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Climate Change and Security



Photo Credit: Storm Crypt via Flickr.com

The recently released [Sixth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#), stated that climate change is rapid and intensifying in every region in the world. This has been seen in the Asian which is widely known as the region most exposed to natural hazards with climate change causing more frequent and intense occurrences of extreme weather events like typhoons and cyclones. In South-east Asia, six ASEAN members are among the world's 20 countries most vulnerable to climate (Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam). The 2021 ASEAN State of Climate Change Report noted that ASEAN's high vulnerability to climate change is due to 'growing intensity and magnitude of extreme weather events, and increasing economic, environmental, and social damage.'

The challenges faced by countries in the region are not limited to the geo-physical effects of climate change. Other challenges include a low adaptation capacity, lower economic development, and governance. Against these risks, there are compelling reasons to elevate climate security to the highest priority in the political and security agendas of states from the national to the international levels.

Linking climate change with security often brings concerns about the unintended consequences such as being a military-driven agenda, justifying an increased role of the military in 'non-military' matters and potentially causing more competition rather than cooperation. But the severe human security challenges brought on by climate change are more than enough to allay concerns about military's involvement in traditional military threats. These challenges can be seen particularly in times of extreme weather events. In 2021, 174 natural disasters were re-

ported in the Asian region, with around [66.68 million people affected](#), including over [12 million displaced in East Asia and the Pacific region](#)—all significant increases from previous years.

The economic loss of these disasters had been staggering with current estimates of annual losses at USD780 billion and projected to increase [to between 1.4 trillion and 4.7 trillion by 2050](#). With the projected impact of climate change on food security, the undernourished in Asia which make up more than half of the world's undernourished (424.5 of 725 million who are undernourished globally), will only increase causing more human sufferings. There are also the increasing threats to human health considering that environmental changes contribute to emerging infectious diseases.

The magnitude of the climate emergency extends well beyond the economy, food, and health. The multiplicity of risks

associated with climate change -- like resources scarcity including water are also well-established drivers of conflict. Climate-induced forced displacement of vulnerable groups and communities could also compound existing fragilities, which in turn, destabilise already vulnerable regions in Southeast Asia. There is therefore the urgency for the region to proactively engage on climate security.

For a region where ideas of comprehensive security, human security and non-traditional security are deeply ingrained and seen in states' practices, advancing the agenda of climate security goes a long way in helping states address climate-related security risks while promoting regional cooperation. ASEAN should therefore be at the forefront of climate security engagement and urge its member states to integrate climate security in their national policies. At the same time, existing

regional mechanisms like the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, the ASEAN Plus Three Rice Emergency Reserve and the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases should be strengthened. More attention should be given to building regional capacity in adaptation, including climate financing. More investments are also needed to support energy transition, such as building sustainable infrastructure particularly in renewables. With the complex and cross-cutting challenges of climate change, it would do well for countries in ASEAN and beyond to think about what needs to be done today to protect and ensure the security of peoples and states a climate change world

Suggested Readings

- CRED (2022). *Disasters in numbers*. Brussels: CRED. https://cred.be/sites/default/files/2021_EMDAT_report.pdf
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2022). *IPCC Sixth Assessment Report*. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2021). *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2021*. Geneva: IDMC. <https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2021/>
- McKinsey Global Institute (2020) "Climate risk and response in Asia". <https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/sustainability/our-insights/climate-risk-and-response-in-asia>

CLIMATE CHANGE

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

'A world rapidly warming': The past eight years were the eight warmest on record for planet

The last eight years have been the eight warmest on record as the growing concentration of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere pushes global temperature toward a dangerous tipping point, according to an analysis by the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

CNN

Ivana Kottasová

10 January 2023

Urban light pollution poses danger to marine ecosystem, study warns

Marine ecosystems are being subjected to more artificial light as a result of urban development along the coast. The organisms that live in the coastal waters of some of the largest coastal cities in the world may experience physiological and behavioural effects as a result of this exposure, which is particularly severe in and around these areas.

Menatalla Ibrahim

Doha News

12 January 2023

Exxon accurately predicted global warming from 1970s – but continued to cast doubt on climate science, new report finds

Researchers examined climate projections produced between 1977 and 2003 by Exxon. They found the company's science was not only good enough to predict long term temperature rise, but also accurately predicted when human-caused climate change would become discernible.

Laura Paddison

CNN

12 January 2022

Choice of oil boss to lead UN climate talks draws mixed reactions

As COP28 president, Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, the head of the United Arab Emirates' state oil giant Abu Dhabi National Oil Company will help shape the agenda of the 2023 COP28 in Dubai. His appointment has proved polarising, with activists saying this creates a conflict of interest, while others said it could help bridge deep differences.

