

NTS BULLETIN

www.rsis.edu.sg/research/nts-centre

January 2018

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS page 3

ENERGY SECURITY page 3

FOOD SECURITY page 4

HEALTH SECURITY page 5

PEACE, HUMAN SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT page 5

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME page 6

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF page 7

WATER SECURITY page 8

The Migration Crisis - ASEAN's Challenging Agenda



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte hands over the ceremonial gravel to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to symbolise the passing of ASEAN chairmanship to Singapore on Nov 14, 2017.

Photo Credit: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

The chairmanship of ASEAN, the regional bloc, is rotated amongst member countries on a yearly basis. This year Singapore assumed the role of ASEAN chair for a year, taking over from the Philippines.

In November 2017, when the Prime Minister (PM) of Singapore, Lee Hsien Loong, symbolically took over the ASEAN chairmanship from Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte during the 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila, he set out Singapore's priorities as Chair. The theme for this year's agenda is, [to be] "Resilient and Innovative." PM Lee highlighted that during its chairmanship, Singapore will focus on achieving the following goals:

- Promoting and supporting a rulesbased regional order to better deal with evolving security challenges such as cyber security, transnational crime and terrorism
- Developing innovative methods to effectively utilise digital technologies and prepare ASEAN citizens with

- skills and capabilities to manage these technological advancements
- Strengthening the region's economic and financial resilience and at the same time deepening ASEAN's relationship with external powers, and
- Pushing forward ASEAN trade negotiations particularly the realisation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

PM Lee opined that ASEAN is the central and dynamic force in the region that can help overcome challenges and create opportunities. Specifically, he congratulated the Philippines for establishing the framework for the Code of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

Singapore's goals are indeed in line with emerging security threats and challenges in the region and seek to help protect and reduce the consequences they have on member countries. In addition, they could perhaps even be extended to deal with sensitive

challenges that have persisted over the years. Some of these issues have worsened over time, impacting an increasing number of ASEAN citizens.

One such challenge is the migration crisis in Myanmar. In the last 3 years, the humanitarian situation in the country has deteriorated significantly, and the tensions between Myanmar's security forces and the Rohingya Muslims have intensified. More and more people from Rakhine state are being displaced either within Myanmar or in neighbouring Bangladesh. Many who are and have been affected by the violence in the state have also made the perilous journey through the seas during the "sailing season", to seek refuge in neighbouring countries such as Thailand and Malaysia adding to the number of cases of human trafficking. The renewed violence, including reported rapes, murders and arson cases in 2017 have triggered a massive exodus of Rohingya Muslims. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of 11 December 2017, 860,000 refugees from Myanmar have crossed over to Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. 646,000 of these refugees, mostly women and children have arrived since 25 August 2017.

Thailand has also carried the burden of the migration crisis in Myanmar. It has been the longstanding hub for human trafficking networks bringing Rohingya refugees and economic migrants from Bangladesh to Malaysia and other countries in the region. Although figures of human trafficking in the region have not been monitored, the discovery of trafficking camps and mass graves of the Rohingya people and other illegal migrants in Southern Thailand, clearly indicate the impact of the crisis on other countries in the region. Many of these deaths were a result of traffickers abandoning boats of refugees and migrants in the waters, with little food or water.

What role can Singapore play, as Chair, to provide the necessary support to overcome the challenges posed by the crisis in Myanmar? As ASEAN Chair, Singapore could work with ASEAN members and encourage them to help manage the crisis in Myanmar. Situations of such human insecurities, as what we are witnessing now, vis-à-vis the Rohingyas, tend to breed other forms of instability which could impact the entire region. For example, the violence in Myanmar has started to radicalise certain communities, and there have been reports about emerging links between insurgencies in the country and other extremist outfits

across the world. The transnational nature of multiple insurgent networks should be a concern for all ASEAN member countries as it is a national as well as regional security threat. At this point in time, more than ever, ASEAN governments need to stand together to pay attention to the migration crisis in the region and work hand-inhand towards a truly integrated, peaceful, stable, people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN community.

Suggested Readings

- Albert, Eleanor, "The Rohingya Crisis," Council on Foreign Relations, 5 January 2018.
- Gaughran, Audrey, "Rohingya Fleeing Myanmar Face Difficulties in Thailand," *The Diplomat*, 29 September 2017.
- Lego, Jera, "Why ASEAN Can't Ignore the Rohingya Crisis," The Diplomat, 17 May 2017.
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, "Rohingya Refugee Crisis," 2018.
- Yong, Charissa, "PM Lee Hsien Loong outlines Singapore's Key Goals as ASEAN Chair," *The Straits Times*, 15 November 2017.
- Yong, Charissa, "Vivian Balakrishnan sets out Singapore's Priorities as 2018 ASEAN Chair," *The Straits Times*, 5 December 2017.

