

## Re-launching NTS-Asia, Advancing Humanitarian Action beyond Borders



*Ambassador Ong Keng Yong toasting participants of the conference*

By **Margareth Sembiring**

RSIS' Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies re-launched the NTS-Asia Consortium on 22 February 2016 at the Grand Park City Hall Hotel, Singapore. The event brought together 16 of its 20 founding members with 50 other representatives from NTS-related institutions and research centres across Asia. Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, and Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of NTS Centre; gave the opening remarks.

Established in 2007, the NTS-Asia Consortium facilitates networking among NTS scholars and analysts in the region, builds regional capacity for NTS research, and mainstreams and advances NTS studies in Asia.

Since its last meeting in China in 2012 and the completion of the Ford Foundation grant that funded the consortium, networking activities have been largely virtual; through the online sharing of publications, recent developments in the field and the e-newsletter. The

re-launch of the NTS-Asia Consortium reconnected regional researchers, allowing them to share areas of interest and discuss future plans for collaboration and outreach.

Among the ideas discussed at the meeting was the need to continue the NTS-Asia fellowship scheme, with a greater emphasis on mentorship, including opportunities for professionals such as those from the media industry to gain more awareness and understanding of NTS issues and

developments, as well as its relevance to their fields.

NTS-Asia will also tap on technology and social media to better mainstream NTS perspectives and content. Suggestions generated also included a webinar series through which Consortium members could begin providing online NTS studies content regardless of their geographic location. An RSIS Conference on Inter-Regional Comparisons of Humanitarian Action was held in conjunction with the re-launch of NTS-Asia.

The conference was the first of what will be an annual event for the recently launched RSIS Humanitarian Action and Disaster Relief (HADR) programme. Four expert panels discussed their respective humanitarian experiences in Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Asia Pacific. The speakers were representatives of think tanks and academia, practitioners, as well as former military personnel who shared best practices and challenges faced in times of humanitarian crisis.

This conference highlighted current challenges faced during the response phase of disasters in the Asia Pacific. The HADR team will seek in future conferences to surface more relevant and vital realities of the region's humanitarian landscape.

**Re-launching NTS-Asia, Advancing Humanitarian Action beyond Borders**  
Page 1

**China's Military Modernisation and Security Strategy**  
A "New Continentalism" – Conceptualising a New World  
Page 2

**Religion and the Common Space:**  
2<sup>nd</sup> SRP Distinguished Lecture and Symposium  
Page 3

**RSIS Forges Ties with South Korean Think Tanks**  
Page 4

**2<sup>nd</sup> RSIS-ZICO Distinguished Lecture on ASEAN and Partners**  
Celebrating 10 Years of CENS  
Page 5

**CENS Holds 10<sup>th</sup> APPSNO**  
Page 6-7

**Global Threat, Regional Implications: Terrorism Analyst Training Course**  
India's Minilateralism: Forging New International Coalitions  
Page 8

**Enhancing Chile's Engagement with the Asia Pacific Region**  
NBS-RSIS Capacity-building Programme  
Page 9

**Contemporary Malaysia-Singapore Relations**  
10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons  
Page 10

**RSIS Graduate Appointed as Indonesian Counter-terrorism Chief**  
Prof Paul Teng Conferred Honorary Doctorate by Murdoch University  
Page 11

**RSIS Student-Faculty Football Match and BBQ**  
Page 12

# China's Military Modernisation and Security Strategy



Professor Chu Shulong (left) with Associate Professor Ralf Emmers, Associate Dean of RSIS

By James Char

Professor Chu Shulong, RSIS Distinguished Visiting Fellow, shared his insights on the reforms and transformation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), in an RSIS Distinguished Public

Lecture on 28 January 2016 at Marina Mandarin Singapore.

Prof Chu, Professor of Political Science and International Relations, School of Public Policy and Management, and Director, Institute of International Strategic and

Development Studies, Tsinghua University, Beijing, spoke on "China's Military Modernisation and Security Strategy".

Prof Chu noted that the reforms represent a major departure by the PLA from a former Soviet-style structure towards a more modern U.S. model. In proposing to streamline the 2.3 million strong military corps, the reconfigurations to the command structure and enhancement of the PLA's operational capabilities also puts China's military in a better position to effect its "Active Defence" policy.

Prof Chu observed that the separation of the maintenance and operational functions of the PLA is likewise motivated by the need to stay ahead of international military trends, and in accordance

with the C4IRS concept of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance. For instance, on the establishment of the new PLA Strategic Support Force in December 2015, Prof Chu assayed that the new branch will be geared towards fighting wars of the future.

With Beijing now having the world's second largest defence expenditure, Prof Chu posited that China's on-going military reform marks a clear shift in the regional balance of power. Significantly, the PLA's increasing capabilities will allow Chinese forces to operate closer to U.S. military activity in the Western Pacific, in addition to providing Beijing with greater confidence in protecting its interests in the East and South China Seas, as well as Taiwan. Still, even with the PLA better placed to safeguard overseas Chinese interests, Prof Chu expects that it would maintain a cautious approach in China's external environment.

