

SOUTH ASIA

A Publication of the Institute of South Asian Studies

MICA (P) 128/04/2010



In This Issue

Inaugural South Asian Diaspora Convention

The Anna Hazare Phenomenon

The Persisting Relevance of Al-Qaeda

Seventh International Conference on South Asia



NUS
National University
of Singapore



Institute of South Asian Studies

Contents

COVER STORY

Inaugural South Asian Diaspora Convention

FEATURES

The Anna Hazare Phenomenon

The Persisting Relevance of Al-Qaeda

WORKSHOPS

Pakistan: Political and Economic Challenges

Islam in Modern South Asia: Culture, Communications and Commerce

ISAS-Griffith University Workshop: State-owned Enterprises in China and India

SOUTH ASIAN DIASPORA

The Encyclopedia of the Sri Lankan Diaspora

Indians in Kanto: Foreign Settlements in East Japan

CORPORATE NEWS

Seventh International Conference on South Asia

New Researchers and Administrative Staff

Events and Publications

■ Director's Message



Dear Readers

'South Asia' is back with a refreshed look. In line with our new focus on the South Asian Diaspora, the newsletter brings news, developments and features on the diaspora community. At the same time, it continues to focus on contemporary issues on South Asia.

'South Asia' will be published bi-annually with sharper coverage of events, insights and perspectives of developments in the region. We hope that the new frequency makes it a more interesting and valuable publication.

It has been a busy year for ISAS. The landmark event of the year was the inaugural South Asian Diaspora Convention organised on 22 and 23 July 2011. The busy schedule of annual activities ends with the Seventh International Conference on South Asia on 23 - 24 November 2011. This conference explores different dimensions of engagement between South Asia and Southeast Asia. Several other notable academic workshops and events have been organised during the course of the year. As in other years, ISAS was privileged to host talks by several distinguished dignitaries from South Asia, including Professor G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs, Sri Lanka, Mrs Sheila Dikshit, Chief Minister of Delhi and Mrs Sushma Swaraj, Leader of Bharatiya Janata Party, India. We have also initiated an interesting series of seminars with ambassadors.

The next year promises to be eventful as South Asia rises to greater prominence in the Asian region. We are happy to move on at a fast clip and look forward to your continuous support and patronage.

Season's Greetings and a very happy and prosperous 2012.

Tan Tai Yong

Editorial Information

South Asia is the newsletter of the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS). You may send your feedback and comments to:

The Editor
South Asia
Institute of South Asian Studies
469A Bukit Timah Road
#07-01 Tower Block
Singapore 259770

Tel : (65) 6516 7235
Fax : (65) 6776 7505
Email : isassec@nus.edu.sg

No part of this newsletter should be published without the consent of ISAS.

The Anna Hazare Phenomenon

Ronojoy Sen

Before 16 August 2011, Anna Hazare was virtually unknown outside India. But since his arrest on 16 August — a day after India's Independence Day — and his 13-day hunger strike in New Delhi demanding a strong anti-corruption authority in India, Hazare has become a global name.

The controversy over a strong anti-corruption agency — or *Lokpal* as it is being called in India — has been brewing from April 2011. That was when Hazare, a former soldier-turned-activist, and his supporters staged a hunger strike for four days forcing the government to draft a new legislation for a Lokpal, an idea that was mooted as long back as 1968 but had been shelved since. Hazare and key members of his team were taken on board by the government to draft the new legislation but they later walked out over some of the provisions of the Bill. As the situation stands today, the government has placed a draft Lokpal Bill in Parliament which is being vetted by a parliamentary committee. However, due to Hazare's agitation it is likely that some of their demands — such as keeping the Indian prime minister, the conduct of MPs inside Parliament and the lower bureaucracy under the ambit of the Lokpal — might be incorporated into the Bill.

There were several positives to emerge from the Hazare movement. One was the mobilisation of people including large numbers of youth, and this wasn't just the middle classes, who normally wouldn't take to the streets. Two, the flexibility of Indian democracy was on display when, despite the initial bungling by the government, the protests not only took place, they even influenced the lawmakers inside Parliament.

Three, the protests were a wake-up call for India's elected representatives whose credibility has reached a new low.

Team Anna is now at the crossroads. It has to decide whether it wants to focus only on corruption — an issue that has the potential of galvanising people — or get actively involved in politics and even contest elections. These hard choices will determine the future direction of the movement

However, there is a downside to the Hazare-led movement too. The most obvious one is regarding the utility of the Lokpal in weeding out corruption. It is now commonly accepted that an extra layer of bureaucracy is unlikely to solve a phenomenon that permeates all levels of society. Indeed it is ironical that the same middle classes who are so sceptical of the corrupt state want to further increase its reach. The implicit faith of the multitudes that rallied behind Anna demanding a *Lokpal* that could strike hard at corruption says something about the love that middle class Indians have for quick fix, authoritarian solutions. There is also the contradictory impulse of a consumerist middle class fetishising a saint-like figure — or at least someone with the trappings of one — and pinning their hopes of a corruption-free idyll on him.

