

RSIS Distinguished Book Launch: A Tribute to Mr S R Nathan



(L-R) Senior Fellow Mushahid Ali, Minister Chan Chun Sing, Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, and Associate Professor Kumar Ramakrishna at the book launch

By **Stephanie Neubronner**

On 3 July 2017, RSIS launched the book *Remembering S R Nathan: A Mentor for All Seasons* to commemorate the life and achievements of the Sixth President of Singapore. The event was held at the National Library Building, Singapore.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, said the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), which was the forerunner of RSIS, owed Mr Nathan, the founding

director, a tremendous debt. Over the past two decades, RSIS' growth and development into a leading think tank and teaching institution in the Asia Pacific was due to his vision and determination. Mr Nathan's influence is still today, unmistakable — the motto he coined, "Ponder the Improbable", still excellently summarises RSIS' aims and objectives, Amb Ong said.

Amb Ong added that Mr Nathan worked tirelessly to nurture a core of knowledgeable scholars in the institute. Associate Professor Kumar Ramakrishna, Head of Policy Studies and Coordinator of

the National Security Studies Programme at RSIS, and one of the editors of the book, was part of the first batch of RSIS researchers he recruited and mentored. Although Mr Nathan had become Singapore's sixth President by the time he joined the institute, Assoc Prof Ramakrishna said Mr Nathan always kept tabs on his progress. Mr Nathan was one of the few national level public figures who could move effortlessly between the highest levels of international statesmanship and the lowest levels of everyday interactions with the man in the street.

Assoc Prof Ramakrishna further described Mr Nathan as "The Man in the Arena". Quoting former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt's 1910 speech, he said Mr Nathan's life and example has inspired his colleagues and him to persevere and press on the good fight, no matter the circumstance.

The guest of honour at the book launch, Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Singapore, and Secretary-General of the National Trades Union Congress, echoed this view. Minister Chan said Mr Nathan

always viewed each new challenge as an opportunity to make meaningful changes; it was this kind of spirit that Singapore's younger generation should emulate. He added that Mr Nathan was a great man who not only achieved many things for himself, his family and country, but has also inspired others to follow his example and strive for greater heights.

Mr Mushahid Ali, Senior Fellow at RSIS, and the book's editor, highlighted that the breadth and reach of Mr Nathan's influence extended beyond Singapore's shores. Citing Mr Kalimulah Hassan's account of how Mr Nathan assisted in getting him a job as a Straits Times correspondent in Malaysia, Mr Ali said similar stories found throughout the book reflect the multi-faceted nature of Mr Nathan's public service and unstinting assistance to all.

Comprised of essays written by public servants, policymakers, scholars, and foreign observers who worked with, learned from, and were inspired by Mr Nathan, the book gives an informative yet personal account of Mr Nathan as a leader and mentor. The book also details the extensive footprints Mr Nathan left in sectors such as foreign service; security and intelligence; community building and social welfare; labour and trade unions; and research and academia.

**RSIS Distinguished Book Launch:
A Tribute to Mr S R Nathan**
page 1

**Why Singapore is Not an Island
Visit of Indonesian Defence Minister
to RSIS**
page 2

**Sir John Key Examines the Role and
Impact of Asia
Indo-Pacific Dynamics in the Age of
Trump**
page 3

**Condemning Global Chemical
Warfare: Treaty of 192 Countries
Joint Conference on U.S.-ASEAN
Legal Issues**
page 4

**Launch of the NADI 10th Anniversary
Commemorative Book
Asia and the Strategic Rivalry among
the Major Powers**
page 5

APPSMO 2017
page 6-7

**Coming Together to Combat Piracy
and Sea Robbery
Fighting Climate Change with
Sustainable Development Goals**
page 8

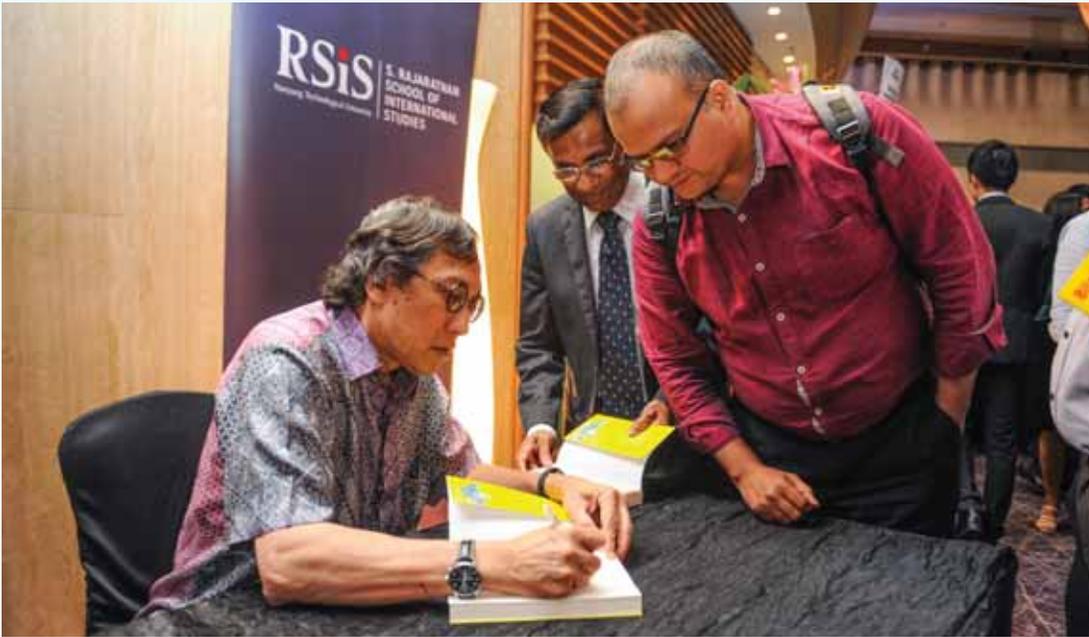
**The Multilateral Trading System and
Its Importance
Envisioning Safe and Secure Seas in
Asia Pacific**
page 9

