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## Seventh Asia Pacific Security Conference 2014



*Minister Chan Chun Sing (right) speaking with Mr Eddie Teo, Chairman of RSIS' Board of Governors (left) and Dean Barry Desker*

**T**he emerging security dynamics in Asia and the role of Airpower were the themes of the seventh Asia Pacific Security Conference (APSEC) organised by RSIS and Experia Events Pte. Ltd. at the Raffles City Convention Centre on 10 February as part of the 2014 Singapore Air Show.

The conference explored the continuity and change in East Asia's security environment, both through the lens of U.S.-China strategic ambitions, and through the impact of emerging fifth-generation airpower capabilities.

In his welcome remarks, Barry Desker, Dean of RSIS, noted that acquisition of advanced weapons and force multipliers together with new concepts for joint air and maritime operations – such as “Air-Sea Battle” strategies – have important repercussions for regional security making.

In the keynote address, Second Minister for Defence Chan Chun Sing noted that with rapid

economic development and accompanying political and social developments, nations in the Asia Pacific were facing competing demands for resources to meet the rising aspirations of their people. To navigate away from strife and towards shared interests, he underlined the importance of wise and strong leaders who appreciate that there is much more to gain through cooperation than conflict.

The conference comprised two panels: the first panel focused on the strategies for Sino-American relations over the decade, how this rivalry is taking an increasingly military dimension and its implications for regional security. The panel had three speakers: Andrew Shapiro, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State; Ruan Zongze, China Institute of International Studies; and Richard Bitzinger, RSIS. The second panel analysed the key trends in the on-going modernisation of airpower in Asia including the impact of new weapon systems and technologies such as stealth,

*Continued on page 2*

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precision-guided munitions, and new sensors. The panel had three speakers: Richard Abouafia, Teal Group Corporation; Jeong Lee, a freelance military analyst; and Mark Lorell, RAND Corporation.

The conference concluded with a Distinguished Lunch Talk by General Herbert J. “Hawk” Carlisle, Commander, US

Pacific Air Forces, who spoke about the shared interests, shared challenges, and shared responsibilities facing the countries in the Asia Pacific. He also gave a preview of how the US PACOM with its partner militaries in the region are approaching these challenges.

*Contributed by Kalyan M. Kemburi*

## Seventh Annual Terrorism Analyst Training Course



*Participants and trainers of the seventh TATC with Prof Rohan Gunaratna (first row, fifth from left), Head of RSIS' ICPVTR*

**T**he International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) conducted its seventh annual Terrorism Analyst Training Course (TATC) in January 2014. TATC has become a platform where analysts from law enforcement, security and research agencies get together to discuss and share best practices in critical areas of security, and to contribute to the professional development of local and foreign law enforcement and security personnel as well as terrorism researchers.

The modules in the course covered four broad areas: Terrorism Primer, Global and Regional Landscape, Counter-Terrorism Response, and Research and Methodology. The first week provided participants with an overview of the threat of terrorism, the threats emanating from a variety of regions starting with South East Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa, and culminated with a one-day tabletop exercise. The second week covered a variety of counter-terrorism responses, the threat of chemical weapons, terrorist threats in related fields such as terrorism financing, maritime terrorism and aviation security, as well as rehabilitation and

engagement. In addition, visits to the Counter-Terrorism Suite at the Home Team Academy, and the Harmony Centre were also included to provide a holistic environment for discussion and the exchange of ideas. This annual series plays a vital networking role among counter-terrorism academics and practitioners.

TATC's guest lecturers included Mr Angelo Bani, Security Adviser, Security Affairs, World Economic Forum, Thailand; Prof Zakaria Ousman Ramadan, President of the Regional Institute for Peace, Security and Cooperation, Chad; and Mr Aviv Oreg, President of Civil Effort in Fighting International Terrorism, Israel. Specialist speakers included Mr Micheal Wigent, Supervisory Special Agent, Naval Criminal Investigative Service; Mr Danny Chan, Area Director, Global Safety and Security, Marriott International; Mr Chris Bala, Managing Director, CJ Security Group; and Mr Jasper Liao and Mr Alisher Rakhmatullayev, Asia Pacific, Thomson-Reuters. They brought to the programme unique perspectives as practitioners and researchers working in both the public and private sectors.

