



## LAUNCH OF BEYOND RELIEF!

The HADR Programme, NTS Centre, RSIS is pleased to present the inaugural issue of Beyond Relief!

Conceived in 2015, the Singapore Humanitarian Network acts as a platform to foster collaboration among academics focused on the study of humanitarianism in the Asia-Pacific, humanitarian policy research professionals, and practitioners based in Singapore. It offers an opportunity to network, share research and explore potential areas of collaboration.

This newsletter will feature a few sections. **On the Ground** will provide an update of projects that humanitarian practitioners in Singapore are currently working on. We will feature a list of **Recent Publications** by members of the network. **In the Spotlight** will showcase and delve deeper into new initiatives from within our network. Finally, we will include a list of **Grant Opportunities and Training Programmes**.

Over the past two years, our membership has grown, with researchers and practitioners from diverse backgrounds coming together to discuss a myriad of topics relating to humanitarianism.

In 2018, the network was formalised. Members agreed to meet twice a year to provide updates on their work.

On 31st July 2019, the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme hosted the Singapore Humanitarian Network Workshop 2019. Nineteen researchers from different disciplines and twelve practitioners based in Singapore came together to discuss transdisciplinary research collaboration in humanitarian affairs. Working groups on 3 key transdisciplinary areas - Education, Logistics, and Data Management and Modelling - presented on the progress of their respective projects. A World Café was then convened to encourage discussion between members of the working groups and practitioners. The participants also talked about some of the gaps that exist between academia and practitioners, and identified potential ways to bridge these gaps.

While the current COVID-19 situation has prevented the team from organising any physical events in the near future, we are constantly brainstorming ideas for webinars or online roundtables.

As such, we welcome your ideas, feedback and input and look forward to supporting joint efforts in research, networking and knowledge sharing. Do get in touch with either Christopher ([christopherchen@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:christopherchen@ntu.edu.sg)) or Al ([iscook@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:iscook@ntu.edu.sg)).



- 1 ON THE GROUND
- 2 RECENT PUBLICATIONS
- 3 IN THE SPOTLIGHT
- 4 GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

# ON THE GROUND

## Mask Distribution for Rohingya Children, Youths and Elderly

Relief SG is currently collaborating with the UN's Inter Sector Coordination Group in the distribution of reusable masks for all Rohingya children, youths and elderly in the 34 refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The campaign will be implemented under the banner of SGAID, an alliance of NGOs, enterprises and individuals working together to provide HADR. The distribution was scheduled to take place end of June.

## Singaporean Aid for International Disasters (SGAID)

Relief SG started a new initiative called SGAID, short for Singaporean Aid for International Disasters. It is a platform for Singapore-based NGOs, private sector enterprises and individuals to unite in response to catastrophic humanitarian crises in the region and beyond. All members are welcome to join SGAID.

For more details, contact Jonathan How at [jon@relief.sg](mailto:jon@relief.sg)

## Celebrate Humanity with Mercy Relief – World Humanitarian Day 2020

At the occasion of the World Humanitarian Day 2020 (Aug 19th), Mercy Relief will join the humanitarian community and pay tribute to aid workers who, wherever it happens, whatever time of the year, risk their lives in humanitarian service, and rally support for people affected by crises. From Aug 1st till Aug 31st, Mercy Relief will invite the Singaporean community to act, donate, share, love, and be humanitarian in their own ways throughout the month. The campaign will raise funds and awareness, both regionally and locally, and will celebrate the indomitable spirits of the humanitarian heroes.

For more details: [https://www.giving.sg/mercy-relief/celebrate\\_humanity\\_with\\_mercy\\_relief\\_2020](https://www.giving.sg/mercy-relief/celebrate_humanity_with_mercy_relief_2020)

## Ground Zero Run Virtual Challenge 2020

The Ground Zero Run, organised by Mercy Relief, is Singapore's first humanitarian run which, after three successful editions, is coming back in 2020 as a virtual challenge. From Sept 6th till Sept 27th, participants are invited to run a 10km, 5km or 1km distance and they will decide where and when their running track is: be it in your neighbourhood, in the local park, on the treadmill... and even over-seas! Participants can run solo, or buddy up to complete the chosen distance and, to make it even more challenging, encourage those who wish to run with a 5kg pack (made of water bottles, rice packs... their choice), as a symbol of support to the communities who are victim of numerous natural disasters in the region and have to carry such relief packs post-disaster.

For more details: <https://groundzerorun.com/>

# RECENT PUBLICATIONS

## News Articles and Commentaries

### Global health security—COVID-19: is the humanitarian sector prepared?

Lina Gong

11 March 2020

Click [here](#) to read more.

### Global health security—COVID-19 & humanitarian response: leave no one behind

Alistair D. B. Cook

20 March 2020

Click [here](#) to read more.

### Global health security—COVID-19: private sector's role in times of crisis

Christopher Chen

26 March 2020

Click [here](#) to read more.

