

Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies

Year In Review 2019



CENTRE FOR
NON-TRADITIONAL
SECURITY STUDIES
YEAR IN REVIEW 2019

CENTRE FOR NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY STUDIES,
S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES,
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, SINGAPORE

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Message from the Executive Deputy Chairman, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Dear Readers,

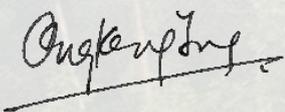
Non-traditional security (NTS) issues continue to threaten the well-being of nations and communities in Asia and around the world. The need to build resilience in our systems and processes has never been greater. As we approach the 5th anniversary of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is timely to assess how many of the NTS challenges such as climate change and irregular migration are intrinsically tied to these Goals.

In this NTS Year in Review 2019 from the RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre), our established scholars and trained researchers have written and compiled a series of short but insightful articles on how NTS issues intersect with the SDGs. These articles hope to elicit some reflection on the importance of achieving the SDGs as part of the process of addressing non-traditional security challenges. We need innovative ideas and renewed commitment to move ahead.

At face value, addressing the multi-faceted and wide-ranging nature of the SDGs might prove to be a daunting task. However, the agenda's vision of 'shared prosperity in a sustainable world' is not beyond reach. All of us should champion this farsightedness. To this end, a concerted effort is required on the part of every government and individual to achieve the SDGs.

As a knowledge centre, think tank, and institute of higher learning, RSIS is well-placed to contribute to the realisation of the SDGs. The NTS Centre's policy discussions and awareness-building activities will continue to reach out to all quarters. We will update our information, do more research and mutual learning, and maintain a positive approach to be future-ready.

RSIS is proud to be at the forefront of research in the area of non-traditional security. We hope that you will find this Year in Review useful in terms of understanding and appreciating this field of study. As usual, we welcome your feedback on what RSIS and the NTS Centre are doing.



Ong Keng Yong
Executive Deputy Chairman
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Message from Head of Centre

Dear Readers,

Against the backdrop of climate-induced disasters and forced displacement in the region, there is significant concern about the transboundary and long-term implications of these threats and other kinds of non-traditional security (NTS) challenges on the welfare and security of societies and states. Closer assessment of how these challenges are addressed points to their obvious links to the various elements of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With 2030 just over a decade away, it is appropriate to appraise whether we are on track to achieve the SDGs. Many of these developmental goals require collective attention and action. More importantly, a more ambitious approach is deemed necessary in order to reach the level of transformation needed to achieve the Goals.

Within Southeast Asia, as different communities work to build their resilience, ASEAN is also starting to adopt a more outward-looking approach to strengthen regional efforts to respond to security and development challenges. Specifically, it hopes to foster inter-regional cooperation on issues such as disaster management and climate security. An example of this can be found in this year's ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM), which allowed different stakeholders in ASEAN to actively engage with participants from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the African Union. Forging inter-regional partnerships through knowledge sharing platforms such as the SPDDM is an excellent way to strengthen the building blocks of international multilateral cooperation to achieve the SDGs and most of all, to help affected communities cope with the effects of complex NTS challenges.

The NTS Year in Review 2019 comprises articles which discuss some of the NTS challenges confronting the region and their linkages with the SDGs. These articles also draw out the potential pathways to addressing these challenges ahead. We hope that you will find these articles useful in providing a holistic understanding of the kinds of challenges we face today. The NTS Centre will also continue to conduct policy-oriented research focusing on three core areas: climate security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and migration issues.



Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony

Head

Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Key NTS Events 2019

The Indonesian government decided to increase its disaster response budget to \$15 trillion rupiah in 2019, following the series of disasters which devastated three regions in 2018.

*

On 30 January, the formal conference among the five nuclear-weapon states was held in Beijing. China, France, Russia, the UK and the US carried out in-depth and candid dialogue on nuclear security issues.

*

On 19 Jan 2019, Agriculture Ministers of 74 countries adopted a resolution during the 2019 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in support of an international Digital Council for Food and Agriculture.

The Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week 2019 was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 4 to 8 February. Indonesia's disaster risk reduction model was named as a best practice based on its experiences in handling disaster recovery in Palu and Donggala in 2018.

*

On 14 February 2019, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte signs the landmark Rice Tariffication Act (Republic Act 11203) that does away with Philippine import quotas on imported rice, a trade stance it has held for close to 50 years; this has been replaced with tariffs, which are relatively less restrictive.

On 31 March, a severe rainstorm swept through southern Nepal, injuring more than 400 people and killing at least 27. The Nepali Meteorological Forecasting Division failed to adequately warn people and the storm's impact was exacerbated by inadequate preparedness.

*

On 5 March, Thailand hosted the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Marine Debris in Bangkok. The Ministers agreed to forward the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region to the ASEAN Leaders Summit in June.

*

On 7 March 2019, Singapore publicly announced its bold '30-by-30' food security target, of domestically producing 30% of its total nutritional needs.

January

February

March

July

August

September

China was hit by a series of floods, typhoons, hail, droughts and earthquakes which affected more than 25 million people. The combined impact of the disasters amounted to 26,000 houses and 3.2 million hectares of crops destroyed, which led to a direct economic loss of 56.57 billion yuan.

*

The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Yukiya Amano passed away on 18 July. Mr Amano, a distinguished Japanese diplomat, was praised by the international community for his dedication and devotion to the work of the IAEA and to the peaceful use of nuclear technology for the benefit of people around the world.

*

The 6th Annual Meeting of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy and Technical Session on Nuclear Security in ASEAN was held in Krabi, Thailand from 1–4 July. ASEANTOM members shared their activities related to ASEANTOM and discussed on the network's regional projects on nuclear safety, security, and emergency preparedness and response.

The 50th session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was held from 2 – 7 August. The meeting accepted and approved the Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems.

*

On 22 August, Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh rejected a second attempt over safety concerns in Myanmar. The failed repatriation efforts coincided with the second anniversary of the 2017 crackdown in Rakhine state, where more than 6700 Rohingya Muslims were killed in a month.

*

Russia deployed the world's first floating nuclear reactor across the Arctic on 23 August despite environmentalists warning of serious risks to the region. The deployment also signifies the technological progress made by the nuclear industry.

Flash floods caused by torrential rain in the Southern and Western provinces of Sri Lanka resulted in thousands of displaced people.

*

On 16 September, ASEAN and the IAEA signed Practical Arrangements in Vienna to promote cooperation in nuclear science and technology, applications, nuclear safety, security and safeguards.

More than 50 people were feared dead after a landslide in northern Myanmar engulfed jade miners while they slept. Landslide casualties in jade mines are very common in an industry that is poorly regulated and rife with corruption.

*

The 11th ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament was held in Bali, Indonesia on 8-9 April. Co-chaired by Indonesia, Japan and South Korea, participants shared assessments on peaceful uses of nuclear technology and nuclear security.

On 3 May Cyclone Fani made landfall near Puri, Odisha, India, with a wind speed of around 175 kmph. At least 72 people were killed.

*

On 10 May, 187 countries agreed in Geneva to amend the Basel Convention to strengthen transparency and regulation of global trade in plastic waste. The amendment requires countries to obtain prior informed consent before exporting contaminated or mixed plastic waste.

On 29 June, Ericsson implemented a disaster-resilient core network in Bhutan. The small country of the Kingdom of Bhutan lies within one of the world's most seismically active zones. The network aims to provide seamless and uninterrupted user experience even during disasters.

*

On 16 June, the Group of 20 environment ministers agreed to adopt the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.

*

On 22 June, at the 34th ASEAN Summit member states adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region and the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris.

April

May

June

October

November

December

Typhoon Hagibis hit the Kanto region of Japan on 12 October and caused massive flooding and mudslides. Even after the storm had subsided and moved away from Japan, hundreds of residents were still left stranded in evacuation centres as they waited for the resumption of public services.

*

The IAEA delivered the final report of a mission that reviewed the Philippines' infrastructure development for a nuclear power programme on 30 October. The report indicates a significant nuclear safety and security issues remain unresolved.

*

On 31 October, India confirmed its newest nuclear power plant was the victim of a cyber-attack, exposing the vulnerability of one of the country's most critical sectors to cyber espionage. The incident also demonstrates the rising cyber threats to critical nuclear infrastructure worldwide.

*

On 14 October China released its white paper "Food Security in China" which observes WTO rules and a commitment to "better safeguard the food security of our world."

The 10th UN – ASEAN Summit was held in Bangkok on 3 November. Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary-General urged participants to 'confront the world's climate emergency.' He pointed out the many complementarities between ASEAN Vision 2025 and the 2030 Development Agenda. He committed to support the region particularly through peace and justice efforts, decent work and climate action.

*

On 4 November, India Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India is bowing out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), in consideration of domestic interests, amid strong protests from local businesses and farmers.

On 5 December, the amendment to the Basel Convention that was adopted in May entered into force. Southeast Asian countries like Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam are major destinations of plastic waste from developed countries. The amendment empowers them to stop the plastic waste from reaching their shores.

*

The 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference or COP25 was held from 2-13 December in IFEMA - Feria de Madrid in Madrid, Spain under the Presidency of the Government of Chile. It was due to be held in Chile, but domestic political issues led to a change of venue.

Tracking Progress of Sustainable Development Goals

Mely Caballero-Anthony

It has been more than three years since the historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the 193 member states of the United Nations in September 2015. The adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was hailed as an ambitious and bold vision for sustainable development given its 17-part agenda—much more than the goals set by its predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), that was concluded in 2015.

The aim of the expanded SDG agendas was to build on the momentum of what the MDGs have achieved and go beyond the goals of eradicating poverty and hunger, improving health and achieving clean environment in order to address crosscutting challenges brought on

by climate change, rapid urbanisation, demands for clean and sustainable energy, agriculture, and building resilient infrastructure, safe cities and human settlements. Significantly, the SDGs were also aimed at addressing rising inequality, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, and increasing access to justice. As noted in the statement of the UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1 that adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the global goals were ‘unprecedented in scope and significance...setting out a supremely ambitious and transformational vision.’

