

The 2018 Southeast Asia Counter-Terrorism Symposium: A Collective Approach



GEN (Ret) Ryamizard Ryacudu, delivering the opening address at the symposium

By **Joseph Franco**

“The 2018 Southeast Asia Counter-Terrorism Symposium: A Collective Approach” was organised by RSiS with support from the Ministries of Culture, Community and Youth; Defence; Foreign Affairs; Home Affairs; and the National Security Coordination Secretariat. On 4 and 5 October 2018, more than 200 delegates and participants heard presentations from over 20 distinguished speakers on issues relating to countering violent extremism at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Singapore.

In his opening remarks, RSiS Executive Deputy Chairman,

Amb Ong Keng Yong stressed the need for a “multi-year, multi-pronged effort that will be needed not just to defeat ISIS, but an intolerant ideology that comes with it”. He highlighted that the Symposium would cover issues such as building societal resilience against terrorism; enhancing the region’s ability to tackle the increasingly militarised terror networks; tapping technological advancements for counter-terrorism; and exploring areas of cooperation to enhance ASEAN’s collective counter-terrorism capacity.

Indonesian Defence Minister GEN (Ret) Ryamizard Ryacudu delivered an overview of emerging threats in ASEAN. GEN Ryacudu discussed how the “threat has decentralised

from a centralised Islamic State (IS) spreading worldwide after the dismantling of IS in Iraq and Syria”. In conclusion, he highlighted the regional partnerships that have led to successes in both “operational and intelligence fronts”.

Delegates and speakers were provided learning opportunities beyond the Symposium venue. Site visits were made to the Island Defence Training Institute (IDTI) and the Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG) Resource and Counselling Centre. The IDTI was set up to deepen operational knowledge, improve linkages and interoperability between Home Team agencies and the Singapore Armed Forces. The RRG Resource and Counselling

Centre at the Khadijah Mosque serves members of the public who wish to seek clarification on radical ideology and violent extremism as well as provide counselling services.

Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Senior Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs was guest of honour at the Symposium’s official dinner. He highlighted Singapore’s proposal for the “Resilience, Response, and Recovery” (3R) Framework for counter-terrorism, which ASEAN member states can apply for their own national initiatives. In closing, Dr Maliki noted that “a prepared and alert citizenry can contribute in tangible ways to prevent, deal with and respond to security threats”.

Understanding and Countering Disinformation, Online Falsehoods and Fake News

By Eugene Tan Ee Guang

The RSIS' Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) organised a workshop on "Understanding and Countering Disinformation, Online Falsehoods and Fake News" on 24 and 25 July 2018 at Marina Mandarin Singapore. The two-day workshop – which had more than 140 participants in attendance – enhanced understanding of issues arising from deliberate online falsehoods from a multi-disciplinary perspective, providing an opportunity to learn how countries and organisations around the world



Dr Shashi Jayakumar, delivering the opening address

are coping with these issues, and exploring existing and new methods to counter deliberate online falsehoods.

Speakers at the workshop included academics, journalists and representatives from think tanks, international organisations, and social media companies, including Dr Jean-Baptiste Vilmer from the Institute for Strategic Research, France, Mr Janis Sarts from the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, and Mr Craig Silverman from BuzzFeed.

Panels at the workshop provided an in-depth analysis of deliberate online falsehoods, covering issues such as the usefulness of fact-checking; the state of media literacy globally; what media outlets are doing

to improve media literacy; how states deal with foreign influence and information operations; how data is used to target messaging at individuals; how artificial intelligence and big data can be used to identify influence campaigns around elections; and how social media companies are taking action to preserve election integrity. Case studies of how states are affected by disinformation and what they are doing to counter it were also presented at the workshop – the countries featured were Singapore, Indonesia, Myanmar, India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Germany.

Countering Extremism: Now What?

By Joseph Franco

The RSIS' Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS), led by its Radicalisation Studies Programme, held a Workshop titled "Countering Extremism: Now What?" on 10 and 11 September 2018. The CENS Workshop was intended to (i) enhance our understanding of radicalisation from a multi-disciplinary perspective;

(ii) learn how countries and organisations around the world are confronting extremism; and (iii) explore new methods to counter extremism.

The Workshop comprised six panels. The first panel looked at the current state of violent extremism. It was followed by a panel discussion on Indonesia's current challenges in countering violent extremism (CVE). The third panel looked

at Denmark's Aarhus model, which employs mentorship to dissuade vulnerable individuals from extremism. The fourth panel discussed current CVE initiatives in Indonesia. The fifth panel examined the aftermath of the Battle for Marawi, specifically how to prevent the resurgence of Islamic State-linked groups in the Philippines. The final panel focused on the distinct nature of managing extremists in detention.

Twenty speakers from institutions in Australia, Denmark, France, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the United States shared their experiences on dealing with the challenges of CVE. Workshop participants included stakeholders involved in examining radicalisation, CVE, and national security; such as the civil service, non-government organisations and academia.



Panel on "Denmark's Aarhus model"

The European Union as a Global Actor



Ms Federica Mogherini (centre) speaking at the lecture

By **Lee Hui Ying**

Ms Federica Mogherini, the European Union (EU) High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, presented an RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture titled “The European Union as a Global Actor”, on 3 August 2018. Ms Mogherini outlined the EU’s increased engagement with Asian partners over the past few years.

In her opening remarks, Ms Mogherini presented a broad overview of the commonalities between the EU and ASEAN. While both Europe and Asia are geographically distant, she pointed out that both regions share the common view that international disputes should be settled peacefully through diplomacy and dialogue as both stand on the side of cooperative solutions, based on international rules and on

multilateralism. Besides, both regional organisations were founded to promote peace and to integrate the economies of member states; and there is potential for greater engagement and cooperation between member states of both EU and ASEAN.

Ms Mogherini also spoke about the EU’s economic involvement in Asia and its deep interests in the region. She cited the recently signed EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, the EU’s biggest ever trade agreement, as one example of the EU’s deepening ties with the region. She also pointed out that Singapore will be the first among ASEAN states to have free access to the EU market, with the ratification of EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) at the end of the year.

Responding to criticisms around the EU coming across as being overwhelmingly

slow due to its complexity, Ms Mogherini cited the example of EU’s “Operation Sophia”, a military operation aimed at neutralising established refugee smuggling routes in the Mediterranean, explaining the body’s capability to derive a swift response from decision to implementation – all within a short frame of less than a month to counter the criticism that EU is a slow-moving body. She went on to describe the advantage of being a complex organisation – “being complex ourselves, we are in a better position to understand complexity,” she said.

