



Ambassador Barry Desker making his last address as Dean of RSIS

Leadership Transition @ RSIS

Contributed by
Bernard Chin

On 3 November 2014, Ambassador Ong Keng Yong succeeded Ambassador Barry Desker, who has stepped down after 14 years at the helm of RSIS and IDSS. Amb Ong took up the position of Executive Deputy

Chairman (EDC), a position created under a new RSIS management structure that also retained a Deanship for the School. Amb Desker was re-designated as the School's Distinguished Fellow after stepping down.

As EDC, Amb Ong will be the executive and administrative head of RSIS, and be responsible for providing overall leadership and strategic directions in professional, academic and administrative matters.

He will also manage policy research under RSIS' role as a think tank. Amb Ong was formerly Singapore's High

Continued on page 2

Leadership Transition @ RSIS
page 1-2

**Australia and the
China-U.S. Relationships**
page 3

**Permanent Secretary (Defence)
Visits RSIS**
page 4

**Launch of the RSIS
Alumni Association**
page 4

**Current Trends and Challenges in
Extremism and Terrorism Online**
page 5

**How Governments can
Think Strategically**
page 6

**Jokowi's Government: Challenges
and Opportunities**
page 7

**Restless Empire: China and the
World Since 1750**
page 8

**African Policymakers
Visit Singapore**
page 8

**Asia's Food Future:
Towards 2025**
page 9

**Rising Powers and Challenges
to the World Order**
page 10

**RSIS-CNA Workshop on
"Asia's Maritime Connections"**
page 11

**Staff Publications
and Upcoming Events**
page 12

Continued from page 1



Ambassador Ong Keng Yong reassuring that he will bring RSIS to greater heights as the Executive Deputy Chairman



Professor Joseph Liow addressing all staff as the new Dean

Commissioner to Malaysia before he joined RSIS.

In his final address to his colleagues as Head of the School, Amb Desker said at a gathering on 5 November, "We've grown from 10 academic and 18 administrative staff to what we are today. I think the role we now play is much larger

than what we envisaged way back in 2000. I never thought I would be here for 14 years, but I'm glad that I am leaving RSIS in the good hands of Keng Yong, Joseph and all of you."

At the same gathering, and in his first address to staff, Amb Ong said, "It [RSIS] is a very big portfolio. I hope to carry

on the good work of Barry and develop the school in the way he has envisaged, and achieve better results in the coming months and years."

Amb Desker's tenure as Dean of RSIS is marked with numerous achievements, many of them directly contributing to the School's growing stature as one of

Asia's leading professional graduate schools, and an internationally renowned international affairs think tank. RSIS was one of the 24 founding members of the Council of Councils, an initiative launched by the Council on Foreign Relations in 2012, which aims to connect leading foreign policy institutes from around the world to discuss issues of global governance and multilateral cooperation. In 2011, RSIS was ranked one of the world's Top 50 Think Tanks outside of the United States in an annual ranking done by the University of Pennsylvania. In 2012, RSIS was invited to participate in Think20, a grouping of the leading think tanks of G20 members although Singapore is not a member of the G20. RSIS is also now an acclaimed global leader in Asia Pacific security studies, counter terrorism studies, homeland security studies, non-traditional security studies and international trade issues.

Concurrent with Amb Ong's appointment, Professor Joseph Liow is now the new Dean of RSIS, having been its Associate Dean previously. Prof Liow has taken on the role of Chief Academic Officer of RSIS, with responsibilities for the conduct, coordination and quality of the School's academic programmes. He will also lead in the School's academic development and assist the EDC in the overall management of RSIS.

Of his new position, Prof Liow said, "I think nothing testifies to the incredible achievements he [Amb Desker] had made at RSIS and the fact that what he has bequeathed to us now requires two people to run it rather than one. Please do show the same support and commitment to Keng Yong and myself. And we look forward to working with you in the coming years."