### Pandemics & natural hazards: the potential coincidence of a very contagious disease with another disaster

Susanna Jenkins, David Lallemand, and Shireen Federico

27 April 2020

Click [here](#) to read more.

### COVID-19 and studying disasters in Singapore

Lim Wee Kiat

25 May 2020

Click [here](#) to read more.

### The online transition means high-quality HE for all is within our grasp

Gul Inanc and Charley Wright

31 May 2020

Click [here](#) to read more.

### Global health security: COVID-19 and its impacts – in limbo in ASEAN: pandemic and irregular migration

S. Nanthini

25 June 2020

Click [here](#) to read more.

### Establishing humanitarian lanes during COVID-19

Alistair D.B. Cook and Christopher Chen

30 June 2020

Click [here](#) to read more.

## Edited Books

### Urban Spaces and Gender in Asia

Divya Upadhyaya Joshi and Caroline Brassard (eds.)

Springer International Publishing, 2020

Click [here](#) to read more.

### Non-Traditional Security Issues in ASEAN: Agendas for Action

Mely Caballero-Anthony and Lina Gong (eds.)

ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, 2020

Click [here](#) to read more.

## Reports

### Governing Human-induced Disasters in Southeast Asia: Insights from the 2017 Marawi Conflict

Angelo Paolo Luna Trias and Lina Gong

23 April 2020

Click [here](#) to read more.

### Pathways for ASEAN contributions to sustainable peace and security in Rakhine State, Myanmar

Alistair D. B. Cook and S. Nanthini

06 May 2020

Click [here](#) to read more.

## Journal Articles

### Invited perspectives: how machine learning will change flood risk and impact assessment

*Dennis Wagenaar, Alex Curran, Mariano Balbi, Alok Bhardwaj, Robert Soden, Emir Hartato, Gizem Mestav Sarica, Laddaporn Ruangpan, Giuseppe Molinaro, and David Lallemand*

Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences, 20, 2020

Click [here](#) to read more.

### Enhancing decision making capabilities in humanitarian logistics by integrating serious gaming and computer modelling

*Za'aba Bin Abdul Rahim, Giuseppe Timperio, Robert de Souza, and Linda William*

Advances in Science, Technology and Engineering Systems Journal, 5(3), 2020

Click [here](#) to read more.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## Webinar: Humanitarian Futures in the Post-COVID-19 World

The RSIS HADR Programme, NTS Centre organised the Webinar on "Humanitarian Futures in the Post-COVID-19 World" on June 3, 2020. This webinar brought together a panel of speakers with different backgrounds related to humanitarian affairs to examine how the current COVID-19 experience impact the future planning of the humanitarian sector. The

speakers discussed how the mindset about future planning needed to change, what humanitarian needs there would be in the field, what changes would be necessary, and how emerging donors like China would be able to contribute to future humanitarian action.

Watch the webinar recording [here](#).

## Launch of the Centre for Asia-Pacific Refugee Studies (CAPRS)

Located in the University of Auckland, the Centre for Asia Pacific Refugee Studies aims to respond to contemporary challenges of conflict and climate induced displacement. The Centre is driven by a transformative agenda that places social justice and human rights as core aspects of its work that will empower refugee voices and build local capacities. Through a commitment to multidisciplinary scholarship, the Centre is committed to bringing together people

from academia, refugee communities, government, civil society and the private sector to collaboratively work on meaningful and tangible projects on current and future forced displacement situations. For more details, click [here](#) or contact Gul Inanc (Co-founder and Co-director, CAPRS; Lecturer, School of Art, Design and Media, NTU, Singapore) at [gul.inanc@initiativeour.org](mailto:gul.inanc@initiativeour.org).

## New Serious Game: 72 Hours



Developed by The Logistics Institute—Asia Pacific, 72 Hours is an online single player game, developed to introduce players to the complexity and uncertainty of managing the logistics of humanitarian relief operation assets. The focus is on the management and delivery of Life Saving Kits (LSK) to the affected population. As the Manager of a fictitious Non-Profit Humanitarian Agency, you are required

to plan the acquisition and delivery of the required LSK to the shelters. Players will be assessed on how well they manage LSK supplies so as to meet beneficiaries' demand in the initial 72 hours after a disaster has occurred – the so-called golden window.

Watch the game trailer [here](#).

For more details, click [here](#) or contact Robert de Souza at [tlihead@nus.edu.sg](mailto:tlihead@nus.edu.sg).



