



LATEST NEWS

As the year 2016 is coming to an end and we welcome the New Year, we would like to thank our members for their active contributions to the NTS-Asia newsletters this year. The active participation of our members has greatly strengthened information exchanges among us as our NTS-Asia Consortium re-embarked on its new journey early this year.

After months of efforts by the NTS webmaster/IT executive, Ms Joey Liang Yanyu, the new NTS-Asia website is now live! The new website features members' publications and events. To further enhance communications among members which may then lead to potential collaborations, we strongly encourage all members to submit their latest information and updates to us.

The Consortium has recently welcomed its latest member, the Korea Institute for National Unification (KINU). KINU's work focuses on evolving security threats in Northeast Asia such as cyber security, new types of terrorism including nuclear terror, and maritime security. KINU also works in the area of Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Risk Reduction in the region, particularly in Mongolia, China and North Korea.

In this last newsletter of the year, we are happy to share recent publications from the SMERU, Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS), Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Asian Human Community at Waseda University, and the RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Centre. Two SMERU researchers, Rachma Indah Nurbani and Rendy Adriyan Dinigrat, are featured in this December 2016 issue. We are particularly impressed by the active responses and submissions from the SMERU!

Members may update the Secretariat on news and events, nominate their resident researchers, or send in suggestions, by writing to Margareth Sembiring (ismsembiring@ntu.edu.sg) or Joey Liang (isjoeyliang@ntu.edu.sg). Thank you and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS)

Yunnan Bangladesh (Yunnan-BD) Forum
January 2017 | Kunming, China

Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre), S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

NTS Centre Workshop on Assessing the Technological Turn in Humanitarian Action Policy Discussion
15 February 2017 | Singapore

NTS-Asia Consortium Annual Conference
March 2017 | Singapore



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NEWSLETTER TEAM

SECRETARY GENERAL	- Mely Caballero-Anthony
RESEARCH FELLOW	- Rini Astuti
SENIOR ANALYST	- Margareth Sembiring
DESIGNER	- Joey Liang

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

We are glad to announce that the new NTS-Asia website is live and running. We have received positive comments and contents from some of you and are hoping to receive more input and information. We hope that the new site will provide a timely platform for members to engage and collaborate on common research interests. As the site will be the main tool for engagement, we are going to reduce the frequency of the newsletter into twice a year. We encourage members to take advantage of the NTS-Asia website by sending us your recent publications, upcoming and past events info, and NTS related materials.

Members could send the materials to NTS webmaster/IT executive, Ms Joey Liang Yanyu, isjoeyliang@ntu.edu.sg

We look forward to next year's annual NTS-Asia Conference. The proposed theme of the 2017 Conference is *Climate Change and Environmental Security in the Asia Pacific*, and is aimed at taking stock of the significant global events that impact on the climate change and environmental security agendas. The 1.5 day event will provide a platform for members to discuss strategies on how the NTS epistemic communities engage with these issues in a

novel way and co-produce 'emancipatory' knowledge for effective policy making. We plan to organize the Conference on the fourth week of March 2017. We welcome ideas and suggestions on specific themes of interest related to the topic. Please do get in touch with me or the Secretariat team with your suggestions.

Warmest regards,
Mely Caballero-Anthony
Secretary-General
NTS-Asia Consortium Secretariat

MEET THE EXPERT **Rachma Indah Nurbani**



nutrition problem in the country (Basic Health Survey, 2013).

The high prevalence of child malnutrition in Indonesia raises questions surrounding the effectiveness of various food and nutrition security policies and programs. I argue that children-related concerns are not adequately incorporated in existing policies and programs implemented. These issues include, for example, quality of care the children receive, dietary habits, as well as the quality of food available in the market that to some extent influence people's dietary intake. My current publication in *IDS Bulletin* highlights worrying trend of children's snacking habits and why this issue is important for the country's development. It shows that there are still blind spots in government policies on food and nutrition that have not considered child-caring practices. Therefore, it affects the ability of poor families in preparing quality food for their children (Nurbani, 2015).

