



NEWSLETTER

REGIONAL CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

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International Police Station Visitors Week Awards Ceremony in Jaipur, India

The Regional Awards Ceremony of the Altus Global Police Station Visitors Week was held in Jaipur, India on 14th March 2007. Awards were presented to police stations that ranked the best in South Asia and a special award to the one that was adjudged the best in the region. This award was presented to the police station of Shipra Path in Jaipur in the state of Rajasthan.

It is especially significant that Kirulapone Police Station was presented with the award for the best police station among participating police stations in Sri Lanka. Inspector S.P.K. Warnasuriya, former Officer in Charge of the Kirulapone Police Station was nominated by the Inspector General of Police to attend this ceremony and accept this prestigious award. Inspector Warnasuriya made a presentation of best practices of police stations in Sri Lanka with special reference to the Kirulapone Police Station which he represented. He also had the opportunity to make a visit to the Shipra Path police station which was ranked best in South Asia.



At Shipra Path Police Station, Jaipur



Inspector Warnasuriya receiving the Award

The Police Station Visitors Week (PSVW) was a unique initiative that organized simultaneous participation of police stations in 23 countries where groups of local citizens visited the police stations with a view to making an assessment of service to the public by the police force. The visits of local citizens to their police stations in these 23 countries have encouraged the public to better understand the functions of the police force and build a better relationship with them.

Among the police stations visited in Sri Lanka, the following three received the highest overall scores: Kirulapone police Station in the Colombo District; Sevanagala Police Station in the Moneragala District and Galaha Police Station in the Kandy District. The scores and reports from these stations have been combined with those from other participating countries in the region and analysed in a regional report. These reports can be used by the police and community residents throughout the country to discuss the

International Police Station Visitors Week Awards Ceremony in Jaipur, India

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elements of police service that have made an impact on the local visitors, which should help to spread good practices, improve relations between the police and civilians, and strengthen the accountability of the police to the people they serve.

Awards Presented to Police Stations in Sri Lanka

RCSS staff visited the highest ranked Police Stations in Sri Lanka (Kirulapone, Sevanagala and Galaha) and presented them with awards and certificates of participation. In addition, certificates of participation were presented to all participating Police Stations.



Staff of Police Station-Sevanagala with the Award



Award being presented to OIC Kirulapone



Staff of Police Station-Galaha with the Award

GPPAC Peaceboat Mission

Professors Rifaat Hussain and R.A. Ariyaratne of RCCS participated in a variety of peace-building workshops conducted aboard the well-known cruise ship “Peace Boat” from 15-19 June 2007. They joined the mission in Da Nang, Vietnam, and made a fruitful contribution to GPPAC’s current discourse on shifting the peace-building paradigm from reaction to prevention by focusing especially on the current conflict scenario in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India.

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) has been active in the Asia Pacific region for the last five years with strong and innovative processes in each of the four regions – Northeast Asia, Pacific, Southeast Asia and South Asia – gathering civil society organizations to implement measures designed to obviate the occurrence of conflicts and violence. The Da Nang meeting was the first ever **GPPAC Asia Pacific Inter-Regional Forum**. This gathering, on 15th June, was of great interest for the participants from 17 different countries/regions. The Forum set out to strengthen inter-regional cooperation on issues of regional priority through information exchange and relationship-building, as well as strategizing on cross-cutting issues to improve advocacy effectiveness and inter-regional coordination, and lastly developing concrete plans to optimize inter-regional cooperation.

Building on the strong contacts of the ‘floating’ host, Peace Boat, the delegates stepped out for the first time to meet with over 2000 young people in a night of colour, music and an celebration dedicated to peace. This was followed by a meeting with civil society leaders of Da Nang to hear about their suffering related to Agent Orange used during the Vietnam War. The representatives personally met the victims of this hideous act and promised them that they will strive to raise international awareness on this issue.

Having boarded the Peace Boat in Da Nang, the delegates set out on a journey to map the similarities, differences and possibilities of cooperation amongst the four regions. Listening to each other’s challenges, priorities and needs, the delegates learned from each other’s experiences and developed a plan to more effectively cooperate and support each other’s work. while engaging in a process of collective deliberation on such urgent issues as the nuclear arms and



Delegates on board the Peace Boat

missile proliferation and geo-political power struggles in Northeast Asia and South Asia, along with crises of democracy, self-determination, human security and cultures of violence in the Pacific and Southeast Asia, the Forum recognized the need to respond to urgencies in Timor Leste, Burma, Sri Lanka, Guam, West Papua, Solomon Islands, North Korea, Fiji, the Philippines, Thailand and Japan. The Forum therefore agreed to formulate a concrete action plan including strategies to address identified issues.