*Contributed by Nur Aziemah Binte Azman*

## Stabilising the Security Situation in the East China Sea

The China Programme and the U.S. Programme of RSIS collaborated in a closed-door workshop on “*Stabilising the Security Situation in the East China Sea*”, which was on 24 January 2014. Influential analysts from China, Japan, the United States and Singapore were invited to make a comprehensive assessment of the developments in the security situation in the East China Sea. They also discussed measures that could be taken by various key regional players to stabilise the situation.

In his opening remarks, Mr Tan Seng Chye spoke about the importance of stabilising the East China Sea for the continued prosperity and development of the East Asian region.

In the first session, Dr Li Mingjiang, Coordinator of the China Programme, and other participants took stock of the security situation in the East China Sea and the maritime territorial dispute between China and Japan over the *Senkaku/Diaoyu* Islands. They reviewed the position and policy of China, Japan and the United States and examined the three countries’ respective short-term objectives.

During the second session, the participants examined the extent to which the conflict in the East China Sea is related

to both Japan and China’s broader and longer term security strategy in the Asia Pacific. They aimed to highlight the converging and diverging national security strategies and objectives of the two countries and prospects of finding a common ground for reconciliation.

The vital role of domestic politics was a key discussion point in the third session led by Dr Evan Resnick, Coordinator of the U.S. Programme. The participants assessed the possible consequences and risks if the security situation is not well managed or mitigated by China, Japan and the United States. The general consensus was that there is an urgent need to come up with a framework for crisis-management, between China and Japan, and also China and the United States.

The last session of the workshop focused on ways to reconcile the short-term objectives and broader national security strategies of the key regional players. The participants proposed a series of measures which the disputing parties could take up to stabilise the security situation in the East China Sea.

Policy-relevant outputs arising from the workshop will be produced for the policy community.

*Contributed by Irene Chan*



*Dr Li Mingjiang leading the discussion in the first session*

## Security Cooperation in U.S. Foreign Policy



Mr Andrew J. Shapiro

**M**r Andrew J. Shapiro, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs discussed in a public lecture on 14 February 2014 the U.S.' pivot to Asia in the context of security cooperation in the Asia Pacific region.

Mr. Shapiro, who is Managing Director of Beacon Global Strategies, said that providing security is one of the most important functions a government can provide to its people. For the U.S., engaging in security cooperation involves

building long term partnerships and goes beyond just arms sales. It includes military exercises, military education and training, international peace keeping operations etc., to further its foreign policy and security interests.

Mr Shapiro discussed the changes that the U.S. has made to its policies and regulations in order to meet the security needs of its partners without destabilising the region. He said all decisions are evaluated in a regional context and on the basis of U.S.' long term strategic relationship with the country and not just on economics. Speaking about arms sales to Taiwan, Mr Shapiro said that Taiwan remains a significant partner of the U.S. and arms sales are used as tools to help it develop its capabilities and also as a demonstration of the U.S.' commitment. Similarly addressing the U.S.' relationship with Japan, he said that the U.S. is trying to strike a right balance with Japan. While the U.S. appreciates Japan's increased emphasis on its defence, it would like Japan to build up its security in a way that is sensitive to the concerns of its neighbours in the region.

Mr Andrew Shapiro said in conclusion, that the U.S. is using security cooperation as a foreign policy tool to deepen its relationships with its Asian partners. He believes that by the end of President Obama's final term, the security cooperation relationships with each of the U.S.' partners in Asia would have been improved.

