN (Print): 978-90-8964-439-8



Much nuance and variability have been lost in the process of the reductivist analysis of Islam post 9/11 and, as this study amply demonstrates, we are all the poorer as a result. This exhaustive examination of the rise and spread of the Tablighi Jama'at, arguably the world's largest Islamic missionary movement, locates it in the larger perspective of global Islam and developments in the Muslim societies. Combining an overview of the history and current socio-political perception of the Tablighi Jama'at with a more analytical and philosophical approach to fundamental questions of identity, subject-positioning and representation, the author creates a comprehensive resource of interest to all scholars and students of Islam. Drawing on exhaustive research and records of conversion narratives of the new members of Tablighi Jama'at, cited here at length, the author creates a unique perspective on this complex phenomenon from both an internal and external viewpoints. Ahmad-Noor locates the spiritual framework of the movement in the context of its perception in the eyes of the political and religious authorities of the countries where it has a following, as well as the Western 'securocrat' approach.

*Caballero-Anthony, Mely; Chang,
Youngho; Putra, Nur Azha (Eds.)*

Energy and Non-Traditional Security (NTS) in Asia

Springer, 2012
ISBN (Print): 978-3-642-29705-2



The impacts of rising energy prices and climate change on human collectivities, the human security issues brought to the fore by the 2011 Fukushima disaster and the Arab Spring demonstrations have underlined the need for non-traditional approaches to energy security. The non-military, and often transnational, nature of the emerging threats calls for responses that cut across state borders, disciplines and issues. This volume contributes to this need to broaden the energy security discourse by unpacking energy security using the non-traditional security (NTS) framework. The need to ensure the welfare of peoples and states is discussed within the context of the imperatives of sustainable development. The analyses of the region's energy policies encompass issues related to the development and governance of energy markets, as well as the socioeconomic and environmental implications of efforts to achieve energy security through diversification into sources such as hydropower, biofuels, coal and nuclear energy.

The aim of this volume on Energy and Non-Traditional Security in Asia, together with its accompanying volume on Rethinking Energy Security: A Non-Traditional View of Human Security is to widen the debate on energy security beyond the conventional views of what energy security means to the security and well-being of states and societies, thus encouraging a more comprehensive approach towards energy security.

*Caballero-Anthony, Mely; Chang, Youngho;
Putra, Nur Azha (Eds.)*

Rethinking Energy Security in Asia: A Non-Traditional View of Human Security

Springer, 2012
ISBN (Print): 978-3-642-29702-1



Traditional notions of security are premised on the primacy of state security. In relation to energy security, traditional policy thinking has focused on ensuring supply without much emphasis on socioeconomic and environmental impacts. Non-traditional security (NTS) scholars argue that threats to human security have become increasingly prominent since the end of the Cold War, and that it is thus critical to adopt a holistic and multidisciplinary approach in addressing rising energy needs. This volume represents the perspectives of scholars from across Asia, looking at diverse aspects of energy security through a non-traditional security lens. The issues covered include environmental and socioeconomic impacts, the role of the market, the role of civil society, energy sustainability and policy trends in the ASEAN region.

UPCOMING EVENTS

23-24 AUG 2012

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WORKSHOP

20-21 SEP 2012

3RD SINGAPORE GLOBAL
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1 OCT 2012

SEMINAR ON "MANAGING
SOCIAL MEDIA IN A
CRISIS: LEARNING
LESSONS FROM THE 2011
CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN
ENGLAND" BY SIR DAVID
OMAND

3 OCT 2012

SEMINAR ON "SECURING
THE STATE – NATIONAL
SECURITY IN
CONTEMPORARY TIMES"
BY SIR DAVID OMAND

4-5 OCT 2012

SOCIAL MEDIA IN A
CRISIS WORKSHOP

5 OCT 2012

COLLOQUIUM
ON "PIVOTS AND
ARCHITECTURES: THE
STRATEGIC GEOMETRIES
OF ASIA-PACIFIC
ORDER-BUILDING" BY
PROFESSOR WILLIAM
TOW

8-10 OCT 2012

RSIS-ADBI CONFERENCE

29-31 OCT 2012

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*For enquiries and
comments about Think Tank,
please email
issychin@ntu.edu.sg*

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