The Forum discussed the situation in Burma and agreed to send a petition calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Aung Sun Suu Kyi. The petition was signed by 650 Peace Boat passengers, including Asia Pacific Forum members and was presented at the GPPAC Asia Pacific Multi-Stakeholder Roundtable, “ASEAN at 40 years: Building Partnerships for Peace in the Asia Pacific Region” held in Singapore on 19th June 2007. On the same day, upon arrival in the Singapore harbour a thirty-metre banner was unfurled on the side of the Peace Boat wishing Aung Sun Suu Kyi a Happy Birthday.

With the establishment of GPPAC Asia Pacific, the existing web of connections between national, regional and international parts of GPPAC’s work has now been formally recognized and consolidated in Asia Pacific. At the end of this well-accomplished mission, the organizers announced on behalf of GPPAC that plans are underway for the next Forum to be held in May 2008.

International Peace Day – GPPAC - South Asia

Each year, thousands of events take place all around the world to celebrate International Day of Peace.

These events provide an opportunity to inspire and empower communities to remember once again the importance of peace and to motivate ourselves to work towards achieving sustainable and just peace.

To mark the International Peace Day, the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) joined hands with the Berg-hof Foundation for Conflict Studies (BFCS) and the International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES) to organize a panel discussion where eminent panelists reflected on “Making Peace Processes Work: What Roles for Third Parties?”



Opening remarks by the Chair, Dr. Norbert Ropers

The eminent panel

The panelists were Dr. Rifaat Hussain (Executive Director-RCSS), Dr. Rama Mani (Executive Director-ICES), Chair - Dr. Norbert Ropers, (Director-BFCS), Mr. Rajpal Abeynayake (Chief Editor-Lakbima News and Veteran Journalist), Mr. Amal Jayasinghe (Bureau Chief- AFP- Sri Lanka and Maldives) and Mrs. Shanthi Sachithanandam (Executive Chairperson - Viluthu).



The eminent panel



The attentive audience

The discussion was held in the morning at the Lower Crystal Room of the Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo on the 21st September, 2007 amidst a very distinguished gathering. It was a packed audience of over 50 highly vocal intellectuals and members of the civil society and of course the media. As the audience was carefully chosen to create a mix of people for and against the involvement of third parties in a peace process, it was a highly constructive session. The UN- regional office based in Sri Lanka was represented by Mr. Omar Noman, Chief of Policies and Program.

The panelists initially spoke about the significance of the UN initiated peace day and the role of UN as a third party in resolving conflicts. The discussion then focused on the roles third parties can play and have played in Peace Processes, their mandates, possibilities and limitations. The discussion further took into account the multiplicity of actors from the UN and other INGOs to individual states and independent, private institutions. Answering numerous issues raised by the audience the panel also addressed dilemmas of impartiality and neutrality as well as perspectives on how the potential of third party involvement can be improved.



The UN Representative stressing a point

REGIONAL LIAISON OFFICER - GPPAC

Ms. Nilakshi Gunatillake assumed the post of Regional Liaison Officer - South Asia of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) at RCSS in September 2007. Nilakshi comes to RCSS from the Washington based Louis Berger Group, implementing partner of USAID's SCOTIA program, where she was the Program Specialist cum Officer Manager. Nilakshi served a ten year stint at Sampath Bank Limited, and her

last appointment there was as Assistant Branch Manager. Her diverse exposure has given Nilakshi a spectrum of experience on administration, accounting, costing, budgeting, grant management, monitoring and evaluation, program and project management etc. She is armed with many Banking, Management, International Relations, Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Diplomas and researches and works extensively on Rehabilitation, Re-integration, Civil Military Cooperation, Women in Conflict and Internally Displaced Persons.

