

RSIS-Brookings Conference

Contributed by
Christabelle He



Panel 3 of the conference: (L-R) Associate Professor Simon Tay, Professor James Tang, Professor Joseph Liow, Dr Waheguru Pal Singh Sidhu, and Dr Dewi Fortuna Anwar

RSIS and the Brookings Institution of Washington, D.C., co-hosted a conference on "Southeast Asia and the United States: A Stable Foundation in an Uncertain Environment". The delegation from the Center for East Asia Policy Studies was led by Mr Strobe Talbott, President of the Brookings Institution. The conference which took place at The Fullerton Hotel, Singapore, on 19 October 2015 was attended by academic and policy personnel from local and foreign institutions with the aim of enhancing intellectual exchange on key regional security issues of mutual interest.

In his keynote address, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean described the nature of the United States-Southeast Asia (S.E.A.) relationship as longstanding, multi-faceted, and evolving. Mr Teo acknowledged the U.S.' active participation in Asia through areas like the Trans-Pacific Partnership, Asia Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers, and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus.

On the South China Sea, Mr Teo cautioned against a zero-sum mentality, and reminded all that a miscalculation or breakdown in dialogue could

precipitate crisis in the region. He also reiterated that U.S.-S.E.A. engagement needs to remain multi-dimensional, adaptive, persistent, sustainable, and respectable.

Ambassador Chan Heng Chee moderated the discussion for Panel 1 on "Uncertainties of the Changing Global Order". Overall, the panellists agreed that the current global order is messy and difficult to define. Aside from discussing geopolitical and geo-economic uncertainties, there was also discussion about the complexities wrought by climate change. The session ended on a positive note with all panellists

agreeing that they do not foresee a U.S.-China conflict.

Professor Pascal Vennesson moderated the discussion for Panel 2 on "United States Engagement with East Asia". The panellists discussed views on the role of China, India, and Japan vis-à-vis the U.S.' rebalance to Asia. The speakers agreed that China's growing influence in the region was unavoidable, and this has resulted in an increase in India and Japan's engagement in Asia.

Professor Joseph Liow, Dean of RSIS, moderated the discussion for Panel 3 on "Southeast Asia and the Great Powers." The panellists provided a regional perspective, discussed ASEAN's centrality and significance, called for greater attention on domestic developments in Southeast Asia, as well as on generational issues.

In conjunction with the conference, General (Ret.) Luhut Pandjaitan, Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, gave an RSIS-Brookings-KADIN Distinguished Public Lecture on "President Joko Widodo's First Year in Office: An Assessment."

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President Joko Widodo's First Year in Office: An Assessment

Contributed by
Vinay Pathak and Jonathan Chen



General (Ret.) Luhut Pandjaitan

General (Ret.) Luhut Pandjaitan, Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, delivered an RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture titled "President Joko Widodo's First Year in Office: An Assessment" on 19 October 2015 at the Fullerton Hotel, Singapore.

GEN (Ret.) Pandjaitan acknowledged that President Jokowi came into Merdeka Palace with the heavy responsibility of fulfilling the high expectations of his voters. Despite some challenges, the Minister remained optimistic that President Jokowi is a unifying element. Together with Vice-President

Jusuf Kalla, they have kept the coalition intact and have since garnered greater support in Parliament. The Minister's security assessment of Indonesia during President Jokowi's first year in office was multi-faceted. Religious radicalism in Indonesia is a pertinent challenge. Another major security concern is the proliferation of drugs and narcotics. Indonesia is not only a transit country but also the main archipelagic market for narcotics. Maritime issues continue to be a challenge; nevertheless, Jokowi's strong stance on reasserting Indonesia's maritime sovereignty has seen a reduction in illegal fishing. This has led to an increased GDP growth from this sector. The South China Sea dispute, in particular, needs to be cordially settled with all the necessary parties involved.

Economic reform features highly on the agenda. Economic disparities between Java and the outer islands have caught the attention of the Administration. Measures such as tax holidays and a more efficient service to facilitate foreign investment in Indonesia alongside various health, education and social programmes, are in the pipelines.

The on-going haze is likely to last till end November due to the on-going El Nino effect. The Minister nonetheless expressed his gratitude to a number of countries that came to Indonesia's aid to tackle the forest fires. GEN (Ret.) Pandjaitan gave his assurance that the government will take a tough stance on plantation companies and land owners responsible for the fires and vouched that they will be punished accordingly.

Indonesia: Reclaiming its Seas, Expanding its Fisheries

Contributed by
Tiola Javadi



Ms Susi Pudjiastuti

Ms Susi Pudjiastuti, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia, delivered an RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture entitled "Indonesia's Marine Policy: Economic and Security Challenges" on 27 August 2015.