Since its adoption, annual reviews have been conducted and led by the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development which is convened by the UN’s Economic and Social Council. The Forum, which is held in New York, brings together representatives from governments, the UN System, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders. It provides the platform for these representatives to exchange ideas and information on the progress of achieving the SDGs. Progress is measured based on a set of indicators and measures for each goal which in turn helps to assess what works and what does not in the implementation of the Goals. In further advancing work on tracking progress of the Goals,

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



the HLPF has encouraged member states to conduct their own voluntary reviews at the national and sub-national levels. These national reviews then serve as the basis for the regular reviews done by the HLPF and provide a platform for building partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders. It is useful to note that the latest report of the HLPF presented by the UN Secretary General in May 2018, noted that while there is moving progress in the implementation of the SDGs, much more work needs to be done to ensure commitments of all parties and in ensuring that no one is left behind.

Aside from the UN, the monitoring of progress of SDGs on countries and regions has also been done by international organisations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which recently released a report on “ASEAN Progress Towards Sustainable Development Goals and the Role of the IMF” in October 2018. Similarly, CSR-Asia also brought out its report, “The Sustainable Development Goals and ASEAN 2025: A Guide for Business”, in March 2018. The two reports had noted significant progress made by ASEAN countries in reducing poverty, improving income and expanding economic opportunities. But the reports also flagged the need for ASEAN countries to reduce inequality within and between countries and address the gaps in sustainable development and the challenges of climate change.

A shared yet specific recommendation pointed out in the two reports and other studies in moving implementation of SDGs forward is noteworthy. That is that more efforts should be done by ASEAN countries to fully integrate the SDGs in their national development plans. Moreover, given that the 2030 SDG goals are highly complementary with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, more efforts should be made in finding ways to enhance regional cooperation in achieving the SDGs. This means finding a coherent way to link global goals with regional/national programmes through targeted intra-regional programmes in issues like infrastructure development, cooperation in water and energy, and in managing migration. Thus, aligning the implementation of SDGs with the goals of a prosperous and peaceful ASEAN Community would allow for more efficient way in tracking progress of shared development goals.

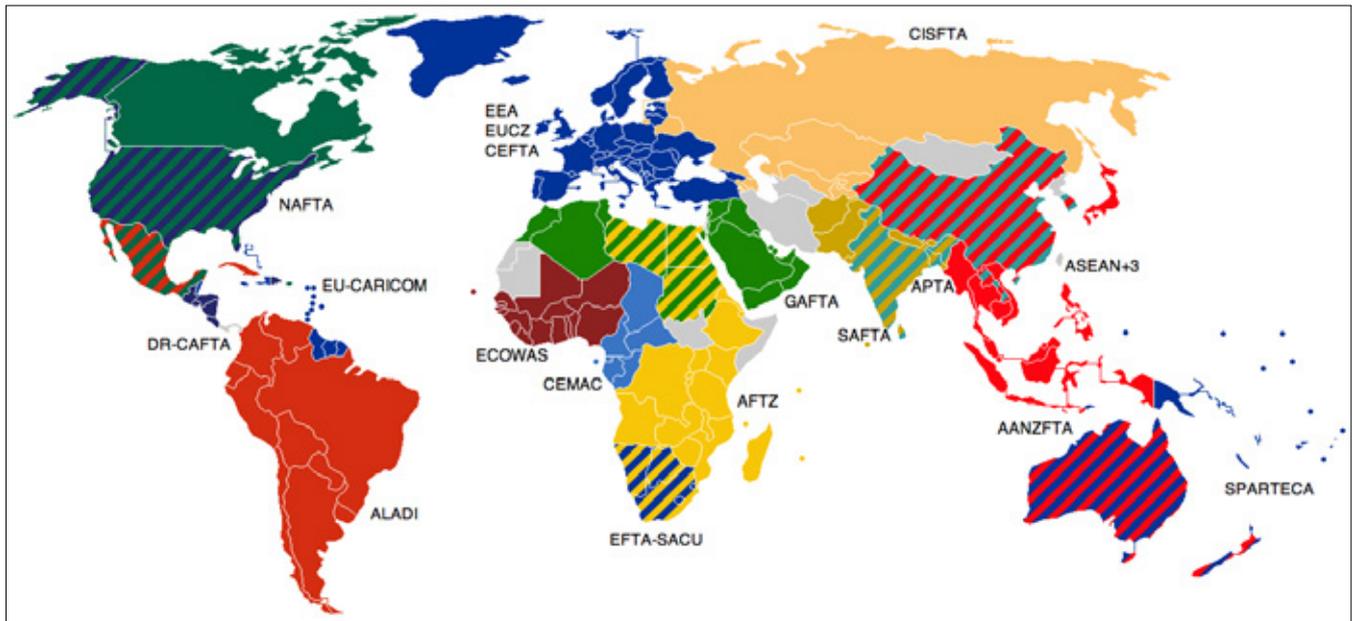
Protectionism and ASEAN Free Trade, Economic Growth and Sustainable Development

Jose Ma. Luis P. Montecarlos

Regional economic integration towards the ASEAN Economic Community has led to a more than five-fold increase in the size of regional GDP of ASEAN member states since they first set off on this path. This began with the ASEAN Free Trade Area in 1992, and the increase has been from approximately USD 500 Billion in 1995 to USD 2.7 Trillion by 2017 (in current US dollars). If these trends continue, it could allow for reducing regional poverty and potentially contribute to the global 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of ‘ending poverty’. However, since the first year when the SDGs were institutionalized (2016), there have been waves of protectionist sentiment in international trade, which present an important uncertainty that could disrupt the previous pattern of trade-enabled growth and development. This sentiment, mostly through twitter posts on social media, was actualized in January 2017, when the United States officially backed out of a landmark trade agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). It was followed by the ongoing trade-war between the United States and China.

The theory has been that freer trade in goods, through trade facilitation and reduction of tariff- and non-tariff barriers, allows countries to specialise in commodities which they can produce more efficiently than others. As a result of more efficient distribution of roles on who-produces-what, the size of the economic pie increases, ideally to the benefit of all who take part in baking it. As such, trade-wars and less trade cooperation can potentially reduce GDP growth.

So far, ASEAN has not yet been significantly affected, if one looks at its economic output. For instance, 2017



Selected free-trade areas with three or more participants around the world as of November 2017.

Photo Credit: Released to domain by Emilfarb via Wikimedia Commons.

did not see a decline in ASEAN GDP, even in constant US dollar terms. Based on latest available year-end data from 2016 to 2017, the region's GDP grew 4.8 per cent, which was faster than its annualized growth rate of 4.3 per cent from 2010 to 2016 (both in constant US dollars; in current US dollars, the increase was even steeper, from 5.4 per cent to 6.7 per cent). These reflect to some extent the robustness of ASEAN's economic community, as a result of prior integration efforts.

Nonetheless, the risk remains, when one speculates on potential behaviours of countries beyond the region. At the 2018 ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Singapore, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad warned that US protectionist behaviour could set a precedence, and trigger a 'domino effect'. Populist sentiment in developed countries may, for instance, lead them to also apply or increase trade barriers on products exported by developing countries, including ASEAN countries.

Remaining Resilient

For ASEAN to continue to be robust against the threat of trade protectionism, it will need to sustain its progress in developing the ASEAN Economic Community, such as by developing its infrastructure; building up its small and medium enterprises; improving digital and transport connectivity; and appropriately leveraging technologies in the Fourth Industrial Revolution that are slowly transforming jobs and businesses.

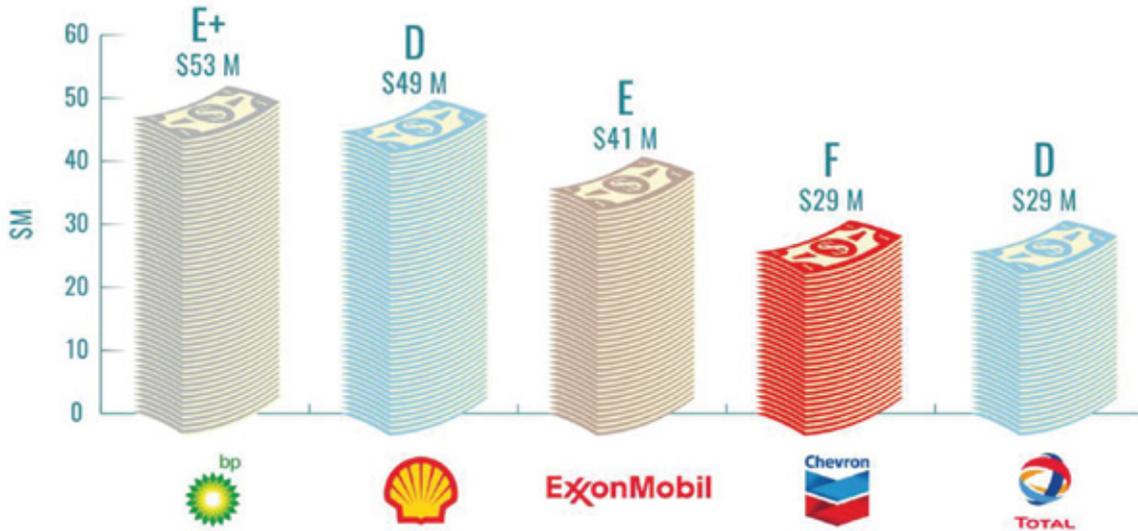
Apart from trade, financial robustness will be a continuing safeguard moving forward. Trade and financial integration go hand-in-hand, as increased intra-regional trade means net exporting countries can accumulate more capital, such as through cross-border trade financing. However, during trade wars, a sudden decline in demand for products of net exporting countries can lead to financial instability (as less capital goes to the exporting country) coupled with exchange rate volatility. To prevent these, the ASEAN+3 Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization provides reserves that ailing countries can tap when they are running low on capital. It needs improvement, though, as a timely and reliable source of capital in times of crisis. For example, 70 per cent of the fund can only be tapped by countries with ongoing programmes with the International Monetary Fund (IMF); yet, not all countries agree with reforms imposed by the IMF as pre-requisites for IMF loans.

