

Think Tank

NEWS FROM IDSS



Perak Royalty Visits IDSS

The Raja Muda of Perak, HRH Raja Nazrin Shah ibni Sultan Azlan Shah, visited the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) on 27 July 2004 during his two-day tour of Singapore as guest of President S R Nathan and the Singapore International Foundation. He was received by Director Barry Desker and briefed on the work of the Institute. Raja Nazrin was particularly interested in the study of international terrorism being conducted by the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR). Dr Rohan Gunaratna, Head of ICPVTR, gave an account of the current threat of transnational groups in the region, illustrated by an IDSS-produced video.



HRH Raja Nazrin Shah of Perak (right) and Raja Asman Shah (left).



Mr Desker presenting a gift of IDSS books to HRH.

Raja Nazrin was accompanied by his brother, Raja Asman Shah, the Mentri Besar of Perak, Dato Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali and members of the State Government and Perak Academy. An informal fish-head curry lunch in the IDSS Lounge rounded off the programme.

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IDSS holds Maritime Security Conference



From left: Dr Andrew Chew, Dr Tony Tan and Mr Barry Desker at the opening of the Maritime Security Conference.

IDSS held its inaugural Maritime Security Conference at the Marina Mandarin Hotel from 20 to 21 May 2004.

Dr Tony Tan, Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Security and Defence, delivered the keynote address. Academics, policy analysts, government officials and industry experts were brought together in a significant meeting of minds. They were drawn from an international pool of countries, which included Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Malaysia, Norway, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea and the United States.



Chief of Navy, RADM Ronnie Tay, delivering his lunchtime address.

Maritime challenges and opportunities in East Asia were key issues at this conference. Traditional naval issues, such as territorial and boundary disputes, piracy and modernisation of regional navies were addressed. Points of interest also included non-traditional aspects like the recently announced Regional

Maritime Security Initiative; threats from maritime terrorism; the Proliferation Security Initiative, as well as port and cargo security. In addition, delegates looked at new initiatives for maritime co-operation and a study on maritime "regime" building.



Guests and participants at the conference.

Crafting Cooperation in Singapore

On 17-18 May 2004, sixteen of the world's leading experts converged in Singapore for the second IDSS-Harvard Crafting Cooperation Conference: "The Design and Effect of Regional Institutions in Comparative Perspective". This conference is a joint initiative between the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and the Asia Center, with support from the Lee Foundation.

The brainchild of project co-chairs, Professors Alastair Iain Johnston and Amitav Acharya, the first Crafting Cooperation conference was held in the USA at Harvard's Weatherhead Center in October 2002. A key aim of this on-going

project is to assess the uniqueness of institutions in terms of their decision-making norms, approach to socialisation and management of economic and security dilemmas through regional comparisons. The distinctiveness of this project lies in the fact that it is not only a geographical survey of the performance and evolution of regional institutions, but an intellectual tour de horizon that involves contributions from different scholastic traditions and from practitioners honed in diverse milieus.

The participants at the Singapore conference continued to examine the sources of variation in the design of regional security and economic institutions across Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Europe.

"This project exemplifies the commitment of IDSS to carry out research on important issues of our time. It is a collaboration of the finest academic institutions in the world and involves scholars who are at the forefront of their field".

– Prof. Amitav Acharya

Crafting Cooperation participants with President S R Nathan at the Istana



Back row from left: Frank Schimmelfennig (Universität Mannheim, Germany); Andrew Hurrell (Nuffield College, Oxford University, UK); Jorgen Østrøm Møller (Royal Danish Embassy and Copenhagen Business School, Denmark); Paul Evans (University of British Columbia, Canada); Greg Mills (South African Institute of International Affairs, South Africa); Andrew Kydd (Harvard University, USA); Jeffrey I. Herbst (Princeton University, USA). Front row from left: Helen E.S. Nesadurai (IDSS); Barry Desker (IDSS); Jorge I. Domínguez (Harvard University, USA); President Nathan; Amitav Acharya (IDSS); Ethel Solingen (University of California Irvine, USA); Douglas Webber (INSEAD, Singapore); Yuen Foong Khong (Nuffield College, Oxford University, UK and IDSS); Michael Barnett (University of Wisconsin, USA).

Absent: Alastair Iain Johnston (Harvard University, USA); Jeffrey T. Checkel (University of Oslo, Norway).

International Panel Responds to American Hegemony

Experts speaking at Public Forum.



On 19 May 2004, IDSS held a Public Forum on the topic "Responding to American Hegemony: Regional Perspectives". This Forum was part of the IDSS-Harvard project on Crafting Cooperation. The panel chairman, Professor Paul Evans (University of British Columbia) noted that there has been mostly governmental accommodation in Asia rather than support of US policy. This is an interesting contrast to the unprecedented criticism of the same policies elsewhere in the world.

Andrew Hurrell (Nuffield College, Oxford University) addressed the complicated UK perspective on issues of US credibility, while Michael Barnett (University of Wisconsin) focused on the worsening sensitivities in the Middle East.

