



INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE CONSORTIUM OF NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY STUDIES IN ASIA

8–9 January 2007 ||
Singapore ||



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REPORT OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING ORGANIZED BY
THE NTS-ASIA SECRETARIAT,
S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (RSIS)
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FORD FOUNDATION

**8–9 January 2007
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WELCOME REMARKS

Barry Desker, Dean of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, expressed his pleasure that the newly inaugurated RSIS was able to host this momentous event in advancing non-traditional security (NTS) studies in Asia. He remarked that security can no longer be ensured by military operations and approaches where NTS issues have increasingly threatened security of states and society across Asia. NTS issues, once marginalized by both policymakers and academia, have moved to centre stage, alongside other more traditional aspects of security. As such, RSIS appreciates the wealth of knowledge that NTS-Asia has provided to this series of studies.

Ambassador Desker also noted that although states could adopt a militaristic approach to deal with insecurity caused by NTS threats, he cautioned that such a concept of securitization in the Southeast Asia region might further legitimize the role of armed forces within domestic governance. Risks may then arise as the expansion of the role of the armed forces can undermine civilian authority, especially in emerging democratic states within the region.

In conclusion, Ambassador Desker thanked the Ford Foundation for their steadfast support of the project. On behalf of RSIS and the Secretariat of NTS-Asia, he wished the meeting a success and looked forward to working with the Consortium's member institutes.

OPENING REMARKS

In his opening remarks, **Andrew Watson**, Regional Representative of the Ford Foundation, China remarked that the Ford Foundation was pleased to support the work of NTS-Asia. With human security as an integral part of its discourse, the inaugural meeting signified a formal opening to the work that the Consortium had been doing.

Mr. Watson congratulated NTS-Asia and RSIS for the work that had been done based on its open framework approaches, which engaged all theoretical, analytical and practical levels when dealing with NTS issues. He hoped that the analytical work carried out will impact the way society thinks and deals with these issues.

Watson also noted that NTS in Asia has unique experiences that made it different from other regions in the world. In Asia, liberal democracy cannot be taken for granted. Given the profound and challenging impacts of globalization and open trade, Mr. Watson expressed confidence in the Consortium as it aspires to engage with different research groups and traditional security groups in the region as well as beyond.



AMB. BARRY DESKER (RIGHT), DEAN OF THE S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, WITH MR. ANDREW WATSON, REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FORD FOUNDATION, CHINA

In conclusion, Watson congratulated NTS-Asia for the range and depth of work it has done thus far and looked forward to the expansion of the Consortium in the years to come.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

In his introductory remarks, **Amitav Acharya** of RSIS and Secretary-General of NTS-Asia, briefly introduced the nature and purpose of NTS-Asia. He highlighted that the main objective of its establishment was to provide a platform to meet and develop some common understanding and interest, and to develop a sense of community amongst all scholars and research institutions working on NTS.

Acharya also noted that it was the first time such a regional network has managed to bring together different institutions

in Asia, which have expressed much interest and interaction thus far. He raised the point that the Consortium is based on an inclusive arrangement not just within Asia; it is also very diverse in terms of the themes of interest. Security cannot be limited to national boundaries and hence all issues raised will be part of the Consortium's agenda.

In conclusion, Acharya emphasized that this was a working meeting to set the agenda collectively by all members for the Consortium in the coming year.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



DR. SURIN PITSUWAN, DELIVERING THE OPENING REMARKS

Surin Pitsuwan, former Foreign Minister of Thailand and Member of the Commission on Human Security, remarked that NTS issues are non-traditional due to the fact that traditional security issues have been perceived as undermining the sovereignty of the state. Based on the social concept theory, the state was established to secure the people and members of civil society. Therefore, non-traditional threats are essentially traditional threats before the establishment of the state.

Dr. Pitsuwan noted that human security is an important conceptual tool to aid us in understanding how to address new threats outside the parameters of the state. Rather than relying on the nation state, which has been the principle in the analysis of operation, integration and globalization have made the concepts of state security and nation state security irrelevant. One has to therefore revisit the sanctity of the concept of sovereignty.

The nature of NTS cannot be managed or solved by any one particular state. It has to be based on a regional or multinational approach. Dr. Pitsuwan noted that it was heartening that ASEAN countries are putting aside the absolute principle of non-interference and/or state sovereignty, and recreating the rules and regulations that govern them as a community. He believes that absolute sovereignty stands in the way in dealing with NTS. Thus it will also be the task of the consortium to consider how the region as a community can coordinate and cooperate with a view to contain, if not minimize, the impact of NTS.

In conclusion, Dr. Pitsuwan remarked that we must recognize that we live in a global village and that threats are not limited to the ASEAN region. The challenge therefore is how to go forward not only as NTS-Asia, but NTS-World.

