

APPSMO 2017

By **Andre Foo**

The 19th Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO 2017) was held at Village Hotel Changi, Singapore, from 4 to 10 August 2017. Organised by the Military Studies Programme of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, RSIS, APPSMO 2017 was attended by more than 50 military officers from over 20 countries spanning Asia, North America, and Europe.

The theme of APPSMO 2017 – “International Politics in the Asia Pacific: Implications on the Security Policies and Defence Relations” – addressed some of the region’s most pressing

security concerns, as well as how civil and military institutions hope to build sustainable peace in the region.

Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Senior Minister of State for Defence, Singapore, delivered the keynote address, while Singapore’s Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant-General Perry Lim was the guest of honour at the opening dinner.

Over the past 18 years, APPSMO has consistently provided a valuable platform for defence diplomacy and related discussions, a platform which allows military professionals, policymakers, practitioners, academics, as well as other domain experts to exchange views on a broad range of

topics pertaining to defence and security.

Over the week, APPSMO participants attended a series of panels dealing with topics relevant to today’s security context such as terrorism, information and cyber warfare, crisis management, defence diplomacy, and the future of conflicts. The panels were led by speakers from all over the world such as South Korea, the United States, Australia, the Netherlands, Israel, Philippines, China, Indonesia, India, and Singapore.

This year, there were also two Distinguished Dinner Lectures conducted. The first lecture, titled “China’s Responses to a Changing World”, was delivered

by Professor Wang Gungwu, Chairman, East Asian Institute. The second Distinguished Dinner Lecture, titled “ASEAN at 50, a Force for Stability”, was delivered by Professor Dewi Fortuna Anwar, Deputy Secretary for Political Affairs to the Vice President of Indonesia.

As part of the programme, participants also had the opportunity to visit the Multi-Mission Range Complex, the Port Operations Control Centre, as well as the Seletar Aerospace Park. They also toured the various military heritage sites around Changi and the Battlebox at Fort Canning which served as a underground British Command Centre during World War II.

APPSMO 2017 brought together a list of distinguished speakers:

Ambassador Oh Joon

Professor of United Nations Studies, Kyung Hee University

Rear-Admiral Don Gabrielson

Commander, Task Force 73, Logistics Western Pacific of the U.S. Navy

Dr TX Hammes

Distinguished Research Fellow, Center for Strategic Research, National Defense University

Ms Jacinta Carroll

Head of Counter-Terrorism Policy Centre, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Mr David Heyman

Former Assistant Secretary for Policy, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Mr Stephen De Spiegelaire

Principal Scientist, Hague Center for Strategic Studies

Dr Linton Wells II

Executive Advisor to the Center of C4I and Cyber, George Mason University

Professor Gabriel Weimann

Professor, Department of Communication, Haifa University

Ms Bonnie Glaser

Director, China Power Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Associate Professor Jay Batongbacal

College of Law, University of the Philippines

Professor Zhu Feng

Executive Director, China Center for Collaborative Studies of the South China Sea, Nanjing University

Senior Colonel Xu Qiyu

Deputy Director, Strategic Research, National Defense University, People’s Republic of China

Dr Jusuf Wanandi

Center for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia

Dr Sanjaya Baru

Distinguished Fellow, United Service Institute of India

Mr Mattia Tomba,

Senior Research Fellow, Middle East Institute

Dr Michael Vatikiotis,

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Singapore

Professor Ralf Emmers,

Associate Dean, RSIS

Professor Tan See Seng,

Deputy Director, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS)

Dr Shashi Jayakumar

Head, Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS)

Professor Pascal Vennesson

Professor of Political Science, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS)

Associate Professor Bilveer Singh

Adjunct Senior Fellow, Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS)

