

# APPSMO 2014: The Changing Roles of the Military

Contributed by  
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The 16<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO 2014) was held at the Singapore Resort & Spa Sentosa from 4-10 August 2014. Organised by RSIS' Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), APPSMO 2014 was attended by more than 50 military officers from 25 countries around the Asia Pacific and Europe.



The theme of APPSMO 2014, "The Changing Roles of the Military" addresses questions and issues on the core roles of armed forces today and in the near future, in the context of a security environment that is rapidly evolving. Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for Defence, Mr Chan Chun Sing, officiated at the opening of APPSMO 2014. The Chief of Defence Force of the Singapore Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Ng Chee Meng, was Guest of Honour at the Opening Dinner for participants and speakers at the Rasa Sentosa Resort.



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

The Military Studies Programme, a component of IDSS, assembled an impressive range of speakers for this year's APPSMO. Local and RSIS speakers included Rear-Admiral Giam Hock Koon, Commander, Maritime Security Task Force, Republic of Singapore Navy, and former Commander of the multinational Combined







Task Force 151 in the Gulf of Aden, Professor Gerard Chaliand, Professor Pascal Vennesson, Associate Professor Ahmed Salah Hashim, and Mr Richard Bitzinger. Distinguished overseas speakers included Lieutenant General (Ret.) Rhys Jones, Major General (Ret.) Zhu Chenghu, Professor T. V. Paul, James McGill Professor of International Relations, Dr Greg Mills, Director of the Brenthurst Foundation, Associate Professor Panitan Wattanayagorn of Chulalongkorn University, and Mr Jeremy England from the International Committee of the Red Cross.



The Distinguished Dinner Talk, “East Asia in Transition” was delivered by Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan, Ambassador-at-Large and Policy Adviser in the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In their Distinguished Lunch Talks, Lieutenant General Dato’ Pahlawan Dr William Stevenson, Chief Executive of the Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security, touched on “Security Challenges in the Asia Pacific Region,” and Major General Gary Hara spoke on “U.S. Land Forces in the Pacific; Rebalance, Roles and Relationships”.

APPSMO participants attended seminars and plenary sessions dealing with “The Changing Dimensions of Strategy,” “The Geopolitics of Asia Pacific,” “The Challenge of Irregular Warfare,” “Civil-Military Cooperation in a Coalition Environment,” “Perceptions of the Military Profession,” and “Cross-Domain Interoperability and Integration.”

The participants also visited the Republic of Singapore Navy’s Information Fusion Centre, as well as the Urban Redevelopment Authority. They joined Singaporeans in watching the National Day Parade at Marina Bay on 9 August.

