Security cooperation enhanced at India – U.S. workshop

A workshop to deepen the India-U.S. strategic relationship was held at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies June 20-24.

“Perspectives on the India-U.S. Strategic Interface: Towards an Improved Understanding of Aspirations, Goals, and Futures” examined, through bi-lateral dialogues, the efficacy of the contemporary strategic relationship and examined India-U.S. thinking on optimizing it. Conceived as the first in a series of APCSS-sponsored conversations between participants on the India-U.S. strategic partnership, the workshop was a useful step in identifying areas of convergence in the relationship, as well as divergences that could potentially retard advancing the partnership. The aim was to enable a series of conversations that could

(left) Dr. Chintamani Mahapatra of Jawaharlal University discusses the Indo-U.S. relationship. (above) Prof. Shyam Tekwani and Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Admiral Patrick Walsh listen to the discussions on how to optimize relations.

The workshop was attended by more than 25 participants representing sectors such as security, diplomacy, academics and the media.
The five-day Security Sector Development workshop held April 4-8 was designed to promote a better understanding of a security sector, its management and supervision, as well as evolving roles and responsibilities of security institutions and focused on Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, and Nepal.

APCSS hosted its third multinational workshop “Security Sector Development: National Priorities and Regional Approaches” in April. Participating in the workshop were senior whole-of-government cohort teams from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, and Nepal. Participants included senior members of executive and legislative branches of government, high ranking military & law enforcement officials and prominent academics.

The teams completed several projects including: evaluating the counters of National Defense Law; constructing strategies to link maritime security and counter-terrorism affairs; coordinating the relationship of economic development to existing security structures; and achieving multi-party consensus on next steps for security sector development.

“I learned a lot – something not always true at these things, attesting to the quality of the conversation and the participants – and enjoyed the APCSS model of plenary sessions with breakout groups and intense, focused discussion in a relaxed setting,” said a conference participant.

The workshop, designed to address the traditional and non-traditional security issues of political, social and economic dimensions, through a candid exchange of perspectives, examined three key areas of intersection over the next 10-20 years: 1) technology sharing, 2) geo-political dynamics impacting the India-U.S. relationship, 3) current & future security challenges in the Indian Ocean. The workshop brought together 10 participants each from India and the United States comprising policy influencers, researchers and academics, media representatives, and security practitioners, widely acknowledged as knowledgeable and with a recognized track record working U.S.-India security cooperation.

“I think it was really conducted in an amazing manner,” said another conference participant. “And the output will prove to be a benchmark in the Indo-U.S. relations. The thresholds that APCSS has set will definitely be difficult to emulate by any other think tank.”
Interface of Science, Technology and Security: Areas of Concern, Now and Ahead

In October 2010, APCSS hosted a special workshop on future global trends.

The objectives of the Interface of Science, Technology and Security workshop were to identify and evaluate the most significant current and emerging S&T developments or phenomena that will have the most significant impact on international/Asia-Pacific security in the next 20 years; identify interagency, regional and global interface opportunities to prepare collaboratively for the impact of identified S&T developments and phenomena; and seek ways to strengthen the interface of S&T and security communities.

Participants identified scientific and technological initiatives/phenomena in cybersecurity, energy, biotechnology and the environment as having the most significant global impact in the next two decades and therefore the richest in collaborative opportunities. Moreover, they also pointed out the obvious gap that exists between the S&T and security communities which needs to be bridged in order to collaboratively prepare for the S&T initiatives/phenomena identified. The group endorsed a multi-stakeholder, interdisciplinary perspective to frame stakeholder collaboration.

The development of an agenda that would move the discussions forward centered on the following conceptual considerations: shifting the mindset of stakeholders from ‘independence’ to ‘interdependence’; the importance of context in understanding the S&T-security intersection; the deepening global/regional spill-over effects of S&T developments to the security environment; and a re-thinking of ‘big’ concepts including risk, vulnerability, adaptability, resilience, and disruptive innovations.

There were 29 subject matter experts and strategic policy planners representing 11 countries from the Asia-Pacific region in the workshop. Among the key attendees were Dr. Arun Majumdar, first director of the U.S. Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E); Dr. Siegfried S. Hecker, co-director of the Stanford University Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) and Senior Fellow of the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies; and Dr. William S. Perry, former U.S. Secretary of Defense and currently Stanford University’s Michael and Barbara Berberian Professor (at FSI and Engineering) and Co-director of the Preventive Defense Project at CISAC.

Papers and proceedings from this workshop are currently being edited into a new APCSS publication by Dr. Virginia Watson. This book should be available by the end of 2011 both in hard copy and electronically via our website: www.apcss.org.

