



# NEWSLETTER

REGIONAL CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

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## Pakistan Senate Delegation Visits the RCSS

A Roundtable Discussion was hosted by the RCSS on the occasion of the visit made to the Centre by Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed of the Pakistan Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and delegation who were on an official visit to Sri Lanka. Senator Mushahid Hussain was previously a Cabinet Minister in Pakistan and at present is the Secretary of the Pakistan Muslim League (Q).

The Roundtable Discussion which took place on March 13, 2008 was attended by the former and present High Commissioners of Pakistan, H.E. Col. (Retd.) Bashir Wali Mohamed and H.E. Air Vice Marshall Shahzad A. Chaudhury; the High Commissioner of Maldives, H.E. Mr. Ali Hussain Didi, former High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan General Srilal Weerasooriya, former Officers of the military, former Sri Lankan Ambassadors and High Commissioners - Members of think-tanks and representatives from the local, regional and foreign media amongst others.

Senator Hussain expressed his pleasure on the visit to the RCSS having been associated with its Executive Direc-

tor Prof. Rifaat Hussain over a long period of time. He proceeded to give an overview of the warm bilateral relationship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka and the desire of Pakistan to have similar relationships with other countries in South Asia.

Speaking on the political scenario in Pakistan following the elections that had taken place Senator Hussain said that he was happy that Pakistan has just concluded a very good election. Although most critics had predicted some form of instability following the elections, they have been proved wrong. The Senator pointed out that the people of Pakistan showed maturity, with the victors and losers both accepting the election results. While difficulties and mistakes have happened in the past, the main characteristic of the Pakistani people is of tremendous resilience as they overcome and bounce back after any problem. At present it was shown to be a 'bounce back period'. He further stated that Pakistan will have a grand coalition with the democratic process being an antidote to events of the recent past. He highlighted that the situation in the region has also been getting better. There is more stability in Iran and Nepal and the power of public opinion has intensified in India



*Executive Director Dr. Rifaat Hussain making the Welcome Address*



*The Roundtable Discussion in Progress*

regarding the Indo-US nuclear deal which shows that in all countries of the region, the power of public opinion has led to greater stability and the region is now settling down after the post 9/11 volatility and engaging in dialogue as the way forward.

He noted that there is now more cooperation among countries in the region and outside the region and there were new developments by way of Afghanistan been made a member of SAARC and China and the US becoming observers of SAARC. The energy issue was shown as a main reason for cooperation. Hence, the overall scenario in the region has become different from what it was and it is important to understand that there is an inextricable linkage between the security of states and security of the region.

He pointed out that mistakes have been made even after 9/11 with the US intervening in Afghanistan and Iraq and not delivering on its promises. It has also been a mistake on the part of some countries to link Islam with terrorism which evokes reaction from Islamic states. However, the situation is becoming better and things are moving in the right direction. He expressed hope that after the regime change this year it can be expected that the US will be more sensitive to the Muslim, South Asian, European and even their own public opinion. He further stated that it is very heartening that during difficult times in Pakistan, all countries in the region including India expressed their support and now Pakistan is settling down to a democratic system.

The presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session.

## Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War

**E**DRCSS, Dr. Rifaat Hussain participated in the Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War which was held in Tokyo from May 4-6 2008. The Conference was a major component of the Global Article 9 campaign which builds on the foundations of the UN Charter and is a step further in the evolution of international norms towards maintaining world peace, and not allowing the use of force. With the participation of Nobel Peace Laureates, intellectuals, cultural figures and NGO activists, the conference was a forum for dialogue and discussion on the role that citizens of the world can play to realize the principles of Article 9, through promoting disarmament, demilitarization and a culture of peace.

At the plenary conference on May 4, speakers made outstanding presentations, taking the public into palpable emotion and inspiring them with their own powerful experiences. As the number of participants far exceeded the venue's capacity, an alternate event was improvised in the neighboring park for the 3,000+ people unable to enter the main venue. The keynote speakers were Mairead Maguire and Cora Weiss, in addition to Yoshioka Tatsuya.

Thematic discussions and debates were held throughout the second day. More participants than expected (about 7,000) attended the 12 symposiums, panel discussions and workshops, self-organized events, and movies and music performances. Experts in different fields shared their experience, examined the linkages between the principles of



*The Global Article 9 Conference at Makuhari Messe convention hall in Chiba*

Article 9 and the many areas they work in, such as peace, disarmament, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and the environment. They discussed how to take practical steps towards building world peace, social justice and global stability that do not rely on force.

The outcome documents of the conference drafted through a participatory process which involved all official guests and the over 200 Japanese members of the organizing committee of the Global Article 9 Declaration to Abolish War provide a set of recommendations to governments and reiterates the civil society's commitment to implement them.

