

NTS Bulletin October 2010 (Issue 1)

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MAIN HIGHLIGHT

UN Launches Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health

The United Nations (UN) Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) took place in New York on 20–22 September 2010. The Summit brought together UN member states, representatives of the private sector, foundations, international organisations, and civil society and research organisations to take stock of the progress on women and children's health.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon noted that there while there has been progress – with some countries registering impressive gains – it was important to further catalyse these efforts to avoid 'inequality eating away at social cohesion'. In this regard, he emphasised the importance of channelling efforts and resources into addressing the health needs of women and children. Secretary-General Ban took this opportunity to launch the UN Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health.

More than US\$40 billion has been pledged towards the UN Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health over the next five years in a concerted attempt to save the lives of women and children, through preventing unwanted pregnancies, protecting children from diseases, and ensuring access for women and children to quality healthcare facilities and skilled health workers.

Commenting on the Global Strategy, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Director Thoraya Ahmed Obaid noted: 'The health of women is not the focus of the health sector alone. The health of women depends on planning and investments across many sectors – in education, health, nutrition, gender equality, and infrastructure.'

Additional Info:

- Linn, Johannes et al., 'Around the Halls: The U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals', Brookings Up Front Blog, 16 September 2010.
- 'Ban Urges World Leaders to Invest in Global Project to Overcome Poverty', UN News Centre, 20 September 2010.
- 'UN Official Urges Increased State Funding for Reproductive Health', UN News Centre, 20 September 2010.
- De Schutter, Olivier, 'Millennium Development Goals Need More Emphasis on Human Rights', Guardian Poverty Matters Blog, 21 September 2010.
- 'Helen Clark: Climate Vulnerability and Its Impact on the MDGs', United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 21 September 2010.
- 'New Private Funds to Support Millennium Development Goals', The Earth Institute, Columbia University, 21 September 2010.
- Smith, Sebastian, 'Asia Richer, but Still Leads World in Poverty', AFP, 21 September 2010.
- 'UN Summit Confident of Achieving MDGs on Time if World Delivers', UN News Centre, 22 September 2010.
- 'A Developing China Leads the World toward MDGs', Global Times, 22 September 2010.
- Collier, Paul and Jamie Drummond, 'Tackling Corruption Will Fast-Track Progress on the Millennium Development Goals', Guardian Poverty Matters Blog, 22 September 2010.
- 'Vietnam Supports UN's Measures to Meet MDGs', Nhan Dhan, 22 September 2010.
- Shahid, Areebah, 'Why the MDG Summit is Important for Pakistan', The Express Tribune Blogs, 23 September 2010.

Related reports:

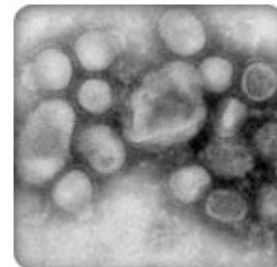
- United Nations (UN), 2010, *Millennium Development Goal 8: The Global Partnership for Development at a Critical Juncture*, MDG Gap Task Force Report 2010, New York.
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 2010, *Green Economy: A Brief for Policymakers on the Green Economy and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*, Geneva.
- United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, 2010, *Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health*.

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Einhorn, Bruce, 'In Asia, Public Health Care Gets Less Public', *Bloomberg Businessweek*, 9 September 2010.
- 'Disinfecting Hand Gels Don't Affect Swine Flu Infection Rate', *AFP*, 12 September 2010.
- Redlup, Tina, 'Researchers Say Influenza May Be Becoming Tamiflu-Resistant', *VaccineNewsDaily*, 17 September 2010.
- Butler, Katherine, 'Recent Study Shows Media Coverage Can Reduce a Pandemic', *MotherNatureNetwork*, 18 September 2010.
- Sachdev, Nimisha, 'UN Health Agency Cautions about Dengue in Asia', *French Tribune*, 18 September 2010.
- 'Rising Number of Rabies Deaths Alarms Experts', *Viet Nam News*, 20 September 2010.
- Goodwin, Jennifer, 'More Evidence that Vaccines Don't Cause Autism Arises from Study', *USA Today*, 19 September 2010.
- Norington, Brad, 'Kevin Rudd Warns of Disease Epidemic in Pakistan at UN Meeting on Its Flood Emergency', *The Australian*, 20 September 2010.
- 'Heart Machine Helps Cure H1N1 Patient', *The Times of India*, 21 September 2010.
- Mok, Opalyn, 'Aedes at Penang Hospital', *The Sun*, 21 September 2010.
- Ward, Olivia, '\$40 Billion Promised at UN for Maternal, Child Health', *Toronto Star*, 22 September 2010.
- 'Firm Working on Vaccine to Treat HFMD', *The Star*, 24 September 2010.
- Kwok, Yenni, 'Across Asia, Dengue Fever Cases Reach Record Heights', *Time*, 24 September 2010.
- Capella, Peter, 'World Failing to Meet 2010 HIV/AIDS Care Target: UN', *AFP*, 27 September 2010.



Selected Publications

- Alleyne, George, David Stuckler and Ala Alwan, 2010, 'The Hope and the Promise of the UN Resolution on Non-Communicable Diseases', *Globalization and Health* 2010, Vol. 6, No. 15.

This article assesses the potential of the United Nations General Assembly's recently passed Resolution 265, 'Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases', to make chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) a global priority among international leaders. It argues that the effectiveness of this resolution depends on the ability of the international community to take advantage of the political opportunity to institutionalise NCD prevention and control into policies and programmes within the broader development agenda.

- Huy, Rekol, Philippe Buchy, Anne Conan, Chantha Ngan et al., 2010, 'National Dengue Surveillance in Cambodia 1980–2008: Epidemiological and Virological Trends and the Impact of Vector Control', *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, Vol. 88, pp. 650–7.

This bulletin offers an overview of surveillance data on dengue collected in Cambodia from 1980 to the present. It concludes that dengue occurrences remain highest among young children in Cambodia, with infants under the age of 1 and children aged 4 to 6 years being the most susceptible to infection. It also states that the lack of a comprehensive screening, testing and case reporting system hinders accurate estimations of the true disease burden posed by dengue in the country.

- Labonté, Ronald and Michelle L. Gagnon, 2010, 'Framing Health and Foreign Policy: Lessons for Global Health Diplomacy', *Globalization and Health* 2010, Vol. 6, No. 14.

This article addresses the rise of health as a foreign policy issue, the emergence of global health and global health diplomacy, and the advancement of international cooperation in health. In this paper, the arguments for global health diplomacy, specifically, the rationales that have been, or could be, used to position global health better within foreign policy, are reviewed. The article addresses health within the themes of security, development, global public goods, trade, human rights and ethical/moral reasoning and raises the question of which arguments prevail in actual state decision-making.

- Niëns, Laurens M., Alexandra Cameron, Ellen Van de Poel, Margaret Ewen et al., 2010, 'Quantifying the Impoverishing Effects of Purchasing Medicines: A Cross-Country Comparison of the Affordability of Medicines in the Developing World', *PLoS Medicine*, Vol. 7, No. 8.

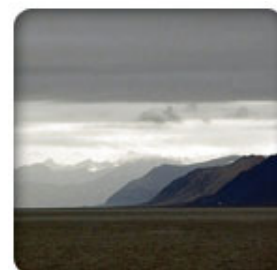
This article examines the affordability of medicines in low- to middle-income countries, where medicines are often highly priced in relation to income levels. It concludes that medicines purchased by individuals in the countries studied could lead to the impoverishment of many. Finally, it argues that strong action is needed to improve medicinal affordability through the establishment of health insurance systems and the promotion of low-cost, high quality generic medicines.