The Triple Threat to Agriculture
page 10

**RSIS Professor Wins Amos Perlmutter
Prize
RSIS Day 2017 Celebrations**
page 11

Staff Publications and Upcoming Events
page 12

Why Singapore is Not an Island



Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan signing his new book titled "Singapore is Not an Island: Views on Singapore Foreign Policy" at the book launch

By **Tan Ming Hui**

On 21 June 2017, RSIS hosted the book launch of *Singapore is Not an Island: Views on Singapore Foreign Policy* by Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan, Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, at Marina Mandarin Singapore. The book is a compilation of his essays and public speeches over the past 25 years. Organised into four sections: "The Sovereignty of Small States", "The Region", "The World" and "Whose Human Rights", the book is a frank and dispassionate assessment of the geopolitical realities and uncertainties to date.

Guest of honour Professor S Jayakumar, Chairman of the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law and former Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, commented that all Singaporeans should be interested in Singapore's foreign policy concerns. With the development of social media platforms, Singaporeans have become more aware of current affairs and are more vocal with their opinions. However, being vocal is not the same as being informed. Prof Jayakumar posited that Singaporeans' reactions should be reasoned on the basis of national interest, and a good understanding of foreign policy will add to national resilience.

Hence, Singapore's future depends on how well her people understand and manage their connectedness to the rest of the world.

The book's editor, Ms Tan Lian Choo, explained that she believes young Singaporeans do want to be better informed; thus, she wanted to make accessible bite-sized essays and insights in the form of a book to help them better understand Singapore's past and present foreign policy concerns. She hoped that the book will engage young Singaporeans and promote a greater understanding of what will work best for a young multiracial nation.

Amb Kausikan highlighted the need for Singaporeans to understand world events dispassionately and with reference to national interests. He referenced a key point in his book which is that the manipulation of public opinion by various means, covert and overt, has been a tool of statecraft for a long time whose purpose is to pressure governments to change policies. International developments are often more complex than they may appear. Hence, there is a need for clear, balanced, and independent judgments. Amb Kausikan also shared his insights on the Trump administration and whether China can easily fill a deficit of global leadership.

The panel, which comprised of Ambassador Chan Heng Chee, Chairman, Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities, Singapore University of Technology and Design, and Ambassador Gopinath Pillai, Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, was moderated by Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS. Amb Chan posited that Singapore's foreign policy should be principled, pragmatic, and consistent, and not based on ideologies. Amb Pillai commented that while Singapore's foreign policy has been largely successful, there are still areas that can be improved.

Visit of Indonesia Defence Minister to RSIS



Minister of Defence of Indonesia General (Ret) Ryamizard Ryacudu (centre) visited RSIS on 10 July 2017 to exchange views on regional security issues including the challenges posed to the region by terrorism. He called for more increased cooperation among ASEAN member states to combat terrorism.

Sir John Key Examines the Role and Impact of Asia

By **Andre Foo**

Sir John Key, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, delivered an RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture titled “Asia: Its Challenges and Opportunities” at Marina Mandarin Singapore on 5 June 2017. Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, who was the chairperson for the lecture, congratulated Sir John Key on receiving his knighthood from the Queen of England before the lecture commenced.

At the start of Sir John’s first term as Prime Minister in 2008, New Zealand’s economic outlook was bleak due to the effects of the Global Financial Crisis as well as domestic

concerns. At that point, China was identified as one of the solutions to address New Zealand’s economic situation not only because of the sheer size of her economy, but also the increasing demand for protein products as well as educational services from China.

Sir John noted that while national reserves in China have decreased in recent years, the banking system in China remains robust. Despite a similar decrease in its economic growth, the Chinese economy is still growing at a steady pace and it is only a matter of time before it overtakes the U.S.

He highlighted that India, with very similar demographics to China, holds immense potential. Regarding Japan and her role



Sir John Key (left) with Ambassador Ong Keng Yong

in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, Sir John is concerned that Japan, with no prior history of signing comprehensive free-trade deals, would find it difficult to implement the agreement because of resistance from the Japanese bureaucracy.

Sir John concluded his lecture by noting that in a decade, Asia will be stronger, with Chinese leadership becoming more pronounced and China taking on the role of an elder statesman.