Second, much has been made of the spontaneity of the Hazare movement. Much less has, however, been said about the

carefully choreographed political theatre of Hazare's fast, especially made-for-television moments like a Dalit and a Muslim girl giving him coconut water to break his fast. While the daily slogans of '*Bharat Mata ki Jai*' and the picture of Mother India on the Ramlila stage have been criticised by some, what was much more disturbing was the easy equation between the tricolor-waving jingoism of Anna's supporters and civil society activism.

Finally, there is the antipathy towards politicians and politics that came through so strongly among Hazare's supporters. There are several problems with this. While the reputation of politicians have plummeted in India — and indeed all over the world — tarring the entire political class with one brush is as unfair as it is simplistic. But more importantly the tendency by Hazare's supporters to regard themselves as 'apolitical' or 'non-political' is absurd.

These contradictions came to the fore when a member of Team Anna's core group, Arvind Kejriwal, openly campaigned against the Congress party in a recent by-election in the northern Indian state of Haryana. This led to two members of the core group of India Against Corruption led by Hazare to resign. One of them, veteran environmentalist Rajendra Singh, felt that the action of supporting or opposing a political party had undermined the credibility of the movement.

Team Anna is now at the crossroads. It has to decide whether it wants to focus only on corruption — an issue that has the potential of galvanising people — or get actively involved in politics and even contest elections. These hard choices will determine the future direction of the movement. ■

The Persisting Relevance of Al-Qaeda?

Shanthie Mariet D'Souza

By all means, this year appears to be the most productive as far as the United States' goal of neutralising Al-Qaeda's top leadership is concerned. Starting with the 2 May 2011 death of its chief Osama bin Laden, the organisation has lost a number of senior leaders, either to arrests or to predator drone strikes.

On 22 August 2011, Atiyah Abd al-Rahman, the number two in the organisation was killed in a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) drone attack in Pakistan. In the month of September, US-born cleric and Al-Qaeda spiritual leader Anwar al-Awlaki was killed in an air strike on his convoy in Yemen. Killed in the same operation was Samir Khan, who edited Al-Qaeda's slick Jihadi Internet magazine, *Inspire*. While Awlaki had been specifically targeted, Khan's death was a bonus for the CIA. Nearly 1,200 Al-Qaeda militants have been killed since 2004 and close to 250 have been killed this year alone. While these losses are indeed a setback for the outfit, whether they constitute a death blow to the organisation remains a matter of debate.

Terrorist organisations, centered around charismatic personalities, find it extremely difficult to survive once their leaders are neutralised. If Al-Qaeda is considered to be woven around the personality of Osama bin Laden, it will be almost obligatory on part of analysts and experts to predict its doom. However, the truth is somewhere in between. Since the late 1980s initiative that led to its constitution, 'The Base' has evolved radically to appear almost like a corporate variety of a terrorist formation. Its world wide franchises, the emergence of a number of successors, and the legacy of anti-west and pro-radical Islam wave Al-Qaeda has been able to create over the past decade since the 9/11 attacks, have created a certain aura of invincibility around it.

Al Qaeda's core leadership and structure

is intact in Pakistan. The new chief Ayman al-Zawahiri is suspected to be hiding in Pakistan. Even after Atiyah Abd al-Rahman's death, attempts to get these top leaders will be difficult, considering the strained US-Pakistan relations. This gives the terrorist leadership a fair chance to survive and revive, especially when the latent but potent threat posed by Al-Qaeda and its affiliates haven't been addressed. They can build and rely on regional affiliates like the Lashkar-e-Toiba, Haqqani network and others to carry out symbolic and high profile attacks.

Al-Qaeda around the world continues to be supported by anti-US regimes and will continue to survive US military onslaughts. Iran has been accused by the US of aiding Al-Qaeda. On 28 July 2011, documents filed by the US Treasury Department accused Iran of facilitating an Al-Qaeda-run support network that transfers large amounts of cash from Middle East donors to Al-Qaeda's top leadership in Pakistan's tribal region. Earlier, Washington has accused Teheran of supporting militias inside Iraq and Afghanistan that carry out attacks against the American forces.

A chemical or biological attack by Al-Qaeda and its offshoots remains a valid and imminent threat. Mike Leiter, who retired as director of the US National Counterterrorism Centre in early July, has said that despite the killing of Osama bin Laden, there are "pockets of Al-Qaeda around the world who see 'using chemical and biological weapons' as a key way to fight us, especially the offshoot in Yemen." Another major concern is nuclear weapons falling in the hands of terrorists in Pakistan and proliferation concerns stemming from states like North Korea.