SESSION 1:

NTS CHALLENGES AND POLICY RESPONSES IN SOUTH ASIA

The first speaker, **ANM Muniruzzaman** from the Bangladesh Institute of International Studies (BISS), listed a number of NTS issues of concern to Bangladesh to date, foremost among which are the proliferation of small arms and drugs, human trafficking, the spread of diseases and pandemics. He noted that Bangladesh has been actively engaging civil society to deal with NTS issues. Muniruzzaman also suggested that, to deal with social problems, it is important to first determine the root causes of the issues, thus allowing for peace making in the early stages. In his conclusion, he commented that NTS is a very nascent and under-researched area, and so more in-depth research is necessary, especially in terms of the impact of threats, solution mechanisms and capacity-building measures available to deal with such threats.

The second speaker, **Meenakshi Gopinath** from Women in Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP), India, noted that it is important to acknowledge that security is a contested concept. Therefore, it will be useful and less problematic conceptually to look at non-traditional formulations of security rather than NTS per se. Also, the evolving discourse needs to take on board gender as a cross-cutting issue, especially in light of emerging factors contributing to peoples' insecurity—issues such as migration and the culture of militarism and terrorism—that require a non-traditional lens to analyse how such issues impinge on security, and to formulate NTS approaches to deal with these issues. In sum, she was of the opinion that NTS formulations have opened up spaces to truly engendered security, and ideally are able to de-securitize military security by bringing it into the arena of governance by discussion.

The next speaker, **Syed Rifaat Hussain** from the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Sri Lanka, spoke briefly on some of the issues that RCSS would like to focus on in the near future. Some of these themes of interest are expected to be included in the coming Winter Workshop. Such issues include disaster and risk management, diseases such as HIV and AIDS, proliferation of small arms, international migration

and environmental security. In conclusion, RCSS believed that it is their role to highlight these salient issues and to help generate policy-relevant knowledge that will allow more coherent approaches and policy responses to these NTS challenges.

The fourth speaker, **Peter DeSouza** from the Centre for the Study of Developing Studies (CSDS), India, shared the non-traditional perspective on NTS issues based on work done in the past. In that study, people's perceptions and attitudes were crucial in addressing the relationship between democracy-poverty and democracy-human security, which reveals the disjunction between public attitudes and government policies on the same matter. He noted that it was obvious that the public preference for greater state intervention contrasted with government policies that are based on and/or are reacting towards liberalization, privatization and globalization. He therefore suggested that there might be two Indias emerging because of these irreconcilable differences in interests. In conclusion, it is the charge and challenge of the epistemic community to make it a case where the state should also adopt policies of a welfarist state as a matter of principle or will, rather than matters of strategic or selective importance.

The last speaker for the session, **Chowdhury R. Abrar** from the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), University of Dhaka, gave a brief on the work achieved by the university in the past year. He brought up some of the broad-based social issues and specific cross-border issues affecting Bangladesh and the South Asian region—illegal and/or irregular migrants, pandemics and diseases, smuggling and illegal trade. The key to addressing some of these issues involves continued and better research coupled with policy advocacy. He concluded by noting that although there had been a lot of work done on these issues, most were based on the state's perspective. There is a need to go beyond the state as such problems are regional in nature. He thus looked forward to further and closer partnership and collaboration of like-minded scholars and activists in time to come.

DISCUSSION

Brian Job from the Centre of International Relations, University of British Columbia (UBC), chaired the session and commented that the speakers had drawn attention to the necessity to focus and question the role of the state and its responsibility to provide for its population. Most of them aptly pointed out the vulnerability of the people and the difficulty in terms of state governance, as well as the difficulties scholars and researchers face when exploring and researching on such issues.

Amitav Acharya observed two general characteristics from the presentations. Firstly, the work done by the relevant institutions and scholars were in-depth methodologically and, to some extent, scientific in nature. Secondly, although most involved micro-level studies, general applicability factors were apparent, both to the state and sub-regional level. Acharya also challenged all those involved to look beyond the state and sub-region, and address issues beyond their own vantage points. These will involve addressing the four main clusters of issues—people issues, state issues, sub-regional and regional issues—and, most importantly, the nexus between global and regional issues.

SESSION 2:

NTS CHALLENGES AND POLICY RESPONSES IN NORTH EAST ASIA

Meiwita Budiharsana from the Ford Foundation, Indonesia, chaired this session and invited presentations from the NTS network members.

The first speaker, **Han Feng** from the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies (IAPS), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, presented the non-traditional threats from the Chinese perspective. According to Han, such threats lay outside the area of traditional security threats arising from the military, political and diplomatic fields. Han divided the issues into three categories: nature, economy and development, and social and political issues. In the first category, Han identified threats coming from diseases such as AIDS, SARS and the H5N1 virus, as well as potential threats to national development and security from natural disasters and environment degradation resulting from deforestation and pollution.