Indo-Pacific Dynamics in the Age of Trump



Professor Stephen Smith (left) with Associate Professor Kumar Ramakrishna

By **Eugene Mark**

Professor Stephen Smith, Director and Distinguished Fellow of the Perth USAAsia

Centre, University of Western Australia, gave an RSIS Distinguished Public Lecture on 31 May 2017 at Marina Mandarin Singapore. Associate Professor Kumar Ramakrishna,

Head of Policy Studies and Coordinator of the National Security Studies Programme at RSIS, moderated the lecture on “The Indo-Pacific: Regional Dynamics in the Age of the Trump Administration”. The lecture discussed the impact of the change of administration in Washington D.C. under President Donald Trump, its implications on the Indo-Pacific region, and broader issues — particularly security, diplomacy and economic investment.

Prof Smith started off by sharing the context behind the term “Indo-Pacific”. He posited that with the rise of India and ASEAN in the first half of the 21st century, Australia adopted the term to send a signal to India and ASEAN that it valued its relationship with them. The realisation of the Indo-Pacific era was predicated on the

continued involvement of the U.S. in this part of the world. However, Prof Smith also shared that in the dynamics of international affairs, we must be prepared for the unexpected. He highlighted the election of President Trump as one of the developments that was least expected. There were specific concerns under the Trump administration; the U.S.’ withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership was the most critical, the unpredictability along the Korean Peninsula was another.

Prof Smith ended the lecture by stating that this could nevertheless be an opportunity for countries like Australia and Singapore to build partnerships and conversations amongst like-minded countries in the region on how to manage this uncertainty.

Condemning Global Chemical Warfare: Treaty of 192 Countries



His Excellency Ahmet Üzümcü

By **Shahzeb Ali Rathore**

On 22 March 2017, His Excellency Ahmet Üzümcü delivered an RSIS seminar on

“Addressing Global Challenges through Multilateralism: The Example of the Chemical Weapons Convention”. The seminar was organised by the International Centre for

Political Violence and Terrorism Research, a specialist research centre within RSIS.

H.E. Üzümcü is a career diplomat with vast experience in multilateral diplomacy. He is the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and was first appointed in December 2009 by the Conference of the States Parties. He was reappointed for a second term in December 2013. During his mandate, OPCW was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.

In his seminar, H.E. Üzümcü discussed how the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) has helped in overseeing the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and carried out activities to prevent their re-emergence. CWC, which has

been in operation for 20 years, has managed to destroy 95 per cent of declared chemical weapons stockpiles. The treaty has 192 countries subscribing to its membership, underscoring the importance and effectiveness of collective action in dealing with international challenges. The seminar also highlighted the convention's capacity-building activities to promote the peaceful use of chemistry.

Despite its successes, H.E. Üzümcü said CWC and OPCW face immense challenges such as the use of chemical weapons in Syria and Iraq, and by non-state actors. However, he reassured that OPCW will continue to look into the alleged use of chemical weapons and tackle the security threats posed by terrorist groups possessing and utilising such weapons.

Joint Conference on U.S.-ASEAN Legal Issues

By **Nazia Hussain**

Held on 8 and 9 May 2017, the U.S.-ASEAN Conference on Legal Issues of Regional Importance was a collaboration between the U.S. Embassy in Singapore, the Asia Foundation, and RSIS. The

two-day conference, held at Marina Mandarin Singapore, analysed the legal dimensions of several issues that are critical to the future of ASEAN.

The conference opened with welcome remarks by Mr Walter Douglas, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

for Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy and for Regional and Security Policy, U.S. Department of State; Professor Joseph Liow, Dean, RSIS; and Mr John Brandon, Senior Director, International Relations Programs, The Asia Foundation.

The conference covered a number of themes that were of regional significance. The session on environment examined issues that increasingly test the efficacy of the ASEAN forum as a means to address common regional problems such as transboundary haze.

Discussions on maritime security explored how ASEAN could embark on more institutionalised cooperation to cope with complex security challenges that have transboundary ramifications; while a dialogue on cyber-security and data protection addressed the

rapid pace of digital technology growth and its profound implications for the region.

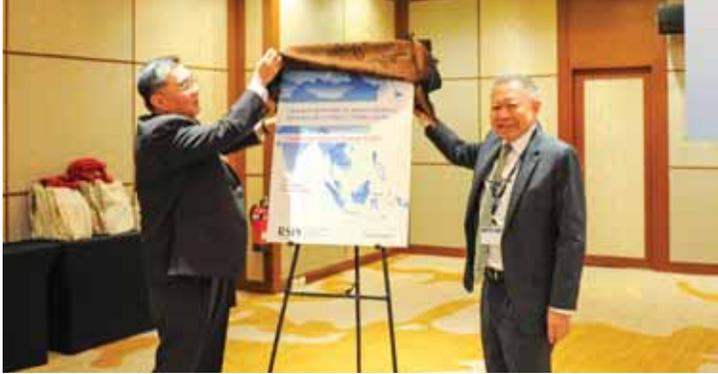
Through an exchange on labour migration, participants also explored how ASEAN can enhance regional cooperation given the organisation's commitment to non-interference in the internal affairs of member states. They also looked at regional trade and discussed how to effectively realise the goals of the ASEAN Economic Community whilst considering the implications of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement.