Looking forward, there is also room to explore ways for the region to fund their own infrastructure and connectivity efforts. If these initiatives are expected to have vast positive economic impacts, allowing for new cross-border transactions that boost the productivity of their businesses, then there is potential for these to become viable investment opportunities, even for the private sector.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Compiled by Margareth Sembiring

MONEY SPENT BY OIL COMPANIES ON CLIMATE LOBBYING SPENDING ON CLIMATE LOBBYING 2018



Climate Policy Score on an A - F Scale, with F Highly Oppositional

© INFLUENCEMAP

Adapted from source: Big Oil's Real Agenda on Climate Change: How the Oil Majors Have Spent \$1bn since Paris on Narrative Capture and Lobbying on Climate, Influence Map, March 2019

CLIMATE RISKS, EXTREME EVENTS AND RELATED IMPACTS



Adapted from source: State of the Climate in 2019 shows accelerating climate change impacts, World Meteorological Organization, 28 March 2019
<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/state-of-climate-2018-shows-accelerating-climate-change-impacts>

Gender Equality and Economic Security for Peace

Tamara Nair

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) spelt out by the international community and adopted by world leaders in 2015 are noble ones and attempt to cover a much wider and deeper range of issues that affect and will continue to affect humanity well into the future. There has certainly been much discussion on the goals and the role of women in achieving them. This is a conversation that has been taking place globally and at all levels of governance. There is even a dedicated goal – goal 5: Gender Equality – to address the issues of gender in sustainable development. However, we may not have learnt enough from our experiences with the SDGs' predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially when we start looking at gender equality.

For one, funding gaps for the SDGs remain rather wide in some parts of the world as it was in the MDGs. For example, according to a recent report this month, in the Asharq Al-Awsat, a premier pan-Arab daily newspaper,

Islamic countries suffer nearly a trillion-dollar gap in funding for the SDGs. According to the article, the gap prevents these countries from addressing infrastructural shortfalls in working towards the SDGs but it would not be a far stretch to assume that the gap also hinders the operationalising of programmes for women and gender equality.

The issue of insufficient funding is a similar one faced when trying to achieve the MDGs. For gender equality in particular, this was further compounded by limited vision as to what was needed and the lack of political will. Although trying to achieve the MDGs did result in more girls receiving an education and more women being able to start small businesses and standing in local elections, there is still quite a way to go to achieve any form of parity. As a matter of fact, UN Women predicts that it will take about 50 years to achieve political parity and around 80 years before women can compete on equal terms with men in economic participation. It is hoped that the SDGs will be able to address this by widening the scope of the goals and their respective targets. This was certainly done as we have moved from eight MDGs to 17 rather specific SDGs. But the legacy of ineffectual action seems to haunt goal 5, that of equality for women and girls, funding being one of them. Without strong political will and the financial resources to back it up, we may be paddling upstream again, this time without oars and with larger numbers and greater complications thrown in, such as climate change, civil conflicts and mass movements of people.



Photo Credit: UN Women via flickr under creative commons license

Closer to home, in Southeast Asia, we seem to be making some headway in gender issues, especially when connections are being made between gender equality and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG goal 16). With the launch of the Women for Peace Registry (AWPR) in December 2018 and the plan for a three-part training – the first being in mediation and reconciliation with a focus on the sustained involvement of women held last month – by the ASEAN Institute of Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), there seems to be some very important connections being made, which are vital for the realisation of SDGs in ASEAN member states. The peaked interest in the region on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, stemming from UN Security Council Resolution 1325, is also a very welcome addition to discussions on gender equality and peace.

However, we must guard against the critique of not “putting our money where our mouth is.” There needs to be greater support for widening knowledge on gender issues in the region and this needs to be backed by sufficient and sustained funding. But funding should not only be targeted at research programmes. We should also look into funding projects that help women achieve forms of financial independence. Discussions around the AWPR, AIPR and WPS do not give enough focus to the economic insecurities of women. Women as peace builders, the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, the success in female radicalisation or even de-radicalisation for that matter, all in some way depend on forms of economic security and financial freedom for women. Therefore, we must try and make connections explicit between SDG goal 5 and goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth. Encouraging entrepreneurs, creating jobs specifically for women, and abolishing forced labour, sexual exploitation and human trafficking among other exploitative activities are key to integrating women fully and productively into the economic systems of member states, thus promoting decent work for all.

March 8 was International Women’s Day. One way of appreciating this day is to come to an understanding that the realisation of the SDGs is dependent on effective and equal partnership of women. There needs to be a concerted effort to understand and appreciate that there is very little moving forward if we do not make these all-important connections.

Multilateral Cooperation and NTS Governance

Lina Gong

Multilateral cooperation has long been a way to strengthen response to transboundary issues. Nevertheless, Brexit as well as US retraction from multilateral cooperation in several areas have given rise to questions over the relevance of multilateralism in addressing regional and global challenges, including non-traditional security (NTS) issues like climate change. It is thus worth revisiting why multilateral cooperation remains relevant to addressing the slew of NTS challenges facing Southeast Asia and how regional cooperation can be improved.

Multilateral cooperation is necessary for effective NTS governance in multiple ways. Firstly, NTS issues like migration, transboundary pollution and climate change are often transnational and are difficult for individual countries to limit the impacts within their respective borders. Sharing of information and data among countries concerned is crucial for effective governance of these challenges. For instance, member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are among those vulnerable to the consequences of climate change and many of them are seriously affected by transboundary haze. Governance of both issues requires weather and climate-related data. The ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre hosted by Singapore monitors weather and climate conditions as well as hotspots of forest fire by providing satellite images and data analysis. This is of importance for national governments in the region to prepare for and adapt to climate change effects, including extreme weather events.

Secondly, countries face different NTS threats and vary in their strength in dealing with these challenges. Regional cooperation can optimize the allocation of resources and capacity available in the region. Statistics show that Indonesia accounted for over 60 percent of the natural hazards that affected the ASEAN region between 2012 and 2019, while Singapore and Brunei were largely spared from the scourge.

The successive earthquakes and tsunami in the second half of 2018 overstretched Indonesia's disaster response system. After the earthquake in Central Sulawesi on 28 September 2018, the Indonesian government requested for international assistance and airlifting capacity was identified as one of the most needed. Singapore deployed two C-130 aircrafts to assist delivery of aid and evacuation of personnel. In addition, the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) sent two officers as part of the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team to evaluate the situation on the ground.

Thirdly, multilateralism broadens the basis for addressing NTS challenges. Countries tend to be more receptive to cooperation with other countries in the same region. For instance, in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in 2008, Myanmar's reluctance to accept international assistance was largely reduced by the mediation and involvement of ASEAN and its member states. Eventually, the Myanmar government agreed to establish the Tripartite Core Group together with the UN and ASEAN to coordinate, facilitate, and monitor the international assistance.

Despite the questions over effectiveness, certain features of NTS challenges like transnationality and complexity determine that multilateral cooperation remains an

essential component of NTS governance. With the involvement of multiple actors, effective multilateral cooperation rests heavily on coordination mechanisms. The development of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance since its establishment in 2011 provides a good example in this regard. Within a few years, the Centre has established procedures and rules for response, risk monitoring systems, emergency response team, as well as stockpiles of relief items. All of these contribute to a timely and effective regional response to different types of disaster occurring in Southeast Asia. That the Centre was delegated by the Indonesian government to coordinate aid and assistance from the international private sector during the Central Sulawesi earthquake in 2018 shows how effective coordination can enhance the trust in multilateral cooperation.

The experience of Southeast Asia proves that multilateral cooperation is essential in dealing with NTS issues, particularly in terms of resource and capacity mobilisation. To encourage the support for and participation in multilateral cooperation, it is important to demonstrate how cooperation can enhance the quality and effectiveness of governance and coordination is key to that end.



**THE 4TH NTS-ASIA CONSORTIUM ANNUAL MEETING:
"Bringing Back Multilateral Cooperation in NTS Governance"
25-26 March 2019**

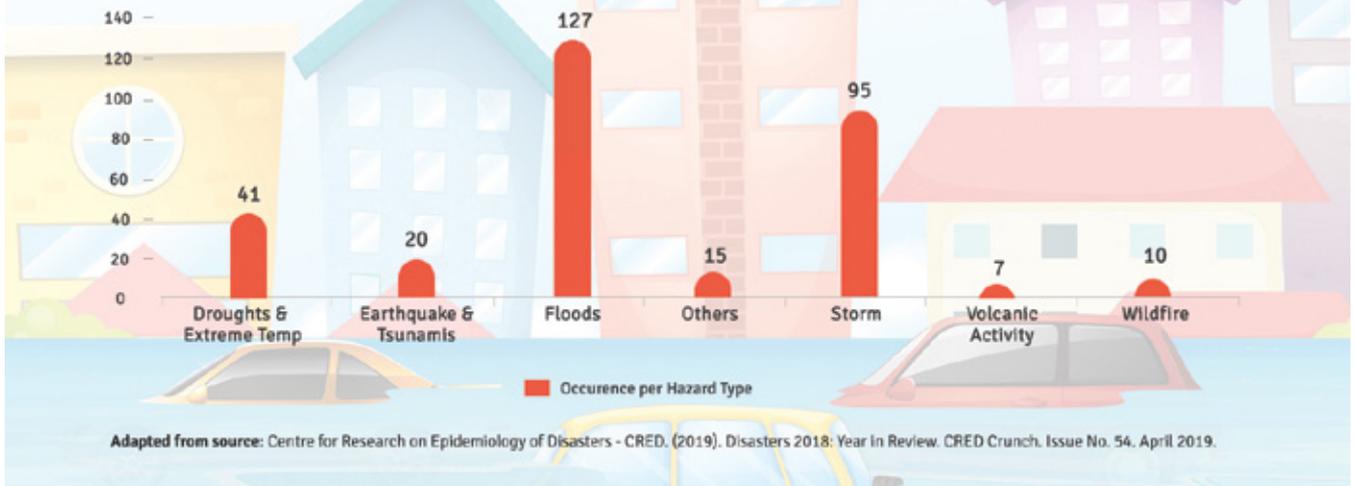
Photo Credit: RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies

NATURAL DISASTERS IN ASIA

Compiled by Angelo Paolo L. Trias

There were **315** disaster events recorded around the world in 2019. Earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic activity in Asia claimed more lives than any other natural hazard. While floods continue to affect the most number of people.

