



Philippines rice fields had suffered from climate change impacts

LATEST NEWS

We entered the year 2018 with a great sense of anticipation as the latest Global Risks Report by the World Economic Forum positions non-traditional security threats, notably extreme weather events, natural disaster and failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation, on top of the likelihood and impact lists. This outlook highlights the relevance and importance of our work in engaging and addressing some of the world's most pressing issues the non-traditional security field.

For over a year now, the NTS-Asia website has been steadily populated with contents featuring members' activities and publications. We are confident that this online platform will continue to serve its purpose as a repertoire of insights and experience on non-traditional security matters. We are hoping that you have been benefiting from the exchange of knowledge facilitated by the website.

The NTS-Asia Consortium has recently welcomed its latest members, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) based in Manila, the Philippines, and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) based in Tangerang, Indonesia. IRRI is a renowned institution that has done extensive and impactful research on rice varieties for close to six decades. CSEAS is one of the leading think tanks in Indonesia that focuses its work on ASEAN. It has organised workshops on "Sustainable Water Resource Management in Mekong River" and "Human Rights, Migration and Development in ASEAN" in the last six months.

In this Newsletter, we are pleased to feature Prof. Gamini Keerawala from the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Bangladesh. Prof. Keerawala joined the RCSS as Executive Director in November 2017 succeeding former RCSS Executive Director Prof. Imtiaz Ahmed. We are also delighted to have Mr Samal Vimukthi Hemachandra, a RCSS researcher, in this issue.

As always, you may update the Secretariat on news and events, nominate your resident researchers, or send in suggestions, by writing to Margareth Sembiring (ismsembiring@ntu.edu.sg) or Joey Liang (isjoeyliang@ntu.edu.sg). Thank you and we wish you a successful and productive 2018!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regional Centre for Strategic Studies Activities (RCSS)

Conference on "Trends in Youth Radicalization in South Asia" With the Collaboration of The Stimson Center, Washington DC, USA
June 2018 | Colombo, Sri Lanka

GPPAC International Steering Group Meeting 2018
June 2018 | Colombo, Sri Lanka

GPPAC South Asia Regional Steering Group Meeting 2018
June 2018 | Colombo, Sri Lanka

Bangladesh Institute of Peace & Security Studies (BIPSS)

Yunnan-Bangladesh Forum 2018
March 2018 | Kunming, China

Countering Online Radicalisation: A New Frontier of CVE
4 March 2018 | Dhaka, Bangladesh

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

NTS-Asia Consortium Annual Conference "Resilience in the Face of Disruptions"
27 - 28 March 2018 | Singapore

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Mely Caballero-Anthony and Margareth Sembiring

Designed by Joey Liang

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT



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Next month we will once again gather for our NTS-Asia Consortium Annual Conference. Adopting the theme of "Resilience in the Face of Disruptions", the meeting aims at generating intellectual discussions on factors that potentially drive disruptive impacts, whether positively or negatively, in the areas of environment and climate change, agriculture and food security, humanitarian crisis and forced displacement, and cyber technologies. We expect to welcome good representation of our members from different regions including scholars from East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Australia.

With reference to my note in an earlier email, I would like to re-state that Ms Margareth Sembiring is now the Head of the Secretariat for the NTS-Asia Consortium and she is being assisted by NTS webmaster/IT executive, Ms Joey Liang Yanyu and NTS Centre Manager, Ms Charlotte Yu. As the team at the Secretariat is making all the preparations for our annual gathering, we hope you also share the same excitement in deliberating this very important and timely topic during the Conference. In the meeting, we would also like to invite you to contribute your ideas on how to improve our engagement, including on how to

further utilise the features available on the NTS-Asia website, to help you in your work and research.

We look forward to meeting you at the NTS-Asia Annual Conference in March 2018!

Warmest regards,
Mely Caballero-Anthony
Secretary-General

Senior Researcher Profile Prof. Gamini Keerawella

Prof. Gamini Keerawella joined Regional Center for Strategic Studies (RCSS) in the capacity of its Executive Director on November 16th, 2017. Prior to that he was the Deputy Chief of Mission and later the Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Sri Lanka, Washington D.C., USA (October 2015 to November 2017). The former Head and Professor in Modern History at the Department of History, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, Prof. Gamini Keerawella retired from the University in 2015 after 40 years of service. He also worked as the Secretary, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and National Integration

and Mineral Resources Development (2001-2002), the Founder Director of the National Integration Unit (1997-2000) and Advisor to the President on Ethnic Affairs (2002-2005). He earned his M.A. in 1992 and Ph.D. in 1998 from the University of Windsor and from the University of British Columbia, Canada respectively. His doctoral thesis was on 'The Superpower Naval Rivalry the Indian Ocean'. Prof. Gamini Keerawella was a recipient of a number of prestigious fellowships: Fulbright Scholar-in-Resident Professorship tenable in the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, USA (2013-2014), Japan Foundation Fellowship



