

A Review of 2023

RSiS

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

RESEARCH • EDUCATION • NETWORKING

“Ponder the Improbable”

At IDSS, Mr Nathan insisted on research being policy-relevant. He exhorted faculty and research staff to “ponder the improbable”. His international outlook and foreign policy background led to an emphasis on networking, which has contributed to knowledge sharing between RSIS and think tanks from all over the world, and to RSIS’ standing as a critical node in the international network of think tanks and academic institutions dealing with strategic and security studies.

From ClassAct (A monthly e-magazine of the Alumni Affairs Office, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore), December 2011

Selected Essays

- The Outlook for Multilateralism
By Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit
- Emerging Technologies and National Security
By Benjamin Ang and Karryl Sagun Trajano
- The Challenges of Non-Alignment: Managing Risks in Malaysia’s Foreign Policy towards China and the US
By David Han

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Message from Executive Deputy Chairman



AMBASSADOR ONG KENG YONG

*Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS,
Director, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS),
and Head, International Centre for Political Violence
and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR)*

We live in uncertain times — climate change threatening the future of life on earth as we know it, and technological transformation affecting the way we work, socialise, and co-exist as human societies and nation-states. These challenges have aggravated problems in international relations and domestic governance. They have upset policy assumptions and unsettled traditional strategic management and planning.

We need to do things differently in such a situation, but states, big and small, are troubled by a lack of trust among themselves. There is no trust to play by internationally agreed rules. We need international organisations like the United Nations (UN) and World Trade Organisation (WTO), as well as regional bodies such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to innovate and to pull the diverse world purposefully forward in tackling the unprecedented challenges confronted by the people.

In this endeavour, think tanks and academic institutions like RSIS must exert themselves to contribute meaningfully and for the long-term benefit of all. At heart is trust that our research is done with integrity and that our policy recommendations are made in good faith.

In 2023, RSIS produced policy reports on national resilience and security, the impact of digitalisation and emerging technologies, the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and humanitarian futures, to name a few. We put forth strategic analyses on regional and global developments. RSIS faculty and think tank researchers spoke at many forums and conferences on their domain of expertise.

In a world fraught with volatility, uncertainty, and conflict, coming together — face to face — to speak and understand each other's perspectives is important. We need a safe space for frank discussions and mutual learning.

RSIS has brought parties together throughout the year, with its various forums, some closed-door, for such sharing of views. Whether it is the International Maritime Security Conference, the Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO), the Trilateral Exchange, or other such platforms, RSIS maintained a high level of focused engagement with its counterparts and new partners.

As a Graduate School, RSIS upholds the trust to offer good Master of Science programmes, thought-provoking interactions with lecturers and visiting professors, studying geopolitics, and identifying new trends and strategies going forward.

Year after year, we build on the foundations of our pioneers in establishing RSIS — the Think Tank and Graduate School. We ponder strategic interests, open new frontiers, and delve deep into the knowns and the unknowns in ever-changing environments. We will continue to do so and strengthen the RSIS brand.

A big “thank you” to RSIS staff, students, and supporters. The RSIS alumni have been a pillar of strength for our development and growth. We look forward to more accomplishments ahead.

Message from the Dean



PROFESSOR KUMAR RAMAKRISHNA

*Dean, RSIS,
Professor of National Security Studies,
Provost's Chair in National Security Studies,
Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore*

The RSIS Student Wing is again bustling with activity during the academic trimesters. At the end of the Academic Year 2022-2023, 164 students graduated from the RSIS Master's programmes and one student obtained her doctorate.

In the Academic Year 2023-2024, RSIS Master's Programmes continued to attract a cosmopolitan student body with increasingly diverse educational, professional, and cultural backgrounds. Close to 200 students from 25 countries were enrolled in RSIS degrees in August 2023. Nineteen students were offered scholarships and study awards, including the RSIS Scholarship, the Lee Foundation Scholarship, and Student Research Assistantships.

For the PhD programme, RSIS has four new students from Malaysia, the Philippines and Kazakhstan who joined us in August 2023. We look forward to their contributions to the RSIS PhD and research community.

With the unique RSIS combination of graduate teaching and research expertise, we continue translating research excellence into an enriched education journey for our students. They benefit

from policy perspectives being integrated into graduate teaching and have the opportunity to attend a large variety of conferences and events organised by RSIS research centres and programmes, offering a more immersive experience. Visits from endowed professors and distinguished visitors also open another window to global and regional perspectives.

In particular, we appreciate the collaboration with the University of Warwick in the NTU-Warwick Double Master's Programme, and the exchange programme with the Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University.

Besides the Graduate School, RSIS has, since its founding as IDSS, been educating senior Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) officers. The Military Studies Programme of IDSS is today the strategic partner of the SAF in its Professional Military Education, working with the SAF-NTU Academy and the various SAF schools. Over the years, RSIS has extended executive education to officers in the security sector, practitioners in the religious/community sector and others, sharing with them perspectives on national security-related matters.

We thank the stalwarts behind the programmes, and the students for putting in their best!

Introduction to RSIS

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) is a global think tank and School of graduate education offering Master of Science Programmes in Strategic Studies, International Relations, International Political Economy and Asian Studies. Its five Research Centres and two Research Programmes, led by the Office of the Executive Deputy Chairman, and assisted by the Dean on the academic side, drive the School's research, education and networking activities.

RSIS is consistently ranked among the top regional think tanks by international publications. Analyses and thought pieces by RSIS scholars and researchers are regularly featured in reputable publications, top-tier journals, and online platforms. Commissioned reports from RSIS are shared with policymakers and stakeholders, and in some cases, these have been used to launch further studies or specific projects with other partner organisations.

Over the past 26 years, RSIS has expanded its research horizon to cover counter-terrorism and extremism, national security and defence issues, traditional and non-traditional security issues, inter-religious studies, economic multilateralism, and regional economic integration. Increasingly, RSIS research delves into the emerging cross-cutting issues and technological developments having strategic impact and potential disruptive national and international security implications.

Research in RSIS covers these main areas:

- The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) comprises nine research programmes, namely: China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maritime Security, Military Studies, Military Transformations, Regional Security Architecture, South Asia, and the United States. The Military Studies Programme focuses on professional military education for the Singapore Armed Forces.
- The International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) focuses on politically motivated violence and terrorism.
- The Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) covers cyber and homeland defence, radicalisation studies and social resilience.
- The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) researches into climate change, resilience and sustainable development; energy security; food security; health security; peace, human security and development; and water security.

- The Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS) focuses on capacity-building; diplomatic and security multilateralism; economic multilateralism; and international political economy.
- The Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme focuses on religious peace-building in plural societies; new developments in inter-religious relations from different religious perspectives; tolerance and co-existence in the historical religious traditions; and Singapore's model of managing social cohesion.
- National Security Studies Programme (NSSP) conducts research into key episodes of Singapore's national security history and security challenges facing small, globalised, multi-ethnic city-states.
- Future Issues and Technology (FIT) focuses on emerging issues where science and technology intersect with national security.

RSIS produces both academic and policy-relevant research on security and international affairs. The School publishes scholarly research in top-tier academic journals and leading university presses, and distributes policy research in a timely manner to a wide range of readers. Relevant RSIS research contributes to rule-making and norm-setting in cyber domain and digitalisation. A strategic research area is the technological competition between China and the United States of America in the context of their geopolitical and security contestation.

RSIS researchers participate in deliberations at significant global and regional discussions on strategic and international affairs, such as the Shangri-La Dialogues, Council of Councils meetings, Trilateral Commission Conferences, and Halifax International Security Forums.



First "Summer School" for Senior Military Officers from the Asia Pacific (now known as APPSMO), 1999

“

The Asia Pacific has its share of flashpoints that have the potential for creating regional instability, through triggering clashes of interests among the three big powers (China, Japan, and the US). These strategic developments and the existence of flashpoints around us will dominate the current dynamics of our strategic environment.

The establishment of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies will enable scholars and students to research and test ideas on the impact and implications of this rapidly changing strategic environment for Singapore's security.”

DR TONY TAN

7th President of Singapore; and then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, at the launch of IDSS in July 1996

Building the Foundations

SETTING UP IDSS

Before the inauguration of RSIS in 2007, it was known as the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS). By establishing the IDSS in 1996, then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Dr Tony Tan wanted to inform policymakers of the political uncertainty in the Asia Pacific region arising from the post-Cold War era, and the possible implications of this uncertainty on Singapore's security and defence. The late S R Nathan was selected to head the institute, thanks to his vast experience in confronting geopolitical issues.

Mr Nathan set out to build an institution that differed from its local and overseas counterparts. The local think tank scene was then still relatively underdeveloped and a handful of thought centres focused mainly on domestic issues. IDSS was envisioned to be an institution that taught graduate level courses which could generate strategic insights on how to navigate the intricate world where security, defence, and politics intersect. Mr Nathan quickly helped IDSS establish its beginnings as a graduate education institution by assisting it to launch its first programme, the Master of Science in Strategic Studies, in 1998.

Mr Nathan created the motto "Ponder the Improbable", and insisted that all research be policy-relevant. The motto is indicative of the demands of cognitive rigour expected of staff and students in the course of their research or lessons.

NURTURING AND GROWING THE SCHOOL

IDSS introduced two new programmes and Centres between 1999 and 2006: the Master of Science in

International Relations and the Master of Science in International Political Economy programmes, as well as the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) and the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS).



Mr S R Nathan (second from left) at the International Symposium on East Asian Cooperation and Security in Beijing, China, 10 November 1997



Mr S R Nathan at the Europe Asia Forum, 20-21 February 1998

During that period, the region entered a new geopolitical landscape. The September 11 attacks and outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, had changed the way nations looked at security, defence, and politics. Mr Nathan himself felt that the existence of IDSS was timely in the light of these events, as it became imperative to develop a "sophisticated understanding" of the forces at work in the world.

In 2007, RSIS was inaugurated, signifying the maturation of IDSS as a research institute. IDSS remains a prominent research centre within RSIS.

The school was named after Mr S. Rajaratnam in recognition of his contributions to Singapore as its first Foreign Minister. Mr Rajaratnam helped

Singapore gain entry into the United Nations, and built up the Foreign Service. Essentially, he paved the way for Singapore's international relations from the country's earliest days of independence.



The second Japan-Singapore Symposium, 31 October - 2 November 1996

“

At the inauguration of IDSS in July 1996, I explained what I thought should be the purpose of the Institute. First, 'to develop, and in due time nurture, a core of knowledgeable scholars engaged in the continuous study of questions of strategic interest to Singapore and the region around us'. I had hoped that the Institute would 'in due time develop expertise to seek answers, and develop persuasive tools, to address complex problems of diplomacy and security' so that they can help us understand how best to limit the risks in an unpredictable world.”

MR S R NATHAN

6th President of Singapore; and
Founding Director of IDSS,
at the launch of RSIS, 11 December 2006

Milestones

The end of the Cold War ushered a phase of strategic uncertainty. A think tank was needed to make sense of the strategic trends that would impact Singapore. Then Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tony Tan tasked the late Mr S R Nathan to set up a research institute and graduate school which could provide intellectual support to the Ministry of Defence by studying developments and devising ideas to improve Singapore's security and strategic capabilities.

2008

- Faculty members began teaching courses at SAFTI Military Institute under the SAF-NTU Strategic Partnership.
- Courses conducted at SAFTI's Goh Keng Swee Command and Staff College became fully accredited towards NTU's Master of Science programmes.
- ICPVTR conducted courses on terrorism for officers from defence and home affairs ministries.

31 MARCH

The School established the RSIS Endowment Fund which included provisions for three professorships – the S. Rajaratnam Professorship in Strategic Studies, the NTUC Professorship in International Economic Relations, and the Ngee Ann Kongsi Professorship in International Relations.

6 MAY

RSIS launched the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) in pursuit of solutions to nontraditional security issues that arose from crises such as the 2003 SARS epidemic and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

1996

30 JULY

IDSS was set up. Mr S R Nathan became the Founding Director of IDSS. Dr Andrew Chew was appointed Chairman of the Board of Governors.

1999

- IDSS held the first Summer Camp for Senior Military Officers in the Asia Pacific. The camp, later renamed the Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO), is an opportunity for promising senior military officers in the region to build a network of defence thinkers and planners.

17 AUGUST

Prof Khong Yuen Foong succeeded Mr S R Nathan, who left to serve as the President of Singapore.

2000

1 OCTOBER

Amb Barry Desker succeeded Prof Khong, who remained affiliated to RSIS as Senior Research Adviser and Professor of International Relations for another 15 years.

2004

20 FEBRUARY

IDSS launched the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR), which was inaugurated by then Minister for Home Affairs Mr Wong Kan Seng.

2006

1 APRIL

IDSS launched the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) to study the extremist and terrorist threat networks within and outside Singapore.



Mr Peter Ho, then Permanent Secretary (National Security and Intelligence Coordination) in the Prime Minister's Office, signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amb Barry Desker, then Dean of RSIS, to launch CENS, as Prof S. Jayakumar, then Coordinating Minister for National Security, and Dr Andrew Chew, then Chairman of the RSIS Board of Governors, looked on.

2007

1 JANUARY

RSIS was officially inaugurated, with IDSS remaining as a prominent centre within the School. CENS organised the first Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO).

2009

JANUARY

Mr Eddie Teo took over as Chairman of the RSIS Board of Governors.

2014

9 JUNE

The Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme was inaugurated by Dr Tony Tan, then NTU Chancellor and 7th President of Singapore.

3 NOVEMBER

Amb Barry Desker handed over leadership of RSIS to Amb Ong Keng Yong as the Executive Deputy Chairman under a new management structure. Prof Joseph Liow became the Dean of RSIS.

2017

1 SEPTEMBER

RSIS launched the Future Issues and Technology (FIT).

1 OCTOBER

RSIS started the Science and Technology Studies Programme (STSP). STSP looked into emerging science and technology trends and their impact on national security and public policymaking. The three-year programme was completed on 30 September 2020.

Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS Amb Ong Keng Yong (centre) signing MoUs with six research and academic institutions at the 3rd SRP Distinguished Lecture and Symposium, 2 February 2017.



Dr Tony Tan (left), Chairman of RSIS Board of Governors, unveiled a new plaque to commemorate the 25th anniversary of IDSS/RSIS.



2011

Mr S R Nathan re-joined RSIS as a Distinguished Senior Fellow after stepping down as the 6th President of Singapore.

14 OCTOBER

RSIS launched the Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS) to conduct academic and policy research on economic multilateralism and regional economic integration.

2016

The National Security Studies Programme (NSSP), led by Prof Kumar Ramakrishna, was inaugurated in April.

2018

1 AUGUST

Dr Tony Tan took over chairmanship of the Board of Governors from Mr Eddie Teo.

2019

1 JANUARY

Prof Ralf Emmers succeeded Prof Joseph Liow as the Dean of RSIS, who has remained affiliated to RSIS as its Research Adviser.

2021

23 NOVEMBER

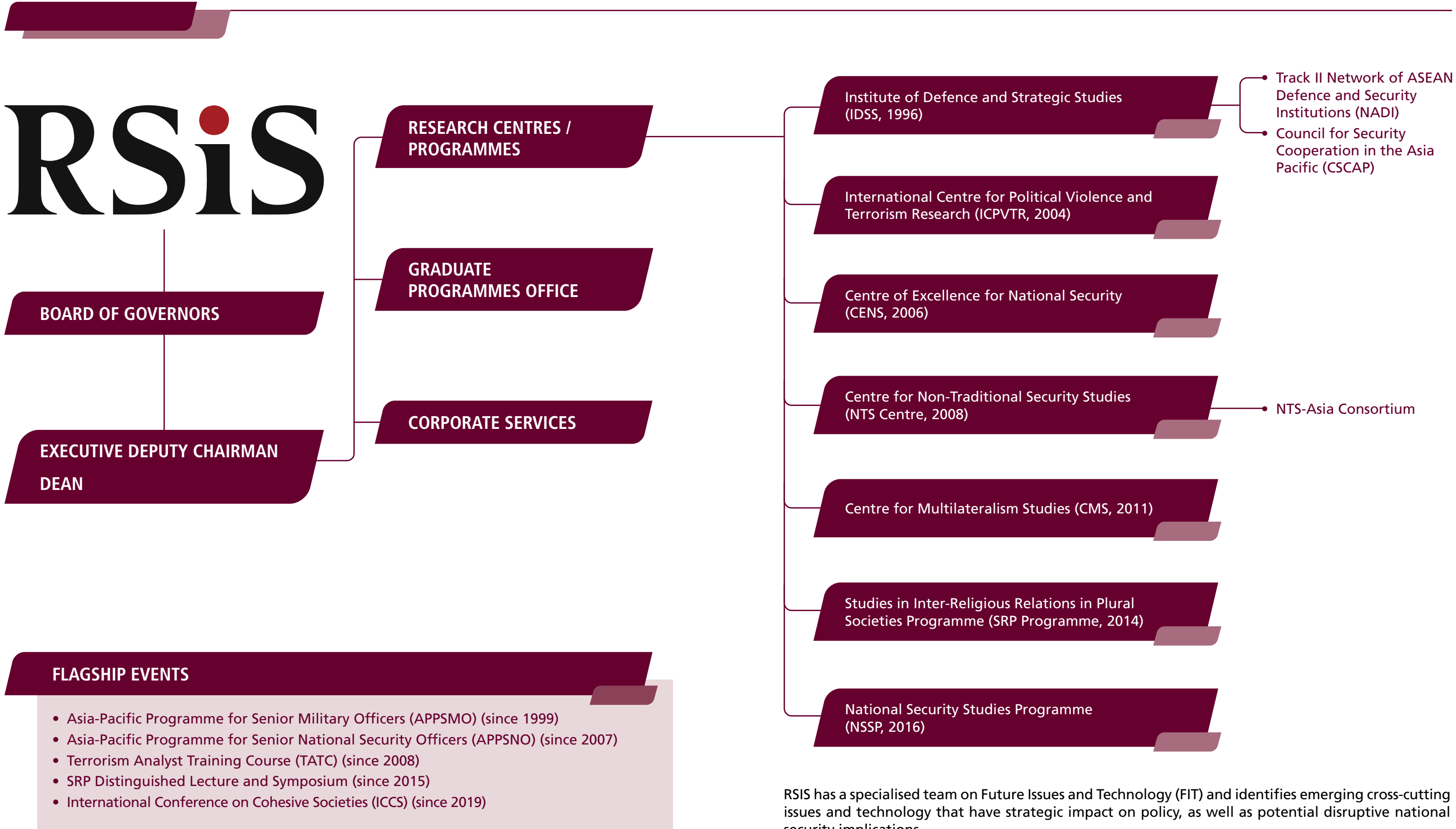
RSIS commemorated the 25th anniversary of IDSS with the launch of an IDSS book and the planting of bonsai trees.

2023

1 JANUARY

Prof Kumar Ramakrishna succeeded Prof Ralf Emmers as the Dean of RSIS.

Organisation of RSIS



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

The Executive Deputy Chairman (EDC) is the executive head of RSIS and is responsible for providing overall leadership to RSIS in professional, academic, and administrative matters, including think tank and policy research management.

The Office of the EDC houses emerging issues that RSIS is incubating. This includes the Future Issues and Technology (FIT) cluster, the Digital Impact Research (DIR) team, and the International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS) Project.

FIT covers challenges and opportunities on the intersection of national security and science and technology. DIR deliberates on policy implications of digitalisation and effects on the economy and society. ICCS seeks to converge experiences, expertise, and empathy across cultures, faiths, and traditions to strengthen social resilience and mutual learning in diverse societies.

DEAN'S OFFICE

The Dean's Office is responsible for the administration of the RSIS MSc and PhD programs. The Office also oversees the recruitment and career progression of RSIS faculty, while exploring potential opportunities for academic research, student and faculty exchanges with reputable universities overseas that strike a good balance between academic rigour and policy relevance.

The Dean's Office also works closely with the Office of the Executive Deputy Chairman on a range of issues, including the career development of RSIS think tank track researchers as well as the identification of suitable distinguished visiting scholars to engage with faculty, researchers and students. Invited visiting scholars work on areas of pressing global and regional relevance, such as US-China tensions, the Russo-Ukraine conflict, technology and geopolitics, counter-terrorism and extremism, international political economy, climate change, food security and a host of other topics of concern.

RESEARCH CENTRES AND PROGRAMMES

RSIS comprises five Research Centres and two Research Programmes.

Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS)

IDSS comprises nine research programmes, namely: China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maritime Security, Military Studies, Military Transformations, Regional Security Architecture, South Asia, and the United States. The Military Studies Programme focuses on professional military education for the Singapore Armed Forces.

International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR)

ICPVTR is a specialist, policy-oriented centre within RSIS, which conducts research, training, and outreach programmes aimed at reducing the threat of politically motivated violence and mitigating its effects on the international system. The Centre integrates academic theory with practical knowledge, which is essential for a complete and comprehensive understanding of threats from politically-motivated groups. ICPVTR is culturally and linguistically diverse, comprising functional and regional analysts. It is staffed by researchers, academic specialists, religious scholars, and language experts.

Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS)

CENS is a research unit of RSIS at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Established on 1 April 2006, CENS *raison d'être* is to raise the intellectual capital invested in strategising national security. To do so, CENS is devoted to rigorous policy-relevant analysis across a range of national security issues. CENS is multinational in composition, comprising both Singaporeans and foreign analysts who are specialists in various aspects of national and homeland security affairs.



Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre)

NTS Centre conducts research and produces policy-relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness and building the capacity to address non-traditional security (NTS) issues and challenges in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. The Centre addresses knowledge gaps, facilitates discussions and analyses, engages policymakers, and contributes to building institutional capacity in areas which include: Climate Security, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Food Security, and Nuclear Safety and Security. The 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.

Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS)

CMS conducts cutting-edge research, teaching/training, and networking on cooperative multilateralism in the Asia Pacific region. The Centre aims to contribute to international academic and public discourses on regional architecture and order in the Asia Pacific. It aspires to be an international knowledge hub for multilateral and regional cooperation. The Centre's research agenda includes international and global forums, as well as expressions of cooperative multilateralism on economic multilateralism and diplomatic and security multilateralism.

Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme

SRP aims to study various models of how religious communities develop their teachings to meet the contemporary challenges of living in plural societies. It will also deepen the study of inter-religious relations, formulate models for the positive role of religions in peace-building and produce knowledge to strengthen social ties between communities. The Programme seeks to be at the forefront in the development of scholarship and applied knowledge on the roles of religion and inter-religious relations in plural societies today.

National Security Studies Programme (NSSP)

NSSP was launched in April 2016 with a primary aim to conduct research into key episodes in Singapore's national security history and draw out contemporary implications for today. Its research seeks to address a range of national security challenges facing small, globalised, multi-ethnic city-states and generate intellectual capital pertinent for security practitioners. Apart from producing research and teaching on the master's programme in RSIS, NSSP researchers also share their insights with public officers in various seminars or training courses.

Board of Governors

As at end November 2023

The Board of Governors sets academic and policy research objectives for the School. In addition to providing strategic directions for RSIS, the Board also institutes new programmes, reviews ongoing activities, and approves plans and budgets. The Board consists of Singaporean and international members.



Dr Tony Tan
Chairman

Special Adviser, GIC, and
Honorary Patron and
Distinguished Senior Fellow,
Singapore Management University



Ambassador Ong Keng Yong
Deputy Chairman

Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS,
Director, IDSS, and Head of ICPVTR



Professor Lam Khin Yong

Vice President (Industry),
Professor of Mechanical and
Aerospace Engineering,
Nanyang Technological University



Mr Pang Kin Keong

Permanent Secretary
(Home Affairs),
Ministry of Home Affairs



Professor Sir Steve Smith

UK Government International
Education Champion,
and Prime Minister's Special
Representative to Saudi Arabia
for Education,
Department for Education and
Department for International Trade

Members



Professor Michael E. Brown

Professor of International
Affairs and Political Science,
Elliott School of International Affairs,
The George Washington University



Mr Chan Heng Kee

Permanent Secretary (Defence),
Ministry of Defence



Ms Chew Gek Khim

Executive Chairman,
The Straits Trading Company Limited



Mr Peter Varghese AO

Chancellor,
The University of Queensland



Mr Leo Yip

Head of the Civil Service,
Pemanent Secretary, Prime Minister's
Office (Strategy), Pemanent
Secretary, Prime Minister's Office,
and Permanent Secretary,
National Security and Intelligence
Coordination



Professor Stuart Croft

Vice-Chancellor and President,
University of Warwick



Mr Albert Chua

Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Dr Bates Gill

Executive Director,
Center for China Analysis,
Asia Society Policy Institute



Mr Peter Ho

Senior Advisor,
Centre for Strategic Futures,
Prime Minister's Office



Ms Selena Ling

Chief Economist,
Head of Treasury Research and Strategy,
Global Treasury, OCBC Bank



Professor Kumar Ramakrishna

Dean, RSIS,
Professor of National Security Studies,
Provost's Chair in National Security Studies,
Research Adviser to ICPVTR

Awards, Grants and Fellowships

AWARDS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Dr Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit, Senior Fellow and Head of CMS, received the Award for Teaching Excellence in Academic Year 2022/2023. The annual award recognises teaching excellence and outstanding contributions to the enhancement of teaching and learning at RSIS.



Dr Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit (right) receiving the award at the RSIS Alumni Dinner, 21 July 2023

EXTERNAL APPOINTMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Japan Foundation Grant and Fellowship



Assoc Prof Bhubhindar Singh, Associate Dean (Academic Affairs) and Head of GPO, has been awarded a competitive research grant and fellowship from the Japan Foundation. The grant supported a 10-week research stay at the Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo. Assoc Prof Singh is starting a new project entitled "Japan's Threat Perceptions towards China and Russia: Divergences and Convergences". The project emerged from the contemporary debate within the Japanese security policy literature that tends to simplistically understand the threat perceptions posed by China and Russia as the same or aligned. As it is obviously not the case,

the project aims to unpack this simplistic view by adopting a historical perspective to understand the convergences and divergences of the threat posed by China and Russia to Japan's national security since the mid-19th Century to today and determine the causes for both outcomes.

Morris Janowitz Career Achievement Award



Dr Pascal Vennesson, Senior Fellow and Head of Research, RSIS, received the Morris Janowitz Career Achievement Award 2023 from the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society (IUS). IUS is one of the most significant international forums of research and scholarship in the social and behavioural sciences dealing with the military establishment and civil-military relations. The award is named after renowned American sociologist Morris Janowitz (University of Chicago), founder of military sociology, who made significant contributions to sociological theory, the study of prejudice, urban issues, and patriotism.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Social Science & Humanities Research (SSHR) 2025 Seed Grant



A Social Science & Humanities Research (SSHR) 2025 seed grant has been given to Asst Prof Frederick Chen for his project on the "Impact of Economic Crises on Foreign Policy". He will develop a domestic political theory to explain the consequences of economic crises for foreign policy, focusing on leaders' political incentives and behaviour during economic crises, which partly hinge upon the public's political reactions to economic crises. A

combination of survey experiments and cross-national analysis would be used to test the theory. Delving into this research would contribute to political science research as well as policymaking (for example, in gaining a better understanding of the circumstances under which foreign countries are more likely to adopt more aggressive foreign policy during future economic crises).

MOE Academic Research Fund (AcRF) Tier 1



Assoc Prof Li Mingjiang has been awarded the Ministry of Education (MOE) Academic Research Fund Tier 1 grant for his project titled "Subnational Governments' Role in Chinese Foreign Relations". This project aims to explore the role of subnational governments, primarily the provincial governments, in Chinese foreign relations. This is especially since empirical observations show that local governments in China have been playing an important role in shaping the trajectory and dynamics of China's external relations in recent years. A deeper understanding of its foreign policy, particularly from China's domestic context, is imperative to help analyse and explain China's international behaviour and enhance mutual understanding for potential collaborations.

Asst Prof Frederick Chen has received a similar grant for his project on "Domestic and Transnational Legal Risks and Opportunities for Foreign Businesses in China". Multinational corporations (MNCs) face high risk when investing in China and countries without a strong rule of law. The project aims to develop a systematic picture of the legal environment for MNCs in China, explain MNCs' litigation patterns and behaviour across different types of judiciaries and legal systems, analyse the domestic and transnational determinants of MNCs' litigation outcomes, and draw lessons about MNCs' litigation strategies in risky markets.

Other Research Grants



Dr Tan Teck Boon, Research Fellow, received a research grant to study privacy-enhancing technologies (PETs). Dr Tan's award is part of a grant given to the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) and National Research Foundation (NRF) to conduct needle-moving research on PETs. Dr Tan will use the grant to examine PET-related public policies in Singapore.

Mr Quah Say Jye, an RSIS alumnus doing his PhD studies at the University of Cambridge, has been awarded the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Graduate Research Fellowship to research into "Civilisation and Realpolitik: Two Strands of International Thought Within Post-Lee Kuan Yew Era 'Singapore School'". Mr Quah is under the mentorship of Prof Ang Cheng Guan, Associate Dean, RSIS, for the SSRC grant. The project charts the different strands of international political thinking in prominent Singaporean public intellectuals since 2015. The project's significance is in clarifying the logic and intellectual stakes of the competing views on the international world within the Singaporean public discourse, views which could polarise the Singaporean society.

Research and Networking Events

During the year, RSIS staff continued delving into their respective areas of expertise, and shared their findings and analyses through various publications and online platforms. RSIS scholars also published peer-reviewed books on their areas of research and op-eds in policy-relevant and other publications, and participated in forums and discussions with other think tanks and institutes.

RSIS continues to serve key roles in security dialogues and exchanges within the region, serving as Secretariat for both the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP Singapore) and the Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI), as well as for the Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Asia Consortium. Through these roles, RSIS contributes actively to discussions on regional security, supports the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) with relevant inputs and timely ahead-of-the-curve policy recommendations, and helps to build the confidence of ASEAN think tanks and research institutions.

COUNCIL FOR SECURITY COOPERATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC (CSCAP)

The Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) provides an informal mechanism for scholars, officials and others in their private capacities to discuss political and security issues and challenges facing the region. It also offers policy recommendations to various inter-governmental bodies, convenes regional and international meetings and establishes linkages with institutions and organisations in other parts of the world to exchange information, insights and experiences in the area of regional political-security cooperation. RSIS is the secretariat for CSCAP Singapore.

CSCAP Singapore began its activities in 2023 with participation in a hybrid meeting of the Study Group on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in Honolulu, Hawaii from 20 to 21 March. The study group discussed topics such as regional approaches to WPS in ASEAN, the Pacific Islands and Africa. This brought the study group near to completion as it prepared to issue its memorandum. A CSCAP Singapore delegation also attended the meeting of the Study Group on Strengthening the Consensus on the Rules and Principles Underpinning International Order (RPUIO) in Hanoi from 25 to 26 May, which was the first in-person meeting of the study group since its establishment right before the COVID-19 pandemic started.

Meetings in July and August brought both government and non-governmental entities together to study prospects for scientific cooperation amid geopolitical competition. Potential avenues for such collaboration include the emerging implications of nuclear technologies and safeguards against nuclear non-proliferation in ASEAN. The meetings were the CSCAP Study Group meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (NPD) from 27 to 28 July in Bangkok and its sub-group, the Nuclear Energy Experts Group (NEEG), which met from 2 to 4 August in Singapore. The NEEG is co-chaired by CSCAP Singapore alongside CSCAP US.

In addition, CSCAP Singapore participated in the 58th CSCAP Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) in Kuala Lumpur on 8 August 2023, hosted by the CSCAP Malaysia based in the Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia. The 58th SCM reviewed the progress of the Study Groups over the past year and also saw the transfer of ASEAN Co-Chair from Dr Philips Vermonte of CSCAP Indonesia to CSCAP Malaysia's Prof Mohd Faiz Abdullah Chairman of ISIS Malaysia. Several new and revised study group proposals were also raised by CSCAP member committees. The trip concluded with the 36th Asia-Pacific Roundtable with a keynote speech by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia.

In the year ahead, CSCAP Singapore would host a meeting with its executive committee and participate in the 59th Steering Committee Meeting at the end of the year. Overall, it has been an active and heartening 2023 for CSCAP, with member committees pivoting from the COVID-19 pandemic towards a dynamic and proactive range of new activities with heightened urgency as geopolitical competition intensifies.

TRACK II NETWORK OF ASEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS (NADI)

The Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) is a Track II forum comprising defence and security institutions from the 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS), which supports the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) with relevant and timely ahead-of-the-curve policy recommendations. NADI is also a forum that builds confidence and familiarity among the ASEAN think tanks and research institutions. As the Secretariat for NADI, RSIS hosts the NADI website, which carries reports of the NADI meetings, workshops, and retreats. Over the last 16 years, NADI has contributed ideas and policy recommendations to the ADMM.

In 2023, NADI institutions held three in-person meetings and workshops, and one virtual workshop. As the NADI Chair, the Center for Strategic Studies, Research and Development Tentara Nasional Indonesia (CSSRD TNI) hosted the 16th NADI Annual Meeting on "Strengthening Defence and Security for ASEAN as 'Epicentrum of Growth'" from 13 to 16 March 2023. During the 16th Annual Meeting, delegates discussed how regional and global challenges could unravel the stability and economic growth enjoyed by AMS, considered the importance of trust-building efforts among AMS, and how the ADMM-Plus and other platforms could be used to continue engaging Dialogue Partners.

The NADI Workshop on "ASEAN Strategic Equilibrium with Major Powers amid Changing World Order" was held virtually from 21 to 22 June 2023, organised by the Strategic Studies Center (SSC), National Defence Studies Institute (NDSI), Royal Thai Armed Forces, Thailand. The Workshop considered the



NADI 16th Annual Meeting on “Strengthening Defence and Security for ASEAN as ‘Epicentrum of Growth’”, 13-16 March 2023

importance of ASEAN-led mechanisms and platforms; the maintenance of rules, norms and principles in ASEAN’s relations with the major powers; and of ASEAN speaking in one voice in maintaining stable and balanced relations between ASEAN and the major powers.

The NADI Workshop on “ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration: Potential and Way Forward” was held from 8 to 11 August 2023, organised by the Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS). The Workshop examined and discussed ways to enhance collaboration among AMS to enhance their respective defence industries, including the identification of areas of cooperation as well as educational exchanges.

An additional NADI Workshop was organised in October 2023 in Hue, Vietnam.

CONSORTIUM OF NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY STUDIES

RSIS is also the Secretariat for the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies in Asia. A network of 31 institutions and think tanks across Asia, NTS-Asia is a platform for academic and policy exchange on developments on NTS issues and research across the Asian region. The Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) staffs the secretariat.

The NTS-Asia Consortium continues to serve as a one-stop platform for all its members to share and exchange their NTS-related works through the NTS-Asia website. The NTS-Asia Consortium Secretariat based at the NTS Centre regularly updates the open-access website with members’ latest publications and activities. To facilitate outreach, the NTS-Asia

Secretariat sends out EDMs periodically and produced an NTS-Asia Newsletter in May 2023. The biannual publication featured the writings of researchers at the Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP) in New Delhi, India.

RSIS DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURES

RSIS visiting scholars and other eminent speakers gave Distinguished Public Lectures during the year. Among them were Prof Wang Jisi, Founding President of the Institute of International and Strategic Studies at Peking University; and Prof Dominic Johnson, Alastair Buchan Chair of International Relations, Department of Politics and International Relations, and Co-Director, Oxford Martin Programme on Natural Governance, Oxford University. Prof David Cohen gave the S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture.

Other Distinguished Public Lectures are detailed at www.rsis.edu.sg/events.

RSIS FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES



Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers, 1-5 October 2023

RSIS held the 24th edition of the Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO) in October. APPSMO provides an informal forum for military officers from the Asia Pacific and beyond to interact on a pan-regional scale. It enables senior military officers to meet and establish personal relationships as well as share knowledge about military and security developments that would be of professional interest to them. Through this process, the participants can contribute towards fostering a dynamic yet stable environment conducive to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region. APPSMO 2023, held from 1 to 5 October 2023, discussed the theme “Competition and Conflict in a Fragmented World”. More than 40 senior military officers from about 23 countries participated in APPSMO.

The 14th Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO) focused on the theme of “New World (Dis)Order: Reframing Resilience amidst Fragmentation and Interdependencies”. APPSNO offers a platform for discussion, deliberation and reflection on emergent issues, trends and approaches to managing national security. APPSNO also gives an opportunity for participants to network with local and international security experts and practitioners. Held from 24 to 28 April 2023, 70 national security practitioners, experts, and scholars from 24 countries gathered to explore and foster dialogue. Participants from the Asia Pacific, Middle East, North and South America, and Europe, were joined by their Singaporean counterparts from various ministries and agencies.



Terrorism Analyst Training Course, 24-28 July 2023

ICPVTR hosted its 15th Terrorism Analyst Training Course (TATC) from 24 to 28 July 2023 at the York Hotel, Singapore. As the Centre’s principal capacity-building programme, TATC seeks to provide the latest analyses on terrorism and radicalism trends by leading academics and senior practitioners. The annual event also serves as a networking platform for counter-terrorism analysts, researchers and law enforcement officials. The theme of 2023’s TATC was “Global Terrorism: Diversity, Complexity and Evolution”. More than 50 participants from law enforcement, security agencies, and private sector entities around the region had the privilege of hearing from 17 specialist speakers based in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Australia, Europe, and the United States.



Prof Kumar Ramakrishna, Dean of RSIS, giving the welcome remarks at the Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers, 24 April 2023

The 6th SRP Distinguished Lecture and Symposium was held in November on the theme of “Religion, Nationalism & Secularism: Contestation, Conflict & Violence”. Attended by 350 participants, distinguished speakers discussed evolving trends surrounding the conflation of religion and nationalism and the challenges such trends pose to secularism and inter-religious relations, with a distinct focus on Asia.

THE INTERNATIONAL WORLD ORDER, THE GREAT POWERS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION

The war in Ukraine, and the Israel-Hamas conflict later in the year, cast long shadows on the world and geopolitical developments. Underpinning developments were the relations between the United States and China. These formed the backdrop to many a discussion on security-related issues during the year.



RSIS Distinguished Public Dialogue, 12 January 2023

The year began with the RSIS Distinguished Public Dialogue examining the dynamics of great power relations, and focusing on the war in Ukraine and US-China relations. Held in January, speakers included Dr Bates Gill, Executive Director of the Asia Society Policy Institute’s Center for China Analysis, and member of the RSIS Board of Governors, RSIS faculty Assoc Prof Bhuhindar Singh and Assoc Prof Hoo Tiang Boon.



RSIS Trilateral Exchange, 21 April 2023

The 4th Trilateral Exchange brought scholars and experts from the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and Peking University (PKU) together with RSIS scholars, in a closed-door setting, to discuss “US-China Relations: the Future of International Order”. The trilateral exchange, held in April, sought to understand the impact of US-China competition on the international order and examine constructive means of effectively managing the competition. It was a fruitful occasion, which saw robust discussion and active interaction among the participants.

RSIS co-organised the International Strategy Forum-Asia (ISF-Asia), for which it partnered with Schmidt Futures, a philanthropic initiative founded by Eric and Wendy Schmidt. Held between 30 July and 2 August 2023 in its 2nd edition this year, ISF-Asia began as the first International Strategy Forum programme outside of the United States, bringing together Fellows from diverse backgrounds ranging from government, academia, technology, entrepreneurship and more. ISF-Asia is a platform bringing together the brightest minds in dialogue and discussion, and key captains of different industries to share their insights and perspectives with the Fellows.

Regional developments were the focus of some seminars/webinars such as those on topical developments in Malaysia. Topics covered included analyses of pre- and post-Malaysian state elections in August by Mr Shahril Hamdan, Visiting Fellow, Malaysia Programme, RSIS, and Mr Ibrahim Suffian, Programs Director and Co-Founder, Merdeka Center, Malaysia, “The Future of UMNO” in June, by Mr

Shahril and Mr Bastien Onn, Deputy Chief of the UMNO Segamat Division in Johor, Malaysia; on “The Anwar Administration’s Foreign Policy: Fresh Start, Old Constraints?”, in March; on “The Trajectory of Malaysia’s Changing Dominant-party System” by Prof Meredith Weiss, Visiting Senior Fellow, Malaysia Programme, IDSS, RSIS; and Professor of Political Science, State University of New York at Albany, in January.



Ms Jessica Tan, Deputy Speaker, Parliament of Singapore, giving the welcome address at the RSIS-WTO Parliamentary Workshop, 15 May 2023

MULTILATERALISM AND SECURITY

RSIS and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) co-organised the 13th RSIS-WTO Parliamentary Workshop on “International Trade” from 15 to 17 May 2023, with support from the Temasek Foundation. The workshop shed valuable light on the long-standing issues of international trade and the WTO. It also facilitated the exchange of ideas and the sharing of experiences among the parliamentarians. This contributed to their better understanding of how to further strengthen and uphold the multilateral rules-based system to better serve their constituents.