She began by noting that though it had a marine area of 5.8 million sq. km., Indonesia only ranked third in ASEAN for fisheries export. The utilisation rate of fish processing units was only a dismal average of 56 per cent in 2013. Ms Pudjiastuti asserted that the Ministry is currently focusing on three important missions: (i) maintaining Indonesia's sovereignty by creating a credible deterrence against Illegal, Unconventional, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing within its territory; (ii) promoting sustainable practices at sea; and (iii) enhancing connectivity in order to boost the added value of local products.

In combating IUU fishing, Ms Pudjiastuti elaborated

that the Ministry is enforcing a number of measures, including imposing a moratorium for foreign fishing vessels and a ban on transshipments; and the policy of publicly sinking detained fishing vessels in order to deter. As a result of these policies, the number of foreign fishing vessels in Indonesian territory has significantly decreased from 933 units in October 2014 to only 130 units in January 2015.

Being a former businesswoman in the fisheries sector, Ms Pudjiastuti highlighted that the Ministry is also focusing on opening up Indonesia's fisheries industry to foreign investors, mainly in the areas of aquaculture, production, processing,

logistics, the fish market and cold storage. Current regulation dictates that foreign companies cannot own more than 40 per cent of Indonesian-based processing and food technology business. The Ministry is working on a plan to increase the number to 100 per cent.

Concluding her lecture, Ms Pudjiastuti stressed the importance of creating national resilience and materialising the goal of food self-sufficiency by optimising its marine resources. As an archipelagic nation, Indonesia has turned its back on the sea for too long. This will be an opportune time for Indonesia to restore its seas and hopefully propel its marine economy to its fullest potential.

Japan's Security and Foreign Policy under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe



Professor Takashi Shiraishi

Professor Takashi Shiraishi delivered the 7th S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture on “Japan's Security and Foreign Policy under Prime Minister Abe” on 22 September 2015 at Marina Mandarin Singapore.

The lecture provided an overview of Japan's security, foreign policy, and foreign economic policy initiatives under Shinzo Abe. Prof Shiraishi noted that the National Security Council, which was established in December 2013, has adopted and codified a national security strategy for the first time in history. The strategy emphasises Japan's proactive contribution to peace, and considers the two most important strategic factors in Asia Pacific, namely the rise of China and the U.S. rebalancing.

In October 2014, the Japanese Cabinet decided to change the constitutional interpretation of Article 9 and in September 2015, a set of national security bills was enacted in Parliament to allow Japan to exercise the right of collective self-defence under certain, although very limited, circumstances. Prof Shiraishi highlighted that some of the issues have existed for more than 25 years. For instance, the constitutional interpretation of collective self-defence has been a recurrent issue since the Gulf War in 1990-1991.

Mr Abe has also been active in visiting and meeting his counterparts all over the world, especially Japan's neighbours, but with the important exception of its two immediate neighbours, China and South Korea. He

was the first Japanese prime minister to have visited all the ASEAN member countries in a year. He also visited India, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, as well as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in 2014.

In terms of Japan's foreign economic policy, Japan has decided to join the negotiation for the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Negotiations with the European Union for the Japan-EU Free Trade Agreement has also begun. In addition, Mr Abe announced that Japan would provide 110 billion dollars to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the development of “quality infrastructure” in Asia.

Prof Shiraishi posited that Japan under Mr Abe is responding to President Obama's rebalancing,

both in security policy and foreign economic policy, by deepening and expanding the U.S.-Japan alliance. Japan is also aligning itself with its partners and building a network for security cooperation, and in doing so, it is expanding its regional focus from the Asia Pacific to the Indo-Pacific.

In terms of its policy towards Southeast Asia, Japan is committed to support ASEAN unity and providing assistance for ASEAN integration. Japan has also initiated security cooperation with maritime Southeast Asian countries and Vietnam, creating programmes for maritime security and safety capacity building.

Biosecurity Workshop and “Virus Wars” Table Top Exercise

Contributed by
Matthew G. Reinert*

The Biosecurity Workshop and “Virus Wars” Table Top Exercise on 9 July 2015 was organised by the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR). It was attended by Singapore’s key government officials and researchers from the Ministry of Health, civil defence, armed forces, National Security Coordination Secretariat, and the Ministry of Home Affairs. Mr Kwa Chong Guan, Senior Fellow of RSIS, opened the workshop, declaring that it had expanded beyond Singapore to the rest of ASEAN.

Presentations were given by Professor Rohan Gunaratna, Head of ICPVTR, RSIS; Dr Hishamuddin Badaruddin from Communicable Diseases Division of the

Singapore Ministry of Health; Mr David Trudil, President of NH Detect from the United States; and Professor Annelies Wilder Smith, Professor of Infectious Diseases at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, NTU. They touched on different aspects of the unique threat presented by biological agents, as well as what Singapore is doing to combat that threat.