In explaining threats in the category of economy and development, Han pointed out the impact arising from the process of globalization and regionalization. While the Chinese economy has moved closer to the international economy, the ongoing reform to achieve this has created gaps internally. The shortage of energy and natural resources is now more acute as China industrializes.

As for social and political issues, Han noted that China's growing interactions with the international community have increased ethnic, religious and cultural problems. In response to these various NTS challenges, China will focus on developing a more balanced and harmonious society. This will be achieved through coordination at different sub-regional levels within China, and through regional integration with countries around China.

The second speaker, **Ahn Se Hyun** from the Ilmin International Relations Institute (IIRI), Korea University, began by identifying energy as the central theme of the national security agenda in the region. Ahn forecasted that in the span of ten years, energy will become the most important non-traditional security issue in the region due to its high demand and shortage in supply. In Ahn's opinion, it is not an exaggeration to say that competition for energy could lead to conflict or even war.

In view of this, there is a need to balance energy demand, shortage and supply. This can be achieved through securing a reliable and affordable supply of energy that is not only sufficient but environment friendly.

Outlining the project, Ahn disclosed that it would address the concern on the conceptualization of energy security, particularly in Northeast Asia. Empirical case studies on the energy security situation and policies of various countries will be studied. Two international conferences will be held each year: the first, in Seoul in June, and the second in Tokyo, Singapore or Shanghai. Prominent scholars and energy experts from China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan, the U.S. and Russia will be invited to the conferences. At the local level, three or four workshops will be conducted in Korea. Finally, a book containing two chapters on theory and about six empirical case studies will be published.

The third speaker, **Bui Truong Giang** from the Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP), Vietnam, observed that deeper integration among ASEAN members has resulted in wider development gaps among them. This could divide ASEAN members into the "included" and the "excluded". To narrow the gaps, Bui proposed the "4-I approach" comprising of income, integration, infrastructure and institution gaps. In Bui's assessment, there are at least three non-traditional security issues that need to be confronted: an economic community without single market; a political and security community without collective action; and a cultural community without common identity.

In concluding, Bui reiterated the 4-I approach to bridge the development gaps and proposed them as the core mission in any ASEAN integration process. This also requires focusing on regional institution building and caring for the most vulnerable as the "new ASEAN ways" to bridge the development gaps and to build an ASEAN community. Any integration process in ASEAN, Bui stressed, should be embedded with the components of "poverty reduction" in order to be sustainable.

The fourth speaker, **Li Yingtao** from Beijing Foreign Studies

University (BFSU), who represented the Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP) China at the meeting, divided her presentation into two parts. The first part was an introduction to the *Feminist International Relations* textbook, a research project under the “Non-traditional Security and China” Programme led by Dr. Wang Yizhou and sponsored by the Ford Foundation. The book contains a study on gender and global issues where the challenge lies in actively breaking new academic ground and contributing to the promotion of gender equality.

In the second part of her presentation, Li introduced the Center of Gender & Global Issues at BFSU. Established on 28 November 2006, the main purpose of the centre is to create and promote a curriculum related to gender and global issues, and to establish a network linking scholars of gender and global issues. The centre seeks to introduce a gender perspective to China’s diplomatic interactions and foreign-policy making. One of the major tasks for the centre in 2007, according to Li, is to enrich China’s study on gender and non-traditional security issues. By fully utilizing BFSU’s language assets, where more than 30 languages are taught, the centre is able to translate related bibliographies, materials and study results into Chinese in order to familiarize Chinese scholars with new research achievements abroad.

The fifth speaker, **James Tang** from the Centre of Asian Studies (CAS), University of Hong Kong, described briefly some of the projects that were conducted and the achievements in phase two of the NTS project.

In examining irregular migration, infectious diseases and cross-borders issues, Tang noted overlapping interests in these issues and among many institutions. He thus suggested further collaboration in the third phase by looking at each other’s projects to address these issues. On the issue of human trafficking, Tang expressed his support in implementing trans-national legislative instruments. However, analysis of the general phenomena of trafficking—although useful—needs to be further refined in proscriptive measures that needs to be undertaken in a more focused manner. In addition to these, human-organ trafficking issues must be brought into the picture as well. In taking this research forward into the third phase of the NTS project, Tang hoped that multiple-country network studies will advance the understanding of the full scope of this phenomenon, laying the foundation for more nuanced policy tools to be used by officials and law enforcement practitioners.