For more on this subject join the Science & Technology Community of Interest at www.apcsslink.org.
Maritime Security & Regional Cooperation in Northeast Asia

With this regional workshop, APCSS and its co-host, the Maritime State University in Vladivostok, took the first small but essential step in helping build shared awareness of the complexity and challenge of maritime security in this very challenging region. In November 2010, 41 distinguished participants from Canada, Japan, Mongolia, People’s Republic of China and Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States worked together to develop options to realize shared success against transnational maritime security challenges, while acknowledging current strategic realities.

In the final report, delegates concluded that ongoing traditional maritime security concerns, including jurisdictional, territorial and legal disputes backed by growing naval build-up, continue to undermine their ability to address important shared maritime security challenges. They acknowledged that their governments need to build mutual trust and confidence as a first priority, and underlined the importance of achieving quick but modest, operationally-focused successes in key issue areas to enable strategic-level progress in regional stability. Furthermore, this outreach culminated with the inauguration of a new APCSS Alumni Chapter for the Russian Far East.

Overall, the workshop enhanced shared awareness and built confidence, relationships, and networks to expand and sustain collaborative approaches. Held in Vladivostok at the Maritime State University facility, the workshop also concretely demonstrated shared Russian and U.S. commitment to work with the North Pacific to address maritime security challenges.

For more on this subject join our Maritime Security Community of Interest at www.apcsslink.org
The Strategic Role of the Media in Comprehensive Crisis Management

Bringing together disaster management specialists, government spokesmen and the media to discuss ways to improve communications during a crisis was the key to a workshop hosted by Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in December 2010.

The workshop held in Jakarta, Indonesia, achieved transformational critical thinking among 49 media professionals and government crisis managers from 10 Southeast Asian nations (Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Singapore, Brunei, and Timor Leste), on the strategic role of the media in comprehensive crisis management.

The three-day in-residence portion in Jakarta was integrated with a 30-day follow-on distance learning (DL) focused specifically on social media. Participants collaboratively identified actionable next steps for strategic collaboration including:

1. engaging media personnel in simulations and exercises on disaster preparedness and response,
2. involving the media in strategic planning in all phases of comprehensive crisis management,
3. establishing a program for pre-clearance of local and international journalists for expedited access to disaster sites, and
4. implementing effective training for journalists in ethical and comprehensive coverage of crises.

Participant feedback indicated that the country cohort grouping format was highly effective in learning best practices from other cultures and political systems, and the emphasis on transparency and honesty in discussions strengthened cooperation in comprehensive crisis management.

Additionally, there were 20 observers from the Indonesian military, police, government crisis agency, and civil society, as well as from the U.S. Embassy. Keynote speakers included Dr. Orlando Mercado, former Philippine Permanent Representative to ASEAN; Mr. Jusuf Kalla, Director of the Indonesian Red Cross and former Vice President of Indonesia; Mr. Usman Wati, Director, Central Information Commission of Indonesia; and Mr. Djafar Assegaff, Corporate Advisor to Media Indonesia Group.

Led by Ambassador (Ret.) Lauren Kahea Moriarty, Dean of Academics at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr. Scot Marciel, also attended the workshop.

To join in on a discussion on this topic go to www.apc-ssl.org and join the Crisis Management or Public Affairs/Social Media communities of interest.
The workshop held May 11-13 was designed for APCSS advocacy teams (U.S. Embassy - Partner Nations – APCSS Alumni) to gather during the Advanced Security Cooperation (ASC 11-1) course to develop a common definition of security and identify what constitutes a “Suitable Fellow” for the respective courses by experiencing a “Day in the Life” of resident Fellows.

Workshop participants shared their model and processes for recruiting prospective participants best able to take advantage of APCSS program offerings. Attending the workshop were 24 participants from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and Singapore.

As a result of the workshop APCSS saw an increase in the number of Fellows from these locations.

Maritime Security Issues

In November 2010, Dr. Virginia Watson and Lt. Col. Stewart Taylor traveled to the Philippines to participate in a workshop hosted by the APCSS Philippine Association (APA). “Current Maritime Security Developments” in Asia was the focus of a panel led by APCSS’ Dr. Watson and a former Philippines Undersecretary of Defense, the Honorable Rodel Cruz (SEC06-1), present in Manila, while other panelists including Capt. (Ret.) Carleton Cramer, Dr. Justin Nankivell, and Ms. Kerry Nankivell participated via VTC from Honolulu.

During the 90-minute program faculty members presented lectures followed by a questions and answer session. According to Dr. Watson, the choice of topic was timely. Maritime security is currently on the high level of policy attention in Manila and is expected to be so in the future. Philippine maritime experts were in attendance and they made full use of the occasion to raise questions on current maritime security trends, in particular on the international legal structure of Asia-Pacific ocean dynamics; the growth of Asian sea power; political-military aspects of maritime security: South China Sea; and environment & economics of maritime security in Asia.

Mr. Rodel Cruz speaks with APCSS professors Carleton Cramer, Dr. Justin Nankivell and Ms. Kerry Nankivell video teleconference.

