



## APPSMO 2015 Beyond Stovepipes: Adopting the Whole of Government Approach to Security Challenges

Contributed by  
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The 17<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO 2015) was held at the Singapore Resort & Spa Sentosa on 5-10 August 2015. Organised by the Military Studies Programme, within the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), RSIS, the programme was attended by more than 50 military officers from 25 countries around the Asia Pacific and Europe.

The theme of APPSMO 2015, “Beyond Stovepipes: Adopting the Whole of Government Approach to Security Challenges” addressed questions and issues on the core roles of armed forces today and the

near future, in the context of a security environment that is rapidly evolving. Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Defence, officiated at the opening of the event. Major-General Perry Lim, Chief of Army for the Singapore Armed Forces, was Guest-of-Honour at the dinner for participants and speakers at the Shangri-La’s Rasa Sentosa Resort.

As in previous years, APPSMO provided a valuable forum for defence diplomacy and discussions, where military professionals, policymakers, practitioners, academics and other experts exchanged views on a broad range of subjects related to

regional and international security.

This year’s edition assembled an impressive range of speakers. Distinguished overseas speakers included Vice Admiral (Ret.) Koda Yoji; Major General (Ret.) Zhu Chenghu; Mr Shazryll Zahiran, Deputy Director General, Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism, Malaysia; and Mr Jeremy England, International Committee of the Red Cross. Professor Jusuf Wanandi, Senior Fellow and co-founder of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, was also invited to chair a session.

Local and RSIS speakers included Ambassador Kirk

Wager, U.S. Ambassador to Singapore; Rear-Admiral (Ret.) Bernard Miranda, former Commander of the multinational Combined Task Force 151 in the Gulf of Aden; Brigadier-General Benedict Lim, Group Chief, MINDEF Communications; Deputy Secretary Raja Kumar, Ministry of Home Affairs; Professor Pascal Vennesson, IDSS; Associate Professor Kumar Ramakrishna, Head of Policy Studies at RSIS; and Associate Professor Ahmed Salah Hashim, IDSS.

The Distinguished Dinner Talk entitled “China and the World” was delivered by Professor Wang Gungwu, Chairman of East Asia Institute. APPSMO 2015 featured four Distinguished Lunch Talks, a first for APPSMO: (i) Mr Peter Ho, Senior Advisor, Centre for Strategic Futures, spoke on “Future Ready Government”; (ii) Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan, Ambassador-at-Large and Policy Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shared on “Adapting the Nation-building Narrative for a New Generation”; (iii) Professor Kishore Mahbubani, Dean and Professor in the Practice of



Public Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, talked about “Good Governance in the 21st Century”; (iv) and Admiral (Ret.) Arun Prakash, former Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy, dealt with “Planning for Future Security Challenges”.

Centre and the new Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre, as well as the Urban Redevelopment Authority. They joined Singaporeans in celebrating the nation’s Golden Jubilee at the SAF’s Temasek Club, where they watched the live telecast of the National Day Parade.



APPSMO participants attended seminars dealing with “Instruments of National Power,” “Hybrid Threats,” “Conflict Resolution and Counter-Terrorism,” “Interagency Cooperation,” “National Security,” and “Perspectives on Security in the Asia Pacific.”

The participants also visited the Republic of Singapore Navy’s Information Fusion