Having taught in economics school in which I mostly work with crunching numbers of macro-statistics data, I have never expected to get wide exposure to social issues. My interest was started when

Quality Life for Indonesia Children

The economic progress of a country does not always linearly correlate with the improvement of the quality of life of its children. Indonesia has constantly shown progressive macro-economic performance and has also succeeded in moving up to the low-middle income countries group. However, the country is still facing persistent child nutrition problems. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported

that 80 percent of the world's stunted children live in 14 countries, including Indonesia (UNICEF, 2013). With a prevalence of 37 percent, Indonesia is a country with the highest stunting rate in South East Asia, surpassing its counterparts in the region with lower or similar phases of economic development, such as Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand (Millennium Challenge Account, 2014). The other nutrition indicators shown by the prevalence of underweight and of wasting which have reached almost 20 and 12 percent are also indicating a severe



I pursued my postgraduate studies at the Università di Roma La Sapienza in 2008. During that time I met new colleagues from different countries, including those who have experienced working in development sectors and those who directly worked

with grass-root communities. I was also selected to participate in a course on Poverty and Hunger at the World Food Programmes (WFP) headquarter. These experiences opened my eyes of the significance of social phenomena and daily family issues on the wider society. For example, the way people eat or the way people feed their children may have effects on the national economy!

My interactions with social issues were getting more intense when I returned to Indonesia and decided to join SMERU. I felt a growing interest to learn and explore qualitative research methods. I

realised that quantitative analyses alone are not enough to answer the question of "why", particularly when we study social phenomena in communities. In SMERU, I have been involved in various studies covering cross-cutting issues on poverty, including food and nutrition security, child poverty and wellbeing, urban poverty, unpaid care work, basic education, and shock and crises. My biggest passion is on supporting the efforts to achieve better quality of life of children in Indonesia through research. I would also be glad to learn more about how research can be more useful in supporting policy formulation processes.

YOUNG RESEARCHER PROFILE

Rendy Adriyan Diningrat

As a researcher, I am determined to be able to contribute to solving the many problems faced by mankind. In so doing, one has to elaborate its complexity with clarity and within the right contexts. Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago with hundreds of million people from 1,340 tribes - each with their local wisdoms and languages - living in 17,508 islands. Indonesia comprises of more than 98 cities and 78,609 villages. The problems it faces are therefore complex. However, this gives researchers in Indonesia the opportunities to produce knowledge and contribute to civilization.

My passion in research has been growing ever since I was a student at Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia. I studied urban and regional planning for my Undergraduate and Master programs. My interests in making observations, engaging in discussions, and expressing my thoughts in a blog-site have helped me connect with people with similar concerns. During my studies, I made some contribution to the discourse of urban and regional issues, such as participating in conferences/seminars, publishing papers, working as a teaching assistant, and established PETARUNG, which stands for Pemuda Tata Ruang, a



youth community for urban planning.

In 2014, I joined the National Development Planning Agency of Indonesia (BAPPENAS) and was involved in a project to develop the 2015–2019 Mid-Term National Development Planning. At that time, I witnessed lack of evidence-based processes in public policy formulation. I believe that there should be a network of people to assist in policy development. One year later I decided to join the SMERU, a research institute having the vision of contributing to the making of evidence-based and pro-poor policies. Not long after, together with two co-authors, I published a book titled Kota Rumah Manusia (The City: Home for Humans).

Being a researcher has given ample opportunities to improve myself professionally. My research interest has broadened, from urban and regional studies to the issues of poverty, human

development, and public policy. Currently, I am involved in two projects, namely the Urban Child Poverty and Disparities and Village Law Implementation. SMERU also supports my capacity building by sending me to national and international events.

In 2016, I was invited by KITLV to a workshop on "New Law, New Villages? Changing rural Indonesia" in the Netherlands. I presented a paper titled The Birth of Village Law: Where are the Marginalized Groups? In addition, I also presented a paper titled Capability Approach in Re-Imagining and Re-Producing Space: Case of Community-Based Citywide Slum Upgrading in Yogyakarta at the 2016 Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA) Annual Conference in Tokyo, Japan. In a nutshell, I am deeply passionate about my life as a researcher!

