S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

### A Review of 2019

# RSiS

RESEARCH • EDUCATION • NETWORKING

# Ponder the Improbable

At IDSS, Mr Nathan insisted on research being policy-relevant. He exhorted faculty and research staff to "ponder the improbable". His international outlook and foreign policy background led to an emphasis on networking, which has contributed to knowledge sharing between RSIS and think tanks from all over the world, and to RSIS' standing as a critical node in the international network of think tanks and academic institutions dealing with strategic and security studies.

From ClassACT (A monthly e-magazine of the Alumni Affairs Office, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore), December 2011 http://enewsletter.ntu.edu.sg/classact/Dec11/Pages/cn3.aspx

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# Message from the Executive Deputy Chairman

Year 2019 has been a year of the unexpected, of developments that shifted paradigms.

After globalisation that has brought relative peace and prosperity to the world, we face likely fragmentation into competing power and technology systems. Norms and rules of law set in place are being challenged. The multilateral trading regime faces tremendous pressure. The global economic system rests on trade, which opens up the various countries and regions, leading to significant growth and national development.

As the world continues to counter terrorism and extremism, fringe groups and lone wolves of different backgrounds have attacked civil populations in many places around the globe. Ethnic and religious issues as well as latent differences and divisive traditions returned to centre-stage.

When there's turbulence, it is best to stay steady and problem-solve with reliable analyses and innovative policies. Whether to maintain the world order or to change it, we need rules, good legal structures and well-established institutions. We also need better understanding of the minds and leaderships who can make the difference.

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) is well placed to study the challenges and network with the relevant actors to help steady the situation. In October, we initiated a Workshop on "Geopolitics and Technology", bringing together scholars from the West and China, for a better appreciation of the developments and their impact. We held the annual Singapore Trade Policy Forum, also in October, convening experts on the subject for lively discussions and policy recommendations.

During the year, RSIS continued with its flagship Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO) and Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO), and with its secretariat support for the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP), Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) and the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies in Asia. Mutual learning was the order of the day.

Upstream to security developments are the nurturing of human relations in communities, in particular, interfaith relations and cohesion in diverse societies as in Singapore. Year 2019 marked the 5th anniversary of the Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme, which has been studying interreligious relations in plural societies, and reaching out through symposiums and other programmes. SRP Programme has launched its own series of peerreviewed publications.

RSIS organised the first International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS), mooted by Singapore's Head of State President Halimah Yacob, and supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. More than a thousand local and foreign delegates assembled in June 2019 and took away that diversity is not a hindrance to social cohesion. What matters is how we view diversity in society, and make the most of our differences, bearing in mind that we share one common future.

RSIS will continue to ponder the improbable. We will strive to shine the light on what may lie ahead and endeavour to offer thought-provoking but practical ways forward. I hope our students will continue to add to their endeavours as they drive our academic achievements to greater heights.

> **Ambassador Ong Keng Yong** Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS, Director, IDSS, and Head, ICPVTR



When there's turbulence, it is best to stay steady and problem-solve with reliable analyses and innovative policies. Whether to maintain the world order or to change it, we need rules, good legal structures and well-established institutions. We also need better understanding of the minds and leaderships who can make the difference."

# Message from the Dean

The past year has been a fruitful one for our research endeavours. Faculty and research staff have continued to publish through prestigious scholarly and academic channels. They have also shared their views through various policy outlets as well as public opinion pieces.

RSIS master's programmes continue to attract a cosmopolitan student body with increasingly diverse educational, professional and cultural backgrounds. Over 200 students from 30 countries enrolled in RSIS master's programmes in July 2019. Twenty-five students were offered scholarships and study awards in AY2019/2020, including the RSIS Scholarship, the Lee Foundation Scholarship, Student Research Assistantships, Terrorism Analyst Study Awards, and Research Analyst Study Awards. Two new PhD students joined RSIS.

The RSIS Alumni Association (RAA) leadership transition was announced at the RSIS Alumni Dinner in July 2019. Mr Eddie Lim, Senior Fellow and Head of the Military Studies Programme at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), as well as an alumnus from the early years of RSIS has taken over the role of President of the RAA Executive Committee from Mr Phillip Ee. The event was attended by 160 alumni and was a fitting celebration for the growing RSIS alumni family, which now includes more than 2,100 graduates from 70 countries.

This year, RSIS also co-hosted with the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences and the International Studies Association (ISA), the ISA Asia-Pacific Conference "Asia-Pacific and World Order: Security, Economics, Identity and Beyond". Over 400 delegates participated, with 10 per cent coming from the NTU family, representing institutions in 40 countries to showcase their research and develop ties with fellow academics and policy researchers over three days at the NTU@one-north Campus in Singapore. The Exhibition Hall housed some 15 publishers, academic institutions and think tanks providing a meeting place to bring these communities together. It is through avenues like this that RSIS continues to be well-represented and fosters its global ties.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the faculty and staff of RSIS for their immense contributions over the last year.

I hope you enjoy reading our Review of 2019.

#### **Professor Ralf Emmers**

Dean, RSIS President's Chair in International Relations, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore RSIS master's programmes continue to attract a cosmopolitan student body with increasingly diverse educational, professional and cultural backgrounds. Over 200 students from 30 countries enrolled in RSIS master's programmes in July 2019."



# About RSIS



## Introduction to RSIS

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) is a leading think tank and School of graduate education offering Master of Science Programmes in Strategic Studies, International Relations, International Political Economy and Asian Studies. Its five Research Centres and three Research Programmes, led by the Office of the Executive Deputy Chairman, drive the School's research, education and networking activities.

Research in RSIS covers two main areas - traditional and evolving areas. Under the traditional area,

- The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) covers the Asia Pacific, Military and Security: regional architecture to manage rivalries among major powers; maritime security; Indo-Pacific visions of major powers and response by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); politics and religions in Malaysia and Indonesia, and implications for Singapore; and impact of geopolitics and technology competition;
- The International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) focuses on terrorism and extremism;
- The Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) covers radicalisation studies; social resilience and homeland defence; cybersecurity, cyber governance and norms; impact of social media and online falsehoods/manipulation; and technology competition and implications for Singapore;
- The Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS) focuses on international political economy and role
  of multilateral organisations: ASEAN and its community building, economic integration and rules
  making; World Trade Organization (WTO) trade negotiations and role played by national parliaments
  and other stakeholders, and WTO's future in the existing multilateral trading system.

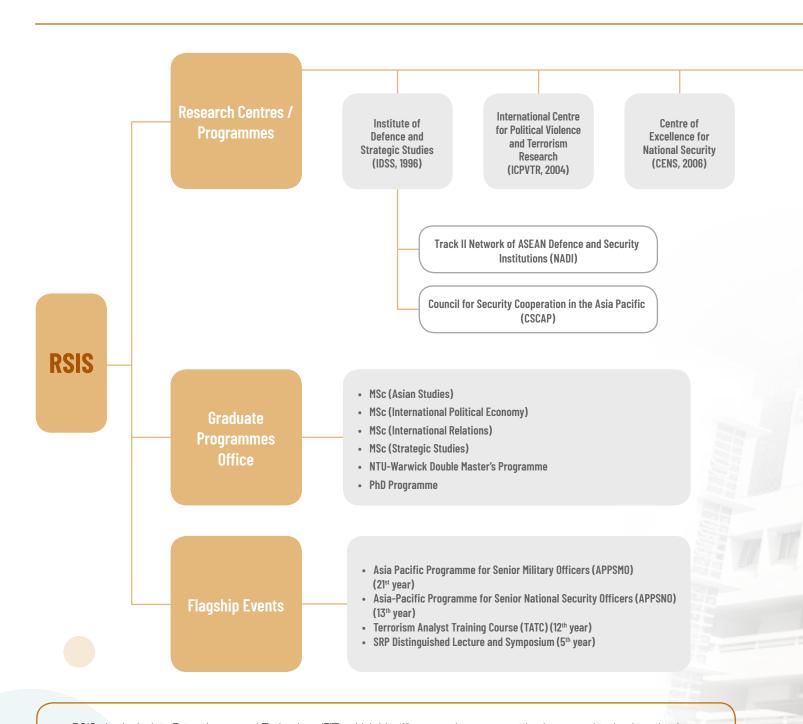
Under the evolving areas,

- The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) researches into Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and policymaking; climate change and implications for food security; marine pollution and environmental protection; nuclear energy and ASEAN cooperation; migration; and peace and security, and impact on ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community building;
- The Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme focuses on interreligious relations;
- National Security Studies Programme (NSSP);
- Science and Technology Studies Programme (STSP);
- Futures Issues and Technology (FIT) Hub.

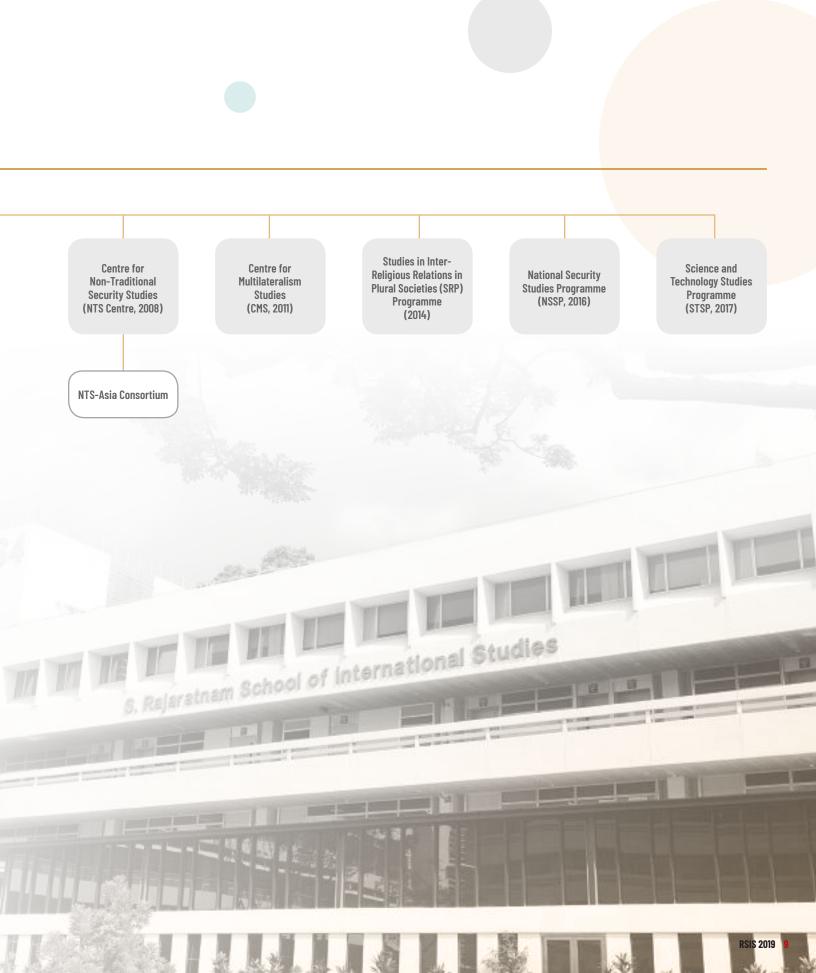
RSIS produces both academic and policy-relevant research on security and international affairs. We publish scholarly research in top-tier academic journals and leading university presses, and distribute policy research in a timely manner to a wide range of readers. RSIS researchers engage in global and regional discussions on security and international affairs, such as the Shangri-La Dialogues, Council of Councils meetings, Trilateral Commission Conferences and Halifax International Security Forums.



# Organisation of RSIS

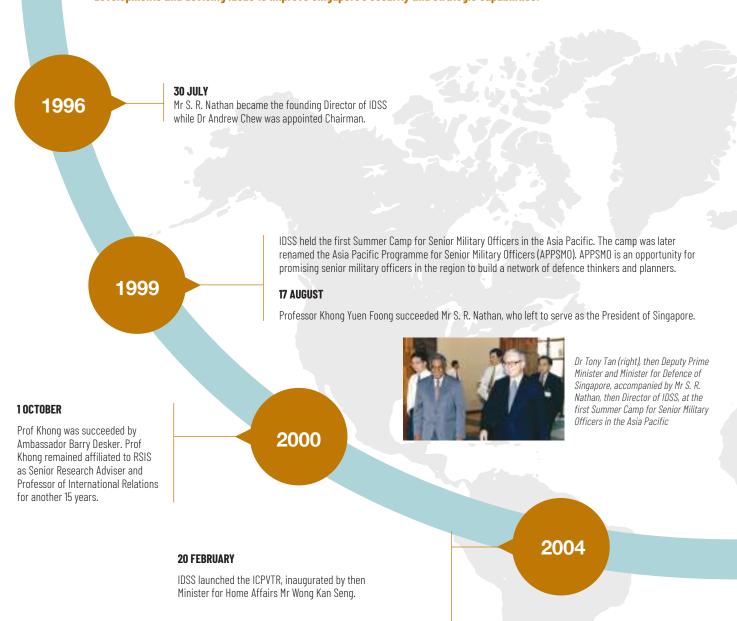


RSIS also looks into Future Issues and Technology (FIT), which identifies emerging, cross-cutting issues and technology that have strategic impact on policy, as well as potential disruptive national security implications.



# Building the Foundations

The end of the Cold War ushered a phase of strategic uncertainty in the world. A think tank was needed to make sense of the post-war trends that would impact Singapore. Then Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tony Tan tasked the late Mr S. R. Nathan to set up a research institute and graduate school which could provide intellectual support to the Ministry of Defence by studying developments and devising ideas to improve Singapore's security and strategic capabilities.



#### **Setting up IDSS**

Before the inauguration of RSIS in 2007, it was known as IDSS. By establishing the IDSS in 1996, then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Dr Tony Tan wanted to inform policymakers of the political uncertainty in the Asia Pacific region arising from the post-Cold War era, and the possible implications of this uncertainty on Singapore's security and defence. The late President S. R. Nathan was selected to head the institute, thanks to his vast experience in confronting geopolitical issues.

Mr Nathan set out to build an institution that differed from its local and overseas counterparts. The local think tank scene was then still relatively underdeveloped. A handful of thought centres focused mainly on domestic issues, and there lacked a dedicated institution that taught courses at graduate level

that could generate strategic insights on how to navigate the intricate world where security, defence and politics intersect. IDSS was intended to overcome these blind spots. Mr Nathan quickly helped IDSS establish its beginnings as a graduate education institution by assisting it to launch its first programme, the Master of Science in Strategic Studies, in 1998.

Mr Nathan created the motto "Ponder the Improbable". He insisted on research being policy-relevant, and often exhorted faculty and research staff to "ponder the improbable". The motto is indicative of the demands of cognitive rigour expected of staff and students in the course of their research or lessons.



Mr Peter Ho, then Permanent Secretary (National Security and Intelligence Coordination) in the Prime Minister's Office, signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amb Barry Desker, then Dean of RSIS, to launch CENS, as Prof S. Jayakumar, then Coordinating Minister for National Security, and Dr Andrew Chew, then Chairman of the RSIS Board of Governors, looked on

#### 1 APRIL

IDSS launched CENS to study the extremist and terrorist threat networks within and outside Singapore.

#### 1 JANUARY

RSIS was officially inaugurated, with IDSS remaining a prominent centre within the School.

CENS organised the first APPSNO.

Faculty members began teaching courses at SAFTI Military Institute under the SAF-NTU Strategic Partnership.

Courses conducted at SAFTI's Goh Keng Swee Command and Staff College became fully accredited towards NTU's Master of Science programmes.

ICPVTR conducted courses on terrorism for officers from defence and home affairs ministries.

#### 31 MARCH

The School launched the RSIS Endowment Fund, which included provisions for three professorships — the S. Rajaratnam Professorship in Strategic Studies, the NTUC Professorship in International Economic Relations, and the Ngee Ann Kongsi Professorship in International Relations.

#### 6 MAY

RSIS launched the NTS Centre in pursuit of solutions to nontraditional security issues that arose from crises such as the 2003 SARS epidemic and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

2006 2008 2007

#### **Nurturing and Growing the School**

IDSS introduced two new programmes and Centres between 1999 and 2006: the Master of Science in International Relations and the Master of Science in International Political Economy programmes, as well as the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) and the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS).

During that period, the region entered a new geopolitical landscape. The September 11 attacks and outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, had changed the way nations looked at security, defence and politics. Mr Nathan himself felt that the existence of IDSS was timely in the light of these events, as it became imperative to develop a "sophisticated understanding" of the forces at work in the world.

In 2007, RSIS was inaugurated, signifying the maturation of IDSS as a research institute. IDSS remains a prominent research centre within RSIS.

The school was named after Mr S. Rajaratnam in recognition of his contributions to Singapore as its first Foreign Minister. Mr Rajaratnam helped Singapore gain entry into the United Nations, and built up the Foreign Service. Essentially, he paved the way for Singapore's international relations from the country's earliest days of independence.

Adapted from Alan Chong, "Chapter 1: The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at 20: Enhancing Intellectual Capital and Quiet Diplomacy", Forward Engagement: RSIS as a Think Tank of International Studies and Security in the Asia-Pacific (Singapore: World Scientific Publishing Co., 2017), pp. 3-8 https://www.worldscientific.com/doi/10.1142/9789813208476\_0001

#### **JANUARY**

Mr Eddie Teo took over as Chairman of RSIS Board of Governors.

Mr S. R. Nathan re-joined RSIS as a Distinguished Senior Fellow after stepping down as the 6th President of the Republic of Singapore.

#### 14 OCTOBER

RSIS launched the CMS to conduct academic and policy research on economic multilateralism and regional economic integration.

#### 9 JUNE

The SRP Programme was inaugurated by Dr Tony Tan, then NTU Chancellor and 7th President of the Republic of Singapore.

#### **3 NOVEMBER**

Amb Barry Desker handed over leadership of RSIS to Amb Ong Keng Yong as the Executive Deputy Chairman under a new management structure. Prof Joseph Liow became the Dean of RSIS.





Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS Amb Ong Keng Yong (centre) signing MoUs with six research and academic institutions at the 3<sup>rd</sup> SRP Distinguished Lecture and Symposium, 2 February 2017

#### The NSSP, led by Assoc Prof Kumar Ramakrishna as its head, was inaugurated in April.

2016

#### 1 SEPTEMBER

RSIS launched FIT.

#### 1 OCTOBER

With the growing move towards artificial intelligence and technology, RSIS launched the STSP.

2017

2018

#### 1 AUGUST

Dr Tony Tan took over chairmanship of the Board of Governors from Mr Eddie Teo.

# Research Centres and Programmes



#### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

The Office of the Executive Deputy Chairman in RSIS houses the Policy Studies group. This team helps Executive Deputy Chairman Amb Ong Keng Yong to identify and incubate new policy-relevant research programmes.