Professor The Honourable Bob Carr

Australia and the China-U.S. Relationships

Contributed by
Don Rodney Junio

Professor The Honourable Bob Carr, RSIS Distinguished Visiting Fellow; Director of the Australia-China Relations Institute, University of Technology, Sydney; and Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia, delivered a Distinguished Public Lecture on “Australia and the China-U.S. Relationships” at Sheraton Towers on 15 October 2014.

The lecture focused on the strategic importance of China-U.S. relations and the impact of this bilateral relationship on Australia’s foreign policy. Prof Carr noted that the rise of China has profound effects on the Asia Pacific region. The evolution of China’s character and personality would have strategic implications in the area of peace and

security in the region. Thus, it is important for Australia to respond appropriately to China’s rise. Prof Carr emphasised that Australia can play a role in helping shape China’s character to one that is more outward looking and internationalised.

Prof Carr noted that Australia’s foreign policy strategy has always been to align itself with the dominant maritime power of the region and the world. While this means that its alliance with the United States will remain strong, it does not preclude Australia seeking strategic partnerships with other countries including Japan. Indeed, as Australia tries to foster deeper relationship with China, the current Abbott Government has given the impression of

edging to a quasi-treaty with Japan after Foreign Minister Julie Bishop referred to Japan as Australia’s “best friend in Asia” on one occasion. This can be problematic as China and Japan are embroiled in tensions over disputed islands. In order not to be mired in the on-going sovereignty dispute between China and Japan, Prof Carr suggested that Australia should actively reassert its neutrality on issues involving determination of sovereignty. As a matter of policy, Prof Carr opined that this neutrality should be carefully cultivated and nurtured. In addition, Prof Carr highlighted the need to establish trust between China and Australia and be consistent in Australia’s messaging and position in various issues so as not

to create mutual suspicion and hostility between the two countries.

While China-U.S. relations loom large in Australia’s foreign policy thinking, another crucial relationship that is important to Australia is its relationship with ASEAN. In this regard, Prof Carr noted that Australia’s renewed focus on its neighbours gave it strategic advantages especially when the potential of ASEAN, especially on the economic front, is fully realised. In the end, Prof Carr shared that Australia can make a bigger contribution to global affairs if it is able to maximise the opportunities afforded to it in the region.

Permanent Secretary (Defence) Visits RSIS

Contributed by
Sarah Teo

Mr Chan Yeng Kit, Permanent Secretary (Defence), led a delegation from the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) Singapore, on a visit to RSIS on 14 August 2014. He was accompanied by Brigadier General Tan Chee Wee, Director (Policy) and four other Policy officers.

Following Dean Barry Desker's welcome remarks, the MINDEF delegation was briefed on the organisational structure, current research output and forthcoming research projects that several of RSIS' centres and programmes are engaged

in. Presentations were made by Associate Professor Tan See Seng, Deputy Director of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS); Mr Eddie Lim, Coordinator of the Military Studies Programme, IDSS; Associate Professor Leonard Sebastian, Coordinator of the Indonesia Programme, IDSS; Associate Professor Li Mingjiang, Coordinator of the China Programme, IDSS; and Dr Norman Vasu, Deputy Head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS).

The visiting delegation noted the significance of RSIS' work



Mr Chan Yeng Kit (middle), Permanent Secretary of Defence

to MINDEF, and highlighted three ways in particular by which the institution was adding value to Track 1. First, RSIS contributed to expanding Singapore's networks by engaging overseas partners and institutions. Second, RSIS facilitated the promotion of Singapore's interests on the international stage through their research and networking activities. Last but

not least, RSIS helped bring to attention emerging issues and challenges that could have implications for Singapore.

Both RSIS and MINDEF affirmed their commitment to a long-term partnership, and in this regard agreed to work on enhancing dialogue channels and strengthening collaboration.



(from left) Mr Soon Min Yam, Director of NTU Alumni Affairs, Dean Barry Desker and Mr Phillip Ee, President of the RSIS Alumni Association, launching the Association

Launch of the RSIS Alumni Association

Contributed by
Candice Leow

The RSIS Alumni Association (RAA) was launched by Dean Barry Desker on 22 August 2014 at the eleventh RSIS Alumni Dinner held at the Intercontinental Hotel. Around 170 alumni, faculty and guests gathered for the event.

