WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

Event Report

1 December 2015

The Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme

Event Report

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

This report summarises the proceedings of a Public Panel Seminar as interpreted by the rapporteurs and editor. This report does not necessarily reflect the views of RSIS.

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Programme

15:30 – 16:00   Arrival of Guests and Registration

16:00 – 16:20   Welcome Address by

H.E. Håkan Jevrell
Swedish Ambassador to Singapore; and

Associate Professor Ralf Emmers
Associate Dean; and Head of the Centre for Multilateralism Studies, RSIS, NTU

16:20 – 17:30   Panel Seminar

Chair:
Dr Alistair D. B. Cook
Coordinator, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme; Research Fellow, Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, RSIS, NTU

Panellists:

Ms Pia Bruce
Executive Director, Singapore Committee for UN Women

Ms Janet Lim
Fellow, Singapore Management University; and Executive-in-Residence, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony
Head of the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, RSIS, NTU

Ms Olivia Forsberg
Disaster Risk Management Advisor, Plan International Sweden

Dr Tamara Nair
Research Fellow, Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, RSIS, NTU

17:30 – 18:15   Question & Answer Session

18:15 – 20:00   Dinner and Networking Session

FOREWORD

The year 2015 marks the 15th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS).

In 2000, the UN Security Council noted the need to increase women's participation and influence in conflict resolution, peace keeping and peace building and to highlight, prevent and combat the negative impact of armed conflict on women. Seven more resolutions have since been adopted and together they constitute the international agenda for WPS.

There is indisputable evidence to show that women's participation in peace building efforts leads to more sustainable peace. It also helps make humanitarian operations more effective and speeds up economic recovery. Some progress has been made over the last 15 years, including an increase in the number of references to women and gender equality in peace agreements and an improved normative framework on conflict-related sexual violence. However, far too often women are still excluded and this poses a threat to peace and security and to achieving sustainable development in many parts of the world.

The following are some interesting facts to illustrate this:
- Only 16% of the negotiated peace agreements between 1990 and 2010 contained references to women.
- 97% of all military peace-keepers and 90% of all military police are men.
- In the period 1992 to 2011 only 2% of the chief mediators and 9% of all mediators in peace processes were women while fewer than 4% of signatories of peace agreements were women.

At the same time, research has shown that female participation in peace processes increases the probability of a peace agreement lasting at least two years by 20%. Still, there was not a single woman participating in the recent peace processes in Central African Republic (CAR), Iraq, Cote d'Ivoire, Macedonia, Somalia and Zimbabwe.

A UN Resolution on its own cannot change the security situation for women in countries ridden by conflict. However, UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions can be used to provide reasons and suggestions as to how and why a gender perspective and women's participation leads to more security and better peace building. Working for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 is part of the Swedish government's "feminist foreign policy". A National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 has been in place since 2006 and a new version will be presented in early 2016.

One concrete manifestation of the feminist foreign policy that also highlights the government's commitment to WPS is the decision to establish a network of women peace mediators that the Prime Minister of Sweden presented at the UN General Assembly in September 2015. The aim is to increase the number of women in mediation to support peace processes around the world. The Folke Bernadotte Academy has been tasked to lead these efforts and work is already under way.

The Folke Bernadotte Academy has a history of working on these issues and are well-known for offering training sessions for gender advisers for Swedish and international personnel who are taking part in civilian crisis management operations. Sweden contributes 3 gender advisors to international missions on a regular basis.

On the military side, the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM) provides training to boost military expertise on gender issues both nationally and internationally. The Centre is both UN and NATO-accredited. Since February 2013, the NCGM also acts as NATO Department Head on gender issues. Approximately 13% of the Swedish Armed Forces are women. However, only 5.5% of them are officers. The Swedish government aims to secure 20% women among the soldiers and sailors and 10% of them as officers at the level of colonel at an early date.