Jorge I. Domínguez (Harvard University) reflected on Latin America's hegemonic legacy from the US and the region's present shrewd strategy of hegemonic accommodation. Greg Mills (South African Institute of International Affairs) argued that despite Africa's heterogeneity, American hegemony has had beneficial consequences for much of the continent, especially in areas of trade and aid. Frank Schimmelfennig (Universität Mannheim) discussed Europe's own divisions and ambivalence towards US foreign policy; he also noted Europe's united disapproval of Bush's Middle East policy. Paul Evans concluded that harnessing US hegemony to bridge the many regions of the world is the ultimate challenge.

Conference to Commemorate the Work of Michael Leifer



From left: Mrs Leifer with Joseph Liow and Ralf Emmers

In collaboration with the London School of Economics, IDSS organised a conference titled "The Unending Search for Regional Order in South-east Asia: Essays in Memory of Michael Leifer". The conference celebrated the late Professor Michael Leifer's contribution to the field of South-east Asian politics and international relations.

Held in Singapore on 13-14 May 2004, the conference brought together prominent

academics as well as former colleagues and students of Professor Leifer. Significantly, some members of the Leifer family were also in attendance, namely, Mrs Frances Leifer (wife), as well as Richard and Jeremy (sons).

Joseph Liow and Ralf Emmers, presently Assistant Professors at IDSS and former students of Professor Leifer are currently editing the conference papers for publication. The book titled "Order and Security in Southeast Asia: Essays in Memory of Michael Leifer" will be published by RoutledgeCurzon.

Indonesian Presidential Hopefuls Hosted in Singapore

As a prelude to the general elections, presidential contender Gen. (Ret.) H. Wiranto gave a seminar during the "IDSS Forum on Indonesia's Elections 2004" earlier this year.

Indonesia's key presidential contenders were in Singapore again, this time as part of an IDSS-Straits Times sponsored seminar series on the Indonesian presidential elections. They were in Singapore to outline their visions ahead of their country's first ever direct presidential polls on 5 July.

The recent series of public seminars included Gen. (Ret.) Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who was subsequently declared winner of the first round of the presidential election on 26 July.

Other major political brokers are Golkar Chairman Akbar Tandjung and former president Abdurrahman Wahid, the influential elder of the 40 million strong Nadhlatul Ulama. Mr



Mr Bambang delivering his talk in Singapore

Akbar delivered his address on 24 May and was followed two days later by Mr Bambang on 26 May. The series culminated with Mr Abdurrahman's public lecture on 3 June.

The next round of public seminars sponsored by IDSS and the Straits Times is slated for late August 2004 and will feature the two contending presidential tickets for the 20 September second round of the presidential elections.

Career Talk held for MSc Graduating Class



From left: Irvin, Manjeet, Sithara and Elvis.

A Career Talk was organised for the graduating students of the IDSS Masters of Science (MSc) programme.

Held on 9 June 2004, the session featured several speakers from the IDSS Alumni Association (IAA). These alumni members shared their career experiences and provided insight about their respective professions.

The Speakers Were:

1. **Elvis Chung** (Manager, AP FX/MM Product Control, Barclays Capital Singapore)
2. **Sithara Doriasamy** (Senior Correspondent, Singapore Press Holdings – Tamil Murasu)
3. **Major Irvin Lim** (Commanding Officer of RSN Ship, Republic of Singapore Navy)
4. **Manjeet S. Pardesi** (Associate Research Fellow, IDSS)

Media Focus

Professor Amitav Acharya

- Radio Singapore International, Interviewed on "ASEAN Foreign Minister's Meeting", 21 June 2004.
- BBC World Service, The World Today, "Living With Terror", last of a seven-part series.
- CNBC Interview, Live Studio reaction to Bush Speech on Iraq, 25 May 2004.

Joshua Ho

- Interview with Edward McBride, journalist with The Economist on "Maritime Security", 9 June 2004.
- Published Révolutionnaire, a fortnightly inter-disciplinary e-bulletin for the Future Systems Directorate, MINDEF with the inaugural issue disseminated on 19 April 2004.

Dr Andrew Tan

- AFP (France), "US Military to Retain Commitment to Asia Despite Fewer Troops: Analysts", 13 June 2004.
- Reuters (USA), "Al Qaeda Likely to Be Far From Nuclear Capability", 13 June 2004.
- Associated Press (USA), "Terrorism Fears Grow on Asian Oil Route", 5 June 2004.

Dr Leonard C. Sebastian

Live Interviews with:

- CNBC, Sqwarkbox on Indonesian General Elections, 5 April 2004.
- Bloomberg T.V. on Indonesian Elections, 5 April 2004.

Michael Chandler - RMS-IDSS Visiting Fellow

In February 2004, Risk Management Solutions (RMS), a California based company specialising in the management of catastrophe risks, announced that it was funding the first Visiting Fellowship at the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) at the IDSS.