A commemoration plaque was unveiled by the founding President, Mr Phillip Ee Kwang Yong from MSc Strategic Studies (Class of 2004), witnessed by Dean Barry Desker and NTU Director of Alumni Affairs, Mr Soon Min Yam.

Since the establishment of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) and the founding of RSIS, 15 cohorts of students from over 50 countries have benefitted from the school's graduate degree programmes. With more than 1200 alumni worldwide in various fields such as politics, government and the civil services, uniformed services, academia, media, business, law and financial services, the formation of the RAA is timely.

Dean Desker shared new developments at RSIS before thanking the RAA committee members for their contributions in leading the association and bringing together their classmates in Singapore and abroad.

Mr Phillip Ee shared the key objectives and future plans of the association and urged the alumni to stay connected via the various social media platforms and participate actively in the association's events. The RAA aims to be a well-networked and strong alumni community, promoting meaningful engagement among and between the alumni, the school and current students. The RAA also hopes to give back to the school by assisting in career support for students such as providing mentorship and reaching out to market leaders to help develop strategic synergies between the association, the school and industry.

Current Trends and Challenges in Extremism and Terrorism Online

Contributed by
Navhat Nuraniyah

The Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS), with the support of the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS) in the Prime Minister's Office, organised its annual radicalisation workshop from 13-14 October 2014 at Marina Mandarin Singapore. The Workshop, themed "Extremism and Terrorism Online: A Multidisciplinary Examination of Current Trends and Challenges", attracted over 70 local and foreign participants from the private and public sectors.

Multi-disciplinary panels of experts from academia, government, and NGOs from Singapore, the U.K., Australia, the U.S., Norway, Netherlands, Malaysia, Austria and Sweden gathered to explore current trends

and challenges in online extremism. These discussions brought about potential solutions that can effectively discourage and mitigate radicalisation over the Internet.

The Workshop aimed to: (i) assess the state of extremism and terrorism online; (ii) examine the underlying mechanisms and processes of radicalisation over the Internet; (iii) explore the methodologies used in online extremism research and the policy implications; and (iv) formulate possible solutions to counter extremism and terrorism online.

There were five workshop panels that were organised around the above mentioned objectives. These were: (i) Current state of play:

Extremism and terrorism online; (ii) Radicalisation over the Internet: Mechanisms and processes; (iii) Linking the dots: Methodological issues and research implications; (iv) Social media analytics and online extremism: Cutting-edge tools for research and intelligence gathering; and (v) Countering online extremism.

Speakers and participants discussed the key issues and lessons learned. Three main themes emerged in the discussion. First, it was suggested that effective counter-narratives needed more nuanced approaches covering three key elements, namely the message, messenger, and messaging. It was also noted that counter-narrative should not be reactive but rather focused

on a positive message such as promoting peace. Second, the importance of the whole-of-society approach in countering violent extremism was acknowledged. Recommendations were made to improve the role of civil society in countering extremism, such as public-private partnerships and better communication between academics and civil society so that grassroots initiatives were informed by a sound research. Looking forward, some research gaps were identified such as on how reflexive discussions on methodological and ethical issues deserved more attention in online extremism literature. Overall, there was a positive consensus among speakers and participants alike on the productive and insightful conduct of the Workshop.



Participants at the workshop

How Governments can Think Strategically

Contributed by
Lim Kheng Swe



Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman

Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, Professor of War Studies at King's College London, delivered the S.T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture on 10 September 2014. Sir Lawrence, who was formerly IDSS' Consultant and External Examiner until June 2003, gave his thoughts on the difficulties of creating strategy and offered insights into how governments could best conceptualise the idea of strategic thinking.

Sir Lawrence highlighted that the origins of strategy lay in the attempt to break free of two conceptions of war: namely that victory could either come about by the brilliance of a strategic genius, or by studying the "science" of tactics. The success of

the Napoleonic armies led thinkers such as Clausewitz to develop a "scientific" approach towards fighting wars. Strategic planners therefore often start with a vision of their ultimate outcome and then elaborate on a series of steps in order to reach their goal.