Prof Gunaratna painted a detailed and chilling picture about the continued pursuit of chemical and biological weapons by terrorist groups. Starting from Al Qaeda in the 1990’s to today’s Islamic State, terrorists have expressed varying levels of interest in developing and deploying biological and chemical weapons. Thus far,

the threat has been limited since all of these biological and chemical programmes have been hampered by the lack of access to qualified scientists, specialised equipment for production and delivery, and a safe haven to maintain a programme.

Stating that the IS presents an amplification of the threat, Prof Gunaratna detailed how their message of a pure Islamic state has been shown to be appealing to even some well-educated and technically proficient scientists. IS’ continued control of large areas in Syria and Iraq provides a safe haven. Noting that the threat level is growing in the region, Prof Gunaratna said governments have to proactively reduce the threat by delegitimising IS and removing its capabilities,

as well as being better prepared to meet the threat.

Mr Trudil shared his vast experience working in the biosecurity sector around the world. The workshop’s participants were provided a unique insight into the breakdown and friction that arose during the U.S. government’s response to the 2001 anthrax attacks. The table top exercise conducted by Mr Trudil was a shortened version of the Dark Winter exercise developed by the U.S. in 2001. That exercise introduced officials and policymakers to the terrorism-induced smallpox outbreak.

Singapore’s policymakers had a chance to learn about the threat and discuss what they have done and can still do to protect Singapore and enhance public health and safety. The exercise was to ensure that the plans were thorough enough. Although many of the questions raised were not answered at the workshop, RSIS will endeavour to find answers to them before events provide the answers in real life.

Matthew G. Reinert is a Master’s in Public Policy Candidate at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy



At the workshop, (L-R) SLTC (Dr) Chow Weien, Dr Hisham Badaruddin, Professor Annelies Wilder Smith, Mr Kwa Chong Guan, Professor Rohan Gunaratna, Mr David Trudil, and Dr Jeffrey Cutter

Regional Economic Integration in Japan's Revitalisation Strategy

Contributed by
Aédán Mordecai



Professor Shujiro Urata

Professor Shujiro Urata, NTUC Professor of Economic International Relations, RSIS; and Professor of Economics, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University, Tokyo; delivered an RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture titled “Regional Economic Integration in Asia Pacific and Japan's Revitalisation Strategy” on 18 September 2015, at the Sheraton Towers, Singapore.

Prof Urata described the challenges that the Japanese economy has been facing in recent times with its consistent low growth,

typified by deflation and falling levels of savings and investments. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has attempted to revitalise the economy with his strategy of ‘Abenomics’, exemplified by aggressive monetary policy and flexible fiscal spending. Greater economic integration is one of the aims for the Abe administration.

According to Prof Urata, integrating to a greater degree with the Asia Pacific region is one way to boost the ailing Japanese economy. Much of this integration is being led by institutions driving the

expansion of free trade agreements (FTAs). There are two main initiatives being negotiated currently; the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP, ASEAN+6). Both sets of negotiations are aiming to be completed by the end of 2015, with RCEP slightly further ahead in the negotiation process. The FTAs cover different but overlapping areas, and the TPP is slightly more comprehensive in content, although overall their respective effects should be complementary.

To achieve economic growth, Prof Urata believed that Japan has to open up its economy and implement the needed structural reforms. Participating in new FTAs is an important driver for Japan's economy, and this should lead to further FTAs in the future, which is vital as the World Trade Organization led liberalisation stalls. Prof Urata suggested that Japan should play a more active role in the establishment of the mega FTAs. To carry out the necessary changes successfully and become a louder voice in the current negotiations, the country needs strong political leadership.

Seminars by CENS’ Distinguished Visitor, Professor Andrew Silke

Contributed by
Joseph Franco

The Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) hosted Professor Andrew Silke through its Distinguished Visitor Programme from 17-21 August 2015, during which he delivered three seminars at the Marina Mandarin Singapore. Prof Silke holds a Chair in Criminology at the University of East London where he is the Field Leader for Criminology, and the Programme Director for Terrorism Studies.

His first seminar on 17 August 2015 was titled “The Evolving National Security Threat Landscape: What it means for Homeland Security”. Prof Silke highlighted how radicalisation was a recent concept which

became prominent around 2004-2005. He cautioned against uncritical acceptance of the premise that radicalisation led to terrorism, and discussed the inherent multi-disciplinary approach of terrorism studies. He stressed that what was assumed to be axiomatic by some researchers—that poverty and lack of education led to terrorism, was not supported by findings made by some expert surveys. He argued that contrary to conventional wisdom, there was no “clear link” between poverty and an individual’s involvement in terrorism.

Prof Silke delivered his second seminar on 19 August 2015, titled “Can Violent Extremists be

Rehabilitated into Liberal Democrats?” He tackled one of the biggest myths of terrorism—that terrorists cannot change. Criminology studies have shown that most offenders stop at some point; they do not continue to offend throughout their life. Some of the key factors explaining why someone stops being a criminal included: good marriages, stable work patterns, transformation of identities, and aging. If terrorists were to disengage eventually, the most important point for counter-terrorism strategists is to offer them a way out and incentives to leave.

