



APPSMO 2016: Hybrid Warfare and the Role of the Military

By **Ben Ho**

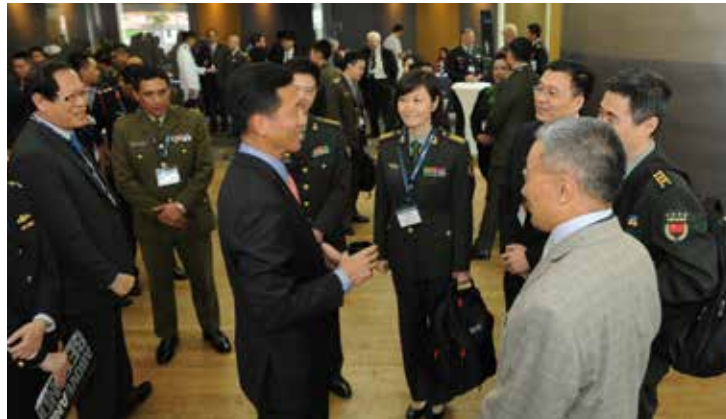
The 18th Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO 2016) was held at Village Hotel Changi on 5-10 August 2016. Organised by the Military Studies Programme of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), RSIS, APPSMO 2016 was attended by more than 50 military officers

from over 20 countries in Asia, North America and Europe.

The theme of APPSMO 2016, “Hybrid Warfare and the Role of the Military: Challenges and Implications”, addressed a major issue faced by militaries today—states using a blend of unconventional and conventional warfare methods in the context of a highly fluid security environment.

Mr Ong Ye Kung, Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Senior Minister of State for Defence, gave the Keynote Address, while Singapore’s Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Perry Lim, was the guest-of-honour at the event’s opening dinner.

As in previous years, APPSMO provided a valuable platform



for defence diplomacy and discussions, where military professionals, policymakers, practitioners, academics and other experts exchanged views on a broad range of subjects pertaining to defence and security.

The list of distinguished overseas speakers included Lieutenant General H. R. McMaster, Director of the U.S. Army Capabilities Integration Center; Professor Itzik Ben-Israel, Head of Tel Aviv University's Workshop for Science, Technology and Security; as well as Professor Takashi Shiraishi, President of Japan's National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies.

The line-up of local speakers included Professor Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy; Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan, Ambassador-at-Large and Policy Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Mr David Koh, Deputy Secretary (Technology) and Deputy Secretary (Special Projects) of the Ministry of Defence, Singapore, and Chief Executive of the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore. Speakers from RSIS comprised Professor Pascal Vennesson, IDSS; Associate Professor Kumar Ramakrishna, Head of Policy Studies in the Office of the Executive Deputy Chairman, and Coordinator of the National Security Studies

Programme at RSIS; and Associate Professor Ahmed Salah Hashim, IDSS.

The Distinguished Dinner Talk entitled "Power Transition in the Asia Pacific" was delivered by Professor Jia Qingguo, Dean of Peking University's School of International Studies. In addition, APPSMO 2016 featured a Luncheon Conversation entitled "Rethinking Warfare and Civilisation in the Asia Pacific", and featuring Professors Shirashi and Mahbubani.

APPSMO participants attended panels dealing with "Dimensions of War and Strategy", "Hybrid Threats and the Future of

Warfare", "Information and Cyber Warfare: The Military Dimension", and "Civilian-Military Relations and a Whole-of-Government Approach towards Security".

In conjunction with the 20th anniversary of RSIS and the 18th APPSMO, RSIS published a compendium, capturing selected past distinguished lectures, and personal reflections on the APPSMO experience.

As part of APPSMO 2016, participants also visited the Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre, various heritage sites in Changi, the Changi Airport, as well as PSA. In addition, they joined Singaporeans celebrating the nation's 51st birthday at the National Stadium where they watched the National Day Parade.