Sir Lawrence pointed out that most governments find that this approach to strategy often disappoints. Although all organisations do need plans of some sort, the success of these strategies involves taking into account different stakeholders; distortions inevitably soon appear and these plans often have to accommodate others who have their own plans. A perfect strategy would require a comprehensive

knowledge of everything that is happening in the system, but it is beyond human capacity to comprehend all the factors which would enter into a system. Given these limitations, Sir Lawrence took issue with the production of formal strategy documents which start with a problem and work towards a solution.

Ultimately, Sir Lawrence believes that strategy is the management of shifting political relationships in order to produce the best possible outcome. The best strategic practice should therefore start with the problem at hand and not with the end-goal. Any good strategist must use empathy in order to build alliances and understand how others see the world. Sir

Lawrence illustrated this point with an example: in 1940, Winston Churchill had an overarching idea of how to win the war, namely by involving a third party. When the United States entered the war, Churchill no longer cared how long the war would last since he knew that his survival was guaranteed.

In summary, Sir Lawrence emphasised that the ability to think strategically is a process of constant adaptation where the strategist must pay attention to shifting power balances. Strategy is not about reaching pre-determined goals or following a scientific system, but about managing political relationships in order to reach the best possible outcome.

Jokowi's Government: Challenges and Opportunities

Contributed by
Keoni Indrabayu Marzuki

The next president of Indonesia, Joko Widodo will face various challenges from a belligerent opposition despite his undisputed triumph in the 2014 presidential election. So said Mr Luhut B. Pandjaitan, Senior Advisor to the President-Elect, at a RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture on 22 September 2014.

Mr Pandjaitan listed three particular challenges from various dimensions for the new Jokowi administration. The first challenge originates from the political sphere. With the winning coalition comprising only 37 per cent of total parliamentary seats, Jokowi's administration will inevitably face significant roadblocks in terms of passing bills and state budgets. Beyond any doubt, the winning coalition will have to

invite political parties from the opposing *Merah Putih* coalition, particularly PAN, PPP and Golkar to their side in order to gain a simple majority in parliament.

Based on his tenure as mayor in Solo and governor in Jakarta, Jokowi actively factors his constituents in the policy formulation and implementation process. Highlighting the massive participation by the Indonesian electorate in the election, with 133 million of the 186 million registered voters turning out to vote, Jokowi can take advantage of the momentum in public support to put pressure on an uncooperative parliament.

The new administration will most likely face various national security challenges.

Mr Pandjaitan mentioned that radicalism and terrorism remain an elusive challenge to tackle—which is complicated by poverty and a low level of education. Drug trafficking, illegal fishing, illegal logging and human trafficking are also potential issues that will undermine national security.

The new administration stated that they would address these problems by formulating economic policies that focus on growth and equality, providing affordable access to high-quality education and healthcare as well as modernising and improving the capabilities of the police and the military. He also added that if Indonesia's economic growth were to reach a healthy 7 per cent, the new government is committed

to allocate 1.5 per cent of its GDP for defence.

Mr Pandjaitan added that the domestic economy remains a central challenge for the new administration with the lack of education, poor infrastructure, low tax revenue and the recurring problem of addressing fuel subsidies. He placed special emphasis on the revision of the current fuel subsidy policy as it constrains the infrastructural development budget to a great extent. The new Government's top priority is to reallocate fuel subsidy funds to bolster Indonesia's infrastructure so as to promote a better investment climate while fostering job creation and increasing the purchasing power of Indonesians.



Mr Luhut B. Pandjaitan

Restless Empire: China and the World Since 1750

Contributed by
James Char



Professor Odd Arne Westad

Professor Odd Arne Westad, Professor of International History and Director of LSE IDEAS at the London School of Economics and Political Science, gave an overview of his book *Restless Empire: China and the World Since*

1750 and discussed the developments and prospects of China's role in international affairs in a public lecture on 24 September 2014.

