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Resilience Amidst Disruptions



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Against the rapid changes in today's global environment, the concept of resilience has become increasingly important as a goal for societies and states affected by different types of crises. In light of new types of disruptions, the concern about resilience – particularly building resilience for vulnerable communities that are struggling to bounce back and/or adapt after a disaster – has become more critical. As a policy goal, resilience has reached higher political significance and relevance in global governance given the interconnected and transnational implications of building resilience amidst 21st century disruptions.

What is new about the kinds of disruptions we face today? And, how should these kinds of disruptions be addressed collectively by the international community? These were some of the major questions deliberated on at the 3rd Annual Convention of the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) in Asia held in Singapore on 27-28th March 2018.

Building resilience and dealing with disruptions are not mutually exclusive. But in order to deal with both concerns comprehensively, one needs to understand what is new about resilience and about disruptions in a changed global environment. Disruption refers to an event that challenges an existing order and may catalyse gradual or radical changes in norms and practices in economic activity, security and political stability within state and society. Disruptions in Asian countries have caused fundamental changes in the past half-century, from war, poverty and hunger to climate change and technological development.

The impacts of climate change and technological advancements have been notably dramatic. Climate change has been known to be a threat multiplier, generating 'consequences of consequences', from water, energy and food scarcity to forced migration and the emergence of new types of infectious diseases. Climate change-induced extreme weather patterns have also resulted in catastrophic dis-

asters that have wrought massive devastation on lives and property, causing massive displacement of human population.

Meanwhile, the rapid advances in technology, also known as the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution', have brought about significant implications on many aspects of human life and on the nature of inter-state and intra-state relations. The impact of technological advancement has revolutionarily changed the nature of inter-personal communication, information processing, business transactions and even the conduct of political campaigns. However, both people and states are not yet prepared for the disruptions brought about by technological breakthroughs such as privacy breach, cybercrime and even cyberterrorism.

There are clear policy imperatives in understanding and dealing with these new kinds of disruptions and their effects on the environment and climate, agriculture and food, on humanitarian crisis and forced displacement, and cyber space. But in order to build societal resilience and ensure the security of states and societies, one must not lose sight of the more structural causes that can magnify the vulnerabilities of affected groups and communities. This is where notions of resilience must also be revisited against new kinds of complexities that these disruptions generate on the ability of vulnerable communities to cope, bounce back and adapt. This means that the task of building resilience goes beyond building capacity and empowering local communities to respond to disasters. It also neces-

sitates the need to link local initiatives with regional and global frameworks and institutions that are geared to respond to these disruptions. In doing so, building resilience is a participatory and inclusive policy framework that brings together multiple stakeholders, both public and private actors, working collaboratively at multiple levels from the local and national to the regional and international arena.

Suggested Readings

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CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS

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Jane Palmer,
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Today
23 March 2018

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Lotfi Belkhir,
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3 April 2018

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2018 ISDR Asia Partnership Meeting

24–25 April 2018
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Towards a Resilient Financial Sector: Disclosing Physical Climate Risk & Opportunities

31 May 2018
London, UK



Courtesy of Flickr account of European Commission DG ECHO and used

ENERGY SECURITY

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES

Clear, reliable policy direction in Asean needed to attract renewables investment: IRENA

Andrea Soh,
The Business Times
27 March 2018

Stepping on the gas to keep Singapore's lights burning

Desmond Ng and Daniel Heng,
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Japan sees opportunity in Southeast Asia's energy markets

Huileng Tan,
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China's bold vision for global energy security

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Philippines eyes joint exploration deal with China in South China Sea within months

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For UAE, are renewables the new oil?

