

## DKI APCSS & RSIS cohost a workshop on *'Disaster Response Regional Architectures: Assessing Future Possibilities'*

“Disaster Response Regional Architectures: Assessing Future Possibilities” was the topic of a workshop co-hosted by the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and was held in Bangkok, Thailand, July 18 to 20, 2017.

The blended practitioner and academic workshop focused on the future of disaster response regional architectures development. DKI APCSS and RSIS documented the workshop findings and recommendations for improved regional disaster response coordination and cooperation in a published report in September 2017 (see page 25).

The co-hosts convened 33 humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR) professionals, to include serving military and civilian government officials, educators and civil society representatives from four sub-regions: Northeast Asia, South Asia, Oceania and Southeast Asia to share varying perspectives. Participants identified trends, —challenges, best practices, opportunities and recommendations for improved disaster response regional cooperation within adaptable and resilient regional response architectures. Discussants were



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The workshop agenda addressed the response cooperation landscapes of the Indo-Asia-Pacific at the strategic and sub-regional levels. Case studies presented from each sub-region viewed aid through the lens of receiver and provider nations to identify best practices and opportunities for intra- and inter-regional sharing and considerations.

P.K. Taneja, the newly appointed Director of the SAARC Disaster Management Centre, stated that “I, being new to the whole subject of Regional Disaster Response Mechanism, am fortunate to have exposure to different regional architectures and many best-practices could be replicated in SAARC Disaster Management Centre as well.”

Over the course of the three days, facilitators and practitioners worked to collectively prioritize the top five opportunity areas for improved response coordination and recommended validation and integration methodologies for institutional changes. They also had a strategy for implementing these changes once returning home to their countries.

“After returning to my country, I will focus on wider collaboration and engagements, national legislation and policy formulation, implementation and capacity enhancement of local humanitarian partners,” said Krishna Bahadur Raut, Nepal (CCM17-1), Chief of the Disaster Management Division and Joint Secretary for the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Participants concluded the workshop with a strategic discussion on conditions needed for adaptable and resilient regional disaster response architectures.



Ms Adelina Kamal of the AHA Centre provides the Southeast Asia Sub-regional Response Overview.

# Building Maritime Capacity: A Quadrilateral Approach



Commander Kristopher Robinson leads a breakout session.

The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APC-SS), in conjunction with our partners at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), hosted a three-day workshop entitled “Building Maritime Capacity: A Quadrilateral Approach” from September 26 to 28 in Tokyo.

The workshop brought together representatives from Australia, India, Japan and the United States, along with security practitioners from Indonesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam to set the theater for increased coordination in maritime capacity building among the key players of the Indo-Asia-Pacific.

This workshop built upon two previously existing trilateral lines of discussion-- the Japan-India-U.S. trilateral and the Australia-Japan-U.S. trilateral-- to advance maritime capacity building.

“The workshop highlighted the value of increased information sharing among the major providers of security-related capacity building assistance,” said Dr. Lori Forman, Center lead for the workshop. “The field of development assistance has such mechanisms dating back to 1960, but formal multilateral coordi-

nation systems are much less developed in the security field.”

The workshop participants identified four strategic goals for maritime capacity building as common among the four nations:

- » **Support to maritime law enforcement.**
- » **Professionalized support to building maritime law and policy.**
- » **Long-term operational capability development.**
- » **Assessment of existing authorities and arrangements within and between countries of interest.**

The format included framing presentations by subject matter expert (SME) speakers, interactive polling, and facilitated small group sessions. Case studies linked the concepts, policies, and strategies with concrete needs and opportunities in the region.

Using the findings discussed during the plenary sessions and breakout groups, participants developed recommendations for next steps to be undertaken by their organizations and between their nations to build maritime capacity in the region.

The workshop identified several policy challenges, as well as opportunities, among the represented nations. All participants recognized the need to clearly articulate their national goals, policies, and coordination mechanisms as prerequisite to success at a multilateral level. Additionally, all the participants noted that official participation by representative delegations from contributing nations is vital for real multilateral coordination to occur.

Participants concluded that a quadrilateral solution to capacity building is challenging in the near-term, but also agreed that niche opportunities for quadrilateral coordination exist. Bilateral and trilateral steps toward this goal, said all attendees, are a way to manage expectations.