Prof. Gamini Keerawella
Executive Director
Regional Centre for Strategic Studies

at the Institute of Developing Economies in Tokyo, Japan (2003-04), Scholar-in-Residence, Centre for Theory, Baroda, India (2007), Senior Fulbright Fellowship tenable at the University of California-Berkeley, USA (1991-93), Senior Visiting Research Fellow

at the University of Western Australia, Perth (1991). He has over 40 publications to his credit. His area of research includes peace and security in the Indian Ocean, regional security architecture and cooperation in South Asia, identity politics and post-

colonial State formation in Sri Lanka. The University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka honored Professor Gamini Keerawella in 2016 with bestowing on him the Emeritus Professorship.

Researcher Profile

Samal Vimukthi Hemachandra

Samal Vimukthi Hemachandra has an MA in Political Science from Central European University, Budapest, an MA in Philosophy and Contemporary Critical Theory from Kingston University, London and a BA in History from University of Colombo, Colombo. He previously worked as a Consultant at INFORM Human Rights

Documentation Center, Colombo. His research/academic interests extend to contemporary continental philosophy, subaltern politics, historiography, problem of representations and political subjectivation.



REFLECTIONS

From Negative Peace to Positive Peace: Few Comments on the Reconciliation Process in the Post-War Sri Lanka*

By Samal Vimukthi Hemachandra
(Regional Centre for Strategic Studies)
Bangladesh

The three decade war between the Sri Lankan state and the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) was ended in May 18, 2009 after annihilating the top layer of the LTTE by the Sri Lankan armed forces. Some pundits and pro-government politicians boasted that the rest of the world can learn immensely on, from the Sri Lankan experience, how to defeat terrorism and achieve 'peace'. However, peace achieved through this military campaign, is 'negative peace' because the conditions that led to a brutal war still exist. However, the challenge the post-war Sri Lankan state faced was how to transform this negative peace into a positive peace.

The political leadership of the country took the total praise for this victory and used it to legitimize and strengthen their political authority in the Southern Sri Lankan constituency. However, this triumphalism has become one of the main obstacles to the reconciliation process in Sri Lanka. Since the war between the State and the LTTE was an internal conflict, the victor and



the loser need to reconcile with each other to live within the Sri Lankan State. But with the military victory and the triumphalism has strengthened the boundaries between the Sinhalese and Tamils or in other words, us vs them.

The defeat of the Rajapaksa government in 2015 had brought a new light to the reconciliation process. However, the problem the new government encountered was how to bridge the two communities, Sinhalese and Tamils. At the present context, the wall between these two communities are strong where one does not know the feelings of the other. Without approaching this obstacle, the present government, as it seems, is trying to obtain a good image from the

international community by establishing new institutions. However, without a strong support from the public these newly created institutions including Office of Missing Persons have become ineffective. Therefore, the present government should encourage public discourses between the two communities to understand each other. Then, a lasting peace would be no longer impossible.

*RCSS is not responsible for the views expressed by the author

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS)

"Security Trends: Bangladesh 2018"- BIPSS Commentary, Jan 2018

Click [here](#) to read more.

"Climate Geo-engineering: Uncertainties and Implications"- RSIS Commentary, 11 Jan 2018

Click [here](#) to read more.

"Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Bangladesh: Its Multi-Dimensional Implications"-

RSIS Commentary, 26 Sep 2017

Click [here](#) to read more.

"The Rise of ARSA: Threats and Strategic Implications for Bangladesh."- BIPSS Commentary, Sep 2017

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The SMERU Research Institute

Tangible Information and Citizen Empowerment: Identification Cards and Food Subsidy Programs in Indonesia, Externally Published Content Feb 2018



Click [here](#) to read more.

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Click [here](#) to read more.

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Click [here](#) to read more.

Debottlenecking Distribution and Disbursement of the Village Fund, Briefs, Jan 2018



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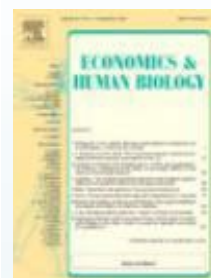
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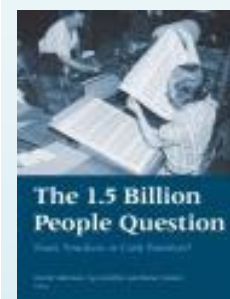
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PAST EVENT SUMMARIES

The SMERU INSTITUTE

The Launching of the Indonesian Bureau of Economic Research (IBER)

26 January 2018

Jakarta, Indonesia

On 26 January 2018, Athia Yumna (senior researcher) acted as a representative of the SMERU Research Institute to sign a memorandum of understanding on the launching of the Indonesian Bureau of Economic Research (IBER) at Universitas Indonesia.