Finally, this year Sweden will assume the leadership of the "Call to Action on Protection from Gender Based Violence in Emergencies", an initiative that aims to foster accountability and mitigate gender based violence in humanitarian crises. To sum up – one argument that is often heard in the context of peace and security is that "we should fix the peace first and then deal with the women's issues." This is clearly not a valid argument. On the contrary, women's perspectives need to be included from the onset in order for peace to be sustainable. Peace can only be reached when the entire population and its needs are accounted for.

By His Excellency Håkan Jevrell, Swedish Ambassador to Singapore

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in collaboration with the Embassy of Sweden, Singapore organised a panel seminar to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the UNSCR 1325: Women, Peace and Security. The event was held at the Residence of the Swedish Ambassador on 1 December 2015. It was attended by about 60 representatives from public, private and people sectors. His Excellency, Håkan Jevrell, Swedish Ambassador to Singapore and Dr Ralf Emmers, Associate Dean, Associate Professor and Head of the Centre for Multilateralism Studies, RSIS delivered the welcome remarks. The event was chaired by Dr Alistair D. B. Cook, Research Fellow and Coordinator for the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme in RSIS.

The blueprint for WPS is rooted in the UNSCR 1325. The resolution was an international monumental step in recognising women's critical role in peace and security. The panel seminar was held to move forward the WPS agenda in the Asia-Pacific by understanding how far countries and organisations in the region have progressed in implementing UNSCR 1325, the impact of the resolution on women and children in the region and also its implications during periods of natural disasters.

The panellists shared interesting insights on the WPS agenda based on experiences in their respective fields and how, in their opinion, the region could progress further in implementing UNSCR 1325.

The first panellist, Ms Pia Bruce, Executive Director for National Committee for UN WOMEN Singapore, provided a comprehensive overview of the pillars of UNSCR 1325 and what has been done thus far by the organisation to implement the resolution. The second panellist, Ms Janet Lim, a Fellow of the Singapore Management University, Executive-in-Residence for the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the former UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations (2009-2015), highlighted the areas that the public, private and people sectors need to focus more on to effectively implement UNSCR 1325. She also highlighted some challenges faced by females who

are displaced from their hometowns, live in refugee camps, are smuggled or trafficked to neighbouring countries.

The third panellist, Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of the RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies and former Director of External Relations at the ASEAN Secretariat (2011-2012), presented a contextualised account of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 to ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific region. She also underlined agreements in ASEAN that could be used to further the women-related peace and security initiatives. The fourth panellist, Ms Olivia Forsberg, Disaster Risk Management Advisor for Plan International, discussed the challenges faced by Civil Society Organisations such as Plan International in implementing the UNSCR 1325 in conflict and disaster-affected areas in the region. The final panellist, Dr Tamara Nair, a Research Fellow of the RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies addressed the importance of implementing the UNSCR 1325 even in the absence of a conflict situation and the need for a regional action plan to implement the resolution in ASEAN countries. Most importantly, she highlighted that women are at times both, victims and actors in armed conflicts and violence.

There were four key themes relating to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and furthering the WPS agenda in the region that came out of the panel seminar. They included the need to take a multidimensional approach in implementing UNSCR 1325 in the region; the importance of raising awareness on UNSCR 1325 and the WPS agenda at regional, national and community levels; the significance of empowering women to respond to crisis; and the necessity to have a comprehensive definition of conflict, peace and security. Moreover, all panellists shared their perspectives on the future of UNSCR 1325 in the Asia-Pacific.

The panel was an excellent opportunity for people from governments, policy think tanks, educational institutions, international and non-government organisations to come together to share their experiences and views in the interest of achieving a common goal to further the WPS agenda in the Asia – Pacific.

INTRODUCTION

The UNSCR 1325 was adopted on 31 October 2000, and is the first UN decision to recognise that conflicts impact women and girls differently from men and boys. It acknowledges the strong relationship between peace, women's role in decision-making, and the active role women play throughout the conflict cycle. It has paved the way for women to be treated as capable decision-makers in conflict situations and active supporters of sustainable peace and security.