David Fogarty

The Straits Times

13 January 2022

MWC adopts plan to ensure water security

Manila Water Company's water security plan includes employing artificial intelligence to improve its ability to forecast water supply systems in the Angat-Ipo-La Mesa dams and its treatment plants in order to help reduce shortages. It is also strengthening its climate change mitigation programs to further ensure water supply reliability.

James A. Loyola

Manila Bulletin

13 January 2023

Efforts to combat climate change and biodiversity loss are inseparable as new mass extinction looms

Global warming and biodiversity loss are two sides of the same coin. Neither side can be understood or managed without taking account of the other. Neither can they be managed without understanding the central significance of the "Anthropocene" era.

David Dodwell

South China Morning Post

16 January 2023

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Climate change and earthquake exposure in Asia and the Pacific: Assessment of energy and transport infrastructure

This study analyses the exposure of energy and transport assets in Asia and the Pacific to climate change and earthquake hazards and highlights how multi-hazard assessment can help strengthen the resilience of crucial infrastructure.

Pierre Friedlingstein, et al.

Asian Development Bank

2022

Impacts of artificial light at night in marine ecosystems - A review

The globally widespread adoption of Artificial Light at Night (ALAN) began in the mid-20th century. Yet, it is only in the last decade that a renewed research focus has emerged into its impacts on ecological and biological processes in the marine environment that are guided by natural intensities, moon phase, natural light and dark cycles and daily light spectra alterations.

Laura F. B. Mangaroni et al.,

Global Change Biology, Vol. 28, Iss. 18, pp. 5346-5367

2022

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNESCO-IWRA Online Conference

Hailing the theme "Emerging Pollutants: Protecting Water Quality for the Health of People and the Environment," the online conference will highlight the ways the world can advance knowledge, research and solutions for managing emerging pollutants to improve and protect water quality in a changing world.

Virtual

17-19 January 2023

Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5)

IMPAC5 is a global forum that brings together ocean conservation professionals and high-level officials to inform, inspire and act on marine protected areas.

Vancouver, Canada

3-9 February 2023

ENERGY SECURITY

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES

Small Modular Reactors in the Philippines' journey toward nuclear energy

The Philippines is seeking nuclear energy partnerships with various countries and allies as it aims to address the twin challenges of achieving energy security and reducing carbon emissions. How can advanced small modular nuclear reactors help the Philippines in its transition to clean energy?

Julius Cesar Trajano

RSIS Commentary

5 December 2022

The Asian countries to consume record amounts of coal – IEA

Global coal use is set to rise by 1.2% in 2022, surpassing 8 billion tonnes in a single year for the first time and eclipsing the previous record set in 2013.

Nour Ghantous

Energy Monitor

22 December 2022

China boosts coal output, eases Australia ban to bolster energy security

The lifting of the unofficial ban on Australian coal imports, which were halted in 2020 in a fit of Chinese pique over questions on COVID's origins, is the clearest sign yet of the renewed ties between them.

Reuters

Channel News Asia

6 January 2023

India makes \$2.3 billion green hydrogen push to meet climate goals

The initiative could help the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases reach its goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2070.

Anjana Pasricha

VOA

6 January 2023

Japan, US to step up cooperation in developing next-generation nuclear reactors

Thanks to Japan's drastic shift away from a policy under which there were no plans to construct or rebuild nuclear reactors, Tokyo and Washington are set to once again share similar intentions for nuclear power plants.

The Yomiuri Shimbun

Asia News Network

9 January 2023

Philippines looking at Chinese investors for cooperation on nuclear energy

In terms of nuclear energy, Energy Secretary Lotilla said Chinese firms are already looking into the matter, which the Philippines can benefit from.

Jon Viktor Cabuenas

GMA News

9 January 2023

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Small Modular Reactors: The next phase for nuclear power in the Indo-Pacific?

By looking at these three areas-- the technology, the 3S considerations, and geopolitics, this edited volume seeks to provide a comprehensive, albeit preliminary, analysis of the SMR/FNPP question in the Indo-Pacific.

David Santoro and Carl Baker

Issues and Insights, Vol. 22, SR. 4

2022

Renewable energy auctions: Southeast Asia

This chapter aims to examine the impacts of the hydropower-development project along the Mekong River on the displacement of affected local communities in Cambodia.