IBER has been founded as a network for economists and researchers to conduct high quality research which is publishable in national and international journals, provide intellectual input on academic engagement, contribute to evidence-based public debate on important issues for Indonesia, and to create the capacity for top-quality input into economic policymaking.

To ensure its effectiveness, IBER will keep the identity as an independent and credible network.

As a start, IBER will have a number of initial programs, such as gaining preferential



access to data and providing input on data make-up to improve data access for researchers, research on immediate priority international strategic issues, and longer-term research agenda for the future of the Indonesian economy.

The launch event also saw the appointment of Professor Boediono (former vice president of the Republic of Indonesia) as chair of board. Members of the board include, among other experts as well as renowned economists and researchers, Professor Armida Alisyahbana (former head of Bappenas), Dr. Moh Chatib Basri (Universitas Indonesia), Professor Mari

Pangestu (former minister of trade), Professor Budy Resosudarmo (Australian National University), and Dr. Sudarno Sumarto (SMERU).

The SMERU Research Institute—along with Universitas Indonesia, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Universitas Padjadjaran, Institut Pertanian Bogor, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), and a few other founding institutions of IBER—has affirmed its commitment to giving its firm support to the network to ensure the network's effectiveness in providing inputs that are relevant to good policymaking in Indonesia.

Visit from Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK)

18 January 2017

Jakarta, Indonesia

On 18 January 2018, The SMERU Research Institute welcomed a team from the Directorate of Research and Development of the Deputy for Prevention, Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) for a

consultation meeting at SMERU's office. In this meeting, SMERU researchers presented SMERU's research findings on regional education. These inputs are expected to provide a general introduction of the Research Fund and Regional Education Transfer Fund which will be the research theme undertaken by the Directorate of Research and Development of the Deputy for Prevention, KPK.



Discussion with Special Staff of Governor of Central Java

17 January 2017

Jakarta, Indonesia

On January 17, 2018, Dr. Asep Suryahadi (director of The SMERU Research Institute) and Ridho Al Izzati (SMERU's junior researcher) conducted a presentation on the "Poverty Reduction Strategies and Programs in Central Java Province" for Ir. Sunaryo, MURP, Ph.D (Special Staff of the

Governor of Central Java). This presentation aims to provide feedback to the poverty reduction framework which the province is developing.

In this occasion, the SMERU team explained about poverty trends, poverty reduction challenges, and poverty reduction strategies and programs, as well as the important lessons learned from poverty reduction efforts, especially in Central Java.

Central Java Province is one of Indonesia's poverty enclaves; 4.1 million people live under the poverty line in September 2017. Therefore, the effort to reduce poverty in Central Java is crucial. One of the frameworks recommended by SMERU is community empowerment-based programs through the concept of sustainable livelihood. These programs aim to improve the economic/financial capacity of the productive poor in rural areas.

Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS)

Track II Dialogue on "Planning for the Worst: Nuclear Effect and Disaster Management in South Asia"

26 February 2018

Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Stimson Centre, Washington, D.C. and the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) co-hosted Track II Dialogue themed "Planning for the Worst: Nuclear Effect and Disaster Management in South Asia",

from 23 – 25 February, 2018 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The aim of this Track II workshop was to provide the required space for open debate, shape policy agendas and influence real policy choices with regard to nuclear events in South Asia. The participants to the workshop included researchers, scientists, and strategists from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the United States who analyzed a range of potential consequences of nuclear events in South Asia.

The interaction among the participants elicited discussion and fresh perspectives on a range of consequences and short, medium to long-term implications of nuclear disasters. Another aspect that drew attention of the participants was how



these repercussions will have an impact on governments and planning mechanisms that policymakers might consider. In the first session, the Expert Panel led a discussion on four scenarios and the effects in South Asia and non-South Asian contexts. The following scenarios were highlighted in the discussion: Radiological Dispersal Device Terrorist Attack; Nuclear facility incident; International Nuclear Exchange; Nuclear Weapons Accident. This was followed by sessions covering each scenario where the participants presented their thematic papers preceded by question and answer sessions.

A panel of scholars and practitioners in the final session discussed the state responses

to national disasters focused on lessons and remedies in the event of a nuclear disaster. During the thematic sessions and the expert panel session, the scenarios were discussed assessing the environmental/medical, military/strategic, political, and social-economic effects of the scenarios which vary in terms of internationality and consequences.