Issues such as the Brexit and the South China Sea dispute were discussed extensively during the dialogue. When asked about how the EU will enforce international law over contentious issues such as these, Ms Mogherini spoke about the EU’s concerns and double interests (political and economic) on the issue but stressed that the EU does not

“enforce international law” and that it is the UN that is responsible for enforcement and implements international law. She then went on to talk about the EU’s commitment to a global order based on international law, and therefore the EU’s concern and commitment to maintain the legal order for the seas and oceans based upon the principles of international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Both the EU and Singapore stand on the same side in global political affairs, more notably on the issue of international rules. And with increasing interconnectivity in terms of the economy, security and culture between the EU and Asia, Ms Mogherini stressed that the EU will be a credible and reliable partner, “a predictable partner, consistent in its commitments”.

4th SRP Distinguished Lecture and Symposium

By Nursheila Binte Abdul Muez

The Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme held its fourth Distinguished Lecture & Symposium on 22 September 2018 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Singapore.

The event brought together 420 religious and community leaders, interfaith practitioners, professionals, public officials,

and students. The theme for the event was “Dialogue in Asia and the West: Interreligious Relations in a World of Conflict and Violence”.

In his lecture, Distinguished Speaker Prof Alwi Shihab, the Indonesian President’s Special Envoy to the Middle East and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, attributed the blatant abuse of religion that we are witnessing to the shift in focus from primary sources to

secondary interpretations. Prof Shihab elaborated that there is a need to return to primary sacred texts to understand religion.

Keynote speakers Prof Gavin Flood from Oxford University and Prof Lai Pan-Chiu from the Chinese University of Hong Kong spoke about Western and Chinese perspectives respectively. After addressing the contradictions between religion and modernity, Prof Flood set out some conditions that can impact the effectiveness of dialogue to produce outcomes that are important to the world, such as the idea of a shared public space and the recognition of the legitimacy of other cultural and religious values. Prof Lai spoke of the values that underlie the Confucian approach to cross-cultural dialogue, such as reciprocity, benevolence and justice.

An interesting segment of the event comprised responses from local religious leaders and academics. The panel represented local perspectives

on the future of interreligious relations from their respective traditions. It consisted of Dr Lee Foong Ming from Buddhist College Singapore; Mr Gerald Kong, executive secretary of the Archdiocesan Catholic Council for Interreligious Dialogue and the Archdiocesan Catholic Council for Ecumenical Dialogue; Assoc Prof Rajesh Rai, who heads the National University of Singapore’s South Asian Department; and Dr Hannan Hassan, vice-dean of Muis Academy.

The audience also had the opportunity to engage with the experts during a roundtable discussion chaired by RSIS Distinguished Fellow, Amb Barry Desker. This was followed by a Q&A session with the local panellists, facilitated by SRP faculty member Assoc Prof Paul Hedges. Topics that were discussed included the role of religion in international relations, and the effectiveness of interreligious dialogue among communities and between countries.



(from left) Prof Gavin Flood, Prof Alwi Shihab, Amb Barry Desker and Prof Lai Pan-Chiu during the roundtable discussion

Historical Journey of China’s Diplomacy

By Li Qianru

Amb Su Ge, Co-Chair of Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) and Chairman of China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (CNCPECC), delivered an RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture titled “Historical Journey of China’s Diplomacy” on 1 October 2018 at NTU@one-north.

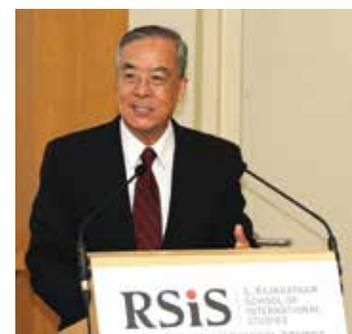
Amb Su explained the three historical periods in China’s diplomacy. He argued that each period was characterised by a new grand strategy. In the first phase, diplomacy during Mao Zedong’s era was marked by the “lean to one side” international strategy in the early years of China’s history. During this period, China experienced

dramatic strategic shifts, from advocating the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, practicing the “One-Line” strategy against the former Soviet Union, to achieving normalisation in China-US relations. In the second era led by Deng Xiaoping since the late 1970s, China forged an “Independent Foreign Policy of Peace” aimed at creating long-term peace and stability in the world, particularly with its neighbours. This international strategy was designed to facilitate China’s economic development and modernisation drive.

In Amb Su’s words, China kept a low profile on many major international affairs and regional sensitive issues, and yet managed to elevate its international standing gradually.

He argued that China’s foreign strategy is in its third phase in the context of Xi Jinping’s leadership. This new era features the dual trends of growing multipolarity and economic globalisation in the world. Under the new international situation, Chinese diplomacy pursues peace, win-win cooperation, and a more favourable international environment for domestic all-round development through creating more strategic dialogues and partnerships. Amb Su contends that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) shows China’s global vision and commitment to work with many other countries for shared benefits and common prosperity.

Amb Su concluded that China’s aspirations for diplomatic independence, economic



Amb Su Ge

development, and modernisation have guided China’s international strategy. Consequently, Chinese diplomacy is in sync with trends of history and the imperatives of specific historical times. He also stressed that cooperation is the only correct choice for China and other countries, and that China’s opening up will continue to intensify.

RSIS Commemorates World Humanitarian Day

By Alistair D. B. Cook

This year the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme of the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) at RSIS held a series of events to mark World Humanitarian Day. It began by hosting the 4th annual RSIS World Humanitarian Day 2018 Public Panel & Exhibition on 14 August 2018. The event brought together key local players in the humanitarian sphere who shared their experiences from the field, to facilitate greater understanding between agencies engaged in humanitarian assistance – and drew an audience of over 60 people.

The panellists this year included Senior Lieutenant Colonel Lim Kok Kheng, Head of Plans and Coordination at the Regional HADR Coordination Centre of the Changi Command and Control Centre; Masahiro Ishizeki, Senior Manager of International Programmes at Mercy Relief, Singapore; and Lieutenant Colonel Ow Yong Tuck Wah, an RSIS alumni and Head of the Specialist Fire Training Centre,

Singapore Civil Defence Force. The panel discussion was moderated by Alistair D. B. Cook, Coordinator of the HADR Programme.

The panel discussion commemorated those who offered their lives in humanitarian service and those in need of assistance, and celebrated the spirit that inspires humanitarian work. The panellists reflected upon the current nature of humanitarian engagement including the evolving landscape of complex humanitarian emergencies and international disaster relief in the Asia Pacific. It also raised public awareness through an exhibition that provided a venue to exchange ideas, network, share insights and experiences from the field.

The second event saw the HADR Programme partner with the Pacific Disaster Center and ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management's Knowledge and Innovation Management Working Group to convene a workshop on 15 and 16 August. Titled "Achieving the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management: Lessons from a Worthy Journey", the workshop's objective was to share ASEAN's experience,



Exhibitors at the World Humanitarian Day 2018 Public Panel & Exhibition on 14 August 2018



Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony (left), Head of NTS Centre, speaking at the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management on 17 August 2018

architecture and mechanisms to help increase HADR capacities, while also exploring HADR's broader linkages to disaster risk reduction and resilience-building efforts.