Coco Liu,
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RSIS Seminar on Energy Security Challenges and Available Technology Options for Singapore

3 May 2018
Singapore

Energy Security for the Future 2018

1 June 2018
Monte Carlo, Monaco

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International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi: International Renewable Energy Agency
2018

Renewable capacity statistics 2018

International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi: International Renewable Energy Agency
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Options for increased private sector participation in resilience investment: Focus on agriculture

Silvana Tordo et al., Washington, D.C.: The World Bank
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The Food Safety Modernization Act: The shift from reactive to preventive food safety, White Paper

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Indonesia's salt spat gives industry a shake

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Future food security is about exploring non-traditional crops and breakthrough technologies

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3rd Global Food Security, Food Safety & Sustainability Conference

21–22 May 2018
New York, USA

3rd International Conference On Agricultural Engineering and Food Security

12–13 November 2018
Frankfurt, Germany



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HEALTH SECURITY



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Caring for the chronically ill in Bangladesh's Rohingya camps

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Irin News
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Why do new medicines cost so much, and what can we do about it?

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Trump signs order to require recipients of Federal Aid Programs to work

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Olga Khazan,
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Patient advocacy groups take in millions from drugmakers. Is there a payback?

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HLTH-The Future of Healthcare

6–9 May 2018
Las Vegas, USA

4th Annual Asia Healthcare Summit

8–11 May 2018
Singapore



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HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF

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The modest diplomatic promise of North Korea's charm offensive

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Analysis - Anti-Muslim violence in Sri Lanka: Reasons & lessons

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

Gaza protests highlight humanitarian crisis and lack of political progress to peace

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5 April 2018

Zuckerberg was called out over Myanmar violence. Here's his apology

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9 April

Syria, chemical weapons, and a qualitative threshold for humanitarian intervention

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As civilian toll climbs in Gaza, focus on Hamas dampens compassion in Israel

Dina Kraft,
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Ahead of peace talks, a who's who in South Sudan's splintering civil war

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Vishalini Chandara
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Charities and terrorism: Lessons from the Syria crisis

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Humanitarian Studies Conference

27–29 August 2018
The Hague, The Netherlands

Global Humanitarian Technology Conference

18–21 October 2018
San Jose, USA

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME



Courtesy of Flickr account of Maryland GovPics and used under a creative commons license.

How Europe's new privacy rule is reshaping the internet

Russell Brandom,
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These are the countries most vulnerable to Facebook data breaches

Bhaskar Chakravarti,
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1 April 2018

UNODC, IOM launch new initiative to counter migrant smuggling

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Malaysia is crushing free speech with a new fake-news law

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At the core of the protection mechanism for migrants returning from the DR

Julie Harlet,
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21st Annual IBA Transnational Crime Conference

16–18 May 2018
Krakow, Poland

Human Trafficking and the Illicit Cigarette Trade: Global Consequences

17 May 2018
Massachusetts, USA

WATER SECURITY



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Increased spatial variability and intensification of extreme monsoon rainfall due to urbanization

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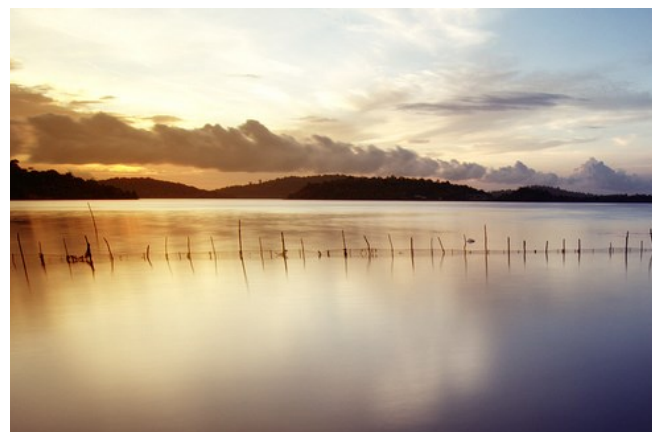
EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1st International Conference on Water Security

17–20 June 2018
Toronto, Canada

Water Security and Climate Change Conference

3–6 December 2018
Nairobi, Kenya



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