## A "New Continentalism" – Conceptualising a New World

By Christabelle He

Dr Kent Calder, Director of the Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies at Johns Hopkins SAIS in Washington, D.C., gave an RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture on "The New Continentalism: Implications for the Global Future" at Sheraton Towers Singapore on 11 January 2016.

Dr Calder noted a tendency in analyses to give priority to politics as an agent of change. He raised the need to also consider broader economic contexts and the way economic changes have driven transformations in political

spheres unconsciously.

Dr Calder mentioned that there are several developments at the intermediate level (between national and international levels) that analysts have failed to sufficiently study. Analyses of changes across Eurasia have often been too myopic by focusing on the rise of China and the One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative. He then emphasised the role of India, Russia, and Europe in reshaping dynamics in the Eurasian continent.

Dr Calder observed that energy interdependence would intensify and significantly drive changes in the continent.



Dr Kent Calder (middle) with Professor Joseph Liow, Dean of RSIS (left), and Mr Kwa Chong Guan, Senior Fellow of RSIS

The largest energy producers in Asia (Central Asia) are situated next to the largest consumers (China and India), which face similar realities of large populations and rapid economic growth. He explained that the new Eurasia that is emerging is a product of transformations that predate Xi's OBOR initiative: the four modernisations of China (and subsequent economic growth of China), the collapse of the

Soviet Union, independence of the Central Asian states, and India's economic reforms.

The notion of "new continentalism" demonstrates an alternative view of the changing Eurasian continent with a European dimension that goes beyond the maritime domain. Dr Calder concluded that "new continentalism" shows us there is now a new world that needs to be conceptualised in new terms.

# Religion and the Common Space

## 2<sup>nd</sup> SRP Distinguished Lecture and Symposium



Mr K. Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, with speakers and religious leaders of the symposium

By Akanksha Narain

The Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> SRP Distinguished Lecture and Symposium on 19-20 January 2016 at Marina Mandarin Singapore. Titled “Common Space: Can Religion Contribute to It?”, the event was attended by over 500 participants from the public, community, religious and youth sectors.

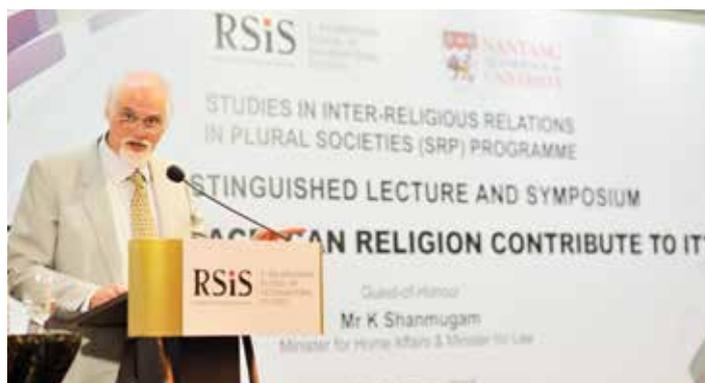
Mr K. Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, in his speech as the Guest-of-Honour, spoke about how major religions played a central role in shaping societies in a “fundamental, positive way”; and how societies’ laws and morals have been shaped by religion. He also noted that organised religion sometimes played a part in suppressing religious freedoms of the religious other and in promoting intolerance. He believes that this antagonistic role of religion throughout history is fostered by the lust for

power. Given the recent rise in religiosity across the globe coupled with religious fundamentalism and terrorism, Mr Shanmugam underscored the importance for governments and their people to work towards safeguarding social cohesion and harmony.

His Grace William Goh Seng Chye, Archbishop of Singapore; and Dr Mohamed Fatris Bakaram, Honourable Mufti of Singapore; presented the keynote lectures and shed light on the religious resources for promoting harmony and expanding the

common spaces within their respective religions. They referred to the rich histories of inter-faith dialogues within their religious traditions and called for mutual respect and understanding.

Associate Professor Paul Hedges of the SRP Programme presented the programme’s preliminary research findings on inter-religious relations and dialogue in the Singaporean context. Other speakers included Professor Abdullah Saeed, Visiting Peter Lim Professor of Peace Studies, RSIS, and Sultan of Oman Professor in Arab and