According to retired Vice Adm. Shekhar Sinha, the workshop was “a great opportunity to connect with so many thinkers from far and wide.” Sinha also noted that “even a small step by each of us could be a giant leap” toward fostering collaboration in maritime capacity building.

The overarching goal of the workshop was identification of shared strategic and security goals in maritime capacity building, with understanding of policy instruments employed in Australia, India, Japan and the United States, in pursuit of those goals and identification of gaps between policies that can be addressed through national processes.

In addition, the participants identified concrete activities in maritime security capacity building which provide opportunities for greater cooperation and/or synergy among quadrilateral partners in the three major ocean subregions of the Indo-Asia-Pacific.

# Workshop on national security coordination in Southeast Asia hosted at Center

The Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) hosted a four-day workshop entitled “National Security Coordination in Southeast Asia” from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1 in Honolulu. The workshop was intended to strengthen mutual understanding of national security priorities and coordination processes and explore opportunities for cooperation among the national security coordination agencies in Southeast Asia.

Representatives from the National Security Councils and key agencies responsible for the management and



Thirty-one participants from ten Southeast Asian nations, Japan, the United States and the ASEAN Secretariat attended the workshop.



DKI APCSS Director James “Hammer” Hartsell welcomes workshop participants to the Center.

coordination of national security in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) states and the United States, participated in this workshop.

Three broad themes were the main focus:

- » **Regional security perspectives**
- » **National security coordination practices**
- » **Regional gaps and ways ahead for cooperation among the national security coordination agencies in SE Asia**

“This workshop is the first ever

meeting dedicated to the national security coordination agencies and professionals in Southeast Asia,”

explained Academic Lead Dr. Alex Vuv-ing.

Presentations by invited experts and select delegations provided discussion starters for debate on these themes, and were conducted in the plenary as well as breakout groups. Breakout discussions capitalized on the small group environment for the in-depth

exchange of perspectives, experiences, and thoughts on the issues canvassed. Drawing on key insights and recommendations from these discussions and with the help of anonymous polling, synthesis sessions yielded quantitative results of the key points of consensus on specific priorities for follow-up actions.

Mr. Matthew Pottinger, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asian Affairs in the National Security Council of the United States spoke to the workshop through

a video teleconference from the White House on August 29.

“It was a really positive experience,” explained Mr. David Greene, Director, Office of Multilateral Affairs, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, United States Department of State. “I think that the thing I took away from it was just how valuable it is to talk about the conceptions of national security and how you make national security policy with such a diverse cross-section of colleagues from



Dr. Lorenzo Clavejo, Assistant Director General, Strategic Management Staff Philippines National Security Council, provides a presentation to workshop participants.



Mr. Matthew Pottinger, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asian Affairs in the National Security Council of the United States spoke to the workshop through a VTC from the White House on August 29.

across the region. We rarely get this range of participation, this range of diversity in terms of folks from different countries in the region when we travel. It's a chance to sit down and talk with 30 colleagues who are thinking about the same challenges, but from very different national perspectives."

ASEAN is a major promoter of regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. Facilitated by the ASEAN framework, government agencies of the ASEAN member states regularly meet with their regional counterparts many times a year in a multilateral setting to work together for the benefit of all. National security councils and their equivalents remain, however, an exception to this common practice. There are currently no regional forums for the agencies responsible for the management and coordination of national security in the ASEAN state.

"This workshop was

very beneficial for me as an advisor and special staff of the minister," said Nicolaus Harjanto, Special Staff Attached to the Minister, Ministry of State Secretariat for Defence, Indonesia. "I learned from the other participants, we got an excellent feel on how the national security coordination in

the regions has been going on. We also discussed the future – (how to) make proposals to our respective governments, and that's one aspect of this workshop that was favorable in terms of substance. I got to know many of the Fellows, analysts, advisors and officials dealing with national security issues in the region."

The overarching goal of the workshop was to meet a growing need for more interaction, dialogue, and cooperation among the national security coordination agencies in Southeast Asia, and to identify ways ahead for professional and institutional relationship building and the exchange of best practices among these agencies.

"The workshop has provided a great opportunity for professionals in national security coordination of Southeast Asian countries to share views, exchange information, and establish working relationships with their counterparts," Vuving concluded.

"At the end of the workshop, several delegations agreed to take concrete steps to advance the initiatives recommended at the workshop."



Workshop participants discuss challenges and solutions during a breakout session.