As for infectious diseases, Tang underscored the importance of mapping the capacity of regional countries to deal with

future outbreaks of infectious diseases such as SARS. The recent H5N1 outbreaks, according to Tang’s analysis, have indicated that the capacity to deal with the problem to be rather uneven. Therefore, to properly understand the capacities of the regional countries, it is necessary to understand to what extent their actions can prevent another trans-national virus from spreading. In this regard, it is necessary to map their respective public health capacities from the ground up. Tang ended his presentation by raising concern over non-traditional security issues such as narcotics, human trafficking, small-arms smuggling, environmental exploitation as well as a host of other economic and personal insecurities as a result of the boundary conditions within the Greater Mekong sub-region.

DISCUSSION

A participant pointed out that some of the issues were framed according to the NTS concept, which is quite broadly defined. He also noted that there are a variety of issues that have emerged, especially from Northeast Asia. These issues include energy security, gender equality and disparity within ASEAN. Using the energy security project as an example, he raised the question of using the non-traditional way of looking at energy security. In response, a participant suggested looking at the issue of access to energy within society, which is increasingly a serious human security concern. Proving his point, the participant cited accidents in Nigeria. Nigeria is a global exporter of energy but the access to energy by the population is so restricted that people are forced to tap pipelines at various places to get energy for their livelihood.

Another participant observed that although human trafficking is a regional issue, the fact remains that there is still a reliance on the state or the state system to provide the control that NTS demands.

Giving his views on energy security, one presenter highlighted that energy security is a component to security both in the traditional and non-traditional dimensions. However, he stressed, the emphasis in Northeast Asia’s context is on the economic dimension. Energy security has become more important in this region simply because Russian oil and gas pipelines are clearly the most preferred energy suppliers for Northeast Asian countries. He also expressed his hope that Russian oil and gas prices remain more competitive than the existing supply from the Middle East for Northeast Asians. In short, Northeast Asia’s approach to this security issue is to achieve a reliable and sustainable energy supply, viewed from the economic dimension of energy security.

On the point of clarifying concepts that are essentially contested, one participant maintained that the consortium has been very clear on what is meant by NTS. The focus, he explained, is on people in their different dimensions, trans-national security issues and non-military dimensions. In this sense, it is not an intellectual exercise per se as there is already so much literature written about it. The main arguments against a concept like NTS or human security, in his understanding, is that they are viewed as being too broad analytically and thus unable to formulate good policy. This is due perhaps to policymakers finding it difficult to determine what they are supposed to be using or latching onto when defining security. He added that the value added in NTS comes from looking at people, trans-national issues and going beyond the question of sovereignty and non-intervention, and looking beyond the military dimension. In his arguments, he made a clear distinction between

good and bad states. He also agreed that the international community should be allowed to intervene in cases involving bad states.

Summing up the discussion, one participant remarked that when a concept is contested, it allows many new voices and opinions to be heard. In her opinion, what is important is to be prudent when allowing these voices to enter the debate and to assess its impact on the reach of policies to people who are marginalized. The fact that there can be non-traditional formulations to security—which do not necessarily look only at threats but at enabling spaces and structures constraints—is something that this whole exercise could have added to in enriching the discussion on security by advocating multiple conversations. As it is, no question on security is settled in definite terms because a realist will be accused of intellectual skimpiness and a non-traditionalist will be accused of conceptual obesity.

SESSION 3:

NTS CHALLENGES AND POLICY RESPONSES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

The chairperson for this session, **Khong Yuen Foong** from RSIS, invited presentations from the NTS network members.

The first speaker, **Carolina Hernandez** from the Institute of Strategic and Development Studies (ISDS), Philippines, explained her four-part paper by describing the irony in Southeast Asia and ASEAN as one of the regions that look at security in comprehensive terms but still remain focused on the security of the state or the regime rather than on the individual.

To redress some of the NTS challenges, Hernandez suggested going beyond the state and region, and to work with others on trans-border issues and respond to them globally. Southeast Asia, Hernandez noted, was also a source, transit and destination of labour migration, both documented and otherwise. Studies have securitized labour movement, not only from the point of view of the sending and receiving countries, but more importantly for the migrants and their families as well. Tension in bilateral relations between sending and receiving countries has periodically occurred in Southeast Asia, creating kinks in an otherwise increasingly stable region.

Hernandez ended her presentation by offering ten points on how NTS-Asia can contribute to countering NTS challenges. These points include conducting joint studies on specific NTS issues involving all stakeholders, particularly civil society groups. Hernandez also proposed that measurable indicators be developed to incorporate the various aspects of NTS, including human security. Hernandez advocated the adoption of multi-disciplinary approaches and methodologies in addressing NTS issues.

The second speaker, **Edy Prasetyono** from the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Indonesia, mentioned a lack of capability in controlling Indonesia's vast territories as the first challenge, which could easily be exploited by terrorist groups.