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Electronic waste at new high, squandering gold, other metals: Study

Alister Doyle, Reuters

13 December 2017

The White House says climate change isn't a national security threat. The military says it is

Umair Irfan, VOX

18 December 2017

China unveils an ambitious plan to curb climate change emissions

Kieth Bradsher and Lisa Friedman,

Today

19 December 2017

Devastating climate change could lead to 1m migrants a year entering EU by 2100

Fiona Harvey, The Guardian 21 December 2017

Most Singapore firms not treating climate change as financial risk: KPMG poll

Rachel Mui, The Straits Times 21 December 2017

Climate geoengineering: Uncertainties and implications ANM Muniruzzaman,

RSIS Commentary 11 January 2018



Marine environmental protection in the South China Sea: Challenges and prospects part 1

Julius Cesar Trajano, Lina Gong, Margareth Sembiring and Rini Astuti, NTS Insight No. IN17-04 Singapore: S Rajaratnam

School of International Studies
2017

Climate change performance index: Results 2018

Jan Burck, et al., Cologne: New Climate Institute, German Watch & CAN 2017

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Symposium on the Promotion of Deforestation-Free Global Supply Chains for Contributing to Halt Deforestation

23–24 January 2018 Tokyo, Japan World Symposium on Climate Change and Biodiversity (WSCCB-2018)

3–5 April 2018 Manchester, the UK



Courtesy of Flickr account of European Commission DG ECHO and used under a creative commons license.

ENERGY SECURITY

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES

DOE starts crafting PH nuclear power plans

Myrna Velasco, Manila Bulletin 17 December 2017

Japan's US LPG imports to hit record in 2017, top the Middle East

Reuters,

The Business Times 22 December 2017

CGN Power's latest project delay deals another blow to China's nuclear energy ambition

Eric Ng, South China Morning Post 2 January 2018 Fossil fuel subsidies – a harmful government expenditure

Shikha Jha, Eco-Business 5 January 2018

38.7 bln cubic meters of gas piped to China from Central Asia

Xiang Bo, Xinhua Net 5 January 2018

Energy security also requires electricity to be affordable

Chang Youngho, Channel News Asia 8 January 2018



Courtesy of Wikimedia account of Gretchen Mahan and used under a creative commons license.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Nuclear Law Essentials

26 February- 2 March 2018 Singapore

Asia Energy Security Summit 2018

14-16 March 2018 Karnataka, India

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Nuclear safety review 2017

International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna: International Atomic Energy Agency 2017

Untapped potential for climate action: Renewable energy in Nationally Determined Contributions

International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi: International Renewable Energy Agency 2017

FOOD SECURITY



Courtesy of Flickr account of olly301 and used under a creative commons license

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Women in agriculture: Four myths Cheryl Doss et al. Global Food Security 2017

Climate change and food insecurities: Destabilisers of ASEAN centrality?

Tamara Nair, in Chong, A. (ed.) International Security in

the Asia-Pacific,

Singapore: Palgrave Macmil-

lan 2018

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Threatened food supply forces entire Nepali village to relocate

Global Press News Service, The Seattle Globalist 19 December 2017

Op-ed: Small farmers to revitalise agriculture in **Africa**

Mary-Jean Nleya, CNBC Africa 20 December 2017

2017: The year agtech hit the mainstream

Sarah Nolet. AgThentic Blog 21 December 2017

Avoiding GMOs isn't just anti-science. It's immoral.

Mitch Daniels. The Washington Post 27 December 2017

Public stockholding of grains to stay

The Hindu 5 January 2018

Unlocking Zimbabwe's pond aquaculture potential

lan Nkala. The Fish Site 5 January 2018

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

3rd Global Food Security Global Food Security & Sustainability Conference 21-22 May 2018

New York, USA

Symposium 2018 21-22 May 2018 Washington D.C.



Courtesy of Flickr account of World Fish and used under a creative commons license

HEALTH SECURITY



Courtesy of Flickr account of CDC Global and used under a creative commons license.

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Diphtheria in Bangladesh Rohingya camps expected to double every few days

Irwin Loy, IRIN News

12 December 2017

Pakistan's invisible health crisis

Razeen Ahmed, The Diplomat 14 December 2017

A Marshall Plan for global health

Mark P. Lagon, The National Interest 18 December 2017 Rohingya children facing 'massive mental health crisis'

Hannah Beech, The New York Times 31 December 2017

The Tories knew there would be an NHS winter crisis but did nothing

Polly Toynbee, The Guardian 3 January 2018

Suspected diphtheria cases in Yemen near 500: WHO

Stephanie Nebehay, Reuters

4 January 2018

Mexican migrant health access much lower after US border crossing Drexel University, Science Daily

10 January 2018

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Preventing ageing unequally

OECD,

Paris: OECD Publishing 2017

Linking health to microfinance to reduce poverty

Sheila Leatherman & Christopher Dunford Bulletin of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Geneva: WHO

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

4th International Congress on Public Health
19-21 July 2018

19-21 July 2018 Bangkok, Thailand 7th Annual Global Healthcare Conference 2018

23-24 July 2018 Singapore



Courtesy of Flickr account of ADB and used under a creative commons license

PEACE, HUMAN SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES

New risks in Libya as Khalifa Haftar dismisses UN-backed accord

Issandr El Amrani, International Crisis Group 21 December 2017 At least 9 killed in attacks targeting Egypt's Coptic Christians Alexandra Zavis and Omar Medhat, Los Angeles Times

10 humanitarian crises to look out for in 2018 IRIN Editors, IRIN News

1 January 2018

29 December 2018



Courtesy of Flickr account of US Army Africa and used under a creative commons license.