FIT was launched on 1 September 2017. Also under the purview of the Office of the Executive Deputy Chairman, the FIT group works with relevant RSIS Centres, Programmes and researchers to better identify emerging, cross-cutting issues and technology that have strategic impact on policy, as well as potential disruptive national security implications. These include cyber, artificial intelligence, SMART Nation issues, and implications of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Increasingly, too, issues such as the interplay between trade, technology and geopolitics will feature in the work that FIT does in conjunction with RSIS Centres and Programmes.

#### RSIS comprises five Research Centres and three Research Programmes.

#### **INSTITUTE OF DEFENCE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES (IDSS)**

IDSS is a prominent centre in RSIS. It focuses on security research to serve national needs. Its mission is to conduct analytically rigorous, cutting-edge research on defence and security-related issues and developments affecting the Asia Pacific region in the service of the Nation and the global research community.

#### INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM RESEARCH (ICPVTR)

This Centre produces research and analyses, threat assessments, and policy reports on developments in terrorism in countries and regions around the world.

Set up on 20 February 2004, its mission is to conduct research, training and outreach programmes aimed at reducing the threat of politically motivated violence and mitigating the effects of this threat on the international system.

A leading centre for counter-terrorism and rehabilitation, the Centre provides training for officials engaged in combating terrorism and other forms of political violence. It also advises governments and informs societies affected by such violence on how best to manage the threat.

#### CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY (CENS)

This Centre, set up on 1 April 2006, is devoted to its mission of producing rigorous policy-relevant analyses of a range of national security issues and increasing the intellectual capital invested in strategising national security.

CENS works closely with other RSIS research programmes and with national security agencies such as the National Security Coordination Secretariat in the Prime Minister's Office.

#### **CENTRE FOR NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY STUDIES** (NTS CENTRE)

NTS Centre conducts empirically-grounded research to produce policy-relevant analyses aimed at increasing awareness of NTS issues and building capacity to address these issues in Asia Pacific and beyond. These issues are challenges to the survival and wellbeing of peoples and states.

Set up on 6 May 2008, NTS Centre's mission is to conduct rigorous research aimed at advancing the study of NTS issues, providing a platform for scholars and policymakers in Asia and beyond to guide NTS policies, and engaging the academic and policy communities to craft informed approaches to NTS challenges.

#### **CENTRE FOR MULTILATERALISM STUDIES (CMS)**

The remit of CMS is to conduct academic and policy research on economic multilateralism and regional economic integration, educate government officials on those same concerns, and contribute substantively to the international policy debate on the evolving regional architecture of East Asia and the Asia Pacific. Launched on 14 October 2011, its mission is to conduct scholarly and policy research, facilitate policy dialogue and academic debate, and engage in capacity-building in multilateral cooperation and regional governance and integration in Asia Pacific.

#### STUDIES IN INTER-RELIGIOUS RELATIONS IN PLURAL **SOCIETIES (SRP) PROGRAMME**

Launched on 9 June 2014, the SRP Programme aims to study various models of how communities adapt their religious life and evolve their religious doctrines to cope with the realities of living in plural societies. Its mission is to develop expertise in the study of inter-religious relations in plural societies, including their effective conflict resolution mechanisms; study models that promote peace and strengthen social ties; and enrich the academic and applied knowledge of inter-religious relations with an Asian perspective.

#### **NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES PROGRAMME (NSSP)**

This programme aims to foster and enhance intellectual capital pertaining to the milestone episodes in Singapore's security history and nation-building challenges. Launched in April 2016, NSSP represents the latest research collaboration between RSIS and the National Security Coordination Secretariat in the Prime Minister's Office, Singapore. The mission of NSSP is to study the "Singapore model" of national security in depth and to discern the ways in which the country addresses diverse national security challenges, with a view to generating insights pertinent for small, globalised, multi-ethnic city-states.

#### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES PROGRAMME (STSP)

STSP looks into emerging science and technology trends and their impact on national security and public policymaking. With support from the Ministry of Home Affairs, STSP is focused on unpacking the latest science and technology issues to help strengthen the state's capacity to respond to them. Launched on 1 October 2017, the mission of STSP is to conduct rigorous academic research on emerging science and technology trends, to publish in high impact journals, and to facilitate knowledge-sharing on relevant science and technology issues.

# Board of Governors



**Dr Tony Tan** 

Chairman

Special Adviser, GIC, and Honorary Patron and Distinguished Senior Fellow, SMU



**Ambassador Ong Keng Yong** 

#### **Deputy Chairman**

Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS, Director, IDSS, and Head, ICPVTR

#### **Members**



**Professor Michael E. Brown** 

Professor of International Affairs and Political Science, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University



Mr Chan Yeng Kit

Permanent Secretary (Defence), Ministry of Defence



Mr Chee Wee Kiong

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Ms Chew Gek Khim

Executive Chairman, The Straits Trading Company Limited

The Board of Governors sets academic and policy research objectives for the School, providing strategic directions for RSIS, instituting new programmes, reviewing ongoing activities, and approving its plans and budgets. The board consists of Singaporean and international members.



**Professor Er Meng Hwa** 

Professor, School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore



**Dr Bates Gill** 

Professor of Asia-Pacific Security Studies, Macquarie University



**Mr Peter Ho** 

Senior Advisor, Centre for Strategic Futures, Prime Minister's Office



**Professor Vali Nasr** 

Majid Khadduri Professor of Middle East and International Affairs, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University



**Professor Sir Steve Smith** 

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Exeter



Mr Pang Kin Keong

Permanent Secretary (Home Affairs), Ministry of Home Affairs



**Mr Peter Varghese AO** 

Chancellor, The University of Queensland



Mr Leo Yip

Head of the Civil Service, Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office (Strategy), Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, and Permanent Secretary, National Security and Intelligence Coordination



**Professor Ralf Emmers** 

Ex-officio Member

Dean, RSIS, and President's Chair in International Relations, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

## Staff of RSIS

#### **EXECUTIVE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE**

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong

LLB Hons (University of Singapore), MA (Georgetown University) Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS Director of Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies Head of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research

Dr Kumar Ramakrishna BSSc Hons (NUS), Master in Defence Studies (UNSW), PhD (London) Associate Professor Head of Policy Studies Head of National Security Studies Programme

#### **DEAN'S OFFICE**

Dr Ralf Emmers BA (VUB-Vesalius College), MSc and PhD (LSE) Dean of RSIS President's Chair in International Relations Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Dr Ang Cheng Guan BA Hons (NUS), MA and PhD (London) Associate Professor Associate Dean of RSIS Deputy Director of Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies Head of Graduate Studies (until end September 2019)

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(in alphabetical order)

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Staff at the biennial team bonding activity at Garden Asia, 15 March 2019

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Professor of International Economics

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Student-Staff-Alumni football match, 6 April 2019

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Ambassador Mohammad Alami Musa BEng (University of Singapore), MSc (NUS) Head of Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme

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Dr Badrol Hisham bin Noor (Farish) BA and MPhil (Sussex), MA (London), PhD (Essex) Associate Professor

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Dr Kumar Ramakrishna BSocSc Hons (NUS), Master in Defence Studies (UNSW), PhD (London) Associate Professor Head of Policy Studies Head of National Security Studies Programme

Dr Michael Raska BA (Missouri Southern State College), MA (Yonsei), PhD (NUS) Assistant Professor Coordinator of Military Transformations Programme Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

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Dr Evan Resnick BA Hons (York University), MA, MPhil and PhD (Columbia University) Assistant Professor

Dr Sinderpal Singh s/o Santokh Singh BA (NUS), MA (ANU), PhD (Aberystwyth) Senior Fellow Coordinator of South Asia Programme Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies

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Mr Julius Cesar Imperial Trajano BA (UP), MSc (RSIS, NTU) Research Fellow

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Dr Kristie Barrow Visiting Senior Fellow 25 November - 4 December 2019

Dr Rajesh Manohar Basrur Visiting Professor

Mr Richard Allan Bitzinger Visiting Senior Fellow, Military Transformation Programme 1 March 2018 - 29 February 2020

Dr Catherine Bragg Visiting Fellow, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief 14 - 23 February 2019

Mr Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy Visiting Fellow, RSIS 15 May 2018 – 31 May 2020

Dr Chen Xi Visiting Senior Fellow, China Programme 16 September - 15 December 2019

Ms Jeanne Louise Conceicao Visiting Fellow, RSIS 2 January 2019 – 2 January 2020

Dr Deep Kisor Datta Rav Visiting Senior Fellow, Graduate Programmes Office 12 July 2019 - 11 February 2020

Dr Syafiq Hasyim Visiting Fellow, Indonesia Programme 24 July 2018 - 23 July 2019

Dr Noor Huda Ismail Visiting Fellow, RSIS 24 September 2018 – 23 March 2020

Dr Tavida Kamolvej Visiting Fellow, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief 2 - 21 March 2019

Dr Tomoo Kikuchi Visiting Senior Fellow, Centre for Multilateralism Studies 22 January 2018 - 21 July 2019

Dr Frederick Kliem Visiting Fellow, Centre for Multilateralism Studies 2 May 2019 - 30 April 2021

Mr Kuniyuki II Kaname Kenneth Visiting Fellow, RSIS 24 July 2019 - 30 June 2020

Dr Irman Gurmilang Lanti Visiting Senior Fellow, Indonesia Programme 4 March - 12 April 2019

Dr Sophie Lemiere Visiting Fellow, Malaysia Programme 21 May - 20 July 2019

Dr Melissa Levaillant Visiting Fellow, South Asia Programme 5 November 2019 – 31 October 2020

Mr Peter Lim Heng Loong Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS 1 February 2018 – 31 January 2020

Professor Long Xingchun Visiting Senior Fellow, China Programme 5 November 2018 – 30 January 2019

Ms Vijayalakshmi Menon Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS 8 November 2017 – 30 November 2019

Professor T. V. Paul Visiting Professor, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies 25 February - 22 March 2019

Dr Adhi Priamarizki Visiting Fellow, Indonesia Programme 9 September 2019 - 8 March 2021

Dr Pradumna Bickram Rana Visiting Associate Professor

Mr Victor Roger Savage Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS 7 February 2017 - 29 February 2020

Dr Duvvuri Subbarao Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS 5 – 26 August 2019

Mr Pisupati Sadasiva Suryanarayana Visiting Fellow, RSIS 1 June 2018 - 31 May 2020

Dr Su Hao Visiting Senior Fellow, China Programme 4 January - 15 March 2019

Dr Kevin Tan Yew Lee Visiting Professor

Professor Geoffrey Till Director, Corbett Centre for Maritime Policy Studies, King's College London Visiting Senior Fellow, Maritime Security Programme 4 November 2016 – 30 June 2020

Dr Cung Vu Associate Director, Office of Naval Research Global Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS 1 January - 31 December 2019

Dr Mikael Weissmann Visiting Senior Fellow, China Programme 29 October – 3 November 2019

Dr Zhao Yi Visiting Senior Fellow, China Programme 27 June – 26 September 2019

Dr Zhu Xianghui Visiting Senior Fellow, China Programme 13 February - 12 May 2019

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Team RSIS at Run for Hope, 17 February 2019

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Mr Mervin Kok Wai Leong BA (UniSA) Corporate Communications Manager

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Ms Sandy Yeo Bee Eng Dip Personnel Management, Grad Dip and BA (Singapore Institute of Management) Human Resource Manager

Ms Charlotte Yu Yanying BSc (SIM University) Centre Manager of Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies

As of end November 2019

## Honours and Awards



Prof Joseph Liow

#### RSIS RESEARCH ADVISER AWARDED THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MEDAL (SILVER)

Professor Joseph Liow, RSIS Research Adviser and former Dean of RSIS, received the Public Administration Medal (Silver) at the 2019 National Day Awards. Prof Liow is Tan Kah Kee Chair in Comparative and International Politics and Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at NTU Singapore.

#### A STUDY OF THE POLITICAL DYNAMICS OF US TRADE POLICY

Assistant Professor Lee Su-Hyun, Deputy Coordinator of CMS' International Political Economy Programme has been awarded a Ministry of Education (MOE) Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier

1 grant of \$27,840 for a research project titled "The Political Dynamics of Protectionism: Origins Consequences." The project focuses on a book manuscript on American trade policy that examines how incumbent presidents and their parties strategically implement trade policy for electoral and partisan goals, and to what extent the distributional consequences of trade affect voting behaviour in US presidential and general elections. As extensions, the project analyses how trade competition from low income countries, especially from China, has affected the rise of populism and antiglobalisation backlash in advanced industrial countries.



Asst Prof Lee Su-Hyun

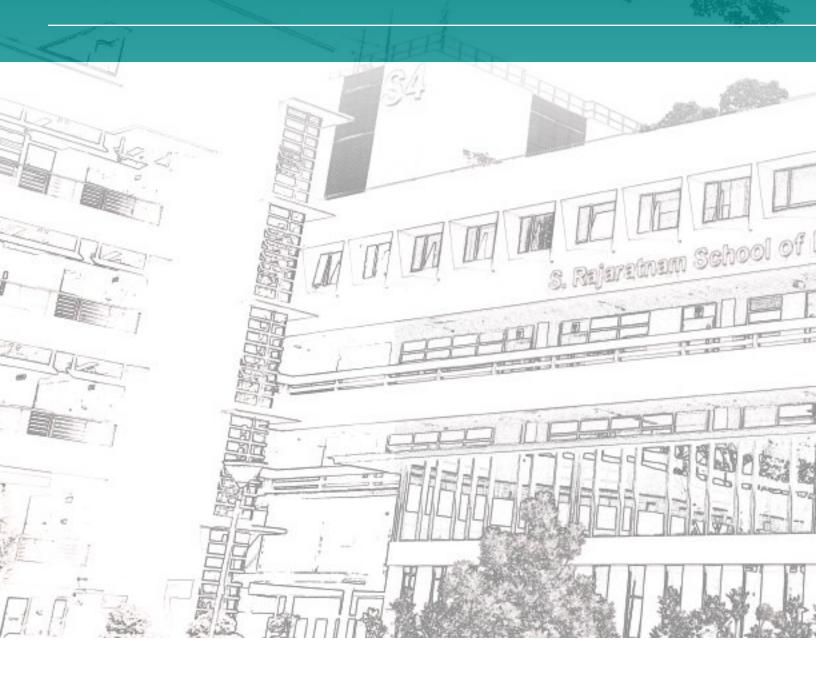


Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony and Mr Julius Trajano

#### A STUDY TO EXAMINE CIVILIAN NUCLEAR GOVERNANCE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC

Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of NTS Centre (Principal Investigator), and Mr Julius Trajano, Research Fellow (Collaborator) of the same centre, have been awarded an MOE AcRF Tier 1 grant for a 25-month research project titled "Nuclear Governance in Indo/Asia Pacific: Building out from Southeast Asia." The project explores pathways toward building a robust framework for civilian nuclear governance in the Asia Pacific, building out from the nuclear cooperation framework and progress in Southeast Asia. It identifies and argues for the relevance of ASEAN-led mechanisms to deal with nuclear security in Southeast Asia and the broader Asia Pacific region. It will analyse the prospects for and emerging challenges to enhancing regional nuclear governance, covering three key issues: (i) nuclear security capacity-building; (ii) the role of nuclear governance centres of excellence and knowledge centres; and (iii) nuclear emergency preparedness and response.





# Highlights

During the year, RSIS staff continued to research into their respective areas of expertise, and shared their findings and insights through RSIS publications and external publications. Topical issues included geopolitics and technology, cybersecurity, regional developments, security, interfaith harmony, online falsehoods and disinformation, counter-terrorism and counter-extremism. RSIS scholars also published peer-reviewed books on their areas of research.

The flagship Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO) observed its 21st edition while the Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO) had its 13th run.

RSIS continues to serve key roles in security within the region, acting as Secretariat for both the Singapore National Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP Singapore) and the Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI). These roles allow RSIS to actively contribute to discussions on regional security, support the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) with relevant inputs and timely ahead-of-the-curve policy recommendations, and build the confidence of ASEAN think tanks and research institutions.



#### COUNCIL FOR SECURITY COOPERATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC (CSCAP)

CSCAP Singapore stepped up its involvement in CSCAP with Amb Ong Keng Yong's election in June 2019 by the ASEAN members of CSCAP to be the ASEAN Co-Chair of CSCAP for the next two years till mid-2021. CSCAP Singapore and US CSCAP co-organised the eighth CSCAP Nuclear Energy Experts Group meeting in January. The meeting involved discussions on progress in nuclear governance in Asia Pacific, technological issues such as cyber threats to nuclear security and the development of small and floating nuclear power plants. All these called for flexibility and adaptation to new technologies, more information sharing and enhanced cooperation at all levels. CSCAP Singapore, as a Co-Chair of the CSCAP Study Group on International Law and Cyberspace, hosted the first CSCAP Study Group Meeting on this topic in February. The discussion focused on the importance of international law in cyberspace, its relevance to ASEAN, and the global challenges to implementation of international law in cyberspace.

#### TRACK II NETWORK OF ASEAN DEFENCE AND **SECURITY INSTITUTIONS (NADI)**

RSIS serves as the Secretariat for the Track II NADI. NADI is a forum comprising defence and security Institutions from the 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS), which supports the ADMM with relevant inputs and timely ahead-of-the-curve policy recommendations. NADI is also a forum that builds confidence and familiarity among the ASEAN think tanks and research institutions. As the Secretariat for NADI, RSIS hosts the NADI website which carries reports of the NADI meetings, workshops and retreats. Over the last 10 years, NADI members have participated in their own personal capacities to think beyond their respective governments' positions. NADI has contributed forward-looking ideas and policy recommendations that are useful and relevant to the ADMM track, with the ADMM expressing its appreciation for NADI's work, having observed its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017.

In 2019, NADI institutions organised three meetings and workshops. The NADI 12th Annual Meeting on "ASEAN Defence Security Foresighting in the Next 2 Decades", as well as the 4th NADI Retreat, were organised by the Strategic Studies Center, National Defence Studies Institute of Thailand, from 25 February to 3 March 2019, in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The Meeting recommended that NADI could consider studying how differing national considerations in doing foresighting could be converged, an area which NADI could consider holding a workshop to exchange views on. The Meeting also highlighted the importance of focusing on counter-terrorism, cybersecurity and climate change.

The second workshop, the NADI Workshop on "ASEAN Defence Cooperation in Dealing with Climate Change", was organised by the Institute for Defence Strategy, Ministry of National Defence of Vietnam, from 22 to 25 July 2019. in Ha Long, Vietnam. The Workshop recommended that ADMM-Plus countries provide training at the Track I level, and promote the transfer of expertise in technologies and human resources to the AMS through seminars and workshops, so as to enhance the capabilities of the AMS to deal with and respond to climate change. In keeping with whole-of-government approaches, each AMS could also establish coordination centres that include the military, civilian disaster response agencies and other related organisations. ASEAN and ADMM could continue to study the possibility of establishing a regional crisis management and response centre to coordinate humanitarian assistance & disaster relief efforts, including information sharing. The third workshop the NADI Workshop on "Strengthening Defence Diplomacy: Challenges and Prospects of ADMM" – was held from 5 to 8 November 2019 in Clark, Philippines.