The far-flung Asia-Pacific region has endured myriad humanitarian crises over the past 15 years. In 2014, the region was reputed to be the second most violent region in the world given ethnic and religious violence in South and Southeast Asia. Ethnic clashes in Southern Thailand and Nepal, religious and ethnic tensions involving Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and the Bangsamoro conflict in the Philippines are just some of the prominent issues that have garnered

What have the countries and women of Asia-Pacific got to tell the rest of the world about making peace and security policy and changing established practice? A lot I believe! This is a highly diverse and plural region with some of the most intractable and protracted conflicts in the world.

– Ms Roshmi Goswami, former head of the WPS Unit in UN Women South Asia

global attention between 2014 and 2015. Since early 2015, thousands of Myanmar Rohingya Muslims have been fleeing Myanmar, mainly by sea, to seek refuge in neighbouring ASEAN countries. However, this caused a regional 'boat crisis' as countries in the region engaged in 'forced pushbacks'. Many of the women and children in these boats are smuggled into neighbouring countries and face issues such as sexual violence and forced marriage in hidden jungle prison camps in Malaysia and Thailand. Geographically, the region is also one of the most vulnerable to natural

disasters. According to the 2014 World Risk Report, 10 of the top 15 countries most at risk of natural disasters are located in the Asia-Pacific region. The area also accounts for over 90% of all global deaths from extreme weather events. In addition, the Asia-Pacific makes up almost 50% of the world's total damage due to disasters and climate change.

Though humanitarian crises cause widespread and often unavoidable destruction, it does not impact everyone equally. Marginalised populations, including women, are frequently among the most affected in crises, especially when they are poor. Some examples of crises that have a disproportionate effect on women include violent extremism, terrorism, civil unrest, war and natural disasters. Research has shown that females often lose their shelter and face a reduction in economic opportunities in the aftermath of a disaster.

A less common, but equally important aspect of women in crises situations is that like men, they can also be perpetrators of violence. While the lines have blurred between victims and perpetrators over time, in most instances, men are perceived to be the perpetrators of armed conflicts and violence. Women's role as aggressors has often received far less attention in international discourse on conflict-related issues. However research has shown that women have performed acts of violence in conflicts in countries such as in Liberia, Haiti, Sri Lanka and Sierra Leone.

In an effort to understand the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the Asia-Pacific region, four panellists were invited to reflect on their experiences. The event provided a platform to engage those keen to move the WPS agenda forward in the region as well as to identify the shortcomings and difficulties on the ground in implementing it. It is through the identification of these obstacles that humanitarian efforts can be further enhanced and developed to meet the needs of civilians.

UNSCR 1325: A MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH

The UNSCR 1325 is the first formal document highlighting women's role in conflict situations. It is described as a comprehensive international legal framework that can be used to provide the basis of why and how women's participation could lead to more secure peace-building during humanitarian crises. The document provided an understanding of the unique role women play in crises based on four pillars – participation, prevention, protection, and relief and recovery.

The resolution acknowledges the changing landscape of armed conflict, in which more civilians are being targeted, and women continue to be excluded from participating in peace processes. It stresses the importance of women's equal and full participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response, post-conflict reconstruction efforts and the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. It calls on all actors to increase the participation of women and to integrate gender perspectives in all peace processes.

The multidimensional approach taken to develop the resolution has allowed it to be easily 'regionalised' to cater to the needs of the Asia-Pacific region. For example, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has also acknowledged that females

are instrumental to overcoming challenges posed by complex humanitarian crises. In line with that, ASEAN has attempted to address the unique needs of women and girls by involving and engaging them in decision-making processes. For example, the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and its Work Programme recognises the unique needs and potential contributions by women and children, in the process of disaster risk reduction, response, and recovery. The region has also hosted workshops which addressed the varying levels of women's participation in peace processes and

Education has a pivotal role in preventing and eliminating gender-based violence and in fostering gender and social norms that promote equality, respect, peace and social cohesion.

– UN Girls' Education Initiative East Asia and Pacific

conflict resolution in the region and raised awareness of UNSCR 1325 and existing National Action Plans (NAPs) on WPS. In 2010, ASEAN established the Commission for the Promotion of Women and Children's Rights to promote and assist ASEAN member states to uphold internationally recognised women's and children's rights, especially in disaster settings.

UNSCR 1325: RAISING AWARENESS

However, currently only six countries (Philippines, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Republic of Korea and Japan) in the region have a NAP on WPS. This is a clear indication that more can and needs to be done in the region to implement the UNSCR 1325 agenda.

It was highlighted that there is still a need to cultivate awareness of the WPS agenda, particularly among personnel on the ground. Many of the regional initiatives that have been formulated as a result of UNSCR 1325 have not trickled down to those who are directly impacted by humanitarian crises. Fifteen years later, the concepts and ideas surrounding UNSCR 1325 are still being introduced to decision makers, lingering at the policy level and are still far from being effectively implemented. The main focus

has also been limited to protecting women in crises situations, with little attention being paid to the other pillars of the resolution.

The panellists agreed that there was a need to raise awareness on UNSCR 1325 among grassroots women, so that initiatives can be implemented to ensure that the women most affected by crises are not neglected, especially when they are poor. During crisis situations, women are the most affected, yet they possess great potential and capacity to establish sustainable peace in the post-crisis period, yet their capabilities have yet to be fully recognized and harnessed. One important way to enhance the visibility of the WPS agenda in the region is to create and implement national protocols to empower women in crises situations.

EMPOWERING WOMEN TO RESPOND TO CRISIS

As in similar situations around the world, when their situation is represented, women are often portrayed as passive victims, which downplay their active roles in the conflict itself, and their actual and potential roles in fostering peace and security. However, the high prevalence of humanitarian crises in the region stresses the importance of women's role in prevention, protection, participation, peace-building and recovery into the humanitarian assistance and disaster response in the region.

The panellists agreed that there are various areas in peacebuilding processes for which women's involvement is crucial, especially when some women themselves are aggressors in conflict situations. It is important to see women's capacity to contribute beyond what is perceived to be their traditional roles. For example, research has shown that female participation in implementing peace agreements increases the probability of successful negotiation and when women are trained and educated, they are able to save their families from negative situations in the post-conflict period. Yet, women, particularly in patriarchal Asian societies, are often not consulted

in such situations. In fact, in most of the world today, the proportion of women involved in mediation is

… in order to take our common commitment seriously, we need to make sure that women's voices are being heard, and that the needs and realities of women living in conflict and post-conflict countries influence our decisions. A paradigm-shift is needed, sustainable development, peace and security can never be achieved if half the population is excluded.

–   Swedish Ambassador Olof Skoog

minimal. This is also evident in the UN, where more men than women take up peacekeeping roles. More women are also needed to take up leadership roles in post-conflict reconstruction. Therefore it is important to harness women's ability to respond to crises, especially so if it is in an area that they have comparative advantage over other candidates to move forward the UNSCR 1325 agenda.

A COMPREHENSIVE DEFINITION OF CONFLICT, PEACE AND SECURITY

The absence of war or armed conflict does not necessarily translate to sustainable peace. Other forms of day-to-day disruptions to the activities of women also pose a threat to their lives. Hence, it is imperative that the WPS agenda around conflict, peace and security addresses all forms of disruptions that may give rise to insecurities and fear in the lives of women.

At present, the WPS agenda is used specifically to justify the importance of women involved in peacebuilding processes during conflict situations. However, to effectively empower women in the largely male-dominated peacebuilding processes and to reduce any form of reduction in their quality of life, the UNSCR 1325 should not only be implemented in armed conflict situations but also when there is any form of disruption to women's lives.

This is to recognize conflict as 'violence' in all its forms. This would include but not be limited to, natural disasters, economic insecurities, low representation at all levels of decision-making, domestic violence, disadvantages in the labour force, sexual violence in non-conflict situations and

human trafficking. If conflict refers to any situation that causes a disruption to life, then peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but should be broadly defined as the absence from 'want'. Security would then constitute all aspects of human security. This will overcome all forms of insecurity, including forms of violence against women that threaten their ability to satisfy their wants. Finally, justice is not only about prosecuting perpetrators of crimes but also addressing systems that allow such 'violence' against women, as well as to recognise women's rights as human rights.

Whether the day's work is planning aid programs or hiring diplomats or drafting treaties or running peacekeepers' checkpoints in a war zone, we need to do it differently, changing the habitual practices that have allowed women to be ignored, silenced, abused or even attacked.

–   Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström

THE FUTURE OF UNSCR 1325 IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

Being the world's most disaster-prone region and with many ongoing complex humanitarian emergencies, the Asia-Pacific has a key responsibility in spearheading the empowerment of women in situations that disrupt their lives and bring about insecurity. While there has been progress in the region in implementing UNSCR 1325, the focus of the execution strategy needs to be shifted away from raising awareness and education at the top to implementing specific guidelines and initiatives at the grassroots level that enables women's active involvement in peacebuilding efforts. Various platforms to engage women and girls in crisis situations already exist in many governments and civil society organisations in the region.

Training women to hold leadership positions in organisations involved in peacebuilding; establishing and supporting village-based focus groups for women to learn about their rights and gain access to essential information; establishing a group of experts through ASEAN to focus on expanding the WPS framework and implement the UNSCR 1325 on the ground; and getting the local man on board to promote the WPS agenda in their communities; are significant steps taken to progress the WPS agenda in the region.

Moreover, far more attention is needed to overcome situations in which women are actors of violence in conflict situations. There is a lack of both research and policies addressing circumstances whereby women are perpetrators of violence in crises situations. Currently, there is a gender bias when classifying victims and aggressors of conflict. Recognizing that women can be both victims and perpetrators in crises is a critical step to take for the region to address the root causes of violence.

However, for these strategies to be implemented through ASEAN, governments in the region need to be on the same page in understanding the importance of prioritising the WPS agenda in their respective countries. The implementation of UNSCR 1325 has been limited in Asia, due to the diversity of the region, the longstanding patron-client system, particularly in Southeast Asia, and also because of the deeply ingrained colonial history, which feeds into states' lack of trust to any foreign ideas that could threaten their sovereignty. This may relate to the reluctance on the part of Asian states to implement universal norms to domestic contexts. Therefore, there is a need to integrate the WPS agenda into the ASEAN framework to address this through monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at the regional level.

At times, we are unable to prevent a crisis or disruption to daily life from occurring. Nonetheless, we are able to change the consequences that it brings about by engaging the right stakeholders, in this case, women. What we need to do as a society is to look at how measures can be put in place to guarantee women's participation in the peacebuilding processes.

From left to right: Dr Tamara Nair, Associate Professor Ralf Emmers, Ms Pia Bruce, H.E. Håkan Jevrell, Ms Janet Lim, Ms Olivia Forsberg, Dr Alistair D. B. Cook and Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony

ABOUT THE PANELLISTS

Ms Pia Bruce

Ms Pia Bruce has spent most of the last decade working towards women's empowerment and gender equality in Asia. As the Executive Director of the Singapore Committee for UN Women, she is heavily involved in multiple initiatives that provide women and girls with access to education, healthcare, economic independence and a life free of violence and abuse. Some of the initiatives Ms Bruce has been engaged with in recent years include the Singapore Committee for UN Women's public awareness campaigns to stop domestic violence, end trafficking of women, and to ensure that foreign domestic workers can take advantage of their recently gained weekly day off. UN Women is also a leading advocate of the UNSCR 1325.

Ms Bruce also finds great joy in seeding the young to become interested in community service and social entrepreneurship, e.g. through the annual global Project Inspire social media driven business plan competition and the newly launched local Project Aspire off-shoot. Previously, she was on the founding team of Aidha, a micro-business school for foreign domestic workers in Singapore, preparing migrant women to start small successful businesses in their home countries to support their families. Before that, she managed the Citigroup-INSEAD Financial Education Exchange as an INSEAD employee, in the process contributing to financial education on the ground in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ms Janet Lim

Ms Janet Lim recently retired from the United Nations after a 34-year career with UNHCR, the UN refugee agency. She has served in various positions both in UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva and in the field. Her field assignments have included UNHCR's country and emergency operations in different parts of the world, including Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Western Sahara and Syria. In Geneva, she served in senior positions which included being Director of the Emergency and Security Services, Director of the Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, and during her last 5 years, she was the Assistant High Commissioner (Operations). Ms Lim has particular expertise in managing complex emergency operations where populations have been forcibly displaced as a result of war and conflict. She was closely associated with the establishment of UNHCR's emergency response capacity and mechanisms. During her career, she has also been seconded at a senior level to UNAIDS and to UNAMA, the peacekeeping operation in Afghanistan.

Ms Lim worked in the Administrative Service of the Singapore Civil Service and pursued postgraduate studies at the University of Bielefeld, Germany, before joining the United Nations. She is currently a Fellow, School of Social Sciences, as well as an Advisory Board member of the Institute for Societal Leadership in the Singapore Management University. She has also been appointed as Executive-in-Residence with the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP), an international foundation concerned with international affairs and security issues.

Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony

Mely Caballero-Anthony is Associate Professor and Head of the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Until May 2012, she served as Director of External Relations at the ASEAN Secretariat. She also currently serves in the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters and Security and is a member of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Agenda Council on Conflict Prevention.

Associate Professor Anthony's research interests include regionalism and regional security in the Asia-Pacific, multilateral security cooperation, politics and international relations in ASEAN, conflict prevention and management, as well as human security. She was the principal investigator of the MacArthur Asia Security Initiative (ASI) project of Internal Security Challenges in Asia and Cross-Border Implications. She has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals on a broad range of security issues in the Asia-Pacific. Her latest publications, both single-authored and co-edited, include: 'Understanding ASEAN Centrality', (Pacific Review, 2014), 'Human Security in ASEAN: 20 Years On', (Asian Journal of Peacebuilding, 2014), Non-Traditional Security in Asia: Issues, Challenges and Framework for Action, (ISEAS, 2013), Human Security and Climate Change in Southeast Asia: Managing Risk and Resilience, (Routledge, 2013), 'The Responsibility to Protect in Southeast Asia: Opening Up Spaces for Advancing Human Security' (Pacific Review, 2012), and Energy and Non-Traditional Security (NTS) in Asia and Rethinking Energy Security in Asia: A Non-Traditional View of Human Security (both Springer, 2012).

Ms Olivia Forsberg

Ms Forsberg is the technical advisor to Plan International Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) and Urban Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programmes. She provides technical support to country and regional offices, develops new programmes and training modules and supports humanitarian operations team within Plan International. In her previous position as programme officer in the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency for DRR, she managed large scale early recovery operations in Afghanistan, DRR programs in Botswana and the Balkans together with EU, UN and national disaster management agency partners. Ms.Forsberg has also served in the UNIFEM Central Africa Regional Office as UN Gender Task Force Coordinator and other civil society organisations such as The Folke Bernadotte Academy, SSK Hoppet and Development Aid from People to People (DAPP).

Ms Forsberg's expertise lies in CCDRR and resilience. She has strong experience in developing, implementing and coordinating large scale humanitarian and DRR operations in cooperation with UN, EU, governmental and non-governmental actors. She has also frequently lectured about women's issues, CEDAW, UN SCR1325 and women and parliamentarians. She is currently a board member of Plan International Global steering group for Safe schools 2015, the Chair of Swedish Network for Humanitarian Actors, 2015 and the Vice Chair for the Swedish Network for DRR and resilience, 2015.

Dr Tamara Nair

Dr Tamara Nair is Research Fellow at the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University. She graduated from the National University of Singapore (NUS) with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Geography and went on to train at the National Institute of Education (NIE). She worked as an English language and Geography teacher in both government and private schools in Singapore before she left to pursue her postgraduate studies. Dr Nair obtained a Masters in Environmental Management, a Graduate Diploma in Arts Research and a PhD in Development Studies from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Before joining RSIS, she was involved in an international project investigating Climate Change and 'Cultures of Resilience', focussing on major waterways of Asia, Australia and the US and communities' adaptation and mitigation strategies in the face of climate change effects.

Dr Nair is the Coordinator of the Food Security Research Programme at RSIS. Her current research focuses on issues of power and the biopolitics of hunger in Southeast Asia. Her most recent publication focuses on the systematic food insecurities of the Rohingya in Myanmar.

ABOUT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAMME

The **Asia Pacific** is the most disaster prone region of the world. Between 2004 and 2013, more than **40% of natural disasters** occurred in the Asia-Pacific region. In the last ten years, **80% of deaths due to disasters** happened in Asia and the Pacific (ADB). By 2025, seven of the world's top ten mega-cities will be in Asia. Rabid urbanization and **climate change have led to more frequent and recurring disasters** with greater impact. (McKinsey & Co.)

RSIS established the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme on 21 July 2015 to facilitate and enhance cooperation on preparedness and response strategies to the fragile and unpredictable situations we face in the Asia-Pacific.

Aside from comprehensively investigating regional emergency response frameworks, governance issues, disaster preparedness strategies and the identification and development of response niches for civilian and military actors, the programme also seeks to develop the next generation of global leaders in HADR through roundtable sessions, dialogues and workshops. **For more information, visit our website at http://www.rsis.edu.sg/research/nts-centre.**
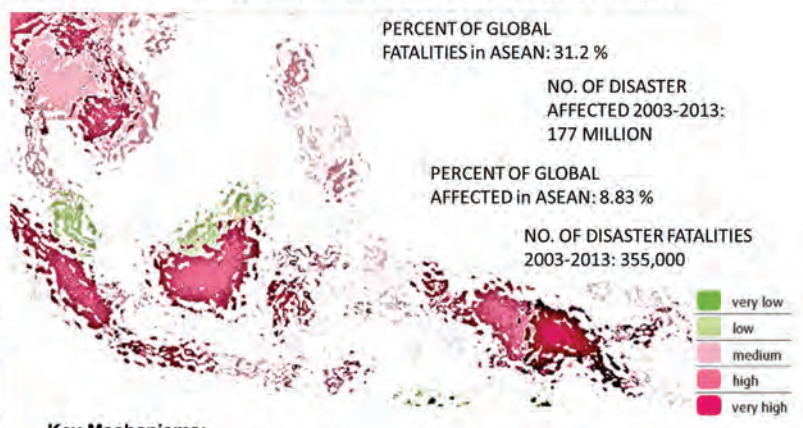

Foreign military forces assisted the Philippine government's relief efforts in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

Typhoon Haiyan killed at least 7,000 people and flattened many impoverished communities, triggering massive international humanitarian relief operations in the Philippines in 2013.
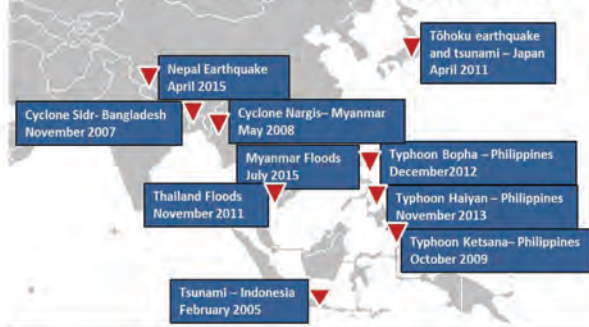
Core Research Areas

- Future HADR Landscape in Asia
- Community Protection and Assistance
- Humanitarian Effectiveness
- Humanitarian Technology

Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief

- Nepal Earthquake April 2015
- Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami – Japan April 2011
- Cyclone Sidr- Bangladesh November 2007
- Cyclone Nargis– Myanmar May 2008
- Myanmar Floods July 2015
- Typhoon Bopha – Philippines December 2012
- Thailand Floods November 2011
- Typhoon Haiyan – Philippines November 2013
- Typhoon Ketsana– Philippines October 2009
- Tsunami – Indonesia February 2005