Mr. Clarence Dugenia (CCM 9-1), Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Nagma-mora Lomodag (EC02-1), Professor Charie Joaquin (EC02-3), Lt.Col. Stewart Taylor (CSRT 08-3)
Securing the Maritime Commons for the 21st Century

Leaders and security experts from the Pacific Island region gathered at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies to attend the “Maritime Security in the Pacific Island Region: Securing the Maritime Commons for the 21st Century” workshop. The four-day workshop was held at Sept. 13-16, 2010.

These experts discussed a number of topics including: Defining the Maritime Commons in the Pacific Island Region; Challenges to the Security of the Maritime Commons in the Pacific Island Region; Regional Collaborative Approaches to Maritime Security: Opportunities for Enhancements; International Covenants and Maritime Security in the Pacific Island Region; Capacity Building for a More Secure Maritime Commons in the Region; and Comparative Perspectives on Maritime Security in the Pacific Islands Region.

As a group they developed recommendations for next steps that regional governments and international organizations can take to further cooperation. Of note, improved coordination of enforcement operations was identified as a key priority to enhance maritime security in the region, as well as the urgent need for a comprehensive capability needs-assessment, improvements in governance, deeper community engagement in maritime security initiatives, and the need to leverage key regional and international meetings to raise awareness of Pacific Ocean security concerns.

During the workshop keynote addresses were given by Mr. Tuiloma Neroni Slade, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat; Ambassador C. Steven McGann, U.S. Ambassador to the Republics of Fiji, Nauru, Kiribati, and the Kingdom of Tonga & Tuvalu; and Ambassador David Huebner, U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa.

Opening remarks were also read on behalf of Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, Director-General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, who was unable to attend the workshop in person.

In his speech Mr. Slade said, “Given the character of the region and the magnitude of its ocean domain, maritime security is at the very essence of our national and regional security requirements. There are few
security issues in the Pacific that matter which do not have some direct maritime security implications.”

He pointed out that some of the main maritime security issues facing the region include the protection of marine resources and the ongoing struggle against transnational crime and terrorism.

Mr. Slade concluded his remarks by highlighting the “absolute necessity and importance of maritime security to the sustainability and the stability of Pacific nations. The region faces significant threats which need to be addressed comprehensively and as effectively as can be managed. This calls for strengthened cooperation and coordination in the collective effort of regional and partner countries.”

Ambassador McGann said that he appreciated the workshop because “we are able to discuss in real time a current issue, maritime security, that’s important not just to the Pacific, but it’s also important given its global implications for international security.”

More than 60 participants from 24 nations and organizations attended the workshop. Participants were from a broad mix of backgrounds, including Defense, Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, Coast Guard, Police, Customs, Justice, Legislatures, non-government organizations, as well as regional organizations focused on the Pacific Islands region.

To follow up on this workshop, APCSS will be hosting another Pacific Islands workshop tentatively scheduled for September 2012 in Honolulu. The focus of this workshop will be the security implications of climate change.

For more on this subject join our Maritime Security Community of Interest at www.apcsslink.org.

Northeast and Central Asia Transnational Security Challenges in Ungoverned Spaces: Physical and Virtual

Sept. 6-9, 2011
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

At press time, APCSS was kicking off its latest workshop in Mongolia. This workshop focused on the challenges of “Ungoverned Spaces” in a North and Central Asian context, specifically addressing the following areas that have been developed from assessment of the most relevant issues, as well as consideration for the areas of greatest potential for impact in combating terrorism:

-Physical “Ungoverned Spaces:” the geographic challenges of porous borders including governance and corruption that is conducive to transnational trafficking in goods (drugs, weapons, commercial and counterfeit products, etc.) and persons (TIP) and the resultant enabling environment (financial and logistical) that contributes to terrorism.

-Virtual “Ungoverned Spaces:” specifically focused on challenges of cyber security issues that impact state capacity to secure critical infrastructure protection (CIP) against the vulnerability to terrorist attack.

The expansion of global interdependence continues to confront the ability of states to meet the expectations of governing the ‘spaces’ that fall within their responsibility in both physical and virtual dimensions. Across North Asia, the need to secure these spaces against the use for illicit means by criminal, financially-motivated, ideologically- or politically- motivated terrorist organizations is a growing challenge. The necessity of security practitioners across government and society to have a full understanding of the scope of the challenge and to identify ways for collaboration in order to effectively and more efficiently ‘raise the cost and reduce the benefit’ to both criminal and terrorist actors is critical to the collective regional and global security environment. Simply, transnational security challenges today in the 21st century require collective security and transnational solutions to both mitigate and defeat.

For more on this subject join the Counterterrorism Community of Interest at www.apcsslink.org.

See updated story & photos online at: www.apcss.org.