REFLECTIONS

Making Children's Voices Count

By Rendy Adriyan Diningrat (The SMERU Research Institute)



Let's ask anyone who wants to make this world a better place: how important is it to give attention to children's wellbeing? As children today will be the generation of tomorrow, how sensitive are we—the adults/ policymakers, who claim to have the 'dominant' power—to the needs of children? Do all the decisions we have made guarantee their happiness and wellbeing in the future?

Basically, a child is born in the state of dependence. Children rely on parents, or those who are more mature in their vicinity, to cater to their needs. Unfortunately, this has often made children an object of decision-making. Whether we realize it or not, the decision we make will impact children's lives, even to the extent where it becomes worrisome.

For example, children may no longer feel the importance of going to school because they are not comfortable with the things they encounter during their learning processes, such as tasks that are too difficult, teachers who are 'mean', or friends who are bullies. In a broader aspect, placing children as the object of development can be illustrated through the many cases of playground displacements in big cities in Indonesia. As a result, they turn to other forms of entertainment such as spending money at internet cafés, hanging out on the streets, drinking alcohol, and gambling. If the child's school report turns out bad, a lot of parents immediately choose to inflict physical punishment without considering the causes.

The above illustration is a reminder for us who often forget to give enough space for children to speak up and express their opinions. The stigma that children "cannot do/be anything" should not be used as the basis for the adults to be authoritarian. Inclusiveness needs to be the main principle in making children happy. Children need to be made part of decision-making processes, and they need to learn about responsibility. Becoming inclusive, however, does not mean fulfilling all children's wishes. Instead it means an effort to understand their needs more thoroughl by involving them in making decisions, and communicating the reasons for not fulfilling their wishes.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS)

Major General ANM Muniruzzaman, ndc, psc (Retd.), Gauri Khandekar, Sadia Afroz, Khan Ferdousour Rahman, September 2016, Peace and Security Review, Volume 7, Number 14, Third Quarter 2016



Click [here](#) to read more.

BIPSS in Media

Click [here](#) to read more.

Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS)

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Hilal Ahmed, Zakir Naik. Oxford Islamic Studies online, Oxford Islamic Studies Online

Click [here](#) to read more.

Hilal Ahmed, How to (Not) Study Muslim Electoral Responses. Studies in India Politics Vol 3 No. 2 June 2015. Pg. 299-304

Hilal Ahmed, Bihar: Do Muslims Act as a Political Community? Democracies, Vol. XXXIV, March 2015. Pg. 93-100

Hilal Ahmed, Political Meanings of Shariat in Postcolonial India, published as a module in the E-Pathshala program, UGC for the course Philosophy of Law in India

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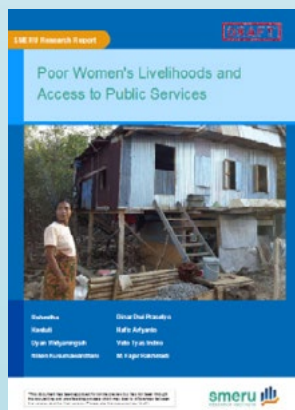
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Hilal Ahmed, Hindutva aur Hindustani Musalman (Hindutva and Indian Muslims) Pratiman. Vol.3 Jan-June 2014

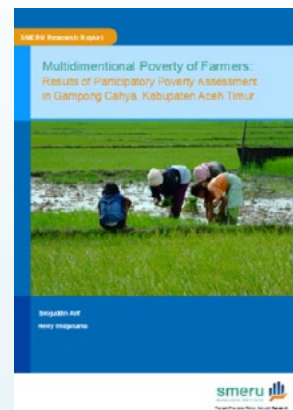
The SMERU Research Institute

Poor Women's Livelihoods and Access to Public Services, Research Report, May 2016



Click [here](#) to read more.