Events & Announcements

- 'World Mental Health Day', 10 October 2010, Worldwide.
- 'World Sight Day', 14 October 2010, Worldwide.
- 'Securing Global Health: Second International Health Regulations (IHR) Implementation Course', 27 September 2010 – 18 February 2011, On-the-job training.

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CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS



News & Commentaries

- Bong, Mi, 'Nation Must "Ensure Balanced Development"', *Viet Nam News*, 23 September 2010.
- Nishtar, Sania, 'Pakistan's Flood Disaster: An Unprecedented Humanitarian Crisis', RSIS Commentaries, 6 September 2010.
- Creagh, Sunanda, 'Indonesia Could Cut CO2 by 70 pct by 2030: Report', Library of Pelangi, 7 September 2010.
- Pontius, Nancy L., 'United States Aids Climate Change Mitigation in Southeast Asia', Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State, 22 September 2010.
- Creagh, Sunanda, 'Corruption Could Jeopardise Indonesia's Climate Change Deals', *The Jakarta Globe*, 17 September 2010.
- Efstathiou Jr, Jim, 'Climate Deal May Need Company Lobbying, Figueres Say', *Bloomberg*, 21 September 2010.
- Simorangkir, Dicky, 'Climate Solutions: Prioritizing Investments for REDD+', *The Jakarta Post*, 21 September 2010.
- Moxley, Mitch, 'Great Green Wall Rises, but Questions Remain', Inter Press Service, 23 September 2010.
- 'Timorese Leader, at UN, Calls on Asia to Lead the Way on Climate Change', UN News Centre, 25 September 2010.
- 'ASEAN People Target on Powers for Climate Change', *VOV News*, 26 September 2010.

Selected Publications

- Agrawala, Shardul, Arnaldo Matus Kramer, Guillaume Prudent-Richard and Marcus Sainsbury, 2010, *Incorporating Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in Environmental Impact Assessments: Opportunities and Challenges*, OECD Environmental Working Paper No. 24, OECD Publishing.

This paper suggests that climate change impacts and adaptation be considered within Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) modalities. It reviews the potential entry points, and examples of countries and institutions which have implemented EIA in existing projects. The analysis points to several challenges, such as the importance of data to developing a systematic assessment, the level of uncertainties in climate projection, considerations of flexible implementation and the significance of establishing effective communication between the scientific community and practitioners.

- Blankespoor, Brian, Susmita Dasgupta, Benoit Laplante and David Wheeler, 2010, *Adaptation to Climate Extremes in Developing Countries: The Role of Education*, World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 5342, World Bank.

This paper covers different approaches to climate change adaptation mechanisms. To complement the engineering approach of the disaster preparedness mechanism, it argues that socioeconomic development has a significant role in building community resilience in dealing with climate change especially in developing countries. It concludes that educating and empowering women will improve the effectiveness of disaster preparedness programmes.

- Freeman, Charles, Michael J. Green and Robert S. Wang, 2010, *Asia's Response to Climate Change and Natural Disasters: Implications for an Evolving Regional Architecture*, A Report of the CSIS Asian Regionalism Initiative, Washington, D.C.: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

This report examines the politics of climate change in Asia, the region's response to natural disasters and the implications for the future geometry of Asia's institutions and US policy in the region. The assessment looks broadly at two areas of non-traditional security (NTS) cooperation in Asia: (1) climate change, including the domestic political factors in Asia and the regional strategies for securing low-carbon pathways; and (2) regional approaches to disaster management. The volume draws on case studies to assess the utility of existing and emerging institutions – the promises as well as the problems – as the US and the region seek greater cooperation on both traditional and non-traditional security challenges. The authors discuss the problems related to the lack of coordination at different levels, the uncertain role of the military and continuing gaps in resources and expertise in key organisations.

- Wasserman, Aliza, 2010, *U.S. Climate Action in 2009–2010*, WRI Fact Sheet, Washington, D.C.: World Resources Institute.