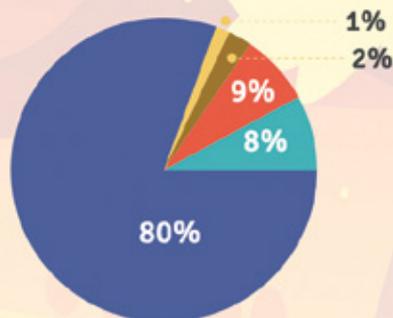
NATURAL DISASTERS AROUND THE WORLD IN 2018



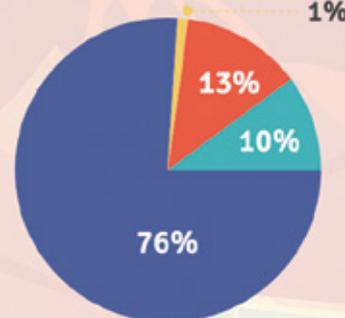
In 2018, Asia continues to be the most natural hazard-prone and most affected region in the world in terms of human impact. The continent accounted for around **45% of disaster events, 80% of deaths and 76% of people affected of the global total**. Estimated economic losses from disasters in Asia amount to **US\$ 55,440,000,000**.

HUMAN IMPACT OF NATURAL DISASTERS IN ASIA IN 2018

Percentage of fatalities from disasters



Percentage of affected by disasters



Legend: Africa (Red), Americas (Teal), Asia (Blue), Europe (Brown), Oceania (Yellow)

Adapted from source: Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters - CRED. (2019). Natural Disasters 2018: An Opportunity to Prepare. Brussels, Belgium: UCLouvain.

Public-Private Partnership for Addressing Southeast Asia's Growing Hunger Problem

Jose Ma. Luis P. Montesclaros

World Hunger Day 2019 on 28th May provides an opportunity to recognise an emerging problem faced by South-east Asia: for the first time in a decade, the region saw hunger levels increase, with 3 million more people undernourished from 2014 to 2016. This is based on the State of Food Security in the World 2018 Report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN FAO). It shows a reversal of past regional trends wherein the number of undernourished people fell by an average of 4.55 million per year from 2005 to 2014, an upset to the Sustainable Development Goal of 'zero hunger' by 2030. By 2017, the number of undernourished people rose by 100,000, for a total of 63.7 million in Southeast Asia alone.

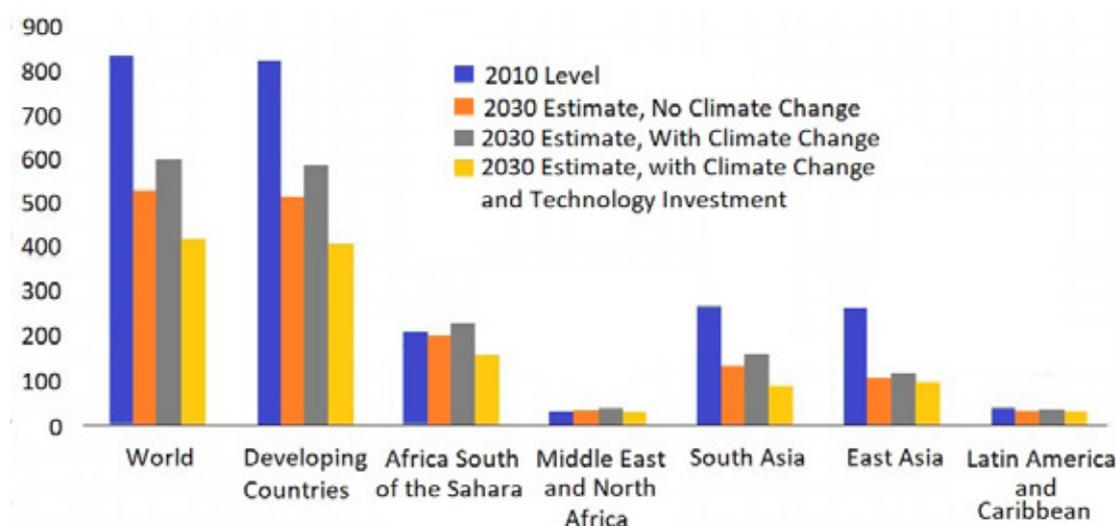
The worsening hunger problem in the region coincides with longer-term trends of increasing numbers of extreme

climate-related disasters (droughts, floods, extreme temperature and storms) over the past decades. Disasters can wipe out entire batches of crops before they can be harvested, while increasing variability in temperature and rainfall makes environments less conducive to plant growth. In fact, increases in undernourishment occurred alongside severe drought in 27 countries, globally, according to the UN FAO. Moreover, countries around the world with 'high exposure' to these extremes (defined as experiencing climate extremes in more than 3 years of the period 2011- 2016) have had 351 million more people who are under-nourished, compared to countries with 'low exposure'.

Food prices are a key mechanism through which these food production disruptions affect hunger. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) projects that by 2050, reduced production yields alongside competing uses of scarce resources like land and water, could lead rice prices to increase by 113 percent to 121 percent in the face of climate change, in comparison to a 61 per-cent increase if there was no climate change. This is important as rice is a key staple that makes a significant share of Asian diets.

While GDP per capita, especially in developing countries, is expected to increase at a faster rate on average than the price increase, some segments of the population remain vulnerable, especially as economic inequality is still prevalent in the region. Poorer populations in urban areas would be disproportionately affected by food price increases, as they already spend a significant share of

Population at risk of hunger (prevalence of hunger, in millions)



Source: Modified from M. Rosegrant et al. (2017). "Quantitative Foresight Modeling to Inform the CGIAR Research Portfolio," project report for USAID, Washington DC: International Food Policy Research Institute, p. 16 (with permission of Lead Author).

their income on food, but may not have the alternative of subsistence production given the higher opportunity cost of land in cities. Worst hit would be rural farming communities, who apart from facing higher food prices, would also lose agricultural income from poor harvests during supply disruptions.

One way forward is for farmers to tailor practices and adopt climate adaptive agricultural technologies (CAATs). These include smart irrigation that boosts water-use efficiency; digital technologies that optimise the use of nutrients for plant growth; and crop varieties that can withstand unfavourable environments, among others. IFPRI projects that these could reduce the number of people at risk of hunger to approximately 420 million people, or 5 percent of total population by 2030.

Public-private partnerships offer one way of allowing farmers to access these technologies. In 2017, for instance, car manufacturer Toyota signed an agricultural partnership with the Ishikawa Prefecture in Japan, wherein the former would apply its 'kaizen' (continuous improvement) production management system to boost farming efficiency across Ishikawa's municipalities, training its agricultural advisers on gathering and analysing farm data. These advisers will, in turn, transfer this knowledge to farmers. Such an approach can be promoted in Southeast Asia, to complement existing approaches such as the Greater Mekong Sub-region Core Agriculture Support Program by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the UN FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).



Drones and Machines for Farming Productivity

Source: Pixabay Account of DJI-Agras

Collective Response to the Challenge of Marine Plastic Pollution

Lina Gong

Reducing plastic pollution in the oceans will be on the agenda of the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan on 28 and 29 June. Attention to the challenge from the leaders of the world's major economies is timely and imperative because non-traditional security threats induced by plastic pollution like degradation of the marine ecosystem and contamination of the food chain are increasingly imminent. A crisis of plastic waste is unfolding in many parts of the world now. The Philippines recently shipped scores of containers of waste back to Canada. Malaysia is to send back thousands of tons of waste from around the world like Australia. Against this background, the Basel Convention was amended in May 2019, which requires more transparency and regulation in the global trade in plastic waste.

Several East/Southeast Asian countries, like the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, China and Japan, are important stakeholders for dealing with this challenge, as they are both major contributors to and victims of marine plastic pollution. They have strengthened efforts at the national level, like developing national action plans, specifying targets for reduction, and implementing new policies and regulations. Japan, for instance, adopted a new policy in May 2019 that aims to cut its flow of plastic waste into the ocean and to contribute to the global efforts as well.

The aforementioned waste disputes have highlighted the loopholes in the existing cycle of reuse, reduce and recycle in many countries and the importance of a collaborative approach. Given that marine environmental pollution is borderless and developing countries in particular face mounting pressure for coping with plastic waste from domestic as well as foreign sources, international cooperation is crucial for an effective global solution to the problem.

Japan's new policy package includes provision of technical and financial assistance for developing

countries to tackle the challenge. This may indicate further support for Japan's existing cooperation with developing countries, like funding the proposed Knowledge Centre on ASEAN Marine Debris in Indonesia. The Asian Development Bank signed an agreement with Indonesia on collaboration in reducing marine plastic debris in early May, which includes technical assistance and knowledge sharing. International cooperation as such can enable better management of plastic waste in developing countries through supporting policy formulation and implementation, encouraging engagement of private sector and other social actors, and bridging partnerships between stakeholders.