The workshop discussed the various components of ASEAN's HADR architecture that have been tested following numerous disasters to better understand and analyse how well they have fared relative to the expectations generated by their creation. Participants identified the main challenges and how well they were overcome, how the different pieces of this architecture work together and interact with national and local-level HADR platforms; and how well or which partnerships helped fuel this regional initiative. The workshop shed light on these questions to generate valuable insights regarding ASEAN's past performance, what steps it might take to address future challenges, and the emulative value of its track record for HADR capacity-building innovations in other regions. It was held in Singapore and included participants from the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance in disaster management

(AHA Centre), ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM Focal Points), APEC Secretariat, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Regional HADR Coordination Centre (RHCC), Royal Thai Armed Forces, Singapore Armed Forces, Singapore Space and Technology Association, UN OCHA, diplomatic corps, academia, think tanks, and non-governmental organisations.

The series of events culminated with the HADR Programme serving as the knowledge partner for the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management, which was co-organised by the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre held on 17 August in Singapore. Singapore's Minister for Home Affairs and Law Mr K. Shanmugam was the guest of honour for the event. The dialogue focused on strengthening disaster resilience by enhancing cross-sectoral bodies and multi-stakeholder cooperation; and cultivating innovation to enhance ASEAN's disaster management capabilities.

The Role of the Youth in Indonesia's Future

By **Chaula Rininta Anindya**

Mr Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono, Executive Director of the Yudhoyono Institute, delivered an RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture titled "Unleashing the



Mr Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono

Potential of Young Indonesians: Prospect and Challenges in a Vibrant Democracy" on 13 July 2018 at Marina Mandarin Singapore. Mr Yudhoyono outlined the pivotal role that Indonesia's youth will play to build a better Indonesia in the future.

He noted that Indonesia has a long history of continuity and change in its political leadership. Today, it is thanks to former President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono that President Jokowi is able to build infrastructures. The foundation laid by President Yudhoyono in creating stable growth and a secure environment, was also built upon his predecessors Gus Dur and Megawati's

legacy. Prior to that, President Suharto had laid the foundation for Indonesia's economic and political stability for 32 years. In order to continue adapting and improving itself in a changing global environment, Indonesia's younger generations must learn from their history.

Mr Yudhoyono highlighted the rise of social media which provides political and economic platforms for Indonesian youth. Separately, he added that young Indonesians are making the best use of the digital economy. They have established digital start-ups that have evolved into multi-billion dollar companies, such as Go-Jek and Tokopedia. He encouraged young Indonesians to compete globally and

expand their reach to worldwide audiences.

He also stated that the Indonesian youth have always been a significant factor in Indonesian politics such as during the independence movement and the *Reformasi* (reformation) movement in 1998. It is not surprising, therefore, that all political parties are looking to the youth as potential voters and to join political parties.

In conclusion, Mr Yudhoyono remarked that the youth must develop a hard-working mentality and be ready to serve the country, and that they must work together to create a better future for all Indonesians.

Simultaneous Regional Elections in Indonesia: Characteristics, Implications and Trends

By **Made Ayu Mariska**

On 10 July 2018, the RSIS' Indonesia Programme held a seminar titled "The 2018 Indonesian Simultaneous Regional Elections: Characteristics, Implications and Trends". The seminar covered reports and presentations on five regions in Indonesia, namely East Java, West Java, West Kalimantan, Tanjung Pinang, and North Sumatra, all that were involved in the recent elections

held simultaneously.

The Indonesia Programme's presenters highlighted a number of results from the recently concluded simultaneous regional elections. Although every region has its own characteristics, they shared a few common election themes. One such theme was the popularity of smear campaigns, and the second theme that emerged was the implications of the regional elections on the upcoming presidential election in 2019.

During the campaign period, hoaxes and misleading statements were commonly utilised in every region, although with different intensity. Smear campaigns were not widely used in regions that are more demographically homogeneous, but there were some *fatwa* was between Muslim candidates in East Java that should be taken into account. In the more heterogeneous regions, such campaigns were more prevalent, especially in politics closely linked with indigenous rights

and autonomy, as seen in West Kalimantan and the Muslim and Christian strongholds of North Sumatra.

The regional election results have prominent implications on the upcoming presidential election in 2019. The Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) – the current political vehicle for President Joko Widodo (Jokowi), suffered electoral defeats in many of its constituencies, winning only in four provinces. This meant that the PDI-P may not be the only viable political vehicle for Jokowi to contest in the presidential elections. There is also a possibility that the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS), the National Mandate Party (PAN), and the National Awakening Party (PKB) may coalesce to form an "Islamic axis" or Poros Islam, having made gains in the regional elections for the first time since 1945.



Assoc Prof Leonard Sebastian, Coordinator of the Indonesia Programme, presenting at the seminar

Wasatiyyah Islam: Promoting “Middle-Way” Islam and Socio-economic Equality in Indonesia

By **Chaula Rininta Anindya** and **Tiola Javadi**

Prof Dr K.H. Kyai Ma’ruf Amin, Chairman of the Indonesian Ulama Council (MUI) — the country’s top Islamic authority — delivered an RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture on the Islamic principle of *Wasatiyyah* or moderation on 17 October 2018 at Marina Mandarin Singapore.

Kyai Ma’ruf Amin who is also a running mate of President Joko Widodo in the upcoming 2019 election, explained that *Wasatiyyah* Islam is the “middle way of Islam” which aims to restore and strengthen the values of moderate Islam in Indonesia.

Kyai Ma’ruf Amin stressed the importance of understanding Indonesia as a rich and diverse country, and that the state is neither secular nor based on a single religion. *Wasatiyyah* Islam supports the collective efforts of Indonesian Muslims and all components of society to strengthen unity in Indonesia based on the country’s Five Principles (Pancasila).

Kyai Ma’ruf Amin also stressed the importance of implementing *Wasatiyyah* Islam’s values in the Indonesian economy, by promoting economic equality and social justice for all Indonesians. He explained that *Wasatiyyah* Islam aims to empower the weaker

economic groups, which mostly comprises Muslims.

During the Q&A session, Kyai Ma’ruf Amin stated that *Wasatiyyah* Islam is a flexible concept and can be interpreted and implemented based on the characteristics of the community, as long as such interpretations do not generate conflicts. He also highlighted that *Wasatiyyah* Islam accommodates gender equality, and that the government should continue its efforts to address inequality in gender, education and economic condition among Indonesians.

Concluding his lecture, Kyai Ma’ruf Amin emphasised the importance of *Wasatiyyah* in combating the radical



Kyai Ma’ruf Amin (left), presented with a memento by Prof Tan See Seng, Deputy Director of IDSS

interpretation of Islam and in addressing the issue of extremism.

Indonesia as the Third Largest Democracy: Transformation of the Simultaneous Local Elections



Amb Ngurah Swajaya

By **Keoni Indrabayu Marzuki**

Amb Ngurah Swajaya delivered an RSIS Public Lecture titled “Indonesia as the Third Largest Democracy: Transformation of the Simultaneous Local Elections” on 20 July 2018.