MARITIME SECURITY

Challenges to regional maritime security continue to dominate the annual Regional Maritime Security Outlook. The 2023 edition, held from 2 to 3 February and attended by more than 40 experts, also looked into opportunities for appropriate responses. A book, written in memory of Dr Sam Bateman, was launched. Dr Bateman was a Senior Fellow and

Adviser to the Maritime Security Programme of IDSS for 14 years.

RSIS teamed up with the Republic of Singapore Navy to organise the 8th International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC) in May. Held alongside IMDEX Asia, this event brought together Chiefs of Navy, maritime practitioners, academics, policymakers, and other stakeholders to share thoughts on how, as a maritime community, they could work together and emerge stronger to promote safe and secure seas.



International Maritime Security Conference, 4 May 2023

In conjunction with the 8th IMSC, RSIS also hosted a series of Track 2 sideline events, featuring prominent academics and policymakers. RSIS and the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources & Security (ANCORS) also co-hosted a closed-door workshop on “Military Access in Maritime Southeast Asia”.

RSIS partnered with ReCAAP ISC, BIMCO and INTERTANKO to co-organise the annual conference on Piracy and Armed Robbery on 27 April 2023. Held as part of the Singapore Maritime Week, the conference brought together senior maritime law enforcement officers, captains of the maritime industry and industry stakeholders committed to keeping seafarers safe from criminal threats. Panellists deliberated on the importance of “Partnership” between the shipping industry and law enforcement agencies in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships, to ensure safe and secure seas for seafarers. ReCAAP ISC and RSIS also co-hosted the second Maritime Roundtable on the same day. Participants had a robust discussion on the topic of “Criticality of Timely and Accurate Reporting — Assessment”.



Digital Defence Symposium, 17 July 2023

DIGITAL DEFENCE AND DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

RSIS co-organised the first Digital Defence Symposium with the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Cybersecurity and Information Centre of Excellence (ACICE) on 17 July 2023. The symposium featured international and Southeast Asian defence, academics, think tanks, and private sector experts who networked and discussed common security challenges. These challenges include cybersecurity threats, strategic communications and information threats, the intersection of emerging technologies with cyber and information threats, and civilian-military partnerships in the defence of the digital domain. The symposium was also a prelude to the official opening of the ACICE on 18 July 2023 at the Changi Command and Control Centre (CC2C), RSS Singapura — Changi Naval Base, Singapore.

The Military Transformations Programme (MTP) held a Track 1.5 conference on "Beyond Nuclear: Disruptive Technologies and Strategic Stability in the 21st Century" in November 2023. Given the impact of disruptive technologies, such as artificial intelligence and outer space weapons, and the increasing roles of big techs in conflicts in recent years, the conference explored how the concept of strategic stability and the state of arms control have evolved beyond nuclear weapons. It also looked beyond the perspectives of the major powers by covering insights from small states and middle powers in Southeast Asia, particularly their roles in the future of arms control. Taking a multi-sectoral approach with panel discussions and interactive breakout sessions, the conference brought together

and offered a networking platform for engagement among policymakers, international organisations, academics, and tech companies.

DISTORTIONS, RUMOURS, UNTRUTHS, MISINFORMATION & SMEARS (DRUMS)

The annual DRUMS (Distortions, Rumours, Untruths, Misinformation, and Smears) workshop in October examined how the collective efforts of government, civil society, social media companies, and journalists contributed towards effective countermeasures and mitigative strategies in tackling disinformation and misinformation.

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM

ICPVTR/RSIS continues to study the terrorist threat and the challenges of counter-terrorism and counter-extremism. ICPVTR hosted seminars and webinars throughout the year, engaging both external and internal speakers to share their latest research and thoughts on issues such as the different strands of global far-right extremism, copycat terrorism, political Islam, and country-specific approaches to counter-terrorism, preventing and countering violent extremism and deradicalisation. There was also an ICPVTR-curated workshop in Singapore in October 2023, during which European and regional experts discussed potential responses to terrorists' exploitation of new technologies.

NATIONAL SECURITY FORUM FOR SINGAPORE UNIVERSITIES

"Preparing for Crises and Disruptions" was the theme of the Singapore Universities' National Security Forum 2023 held on 13 July 2023 at the Singapore Management University (SMU). The forum was jointly organised by RSIS' National Security Studies Programme (NSSP) and SMU's Apolitical Society, co-organised by the Singapore University of Social Sciences' (SUSS) Public Safety and Security Interest Group (PSS IG) and Current Affairs' Interest Group (CAIG). The forum, which aims to function as a platform to educate and engage undergraduates on issues pertaining to Singapore's national security,



Singapore Universities' National Security Forum, 13 July 2023

saw the attendance of 191 students from six of Singapore's publicly-funded universities.

PLANETARY HEALTH



Planetary Health Proposal Development Meeting, 13 February 2023

Building on its collaboration with researchers from other Schools in NTU to discuss planetary health in 2022, the NTS Centre hosted the "Planetary Health Proposal Development Meeting" on 13 February. The NTS Centre-led inter-disciplinary project is part of

the NTU SSHR 2025 Strategic Plan aiming to advance NTU's research in the fields of arts, social sciences, humanities, education and business.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION PROGRAMMES

Climate change impacts on the humanitarian sector and environmental crises in Southeast Asia were the focus of the RCRC-RSIS Climate Change, Environment and Humanitarian Action Workshop 2023 held in January. Some 30 senior management participants from the humanitarian community and academia attended the workshop co-hosted online by RSIS, the Singapore Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme, NTS Centre, organised the Humanitarian Futures Forum in November in Singapore, jointly with the Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre (RHCC).

ASEAN DISASTER MANAGEMENT WEEK



ASEAN Strategic Policy on Disaster Management, 24 August 2023

The ASEAN Strategic Policy on Disaster Management (SPDDM) focused on the theme “Disaster Resilience: Understanding What Lies Ahead”. Held on 24 August 2023, it was the concluding event of the inaugural ASEAN Disaster Management Week (ADMW) 2023. The event was organised by The ASEAN Secretariat, the AHA Centre, the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, with HADR Programme, RSIS as the knowledge partner.



RSIS-SWP Dialogue, 30 August 2023

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER THINK TANKS AND OTHER NETWORKING EVENTS

RSIS continued collaboration with other think tanks and institutions, deepening existing ones and starting new ones.

RSIS hosted the fifth iteration of the RSIS-SWP Dialogue in Singapore on 30 August 2023. The Dialogue offered a unique opportunity for two think tanks, RSIS and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP) — both focused on geopolitics and international relations — to discuss issues of common interest from different regional perspectives. This included the role of regional security architecture entities, namely the European Union and ASEAN, in crucial global issues and the potential for collaborative strategies in an ever-evolving geopolitical landscape. The Dialogue observed the emergence of two competing visions of regional order: (i) the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP); and (ii) China’s initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Security Initiative. Regardless, the members of the panels agree that ASEAN remains crucial in the region. Members of the dialogue shared the conclusion that academic



RSIS and the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

exchanges should be increased to enhance the understanding of Southeast Asia in Germany, as well as Europe in Singapore. The next iteration of the Dialogue will be in Berlin in 2024.

The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) at RSIS and the Institute for Defence International Relations (IDIR), Vietnam, convened the 2nd IDSS-IDIR Dialogue “Regional Security Environment: Trends and Implications for Southeast Asia” on 26 April 2023. Participants exchanged views on the future role and relevance of ASEAN, as well as on the engagement of major powers in the Asia Pacific.

RSIS and the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in February, followed by a roundtable discussing the implementation of the MOU and exchanged views on ASEAN.

In conjunction with the 20th Shangri-La Dialogue, held by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in June, RSIS organised the Istana Dinner. It was the culmination of the days of dialogue and exchange, and an informal occasion for participants to continue their interactions and networking.



(L-R) Sir John Chipman, Executive Chairman of IISS; Mr Chan Heng Kee, Permanent Secretary (Defence), Ministry of Defence; Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS; Mr Eddie Teo, Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers; and Dr Tony Tan, Chairman of RSIS, at the Istana Dinner, 3 June 2023

Endowments and Endowed Professorships

SPONSORS AND FUNDING

Over the years since the founding of the School, sponsors have contributed grants to support the activities of the School. They include the following:

- Lee Foundation
- Dr Lee Seng Tee
- The Ngee Ann Kongsi
- Mr Peter Lim
- National Trades Union Congress
- Singapore Totalisator Board
- Temasek Foundation
- Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited
- International Development Research Centre
- Ancora Foundation
- Brenthurst Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- MacArthur Foundation
- Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- Singapore Press Holdings Foundation
- Singapore Technologies Engineering Ltd

Major sources of funding include the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), and the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS), which engage RSIS as a knowledge partner for research.

RSIS ENDOWMENT FUND

RSIS launched the RSIS Endowment Fund on 31 March 2008 to engage world-class faculty and research staff to the School and award scholarships to talented students. It provides students with a wider choice of courses, higher levels of excellence in teaching, and increased research support.

The RSIS Endowment Fund arose from a fund-raising effort after RSIS was inaugurated on 1 January 2007. RSIS held a fund-raising effort for the RSIS Endowment Fund, with the aim of \$40 million (including dollar-for-dollar matching grants from the Singapore Government). After the target was met, RSIS launched the Endowment Fund in 2008.

The RSIS Endowment Fund remains open for contributions from well-wishers.

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS

RSIS endowment funds include provisions for four professorships established from donations together with matching grants from the Government. They are the S. Rajaratnam Professorship in Strategic Studies, the Ngee Ann Kongsi Professorship in International Relations, the NTUC Professorship in International Economic Relations, and the Peter Lim Professorship in Peace Studies. These endowed professorships have enabled RSIS to engage renowned scholars from various fields to teach and conduct research at the School, besides sharing their knowledge with the wider community through public lectures and seminars.

S. RAJARATNAM PROFESSORSHIP IN STRATEGIC STUDIES



Mr S. Rajaratnam

The S. Rajaratnam Professorship in Strategic Studies at RSIS was established in honour of Mr S. Rajaratnam's distinguished services to the nation. Inaugurated on 31 August 1998, the professorship brings on board distinguished scholars in strategic studies and related fields to participate in teaching and research activities at the School. This enables RSIS to increase its international network as well as benefit from the knowledge, experience, and wisdom of eminent scholars appointed to the chair.

Mr S. Rajaratnam, born in 1915, was elected Member of Parliament for Kampung Glam in 1959 and continued to represent the constituency until his retirement in 1988. He became the Minister for Culture in 1959 and the Minister for Foreign Affairs in 1965 and, in the latter capacity, took on a second portfolio as the Minister for Labour from 1968 to 1971. He became Second Deputy Prime Minister (Foreign Affairs) in 1980, after which he was appointed Senior Minister until his retirement. He passed away in 2006.

The professorship was made possible by the \$2.6 million fund (excluding a matching grant from the Singapore Government) raised by the Fundraising Committee. The committee was chaired by Mr S. Chandra Das, former Member of Parliament for Cheng San Group Representative Constituency (1980–1996). Income generated from the invested funds helps maintain the professorship.

The S. Rajaratnam Professor for 2023 was Prof Dominic Johnson, Alastair Buchan Chair of International Relations, Department of Politics and International Relations, and Co-Director, Oxford Martin Programme on Natural Governance, Oxford University. He spoke on "Overconfidence and the Russia-Ukraine War" at the S. Rajaratnam Endowed Professor Distinguished Lecture in August.



Prof Dominic Johnson

THE Ngee ANN KONGSI PROFESSORSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Ngee Ann Kongsi Professorship in International Relations was established on 27 November 2007 through a donation of \$3 million from The Ngee Ann Kongsi and a matching grant from the Singapore Government. Income from the endowment is used to bring renowned scholars in international relations to teach and research at RSIS.

The Ngee Ann Kongsi has a long history of promoting education in Singapore; Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, has benefitted from its many generous donations. The University's association with The Ngee Ann Kongsi began in the 1990s when the Kongsi donated \$1 million to the Chinese Heritage Centre located in NTU. In 2005, The Ngee Ann Kongsi also donated \$1.5 million to set up The Ngee Ann Kongsi Professorship in Traditional Chinese Medicine to help develop the University's expertise in traditional Chinese medicine. Besides these, it has also awarded many scholarships and bursaries to students at NTU over the years.

Prof Wang Jisi visited Singapore under the Ngee Ann Kongsi Endowment Professorship. Prof Wang, the Founding President of the Institute of the International and Strategic Studies (IISS) at Peking University, and Peking University Boya Chair Professor Emeritus, spoke on "Will the Worsening of China-US Relations Continue?" at The Ngee Ann Kongsi-RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture in April.



Prof Wang Jisi

NATIONAL TRADES UNION CONGRESS (NTUC) PROFESSORSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

In 2007, the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) raised a total of \$2.5 million which, with additional

funding from the Singapore Government and other sources, enabled RSIS to establish an endowed chair — the NTUC Professorship in International Economic Relations. Income from the endowment enables RSIS to appoint an NTUC Professor of International Economic Relations.

Set up in 1961, the NTUC is the national federation of trade unions in Singapore whose basic aim is to safeguard and enhance the interests of workers.

RSIS is working on such an appointment in 2024.

PETER LIM PROFESSORSHIP IN PEACE STUDIES

The Peter Lim Professorship in Peace Studies was launched on 9 June 2014 during the inauguration of RSIS' Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme.

The professorship was established through a gift of \$3 million from Mr Peter Lim and a matching grant from the Singapore Government. Mr Lim, a well-known Singaporean philanthropist, hoped that his donation could bring together distinguished scholars and thought leaders to study how Singapore can further preserve and promote the existing harmonious relations amongst its different communities, so that the nation will continue to enjoy peace and harmony. The endowment enables the SRP Programme to appoint a professor who can lead the programme in researching and teaching peace studies.

Appointed on 15 October 2015, Dr Abdullah Saeed holds this endowed chair. Dr Abdullah Saeed is currently the Sultan of Oman Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies and Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor at the University of Melbourne, Australia.

S. T. LEE DISTINGUISHED ANNUAL LECTURE

RSIS also holds the S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture, where renowned scholars and policymakers are invited to speak to a Singapore-wide audience on key strategic issues of our time.

Established in 2007, the S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture series is funded by an endowment established from a generous personal donation by

the late Dr Lee Seng Tee, a well-known Singaporean philanthropist, and with a matching grant from the Singapore Government. Dr Lee was a well-known benefactor of educational establishments both local and overseas, including NTU Singapore.

Prof David Cohen gave the S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture in 2023. Prof Cohen spoke on "A House Divided? Prospects and Challenges for ASEAN Unity in an Era of Regional and Global Crises" in August.



Prof David Cohen

VISITING SCHOLARS

Visiting scholars during the year included the following:



Prof Amin Saikal at the Distinguished Public Lecture on "Afghanistan under Taliban Rule: An Emergent Global Security Challenge?", 11 October 2023

Professor Amin Saikal

Emeritus Professor and Founding Director of the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, and Office of Deputy Vice Chancellor (International & Cooperate), The Australian National University
1 to 12 October 2023



Dr Duvvuri Subbarao at the RSIS Seminar on "India's Deepening North-South Divide Real or Just a Perception?", 5 July 2023

Dr Duvvuri Subbarao

Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India
Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS
12 to 25 June 2022



Dr Marty Natalegawa at the Distinguished Public Lecture on "Foreign Policy in the Age of Geopolitical Competition: Is Being Neutral Enough?", 26 June 2023

Dr Marty M. Natalegawa

Distinguished Fellow at Asia Society Policy Institute, Distinguished Visiting Fellow, RSIS,
1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023



Mr Richard Fontaine at the Distinguished Public Lecture on "The United States in the Indo-Pacific: Pivoting or Pretending?", 19 May 2023

Mr Richard Fontaine

Chief Executive Officer of the Center for a New American Security (CNAS)
16 to 19 May 2023

Research at Centres and Programmes

INSTITUTE OF DEFENCE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES (IDSS)

The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) is consistently ranked among the top think tanks in the region. On top of its academic and policy-oriented publications, IDSS hosts conferences and webinars, and conducts regular briefings to government officials and other parties. The research agenda and activities of IDSS in 2023 were in accordance with the respective emphases of its nine programmes.

These programmes are China, United States, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maritime Security, Military Transformations, Regional Security Architecture, South Asia, and Military Studies.

The China Programme published its research in leading peer-reviewed journals such as the *China Quarterly* and *Asia Policy*, as well as in commentary outlets, including the *Washington Quarterly*, *The Straits Times* and *South China Morning Post*. Together with the US Programme, it organised the 4th RSIS Trilateral Exchange with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (United States) and the Institute of Global Cooperation and Understanding (Peking University) Trilateral Exchange, bringing together scholars from Singapore, the US and China to discuss recent developments in US-China relations.

The US Programme focused on developments in US defence and security policies and launched a monthly podcast series, "Engaging the Eagle - Exploring U.S. Foreign Policy in Southeast Asia." The Programme also co-organised the RSIS Trilateral Exchange 2023 and has regular interactions with US think tanks. The team published research in *The Chinese Journal of International Politics* and commentary pieces in *The Diplomat* and *Channel News Asia*.

The Indonesia Programme focused on Indonesian politics, military, foreign policy, developments in Indonesian Islam and the phenomenon of right-

wing extremism. In addition to commentaries, peer-reviewed journal articles were also published in *International Politics*, *Armed Forces & Society*, and *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*. The Programme also produced the "Current Data on the Indonesian Military", which was published by Cornell University's *Indonesia* journal. The Programme also published a monthly newsletter on the developments relating to the campaign for the 2024 Indonesian Presidential elections.

The Malaysia Programme published papers and commentaries on key political and governance issues in Malaysia. These included electoral politics and coalition dynamics following Malaysia's 15th General Election, and trends in regionalism and development governance in East Malaysia. Of interest was the Anwar administration's foreign policy, particularly towards its neighbours in Southeast Asia, the US, and China, and how it dealt with US-China competition. The Programme also organised regular events on topical issues featuring Malaysian politicians and analysts.

The Maritime Security Programme covered a broad spectrum of issues related to developments in the maritime security environment in its research, teaching, and networking agenda. Together with the Republic of Singapore Navy, the Programme co-hosted the 8th International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC) in May 2023. In conjunction with the 8th IMSC, RSIS also hosted a series of Track 2 sideline events featuring prominent academics and policymakers to discuss topics such as *Military Access in Maritime Southeast Asia and Regional Maritime Priorities*.

The Military Transformations Programme focused its research, events, and publications on mapping contending defence and military innovation issues, trends, and trajectories. In addition to policy reports and commentaries, the Programme published an edited volume *The AI Wave in Defence Innovation*, which brought together leading experts on AI,



Prof Kumar Ramakrishna, Dean of RSIS, presenting a gift to Mrs Bateman, at the book launch on "Maritime Cooperation and Security in the Indo-Pacific Region". The book was written in memory of Dr Sam Bateman, who spent 14 years as Senior Fellow with the IDSS Maritime Security Programme.

technology governance, and defence innovation to assess military AI strategic perspectives from major and middle AI powers alike. The Programme also organised a Track 1.5 conference: "Beyond Nuclear: Disruptive Technologies and Strategic Stability in the 21st Century," which explored the future of military-technology governance and arms control given the impact of disruptive technologies.

The Regional Security Architecture Programme closely monitored the implications of the evolving regional dynamics for ASEAN. The Programme's research was featured in journals such as *International Politics* and *Asian Politics & Policy*. Networking activities were also carried out through workshops and the Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI). In July 2023, the team co-organised the inaugural Digital Defence Symposium in partnership with the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Cybersecurity and Information Centre of Excellence (ACICE).

The South Asia Programme covered academic and policy research relevant to security issues in South Asia, with a specific focus on India. SAP staff took part in various seminars, including key regional gatherings such as the *Raisina Dialogue* and *IISS Shangri La Sherpa Dialogue*, and produced research across numerous formats. Amongst its publications was a book on the impact of domestic constraints on Indian foreign policy, titled *Subcontinental Drift* (Georgetown University Press, January 2023) and an edited volume co-published with the Observer Research Foundation on India's recent defence modernisation efforts, titled *Momentous Changes: Defence Reforms, Military Transformation, and India's New Strategic Posture*. The programme also published numerous journal articles in peer-reviewed journals like the *Journal of Strategic Studies*.