A substantial number of Diaspora in the US and Europe has developed links with Al-Qaeda. They may be assets for the terrorist organisation within the US homeland. A

Al-Qaeda around the world continues to be supported by anti-US regimes and will continue to survive US military onslaughts

recent US congressional report indicates that the Somalia based Al-Shabaab has recruited 40 Muslim Americans and 20 Canadians to be part of its terrorist campaign in the African country.

Even if one accepts that Al-Qaeda is disintegrating into regional organisations with limited reach, the specter of the ongoing violence in the Af-Pak region cannot be ignored. The control and safe havens provided by Pakistan's military and intelligence agencies to the factions of the Taliban insurgency demonstrates the intent by a state to utilise its assets to carry out a proxy war against the US to negotiate a favorable post withdrawal order in Kabul. The attack on the US embassy on 13 September 2011 by the Haqqani network is a validation of this strategy.

As instability increases in Pakistan, the danger and fear of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorist are not entirely farfetched. In discussions with Afghans in Kabul and Kandahar on the eve of the decade of US intervention in Afghanistan to decimate the Taliban-Al Qaeda combine, they are quick to point out the continuation of the war due to the resurgence of these Al-Qaeda affiliated groups from sanctuaries in Pakistan. The death of Osama bin Laden could be seen as a victory for the Obama administration, but for the people of the region, the spiraling violence and campaign of intimidation by these regional affiliates bring no respite. ■

PAKISTAN: Political and Economic Challenges

Rajshree Jetly

Pakistan has dominated the headlines in recent years on international security issues and this has generated much academic debate and scholarly attention. ISAS added to this discourse through a one-day workshop entitled 'Pakistan: Political and Economic Challenges' held on 28 April 2011. The workshop was organised by the security cluster at ISAS, and centred around three broad themes: external pressures on Pakistan, relating more specifically to the US, India and Afghanistan; economic growth and development; and internal political challenges.

Within each of the themes outlined above, the invited speakers focused on three main questions, namely (i) the nature of the challenges faced by Pakistan, (ii) the strategies adopted by the Pakistani State in addressing these challenges, and (iii) the prospects for the future. Apart from the focused themes and questions, the added value of the workshop was that it brought together experts from Pakistan and India. Out of a total of six speakers, four were from Pakistan and two from India. The scholars from Pakistan included Dr Ayesha Siddiqa, Professor Hasan Askari Rizvi, Professor Akmal Hussain and Mr Sajjad Ashraf, the former High Commissioner of Pakistan to Singapore. The Indian scholars included Mr Sushant Sareen and Dr Ashok Behuria. The diversity of views brought in fresh



perspectives and enriched the debate, while ensuring a balanced and objective approach to the subject at hand.

In the first panel on external pressures, Dr Behuria focused on India's relations with Pakistan, in particular how both countries perceive each other and what impact India might have on Pakistan. Mr Sajjad Ashraf provided a brief overview to set the context of Pakistan's significance as a frontline state and gave his insights on Pakistan's relations with India, the US and Afghanistan. In the second panel on economic development, Professor Akmal Hussain discussed the economic problems facing Pakistan and examined the structural constraints to sustain high growth and persistent poverty.

The final panel dealt with internal political challenges in Pakistan. Professor Rizvi

Pakistan is facing the importance of developing a new narrative to harness the positive identities of the state that would allow it to free itself from capture by the military or radical groups. – Dr Ayesha Siddiqa

outlined some of the threats to political stability in Pakistan and argued that Pakistan needed a determined elite who were willing to take the right albeit difficult decisions in the interest of the country. He believed that improved relations with India would help Pakistan address its problems. Dr Ayesha Siddiqa highlighted the current problems that Pakistan was facing and the importance of developing a new narrative to harness the positive identities of the state that would allow it to free itself from capture by the military or radical groups. Ms Sushant Sareen argued that Pakistan was suffering from several structural disconnects including the institutional disconnect where the state institutions were engaged in a tussle in establishing their dominance vis-à-vis each other, and the disconnect between the State and the people. The workshop provided much food for thought and provided an ideal platform for discussion and debate. Papers from the workshop will be published by ISAS in due course. ■



Professor S.D. Muni, Visiting Research Professor, ISAS (third from left) chairs one of the panel discussions.

ISLAM IN MODERN SOUTH ASIA: Culture, Communications and Commerce

Pratima Singh

The Institute of South Asian Studies welcomed more than a dozen overseas guests to a two-day symposium in Singapore on 'Islam in Modern South Asia' on 27 and 28 September 2011. The event was inaugurated by Mr Zainul Abidin Rasheed, former Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Singapore. Mr Rasheed was also former President of the Singapore Islamic Religious Council.