Since 2005, Indonesian voters

have been able to select their local leaders – either at the provincial, regency or municipality levels – directly, instead of having their regional representatives select local leaders. In his lecture, the Ambassador of Indonesia to Singapore, noted that local elections have evolved quite significantly since then, in terms of mechanisms and regulations. First, political parties no longer have a monopoly on regional executive elections as independent candidates with the minimum required endorsement from society can also register their candidacy and compete with party-endorsed candidates on an equal basis. It is now common even for individuals with no affiliation to any political parties to be nominated by them.

Second, Indonesia adopted the current simultaneous regional executive election model in 2015, one year after the 2014 national elections, with the aim of making elections more cost-efficient and effective. In the inaugural phase of the simultaneous elections, local elections were held in 245 regions either at the provincial, regency or municipality level, in a relatively smooth fashion. There were 101 local elections and 171 local elections in the 2017 and 2018 phase respectively. The average turnout rate at the 2018 elections was about 75 percent. Despite some controversies surrounding the simultaneous regional election model, it represents Indonesia’s strengthening and consolidating democracy, both at the local and national levels. And finally,

Indonesia now has better mechanisms and institutions that are better equipped to organise and oversee elections, as well as settle election disputes.

Simultaneous local elections present the modality for Indonesia to strengthen and consolidate democracy at both the local and national levels.

Despite several persistent challenges, such as the influence of money on elections, sectarian politics and logistical challenges, Amb Ngurah stressed that local elections are an important cornerstone of Indonesia’s democracy as they allow new leaders to emerge by providing avenues for well-performing local leaders to move up to national prominence.

Enduring US Military Engagement in the Indo-Pacific Region



Rear Admiral Murray Joe "JT" Tynch III (centre, in uniform) with staff of RSIS' Military Studies Programme

By **Ian Li**

Rear Admiral Murray Joe "JT" Tynch III, Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific, Task Force 73, Singapore Area Coordinator for the US Navy, spoke at a seminar on importance of enduring US Military Engagement in the Indo-Pacific Region on 27 July 2018 at Marina Mandarin Singapore.

During the seminar chaired by Mr Eddie Lim, Senior Fellow and Head of the Military Studies Programme, part of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies at RSIS, Rear Admiral Tynch spoke about the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific Region with regard to its impact on global security. Rear Admiral

Tynch highlighted the US Navy's continued commitment towards meaningful engagement with partners and allies within the region in order to strengthen bonds, and to facilitate bilateral and multilateral communications.

Reiterating the US' commitment to the region, Rear Admiral Tynch stressed that it was a Pacific nation and that its maritime forces had been a part of the regional neighbourhood for a long time, having been actively involved in maritime training and naval engagement activities with a number of regional partners. In addition, it was involved in regional anti-piracy as well as Humanitarian and Disaster Relief operations. However, Rear Admiral Tynch noted a number of critical challenges

to regional security. The modern maritime seascape is becoming increasingly complex and difficult to navigate, he said. At the same time, energy issues are a rising concern due to the growing global population and demand for energy. With increasing connectivity within the region, it is inevitable that these problems will affect not just individual states but the region as a whole, and it was therefore important that states solved these issues through cooperative engagement based on trust and respect. Rear Admiral Tynch believed that in order to overcome these challenges, a continuation of the rules-based system was of paramount importance. He further highlighted how prosperity, stability, and security were intertwined,

and that without security and stability, there could be no economic progress. Sharing from his experience serving in Afghanistan, he said that he believed a Whole-of-Government approach to security was important, particularly in terms of achieving military-civilian integration.

Rear Admiral Tynch's presentation was followed by a Q&A session which was open to the floor during which a number of regional issues were raised and discussed. Finally, Rear Admiral Tynch participated in a post-seminar luncheon where he had the opportunity to mingle with guests, including junior officers from the Singapore Armed Forces who were eager to get insights from and exchange ideas with him.

Visit by Former Chairman of the US National Intelligence Council

By **Jansen Wee**

Prof Christopher Alan Kojm was in Singapore from 15 to 21 August 2018 as part of the Distinguished Visitor Programme hosted by RSIS' National Security Studies Programme (NSSP). A Professor of Practice at the Elliott School of International

Affairs at George Washington University since 2014, Prof Kojm served as chairman of the US National Intelligence Council from 2009 to 2014.

At the Elliott School, Prof Kojm is also the Director of the Leadership, Ethics and Practice Initiative, as well as the US Foreign Policy Summer Program. He previously taught

at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School (2004-2007). His wealth of government experience includes serving as senior advisor to the Iraq Study Group in 2006; president of the 9/11 Public Discourse Project from 2004-2005; deputy director of the 9/11 Commission (2003-2004); and deputy assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (1998-2003).

During the week-long visit to RSIS, Prof Kojm delivered two public seminars. The first seminar, "Current Global and Regional Trends that National Security Policy Communities should be Following", touched upon pertinent trends that were identified as part of the Global Trends 2035 report titled "The Paradox of Progress", including shrinking water resources and demographics, and also

covered near term outlooks and longer term scenarios.

At the second seminar, "Effectively Connecting the Dots in a Complex, Uncertain and Fast-Paced World: Human Institutional and Technological Factors", Prof Kojm spoke about how the US intelligence community "connected the dots" and extracted meaning from complex and vast data flows, and how it adopted cutting edge technologies to provide key information to policymakers to help them meet security challenges.

While in Singapore, Prof Kojm also made a call on Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean and Home Affairs and Law Minister K. Shanmugam, and met and exchanged ideas with several senior Singapore government officials. He also had the opportunity to meet with staff from the RSIS' International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, as well as other analysts from both RSIS and the government sector.



Prof Kojm (centre) with staff from the National Security Studies Programme, RSIS

Globalisation and the Economic-Security Nexus

By **Amanda Huan**

Prof Evelyn Goh, Ngee Ann Kongsi Professor of International Relations at RSIS, and Shedden Professor of Strategic Policy Studies at Australian National University spoke about Asia's age of uncertainty at an RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture held on 23 August 2018.

Prof Goh outlined three broad trends that characterised the present "age of uncertainty". The first concerns extreme interdependence –including both technological interdependence and high mobility.

The second relates to intense great power competition as China continues to become

more assertive, while the US's commitment to the world remains uncertain, resulting in a shift away from US hegemony to a more multipolar world.

The third trend is the onset of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which will bring about unpredictable and major transformations to international relations as the way states conduct relations will evolve. Cyber warfare is an example of this kind of transformation.

The implication of the three themes is that there will be more stakeholders, actors and considerations, contributing to greater uncertainty. This means countries will have more options, face fewer binary-type situations, and

there will be fewer zero-sum games. In this ambiguous strategic environment, the way diplomats are trained will also have to change from a specialist to a generalist approach, as they will require diversity of knowledge.