Prof Westad explored the themes of "change" and

"restlessness" in China's history and shared his insights on Chinese conceptions of justice, rules and rituals and the idea of centrality over three periods: from the 1880s-1930s when China's weakness hastened its interactions with the rest of the world; Soviet-era China from the 1940s to 1980s when China was immensely influenced by Soviet conceptions of modernity; and China from the 1980s to the present which follows a distinctively American way of life and business practices. His book relates the stories of travellers from abroad who shared a past connection with China.

Prof Westad indicated three preoccupations of the Chinese since the 1850s. First is the concept of justice related to

the idea of hierarchy and the sentiment that China has been treated unfairly. The second pertains to China's obsession with rules and rituals in a post-Westphalian era. Third is the Chinese belief that China is the centre from which shared cultural ideas and values originate.

Prof Westad felt it will not be easy for China to assume global hegemony. Nevertheless, China is currently much more integrated in the global economy compared to the United States when the latter was at a similar stage of development. The biggest challenge facing modern China, he argues, comes from within, as its system of governance is outdated and should advance towards political pluralism.

African Policymakers Visit Singapore

Contributed by
Mervin Kok



Mr Obasanjo Olusegun, former President of Nigeria (front row, fifth from right) and Dean Barry Desker (fourth from right)

RSIS coordinated a study visit to Singapore for 18 African policymakers from 8-12 September 2014. With earlier visits in 2008 and 2009, this is the third such visit organised by the Brenthurst Foundation of South Africa.

Led by Mr Obasanjo Olusegun, former President of Nigeria, the African delegation met officials from various Singapore organisations. These include: the Economic Development Board, Housing & Development Board

(HDB), Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, Urban Redevelopment Authority, Ministry of Finance, JTC Corporation, Singapore Business Federation, and Temasek International, among others.

The delegation also made visits to ICA Ports Command, PSA International, as well as HDB's first Eco-Precinct, the Treelodge@Punggol.

The delegates were hosted to a welcome dinner by Ambassador Barry Desker, Dean of RSIS. Mr S. R. Nathan, sixth President of Singapore, also chaired a fireside chat with the delegates, which was followed by lunch.

The delegation was here to learn about Singapore's experience in economic and social development. While keen on knowing generally about the "Singapore Experience", the focus on this occasion was more on Singapore's port and customs operations and industrial development.



Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Minister of State for National Development and Defence, Singapore

Asia's Food Future: Towards 2025

Contributed by
Maxim Shrestha

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS), supported by Singapore's Ministry of National Development (MND), the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS), and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), hosted the second International Conference on Asian Food Security (ICAFS 2014) from 22-23 August 2014 in Singapore. Following in the footsteps of the inaugural ICAFS in 2011, the forum addressed a wide range of topics and issues pertaining to food security in Asia with the theme "Towards 2025: Technological and Policy Imperatives".

The two-day event centred around five broad subjects: (i) Trends and Challenges to Food Security; (ii) Supply and Demand—Improving Productivity Growth and Supply Chains; (iii) Market Integration, Trade and Economic Access to Food; (iv) Financing and Investing in Agricultural Innovation and Technology; and (v) Charting an Integrative approach for Asia towards 2025.

The opening address of ICAFS 2014 was delivered by Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Minister of State for National Development and Defence, Singapore. Other notable speakers included Dr Fan Shenggen, Director General of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); Dr Robert Zeigler, Director General of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI); and Dr Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Director General of Economic and Social Development Department, United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The conference also featured speakers representing a wide range of sectors including global institutions, governments, the private sector, farmers' associations, NGOs, and academia. Some of the institutions that shared their perspectives during the event included the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Rice

Research Institute (IRRI), Syngenta, DuPont, Swiss Re, and OXFAM. A total of 150 participants from 19 countries attended the conference.