Based on the premise that the complexities of Islam in modern South Asia are imperfectly understood and constantly overshadowed by discussions of security and terrorism, this symposium focused on the diverse foundations of Islam in the region. The event grew out of the regular weekly research faculty meetings at ISAS and a recognition of the need for a more sophisticated and subtle understanding of Islam in South Asia.

The symposium brought together a diverse array of speakers including business and management specialists, sports experts, historians, educators, environmentalists, legal experts and academics.

The 16 presentations at the symposium explored communications and commerce,

law and leisure, religious and educational practices and family lives and histories of Muslims in and around South Asia. Participants included Professor Barbara Metcalf from the University of California, who, along with Professor Khalid Masud from Pakistan, former Chairman, Council of Islamic Ideology, Islamabad and Dr Torsten Tschacher from the University of Heidelberg, provided an overarching and historic account of Islam in the South Asian region.

The 'Commerce and Islam: Practitioners' Views' session discussed the many entrepreneurs and commercial enterprises in the Muslim world, from small shops to vast industries, which have worked effectively for generations and flourish today. Two deeply experienced practitioners from South Asia, Mirza Yawar Baig, Founder & President of Yawar Baig & Associates and Mr Salahuddin Kasem Khan, Managing Director of A.K. Khan & Co. Ltd highlighted aspects of Muslim business practices and traditions and discussed its place in a globalised world.

Dr Matthew Nelson from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, discussed the relationship between religious education and religious ideas in Pakistan, while Professor Riaz Hassan, Visiting Research Professor, ISAS,

explored the development of a religiously conscious mindset in Pakistan and how it compensates for the feelings of alienation, powerlessness, economic and technological underdevelopment, concluding with observations on its implications for the current dilemmas facing Pakistan and some other Muslim countries. Others reflected on personal experiences such as Ms Shahrulk Alam, who read law at the National Law School of India, Bangalore and the London School of Economics. She discussed founding The Patna Collective, a project involving the mapping of alternative theological strands within Indian Islam.

Dr Salim Lakha, Visiting Research Fellow, Asia Research Institute, NUS, recounted stories from his experience of the making of a Diasporic Muslim family in East Africa, while Dr Ronjoy Sen, Visiting Research Fellow, ISAS, discussed the story of the Mohammedan Sporting Club, a football club in Kolkata. He examined the club from its formation in 1891, specifically studying the sporting exploits of the club against the backdrop of communal politics of India in the 1930s and 1940s. ■



Pratima Singh is Research Associate at ISAS. She can be contacted at isasps@nus.edu.sg

ISAS-GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY WORKSHOP: State-Owned Enterprises in China and India

Suvi Dogra



Dr S. Narayan, Head of Research and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS (centre) chairs one of the panel discussions.

The state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in both China and India are as diverse as the countries themselves. Among some differences, unlike in India, which has to cope with high urban unemployment and poor industrial infrastructure, in China, the privatisation of SOEs has coincided with large-scale improvement of infrastructure and relatively low urban unemployment. The emergence of the two countries as prominent players in the global economy, calls for a deeper understanding of the countries' various SOEs to grasp their contributions to their countries' economic growth.

With this theme in mind, ISAS organised a two-day workshop (2-3 August 2011) on 'Political Economy of State-Owned Enterprises in China and India' in collaboration with the Griffith University, Australia. The workshop was aimed at reviewing the relative performance of large and medium sized enterprises during the reform period in both India and China in a comprehensive manner in order to reveal possible underlying patterns and trends. The workshop brought together scholars and public policy experts from India, China, Australia and Hong Kong to draw comparative frameworks in the five key industries – coal, oil & natural gas, steel,

power and banking. The issues ranged from efficiency, privatisation and disinvestment among others.

The session on the oil and natural gas industry brought together papers on India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Oil India Limited (CIL) by Dr Supriyo De, Officer-on-Special Duty to Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, India and China National Petroleum Corporation and China National Offshore Oil Corporation by Ms Monique Taylor, a doctoral candidate at the University of Queensland.

The workshop brought together scholars and public policy experts from India, China, Australia and Hong Kong to draw comparative frameworks in the five key industries – coal, oil & natural gas, steel, power and banking

The session on the power industry covered India's National Thermal Power Corporation by Dr S. Narayan, Head of Research and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS and State Grid Corporation of China by Professor Xu Yi-Chong, Griffith University.

On the steel industry, Dr Amitendu Palit, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, presented a paper on the Steel Authority of India Limited, while Mr Jeffrey Wilson, Departmental Visitor at the Department of International Relations, Australian National University, examined China's Baosteel.

Professor Leong Liew, Head of Department, Griffith Business School, covered the Bank of China while Dr Rajesh Chakrabarti spoke on the State Bank of India in the segment on banking. Professor Bibek Debroy from the Centre of Policy Research, India and Honorary Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, presented his study on CIL.