Contributed by Harshita Kohli

## The Roots of Violence in the Major Religions

**P**rofessor Mark Juergensmeyer, an expert on the sociology of religion, conducted three seminars on the role of religion in violent extremism in January 2014. Professor Juergensmeyer was here as a guest in the Distinguished Visitor Programme of RSIS' Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS).

Prof Juergensmeyer observed that while religion *per se* might not be inherently violent, almost all religious traditions had icons of war and sacrifice. Such symbols were then used to opportunistically frame political conflicts and grievances in religious terminologies.

To counter this trend, Prof Juergensmeyer suggested that in contemporary society, it was insufficient to simply tolerate other faiths; it was more effective to seek commonalities between different religions in order to forge a global society. The precursors for a global religion have existed, for instance, in the form of "global saints" such as Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela who resonate with individuals of all faiths.

With regard to countering religious extremism, Prof Juergensmeyer suggested that the way states responded to terrorism largely determined the success/failure of terrorist movements. A limited and focused response, such as the trial of the Oklahoma bomber, contributed in part to a decrease in violent acts perpetrated by Christian extremist movements.



Prof Mark Juergensmeyer

However, a disproportionate use of violence (such as the U.S. War on Terror) proved to be counterproductive as it resulted in increased hostility towards the West and the U.S.

Prof Juergensmeyer argued that governments should refrain from using the military approach excessively but cooperate with global civil societies to create religious harmony. This would counter the violent extremism that stemmed from the religionisation of politics.

Contributed by Navhat Nuraniyah

## Strategic Stability in the Indian Ocean



*Mr H. Graham Anderson, Director of IORA, speaking to participants at the workshop*

**R**SIS and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) co-organised the Workshop on “*IORA and Strategic Stability in the Indian Ocean*”. Held in Mauritius, it focused on ways to promote security cooperation as a stepping stone towards strategic stability in the Indian Ocean. One of the key security challenges discussed was building interstate trust and confidence. Barriers to effective cooperation amongst IORA member states and external stakeholders were also examined and the workshop concluded with recommendations on the way forward for IORA.

The participants discussed an array of traditional and non-traditional security (NTS) challenges to Indian Ocean strategic stability. In addition to such NTS challenges such as transnational crimes and threats to maritime safety and security, the participants paid significant attention to the roles of extra-regional powers, their competing interests and potential ramifications to Indian Ocean strategic stability. A range of barriers to effective cooperation in the Indian Ocean were identified during the workshop, namely: the lack of coherence amongst various regional and sub-regional groupings; IORA’s lack of capacity to sustain cooperation; as well as diverse and competing national interests in the Indian Ocean owing to the size of IORA and presence of extra-regional powers.

The workshop concluded with a discussion of potential measures to overcome the challenges in order to foster effective cooperation amongst IORA member states and external stakeholders. An inclusive approach to cooperation was advocated, along with pragmatic measures aimed at encouraging member states and external stakeholders to contribute more to IORA initiatives. In addition, ideas about re-engineering IORA to cope with the expanding range of responsibilities were also brought up. Participants agreed on incremental efforts, particularly in disaster management and counter-terrorism, as the way forward to promote security cooperation.

The IORA, comprising 20 member states and generating a total gross domestic product of US\$6.5 trillion in 2011, possesses immense potential for cooperation. It seeks to become a serious actor in the international system and to spearhead future regional integration as the Indian Ocean grows in economic importance.

To this end, the Perth Principles promulgated during the 13<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers IORA in November 2013 reaffirmed the six priority areas of cooperation for the organisation, namely: maritime safety and security; trade and investment facilitation; fisheries management; disaster risk management; academic and science and technology cooperation; and tourism and cultural exchanges.