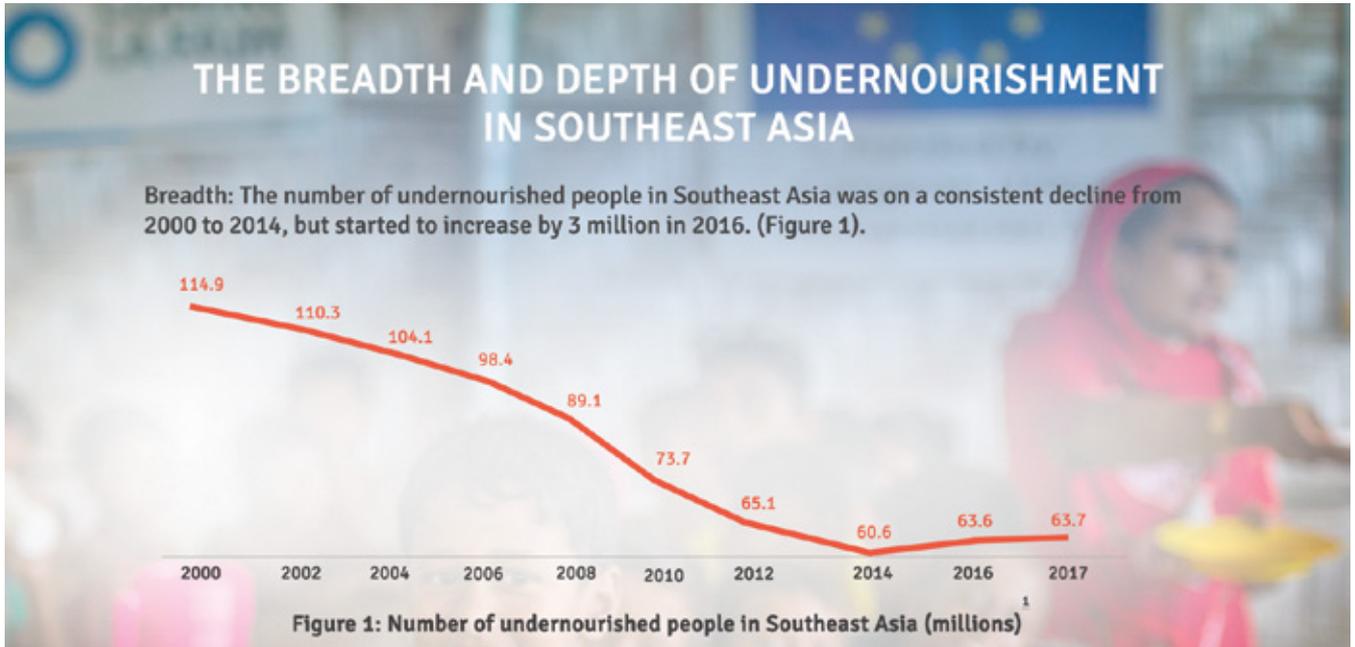
Given that marine plastic pollution will be discussed at the forthcoming G20 Summit, it is important that the needs and challenges of developing countries are given sufficient consideration in the discussion. Since Japan is the host and Indonesia, Singapore and China will attend the summit, East/Southeast Asian countries may take the opportunity to feature their perspectives in the global debate. Collaboration in financing and technological innovations should be emphasised as these two aspects are essential for better waste management and reduction in pollution in developing countries.



Photo credit: NOAA Marine Debris Program via Wikimedia commons

FOOD SECURITY

Compiled by Jose Ma. Luis Montesclaros



Adapted from sources:

1. Adapted from FAO (2019), "Suite of Food Security Indicators", FAOStat Database, <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FSI>. Downloaded 30 May 2019. 2. This was collected using the FAO's Food Security Insecurity Scale (FIES) questionnaire, available on the UN FAO website at <http://www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/fies/en/>. 3. Adapted from FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), and World Health Organization (WHO). 2019. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019: Safeguarding against economic slowdowns and downturns. Rome, FAO.

The Final Countdown – Ten Years to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Alistair D. B. Cook



Source: Global Goals.org (modified) under CC BY-SA 3.0 license

In September 2019, New York hosted the SDG Summit and the Climate Action Summit, which provide leaders and experts a platform to engage and negotiate ways forward to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. As we enter the final decade to reach these goals, it is important to reflect upon the achievements to date and build upon them.

This commentary focuses specifically on migration and the related Sustainable Development Goals – Health (Goal 3), Education (Goal 4), Gender Equality (Goal 5), Decent Work (Goal 8), Sustainable Cities (Goal 11), Climate Action (Goal 13), Peaceful Societies (Goal 16) and Partnerships (Goal 17) – the achievements and challenges to date as we enter the final stretch to 2030.

Since the International Health Regulations came into effect in 2010, countries are now better in detection with all 196 state parties submitting reports to the World Health Organisation (WHO) on their capacity to implement the regulations. However, this has not translated equally to emergency preparedness and response with bigger gaps observed at points of entry

(e.g., ports and ground crossings) and in chemical safety and radiological emergencies.

Across the world, women and girls still perform a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work averaging triple the amount of time that men do each. The most disadvantaged women and girls face the compounded effects of gender and other forms of discrimination especially those particularly faced by migrant women and girls such as vulnerability to trafficking and gender-based violence. Progress over the past decade was made where most countries had policies and programmes in place to address gender gaps but a minority of them reported adequate resources to implement them.

When considering the state of work in the world, informal employment remains dominant in three quarters of developing countries. The share of informal employment is higher for women than for men. Ethical recruitment, decent work-ing conditions and safe migration amplify the impact of migrant workers on development. Providing educational opportunities to the children of migrants and facilitating study abroad programs to enhance student mobility are part of the quality education commitment and the central reference in the Sustainable Development Goals to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people through planned and managed migration.

Rapid urbanisation has drawn many people to migrate into cities and has resulted in an increasing number of slums. While the proportion of people in slums declined by 20 per cent between 2000 and 2014, this trend has reversed with 23.8 per cent living in slums in 2018, adding an extra 1 billion people living in slums the world over. The greatest absolute number of 370 million people living in such conditions is now found in Eastern and South-East Asia. The integration of climate adaptation into national development planning is a necessary step underway to achieve sustainable development in both urban and rural areas. These will need to address slums which are in the poorest and most exposed areas to the effects of climate change.

The greatest and most visible threat to human security is the absence or deterioration of peace, justice and strong institutions across Eastern and South-East Asia, a core element needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Simply put, without peace there cannot be sustainable development. In 2018, the number of people fleeing war, conflict and persecution exceeded 70 million, the highest the United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees has seen in almost 70 years. All of them are particularly vulnerable to various abuses from trafficking to additional violence and non-inclusive decision-making. Over-coming these challenges through protection is a baseline requirement to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. It is important for leaders to reconcile the plans made for each Sustainable Development Goal with adequate resources. While the investment in action plans is a necessary step forward, they must be followed by sustainable policy implementation without which rhetoric cannot be turned into reality.



Photo Credits: Alistair D. B. Cook

Standing in the Gap: Achieving Gender Equality and Celebrating #WomenHumanitarians

Angelo Paolo Luna Trias

The 5th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) seeks to attain gender equality and empower women and girls. It recognises that the inclusion and participation of women are central to the achievement of all 17 SDGs. The biggest barrier to progress in this area is that women around the world continue to suffer from various forms of violence, harassment, and discrimination. The UN Women estimates that 1 in 5 women have experienced physical and / or sexual violence. Women also tend to bear the brunt of unpaid work, and remain underrepresented in the formal workforce and decision-making positions. These issues are pervasive not only in “peace time” but especially during times of emergencies and calamities.

Women tend to be disproportionately affected by humanitarian crises and natural disasters. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that women and their children account for more than 75 per cent of displaced persons. This usually results to loss of livelihoods and lack of access to basic support services making them more vulnerable. And women that stay behind to care for family members are further exposed to harm and hunger as they are left to fend for themselves and their dependents in increasingly dangerous and unstable situations. UN records show that women, together with children, are 14 times more likely to die or get injured than men in natural disasters. UN figures also indicate that women are at greater risk than male counterparts from post-disaster abuse and exploitation. The chaos that ensues after a disaster makes it difficult to provide sufficient protection while existing mechanisms and people affected are under additional pressure.

The critical role of women in humanitarian action and disaster management are often overlooked. But women are rather familiar with their neighbourhood and household. Their local knowledge of community needs and vulnerable groups, and access to social networks

are central to disaster preparedness and emergency response planning.

At the onset of an emergency or disaster, women secure aid to meet to the immediate lifesaving needs of family members. Their traditional responsibilities as primary care takers are often expanded and amplified while grappling with considerably less resources and support. Women also assume roles of first responders, both informally and formally as part of organised humanitarian efforts. This includes rapid assessment of needs, passing around information, and other functions essential to the path to recovery such as managing the family's relocation.

This year's World Humanitarian Day (WHD) theme is #WomenHumanitarians, an acknowledgement of the important contribution of courageous women in times of crisis. On 19 August 2019, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) showcased the experiences of women humanitarians around the globe to honor their dedication in making the world a better place. How else can we encourage more participation from #WomenHumanitarians? Here are two main challenges that must be kept in mind as we move forward:

First, there appears to be an urgent need to significantly improve aid worker security. Last year's WHD theme #NotATarget highlights this issue and the trend seems to continue. According to a Humanitarian Outcomes report, last year was the second worst year on record for aid worker security. 399 aid workers, including

women, were either killed, wounded, or kidnapped in 221 separate incidents. Humanitarian Outcome notes that differentiated data on sexual violence, misconduct, and abuse is still weak across the sector. This suggests that numbers are likely underreported including incidents in Asia-Pacific. This also indicates that current gender based risk management lacks an evidence base which in turn limits our efforts to better understand and proactively deal with the problems female aid workers face.