Professor Emeritus Julius Lipner

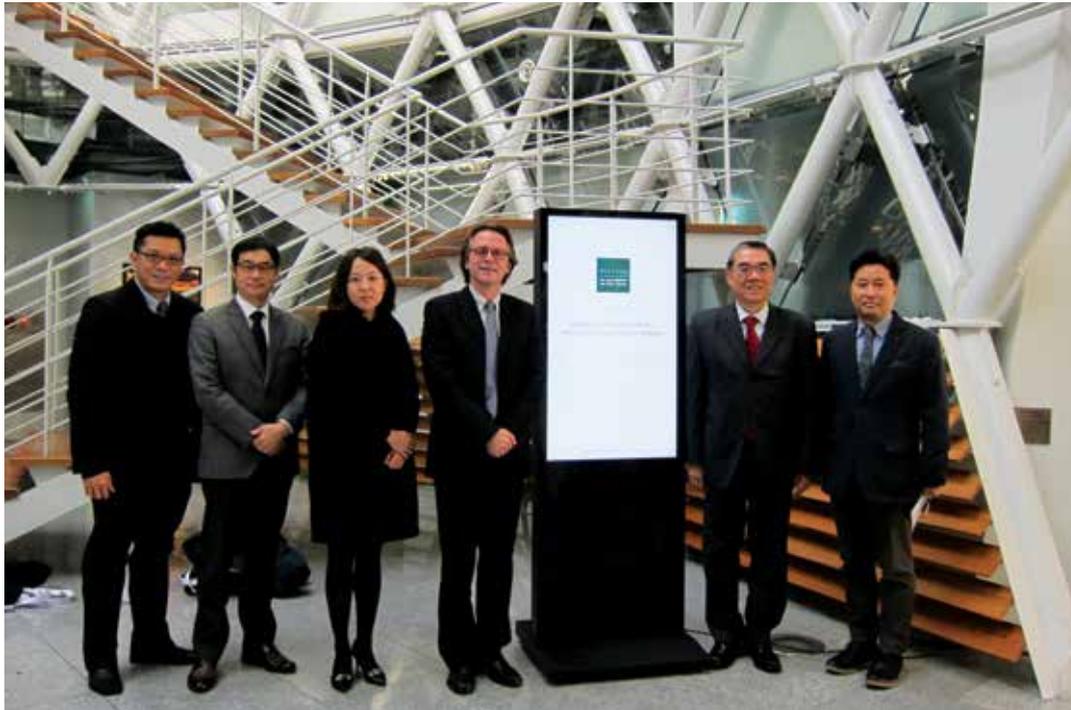
Islamic Studies, University of Melbourne; Venerable Dr Chang Qing; Dr N. Varaprasad; and Associate Professor Lee Cheuk Yin.

Professor Emeritus Julius Lipner, University of Cambridge and visiting professor at the SRP programme, delivered the Distinguished Lecture. He explored the topic of “Religion, Common Space and the Public Good: How They Can Work Together in Plural Societies”.

The nature of religion, which teaches people to help the vulnerable and oppressed and to lead a virtuous and good life, makes it an important actor in the common space. However, Prof Lipner also noted that in today’s secular and democratic space, people of religious faith are put to the test; they are challenged constantly to question the basis of their religious beliefs, practices and affiliations. Moreover, it has become evident that those who are non-religious or who question religion are no longer “mad or bad”. While religion enriches the common space by teaching people ways to lead a moral and virtuous life, it is by no means the sole source of morality.

Prof Lipner laid out three roles for leadership with reference to religion and religious resources in the common space. First, religious organisations and leaders have a key civic duty of endorsing the values of their Constitution in the public sphere. They must not only promote these values but should also challenge those who attempt to undermine these values. Second, the leadership should promote positive religious understanding, tolerance and harmony through education and the critical study of religion. The media, which not only informs but also helps shape our opinion, must also play an active role. Lastly, he highlighted the role of the government in a secular, liberal democracy as a defender of public space, free expression and inter-religious harmony.

# RSIS Forges Ties with South Korean Think Tanks



Group photo of RSIS and the Asan Institute for Policy Studies

By **Eddie Lim**

To establish RSIS' networking with regional academic powerhouses, Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman, led a delegation to Seoul, South Korea on 25-26 January 2016. The delegation visited five think tanks: (i) Asan Institute for Policy Studies; (ii) East Asia Institute (EAI);

(iii) Korea University (KU); (iv) Korea National Defense University (KNDU); and (v) Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU).

Accompanying Amb Ong were Associate Professor Ralf Emmers, Associate Dean; Mr Eddie Lim, Coordinator of the Military Studies Programme; and Assistant Professor Lee Su Hyun.

During the trip, student and faculty exchanges were discussed, as well as the possibilities of having double



Gift exchange between RSIS and Korea University

master's programmes. With these links established, it is hoped that more students from South Korea will pursue graduate studies at RSIS.

RSIS inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with KNDU, which paves the way for the two institutions to cooperate in security and defence research and education. The MOU will enhance faculty and student exchanges and mutual publication of research.



Lieutenant General Wee Seungho, President of Korea National Defense University (right) establishing the MOU with Ambassador Ong Keng Yong



Roundtable by RSIS and East Asia Institute



Group photo of RSIS and Sungkyunkwan University

## 2<sup>nd</sup> RSIS-ZICO Distinguished Lecture on ASEAN and Partners

By Aedan Mordecai

RSIS partnered with ZICO Holdings Inc. to organise a distinguished lecture on “One Belt One Road and AIIB: Implications for ASEAN” at the Fullerton Hotel on 26 February 2016. The lecture was given by Mr Randall Phillips, Ngee Ann Kongsi Professor of International Relations, RSIS; and Managing Partner for Asia, The Mintz Group; drawing on his years of experience being based in China.