*Contributed by Collin Koh*

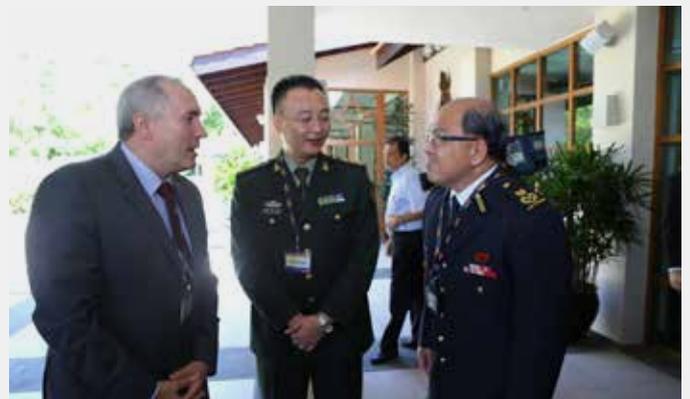
## CENS Organises Eighth APPSNO

The 8<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO) was held at The Singapore Resort & Spa Sentosa, Managed by Accor, from 6-11 April 2014. Organised by the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) with the support of the National Security Coordination Secretariat at the Prime Minister's Office, APPSNO 2014 explored the theme "The Challenge of Systemic Resilience for National Security. It took a systems-based approach to understand the components, processes, and connections in shaping and sustaining resilient entities.

The event brought together senior national security officers from the Asia-Pacific and beyond for a week of intensive discussions and networking. These included 25 participants from the Asia Pacific and Europe who were joined by 40

of their Singaporean counterparts who came from various government ministries and agencies.

The Guest-of-Honour, Mr S Iswaran, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Home Affairs, and Second Minister for Trade and Industry delivered the inaugural address. He said, "the concept of national security has traditionally focused on the military capabilities required to defend one's territorial sovereignty. It was seen as the government's responsibility to defend its nation against threats from other state actors. In recent years, as other types of risks have come to the fore, there has been a shift in focus – from security to resilience; from defence to adaptation; from the government's responsibility to that of all stakeholders."



The foreign participants gave country presentations, which provided a concise overview of their respective policies and challenges in Homeland Security management. A total of 19 speakers, with 6 coming from Singapore, and the remaining 13 from countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States; shared their expertise and experience throughout the week. The sessions explored resilience from various perspectives; from its use as a foundation for strategic national security frameworks to its application in futures work.

Enriching the programme were several distinguished lectures that focused on specific topics such as radicalisation and Singapore's whole-of-government approach to national security risk management. The exchange of knowledge during

the sessions continued through group activities namely, the Perspective Game and the The Trailogy @ Singapore River. APPSNO participants and speakers were also taken on an educational visit to the Singapore Civil Defence Academy.

APPSNO provided ample opportunities for networking through a series of educational group activities throughout the week. This included a cable car ride from Sentosa to Mount Faber and a visit to the Southeast Asia Aquarium. Capping the event was the Certificate Presentation Ceremony and Closing Dinner hosted by Mr Benny Lim, Permanent Secretary, National Security and Intelligence Coordination, Singapore. Overall, speakers and participants alike were of the view that APPSNO was an interesting and insightful event.

*Contributed by Joseph Franco*



## Discussing Asia's New Security Agenda

Over 60 people participated in the second annual RSIS-NMFA Conference held from 12-13 March 2014. Co-organised by RSIS and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as part of an MoU signed in November 2014, the conference was held under the theme “*Asia's New Security Agenda*”.

The event brought together academics and policymakers in a wide range of topics including Asia Pacific's evolving security environment, maritime security and Asia's Arctic interests. Among the invited speakers were Professor William Tow from the Australian National University, Dr Seiichiro Takagi, Japan Institute of International Affairs, and Professor Linda Jakobson, University of Sydney.

In his opening address, Ambassador Tormod C. Endresen (Norway's Ambassador to Singapore) highlighted that there was a need to look more closely at Asia and gain more knowledge about the region, particularly where security was concerned, as security policy had always been at the heart of foreign policy and the potential for conflict existed in the region. Professor Joseph Liow, Associate Dean, RSIS, observed that there had been both elements of change and continuity in the region over the past year and highlighted environmental issues, such as the recent haze as an example of the latter. He also noted that an area of increasing interest for Singapore was the Arctic region, which converged with Norway's interests.