The Military Studies Programme is the strategic partner of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) in its Professional Military Education (PME) and Continuing Education (CE) Master's Programme. It started a new NTU-accredited module for air force officers from the SAF's Goh Keng Swee Command and Staff College this year. Furthermore, as part of its continuous effort to meet the SAF's demands in light of contemporary complexities and dynamic challenges in the changing security environment, the Programme is constantly updating and enhancing the curriculum of its various courses to ensure their relevance.

IDSS also curates the annual flagship Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO). The 24th edition of APPSMO, held from 1 to 5 October 2023, discussed the theme "Competition and Conflict in a Fragmented World". More than 40 senior military officers from about 23 countries participated in APPSMO. Opened by Mr Heng Chee How, Senior Minister of State for Defence, the programme included the scene-setting lecture by Mr Richard Maude, Executive Director, Policy, Asia Society Australia and Senior Fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute; a special lecture by Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah, Chairman, Institute of Strategic and

International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia, on “Rising Geopolitical Competition: Implications for Asia-Pacific and Southeast Asia”; and a distinguished dinner lecture by former Ambassador of Singapore to the United States of America Mr Ashok Mirpuri on “China-US Contestation and the Road Ahead for Asia-Pacific States”.

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR



Participants of APPSMO 2023 during an activity session before the welcome dinner, 1 October 2023

POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM RESEARCH (ICPVTR)

In 2023, the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) strengthened its position as a leading regional institute in the fields of counter terrorism (CT) and preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) through timely research contributions, fresh international partnerships, and augmented capacity-building efforts.

Publications and Research

Throughout the year, ICPVTR’s analysts published regularly in journals and on media platforms, both local and international, including *the Global Network on Extremism and Technology (GNET)*, *the European Eye on Radicalisation (EER)*, *the Jamestown Foundation Terrorism Monitor*, *the South China Morning Post*, *The Diplomat* and *Mimbar Darul Tafsir*. The Centre’s researchers were sought out for their insights into and opinions on the latest jihadist developments in Southeast and South Asia, the far-right landscape online and offline, and the utilisation of emerging technologies by violent extremists, among others. In March 2023, Research Fellow Dr Haniff Hassan, specialising in Moderate

Islam, published his co-edited three-volume book on a local religious intellectual who contributed to the development of Islamic thought in Singapore.

Partnerships

Recognising the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing with new partners, ICPVTR established relations with a European Union (EU) initiative, the ESIWA (Enhancing Security Cooperation In and With Asia), whose mandate is to deepen the EU’s relations with Asia on security matters. This resulted in an ICPVTR-curated workshop in Singapore in October 2023, in which European and regional experts discussed potential responses to terrorists’ exploitation of new technologies. Additionally, the Centre played host to several delegations of think tank and government officials from the United States, Japan, and Uzbekistan.



RSIS-ESIWA Roundtable, 24-25 October 2023

Capacity Building

In July 2023, ICPVTR hosted the 15th edition of its flagship capacity-building programme, the Terrorism Analyst Training Course (TATC). Over five days, participants from local and regional government bodies, academic institutions and private sector organisations heard from 17 specialist speakers on a range of pertinent topics, including maintaining CT gains amidst great power rivalry, operationalising all-source intelligence, and developing effective PCVE strategies to tackle extremist conduits and communities in the online space. Participants also visited the Singapore Police Force’s post-blast investigations facility and took part in an AI-supported tabletop exercise designed and facilitated by ICPVTR’s analysts.

A new training initiative was ICPVTR’s inaugural courses for two Arab security agencies, which focused on the threat landscape and terrorism trends in Southeast Asia, and touched on domestic rehabilitation strategies.

The Centre also organised multiple seminars and webinars throughout the year, engaging both external and internal speakers to share their latest research and thoughts on issues. They included the different strands of global far-right extremism, copycat terrorism, political Islam, and country-specific approaches to CT, PCVE, and deradicalisation.

ICPVTR’s researchers were invited to share their own expertise with various international entities, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Security Council’s Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Kingdom’s Home Office, Turkey’s Centre of Excellence Defence Against Terrorism and Abu Dhabi think tank Hedayah. ICPVTR also spoke to local outfits involved in outreach against extremism such as the Singapore National Youth Council, Taman Bacaan Singapore and more.

Moreover, ICPVTR’s researchers made several field trips during the year to engage with local communities and experts and advance their research, including to Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Central Asia, in addition to attending and presenting at conferences in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the Maldives and Kazakhstan.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY (CENS)

In 2023, the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) published research and organised events which spanned a wide range of themes and topics, including cyber and digital issues, hybrid threats and foreign interference, disinformation and online harms, social cohesion, resilience and polarisation, and radicalisation.

These include publications on keeping critical infrastructure cyber safe, Open Radio Access Network (RAN) mobile telephony networks, security risks of ChatGPT, legislation on deepfake technology, and an RSIS Policy Report providing a landscape

survey of foreign investment screening measures and relevance for Singapore.

CENS has also contributed to thought leadership on the rise of Hindu nationalism, both in India, and among its diasporic communities abroad, focusing on the threat of transnational strands of nationalistic sentiment, as reflected in an RSIS commentary on the effects of ethnonationalism on multicultural societies. CENS has also continued its research on sociopolitical polarisation in offline and online spaces, and its manifestation at the margins in the form of extremism.

Expanding into the national security issues in emerging technologies, CENS has published several commentaries on the topic of artificial intelligence (AI), which discuss various possible modes of governance and regulation that might be viably implemented to mitigate the potential pitfalls that come with its already widespread use throughout virtually all sectors of society.



A panel on “Polarisation and its Effects on Resilience” at APPSNO 2023

CENS also organised several events and workshops in 2023. After a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CENS’ flagship event, the Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO), returned with its 14th edition, running from 24 to 28 April 2023. APPSNO 2023 brought together 70 national security practitioners, experts, and scholars from 24 countries, and successfully highlighted national security challenges posed by global fragmentations emerging from the likes of Big Power contestation, threats posed by technologies, the intensification of societal polarisation, and the persistent challenges posed by non-traditional security issues, whilst exploring collaborative pathways towards establishing resilience against dynamic threats.

In October 2023, CENS hosted Prof Ciaran Martin under its Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP). Prof Martin gave talks on how geopolitics and computer hardware have drastically altered prevailing perceptions of cyberspace and cybersecurity, and how recent technological developments have reconfigured the balance of power held between private and public institutions and entities. CENS also held its annual DRUMS (Distortions, Rumours, Untruths, Misinformation, and Smears) workshop in October 2023, which examined how the collective efforts of government, civil society, social media companies, and journalists contributed towards effective countermeasures and mitigative strategies in tackling disinformation and misinformation.

CENS continued its active participation in processes establishing responsible behaviour in cyberspace, giving in-person oral and written representations at different sessions of the multi-stakeholder meeting of the “Open-ended Working Group (UN OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025” in New York, and participated in various international fora on capacity building, application of norms and international law, confidence building measures, and discussions over the future of international discussions of UN processes. In Singapore, CENS gave presentations at the UN-Singapore Cyber Fellowship at the ASEAN-Singapore Cyber Centre of Excellence, as well as at the Cyber Security Agency’s Keystone Programme.

CENTRE FOR NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY STUDIES (NTS CENTRE)



Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of NTS Centre, speaking at the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM) 2023

In 2023, the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) remained highly active and prolific, sharing its analyses through books, journal articles, policy reports, op-eds, and participation in expert discussions (ASEAN, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific, the Asia-Pacific Leadership Network, and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia).

Biosecurity

The Centre commenced its research project on biosecurity governance in East Asia which includes an exploratory study on security challenges and biosecurity risks faced by countries in the region. The project examines pathways to strengthening regional and national frameworks as well as preventive and response capacities in case of the use or threat of use of biological weapons.

Changing Security Environment

Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of the Centre, was invited to speak on regional and global security challenges at various important events, such as the Australian National University’s Southeast Asia Regional Geopolitical Update in May, the ASEAN UN Regional Dialogue on Climate, Peace and Security in ASEAN in Jakarta and the Council of Councils (CoC) 14th regional conference in Rio de Janeiro, both of which were in November. She co-edited a special Issue on “Reimagining ASEAN and the Quest for Peace: Challenges and Prospects for Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention”, in the *Journal of International Peacekeeping* and the book titled *Covid-19 and Atrocity Prevention in East Asia* (Routledge).

Climate Change and Security

The climate research team continued the project on planetary health, which was awarded a two-year seed grant under the Social Science and Humanities Research 2025 Strategic Plan in 2022. The team was also tasked by the United Nations to conduct a study on “Climate Change Impacts on Peace and Security in ASEAN: Regional Impact Assessment”. The study was presented at the UN-ASEAN Climate Change Dialogue in November 2023. Prof Caballero-Anthony attended the 2023 Berlin Climate and Security Dialogue.

Food Security

The food security team carried on its cutting-edge research on digitalisation and agriculture. The team led a study on improving the adoption of digitalisation-enabled climate-smart agricultural practices within ASEAN and India and identified potential policies for furthering ASEAN-India collaboration, which was supported by the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit and ASEAN. Mr Jose M.L. Montesclaros, Research Fellow, was invited to speak on the impacts of climate change on food security during events such as the Singapore Climate Impact Science Research Programme Stakeholder Engagement Workshop, a related workshop of the Singapore Cooperation Programme, and the launch of the Food Politics and Society Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)

The HADR Programme actively contributed to scholarly and policy discussions on humanitarian and disaster issues in Asia. Dr Alistair D.B. Cook and Dr Lina Gong co-edited with Prof Ian Holliday, University of Hong Kong, a special issue on humanitarian policy and action in Asia in the *Asian Journal of Public Policy*. Dr Cook was invited to speak at the Mediciens Sans Frontiers International General Assembly 2023. Ms S. Nanthini was accepted to the Disaster Resilience Program of the AIIA Indo-Pacific Cooperation Network and the Pacific Forum’s Young Leaders Program. The programme organised the Humanitarian Futures Forum in November in Singapore, jointly with the Changi RHCC. It continues to serve as the knowledge partner for the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management.

Nuclear Energy

Prof Caballero-Anthony and Mr Julius Trajano presented their new journal article titled “Examining Southeast Asia’s Diplomacy on Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear Security” at the Annual Meeting of the International Nuclear Security Education Network held at the IAEA in July. They co-chaired the Annual Meeting of the CSCAP Nuclear Energy Experts Group in Singapore in August. Mr Trajano

delivered a presentation at the IAEA Conference on Computer Security in the Nuclear World in June. Dr Lina Gong was invited to join the Asia-Pacific Leadership Network for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in August.

Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

The Centre actively engaged in the emerging discussion on WPS, following the release of the WPS Regional Plan of Action (RPA) in Southeast Asia. Dr Tamara Nair was named one of the top 20 Thought Leaders on WPS in the region by UNWomen and was featured at a photo exhibition, during the launch of the WPS RPA in Phnom Penh in December 2022. She was also involved in key meetings on WPS and regional security such as the CSCAP WPS Study Group meeting held in March.

CENTRE FOR MULTILATERALISM STUDIES (CMS)



RSIS-WTO Parliamentary Workshop 2023

The Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS) conducts cutting-edge research, teaching, training, and networking on cooperative multilateralism in the

Asia Pacific region. The Centre aims to contribute to international academic and public discourses on regional architecture and order in the Asia Pacific. It aspires to be an international knowledge hub for multilateral and regional cooperation. CMS' research agenda includes international and global forums as well as expressions of cooperative multilateralism, mainly through its two research strands: economic multilateralism, and diplomatic and security multilateralism.

CMS' research on economic multilateralism concerns issues of international trade, monetary, and financial integration in ASEAN and the wider region; evolving linkages between various Asian sub-regions and with countries outside the region through multilateral trade agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). It also examined developments in the global economic architectures, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Group of Twenty (G20), to ensure complementarity between global and regional initiatives. As major power rivalry intensified, the International Political Economy team examined the implications of the China-US economic rivalry for Southeast Asia. The team also published works focusing on the future of multilateralism in the age of rapid digitalisation and disruption; the role of ASEAN member states in shaping RCEP; narrowing the post-COVID development gap within ASEAN; and India's digital diplomacy strategy during its G20 presidency.

The Centre's research on diplomatic and security multilateralism focuses on inter-governmental mechanisms and Track 2 initiatives in defence diplomacy such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN+3, East Asia Summit (EAS), Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the Shangri-la Dialogue, ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM Plus, and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP). Research outputs included, among others, published works on the evolution of civil-military relations in Asia; perceptions on the UN Security Council reform; ASEAN, Chinese and US legitimisation strategies over the Indo-Pacific security architecture; and the implications of the War in Ukraine for Southeast Asian multilateralism.

CMS organised the 13th annual RSIS-WTO Parliamentary Workshop — the Centre's flagship event — as part of the Temasek Foundation Series on Trade & Negotiations. It marked a return to an in-person workshop since the COVID-19 pandemic entailed the 2021 and 2022 editions being converted into an online format. Running from 15 to 17 May 2023 at the Marriott Tang Plaza Hotel Singapore, parliamentarians from 16 Asia-Pacific economies constructively participated in the 13th Workshop. The discussions shed valuable light on the long-standing issues of international trade and the WTO, and helped the parliamentarians exchange ideas on how to further strengthen and uphold the multilateral rules-based system to better serve their constituents.

CMS organised various workshops, seminars, and roundtables throughout the year, covering topics such as "The Future of Multilateralism" which examined the evolution of economic multilateralism amidst global crises and the surge of protectionism. "Resilience and Change: ASEAN in a Fracturing World" proposed ways for ASEAN to strategically navigate current tensions and uncertainties; "Enacting the Security Community: ASEAN's Never-ending Story" examined the central role of discourse in the making of the ASEAN security community. "Chile-Southeast Asia Relations: Fulfilling Opportunities" explored how Chile, as ASEAN's Development Partner, will further enhance its collaboration with ASEAN; and "Elite Nationalism and Territorial Disputes: Implications for East Asia and Southeast Asia" discussed the link between increased nationalist sentiment within the domestic political environment and intensified territorial disputes with neighbouring countries abroad.

CMS staff's views and opinions were regularly sought out by and appeared in regional and international media outlets such as *Channel News Asia*, *TODAY*, *China Daily*, *Deutsche Welle*, *Associated Press*, and *Channel 8*.

STUDIES IN INTER-RELIGIOUS RELATIONS IN PLURAL SOCIETIES (SRP) PROGRAMME

The Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme has continued to contribute to the evolving discourse and study

of inter-religious relations in plural societies, especially in Singapore. The Programme has done so by developing focused and rigorous research and engagement with its memorandum of understanding (MoU) partners and the wider community.

Capacity-Building for Singapore's Inter-Religious Sector

The SRP Programme is committed to building the capacity of our inter-religious sector through delivering quality education. As such, the Programme has continued to offer seven courses as electives for RSIS' MSc programmes. For AY2022/2023, 95 MSc students were enrolled in these courses, while another 11 audited them through the Community Access Programme (CAP). CAP, the first of its kind in RSIS, has provided a platform for members of our local religious, community and public service organisations to further their expertise in strengthening inter-religious relations and social cohesion.

Knowledge Dissemination Beyond RSIS

Sharing knowledge with the broader community beyond RSIS has remained one of the SRP Programme's core commitments since its inauguration. To achieve this, the Programme has consistently held seminars and symposiums for the public and the wider community. One such example is the Executive Programme (EP). The 8th iteration of EP titled "Religions and Non-Religions: Dynamic and Impacts on Plural Societies" was held on 3 and 4 May 2023. It featured 10 speakers, which included local academics, religious leaders, and humanist representatives. Thirty-eight policymakers, public officers, and community and religious leaders attended the event and actively engaged in discussion.

Beyond that, SRP also held several public seminars and webinars covering wide-ranging themes relevant to inter-religious relations with invited academics and key experts throughout the year:

- Buddhist Nationalisms in Myanmar and Sri Lanka: Rhetoric, Responses, Challenges;
- Soft Power, Islam, and Religiosity: Perspectives from the Middle East;
- Understanding the Globalisation of Hindu Nationalism;

- Soft Power, Islam and Religiosity: Globalisation of Islam in Southeast Asia;
- Artificial Intelligence & the Future of Humanity; and
- Secularism and the Re-Emergence of Hindu Nationalism: Tensions and Challenges.

Research Contributions in the Field of Inter-Religious Relations

Finally, the SRP Programme strives to contribute to the growing body of knowledge in inter-religious relations through extensive and rigorous research. The Programme's peer-reviewed online journal, *Interreligious Relations*, has entered its fifth year of publication. Since its launch in April 2019, 29 articles have been published. With an editorial board comprising 25 international scholars, the journal covers religious diversity, religious contextualisation, religious-secular interactions, religiously motivated violence and peacebuilding, and cognate themes.

Meanwhile, the Programme has also made significant progress in its ongoing projects, some exploring themes such as the interreligious landscape in Singapore, Christian exclusivist ideologies, Hindu nationalism, Buddhist nationalism, and global trends in religion and secularism. As 2023 marks the end of the SRP Programme's three-year research workplan, the Programme will review and conclude the aforementioned projects and develop research projects that will continue its work in the study of inter-religious relations.

6th SRP Distinguished Lecture and Symposium



Dr Mohamed Bin Ali, Senior Fellow with SRP Programme, moderating at the 6th SRP Distinguished Lecture and Symposium

The Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme held its 6th Distinguished Lecture and Symposium on 15 November 2023 at Grand Copthorne Waterfront. Around 200 individuals from the public attended the event. Titled “Religion, Nationalism & Secularism: Intersection, Conflict & Violence”, the symposium featured esteemed speakers Prof Mark Juergensmeyer, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Global Studies and Sociology, University of Santa Barbara; Prof Rajeev Bhargava, Honorary Fellow and Director, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies; Dr Ahmad Suadi, Dean, Islam Nusantara Faculty, Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Indonesia; and Prof Lily Kong, President and Lee Kong Chian Chair Professor of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University. Through their distinguished and keynote lectures, speakers discussed evolving trends surrounding the conflation of religion and nationalism and the challenges such trends pose to secularism and inter-religious relations, with a distinct focus on Asia.

NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES PROGRAMME (NSSP)



Mr Clement Soh (left), President of Apolitical Club Society at SMU, presenting an award to Dr Ong Wei Chong, Head of NSSP, at the Singapore Universities' National Security Forum, 13 July 2023

The National Security Studies Programme (NSSP) was launched in April 2016 with the primary aim of conducting research into key episodes of Singapore's national security history and drawing out contemporary implications for today's audiences. Its research seeks to address a range of national security challenges facing small, globalised, multi-ethnic city-states and generate intellectual capital pertinent to security practitioners. Apart from producing research and teaching the Master's Programmes in

RSIS, NSSP researchers also share their insights with public officers in various seminars or training courses.

In addition to conducting contracted research for national security policymaker and practitioner audiences, NSSP researchers contributed to academic and public discussions on national security issues via outlets such as *The Straits Times*, *TODAY*, *Food for Thought*, *BiblioAsia* and the *RSIS Commentary* series. NSSP faculty and researchers worked with stakeholders on publication projects that presented and discussed critical national security issues in an accessible manner for the general academic and public audiences.

Executive education is a significant aspect of NSSP's work. NSSP researchers are involved in the delivery of the National Security Milestone Programme and National Security Executive Programme for civil service leaders. NSSP researchers also lectured in courses conducted at the Home Team Academy and SAFTI Military Institute.

NSSP is collaborating with the Civil Service College (CSC), Singapore on a series of dialogues that address the fundamentals of Singapore's national security policy for civil service leaders. In addition, NSSP supports the Ministry of Education (MOE), Singapore with workshops and symposiums for secondary school history teachers.

On 16 February 2023, Nexus-MINDEF, the Swedish Defence University (SEDU) and NSSP held a Total Defence webinar. Dr Annika Brändström, Deputy National Security Adviser from the Swedish Government Offices, delivered the opening address and Deputy Secretary (Policy) Brigadier-General Kelvin Fan delivered the closing remarks.

On 13 July 2023, NSSP organised the inaugural “Singapore Universities' National Security Forum” (SUNS) in conjunction with Nexus-MINDEF. SUNS enabled students from public-funded universities to engage with political office holders, policymakers and academics on preparedness for crisis and disruption. Senior Minister of State for Defence, Mr Heng Chee How delivered the opening address for the forum.

In addition to symposiums, dialogues and forums in Singapore, NSSP researchers have participated in roundtables and expert panels, and engaged with international think tanks such as SEDU, the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) and SIPRI.

