In-house Discussion Series

By the end of September, 2019, RCSS successfully held 2 more installments of its In-House Discussion Series. The final In-House Discussion of the year is to be held on the 17th of December. Prof. Karori Singh, Emeritus Fellow, University of Rajasthan, India, will speak on ‘Democracy under Strain in South Asia’.

On the 9th of July, Dr. Zahid Shahab Ahmed, a Research Fellow from Deakin University, Australia, spoke on ‘Extremism in South Asia: The Case of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka’.

On the 5th of September, Ms. Jenner Edelman, Sri Lanka Resident Country Director of MCC and Mr. Nilan K. Fernando, Team Lead and Director of MCC (Sri Lanka) in Washington D.C. led a discussion on ‘Millennium Challenge Corporation’s Compact Grant to Sri Lanka: Issues and Challenges’.

Workshop on ‘Research Methodologies’

RCSS held a two-day Workshop on ‘Research Methodologies’ on the 8th and 9th of October, 2019. The areas covered included; Review of Literature, Identification of Research Problem, Development of Research Questions & Objectives, and Research Methodologies & Data Analysis. Lecturers, post-graduate research students from Universities and other institutes, Private Sector professionals and military representatives attended the workshop.
**Shelton Kodikara Memorial Oration 2019**

The Shelton Kodikara Memorial Oration 2019 was held on 6th of August 2019, at the BMICH in Colombo, in honour of RCSS Founding Director, Prof. Shelton K. Kodikara.

The Keynote Speech was delivered by Prof. Veranja Karunaratne, Vice Chancellor of SLINTEC Academy and Senior Professor of Chemistry at the University of Peradeniya. The focus of the speech was on “World Affairs in Post-Modern Diplomacy: Science and Politics”. During the lecture, Prof. Karunaratne brought to light the evolution of international diplomacy and the role of science and technology during the course of its development.

The audience included former family members of late Prof. Kodikara, his friends and colleagues, former diplomats, secretaries and officials of Ministries, University dons, scholars and students in International Affairs. The event concluded sparking new knowledge and ideas to rethink national, international and regional politics and how science and technology can change future pathways.
GPPAC – RCSS Activity

GPPAC South Asia Regional Steering Group (RSG) Meeting

The annual GPPAC South Asia Regional Steering Group (RSG) meeting was held on the 2nd and 3rd of July, in Kathmandu, Nepal. Representatives from Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended the meeting. The RSG members then visited the EU delegation in Nepal, explaining the current activities, initiatives and goals of GPPAC.

GPPAC South Asia Youth Conference and Gender Focal Points Workshop

On the 1st of July, 2019, RCSS and GPPAC South Asia held a conference for university students and youth on “Youth and Radicalization in South Asia”, at the National College, Kathmandu University in Nepal.

A Gender Focal Points Workshop was then held on the 4th of July consisting of an interaction between GPPAC South Asia’s Gender Focal Points and Women Parliamentarians and Women Civil Society Leaders from Nepal.

GPPAC Sri Lanka Workshop: Democracy and Civic Space

GPPAC Sri Lanka members jointly held a workshop on Democracy and Civic Space on the 23rd of August, 2019, at the RCSS premises. During the workshop 4 papers were presented by Prof. Gamini Keerawella, Prof. Jayadeva Uyangoda, Dr. Harini Amarasuriya and Dr. Jehan Perera. Attendees included GPPAC SL members, Civil Activists and representatives from distinct institutions.


GPPAC Sri Lanka Members will jointly organize a Youth Conference on the 20th - 22nd of December 2019. The conference involves 50 youth delegates from around Sri Lanka.
Report on ‘The Potential Role of Young Leaders and Volunteers in Preventing Violent Extremism in Sri Lanka’ – Presentations to the UN:

The Key Findings and Recommendations from the report were first presented to the UNFPA and UNV staff at the UN compound on the 11th of July, 2019.

A Round Table Discussion on the Key Findings & Recommendations with UN Staff was then held on the 27th of August, 2019. This was attended by the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Hanaa Singer and UNFPA’s Representative in, Sri Lanka Ms. Ritsu Nacken.

Public Presentation & Official Launch of Report

The Report was officially released by the UNFPA on the 17th of November, at the ‘Youth for Youth and Peace’ conference on “How Can Youth Prevent Violent Extremism”, Organized by the UNFPA and UNV. Prof. Keerawella presented the key findings and recommendations from the report. Mr. V. Sivagnanasothy, Secretary to the relevant cabinet ministry was presented the report at the conclusion of the conference. The full report is now freely available on the UNFPA website.