While a multitude of challenges and emerging trends facing Asia were raised and discussed over the two days, the conference helped highlight the following:

- The lack of concrete government policies and directions pertaining to food security in most Asian countries, despite the renewed focus, attention, and urgency on the matter.
- The possible food security challenges of 2025 such as population growth, urbanisation, increasing purchasing power, climate change, disease outbreaks and land degradation including land conversion.
- The strong call, sounded by both policy makers and the scientific community, for re-investment in research and technological development in food security discourse.
- The absence of collective action and/or coordinated multi-sectoral, inter-agency approach and strategy to deal with food security issues.
- The positive emerging trend of greater appreciation of 'nutrition security' as an important dimension in the understanding of food security.
- Greater awareness on issues surrounding "losses" and "waste" and their importance when thinking about the future of food.
- How Asia is increasingly thinking of "regional connectivity", while little attention has been given to whether the region has the necessary infrastructure to address the potential risks, like biosecurity, as a result of ease of movement of people and goods.
- How Asia will need to think more in terms of how it can tap private equity to fund public research on food and agriculture, which is going to be essential for the future.

Rising Powers and Challenges to the World Order

Contributed by
Justin Goldman

Professor T. V. Paul of McGill University, who was the Ngee Ann Kongsi Professor of International Relations at RSIS, gave a distinguished public lecture on 12 August 2014, on the question of whether peaceful accommodation was possible with rising powers.

Surveying the international landscape, Prof Paul said it was clear that the existing order, one that is most strongly identified with the role of the United States in the post-Cold War world, was being tested by multiple rising powers. However, this

could come in the form of disruption that would be well short of violent conflict, citing climate change as an issue on which the international community has struggled to reach a consensus. He raised the issue of a peaceful transition being possible with a rising power—a matter he considered very much an open question.

Prof Paul took International Relations theory to task, arguing that a major weakness in its scholarship is in explaining peaceful change and how to achieve this. With respect to realist theories he

explained that they adopted an approach which makes the preservation of the status quo the most viable course of action, displayed by their wariness to engage in hostilities. However, in the current environment with the United States as an existing power and China as a rising power, maintaining the status quo could be seen as provocative by the ascendant power.

In order to pursue such a grand strategy of peaceful change, Prof Paul explained that the rising power must accept some of the core

normative framework of the existing power and vice versa. All this is occurring during a time of intense nationalism, with the perception of historical injustice an incredibly powerful force. Those seeking a path of accommodation would be severely challenged by such forces. On the question of violent conflict being inevitable, he acknowledged that there is a shared sense about war being in nobody's interest, but can accommodation not be viewed as appeasement? That challenge remains at a time of shifting power balances.



Professor T. V. Paul

RSIS-CNA Workshop on “Asia’s Maritime Connections”

Contributed by
Henrick Z. Tsjeeng



(second from left) Jane Chan, Coordinator of the Maritime Security Programme, addressing the participants

The RSIS’ Maritime Security Programme, together with the Center for Naval Analyses, held their third annual bilateral workshop on “Asia’s Maritime Connections” on 27-28 August 2014. The workshop aimed to have an exchange of views between experts from both institutions on pressing traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges confronting the Indo-Pacific littoral.

In his opening address, Associate Professor Ralf Emmers, Associate Dean of RSIS, highlighted the key trends and developments of maritime security in the region. The workshop explored perspectives on the U.S. rebalance to Asia, especially on developments after President Obama’s

visits to South Korea, Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines. Workshop participants also discussed the domestic and international political complexities surrounding the rebalance policy, as well as the mounting scepticism about the U.S. commitment to the policy. The workshop further appraised an Indonesian view towards the U.S. engagement effort in the region.

Presenters examined the challenges that the U.S. faces from a rising and increasingly assertive China. The implications of China’s maritime aspirations and its rise as a maritime power were debated, with the workshop further considering the potential regional impacts of the Chinese plans to establish a Maritime Silk Road and the

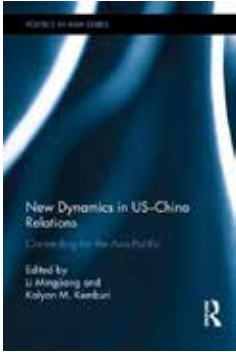
country’s burgeoning fishing industry. Also discussed were concerns on Russia’s interest in expanding its naval presence in the Pacific. Participants took a holistic view on maritime security and explored how countries in the region can build confidence and enhance maritime cooperation to address common maritime security threats.