Multidimensional Poverty of Farmers: Results of Participatory Poverty Assessment in Gampong Cahya, Kabupaten Aceh Timur, Research Report, September 2016



Click [here](#) to read more.

Asian Human Community, Waseda University

'Human Security' and Regional Efforts for Conflict Prevention in the Southwest Asia edited by Mitsuru Yamada, Akashi Shoten, 2016



Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS), S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Christopher H. Lim and Tamara Nair, Southeast Asia's Haze Plight: Is Insurance a Suitable Preventive Mechanism?, RSIS Commentary, 13 September 2016

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Arunajeet Kaur, Reforming Myanmar: The Big Task to Develop Human Capital , RSIS Commentary, 29 September 2016
Click [here](#) to read more.

Alistair D. B. Cook, International Response to 2015 Nepal Earthquake Lessons and Observations, Policy Reports, 04 October 2016
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Rini Astuti, Toward a Haze-Free ASEAN: Private Financing for Peatland Restoration, RSIS Commentary, 10 October 2016
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Serina Rahman, Orienting ASEAN Towards Its People: Enabling Engagement with Local NGOs, Working Papers, 12 October 2016
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Rini Astuti, From Paris to Marrakesh: Hopes High for Carbon Emissions Reduction, RSIS Commentary, 01 November 2016
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Jonatan A. Lassa, Is There Such a Thing as a "Natural" Disaster?, RSIS Commentary, 10 November 2016
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Arunajeet Kaur, Rethinking Philippine Labour Export, RSIS Commentary, 18 November 2016
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Vishalini Chandara Sagar and Zin Bo Htet, World Humanitarian Day Voices From The Field, Event Reports, 23 November 2016
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Click [here](#) to read more.

Sangeetha Yogendran, Turning to ASEAN: Response to the Rakhine Crisis, RSIS Commentary, 14 December 2016
Click [here](#) to read more.

Julius Cesar I. Trajano, Building Resilience From Within Enhancing Humanitarian Civil Military Coordination in Post Haiyan Philippines, NTS Policy Reports, 16 December 2016
Click [here](#) to read more.

PAST EVENT SUMMARIES

The SMERU INSTITUTE



ForumKajianPembangunanSeminar Series by ANU-Indonesia Project and The SMERU Research Institute
5, 12, 19, 26, 31 October 2016
Jakarta, Indonesia

Last October, the SMERU Research Institute hosted Forum Kajian Pembangunan (FKP) Seminar Series. The primary goal of these seminars was to bring together researchers, academics, experts, civil society, the international community and policy makers, under one roof to discuss research outcomes related to topical policy issues in Indonesia.

The FKP seminar series were held every week during October with various

speakers providing in-depth insight and comprehensive discussion of policy developments in Indonesia. On 5 October 2016, Niken Kusumawardhani presented the results of a study titled Dynamics of Poor Women's Livelihoods: a Case Study When the Fuel Price Hikes. This study specifically aims to analyze the impact of fixed-subsidy policy in fuel price on the livelihood of poor women. The following week, Zufan Tadjoeidin presented his study titled Revitalizing Indonesia's Manufacturing: The Productivity Conundrum. This study investigates trends in productivity at firm levels. It finds that labour productivity has been either stagnant or falling in labour intensive manufacturing. On 19

November 2016, Ulfah Alifia presented her study titled Barriers to Optimal Exclusive Breastfeeding Practices in Indonesia: What Leaders Say. This research sought to identify barriers to the improvement of exclusive breastfeeding practices in Indonesia and proposes solutions to overcome these obstacles. Rashesh Shrestha (Australian National University) presented The Effect of Political Connections on Labour Market Outcomes: Evidence from Indonesia on the following week. This study estimates the impact of political connection on wages and employment in Indonesia. The last seminar series, Tezza Napitupulu (University of Indonesia) presented her study titled To Cooperate or Not? Evidence

from A Framed Field Experiment in Remote Villages of North Kalimantan. This study had conducted a framed field experiment in communities with differing exposures to the state, wisdom the experiment regarding a government housing project, and an example of a collective action that is currently being demanded from village households at the community scale.