This fact sheet reviews notable steps taken by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Department of Energy (DOE) on climate change, through stimulus funding, international finance commitments, regional cap-and-trade programmes and state energy policies. It also identifies political and economic developments that could impact federal climate legislation and additional regulatory action to reduce emissions by federal agencies. While these efforts are important, it is clear that much further action, including a binding cap on carbon, is necessary in the US.

- Hazlewood, Peter and Greg Mock, 2010, *Ecosystems, Climate Change and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Scaling Up Local Solutions*, Working Paper, World Resources Institute.

This paper highlights the crucial relations between sound ecosystem services, climate resilience and the success of the MDGs. It argues that strengthening the rural economy and alleviating poverty rely upon activities that minimise ecosystem decline and promote community adaptation to climate change. Thus, it also suggests an action framework comprising five elements which emphasise long-term investments in local people and institutions as an effective development approach.

Events & Announcements

- 'United Nations Climate Change Conference', 4–9 October 2010, Tianjin, China.
- 'Global Work Party', 10 October 2010, Worldwide.

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FOOD SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Frabotta, David, 'Food Security Hinges on Developing Economies', *Farm Chemicals International*, September 2010.
- Harris, Andrea K., 'Southeast Asia: Rice Wars', *Farm Chemicals International*, September 2010.
- 'No Food Crisis Seen, but Greater Market Stability Needed', FAO Media Centre, 7 September 2010.
- Mathur, Arpita, 'Rotting Foodgrains in Asia: The Case of India and the Philippines', RSIS Commentaries, 14 September 2010.
- Thompson, John, 'Hungry for Result: Improving the Governance of the Global Food System to Address Structural Hunger', Eldis Blog, 17 September 2010.
- Hsu, Robert, 'Discuss: Averting a Food Crisis in Asia', Asia Society, 21 September 2010.
- China Analytics, 'A Note on China's Pesticide Industry Consolidation and Food Security', Seeking Alpha, 22 September 2010.
- 'Bangladesh Urges South-South and North Coop to Up Food Production', TradingMarkets.com, 22 September 2010.
- 'In Brief: Aquaculture "Vital" to Asia's Food Security', IRIN, 22 September 2010.
- 'Water Conservation and Management Key to Address Food Security and Climate Change Issues', *Orissa Business*, 22 September 2010.
- Shukla, Abhishek, 'More Agri Funds Can Be Win-Win Case for Industry: Prez', *Outlook India*, 22 September 2010.
- 'ADB, FAO, and IFAD Partner to Address Food Security Concerns in Asia and Pacific Region', Asian Development Bank, 23 September 2010.
- 'Global Hunger Declines but the Number Still Unacceptable: FAO', Food & Beverage News, 23 September 2010.
- Khattak, Tariq, 'SAARC Countries Can Achieve Food Security: Dr. Zafar', *Pakistan Observer*, 23 September 2010.
- McElheron, Derrick, 'Why is "Food Security" Sparking Unrest?', *CNN*, 24 September 2010.
- 'UN Warns Volatile Food Prices Threat to Food Security', *VOA News*, 24 September 2010.
- 'APEC to Highlight Food Security for High-Quality Regional Growth', *Associated Press*, 26 September 2010.



Selected Publications

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2010, *Fighting Poverty and Hunger: What Role for Urban*

This policy brief supports the role of urban agriculture (UA) not only as an alternative food source but also as a source of income for urban dwellers especially the poor. It suggests that policymakers should acknowledge UA and provide relevant policy responses to minimise the negative consequences and maximise the opportunities.

- Ganesh-Kumar, A., Devesh Roy and Ashok Gulati, 2010, *Liberalizing Foodgrains Markets: Experiences, Impact, and Lessons from South Asia*, IFPRI Issue Brief No. 64, Washington, D.C: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

This brief is a summary of a book published by the IFPRI which examines the food policies of South Asian countries, and how they change in response to various aspects such as international interventions. The brief highlights a few of the key findings, for example, the dilemma of trade liberalisation. It also draws some conclusions, one of which is that each country in the region needs to address different issues to improve agricultural production and to strengthen or maintain the market. It also suggests that there should be stronger policy coordination between countries to promote food security in the region.