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman, RSIS, gave the concluding remark by reiterating the importance of implementation, stressing that coordination, capacity-building and continuity should be emphasised.



Mr John Brandon (centre), with Dr Robert Beckman (left), Head of Ocean Law and Policy Programme, Centre for International Law (CIL), NUS

Launch of the NADI 10th Anniversary Commemorative Book



Amb Ong (left), together with Mr Eddie Teo (right), unveiling the commemorative book titled “Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI)”

By **Henrick Tsjeng**

RSIS hosted the Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) 10th Anniversary Commemorative

Workshop on 3 and 4 May 2017 at the Holiday Inn Singapore Atrium. The NADI delegates and guests were welcomed by Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, who underscored that

NADI must retain its flexibility and continue to look into emerging and future issues facing the region.

Mr Eddie Teo, Chairman of the Board of Governors of RSIS, remarked during his keynote speech that NADI’s 10th anniversary was a major milestone for the organisation. He recalled the evolution of NADI and the significant progress it has made since its inauguration in 2007. Given the geopolitical tensions and the growing non-traditional security challenges in the region, he said NADI has a critical role to play in anticipating emerging issues and proposing appropriate recommendations to the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting. Mr Teo thanked all NADI members for their

contributions, and launched the commemorative book entitled *Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI): Commemorating 10 Years of NADI*. Copies of the book were later presented to Mr Teo and to NADI delegates by Amb Ong.

A seminar on the “Future Directions of NADI”, chaired by Amb Ong, followed after. Mr Tan Seng Chye, Senior Fellow of RSIS and Head of NADI Secretariat, began by indicating that the book is an affirmation of the work and contributions of NADI delegations over the last decade. He commended NADI’s good mechanisms and practices, and its focus on non-traditional security issues. During the seminar, participants also exchanged views on how to move NADI forward and be more effective in the coming years.

Asia and the Strategic Rivalry among the Major Powers

By **Phidel Vineles**

On 28 March 2017, RSIS and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands organised a workshop on “The Tilting Chess Board: Geopolitical Rivalry in the Asia Pacific

between China, Japan, and the U.S.”. A distinguished panel of experts gave their views on the multilevel rivalry between major powers in East and Southeast Asia.

Professor Joseph Liow, Dean of RSIS, said that defining

the geopolitical architecture in the region requires not only an in-depth understanding of security but also of the economy. He explained that China’s economic shift towards a consumption-led economy could distract the supply chains in Southeast Asia because the economies of ASEAN countries are overly exposed to China.

Explaining that cooperation is necessary, Professor Khong Yuen Foong of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy agreed with Singapore’s late Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew who believed that China wants to become America’s equal. The question is whether the U.S. wants to share its power with a non-democratic country.

Associate Professor Li Mingjiang, Coordinator

of the China Programme in the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies at RSIS, said that China has become a strategic player like the U.S., and will continuously expand its security presence in the Asia Pacific region. Meanwhile, Dr Ingrid d’Hooghe, Senior Research Associate at Clingendael, explained that China is challenging the U.S. in both the security and economic dimensions.

On the geopolitical rivalry between Japan and China, Dr Lam Peng Er, Senior Research Fellow at the East Asian Institute, explained that Japan has the capabilities to compete with China in the region because a lion share of Japan’s official development assistance goes to Southeast Asia.



Mr Ernesto H. Braam (left), Regional Strategic Advisor for Southeast Asia

APPSMO 2017

By **Andre Foo**

The 19th Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO 2017) was held at Village Hotel Changi, Singapore, from 4 to 10 August 2017. Organised by the Military Studies Programme of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, RSIS, APPSMO 2017 was attended by more than 50 military officers from over 20 countries spanning Asia, North America, and Europe.

The theme of APPSMO 2017 – “International Politics in the Asia Pacific: Implications on the Security Policies and Defence Relations” – addressed some of the region’s most pressing

security concerns, as well as how civil and military institutions hope to build sustainable peace in the region.

Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Senior Minister of State for Defence, Singapore, delivered the keynote address, while Singapore’s Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant-General Perry Lim was the guest of honour at the opening dinner.

Over the past 18 years, APPSMO has consistently provided a valuable platform for defence diplomacy and related discussions, a platform which allows military professionals, policymakers, practitioners, academics, as well as other domain experts to exchange views on a broad range of

topics pertaining to defence and security.

Over the week, APPSMO participants attended a series of panels dealing with topics relevant to today’s security context such as terrorism, information and cyber warfare, crisis management, defence diplomacy, and the future of conflicts. The panels were led by speakers from all over the world such as South Korea, the United States, Australia, the Netherlands, Israel, Philippines, China, Indonesia, India, and Singapore.

This year, there were also two Distinguished Dinner Lectures conducted. The first lecture, titled “China’s Responses to a Changing World”, was delivered

by Professor Wang Gungwu, Chairman, East Asian Institute. The second Distinguished Dinner Lecture, titled “ASEAN at 50, a Force for Stability”, was delivered by Professor Dewi Fortuna Anwar, Deputy Secretary for Political Affairs to the Vice President of Indonesia.