The first plenary session focused on relations between Russia, China, Japan and the U.S. and how this has played

out in the region. It was noted that the effects of China's rise were still largely ambiguous and that the U.S. would continue to play a pivotal role in the Asia Pacific region. Due to concerns over Chinese assertiveness, Japan was trying to rely on both self-help and strengthening cooperation with the United States, in addition to fostering closer ties with Russia and India. In the case of Russia, there were compelling reasons for Russia to ‘Go East’, one of which was based on Moscow's preoccupation with Washington's policy and interests in East Asia. Nevertheless, Russia still continued to prioritise its relations with the Atlantic/European Union, as demonstrated by recent events in Ukraine.

The second plenary session explored the dynamics between players in the Arctic. It was mentioned that the Arctic represented a new arena in which geo-political tensions between countries could be played out within it. As such, Asia-Arctic relations would have to be carefully managed and those within the Arctic Council, where Singapore became an observer in May 2013, would have to contribute significantly to the work of helping to preserve the Arctic. Sino-Russian relations were mentioned as a potential source of conflict. Comparisons between the Arctic and the South China Sea were made. In this respect, Arctic members have demonstrated greater will to resolve their territorial disputes as compared to the South China Sea situation. In the coming years, climate change will result in new opportunities for countries to work together in developing the Arctic area, provided environmental and navigational issues can be resolved first.

*Contributed by Benjamin Ho*



*Dr Euan Graham of RSIS*



*Amb Tormod C. Endresen*

## Does a Country have to be a Regional Power First to be a Great Power?



*Prof Andrew Hurrell (left) with the moderator Prof Khong Yuen Foong*

**P**rofessor Andrew Hurrell, the Montague Burton Professor of International Relations, Balliol College, Oxford University and S. Rajaratnam Professor of Strategic Studies delivered a RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture on 16 January 2014. He framed his lecture as an answer to a commonly asked question: “Does a country have first to be a Regional Power before it can be a Great Power?”

Prof Hurrell suggested there were two schools of thought. First, becoming a Regional Power is not necessary because these are new times with new rules, where soft power, which any country can plausibly generate regardless of its size, matters more in navigating the dynamics of today’s social and political movements. This school believes political legitimacy and strength are no longer dependent on raw strength alone. The second school of thought Prof Hurrell described was the conventional assumption that it was indeed necessary to be a Regional Power before a state could become a Great one. Military power was still the root source of strength, and a country became a Great power by either defeating another Great Power or at the least proving its mettle against another Great Power.

Prof Hurrell argued that it is entirely plausible, and even expected, for states to take the route of becoming a

Regional Power first before a Great one. Furthermore, he observed that the mental map of policy makers reflected this assumption, with concentric circles of power radiating from an inner core outwards. According to conventional thought in international relations, states had a deep compulsion to expand in their neighbourhood first.

Prof Hurrell, however, challenged these assumptions. He suggested there was actually little evidence that the most successful Great Powers had necessarily been strong Regional Powers. Instead he pointed out what created their success was the ability for Great Powers to control the limits of their regional involvement. By this he meant these powers could decide when to be involved in regional issues and when to disengage from them according to their own best interests. Prof Hurrell concluded that this control was a key factor in determining whether a state became a Great Power, and reiterated his observation that there were other means to becoming a Great Power than through the Regional Power route. He believed that recognising this would result in a more secure world.

*Contributed by Ho Shu Huang*

## China's Security Strategy in the Asia Pacific



*Prof Zhu Feng*

**P**rofessor Zhu Feng, Executive Director of China Centre for Innovative Collaboration of the South China Sea Studies, Nanjing University, and Professor of the School of International Studies, Peking University, gave a RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture on 7 March 2014. Dr Zhu's lecture was titled "*China's Security Strategy in the Asia Pacific: Whither, Why and Implications*".