- Islam, K.R., A.H.M. Mustafizur Rahman, S.M.A. Faiz, M. Sivakumar et al. (eds) 2010, *Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia*, Springer.

The book explores the impact of climate change on food security. For instance, the problem of food insecurity could be worsened by projected climate change – water scarcity could result from the rapid melting of Himalayan glaciers and increased frequency of extreme events. The book then addresses the possible methods of adapting to and mitigating climate disruptions by strengthening the resilience of the soil, ecosystem and society. It also deals with the social, community and political dimensions of the issue of food security.

- Scherr, Sara J., Courtney Wallace and Louise Buck, 2010, *Agricultural Innovation for Food Security and Poverty Reduction in the 21st Century: Issues for Africa and the World*, Issues Paper for State of The World 2011: Innovations that Nourish the Planet, Washington, D.C.: Ecoagriculture Partners.

This paper provides a framework for the State of the World 2011 (SOW11) report, *Innovations that Nourish the Planet*, published by the Worldwatch Institute. The SOW11 report argues that investing in agriculture is the most effective solution for hunger and poverty around the world. This paper is structured into sections that reviews the diverse perspectives on food security, evaluates existing agricultural innovations, examines policy responses, suggests climate change and ecosystem restoration considerations, and supports farmers and community empowerment. Finally, this paper suggests key questions which SOW11 contributors should address. It also recommends that the impacts of agricultural innovations on ecological and socioeconomic conditions be considered, and that the various policy paradigms that may scale up success and create significant impact on reducing hunger and alleviating poverty be explored.

Events & Announcements

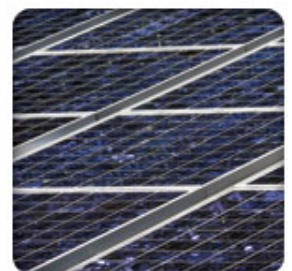
- 'TATT Global Farmer To Farmer Roundtable', 12–13 October 2010, Iowa, USA.
- '2010 Borlaug Dialogue', 13–15 October 2010, Iowa, USA.
- 'World Food Day', 16 October 2010, Worldwide.
- 'Third McGill Conference on Global Food Security', 19–21 October 2010, Montreal, Canada.
- 'Terra Madre', 21–25 October 2010, Turin, Italy.

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ENERGY AND HUMAN SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Cara, Anna, 'China Mines Still Deadly, as Bosses Ordered Below', *Associated Press*, 4 August 2010.
- Bradsher, Keith, 'On Clean Energy, China Skirts Rules', *The New York Times*, 8 September 2010.
- 'The Case for the Defence: BP Casts the Blame for the Gulf Oil Spill Widely', *The Economist*, 9 September 2010.
- Johnson, Ian and Keith Bradsher, 'China's Rise Complicates Goal of Using Less Energy', *The New York Times*, 16 September 2010.
- 'Regional Countries to Sign Gas Pipeline Project on Sept. 20', *Xinhua*, 17 September 2010.
- 'Indonesia Represented as World Powers Meet to Tackle Climate Change', *Jakarta Globe*, 20 September 2010.
- Page, Jeremy, 'China, Pakistan Discuss Another Nuclear Plant', *The Wall Street Journal*, 20 September 2010.



- 'China-Russia Energy Cooperation Enjoys Bright Prospects: Vice Premier', *Xinhua*, 21 September 2010.
- 'India Poised to Take Top Spot for Indonesian Coal Exports', *Jakarta Globe*, 21 September 2010.
- Jolly, David, 'Energy Access Seen as Vital to Abolishing Worst Poverty', *The New York Times*, 21 September 2010.
- Porter, Barry, 'Malaysia Plans Nuclear Power, Mass Rail Investments', *Jakarta Globe*, 21 September 2010.
- Wassener, Bettina, 'Asia Begins Embracing Solar Power', *The New York Times*, 26 September 2010.
- Switkowski, Ziggy, 'Asia Looks to Nuclear', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 September 2010.