Prof Goh also spoke about the economic-security nexus and how it can explain some major geopolitical shifts. For example, China's Belt and Road Initiative shows how economics can provide rule-making power as China's connectivity plans have given it considerable influence in many developing economies. Separately, the recent rise in populism also illustrates how economics can affect security and politics. Dissatisfaction with the perceived lack of



Prof Evelyn Goh

economic development is no longer merely an economic issue, but a political and security issue too.

Digital Rehabilitation a New Frontier to Explore in Fight Against Extremism

By **Jennifer Dhanaraj**

As the time required for individuals to get radicalised is shortening, it has become more difficult to intervene effectively before radicalisation takes place, according to Mr Philip Barton, Director General, Consular and Security at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He expressed these concerns during a meeting with Prof Rohan Gunaratna, Head of the International Centre of Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) at RSIS, on 1 June 2018.

Given that extremists use the online space to radicalise and recruit individuals, it is



Mr Philip Barton (left) and Ms Alexandra McKenzie

important to create online platforms to prevent digital entrapment, Prof Gunaratna said. He added that ICPVTR is exploring the creation of a digital rehabilitation programme. "If visitors to the

digital rehabilitation sites are radical, they will experience cognitive dissonance. The content will build resilience among potential recruits to terrorism and extremism," he said.

As the concepts of Islam are being distorted by radicals both in the physical and virtual spaces, Singapore's approach is for its clerics to be at the forefront in the fight against ideological extremism and its by-product, terrorism, Prof Gunaratna said.

Mr Barton, who was accompanied by Ms Alexandra McKenzie, Deputy British High Commissioner to Singapore, expressed concern over growing extremism in the region in light of the coordinated suicide bombings orchestrated by two families in Surabaya in May. In his view, the attacks demonstrate that terrorists are now recruiting and radicalising entire families. And according to him, it is important to step up regional efforts to counter threats posed by fighters returning from conflict areas.

The Changing Counter-terrorism Landscape in Southeast Asia

By **Stephanie Mulholland**

There were three emerging trends in the terrorist threat in Southeast Asia, said Prof Rohan Gunaratna, Head of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR), in his discussion with Amb Nathan Sales, Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the US Department of State. The discussion on the changing counter-terrorism landscape in Southeast Asia was held on 11 September 2018.

First, Al Qaeda centric groups are being supplanted by Islamic State-centric groups. Second, the threat posed by Al Qaeda and Islamic State-centric groups has neither declined nor plateaued, but continues to grow. And third, the threat has expanded from

Iraq and Syria into parts of Asia, Africa and the Middle East, both in the physical and virtual world.

Prof Gunaratna and Ms Sabariah Hussin, Research Analyst at ICPVTR, presented Amb Sales with a copy of their most recent book, *International Case Studies of Terrorist Rehabilitation*. Ms Hussin spoke of the recent publication, highlighting Singapore's model for the de-radicalisation and rehabilitation of terrorist detainees.

ICPVTR worked with the Religious Rehabilitation Group to develop a comprehensive rehabilitation model comprising six modes: religious, social, vocational, educational, creative arts and psychological. The partnership between government and civil society organisations in the rehabilitation of terrorist inmates and detainees is vital,

she added. With the recent family unit attacks in Surabaya, Ms Hussin emphasised the need for building resilience among vulnerable family members. Responding to Amb Sales' question of how the rise

of violent extremism can be prevented in the region, Prof Gunaratna said that governments should work closely with religious, educational and media organisations to do so. He also added that Indonesia's National Counter-Terrorism Agency should partner with the two mainstream Muslim organisations in the country (Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah) to raise public awareness and to build resilience in the community.



Amb Nathan Sales (centre), receiving the book titled "International Case Studies of Terrorist Rehabilitation" from Ms Sabariah Hussin. Beside them is Prof Rohan Gunaratna

Moving Forward on the North Korea Nuclear Issue

By Sarah Teo

On 27 August 2018, Amb Oh Joon, former South Korean ambassador to the United Nations and Professor of United Nations Studies at Kyung Hee University, delivered a talk titled “The North Korean Nuclear Issue: Does History Move Forward or Repeat Itself?” at RSIS. Based on his experience as South Korea’s permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) from 2013-2016 and a member of the UN Security Council in 2013-2014, Amb Oh shared his views on recent developments in the efforts to denuclearise North Korea. The seminar

was chaired by Mr Han Fook Kwang, Senior Fellow at RSIS.

Amb Oh pointed out that a nuclear-armed North Korea would pose a challenge to non-proliferation, as well as to the strategic balance in Northeast Asia. However, with last year’s sanctions starting to have an impact on North Korea, efforts towards dialogue have commenced among various stakeholders in the Korean peninsula since early 2018, including two inter-Korean summits and a historic meeting between US President Donald Trump and North Korean Chairman Kim Jong Un in Singapore. In these meetings, the issue of denuclearisation

was broached, with both South and North Korea committing to work towards the complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

Going forward, Amb Oh suggested two potential scenarios to resolve the nuclear conundrum. The first scenario assumes that North Korea is genuinely willing to pursue denuclearisation, leading to continued negotiations and eventual agreement on the details of a final deal and timeline of its implementation. The second assumes that North Korea will try to pursue economic gains through the easing of sanctions without actual nuclear disarmament,



Amb Oh Joon

making agreement on the details of denuclearisation an elusive and drawn-out process. In the meantime, however, attempts to build trust between North and South Korea will continue.

Energy Security and Digitalisation: Geostrategic Implications and Cybersecurity Challenges



Dr Frank Umbach

By Nandhakumar Gunasekaran

Dr Frank Umbach delivered two seminars titled “Energy Security and Digitalisation: Challenges and Geostrategic Implications” and “Cybersecurity of Critical Infrastructures: New Challenges Ahead of Digitalisation, Internet of Things and Industry 4.0” on 4 and 5 September 2018 respectively. Dr Umbach is an Adjunct Senior Fellow at RSIS and Research Director of the European Centre for Energy

and Resource Security at King’s College in London, and senior associate at the Centre for European Security Strategies, Munich. Both seminars were attended by representatives from government, industry and academia.

In the first seminar, Dr Umbach explained that one way to characterise energy security is through the “Energy Triangle” wherein governments face the challenge of balancing three factors: (i) security of supply; (ii) economic competitiveness; and (iii) sustainability, with public acceptance as a major factor in determining this balance.

The digitalisation of the energy sector and the ongoing shift to renewable energy poses numerous geostrategic implications globally. For example, there is a higher demand for electricity due to the widespread use of information

communications technology; growing dependency on the supply security of critical raw materials such as rare earth; impact from decarbonisation on the political-economic stability of oil and gas producer countries; and a need for advanced battery storage technologies.

Since energy security and critical energy infrastructure protection can hardly be separated due to digitalisation, in his second seminar, Dr Umbach spoke about another major geostrategic implication – the cybersecurity of critical infrastructures.