We invite you to visit [SMERU](#) website to access seminar materials such as presentation files (pdf) and links to the seminar video. If you wish to view photos from the event please visit the [SMERU Research Institute Facebook page](#).

Asia Human Center for Non-Traditional Security and Peaceful Development Studies, Zhejiang University

ARF Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy in Non-Traditional Security Issues

21-23 November 2016
Nanjing, China

ARF Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy in Non-Traditional Security Issues was held on 21-23 November 2016, in Nanjing, China. China, Thailand and Brunei Darussalam are co-chairs of this forum. Professor Yu Xiaofeng attended this forum and made a short lecture on "Non-traditional Security Diplomacy". Professor Yu put forward that, "The seriousness of the problem



indicates that the NTS scholarship can act as a diplomatic channel to develop and strengthen the cooperation in the areas of NTS issues so as to improve

bilateral/multilateral relations and political stability in the region, thus ensuring non-confrontation and building confidence to the next level."

Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre), S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), NTU

Second Session of the Regional Consultative Group (RCG)

11-12 October 2016
Bangkok, Thailand

Alistair D. B. Cook, Coordinator of the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief [HADR] Programme, attended the Second Session of the Regional Consultative Group (RCG) which took place on 11-12 October 2016 at the United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Avenue, Bangkok, Thailand.

The multi-stakeholder Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific was formed in 2014 in Singapore to



act as a regional forum that brings together the humanitarian, civilian and military actors involved in disaster response, preparedness, planning, and disaster

response in the region. The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) has attended all sessions to date.



Group photo taken at the roundtable on "Nuclear Safety and Cooperation in ASEAN"

Roundtable on "Nuclear Safety and Cooperation in ASEAN"

28 October 2016

Singapore

The S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, in collaboration with the Energy Market Authority, organised a roundtable on "Nuclear Safety and Cooperation in ASEAN" at the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) on 28 October 2016.

Roundtable panellists included Dr Olli Heinonen, RSIS S Rajaratnam Professor of Strategic Studies and Senior Associate at Belfer Centre for Science and International Affairs of Harvard University; Dr Tatsujiro Suzuki, Vice Director and Professor, Research Centre for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, Nagasaki University (RECNA); Mr Shah Nawaz Ahmad, Senior Adviser, World Nuclear Association; Dr Hoang Sy Than, Deputy Director of the Department of R&D Management, Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute (VINATOM); Mr Sabar Md Hashim, Special Officer, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia; and Ms Siriratana Biramontri, Special Consultant, Office of Atoms for Peace, Thailand and former chair of ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM).

The roundtable discussed the post-Fukushima nuclear safety and emergency preparedness in the Asia Pacific and examined the growing regional cooperation on nuclear energy governance in Southeast Asia. While thirty countries currently use nuclear power, about the equivalent number of newcomer states are considering, planning or actively working to include it in their energy mix. Asia has

been recently driving the growth of the nuclear power industry with China, India, Pakistan and South Korea building new nuclear reactors. In Southeast Asia, Vietnam is scheduled to open its first nuclear power plant by 2028 while Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia are carefully studying the nuclear option. In this regard, regional issues and cooperation on nuclear safety and security as well as nuclear emergency preparedness and response need to be examined.

'High-Level Advisory Panel's (HLAP) Report on Mainstreaming the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) in Southeast Asia: Pathway Towards a Caring ASEAN Community' by Dr Surin Pitsuwan

7 November 2016

Singapore



The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), jointly with the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APR2P), organised a public seminar on 7 November 2016. The guest speaker was Dr Surin Pitsuwan, ASEAN Secretary-General from 2008 to 2012. The title of his speech was 'High-Level Advisory Panel's (HLAP) Report on Mainstreaming the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) in Southeast Asia: Pathway

Towards a Caring ASEAN Community'. Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, moderated the seminar. Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony, Head of RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies, Professor Alex Bellamy, Director of APR2P, and Mr Philip Green, Australia's High Commissioner to Singapore, gave opening and welcoming remarks.