As part of the programme, participants also had the opportunity to visit the Multi-Mission Range Complex, the Port Operations Control Centre, as well as the Seletar Aerospace Park. They also toured the various military heritage sites around Changi and the Battlebox at Fort Canning which served as a underground British Command Centre during World War II.

APPSMO 2017 brought together a list of distinguished speakers:

Ambassador Oh Joon

Professor of United Nations Studies, Kyung Hee University

Rear-Admiral Don Gabrielson

Commander, Task Force 73, Logistics Western Pacific of the U.S. Navy

Dr TX Hammes

Distinguished Research Fellow, Center for Strategic Research, National Defense University

Ms Jacinta Carroll

Head of Counter-Terrorism Policy Centre, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Mr David Heyman

Former Assistant Secretary for Policy, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Mr Stephen De Spiegelaire

Principal Scientist, Hague Center for Strategic Studies

Dr Linton Wells II

Executive Advisor to the Center of C4I and Cyber, George Mason University

Professor Gabriel Weimann

Professor, Department of Communication, Haifa University

Ms Bonnie Glaser

Director, China Power Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Associate Professor Jay Batongbacal

College of Law, University of the Philippines

Professor Zhu Feng

Executive Director, China Center for Collaborative Studies of the South China Sea, Nanjing University

Senior Colonel Xu Qiyu

Deputy Director, Strategic Research, National Defense University, People’s Republic of China

Dr Jusuf Wanandi

Center for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia

Dr Sanjaya Baru

Distinguished Fellow, United Service Institute of India

Mr Mattia Tomba,

Senior Research Fellow, Middle East Institute

Dr Michael Vatikiotis,

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Singapore

Professor Ralf Emmers,

Associate Dean, RSIS

Professor Tan See Seng,

Deputy Director, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS)

Dr Shashi Jayakumar

Head, Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS)

Professor Pascal Vennesson

Professor of Political Science, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS)

Associate Professor Bilveer Singh

Adjunct Senior Fellow, Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS)



Coming Together to Combat Piracy and Sea Robbery

By **Rajni Nayanthara Gamage**

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC), Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO), and RSIS, jointly organised the Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2017 on 27 April 2017 at Sands Expo & Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore. The ninth annual conference was held in conjunction with Singapore Maritime Week 2017. This year's theme was "Changing Trends of Maritime Piracy and Armed Robbery in Asia".

The conference provided a platform for the sharing of views, best practices, and lessons learnt among members of ReCAAP ISC,



Ambassador Ong Keng Yong (centre) moderating the discussion on the changing maritime security landscape

local and international shipping associations, shipping companies, enforcement agencies, and academic institutions. After representatives of INTERTANKO, ReCAAP ISC, BIMCO, and the Philippine Coast Guard gave their speeches, a panel discussion moderated by Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, followed. In a dynamic two-way

exchange of perspectives, the panellists engaged actively with the audience on the changing landscape of maritime security. The discussion focused on trends, challenges, and best practices in response to issues such as the Sulu-Celebes Sea kidnappings and the nexus between cybercrime and piracy.

The conference was attended by participants from various fields

and regions; demonstrating ReCAAP ISC to be a body of strong relevance in both the regional and international maritime communities. It also demonstrated the success of ReCAAP ISC's efforts to strengthen its networking and partnership with relevant stakeholders towards its objective of becoming a Centre of Excellence for information sharing by 2020.

Fighting Climate Change with Sustainable Development Goals

By **Rini Astuti**

The NTS-Asia Consortium Conference and Annual Meeting took place on



Dr Noeleen Heyzer

30 and 31 March 2017. The 20 Asia Pacific countries that participated this year were India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Nepal, Taiwan, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Brunei, Timor-Leste, and Singapore. The conference theme was "Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia Pacific".

The conference commenced with a keynote speech by Dr Noeleen Heyzer, former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Distinguished Visiting Fellow at RSIS. In her

address, Dr Heyzer highlighted the notion that climate change is a "tragedy in the making" and our society will be ecologically indebted to the planet in the future. She explained that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a framework for collaboration to address climate change challenges. Built upon the foundation of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), SDGs consist of 17 goals and 232 global indicators, and is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. Dr Heyzer further emphasised that the SDGs aim to go further by addressing the root causes of poverty.

In her closing statement, Dr Heyzer elaborated the way to turn the worldwide aspiration into actions. She argued for the need to build a transformative Public Private People Partnership based on shared values and a shared vision.

Her address was followed by four panel discussions. In total, there were 16 presentations covering non-traditional security issues such as the food, water and energy security nexus; gender inequality in Indonesia; urban sustainability issues in Singapore; climate-related migration in Bangladesh; and ecological destruction in Mekong Delta and Timor-Leste.

The Multilateral Trading System and Its Importance

By **Aedan Mordecai**

The eighth edition of the RSIS-World Trade Organization (WTO) Parliamentarian Workshop was held from 15-17 May at Pan Pacific Singapore. Jointly organised by RSIS' Centre for Multilateralism Studies and WTO, the workshop is part of the Temasek Foundation International Series on Trade & Negotiations. Parliamentarians from across Asia Pacific and Central Asia converged to build on their knowledge of the multilateral trading system.