#### **CONSORTIUM OF NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY STUDIES**

RSIS also acts as the Secretariat of the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies in Asia. A network of 31 institutions and think tanks across Asia, NTS-Asia is a platform for academic and policy exchange on developments on NTS issues and research across the Asian region. The NTS Centre staffs the secretariat. In March, it held its 4th annual conference, bringing together 50 participants from member institutions of the Consortium to deliberate on "Bringing Back Multilateral Cooperation in NTS Governance".

#### **RSIS DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURES**

RSIS visiting scholars and other eminent speakers gave Distinguished Public Lectures during the year. Among them were RSIS Board of Governors members Professor Michael E. Brown and Professor Bates Gill; Dr Volker Perthes, who gave the S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture; S. Rajaratnam Professor of Strategic Studies Professor John Esposito; NTUC Professor of International Economic Relations Professor Andrew Walter; Ngee Ann Kongsi Professor of International Relations Professor Steve Chan: and the APPSMO Alumni Distinguished Speakers' Lectures by APPSMO alumnus Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing and BG Ng Ying Thong, Commander of Training and Doctrine Command, Singapore Army. They spoke on a range of topical issues covering China-US relations, religion and politics, order of the Indo-Pacific region, and total defence amongst others.

More information on RSIS Public Lectures is available in Annex C.



Prof Michael E. Brown, Professor of International Affairs and Political Science at the Elliot School of International Affairs, the George Washington University, addressing the audience during the Distinguished Public Dialogue with Dr Bates Gill, Professor of Asia-Pacific Security Studies at Macquarie University (seated on stage, far right), and moderated by Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, 10 January 2019

#### 12TH TERRORISM ANALYST TRAINING **COURSE**

Capacity-building and networking for analysts continued at the annual Terrorism Analyst Training Course (TATC) held from 21 January to 1 February. The 12th edition brought together 60 participants and 20 international speakers. Discussion centred around gaps that affected responses of state and community to terrorism and extremism, the need for networks of trust to mitigate regional challenges, and for collective efforts to strengthen the global community's resilience against terrorism and extremism.

#### **VISIT OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS** MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN OF THAILAND

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of the Kingdom of Thailand, visited RSIS on 18 January 2019. Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, received Her Royal Highness. Her Royal Highness was briefed by Professor Ralf Emmers, Dean of RSIS, on the School and its academic programmes. Her Royal Highness also visited the RSIS Library and the NTU Humanities and Social Sciences Library, and toured The Hive.



Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (centre) with Amb Ong Keng Yong (left), Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, and Prof Ralf Emmers, Dean of RSIS, 18 January 2019

#### **ASEAN-EU\* DIALOGUE RELATIONS**

In support of Singapore as the coordinator of ASEAN-EU dialogue relations till mid-2021, RSIS co-organised with the EU Delegation to Singapore and the EU Institute for Security Studies a conference on "EU-Singapore Dialogue: Addressing Security Challenges in a Changing World". Held on 30 January, it discussed future prospects for security cooperation between EU and Singapore, focusing on cybersecurity, counterterrorism and maritime security. In April, RSIS and the University of Maastricht held the second research workshop (out of four) under the auspices of the EU-Asia Security and Trade (EAST). The Second Conference of the Jean Monnet Network on EAST brought together scholars to discuss the relations between EU and the Asia Pacific, in particular, security and trade.

#### NATIONAL SECURITY SYMPOSIUM

2019 saw the organisation of the inaugural National Security Symposium: Perspectives, Analysis & Discovery (NSSPAD). During the Symposium, local undergraduates were exposed to various non-traditional security issues affecting Singapore.



(From left) Dr Gustav Lindstrom, Director, European Union Institute for Security Studies; Moderator Dr Yeo Lay Hwee, Director, European Union Centre in Singapore; Ms Gwenda Fong, Director, Strategy, Cyber Security Agency of Singapore; and Dr Shashi Jayakumar, Head, CENS and Executive Coordinator, Future Issues and Technology, RSIS; at the EU-Singapore Dialogue, 30 January 2019

#### **CARI ROUNDTABLE**

During the year, RSIS organised discussions with international experts on the trade war and its impact on the global economy. Among them was the CIMB ASEAN Research Institute (CARI) roundtable discussion co-organised by CARI and RSIS on "Tracking Non-Tariff Barriers in the New Trade Order" on 2 April. Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, welcomed the participants. This was followed by special remarks by Tan Sri Dr Munir Majid, Chairman of CARI; a policy update by Ms Alpana Roy, Director, ASEAN (Trade Division), Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore; and a presentation by Mr Juan Sebastian Cortes-Sanchez, Trade

Policy Analyst, Asian Trade Centre (ATC). The roundtable also featured a panel discussion on "Future of ASEAN Trade: Tackling Non-tariff Barriers in the New Trade Order" by three speakers: Tan Sri Datuk Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria, Executive Director of APEC Secretariat; Mr Chris Humphrey, Executive Director of EU-ASEAN Business Council; and Dr Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit, Assistant Professor and Deputy Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies, RSIS.

<sup>\*</sup> Association of Southeast Asian Nations-European Union

#### 13TH ASIA-PACIFIC PROGRAMME FOR SENIOR NATIONAL **SECURITY OFFICERS (APPSNO)**

The 13th edition of APPSNO focused on the theme of "National Security in the Age of Disruption". Organised by CENS, with support from the National Security Coordination Secretariat in the Prime Minister's Office, 63 senior national security officers and 20 speakers from over 25 countries from Asia Pacific and beyond participated in intensive discussions during the week-long

event held from 8 to 12 April 2019. Issues discussed included the challenges and opportunities presented by geopolitics and globalisation, tackling cross-ideological connectedness across extremist groups, the importance of cyber protection and resilience, and the threat of climate change towards national security. The Guest-of-Honour Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, highlighted during his speech the disruptions to the political and social arenas and thus ramifications on national and global security.



APPSNO participants engaged in the relativity game, 8 April 2019

#### RSIS CONFERENCE ON ASIA AND THE HUMANITARIAN WORLD

Scholars and practitioners were in Singapore from 28 February to 1 March 2019 to explore perspectives, challenges, and opportunities for humanitarian action in the region. The Conference focused on the theme of "Asia and the Humanitarian World", and would be followed by a joint publication on the subject.

#### REGIONAL MARITIME SECURITY OUTLOOK, INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP ON MARITIME DOMAIN/SITUATIONAL **AWARENESS**

Maritime security discussions continued this year, with focus on the regional outlook at the Regional Maritime Security Outlook 2019 in January, and on the importance of an open and inclusive regional security architecture at the International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC) in May. Academics, researchers and representatives from think tanks and various regional and international institutions attended

the Regional Maritime Security Outlook 2019. Among the issues discussed at the Security Outlook were the evolving concept of the "Indo-Pacific", rising great power competition in the maritime domain, the importance of maintaining a rules-based regional order, and growing challenges from technological advancements. At IMSC, more than 400 participants from 40 countries, including navy chiefs, policymakers, academics, and various stakeholders, exchanged ideas and discussed ways to foster and enhance mutual security in the maritime commons. A new Workshop on Maritime Domain/ Situational Awareness in January examined the differing definitions and perspectives of the subject, with an eye on exploring workable solutions that can promote practical maritime security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. At the 10th anniversary of the annual RSIS-National Maritime Foundation in April, discussion focused on "The Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia: Promoting Rules-Based Order in the Maritime Commons". In addition, RSIS co-hosted the annual Regional MARSEC Practitioners Programme (RMPP), a flagship maritime security capacity building event which brings together regional armed extra regional navies and law enforcement agencies to better understand and appreciate the maritime security environment, share perspectives and enhance practical cooperation.

#### 10<sup>™</sup> RSIS-WORLD TRADE **ORGANIZATION (WTO) PARLIAMENTARIAN WORKSHOP**

Regional legislators met for the 10th RSIS-WTO Parliamentarian Workshop from 11 to 13 June. The workshop was held to increase the capacity of regional legislators to engage in international trade issues, which included gaining a deeper understanding of the WTO and current and future negotiating issues in international trade. A total of 54 parliamentarians from 22 economies across ASEAN, Asia and the Pacific Islands participated in the workshop. The workshop was co-sponsored by the WTO and Temasek Foundation.



Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore, giving the opening remarks at the RSIS-WTO Parliamentarian Workshop, 11 June 2019

#### 5TH SRP DISTINGUISHED LECTURE AND INTER-RELIGIOUS SYMPOSIUM

The Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme, in its 5th year, launched a peer-reviewed series of occasional papers at its 5th Distinguished Lecture and Inter-Religious Symposium on "Countering Exclusivism, Promoting Inclusivism for Positive Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies" held on 3 April. The series of articles delved into inter-religious relations issues. SRP Programme also held a seminar discussing religion and China's Belt and Road Initiative, and a workshop on inter-religious dialogue with the six religious organisations it has an MoU with.



(From left) Assoc Prof Patrice Brodeur, Prof Leonard Swidler, Assoc Prof Paul Hedges, Prof Julius Lipner, and Prof Zhuo Xinping, at the 5<sup>th</sup> SRP Distinguished Lecture and Inter-Religious Symposium, 3 April 2019



First Issue of the Interreligious Relations Occasional Papers

# **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COHESIVE SOCIETIES (ICCS)**

In a year of continuing focus on extremism and when Far Right extremism rears its head, inter-religious issues in diverse societies came under the spotlight. Singapore held its first International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS) from 19 to 21 June. Initiated by Singapore's Head of State President Halimah Yacob, the international conference brought together 1,000 scholars, policymakers and practitioners to dialogue about faith, identity and cohesion at the plenary and breakout sessions. RSIS scholars participated as speakers and moderators in the RSIS-organised conference. RSIS researchers wrote commentaries about social cohesion and multi-racialism prior to the conference, and of the learning points after the conference, contributing to discussions on the subject.



Mr Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister for Finance (second from left), with Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (middle), and speakers of ICCS, 20 June 2019



(From left) Moderator Dr Shashi Jayakumar with Speakers Ms Karen Armstrong and Associate Professor Paul Hedges during the special presentation at ICCS, 20 June 2019



President Halimah Yacob with Speakers of ICCS, 19 June 2019



His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (middle in red tie) arriving with President Halimah Yacob at ICCS, 20 June 2019



DPM Heng Swee Keat (left) with Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, during the closing dialogue at ICCS, 21 June 2019



Participants of the Workshop on "Realising ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management: Making Strategy a Reality", 19-20 August 2019

## **WORKSHOP ON "THE AGE OF RAGES"**

Fraught with violence and the rise of the Far Right, hate speech is becoming prevalent in the contemporary world. The Workshop on "The Age of Rages" looked at reasons and factors of rage, and rising collective rage evident through extremist groups, acts of civil resistance, activism, and revolts.

# CYBERSECURITY TRAINING WORKSHOP

The inaugural run of the Cyber Policy Executive Course was held in July 2019 for a group of 20 government cybersecurity executives and managers. Supported by the National Security Coordination Secretariat and the Cyber Security Agency, the course was conducted over four days. It was designed to fill a need for practical interdisciplinary training for executives in either national security roles or cybersecurity roles, to develop their cybersecurity policy capacity in a focused setting. The overall learning objective of this course is to close the gaps in understanding relating to cybersecurity technology and risk, and gaps in understanding policy frameworks. This course is in line with the Government's commitment to lead efforts towards building cybersecurity capacity for Singapore, and enhancing the ability to respond to increasing global cyber threats. The course featured both international and local trainers and speakers, including Dr Shashi Jayakumar, Head of CENS; and Mr Benjamin Ang, Senior Fellow and Head of CENS' Cyber and Homeland Defence Programme.

## **WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY**

RSIS organised an annual series of events to commemorate World Humanitarian Day. It started with hosting the RSIS Workshop 2019 titled "Realising ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management: Making Strategy a Reality" from 19 to 20 August. The workshop brought together stakeholders in Southeast Asia to discuss practical ways to fulfil the strategy set forth by the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management through a whole-of-society approach.

More than 50 representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), focal points of member states, multilateral organisations, the military and defence sector, NGOs, businesses, and academia convened to examine crosssectoral partnerships in disaster management. Output from the workshop would be used to produce concrete recommendations for the development of 2021-2025 ASEAN Work Plan for the realisation of the declaration on "One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region".

There was also the "5th RSIS World Humanitarian Day 2019 Public Panel and Exhibition" on the evening of 19 August. The annual event brought together local players in the humanitarian sphere to celebrate the dedication of humanitarian workers around the world, and to remember those most in need of assistance.

RSIS also participated as a knowledge partner for the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management held on 21 August co-organised by the Singapore Civil Defence Force, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the AHA Centre. The dialogue emphasised the need to continuously build ASEAN's resilience to disasters by forging multi-stakeholder partnerships for future challenges, leveraging on sustainable development efforts to mitigate disaster impacts, and adapting to localisation as a new norm in humanitarian response.

# 21ST ASIA PACIFIC PROGRAMME FOR SENIOR MILITARY **OFFICERS (APPSMO)**

APPSMO observed its 21st edition focused on "Security Challenges and Opportunities in the Asia Pacific". More than 50 senior military officers from 20 countries in the Asia Pacific region and beyond participated in panel discussions on the growing debate within policy circles about both long-standing and more recent security trends in the region. The programme included a Distinguished Lecture by Prof Wang Gungwu, University

Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence & Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore (left), speaking with APPSMO participants from Saudi Arabia, 29 July 2019

Professor of the National University of Singapore, on "China and Change: Domestic and Foreign Imperatives".

APPSMO also inaugurated an APPSMO Alumni Lecture Series with a Lecture by Minister Chan Chun Sing, an APPSMO alumnus, on "The Evolution of Singapore Approach towards Total Defence" on 15 February. BG Ng Ying Thong, Commander of the Army Training and Doctrine Command of the Singapore Armed Forces, gave the second lecture on "SAF's Value in Peace and Related Operational Lessons" on 29 July.



Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry, speaking at the inaugural APPSMO Alumni Lecture Series, 15 February 2019

# **RSIS-SWP DIALOGUE**

RSIS held an inaugural dialogue with the eminent German think tank SWP on 30 August in Singapore, as part of its collaboration with SWP. Also known as the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, the SWP delegation was led by its Executive Chairman and Director Dr Volker Perthes. Dr Perthes was also in Singapore to deliver the S. T. Lee Distinguished Public Lecture. The overall theme of the Dialogue was "Maintaining Strategic Autonomy in Times of Tectonic Shifts in Global Affairs". During the one-day dialogue, academics and researchers from both sides shared their perspectives on navigating the global competition as well as rule-making and countering disinformation in cyberspace. The discussions covered global strategic trends, the role of regional institutions such as the European Union and ASEAN, as well as the idea of information sovereignty and the need for critical thinking ability within our communities. The Dialogue was a meaningful platform for RSIS and SWP to exchange strategic perspectives and access contemporary thinking in their respective regions.

## **COUNTERING EXTREMISM WORKSHOP**

Policymakers, analysts, researchers and academics involved in examining radicalisation, countering violent extremism, terrorism, and national security, attended the annual Countering Extremism Workshop from 16 to 17 September. The Workshop was to enhance understanding of radicalisation from a multi-disciplinary perspective, and learn how countries and organisations around the world are confronting extremism. It also explored new methods to counter extremism.



Dr Volker Perthes (left), receiving a memento from Amb Ong Keng Yong at the S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture, 27 August 2019





# **CONFERENCE ON "FOREIGN INTERFERENCE TACTICS** AND COUNTER-MEASURES"

RSIS convened a Conference on "Foreign Interference Tactics and Counter-measures", bringing together more than 200 public servants and academics, with representatives from grassroots and civil society, businesses and the legal fraternity. Held on 25 September, the Conference brought together international and local experts, including from social media, to discuss the topics of state actors and foreign interference tactics, defending the online space, and building resilience against foreign interference.



Mr K. Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Law, delivering the keynote address at the Conference on Foreign Interference Tactics and Counter-measures, 25 September 2019

# SINGAPORE TRADE POLICY FORUM

Experts from government, business and academia met at the Singapore Trade Policy Forum held from 21 to 22 October, with support from the governments of Singapore, New Zealand and Australia. The forum focused on key current and future trade policy issues, including determinants, impacts and coherence with other policy sectors. While global in scope, the forum engaged in a regional perspective.



Participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Singapore Trade Policy Forum, 21-22 October 2019

# **RSIS-IAEA FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COURSE ON NUCLEAR SECURITY**



Nuclear Security, 21-25 October 2019

A faculty development course on nuclear security was co-organised with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Singapore from 21 to 25 October 2019. Around 20 faculty members and trainers from universities and training institutions in the Asia Pacific region participated in a series of lectures and activities aimed at developing academic programmes and training courses on nuclear security education in their respective institutions. Key outcomes of this course were three draft graduate programme and training curricula on nuclear security in policy and social sciences, engineering and natural sciences.



Workshop on "Geopolitics and Technology", 23-24 October 2019

# **WORKSHOP ON "GEOPOLITICS AND TECHNOLOGY"**

RSIS held a workshop on "Geopolitics and Technology" on 23 October. Knowledge experts and participants shared views at the workshop. Discussions continued on 24 October in a closed-door discussion forum among the participants and stakeholders.















# **WORKSHOP ON "UNDERSTANDING AND COUNTERING ONLINE FALSEHOODS AND INFLUENCE OPERATIONS"**

The two-day Workshop by CENS, "Understanding and Countering Online Falsehoods and Influence Operations", was held on 4 and 5 November. The workshop, which had leading experts from academia, governments, and non-governmental and international organisations around the world share their thoughts and experiences, aimed to (i) enhance our understanding of the issues from a multi-disciplinary perspective; (ii) probe how countries and organisations around the world are coping with the issues; and (iii) explore existing and new methods to counter the problem. The speakers approached the issues from diverse perspectives including defence, psychology, public diplomacy, political science and education.



# Endowments and Endowed Professorships

When RSIS was inaugurated on 1 January 2007, a campaign to raise \$40 million (including dollar-for-dollar matching grants from the Singapore Government) for the RSIS Endowment Fund was initiated. The target was met, and the RSIS Endowment Fund was launched on 31 March 2008. Funds from this endowment are used to engage world-class faculty and research staff to the School and award scholarships to talented students. It provides students with a wider choice of courses, higher levels of excellence in teaching and increased research support.

RSIS has sponsors who have contributed grants to support the activities of the School over the years. They include the following:

- Singapore Totalisator Board
- MacArthur Foundation
- Temasek Foundation
- Mr Peter Lim
- Ngee Ann Kongsi
- Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited
- International Development Research Centre
- National Trades Union Congress
- Lee Foundation
- Dr Lee Seng Tee
- Ford Foundation
- Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd
- Brenthurst Foundation
- Singapore Press Holdings Foundation
- Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- Ancora Foundation

Other major sources of funding include the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), and the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS), which engage RSIS' research services.