IRENA

Abu Dhabi: International Renewable Energy Agency

2022

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Symposium on International Safeguards: Reflecting on the Past and Anticipating the Future

This brought together global stakeholders in support of IAEA safeguards. It is an opportunity for Member State safeguards regulatory authorities, the research and development (R&D) community, industry and civil society to identify challenges and opportunities for IAEA safeguards, showcase research, share ideas, and build partnerships.

Recorded Conference in Vienna, Austria

31 October–4 November 2022

Call for Papers on the Energy Market, Energy Pricing, and Low-Carbon Transition

The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) is seeking original, unpublished papers on the energy market and energy pricing toward low-carbon energy transition, with a focus on Asia and the Pacific.

Asian Development Bank Institute

9 May 2023 (deadline for submission of draft papers)

FOOD SECURITY

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

UAE: Seamless imports of agricultural equipment to boost food security

The United Arab Emirates' Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCA) recently met with Dubai Customs to discuss the pressing matter of ensuring food security through facilitated imports of agricultural equipment and machinery. Efforts will be made in developing a consolidated and integrated electronic system between local authorities and the Ministry.

Gulf News

10 December 2022

U.S. begins new food safety program

The Foreign Agricultural Service is working with two other US agencies to develop a Food Safety for Food Security Partnership (FS4FS) with partner developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. US\$15 million has been invested in efforts to ensure the trade of safe food, thus addressing foodborne illnesses, poverty, hunger, and malnutrition in partner countries.

Coral Beach

Food Safety Network

23 December 2022

China must raise self-reliance in agricultural technology, says President Xi Jinping

President Xi Jinping wants China to accelerate efforts to achieve self-reliance in agricultural technology. Among the key areas are seed development and core equipment. The former was identified as a weak link in the food chain, in need of significant transformation.

Reuters

Channel News Asia

25 December 2022

Govt adopts measures to boost food security, domestic production

The Japanese government is adopting a policy package aimed at strengthening the country's food security. These include the promotion of domestic production of fertilizers and animal feed to reduce its dependence on imports, among others. This approach is being taken amid disruptions from Russia's invasion of Ukraine as well as climate-induced natural disasters.

Jiji Press

The Japan News

27 December 2022

Ukraine will be leader in global efforts for food security – President

President Volodymyr Zelensky shared his views during his recent annual address, where he emphasised the significant role of Ukraine in global food security. This owes to the significant impact that the war in Ukraine has been having on global food security, since it erupted in February 2022.

Ukrinform.net

28 December 2022

India's priorities for agriculture & food security as G20 President

Food security will be among the key thrusts of India as the new head of the G20. It has the potential to share its lessons in transforming from a food-deficit to a food-surplus country. This is critical in light of key challenges today including conflict, climate change, and the economic downturn.

Pasar Bharati Corporation (PBSN)

NewsOnAir

29 December 2022

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Experiences and lessons from agri-food system transformation for sustainable food security: a review of China's practices

This article discusses the national food system transformation achieved by China as far as its food production practices are concerned, over the recent decades. Transformation successes include land consolidation, agri-food production technologies, management and organisation modes, food reserves, and trade governance, among others.

Yujia Lu et al.,

Foods, Vol. 11, No. 2

2022

Survival in pandemic times: Managing energy efficiency, food diversity, and sustainable practices of nutrient intake amid COVID-19 crisis

This study discusses the literature surrounding the multifaceted impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, investigating the consequences on household income, as well as behaviours concerning diversity of food diets, and nutritional security challenges, among others.

Jianli Geng et al.,

Frontiers in Environmental Science

2022

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CGIAR Roundtable: Financial Flows in the Agrifood Sector in the Global South

This roundtable outlined emerging data and evidence on financial flows into agriculture, and ways of scaling financial flows into agriculture. It also discussed the challenge of bringing technologies to smallholder farmers, within a whole food systems perspective.

Recorded Webinar

6 December 2022

FP Summit: Food+ 2022

This event convened policymakers, practitioners, investors, farmers, and scientists to shed light on the partnerships and innovations that can increase access and help define the future of food.

Washington D.C. and Virtual Webinar (Recorded)

14 December 2022

HEALTH SECURITY

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to health – together we can change this

Climate change poses serious threat to human health. To mitigate this threat, countries have started taking decisive steps. The Ministry of Health of Laos PDR is now building a climate resilient and low-carbon health system following pledges as part of COP26's health programme.

Ying-Ru Lo
World Health Organization
7 December 2022

International Universal Health Coverage Day: Achieve health for all through all for health

In view of various severe public health threats, whole-of-government, whole-of-society action is urgently needed to retrofit health systems towards quality, accessible, affordable and comprehensive primary healthcare, which provides the strongest, most efficient foundation to achieve UHC and health security.