Mr Phillips described the One Belt One Road (OBOR) as one of the flagship projects of President Xi Jinping, whose ambitious plan is to connect China to the rest of Asia and Europe to a greater degree than before and facilitating more global trade. The wide-reaching initiative, which is

based on huge investments in infrastructure in many developing countries, will have large economic and geopolitical repercussions whether successful or not. ASEAN has also been earmarked as a destination for some of this investment, and the region could benefit from greater connectivity to China.

Mr Phillips noted how the project’s success will be determined by many factors including the performance of the Chinese economy and the domestic political situation in China, where President Xi looks to further consolidate power. The reasons for China pursuing the OBOR and creating the AIIB were stated as to help the economy and

its global influence grow, as well as a destination for the huge amount of foreign

reserves that the country holds. Discussants at the event, Mr Manu Bhaskaran of the Centennial Group and Mr Stuart Dean of the ZICO Consultancy went into more detail about the OBOR in ASEAN. It was observed that the effects of investment in infrastructure in the region would not be significant without improvements in governance.



*Mr Randall Phillips (middle) with Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS (left), and Ambassador T. Jasudasen, Chairman of ZICO Holdings Inc.*

## Celebrating 10 Years of CENS

By Shashi Jayakumar

More than 80 present and former staff of the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS), as well as present and former staff of the National Security Coordination Secretariat gathered on 1 April 2016 at the National Gallery to mark a significant occasion: CENS’ tenth anniversary.

The dinner was a chance for old friends to meet and mingle, as well as to take time out to reminisce and reflect on CENS’ journey to date. Among those who spoke at the dinner were Mr Peter Ho, former Head of Civil Service, and also former Permanent Secretary (National Security and Intelligence Coordination); Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS; and Dr Shashi Jayakumar, Head



*Present and former Heads of CENS, Dr Shashi Jayakumar (right) and Associate Professor Kumar Ramakrishna, cutting the cake to commemorate the celebrations*

of CENS. All three shared their thoughts on CENS’ evolution and expressed their thanks to its collaborators and stakeholders. Immediate former head of CENS, Associate Professor Kumar Ramakrishna received a particularly warm round of applause.

Marking the centre’s tenth anniversary in another way, an edited volume by Dr Shashi Jayakumar was launched during the Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers on 13 April 2016. A year in the making, the book, titled *State, Society and National Security*:

*Challenges and Opportunities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, features contributions across various security domains by key friends of CENS (all world-renowned experts in their own right), who had either been CENS’ Distinguished Visitors in past years or had been guests at the various editions of APPSNO. The volume also includes contributions from CENS’ researchers.

As a friend and supporter of CENS, Mr Benny Lim, Permanent Secretary, National Security and Intelligence Coordination, remarks in his foreword to the volume, “CENS at 10 is a young man with a great future; this will be so if it stays nimble, able to continue proactively engaging established, as well as up and coming experts in various disciplines.” CENS intends to remain true to this vision.

# CENS Holds 10<sup>th</sup> APPSNO

By Norman Vasu



The 10<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO) was held at Marina Mandarin Singapore from 11–15 April 2016. Organised by the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) with the support of the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS) in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), APPSNO 2016’s theme was “National Security Revisited”.

The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of APPSNO enabled panels to engage with important elements of national security on the broad theme from different perspectives.

These included issues such as technology and security; strategic communications; trends and challenges of terrorism; and future crises. Speakers from a wide range of countries such as Australia, Japan, Estonia, Singapore, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, shared their expertise and experience on various topics.

The event brought together senior national security officers from the Asia Pacific and beyond to Singapore for a week of intensive discussion and networking. More than

70 participants from over 25 countries met to discuss the challenges of national security. Foreign participants were joined by their Singaporean counterparts from various government ministries and agencies.

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, delivered the welcome remarks, while Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, gave the opening address to start the Programme.

In his welcome remarks, Amb Ong said, “This year’s APPSNO theme was a broad one. It will allow us to review and revisit many important domains discussed at previous APPSNOs that continue to have an impact on national security.”

Amb Ong continued, “Over the years, APPSNO has been a platform for

discussions on topics such as resilience, terrorism, complexity, public health, strategic communications, and cybersecurity. It is good that APPSNO has continued to identify topical and pertinent issues to engage and research on.”

Besides engaging in small group discussions with the speakers, foreign participants gave country presentations, which provided a concise overview of their respective states’ policies and challenges with regard to homeland security management.

