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Director's Message

Aloha from APCSS! As you know, we at APCSS work hard to offer what we believe is a different and uniquely valuable shared learning experience that will benefit participants for the rest of their lives.

Our learning model is tested, proven and evolutionary to the needs of security practitioners, regionally and around the rest of the world. Bottom line: it works! Your regular feedback to us validates what we are trying to do.

That said, part of what happens in a participant-centered, activity-based learning process like that at APCSS, is the requirement to do a lot of self-examination—all parties involved. Most APCSS Fellows discover, for example, the need to ask the question, “How do I get the most out of this learning experience as I am undergoing it, and how do I apply it regularly in what I do at home?”

Because learning audiences at APCSS are by design diverse and constitute a valuable feedback framework, APCSS program participants are helped to discover some of their biases and continuing leader-development needs. Some discover that what's really available during their APCSS learning experience and most merits their attention, is something they didn't anticipate. That is, the chance to practice applying new knowledge gained in serious debate and collaborative analysis among other regional (and global) leaders who have quite different ethnic, educational, cultural, religious, ideological, and political perspectives. In fact, many APCSS participants discover the APCSS brand of shared learning provides a realistic laboratory for understanding and influencing counterparts with similar responsibility, but very different backgrounds, on matters of mutual importance.

Further, the hands-on introduction to, and use of, decision-analysis tools and critical web-based information keeps our educational process looking forward but grounded in the world as it is, and as it evolves daily. At APCSS, we deal with critical security challenges, now and ahead, as cooperative opportunities we need to anticipate, recognize, understand, and act on as responsible officials. Said simpler, we help leaders as doers, as well



Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Ed Smith, U.S. Army
Director,
Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies

as thinkers. We work hard to get mature talented participants of most promise to their sponsoring nations and organizations involved in our programs. We market extensively what we offer in order to attract those who can best make use of what we offer. It is a calling worth the best efforts of all involved—those participating and those supporting.

Please help others who get the chance to become APCSS Alumni understand the opportunity at hand. It is not the same for all, by design. It requires participants to figure out for themselves what they need and how they intend to leverage what's offered. As in all we do at APCSS, the center of attention and expectation is on careful and comprehensive learning from scholar mentors and colleague participants, daily. And the learning is life-long. What starts at APCSS continues as long as Alumni desire, via the internet link to APCSS, and more importantly, to other Alumni.

Keep up your superb work. We're proud of you and your accomplishments! Look forward to seeing you throughout the Asia-Pacific region! ■