One of the panels reviewed trends in the South China Sea, with participants sharing their views on U.S. interests and positions in the area, development of civil maritime and surveillance capabilities. They also addressed energy security concerns, including the implications of increasing exploratory and exploitation activities in the area.

A separate panel covered developments in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), with specific discussions on the Bay of Bengal and India’s position. The role of multilateral arrangements in the region, including the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and the Indian Ocean Rim Association, as well as international cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and search-and-rescue operations, also generated much debate.

The workshop concluded with an assessment of the future of maritime Asia with consideration given to the roles of major powers, as well as the common maritime security threats requiring multilateral cooperation.

STAFF PUBLICATIONS



New Dynamics in US-China Relations: Contending for the Asia Pacific

Mingjiang Li, Kalyan M. Kemburi. Routledge, 2014. ISBN: 9781138782778

Washington's strategic pivot to Asia and Beijing's pursuit of new strategic and security interests in the region have led to increasing tensions between the two powers. US leaders have stressed that their increased interest in Asia is driven by a desire to benefit from the thriving regional economies, as well as to play the leading role in maintaining peace and stability in the region. However, Beijing is particularly concerned about US efforts to consolidate its alliances and deepen security partnerships with a number of regional states. Given the centrality of the two powers to the strategic stability and economic development of the region, these new dynamics in US-China relations must be properly understood and appropriately handled.

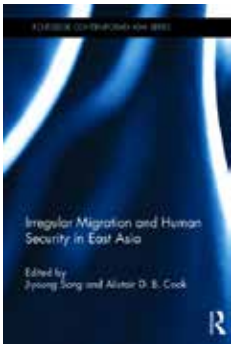
This book examines the growing Sino-US strategic rivalry in the Asia-Pacific alongside the strategies employed in the management of this relationship. In turn, it illuminates the sources of conflict and cooperation in US-China relations, looking specifically at maritime disputes, economic relations, energy security, non-traditional security, defence and strategic forces, and Taiwan. Finally, it explores the role of regional states in shaping US-China relations, and in doing so covers the influence of Japan, India, the Korean Peninsula, the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Cambodia. With chapters from leading scholars and analysts this book deals with a diverse range of issues including strategic rivalry, expanding regional trade relations, non-traditional security issues, the role of energy security, maritime security and how Asian states view their relations with the US and China respectively.



Malaysia's Defeat of Armed Communism: The Second Emergency, 1968-1989

Ong Weichong. Routledge, 2014. ISBN: 9780415820882

The Malayan Communist Party's (MCP) decisive defeat in 1960 led many academics and Counterinsurgency (COIN) experts to overlook the resurrection of its armed struggle in 1968. Most scholars continue to regard the so-called 'Second Emergency' in Malaysia (1968-1989) as a non-event, and most of the recently published work on the MCP tends to focus on the earlier Malayan Emergency (1948-1960). This book looks at the Second Emergency through recently released archival material from the National Archives in London, the National Australian Archives and the Australian War Memorial, as well as interviews with military and diplomatic officers from the UK and Thailand. It presents the first serious strategic and operational study of the Second Emergency, and analyses three areas of historical significance: the CPM's strategy for armed struggle in the Second Emergency; the actual effectiveness of the CPM's subversive propaganda on its target population and most importantly; the counterinsurgency (COIN) response and strategy of the Malaysian state and to a lesser extent the counter-subversion strategy of Singapore in the post-colonial era.



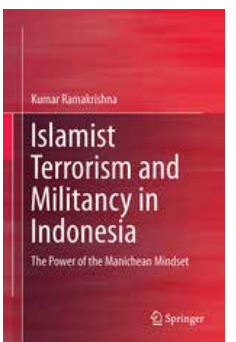
Irregular Migration and Human Security in East Asia

Jiyoung Song and Alistair D. B. Cook. Routledge, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-415-73299-4

Across East Asia, intra-regional migration is more prevalent than inter-regional movements, and the region's diverse histories, geopolitics, economic development, ethnic communities, and natural environments make it an excellent case study for examining the relationship between irregular migration and human security. Irregular migration can be broadly defined as people's mobility that is unauthorised or forced, and this book expands on the existing migration-security nexus by moving away from the traditional state security lens, and instead, shifting the focus to human security.