The workshop commentators included Professor Timothy Shaw, Professor John Ravenhill, Mr Jørgen Ørstrøm Møller, Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Professor Robin Jeffrey, Dr Ronojoy Sen, Professor Patrick Weller, Assistant Professor Yukyung Yeo and Associate Professor Rahul Mukherji.

The final outcome of the project will be an edited volume by Palgrave-Macmillan under its International Political Economy Series. ■

SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA ENGAGEMENTS:

Realities and Opportunities

Sinderpal Singh

There are more factors working towards a synergy of interests between South Asia and Southeast Asia than most other regional entities in the Asia-Pacific region. This is not always evident largely because relations were, for almost three decades, dormant and clouded by the phenomenon of a rising China, the different priorities of South Asian and Southeast Asian states, and the deep divisions and conflicts within the South Asian region. That situation has changed in the past few years, opening the possibilities for structural linkages and comprehensive engagement between the two regions.

The seventh annual international conference of ISAS on **South and Southeast Asia Engagements: Realities and Opportunities**, seeks to explore the economic, political and security imperatives for enhanced inter-regional engagement, supported by bilateral exchanges. The conference will be held on 23 and 24 November 2011 at Pan Pacific Singapore.

South Asia and Southeast Asia are well-placed to expand their cooperation. They do not have any bilateral territorial disputes, security fears or conflicts. The new environment provides great opportunities to expand a cooperative agenda that will in turn enhance their common good as well as leverage and enhance their regional status in the global order. They

share many common social, political and economic problems, besides a long maritime boundary. The geographical contiguity of India with mainland South East Asia offers immense opportunities for cooperation and investment. The need to maintain peace by building greater connectivity is especially vital given the apparent strategic uncertainty that might follow from an inevitable withdrawal of US's military presence in West Asia.

The seventh annual international conference of ISAS on South and Southeast Asia Engagements: Realities and Opportunities, seeks to explore the economic, political and security imperatives for enhanced inter-regional engagement, supported by bilateral exchanges

Countries in both regions, together, can enhance Asia's ability to cope with rapid

social and economic change and political mobilisation in multi-religious and multi-ethnic states. If indeed the redistribution of global power and influence towards Asia is imminent, then a deeper understanding of how these two regions view and interact with one another is long overdue. The conference aims to take the first step in that direction by bringing together perspectives from within both regions on specific issues in the domain of economics, strategic studies and politics.

Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education, Republic of Singapore, will deliver the keynote address on 'South and Southeast Asia Engagements: Realities and Opportunities'. The conference also brings together eminent experts and scholars to deliberate on the various challenges facing Southeast Asia's engagement with the South Asian region across the domain of economics, security and politics.

The speakers' list is on the adjoining page. ■



Seventh International Conference on South Asia

SOUTH ASIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA ENGAGEMENTS: REALITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

23 - 24 November 2011
Pacific 3, Pan Pacific Singapore
7 Raffles Boulevard, Marina Square, Singapore 039595

Guest-of-Honour
Mr Heng Swee Keat
Minister for Education
Republic of Singapore

The theme for the Seventh International Conference on South Asia is 'South and Southeast Asia Engagements: Realities and Opportunities'. It seeks to explore economic, political and security imperatives for enhanced inter-regional engagement, supported by bilateral exchanges.

The conference brings together eminent experts and scholars to deliberate on the various challenges facing Southeast Asia's engagement with the South Asian region across the domain of economics, security and politics. The audience will comprise a diverse mix of academics, scholars, policymakers, representatives from business and diplomatic communities, government agencies and the media.

SPEAKERS

Ambassador K. KESAVAPANY
Director
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
Singapore

Vice Admiral (Retd.) P.S. DAS
Former Commander-in-Chief
Eastern Naval Command, Indian Navy
India

Professor Imtiaz AHMED
Professor of International Relations
University of Dhaka
Bangladesh

Dr WANG Hanling
Visiting Research Fellow
East Asian Institute
Singapore

Dr Paikiasothy SARAVANAMUTTU
Executive Director
Centre for Policy Alternatives (Guarantee) Ltd.
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dr Andrew WALKER
Associate Dean (Education) and Senior Fellow
Department of Political & Social Change
School of International, Political & Strategic Studies
ANU College of Asia and the Pacific
Australian National University
Canberra, Australia

Dr Ronojoy SEN
Visiting Research Fellow
Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore

H.E. Pushpanathan SUNDRAM
Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for
ASEAN Economic Community
The ASEAN Secretariat
Jakarta, Indonesia

Ambassador Shyam SARAN
Former Foreign Secretary
Ministry of External Affairs; and
Chairman, Research and Information
System for Developing Countries
India

Dr Nagesh KUMAR
Chief Economist, UN-ESCAP; and
Director, ESCAP Sub-Regional Office for
South and South West Asia
United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia
and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP)
New Delhi, India

Dr Iftekhar Ahmed CHOWDHURY
Senior Research Fellow
Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore

Dr Biswa Nath BHATTACHARYAY
Lead Professional and Adviser to Dean
Asian Development Bank Institute; and
Lead Professional
Asian Development Bank
Tokyo, Japan



REGISTRATION

Please register online: <http://isasseventhconf.eventbrite.com/>.
Registration closes on Friday, 18 November 2011, 5.30 pm.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

For enquiries, please contact Ms Kama at (65) 6516 4239 or email at isasksh@nus.edu.sg.

