

## IDSS (Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies)

Thales Ranking 13<sup>th</sup>



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International Conference on Cohesive Societies - 19-21 June 2019

## SECURITY, DEFENCE, MILITARY TECHNOLOGIES

Founded in 1996 by the former Deputy Prime Minister and now President of the Republic of Singapore, Tony Tan KENG YAM, the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) is a security and defence think tank. The IDSS operates within the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) of which it is the oldest and largest research centre as well as its core component. The IDSS mainly focuses on security-related issues and developments affecting the stability of Southeast Asia and the Asia Pacific region.

### Missions

Its stated objectives are to conduct research and provide general and graduate education in the area of national security, military technology and international relations. It also promotes joint and exchange programmes with similar regional and international institutions; and organise seminars and conferences on these topics.

### Structure and activities

#### 4 functional programs:

- Maritime security: maritime force modernisation, shifts in regional maritime balance of power, maritime territorial and boundary disputes, maritime terrorism, piracy and other trans boundary maritime crimes, safety at sea and disaster relief

- Military studies: regional geopolitics and contemporary security issues, military theory and strategic thoughts, war studies
- Military transformations: cyber warfare, special operations, conventional military operations, transformations in defence industries, management of technologies, acquisitions, modernisation of activities in the Asia Pacific and the effects of US transformation
- Regional security architecture: trans-regional, regional and sub-regional arrangements (APEC, ASEAN, ASEAN+3, ASEAN Regional Forum, etc) and non-official networks (Shangri-La Dialogue and Track 2 processes)

#### 5 country/area specific programmes:

- South Asia programme: India's military modernisation, India's relations with major powers, comparative civil-military relations in South and Southeast Asia, Indian ocean security and river disputes in Southern Asia
- China programme: security dimension of China's strategic thinking, China's international relations in East Asia, China and regional institutions, sub-regional cooperation, maritime security, Taiwan
- Indonesia programme: military and security affairs in the archipelago, foreign policy and issues relating a role as regional power, political Islam and Islamic movements, decentralisation of Riau region
- Malaysia programme: Malaysia's ethnic relations, economic developments, voter demography and general elections
- United states programme: USA's diplomatic, economic, military and social relationships in the Asia Pacific, foreign policy, defence policy and grand strategy

#### Broadcasting medias:

- Broader Horizons: monthly publication of the Maritime Security Programme of the IDSS (Last: August 2015)

#### Last publications:

- "The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue: Towards an Indo-Pacific Order?", September 2019
- "Singapore Defence Technology Summit – Why the Sky is not Falling: The Diffusion of Artificial Intelligence", June 2019
- "20<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO)", January 2019

#### Events:

- Workshop on "The Belt and Road Initiative: Impacts on Recipient Countries and Global Governance" October 2019
- Conference on "ASEAN, Australia, and the United States", October 2019

### Governance

- Director: Ong Keng YONG. Executive Deputy Chairman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), former Ambassador
- Senior Fellow and Head of Research: Dr Pascal VENNESSON, Professor of Political Science, University Panthéon-Assas, Paris II, Former Holder of the Chair "Security in Europe" at the European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies

### Comments

#### VIP members:

- Ong WEI CHONG: Coordinator of the Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO), Professor, Functional Specialist Support Staff Officer of the Singapore Armed Forces
- Leonard SEBASTIAN: Former Consultant to Indonesia's Ministry of Defence, International Policy Advisor to the Timor-Leste Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation