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FACT SHEET

Launch of the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) established the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme to facilitate and enhance cooperation on preparedness and response strategies to the fragile and unpredictable situations we face in the Asia Pacific. Aside from comprehensively investigating regional emergency response frameworks, governance issues, disaster preparedness strategies and the identification and development of response niches for civilian and military actors, the programme also seeks to develop the next generation of global leaders in HADR through roundtable sessions, dialogues and workshops.

The four core research areas of the HADR Programme are as follows:

- **Future HADR landscape in Asia.** This first pillar tracks the emergence of new humanitarian actors (both state and non-state) and maps particular successes, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in preparation for disaster relief and conflict response in the region. This research area also focuses on the relationships between civilian and military actors and the emerging points of difference and convergence between the two in responding to HADR in the Asia Pacific.
- **Community protection and assistance.** The second pillar focuses on the complex security environment brought about by vulnerable communities' varying capacity to protect themselves and the increasing number of responders providing assistance. This research area maps the most vulnerable populations so as to better characterise needs assessments and determine where assistance should be deployed and locally implemented.
- **Humanitarian effectiveness.** The third pillar addresses the challenge of better emergency disaster response in complex situations. There is a significant challenge in effectively and efficiently responding to natural disasters and conflict; this research area evaluates the quality and impact of both civilian and military organisations emergency responses.
- **Humanitarian technology.** The fourth pillar examines the field of humanitarian technology as applied to a broadly defined context of crises encompassing both natural disasters and conflict zones. This research area identifies the impact technology has on humanitarian responses, as well as the emergent challenges of information technology, big data and technological innovations in humanitarian action.

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About the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

The **S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)** is a professional graduate school of international affairs at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. RSIS' mission is to develop a community of scholars and policy analysts at the forefront of security studies and international affairs. Its core functions are research, graduate education and networking. It produces cutting-edge research on Asia Pacific Security, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Conflict Studies, Non-Traditional Security, International Political Economy, and Country and Region Studies. RSIS' activities are aimed at assisting policymakers to develop comprehensive approaches to strategic thinking on issues related to security and stability in the Asia Pacific.

For more information about RSIS, please visit www.rsis.edu.sg.