

RSIS Public Roundtable on Cyclone Nargis Ten Years on: A Decade of New Humanitarian Partnerships in Southeast Asia

Programme Booklet

Thursday, 8 November 2018

**Temasek room 3-4, Level 2,
Hotel Jen Tanglin Singapore
1A Cuscaden Road, 249716, Singapore**

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Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief [HADR] Programme

Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre)

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Nanyang Technological University

Singapore

8 Nov 2018	
Time	Programme
0900 – 1000	<p><u>Opening Ceremony</u></p> <p><u>Welcome Remarks</u> Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony <i>Professor of International Relations Head of Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre), RSIS, NTU, Singapore</i> --</p> <p><u>Keynote Address</u> Dr Win Myat Aye <i>Union Minister for Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Myanmar.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator</u> Mr. Robert H.K. Chua <i>Dean, MFA Diplomatic Academy, Singapore Singapore Ambassador to Myanmar (2006 – 2017)</i></p>
1000 – 1030	Photo-taking / Break
1030 – 1200	<p>Public Roundtable – Practitioners Reflections on Cyclone Nargis Response</p> <p><u>Panelists</u> Dr Noeleen Heyzer <i>Distinguished Visiting Fellow, RSIS Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations (2007-2015)</i></p> <p>Mr. Robert H.K.Chua <i>Dean, MFA Diplomatic Academy, Singapore Singapore Ambassador to Myanmar (2006 – 2017)</i></p> <p>Mr. Ye Htut <i>Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute Deputy Director General at the Department of Information and Public Relations under the Ministry of Information (2005 – 2009)</i></p> <p><u>Moderator</u> Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony <i>Professor of International Relations Head of Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre), RSIS, NTU, Singapore</i></p> <p>Q & A</p> <p><u>End of Public Session</u></p>

Abstract

Cyclone Nargis was the largest cyclone to hit Myanmar in its recorded history. It made landfall on 2 May 2008, and made its way across the country over two days and devastated the Ayeyarwaddy region. An estimated 84,500 people were killed and 53,800 went missing, and around 2.4 million people were affected. On 5 May, ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan called on all member states to provide emergency relief through the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). Three days later the Myanmar government agreed to work in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat to deploy the first ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT). Its report was submitted to a Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. At the meeting ministers agreed to establish an appropriate mechanism. The result was a diplomatic body called the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force (AHTF) including ASEAN, the Myanmar government and the United Nations, and an operational body, the Yangon-based Tripartite Core Group (TCG) to facilitate field operations. This led to the commissioning of the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) by the TCG, a multi-stakeholder joint assessment including the Myanmar government, ASEAN, the UN, international financial institutions and INGOs staffed by over 300 people divided into 32 teams assessing the affected area over ten days. Subsequent efforts were governed by an ASEAN monitoring unit.

These efforts signaled a new dawn for humanitarian partnerships in ASEAN. Now a decade later, the region has appointed its second Executive Director of the AHA Centre since its founding in 2011. It is therefore an appropriate time to reflect on humanitarian mechanisms in ASEAN, share the experiences of a decade, and ponder the replicability of such humanitarian mechanisms and under what circumstances they succeed. This conference will reflect upon the Cyclone Nargis response experience, consider contemporary humanitarian needs, and the impacts and importance of key stakeholders.

Keynote Address



H.E. Dr. Win Myat Aye

H.E. Dr. Win Myat Aye has been currently serving as Union Minister for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar since 1st April 2016. He received Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery Degree from the University of Medicine (1), Yangon in 1980. In 2002, he was recognized as a member of the Australian College of Tropical Medicine. He received M.Med.Sc (Paediatrics) in 1994 and Dr.Medsc (Paediatrics) in 2006 from the University of Medicine (1), Yangon. He also holds a diploma in Medical Education from the same university. In 2016, he received a status of FRCP of the Royal College of Physician from Glasgow, the United Kingdom (UK). He served for the people of Myanmar as a civil servant for 33 years in various positions from medical doctor to Consultant Paediatrician to Professor, then from Professor to Rector. During his time as the Rector of University of Medicine, Magway from 2011 to 2014, he tried to list the University in the World Health Organization (WHO) Avicenna Directory and get the international accreditation. He also introduced democratic practices in the university environment, brought international exposure to the students, and he was the first rector to restart in-campus hostel for university students in Myanmar. For these efforts, he received the Best University in the Region and the Best Manager Award in Oxford Summit of Leaders in the UK in 2013. He also served as the Speaker for Education Committee in Myanmar Medical Association from 2014 to 2015. He has also a strong interest in charity work, and formed the "Helping Hand Charity" for rural health and education development. He is also a member of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party and the elected representative for Amyotha Hluttaw (the House of Nationalities) in the 2015 General Election. He is married and has one son.