Dr Umbach noted that critical energy infrastructure protection entails guarding against a wide range of threats from state and non-state actors in the physical and cyber realms, with the energy sector being among the top five most targeted sectors

worldwide. Energy infrastructure such as industrial control systems and supervisory control and data acquisition systems involved in power grid and power plant operations are particularly vulnerable to cyberattacks.

In response, international cooperation between countries in relation to information exchange and law enforcement has increased. The concept of cyber resilience, which encompasses cybersecurity and business resilience, is also relevant given the private sector’s role in infrastructure protection. However, there is a pressing need for more cyber resilience measures involving all stakeholders including governments, the private sector and others given the increasingly sophisticated offensive capabilities of cyber adversaries.

Rules-based Order in the Indo-Pacific Region

By **Mahalakshmi Ganapathy**

The term Indo-Pacific received a boost during US President Donald Trump's Asia visit in 2017. The "Quad", comprising the US, Japan, India, and Australia, is the latest manifestation of this evolving construct. To flesh out the motivations, the likely strategy of this Indo-Pacific construct, the role of the Quad, and to understand China's reactions to it, a workshop titled "Rules-based Order in the Indo-Pacific Region" was jointly organised by RSIS and the Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University on 9 July 2018. Held at Hotel Jen Tanglin Singapore, participants at the seminar comprised a diverse group of scholars from the



Assoc Prof Li Mingjiang, Coordinator of China Programme, RSIS, speaking at the workshop

US, China, Australia, Japan, India, and Singapore.

Each of the Quad countries has been engaging with the Indo-Pacific/Asia-Pacific region for a

long time and considers itself a key player in the region. China is seen as the outsider these countries are focused on, but it is China's relationship with the US that shapes the idea of the Quad. While the US is eager to formalise the Quad, countries such as Australia, India, Japan, and Indonesia are apprehensive about how they define their place in the Indo-Pacific region given the strategic competition between China and the US.

For example, India is often referred to as a key player in the Indo-Pacific, but its strategic priorities differ from those of the US. While the key US priority is to balance an assertive China, India's priority is to maintain its leadership in the Indian Ocean area. Additionally, differences in

mapping the Indo-Pacific, and India's policy of simultaneously countering and placating China complicate the equation further.

The Indo-Pacific construct is still at a nascent stage, and evolving; and each player has a different interpretation of its place in the Quad. Given each of the Quad countries' economic, trade and cultural interdependence with China, it is unlikely that consensus on how to take forward their strategic relations *vis-à-vis* the Quad and the US will be reached easily. That said, the speakers did note that these deliberations are useful to conceptualise the definition and motivations of the Quad, and the contours of the rules-based order.

RSIS Roundtable with Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, Chief of the Royal Australian Navy

By **Collin Koh**

An Australian defence delegation led by Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, Chief of the Royal Australian Navy, visited RSIS for a roundtable discussion on 17 August 2018. Prof Ralf Emmers, Associate Dean of RSIS, chaired the session, and Assoc Prof Li Mingjiang and Research Fellow Dr Collin Koh, participated in the discussion.

Starting off the discussion, Dr Koh provided a brief on maritime force developments in the Indo-Pacific region, focusing on both quantitative and qualitative trends in recent procurement patterns of the navies, and maritime law enforcement agencies.

Assoc Prof Li shared his thoughts on China's policy on the South China Sea issue, touching on the various strategic and domestic motivations behind Beijing's current activities in and around the disputed waters. He also shared his perspectives on the prospects of future Chinese behaviour in the South China Sea, arguing that Beijing will aim to maintain stability in the disputed area while consolidating its gains there, with the ultimate goal of achieving military dominance and securing its economic interests in those waters. However, Assoc Prof Li also warned about the rise of nationalism in China with respect to the South China Sea, which complicates decision-making in Beijing.



Vice Admiral Michael Noonan (left) speaking with Prof Ralf Emmers

Vice Admiral Noonan, meanwhile, offered his perspectives as a senior navy practitioner who has recently taken on the appointment relating to the South China Sea issues. The discussion revolved

around not only China and the South China Sea dispute, but also Australia's official stance and approaches in dealing with the issue, and broader relations with Beijing.

The Annual RSIS-China Think Tanks Exchange

By Irene Chan

The annual RSIS-China Think Tanks Exchange is part of the China Programme's (of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies — IDSS) effort to encourage greater dialogue between researchers

in Singapore and China, and to explore opportunities for enhanced cooperation with Chinese think tanks and scholars. This year's exchange took place in Beijing, China, on 6 and 7 September 2018. Prof Ralf Emmers, Associate Dean of RSIS, led the RSIS delegation, which included

staff from IDSS — Prof Tan See Seng, Deputy Director of IDSS; Assoc Prof Li Mingjiang, Coordinator of the China Programme; Ms Jane Chan, Coordinator of the Maritime Security Programme; Dr Sinderpal Singh, Senior Fellow of the South Asia Programme; and Ms Irene Chan, Associate Research Fellow of the China Programme.

US relations and the brewing trade conflict, security issues in Northeast Asia, the Indo-Pacific concept, and the Belt and Road Initiative. Chinese participants at the forum included prominent scholars from various think tanks and universities in Beijing. At the forum, RSIS delegates made brief presentations and held frank discussions with Chinese scholars on each of these topics.



RSIS Delegation with Chinese counterparts in Beijing from 6 to 7 September 2018

On 6 September, the RSIS delegation participated in the 3rd China-Singapore Think Tank Forum, a closed-door dialogue jointly organised by RSIS and the PanGoal Institute. They were warmly hosted by Prof Wang Dong, the Secretary-General of PanGoal Institute's Academic Committee. Titled "Asia-Pacific 2018: The Processes and Challenges of Regional Cooperation", this year's forum covered topics such as Sino-

On 7 September, the RSIS delegation also held fruitful discussions on Asia Pacific security, great power relations, and regional political economy with three leading Chinese state-affiliated think tanks – the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, the China Institute of International Studies, and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS).

The US Army's Regional Leadership Development Program-Pacific

By Ho Shu Huang

The US Army's Regional Leadership Development Program-Pacific (RLDP-P) visited RSIS on 23 July 2018. Mr Eddie Lim, Head of the Military Studies Programme (MSP) at RSIS, hosted the delegation of 40 participants led by Major General (Ret) Clarence Chinn, most recently the Commander US Army South.

The RLDP-P participants were introduced to the research done by the school, as well as the MSP. Presentations by three MSP faculty followed.

Assoc Prof Ahmed Hashim's presentation, "Evolution of Hybrid Warfare Theory and Practice: Three Cases", explored how the *modus operandi* of current global terrorist operations have evolved, and how addressing the threat they pose is more difficult.

Prof Pascal Vennesson then offered an introduction to regional militaries with his presentation, "Militaries and Security in Southeast Asia". Finally, Assoc Prof Bernard Loo explored the rise in military expenditure in the region by connecting them to geostrategic developments.