NSSP's stakeholder partners include MINDEF, MOE, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore Food Agency and CSC. NSSP continues to produce policy-oriented research for the local practitioner community, and the general academic and public audiences.

FUTURE ISSUES AND TECHNOLOGY (FIT)

The Future Issues and Technology (FIT) research cluster supports the development of RSIS' research agenda on issues where science and technology intersect with national security. In the past year, FIT investigated critical emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), space, quantum,

geopolitics and the semiconductor industry, and smart cities. Publications by FIT on AI use (TODAY's op-ed on “the good, bad and unknowns of letting Singapore's civil servants use ChatGPT”) and AI governance (commentaries deriving lessons from nuclear regulation, and suggesting a role for ASEAN) were released, while webinars on cislunar exploration, space sustainability, and space security were conducted. In September 2023, FIT published the first issue of its bulletin, *Science, Technology and Security*, on artificial intelligence from three perspectives: public policy, regulation, and ethics and philosophy. The cluster also analyses the impact of policy and technology developments and is working on co-publishing a multi-stage policy report. FIT works collaboratively with various programmes and stakeholders to explore and incubate topics that could become new research areas, and builds up RSIS' networks with science and technology experts and researchers working on ideas yet to enter the mainstream.

NTU SSHR2025

The Social Science and Humanities Research 2025 (SSHR2025) Strategic Plan harnesses the diversity of academia in NTU to position the university at the forefront of research in the fields of arts, social sciences, humanities, education, and business. A Working Group of faculty members from RSIS, with the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CoHASS), Nanyang Business School (NBS), and National Institute of Education (NIE), are working on six non-STEM interdisciplinary clusters: (i) Sustainability and Resilience; (ii) Culture and Creativity; (iii) Education and Transformation; (iv) Leadership and Disruptive Innovation; (v) Human Behaviour and Technology; and (vi) Language and Heritage.

Prof Ang Cheng Guan, Associate Dean of RSIS, is a member of Cluster 3 (Education and Transformation), while Assoc Prof Li Mingjiang is involved in Cluster 4 (Leadership and Disruptive Innovation). Assoc Prof Bhubhindar Singh, Associate Dean (Academic Affairs), leads the cluster on Sustainability and Resilience.

The Dean's Office works with the other Schools to encourage and coordinate research collaboration between RSIS and other NTU researchers in five inter-related domains: (i) Secure Society; (ii) Healthy Communities; (iii) Sustainable Environment; (iv) Sustainable Industry; and (v) Civil Society.

Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony is also a member of the Sustainability and Resilience cluster. She and the NTS Centre, of which she heads, received a SSHR2025 Seed Grant and will work on “The Future of Planetary Health: Lessons from a Global Pandemic”. This research project investigates how a planetary health approach can be applied to mitigate Anthropocene risks and build resilience for a more sustainable and prosperous world.

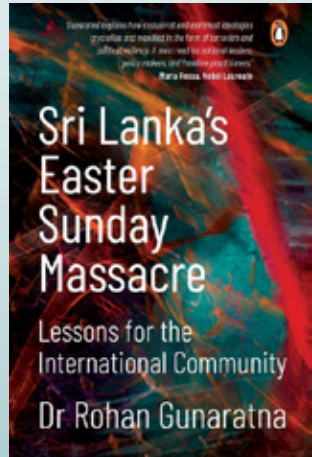
Books by RSIS Staff



Confident Identities, Connected Communities: Building Cohesion through Shared Experiences
Chan-Hoong Leong, Clarence Lim, and Helena Yixin Huang (Eds.)
World Scientific
ISBN: 9789811285370



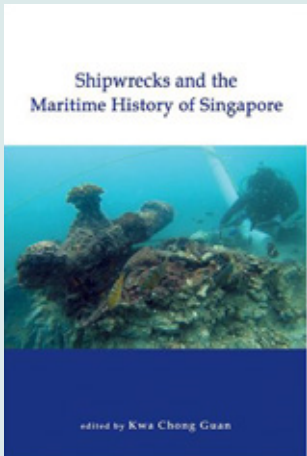
Towards Open and Inclusive Regionalism
Sarah Teo, Rocky Intan, and Joel Ng
Centre for Strategic and International Studies
ISBN: 9789791295468



Sri Lanka's Easter Sunday Massacre: Lessons for the International Community
Rohan Gunaratna
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ISBN: 9789814954631



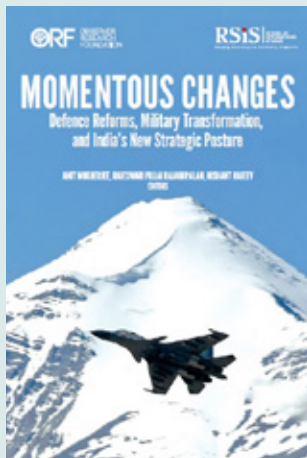
Human Security and Empowerment in Asia: Beyond the Pandemic
Mely Caballero-Anthony, Yoichi Mine and Sachiko Ishikawa (Eds.)
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ISBN: 9781032554426



Shipwrecks and the Maritime History of Singapore
Kwa Chong Guan (Ed.)
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ISBN: 9789815104271



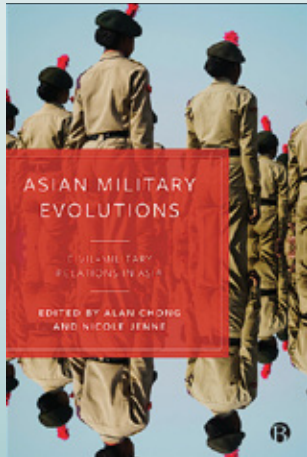
Singapore's Grand Strategy
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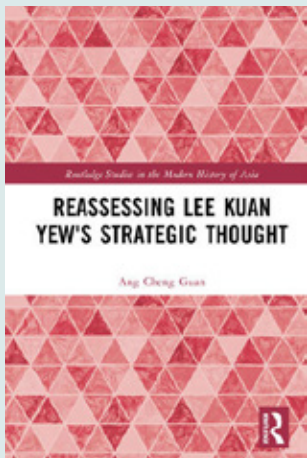
Momentous Changes: Defence Reforms, Military Transformation, and India's New Strategic Posture
Anit Mukherjee, Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan and Nishant Rajeev (Eds.)
Observer Research Foundation
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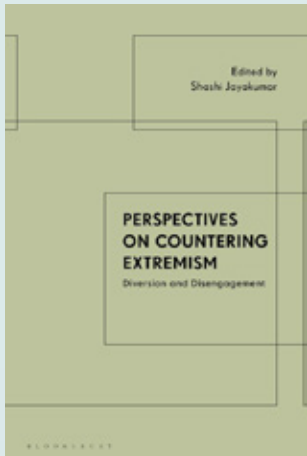
The AI Wave in Defence Innovation: Assessing Military Artificial Intelligence Strategies, Capabilities, and Trajectories
Michael Raska and Richard A. Bitzinger (Eds.)
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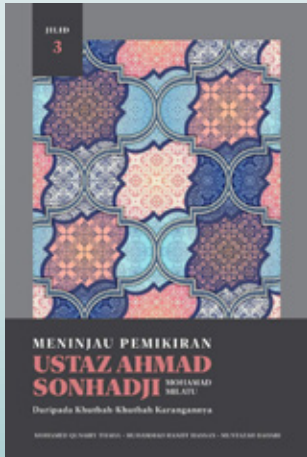
Asian Military Evolutions: Civil-Military Relations in Asia
Alan Chong and Nicole Jenne (Eds.)
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ISBN: 9781529229325



Reassessing Lee Kuan Yew's Strategic Thought
Ang Cheng Guan
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ISBN: 9781032403526

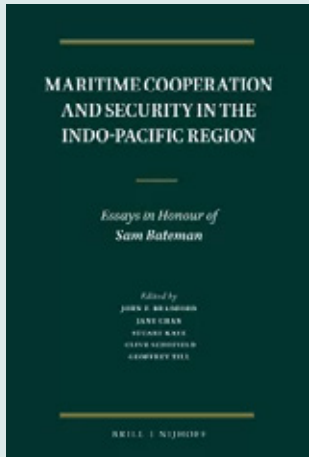


Perspectives on Countering Extremism: Diversion and Disengagement
Shashi Jayakumar (Ed.)
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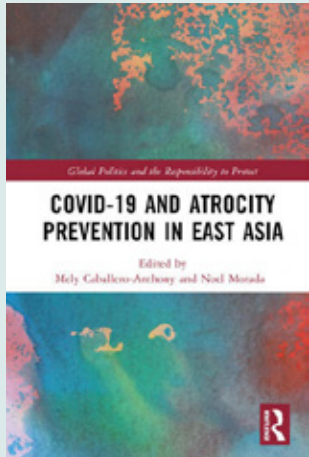
Meninjau Pemikiran Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji Dari Khutbah-khutbah Karangannya (A Look Into Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji's Ideas From Collections of His Sermon)
Muhammad Haniff Hassan, Mohamed Qusairy Thaha and Mustazah Bahari (Eds.)
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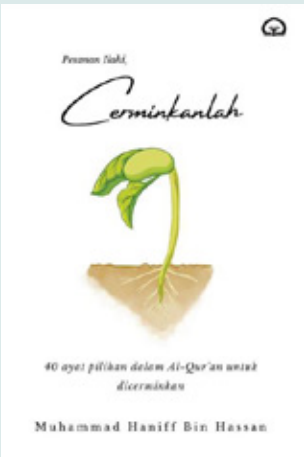
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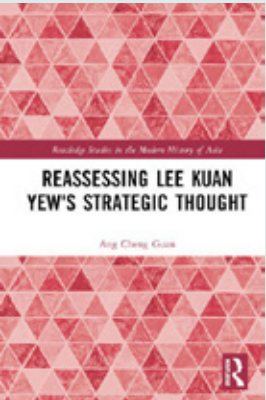
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Mr Lawrence Anderson, Senior Fellow of RSIS, speaking at his book launch for “Beyond the Handshake: Singapore’s Foreign Service”, 29 March 2023

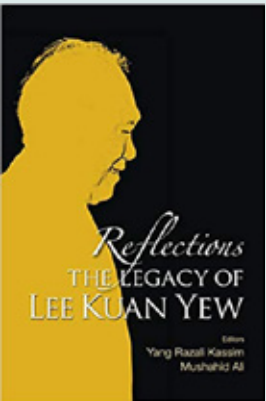
16 September 2023 marked the 100th birth anniversary of Singapore’s founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew. Mr Lee’s vision, far-sightedness and perseverance transformed Singapore from Third World to First.

Below are some of the book titles on Mr Lee Kuan Yew that RSIS scholars have published over the years.



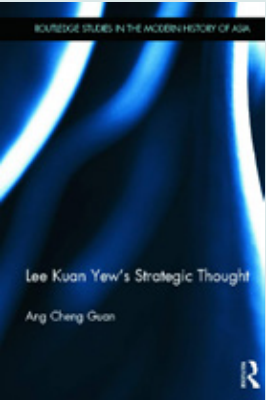
Reassessing Lee Kuan Yew's Strategic Thought

Ang Cheng Guan
Routledge
Published: 2023



Reflections: The Legacy of Lee Kuan Yew

Yang Razali Kassim and Mushahid Ali (Eds.)
World Scientific
Published: 2016



Lee Kuan Yew's Strategic Thought

Ang Cheng Guan
Routledge
Published: 2013

“Given his pre-eminent role in influencing and determining the course of Singapore’s foreign policies from the 1950s to the present, the prisms through which Mr Lee understood the world form an important part of the story of Singapore’s international relations over time.”

ANG CHENG GUAN
in “Reassessing Lee Kuan Yew’s Strategic Thought”

“Mr Lee commanded the respect and recognition of the people of Singapore as the founding father of the nation who had guided and sustained the tiny island state to greatness as among the richest countries in the world, one that had transformed its status from Third World to First within a span of a generation.”

MUSHAHID ALI
in “Reflections: The Legacy of Lee Kuan Yew”

Selected Essays by RSIS Researchers

1 The Outlook for Multilateralism

By Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit

Multilateralism today is being seriously challenged by three structural changes in the international system. Amid an environment that is less than conducive to multilateral cooperation, the UN Summit for the Future (SOTF) will be convened next year to advance global governance. With active participation from small and middle powers, the summit and the Pact for the Future that it plans to establish can help prepare the multilateral system for tackling future challenges and weathering future crises.

2 Emerging Technologies and National Security

By Benjamin Ang and Karryl Sagun Trajano

Emerging technologies bring not just novel societal benefits, but also unprecedented risks. A balance between embracing the future potential of technology and preparing for the challenges it poses to society, while avoiding the extremes of technological utopianism, technological dystopianism, technological determinism or even technolibertarianism is necessary. The profusion of various emerging technologies poses challenges to governments and think tanks in assessing opportunities and threats and determining policy imperatives, a challenge that the newly formed Future Issues and Technology (FIT) cluster at RSIS has boldly taken on.

3 The Challenges of Non-Alignment: Managing Risks in Malaysia's Policy towards China and the United States

By David Han

Malaysia's management of key challenges in its relations with China and the United States may be understood through the lens of its non-aligned policy. To prevent emerging risks from materialising into actual threats that could undermine the country's non-aligned policy, Malaysia has had to exercise caution through restraint in cooperating with both powers.

The Outlook for Multilateralism



**KAEWKAMOL
PITAKDUMRONGKIT**
Senior Fellow
and Head of CMS

SYNOPSIS

Multilateralism today is being seriously challenged by three structural changes in the international system. Amid an environment that is less than conducive to multilateral cooperation, the UN Summit for the Future (SOTF) will be convened next year to advance global governance. With active participation from small and middle powers, the summit and the Pact for the Future that it plans to establish can help prepare the multilateral system for tackling future challenges and weathering future crises.

COMMENTARY

Different people have different views regarding the outlook for multilateralism. To some, multilateralism is simply not functioning. Those who hold this view cite as evidence the rise of protectionism during the COVID-19 pandemic and the global community's inability to prevent Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Others contend, however, that multilateralism is advancing but in a new way, compared with the past.

To better gauge the outlook for multilateralism, one should take into account three major structural factors. The first one is the power distribution between states. Previously, it was the United Nations and Western institutions, namely, the Bretton Woods system, that largely shaped the post-World War II order. Today, power is more diffuse, and great power rivalries, namely the US-China competition, can hinder the development of global governance. China's Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS), which offers clearing services for cross-border renminbi transactions, has partly cushioned Russia from the impact of the Western sanctions imposed following its invasion of Ukraine. Alternatives to the West-centric governance architectures are also gaining traction. The recent expansion of the Group of

20¹ and the BRICS bloc² demonstrates the Global South's growing significance in multilateral collaboration. Emerging markets such as Brazil, China and India have been emboldened into calling for greater representation and voice in international organisations.

The second factor is the power distribution between states and markets. The dynamic differs greatly from the past. Rapid digitalisation and technological advancements not only cause economic disruption but also raise the question of who governs the global system. Take cyberspace as an example. While technologies allow businesses not only to operate beyond borders but in some cases to wield global influence, governments' jurisdictions end at their state borders. Thus, there is a pressing need for multilateralism to address governance gaps. Given the swift pace at which new technologies (e.g., generative artificial intelligence) evolve, governments are grappling with the problem of regulating them for societal benefit. Most governments are playing catch-up as technology advances. Various standards and regulations are being introduced by different countries. These diverse approaches cause disagreement over how to foster multilateral governance and consequently complicate the process of achieving rule harmonisation.

Finally, the future of multilateralism is being shaped by the changing relationship between the economy and security. Unlike the post-Cold War period, which was fuelled by the free-market principles of the Washington Consensus, today, the growing nexus between the economy and security is affecting state policymaking. Geopolitics prevails over market efficiency. Interdependence is viewed more through the geopolitical lens – it is seen as breeding vulnerabilities and having the potential to be weaponised. Unsurprisingly, concepts such as reshoring, near-shoring and “friend-shoring” are not only altering individual countries' policies but also the ways in which they engage other countries.

Against the above backdrop, for small states like Singapore, concerns over the future of multilateralism

loom large. For one thing, contestation between major powers can result in system governance fragmentation. As a result, small and medium powers are eventually forced to choose sides against their will. Also, disagreements over norms and rules to regulate markets and technologies can exacerbate system fragmentation, reducing the opportunities for these nations to prosper and achieve their interests.

But one should not lose hope in this environment that is less than conducive to fostering multilateral cooperation. A silver lining does exist. The United Nations will host a two-day “Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow” (SOTF) in September 2024.³ This meeting will convene UN member states, the various UN entities, academic institutions, civil society players, non-government organisations and youth delegates to jointly cultivate a new global consensus to address the issues of the future. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres regards this effort as a “once-in-a-generation opportunity to reinvigorate global action, recommit to fundamental principles, and further develop the frameworks of multilateralism so they are fit for the future.”⁴ One of the gathering's deliverables will be the “Pact for the Future”. The document will comprise five chapters: (1) sustainable development and financing for development; (2) international peace and security; (3) science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation; (4) youth and future generations; and (5) transforming global governance.⁵ It will also contain actionable policy measures. The pact is expected to be endorsed by all UN members at the summit. A “Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations” will be annexed to the text.

Accomplishing multilateral governance can be a daunting task, but it is not impossible. History teaches us that it is within the stakeholders' reach. The UN's World Summit in September 2005 is a case in point.⁶ This meeting witnessed activism by UN member states to bolster concrete global cooperation. For example, the leaders attending the summit pledged to provide US\$50 billion annually by 2010 to fight poverty and marshal additional resources to tackle

development and debt sustainability problems in order to realise the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) first outlined in the Millennium Summit of 2000. The World Summit adopted the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle to safeguard populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Moreover, the meeting agreed to create the UN Peacebuilding Commission and UN Human Rights Council as well as to establish a worldwide early warning system for natural hazards.

Preparations for the 2024 SOTF are forging ahead. Contributions from non-major powers are laudable. The UN General Assembly in June 2019 adopted Resolution 73/299, co-facilitated by Singapore and Iceland. This document determined that the theme of the 75th UN Anniversary gathering in September 2020 would be “The Future We Want, the United Nations We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism”, which defined all UN activities and meetings for that year.⁷ Sweden and Qatar co-chaired the negotiations on the Declaration on the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, which was endorsed at the commemorative conference. The document identified 12 commitments to multilateralism, such as leaving no one behind, protecting the planet, promoting peace, upholding international law,

enhancing digital cooperation and upgrading the United Nations.⁸

After intense negotiations, the UN General Assembly on 1 September 2023 endorsed the scope of the SOTF and agreed on the elements that will appear in the Pact for the Future. Two annexes to this document will be co-facilitated by small states — the Global Digital Compact will be co-facilitated by Rwanda and Sweden⁹ and the Declaration on Future Generations by Jamaica and the Netherlands.¹⁰

Active participation from non-major powers is imperative to keep up this positive momentum and effectively steer the SOTF and the Pact for the Future towards managing the global commons. These nations must realise that they have agency to shape the international rules-based order. For one thing, they can play a role in preventing great power contestation from hampering the development of multilateral governance. They can help convince different parties to prioritise the pursuit of shared goals. In addition, they can proactively offer new ways to interpret global norms, decide on global standards and set global rules governing different issue areas. Their roles can be crucial in preparing the multilateral system for tackling future challenges and weathering future crises.

¹ Chido Munyati, “The African Union Has Been Made a Permanent Member of the G20 — What Does It Mean for the Continent?” *World Economic Forum*, 14 September 2023, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/09/african-union-g20-world-leaders/>.

² Carien du Plessis, Anait Miridzhanian, and Bhargav Acharya, “BRICS Welcomes New Members in Push to Reshuffle World Order”, *Reuters*, 25 August 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/world/brics-poised-invite-new-members-join-bloc-sources-2023-08-24/>.

³ United Nations, “The Summit of the Future in 2024”, <https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/summit-of-the-future>.

⁴ International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), “‘Twin Summits’ to Pave Way for Sustainable, Equitable, Inclusive Future”, 10 August 2022, <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/twin-summits-to-pave-way-for-sustainable-equitable-inclusive-future/>.

⁵ IISD, “UNGA Decides on Elements for ‘A Pact for the Future’”, 6 September 2023, <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/twin-summits-to-pave-way-for-sustainable-equitable-inclusive-future/>.

⁶ United Nations, “World Summit, 14–16 September 2005, New York”, <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/newyork2005>.

⁷ UN General Assembly, Resolution 73/299 — Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, Adopted at the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly, 18 June 2019.