Natural Disasters: Humanitarian Response in ASEAN

PERCENT OF GLOBAL FATALITIES in ASEAN: 31.2 %

NO. OF DISASTER AFFECTED 2003-2013: 177 MILLION

PERCENT OF GLOBAL AFFECTED in ASEAN: 8.83 %

NO. OF DISASTER FATALITIES 2003-2013: 355,000

- very low
- low
- medium
- high
- very high

Key Mechanisms:

- ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)
- ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre)
- ASEAN Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercises (ARDEX)
- Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ERAT)
- Changi Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Coordination Centre
- Disaster Emergency Logistic System for ASEAN

Number of people affected per township
- Less than 1,500 people
- 1,500 - 5,000 people
- 5,000 - 25,000 people
- More than 25,000 people

1.3 million critically flood affected people in July and August

435,000 people reached with food assistance

297,000 cumulative number of households displaced

Figure 1. Number of people affected by recent flood in Myanmar
Source: www.unocha.org/myanmar

Myanmar Flood 2015

Heavy rains have caused floods and landslides in several parts of the country during the last two weeks of July. Cyclone Komen, that made landfall in Bangladesh on 30 July, has brought strong winds, heavy rains resulting in floods and landslides in several states and regions in Myanmar.
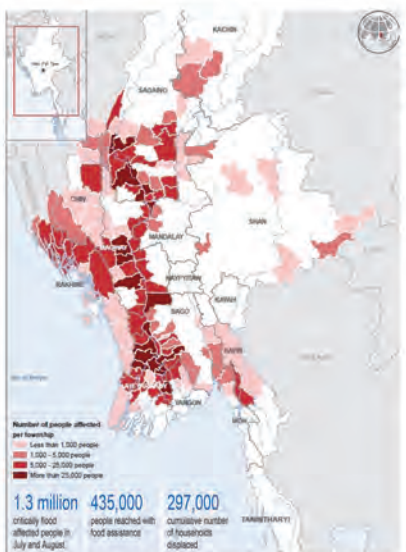

Photos of recent flood in Myanmar. The flood is regarded as one of the worst disasters in decades(Credit: www.channelnewsasia.com, www.flicker.com)

ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR
NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY (NTS) STUDIES

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) conducts research and produces policy relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness, and building the capacity to address NTS issues and challenges in Asia. The centre addresses knowledge gaps, facilitates discussions and analyses, engages policymakers and contributes to building institutional capacity in the following areas: Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief; Food, Health and Energy Security; Climate Change, Resilience and Sustainable Development; and Peace and Human Security. NTS Centre brings together myriad NTS stakeholders in regular workshops and roundtable discussions, as well as provides a networking platform for NTS research institutions in the Asia Pacific through the NTS-Asia Consortium.

More information on NTS Centre and a complete list of available publications, policy briefs and reports can be found here: www.rsis.edu.sg/research/nts-centre.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF DEFENCE
AND STRATEGIC STUDIES (IDSS)

The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) is the oldest and largest research centre of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS).

Its faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia Pacific.

Its research agenda is covered by the following thematic and country/region programmes:
•   Maritime Security
•   Military Studies
•   Military Transformations
•   China
•   Indonesia
•   Malaysia
•   South Asia
•   United States
More information on IDSS Centre and a complete list of available publications, policy briefs and reports can be found here: https://www.rsis.edu.sg/research/idss.

ABOUT THE S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL
OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) is a professional graduate school of international affairs at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. RSIS' mission is to develop a community of scholars and policy analysts at the forefront of security studies and international affairs. Its core functions are research, graduate education and networking. It produces cutting-edge research on Asia Pacific Security, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Conflict Studies, Non-Traditional Security, International Political Economy, and Country and Region Studies. RSIS' activities are aimed at assisting policymakers to develop comprehensive approaches to strategic thinking on issues related to security and stability in the Asia Pacific.

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