Poonam Khetrpal Singh
World Health Organization
12 December 2022

2022 In Review: A push for global health progress as COVID-19 focus slips

Despite the rising number of COVID-19 cases, countries have been adapting to co-existing with COVID-19. The focus of global health should be shifted towards enhancing the resilience of health systems to restore progress on the health-related Sustainable Development Goals and mitigate the effects of future pandemic threats.

Kate Dodson
United Nations Foundation
15 December 2022

With early and effective treatment, people with HIV live no differently from others

This article addresses questions related to HIV/AIDS and the situation in Singapore. It highlights how society can be more supportive, arguing that people with HIV live no differently from others with early and effective treatment.

Choy Chiaw Yee
The Straits Times
19 December 2022

XBB.1.5 may be 'most transmissible subvariant of Omicron to date,' scientists warn

In December 2022, the percentage of new Covid-19 infections in the United States caused by XBB.1.5 rose significantly, from an estimated 4% to 41%. In view of the rapid growth of the new Omicron subvariant, health experts advised the public to stay informed but not alarmed.

Brenda Goodman
CNN
4 January 2023

Reducing nitrogen use key to human and planetary health: Study

Better management of nitrogen-rich fertilisers through alternating crops, optimising use and other measures can yield huge environmental and health benefits, but must boost food production at the same time.

AFP
Channel News Asia
5 January 2023

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Efficiency in the governance of the Covid-19 pandemic: Political and territorial factors

This article calculates the levels of efficiency in the management of health resources. In addition, it identifies some country characteristics that may condition efficient management. It finds that using more resources does not mean managing better. Policymakers need to pay special attention to the use of resources, taking into account the budgetary constraints of the public sector.

Pedro-José Martínez-Córdoba, Bernardino Benito and Isabel-María García-Sánchez
Globalization and Health, Vol. 17
2021

Good governance and COVID-19: The digital bureaucracy to response the pandemic (Singapore as a model)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the performance of the governance system in dealing with a pandemic is tested transparently in public. This article examines how the Singapore government implemented good governance through digital bureaucracy. It demonstrates that digital bureaucracy supports the implementation of good governance through improving transparency, accountability, efficiency and effective.

Ahmed Mohammad Abdou
Journal of Public Affairs, Vol. 21(4): e2656
2021

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Health Summit 2022

This seminar series featured the work of faculty and researchers at Georgetown University, with a focus on public health emergencies. This series was an opportunity to present works in progress, share areas of research, and engage in dialogue with fellow researchers.

Recorded Conference
16-18 October 2022

12th International Conference on Global Health Challenges: Global Health 2023

Global Health 2023 takes a global perspective on population health, from national to cross-country approaches, multiplatform technologies, from drug design to medicine accessibility, everything under mobile, ubiquitous, and personalized characteristics of new age population.

Porto, Portugal
25-29 September 2023

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

ASEAN: A multilateral model of disaster management

The rise of climate change-induced events is increasing the importance of multilateral cooperation in the region's disaster management network. This is in turn, opening up new opportunities for ASEAN in the current geopolitical landscape.

S. Nanthini

Observer Research Foundation

15 December 2022

Tracking humanitarian funding to local actors: What we've learnt

Although donors have committed to increasing funding to local and national actors who are generally at the forefront of humanitarian response, there is little progress in meeting these commitments.

Fran Girling-Morris, Suzanna Nelson-Pollard and Carina Chicet

Development Initiatives

15 December 2022

Impact forecasting and anticipatory action, how to take the right decision?

While the majority of natural hazards can be foreseen, this may not allow the humanitarian communities to prepare properly before a disaster strikes. Anticipatory action, through early warning systems, is needed to support decision makers and affected communities in making informed choices before a hazard strikes.

Pui Man Kam and Sylvain Ponserre

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

23 December 2022

Taliban stop women from working for aid organisations

The Taliban-run administration in Afghanistan has ordered all local and foreign NGOs under Afghanistan's coordinating body for humanitarian organisations to ban female employees from coming to work. Aid organisations are warning that the humanitarian aid concerns of Afghan women are likely to be heavily affected.

Jane Clinton

The Guardian

24 December 2022

Trends driving humanitarian crises in 2023 (and what to do about them)

Based on issues and challenges in 2022, humanitarian needs are likely to continue to increase and intensify in 2023. Although solutions and suggestions are being implemented, more work and funding needs to be invested in order to move forwards.

The New Humanitarian

3 January 2023

2022: A year when disasters compounded and cascaded

From floods to droughts to earthquakes to heatwaves, the Asia-Pacific region faced a number of disasters in 2022. In particular, 2022 was a year of complex disasters which were driven by hazard characteristics and underlying socio-economic vulnerabilities.