Prof Zhu began by pointing out two notable trends in China. First, driven by a strong sense of insecurity and

vulnerability, China is investing heavily in its military capability, particularly in its naval power. Since Xi Jinping took office, China has been speeding up the transformation of its military from peace time to war readiness. The factors which contribute to China's perception that war is imminent include tensions between China and Japan in East China Sea and the growing number of flash points between China and the United States. Second, there is growing nationalist sentiment in China. The mainstream view is that while China is becoming economically more powerful, the country is feeling more insecure and vulnerable than ever. This nationalism becomes a big driver for China to strengthen its national security.

Prof Zhu concluded by saying that while China's Asia Pacific strategy is experiencing historical change, the question is in which direction the strategy is heading. Will China's regional security be more focused on territorial disputes or will China continue to search for a pragmatic way to develop the country, add to people's betterment and speed up integration in the world community. He maintained a pessimistic outlook on China's security strategy in the short term given the unresolvable tension between China and Japan in East China Sea, huge domestic impediments, and lingering nationalistic sentiment.

*Contributed by Zhang Hongzhou*

## Malaysian Politics in 2014 and Beyond

**T**he Malaysia Programme of RSIS organised a seminar featuring a prominent opposition MP and Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) strategist Rafizi Ramli on 10 February 2014.

Mr Ramli referred to the apprehension in some quarters that the opposition coalition Pakatan Rakyat would not be able to survive as an alliance; he maintained that they have proven otherwise by remaining in the coalition for over a term. He conceded that there are problems between the opposition parties within the alliance but they have nonetheless been able to focus on the bigger issues such as policy changes.

The speaker recalled that after the 2008 elections, there was increased confidence in the ability of the opposition parties, and voters started to look at what they could provide, which in most cases was better than what the Barisan Nasional (BN) offered. Despite this it was evident that prior to the 2013 general election, there was a great deal of scepticism about political change. Mr Ramli identified several systemic problems which hindered the proliferation of a more enlightened political discourse, including the rigidity of the mainstream media, the electoral system, and the heightening of racial and religious politics.

Mr Ramli also voiced his concern at the return of the ultra-nationalists which had contributed to the Singapore-Malaysia separation, and stressed the urgent need to return to true multi-racial politics as envisioned by UMNO's early leaders. On



*Mr Rafizi Ramli*

the so-called Kajang by-election due in late March 2013, Mr Ramli described it as a strategy which allowed the opposition to realign the discourse to key policy issues instead of racial tensions. Alluding to the appointment of a new Chief Minister [Menteri Besar] in Selangor should the opposition win the by-election, the speaker noted that it had always been the opposition's insistence to restructure the system that makes them different from the BN.

*Contributed by Afif Bin Pasuni*

## Mitigating Freshwater Conflicts in Asia: Harnessing Avenues for Cooperation



*Participants from RSIS and APU*

**T**he RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies, together with Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan (APU), co-hosted a workshop on “*Freshwater Conflict Mitigation in Asia*” on 25-26 February 2014. Held in Singapore, the interdisciplinary workshop explored key water security challenges with the aim to promote cooperation and address existing and potential conflicts in the region. Bringing together experts, policymakers and influencers in the field, the workshop discussed case studies and examples of both conflict and cooperation from East, Southeast, South and West Asia.

Mr Tan Gee Paw, Chairman of the Public Utilities Board (PUB) was the keynote speaker at the workshop, which was officially inaugurated by Dean Barry Desker. The workshop was divided into two sessions which were moderated by Dr Edgar Porter, Pro-Vice President of APU and Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony, Associate Professor and Head of RSIS’ Centre for NTS Studies, respectively. The papers presented covered the Mekong, Indus, and Jordan river basins, and examined the dynamics of shared freshwater resources between Singapore and Malaysia, as well as those experienced within China, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

In Asia, states are increasingly vulnerable to water insecurity. The need for cooperation, joint management and stakeholder

engagement around shared waters is vital to prevent unnecessary escalations in tensions between state parties and communities.