Institute of South Asian Studies :: 469A Bukit Timah Road, #07-01 Tower Block, Singapore 259770
Tel: (65) 6516 4239 :: Fax: (65) 6776 7505 / (65) 6314 5447 :: www.isas.nus.edu.sg

Inaugural South Asian Diaspora Convention

Hema Kiruppalini and
Sithara Doriasamy



“I would like to encourage the South Asian diaspora to continue the partnership with Singapore and with the rest of Asia. We are well-positioned here in Singapore to be a springboard for the South Asian diaspora to engage the rest of Asia and the world because we are located at the crossroads of trade, talent and capital flows, because we are business-friendly with a good legal system, with a transparent business environment and prevalent use of English . . . At the same time, Singapore knows Northeast Asia well . . .”

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong
Keynote Address, SADC 2011



Participants at the convention

The South Asian diaspora is one of the more extensive groups of people spread across the globe. Kindled by the compulsions of colonialism and propelled by economic necessities, and in many cases a spirit of adventure, large numbers of South Asians moved out of the subcontinent and ventured overseas for decades. For some their sojourn is only temporary which ends after a short working stint overseas; others have established themselves as a dispersed South Asian population with an engagement to their host countries and a deep emotional connection towards their homelands.

Singapore's historical relations with South Asia is overshadowed by the movement of other diverse communities into the city-state. Indian migration to Singapore dates back almost 200 years with the arrival of Indian sepoys during the time of Sir Stamford Raffles. Sri Lankans emigrated approximately 150 years ago with the inflow of Sinhalese gem merchants and Jaffna Tamils brought in by the British to staff civil administration offices. Attributed to British colonial legacy, Nepalese emigration to Singapore dates back to more than six decades although the Singapore Gurkha Contingent was officially formed in 1949.

Singapore's policy to develop the nation into a talent capital of the global service oriented economies attracted and led to an influx of professionals from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh who are employed in the IT, banking, finance, and other service sectors. Parallel to this skilled emigration has been the transient movement of a 'low skilled' workforce from India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh employed in jobs such as construction or domestic work. From the colonial to post-colonial to the contemporary period, Singapore has had rigorous interactions with the South Asian region.



Distinguished guests included former and present cabinet ministers, members of parliament, ambassadors and scholars

Continued on page 12



Speakers joined the audience and engaged in lively exchange of ideas and feedback

Bilateral trade

“we will actively foster links with South Asia. With India, we signed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, which was a landmark deal back in 2005 . . . With other South Asia countries, there is great potential for the relationship to grow and I hope that as the countries stabilise and open up and prosper, we will similarly develop and strengthen our links and our cooperation with them.”

– PM Lee

In light of the emphasis placed on inter-regional integration, Singapore’s initiative to host the first ever South Asian Diaspora Convention (SADC) on 21 and 22 July 2011 was significant as it drew attention to the symbiotic relationship between South and Southeast Asia. The convention held at Resorts World Sentosa, Singapore was spearheaded by the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS). It was supported by key agencies in Singapore, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade and Industry, International Enterprise Singapore, Singapore Tourism Board, Singapore Economic Development Board, and the Monetary Authority of Singapore, among others.

The inaugural SADC emphasised the need for a distinct South Asian Diaspora identity while reinforcing bonds at grassroots level. At the same time, the event facilitated business and professional networking opportunities.

The landmark event highlighted the diverse origins of the South Asian Diaspora in Singapore and elsewhere in the world. It also witnessed the congregation of distinguished speakers, entrepreneurs and other notable personalities of the South Asian diaspora. Approximately 1,500 people attended the two-day convention. The overarching theme of the convention was ‘Linking The South Asian Diaspora’ that included the discussion



The dialogue with Mr Lee Kuan Yew was moderated by Professor Mahbubani, Dean, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS

South Asian Link

Singapore continues to enrich our understanding of South Asia. We set up the Institute of South Asian Studies to focus on South Asian culture and heritage and ISAS, headed by Mr Pillai, established the South Asian Link website and a newsletter to track global activities in the South Asian diaspora. And this convention and similar activities are useful. With the theme of 'Linking the South Asian Diaspora', I hope it will seed new ideas and build lasting links amongst you."

– PM Lee on the setting up of ISAS

of a range of other topics such as 'Resurgent South Asia', 'South Asia as Others See it', 'Entrepreneurship and Diaspora', 'Singapore: The Springboard for South Asia', and 'Technology and Innovation'.