The UN OCHA Ending Sexual and Gender Based Violence Conference outlines steps to address gender-based violence in humanitarian affairs:

- (i) do more gender analysis in programming,
- (ii) prioritise funding for gender-equality programmes, and
- (iii) further promote women's leadership and participation in decision-making.

Second, while humanitarian and disaster management activities have been more gender-sensitive and inclusive, more needs to be done. According to the UN Women, efforts to engage women in the Asia-Pacific often focus on consultation rather than representation because of lack of legal protections and prevailing gender inequalities. Aid and relief should not only be informed by the people most affected but also led by it such as women. We must remember that women are not only affected, they are also the integral part of the solution. Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief will be more effective when women are empowered to define their roles, their own needs, and the protection they need during the response.

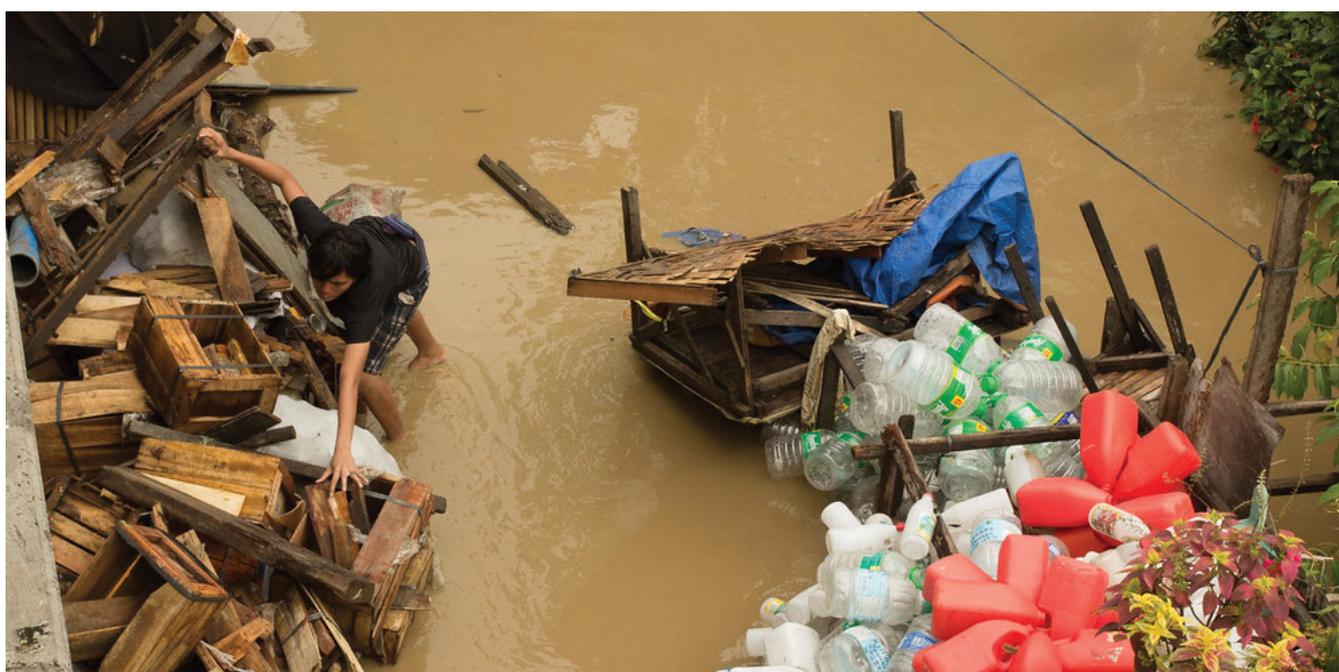


Photo Credits: Jeffrey Pioquinto, SJ via Flickr under creative commons license

MIGRATION

Compiled by S. Nanthini

KEY MIGRATION STATISTICS

Major area, region, country or area of destination	Number of International migrants (thousands)		International migrants as percentage of total population		Females among International migrants (percentage)		Median age of International migrants (years)	
	2000	2017	2000	2017	2000	2017	2000	2017
WORLD	172,604	257,715	2.8	3.4	49.3	48.4	38.0	39.2
South-Eastern Asia	4,927	9,874	0.9	1.5	49.2	48.1	29.4	34.5
Brunei Darussalam	96	109	28.9	25.3	44.1	43.4	33.7	35.8
Cambodia	146	76	1.2	0.5	44.1	43.4	33.7	34.9
Indonesia	292	346	0.1	0.1	47.6	41.8	25.5	29.8
Lao People's Democratic Republic	22	45	0.4	0.7	47.3	46.3	29.5	36.8
Malaysia	1,277	2,704	5.5	8.5	44.2	39.6	27.6	33.0
Myanmar	98	75	0.2	0.1	46.8	45.2	31.7	36.9
Philippines	318	219	0.4	0.2	49.1	48.2	31.0	34.0
Singapore	1,352	2,623	34.5	46.0	55.5	55.9	37.0	39.4
Thailand	1,258	3,589	2.0	5.2	48.5	49.8	26.1	33.5
Timor-Leste	11	12	1.2	0.9	51.9	49.4	29.7	37.1
Vietnam	57	76	0.1	0.1	42.2	42.1	27.2	36.5

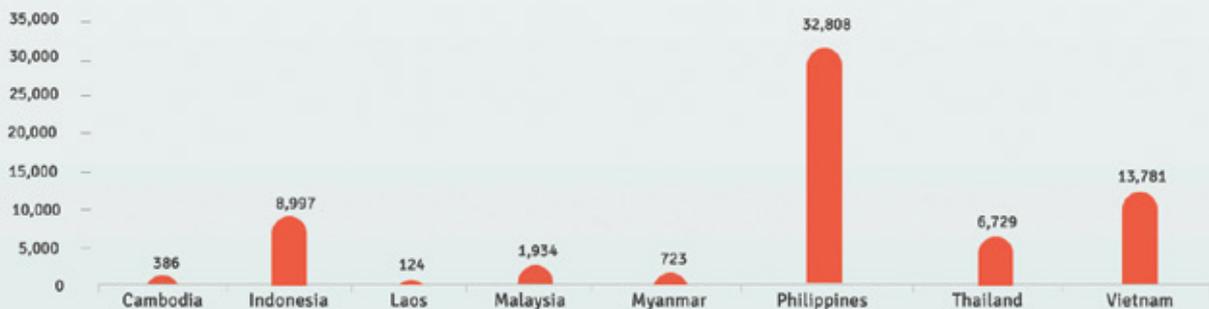
Adapted from source: UNDSA 2017, 'International Migration Report Highlights', p25.

TOTAL INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS FROM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



Adapted from source: Information inside graph from World Bank 2018, 'Bilateral Estimates of Migrant Stocks in 2017 (April 2018 Version)', < http://www.knomad.org/sites/default/files/2018-04/bilateralmigrationmatrix20170_Apr2018.xlsx>. Graph is by S. Nanthini

ESTIMATE OF 2017 REMITTANCE INFLOWS (MILLIONS OF US\$)



Adapted from source: Information inside graph from World Bank 2018, 'Bilateral Remittance Estimates for 2017 using Migrant Stocks, Host Country Incomes, and Origin Country Incomes (millions of US\$) (April 2018 Version)' <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/labormarkets/brief/migration-and-remittances>, Graph is by S. Nanthini

Testing the Reach of Warnings about Climate Change

Margareth Sembiring

In early August 2019, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a Special Report on Climate Change and Land. The report highlights the long-known problems relating to land use, such as deforestation and agriculture, on climate change and vice versa.

For those who have been following and monitoring climate issues closely, this is hardly a new finding. That deforestation and land use change contribute greatly to greenhouse gas emissions is an established fact. The Climate Watch data recorded that between 1990 and 2014, agriculture, land use change and forestry combined were the second largest source of emissions after the energy sector.

The IPCC report also highlights the dilemma between conserving forests for the purposes of climate change

mitigation and the potential negative consequences on food production. This, again, is a known reality since the tension between saving the planet and providing for human needs is central to the debates and reluctance surrounding efforts to address climate change.

In October last year, in the lead up to the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) in Katowice, Poland, the IPCC released a Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C. The report advances that the Earth may get warmer by 1.5°C above pre-industrial level anytime between 2030 and 2050. The real emphasis of the report is we may only have 12 years left before hitting the 1.5°C mark. It is imperative for countries, more than ever, to make concerted efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow down the rate of global warming.

This seemingly alarming message, however, did not come as a big surprise to climate change observers. The Climate Tracker Action noted that emissions pathway based on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) pledge submitted as of November 2017 alone has 90 per cent likelihood to exceed 2°C by 2100. At the current going rate from the time the 2015 Paris Agreement was signed, it is already projected that the world is going to miss the 2°C mark at the end of the century.

The latest reports undoubtedly contain better scientific facts and more rigorous analyses that render predictions



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and projections more certain compared to earlier climate-related reports. However, at its core, why does the IPCC repeat familiar messages? Considering that the primary audience of the reports is the policymakers, this presents a puzzling phenomenon since governments have been sensitised to this issue since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

Addressing a lack of knowledge does not seem to be the main reason; rather maintaining the gravity of the problem provides a better explanation. Given its authoritative position, the IPCC has the authority to raise alarms over climate concerns. Releasing reports on a regular basis can be translated as an effort to perpetually securitise climate issues by keeping them on top of the agenda. In addition, climate activists and other members of society use them as authoritative sources to pressure governments and the private sector to seriously combat climate problems.