# RCSS Participates in the Meeting on Security Sector Reforms

The inaugural meeting of the Association for Security Sector Reforms (SSR) Education and Training was held in Sando, Sweden from 3-7 March 2008. Approximately 24 participants attended, representing organizations focusing on security/strategic issues, from Asia, Africa, the EU and North America. The Asian participants were RCSS (Colombo) and The Institute for Strategic and Development Studies (ISDS) in Manila. Ambassador Geetha de Silva, Associate Director participated on behalf of RCSS.

The meeting was co-hosted by the Swedish National Defence College and Folke Bernadotte Academy in Sweden and the discussions were led by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) in Switzerland and the Global Facilitation Network on SSR (GFN-SSR) in the United Kingdom.

The main objective of the meeting was to adopt the Cooperation Statement of the Association for the SSR Education and Training (ASSET). To this end the participants at the meeting took up the draft document circulated by the co-facilitators, DCAF and GFN-SSR. Significant amend-

ments were incorporated into the final document and those proposed by RCSS, i.e, to pay attention to the particular security environments of different countries when education/ training programs are formulated, and to refrain from referring to decisions of regional bodies in the official documents but adhere to the practice of making reference only to globally accepted decisions. Both suggestions were accepted and incorporated in the final document.

The salient features of the Cooperation Statement are, to base SSR education and training on international norms and standards; that SSR be tailored to the specific environment in which reform is taking place as well as to the different needs of the stakeholders (RCSS proposals); the setting up and functions of the main organs i.e. AGM and Coordination Committee; the establishing and maintaining of a website; setting out of the guidelines on membership and observer status; and resources.

The next meeting of ASSET will take place in February/ March 2009 in Durban, hosted by the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of disputes (ACCORD).



*Participants of the Inaugural Meeting of the Association for Security Sector Reforms (SSR) Education and Training, in Sando, Sweden.*

# Conference on Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-integration in Monterey USA

The International Conference on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), organized by the Centre for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies of the Naval Post-graduate School in Monterey, California, USA was held from the 30<sup>th</sup> March to 02<sup>nd</sup> April, 2008. Over 50 participants from all over the world represented NGOs, Think Tanks, Military Establishments and UN Agencies at the conference. Nilakshi Gunatillake, Regional Liaison Officer for GPPAC South Asia attended this conference representing RCSS.

According to World Bank reports, successful DDR programs facilitate, “effective transitions from war to peace.” As war torn nations struggle to rebuild their societies, effective DDR programs carry immense vitality and scope to contribute towards sustainable peace.

The objectives of the conference were to, improve the participants’ understanding of designing and implementing DDR programmes; enhance the participants’ awareness of the role women and children play in DDR programmes; and, provide networking opportunities to participants to enable the relationships forged to generate interest on DDR and its practical applications towards sustainable peace.

The delivery methodology of the conference consisted of expert panel presentations, plenary discussions, group work on case studies and simulations. The expert panel discussions were helpful in creating an understanding among the participants about complexities of DDR program designing. Practitioners shared with the audience DDR initiatives that had worked and failed. An interesting component of the conference was when failed programs were dissected by practitioners to create awareness about micro issues that tend to get overlooked while designing programs, how such issues create an impact that subvert programs and contribute to the collapse of peace processes. Many success stories were also shared and they effectively added to the participants’ understanding of the possibilities that could be created towards successful and sustainable peace processes.

Apart from the learning outcome, the networking opportunity provided by the Conference can be considered as very positive. Already, a few organizations have indicated an interest in collaborating with GPPAC South Asia, through RCSS regarding the issues taken up at the Conference in Monterey.



Participants at the Conference

# GPPAC International Steering Group convenes in Buenos Aires, Argentina

The International Steering Group (ISG) of GPPAC convened in Buenos Aires for its bi-annual meeting, from 2 - 4 April 2008. The meeting was hosted by CRIES, the GPPAC Regional Initiator for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Discussions during the two days of the ISG meeting focused on long term strategic planning; organizational issues; and sharing and giving feedback on challenges being faced in various regions. The ISG members broke into working groups for in depth discussion on the themes of the meeting and adopted decisions at the plenary sessions that followed.

The highlight of the Buenos Aires meeting was the High Level Multi Stakeholder Panel which took place on April 3rd, organized by CRIES and the Argentinean Council on International Relations (CARI). The panel included the Deputy Secretary General of the Organisation of American States; a leading Senator from the ruling party in Argentina; a senior official from the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs; a representative from CRIES and the Regional Initiator for Southeast Asia of GPPAC.