Selected Publications

- Bodas Freitas, Isabel Maria, Eva Dantas and Michiko Iizuka, 2010, *The Global Institutional Frameworks and the Diffusion of Renewable Energy Technologies in the BRICS Countries*, UNU-MERIT Working Paper, 2010-045, Maastricht: United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology.

This paper explores how the global institutional frameworks influence the national processes of innovation diffusion. It focuses on the role of the Kyoto mechanisms in the diffusion of renewable energy technologies in Brazil, China, India, Russia and South Africa. Presently, these countries have comparatively low levels of renewable energy technology and capability, and thus do not have any strong desire to diffuse renewable energy technologies. Preliminary research shows that the Kyoto mechanisms can help in the diffusion of some technologies but not new renewable energy technologies. Based on this, the paper then investigates the degree to which the mechanisms can create incentives for the diffusion of new renewable energy technologies in these countries.

- Chow, Edward C., Leigh E. Hendrix, Mikal E. Herberg, Shoichi Itoh et al., 2010, *Pipeline Politics in Asia: The Intersection of Demand, Energy Markets, and Supply Routes*, NBR Special Report 23, Seattle: The National Bureau of Asian Research.

This collection of papers on energy and international politics, commissioned for the 2010 Energy Security Conference, primarily contributes to the discussions on links between energy supply and geopolitics. It offers an overview of major oil and gas pipeline routes in Asia, analyses the existing problems and prospects in Asian energy markets, and explores the implications of the pipeline routes for geopolitics in Asia.

- Mirza, Bilal and Adam Szirmai, 2010, *Towards a New Measurement of Energy Poverty: A Cross-Community Analysis of Rural Pakistan*, UNU-MERIT Working Paper No. 2010-024, Maastricht: United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research and Training Centre on Innovation and Technology.

This paper examines the problem of energy poverty in rural Pakistan by studying the characteristics and consequences of the different energy mixes used by rural Pakistani households. Based on data from a survey on different combinations of energy sources for rural households, an index to measure the degree of 'energy poverty' among rural households was developed. The study concludes that 23.1 per cent of rural households experience high degrees of energy inconveniences, spending a substantial amount of time and effort in collecting or buying different energy sources; and 96.6 per cent of rural households experience severe energy shortfalls. The results also reveal that 91.7 per cent of all rural households in the Punjab province of Pakistan suffer severe energy poverty.

- Ölz, Samantha and Milou Beerepoot, 2010, *Deploying Renewables in Southeast Asia: Trends and Potentials*, International Energy Agency Working Paper, Paris: International Energy Agency (IEA).

This paper studies renewable energy markets and policies in Southeast Asia and is part of the IEA project on global renewable energy. Six countries in this region are selected as case studies: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The paper provides an analysis of the factors that facilitate or hinder the expansion of renewable energy in the electricity, heating and transport sectors in the six countries. It also offers policy recommendations to boost the growth of renewable energy in Southeast Asia.

Events & Announcements

- 'The 9th International Power and Energy Conference', 27–29 October 2010, Singapore.
- 'International Green Energy Conference', 22–23 November 2010, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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About the Centre:

The Centre for NTS Studies of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, was inaugurated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan in May 2008. The Centre maintains research in the fields of Climate Change, Energy Security, Health Security, as well as Internal and Cross Border Conflict. It produces policy-relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness and building capacity to address NTS issues and challenges in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. The Centre also provides a platform for scholars and policymakers within and outside Asia to discuss and analyse NTS issues in the region.

In 2009, the Centre was chosen by the MacArthur Foundation as a lead institution for the MacArthur Asia Security Initiative, to develop policy research capacity and recommend policies on the critical security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific.

The Centre is also a founding member and the Secretariat for the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia). More information on the Centre can be found at www.rsis.edu.sg/nts