Further enriching the programme was a keynote address on national security and a distinguished dinner lecture offering a practitioner’s perspective on the balance between protecting civil liberties and defending national security. The exchange of information was not limited to the formal discussion





sessions. It continued through group activities such as the Perspective Challenge—a board game designed to enable players to think differently about national security approaches—and a Singapore Heritage Tour. APPSNO participants and speakers were also taken on an educational site visit to Changi International Airport.



APPSNO also saw the launch of an edited volume titled *State, Society, and National Security: Challenges and Opportunities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*—a collection of essays on pertinent national security issues written by experts in their respective fields, put together to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CENS. The book covers topics including resilience, homeland security, radicalisation and cyber security.



Capping the event was the Certificate Presentation Ceremony and Closing Dinner hosted by Amb Ong. Overall, there was a broad consensus among speakers and participants alike that APPSNO was an interesting, insightful and valuable event.



# Global Threat, Regional Implications

## Terrorism Analyst Training Course



Participants during one of the tabletop exercises

By **Jolene Jerard** and **Ahmad Saiful Rijal Bin Hassan**

The International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) conducted its annual Terrorism Analyst Training Course (TATC) from 25 January – 5 February 2016. The two-week course was held at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore.

The ninth in the series, TATC 2016 brought together a community of expertise that included security and intelligence, law enforcement, military, private sector and academia with a dedicated focus on counter-terrorism. The participants came from 16 countries, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei, Hong

Kong, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

In his Special Address at TATC 2016, Minister Luhut Pandjaitan, Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs, Indonesia, commended the swift response by the Indonesian authorities during the recent attacks in Jakarta on 14 January 2016. He noted that the military or kinetic response to terrorism is not the only solution. He highlighted the importance of community engagement and de-radicalisation initiatives as softer approaches that would be beneficial in the long term. He reiterated the importance for collaboration among practitioners especially the Southeast Asian region to mitigate the threat of terrorism.

Distinguished speakers at TATC 2016 included Dr Usman Saud Nasution, Head of the

Indonesian National Counter Terrorism Agency (BNPT), and Mr Mohd Raby Abu Bakar of the Malaysian Special Branch, who explored the threat of the Islamic State (IS) in Indonesia and Malaysia respectively. Mr Peter Ong, Senior State Prosecutor, Philippines, and Mr Monirul Islam, Joint Commissioner, Detective Branch, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Bangladesh, explored the role of legal judicial response and the changing roles of law enforcement in combating terrorism. TATC 2016 featured specialist panels on the Role of the Legal and Judicial Response against terrorism, and Developing a National Strategy to Mitigate Possible Chemical, Biological Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) attacks.

In addition to exploring new frontiers in counter terrorism research, analyses and practice, ICPVTR constantly aims to maintain and improve the professional competence and development of analysts. The TATC strives to deliver a holistic perspective aimed at building knowledge and capacity of analysts specialising in counter terrorism.

# India's Minilateralism

## Forging New International Coalitions



Dr C. Raja Mohan (left) with Professor Rajesh Basrur, Coordinator of South Asia Programme

By **Sumitha Narayanan Kutty**

Dr C. Raja Mohan, Founding Director of Carnegie India, spoke on “India’s Minilateralism:

Reviewing India’s New International Coalitions” during an RSIS seminar on 28 January 2016. His talk highlighted the way India addresses questions on multilateral institutions – be it

the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) forum or trilateral mechanisms such as the India-Japan-United States dialogue. It explored the inherent contradictions in India’s new and eclectic coalition building and assessed its sustainability over the near term.

Dr Mohan first laid out two clear dynamics that emerged quite early in independent India’s strategic thinking that remain key to the present day: (i) “non-alignment” as an independent foreign policy – a policy of free will and choice where India maintained “equidistance between rival powers”; and (ii) staunch support for disarmament, non-proliferation

efforts and the anti-Apartheid movement as a result of the process of decolonisation.

Dr Mohan then emphasised India’s potential to construct a range of “minilaterals” in Asia – a region that is now rising, particularly in its capability to shape outcomes on the ground. Multiple trilateral forums with middle powers like the India-Japan-Australia and the India-Indonesia-Australia dialogues demonstrate India’s potential to construct its own set of groupings and organise its international affairs.

While New Delhi is still fleshing out its strategy, the creation of middle power coalitions gives India the time to emerge as a power even as its weight in the international system grows. Dr Mohan concluded that being a “builder of coalitions” was an important step in the right direction.

# Enhancing Chile's Engagement with the Asia Pacific Region

By **Julius Cesar I. Trajano**

Mr Eduardo Frei, Ambassador-at-Large for the Asia Pacific region and former President of Chile; delivered an RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture on 11 March 2016. Entitled "Enhancing Latin America's Relations and Cooperation with East Asia", the lecture was held at the LHS Lecture Theatre, The Hive, Nanyang Technological University.