Roundtable Discussion hosted for the Stimson Center

RCSS hosted a roundtable discussion with Ms. Nicole Zdrowjewski, Contract Analyst for the Regional Voices Project of the Henry L. Stimson Center, Washington, D.C., USA. The discussion was aimed at gaining insights into a Sri Lankan perspective on transnational challenges facing the South Asian region and its global implications. This was following an initial meeting held in Bangkok earlier this year in preparation for the Stimson Center project “Regional Voices: Transnational Challenges”

Brief description of the project

The **Regional Voices: Transnational Challenges** Project, will establish partnerships, foster dialogue, engage in collaborative research, gather a body of knowledge, and develop a network of non-governmental policy thinkers in the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. The purpose is to enhance understanding of local and regional approaches to transnational issues and challenges in each of these regions, as well as of cross-regional concerns, and specifically to locate security discourse in a broader context of social, economic, scientific and governance challenges.

Building on the Stimson Center’s established programs on each of these regions and our Global Health program, this work will elucidate how societies think about the evolving agenda of transnational issues; how significant a part of the security landscape are terrorism, radical religious



politics, and other ideologies; the relative importance of local or regional political problems and transnational threats such as pandemic disease, environmental damage, and resource imbalances; and whether preferred responses are national, regional, multilateral or include cooperation with the US.

In each of these regions, the project will hold conferences, establish institutional partnerships, and engage in collaborative research and analysis. Among the products of these efforts will be a series of papers reflecting regional thinking on key issues. We particularly seek to focus attention on issues and experts who ordinarily escape notice but are nonetheless essential to a proper understanding of the indigenous perspective on transnational challenges. Disciplinary experts will draw upon the regional dialogues to develop original cross-regional research and analysis on key transnational challenges of interest to the US policy process.

The Henry L. Stimson Center is a community of analysts devoted to offering practical, creative, non-partisan solutions to many of the most enduring and challenging problems of national and international security. Founded in 1989, the Stimson Center is a nonprofit institution devoted to enhancing international peace and security through rigorous analysis and outreach. Our past and current projects cover a wide range of subject matter from promoting peace and stability in East Asia to effective deployment of UN peacekeeping operations.



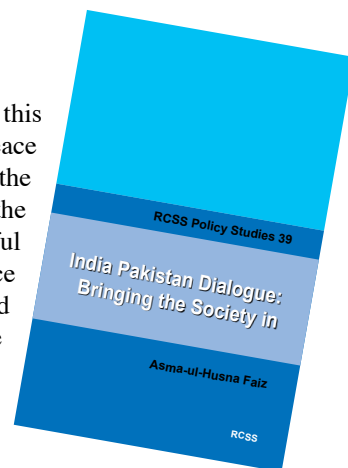
Recent RCSS Publications

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India Pakistan Dialogue: Bringing the Society In

Asma ul-Husna Faiz

This book examines the phenomenon of citizen diplomacy between India and Pakistan. In this context, it analyzes in detail the origins, working and contribution of various citizen peace initiatives to promote reconciliation in the region. It evaluates successes and failures of the multi-track diplomacy to break the ice between the two countries. This book explores the origins of peace research in the twentieth century as well as various instances of successful peace-building in different parts of the world. Moreover, it studies the theory and practice of conflict-resolution in South Asia. In this context, it looks at various Track One and Two peace initiatives to resolve the disputes between India and Pakistan. Looking at the people-to-people contact in South Asia, this book analyzes in detail various psychological, infrastructural, administrative and legislative factors which affect the process of peace building in the region.



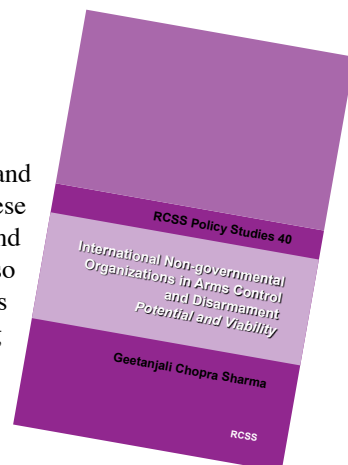
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INGOs in Arms Control and Disarmament: Potential and Viability

Geetanjali Chopra Sharma

INGOs are fast emerging as active players in influencing attitudes, negotiating norms, and making a difference in the operational realm on the global plane. The activities of these organizations traditionally restricted to civic-oriented issues are widely acknowledged and documented, while their activities in core areas of arms control and disarmament are not so widely noticed. Do INGOs actually possess the potential to emerge as significant players in arms control and disarmament? This study addresses this central question by analysing the past involvement of INGOs in arms control and disarmament activities, and, on that basis, assessing their future potential in similar initiatives.