Prasetyono then presented the second challenge, that of good governance, before moving on to the third challenge of environmental degradation and natural disasters. Elaborating further on the third challenge, Prasetyono brought into focus the impact of floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The security implications of these disasters include a decrease in national capacity to ensure self-sufficiency for food and an increase in rural-urban migration, which has resulted in the rise of urban slums. In Irian Jaya and other parts of the country, for example, the loss of traditional land and severe environmental degradation caused by mining activities has led to rebellion and conflict. The fourth challenge is that of territorial issues, as demonstrated in the many maritime boundaries in the region that remain poorly defined.

In response to the challenges related to borders and maritime issues, Prasetyono proposed building up maritime capabilities, particularly surveillance and reconnaissance, promoting regional maritime cooperation and establishing border treaties with Indonesia's neighbours. As for responses to natural disasters, Prasetyono proposed that an early warning and emergency system be put in place.

The third speaker, **Len Garces** from the WorldFish Center, Malaysia, opened his presentation with "fish fights over fish rights". The fishing problem, Garces observed, is linked to some local and regional security concern such as livelihood, food security, habitat degradation and even risks to lives.

The study, Garces explained, looked at the allocation of fishing rights, partitioning of the fishing areas between small- and large-scale fisheries, and conflicts between fisheries. In his analysis of the various underlying root causes, expanding threats and impacts of the conflicts, Garces proposed reviewing and updating existing laws and regulations, improving implementation strategies and managing fishing capacity with stakeholders.

Concluding the presentation, Garces stressed the need for the development of mechanisms for implementing cooperation in

the midst of conflict and impending security threats to fishing livelihoods, food security, and fishery habitat and stocks. Research not covered by the study must be developed and be able to capture cross-border conflicts in the various “fishery hot spots” in Southeast Asia such as the South China Sea, Indian Ocean and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas. Similarly, action research and field trials of proposed policy recommendations for managing conflicts and excess fishing capacity should be pursued.

The fourth speaker, **Mely Caballero-Anthony** from RSIS, highlighted three pressing NTS issues in Southeast Asia: coping with natural disasters; mitigating effects of environmental degradation and climate change; and the looming threats of infectious diseases.

In her presentation, Caballero-Anthony questioned to what extent the security implications have been appreciated by the governments, especially of the human emergencies that followed crises like the one in Aceh, Indonesia. The internally displaced people, especially children, for example, have been exposed to child trafficking. Not only that, the future of displaced women who have lost their husbands during the height of the tsunami are also of concern. These issues, she suggested, have to be studied further so that when mainstreaming the natural disasters agenda is discussed, the focus should not only be on exercises but also on regional mechanism for disaster relief. Caballero-Anthony acknowledged that although this existed in ASEAN, it has tended to look at only five countries while ignoring the other five. The value added by the NTS studies is to look at all these cross-cutting issues that are connected to the big problem of natural disasters. Many things, such as the best practices in the dealing with relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation, can be shared. In the case of environmental degradation, the difficulty in overcoming the haze problem, for example, is due to the inability to convince farmers to give up their slash-and-burn method, which is the easiest and the least costly. Caballero-Anthony suggested re-analysing why certain national policies are not successful and stressed the importance of critical intervention when it comes to environmental degradation.

Concluding her presentation, Caballero-Anthony observed that there is a lack of consciousness and appreciation of the security implication of infectious diseases not only in Southeast Asia but also in South Asia. Improving regional

preparedness, Caballero-Anthony said, requires building a credible effective surveillance system for monitoring infectious diseases. The politics of health crisis must also encompass multiple dialogues with the various people who are involved in it.

DISCUSSION

One participant asked whether the government or any research institutes in Indonesia has a checklist with regards to NTS issues. In response, one of the presenters mentioned two kinds of checklists. The unofficial list, according to the perceptions and priorities of scholars and intellectuals, placed military and non-military aspects of maritime security as priority. However, from the government or official perspective, the discussion centred on daily issues among which energy security is a primary concern. With regard to this, the government has expressed interest in building nuclear reactors after monitoring Indonesia’s energy needs, which have transformed Indonesia into a major importer of oil. However, no official checklist has been put to the people. From this observation, energy and the environment remained the top two priorities of the government.

A commentator pointed out that there was a need to push forward the NTS agenda, especially the conceptual component of it. From the presentations, he singled out three important concepts that, in his view, needed further exploration, either independently or in terms of their relations to one another. The three concepts were: interests and conflicts; absence of policies that suggested implicitly the need for them to address the situation of interests and conflicts; and the absence of institutions dealing with borders and resources that have resulted in NTS issues coming up. One presenter agreed with the comment and admitted that those three concepts drove her to argue for the need to involve all the stakeholders as well.