The High-Level Advisory Panel on the Responsibility to Protect in Southeast Asia was established by Dr Pitsuwan in 2013, at the behest of Mr. Adama Dieng, the UN Secretary General's Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. The HLAP comprised five eminent persons from Southeast Asia, with Associate Professor Caballero-Anthony and Professor Bellamy as the Secretariat. The HLAP Report was launched in September 2014 in New York and was received by Mr Dieng and Dr Jennifer Welsh, the UN Secretary General's Special Adviser on RtoP. The Report outlined recommendations on how ASEAN can promote RtoP. This seminar is part of the outreach activities to disseminate the findings and recommendations of the HLAP Report in the Southeast Asia. The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

RSIS – AHA Centre Policy Discussion

14 November 2016

Jakarta, Indonesia

On 14 November 2016, the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme, NTS Centre, co-hosted with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre on Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) a day-long policy discussion with 40 key stakeholders on the World Humanitarian Summit – Implications for the Asia-Pacific in Jakarta. It focused on the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management, drafted by the HADR Programme in late 2015, and the pathways to achieving a more effective and reformed



humanitarian system in the region. Associate Professor Mely Caballero-Anthony, NTS Centre Head, and Said Faisal, AHA Centre Executive Director, co-hosted the event. The discussion identified frameworks for

action, increased stakeholder recognition & engagement and strategic priorities to advance the ASEAN Vision by 2025.



Group photo taken at the RSIS- APLN for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Southeast Asian Sub-regional Meeting

NTS Centre Seminar on “Human Security: An Evolving and Contested Concept” by Dr Sorpong Peou

29 November 2016

Singapore

Dr Sorpong Peou, visiting Senior Fellow with the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Programme, Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS Centre) at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, and a Professor in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at Ryerson University and a member of the Yeates School of Graduate Studies gave a seminar titled “Human Security: An Evolving and Contested Concept” on 29 November 2016.

In the first of two seminars, Dr Peou introduced the highly contested concept of human security, noting that individuals were the reference point for human security instead of the more commonly known state-centric view of security. Noting the difficulty in defining human security, Dr Peou referenced the development-based approach articulated by the United Nations Development Program, and how such an approach

poses a challenge to other concepts of security, such as national security, collective security, common security and comprehensive security. Dr Peou framed human security as the freedom from suffering and fear and as being obtained through forming groups, states, and protection mechanisms. He also noted that global legalism is one of the pillars of human security, and the legal protection of human security through, for example, international legal bodies and tribunals, which he further elaborated on in his second seminar. Dr Peou also discussed human security’s relationship with the responsibility to protect, and how human security has often been seen as the responsibility to protect. He noted that this responsibility to protect leads to the responsibility to rebuild but that the threat of use of force is contested and had not been applied systematically, highlighting the need for a greater focus on prevention.

Dr Peou argued that the development-based approach is inadequate in promoting human security, and highlighted the importance of protecting people against physical violence, in the forms of armed conflict and most serious

crimes for example, and natural disasters.

RSIS-APLN Southeast Asian Subregional Meeting on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

8 - 9 December 2016

Singapore

RSIS hosted the Asia-Pacific Leadership Network (APLN) for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Southeast Asian Sub-regional Meeting at the Orchard Hotel in Singapore from 8 to 9 December 2016. 20 participants from Southeast Asia and beyond discussed the regional perspectives and priorities for nuclear non-proliferation, the status of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty and its Protocol, and the implications of peaceful use of nuclear energy in Southeast Asia. Participants proposed policy recommendations on strengthening nuclear energy cooperation and governance in the region. Singapore’s Ambassador-at-Large Bilahari Kausikan had an informal discussion with the participants on relevant issues concerning nuclear safety, security and safeguards in the region.