While all these warning efforts are normatively justified, the real question is this: How far is their reach in effecting real behavioural transformations? At the time of writing, the prospect is rather gloomy. The release of the Special Report on Climate Change and Land ironically coincided with the incidences of blazing forests in different parts of the world including Brazil's Amazon, Spain's Canary Islands, Alaska, and Siberia.

In Southeast Asia, the smoke of the forest fires that have been raging savagely in Sumatra since July 2019 have begun traversing national boundaries and reached Malaysia, and started making news headlines in Singapore early this month.

Have alarmist strategies fallen on deaf ears and reached their limits? Do we need to find a better way to communicate messages and encourage learning that will lead to true behavioural changes? Or is it in human and institutional natures to take time for transformations to take place? These are some follow-up questions that are worth further investigations.

Sustaining Nuclear Security Capacity Building: Role of Knowledge Centres and Universities

Julius Cesar Imperial Trajano

In this year's ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, the robust impact of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology, including the use of radioactive materials, on socioeconomic development of many countries in the Asia-Pacific was duly recognised. The 2018 East Asia Summit Leaders' statement on nuclear safety and security also acknowledged the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology in the region and their importance in medicine and healthcare, climate change mitigation, agriculture, scientific research, clean energy, environment and industry. Such regional recognitions accentuate the contributions of safe and secure deployment of nuclear technology to achieving at least nine of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Meanwhile, the Asia-Pacific region also recognises the need to enhance nuclear security capacity building efforts, including training and education, both at national and regional levels. Without stringent regulatory oversight on the use and handling of nuclear and radioactive materials, there are potential risks of these being accidentally leaked, stolen and used for malicious purposes, or released indiscriminately by non-state actors. While nuclear security is often understood to be about securing nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons, it is also very much about the security of radioactive materials. As defined by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), nuclear security is "the prevention and detection of, and response to, theft, sabotage, unauthorized access, illegal transfer or other malicious acts involving nuclear material, other radioactive substances or their associated facilities".

Sustainable nuclear security education ensures the availability of experts who can provide the necessary competencies for effective national nuclear security oversight of nuclear and radioactive materials as well as establish and maintain an appropriate nuclear security



One of the working groups of the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN)

Photo Credits: RSIS NTS Centre

regime in a State. The primary role of knowledge centres and nuclear security centres of excellence (COE) is to facilitate the development of human resources and the provision of technical and scientific support on several levels to ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of nuclear security in a State.

A few ASEAN Member States such as Malaysia and Indonesia have established their COEs, while the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand are still considering or planning to establish their respective COEs. Meanwhile, beyond their national responsibilities, Northeast Asian COEs help develop the human resources and technical support services needed for a sustainable nuclear security regime in East Asia. For instance, Japanese, Chinese and South Korean COEs offer nuclear security capacity building assistance to nuclear-related agencies and COEs in Asian countries, including several ASEAN Member States.

Apart from COEs, knowledge centres such as universities and research institutions can also fill in the gaps in countries where there are no established COEs. For instance, RSIS has been collaborating with fellow

members of the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN) through its roundtables, workshops and information-sharing. In October 2019, RSIS hosted an IAEA regional faculty development course on nuclear security, involving INSEN members.

Meanwhile, the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Chulalongkorn University, and Universitas Gadjah Mada have jointly set up this year a regional master's degree course on nuclear safety and security, which can further deepen nuclear security education in ASEAN.

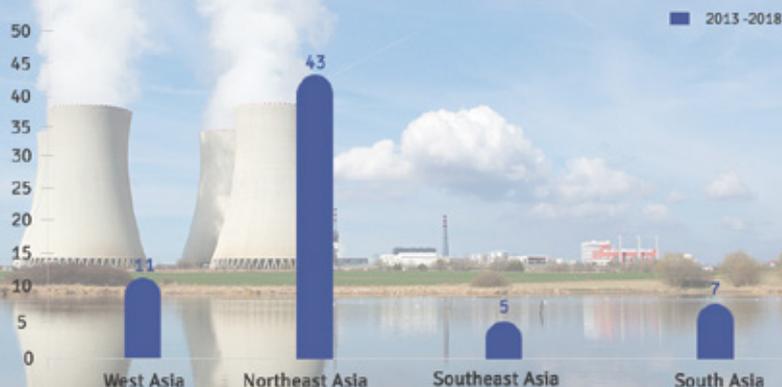
There should be greater synergy and collaboration among COEs and other knowledge centres in deepening security culture of excellence in the Asia-Pacific. Education is a powerful tool to raise awareness to educate students on nuclear security and train professionals, thereby strengthening nuclear security culture and practices at the national level. As a first step, an institutionalised collaboration between the COEs of Northeast Asia and ASEAN COEs can be established given that East Asia is a region that will definitely need significant capacity building cooperation in the coming years.

ENHANCING NUCLEAR SECURITY IN EAST ASIA

Compiled by Julius Cesar Trajano

NO. OF REPORTED INCIDENTS INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS IN ASIA BY REGION

Radioactive and nuclear materials are still within the reach of malicious individuals or groups. Countries in Asia have reported security incidents (thefts, losses, illicit trafficking) involving radioactive materials.



Adapted from sources: Sam Meyer, Shea Cotton, Jakob Lengacher, and Jaewon Oh, CNS Global Incidents and Trafficking Database, Monterey: James Martin Centre for Non-Proliferation Studies, 2019.

Emerging Centres of Excellence (COEs) play an essential role in helping countries in East Asia maintain the security of their nuclear material and facilities and provide a platform for strengthening the regional and global nuclear security architecture.

COUNTRY	COE	PARENT ENTITY	YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT	PRIMARY ACTIVITIES
China	State Nuclear Security Technology Center (SNSTC)	China Atomic Energy Agency	2015	Nuclear security education, training and certification activities
Indonesia	Centre for Security Culture and Assessment	National Nuclear Energy Agency (BATAN)	2014	Conducts nuclear security culture assessment, security trainings and exercises
	Indonesia Center of Excellence on Nuclear Security and Emergency Preparedness (I-CoNSEP)	Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency (BAPETEN)	2014	Provides policy, technical and scientific support to nuclear security; facilitates nuclear emergency response coordination and capacity-building; promotes regional collaboration
Japan	Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security (ISCN)	Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA)	2010	Offers capacity-building assistance, technical support to government; conducts policy research; shares best practices with other nuclear security officials from Asian countries
Malaysia	Nuclear Security Support Centre (NSSC)	Atomic Energy Licensing Board	2012	Conducts trainings on nuclear security for law enforcers; shares Malaysia's experiences and best practices with countries in the region
The Philippines	Philippine Nuclear Security Support Center	Philippine Nuclear Research Institute	Currently being established	To conduct nuclear security trainings on radiological security for front line officers, users of radioactive sources, border security personnel and relevant security agencies
South Korea	International Nuclear Security Academy (INSA)	Korea Institute of Nuclear Nonproliferation and Control (KINAC)	2014	Provides education and training programmes, R&D activities, and capacity-building assistance to emerging countries in Asia

Adapted from sources: Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia, "Summary of Country Reports: 8th Workshop on Nuclear Security and Safeguards Project of Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA)," Tokyo, Japan, 2018, 12 September, <https://www.fnca.mext.go.jp/nss/2018-01.pdf>; Aline Constantin, Andrew Newman, and Thomas Isaacs, Nuclear Security Centers of Excellence in Asia: Opportunities for Collaboration, NTI Background Paper, Nuclear Threat Initiative, August 2017; Damien Kingsbury and Christopher Hobbs, Centers of Excellence in East Asia: Encouraging Collaborative Approaches to Nuclear Security, Policy Analysis Brief, The Stanley Foundation, October 2015.

Approaching the Decade of Delivery: Importance of Multi-stakeholder and Inter-regional Partnerships in the HADR-SDG Conversation

Christopher Chen

With the fifth anniversary of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development fast approaching, it is timely to assess the current state of affairs. The Agenda, with its 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, provides a blueprint for shared prosperity in a sustainable world. However, the world is currently not on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Reports published in 2019 by the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) indicate that, despite progress being made in a number of areas on some of the SDGs, it has largely been a slow and even regressive process. Vulnerable populations are still subjected to inordinate levels of suffering, stemming from systemic inequalities and exposure to climate-induced disasters. The global response has not been ambitious and effective enough to stimulate the level of transformation needed to achieve the Goals.

The SDGs and disaster risks are interconnected. Many of the SDGs focus on issues that are underlying drivers of risk. Achieving SDG 1 –eradicating poverty in all its forms- and SDG 10 –reducing socio-economic inequalities- would significantly reduce and alleviate the impact of disasters. However, the onset of disasters can also exacerbate poverty and inequalities in societies. The UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2019 shows that a 1 percentage point increase in exposure to climate events increases the Gini coefficient by 0.24 and decreases education rates by 0.26 percentage points. Our goal to end poverty by 2030 has been severely jeopardised by the increased frequency and severity of disasters in recent years. When you consider that the poorest countries in the world experience a disproportionate share of damage and loss of life when disasters hit, the

need to source for effective scalable solutions becomes even more apparent.

One way to address this is by encouraging a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach. This is not a new concept but it is one that is notoriously difficult to implement effectively. How do you ensure that immediate needs are met in a timely manner, while simultaneously incorporating longer-term development initiatives that address systemic causes of vulnerability? To this end, humanitarian and development stakeholders are constantly striving to find the right mix of humanitarian, development and peace approaches. Working towards the fulfilment of SDGs 11 and 16 for example, with a focus on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies with sustainable and disaster-resilient infrastructure, is a step in the right direction.

As the world enters the ‘decade of delivery’, there is a need to make a concerted effort to meet most, if not all, the SDGs by 2030. The multi-faceted and wide-ranging nature of the SDGs necessitates the need for multi-stakeholder participation, across all sectors. For instance, as part of the Business Avengers campaign launched in September 2019, 17 companies- each focusing on one SDG- will come together to communicate the overall importance of the Goals as well as showcase their efforts in achieving them. This initiative was conceived as a means to foster private sector collaboration and action in support of the SDGs. Hopefully, this will translate into greater investment in disaster risk reduction and development programmes, which is of particular significance considering that sourcing for such investments has not always been an easy endeavour.