⁸ UN General Assembly, Resolution 75/1 — Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, Adopted at the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly, 21 September 2020.

⁹ President of the UN General Assembly, Letter to all permanent representatives and permanent observers of the United Nations, 27 October 2022, <https://www.un.org/pgal77/wp-content/uploads/sites/105/2022/10/Letter-from-the-PGA-OCA-Global-Digital-Compact-Co-facs.pdf>.

¹⁰ President of the UN General Assembly, Letter to all permanent representatives and permanent observers of the United Nations, 7 March 2023, <https://www.un.org/pgal77/wp-content/uploads/sites/105/2023/03/PGA-Letter-of-Appointment-Jamaica.pdf>.

Emerging Technologies and National Security



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**KARRYL
SAGUN TRAJANO**
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SYNOPSIS

Emerging technologies bring not just novel societal benefits, but also unprecedented risks. A balance between embracing the future potential of technology and preparing for the challenges it poses to society, while avoiding the extremes of technological utopianism, technological dystopianism, technological determinism or even technolibertarianism is necessary. The profusion of various emerging technologies poses challenges to governments and think tanks in assessing opportunities and threats and determining policy imperatives, a challenge that the newly formed Future Issues and Technology (FIT) cluster at RSIS has boldly taken on.

ESSAY

The evolution of technology — from the invention of gunpowder and the use of electronic communications for espionage to the cyber and digital advances of today — has often had a profound impact on national security through the centuries. Emerging technologies like robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), biotechnology and nanotechnology, self-driving cars, neuro-technological brain enhancements and genetic editing¹ can bring huge benefits in development, but, on the other hand, can also create unprecedented risks or accelerate existing threats.

These technologies are emerging and diffusing at an unprecedented rate, partly because of the ease of distributing new digital capabilities to the public. For example, ChatGPT, a generative AI application that can turn users' prompts into huge amounts of text, is estimated to have reached 100 million active users monthly just two months after it was launched.² Singapore has recently announced that it is looking to increase cooperation with its allies, including the United States and Southeast Asian countries, and the Pacific Island states in areas such as AI, biotech, space and carbon energy.³

THE ROLE OF POLICY THINK TANKS IN STUDYING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The profusion of new technologies creates a huge challenge for governments, and for the think tanks

that provide them with policy ideas and intellectual capital, to quickly assess those technologies, their opportunities and risks, and the policy imperatives that arise. A few think tanks have emerged in Singapore to meet the challenge: The NUS Faculty of Law's Centre for Technology, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and the Law (TRAIL), the Academy of Engineering Singapore (SAEng), and the private sector Tech for Good Institute. For its part, the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, with a strong track record in studying defence and national security issues (both traditional and non-traditional), multilateralism and regional economic integration, among others, formed the Future Issues and Technology (FIT) cluster to study emerging cross-cutting issues and technological developments that have strategic impact and potentially disruptive national and international security implications.

National security think tanks in the United States, United Kingdom and Europe have been hiring dedicated science and technology researchers to study the regulation and governance of technology and even the appropriate tax regime for technology research and development.⁴ This pool of expertise is smaller in Southeast Asia, and often happily insulated from the national security and other implications of such technologies, given the narrow technical agendas of their respective organisations. One solution for Singapore-based teams like FIT has been to collaborate on projects, workshops and co-publication with a network of trusted science and technology experts from government, academia, civil society and tech companies, not only from Singapore but from around the world.

In the course of our work, we have found that private sector organisations, especially Big Tech companies like Amazon, Meta, Google, Zoom and Twitter, are very ready to fund science and technology policy research undertaken by think tanks, whether their own or external bodies.⁵ The support of such think tanks is welcome; we are not questioning their transparency with regard to their funding sources or the objectivity of their research. However, governments that already see the value of funding science and technology research should also consider supporting policy research in these fields to explore policy ideas that meet their needs.

For our part, as researchers in the field of science and technology policy, we need to ask the right questions.⁶ We cannot be swept up by "hype cycles" of technology development or blindly follow assumptions made popular in technology circles (e.g., technological utopianism, technological dystopianism, technological determinism, technolibertarianism). While we will not be able to master the myriad of innovations blooming every second, we must critically assess the inputs from science and technology experts, analyse them on the basis of our policy expertise, and create meaningful ideas or ask salient questions.

GEOPOLITICS AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

For example, geopolitical conflicts and great power contestation have had a huge impact on the availability of emerging technologies in smaller states in Southeast Asia, like Singapore. AI models, and the underlying semiconductor chips that enable them, could be tied up by export restrictions. The United States continues to seek to restrict Chinese companies' access to American AI chips, even through third countries.⁷ The big data sets that AI is trained on, and the resultant AI models, could be subject to regulation in the leading economies, with knock-on effects in Southeast Asia.

Southeast Asian countries that are exploring the benefits of space technologies could leverage great power competition by cooperating with powerful space neighbours like China, India and Japan to obtain support for their own space programmes.⁸ Such moves could raise security issues such as safe conduct of activities and strategic rivalry in lunar exploration,⁹ sustainability risks like congestion in the earth's orbit owing to the growing number of space objects and the resulting problem of space debris,¹⁰ and even the dangers of an arms race in space involving anti-satellite weapons.¹¹

Geopolitics will also have an impact on the development of quantum technologies, not only because of the strategic and economic advantages that high-speed quantum computing can bring, but also because of the new security risks they entail owing to their ability to break many encryption algorithms that we rely on today to secure our financial, military, commercial and personal data.

Singapore has started to support network operators in deploying “quantum-safe networks” whose security will not be breakable by quantum computers.¹²

Beyond geopolitics and trade in such technologies, the use of AI raises issues even domestically, such as lack of transparency and ethical dilemmas in decision-making, bias and discrimination, concentration of power in corporations or wealthy states, overdependence on the technology, and misinformation and manipulation through AI-generated content.¹³

CONCLUSION

Although we have flagged national security issues arising from emerging technologies, we also acknowledge the huge benefits that they can bring to humanity. AI could help humankind solve complex problems like diseases and climate change. The power of quantum computing could be harnessed to boost the search for solutions to complex problems. Space research could bring scientific breakthroughs or untapped mineral resources.

Research into emerging technologies should then avoid the extremes of technological utopianism (where technology guarantees a utopian society) and technological dystopianism (where it destroys humanity), technological determinism (where technology shapes society without the agency of society) or even technolibertarianism (where technology is used in the name of freedom to minimise regulation, restrictions and cost).¹⁴ Instead, we should strike a balance between embracing the future potential of technology and preparing for the challenges it poses to society.

As the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs has suggested, countries need to make informed decisions and build capacity to fully benefit from various technologies while mitigating the risks arising from misuse or abuse.¹⁵ Research organisations can support these goals by engaging actively with the public and private sectors and academia in a multi-stakeholder search for solutions.

The Challenges of Non-Alignment: Managing Risks in Malaysia’s Policy towards China and the United States



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Research Fellow of
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SYNOPSIS

Malaysia’s management of key challenges in its relations with China and the United States may be understood through the lens of its non-aligned policy. To prevent emerging risks from materialising into actual threats that could undermine the country’s non-aligned policy, Malaysia has had to exercise caution through restraint in cooperating with both powers.

COMMENTARY

Malaysia’s approach to relations with China and the United States has been characterised as non-alignment, emphasising positive and equal relations with all powers. A factor that has allowed Malaysia to pursue non-alignment towards China and the United States consistently is the exercise of caution through restraint to counteract risks in relations with both powers.

Risk, which is the likelihood of a negative outcome that might occur in the future, is pervasive in international relations. To prevent risks from turning into actual threats states would require caution that is marked by restraint in foreign policy conduct so as to avoid missteps that could have serious repercussions.

Malaysia is no exception. Malaysia has had to be guarded against the risks of over-dependence on China economically. Likewise, it has had to ensure that its strong security relationship with the United States is not perceived as reflective of a pro-US stance, not least due to the risks of a negative backlash from China and erosion of its political legitimacy domestically.

GUARDING AGAINST RISKS OF OVER-DEPENDENCE ON CHINA

Malaysia’s close economic relations with China, which began in the late 1980s under the first Mahathir Mohamad premiership and continued during the Abdullah Badawi administration, had

¹ See UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Sustainable Development), “Work Stream 10: Analytical Work on Emerging Technologies and the SDGs”, n.d., <https://sdgs.un.org/tfmi/interagency-task-team/workstream10>; and World Economic Forum, “The Fourth Industrial Revolution by Klaus Schwab”, n.d., <https://www.weforum.org/pages/the-fourth-industrial-revolution-by-klaus-schwab>.

² Krystal Hu, “ChatGPT Sets Record for Fastest Growing User Base – Analyst Note”, Reuters, 2 February 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/technology/chatgpt-sets-record-fastest-growing-user-base-analyst-note-2023-02-01/>.

³ Prime Minister’s Office, Singapore, “DPM Lawrence Wong’s Dialogue at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)”, 13 October 2023, <https://www.pmo.gov.sg/Newsroom/DPM-Lawrence-Wongs-Dialogue-at-the-Center-for-Strategic-and-International-Studies>.

⁴ Annabelle Dickson, “Britain’s Think Tanks Are Getting into Tech”, Politico, 12 March 2023, <https://www.politico.eu/article/uk-technology-policy-think-tank-innovation-artificial-intelligence-tony-blair-institute-global-changel>.

⁵ Dickson, “Britain’s Think Tanks”.

⁶ Vincent J. Carchidi, “Are Think Tanks Ready for the Age of AI”, The National Interest, 1 September 2022, <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/techland-when-great-power-competition-meets-digital-world/are-think-tanks-ready-age-ai-204565>.

⁷ Alexandra Alper and Karen Freifeld, “Biden Eyes Adding AI Chip Curbs to Chinese Companies Abroad”, Reuters, 13 October 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/technology/biden-eyes-adding-ai-chip-curbs-chinese-companies-abroad-2023-10-13/>.

⁸ Quentin Verspieren, “ASEAN Space Programmes: Navigating Regional Rivalries”, RSIS Commentary 8, 18 January 2023, <https://www.rsis.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/CO23008.pdf>.

⁹ <https://www.rsis.edu.sg/event/opportunities-and-challenges-in-cislunar-space-and-the-moon/>.

¹⁰ <https://www.rsis.edu.sg/event/rsis-webinar-on-ensuring-safe-and-sustainable-access-to-space-managing-an-increasingly-congested-orbital-environment/>.

¹¹ https://www.rsis.edu.sg/event/whither-space-security-reducing-space-threats-and-preventing-an-arms-race-in-outer-space/?doing_wp_cron=1698207650.0647919178009033203125.

¹² Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), Singapore, “Singapore Launches Southeast Asia’s First Quantum-Safe Network Infrastructure To Help Businesses Tap on Quantum-Safe Technologies”, 6 June 2023, <https://www.imda.gov.sg/resources/press-releases-factsheets-and-speeches/press-releases/2023/sg-launches-southeast-asias-first-quantum-safe-network-infrastructure>.

¹³ Bernard Marr, “The 15 Biggest Risks of Artificial Intelligence”, Forbes, 2 June 2023, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2023/06/02/the-15-biggest-risks-of-artificial-intelligence/?sh=5f4e09662706>.

¹⁴ Yu-Xiao Dai and Su-Tong Hao, “Transcending the Opposition between Techno-Utopianism and Techno-Dystopianism”, Science Direct 53 (2018), pp. 9–13, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techsoc.2017.11.001>.

¹⁵ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, “Work Stream 10”.

led to a significant increase in business, trade and investments between the two countries in the decades following the end of the Cold War. This has played a substantial role in driving Malaysia's economic growth.

However, Malaysia has been largely cautious about potential over-dependence on China, as this would be incongruent with Malaysia's non-aligned policy. Consequently, Malaysia has also been cultivating diverse economic partnerships, notably with powers such as the United States and Japan.

This sense of caution appeared to have diminished in the Najib Razak administration's ardent and unrestrained embrace of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Najib's embrace of the BRI courted controversy in the form of incurring excessive Chinese loans for BRI mega projects and corruption scandals, for instance. Critics raised concerns about the risk of over-dependence on China that could allow the latter to exert undue influence over Malaysia economically and politically.

In response to this risk, the Pakatan Harapan (PH) government that took power subsequently temporarily suspended the BRI mega projects as it renegotiated with China to address the financial problems that the projects were mired in during the Najib premiership.

Yet, the PH government showed restraint by not withdrawing Malaysia from the BRI completely so as to mitigate the risk of a backlash from China, such as hefty financial penalties and damage to Malaysia's close economic ties with the country. Not surprisingly, the PH government remained supportive of the BRI.

This risk-averse posture of continuing close economic relations with China has been upheld by the governments that took power after the fall of the PH in 2020. Even as the Muhyiddin Yassin and Ismail Yaakob administrations affirmed Malaysia's close economic ties with China, including

participation in the BRI, these governments sought to diversify the scope of economic cooperation with China beyond an excessive focus on infrastructural developments. The current Anwar administration has done likewise.

WARINESS AGAINST A PRO-US STANCE

Malaysia's caution against risks in its economic relations with China has been mirrored in security ties with the United States. Malaysia's long-standing security relationship with the United States, which began in the 1980s, has played a significant role in the development of the Malaysian Armed Forces, such as in the procurement of weapon systems, training and exercises.

Both countries have substantial cooperation in dealing with security challenges such as terrorism and maritime threats. Moreover, Malaysia values the importance of continued US military presence in Southeast Asia in maintaining regional security.

However, owing to its non-aligned policy, Malaysia has avoided strong security alignment with the United States as it runs the risk of a negative backlash from China, including a conflict that could damage bilateral relations.

Thus, while the United States, beginning with the Obama administration, has been heightening its naval presence in the Asia-Pacific region to counteract China's maritime assertiveness, Malaysia has avoided overt reliance on this heightened US military activity to openly confront China in the South China Sea disputes. Instead, Malaysia has preferred firm yet non-confrontational diplomacy, both bilaterally and multilaterally through ASEAN platforms, to manage maritime disputes with China.

Furthermore, the Malaysian government has had to avoid being perceived as pro-US domestically to guard against the risk of erosion in regime legitimacy among its Malay-Muslim constituents.

Thus, although the first Mahathir administration and the Abdullah administration sought to strengthen cooperation with the United States to combat terrorism and extremism in the wake of 9/11, both administrations remained critical of the US attacks on Afghanistan and Iraq and other indiscriminate aspects of the US-led global war on terror.

Even as bilateral relations witnessed a significant upswing during Najib's tenure, Najib had to distance himself from and criticise Trump's Middle East policies, such as the relocation of the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. At the same time, Najib felt compelled to resort to religious rhetoric to stem further erosion of his already seriously weakened political legitimacy.

As political legitimacy is necessary for regime survival, and among the majority Malays in particular, the risk of diminished regime legitimacy will remain a factor that undergirds Malaysia's wariness of being perceived as pro-US in the context of the Palestinian issue and Muslim affairs.

CONCLUSION

Malaysia's efforts to continue building cooperative relations with China and the United States through the posture of non-alignment will require not only consistency but also caution through restraint to mitigate risks in its policy towards both powers. As such, while Malaysia still considers maintaining strong economic ties with China a key priority, the potential dangers of economic over-dependence cannot be underestimated. Malaysia will also continue to uphold security relations with the United States, given Malaysia's defence needs, but not at the expense of risking relations with China and regime legitimacy.

As risks may evolve alongside unexpected challenges in the future, Malaysia would have to adapt its non-aligned policy while effectively preventing risks from becoming real threats that undermine positive relations with China and the United States.

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Milestones

1998

IDSS launched its first academic programme, the Master of Science in Strategic Studies, with ten students

2002

IDSS launched its second master's programme, the Master of Science in International Relations

2003/2004

IDSS welcomed its first doctoral student

2004

IDSS launched the Master of Science in International Political Economy

2008

RSIS launched the Master of Science in Asian Studies

2010

RSIS introduced the two-year NTU-Warwick Double Master's Programme



Prof Mely Caballero-Anthony
Professor of International Relations,
Associate Dean (International Engagement),
President's Chair in International Relations and
Security Studies, and Head of NTS Centre

Prof Ang Cheng Guan
Professor of the International
History of Southeast Asia
and Associate Dean of RSIS

Prof Kumar Ramakrishna
Professor of National Security Studies,
Provost's Chair in National Security Studies,
Dean of RSIS, and Research Adviser to ICPVTR

Assoc Prof Bhuhindar Singh
Associate Dean (Academic Affairs)
and Head of Graduate Studies

Graduate Education

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MSC) PROGRAMMES

For the new academic year (AY), RSIS MSc programmes continued to attract a cosmopolitan student body with a wide range of educational, professional, and cultural backgrounds. Close to 200 students from 25 countries enrolled in RSIS MSc programmes in AY2023/2024. Nineteen students received scholarships and study awards, including three RSIS Scholarships, four Lee Foundation Scholarships, and eighteen Student Research Assistantships.

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

RSIS' PhD programme has a diverse and cosmopolitan student body comprising 28 doctoral candidates, including four new PhD students who joined in August 2023. The students are of nine different nationalities hailing from countries across Asia and North America. Some of these students are integrated into both RSIS institutional and individual faculty research programmes which enrich learning experiences whilst supporting a broad-based collegial research effort.

CONVOCATION

The RSIS class of 2023 comprising 164 master's students (including four NTU-Warwick Double Master's students) graduated on 21 July 2023 during a convocation ceremony at the Nanyang Auditorium on campus as well as at the RSIS Alumni Dinner that same evening.

Amb Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS and Prof Kumar Ramakrishna, Dean of RSIS, congratulated the graduates. In their respective messages to the students, the two encouraged them to remain resilient and remain connected with the RSIS family.

Asst Prof Benjamin Ho presented the academic award winners for AY2022/2023 during the convocation ceremony. They included four master's students who



RSIS convocation, 21 July 2023

distinguished themselves through their outstanding academic achievements. The list of winners is on page 60.

Mr Eddie Lim, President of the RSIS Alumni Association, welcomed the graduates to the RSIS Alumni Association and shared the social platforms they could join to be part of the growing RSIS alumni family.



RSIS graduating class of 2023 at the NTU convocation ceremony, 21 July 2023



RSIS Alumni Dinner, 21 July 2023

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

RSIS continued to strengthen its outreach initiatives for quality enrolments and engagement with its growing alumni network. These included information-sharing sessions, Masterclasses on key international affairs topics to showcase RSIS teaching, as well as participation in leading postgraduate education fairs in Singapore and overseas. GPO leveraged various online platforms to engage prospective students and will continue to strengthen its outreach by engaging relevant organisations on the value of RSIS' professional graduate education. 2023 has also brought back more immersive in-person recruitment events, allowing prospective students to meet our admission team and find out more about our programmes at the NTU Graduate Roadshow in Jakarta or the Singapore Postgraduate Fair 2023. The RSIS alumni network also bears testimony to the value of the MSc Programmes, adding to a growing community steeped in knowledge of international relations and strategic geopolitical issues.



Assoc Prof Li Mingjiang
Deputy Head of
Graduate Studies
Coordinator of PhD Programme



Asst Prof Lee Jonghyuk
Coordinator of MSc
(Asian Studies) Programme



Asst Prof Stefanie Kam
Deputy Coordinator of MSc
(Asian Studies) Programme



Asst Prof Su-Hyun Lee
Coordinator of MSc
(International Political
Economy) Programme



Asst Prof Gong Xue
Deputy Coordinator of
MSc (International Political
Economy) Programme



Asst Prof Evan Resnick
Coordinator of MSc
(International Relations)
Programme



Asst Prof Sarah Teo
Deputy Coordinator of MSc
(International Relations)
Programme



Dr Bernard Loo
Coordinator of MSc
(Strategic Studies) Programme



Dr Ong Wei Chong
Deputy Coordinator of MSc
(Strategic Studies) Programme



Ms Geanina Bujoreanu
Senior Manager,
Graduate Programme Office

GOLD MEDALS, BOOK PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

The most outstanding student in each of the respective Master’s Programmes is awarded a Gold Medal each year. A book prize is also given to the student with the best dissertation. The awards for AY2022/2023 are listed below. We thank the sponsors for their generous donations and continuous support through the years.