For his last seminar on 21 August 2015, Prof Silke spoke on “Dealing with

Returning Foreign Fighters: Some Strategies for Consideration”. He discussed the motivations of returning foreign fighters, while sharing some of the strategies that have been used by states to deal with these returnees. While there were dangers inherent to returning foreign fighters, nonetheless, in reality, only about 3-4 per cent of returned fighters had re-engaged in terrorism.

Prof Silke observed how hardline approaches are fast becoming the incumbent in the U.K. and Europe, but he believed that hard approaches alone will not work. He commented that harsh sentences can also be counter-productive, leading families to protect their loved ones by sheltering them and not getting them the help that they need. Ultimately, rehabilitation programmes would require the strengthening of trust between the community and the government.



Professor Andrew Silke

Contributed by
Kyaw San Wai

Global Movement of Moderates: Fostering Harmony and Confronting Challenges



Tan Sri Razali Ismail delivering the welcoming remarks

RSIS and the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) organised a roundtable on “The Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of Moderates” on 29 July 2015 at the Copthorne King’s Hotel Singapore. It was attended by experts and community leaders from Southeast Asia. They shared their viewpoints and approaches toward moderation, fostering

harmony and confronting the transnational challenges posed by extremism. They also identified several issues to be addressed for moderation to be effectively operationalised at the grassroots level.

Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan, Ambassador-at-Large and Policy Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), delivered the opening

remarks followed by welcoming remarks by GMMF chairman Tan Sri Razali Ismail. Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS; Professor Din Syamsuddin, Chairman of Indonesia’s Persyarikatan Muhammadiyah; and Professor Syed Farid Alatas of the National University of Singapore’s Sociology Department; led the first panel focusing on moderation as an approach towards peace, security and development. The panel covered issues exacerbating or defusing religious tensions, the applicability of moderation not only to all faiths but also beyond religion, and the role it plays as a crucial bulwark against the transnational nature and reach of extremism.

The second panel which dealt with inter-religious

relations in a plural society was led by Dr Mohamed Ali from RSIS’ Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme; Dato’ Saifuddin Abdullah, GMMF Chief Executive Officer; Mr Kavi Chongkittavorn from Chulalongkorn University’s Institute of Security and International Studies; and Ms Amina Rasul-Bernardo, President of the Philippines Council for Islam and Democracy. The panel covered how different Southeast Asian societies approached moderation and what more could be done by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) institutions such as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation in the context of the forthcoming ASEAN Community.

Celebrating SG50: RSIS Book Launch

Contributed by
Mervin Kok

Mr S. R. Nathan (right) during the book launch with Ambassador Barry Desker (middle) and Associate Professor Ang Cheng Guan

More than 80 guests were present at the launch of *Perspectives of the Security of Singapore: The First 50 Years* at the Singapore

Resort & Spa Sentosa on 6 August 2015. The book is edited by Ambassador Barry Desker, Distinguished Fellow of RSIS and Associate

Professor Ang Cheng Guan, Head of Graduate Studies at RSIS. The book was launched by Mr S. R. Nathan, sixth President of the Republic of Singapore and the founding Director of IDSS. Launched in conjunction with RSIS’ 17th Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers, the book will fill a big gap in the literature of Singapore’s security.

Recounting the start of the book project, Amb Desker said Dr K. K. Phua of World Scientific had invited him about a year earlier to edit a book on the security of Singapore as part of the publisher’s series on Singapore’s Fifty Years of Nation-Building. Then, Dean of RSIS at that time, Amb Desker thought it would be a good opportunity to demonstrate the capabilities

that had been developed within RSIS over the past two decades.

Together with Assoc Prof Ang, they assembled a team of colleagues and associates from a range of disciplines – history, political science and strategic studies to each write a chapter for the book.

The outcome was a book that offered theoretical insights on security as well as insights that emanate from years of practical experience in decision-making.

Among the contributors who provided personal recollections were Mr S. R. Nathan, Mr Peter Ho, Mr Bilahari Kausikan and Mr Philip Yeo, key officials who had played leadership roles in managing Singapore’s security over the last 50 years.

Navigating Indonesia's Economy Amid Global Economic Uncertainties

Contributed by
Tiola Javadi and Santi H. Paramitha

Mr Gita Wirjawan, former Indonesian Trade Minister and Chairman of Ancora Group, delivered an RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture, titled "Global Economic Conditions and Their Implications for Indonesia", on 1 October 2015. The lecture was held in light of the 2015 global economic outlook which has been marred by the appreciation of the U.S. dollar, the economic volatility of the Eurozone, and the general weakening of currencies across various economies. As a growing economy in Asia, Indonesia has been affected by these trends. Its economic growth in the first semester of 2015 only reached 4.69 per cent, the

slowest in five years. The slowing down of China's economy—one of Indonesia's largest export markets—has also contributed to the weakening economic performance in Jakarta.