Mr Frei discussed Chile's robust engagements with Asia Pacific nations through a wide network of trade and cooperation agreements. Chile's need to expand its economic relations with most

regions in the world, including the Asia Pacific, is driven by its exports-oriented economy. Nearly 50 per cent of Chile's international trade is with the Asia Pacific. Chile has forged bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with most of the region's vibrant economies and has been utilising FTAs as the anchor of its bilateral relationships. For instance, Japan, China, and South Korea, which have FTAs with Chile, are among its top trading partners in the region. With ASEAN, Chile has FTAs with Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand and Vietnam, and is planning to conclude new trade agreements with Indonesia and the Philippines.



*Mr Eduardo Frei (right) with Mr Tan Seng Chye, Senior Fellow of RSIS*

According to Mr Frei, Chile intends to further deepen its ties with Asia Pacific and has already submitted its applications to be part of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and to be a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum. Chile will continue its negotiations on proposed FTAs with India, Indonesia and the Philippines. It will further take advantage of its second-generation FTAs with China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Chile will further advance the Trans-

Pacific Partnership (TPP) which, it believes, will help improve its trade relations with Asia Pacific economies and facilitate seamless access to markets among TPP members.

While exploring other avenues of cooperation with the Asia Pacific region such as tourism, student exchange programmes, scientific collaboration, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, Mr Frei was optimistic that Chile can serve as a bridge between Latin America and the Asia Pacific.

# NBS-RSIS Capacity-building Programme

By **Tan Ming Hui**

RSIS' Centre for Multilateralism Studies and NTU's Nanyang Business School (NBS) jointly organised a capacity-building programme from 29 February to 4 March 2016 at the Nanyang Executive Centre and Marina Mandarin Singapore. Titled "ASEAN Advantage: Building Successful Business in ASEAN", the programme explored the theme of managing businesses in an increasingly integrated ASEAN, highlighting key issues on infrastructure, trade deals, human resources, consumerism, investment, and regional diversity.

The five-day programme featured thought and business leaders and policymakers, including Tan Sri Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria, Secretary



*Tan Sri Dr Tony Fernandes (left) with Ambassador Ong Keng Yong*

General of Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia; Tan Sri Dr Tony Fernandes, Group Chief Executive Officer of AirAsia; Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman

of RSIS; Associate Professor Nigel Phang, and Dr Siriwan Chutikamoltham, Senior Lecturer, both of NBS; Mr John Pang, Senior Fellow of RSIS; and Professor Gemma Calvert, Director for Research

& Development of Asian Consumer Insights.

The keynote speakers shared their expertise and insights on the opportunities and challenges in conducting businesses in the region presented by the adoption of the ASEAN Economic Blueprint in 2007 and the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015. Participants also benefited from on-site visits to three companies with an ASEAN presence, which provided them with an understanding of real business models and strategies. The programme included a visit to Iskandar Malaysia where participants observed and learned first-hand how businesses can work with governments to tap into the potential and opportunities arising from integrated economic development corridors.

# Contemporary Malaysia-Singapore Relations

By **Abdul Mateen Qadri**

The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies' Malaysia Programme organised a seminar on 11 January 2016, exploring contemporary issues in Singapore-Malaysia relations.

Mr Wan Saiful Wan Jan, Chief Executive of Malaysia's Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs, commented that Malaysia is at the crossroads owing to recent developments. It can either become like Zimbabwe (where institutions are destroyed and

the country is ruled by one big figure – "Mugabification") or like Singapore (where economic freedom is high but civil liberties and political freedom are "restricted"). Prime Minister Najib who is facing local and international pressure, has consolidated his power and removed many of his opponents. Mr Wan Saiful noted the importance of providing good news on the economic front for PM Najib to improve his prospects for the General Election in 2018.

Mr John Pang, Senior Fellow at RSIS, focused on the

prospects for Singapore-Malaysia relations. Although Malaysia's institutions are faltering, Singapore can still make important agreements with Malaysia and decision makers in Singapore do not want to hinder this relationship. Unique sub-regional economic opportunities are developing as a result of the strengthening of the states and the rulers such as Sarawak and Johor. Chinese investments are also playing an increasing role in Malaysia. This implies that although there are opportunities for Singapore to become more involved economically, they would have

to deal with "new players". In conclusion, Mr Pang noted that Malaysia is not closed for business, and Singapore is well-placed to continue their prosperous ties.

Mr Wan Saiful noted in the question and answer session that due to a trust deficit, PM Najib still faced challenges in enacting the reforms mandated by the signing of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Mr Pang observed that Malaysia-Singapore relations are still personalised between leaders and more should be done to institutionalise relations.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons



*Participants of the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ARF Experts and Eminent Persons*

By **Jesse C. Caemmerer**

Experts and Eminent Persons of the ASEAN Regional Forum examined regional security and the role of the ARF at their 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in Singapore on 1–2 March 2016. The meeting, at the Sheraton Towers was hosted by RSIS, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' ASEAN Directorate and the ARF Secretariat.

The meeting formed an EEP working group on "Lessons Learnt and Best Practices Concerning Incidents at Sea" which will,

over the next year, examine the strengths and challenges of existing mechanisms concerning incidents at sea, and make policy recommendations to prevent further incidents.