The three-day workshop was concluded with a dinner reception held at the Waters Edge Hotel, Colombo, providing an opportunity for the thirty foreign participants to interact with more Sri Lankan scholars to further their discussion in a friendlier atmosphere. effectiveness in providing inputs that are relevant to good policymaking in Indonesia.

GPPAC Meeting on "Role of Civil Society in Peace and Security in South Asia"

27-28 November 2017

Colombo, Sri Lanka

A meeting titled "Role of Civil Society in Peace and Security in South Asia" was jointly organized by Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) with the partnership of Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) in Hague, Netherlands. The participants were included from the GPPAC

South Asia (SA) network members, RCSS staff and a GPPAC representative from the Global Secretariat.

International Conference on "China in South Asia/South Asia in China: OBOR and the Sri Lankan Experience"

30-31 August 2017

Colombo, Sri Lanka

This is the second conference to be held under the RCSS initiative called "China in South Asia/South Asia in China." The

conference focused on the future benefits and implications for Sri Lanka from China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative. This was an attempt to shed light on various aspects of heightening connectivity between China and South Asia and discussed beyond the conventional focus on the security aspect in the face of China's presence in the South Asian region.



BIPSS organized a National Conference on Cyber Radicalisation: Challenges and Way Forward, on 25th January, 2018

The use of and dependence of the internet is a global phenomena. Unfortunately, the terror organizations are also using the cyberspace to spread their toxic ideologies, recruiting the vulnerable youth and sharing a plethora of terror propaganda. Therefore, youth radicalization has emerged as phenomena across the world.

BIPSS organized a National Conference on Cyber Radicalisation: Challenges and Way Forward, on 25th January, 2018. The following sessions of the conference are Cyber Radicalisation: Threats and Challenges, Cyber Education, Cyber Hygiene, Cyber Safety and Cyber Awareness: The Crucial Quadrant and The Impact of Social Media: Living in the Virtual World. Eminent experts from academia, think tanks, journalists, members from elite counter terror units, distinguished diplomats were present in the national conference.

BIPSS organized a 3 day national workshop on "Countering Violent Extremism (CVE): Building Resilience and Capacity" form 22 to 24 January, 2018.

22 - 24 January, 2018



The speaker elaborately discussed how Bangladesh undertakes dexterous negotiations in different international fora on Climate Change issues. She also highlighted Bangladesh's resilience as a nation in terms of dealing with the impacts of Climate Change. The roundtable was moderated by Major General A N M Muniruzzaman (Retd), President, BIPSS and Chairman Global Military Advisory Council on Climate Change (GMACCC). The presentation was followed by a lively q&a session. Climate Security is a key research thrust area for BIPSS.

Capacity'. The participants were drawn from law enforcement and security agencies, academia, civil society, armed forces and paramilitaries, media and civil society organisations. BIPSS is organising a series of workshops and other CVE capacity building programmes supported by the Government of Canada.

Mr. Mohammad Monirul Islam, Deputy Inspector General and Chief of Counter Terrorism & Transnational Crime Unit (CTTC), Dhaka Metropolitan Police was the Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremony.

BIPSS organized a 3 day national workshop on "Countering Violent Extremism (CVE): Building Resilience and Capacity" form 22 to 24 January, 2018. Eminent foreign experts, members of law enforcement agencies, scholars from academia, private sector executives and religious leaders participated in the workshop. A unique scenario exercise was designed to enhance the capacity to develop critical thinking in a high risk situation among the participants. The workshop was drawn to a close with the speech of the President, BIPSS.

BIPSS organised a roundtable on "Bangladesh: A Climate Leader" at BIPSS conference room.

10 January, 2018

On January 10, 2018, BIPSS organised a roundtable on "Bangladesh: A Climate Leader" at BIPSS conference room. The keynote presentation was delivered by Dr Alice Baillat, Research Fellow at The French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS).



BIPSS under the auspices of its specialized centre Bangladesh Centre for Terrorism Research (BCTR) organised a workshop on Countering Violent Extremism titled 'Countering Violent Extremism – Building Resilience and Capacity'.

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) under the auspices of its specialized centre Bangladesh Centre for Terrorism Research (BCTR) organised a workshop on Countering Violent Extremism titled 'Countering Violent Extremism – Building Resilience and



BIPSS also published a book titled "Local drivers and Dynamics of Youth Radicalisation in Bangladesh". The book launch ceremony was held today and the book was jointly released by the Major General ANM Muniruzzaman (Retd), President BIPSS, Mr. Kamal Ahmed, Consulting Editor, Prothom Alo and Mr. Mohammad Monirul Islam, Chief of Counter Terrorism & Transnational Crime (CTTC), Dhaka Metropolitan Police .