Mr Wirjawan highlighted that compared to other ASEAN countries, such as Thailand and the Philippines, Indonesia, along with Malaysia, suffered the worst currency depreciations. This year alone, Jakarta witnessed the Rupiah depreciating by around 7 per cent. This has resulted in increased commodity prices, and subsequently, a decrease in domestic consumption. The current state of the economy

also poses challenges for President Joko Widodo's administration in realising its vision to improve Indonesia's infrastructure. Since the campaign period, infrastructure improvements have been one of the key promises made by President Jokowi, who has always emphasised that Indonesia needs better connectivity, particularly in the maritime domain. However, with the current fiscal condition, it will be a challenge to reach targets that were previously set. He further added that the government should prioritise formulating appropriate fiscal policies, instead of monetary ones, to improve the economy.



Mr Gita Wirjawan

Before concluding his lecture, Mr Wirjawan stressed the importance of creating a hospitable environment in Indonesia for investors. Advertisements on Indonesia's investment climate should also reflect the reality on the ground, in order to maintain investors' trust in the country.

Joint Training Programme on Economic Corridor Development for Competitive and Inclusive Asia

Contributed by
Tan Ming Hui



Participants of the Joint Training Programme

The Joint Training Programme on Economic Corridor Development for Competitive and Inclusive Asia was held on 26-28 August 2015 at Corphorne King's Hotel, Singapore. Organised by RSIS' Centre for Multilateralism Studies, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the Asian Development Bank

(ADB), and the Singapore Cooperation Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, the workshop saw the attendance of more than 30 government officials from 14 Asian countries.

The programme was designed as an intensive training workshop to deepen participants' understanding

of issues and challenges in economic corridor development in Asia. The workshop aimed to enhance policy, planning and decision-making capacities in sub-regional cooperation, and economic corridor development of the participating CAREC, SASEC, GMS, BIMP-EAGA, and IMT-GT officials.

The three-day workshop focused on the characteristics, concepts, models and drivers of economic corridors, highlighting case studies in Southeast Asia, South Asia and Central Asia. The Deputy Dean of ADBI, Mr Bokhwan Yu, was invited to chair two sessions.

The speakers discussed topics such as the operationalisation of economic corridors, participation in production networks, and various sub-regional experiences. The workshop also explored the efforts to build infrastructure under China's "One Belt, One Road" policy.

This was followed by field visits to Malaysia and Thailand, to investigate and study the on-going efforts in building effective economic corridors in the two countries.

World Humanitarian Day: Voices from the Field

Contributed by
Zin Bo Htet



(L-R) Mr Hassan Ahmad, Mr Johann Annuar, Colonel Lim Kwang Tang, and Dr Alistair D. B. Cook

The Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme at RSIS commemorated World Humanitarian Day with *Voices from the Field*, a public panel discussion and exhibition at The POD at the National Library, on the evening of 19 August 2015.

Associate Professor Kumar Ramakrishna, Head of Policy Studies, welcomed more than 100 participants from the public, private and people sectors to the event. The three guest speakers were Colonel Lim Kwang Tang, Director of the Changi Regional HADR Coordination

Centre (RHCC); Mr Johann Annuar, founder and trainer with Humanity Assist; and Mr Hassan Ahmad of the Corporate Citizen Foundation. The panel was moderated by Dr Alistair D. B. Cook, Coordinator of the HADR Programme.

This first public outreach event of the RSIS HADR Programme aimed to raise awareness on humanitarianism in the region by providing a venue for the exchange of ideas, to hear insights and experiences from the speakers as well as organisations participating in the exhibition.

COL Lim recounted his experiences in Nepal, and how Singaporean forces treated the largest number of casualties during their 14-day mission. Mr Annuar shared his experiences in Kenya in an Internally Displaced Persons camp. Mr Ahmad spoke about the need for tri-sector participation in HADR efforts, as no institution

has all the resources. He further expanded on the differentiated capabilities of his organisation, having only been formed in 2014. The panel discussion was followed by a lively question and answer session.

During the exhibition and networking session, the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), Singapore Red Cross, World Vision, Mercy Relief, Corporate Citizen Foundation, Relief.sg, Badan Agama Dan Pelajaran Radin Mas (BAPA), and the HADR Programme presented their research and volunteer activities. The session proved particularly fruitful with the public engaging with speakers and exhibitors.

The large number of participants from different sectors signified the growing interest in humanitarianism and provided a new avenue for scholars, practitioners and the general public to engage in discussions on the topic.