The rise of economic nationalism – particularly in Western economies that were previously trade liberal – is posing a threat to the multilateral trading system. The election of U.S. President Donald Trump and the Brexit situation



Professor Ralf Emmers (centre), Associate Dean of RSIS and Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS), moderating the panel discussion

highlight how some have turned their backs on economic globalisation, with the looming of protectionism on the horizon. WTO maintained that a rules-based multilateral approach to world trade is beneficial to all parties and can help attain many national goals pertaining to development.

Speaker of Parliament Mdm Halimah Yacob also noted the importance of continuing the multilateral trading system in

Singapore and the ASEAN region. She argued that greater levels of world trade can help the region develop and become more competitive in the global economy. The workshop gave the parliamentarians opportunities to hear from industry experts as well as representatives from WTO such as Mr Keith Rockwell, Chief Spokesman, and Mr Said El Hachimi, Counsellor at the Information & External Relations Division.

This platform allowed the representatives of the invited nations to learn how their respective nations could benefit from greater free trade and the multilateral trading system. The three-day event also included field trips to the Port of Singapore Authority to discover how Singapore organises its port logistically to facilitate trade, and a visit to the Parliament House.

Envisioning Safe and Secure Seas in Asia Pacific

By **Philipp Martin Dingeldey**

On 16 May 2017, the Republic of Singapore Navy and RSIS co-hosted the International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC) as part of IMDEX Asia 2017. Titled “Safe and Secure Seas: A Vision for a Maritime Region”, two conference panels discussed the possibilities of increasing safety and security in regional seas. They also addressed current and future maritime challenges, highlighted the importance of cooperation and trust, and stressed the importance of a rule-based order at sea.

As current and future maritime security challenges in the region will remain transnational and multifaceted, navies and the maritime community as a whole should focus on a flexible, adaptive, multi-

dimensional, and cooperative response in order to counter these complex issues. Cooperation was not only seen as key to respond to future maritime challenges, but was also stressed as a major contributing factor to the success of various multilateral forums and the adoption of voluntary frameworks. While panellists emphasised the need to further advance information-

sharing in the region, it was also brought up that the level of trust among ASEAN members was only high in areas of common interest and needed to be further worked on at a strategic level.

The importance of a rule-based order at sea was seen by all panellists as paramount. For example, the challenge of crowded submarine traffic

in Asia Pacific prompted the idea of an underwater code for unplanned encounters at sea, in order to improve regional submarine safety. Additionally, the benefits and need of extending cooperation to various industry partners, and to keep up-to-date with technological developments in tackling maritime challenges, was emphasised.



Participants at the IMSC



Panelists discussing the challenges the agriculture industry faces

The Triple Threat to Agriculture

By **Helena Huang**

The World Agricultural Forum (WAF) 2017 was held at the Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore, on 6–7 July 2017. Co-organised by RSIS' Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies and WAF, the theme for the two-day conference was "Solving the Triple Challenge to Agriculture: Trade, New Technologies and Food Security".

WAF 2017 enabled individuals from business and government sectors, international organisations and the academia to understand how the changing world order is affecting the agriculture and food trade, and to identify critical technology for sustainable farming and agriculture. It sought to take away actionable ideas for investment as well as to enhance policymaking in order to strengthen and secure food production. The conference also hoped to create opportunities for discussions on cross cooperation and engender multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Speakers from countries such as New Zealand, Thailand, India, U.S., Japan, China, and Singapore were present to share their knowledge. Participants were also given a chance to hear from Dr Koh Poh Koon, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of National Development, on the agricultural scene in Singapore at the gala dinner. In addition to the main conference, a youth engagement event was also co-organised with the Kranji Countryside Association to inspire junior college and tertiary students to play a role in shaping the future of Singapore's agriculture industry and food security.

In the first panel, it was recognised that the state of agriculture is changing globally and the move towards a multi-polar world has created new challenges. In addition, skewed trade gains have led to increasing populist protectionism. Environmental degradation and climate change, alongside unsustainable agricultural practices that threaten a production base, were identified

as challenges by the experts in this panel. In order to overcome these challenges, they recommended countries to be transparent in their trade policies and to remove trade-disruptive policies. There must also be strong state support for farmers and food producers to mitigate risks of trade shocks.

Imperatives for securing the food production base were discussed in the second panel. Some of the concerns highlighted include climate risks and trade shocks which could volatalise investments and affect the affordability of food. Food accessibility issues could also occur due to trade restrictions, logistics, and distribution obstacles. The panelists recommended providing insurance for agricultural investors to mitigate climate risks, and harnessing the promise of the new knowledge revolution to improve production practices.

The third panel addressed the role of technology in providing food security. Harnessing technology in agriculture can increase yield and can also protect planetary health.

The two main challenges identified were the need to protect small holders from the displacement and disruption brought about by innovation and technology, and the importance of communicating and justifying new innovations to skeptical consumers and the public. Several policy recommendations included the implementation of a science-based regulatory system for innovation, and the removal of price controls and subsidies to encourage entrepreneurial investments.