MS CLARIBEL LOW SIN YEE
Winner of the Rajabali Jumabhoy Foundation Gold Medal
for the best academic performance in the MSc (Asian Studies)

Winner of the Tay Seow Huah Book Prize
for the best dissertation



MR TAN CHUN YONG
Winner of the Lion Group Gold Medal
for the best academic performance in the
MSc (International Political Economy)



MS AUDREY KANG FANG TING
Winner of the Liow Keng Teck and Dorothy Liow Gold Medal
for the best academic performance in the MSc (International Relations)

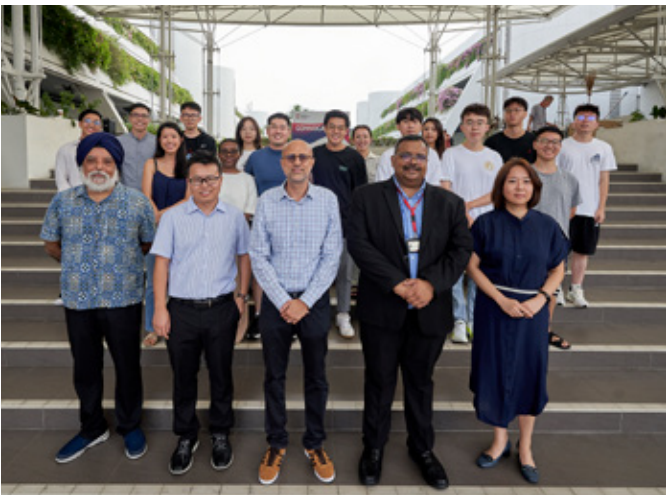


MR HUANG CHEN-SHANG
Winner of the United Overseas Bank Gold Medal
for the best academic performance in the MSc (Strategic Studies)

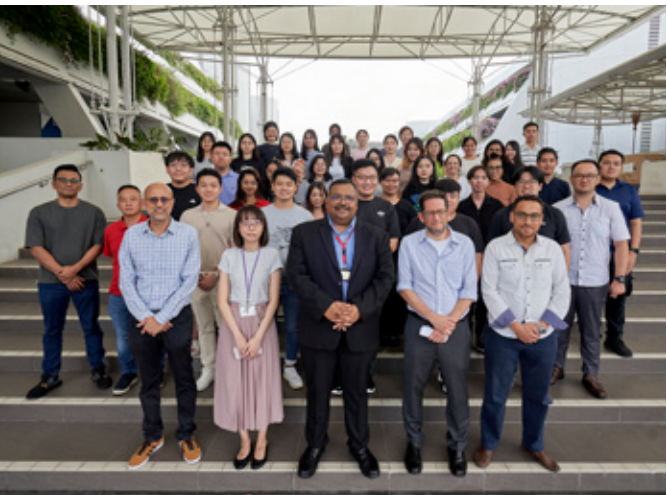
NEW MSC COHORT



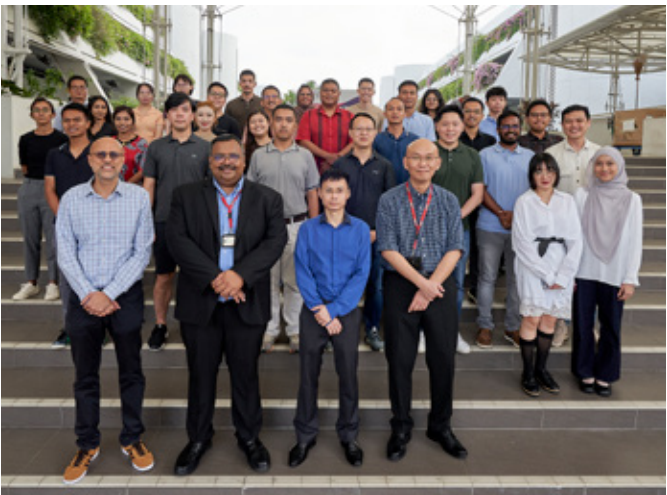
MSc (Asian Studies)



MSc (International Political Economy)



MSc (International Relations)



MSc (Strategic Studies)

“

My experience in RSIS was immensely enriching and rewarding. Having classmates from diverse backgrounds really enlivened class discussions and I revelled in being able to hear about everyone’s experience. I appreciated the opportunity to learn not just from lectures and textbooks, but also from the perspectives of my classmates.”

CLARIBEL LOW SIN YEE
MSc (Asian Studies) — Class of 2023

Outreach

RSIS OUTREACH: BUILDING AN ECOSYSTEM OF GLOBAL REACH

RSIS Outreach seeks to enhance RSIS' role as a global think tank and school for graduate education by focusing on three key pillars: (i) Global Networks, (ii) Executive Education and (iii) Strategic and External Programmes.

Global Networks

As a member of an ecosystem of like-minded institutions researching key and current issues, RSIS works with local, regional and global partners across various platforms. These issues include geopolitics, international political economy, and non-traditional security. In recent years, RSIS has enhanced its research in cybersecurity, military transformation, the implications of Artificial Intelligence and understanding the grey zone in international relations.

RSIS Outreach assists its senior management in identifying and enhancing partnerships to achieve key outcomes. RSIS' global networks are encapsulated within three broad categories; a) academic and research institutions, b) foreign official representation such as embassies/missions and c) private enterprises. Our partners include institutions from Southeast Asia, East Asia, the Middle East and North America. Within this milieu, RSIS collaborations have yielded policy publications, research and networking events, and academic exchanges. One such collaboration is between RSIS and the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, focused on establishing collaboration through academic exchanges, joint research activities and publications.

Executive Education

Executive education has been a part of RSIS' mandate since its inception as the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) in 1996. It is an important part of institution building and talent development. The academic and research strength of RSIS and its constituent Centres and Programmes revolve around smart networking and outreach innovations which a well-organised and well-positioned executive education ecosystem will facilitate. The changing world necessitates lifelong learning and preparedness. As a think tank in a world-class university, RSIS has constantly evolved, and this includes the commitment to executive education.

Building on its expertise and experience in this area, RSIS extended its executive education in 2023 to cover the private sector by designing a dedicated executive

programme for a multinational corporation headquartered in Singapore. RSIS senior faculty provided insights and perspectives on regional and current issues and their implications on regional economies. Through the lens of applied research, RSIS brings a unique approach to understanding the dynamic intersections between geopolitics, enterprise and industry issues.

Strategic and External Programmes

In 2023, RSIS hosted the fifth iteration of the RSIS-SWP (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik) Dialogue, a platform that offers a unique opportunity for two think tanks that are focused on geopolitics and international relations to discuss issues of common interest. Such programmes underline the significant role RSIS plays in the ecosystem of research and academic excellence. The same year also saw RSIS co-hosting the International Strategy Forum-Asia, an incubator programme for future leaders working at the crossroads of policy, business and technology.



International Strategy Forum-Asia 2023

Global Network



Strategic Relations

- 1

Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam
- 2

The George Washington University (GW), Elliott School of International Affairs (Elliott School)
- 3

German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik)
- 4

Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- 5

Indian Council for Agricultural Research – National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (ICAR-NIAP)
- 6

Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia
- 7

Korea National Defense University (KNDU)
- 8

National Resilience Institute of the Republic of Indonesia (Lemhannas RI)
- 9

School of International Studies, Xiamen University (XMU)
- 10

The U.S. Army War College (USAWC)
- 11

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre)
- 12

Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)
- 13

Council of Councils
- 14

Consortium of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies in Asia
- 15

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)
- 16

The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR)
- 17

Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI)
- 18

The United Nations Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UN DPPA)

Strategic Programmes / Executive Education

- 1

Australian Civil-Military Centre
- 2

Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA)
- 3

South China Sea Probing Initiative (SCSPI)
- 4

Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD)
- 5

Brazil Africa Institute (IBRAF)
- 6

Canadian Forces College (CFC)
- 7

International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN)
- 8

National Maritime Foundation (NMF)
- 9

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Indonesia
- 10

Indonesia Naval Command and Staff College (SESKOAL)
- 11

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- 12

Southeast Asia Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence (CAPE)
- 13

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- 14

Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA)
- 15

Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR)
- 16

Centre for Naval Analyses (CNA)
- 17

Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM)
- 18

Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS)
- 19

Pacific Disaster Center (PDC)
- 20

East-West Center
- 21

Schmidt Futures

RSIS LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

The people behind RSIS are scholars and researchers who delve into geopolitical developments and areas of their expertise, and teach at the Graduate School, as well as corporate service staff who give critical support to RSIS. This Annex lists the RSIS leadership and staff.



Scan this QR Code for more details and updates.
www.rsis.edu.sg/about-rsis/staff-profiles

MANAGEMENT		
Ambassador ONG Keng Yong LLB Hons (University of Singapore), MA (Georgetown University) <i>Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS</i> <i>Director of Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies</i> <i>Head of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research</i>	Dr Mely Caballero-ANTHONY BA Hons and MA (UP), PhD (HKU) <i>Professor of International Relations</i> <i>Associate Dean (International Engagement)</i> <i>President's Chair in International Relations and Security Studies</i> <i>Head of Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies</i>	Mrs ONG-Chew Peck Wan BA Hons (NUS), MSJ (Northwestern University) <i>Head of Corporate Affairs</i>
Dr Kumar RAMAKRISHNA BSSc Hons (NUS), Master in Defence Studies (UNSW), PhD (London) <i>Professor of National Security Studies</i> <i>Provost's Chair in National Security Studies</i> <i>Dean of RSIS</i> <i>Research Adviser to the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research</i>	Dr Bhubhindar SINGH BA Hons (NUS), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD (University of Sheffield) <i>Associate Professor</i> <i>Associate Dean (Academic Affairs)</i> <i>Head of Graduate Studies</i>	Dr ONG Wei Chong Cert History (Hull), BA (East Anglia), MSc (IDSS, NTU), PhD (Exeter) <i>Senior Associate Fellow (From March 2023)</i> <i>Head, National Security Studies Programme</i> <i>Deputy Coordinator of MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme</i>
Mr Benny OON Khim Yong BSSc Hons (NUS), MComms (USC) <i>Chief Operating Officer (From April 2023)</i>	Ms Alicia CHEUNG Wai Lai (Until November 2023) BCom (NU), MBA (NTU) <i>Head of Administration</i>	Dr Kaewkamol PITAKDUMRONGKIT BA (California State University), MA and PhD (University of California) <i>Senior Fellow (From October 2023)</i> <i>Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies</i>
Dr ANG Cheng Guan BA Hons (NUS), MA and PhD (London) <i>Professor of the International History of Southeast Asia</i> <i>Associate Dean of RSIS</i>	Dr Shashi JAYAKUMAR (Until July 2023) BA Hons, MA and DPhil (Oxford) <i>Senior Fellow</i> <i>Head of Centre of Excellence for National Security</i> <i>Executive Coordinator of Future Issues and Technology</i>	Mr Adrian TAN Tai Loon BA Hons (NUS), MA (Stanford University) <i>Executive Coordinator of Policy Research (From April 2023)</i> <i>Head of Strategic Planning, Coordination and Projects</i> <i>Deputy Director of Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies</i>
Mr Benjamin ANG Cheng Koon LLB (NUS), MBA and MS-MIS (Boston) <i>Senior Fellow</i> <i>Head of Centre of Excellence for National Security (From August 2023)</i> <i>Head, Digital Impact Research (From April 2023)</i>	Ms Noorita Binte MOHAMED NOOR BA (NUS), MSc (LSE) <i>Senior Fellow</i> <i>Deputy Head, International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research</i>	DISTINGUISHED FELLOW
	Ambassador Mohammad Alami MUSA (Until September 2023) BEng (University of Singapore), MSc (NUS) <i>Head of Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme</i>	Mr CHEE Wee Kiong (From May 2023) MPA (Harvard), MBA (NUS) <i>Distinguished Fellow</i>
		Professor Barry DESKER BA Hons (University of Singapore), MA (London), D. Litt (Warwick), LLD (Exeter) <i>Distinguished Fellow</i> <i>Nanyang Professor of Practice, NTU</i>
		Dr Yaacob IBRAHIM BEng Hons, MSc (University of Singapore), PhD (Stanford University) <i>Distinguished Fellow</i>
		Dr Marty NATALEGAWA BSc (LSE), M.Phil (University of Cambridge), D.Phil (ANU) <i>Distinguished Visiting Fellow</i>
		FACULTY AND SENIOR RESEARCHERS (in alphabetical order)
		Mr Muhammad Faizal bin ABDUL RAHMAN BBA (NUS), MSc (RSIS, NTU) <i>Research Fellow</i>
		Dr Mohamed bin ALI BA (Al-Azhar University), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD (Exeter) <i>Senior Fellow</i>
		Mr Lawrence ANDERSON BA Hons (NUS), MA (SOAS University of London) <i>Senior Fellow</i>
		Dr Adrian ANG U-Jin BA (Okanagan University College), MA (University of Calgary), PhD (University of Missouri) <i>Research Fellow</i> <i>Coordinator of United States Programme</i>
		Dr ANG Cheng Guan BA Hons (NUS), MA and PhD (London) <i>Professor of the International History of Southeast Asia</i> <i>Associate Dean of RSIS</i>
		Mr Benjamin ANG Cheng Koon LLB (NUS), MBA and MS-MIS (Boston) <i>Senior Fellow</i> <i>Head of Centre of Excellence for National Security (From August 2023)</i> <i>Head, Digital Impact Research (From April 2023)</i>
		Dr Alexander Raymond ARIFANTO BA (Ripon College), MA (Brandeis University), MA (Johns Hopkins University), PhD (Arizona State University) <i>Senior Fellow</i> <i>Coordinator of Projects (Indonesia Programme)</i>
		Mr Abdul BASIT BA (Punjab University), MSc and MPhil (Quaid-I-Azam University) <i>Senior Associate Fellow</i>
		Dr Rajesh Manohar BASRUR (Until June 2023) BA, MA, MPhil (Delhi), MA and PhD (Bombay) <i>Senior Fellow</i>
		Mr John BRADFORD (Until July 2023) BA (Cornell University), MSc (RSIS, NTU) <i>Senior Fellow</i>
		Ms Jane CHAN Git Yin LLB (Tasmania), MSc (IDSS, NTU) <i>Senior Fellow</i> <i>Coordinator of Maritime Security Programme</i>
		Dr CHANG Jun Yan BSSc Hons (NUS), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD (University of Queensland) <i>Assistant Professor (From July 2023)</i> <i>Head, Military Studies Programme</i>
		Dr James CHAR Tze Siang BA and MA (NTU), PhD (University of Cambridge) <i>Research Fellow</i>
		Dr Frederick R CHEN BA (Tsinghua University), MA (Peking University), PhD (University of Wisconsin-Madison) <i>Assistant Professor</i>
		Dr Alvin CHEW BEng (NTU), PhD (Imperial), MSc (RSIS, NTU), ACE (MIT Sloan) <i>Senior Fellow</i>
		Dr Alan CHONG Chia Siong BSSc Hons (NUS), MSc and PhD (LSE) <i>Senior Fellow</i>
		Dr Alistair David Blair COOK MA Hons (St Andrews), MA (Purdue), PhD (Melbourne) <i>Senior Fellow</i> <i>Coordinator of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Programme</i>
		Dr Deep Kisor DATTA RAY MA (KCL); PhD (University of Sussex) <i>Visiting Senior Fellow</i>
		Professor Barry DESKER BA Hons (University of Singapore), MA (London), D. Litt (Warwick), LLD (Exeter) <i>Distinguished Fellow</i> <i>Nanyang Professor of Practice, NTU</i>
		Dr Jacques GAO Ang (Until August 2023) BBA (HKUST), MA (Stony Brook University), MA & PhD (University of Rochester) <i>Assistant Professor</i>
		Dr Lina GONG MA (Sichuan University), MSc and PhD (RSIS, NTU) <i>Research Fellow</i>
		Dr GONG Xue BPhil (NNU), MSc and PhD (RSIS, NTU) <i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Deputy Coordinator of MSc (International Political Economy) Programme</i>
		Dr Rohan GUNARATNA MA (Notre Dame), PhD (St Andrews) <i>Professor of Security Studies</i>
		Dr Gulizar HACIYAKUPOGLU BS (SUNY, Binghamton), BA (Bo aziçi University), MA (University of Sheffield, UK), PhD (NUS) <i>Research Fellow</i>
		Dr Mahfuh bin HAJI HALIMI BA Hons (UKM), MSc and PhD (RSIS, NTU) <i>Research Fellow</i>
		Dr David HAN Guo Xiong BSSc Hons (NUS), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD (LSE) <i>Research Fellow (from August 2023)</i>
		Mr HAN Fook Kwang BSc (University of Leeds), MPA (Harvard University) <i>Senior Fellow</i>

Mr Manoj HARJANI BA (NUS) <i>Research Fellow</i>	Dr LEE Jonghyuk BA (Korea University of Foreign Studies), MA (Harvard University), PhD (UCSD) <i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Deputy Coordinator of MSc (Asian Studies) Programme</i>	Dr Tamara NAIR BA (NUS), MEnvMgmt, PhD (UNSW) <i>Research Fellow</i> <i>Head of Research Integrity and Data Management Unit</i> <i>Coordinator of Projects (Women and Children in ASEAN Community)</i>	Dr Michael RASKA BA (Missouri Southern State College), MA (Yonsei), PhD (NUS) <i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Coordinator of Military Transformations Programme</i>	Dr Sarah TEO Li-Shan BComm Hons (NTU), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD (University of Sydney) <i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Deputy Coordinator of MSc (International Relations) Programme</i>	Mr Mathew Lauren Bin BUKIT (<i>Until August 2023</i>) BA (University of Sydney); MSc (RSIS, NTU) <i>Senior Analyst</i>
Dr Muhammad Haniff bin HASSAN BA Hons (UKM), MSc (IDSS, NTU), PhD (RSIS, NTU) <i>Research Fellow</i>	Dr LEE Su-Hyun BA and MA (Korea University), PhD (University of Michigan-Ann Arbor) <i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Coordinator of MSc (International Political Economy) Programme</i>	Dr Joel NG Kuang Jong BA Hons (University of East Anglia), MA (University of Sussex), DPhil (Oxford) <i>Research Fellow</i> <i>Deputy Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies</i>	Dr Evan RESNICK BA Hons (York University), MA, MPhil and PhD (Columbia University) <i>Senior Associate Fellow</i> <i>Coordinator of MSc (International Relations) Programme</i>	Ms TEO Yi-Ling LLB (Hons) (The University of Liverpool), LLM (Northwestern University in Chicago) <i>Senior Fellow</i> <i>Deputy Head of Centre of Excellence for National Security (From August 2023)</i>	Mr Saddiq Basha Bin Cekendar Bashar BSocSc Hons (NUS) <i>Research Analyst</i>
Dr Paul HEDGES BA Hons, MA and PhD (Wales) <i>Associate Professor</i>	Dr LI Mingjiang BA and MA (Foreign Affairs University, Beijing), PhD (Boston) <i>Associate Professor</i> <i>Provost's Chair in International Relations</i> <i>Deputy Head, Graduate Studies (From August 2023)</i> <i>Coordinator of PhD Programme</i>	Dr ONG Wei Chong Cert History (Hull), BA (East Anglia), MSc (IDSS, NTU), PhD (Exeter) <i>Senior Associate Fellow (From March 2023)</i> <i>Head, National Security Studies Programme</i> <i>Deputy Coordinator of MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme</i>	Dr Sinderpal Singh s/o SANTOKH SINGH BA (NUS), MA (ANU), PhD (Aberystwyth) <i>Senior Fellow</i> <i>Assistant Director of Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies</i> <i>Coordinator of Regional Security Architecture Programme (From April 2023)</i> <i>Coordinator of South Asia Programme</i>	Mr Julius Cesar Imperial TRAJANO BA (UP), MSc (RSIS, NTU) <i>Research Fellow</i>	Ms Antara CHAKRABORTHY BA (MOP Vaishnav College for Women), PG Dip. (Asian College of Journalism), MSc (RSIS, NTU) <i>Senior Analyst</i>
Ms Asha HEMRAJANI BSc (Lafayette College) <i>Senior Fellow</i>	Dr Joseph Chinyong LIOU BA Hons (Wisconsin-Madison), MSc (IDSS, NTU), PhD (LSE) <i>Tan Kah Kee Chair in Comparative and International Politics</i> <i>Research Adviser to RSIS</i>	Mr Raffaello PANTUCCI (<i>Until September 2023</i>) BA (University of Manchester), MA (King's College London) <i>Senior Fellow</i>	Dr Leonard SEBASTIAN BA Hons, MA, Grad Dip Strategic Studies (York University), PhD (ANU) <i>Senior Fellow</i> <i>Coordinator of Indonesia Programme</i>	Dr Karryl Kim Sagun TRAJANO (<i>From March 2023</i>) PhD (NTU) <i>Research Fellow</i>	Mr Kevin CHEN Xian An BA in History & Foreign Affairs (University of Virginia), MSc (RSIS, NTU) <i>Associate Research Fellow</i>
Dr HOO Tiang Boon (<i>Until June 2023</i>) BEng (NUS), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD (Oxford) <i>Associate Professor</i> <i>Coordinator of China Programme</i>	Dr Bernard LOO Fook Weng BSSc Hons (NUS), MA (ANU), PhD (Aberystwyth) <i>Senior Fellow</i> <i>Coordinator of MSc (Strategic Studies) Programme</i>	Dr Kaewkamol PITAKDUMRONGKIT BA (California State University), MA and PhD (University of California) <i>Senior Fellow (From October 2023)</i> <i>Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies</i>	Dr Bhubhindar SINGH BA Hons (NUS), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD (University of Sheffield) <i>Associate Professor</i> <i>Associate Dean (Academic Affairs)</i> <i>Head of Graduate Studies</i>	Dr Pascal VENNESSON BA and MPS Hons (Panthéon Sorbonne University, Paris I), BA Hons, MPS Hons and PhD Summa Cum Laude (Sciences Po Paris) <i>Senior Fellow</i> <i>Head of Research</i>	Mr Huzeir Ezekiel DZULHISHAM (<i>From August 2023</i>) BSocSc Hons (NUS), MSc (RSIS, NTU) <i>Research Analyst</i>
Dr Benjamin HO Tze Ern BComm Hons (NTU), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD (LSE) <i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Coordinator of China Programme</i>	Dr Mohamed Feisal bin MOHAMED HASSAN BHmnSc (IIUM), MA (IIUM), PhD (University of Melbourne) <i>Research Fellow</i>	Dr Adhi PRIAMARIZKI BA (Parahyangan Catholic University), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD (Ritsumeikan University) <i>Research Fellow</i>	Dr Sandeep SINGH BA Hons (NUS), MA (NUS), PhD (UNSW) <i>Research Fellow</i>	Mr Jansen Paul WEE Yang Teck (<i>Until June 2023</i>) BA Hons (NUS) <i>Research Fellow</i>	Mr CHOO Ruizhi (<i>Until August 2023</i>) BA Hons and MA (NUS) <i>Associate Research Fellow</i>
Dr Noor Huda ISMAIL MA (St. Andrews University), PhD (Monash University) <i>Visiting Fellow</i>	Ms Noorita Binte MOHAMED NOOR BA (NUS), MSc (LSE) <i>Senior Fellow</i> <i>Deputy Head, International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research</i>	Dr Kumar RAMAKRISHNA BSSc Hons (NUS), Master in Defence Studies (UNSW), PhD (London) <i>Professor of National Security Studies</i> <i>Provost's Chair in National Security Studies</i> <i>Dean of RSIS</i> <i>Research Adviser to the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research</i>	Dr Rafal STEPIEN (<i>Until June 2023</i>) BA (UWA), BA and MA (University of Oxford), MPhil (University of Cambridge), MA, MPhil and PhD (Columbia University) <i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Coordinator of MSc (Asian Studies) Programme</i>	Dr ZHANG Hongzhou BSc (NTU), MSc (RSIS, NTU), PhD (NUS) <i>Research Fellow</i>	Mr Warren CHOO Shao Jie (<i>Until March 2023</i>) BSc Hons (NUS) <i>Research Analyst</i>
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Security Studies Programme