RSIS endowment funds include provisions for four professorships. These professorships were established from donations together with matching grants from the Government. They are the S. Rajaratnam Professorship in Strategic Studies, the NTUC Professorship in International Economic Relations, the Ngee Ann Kongsi Professorship in International Relations, and the Peter Lim Professorship in Peace Studies. These endowed professorships enable RSIS to engage renowned scholars from various fields to teach and conduct research at the School, besides sharing their knowledge with the wider community through public lectures and seminars.

# Endowments and Endowed Professorships

## S. RAJARATNAM PROFESSORSHIP IN STRATEGIC STUDIES

The S. Rajaratnam Professorship in Strategic Studies at RSIS was established in honour of Mr S. Rajaratnam's distinguished services to the nation. Inaugurated on 31 August 1998, the professorship brings on board distinguished scholars in strategic studies and related fields to participate in teaching and research activities at the School. This enables RSIS to increase its international network as well as benefit from the knowledge, experience, and wisdom of eminent scholars appointed to the chair.



Mr S. Rajaratnam

Mr S. Rajaratnam, born in 1915, was elected Member of Parliament for Kampung Glam in 1959 and continued to represent the constituency until his retirement in 1988. He became the Minister for Culture in 1959 and the Minister for Foreign Affairs in 1965 and, in the latter capacity, took on a second portfolio as the Minister for Labour from 1968 to 1971. He became Second Deputy Prime Minister (Foreign Affairs) in 1980, after which he was appointed Senior Minister until his retirement. He passed away in 2006.



Prof John L. Esposito

The professorship is made possible by the \$2.6 million fund (excluding a matching grant from the Singapore Government) raised by the Fund Raising committee. The committee was chaired by Mr S. Chandra Das, former Member of Parliament for Cheng San Group Representative Constituency (1980-1996). Income generated from the invested funds helps maintain the professorship.

The scholar appointed to the prestigious S. Rajaratnam Chair in the period reviewed was Prof John L. Esposito, University Professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies, Georgetown University, from 7 to 16 July 2019.

# **NATIONAL TRADES UNION CONGRESS (NTUC)** PROFESSORSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

In 2007, the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) raised a total of \$2.5 million which, with additional funding from the Singapore Government and other sources, enabled RSIS to establish an endowed chair known as the NTUC Professorship in International Economic Relations. Set up in 1961, NTUC is the national federation of trade unions in Singapore whose basic aim is to safeguard and enhance the interests of workers.

Income from the endowment enables RSIS to appoint an NTUC Professor of International Economic Relations.

The scholar who held this prestigious NTUC Chair in 2019 was Prof Andrew Walter, Professor of International Relations in the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne, from 24 September to 5 October 2019.



Prof Andrew Walter



Prof Steve Chan

# NGEE ANN KONGSI PROFESSORSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL **RELATIONS**

Ngee Ann Kongsi has a long history of promoting education in Singapore. The Ngee Ann Kongsi Professorship in International Relations was established on 27 November 2007 through a generous donation of \$3 million from Ngee Ann Kongsi and a matching grant from the Singapore Government. Income from the endowment is used to bring renowned scholars in international relations to teach and research at RSIS.

The scholar appointed to this chair in 2019 was Prof Steve Chan, College Professor of Distinction, University of Colorado, Boulder, from 25 August to 6 September 2019.



Prof Abdullah Saeed

## PETER LIM PROFESSORSHIP IN PEACE STUDIES

The Peter Lim Professorship in Peace Studies was launched on 9 June 2014 during the inauguration of RSIS' Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme.

The professorship was established through a generous gift of \$3 million from Mr Peter Lim and a matching grant from the Singapore Government.

Mr Lim, a well-known Singaporean philanthropist, hopes that his donation can bring together distinguished scholars and thought leaders to study how Singapore can further preserve and promote the existing harmonious relations amongst its different communities, so that the nation will continue to enjoy peace and harmony. The endowment enables the SRP Programme to appoint a professor who can lead the programme in researching and teaching peace studies.

The first scholar to hold this endowed chair is Prof Abdullah Saeed. Appointed on 15 October 2015, he will hold this chair for five years as Adviser to the SRP.

# S. T. LEE DISTINGUISHED ANNUAL LECTURE

RSIS holds the S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture, where renowned scholars and policymakers are invited to speak to a Singapore-wide audience on key strategic issues of our time.

Established in 2007, the S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture series is funded by an endowment established from a generous personal donation by Dr Lee Seng Tee, a well-known Singaporean philanthropist, and with a matching grant from the Singapore Government. Dr Lee is a well-known benefactor of educational establishments both locally and overseas.

Dr Volker Perthes, Executive Chairman and Director of SWP (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik), German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin, Germany, spoke at the 2019 lecture. He was with RSIS from 26 to 31 August 2019.



Dr Volker Perthes

# Visiting Scholars

Professor Steve Chan Ngee Ann Kongsi Professor of International Relations 25 August-6 September 2019

Professor John L. Esposito RSIS Professor of Strategic Studies 7-16 July 2019

Professor Joseph Fewsmith Distinguished Visiting Fellow 25-28 February 2019

Professor Gavin Flood Yap Kim Hao Visiting Professor, Yale-NUS College Visiting Professor, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme 23 July 2018–29 September 2019

Dr Adam Morris Garfinkle Distinguished Visiting Fellow, RSIS 29 July 2019-31 July 2020

Dr Noeleen Heyzer Former Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Distinguished Visiting Fellow, RSIS 1 March 2016 -28 February 2019

Professor Julius Joseph Lipner Visiting Professor, Studies in Inter-religious Relations in Plural Societies 31 March-13 April 2019

Dr Volker Perthes Distinguished Visitor, RSIS 26-31 August 2019

Professor Abdullah Saeed Sultan of Oman Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Melbourne Peter Lim Professor of Peace Studies, RSIS 5 November 2018–13 February 2019, 4 November 2019-12 February 2020

Mr Koji Sekimizu Former Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization (IMO) RSIS-MPA Distinguished Visiting Fellow 1 May 2016-30 April 2020

Ambassador Pham Quang Vinh Distinguished Visitor 13-24 May 2019

Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü Distinguished Visiting Fellow, RSIS 5-15 November 2019

Professor Andrew Walter NTUC Professor of International Economic Relations 24 September-4 October 2019

# Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS)



(From left) Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS; Prof Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large, Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Rear Admiral Dr Amarulla Octavian, Commandant, Indonesian Navy Command and Staff College, during the panel discussion at the 6th International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC), co-organised by RSIS and the Republic of Singapore Navy, 15 May 2019

The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) comprises nine programmes. Of these, the Military Studies Programme is a standalone programme whilst the rest are organised into three hubs. The Asia Pacific Hub comprises the China, Regional Security Architecture, South Asia, and United States Programmes. The Indonesia-Malaysia Hub houses these eponymous programmes. The Maritime Security and Military Transformations programmes belong to the Military and Security Hub. The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies' Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme is also affiliated to IDSS due to its research focus.

# **ASIA PACIFIC HUB**

# China Programme

The China Programme aspires to provide high-quality analyses on Chinese foreign and security policy for the academic and policy communities and train professionals who desire to understand China. In 2019, the China Programme staff's research papers were accepted by leading academic journals, such as International Affairs and Pacific Review. The Programme's researchers worked on four special journal issues: International Affairs, Asia Policy, Asian Perspective, and World Development. It published two edited volumes, titled Reshaping the Chinese Military: The PLA's Roles and Missions in the Xi Jinping Era (Oxon, UK: Routledge) and China's Omnidirectional Peripheral Diplomacy (Singapore: World Scientific). The China Programme also produced dozens of research outputs in the form of book chapters, policy reports, and commentaries. China Programme staff provided briefings for more than 60 foreign government officials and visitors. The Programme organised six workshops and conferences.

#### Regional Security Architecture Programme

In 2019, publications by Regional Security Architecture Programme (RSAP) members included two books, respectively Responsibility to Provide in Southeast Asia: In Search of an Ethical Explanation by Tan See Seng (Bristol University Press), and The Legal Authority of ASEAN as a Security Institution by Tan See Seng, co-authored with Hitoshi Nasu, Rob McLaughlin and Donald R. Rothwell (Cambridge University Press). RSAP staff also authored book chapters, articles in policy and academic journals such as Asian Affairs: An American Review and Australian Foreign Affairs, as well as in the form of op-eds to contribute towards debates on ASEAN and the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)/Plus. In November, RSAP organised a workshop on "Contested Multilateralisms: Lessons for ASEAN" that brought together about 30 experts to discuss the implications and lessons that

regional security architecture in other parts of the world could hold for the ASEAN-centric regional security architecture in East Asia.

# South Asia Programme

In March 2019, the South Asia Programme (SAP) held a joint workshop with the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), National University of Singapore, on India as a rising power. Papers from this workshop will be published in internationally refereed outlets. In addition, the SAP also produced, with external authors, two special issues in Asia Policy and Asian Security on the India-US strategic partnership as well as on how various states have responded to India-China strategic competition. An edited volume, India-China Maritime Competition (Routledge), by Professor Rajesh Basrur, Assistant Professor Anit Mukherjee and Professor T.V. Paul, was published as well. A single authored monograph by Assistant Professor Mukherjee, The Absent Dialogue: Politicians, Bureaucrats, and the Military in India (Oxford University Press) will be a key contribution to current debates on the re-organisation of India's national security decision-making structures.

# **United States Programme**

The United States Programme seeks to undertake timely and policyrelevant research on US defence and security policies in the region, which have strategic ramifications on the broader Singapore-US defence and security relations. The Programme also reaches out to and networks with relevant US think tanks to foster Track 2 academic exchanges on topical issues related to the US defence and security policies in the region.



Speakers and participants at the opening ceremony of the 21 st APPSMO, 29 July to 4 August 2019

## **MILITARY AND SECURITY HUB**

# Maritime Security Programme

The Maritime Security (MARSEC) Programme covers a broad spectrum of maritime security-related issues in its research, teaching and networking agenda. This year, it led the co-hosting of the International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC 2019) with the Republic of Singapore, bringing together service chiefs and senior officials from around the world to engage in purposeful discussion on the maritime security environment. The Programme also cohosted the annual Regional MARSEC Practitioners Programme (RMPP), a flagship maritime security capacity-building event which brings together regional armed and extra regional navies and law enforcement agencies to better understand and appreciate the maritime security environment, share perspectives and enhance practical cooperation. The Programme's latest publications include a monograph entitled Paving the Way for Regional Maritime Domain Awareness: Singapore's Information Fusion Centre, published in commemoration of the Information Fusion Centre's 10th anniversary celebration.

# **Military Transformations Programme**

The Military Transformations Programme (MTP) aims to develop an indigenous policy-relevant and scholarly expertise on emerging military innovation and its implications for the medium to long-term stability of the geostrategic environment of the Indo-Pacific. In Financial Year (FY) 2019/2020, MTP published academic articles, policy reports, and commentaries focusing on varying aspects of defence innovation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, assessing new security challenges, emerging technologies, and national responses. MTP also held its annual international conference addressing next strategic technology frontiers, how militaries are leveraging and adapting to new technologies and what are the operational and strategic implications. In doing so, MTP has expanded its networking activities with select think tanks and experts worldwide.

# **INDONESIA-MALAYSIA HUB**

# Indonesia Programme

The Indonesia Programme's research team conducted several research projects throughout 2018-2019, chiefly to study the 2018 regional elections and the subsequent 2019 presidential election. The Programme conducted research in various provinces including North Sumatra, West Sumatra, Riau Islands, West Java, Central Java, East Java, West Kalimantan, North Sulawesi and South Sulawesi. Over and above the elections in Indonesia, the Programme conducted research in the area of foreign policy, defence and security, as well as studying radicalisation. In addition to research, the Indonesia Programme organised several Distinguished Public Lectures with distinguished Indonesian leaders such as Lt Gen (Ret.) Agus Widjojo, Gen (Ret.) Moeldoko, Agus Yudhoyono and the current Vice President Kyai Ma'ruf Amin. The Programme organised the flagship two-day Indonesia-Singapore Young Leaders Scenario Planning Workshop in partnership with the Temasek Foundation Connects, providing opportunity for next generation Indonesian and Singaporean leaders in various fields to network and interact, thereby deepening relationships between the new leadership cohorts of both countries.

# Malaysia Programme

The Malaysia Programme is responsible for research in various aspects of Malaysia's politics including domestic and foreign policy, political Islam, political economy and the role of race, religion, and gender in shaping politics of the country. This is done through both anthropological and literary research. The Programme provides timely and insightful policy-relevant content through opinion pieces published in local and international newspapers as well as the RSIS Commentary series. Members of the Programme have published academic articles in high ranked journals in the field of political science, international relations, Asian Studies and Islamic Studies including Asian Survey, Pacific Review and the Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs. In the past year, the programme hosted numerous roundtable discussions with speakers from Malaysia's academic and political fraternity to share their views on various topics that shape the Malaysian state, society and politics.

## **MILITARY STUDIES PROGRAMME**

The Military Studies Programme (MSP) continues to fulfill its mandate in the professional military education (PME) of SAF officers, ranging from Officer Cadet School (OCS) to the senior officers at the Goh Keng Swee Command and Staff College (GKS CSC). MSP inaugurated the first Tri-Service Foundation Course (TSFC), a course for newly commissioned officers in the areas of international relations and military studies. MSP continues to strengthen relations, on behalf of RSIS, through its MoU with the Korean National Defence University (KNDU), which began in 2016. MSP represented RSIS to coorganise the ASEAN Regional Forum Heads of Defense Universities/ Colleges/Institutions Meeting (ARF HDUCIM), hosted in Singapore in November 2019. MSP organised RSIS' flagship programme, the Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO), in its 21st edition, from 29 July to 4 August 2019.

# International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPTVR)

2019 was a year of transition for the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR). Currently helmed by Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, ICPVTR embarked on a re-organisation of its research agenda and organisational objectives with a view to advance the Centre's reputation as a cutting-edge think tank. This is aligned with the Centre's long-standing vision to be a leading specialist centre for counter-terrorism and rehabilitation research that endeavours to reduce the threat of politically motivated violence. The re-organisation of the Centre aimed specifically to further enhance the quality and output of the research and analyses, threat assessments, and policy briefs produced by Centre analysts, on developments in terrorism around the world, but especially in Southeast Asia.

ICPVTR's workplan for 2019 centred on three key strategies to showcase the Centre's added value to political violence and counter-terrorism research. They are (i) producing current and topical assessments of terrorist trends and developments for policymakers' benefit; (ii) enhancing capacity-building of and information-sharing with fellow security analysts and practitioners; and (iii) engaging in prevention and countering of violent extremism through ideological and moderation studies, and community engagement.

## **PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH**

In 2019, ICPVTR researchers produced two books which contributed to the understanding of political violence and terrorist rehabilitation. They were Normalisation of Violence: Conceptual Analysis and Reflections from Asia edited by Dr Irm Haleem, and Terrorist Deradicalisation in Global Contexts: Success, Failure and Continuity edited by Prof Rohan Gunaratna and Ms Sabariah Hussin. Centre researchers also contributed chapters to various books such as Mr Nodirbek Soliev's chapter on "The Internationalisation of the Central Asian Terrorist Threat" in Terrorism and Insurgency in Asia: A Contemporary Examination of Terrorist and Separatist Movements edited by Dr Benjamin Schreer and Dr Andrew T.H. Tan. Mr Mohammed Sinan Siyech also co-wrote a chapter on "Terrorist Narratives and Recruitment in South Asia: The India Factor" in Radicalisation in South Asia: Context, Trajectories and Implication edited by Dr Mubashar Hasan.

Centre researchers also regularly contributed commentaries and analyses to internal and external platforms such as RSIS Commentary, foreign research institutes (e.g., Middle East Institute in the US) and media outlets (e.g., The Straits Times, TODAY, Berita Mediacorp, Berita Harian, and South China Morning Post). Some commentaries were picked up for re-publication by other institutes. ICPVTR's research and analytical products have been shared with various policymakers in law enforcement agencies.



Participants of the Terrorism Analyst Training Course, 21 January-1 February 2019

ICPVTR also reviewed its monthly publication, Counter Terrorist Trends and Analysis (CTTA), to ensure that it remained salient to its readership. This included a quick readers' survey. To generate a wider pool of analyses of a high standard from local and foreign contributors and capture topical trends and developments, CTTA was revised into a quarterly publication, often thematic in nature.

ICPVTR took an important step forward in furthering its research into the online radical sphere by joining the Global Research Network on Terrorism and Technology (GRNTT) after being invited by the lead coordinator, Royal United Services Institute in the UK. In doing so, ICPVTR joins a consortium of academic institutions and think tanks that conducts research and shares views on terrorist content online. GRNTT is supported by the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT).

#### TRAINING/BRIEFINGS/TALKS

ICPVTR held its 12th annual Terrorism Analyst Training Course (TATC) from 21 January to 1 February. The course aims to explore new frontiers in counter-terrorism research, analyses and practice and provides an avenue for the sharing of ideas and best practices among counter-terrorism scholars, analysts and practitioners. The 2019 TATC brought together approximately 60 analysts, scholars and practitioners as well as speakers from various countries. Speakers included Commissioner Monirul Islam, Chief of Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit, Bangladesh; Dato Ayob Khan, Chief of Counter Terrorism Unit, Malaysia; and General Tito Karnavian, Police Chief of Indonesia, among others.

ICPVTR also organised several talks and seminars by visiting researchers and academics. Among them were Mr Aftab Malik, Global Expert on Muslim Affairs for the United Nations' Alliance of Civilisations who is currently working in the Department of Premier and Cabinet, New South Wales Department of Home Affairs in Canberra, Australia; Mr Jeevan Thiagarajah, Chairman, Center for Humanitarian Affairs, Sri Lanka; Dr Gerard Chaliand, Lecturer at Kurdistan University, Iraq; and Dr Virginie Andre of Victoria University, Australia. These sessions enabled the RSIS academic and student community and other interested parties to deepen their understanding of terrorist developments in diverse regional and thematic domains such as takfirism and jihadism in the Muslim world, the Sri Lankan Easter bomb blasts, nexus between radical Islamist groups and Far Right movement, and the notion of mediated jihad among the young in South Thailand.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Beyond deepening intellectual understanding of terrorist developments, ICPVTR continued to explore ways where such knowledge can be applied in a practical form for the security of the wider community in Singapore. In 2019, ICPVTR remained focused on disseminating its research in counter-ideological narratives and moderation studies to various communities which are engaged on the ground in these areas. Specifically, ICPVTR's Counter Ideology and Moderation Studies Units continue to conduct and present public talks, courses/workshops and seminars to a wide array of audiences, both domestic and foreign. Other than counter-terrorism courses/ seminars for law enforcement agencies, talks were also conducted especially for the youth. Two such talks were a programme on "Practising Contextual Islam" for youths of 13-25 years of age, and a series of youth engagement with 18 national schools and madrasahs in Singapore involving almost 600 participants.

A new foreign engagement was a one-day workshop on "Southeast Asia Islamist Terrorist Ideologies" for Brunei's Ministry of Religious Affairs.