The final panel broached good governance, partnerships, and agricultural productivity and how they can be affected by the deconsolidation of agriculture, losing economies of scale, opaque industry pricing, and technology. There is a need to improve the well-being of farmers, particularly in developing countries whose economies often rely on agriculture. It was recommended that stakeholders be engaged through campaigns to communicate the information and rationale behind the pricing mechanisms in agriculture.

RSIS Professor Wins Amos Perlmutter Prize



Assistant Professor Anit Mukherjee

Assistant Professor Anit Mukherjee of the South Asia Programme at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, RSIS, was awarded the 2017 Amos Perlmutter Prize from the *Journal of Strategic Studies*. The prize, named in memory of the journal's founding editor, recognises the most outstanding essay submitted for publication by junior faculty members.

Asst Prof Mukherjee's essay titled "Fighting Separately: Jointness and Civil-Military Relations in India" relies on

a combination of archival research and interviews, and critically examines the Indian military's, as yet, incomplete transition to joint operations. He argued that civil-military relations, more specifically, assertive civilian intervention, is a key determinant of jointness in most militaries. Jointness is defined as the ability of the three services – the Army, Navy and Air Force – to operate together. Asst Prof Mukherjee also argued that jointness is an example of a major military innovation, although it is rarely studied as such.

The journal's editors hoped that the essay would draw attention to civil-military relations and jointness, and spark discussion and debate among scholars and policymakers. This is especially pertinent as most major militaries – including China, Russia and India – are grappling with issues relating to joint commands and joint operations.

Asst Prof Mukherjee's essay was published in the *Journal of Strategic Studies* (Volume 40, Issue 1-2).

RSIS Day 2017 Celebrations



Amb Ong Keng Yong addressing staff and students



Cake cutting session by Prof Joseph Liow and Amb Ong

By **Adrian Chong**

Over 200 staff and students gathered on 28 July 2017 in celebration of RSIS' 21st anniversary. Held at The Hive within Nanyang Technological University, the annual RSIS Day commemorates its establishment on 30 July 1996, then known as the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS).

The celebrations started off with Ambassador Ong Keng

Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, welcoming the new students of Academic year 2017/2018. He also announced the establishment of the National Security Studies Programme and the Science, Technology and Security Programme. Following after Amb Ong, Prof Joseph Liow, Dean of RSIS, also gave a brief welcome to the new students, as well as acknowledged the contributions made by RSIS staff over the years.

A highlight of this year's event was the presentation

of Long Service Awards to 13 staff members. Among the notable award recipients were Associate Professor Bernard Loo and Professor Ralf Emmers, who have been with RSIS for 20 years and 15 years respectively.

Amb Ong also presented Ms Janet Fung, webmaster of RSIS, with an award for winning the RSIS T-shirt design competition.

Following this, Amb Ong proposed a toast to the RSIS

family and invited everyone to help themselves to the sumptuous buffet. Door gifts were also given to commemorate the special occasion. The new students received a special edition of the "SINGLISH" notebook, while RSIS staff were each presented with the winning design RSIS T-shirt which were given beforehand.

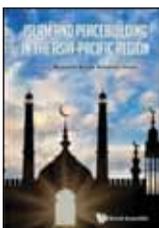
STAFF PUBLICATIONS

**U.S.-Singapore Relations, 1965-1975: Strategic Non-alignment in the Cold War**

Daniel Chua Wei Boon. NUS Press: 2017. ISBN: 978-981-4722-32-2

At the height of the Cold War in Southeast Asia, the foreign relations between the United States and Singapore demonstrated the interplay between America's strategy of containment and Singapore's efforts at a non-aligned foreign policy. But there is a deeper story. American involvement in the Vietnam War not only held back the spread of communism in Southeast Asia, but also catalysed economic and strategic cooperation between the United States and Singapore. The author argues that Singapore might not have achieved its success so rapidly without the support of the U.S.

As the war in Vietnam raged on, Singapore became a critical refueling point, also providing ship and aircraft repair for the U.S. military. Commercial and strategic support from the United States lifted Singapore out of the economic doom predicted for the city-state after secession from Malaysia, cessation of Indonesian trade during *Konfrontasi* and Britain's military withdrawal. By considering the importance of the U.S.' role in Singapore's nation-building, this book provides an important supplement to the well-trodden narrative that attributes Singapore's success to good governance.

**Islam and Peacebuilding in the Asia Pacific**

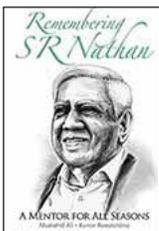
Edited by Mohamed Nawab Mohamed Osman. World Scientific Publishing Company: 2017. ISBN: 978-981-4749-81-7

Islam and Peacebuilding in the Asia-Pacific provides a unique backdrop of how native or migrant Muslims interact with communities of other faiths have led to the contemporary treatment of Islam and the Muslim communities in these nations. This book is based on the theme of Islam's presence and development in the Asia-Pacific region, and the concerns faced by Muslims in the region. Section 1 details the current status of peace or conflict between Muslims and practitioners of other faiths in Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and the Philippines, and the role of Muslim institutions in promoting peace in each nation. Section 2 features how Muslims living in cosmopolitan areas such as Australia, Indonesia and Japan engage with people of other faiths. Lastly, Section 3 explores the concerns with the interaction of the religion, state and society in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. A unique collection of the history of Islam in the region, *Islam and Peacebuilding in the Asia-Pacific* seeks to provide valuable insight for the global policy community by offering a comprehensive treatment of the issues highlighted.