Singapore accorded very high priority to the SADC. The event was inaugurated by Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong and other senior cabinet members attended the event. A gala dinner, held in honour of the sixth President of Singapore, Mr S R Nathan, was attended by more than 800 guests.

There was a special launch of the late Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

(Singapore), Dr Balaji Sadasivan's book, 'The Dancing Girl – A History of India'. The book was launched by President S R Nathan. The convention concluded with a dialogue session with Mr Lee Kuan Yew, former Prime Minister of Singapore and Senior Adviser to Government of Singapore Investment Corporation. As part of the social interaction at the convention, guests were taken on a tour to Singapore's latest attraction, the ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore.

The narratives of the South Asian communities in Singapore shed light on their achievements and contributions in various spheres. The SADC contributed to fashioning

Singapore as a global hub for the South Asian diaspora to expand their inter-connectivity and showcased the continued efforts to commemorate the achievements of the old and new diaspora from South Asia. ■



Dr Ma Swan Hoo, wife of the late Dr Balaji Sadasivan, presents her husband's book to President Nathan



President S R Nathan and Mrs Nathan (front row), along with their grandchildren Monisha and Kiron, as well as (back row, L-R) daughter Juthika, Mrs Gopinath Pillai, Ambassador Gopinath Pillai and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, taking part in the belated celebrations of President Nathan's 87th birthday

*Hema Kiruppali is Research Associate at ISAS. She can be contacted at isashk@nus.edu.sg
Sithara Doriasamy is Senior Manager at ISAS. She can be contacted at isassrd@nus.edu.sg*

The Encyclopedia of the Sri Lankan Diaspora

Professor Peter Reeves

From the 1970s, the demand for contract labour in construction and domestic service in the Asian 'tiger' economies attracted growing numbers of Sri Lankan men and women looking to support their families in Sri Lanka. Given these pressures, important Sri Lankan communities grew worldwide

The preparation of the illustrated *Encyclopedia of the Sri Lankan Diaspora* is well-advanced; it will be published in mid-2012. It will offer readers a clear overview of the development of diasporic communities of Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim, Christian and Burgher people from the island of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) who ventured overseas to live and work in new 'host' societies.

In the past, members of the various Ceylonese/Sri Lankan communities overseas linked together as one group. However, political conflict in postcolonial Sri Lanka has worked against the notion of a single, 'national' diaspora and what has taken its place is the emergence of ethnically-defined diasporas, with which the *Encyclopedia* deals.

The volume provides, firstly, an account of the development of the Sri Lankan society through the early, the colonial and the postcolonial eras. It then discusses the structure of the Sri Lankan diaspora which began to develop in the British colonial period and grew strongly after independence after 1948. This growth was rapid from the 1970s because of two major pressures.

The first was the growth of strong ethnic rivalry especially between Tamils and Sinhala which grew into the scarifying insurgency of the 'civil war' that, from 1983, forced increasing numbers of Tamils to leave the island. In leaving their 'Tamil Eelam', many of those Tamil émigrés declared that they had left the island permanently and were now members of the 'Tamil World Diaspora'.

From the 1970s, the demand for contract labour in construction and domestic service in the Asian 'tiger' economies attracted growing numbers of Sri Lankan men and women looking to support their families in Sri Lanka. Given these pressures, important Sri Lankan communities grew worldwide: predominantly Tamil-led in Canada, India, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Scandinavia and Singapore; and Sinhala-led in the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, Australia and New Zealand. ■

INDIANS IN KANTO:

Foreign Settlements in East Japan

Mamta Sachan Kumar

Indians in Japan are largely divided into contrasting pools within the eastern Kanto versus western Kansai regions.

While old-settler Indian merchants reside in Kansai's Osaka-Kobe area, Kanto's Tokyo sit the newer migrant Indian professionals. Where Kobe's 'conservative housewives' are up to leisurely coffees and lunches, Tokyo's women are on-the-go with busy work schedules. Such distinctions are telling as ascribed and embodied social identity markers but they are also sweeping, and may mislead in the neutralising of each 'pool' as internally homogeneous and unchanging.

Certainly the perceived homogeneity and fixed identities of people-in-places are myths, for there are a variety of narratives that make up the diverse and evolving life experiences of Indians across Japan. This article shares briefly about Indians in parts of Kanto, particularly Yokohama and Tokyo.

Yokohama had once been home to a prominent Indian trading settlement in the late 19th – early 20th centuries. While the largely Sindhi community there dealt mainly in textile trading, Tokyo's Okachimachi district housed the businesses of Gujarati and Marwari diamond jewellers. There were also Indian tailors catering to American military bases in peripheral Tokyo such as the Yokota Air Base in Fussa city.