Mr Jeevan Thiagarajah, Chairman of the Center for Humanitarian Affairs, Sri Lanka, speaking at his seminar titled "Sri Lanka After the Easter Attacks - An Assessment", 28 August 2019

# Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS)



Panel session on "Drivers of Disruption" during the 13th APPSNO, 8-12 April 2019

The Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) conducts academically rigorous policy-relevant research and analysis across a range of national security issues to raise the intellectual capital behind national security policy formulation. CENS contributes to, and keeps abreast of, research on national security matters through publications and activities within three research spheres: Radicalisation Studies, Social Resilience, and Cyber and Homeland Defence.

2019 has been a productive year for CENS. The Centre released notable publications, hosted and participated in significant conferences at the local, regional, and international levels, and provided expert opinions to various media outlets on a slew of national security issues. One strength of CENS' research output stems from the deliberate pursuit of cross-programme collaboration.

Breadth and depth of expertise within the Centre was employed to contribute to the ongoing response to disinformation. An edited volume by the three CENS programme coordinators Mr Benjamin Ang, Dr Shashi Jayakumar and Dr Norman Vasu on the subject, titled DRUMS: Distortions, Rumours, Untruths, Misinformation, and Smears (World Scientific Press), was published in January 2019. Cross-programme collaboration was also engaged when CENS conducted its annual flagship event, the Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO). From 8 to 12 April, the 13th APPSNO focused on the theme "National Security in the Age of Disruption" with Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, as Guest-of-Honour.



Mr Benjamin Ang, Senior Fellow at CENS

In the course of the year, the Radicalisation Studies Programme (RSP) conducted in-depth research on the state of violent extremism in Southeast Asia and beyond. Leveraging on the programme's extensive network of security practitioners and academics, RSP conducted field research in the aftermath of the 2019 Christchurch mosque shootings and the 2019 plebiscite for the new Bangsamoro government in the Philippines. Prominent international publications include Dr Jayakumar's "Transnational Volunteers Against ISIS" published by the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation, King's College London, Mr Joseph Franco's article "Indigenous Roots of the 'First' Filipino Suicide Bombing", published by Australia's Lowy Institute, and Mr Cameron Sumpter's article on "Reintegration in Indonesia: Extremists, Start-Ups and Occasional Engagements", published by the Netherlands-based ICCT Perspectives.

Multiculturalism, meritocracy, and citizenship were prominent research areas for the Social Resilience Programme (SRP) throughout the year. Dr Terri-Anne Teo published the book Civic Multiculturalism in Singapore: Revisiting Citizenship, Rights and Recognition (Palgrave Macmillan) and the article "Perceptions of Meritocracy in Singapore: Inconsistencies, Contestations and Biases" with the Asian Studies Review. Dr Vasu and Ms Juhi Ahuja co-authored the book Singapore Chronicles: Multiracialism (Straits Times Press), Pravin Prakash contributed an article "Are Tamil Nadu's Dravidian Parties on a Terminal Decline" in The Diplomat, and Ms Nur Diyanah binte Anwar collaborated with RSP's Mr Sumpter for the commentary "Christchurch Terror Attack: New Zealand's Multi-Faceted Response". A major RSIS Policy Report titled "Singaporean Youth and Socioeconomic Mobility", was also completed by the SRP team.

Under the Cyber and Homeland Defence Programme (CHDP), research focused on the challenges posed by foreign interference and deliberate online falsehoods. Mr Muhammad Faizal bin Abdul Rahman wrote "Foreign Influence Ops are a Reality, but Singaporeans Shouldn't Overreact" for The Straits Times. Dr Gulizar Haciyakupoglu wrote a chapter on "Social Media, Disruption and Disinformation: Staying Resilient in the Face of Disinformation Campaigns", while Ms Jennifer Yang Hui published "WhatsApp Targets Fake News in Lead-up to Indonesian Election" for Lowy Interpreter. The issue of cybersecurity norms was also tackled by Mr Eugene Tan E. Guang in his chapter on "Next Steps for ASEAN Cyber Norms". Ms Teo Yi-Ling also wrote a timely piece on privacy in her RSIS Commentary titled "The Right of Privacy: Death by a Thousand Data Cuts?"

Beyond research, CENS also contributed to the formation of a community of practice by organising several programme-level workshops. This included "The Age of Rages" Workshop by the SRP, which tackled both sectarian and non-sectarian sources of intolerance and rage; and the RSP's Countering Extremism Workshop, which brought together cutting edge researchers and leading practitioners in the field of countering violent extremism. In addition, the CHDP organised the inaugural Cyber Policy Executive Course, which trained senior government officials in key elements of cyber security policy. Finally, CHDP hosted a Roundtable on Protecting Elections Integrity with Mr Scott Jones, Head of the Canadian Centre for Cybersecurity and Deputy Chief, IT Security, Communications Security Establishment, and author of the report on "Cyber Threats to Canada's Democratic Processes".

CENS also prompted the discussion on national security matters by inviting leading thinkers to Singapore through its Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP). For 2019, CENS was able to bring in Sir John Scarlett, the former Chief of the British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6); and Prof Tarig Madood, Professor of Sociology, Politics and Public Policy from the University of Bristol.



Dr Norman Vasu, Deputy Head of CENS

# Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre)

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre), as one of the pioneers of NTS studies and education in Asia, maintains cutting-edge research and informs policymakers on a range of NTS-related issues, and bridges research collaboration between partners and stakeholders across the region. Following are this year's highlights of its research output and activities.

# **HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF (HADR) PROGRAMME**

The Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme held workshops and seminars, and published a series of policy reports, which contributed to Singapore's development as a global thought leader in the field. It hosted the "Realizing ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management: Making Strategy a Reality" workshop together with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) in August. It also served as knowledge partner for the 2019 ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management in August, co-organised by the Singapore Civil Defence Force, the ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Centre. The Programme also hosted its second conference on "Asia and the Humanitarian World" in February, bringing together academics and practitioners. The HADR Database entered its second phase of development, documenting the evolution of key national capacities, and began tracking the diversification of Southeast Asia's stakeholder environment.



RSIS World Humanitarian Day 2019 Public Panel & Exhibition, 19 August 2019

# **CLIMATE SECURITY PROGRAMME**

The Centre's Climate Security Programme encompasses four areas: Climate Change Adaptation, Food Security, Marine Environmental Protection, and Nuclear Energy.

#### **Climate Change Adaptation**

The team in this research area published works on how smart cities in Southeast Asia can help promote regional climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, considering Industrial Revolution 4.0 technologies. It also produced a commentary on how developments at the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP) meetings impact on sectors like palm oil. In June, it participated in the Experts Group on Climate Security at the Berlin Climate and Security Conference. Taking stock of the latest Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) reports, the team published on the need for more ambitious and aggressive regional climate adaptation initiatives to be able to cap global temperature rise at 1.5°C by 2050. The team also produced an NTS Insight piece that looked at the brief description of the global waste trade industry and discussed some of the contemporary developments in the industry, particularly on the issues of waste smuggling and China's plastic waste import ban.

## **Food Security**

Given Singapore's new 30 per cent food self-sufficiency target by 2030, the team produced publications that leveraged its copyrighted viability assessment tool for yield-improving agrotechnologies, "UrbanAgInvest" (©NTU), and its consultations with actors like Enterprise Singapore on private sector-related challenges. Its participation in a Murdoch University Workshop on Singapore's food production ecosystem in May also led to a related NTS Insight piece. Regional outreach included a Discussion Paper on closing technology gaps in Mekong Countries, in collaboration with the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute's (IFPRI) Capacity Development Head in February. Under its ASEAN food safety and technology collaboration with NTU Food Technology Centre, it published on upgrading ASEAN's anti-microbial resistance monitoring and analytical capacity through advanced genome sequencing technologies, and participated in Policy Working Group talks at the Global Microbial Identifier meeting in Singapore in June 2019.

# Marine Environmental Protection

The team working under the Marine Environmental Protection research project continued building its expertise in marine environmental security, focusing on marine plastic debris and the South China Sea. Several policy articles and opinion pieces on the two topics were published to encourage discussion, while providing recommendations on strengthening cooperation in addressing regional marine environmental issues. These have been republished/cited by multiple agencies and institutes (e.g., East Asia Forum, Taiwan News, Eco-business and Eurasia Review). The team was also invited to present on these topics at a seminar on the ocean economy in Haikou, Japan, in May. These initiatives have contributed to keeping RSIS present in debates related to the marine environment in East Asia.



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

#### **Nuclear Energy**

The NTS Centre contributed to policy initiatives to strengthen the nuclear security regime through its active Track II engagements with global and regional networks. The Centre co-organised the Nuclear Energy Experts Group of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) meeting in January. Its study on nuclear security governance in East Asia formed part of CSCAP's policy contribution at the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in Indonesia in April. The Centre was also invited to host the International Atomic Energy Agency Faculty Professional Development Course on Nuclear Security Education in the Asia Pacific in October, as testament to its growing capacity to directly contribute to global and regional nuclear security education. The Centre also received the Nanyang Technological (NTU) Ministry of Education (MOE) Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 1 Grant for its proposal, "Nuclear Governance in the Asia-Pacific: Building out from Southeast Asia", given its academic and policy relevance.

# **MIGRATION**

Migration research at the Centre focuses on how categories of migration hold geopolitical significance; about how they are constructed and by whom. The current issues being examined in this programme are mobility, citizenship and the nation state and how global and regional policies on migration impact these areas. Ongoing research projects include:

# International and Regional Frameworks

Research in this area looks at how regulatory regimes monitor and govern the flow of people in Southeast Asia and the wider Asia Pacific. Asia Pacific is the largest contributor to international migration globally. The region also received nearly US\$284 billion in remittances from migrant workers in 2017, accounting for 62 per cent of the global total. The research will also examine the role played by the private sector and States' authority in shaping migration governance.

# The Future of Work and Movement of People

Research in this area looks into the use of technology in key industries, such as the manufacturing sector, and how this might create labour displacement while triggering more labour migration in search of jobs. Among the key issues to be examined are current labour migration mechanisms in place in receiving countries, and the kinds of social safety nets and other forms of protection for displaced workers.

#### OTHER RESEARCH AREAS

Complementing the research areas above, the Centre also looks at human security and sustainable development, especially in areas of gender and human rights. In keeping wth the theme, Dr Tamara Nair, Research Fellow at the Centre, published the "Human Rights and Peace Education in Singapore" report, as part of a wider study on human rights education in Southeast Asia. The full report was released in October at the ASEAN Secretariat. Dr Nair is also Singapore's member of the newly launched ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR), which looks at the role of women in creating and maintaining a lasting peace in the region.

#### **NTS-ASIA CONSORTIUM**

The NTS-Asia Consortium hosted its Annual Meeting, themed "Bringing Back Multilateral Cooperation in NTS Governance", in March, as a platform for exchanging perspectives on multilateralism's relevance in addressing NTS issues. It identified opportunities and challenges in effectuating multilateral solutions in five key areas: (i) migration, human trafficking and diasporas in Indo-Pacific; (ii) economic inequality and inclusiveness; (iii) digitalisation and countering security threats; (iv) climate change, environment and sustainable development; and (v) identity politics, pluralism and cohesive societies. These discussions led to recommendations such as establishing and strengthening regional regulations and mechanisms for cross-border migration issues and cyber and terrorism threats, encouraging datasharing, and adopting the circular economy concept.



Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of NTS Centre, at the RSIS-IAEA Faculty Professional Development Course on Nuclear Security, 21-25 October 2019

# Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS)



Experts from government, business, and academia, during a discussion at the Singapore Trade Policy Forum, 21-22 October 2019

The Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS) conducts cuttingedge research, education, training, and networking on cooperative multilateralism in the Asia Pacific region. The Centre aims to contribute to international academic and public discourses at a time when economic and security architectures in the region are rapidly evolving.

The Centre's research agenda includes international and global forms as well as expressions of cooperative multilateralism, mainly through the lens of Economic Multilateralism, and Diplomatic and Security Multilateralism.

CMS' research on Economic Multilateralism pertains to issues of trade, monetary, and financial integration in ASEAN and the broader region; evolving linkages between various Asian sub-regions and with countries/ sub-regions outside the region; as well as examining relationships among global and regional economic governance institutions.

These include—but are not limited to—analysing developments in the ASEAN Economic Community; aspects of the China-led BRI trajectory and infrastructure investment in Southeast Asia: the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); the Comprehensive and

Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP); the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP); and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Centre's research on Diplomatic and Security Multilateralism focuses on inter-governmental mechanisms such as the ARF, ASEAN+3, East Asia Summit (EAS), Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the Shangri-La Dialogue, and CSCAP. For instance, CMS looks at what a broad acceptance of the Indo-Pacific concept would mean to the existing ASEAN-centric Asia Pacific order.

CMS' 2019 research outputs reflect the Centre's objectives to conduct scholarly and policy research on multilateral and regional issues. CMS staff published works examining the US-China trade dispute and how the fundamental transformation of US-China relations will reshape the global order and create economic and diplomatic dilemmas for many other countries; Japanese infrastructure investment in Southeast Asia; the possibility of a "BRI 2.0" if Beijing actually implements its pledge to reform the BRI amid criticisms; financial cooperation in East Asia and recommendations on realising the full growth potential of the region; ASEAN Dialogue Partners' policies and their implications



Assoc Prof Alan Chong, Acting Head of CMS, speaking at the workshop on "Economic Security in ASEAN and Singapore", 22 April 2019

for the Mekong Subregion; and on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), which has been much anticipated as different powers assert their conceptions of the Indo-Pacific region in which ASEAN claims a key role.

This year marked the 10th edition of the annual RSIS-WTO Parliamentarian Workshop, which is always a major highlight in CMS' event calendar. 51 parliamentarians from 22 economies participated in the workshop which ran from 11 to 13 June at the Pan Pacific Hotel Singapore. The workshop was designed to give legislators a better understanding of international trade and other related issues. Discussions served to remind policymakers of the importance of free trade, especially in an era where countries' economies are intertwined in global value chains. The three-day event included a social tour of the Asian Civilisations Museum; a study trip to PSA International Pte Ltd - one of the world's biggest port operators - to learn how Singapore organises its port logistically to facilitate trade; and a visit to the Singapore Parliament House.

CMS also organised the Singapore Trade Policy Forum from 21 to 22 October, with support from the governments of Singapore, New Zealand and Australia. The forum brought together experts from government, business, and academia, and focused on key current and future trade policy issues, including determinants, impacts and coherence with other policy sectors. Although global in scope, the forum engaged in a regional perspective.

CMS hosted a series of four seminars on ASEAN and the Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam (CLMV) States, which aimed to assess the impact of ASEAN membership expansion on a country-specific case-by-case basis. The goal was to gauge the impact of ASEAN membership on each one of the CLMV countries and vice versa. The series kicked off with a talk on Cambodia's 20-year ASEAN membership and examined the reciprocal impact membership expansion had on both Cambodia and ASEAN itself. This was followed by a seminar on the status of Myanmar's integration into ASEAN as the country slowly approaches its membership's Silver Jubilee. Seminars on Vietnam and Laos were hosted later in the year.

Capacity-building programmes organised by CMS included a training workshop for Mongolian government officers on "Negotiating Trade Agreement" which ran from 26 to 30 August; and a Study Programme for Ngee Ann Polytechnic students held from 25 to 27 February on a range of topics such as ASEAN and Regional Security; Great Powers in the Asia Pacific; Threat of Terrorism in Southeast Asia; Non-traditional Security Issues in Asia; and Singapore Foreign Policy.

CMS also organised various public seminars throughout the year, covering a wide range of topics such as Small States and Alliance Strategies: Online Political Engagement in Southeast Asian Elections: What Does the Future Hold for Africa; The Role of a Central Bank in Enhancing Economic Resilience; and the EU in Southeast Asia -Looking Beyond the Standard Narrative in Security, Trade and Belt & Road.



Asst Prof Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit, Deputy Head of CMS, speaking at the 10th RSIS-WTO Parliamentarian Workshop, 13 June 2019

# Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme



(From left) Assoc Prof Patrice Brodeur, Prof Leonard Swidler, Assoc Prof Paul Hedges, Prof Julius Lipner, and Prof Zhuo Xinping, at the 5th SRP Distinguished Lecture and Interreligious Symposium, 3 April 2019

The Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme made three notable contributions towards the development of thinking and discourse in the study of inter-religious relations in plural societies, particularly benefiting Singapore.

# CONTINUED WORK ON RELIGION AND COMPARATIVE **RELIGION EDUCATION**

Firstly, SRP Programme continued its research to develop content in the study of religion and comparative religion, and to analyse both the positive and negative experiences of other countries in the area of interreligious relations. The Programme has developed nine courses in the aforesaid areas of study and has offered them as electives for the RSIS Master's Programmes since Academic Year 2015/2016. So far, 440 students had attended these courses.

A unique feature was the Community Access Programme (CAP), which has allowed 49 members of the community to gain insights from the

above courses without needing to register as students. Via CAP, SRP Programme extends the access of its research beyond the walls of the University. The conscious effort in sharing the academic content with society is what makes the SRP Programme distinct.

The commitment to share is evident in faculty member Asst Prof Mohamed Ali's adaptation of his content in counter-radicalisation courses for community groups and local Islamic clerics. Asst Prof Mohamed is writing a book on Islam, Ideology and Political Violence: From the Kharijites to the Islamic State. His paper on "Countering Contemporary Jihadism: Myths, Realities and Solutions" is slated to be published in a journal. He will use the content developed in these two research studies for further community outreach.

Another example is the course on religion and secularism that Amb Mohammad Alami Musa, Head of SRP Programme, conducted in August for students who have returned from their Islamic graduate studies in overseas universities, as part of their familiarisation of the Singaporean context.

# RESEARCH OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

Secondly was the Programme's output in personal and institutional research. Faculty member Assoc Prof Paul Hedges applied much of his research work on inter-religious dialogue to conduct training workshops for practitioners at the Joint SRP-MOU Partners Workshop on "Inter-Religious Dialogue: Theory, Aims, Skills and Practices" in April.

Based on his research on the framework and resources for understanding inter-religious relations in Singapore, Assoc Prof Hedges published a journal article on inter-religious marriages. The findings of his research on Buddhist diplomacy was also published in a journal article, with a second article slated to be out next year.

The first part of the study on "Islam and Secularism in Singapore" by Amb Alami Musa was published as a journal article on "Islam and Secularism - Between Embracement and Belief". A second journal article to discuss the in depth findings will be published early next year.

Both SRP Programme's faculty members - Assoc Prof Paul Hedges and Asst Prof Mohamed Ali - produced a total of seven book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles in the year. All the research outputs had been shared with inter-religious actors in the public as well as social sectors.