Another participant then raised a question concerning maritime disputes that in fact cover traditional as well as non-traditional issues. In his opinion, putting the disputes to the international court in search of a settlement, like what had been done by some ASEAN countries, has not appeared to be successful. Was this, therefore, going to be adopted by all or just some ASEAN members? In response, one of the presenters stated that there was a commitment in doing things the ASEAN way. This, however, does not deny the disputing parties the option

of choosing the mechanism in arriving at a solution. The fact that the disputing parties are able to bring their case to the international court, in his opinion, indicates the maturity of the relations amongst member states.

With regards to resource security in South Asia, one commentator noted that the aspect of water security was not addressed. He predicted that future disputes in this region could be about water. In addition, he felt that there is a need to address the basic health security in the poorer countries together with trans-national diseases because they remain the most vulnerable.

There was also a question raised on the issue of arms proliferation, whether it is outside the pale of this epistemic community or why the disarmament discourse has taken a back seat. Expressing her concern, the participant cited the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal. In her understanding, it was

supposedly a response to India's energy needs but the kind of ripple effects it has on the subcontinent and also the whole discourse has been skewed—where hawkish groups perceive it as inhibiting their ability to make more weapons while groups at the other end of the spectrum claim that not enough is done about it. Thus she felt that this community has the responsibility to address the issue such as this in view of its effect on resources in the region, the culture of militarism and the whole issue of violence.

One participant suggested that, given the long list of NTS issues discussed thus far during the conference, it makes sense to prioritize them even at the sub-regional level if not for Asia as a whole. One way to think about this, the participant suggested, was to think of the funds available and note down the top three priorities for the sub-region or Asia, and the likelihood of coming to an agreement on those issues.

SESSION 4:

TAKING THE NTS-ASIA AGENDA FORWARD

Amitav Acharya, as chair of the session, began by summarizing the discussions that had taken place the day before.

In his summary he mentioned three issues that were consistently raised, namely, the underlying conception of NTS, its common themes and the approaches to these issues. Acharya then provided a broad and flexible framework to analyse NTS, which he arrived at by adding the non-military, people security and trans-national diffusion dimensions.

In the discussions on the programmes for the coming year that was listed in the agenda, the following decisions were reached:

Annual NTS-Asia Convention

Tentatively, both RCSS-Sri Lanka and CSIS- Indonesia had shown interest in hosting the event. It is scheduled to be held in early to mid November. The broad theme of the conference will be decided at a later date. Acharya suggested that in order to attract a wider audience, the conference could be open for full-fee paying participants.

Regional NTS-Asia Workshop

Regional or sub-regional workshop focusing on various issues should be held once every two years, preferably at

a different regional or sub-regional location each time. IIRI-Korea University had expressed interest in hosting one of the workshops should it involve energy or resource security.

Research Fellowship Programme

Each year, NTS-Asia gives out three fellowships for students to conduct research work at any network member institute for a period of three months. Eligible candidates are selected by a virtual committee comprising four members, including a representative from each region, plus an external member. Meenakshi Gopinath, Carolina Hernandez and Hyun In Taek (represented by Ahn Se Hyun during the meeting) were selected to represent their respective regions. Brian Job was selected as the external committee member. The committee will decide on the eligibility criteria by the end of January. Acharya suggested that separate funding may be sought to sponsor more students in the future.