During the session on "Maritime Security in East Asia Cooperation" chaired by Mr Jusuf Wanandi, Senior Fellow and co-founder of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, the discussants noted the growing tensions in the South China Sea with concern of an action-reaction dynamic due to mounting U.S.-China competition. The group recommended expediting the

Code of Conduct negotiations and pursuing cooperation based on non-sovereignty issues such as marine environment protection.

Professor Brian Job, University of British Columbia, chaired the session on the "Korean Peninsula: Modalities and Procedures for the Resumption of Security Discussions and Negotiations". There was a general consensus that the security environment on the peninsula had deteriorated markedly, leading discussants to view tougher sanctions as the only viable approach to influence

North Korean policy.

Tan Sri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan, Chairman of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia, chaired the session on "Cross-Border Cooperation to Manage the Islamic State Threat". The discussants recommended enhanced intelligence sharing between security agencies, greater focus on the root causes of terrorism, counter-radicalisation, and efforts to curtail terrorist financing.

The next ARF EEP meeting will be held in Australia in 2017.

# RSIS Graduate Appointed as Indonesian Counter-terrorism Chief

By Sara Mahmood

Indonesia's President Joko Widodo appointed Police Inspector-General Dr Tito Karnavian as Chief of the National Counter Terrorism Agency on 16 March 2016. This appointment is in recognition of GEN Tito's effective response to the terrorist attack in Jakarta on 14 January 2016 when he was Chief of Jakarta Police.

The appointment comes at a crucial period for Indonesia, which is facing a growing threat from the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL).

GEN Tito obtained a Master's degree in Police Studies from Exeter University in 1993

and a doctorate in Strategic Studies from RSIS, Nanyang Technological University, in 2013. His doctoral supervisor, Professor Rohan Gunaratna, Head of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) commented: "He is one of our best graduates; he is both a theoretician and a practitioner. There is no one better qualified in Indonesia to manage the current and emerging threat posed by ISIL."

GEN Tito was the Commander of Detachment 88, Indonesia's elite counter-terrorism force from December 2009 to February 2011 and the Deputy of the National Counter Terrorism Agency from February 2011 to August 2012. He investigated high profile cases such as the



GEN Tito Karnavian (left) being sworn in by President Joko Widodo as the new chief of the national counter-terrorism agency

Bali bombings, the Australian Embassy attack and the Ritz Carlton-Marriott bombings; he also disrupted the insurgent and terrorist networks in West Papua, Poso and Central Sulawesi; and dismantled the terrorist training camp in Aceh.

GEN Tito is the author of several books, including *Explaining Islamist Insurgencies: The Case of al-Jamaah al-Islamiyyah and the Radicalisation of the Poso Conflict, 2000-2007* published by Imperial College Press, London in 2014.

# Prof Paul Teng Conferred Honorary Doctorate by Murdoch University

By Jose Ma. Luis P. Montesclaros

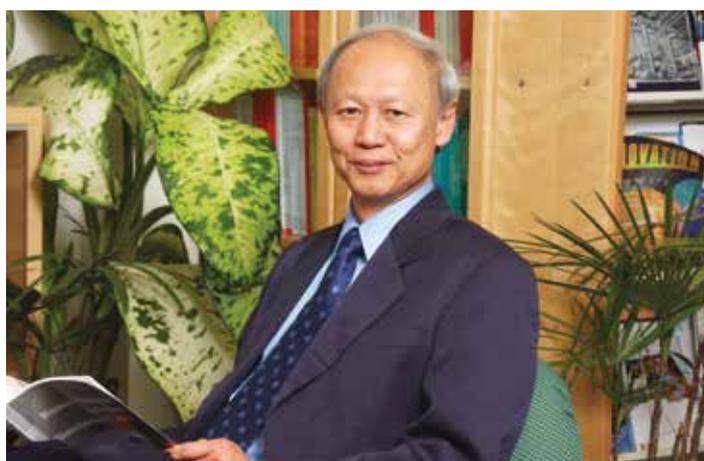
Professor Paul Teng, Adjunct Senior Fellow at RSIS' Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) and Advisor to its Food Security Programme, was conferred an honorary Doctor of Science degree (HonDSc) by Australia's Murdoch University on 13 March 2016. Prof Teng is also a Professor at the Nanyang Technological University, and the Principal Officer at the National Institute of Education.

The honorary doctorate was conferred in recognition of his outstanding achievements and contributions in the area of food security, and having served as a Commissioner on the Second Murdoch Commission, Australia. His recent

endeavours have focused on regional food security initiatives, such as inclusive agri-business and sustainable agricultural production in ASEAN and Asia.

Having spent more than 30 years in academia, the private sector, international organisations, and non-profit organisations, Prof Teng is internationally recognised for his expertise and thought leadership on food security issues, commercialisation and biosafety of crop biotechnology, and bio-entrepreneurship, all within the context of sustainable development. His current focus is on the technology-policy interface of sustainable agriculture and food production, and food security.