# **SHARING RESOURCES**

The third and final notable contribution of the Programme is the sharing of academic resources with the local communities, for the benefit of stakeholders, religious and community groups, as well as public service leaders. Its flagship programme, the Distinguished Lecture and Interreligious Symposium, which brought global scholars of religion to Singapore in April was also one such example. Distinguished Lecture speaker Prof Leonard Swidler from Temple University spoke on the theme of "Countering Exclusivism, Promoting Inclusivism: Being Human in a Global Civilisation" while keynote speakers (Prof Zhuo Xinping, Institute for the Study of World Religions in China; Assoc Prof Patrice Brodeur, University of Montreal; Prof Julius Lipner, Cambridge University; and Prof Lily Kong, Singapore Management University) dealt with the themes of fundamentalism, inter-religious dialogue and Singapore's inter-religious engagements. More than 400 delegates comprising public officers, community leaders, and religious as well as youth leaders attended the event.

In terms of sharing the academic content by the SRP Programme, its speakers provided their insights at various events. Prof Julius Lipner spoke at a seminar organised by the Hindu Centre while Prof Abdullah Saeed has been invited by the Inter-Religious Organisation (IRO) to deliver public lectures in conjunction with its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

#### **COLLABORATION**

The roundtable discussion by Prof Zhuo Xinping was a collaboration between the SRP Programme and the China Programme of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies at RSIS. Prof Zhuo had a robust discussion with participants on the theme of "Religion and China's Belt & Road Initiative".

Tapping on the global networks of its faculty and visiting professors, the SRP Programme launched its own peer-reviewed online journal titled Interreligious Relations (IRR). The co-editors are Prof Abdullah Saeed and Assoc Prof Paul Hedges. The journal examines issues of religious diversity, religious contextualisation, religion-state interactions and religiously-motivated violence and peacebuilding. The journal has an editorial board comprising 25 scholars from around the world. Nine articles are published monthly since the journal's launch in April 2019.

All the above research work and publications produced rich content that was delivered to the community through the SRP Programme's various community outreach platforms.



Amb Mohammad Alami Musa, Head of SRP Programme and President of MUIS Council, addressing participants of the Joint SRP-MOU Partners Workshop on "Inter-Religious Dialogue: Theory, Aims, Skills and Practices", 6 April 2019

# National Security Studies Programme (NSSP)

Generating intellectual capital and awareness of the milestone episodes in Singapore's diplomatic and security history, the National Security Studies Programme (NSSP) conducts academic and policyrelevant research on the evolving landscape of national security threats. Focused on security matters associated with the "Singapore model", NSSP's research efforts centre on the key challenges facing small, globalised, multi-ethnic city-states.

Apart from conducting contracted research for national security policy/practitioner audiences, NSSP researchers also contribute to academic and public discussions on national security issues. In the year under review, NSSP researchers' articles were published in The New England Journal of Public Policy, Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression, RSIS Commentary and other outlets. Topics ranged from managing communications in a crisis, the terrorist attacks on Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka in April 2019, the importance of social cohesion in Singapore, international politics of Southeast Asia and Asia Pacific, and the ramifications of disinformation, fake news and hostile information campaigns for Singapore. Local and foreign media outlets also interviewed NSSP researchers, seeking their expert insights and commentaries on various topics. Of note, in a significant collaborative effort, NSSP Coordinator Dr Damien Cheong co-edited, together with staff of

the Home Team Behavioral Science Centre, a volume on the topic of Learning from Violent Extremist Attacks. NSSP researchers also contributed to the volume.

A significant aspect of the work NSSP carries out also involves education. Besides teaching in the Master's programme at RSIS, NSSP researchers were invited to share their insights with public officers in seminars and training courses organised by the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS), and the Home Team Academy. Of note was a presentation made by Head of NSSP Assoc Prof Kumar Ramakrishna on the emerging phenomenon of "extremist identitarianism" at an invitation-only seminar organised by NSCS and comprising think tank academics and practitioners. Dr Cheong also shared his insights on the self-radicalised lone actor threat at the Singapore Technologies Engineering Security Awareness Seminar in September. Additionally, the inaugural National Security Symposium: Perspectives, Analysis & Discovery (NSSPAD), organised by NSSP with the support of NSCS, was held at the Singapore Management University School of Law, on 21 February, in which local undergraduates were exposed to various non-traditional security issues affecting Singapore, and had the rare opportunity to engage with practitioners on these issues.



Dr Sean McFate with delegates of his seminar on "The Age of 'Durable Disorder' and its Geopolitical Implications", 7 October 2019



Lord John Alderdice speaking at his seminar on "The Psychology Behind Brexit: Implications for National Security Practitioners", 18 June 2019

Seminars involving thought leaders from Singapore and elsewhere on the subject of the governance and security challenges facing citystates were also organised by NSSP. In 2019, NSSP organised an invitation-only dialogue session with Mr Rick Koh Buck Song, Brand Advisor and author of the book Brand Singapore, on the topic of "Brand Singapore, Small States and National Security". NSSP also held two public seminars in 2019. On 19 February, Dr Andrew Blick. Director, Centre for British Politics and Government; Director, History & Policy; and Senior Lecturer, King's College London, spoke on the topic of "Learning from the Past or Repeating Mistakes? The Policy Application of Historical Analogy", where he argued that in order to be useful in politics and policymaking, historical analogies need to be prudently separated from popular myths and must not be downplayed or overlooked. Lord John Alderdice, Professor and Director of Oxford University's Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict spoke on "The Psychology Behind Brexit: Implications for National Security Practitioners" on 18 June, where he examined the little-understood large-group psychological drivers that continue to influence the United Kingdom's ongoing and increasingly polarised debate on "Brexit".

As part of the NSSP DVP, Dr Sean McFate, Senior Fellow, The Atlantic Council; Professor, National Defense University & Georgetown University; and Advisor, Oxford University's Centre for Technology and Global Affairs, was invited to share his insights on a variety of national security matters. During his visit from 7 to 11 October 2019, Dr McFate delivered two public seminars on the topics of "The Age of 'Durable Disorder' and its Geopolitical Implications" and "Future Wars and the Rise of Non-Kinetic Instruments of Power: Implications for Small States". Dr McFate also held discussions with local practitioners

and exchanged ideas with various senior government officials as well as working-level analysts from both RSIS and the government sector.

Other notable events organised by NSSP, in conjunction with other agencies, were a workshop on examining historical perspectives on Singapore's bilateral relations with Malaysia, and a workshop discussing the various perspectives by academics and practitioners on post-war Communism in Singapore and Malaya. Designed for practitioners, the aim of both workshops was — in line with the NSSP mandate — to address the issue of what insights from the past remain relevant for the present and possibly the future as well.

To maintain its collective academic rigor, NSSP was actively involved in regional and international scholarly platforms as well. NSSP researchers conducted two overseas study trips, engaging with think tanks and universities in Malaysia and in the United Kingdom. The Malaysian study trip enabled NSSP researchers to find out more about the new political climate in Malaysia under the Pakatan Harapan government, Islamist trends, and efforts by the authorities to counter extremism and identify emerging thought-leaders that could be invited to Singapore in future. Of note is NSSP's continued participation in the Centre for Resolution of Intractable Conflict (CRIC) Annual Conference, an invitation-only conference held at Harris Manchester College in Oxford University, the United Kingdom, from 1 to 3 October. The CRIC theme for 2019 was "The Doctrine of Non-

RSiS

Dr Damien Cheong, Coordinator of NSSP, speaking at a seminar, 16 July 2019

Violent Resistance in the Age of Hybrid Warfare". Head of NSSP and concurrent CRIC Visiting Senior Fellow Assoc Prof Ramakrishna presented on the topic of "Buddhist Extremism in Myanmar".

Going forward, NSSP will continue to produce policy-oriented research on key themes of Singapore's national security history and fundamentals for the consumption of both the local practitioner community and more general academic and public audiences, as well as organise targeted dissemination seminars and workshops thereafter.

# Science and Technology Studies Programme (STSP)

Launched in October 2017, the STSP has achieved much in 2019. Supported by the Singapore Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the STSP not only strives to keep policymakers up-to-date on the latest science and technology (S&T) developments affecting the world but also to make its presence felt in academia through its research activities and scholarly publications. Dr Tan Teck Boon, Coordinator of STSP, is currently assisted by senior analysts Mr Phidel Marion G. Vineles and Ms Vishalini Suresh. Additionally, Dr Shashi Jayakumar, Executive Coordinator of Future Issues and Technology (FIT) and Head of CENS, has been mentoring Dr Tan since STSP's launch.

#### KEEPING POLICYMAKERS INFORMED

Over the last year, STSP has produced a number of technical and policy reports for consumption by policymakers in the homeland security domain. Covering a diverse range of homeland security topics, these reports underlined critical issues from synthetic drugs to chemical weapons to unmanned autonomous systems. Often discussing the latest hot-button issues to emerge, these reports are designed to keep those involved in making policies for homeland security apprised of major S&T-related security trends affecting the world today.

## **RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS**

In terms of publications, Dr Tan authored a journal article in Panorama, the political journal of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Singapore. Titled "Taking Stock of Smart Nation Development in Singapore", the journal article was published in February 2019. Focusing on Singapore's latest mega digitalisation push, the research article shed light on the state of the Smart Nation Initiative as well as some of the roadblocks it faced.

Dr Tan also co-authored an RSIS Policy Report with Mr Nandhakumar Gunasekaran, former senior analyst in RSIS. Titled "Lethal Highs: Abuse of Novel Designer Drugs and Policy Interventions", the policy report was published in March 2019 and explored what these man-made psychoactive substances were and how they might be stopped.

Last but not least, STSP researchers published an op-ed in TODAY -Singapore's English-language digital newspaper under MediaCorp on the threats posed by consumer-grade drones. The article analysed the recent disruptions at Changi Airport caused by rogue drones and suggested practical ways to tackle the problem going forward.



Ms Simonetta Di Pippo (left) receiving a token of appreciation from Dr Tan Teck Boon, during the former's roundtable on "Space Technology and Small States: Challenges, Opportunities and Risks", 16 September 2019

# **ENGAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL THOUGHT LEADERS**

In addition to research, STSP also conducts strategic engagements with international thought leaders, practitioners and academics in the S&T domain. Such strategic engagements are tailored to support and enrich STSP research, as well as to promote ideational exchanges with Singapore's policymakers, academics and the general public.

In September 2019, Dr Simonetta Di Pippo, Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), visited RSIS at the invitation of STSP. During her visit, Dr Di Pippo met with RSIS researchers and students during a closed-door roundtable discussion that focused on the rapid democratisation of space technologies and its impact on regional stability and security. The roundtable discussion was chaired by Dr Tan.

# Policy Studies

The Policy Studies team continued its mandate of raising the School's local and international profile and exploring new partnership opportunities with academic institutions, think tanks and other relevant entities locally and around the world. The team engaged in public outreach and education efforts, and spoke at a number of prominent events and participated in several overseas conferences in 2019.

## ENGAGEMENT WITH ACADEMIC AND FUNCTIONAL SECTORS

apace in 2019. He was invited to deliver a keynote address on the evolving terrorist threat to Asia Pacific to an international gathering of practitioners and experts at the Milipol Asia-Pacific Conference 2019, organised by Comexposium Singapore with the support of the French and Singaporean governments, on 4 April. Assoc Prof Ramakrishna shared his perspective on the threat to aviation security at the Aviation Leaders Programme in Public Policy in May and the AVSEC Management Programme in July, both at the Singapore Aviation Academy. He engaged with the defence sector, sharing views on the evolving terrorist threat to the region at the Air Defence and Operations Command Forum on 15 February as well as the Special Forces Commanders' Conference (SFCC), organised by the Singapore Armed Forces Commando Formation on 29 November. He also engaged with the Home Team Academy, sharing his views on how historical developments shaped the policing of race and religion in Singapore and Malaya.

One major highlight was the team's involvement in the International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS) in which Assoc Prof Ramakrishna spoke at one of the breakout sessions on the theme of "Building Bridges: Global Peacebuilding Efforts". His academic work on psychological operations during the Malayan Emergency also received attention at the Rethinking History: Singapore and Global History Conference on "The Cold War and Singapore", organised by the National Institute of Education in November. Assoc Prof Ramakrishna also spent a week at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations in Coventry University in the UK to work on his book project on Islamist extremism in Southeast Asia as well as deliver a seminar to faculty and graduate students on Buddhist extremism in Myanmar.

# INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Internationally, Policy Studies continued to fly the RSIS flag as well. Assoc Prof Ramakrishna delivered a scene-setting address at the workshop on "Counter and Alternative Narratives", organised by the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group Co-Chairs, Australia and Indonesia, between 24 and 25 June, in Jakarta, Indonesia. He also spoke on the insider threat to aviation security in ASEAN at the ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on "Aviation Security and Information Sharing", organised by the governments of the United States and Malaysia as well as the Washington D.C.-based Global Center on Cooperative Security between 10 and 11 July in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. At the inaugural "Malaya at War" conference, organised by the Sydney-based War History Institute, held between 10 and 11 August, Kuala Lumpur, insights were shared on the role of British propaganda during the Malayan Emergency before an audience of British, Australian and Malaysian veterans of World War Two and other Cold War proxy

Assoc Prof Ramakrishna delivered a keynote address on ASEAN counter-extremism efforts at the International Conference on ASEAN 2019 (IC-ASEAN), organised by The Center for ASEAN Studies of Andalas University, and the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs between 5 and 6 September, Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia. He was also invited to speak on the topic of "Building Homeland Security Abroad: The Security Continuum" at Milipol Paris in November.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS**

Back at home, there was a steady stream of engagements with the community. Assoc Prof Ramakrishna continued to deliver his well-received annual lecture on "Singapore in Post WWII SE Asia: The Malayan Emergency & Operation Coldstore", at the Friends of notable community engagement initiatives were the Assembly Talk at Nanyang Girls' High School on the topic of "Radicalisation in South East Asia" on 18 July, as well as the address to Ngee Ann Polytechnic Overseas Merit Fellowship Scholars on the evolving terrorist threat to Southeast Asia on 27 February.

Organised by the Ethos Institute for Public Christianity, a Protestant think tank, a talk on 7 May compared and contrasted Christian Far Right and Islamist extremism, in which the key lesson driven home was that religious extremism can exist across all faiths and should never be identified with any particular community. Another talk on 14 June to the Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Emergency Response Operations (A.E.R.O.) Team touched on the ideological and physical aspects of the evolving terrorist threat in the wake of the Easter Sunday 2019 attacks on churches in Sri Lanka.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Moving forward, Policy Studies will explore the possibility of promoting greater awareness of key episodes in the shared wartime and Cold War history of Singapore and Malaysia, potentially in partnership with the War History Institute in Australia. The target audience for this effort would be both younger policy practitioners and the public. It is envisaged that public outreach and engagement with various sectors will continue as well.

# Books by RSIS Staff



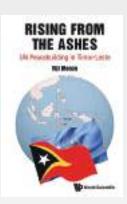
# Cina Timor: Baba, Hakka, and Cantonese in the Making of Timor-Leste

Douglas Kammen and Jonathan Chen Yale University Southeast Asia Studies: 2019 ISBN: 9780985042981



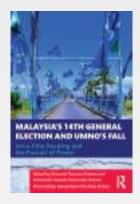
# The Responsibility to **Provide in Southeast** Asia: Towards an **Ethical Explanation**

Tan See Seng **Bristol University Press:** ISBN: 9781529200720



# Rising from the Ashes: **UN Peacebuilding in Timor-Leste**

Vijayalakshmi Menon World Scientific Publishing Co.: 2019 ISBN: 9789811205941



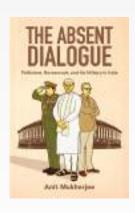
# Malaysia's 14th General **Election and UMNO's Fall:** Intra-Elite Feuding in the **Pursuit of Power**

Edmund Terence Gomez and Mohamed Nawab Mohamed Osman (Eds.) Routledge: 2019 ISBN: 9780367331979



# **Data-Gathering in Colonial** Southeast Asia 1800-1900: Framing the Other

Farish A. Noor Amsterdam University Press: 2019 ISBN: 9789463724418



# The Absent Dialogue: Politicians, Bureaucrats, and the Military in India

Anit Mukherjee Oxford University Press: 2019 ISBN: 9780190905903



Book Launch of Rising from the Ashes: UN Peacebuilding in Timor-Leste by Ms Vijayalakshmi Menon, 18 November 2019



**Terrorist** Rehabilitation and Community **Engagement in** Malaysia and **Southeast Asia** 

Mohd Mizan Aslam and Rohan Gunaratna (Eds.) Routledge: 2019 ISBN: 9780367420314



**Normalization of Violence: Conceptual Analysis and Reflections from Asia** 

Irm Haleem (Ed.) Routledge: 2019 ISBN: 9780367423292

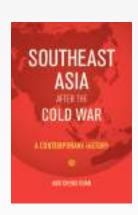


Book Launch of Allies of Convenience A Theory of Bargaining in U.S. Foreign Policy by Asst Prof Evan Resnick, 29 November 2019



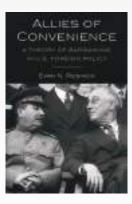
**Terrorist Deradicalisation in Global Contexts:** Success, Failure and Continuity

Rohan Gunaratna and Sabariah Hussin (Eds.) Routledge: 2019 ISBN: 9780367278809



# **Southeast Asia** after the Cold War: **A Contemporary History**

Ang Cheng Guan NUS Press: 2019 ISBN: 9789813250789



# Allies of Convenience: A Theory of Bargaining in U.S. Foreign Policy

Evan Resnick Columbia University Press: 2019 ISBN: 9780231190596



# Singapore Chronicles: PAP

Shashi Jayakumar and Albert Lau Institute of Policy Studies & Straits Times Press: 2019

# Books by RSIS Staff



Is the People's **Action Party Here** to Stay?: Analysing the Resilience of the **One-party Dominant** State in Singapore

Bilveer Singh World Scientific Publishing Cn.: 2019

ISBN: 9789811201455

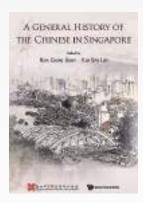


Civic Multiculturalism in Singapore: Revisiting Citizenship, Rights and Recognition

Terri-Anne Teo Palgrave Macmillan: 2019 ISBN: 9783030134594



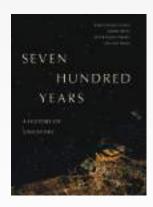
Book Launch of Negotiating Governance on Non-Traditional Security in Southeast Asia and Beyond by Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, 6 March 2019. The book was published in December 2018.