Sanjay Srivastava et al

UNESCAP

4 January 2023

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction: 2021 Annual Report

In the face of continuously increasing humanitarian needs, persistent discriminatory gender norms, gendered disparities in access to resources, and violence against women and girls are exacerbating the impacts of these crises on them.

UN Women

2022

An early analysis of the World Bank's Pandemic Fund: A new fund for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

Launched in September 2022, the World Bank's Pandemic Fund is meant to support pandemic response with emphasis on prevention and preparedness financing. However, apprehensions about the new financing mechanism are emerging.

Matthew R Boyce, Erin M Sorrell, and Claire J Standley

BMJ Global Health, Vol. 8, No. 1

2023

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rethinking Humanitarianism | 'Give us the money': Aid as reparations

Not a new idea, the concept of aid as reparations rejects the idea of aid as charitable giving, and instead reframes it as justice for the ravages of colonialism and imperialism. Although the concept is gaining traction, challenges still remain in terms of its application in the present.

Podcast

14 December 2022

International Recovery Forum 2023: Building Back Better and Long-term Recovery Outcomes: Aspirations for a Resilient, Sustainable Future

The International Recovery Forum 2023 will bring together policy-makers, civil society leaders, and experts for discussions on long-term recovery experiences of countries impacted by disasters.

Online Forum

27 January 2023

MIGRATION

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Migrant workers needed to fill critical skill gaps in Indonesia

Domestic policies backlash has led to poor regulatory integration of its Indonesian migration and employment policies. Together with the institutional discrimination faced by foreign workers, this is contributing to its serious shortage of skilled workers.

Wayne Palmer
East Asia Forum
15 December 2022

Key facts about recent trends in global migration

Migration continues to increase despite restrictions on international movement that were placed during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Anusha Nararajan et. al
Pew Research Center
16 December 2022

'Left to die': Fates of 5 Rohingya boats across Asia spotlight enduring crisis of stateless Muslim minority

Since 2020, more than 3,000 Rohingya people have attempted the journey from Bangladesh by sea. According to the UNHCR, 2022 has become as one of the most deadliest years at sea.

Amy Sood et. al
South China Morning Post
1 January 2023

Refugees must be central to the reconstruction of Ukraine

Any comprehensive and effective reconstruction effort will inevitably have to address the question of integrating its nearly 14.5 million refugees – both internally displaced persons and those who have fled Ukraine – for it to be successful in the long-term.

Kemal Kirişci and Sophie Roehse
Brookings
6 January 2023

Behind the 'dramatic increase' in deadly Rohingya sea voyages

Although pressure continues to be put on Myanmar to take responsibility and pave the way for the return of Rohingyas to their homes, the coup has increased the difficulty. With prospects of return dwindling and Bangladesh becoming increasingly unwelcome to Rohingya refugees, more are making the perilous journey by sea.

Parvez Uddin Chowdhury
The Diplomat
6 January 2023

Lula brings Brazil back to Global Migration Pact

In a stark contrast to their predecessor, Brazil's Foreign Affairs Ministry has announced Brazil's return to the Global Compact for Migration under new President Lula. This has been heralded as an example of the new government's commitment to the more than 4 million Brazilians living abroad.

Cede Silva
The Brazilian Report
8 January 2023

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Mind the gap! Revisiting the migration optimism/pessimism debate

This paper explores the issue of the 'development' impacts of migration. By drawing on fieldwork in three villages in Northeast Thailand, it looks at the affects of migration and the effects of migration on farming and agriculture.

Monchai Phongsiri et al
Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies
2022

Quadruple threat

As mass urban migration increases as a result of conflict and climate change, children are being particularly affected. This report looks at how urban fragility, climate change, gender inequality and social exclusion are driving children deeper into extreme vulnerability.

World Vision
2023

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

It Depends: Unpicking the Development Impacts of Migration in Asia

Drawing on work across rural areas of Southeast Asia (Thailand, Laos and Vietnam) and South Asia (Sri Lanka and Nepal), this seminar sought to shed light on the mixed developmental origins, effects and impacts of migration on people, communities and environments.

Recorded Seminar
11 November 2022

Towards Safer Migration: Countering Human Trafficking in an Integrated South Asia

This roundtable discussion brought together experts in the field to discuss issues related to human trafficking including the exacerbation of risk factors due to regional integration, best-practice legislation and policy to promote safe migration, and effective examples of anti-human trafficking interventions.

Recorded Webinar
30 November 2022