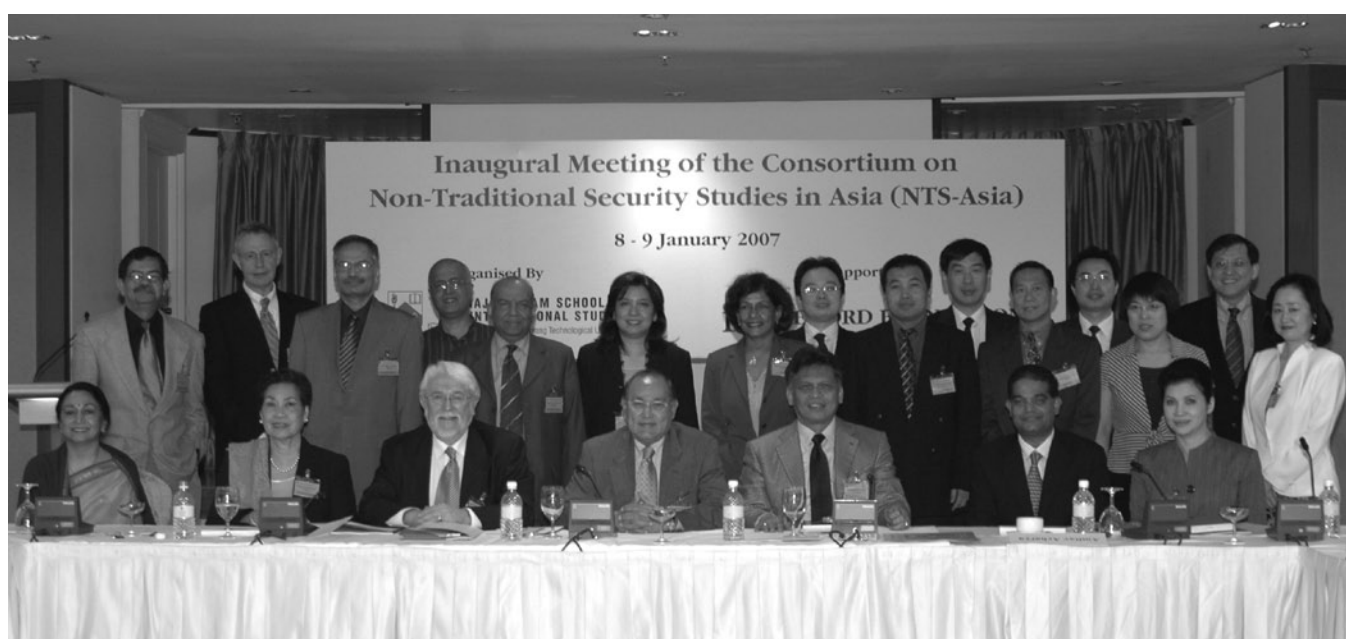
Curriculum Development

Several members, such as CSDS-India and IWEP-China, noted that they have been active in publishing educational books that touch on various NTS themes. These books were seen to be an encouraging step forward in curriculum development on NTS issues within the region. NTS-Asia is interested to work on a textbook that can be included in the syllabus of both undergraduate and post-graduate studies.

CLOSING REMARKS

Andrew Watson, in his closing remarks, praised the commitment and energy shown by the participants and hoped that such momentum would be carried forward into the Consortium's future activities. In going forward, there were a few themes that struck him during the meeting that were worth thinking about. He raised the question of who the actors in these programmes were. He also noted that much of the discussions were centred on fragile and soft states, particularly the capability of states to deal with NTS. In his opinion, the value added by NTS comes from developmental issues in the broader sense, covering social security or

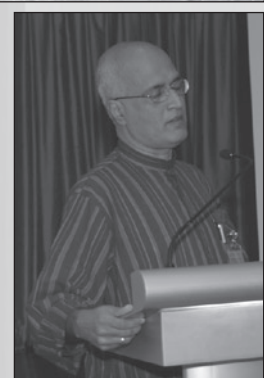
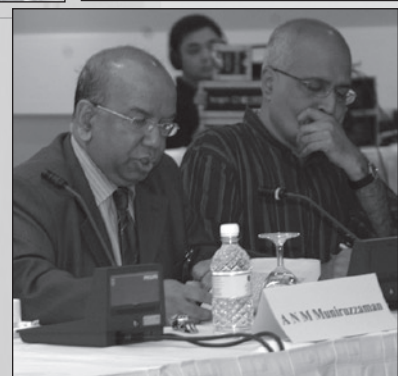
social protection and the like, that were put within the NTS frame, and the benefits gained from looking at them in that way. He also stressed that the Consortium had provided a new lens in looking at security issues. In his view, this should always be emphasized when making presentations to others. He encouraged the Consortium towards gaining leverage in order to have a bigger impact across the different range of institutions. The fellowships and conventions in his assessment could be used to convince people to become full members. Lastly, he looked forward to hearing more about the Consortium's works in the next five years.



NTS-ASIA NETWORK MEMBERS WITH FORD REPRESENTATIVES MR. ANDREW WATSON (SEATED THIRD FROM LEFT) AND DR. MEIWITA BUDIHARSANA (SEATED EXTREME RIGHT), GUEST SPEAKER DR. SURIN PITSUWAN (SEATED, THIRD FROM RIGHT) AND DEAN OF RSIS, AMB. BARRY DESKER (SEATED FOURTH FROM LEFT)

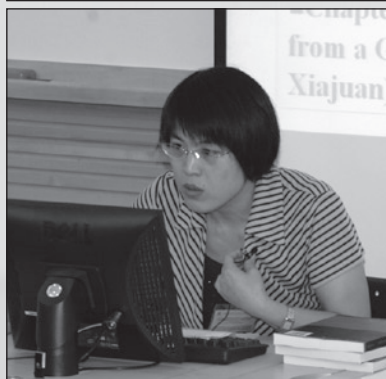
SNAPSHOTS FROM THE NTS-ASIA INAUGURAL MEETING

Inaugural Meeting of the Consortium on Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia



SNAPSHOTS FROM THE NTS-ASIA INAUGURAL MEETING

Consortium on Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia)



PROGRAMME

Day 1, 7 January 2007

Arrival and check-in (all day)