# **A General History** of the Chinese in Singapore

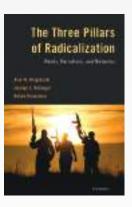
Kwa Chong Guan and Kua Bak Lim (Eds.) World Scientific Publishing Co.: 2019

ISBN: 9789813277632



# Seven Hundred Years: A History of Singapore

Kwa Chong Guan, Derek Heng, Peter Borschberg, and Tan Tai Yong Marshall Cavendish: 2019 ISBN: 9789814828109



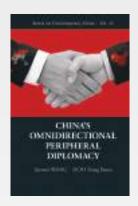
# The Three Pillars of Radicalization: Needs, Narratives, and **Networks**

Arie W. Kruglanski, Jocelyn J. Bélanger, and Rohan Gunaratna Oxford University Press: 2019 ISBN: 9780190851125



# **India-China Maritime Competition: The Security** Dilemma at Sea

Rajesh Basrur, Anit Mukherjee, and T.V. Paul (Eds.) Routledge: 2019 ISBN: 9780429444227



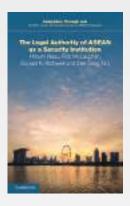
# China's **Omnidirectional Peripheral Diplomacy**

Wang Jianwei and Hoo Tiang Boon (Eds.) World Scientific Publishing Co.: 2019 ISBN: 9789813141780



# The Impact of the Trump Administration's Indo-Pacific Strategy on **Regional Economic** Governance

Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit East-West Center: 2019 ISBN: 9780866382878



# The Legal Authority of **ASEAN** as a Security Institution

Hitoshi Nasu, Rob McLaughlin, Donald R. Rothwell, and Tan See Seng Cambridge University Press: ISBN: 9781108669511



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

Shashi Jayakumar (Ed.) Palgrave Pivot: 2019 ISBN: 9789811319990



# **DRUMS: Distortions,** Rumours, Untruths, Misinformation, and **Smears**

Norman Vasu, Benjamin Ang, and Shashi Jayakumar (Eds.) World Scientific Publishing Co.: 2019

ISBN: 9789813274846



Book Launch of Malaysia's 14th General Election and UMNO's Fall: Intra-Elite Feuding in the Pursuit of Power by Asst Prof Mohamed Nawab Mohamed Osman (right), 7 November 2019

# Education



# Graduate Education

# MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

The 2020 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings published in June 2019 delivered good news for Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore), and RSIS. NTU Singapore cemented its outstanding position in the world's top 15 universities, rising to #11 in the world and joining the National University of Singapore in the top spot in Asia. NTU Singapore also remained the world's top young university, being ranked #1 in the QS Top 50 Universities under 50. This remains an undeniable acknowledgement of NTU Singapore's reputation and exceptional academic standards, displaying the excellent educational experience offered to students.

For the new academic year (AY), our MSc programmes have attracted a cosmopolitan student body with a wide range of educational, professional and cultural backgrounds. Over 200 students from 30 countries enrolled in RSIS MSc programmes in AY2019/2020.

Twenty-five students were offered scholarships and study awards in AY2019/2020, including the RSIS Scholarship, the Lee Foundation Scholarship, Student Research Assistantships, Terrorism Analyst Study Awards and Research Analyst Study Awards.

RSIS continues to strengthen its marketing initiatives. These include information-sharing sessions on campus and participation in leading postgraduate education fairs in Singapore and overseas (for instance the QS World Grad School Tours in Jakarta, Manila, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur or London and the Postgraduate Education Fair in Singapore). On top of that, RSIS faculty members continue to make marketing visits to selected regional countries. Looking towards digital outreach, RSIS also does online advertising through key platforms, advertising via social media as well as engaging relevant organisations to continue raising RSIS' profile as a destination of choice for excellent professional education in the field of international affairs. RSIS will also be tapping on its alumni network to help promote the school's degree programmes. The overarching goal of these initiatives is to increase the number and quality of applications for AY2020/2021.

# Graduate Education



**Assoc Prof Ang Cheng Guan** Associate Dean, Deputy Director of IDSS and Head of Graduate Studies (Till 30 September 2019)

**Prof Ralf Emmers** Dean and President's Chair in International Relations

**Assoc Prof Bhubhindar Singh** Head of Graduate Studies (From 1 October 2019) and Coordinator of the Regional Security Architecture Programme

1998

Institute of Defence & Security Studies (IDSS) launched its first academic programme, Master of Science in Strategic Studies, with 10 students.

Graduate education at RSIS combines the flexibility of the modular system with the rigours of multiple and continuous assessment, ensuring that students will engage with a diverse range of issues without sacrificing depth or being overwhelmed.

# Glenn Ong

MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme, AY2018/2019

2002

IDSS launched its second master's programme — the Master of Science in International Relations.

# AY2018/2019 Student Awards



MSc (Asian Studies) Programme
The Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation
Gold Medal
RUSSELL EWE YUHANG



MSc (International Political Economy)
Programme
The Lion Group
Gold Medal
MOHAN SOWMIYA



MSc (International Relations) Programme
The Singapore Technologies Engineering
Gold Medal
TAN SUAN JIN



MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme
The United Overseas Bank
Gold Medal
GLENN ONG KOK HUI



The Tay Seow Huah Book Prize RACHYL POH WAN TING

IDSS accepted its first doctoral student.

RSIS introduced the twoyear NTU-Warwick Double Master's Programme to widen the choice for students.





## **DOCTORAL PROGRAMME**

Similarly to our master's programmes, RSIS' PhD programme has a diverse and cosmopolitan student body comprising nine doctoral candidates. We have students of seven different nationalities, including from Asia, Europe and North America. Some of these students are integrated into both RSIS institutional and individual faculty research programmes, thus enriching their learning experience whilst also supporting a broad-based collegial research effort.

Two of our PhD students graduated in July 2019, raising the number of RSIS PhD graduates to 26. Their final thesis topics were "Competitive Mega-Regionalism: The Trilateral Geo-economic Power Play by the United States of America, China and the European Union" and "Allies in Crisis: America's Choice between Security Interests and Democratic Values".

One other candidate has submitted his thesis and is awaiting his final examination.

My interest in Singapore's foreign policy led me to study Asian Studies so as to learn from Southeast Asian specialists and develop a competency in this area.

# **Jefferson Ng**

MSc (Asian Studies) Programme, AY2018/2019



RSIS graduating cohort of AY2018/2019

My professors really impressed me with their dedication, ability to move reflexively between academic and policy circles, and their grasp of real-world issues.

#### **James Mah**

MSc (Asian Studies) Programme, AY2018/2019



MSc (Asian Studies) Class of 2019/2020







MSc (Strategic Studies) Class of 2019/2020

## **Faculty**



Assoc Prof Bhubhindar Singh, Head of Graduate Studies



Assoc Prof Kumar Ramakrishna, Head of Policy Studies and Head of NSSP



Dr Pascal Vennesson, Head of Research at IDSS



Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of NTS Centre



Assoc Prof Farish A. Noor, Coordinator of PhD Programme



Asst Prof Mohamed bin Ali of SRP Programme



Asst Prof Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit, Deputy Head of CMS

### OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

### Student Exchange Programmes

Partnering with the Elliott School of International Affairs at the George Washington University, two RSIS master's students attended their US Foreign Policy Summer Programme 2019.

### Convocation

The RSIS class of 2019 comprising 179 master's students (including six NTU-Warwick Double Master's students) and two PhD students joined the NTU Convocation Ceremony on 23 July 2019 at the Nanyang Auditorium.

The RSIS graduates were presented by the Associate Dean and Head of Graduate Studies of RSIS, Associate Professor Ang Cheng Guan. They included five RSIS academic award winners who distinguished themselves through their outstanding academic performance: Mr Russel Ewe Yuhang, winner of the Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Gold Medal for the best academic performance in the MSc (Asian Studies); Ms Mohan Sowmiya, winner of the Lion Group Gold Medal for the best academic performance in the MSc (International Political Economy); Mr Tan Suan Jin, winner of the Singapore Technologies Engineering Gold Medal for the best academic performance in the MSc (International Relations); Mr Glenn Ong Kok Hui, winner of the United Overseas Bank Gold Medal for the best academic performance in the MSc (Strategic Studies); and Ms Rachyl Poh Wan Ting, winner of the Tay Seow Huah Book Prize for the best dissertation.





Dk Nur Asyura Pg Mohd Salleh with Assoc Prof Farish A. Noor at her PhD hooding ceremony, 22 July 2019

If you are looking to acquire knowledge that is pragmatic and relatable to real-world issues, and become part of esteemed yet congenial alumni, RSIS is an institution I would most certainly recommend.

### Sowmiya Mohan

MSc (International Political Economy) Programme, AY2018/2019

### Alumni

16th RSIS alumni dinner

160 RSIS alumni, faculty and staff attended the 16th RSIS Alumni Dinner on 26 July 2019. The evening saw 21 cohorts of alumni congregating at Hilton Hotel Singapore.

The RSIS Teaching Award, recognising teaching excellence and outstanding contributions to the enhancement of teaching and learning at RSIS, was presented at the dinner by the Dean of RSIS, Prof Ralf Emmers. The AY18/19 award winner was Assistant Professor Lee Su-Hyun.

### RSIS Alumni Association

The RSIS Alumni Association (RAA) leadership transition was announced at the 16th RSIS Alumni Dinner. Mr Eddie Lim, Senior Fellow and Head of the Military Studies Programme at IDSS as well as an alumnus from the early years of RSIS, has taken over the role of President of the RAA Executive Committee from Mr Phillip Ee. The school looks forward to working with the new RAA leadership team to create meaningful networking opportunities for RSIS graduates.



Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS (middle), with Prof Joseph Liow, former Dean of RSIS (left), Prof Ralf Emmers, current Dean of RSIS (right), and the outgoing RSIS Alumni Association Executive Committee, 26 July 2019



Alumni taking a wefie at the annual RSIS Alumni Dinner, 26 July 2019

# External Education

### **EDUCATION FOR OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

RSIS is actively involved in providing education for other organisations. RSIS' role in the education of Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) officers dates back to 1996, when IDSS was identified as the main source of strategic studies education by the SAFTI Military Institute (SAFTI MI) and the SAF at large. This relationship culminated with the SAF-NTU Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2008, which recognised RSIS as the main conduit of senior officer education in the areas of strategic studies and military affairs in the SAF Continuing Education Master's Programme. Under this programme, RSIS is responsible for teaching modules at the Command and Staff Course and the Command and Staff Course (Executive), which are transferable accredited modules that count towards students' post-graduate pursuits in NTU. This partnership between RSIS and the SAF in Continuing Education is done by the Military Studies Programme (MSP) in IDSS.

The mandate of MSP covers two other key courses for the SAF. One is the Tri-Service Foundation Course (TSFC) which aims to provide a strong foundation in the military arts and sciences for junior officers of the SAF. The second key course for military professionals is the Tri-Service Warfighters' Course (TSWC), which aims to enhance the professional military education of mid-career officers. These two courses are further reinforced through the broad spectrum of courses taught at SAFTI MI, ensuring that SAF stays at the forefront of current and relevant education in the areas of strategic studies, military affairs, and geopolitics. In 2019, MSP faculty also taught in the SAF's 7th Senior Commanders' Programme (SCP), which was conducted for senior military officers.

In addition to providing education to the SAF, RSIS is also a contributor towards the education of senior officials in key significant appointments from other government agencies. In particular, RSIS has been engaged by the Ministry of Home Affairs to conduct modules spanning two years as part of the milestone programmes conducted by the Home Team Centre for Leadership of the Home Team Academy. Through the use of curated material which focused primarily in the areas of national and regional security, religion and terrorism, Singapore foreign policy, cyber and non-traditional security, as well as international geopolitics, the Home Team officers are kept abreast of contemporary trends and challenges in the national and regional security horizons. The Home Team officers have found such customised content especially enriching and RSIS' expertise invaluable. Such engagements allow RSIS to contribute to the rigour of policy thinking within the public sector and in this case, future leaders within the Ministry of Home Affairs.

At RSIS, you'd likely find knowledgeable yet humble teachers who would not hesitate to help you out when you're struggling, or be willing to engage in invigorating conversations where you are treated as an equal, not as a student. I received genuine encouragement and constructive feedback from my professors, which in turn helped me to become a better person as a whole.

### **Rachyl Poh**

NTU-Warwick Double Master's Programme, AY2018/2019

### **Executive Programmes**

Besides teaching in the Master's programme at RSIS, National Security Studies Programme (NSSP) researchers shared their insights with public officers in seminars and training courses organised by the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS) and the Home Team Academy. At the invitation-only seminar organised by NSCS, which comprised academics and practitioners, Head of NSSP Assoc Prof Kumar Ramakrishna shared on the emerging phenomenon of "extremist identitarianism". Coordinator of NSSP Dr Damien Cheong also shared his insights on the self-radicalised lone actor threat at the Singapore Technologies Engineering Security Awareness Seminar in September.

The SRP Programme held a workshop on "Dialogue Theory and Skills" with its six MoU partners on 6 April. The Workshop aimed to provide an overview of the importance of inter-religious dialogue in the context of plural societies and the practical knowledge of how dialogues could be carried out. The half-day workshop featured a keynote lecture on "Theory and Aims of Interreligious Dialogue" by SRP Programme's Adviser Prof Julius Lipner, Professor Emeritus of Comparative Religion at the University of Cambridge. Eighty activists from major religious groups in Singapore participated in the workshop. SRP Programme's Assoc Prof Paul Hedges and Mr Gerald Kong from the Archdiocesan Catholic Council for Interreligious Dialogue (ACCIRD) spoke about skills and practices in engaging in interreligious dialogue.

My understanding of the various regulatory environments and drivers of policy with regards to capital markets and the financial services industry across Southeast Asia has given me a unique perspective that I can bring to business analysis and market research in the insurance sector as a consultant with Synpulse.

### **Jason Amayun**

MSc (International Political Economy) Programme, AY2018/2019

# Outreach to Youths



Prof Ralf Emmers, Dean of RSIS, speaking to Ngee Ann Polytechnic students during the Overseas Merit Fellowship Collaboration Programme, 25-27 February 2019

On top of providing education and executive programmes to organisations and professionals, RSIS does its bid to engage youths to impart valuable perspectives on regional and global affairs. As part of its youth outreach, RSIS regularly partners local and overseas education institutions, providing immersion programmes and thoughtleadership workshops.

RSIS worked with Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) on a programme for its students under the NP Overseas Merit Fellowship. The Fellowship aims to deepen NP students' understanding of key regional and global issues affecting Singapore, develop useful skill sets, and inspire the students to make a difference in society. During the three-day workshop, RSIS academics and researchers spoke to the students on topics such as ASEAN. Singapore's foreign policy preoccupations. and regional security.

Singapore hosted the second leg of the ASEAN-Korea Youth Network Workshop in July. Organised by the Seoul-based ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC), the first phase of the ASEAN-Korea Youth Network Workshop was held in the Republic of Korea (ROK) from 8 to 13 July. The second phase of the programme was held in Singapore from 13 to 18 July. During the workshop, 80 students from 13 regional countries learnt about Singapore's development experience and smart nation goals through visits to the Social Innovation Park in Punggol and the Singapore City Gallery at the Urban Redevelopment Authority Centre. The students also attended seminars by RSIS researchers and faculty members on topics such as Singapore's smart nation initiative, the history of ASEAN, as well as the concept of sustainable development in Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship for 2019.



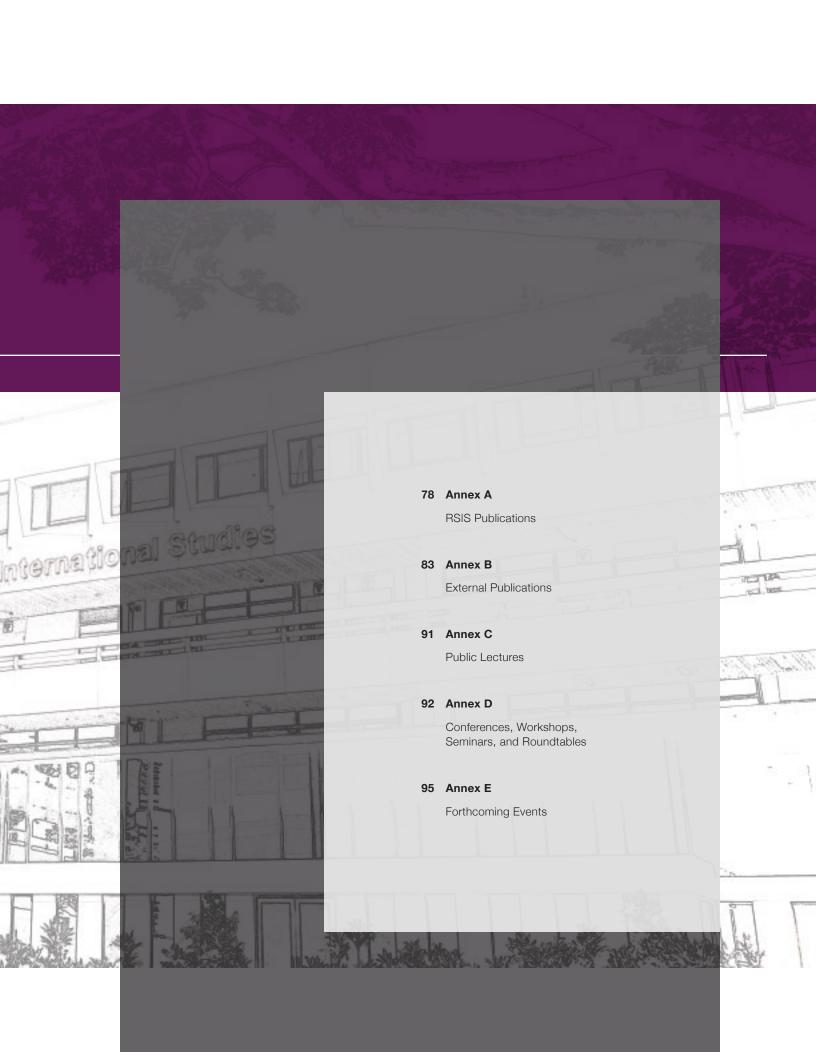
Mr Adrian Tan, Head of Policy Coordination & Specialist Research, speaking to Ngee Ann Polytechnic students during the Overseas Merit Fellowship Collaboration Programme, 25-27 February 2019



Students with Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, Amb Lee Hyuk, Secretary General of the AKC, and Amb Ahn Young-Jip, Ambassador of the ROK to Singapore, 15 July 2019







### **RSIS Publications**

# Annex A

### **JOURNALS**

Religious Peacebuilding in Post-war Maluku: Tiwery's Theoloy of the Mother [Teologi Ina] and Nunusaku-based Cosmology

Lailatul Fitriyah in Interreligious Relations (IRR) Issue 10, November

Western Perspectives on Dialogue in a World of Conflict and Violence Gavin Flood in Interreligious Relations (IRR) Issue 9, October 2019

Unpacking laïcité Amidst Rising Islamophobia in France: Favouring Equality or Discrimination?