2nd Korea-Singapore Forum: Partnership in the Evolving Global Environment

Contributed by
Sarah Teo



Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan addressing participants at the official dinner

The 2nd Korea-Singapore Forum held on 27 August 2015 at the JW Marriott Dongdaemun Square in Seoul, South Korea, saw more than 40 participants exchanging views on

the evolving geopolitical and economic regional landscapes. They also discussed Korea-Singapore cooperation on common security challenges as well as prospects for bilateral

economic collaboration. Co-organised by the Korea Foundation and RSIS, this second forum in the biennial series engaged Track I and II individuals, as well as representatives from businesses and the media, from both countries.

Participants highlighted that the rise of China and U.S. rebalancing to East Asia had resulted in a Sino-U.S. relationship that was both competitive and cooperative. Such major power dynamics would have implications for regional states such as Korea and Singapore, and it was important for both countries to work together to mitigate any negative impact on the region arising from the evolving Sino-U.S. relationship.

In today's security environment where countries face several common transnational threats, Korea and Singapore could also cooperate to combat challenges from maritime piracy, natural disasters and the growing demand for energy. As Korea and Singapore are located in different security environments and lacked active bilateral security cooperation, participants noted that collaboration in these non-traditional security issues remained to be worked out.

The bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) was being reviewed and updated to ensure that it remained competitive, and could potentially be used as a model for Korea's FTAs with other Asian countries. Korea and Singapore could also coordinate their perspectives on mega-FTAs, and invest in new growth areas in Asia.

Reshaping the People's Liberation Army

Contributed by
James Char

An RSIS workshop on “Reshaping the People's Liberation Army since the 18th Party Congress” was held on 1-2 October 2015 at the RELC International Hotel, Singapore. It was organised by the China Programme and the Military Transformations Programme, both of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies of RSIS.

The workshop discussed the development of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) in light of the appointment of President Xi Jinping as the chairman of the Central Military Commission following the 18th Party Congress. The implications of the PLA's

revolution in military affairs in the context of personnel changes and the anti-corruption campaign were also explored.

Experts from the local and global community, including prominent PLA watchers, shared their insights on the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for the Chinese military corps. They also assessed what it would take before the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) coercive forces could be fully transformed into an outfit on par with the world's leading militaries.

Illustrating the shift in Beijing's security policy away from “keeping a low profile”,

the speakers discussed the reorientation of the PLA's strategic goals and missions. They noted that its status in the domestic and international calculus of China's new leadership has since become more pronounced. Mr Xi is taking a noticeably greater interest in harnessing the PLA as his powerbase, and as an effective foreign policy tool that complements China's hard economic assets. Given the enhanced sophistication of China's military technology base, PLA leaders have also been able to devote more resources to China's projection of power over both air and sea, as well as moving into the new cyber and space domains.

Overall, the panelists shared their opinion that the success of the PLA's efforts to strengthen its operational capabilities will depend on enhancement of its *hardware* and *heartware*—its improving capabilities, as well as developing its human resources and military ethos. Given the competing needs to be both red and expert, how Mr Xi will be able to reconcile the needs of the PLA to be absolutely loyal to the CCP, even as its rank-and-file continue to develop themselves into better-trained and modern warriors, is a development that will be watched with interest.

Is Southeast Asia Ready for Nuclear Power?

Contributed by
Julius Cesar Trajano



(L-R) Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Dr Tran Chi Thanh, Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony, Mr Egor Simonov, Dr Taswanda Taryo, Dr Ronald McCoy, Dr Andrew Wee, Mr Kwa Chong Guan, and Dr Olli Heinonen

RSIS and the Energy Market Authority of Singapore organised a roundtable panel discussion at the Singapore International Energy Week with the theme “Is Southeast Asia Ready for Nuclear Power?” Held on 29 October 2015, at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Singapore, the two-panel roundtable featured diverse perspectives on whether Southeast Asia should or should not use nuclear power. Roundtable

panellists included Dr Olli Heinonen, Senior Fellow at Belfer Centre for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University and former Deputy Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency; Dr Taswanda Taryo, Deputy Chairman of National Nuclear Energy Agency of Indonesia; Dr Tran Chi Thanh, President of Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute; Mr Egor Simonov, Director of ROSATOM Asia; Dr Ronald

McCoy, President of the Malaysians Physicians for Social Responsibility; and Dr Andrew Wee, President of Singapore National Academy of Science.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, highlighted the importance of regional cooperation through the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies (ASEANTOM) and the

Nuclear Energy Cooperation Subsector Network (NEC-SSN), which facilitated information-sharing and joint capacity-building activities among ASEAN members.

Panellists discussed the current status of nuclear energy programmes in Southeast Asia, particularly in Vietnam and Indonesia. Vietnam is set to commission its first nuclear power plant by 2025 while Indonesia has long been preparing for nuclear power. However, the lack of nuclear engineers and shortcomings in their safety regulatory bodies pose serious challenges to safe nuclear power development.

An anti-nuclear NGO representative argued that the issue of nuclear waste is one major reason why the region should not use nuclear power and the growing energy demand can be met by renewables, energy efficiency and sustainable living.