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) have organized a 3 day workshop on Countering Violent Extremism-capacity Building Programme (CVECBP).



Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) have organized a 3 day workshop on Countering Violent Extremism-capacity Building Programme (CVECBP). The first day activities included two sessions on two different topics. The first session of the workshop was conducted by Shafqat Munir, Research Fellow, and Bangladesh Centre for Terrorism Research (BCTR) as he had a presentation titled 'What is Counter Violent Extremism (CVE)?'

The next session was conducted by the Dr. Smruti S Pattanaik, Research Fellow, Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi, India. She had an erudite presentation on 'Violent Extremism: Understanding the threat landscape'. The Sessions followed a lively discussion among the speakers and participants on various CVE issues.

BIPSS held a Roundtable on "Understanding Myanmar: Managing the Rohingya Refugee Crisis".

26 September, 2017



A roundtable was arranged by Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS), at September 26th, 2017, on "Understanding Myanmar: Managing the Rohingya Refugee Crisis". Brigadier General Shafaat Ahmad ndc, psc, (retired) a PhD scholar on Myanmar Studies, was the keynote presenter of the event.

The roundtable was a unique event as experts from different field of expertise gave their opinions and analysis on the ongoing Rohingya crisis. Brigadier General Shafaat Ahmad unveiled the little known reasons behind the ethnic tension in Myanmar, the history of colonial power and the struggle for independence. He also elaborated on some of the security implications of this ongoing crisis.

BIPSS and Prothom Alo jointly held a Roundtable on "Future Bangladesh: Our Hopes and Expectations".

5 August, 2017



Youth are the main driving force of the nation. What future of Bangladesh do they dream of?

On 5th August 2017, BIPSS and Prothom Alo jointly organized a roundtable discussion named "Future Bangladesh: Hopes and Expectations" which brought the dreams of the youth in light- the problems they want to fight and the future they want to build. This was the first roundtable of the series which will be held on different issues of national interests. The roundtable was attended by 25 members of youth community drawn from various universities, youth organizations, and civil society. It was jointly moderated by the President of BIPSS, Major General ANM Muniruzzaman (Retd) and the Associate Editor of Prothom Alo, Abdul Quayum.

Here are few glimpses from yesterday's roundtable. Stay tuned with BIPSS to know more about this!

Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre), S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), NTU

RSIS Seminar by Mr Said Faisal, Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS; and Senior Advisor to Minister/ Head of BNPB (National Disaster Management Agency of Indonesia) "AHA Centre – The First 5 Years"

**09 February, 2018
Singapore**

The NTS Centre hosted a seminar titled "AHA Centre – The First Five Years" on Friday, 9th February 2018 delivered by Said Faisal, Visiting Senior Fellow with the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief programme and former inaugural executive director of the AHA Centre. The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) is an intergovernmental organisation, established by the ten ASEAN Member States with the aim to

facilitate cooperation and coordination of disaster management amongst ASEAN Member States. The Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management was signed by ASEAN Foreign Ministers on 17 November 2011, and witnessed by the Heads of States of all ten ASEAN countries. In operationalising its mandate, the AHA Centre primarily works with the National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMO) of the ASEAN Member States. The AHA Centre also partners with international organisations, private sector, and civil society organisations, such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the United Nations, and AADMER Partnership Group. Said Faisal was appointed the inaugural Executive Director of the AHA Centre for a term of five years from 2011 to 2016. In



centre, working with the Conference of the Parties to implement his vision and the challenges faced in operationalizing its mandate.

RSIS Seminar by Dr Noeleen Heyzer, Distinguished Visiting Fellow, RSIS; and Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations (2007-2015)

Mediation for Peace: Conflict Prevention and Early Action

07 February, 2018

Singapore

The NTS Centre hosted a seminar titled “Mediation for Peace: Conflict Prevention and Early Action” on Wednesday, 7th February 2018 delivered by Dr Noeleen Heyzer, Distinguished Visiting Fellow and Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. Dr Heyzer highlighted the international community’s inability to respond adequately to complex and protracted conflicts, which has led to unbearable human suffering and the largest forced displacement since World War Two. This has led to the new Secretary General of the United Nations being determined to prioritise early action and to leverage effective diplomatic networks



to prevent wars, to build fairer, resilient and more inclusive societies. The UN Secretary-General has called for a surge in diplomacy for peace and has emphasized mediation and dialogue at the international, regional and local levels as important tools in this regard. As a member of his recently established High Level Advisory Board on Mediation, Dr Heyzer looked at some of the current challenges to mediation,

factors that support mediation and the use of a more comprehensive approach for addressing both the drivers of conflict and the drivers of peace, bringing together the Sustaining Peace Agenda, UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to “leave no one behind”.