Cristina de Esperanza Picardo in Interreligious Relations (IRR) Issue 8, September 2019

A Near Century of Dialogue

Leonard Swidler in Interreligious Relations (IRR) Issue 7, August

Comparative Theology in the Academic Study of Religion: An Inquiry - Julius Lipner in Interreligious Relations (IRR) Issue 6, July 2019

Religion, Nationalism and Politics in Southeast Asia: The Ambivalence of the Sacred in an Uncertain World

- Joseph Liow Chin Yong in Interreligious Relations (IRR) Issue 5, June 2019

Interreligious Dialogue in a World of Conflict and Violence: A Critical Exploration of Confucianism

- Lai Pan-Chiu in Interreligious Relations (IRR) Issue 4, May 2019

Islam and Secularism in Singapore: Between Embracement and Belief

Mohammad Alami Musa in Interreligious Relations (IRR) Issue 3, April 2019

Living in a Religiously Plural Society: A Muslim Perspective on Being Inclusive Today

Abdullah Saeed in Interreligious Relations (IRR) Issue 2, March

Interreligious Marriage: Perspectives from the Singaporean Context in Relation to Interreligious Dialogue

Juhi Ahuja and Paul Hedges in Interreligious Relations (IRR) Issue 1, February 2019

### **MONOGRAPHS**

Financial Cooperation in East Asia

Tomoo Kikuchi and Masaya Sakuragawa (Eds.), RSIS Monograph No. 35, April 2019

Resilience in the Face of Disruptions

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# Annex ()

### S. T. LEE DISTINGUISHED ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES

Dr Volker Perthes, Distinguished Visitor, RSIS; and Executive Chairman and Director of SWP (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik), German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin, Germany, on "Geopolitical Dynamics and International Order: A European Perspective", 27 August 2019

### **DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES**

- Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, Former Director-General, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, on "Is the Use of Chemical Weapons No Longer a Taboo? How to Reduce Such Risks (Or Threats)?", 7 November 2019
- Professor Andrew Walter, NTUC Professor of International Economic Relations, RSIS; and Professor of International Relations in the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne, on "Crises, Political Populism and Wealth Shocks: Why Wealth Anxiety Matters for Domestic and Global Politics", 4 October 2019
- Professor Steve Chan, Ngee Ann Kongsi Professor of International Relations, RSIS; and College Professor of Distinction, University of Colorado, Boulder, on "Appraising Thucydides's Trap", 2 September 2019
- Professor John L. Esposito, S. Rajaratnam Professor of Strategic Studies, RSIS; and University Professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies, Georgetown University, on "The Role & Future of Religion in Politics", 10 July 2019
- His Excellency Dr Dionísio da Costa Babo Soares, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, on "Timor-Leste: Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Referendum from Past to Present", 8 July 2019
- Mr Frank Kendall, former Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, US Department of Defense; and Executive in Residence, Renaissance Strategic Advisors, Rosslyn, VA, on "The Implications of Emerging Technology for Peace and Security in the Region and Globally", 26 June 2019

- His Excellency Damdin Tsogtbaatar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, on "Mongolia's Foreign Policy Towards Asia", 7 June 2019
- Professor Sir Adam Roberts, Senior Research Fellow in International Relations, Oxford University; and Emeritus Fellow, Balliol College, on "Causes of War: Old and New", 19 March 2019
- Professor T. V. Paul, Visiting Professor, RSIS; and James McGill Professor of International Relations, McGill University, on "The Rise of China and the Emerging Order in the Indo-Pacific Region", 8 March 2019
- Professor Joseph Fewsmith, Distinguished Visiting Fellow, RSIS: and Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University, on "Engaging Engagement", 27 February 2019
- RSIS Distinguished Public Dialogue with Professor Michael E. Brown, Professor of International Affairs and Political Science. Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University; and Dr Bates Gill, Professor of Asia-Pacific Security Studies, Macquarie University, on "The Trump Administration and US Foreign Policy: A Mid-Term Assessment", 10 January 2019

### APPSMO DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SPEAKER'S LECTURE

- Brigadier General Ng Ying Thong, Commander of Army Training and Doctrine Command, Singapore Armed Forces, on "SAF's Value in Peace and Related Operational Lessons", 29 July 2019
- Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Trade and Industry, on "Evolution of Singapore's Approach Towards Total Defence", 15 February 2019

### RSIS Conferences, Workshops, Seminars, and Roundtables

# Annex

### RSIS CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND **ROUNDTABLES**

- RSIS Conference on "Asia-Pacific and the Humanitarian World", 5-6 December 2019
- Seminar by Dr Adrian Ang U-Jin, Research Fellow, RSIS, on "Impeachment 101 - Part 1: What would Madison Do? Framers' Intent and the Legal-Constitutional Framework of Impeachment", 5 Dec 2019
- Workshop by Regional Security Architecture Programme, IDSS, on "Contested Multilateralisms: Lessons for ASEAN", 14 November 2019
- Workshop on "Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and the Future of Defence: The Role of Ethics, Norms, and Governance", organised by Norwegian Institute for Defence (IFS); Institute for Security Policy, Kiel University (ISPK); and Military Transformations Programme, IDSS, RSIS, 11-12 November
- Workshop on "Understanding and Countering Online Falsehoods and Influence Operations", organised by CENS, 4-5 November 2019
- Conference on "ASEAN, Australia, and the United States: Trilateral Dialogue on Strategic Landscape, Governance Trends, and Economic Cooperation in Southeast Asia", 29-30 October 2019
- Workshop on "Geopolitics and Technology", 23-24 October
- Seminar on "Chile and Southeast Asia Facing the 21st Century: Connecting Ideas, People and Institutions Across the Pacific Ocean", organised by RSIS and Embassy of Chile, 22 October 2019
- RSIS-IAEA Faculty Professional Development Course on Nuclear Security, 21-25 October 2019
- 10 Singapore Trade Policy Forum, 21-22 October 2019
- Seminars by Dr Adam Garfinkle, Distinguished Visiting Fellow, RSIS; and Founding Editor of The American Interest, on "Understanding the Contemporary United States", 10, 31 October & 21 November 2019
- 12 Seminar by Professor Andrew Walter, NTUC Professor of International Economic Relations, RSIS; and Professor of International Relations in the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne, on "Asia in Global Financial Governance", 27 September 2019

- 13 Seminar by Professor Andrew Walter, NTUC Professor of International Economic Relations, RSIS; and Professor of International Relations in the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne, on "Mixed Methods in Graduate and Postgraduate Research - Where Do We Stand?", 25 September 2019
- 14 Conference on "Foreign Interference Tactics and Countermeasures", 25 September 2019
- **15** Book launch seminar for "Terrorism and Insurgency in Asia: A Contemporary Examination of Terrorist and Separatist Movements" by Rohan Gunaratna, Professor of Security Studies, RSIS; and Lise Waldek, Lecturer in Terrorism Studies, Department of Security Studies and Criminology, Macquarie University, 20 September 2019
- Seminar by Dr Virginie Andre, Senior Research Fellow, Victoria University, on "Mediated Jihadism Amongst Thai Muslim Youths and the Media Radicalising Effect", 17 September 2019
- 17 Workshop by Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS), RSIS, on "Countering Extremism", 16-17 September
- 18 RSIS-GRIPS-CSIS Indonesia Kickoff Workshop on "Policy Research Network on Contemporary Southeast Asia", 6-7 September 2019
- Seminar by Professor Steve Chan, Ngee Ann Kongsi Professor of International Relations, RSIS; and College Professor of Distinction, University of Colorado, Boulder, on "Discerning Revisionism and Status-Quo Commitment: Comparing China and the U.S.", 4 September 2019
- Seminar by Professor Gavin Flood, FBA, Visiting Professor, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme; and Professor of Hindu Studies and Comparative Religion, Oxford University, on "Hindu Nationalism: Meanings and Implications", 2 September 2019
- 21 RSIS-SWP Dialogue on "Maintaining Strategic Autonomy in Times of Tectonic Shifts in Global Affairs", organised by RSIS and Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, 30 August 2019
- 22 Dr Volker Perthes, Distinguished Visitor, RSIS; and Executive Chairman and Director of SWP (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik), German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin, Germany, on "No Order, No Hegemon: The Middle Eastern Crisis Landscape", 29 August 2019
- Seminar by Mr Jeevan Thiagarajah, Chairman of the Center for Humanitarian Affairs, on "Sri Lanka After the Easter Attacks - An Assessment", 28 August 2019

- 24 Professor Jörn Dosch, Professor of International Politics and Development Cooperation, and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, University of Rostock, Germany, on "The EU in Southeast Asia - Looking Beyond the Standard Narrative in Security, Trade and Belt & Road", 28 August 2019
- 25 Workshop by Centre for Multilateralism Studies, on "Negotiating Trade Agreements", 26-30 August 2019
- 26 Seminar by Professor Steve Chan, Ngee Ann Kongsi Professor of International Relations, RSIS; and College Professor of Distinction, University of Colorado, Boulder, on "Interpreting the Sino-American Trade Dispute", 26 August
- Seminar by Dr Duvvuri Subbarao, Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS: and Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. on "India in a Globalising World", 21 August 2019
- 28 ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management on "Building ASEAN's Resiliency to Disasters", 20-21 August 2019
- 29 Seminar by Associate Professor Thitinan Pongsudhirak, Director, Institute of Security and International Studies, Chulalongkorn University, on "China's Superpower Pragmatism in Southeast Asia", 5 August 2019
- 30 Singapore Humanitarian Network (SHINE) Workshop 2019, organised by the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme, 31 July 2019
- 31 The 21st Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO 2019) on "Security Challenges and Opportunities in the Asia Pacific", 29 July-4 August 2019
- ASEAN-Korea Youth Network Workshop 2019 on 'Sustainable Smart Cities: Molding the Young Pioneers of Smart & Innovative Urban Solutions", 13-17 July 2019
- 33 Professor John Esposito, S. Rajaratnam Professor of Strategic Studies, RSIS; and University Professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies, Georgetown University, on "The Future of Political Islam, Democracy and Global Terrorism", 12 July 2019
- 34 ASPI-RSIS Workshop on "China and the Indo-Pacific Regional Security Architecture", organised by Asia Society Policy Institute and RSIS, 10 July 2019
- 35 Seminar by Professor John Esposito, S. Rajaratnam Professor of Strategic Studies, RSIS; and University Professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies, Georgetown University, on "Religion, Radicalisation and Combating Violent Extremism", 8 July 2019
- 36 ISA Asia-Pacific Conference 2019 on "Asia-Pacific and World Order: Security, Economics, Identity and Beyond", 4-6 July
- 37 Seminar by Mr Hosuk Lee Makiyama, Director of European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE), on "5G Diplomacy", 3 July 2019

- 38 International Conference on Cohesive Societies on "Many Communities, One Shared Future", 19-21 June 2019
- Seminar by Lord John Alderdice, House of Lords; Former Speaker of Northern Ireland Assembly; and Leader of Alliance Party of Northern Ireland, on "The Psychology Behind Brexit: Implications for National Security Practitioners", 18 June 2019
- 40 RSIS-WTO Parliamentarian Workshop 2019, 11-13 June
- Panel Seminar on "The 2019 Indonesian General Election: Results, Impacts, and Implications", 23 May 2019
- 42 Mr Pedro Serrano, Deputy Secretary General for Common Security and Defence Policy, European Union, on "A Stronger Europe for a Safer World", 22 May 2019
- International Maritime Security Conference on "Safe and Secure Seas: Mutual Security in Our Maritime Commons", 15 May 2019
- 44 RSIS-NMF Dialogue on "The Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia: Promoting Rules-Based Order in the Maritime Commons", organised by RSIS and the National Maritime Foundation, 11-12 April 2019
- RSIS-Delhi Policy Group Workshop on "India, ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific: Evolving Regional Architecture", 10 April 2019
- 13th Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO) on "National Security in the Age of Disruption", organised by CENS, with the support of the National Security Coordination Secretariat in the Prime Minister's Office, 8-12 April 2019
- Second Conference of the Jean Monnet Network on EU-Asia Security and Trade, 8-9 April 2019
- Workshop on Inter-Religious Dialogue on "Inter-Religious Dialogue - Theory, Aims, Skills and Practices", jointly organised by the SRP Programme and MOU partners, 6 April 2019
- 49 SRP-China Programme Joint Roundtable Discussion, organised by the SRP Programme, 4 April 2019
- SRP Distinguished Lecture and Symposium 2019 on "Countering Exclusivism, Promoting Inclusivism for Positive Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies", organised by the SRP Programme, 3 April 2019
- Roundtable Series on "Future of ASEAN Trade in the New World Trade Order", organised by CIMB ASEAN Research Institute and co-hosted by RSIS, 2 April 2019
- NTS-Asia Consortium annual conference on "Bringing Back Multilateral Cooperation in NTS Governance", organised by the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, RSIS, 25 March 2019
- 53 Book launch seminar for "Restraining Great Powers: Soft Balancing from Empires to the Global Era" by Professor T. V. Paul, Visiting Professor, RSIS; and James McGill Professor of International Relations, McGill University, 14 March 2019

- 54 Seminar by Professor Su Hao, Distinguished Professor, Department of Diplomacy and Founding Director, Center for Strategic and Peace Studies, China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU), on "Indo-Pacific Framework and the Belt and Road Initiative: Competition or Collaboration?", 11 March 2019
- Book launch seminar "Negotiating Governance on Non-Traditional Security in Southeast Asia and Beyond" by Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony, Professor, Head of the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, RSIS, 6 March 2019
- RSIS-ISAS Workshop on "India Rising Power in an Age of Uncertainty", organised by RSIS and the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), NUS, 28 February-1 March 2019
- Conference on "Asia and the Humanitarian World", organised by the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, RSIS, 28 February-1 March 2019
- 1st CSCAP Study Group Meeting on "International Law and Cyberspace", organised by RSIS, 26-27 February 2019
- Workshop on "The Age of Rages", organised by the Centre of Excellence for National Security, RSIS, 26-27 February 2019
- National Security Symposium: Perspectives, Analysis and Discovery 2019 (NSSPAD), on "National Security in a Complex Environment: Challenges and Prospects for Singapore", organised by the National Security Studies Programme, RSIS, 21 February 2019
- 61 RSIS-IFS workshop on "Defence Innovation and the 4th Industrial Revolution: Security Challenges, Emerging Technologies, and National Responses", organised by RSIS and the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies (IFS), 19 February 2019
- 62 EU-Singapore Dialogue on "Addressing Security Challenges in a Changing World", organised by the Centre for Multilateralism Studies, RSIS, 30 January 2019
- 63 Book launch seminar for "China's Global Identity: Considering the Responsibilities of Great Power" by Assistant Professor Hoo Tiang Boon, China Programme, IDSS; and Coordinator of the MSc (Asian Studies) Programme, RSIS, 29 January 2019

- **64** Workshop on "Maritime Domain/Situational Awareness", organised by the Maritime Security Programme, IDSS, 24 January 2019
- 65 CSCAP Nuclear Energy Expert Group Meeting, organised by the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, RSIS, 24-25 January 2019
- 66 Conference on Regional Maritime Security Outlook 2019, organised by RSIS, 23 January 2019
- Terrorism Analyst Training Course 2019, organised by the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, RSIS, 21 January-1 February 2019
- 68 Prof Baldur Thorhallsson, Professor, Faculty of Political Science, University of Iceland; Dr Wu Shang-Su, Research Fellow, RSIS; and Mr Iftekharul Bashar, Associate Research Fellow, RSIS, on "Small States and Alliance Strategies", 10 January 2019

### SEMINAR SERIES ON THE PRACTICE OF DIPLOMACY AND **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (SSPDIA)**

- Mr Bilahari Kausikan, Chairman of the Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore, on "Evolving Regional Architecture in Asia and the Challenges for ASEAN", 23 April 2019
- Ambassador Jun Yamazaki, Ambassador of Japan to Singapore, on "Japan's Foreign and Economic Policies in the Indo-Pacific Region and its Engagement with ASEAN", 19 March 2019
- HE I Gede Ngurah Swajaya, Ambassador of Indonesia to Singapore, on "Indonesia's Foreign and Economic Policies: Relevance of the Indo-Pacific Cooperation in Enhancing its Role", 18 February 2019
- HE Bruce Charles Gosper, Australian High Commissioner, on "Changing Regional Dynamics in Asia: Australia's Policy to Engage the Region", 7 January 2019

### **Forthcoming Events**

# Annex F

### **CSCAP NUCLEAR ENERGY EXPERTS GROUP MEETING** FEBRUARY 2020

CSCAP Singapore, NTS Centre, and the Pacific Forum will convene the annual Nuclear Energy Experts Group (NEEG) Meeting in Singapore in February 2020. Participants will include senior nuclear governance scholars and officials from Asia Pacific countries, including Singapore. The NEEG meeting will deliberate on key nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation issues in the Asia Pacific region and their implications on regional and global nuclear governance.

### TERRORISM ANALYSTS TRAINING COURSE

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

ICPVTR will be conducting its 13th Terrorism Analysts Training Course in February/March 2020. Through this annual course, public and private security analysts and researchers in the terrorism and extremism field come together to enhance and share their professional knowledge and competence. The latest counter-terrorism research, analyses and practices will be covered by ICPVTR's researchers and invited foreign speakers. This course is designed to provide a holistic perspective on the global and regional threat landscape as well as significant and current trends in terrorism such as ideological underpinnings, use of technology and the different emerging actors.

### ASIA-PACIFIC PROGRAMME FOR SENIOR NATIONAL **SECURITY OFFICERS (APPSNO)**

29 MARCH - 3 APRIL 2020

APPSNO is the annual flagship conference of the CENS. It is organised specifically for senior government officials from the Asia Pacific region and beyond, these being the key personnel responsible for national security matters. As a platform facilitating participant engagement with world-class foreign and local speakers, APPSNO promotes the development of analytical frameworks, mindsets, and skills needed for effective national security management amongst its internationally diverse participants. The theme for APPSNO 2020 is "Cooperation in Strategising National Security". The theme invites consideration of the case for focusing on cooperation to address national security concerns as a response to an increasingly competitive and nationalistic global context. This conference seeks to explore and foster dialogue on the importance of cooperation to national security and how seeking to cooperate can translate into effective and responsive policymaking.

### **RSIS-WTO PARLIAMENTARIAN WORKSHOP**

JULY 2020

The parliamentarian workshop is an annual three-day workshop organised by RSIS with funding support from the Temasek Foundation and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The parliamentarian workshop equips attendees with a deeper understanding of WTO and current and future negotiation issues in international trade, and a sustained focus on the particular concerns of developing states in the process. The workshop includes participants from across the region, providing valuable opportunities for networking.

### RSIS WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY PUBLIC PANEL AND **EXHIBITION**

AUGUST 2020

NTS Centre's HADR Programme will be organising World Humanitarian Day in August 2020. The Programme will convene a public panel discussion to debate challenges in the field, and will concurrently host an exhibition to enable a multi-stakeholder networking session to celebrate those who dedicate their lives to humanitarian work. This annual event will bring together practitioners, policy professionals, the research and scholarly community, and the wider public.

### **NUCLEAR SECURITY GOVERNANCE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC WORKSHOP**

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

The NTS Centre will convene a research workshop involving nuclear security experts and practitioners from selected Asia Pacific countries, majority of whom are from Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia. Discussions will focus on various regional mechanisms and frameworks in ASEAN that can be expanded to the broader Asia Pacific region. Invited experts and practitioners will help assess the effectiveness of such mechanisms and frameworks in ASEAN and the Asia Pacific region as well as identify key nuclear security issues and challenges.







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