**Ambivalent Engagement: The United States and Regional Security in Southeast Asia after the Cold War**

Joseph Liow Chinyong. Brookings: 2017. ISBN: 978-0-8157-2967-9

This book by an astute observer of the region and U.S. policy casts light in the sources of these anxieties. A main consideration is that it still is not clear how Southeast Asia fits into U.S. strategy for Asia and the broader world. Is the region central to U.S. policymaking, or an afterthought? Moreover, domestic considerations, both in the United States and in the region, often contrive to obstruct foreign policy decision-making, in the process frustrating mutual engagement in the post-cold war era. Cooperation among states within the region also is uncertain, at best. Ambivalent Engagement highlights a paradox that is becoming increasingly conspicuous and problematic. Southeast Asia continues to rely on the United States playing an active role despite it being an external power. But the states in the region have very different views about precisely what role the United States should play. The consequences of this paradox will grow in importance with the expanding role of yet another outside power, China.

**Remembering S R Nathan: A Mentor for All Seasons**

Edited by Mushahid Ali and Kumar Ramakrishna. World Scientific: 2017. ISBN: 978-981-3222-80-9

Remembering S R Nathan: A Mentor for All Seasons is a collection of essays commemorating the life of Singapore's sixth President, the late Mr S R Nathan. The book aims to give greater insights into the wide-ranging roles he had in his various contributions to Singapore. It reviews his leadership and influence, his distinguished civil service career, and his commitment to social service. The organisation of the sections in the book reflects the extensive footprints Mr Nathan has left in many different sectors: foreign service; security and intelligence; community building and social welfare; labour and trade unions; media; and research and academia. This book also contains views on his remarkable career from foreign observers. Other contributors include public servants, policymakers, and scholars who have worked with him, learned from him, and who were inspired by his lifelong dedication to Singapore. Told through the voices of these people, *Remembering S R Nathan: A Mentor for All Seasons* gives an informative, and yet, personal account of Mr Nathan as a leader and mentor.

**China's Economic Statecraft**

Edited by Li Mingjiang. World Scientific: 2017. ISBN: 978-981-4713-46-7

This book aims to study China's economic statecraft in the contemporary era in a comprehensive manner. It attempts to explore China's approaches to using its economic, trade, investment, and financial power for the pursuit of its political, security, and strategic interests at the regional and global levels. The volume addresses three major issue areas in particular. The first issue pertains to how Beijing has used its economic clout to protect what it perceives as its "core interests" in its external relations. Three cases are included: the Taiwan issue, human rights, and territorial dispute in the South China Sea. The second major area of inquiry focuses on how China has employed its economic power in its key bilateral relations, including relations with Japan, North Korea, the United States, and other states in the East Asian region. The third issue concerns China's economic statecraft in the global context. It addresses the impacts of China's economic power and policy on the transformation of the global financial structure, developments in Africa, the international intellectual property rights regime, and China's food security relations with the outside world.

THINK TANK

MCI (P) 114/01/2017

www.rsis.edu.sg

EDITOR

Mervin Kok

iswlkok@ntu.edu.sg

Contributors

Adrian Chong

Aedan Mordecai

Andre Foo

Eugene Mark

Helena Huang

Henrick Tsjeng

Nazia Hussain

Phidel Vineles

Philipp Martin Dingeldey

Rajni Gamage

Rini Astuti

Shahzeb Ali Rathore

Stephanie Neubronner

Tan Ming Hui

UPCOMING EVENTS

11 AUGUST 2017

MILITARY STUDIES PROGRAMME (MSP)
SEMINAR 2017

15 AUGUST 2017

RSIS SEMINAR BY DR SANJAYA BARU,
VISITING SENIOR FELLOW, RSIS; AND
DISTINGUISHED FELLOW, UNITED SERVICE
INSTITUTE OF INDIA

17 AUGUST 2017

RSIS WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

21 AUGUST

RSIS DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURE
BY AMBASSADOR OH JOON, Ngee Ann
Kongsi Professor of International
Relations, RSIS; AND PROFESSOR OF
UNITED NATIONS STUDIES, KYUNG HEE
UNIVERSITY, SEOUL

9 SEPTEMBER 2017

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION FAIR

26 OCTOBER 2017

RSIS DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURE BY
DR HAEDAR NASHIR ON "TOWARDS ISLAM
WITH PROGRESS: MUHAMMADIYAH'S ROLE IN
21ST CENTURY INDONESIA"

27 OCTOBER 2017

RSIS ROUNDTABLE AT THE SINGAPORE
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY WEEK 2017 ON
NUCLEAR SAFETY AND SECURITY CULTURE:
POWERING NUCLEAR GOVERNANCE IN
EAST-ASIA

6 – 10 NOVEMBER 2017

SRP 3RD EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME 2017