RSIS Seminar by Ms Janet Lim, Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS; and Former UN Assistant High Commissioner (Operations) for Refugees "The challenge of solutions for refugee crises in the world today"

31 January, 2018

Singapore



The NTS Centre hosted a seminar titled “The Challenge of Solutions for Refugee Crises in the World Today” on Wednesday, 31st January 2018 delivered by Janet Lim, Visiting Senior Fellow with the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief programme and former UN Assistant High Commissioner (Operations) for Refugees. Janet Lim explored the challenge of solutions from the perspectives of prevention and when refugees crises have already occurred. This focus is borne out of the refugee crises arising out of conflicts in different parts of the world increasing not only in numbers, but also in complexities. Janet Lim observed that the traditional

solutions from the past are increasingly being challenged and instead countries are resorting to unilateral measures such as building walls and closing borders, which have aggravated the humanitarian costs.

RSIS Seminar by Mr Said Faisal, Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS; and Senior Advisor to Minister/ Head of BNPB (National Disaster Management Agency of Indonesia) Catalysts for change: Natural Disasters in ASEAN

25 January, 2018

Singapore



The NTS Centre hosted a seminar titled “Catalysts for change: Natural Disasters in ASEAN” on Thursday, 25th January 2018 delivered by Said Faisal, Visiting Senior Fellow with the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief programme and former inaugural executive director of the AHA Centre. Said Faisal shared his experience of how the devastating effects of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami and 2008 Cyclone Nargis were catalysts for change in regional

cooperation on disaster management within the ASEAN context. These events ultimately led to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response which came into effect on 24 December 2009, and subsequently led to the establishment of the AHA Centre in 2011. He shared with participants his personal experience in the evolution of regional cooperation in response to natural disasters.

Providing Security in Times of Uncertainty

United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Washington



Head of NTS Centre, Associate Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, presented the highlights of Report by the Global Reflection Group (GRG) on “Providing Security in Times of Uncertainty” at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Washington and at the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Office in New York. The GRG, supported by the FES and co-chaired by Associate Prof. Anthony, comprises

20 experts from around the world with different areas of expertise to raise awareness and important structural questions about the future of the state's monopoly on the legitimate use of force. The New York Meeting brought together experts and representatives from the UN bodies, including Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UN Department of Political Affairs, UN Office of Disarmament Affairs and Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

CSCAP-Nuclear Energy Experts Group Meeting

22 -23 January, 2018
Singapore



Assoc Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of NTS Centre, and Mr Julius Cesar Trajano, Associate Research Fellow, participated in the Seventh Meeting of the Nuclear Energy Experts Group (NEEG) of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP), held in Singapore on 22-23 January 2018. About 38 nuclear experts and officials from Asia-Pacific countries attended. The discussions focused on building global nuclear governance, strengthening nuclear governance in the Asia Pacific, nuclear safety, security, and safeguards culture in the Asia Pacific, bilateral and regional nuclear cooperation agreements in the region, and assessing nuclear trade and knowledge networks in Southeast Asia. Mr Trajano delivered a presentation on enhancing the nuclear safety-security culture in Southeast Asia and also focused on lessons learnt from the Japanese and South Korean experiences.

RSIS Seminar by Dr. Nehginpao Kipgen, Assistant Professor and Executive Director Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University, National Capital Region of Delhi, India "Rohingya Resettlement and Rehabilitation: Opportunities and Challenges"

13 December, 2017

Singapore

RSIS' Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) organised a seminar on the Rohingya crisis titled, 'Rohingya Resettlement and Rehabilitation: Opportunities and Challenges' on 13 December 2017. Dr Nehginpao Kipgen, an Assistant Professor and Executive Director at the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies in the Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University, India, delivered the seminar. The seminar was moderated by Dr Alistair Cook, Research Fellow at the NTS Centre and Coordinator of the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme in the school. The event was well received by an audience including university students, academics and government officials.



Dr Kipgen provided a well-rounded perspective on the historical background of the Rohingya people and what was perceived as the challenges in Rakhine state by the government and the international community. He also gave interesting insights on the various resolutions that were debated internationally on how the Rohingya crisis could be resolved. Some of the resolutions include the provision of citizenship to the stateless population, ordering a ceasefire in the state and depending on the international community to develop Rakhine. Dr Kipgen highlighted the potential challenges that could arise as a result of some of these recommendations and stressed that the current situation is extremely complex and there is a need for people to understand the problem in detail before determining how the situation can be improved. From Dr Kipgen's perspective, the government, military and civil society have to play a role to ease the crisis in Myanmar. All three need to change their perspective on the Rohingya people. It is also critical for IDP and refugee camps to be closed to prevent further atrocities from occurring in them and to be able to make concrete changes to the living conditions of the Rohingya people.