Mr Eddie Lim, speaking to the participants

His presentation, "Arms Race and Military Modernisation in Southeast Asia", concluded the session.

Exchanges such as these

allow RSIS faculty and staff to interact with young leaders from outside of Singapore, reinforcing the school's role as a valuable venue to exchange ideas and network.

Understanding Islamic Organisations' Strategies in Indonesia

By **Made Ayu Mariska**

Dr Ioana Emy Matesan,
Assistant Professor of
Government at Wesleyan



Dr Ioana Emy Matesan

University, Connecticut, delivered a seminar titled "Principled Pragmatists: The Escalation and De-escalation of Islamist Tactics in Egypt and Indonesia" on 6 June 2018.

Dr Matesan specialises in comparative politics and the politics of the Middle East, with a particular interest in political violence, democratisation, and Islamist movements. The seminar she presented was closely linked to a chapter in her book which narrates the evolution of four Islamic organisations, namely the Muslim Brotherhood, al-Gama'a al-Islamiyah, Darul Islam and al-Jama'a al-Islamiyah (Jemaah Islamiyah), and the reasons why they adopted or abandoned violence. For this seminar, she

focused on the organisations in Indonesia – Darul Islam and Jemaah Islamiyah.

Darul Islam and Jamaah Islamiyah's goal to build an Islamic state has fuelled the Indonesian authority's resistance towards them. These groups tend to retaliate with the rise of the threats to the Islamic community or their organisations.

For these organisations to abandon violence, the government has to apply pressure to weaken them organisationally. In addition, non-repressive measures can also provide important exit options for individuals before they take to violence. Therefore, de-radicalising these organisations requires

the government to design exit options, reduce social grievances, and promote trust.

Dr Matesan also highlighted that the recent series of bombings in Indonesia was possibly triggered by revenge for the captured members of the groups. Jemaah Islamiyah had sent a message to the authorities that there will be more attacks if the group's activities were threatened. Due to this attack, it is now time for the government to take stronger actions to eradicate extremist groups. She also added that the symbolism of the bombings as an act of Jihad was one of the reasons why they were carried out in the first place.

Is War Coming to the Middle East?

By **Stephanie Mulholland**

Mr Jonathan Paris, Associate Fellow of the Global Diplomatic Forum, London, and Senior Advisor with the Chertoff Group, Washington, visited RSIS on 7 September 2018 to present a seminar titled "Is War Coming to the Middle East?" Chaired by Prof Rohan Gunaratna, Head of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, Mr Paris discussed the security threat within the Middle East and how this may play out in the near future.

Mr Paris predicted that over the next 6-10 months, to as far as 2020, tensions will persist in the Middle East. He added that the wave of terrorism in

the Middle East is having a global impact, including on Southeast Asia.

In his view, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is the primary instigator of current tensions, but he identified three strategic flaws in their campaign in Syria. First, the IRGC wrongly believed it was still dealing with Washington under President Obama and thought the US was cutting back. Second, the IRGC found that the people of Iran were not very happy with its aggressive regional military policy. Third, owing to Iran's influence in countries with Shia populations, Israel feel insecure.

Currently, the big question in



Mr Jonathan Paris (second from left) during his presentation at the seminar

the Middle East is whether Iran will, like the United States, leave the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Mr Paris highlighted five likely scenarios for Iran. In the first, the regime will collapse. In the second, there is a new deal. In the third, Iran leaves the JCPOA. In the fourth, Iran violates the JCPOA or violates the Non Proliferation Treaty altogether. And in the

last scenario, Iran will adopt strategic patience and continue its current activities.

Mr Paris concluded by saying that by saying one of these five scenarios will play out by the end of the year. Either Iran or Israel will clearly gain the upper hand in Syria by the end of 2019, and the nuclear issue will become the focal point of security threats by 2020.

RSIS Roundtable with National Institute for Defense Studies

By Collin Koh

On 20 July 2018, the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies hosted a roundtable with a visiting delegation from the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), a think tank of the Japan Ministry of Defense, presented by Dr Tomotaka Shoji and Mr Yu Harada. The discussion, chaired by Prof Tan See Seng, Deputy Director and Head of Research of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, revolved around Singapore's foreign policy, particularly with reference to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Beijing's militarisation in the South China Sea, and the proposed Code of Conduct (CoC).

Assoc Prof Alan Chong of the Centre for Multilateralism Studies, briefed the NIDS delegation on Singapore's foreign policy and its response to the BRI. He outlined the low-profile role the city-state maintains in facilitating Beijing's BRI activity in Southeast Asia and beyond, highlighting the complex nuances of China-Singapore bilateral relations in the greater scheme of affairs.

Dr Collin Koh, Research Fellow at the Maritime Security Programme, gave an update to the NIDS delegates on the present status of Beijing's militarisation in the SCS and its ramifications on regional security – in particular, Dr Koh spoke on freedom of navigation and overflight. It



Mr Yu Harada (left) and Dr Tomotaka Shoji

was in this context that Ms Lee YingHui, Senior Analyst with the same programme, presented her views on the progress made so far with respect to the proposed CoC,

of which a draft framework was adopted by ASEAN and China in August 2017, and is currently in the process of being negotiated.

Cyber Operations in War and Peacetime



Air Commodore (Ret) William Boothby

By Christopher Chen

The RSIS' Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) hosted a seminar titled "Cyber Operations in War and Peacetime – Fundamental Issues and Critical Reflections" on 6 September 2018.

The seminar was delivered by Air Commodore (Ret) William Boothby, Associate Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, and moderated by Mr Kwa Chong Guan, Senior Fellow at RSIS. The event had a turnout of about 20 people from the government sector, academia, and foreign embassies.

At the seminar, Dr Boothby discussed the development of international law pertaining to states' cyber activity, and in the process, exposed some of the complexities in regulating what is such a contested space. In particular, he emphasised the inherent degree of ambiguity around what constitutes use of force and an armed attack in cyberspace.

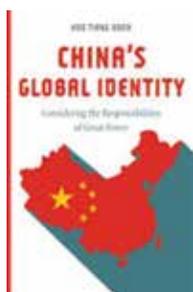
Having been involved in writing the 2013 Tallinn Manual on the Law of Cyber Warfare, he highlighted some positive aspects of the manual, and also criticisms levelled against it. While the manual attempts to address how international law is applied in a cyber context, a few countries are critical of its approach – they argue it ignores the differing views on sovereignty and information space that states might have. This complex and ambiguous

legal situation poses a challenge for states and international bodies when they try to negotiate issues pertaining to cyber operations and warfare.

Dr Boothby also talked about the reports published by the United Nations General Assembly-mandated Group of Governmental Experts, and it was more globally representative than the Tallinn Manual.

In conclusion, he spoke about the Code of Conduct on Information Security proposed by Russia, China and other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. In his view, the difference in opinion between the West on the one hand, and China and Russia on the other, prevents global consensus from being reached, hindering the creation of granular, and more defined legal standards.