Forging inter-regional partnerships through knowledge sharing platforms is another excellent way to lay the



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foundation for the achievement of the SDGs and to help communities and governments cope with the numerous complexities of humanitarian challenges. An example of this can be found in the recent ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM), which engaged with members from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the African Union on issues such as disaster management and climate security. Knowledge sharing and building communities of practice can help to

bridge gaps between regions, and strengthen collective efforts to address overlapping issues.

At face value, addressing the multi-faceted and wide-ranging nature of the SDGs might prove to be a daunting task. However, the agenda's vision of 'shared prosperity in a sustainable world' is not beyond reach. It is imperative that we continue to champion this vision, in pursuit of a better future for everyone.

PARTICIPATION OF ASEAN MEMBER STATES IN KEY GLOBAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS

Not all ASEAN Member States are parties to key nuclear conventions. It is essential for countries with nuclear activities and radioactive sources for non-power applications to ratify all treaties. With the ratification of these treaties resulting in more robust regulatory and legal frameworks at the national level, ASEAN can collectively prevent and address illicit trafficking, theft or loss of radioactive materials.

(Tick indicates that the country is a party to the particular convention or treaty.)

	Safeguards Additional Protocol	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM)		Nuclear Terrorism Convention (ICSANT)	Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)	Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS)	Joint Convention on Spent Fuel and Radiological Waste	Convention Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident	Nuclear Assistance Convention
		2016 CPPNM Amendment	1980 CPPNM only						
Brunei					✓				
Cambodia	✓		✓	Signed	✓	✓		✓	
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laos	Signed		✓		✓			✓	✓
Malaysia	Signed			Signed	✓			✓	✓
Myanmar	Signed	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Philippines	✓		✓	Signed	✓	Signed	Signed	✓	✓
Singapore	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Thailand	✓	✓	✓	Signed	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vietnam	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Adapted from Sources: IAEA, Factsheets: Country List, December 2018; CTBO, Status of Signature and Ratification, September 2018; UN Treaty Collection, International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, 3 December 2018.



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RSIS Seminars by Dr Catherine Bragg, Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS, NTU, Singapore; Adjunct Full Professor, Centre for Humanitarian Action, University College Dublin; and Governor of the University of Toronto, Canada on "The International Humanitarian System", 19 and 21 February 2019, Singapore

RSIS Conference on Asia and the Humanitarian World, 28 February – 1 March 2019, Singapore

RSIS Book Launch Seminar by Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony, Professor of International Relations and Head of the RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies on "Negotiating Governance on Non-Traditional Security in Southeast Asia and Beyond", 6 March 2019, Singapore

RSIS Seminars by Dr Tavida Kamolvej, Visiting Fellow, RSIS, NTU, Singapore; Dean of the School of Political Science, Thammasat University, Thailand; and Advisor to Director General of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Thailand on "Glocalisation of Disaster Risk Reduction Frameworks: Implementing SENDAI and AADMER", 13 March 2019, and "Policy Instruments for Non-Structural Disaster Risk Reduction Measures: Building and Construction Safety in Thailand", 14 March 2019, Singapore

4th NTS-Asia Consortium Annual Meeting on "Bringing Back Multilateral Cooperation in NTS Governance", 25–26 March 2019, Singapore

Singapore Humanitarian Network (SHINE) Workshop 2019, 31 July 2019, Singapore

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RSIS World Humanitarian Day 2019, 19 August 2019, Singapore

RSIS-IAEA Faculty Development Course on Nuclear Security, 21–25 October 2019, Singapore

RSIS Seminar by Dr Kristie Barrow, Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS, Director of International and Domestic Engagement, Australian Civil-Military Centre on "Australia's Approach to HADR: A Civil-Military Practitioner's Viewpoint", 27 November 2019, and "Challenges and Limitations to Foreign Military Responses to HADR in Asia-Pacific", 29 November 2019, Singapore.

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NTS BULLETINS

Our monthly newsletter –NTS Bulletin – provides timely commentary and compiles current events and recent news on climate security, energy security, food security, health security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and migration. To subscribe to our publications, please visit: <https://www.rsis.edu.sg/subscribe-to-publications/>
For queries, you may email us at contact_rsis@ntu.edu.sg

About The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) is a think tank and professional graduate school of international affairs at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. An autonomous school, RSIS' mission is to be a leading research and graduate teaching institution in strategic and international affairs in the Asia Pacific. With the core functions of research, graduate education and networking, it produces cutting-edge research on Asia Pacific Security, Multilateralism and

Regionalism, Conflict Studies, Non-traditional Security, Cybersecurity, Maritime Security and Terrorism Studies.

For more details, please visit www.rsis.edu.sg. Follow us at www.facebook.com/RSIS.NTU or connect with us at www.linkedin.com/school/rsis-ntu.



About The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies

The **Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre)** conducts research and produces policy-relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness and building capacity to address NTS issues and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The centre addresses knowledge gaps, facilitates discussions and analyses, engages policymakers and contributes to building institutional capacity in Climate Change, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief; and Migration. The NTS Centre brings together myriad NTS stakeholders in regular workshops and roundtable discussions, as well as provides a networking platform for NTS research institutions in the Asia Pacific through the NTS-Asia Consortium.

Our Research Areas

- Climate Security
 - Climate Adaptation
 - Food Security
 - Environmental Security
 - Nuclear Security
- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
- Migration

Our Output

Policy Relevant Publications

The NTS Centre produces a range of output such as research reports, books, monographs, policy briefs and conference proceedings.

Training

Based in RSIS, which has an excellent record of post-graduate teaching, an international faculty and an extensive network of policy institutes worldwide, the NTS Centre is well-placed to develop robust research capabilities, conduct training courses and facilitate advanced education on NTS. These are aimed at, but not limited to, academics, analysts, policymakers and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Networking and Outreach

The NTS Centre serves as a networking hub for researchers, policy analysts, policymakers, NGOs and media from across Asia and further afield interested in NTS issues and challenges.

The NTS Centre is the founding member of the Asia Pacific Partnership for Atrocity Prevention, inaugurated 7-8 November 2016. RSIS co-hosted with the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APR2P), School of Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland St. Lucia, the 'High Level Advisory Panel's (HLAP) Report on Mainstreaming the Responsibility to Protect in Southeast Asia: Pathway Towards a Caring ASEAN Community.' This was to generate comments and inputs from the participants on how the HLAP Report on mainstreaming the Responsibility to Protect and mass atrocities prevention can be promoted in ASEAN, as well as in operationalizing the Report's recommendations in the domestic and regional contexts.

Previously, it served as the Coordinator of the ASEAN-Canada Research Partnership (2012-2015) supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. It also serves as the Secretariat of the initiative.

In 2009, the NTS Centre was chosen by the MacArthur Foundation as a lead institution for its three-year Asia Security Initiative (2009-2012), to develop policy research capacity and recommend policies on the critical security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific.

It is also a founding member and the Secretariat for the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia Consortium).

More information on the NTS Centre is available at: <http://www.rsis.edu.sg/research/nts/>.

About The NTS-Asia Consortium

The NTS-Asia Consortium was launched in January 2007 as a network of NTS research institutes and think tanks. The aims of the consortium are as follows:

- To develop a platform for networking and intellectual exchange between regional NTS scholars and analysts
- To build long-term and sustainable regional capacity for research on NTS issues
- To mainstream and advance the field of NTS studies in Asia
- To collate and manage a regional database of NTS publications and other resources

NTS issues include the challenges to the survival and well-being of peoples and states that arise from non-military sources, such as climate change, resource scarcity, infectious diseases, natural disasters, irregular migration, food shortages, people smuggling, drug trafficking and transnational crime. These dangers are transnational in scope, defying unilateral remedies and requiring comprehensive – political, economic and social – responses, as well as the humanitarian use of military force. NTS studies also look at the multi-dimensional civilian angle to security in conjunction with state, military and governmental actors.

Inaugural Meeting of The Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies

The Inaugural Meeting of the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia) from the 8th to 9th January 2007 was a milestone in the progress of NTS studies. The meeting not only officially launched the Consortium but also brought together its pioneering network members - comprising 14 research institutes and think tanks from across Asia - to discuss current NTS challenges facing the region, and possible policy responses to address these problems.

The pioneering members of NTS-Asia are as follows:

South Asia

- Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, Bangladesh (BIISS)
- Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace, India (WISCOMP)
- Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, India (CSDS)

- Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, Bangladesh (RMMRU)
- Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka (RCSS)

Northeast Asia

- Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)
- Ilmin International Relations Institute, Korea University
- Center for International Security and Strategic Studies, Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP), Vietnam
- Beijing Foreign Studies University (representing IWEP China)
- Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong

Southeast Asia

- Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia (CSIS)
- Institute for Strategic and Development Studies, Philippines (ISDS)
- The WorldFish Center, Malaysia
- S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore (RSIS)

NTS-Asia Relaunch 2016

The RSIS reactivated the NTS-Asia Consortium in early 2016 with the aim to re-establish the Consortium's significance and value to NTS research in the region, and to reemphasize the increasingly relevant and urgent need to focus on transnational and multilateral non-traditional security issues. The primary platform for the Consortium communication and outlet of publication is the NTS-Asia Website. The Website is envisioned to be the one-stop platform for NTS issues. See website link below: <http://rsis-ntsasia.org/>

NTS-Asia Secretariat

The RSIS NTS Centre functions as the Secretariat of the NTS-Asia Consortium. Led by Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and supported by Ms Margareth Sembiring, Associate Research Fellow; and Ms Joey Liang, IT Executive and Webmaster.