Michael Chandler, a former officer in the British Army, who served with the United Nations

(UN) from 1993-2004, has been awarded the first RMS-IDSS Visiting Fellowship. As a RMS-IDSS Fellow, Mr. Chandler will write a book on the international response to terrorism, with particular emphasis on the changing role of the UN before and after "9/11" and how it can be a more effective institution.

Networking

IDSS Director, Barry Desker, led a Singapore delegation to China on 13-17 July 2004 to visit the China Institute of International and Strategic Studies, Beijing, and the Shanghai Institute of International Affairs. The other members were Associate Professor Lee Lai To (NUS), Chin Kin Wah and Daljit Singh (ISEAS), Kwa Chong Guan and Li Nan (IDSS).



Mr Desker (centre) and Tan See Seng (far right) with officials of the Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy.

Mr Desker also led a delegation to Hanoi on 28-30 July 2004 to visit fraternal institutes in Vietnam. The team included Kwa Chong Guan (IDSS Head of External Programmes), Dr Tan See Seng (IDSS) and Dr David Koh (ISEAS), met with counterparts in the Institute of Military Strategy, the Ho Chi Minh National Political

Academy and the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They had a friendly exchange of views on international and regional affairs and agreed to continue the relationship through such visits.

Joshua Ho

visited the Maritime Institute of Malaysia and participated in a discussion with staff on "Piracy and Maritime Terrorism in the Malacca Straits", Kuala Lumpur, 4 August 2004.



Mr Ali (in black and white shirt) up on stage doing IDSS proud during the cultural performance.

Elena Pavlova

participated in the Malaysian Strategic Research Centre and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation Intercultural Discourse Series entitled "Dealing with Terrorism Today: Lessons from the Malaysian Experience", Kuala Lumpur, 23 July 2004.

Mushahid Ali

attended the Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia International Visitors' Programme, Kuala Lumpur, 2-12 June 2004.

Prof. Amitav Acharya delivered a Key-note address on "Alliance Politics in the Asia-Pacific: A Regional Overview", to the Workshop on "An Emerging Security Triangle? Australia-Japan-US Strategic Interests and Regional Response", Griffith Asia-Pacific Research Institute, Brisbane, Australia, 29-30 July 2004.

He gave a lecture on "Interstate Relations: Trust and Conflict Management" at the Harvard

Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR): "Understanding the Rules – The Game of Trust in Asia", Harvard University, 1 May 2004.

He also delivered a lecture on "The Role of Regional Organisations – Are Views Changing?" at the 2004 Pacific Symposium at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University, Washington D.C., 22-23 April 2004.

IDSS Celebrates the President's 80th Birthday

On 30 June, IDSS hosted an informal lunch party for President S R Nathan. President Nathan was the founding director of IDSS until his election as President of Singapore in August 1999. As President, Mr Nathan has continued to support IDSS activities. Interviewed by "Think Tank", President Nathan stated, "I am happy that IDSS has grown, and spread its wings both physically and intellectually".

He emphasized the significance of IDSS in the areas of research, teaching and public education, and noted the IDSS' role in the "promotion of public forums which are beneficial beyond universities".



President and Mrs Nathan cutting the birthday cake.

He added, "IDSS has established a brand name of its own, which has stretched both locally and abroad. I hope IDSS will continue to maintain this high quality of research and scholarship".

In attendance were Mrs Nathan, Mr Barry Desker (Director, IDSS), Mrs Desker, Professor Amitav Acharya (IDSS, Deputy Director) and Mrs Acharya, as well as IDSS staff.

IDSS' Board of Governors



From left: Mr K Kesavapany; Prof. Neo Boon Siong; Prof. Wang Gungwu; Prof. Eliot Cohen; Dr Andrew Chew (Chairman); Mr Barry Desker (Director); Mr Peter Ho; Mr Patrick Daniel; and Mr Peter Seah. Also in the picture is Prof. Amitav Acharya (Deputy Director, IDSS).

Absent: Prof. Tan Tai Yong; BG (Ret.) Tan Chin Tiong and Prof. Francoise Heisbourg.

>> September-December 2004

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| 3-4 Sept | IDSS- Ford Workshop on Non-Traditional Security in Asia, Traders Hotel, 1A Cuscaden Road. |
| 17 Sept | IDSS Seminar by Professor Martin Van Creveld, Professor of History, Hebrew University, Tel Aviv, Israel, on "Iraq and the Limitations of the Revolution in Military Affairs". Venue to be confirmed. |
| 17 Sept | IDSS Colloquium by Professor Martin Van Creveld on "The Transformation of War Since September 11", LT2, NTU. |
| 3-4 Oct | Japan-ASEAN Security Co-operation, Experts' Workshop, Traders Hotel, Singapore. |
| 10-11 Oct | IDSS-Ford Beijing Seminar on Illegal Migration and Securitisation, Beijing. |
| 27-28 Oct | 2nd Japan-ASEAN Security Symposium, Pan-Pacific Hotel, Singapore. |

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