Forest Governance and Conservation in Sabah

Contributed by
Maxim Shrestha

Datuk Sam Mannan, Director of Sabah Forestry Department, delivered an RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture on 23 October 2015, at the Sheraton Towers, Singapore. Titled "Forest Governance and Conservation in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo: The Tasks Ahead and Challenges for Full Redemption", Datuk Mannan shared his experiences, as well as the historical context and present day realities of the forestry sector in Sabah.

Citing the example of the Heart of Borneo initiative he has been actively engaged in, Datuk Mannan highlighted that successes can be achieved in governance and forest management. This is despite complex social, economic and political challenges, some of which have their roots in the colonial era.

In reference to the on-going haze crisis that has engulfed Southeast Asia, Datuk Mannan stressed that the experience of Sabah

shows that sustainable palm oil production without negative consequences like the haze, is possible. This would, however, require transparency on all levels, strong political will, as well as the participation of the private sector to comply with sustainable and conservation practices and standards.

Datuk Mannan noted that collaboration between policymakers, business communities, local populations, indigenous

communities and other stakeholders like NGOs and independent auditing bodies RIL (Reduced Impact Logging) is key in preventing deforestation and ensuring sustainable forest management.

Lastly, Datuk Mannan also mentioned that there is much room for international collaboration and learning from the region's experience in forest and natural resource management. This is not just in terms of countries which manage large areas of forests but also from relatively smaller players like Singapore's National Parks Board, which has been actively involved in the preservation of natural environments in a largely urban setting.

RSIS Convocation 2015

Contributed by
Geanina Bujoreanu



RSIS graduates tossing their mortar boards

The RSIS class of 2015 comprising 153 MSc students (including eight NTU-Warwick Double Degree students) and six PhD students received their degrees during the 14th NTU Convocation Ceremony on 1 August 2015 at the Nanyang Auditorium, Singapore.

The ceremony was presided by Mr Chandra Das, NTU Pro-Chancellor. Mrs Rosa Daniel, Chief Executive Officer of the National Heritage Board, delivered an inspiring speech, encouraging the graduating students to reach their full potential, live meaningfully

and to give back to society. Having majored in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) as an undergraduate, she emphasised the importance of humanities and social sciences in today's society. Mrs Daniel noted, "The humanities teach us to think creatively and critically,

to construct good arguments anchored with reason, and to ask good questions".

The RSIS graduates were congratulated by Professor Joseph Liow, Dean of RSIS. This included four students who were recognised for outstanding academic performances: Ms Shayus Shahida Sharif, winner of the Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Gold Medal, MSc (Asian Studies); Ms Vidhya Logendran, winner of the Lion Group Gold Medal, MSc (International Political Economy); Mr Jamal Said Bakarsyum, winner of the Singapore Technologies Engineering Gold Medal, MSc (International Relations); and Mr Jesse Carl Caemmerer, winner of the United Overseas Bank Gold Medal, MSc (Strategic Studies).

This year's graduating students join the 1,400-strong RSIS alumni network worldwide. RSIS graduates have successfully secured roles in non-profit, consulting, research and security industries. Others have pursued PhD Programmes in prestigious universities around the world.

STAFF PUBLICATIONS

**Balanced Growth for an Inclusive and Equitable ASEAN Community**

Edited by Mely Caballero-Anthony and Richard Barichello.
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies: 2015.

Economic integration in Southeast Asia is a high priority within ASEAN, as seen by efforts to establish the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015. By fostering greater connectivity within the region — via physical connectivity (namely, infrastructure), institutional connectivity (via organisational arrangements) and people-to-people connectivity — economic gaps among the ASEAN member states will progressively narrow and the people of ASEAN will attain higher standards of economic development. Several initiatives have been proposed in recent decades to encourage closer regional economic relations, such as freer trade of goods and services within the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), improved infrastructure (including regional communication and transportation), coordination of domestic policies, and improved international flows of capital trade, foreign investment and labour (both skilled and unskilled).

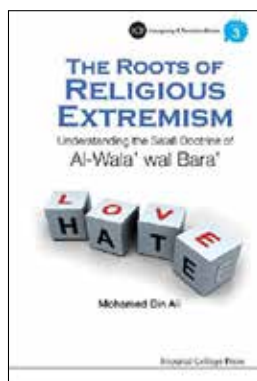
This edited volume is a compilation of research output from selected senior and junior fellows under the first phase (2012–2013) of the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership. Based on the theme of 'Towards balanced growth — Alternative development models and redistribution mechanisms', these chapters provide different yet complementary perspectives on economic activity in the East Asian region.