Ms Evelyn YEOH Mei Ching
Personal Assistant, Distinguished
Fellow's Office

LONG SERVICE AWARD (25 YEARS)

Mr Ben Ng Gim Choon
Administrative Executive

LONG SERVICE AWARD (20 YEARS)

Dr Muhammad Haniff Bin Hassan
Research Fellow, ICPVTR

Dr Mely Caballero-Anthony
Professor of International Relations,
Associate Dean (International
Engagement); Head of NTS Centre;
and President's Chair in International
Relations and Security Studies, NTU

Ms Kasmawati Binte Abdullah
Senior Administrative Executive, GPO

LONG SERVICE AWARD (15 YEARS)

Ms Pauline Liew Noke Ling
Senior Admin Executive

Dr Collin Koh Swee Lean
Senior Fellow and Coordinator of Projects
(Naval/Maritime Affairs)

Mr Ian Li Huiyuan
Associate Research Fellow,
Military Studies Programme, IDSS

Assoc Prof Bhubhindar Singh
Associate Dean (Academic Affairs) and
Head of Graduate Studies

Ms Alicia Cheung Wai Lai
Head of Finance

LONG SERVICE AWARD (10 YEARS)

Dr Anit Mukherjee
Associate Professor, South Asia
Programme, IDSS

Mr Farik Bin Mohd Hussain
Events Manager

Ms Geanina Bujoreanu
Senior Manager, GPO

Ms Janet Fung Wui Mang
Senior Webmaster and Designer

Dr Kaewkamol Pitakdumrongkit
Senior Fellow and Head of CMS

Ms Margareth Sembiring
Associate Research Fellow, NTS Centre

Mr Okkie Tanupradja
Senior Language Officer, ICPVTR

Ms Ordonez Roxane Domingo
Senior Administrative Executive, GPO

Mr Syed Huzaifah Bin Othman Alkaff
Associate Research Fellow, Indonesia
Programme, IDSS

Mr Eugene Tan E Guang
Associate Research Fellow, CENS

Dr Tan Teck Boon
Research Fellow, Office of EDC

Dr Sarah Teo Li-Shan
Assistant Professor and Deputy
Coordinator of MSc (International
Relations) Programme



RSIS Day 2023

RSIS PUBLICATIONS

RSIS produces policy-relevant research for policymakers, thought-leaders, and practitioners, and shares analyses and perspectives on geopolitical, security, and related issues. This Annex gives a sampling of the RSIS publications produced during the year.



Scan this QR Code for the full listing.

www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/rsis-publications/rsis-publications-for-the-year

RSIS POLICY REPORTS

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D. B. Cook, Alistair and Gong, Lina. *Issues, Trends and Developments in Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination in the Asia-Pacific*. Singapore: RSIS, 2023.

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D. B. Cook, Alistair and Nanthini, S. *Mitigate, Adapt, Prepare: A Climate Security Agenda for the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting*. Singapore: RSIS, 2023.

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Priamarizki, Adhi. *The TNI's Role in COVID-19 Management in Riau Islands Province*. Singapore: RSIS, 2023.

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Chong, Alan and Nair, Tamara. "Fiery Climate Change Introduces Fresh Environmental Stewards". *RSIS Commentary*, (October 2023).

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Paolo C. Landicho, Keith. "Navigating the Climate Emergency: The Crucial Role of Adaptive Decision Support Systems in ASEAN's Disaster Management". *IDSS Paper*, (October 2023).

Basha, Saddiq. "'Death to the Grid': Ideological Narratives and Online Community Dynamics in Encouraging Far-Right Extremist Attacks on Critical Infrastructure". *Counter Terrorist Trend and Analyses (CTTA)* 15, no. 4 (September 2023).

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Ng, Jefferson. "Indonesia under the Next President: Continuity, PDI-P Dominant, or Progressive Change?" *IDSS Paper*, (September 2023).

Nah, Liang Tuang. "The Latest Kim-Putin Summit". *RSIS Commentary*, (September 2023).

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Char, James. "Relooking China – Russia Relations Through a Historical Lens". *RSIS Commentary*, (August 2023).

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Hedges, Paul. "Understanding the Non-Religious Demographic: Non-Aligned and not just Non-Religion". *RSIS Commentary*, (July 2023).

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— International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, RSIS. Available at www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/rsis-publications/counter-terrorist-trends-and-analyses

Multilateral Matters
— Centre for Multilateralism Studies, RSIS. Available at www.rsis.edu.sg/research/cms/centre-resourcescms/cms-rsispublications/bulletins-and-newsletters

NTS Bulletin
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NTS-Asia Newsletter
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NTS Insight
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Science, Technology and Security Bulletin
— Future Issues and Technology Cluster, RSIS. Available at www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/rsis-publications/future-issues/

Think Tank: News from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
— RSIS. Available at www.rsis.edu.sg/think-tank

COMMEMORATIVE AND EVENT REPORTS

Crisis of the Social: Faultlines, (Un)Truths, and Manipulation
— Report of a workshop organised by Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS), 23 March 2023

Future Conflicts – Lessons Learned from Ukraine
— Report of a workshop organised by Military Transformations Programme, 23 November 2022

CENS Workshop on DRUMS: "Security in a Post Truth World"
— Report of a workshop organised by Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS), 2 November 2022

Annex C

As of 15 November 2023
More details and updates are at <https://www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/staff-publications/external-publications-for-the-year/>

RESEARCH ARTICLES IN JOURNALS AND OTHER EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

RSIS scholars continue to publish their research in books and other publications. RSIS researchers' analyses and perspectives are also published in top-tier academic journals and leading university presses, and other publications. This Annex lists some of the articles published during the year.



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www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/staff-publications/external-publications-for-the-year/

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Teo, Sarah, Intan, Rocky and Ng, Joel. *Towards Open and Inclusive Regionalism*. Jakarta: Centre for Strategic and International Studies, 2023

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Mukherjee, Anit, Rajeev, Nishant and Rajagopalan, Rajeswari Pillai. *Momentous Changes: Defence Reforms, Military Transformation, and India's New Strategic Posture*. India: Observer Research Foundation, 2023

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Hassan, Muhammad Haniff, Thaha, Mohamed Qusairy and Bahari Mustazah (Eds.). *Meninjau Pemikiran Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji Dari Khutbah-khutbah Karangannya (A Look Into Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji's Ideas From Collections of His Sermon)*. Singapore: PERGAS, 2023

Hassan, Muhammad. *Pesanan Ilahi, Cerminkanlah (Reflecting, Divine Messages)*. Singapore: Al-Khair Mosque, 2023

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Singh, Bhubhinder. "How Japan is Managing US-China Competition." *Indo-Pacific Security: US-China Rivalry and Regional States' Responses*, edited by Nicholas Khoo, Germana Nicklin, and Alex Tan. London: World Scientific Publishing, (December 2023).

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Anderson, Lawrence. "Wither US-China Strategic Competition and Strengthening ASEAN for Regional Peace, Security and Stability." In *ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and US-China Rivalry*, edited by Pou Sothirak, Bradley J. Murg and Charidine Pich. Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, (January 2023): 33-44.

Teo, Sarah. "South Korea in the ASEAN-Centered Regional Network." *Asian Politics & Policy*, January 13, 2023.

Hussain, Nazia. "The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue: Direction and Prospects Amid Changing Realities." In *New Realities of Multilateralism Panorama: Insights into Asian and European Affairs*. Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Issue 1, (2022): 141-152.

Annex D

RSIS DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURES

RSIS organises public lectures on topics of interest to shed light and generate discussion on key developments in the region and the world. A sampling of the distinguished public lectures held during the year are listed in this Annex.



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6th SRP Distinguished Lecture and Symposium on “Religion, Nationalism and Secularism: Intersection and Contestation”, 15 November 2023

RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture by Professor Amin Saikal on “Afghanistan under Taliban Rule: An Emergent Global Security Challenge?”, 11 October 2023

RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture by Professor Dominic Johnson, S. Rajaratnam Professor of Strategic Studies, on “Overconfidence and the Russia-Ukraine War”, 28 August 2023

The S. T. Lee Distinguished Annual Lecture by Professor David Cohen on “A House Divided? Prospects and Challenges for ASEAN Unity in an Era of Regional and Global Crises”, 11 August 2023

RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture by Dr Marty Natalegawa on “Foreign Policy in the Age of Geopolitical Competition: Is Being Neutral Enough?”, 26 June 2023

RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture by Mr Richard Fontaine on “The United States in the Indo-Pacific: Pivoting or Pretending?”, 19 May 2023

The Ngee Ann Kongsi-RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture by Professor Wang Jisi, Ngee Ann Kongsi Professor of International Relations, RSIS, on “Will the Worsening of China-US Relations Continue?”, 6 April 2023

RSIS Public Lecture by Professor Geoffrey Till on “The Chinese Navy: Exceptional or Fitting the Standard Pattern?”, 6 February 2023

RSIS Distinguished Public Dialogue by Dr Bates Gill, Assoc Prof Bhubhinder Singh and Assoc Prof Hoo Tiang Boon, on “Perils of Great Power Rivalry: The China-Russia-United States Triangle”, 12 January 2023

Annex E

As of 15 November 2023
The full list and details are at www.rsis.edu.sg/events

RSIS CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, AND ROUNDTABLES

RSIS brought together scholars, researchers, policymakers and practitioners at events organised throughout the year on key developments in the region and the world. This Annex lists a sampling of the events held during the year.



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RSIS Conference on “Beyond Nuclear: Disruptive Technologies and Strategic Stability in the 21st Century”, 21-22 November 2023

Humanitarian Futures Forum, 3 November 2023

SRP Seminar on “Artificial Intelligence & the Future of Humanity” by Shaykh Ahmed El Azhary and Fr David Garcia OP, 30 October 2023

CENS Workshop on “DRUMS 2023: The Evolving Landscape of DRUMS”, 30-31 October 2023

CENS Distinguished Visitors Programme by Professor Ciaran Martin on:

- The Company and The Security of Cyberspace – Power Shifts Between Public and Private Sectors in The Digital Age, 20 October 2023
- From Cyber Security to Tech Security – How Geopolitics and Hardware Have Transformed How We Think About Cyberspace, 16 October 2023

RSIS Workshop on “Humanitarian Policy and Action in Asia”, 16-17 October 2023

RSIS Seminar on “Great Power Competition in the Middle East” by Professor Amin Saikal, 10 October 2023

The 24th Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO 2023) on “Competition and Conflict in a Fragmented World”, 1-5 October 2023

RSIS Seminar on “The Search for Common Ground: Third Voice in a Fractured World” by Dr Marty Natalegawa, Distinguished Visiting Fellow, RSIS; Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Indonesia; and Author of “Does ASEAN Matter? A view from Within”, 12 September 2023

RSIS-SWP Dialogue 2023 on “The War in Ukraine and its Implications for Regional Stability”, 30 August 2023

ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM) 2023, 24 August 2023

RSIS Webinar on “Analysis of the Malaysia’s State Elections Results and Their Implications”, 17 August 2023

RSIS Webinar on “Malaysia’s Upcoming State Elections: Issues, Players, and Potential Outcomes”, 10 August 2023

CSCAP Nuclear Energy Experts Group Meeting, 2-3 August 2023

2nd International Strategy Forum-Asia (ISF-Asia), 30 July to 2 August 2023

Terrorism Analyst Training Course 2023 on “Global Terrorism: Diversity, Complexity, and Evolutions”, 24-28 July 2023

RSIS Distinguished Book Launch of “Singapore is Still not an Island” by Mr Bilahari Kausikan, 20 July 2023

Digital Defence Symposium, 17 July 2023

Regional Maritime Security Practitioner Programme (RMPP), 17-21 July 2023

Singapore Universities’ National Security Forum 2023 on “Preparing for Crises and Disruptions”, 13 July 2023

RSIS Seminar on “India’s Deepening North-South Divide Real or Just a Perception?” by Dr Duvvuri Subbarao, Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS, 5 July 2023

RSIS Seminar on “Digital Technology Driven Financial Inclusion Has India Discovered the Holy Grail?” by Dr Duvvuri Subbarao, Visiting Senior Fellow, RSIS, 3 July 2023

SRP Webinar on:

- Soft Power, Islam & Religiosity – Globalization of Islam in South East Asia, 28 June 2023
- Understanding the Globalisation of Hindu Nationalism, 21 March 2023
- Soft Power, Islam, and Religiosity – Perspectives from the Middle East, 28 February 2023
- Buddhist Nationalisms in Myanmar and Sri Lanka: Rhetoric, Responses, Challenges, 30 January 2023

CENS Seminar on Contemporary Geopolitical Challenges and International Law, 27 June 2023

RSIS Webinar on “Ensuring Safe and Sustainable Access to Space: Managing an Increasingly Congested Orbital Environment”, 22 June 2023

RSIS Seminar on “The Future of UMNO” by Shahril Hamdan, Visiting Fellow, Malaysia Programme, RSIS; and Bastien Onn, Deputy Chief, UMNO Segamat Division Johor, Malaysia, 16 June 2023

GCSP-RSIS Webinar on launch of book on “The AI Wave in Defence Innovation: Assessing Military Artificial Intelligence Strategies, Capacities, and Trajectories”, 12 June 2023

ICPVTR Webinar Series on “Emerging Research and Tools Addressing Current Radicalisation and Deradicalisation: Perspectives from the UK” by:

- Dr Sanaz Zolghadriha Lecturer in Security and Crime Science, Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London, UK, on “Assessing the Extremism Risk: From Individual Risk Factors to Risk Assessment Tools”, 6 June 2023
- Ms Hannah Rose Research Fellow, International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation, King’s College London, UK, and; Dr Gina Vale, Lecturer of Criminology, University of Southampton, UK, on “We are Generation Terror: Are We Facing a New Era of Youth Radicalisation?”, 30 May 2023

The 20th IISS Asia Security Summit: The Shangri-La Dialogue 2023 – The Istana Dinner, 3 June 2023

RSIS Seminar for launch of book on “Asian Military Evolutions: Civil-Military Relations in Asia”, 29 May 2023

RSIS Webinar on “Opportunities and Challenges in Cislunar Space and the Moon”, 25 May 2023

RSIS-WTO Parliamentary Workshop 2023, 15 May 2023

ICPVTR Seminar on “Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Online: Cross-Platform and Cross-Sector Approaches” by Dr Erin Saltman, Interim Executive Director, Director of Programming, Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT); and Dr Nagham El Karhili, Programs and Partnerships Lead, Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT), 15 May 2023

International Maritime Security Conference 2023, 4 May 2023

SRP 8th Executive Programme 2023 on “Religions and Non-Religions: Dynamics and Impacts on Plural Societies”, 3 May 2023

2nd IDSS-IDIR Dialogue on “Regional Security Environment: Trends and Implications for Southeast Asia”, 26 April 2023

14th Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO), 23 April 2023

RSIS Trilateral Exchange 2023 on “US-China Relations: The Future of International Order”, 21 April 2023

Launch of book “Beyond the Handshake: Singapore’s Foreign Service”, 29 March 2023

RSIS Webinar on “The Anwar Administration’s Foreign Policy: Fresh Start, Old Constraints?”, 28 March 2023

CENS Workshop on “Crisis of the Social: Faultlines, (Un) Truths, and Manipulation”, 23 March 2023

CENS Visitors Programme by Dr Camino Kavanagh on:

- Hybrid Threats to Submarine Communications Cables, and Mitigation Strategies, 20 March 2023
- Use Of Digital Technologies in Hybrid Conflict in Ukraine, 21 March 2023

CENS Webinar on “Extremism and Hate in Indonesia and Malaysia: A Discussion”, 9 March 2023

RSIS Workshop (online) on “Indonesia and Vietnam in Between the US-China Tech Competition”, 24 February 2023

RSIS Workshop on “Resilience and Change: ASEAN in a Fracturing World”, 22 February 2023

CENS Webinar on “Evolutions of Right Wing Extremism”, 15 February 2023

Planetary Health Proposal Development Meeting, 13 February 2023

RSIS Panel and Book Launch in Memory of Professor Sam Bateman, Maritime Cooperation and Security in the Indo-Pacific Region, 2 February 2023

RSIS Conference on Regional Maritime Security Outlook 2023, 2 February 2023

RCRC-RSIS Climate Change, Environment and Humanitarian Action Workshop 2023, 27 January 2023

RSIS-LAB 45 Workshop on “Indonesia Defence and Security Outlook 2023”, 20 January 2023

CENS Webinar on “Global and Local Terrorism: Evolutions 2023 and Beyond”, 18 January 2023

RSIS Seminar on “The Trajectory of Malaysia’s Changing Dominant-party System” by Professor Meredith Weiss, Visiting Senior Fellow, Malaysia Programme, IDSS, RSIS; and Professor of Political Science, State University of New York at Albany, 16 January 2023

RSIS Webinar on “Trust Tech: Definitions, Issues and Opportunities” by Professor Lam Kwok Yan, Associate Vice President (Strategy and Partnerships), and Professor, School of Computing Science and Engineering, NTU Singapore, 6 January 2023

In Appreciation

*We thank everyone who has contributed
to this Annual Review.*

*Thank you to all who have extended
support in various ways all these years.*

Ponder the Improbable 

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