Prof Teng has published more



Professor Paul Teng

than 250 technical papers, co-edited 17 books, and authored *BioScience Entrepreneurship in Asia* (2008). His previous key appointments include having served at the World Fish Center as its Deputy Director-General, the Programme Leader for

Cross-Ecosystems Research at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines, and having held professorial and department chairmanship appointments at the University of Minnesota and University of Hawaii respectively.

# RSIS Student-Faculty Football Match and BBQ



*Ambassador Ong Keng Yong with staff and students after the match*

By **Manasa G. Rao**

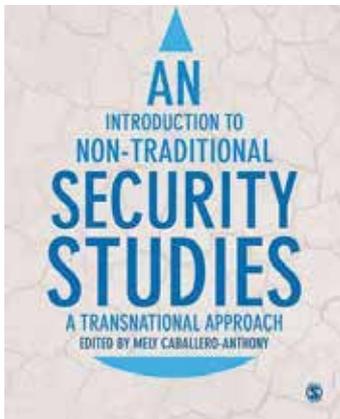
The annual RSIS Student-Faculty Football Match and BBQ was held on 23 January 2016 amidst mild

rain and cloudy weather. With Ambassador Ong Keng Yong present among the audience, the match ended with a 5-3 win for the students.

The winner's trophy was

handed over by Steven Yuk Fun Li, President of the RSIS Student Board, 2015-2016. The evening rounded off with a delicious dinner and BBQ roast at Dr Farish A. Noor's residence.

## STAFF PUBLICATIONS



### **An Introduction to Non-Traditional Security Studies: A Transnational Approach**

*Edited by Mely Caballero-Anthony. Sage Publications Ltd: 2016. ISBN: 978-144-6286-07-4*

With the end of the Cold War, threats to national security have become increasingly non-military in nature. Issues such as climate change, resource scarcity, infectious diseases, natural disasters, irregular migration, drug trafficking, information security and transnational crime have come to the forefront. This book provides a comprehensive introduction to Non-Traditional Security concepts. It does so by: \*Covering contemporary security issues in depth \*Bringing together chapters written by experts in each area \*Guiding you towards additional material for your essays and exams through further reading lists \*Giving detailed explanations of key concepts \*Testing your understanding through end-of-chapter questions Edited by a leading figure in the field, this is an authoritative guide to the key concepts that you'll encounter throughout your non-traditional, and environmental, security studies courses.

### **Emerging Critical Technologies and Security in the Asia-Pacific**

*Edited by Richard A. Bitzinger. Palgrave Macmillan U.K.: 2016. ISBN: 978-1-137-46127-8*

This volume addresses how "emerging critical technologies" affect military capabilities, and therefore military advantage, in the Asia Pacific. Technology is a crucial element of military effectiveness and advantage, particularly with regard to the Asia Pacific region. Therefore, the proliferation of advanced conventional weaponry, and the subsequent increases in military capacity, has been a dramatic, and perhaps even alarming, development. Regional militaries have, in recent decades, acquired capabilities that were previously unknown. At the same time, the diffusion of militarily critical technologies, as well as the ability of militaries to exploit potential, varies widely across the region. Naturally, this unequal distribution will determine the impact of these technologies and capabilities on regional security and stability. Consequently, it is essential to assess the relative abilities of regional militaries and the impediments they may face.



## THINK TANK

MCI (P) 013/02/2015

www.rsis.edu.sg

### EDITOR

Mervin Kok  
iswlkok@ntu.edu.sg

### Contributors

Abdul Mateen Qadri  
Aedan Mordecai  
Ahmad Saiful Rijal Bin Hassan  
Akanksha Narain  
Christabelle He  
Eddie Lim  
James Char  
Jesse C. Caemmerer  
Jolene Jerard  
Jose Ma. Luis P. Montesclaros  
Julius Cesar I. Trajano  
Margareth Sembiring  
Manasa G. Rao  
Norman Vasu  
Sara Mahmood  
Shashi Jayakumar  
Sumitha Narayanan Kutty  
Tan Ming Hui

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**28 April 2016**

RSIS Conference on "Islam in the Contemporary World"

**3 May 2016**

RSIS Seminar by Dr Andrzej Bolesta, First Counsellor, Economic Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Bangkok

**4 May 2016**

RSIS-MEI Book Launch Seminar by Dr James M. Dorsey on "The Turbulent World of Middle East Soccer"

**17 May 2016**

RSIS-WTO Parliamentarian Workshop 2016

**27-30 June 2016**

START-ICPVTR Countering Violent Extremism Workshop 2016

**18-19 July 2016**

Third Conference on "Partnership for Regional Peace: Operationalising ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership in Southeast Asia"

**11 August 2016**

RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture by Professor Jia Qiangguo, Ngee Ann Kongsi Professor of International Relations, RSIS