Consultation on the Sphere Handbook

13 November, 2017
Singapore



On 13th November 2017, the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme at the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) hosted a consultation on the fourth edition of The Sphere Project's Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (the Sphere Handbook). Representatives from humanitarian organisations, the armed forces and academics participated in this closed-door discussion. This consultation is part of a global engagement of humanitarian actors to gather feedback and recommendations for the revision of the Sphere Handbook.

Singapore Humanitarian Network Meeting

13 November, 2017
Singapore



On 13th November, the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme at the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) hosted the second Singapore Humanitarian Network meeting. The meeting brought together Singapore-based researchers who work on humanitarian affairs and disaster relief to share their research interests. It covered topics from emerging humanitarian landscape and trends, challenges in the field, research methodologies to opportunities for collaboration among researchers in Singapore.

Roundtable with Said Faisal

14 November 2017

Singapore



On 14th November 2017, the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme at the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) hosted a RSIS Roundtable with Said Faisal, former Executive Director of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (the AHA Centre). In a presentation titled, "Key Strategic Issues in Managing Disaster", Said Faisal share his experience on the importance of institutions and global engagement for disaster management, the use of innovation and technology and the need to professionalise the humanitarian sector.

RSIS Roundtable - Singapore International Energy Week 2017 "Nuclear Safety and Security Culture: Powering Nuclear Governance in East Asia"

27 October, 2017

Singapore



The RSIS' Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, in coordination with the Energy Market Authority, organised a think-tank roundtable on "Nuclear Safety and Security Culture: Powering Nuclear Governance in East Asia" at the 10th Singapore International Energy Week on 27 October 2017. This roundtable facilitated policy discussions and constructive debates among nuclear energy experts on national and regional initiatives to promote nuclear safety-security culture in East Asia.

Roundtable speakers include Dr Phiphat Phruksarajanakun, Head of International Cooperation Section, Office of Atoms for Peace, Thailand; Ms Sabariah Bt Kader Ibrahim, Head of International Training Sector, Nuclear Malaysia Training Centre,

Malaysia Nuclear Agency; Dr Alvin Chew, Adjunct Fellow, RSIS; Dr Claude Guet; Programme Director at Energy Research Institute at NTU and Senior Advisor to the CEO of CEA (French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission); and Dr Su Jin Jung, Manager of Strategy and Performance Department, Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety.

A total of 80 delegates from Singapore government agencies, energy companies, academia, regional think-tanks, and NGOs participated in the roundtable discussions.

Lecture by Prof Edward Waller on Nuclear Safety-Security Interface and Emergency Preparedness and Response

26 October, 2017

Singapore



On 26th October 2017, Baroness Valerie Amos, CH who is the current Director of SOAS, University of London, UK and served as the eighth UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator began her visit to Singapore to deliver the S T Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture, accompanied by Professor Stephen Hoggood. Her first day included a briefing with RSIS and the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies. It was followed by a closed-door roundtable discussion with RSIS faculty, staff and students on the future of humanitarianism. In the afternoon she paid a visit to the Changi Regional HADR Command and Control Centre. On 27th October 2017, Baroness Valerie Amos delivered the S T Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture titled A World Turned Upside Down at the Intercontinental Hotel, Singapore.

THE HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON ASEAN@50

19 October 2017

Manila, Philippines

Head of NTS Centre, Associate Prof Dr Mely Caballero Anthony at the High Level Forum on ASEAN@50, organised by Department of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Service Institute of the Philippines, and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN (ERIA) on 19 October, Manila, Philippines.



(Left to right): Prof Mely Caballero Anthony, Dr Mari Pangestu (former Minister of Trade and Minister of Creative Economy, Indonesia) and Ambassador Delia Albert (former Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Philippines).

Seminar on "Mass Movement of Refugees and Migrants: How is the world community dealing with one of the biggest problems of our time?"

17 October, 2017

Singapore



The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies organised a seminar titled, "Mass Movement of Refugees and Migrants: How is the world community dealing with one of the biggest problems of our time?" at the RSIS Seminar Rooms 1 and 2 on 17 October 2017. The former UN Assistant High Commissioner (Operations) for Refugees, Ms Janet Lim, who is currently a Visiting Senior Fellow at RSIS, delivered the seminar and was moderated by Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony, NTS Centre Head.

Ms Janet Lim discussed the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and its relevance to the movement of people in Asia, particularly in the current crises in Myanmar, Bangladesh and the Philippines. She elaborated on whether such global compacts will be successful when implemented in the region. She explored ideas on how the region could be more operationally ready to deal with the refugee crisis and how regional organisations could play a role to overcome some of the challenges. The event was well-received by audience from various institutions and embassies.