## Research Project: Assessing perceptions of risk and the cost-benefit of COVID-19 mitigation measures in Singapore

*Investigators: Patrick Daly (EOS, NTU), Benjamin Horton (EOS, NTU), Caroline Brassard (LKYSPP, NUS), Jamie McCaughey (ETH Zurich), Reuben Ng (NUS)*

This project studies how residents in Singapore are weighing the risks of COVID-19 (both the probability and potential consequences of getting sick) against the impacts of the Singapore government's public health mitigation measures ('circuit-breaker'). The academic core of this project is to better understand how socio-economic variables shape risk perceptions and sensitivity, resilience, and acceptance of mitigation measures. The investigators will collect quantitative data

from bi-monthly surveys over a period of 3 months of a representative sample of Singaporean residents, and targeted surveys on a monthly basis of potentially vulnerable populations such as elderly, low-income households, and migrant workers. They will couple this with in-depth qualitative data from key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The data generated from this project will be used in both academic publications and made available to relevant government

authorities and partner organizations to support policy development. As of 25 June 2020, the investigators have collected four rounds of online data from a representative sample of 1000 Singaporeans and PRs about impacts, risks, mitigation measures and perceptions about Covid-19 and are currently drafting a series of policy briefs.

For more details, contact Caroline Brassard at [dr.brassard@gmail.com](mailto:dr.brassard@gmail.com)

## Research Project: Regional Organisations in the Indo-Pacific

Investigators: Alistair D. B. Cook (NTS Centre, RSIS, NTU), Christopher Chen (NTS Centre, RSIS, NTU)

This research project intends to assess the trajectory of HADR commitments to inform the crafting of an evidence-based strategy for the region. It aims to evaluate the feasibility of political commitment to a region-wide agreement, the institutional implementability and the technical correctness needed for such a strategy or agreement. It will therefore examine the role of (i) major powers; (ii) regional

organisations and multi-stakeholder partnerships that cover South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific; and (iii) community needs of those most exposed to natural hazards. The research project builds upon previous HADR research on national assessments of the five most at risk countries to natural hazards – Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Philippines and Indonesia – as well as two countries of

particular interest to Southeast Asia due to their exposure and limited capacity – Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste. This project will result in the production of a policy report.

For more details, contact Alistair Cook at [iscook@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:iscook@ntu.edu.sg) or Christopher Chen at [christopherchen@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:christopherchen@ntu.edu.sg)

## Research Project: Impact of Disaster-Conflict-Pandemic Nexus on Humanitarian Leadership in the Indo-Pacific

Investigators: Alistair D. B. Cook (NTS Centre, RSIS, NTU), S. Nanthini (NTS Centre, RSIS, NTU)

This research project aims to explore the conflict-disaster-pandemic nexus of the Rakhine state in Myanmar and Marawi in the Philippines. Based on the previously completed individual rounds of research on the humanitarian situations in Myanmar's Rakhine state and Philippines' Marawi, this report seeks to identify developments in HADR mechanisms in these areas that have been affected by conflict, natural

disasters and well as pandemics. By assessing the HADR mechanisms in place as a result of the humanitarian situations and dynamics in these two areas, it will allow for a comparison with conditions in disaster settings to uncover the parameters and understandings of humanitarianism in Southeast Asia at local, national, regional and international levels. This project will also assess progress made in terms of

capacity to protect and assist vulnerable communities in conflict-affected settings. This project will result in the production of a policy report.

For more details, contact Alistair Cook at [iscook@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:iscook@ntu.edu.sg) or S. Nanthini at [isnathini@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:isnathini@ntu.edu.sg)

## Research Project: The Belt and Road Initiative, Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management in Southeast Asia

Investigators: Lina Gong (NTS Centre, RSIS, NTU)

This project seeks to explore how ASEAN and its member states can benefit from the BRI in the area of humanitarian affairs and disaster management. The aim of this research is to facilitate the understanding of China's thinking and approach to cooperation on humanitarian affairs and disaster management. It will identify the challenges and opportunities for Southeast

Asian countries to use the BRI resources to support their own disaster management. Specifically, the research examines how different Chinese actors have been engaging with their Southeast Asian counterparts, particularly their disaster management agencies, military-to-military relations, private sector engagement, and NGOs. It will assess existing frameworks or

arrangements to facilitate such interactions; whether and how the BRI has enhanced the cooperation; and how this shapes humanitarian thinking and priorities in the Indo-Pacific. This project will result in the production of a policy report.

For more details, contact Lina Gong at [islinagong@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:islinagong@ntu.edu.sg)

# GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

## Call for Applications: American Political Science Association (APSA) Asia Program

The American Political Science Association (APSA) has extended a Call for Applications for early-career scholars who would like to participate in the next APSA Asia Pacific Workshop (January 10 - 16, 2021). The program is an opportunity to connect with scholars from across East and Southeast Asia and advance research related to contentious politics in Asia. The workshop is part of a multi-year effort to support political science research among early-career

scholars in East and Southeast Asia, and to strengthen research networks linking Asian scholars with colleagues overseas.

Deadline: Saturday, August 15, 2020.

Click [here](#) for more details.

## Advanced Executive Programme in Supply Chain Innovation

Conducted by The Logistics Institute—Asia Pacific, the Advanced Executive Programme in Supply Chain Innovation

is designed to provide participants with the know-how, competence, and confidence necessary for their strategic role in planning and implementation of logistical and supply chain programmes. Participants will develop a broad view and understanding of the logistics and supply chain innovation concepts and challenges to ensure competitiveness of their business amid a disruptive environment.

Click [here](#) for more details.