**India's Naval Strategy and Asian Security**

Edited by Anit Mukherjee and C. Raja Mohan. Routledge: 2015.
ISBN: 9781138950917

Amidst the intensifying geopolitical contestation in the waters of Asia, this book investigates the growing strategic salience of the Indian Navy. Delhi's expanding economic and military strength has generated a widespread debate on India's prospects for shaping the balance of power in Asia. This volume provides much needed texture to the abstract debate on India's rise by focusing on the changing nature of India's maritime orientation, the recent evolution of its naval strategy, and its emerging defence diplomacy. In tracing the drift of the Navy from the margins of Delhi's national security consciousness to a central position, analysing the tension between its maritime possibilities and the continentalist mind set, and in examining the gap between the growing external demands for its security contributions and internal ambivalence, this volume offers rare insights into India's strategic direction at a critical moment in the nation's evolution. By examining the internal and external dimensions of the Indian naval future, both of which are in dynamic flux, the essays here help a deeper understanding of India's changing international possibilities and its impact on Asian and global security.

This book will be of much interest to students of naval strategy, Asian politics, security studies and IR, in general.

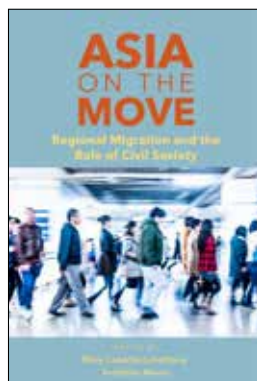
**The Roots of Religious Extremism: Understanding the Salafi Doctrine of Al-Wala' wal Bara'**

By Mohamed Bin Ali. World Scientific Publishing Company: 2015.
ISBN: 978-1783263929

One of the issues in contemporary Islamic thought which has attracted considerable attention amongst Muslim scholars and within the Muslim community is the valid and appropriate attitude of Muslims to relationships with non-Muslims. A major source of confusion and controversy with regards to this relationship comes from the allegation that Muslims must reserve their love and loyalty for fellow Muslims, and reject and declare war on the rest of humanity — most acutely seen through the Islamic concept of *Al-Wala' wal Bara'* (WB) translated as "Loyalty and Disavowal", which appears to be central in the ideology of modern Salafism.

This book investigates the dynamics and complexities of the concept of WB within modern Salafism and aims to understand the diverse interpretation of this concept; and how modern Salafis understand and apply the concept in contemporary religious, social and political settings. The book discovers that the complexities, diversities and disputes surrounding the concept in modern Salafism often revolve around issues of social, political and current realities.

The significance of this book lies in the fact that comprehending modern Salafis' conception of WB, its realities and complexities has become an urgent priority in the lives of Muslims today.

**Asia on the Move: Regional Migration and the Role of Civil Society**

Edited by Mely Caballero-Anthony and Toshihiro Menju. Japan Center for International Exchange: 2015. ISBN: 978-4889071436.

Globalization has led to a surge in crossborder migration, and the population of international migrants in East Asia has more than doubled over the past two decades. Today, governments in the region are grappling with these expanding and increasingly complex flows of people as well as the human security challenges that they bring, but as a result, they too often overlook the potential opportunities that accompany skillfully managed migration. In this volume, experts from "sending" and "receiving" countries in Asia outline current trends in China, Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia; analyze existing government efforts to manage migration; and explore the unique role that nongovernmental organizations can play in helping to protect migrants and to harness migration to the benefit of the region.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

12 NOVEMBER 2015

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 MARITIME ENVIRONMENT IN ASIA"

13 NOVEMBER 2015

ASIAN NAVAL WATCH WORKSHOP SERIES
 BY MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAMME ON
 "SUBMARINE ACQUISITION IN SOUTHEAST
 ASIA – PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS"

16-20 NOVEMBER 2015

SRP EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME – "RELIGION,
 CONFLICT & PEACEBUILDING"

17 NOVEMBER 2015

WORKING-GROUP ROUNDTABLE BY
 REGIONAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE
 PROGRAMME ON "THE FUTURE OF THE
 ADMM/ADMM-PLUS AND DEFENCE
 DIPLOMACY IN THE ASIA PACIFIC"

18 NOVEMBER 2015

RSIS LUNCHEON SEMINAR BY
 DR CHIA-YI LEE ON "WHY ARE OIL
 PRODUCING COUNTRIES PRONE TO
 TERRORISM?"

20 NOVEMBER 2015

RSIS SEMINAR BY PROFESSOR DAVID
 SHAMBAUGH ON "MACRO TRENDS IN THE
 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF ASIA"

30 NOVEMBER 2015

RSIS-ZICO DISTINGUISHED LECTURE ON
 ASEAN AND PARTNERS BY MR GEORGE YEO
 ON "ASEAN AND THE NEW CHINA TRADE"

1 DECEMBER 2015

RSIS SEMINAR BY DR SIEGFRIED O. WOLF ON
 "A NEW SILK ROAD: THE CHINA-PAKISTAN
 ECONOMIC CORRIDOR – A REGIONAL GAME
 CHANGER?"

5-6 DECEMBER 2015

THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION ASIA PACIFIC
 GROUP SINGAPORE REGIONAL MEETING