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies visited Yangon and Naypyidaw from 13th to 15th September 2017 to engage with Think Tanks and educational institutions and to co-host a seminar with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement led by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye 13 -15 September, 2017

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies visited Yangon and Naypyidaw from 13th to 15th September 2017 to engage with Think Tanks and educational institutions and to co-host a seminar with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement led by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye. The seminar was co-hosted for the Myanmar National Natural Disaster Management Committee drawing participation from across government ministries and the national red cross society.



The RSIS delegation was led by Ambassador Ong Keng Yong and accompanied by Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony, Ms Kang Siew Kheng, Dr Alistair D. B. Cook, Ms Hnin Nu Wai and Ms Rajni Gamage. In addition to the seminar the delegation met with Thayninga Institute for Strategic Studies, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, National Defence

College, Myanmar Institute for Strategic and International Studies, Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation, Tampadipa Institute and the University of Yangon to explore potential collaboration and share views on current trends on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and maritime security.behind".

Joint Seminar by RSIS and The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue "The Mindanao Conflict: Challenges and Prospects for Peace" 18 September, 2017 Singapore

The RSIS' Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) co-organised a public seminar on the Mindanao conflict at RSIS Lecture Theatre on 18 September 2017. The seminar featured two researcher-practitioners working at the frontlines of the conflict in the southern Philippines.



They are Mr Benedicto Bacani, Executive Director of the Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG), and Ms Rosemain "Dadang" Abduraji, Executive Director of Sulu-based NGO Tumikang Sama-Sama (TSS).

through the charismatic influence of extremist leaders, cash incentives, and the promise of fraternal bonding are identified pull factors.

ceasefire agreements and traditional peace covenants between warring families.

Mr Bacani shared the findings of IAG's research on youth vulnerability to violent extremism in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. He pointed out that until now; there has been no evidence-based data to develop policies and programmes that effectively respond to the Muslim youth's vulnerability to extremism. IAG's research findings show that awareness among youth on what constitutes extremism is limited and their attitude is ambivalent. Poverty, limited access to education, and corruption are among the most commonly identified push factors that may drive young Filipino Muslims to join extremist groups. Meanwhile, recruitment

Ms "Dadang" Abduraji narrated how TSS, an organisation of community mediators, helps resolve Rido or clan wars, in Sulu Province, Mindanao. She noted that clan wars have further complicated the delicate security situation in Sulu, the hometown of the Abu Sayyaf Group and the Moro National Liberation Front. Rido creates demand for weapons, forces people to align with hard-line groups to protect themselves, breeds a culture of violence, and prevents economic development. TSS uses a combination of legal mechanisms and indigenous traditions, which are central to the lives of Tausugs (people of Sulu), to mediate clan conflicts. It also seeks the participation of community elders, religious leaders, and village officials. TSS also facilitates

Both speakers emphasised that the proposed creation of an autonomous 'sub-state' for Muslim Mindanao and federalism are not the antidotes to counter extremist narratives. Through collective leadership and greater inward reflection, the Muslim community itself should be at the forefront of crafting long-term solutions to extremism and orchestrating the ending of the decades-long armed conflict in Mindanao. This seminar Said Faisal reflected on his experience establishing the coordination centre, working with the Conference of the Parties to implement his vision and the challenges faced in operationalizing its mandate.

**World Agricultural Forum 2017
Trade, New Technologies and
Food Security: Solving the Triple
Challenge to Agriculture**
6 -7 July, 2017
Singapore

2017 will be a decisive year for global agriculture and trade. Recent political changes will have a profound impact on the way we produce and distribute food. In this, Asia will play a critical and leading role. The region has more than half of the world's population, is home to fast growing economies and faces numerous environmental challenges.

At this year's conference in Singapore, the World Agricultural Forum (WAF) will provide new insights on how governments, the private sector and non-governmental organisations are preparing for the future of agriculture in Asia.



Co-hosted by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, on 6-7 July, the conference will serve as a global platform to encourage dialogue among those who can and will create an impact. It will brainstorm the following themes: 1) Agriculture and Food Trade in the New World Order; 2) Imperatives for Securing the Food Production Base; 3) Technologies to Promote Sustainable Farming and Food Security; and 4) Good Governance, Partnerships and

Agricultural Productivity. The conference also seeks to provide recommendations for policymakers and investors.

Political and business leaders around the world will benefit from this event as the World Agricultural Forum is a unique platform where new technologies and innovations in agriculture converge.

For more information on the forum, please visit <http://www.rsis.edu.sg/WAF2017>