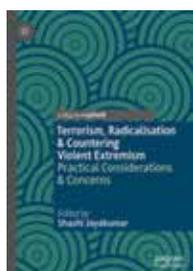
STAFF PUBLICATIONS



China's Global Identity: Considering The Responsibilities of Great Power

Hoo Tiang Boon. Georgetown University Press: 2018. ISBN: 9781626166134

In *China's Global Identity*, Hoo Tiang Boon embarks on the first sustained study of China's great power identity. Focus is drawn to China's positioning of itself as a responsible power and the underestimated role played by the United States in shaping this face. In 1995 President Bill Clinton notably called for China to become a responsible great power, one that integrates itself into existing international institutions and becomes a leader in solving global problems. Chinese leaders were at that time already debating their future course and obligations to the world. Hoo examines this ongoing internal debate through Chinese sources and reveals the underestimated role that the United States has in this dialogue. Unraveling the big power politics, history, events, and ideas behind the emergence and evolution of China's great power identity, the book provides fresh insights into the real-world issues of how China might use its power as it grows. The question of China's role as a responsible power has real-world implications for its diplomacy and trajectory, as well as the responses of states adjusting to these shifts. The book offers a new lens for scholars, policy professionals, diplomats, and students in the fields of international relations and Asian affairs to make sense of China's rise and its impact on America and global order.

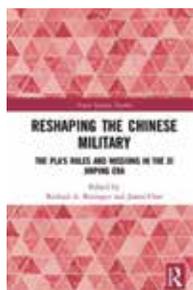


Terrorism, Radicalisation & Countering Violent Extremism: Practical Considerations & Concerns

Edited by Shashi Jayakumar. Palgrave Macmillan: 2018. ISBN 978-981-13-1998-3

This book brings together research that covers perspectives and case studies on terrorism, radicalisation and countering violent extremism (CVE). Written by experts involved in these issues at the grassroots, the book bridges the academic-practitioner gap in the field. The proliferation of academic studies and conferences devoted to these subjects has meant that policymakers and practitioners in the same fields sometimes struggle to digest the sheer volume of academic output. The same critical questions keep coming up, but it is debatable the level to which there have been tangible improvements to our real state of knowledge: knowledge in especially in terms of what "best practices" exist in the field (and what can be translated, versus what approaches remain context and location specific).

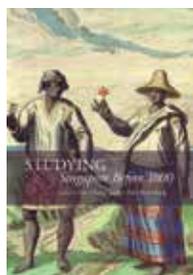
Written in an accessible manner for the general interested reader, practitioners, and policymakers in the field, this volume comprises edited versions of papers presented at CVE workshops run by the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, in 2016 and 2017.



Reshaping the Chinese Military: The PLA's Roles and Missions in the Xi Jinping Era

Edited by Richard A. Bitzinger and James Char. Routledge: 2018. ISBN: 978-1-13-861212-9

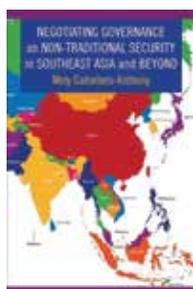
This book explores how China's growing military prowess, along with Beijing's ongoing shift away from "keeping a low profile," owes much to the policies of the China's Communist Party under Xi Jinping's leadership. The chapters in the book share a central theme: the recalibration of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) roles and missions since Xi Jinping assumed the trifecta of Party-state-military power. These contributions seek to explore in depth some of the key issues and scrutinize the enhancements in the PLA's operational capabilities, both in terms of its hardware as well as its «heartware» – the human elements of its development such as operational culture and doctrine. In all, the chapters document the transformative change the PLA has undergone since the profound realisation of its previous limitations vis-à-vis the United States' advanced military operations of the previous century as well as pointing to continuity amidst change. This book will be of much interest to students of strategic studies, Chinese politics, Asian security, defence studies, and international relations, in general.



Studying Singapore before 1800

Edited by Kwa Chong Guan and Peter Borschberg. NUS Press: 2018. ISBN: 978-981-4722-74-2

This volume collects studies about Singapore before 1800, bringing together different efforts across the 20th century at reconstructing Singapore's "missing years". Some authors have found additional details by scouring ancient and early modern texts for references to Singapore, and by reading well-known classics such as the *Sejarah Melayu* against the grain. Others have built narratives that bridge pre- and post-1800 perspectives by positioning Singapore within long-term global history. These efforts have yielded a much richer understanding of Singapore's changing fortunes before 1800. The articles collected in this volume represent key milestones in this effort. Many are hard to locate, and two pieces are translated from Dutch to English for the first time. They are presented here with an introduction from historian Kwa Chong Guan.



Negotiating Governance on Non-Traditional Security in Southeast Asia and Beyond

Mely Caballero-Anthony. Columbia University Press: 2018. ISBN: 9780231183000

In this book, Mely Caballero-Anthony examines how non-traditional security challenges have changed state behavior and security practices in Southeast Asia and the wider East Asia region. Referencing the wide range of transborder security threats confronting Asia today, she analyses how non-state actors are taking on the roles of "security governors," engaging with states, regional organizations, and institutional frameworks to address multifaceted problems. From controlling the spread of pandemics and transboundary pollution, to managing irregular migration and providing relief and assistance during humanitarian crises, Caballero-Anthony explains how and why non-state actors have become crucial across multiple levels—local, national, and regional—and how they are challenging regional norms and reshaping security governance. Combining theoretical discussions on securitisation and governance with a detailed and policy-oriented analysis of important recent developments, *Negotiating Governance on Non-Traditional Security in Southeast Asia and Beyond* points us toward "state-plus" governance, where a multiplicity of actors form the building blocks for multilateral cooperative security processes to meet future global challenges.

THINK TANK

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UPCOMING EVENTS

6 DECEMBER 2018

RSIS SEMINAR BY DR PHIL CHAN ON "A KEEN OBSERVER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RULE OF LAW? INTERNATIONAL LAW IN CHINA'S VOTING BEHAVIOUR AND ARGUMENTATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL"

11 DECEMBER 2018

RSIS ROUNDTABLE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN NUCLEAR ENERGY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: EMERGING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES ON "DEVELOPMENTS IN NUCLEAR ENERGY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: EMERGING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES"

21 JANUARY-1 FEBRUARY 2019

TERRORISM ANALYST TRAINING COURSE 2019

22-23 JANUARY 2019

RSIS CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL MARITIME SECURITY OUTLOOK 2019

21 FEBRUARY 2019

NSSP ANNUAL DIALOGUE ON "NATIONAL SECURITY IN A COMPLEX ENVIRONMENT: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS FOR SINGAPORE"

MARCH 2019

NTS-ASIA CONSORTIUM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

3 APRIL 2019

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE AND INTERRELIGIOUS SYMPOSIUM

MAY 2019

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY CONFERENCE