1900 Welcome Reception
Aquamarine, Marina Mandarin

Day 2, 8 January 2007

Venue: Vanda Ballroom, Marina Mandarin Hotel

- 0900 **Welcome Remarks**
Amb. Barry Desker
Dean
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore
- 0910 **Opening Remarks**
Mr. Andrew Watson
Regional Representative
The Ford Foundation, China
- 0920 **Introductory Remarks**
Prof. Amitav Acharya
Secretary General
NTS-Asia, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore
- 0930 **Keynote Address**
Dr. Surin Pitsuwan
Former Foreign Minister, Thailand, and Member, Commission on Human Security
- 1000 Coffee break

1015 **Session 1:** **NTS Challenges and Policy Responses in Asia**

Chair:

Dr. Brian Job
Professor of Political Science
Interim Director
Liu Institute for Global Issues
Director
Centre of International Relations
University of British Columbia, Canada

Presenters:

Maj Gen ANM Muniruzzaman
Director-General
Bangladesh Institute of International Studies (BIISS), Bangladesh

Dr. Chowdhury R Abrar
Professor in International Relations and Coordinator
Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU)
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr. Peter DeSouza
Coordinator of Lokniti Programme
Visiting Senior Fellow
Centre for Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), India

Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath
Honorary Director
Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP),
Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness The Dalai Lama, India

Professor Syed Rifaat Hussain
Executive Director
Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Sri Lanka

1200 Lunch
Foyer, Nanyang Auditorium, Nanyang Technological University

PROGRAMME

1400 **Session 2:
NTS Challenges and Policy Responses
in Asia**

Venue: Nanyang Executive Centre,
Nanyang Technological University

Chair:

Dr. Meiwita Budiharsana
*Regional Representative
The Ford Foundation,
Indonesia*

Presenters:

Prof. Han Feng
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1530 Coffee Break

1545 **Session 3:
NTS Challenges and Policy Responses
in Asia (continued)**

Chair:

Prof. Khong Yuen Foong
*Senior Research Advisor
S. Rajaratnam School of International
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Singapore*

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Prof. Carolina Hernandez
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Assoc. Prof. Mely Caballero Anthony
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1730 End of Day Two

1900 Dinner (invited participants only)
Venue: Global Kitchen, Level 3, Pan
Pacific Singapore

PROGRAMME

Day 3, 9 January 2007

0900 **Session 4:**
Taking the NTS-Asia Agenda Forward

Venue: Vanda Ballroom, Marina
Mandarin Hotel

Chair:

Prof. Amitav Acharya
Secretary General
NTS-Asia, S. Rajaratnam School of
International Studies (RSIS),
Singapore

- Annual NTS-Asia Convention
- NTS-Asia Sub-Regional Workshops
- Research Fellowship Programme
- Curriculum Development
- Other matters

1045 Coffee break

1100 **Closing Remarks**

Mr. Andrew Watson
Regional Representative
The Ford Foundation,
China

Prof. Amitav Acharya
Secretary General
NTS-Asia, S. Rajaratnam School of
International Studies (RSIS),
Singapore

1200 Lunch

Venue: Peach Blossoms, Level 5, Marina
Mandarin Hotel

Departures (for foreign participants)

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ABOUT THE S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) was established in January 2007 as an autonomous School within the Nanyang Technological University. RSIS' mission is to be a leading research and graduate teaching institution in strategic and international affairs in the Asia-Pacific. To accomplish this mission, it will:

- Provide a rigorous professional graduate education with a strong practical emphasis,
- Conduct policy-relevant research in defence, national security, international relations, strategic studies and diplomacy,
- Build a global network of like-minded professional schools.

Graduate Training in International Affairs

RSIS offers an exacting graduate education in international affairs, taught by an international faculty of leading thinkers and practitioners. The Master of Science (MSc) degree programmes in Strategic Studies, International Relations, and International Political Economy are distinguished by their focus on the Asia-Pacific, the professional practice of international affairs, and the cultivation of academic depth. About 130 students, the majority from abroad, are enrolled in these programmes. A small, select Ph.D. programme caters to advanced students whose interests match those of specific faculty members.

Research

RSIS research is conducted by five components: the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies which is RSIS' predecessor (IDSS, 1996), the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR, 2004), the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS, 2006), the Centre for the Advanced Study of Regionalism and Multilateralism (CASRM, 2007); and the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia, 2007). The focus of research is on issues relating to the security and stability of the Asia-Pacific region and their implications for Singapore and other countries in the region. RSIS also has the S. Rajaratnam Professorship in Strategic Studies, which brings distinguished scholars and practitioners to participate in the work of the school.

International Collaboration

Collaboration with other professional schools of international affairs to form a global network of excellence is a RSIS priority. RSIS will initiate links with other like-minded schools so as to enrich its research and teaching activities as well as adopt the best practices of successful schools.

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