A climate of fear and silence emerges in Yemen after killing of former dictator

Ali Al-Mujahed and Sudarsan Raghavan, The Washington Post 3 January 2018

North Korea: Has diplomacy already peaked for this year?

Ankit Panda,
BBC News
5 January 2018

Protests in Iran took many by surprise, but not Iranian labor activists

Murtaza Hussain, The Intercept 6 January 2018

Trump's peace deal: A
Gaza-centred Palestine
Ben Caspit,
AI-Monitor
8 January 2018

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

El Salvador's politics of perpetual violence International Crisis Group, Latin America Report No. 64 2018 Demand the supply: Ranking efforts to develop conflict-free mineral supply chains from Congo Annie Callaway, The Enough Project 2017

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Conference on Human Rights and Human Security 2018

25-26 June 2018 Paris, France International Conference on Universities and Women's Studies 8-10 March 2018
Hong Kong

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME



Courtesy of Flickr account of Coast Guard News and used under a creative commons license.

Illegal wildlife trade is one of the biggest threats to endangered species – and the UK is a key player

Melanie Flynn, The Independent Online 21 December 2017 Trophy hunting is macabre, but it may also be endangered species' best hope for survival Gabriel Zarate, National Post 21 December 2017

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Asian democracies on upward trend in corruption fight

Ben Heubl, Nikkei Asian Review 15 December 2017

European leaders pursue migration deals with North African countries, sparking concerns about human costs

Kate Hooper,
Migration Policy Institute
18 December 2017

Indonesia seeks to slap money-laundering label on illegal fishing

Basten Gokkon, Mongabay

20 December 2017

Modern slavery laws must fully decriminalise sex work, advocates say

Christopher Knaus, The Guardian 21 December 2017

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

FY 2017 Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement Congressional Submission

U.S. Department of Justice Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces Transnational organized crime and the impact on the private sector: The hidden battalions

Robin Cartwright and Frances Cleland Bones, Geneva: Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime 2017

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PIMFA Financial Crime Conference 2018

25 January 2018 London, United Kingdom Applied Research in Crime and Criminal Justice Conference 15-16 February 2018

Brisbane, Australia



Courtesy of Flickr account of Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs and used under a creative commons license

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF



Courtesy of Flickr account the U.S. Army and used under a creative commons license.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Humanitarian technology: New innovations, familiar challenges, and difficult balances
Martin Searle,
Policy Report,
Singapore: S. Rajaratnam
School of International Studies,
2017

Siloes, synergies and prospects for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in Southeast Asia Alistair D. B. Cook, in Chong. A. (ed.) International

Chong, A. (ed.) International Security in the Asia-Pacific, Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan

2018

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Humanitarian action – power of the crowd: Collective voices in HADR

Christopher Chen, RSIS Commentary 13 December 2017

Mekong disaster drills highlight US-ASEAN subregional cooperation

Prashanth Parameswaran, The Diplomat 14 December 2017

Global disasters in 2017 cost \$306 billion— nearly double the cost of 2016

Akshat Rathi, Quartz Media 21 December 2017 ASEAN targets system to jointly cope with disasters

Gilbert P. Felongco, Gulf News Philippines 7 January 2018

4 ways technology can help us respond to disasters

Tae Yoo, World Economic Forum 8 January 2018

Mapping out the future of humanitarian response Tyler Radford, Devex 9 January 2018

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Dimensions for Natural Hazards in Asia 4-8 February 2018 Tagaytay, Philippines 6th International Geo-Hazards Research Symposium (IGRS) 2018 4-9 March 2018 Dresden, Germany

WATER SECURITY

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES

Ripple effects: Sharing water and building peace in the Jordan Julianne Liebenguth, New Security Beat 15 December 2017

'Water diplomacy' essential for West Asia, Iran says Tehran Times 19 December 2017

Health of rivers should be maintained for survival of human civilisation: Patnaik Press Trust of India, The Indian Express 20 December 2017 Egypt and Ethiopia clash over huge River Nile dam Heba Saleh and John Aglionby, The Financial Times 27 December 2017

Water shortages could trigger Asia conflicts Brahma Chellaney, Nikkei Asian Review 30 December 2017

Feature – Wi-Fi but no water: Can smart tech help a city's poor? Sophie Davies, Thomson Reuters Foundation 5 January 2018

'Water war' escalates between Egypt, Sudan Giorgio Cafiero, AL-Monitor 8 January 2018



Courtesy of Flickr account of Abdul Rahman and used under a creative commons license.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Water charges in Brazil: The ways forward OECD, Paris: OECD Publishing 2017 Groundwater allocation: Managing growing pressures on quantity and quality OECD, Paris: OECD Publishing 2017



Courtesy of Flickr account of Philippe Floch and used under a creative commons license

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OECD Workshop on Managing Contaminants of Emerging Concern in Surface Waters 5 February 2018 Paris, France Singapore World Water Day Singapore 1-31 March 2018