Agenda

• Non-Traditional Security (NTS)
• RSIS Centre for NTS Studies
• Consortium on NTS Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia)
What is Non-Traditional Security (NTS)?

• Focuses on non-military security threats

• Transnational in nature and defined in political and socio-economic terms

• NTS threats do not stem from competition between states or shifts in balance of power

• Often caused by human-induced disturbances to fragile balance of nature with dire consequences to both states and societies

• Resource scarcity, climate change and environmental degradation, natural disasters, infectious diseases, transnational crime, irregular migration, ethnic conflicts, arms smuggling, sea piracy and others

• These phenomena cause instability → threat to security

• Consequences often more difficult to reverse or repair.
Referent object of security ➔ **people or human collectivities**, not just the state!
Illuminating the Increasing Importance of NTS Issues: *Natural Disasters in Asia*

Source: UNOCHA [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int), (accessed 13 May 2008)
Promoting NTS Studies in Asia

• Since 1999, the RSIS has successfully conducted and managed a programme on NTS, aiming at increasing awareness of a range of NTS challenges and the need to develop regional institutional capabilities as a response

• With growing regional interest on NTS issues, the RSIS established the Consortium on NTS Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia) in January 2007

• In May 2008, the RSIS NTS programme was upgraded to become the Centre for NTS Studies, which serves as the Secretariat of NTS-Asia
Launch of RSIS Centre for NTS Studies, 6 May 2008, Traders Hotel, Singapore
RSIS Centre for NTS Studies - Missions

• Conduct Research
• Produce policy-relevant analyses
• Furthering awareness & building capacity to address NTS issues & challenges in Asia-Pacific & beyond
RSIS Centre for NTS Studies - Objectives

• Advance the understanding of NTS issues & challenges in Asia-Pacific by
  → highlighting gaps in knowledge & policy
  → identifying best practices of state & non-state actors’ response

• Provide a platform for scholars & policy-makers within & outside Asia to
discuss & analyze NTS issues in the region

• Network with institutions and organisations worldwide to exchange
information, insights and experiences in the area of NTS

• Engage policy-makers on the importance of NTS
  → in guiding political responses to NTS emergencies
  → develop strategies to mitigate the risks to state and human security

• Building the institutional capacity of governments, regional & international
organisations to respond to NTS challenges
RSIS Centre for NTS Studies – Key Research Programmes

Pandemics and Security Programme
• Health and Human Security
• Global Health Governance
• Pandemic Preparedness and Global Response Networks

Energy and Security Programme
• Security and Safety of Energy Infrastructure
• Stability of Energy Markets
• Energy Sustainability
• Nuclear Energy and Security

Climate Change and Security Programme
• Mitigation and Adaptation Policy Studies
• The Politics and Diplomacy of Climate Change

Food Security
Mr. Long Sarou (Royal University of Phnom Penh) and Mr. Neth Naro (University of Cambodia) have recently completed the Centre’s visiting research fellowship programme for 2008. Under the programme, Sarou and Naro respectively conducted research on “Livelihood Strategies amongst Indigenous People in the Central Cardamom Protected Forests, Cambodia” and “Migration & Human Trafficking – A Case for Regional Cooperation”.

Long Sarou

Neth Naro
RSIS Centre for NTS Studies

- Publications

Books & Monographs

NTS Alerts

RSIS Commentaries

NTS Insights
What is NTS-Asia?

• Currently a network of 14 research institutes and think tanks from across the Asian region
  – Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Vietnam
Objectives of NTS-Asia

• Develop further the process of networking among scholars and analysts working on NTS issues in the region

• Build long-term and sustainable regional capacity for research on NTS issues

• Mainstream and advance the study of NTS in Asia
NTS-Asia Activities (1)

First Annual Convention, 5-6 November 2007, Colombo, Sri Lanka
NTS-Asia Activities (2)

Dissemination Seminar: NTS Challenges in Asia, 5-8 March 2007, United States of America. Three seminars held in IPA New York, CSIS Washington DC and IEAS Berkeley University, San Francisco
NTS-Asia – Research Fellowship Programme

- A duration of 3 months
- Choice to conduct research at any of the 14 NTS-Asia member institutes
- To produce a publishable research paper/monograph prior to conclusion of the programme

2008-2009 Research Fellows

- Ms. Manisha Sobhrajani, development-sector worker, Indian Kashmir. Affiliated with several organizations such as WISCOMP, CDR and ICM.
  - Analysis of Media Reportage on Gender-based Violence in Jammu and Kashmir
- Dr. Xue Li, Research Fellow, Division of International Strategy, Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
  - Sino-ASEAN Energy Cooperation: Limitation, Potential and Prospects
- Mr. John Jackson Ewing, Teaching Fellow, Bond University, Australia
  - Security Implications of Climate Change – Case Study of the Philippines
Check Out the NTS E-News!

• NTS-Alert’s timely issues
• Worldwide Readership
• 350 on mailing list and counting
• List is not exhaustive as some are point of contacts who disseminate e-news even further
E-News readership by profession

note: some academics double up in NGOs and some government circles

E-News readership by region
As of 24 February 2009, the NTS-Asia website for instance registered 35,058 visits, with a typical visitor having examined 20 documents found on the site.