With in-depth empirical country case studies from the region, including China, Japan, North Korea, the Philippines, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand and Singapore, the contributors to this book develop a human security approach to the study of irregular migration. In cases of irregular migration, such as undocumented labour migrants, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, trafficked persons, and smuggled people, human security is the cause and/or effect of migration in both sending and receiving countries. By adopting a human security lens, the chapters provide striking insights into the motivations, vulnerabilities and insecurities of migrants; the risks, dangers and illegality they are exposed to during their journeys; as well as the potential or imagined threats they pose to the new host countries.

This multidisciplinary book is based on extensive fieldwork and interviews with migrants, aid workers, NGO activists and immigration officers. As such, it will appeal to students and scholars of Asian politics and security, as well as those with interests in international relations, social policy, law, geography and migration.



Islamist Terrorism and Militancy in Indonesia: The Power of the Manichean Mindset

Kumar Ramakrishna. Springer, 2014. ISBN: 9789812871930

Drawing upon insights from the natural and social sciences, this book puts forth the provocative new argument that the violent Islamist threat in Indonesia today derives its stubborn resilience from being in essence a complex, adaptive and self-organizing system – or what some specialists might even call a super-organism. The book challenges the popular assumption that ideology causes Indonesian Islamists to radicalize into violent extremism. In addition it addresses why, despite years of intense security-force pressure, seemingly disparate militant cells keep 'popping up' like the heads of the proverbial Hydra, and why in the apparent absence of a centralized coordinating body, they nevertheless appear to display an organic interconnectivity with one another. Going beyond standard ideological mantras, the book argues that fresh inter-disciplinary thinking is needed to deal with the constantly mutating violent Islamist challenge in Indonesia, and puts forward a comprehensive strategy for doing so. It will be of interest to academics and students of terrorism, religion and violence in the Southeast Asian region.



Immigration in Singapore

Norman Vasu, Yeap Su Yin and Chan Wen Ling. Amsterdam University Press, 2014. ISBN: 9789089646651

This study traces the socio-political effects of immigration on Singapore and its population, a topic that has been the subject of intense debate in the nation as its population grows increasingly diverse. Beyond the logic of economic imperatives, the book aims to explore the larger consequences of taking in large number of immigrants, and its analysis should appeal to scholars of migration, social change, and public policy.

CONTRIBUTORS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

19 NOVEMBER 2014

DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURE BY
MR BORIS PALMER ON "ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
THE ROLE OF CITIES"

20-21 NOVEMBER 2014

CONFERENCE BY CENTRE FOR
MULTILATERALISM STUDIES ON
"ASEAN'S LONG-TERM ECONOMIC
POTENTIAL AND VISION"

25 NOVEMBER 2014

RSIS COLLOQUIUM BY DR STEPHEN
GRENVILLE ON "G20 AFTER BRISBANE"

26 NOVEMBER 2014

CENS SEMINAR BY CARL MILLER ON
"LISTENING TO DIGITAL VOICES:
SOCIAL MEDIA"

26 NOVEMBER 2014

RSIS LUNCHEON SEMINAR BY PROFESSOR
RAJESH BASRUR ON "SUBCONTINENTAL
DRIFT: DOMESTIC POLITICS AND INDIA'S
EXTERNAL SECURITY POLICY"

27-28 NOVEMBER 2014

WORKSHOP BY CENS ON "EMERGING
TRENDS IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA DOMAIN"

28 NOVEMBER 2014

WORKSHOP BY CHINA PROGRAMME
ON "NEW TRENDS IN CHINESE
FOREIGN POLICY"

3 DECEMBER 2014

WORKSHOP BY MARITIME SECURITY
PROGRAMME ON "NAVAL DEVELOPMENT
AND ITS IMPACT ON SOUTHEAST ASIA"