About the Speakers (Public Roundtable)



Dr Noeleen Heyzer

Dr Noeleen Heyzer, member of the United Nations Secretary General's High Level Advisory Board on Mediation, was an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations (2007-2015).

She was the first woman to serve as the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific since its founding in 1947. Under her leadership, the commission focused on regional co-operation for shared prosperity, social equality, and sustainable development. She was at the forefront of many innovations including for disaster preparedness, inclusive socio-economic policies, sustainable agriculture and urbanization, ICT and regional connectivity.

She was the first Executive Director from outside North America to lead the United Nations Development Fund for Women, and was widely recognized for her role in the landmark Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. She undertook extensive missions to conflict-affected countries worldwide to help its implementation, resulting in better protection and women playing a bigger role shaping the new direction of their conflict-affected country. She was also the UNSG's Special Adviser for Timor-Leste, working to support peace-building, state-building, and sustainable development.

She holds a BA Honours and a MSc from Singapore University, a PhD from Cambridge University, and has received numerous awards for leadership.



Mr Robert H. K. Chua

A career diplomat, Mr Robert H.K. Chua served as Singapore's Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from May 2006 to December 2017 and he was concurrently Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. His previous postings were the USA (First Secretary in Washington and Consul General in San Francisco), Japan (Counsellor in Tokyo), Philippines (Counsellor in Manila) and Vietnam (Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City). He served as the Senior ASEAN Member in the Myanmar-ASEAN-UN Tripartite Core Group in 2008 which was set up by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers to facilitate the distribution of international humanitarian assistance to the victims of Cyclone Nargis in 2008. He graduated with a Bachelor of Social Sciences Honours degree in Political Science from the University of Singapore in 1979, and a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Boston, USA in 1985 under a Fulbright Scholarship. He was awarded the Civil Service Long Service Medal in 2002 and the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2004. He and his wife Hisayo Yoshida have two children.



Mr Ye Htut

Mr Ye Htut is currently a Visiting Senior Fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. He was Myanmar's Minister for Information (2014-2016), and spokesperson for the Myanmar President (2013-2016). A graduate of the Defense Services Academy, he retired as lieutenant colonel in the Myanmar Armed Forces in 2005 and took up the post of Deputy Director-General in the Ministry of Information. He served in the Ministry as Director-General (2009), then Deputy Minister (2012) before his appointment as the President's spokesperson and Union Minister. His research at ISEAS focuses on lessons from the reform process initiated by the Union Solidarity and Development Party administration's term during 2011-2016.

About the Moderator



Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony

Mely Caballero-Anthony is Professor of International Relations and Head of the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. She is currently the Secretary-General of the Consortium on Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia. From 2013-2017, Prof Anthony was a member of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters and served at its Chairperson in 2016. She was Director of External Relations at the ASEAN Secretariat from 2011-2012 and was recently a member of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Agenda Council on Conflict Prevention. From 2015-2017, she was Vice President at-large of the Governing Council of the International Studies Association (ISA) and is currently member of the ISA's Global South Task Force. She was also a visiting fellow at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University in 2015.

Prof. Anthony research interests include regionalism and multilateralism in Asia-Pacific, human security and non-traditional security, conflict prevention and global governance. She has published extensively on a broad range of security issues in Asia-Pacific. Her latest books, both single-authored and co-edited, include: *Negotiating Governance on Non-Traditional Security in Southeast Asia and Beyond* (New York: Columbia University Press, forthcoming 2018), *An Introduction to Non-Traditional Security Studies*, (London: SAGE Publications Ltd, 2016), *Asia on the Move* (Japan: JCIE, 2015), and *Human Security and Climate Change* (London: Routledge, 2014). Among her recent peer-reviewed articles are: 'Community Security: Human Security at 21', (*Contemporary Politics*, 2015), 'Understanding ASEAN Centrality', (*Pacific Review*, 2014), and 'Human Security in ASEAN: 20 Years On', (*Asian Journal of Peacebuilding*, 2014). Prof. Anthony has also led a number of global and regional research projects on international security and global governance. In 2017, she co-chaired the Global Reflection Group on the 'Monopoly of the Use of Force- 2.0' that brought together 21 scholars from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas that examined the nature of security provision in times of uncertainty. She was also the principal investigator of the MacArthur Asia Security Initiative (ASI) project of Internal Security Challenges in Asia and Cross-Border Implications and was Co-Chair of the Second Murdoch Commission on Food Security, Trade and Partnership in Asia.