

Think Tank

NEWS FROM IDSS



Singapore's Defence Minister, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean, opened the 6th Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO) at the Sentosa Resort and Spa on 4 August 2004 with a call for international cooperation in the present volatile geo-political climate. While these threats were mainly from non-state transnational terrorist networks, other areas of instability included 'hot spots' in East Asia, namely the Korean Peninsula, the Taiwan Straits and the South China Sea. With regards to anti-terrorism efforts, he asserted that the fight can only succeed when governments work together and when the "ideology upon which [terrorism] is based is shown to be empty and wrong".

On cross-straits tensions, RADM Teo pointed out that the possibility of miscalculation on both sides was high and the ensuing consequences perilous.

With respect to the North Korean nuclear issue, he stated that although the six-party talks have yet to produce a breakthrough,



RADM Teo addressing APPSMO 2004

"they offer the best hope for resolving what is an extremely complex issue".

In order to deal with these various challenges, regional armed forces must develop capabilities to deal with both traditional and non-traditional issues. More importantly, he emphasised that multilateral cooperation was "not only necessary but even critical". Indeed, security challenges required enormous efforts, and such efforts are ineffective unless the military officers in the region "work together to build mutual understanding and enhance friendship".

"Since its inception in 1999, this programme has provided a useful forum for military officers to interact and share their views on a wide range of issues relevant to the contemporary security environment".



6th APPSMO 2004
Participants
(group photo)

APPSMO Activities 3-10 August 2004

Networking at APPSMO



▲ Getting acquainted in Singapore.



▲ Mr Desker with Professor Mearsheimer at the Welcome Dinner.



▲ Socialising is always easier with a beer in hand.

President S R Nathan meets the APPSMO Participants



Sports and Games



▲ We didn't expect APPSMO to be such hard work!



▲ A brilliant show of APPSMO spirit!

APPSMO Speakers



▲ Panel Discussion on “Strategic Trends in the Asia Pacific” with (from left to right) Professors Amitav Acharya, Sheldon Simon, Khong Yuen Foong (Chair), Shigekatsu Kondo and Yuan Jing-dong.



◀ In his lunch talk on UN Peacekeeping Operations in Timor Leste, BG Tan Huck Gim stressed the importance of civil-military relations and the need to win the trust and confidence of the local population.



◀ In his dinner lecture, former ASEAN Secretary-General Rodolfo Severino identified two challenges for ASEAN in the 21st century, which are to maintain competitiveness in an era of globalization and to manage ASEAN’s relations with an ascendant China.



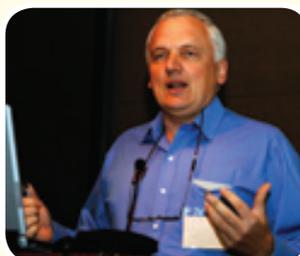
◀ Professor Steve Smith introduced alternative ways of looking at security issues.



◀ Associate Professor Rohan Gunaratna warned about “The Evolving Threat of Terrorism” which required effective information-sharing and multilateral cooperation as counter-measures.



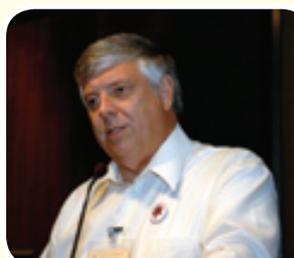
◀ In his Distinguished Dinner Talk on “US Foreign Policy after Iraq”, Professor John Mearsheimer pointed out that US foreign policy had become increasingly unilateral since 9/11 and that the US was unlikely to disengage from Iraq anytime soon.



◀ Nik Gowing discussed the “Tyranny of Real Time”, a new asymmetry of information that threatens the credibility of governments in his talk on “The Media and International Conflict”.



◀ According to Dr David Malone who spoke on “The UN and Global Security in the 21st Century”, US leadership is essential for the proper functioning of the UN, which still offered an avenue for all countries to come together for joint decision making.



◀ Speaking on “RMA and Strategic Transformation”, Dr Grant Hammond argued that the geo-strategic landscape was witnessing not just a Revolution in Military Affairs, but also a Revolution in Security Affairs.

APPSMO Database Set Up

The main objective of the Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers is to provide a venue and opportunity for senior military officers of the region to interact with their counterparts and to promote confidence building among armed forces in the region. This objective is in line with IDSS' aim of fostering closer ties and working relationships between defence officials, military officers and strategic analysts in the region and nurturing a

network of security thinkers and planners.

As part of IDSS' networking efforts, an APPSMO Alumni Database has been set up. It captures the contact details of every batch of APPSMO participants. The URL is as follows: < www.idss.edu.sg/appsmo.htm >

Participants are kindly requested to keep IDSS updated if and when their contact details change (e.g. moving to a new posting).

IDSS Introduces Crisis Leadership and Crisis Negotiation Training



Keith Fitzgerald (right) with Moty Cristal (left)

- Hostage-taking – whether for ransom or for political coercion
- Terrorist attacks on “soft targets”
- Military or police operations that result in stand-offs and sieges....

The Asian Programme on Negotiation and Conflict Management at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) is offering a distinctive and practical training course on “Crisis Leadership and Negotiation”, designed to enhance the capacity of security services and private sector organisations to cope with such crises.

The Crisis Leadership and Crisis Negotiation course is designed and delivered by Keith M. Fitzgerald, Senior Fellow at IDSS and Head of Programme, together with Moty Cristal, an experienced peace and crisis negotiator from Israel. The training course will provide participants with:

- A useful diagnostic framework for dealing with crisis situations.
- Analytic tools for establishing solid and con-

structive communication in high-stakes crises.

- Access to unique materials and methods along with video case studies, exercises and analyses of field experience of past events.

This training course is recommended to military and home affairs officials, scholars as well as private sector firms encountering crisis in their fieldwork (e.g. insurance, multinational consortiums). In consultation with clients, the course can also be tailored to specific needs.

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