The panel titled *“The Prevention of Conflicts in Latin America and the Caribbean, Reality or Utopia? Perspectives from the UN, The OAS, governments and civil society”*, brought forth views from the different panelists on how regional organizations could contribute towards the prevention of conflict in the respective regions.

The fifteen Regional Secretariats of GPPAC together



with the Global Secretariat and a number of non-regional members such as the International Commission of the Red Cross, World Vision International, the Folke Bernadotte Academy and World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy which form the International Steering Group of GPPAC participated in the Buenos Aires meeting. Ambassador Geetha de Silva, Associate Director represented RCSS, the South Asian Regional Initiator of GPPAC.

During their stay in Buenos Aires the ISG members met with the members of the Regional Steering Group for Latin America and the Caribbean to exchange views and share information. They were also given an opportunity of visiting a local peace organization *“Movimiento por la paz y la no violencia”* (Movement for Peace and Non Violence), to exchange experiences and challenges.

## RCSS Congratulates Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Susil Chandrapala

Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Susil Chandrapala, Member of the RCSS who is associated with many of the Centre's activities was conferred with the Vishista Seva Vibhushanaya awarded to Senior Officers of the Regular Forces of the Army, Navy and Air Force for exceptional, distinguished and loyal service and an unblemished record of moral and military conduct. This award was conferred at an investiture ceremony on May 2, 2008 presided over by the President of Sri Lanka. The RCSS congratulates Maj. Gen. Chandrapala on this occasion and wishes him well.



*Maj. Gen (Retd) Susil Chandrapala receiving the award from President Mahinda Rajapaksa*

# NEW PUBLICATIONS

RCSS Policy Studies # 44

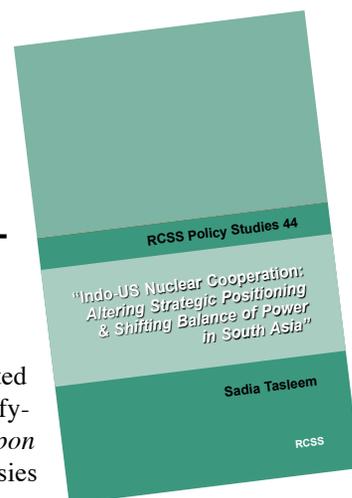
## Indo-US Nuclear Cooperation: Altering Strategic Positioning and Shifting Balance of Power in South Asia

Sadia Tasleem

Reviving the spirit of ‘Atoms for Peace’, “Indo-US Nuclear Deal” has regenerated debate pertaining to the critical issues regarding Nuclear Cooperation. While, defying the existing structure and accommodating one of the *de-facto nuclear weapon states* into the global power structure, it has given birth to tremendous controversies and questions.

Written in this backdrop, this monograph attempts to offer an insight into the politics behind the Indo-US Nuclear Cooperation. It analyses challenging issues and investigates controversial questions pertaining to various aspects of the deal. This study would be of interest to the students and scholars of Nuclear Politics, Strategic Stability and International Relations.

*Ms. Sadia Tasleem is a Senior Research Scholar and Deputy Director Global Affairs in the Institute of Strategic Studies Research and Analysis, NDU, Islamabad.*



### Window on South Asia

Index	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	India	Maldives	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Population (millions) 2006	...	156.0	0.648	1.1 billion	0.3	27.6	159.0	19.9
Area: 000 sq. km.	652.1	144	47		0.3	147.2	796.1	66
Life expectancy at birth (years) 2006	...	63.7	65.3	64.5	67.9	63.2	65.2	75.0
Adult literacy rate % 2005	28.0	47.5	47.0	61.0	96.3	48.6	49.9	90.7
Annual pop. Growth rate 2006	...	1.8	1.8	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.1	1.1
GDP(\$/billion) 2006	8.40	61.9	941.9 million	911.8	927.0 million	8.9	126.8	27.0
GDP growth rate (% annual) 2006	5.3	6.6	8.5	9.2	23.5	2.8	6.9	7.4
GDP Per capita 2005 (\$ PPP)	...	2,053	...	3,452	5,261	1,550	2,370	4,595
Human Development Index 2005	...	0.547	0.579	0.619	0.741	0.534	0.551	0.743
Military Exp. as % of GDP 2005	9.9	1.1	...	2.8	...	2.1	3.5	2.6
Pub. Exp. on education (as % of GNP) 2002-05	...	2.5	5.6	3.8	7.1	3.4	2.3	...
Total external debt (\$ millions)	1.7 bill	20.5 bill	713.3 mill	153.1 bill	459.3 mill	3.4 bill	35.9 bill	11.4 bill
Inflation, GDP deflator (annual %)	9.7	5.2	4.4	5.9	0.1	6.7	9.3	10.3

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