The workshop was convened with the aims of identifying key actors and drivers of water conflicts and cooperation in Asia, and assessing vulnerabilities in transboundary water resource management. It also served as a platform to critically evaluate solutions and policy proposals aimed at minimising and managing water disputes and insecurities in Asia.

The discussions focused on a number of issues, from the scalability and applicability of lessons from individual regions, to the relevance of regional multilateral forums like the ASEAN and SAARC. They highlighted the potentials and limits of strategies currently used for transboundary water conflict mitigation. Politics, both internal and international, was also identified as a major factor that often dictates disputes as well as cooperation surrounding shared freshwater systems.

The papers presented will be compiled and published as an edited book in the first half of 2015.

*Contributed by Maxim Shrestha and Alistair D. B. Cook*

# New Perspectives on Cyber Security and Defence Strategy



*Dr Bernard Loo (right) speaking during a panel discussion*

**T**he Military Transformations Programme (MTP) organised a workshop titled “*Rethinking Information and Cyber Warfare: Global Perspectives and Strategic Insights*” on 3 March 2014. The workshop examined the evolving dynamics between national security, defence strategy, information conflicts and cyber operations.

The workshop focused on addressing the emerging theoretical and conceptual debates underscoring cyber operations, the political, legal, and technological context shaping information conflicts and cyber warfare, and a range of case studies of how selected states are conceptualising cyber warfare in their strategic thought, defence planning, and operational conduct.

Michael Raska, Research Fellow in the MTP, noted that the global diffusion of advanced information and communications technologies amplifies the progressive complexity of cyber threats by blurring distinctions between civil and military domains, state and non-state actors, principal targets and weapons used.

Peter Dombrowski, U.S. Naval War College, argued that cyber space as a domain has been too narrow a term for understanding the global, complex digital system that transcends traditional boundaries of land, sea, air, nations, and institutions. Instead, ‘cybered’ conflicts may better define an emerging conflict spectrum in which success or failure for major participants is critically dependent on computerised key activities along the path of events.

Providing an interdisciplinary perspective, Alan Chong, RSIS, mapped the evolving intellectual history of cyber warfare, arguing that cyber warfare is a conceptual struggle by its interpreters to both extend and question sovereignty, and ultimately to find practical ways to preserve sovereignty. Benjamin Schreer, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, cautioned the debate on ‘cyber conflicts’ in strategic studies, pointing to serious limitations regarding the use of the cyber domain for political purposes, particularly at the higher end of the conflict spectrum. ‘Cyber warfare’ in itself, according to Schreer, seems ill-suited as a tool of coercion or deterrence.

John Bassett, Royal United Services Institute, noted the increasing level and sophistication of cyber attacks, and the challenges for governments in their efforts to devise effective cyber defence. Doron Zimmermann, Swissgrid A.G., focused on protecting critical national infrastructure through the evolving public-private partnerships in Switzerland, where the integral protection of critical assets, processes and people operating critical infrastructure constitutes a key priority in national security deliberations. Fabrice Marie, Kibin Labs, shared his insights as a ‘white-hat’ hacker on the varying motivations, trajectory, magnitude and impact of different hacker actors: from nearly harmless geek-hackers, to a full-blown industry, organised crime, militaries and governments.

*Contributed by Michael Raska*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**6-8 MAY 2014**

REGIONAL CONFERENCE BY ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK INSTITUTE (ADB) AND RSIS' CENTRE FOR MULTILATERALISM STUDIES (CMS) ON “TRADE IN VALUE-ADDED, GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS, AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY”

**4-10 AUGUST 2014**

THE 16TH ASIA PACIFIC PROGRAMME FOR SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS (APPSMO)

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