The focus is on constructing a model of engagement of INGOs in arms control and disarmament, based primarily on their role in the campaign against landmines and the resulting Ottawa Process and Convention. The model has then been applied to the case of small arms in order to test its applicability and thus assess the overall potential and viability of INGOs in arms control and disarmament initiatives for conventional weapons.

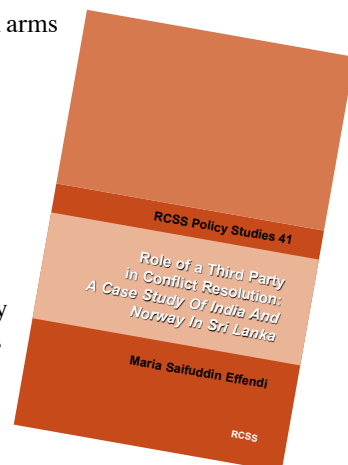


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Role of a Third Party in Conflict Resolution: A Case Study of India and Norway in Sri Lanka

Maria Saifuddin Effendi

The study, 'Role of a Third Party in Conflict Resolution: A Case Study of India and Norway in Sri Lanka' explores the specific roles of India and Norway in the Sri Lankan ethnic crisis in 1983–87 and 2000 onwards, and proposes a framework to manage the ethnic conflict. The ethnic conflict of Sri Lanka is quantified and recognized under the conceptual structure of William Zartman's Mutually Hurting Stalemate Model in the study.



Conferences attended by RCSS Librarian, Ms. Kamani Perera

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Exploring 'anywhere, anytime' delivery of library services

14-18 September, 2007, Molyvos, Greece

Mrs. Perera, Librarian/Research Officer of this Centre has presented a paper on "*Breaking Through the Walls: Current Developments in Library Service Delivery: Observations from a Sri Lankan Perspective*" in the above conference organized by CERLIM - The Centre for Research in Library and Information Management, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK.



Mrs. Kamani Perera making her presentation

International Conference on Semantic Web & Digital Libraries (ICSD) 2007

Documentation Research & Training Centre, Indian Statistical Institute

21-23 February 2007, Bangalore, India

Conference in Brief

The natural course of digital libraries is towards semantic web. The content of digital repositories whether it be books, or articles or even e-learning modules are to be related and presented to the machine to be interpreted. Already there have been some projects like Simile, Longwell etc which augment digital libraries with semantic web technology. ICSD – 2007 was a step towards the convergence of Library and Information Science, digital libraries and semantic web. ICSD – 2007 has provided the platform for sharing of knowledge and experience among the active research groups across the globe.

Digital Libraries (DLs) and the Semantic Webs bring the physical library resources to the user in digital form, overcoming all geographical barriers. DLs and Semantic Webs are, therefore, emerging as a crucial component of global information infrastructure. They adopt the latest Information Communication Technology (ICT) tools and techniques to promote an organizational structure that encourages communication between scholars across nations, and helps to transcend disciplinary boundaries. The ICSD 2007 provided an international forum for sharing of experiences in DL and Semantic Webs among researchers, educators, practitioners, and policy makers from a variety of disciplines such as library and information science and technology, archival and museum studies, knowledge management and many areas in the fields of social sciences and humanities.



Given the high level of government participation and august gathering of over 600 participants including eminent speakers drawn from across the globe, that the conference provided us opportunities of high-level information exchange, knowledge gain and networking.

The conference has received papers on semantic web, issues in digital libraries, metadata and knowledge organization, multilingual information retrieval, ontology, e-storage and preservation, open access, institutional repositories, content and knowledge management etc. These papers were presented in four different tracks. Tutorials had been scheduled for the first day (21 Feb. 2007) to train participants in various dimensions of DLs and Semantic Webs. The next two days (22-23 Feb. 2007) were witnessed a mix of activities such as invited talks, panel discussions, contributed paper presentations, workshops, product presentations etc. Mrs. Perera's visit was funded by India-Sri Lanka Foundation, High Commission of India.

Views expressed in materials published in *RCSS NEWSLETTER* are of contributors, and not necessarily of the RCSS. The *RCSS NEWSLETTER* is published quarterly. For copies, comments, contributions and further information please write to:

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