Now these long-term mercantile clusters number modestly in comparison to the surge of Indian professionals and food and beverage ('F&B') personnel. Indeed, in the context of contemporary Japan, 'Indians in Kanto' is popularly understood to be a reference to these burgeoning bases of IT consultants, software engineers and bankers, as well as to the auxiliary growth of restaurateurs, convenience store owners and their staff.

There are cross-sections of both old and new groups that overlap in everyday social interactions, making any one classification or identity marker incomplete. For example, a ladies' luncheon in Tokyo involves women from a variety of backgrounds who get together because they have come to know each other through word of mouth, live in close proximity in the upper middle-class neighbourhoods of Akasaka, Roppongi and Azabu-Juban, or whose husbands work in the same company (eg. General Electric - GE). Even the term 'Indian' should be taken as fluid, instrumental at times as a nationality for the purpose of registration but conflated otherwise with socio-cultural facets of a group.



Celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi at Tokyo's Sathy Sai Centre in September 2011

However, if certain features are to be distinguished, the Indian trading communities are a clustered and sedentary lot, whose members have formed close ties along similar lines of occupation, ethnicity, religious worship or spiritual following and residential vicinity. Furthermore, the older generation has a collective historical memory of war and partition. The tight-knit merchant families living in the Yamashita-cho neighbourhood of Yokohama are a case in point.

By contrast, the Indian professionals who have most noticeably risen in number from the 1990s onwards, are much more transient in their stay, dispersed in residence based on their workplaces, and find common ground



An Indian grocery store in Nishi Kasai, Tokyo

based on nationality. But even amongst the recent immigrants there are lines of stratification based on occupational class and by extension, residential clusters. While the employees of multi-national corporations like GE work at the upscale Roppongi Hills complex and live in affluent areas nearby, a significant congregation of Indians is also to be found in the eastern suburb of Nishi Kasai, concentrated particularly within an estate in Seishin-cho. In this locality, over 2,300 Indian nationals are stated to be living within the estate's sprawling 5,000 flats, equipped with a gym, playschool, community hall, health support centre and a supermarket that attempts to bring in Indian produce. The housing rents here are much more affordable and while many commute to the city for work, many others work in factories or companies outside the city.

Today, the total number of Indian nationals registered in Japan is estimated to be 25,000. But this does not measure up to the number of 'Indians' in Japan for there are many who identify as 'Indian' but are not necessarily citizens of the country. Moreover, the attractive and often convenient tag of 'Indian' is used as an umbrella term for South Asians or their related activity, especially eateries. The booming F&B industry provides greater insight into the complexities of the settlements in Japan, with the number of 'Indian' restaurants reputed to be in the hundreds just between Yokohama and Tokyo! ■

NEW RESEARCHERS



MD MIZANUR RAHMAN
Research Fellow

Dr Md Mizanur Rahman was a postdoctoral fellow at Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (NUS), from 2005-2007 and research fellow at Department of Sociology, NUS from 2007-2010. He was involved in Ford Foundation project on non-traditional security in South Asia in 2004. He has had a short-term stint as visiting scholar at the Department of Sociology, University of Western Ontario, Canada and Graduate School of Policy Science, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan.

Dr Rahman was commissioned to write reports on international migration issues in Asia by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) - East and Southeast Asia. He has conducted fieldwork for his research in a number of countries in Asia such as Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, Bangladesh, Qatar, the UAE, India, Indonesia, and Hong Kong SAR. In 2006, he was invited to attend a workshop on Irregular Migration, convened by UNITAR, UNPFA and IOM, at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Dr Rahman's work has appeared in leading migration journals such as International Migration, Population, Space and Place, Journal of International Migration and Integration, Asian and Pacific Migration Journal, and Asian Population Studies.



MAMTA SACHAN KUMAR
Research Associate

Ms Mamta Sachan Kumar completed her Master of Social Sciences degree in Sociology, NUS, in 2010. For her Master's thesis, she explored key debates in the contemporary conceptions of 'diaspora' with a case study on the Sindhi merchant communities in Japan, primarily in the Kobe-Osaka area and Yokohama city. Her thesis is titled, Trade of the Times: Reconceiving 'Diaspora' with the Sindhi Merchants in Japan.

Ms Mamta has worked as a teaching assistant at NUS, conducting sociology tutorial group sessions with undergraduate students. She has also assisted with research for a few book projects such as on Chinese family business networks with Professor Tong Chee Kiong, and on Singapore Indian diaspora with Dr Rajesh Rai.



RODNEY SEBASTIAN
Research Associate

Rodney Sebastian works as Research Associate for Professor Tan Tai Yong's project on the post-colonial history of India. Rodney's research interests include state-religion nexus, South Asian new religious movements, and Manipuri cultural identities. He has published several articles on themes related to South Asian identity and religion.

Mr Rodney has worked as Research Assistant, at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Religion Research Cluster, NUS, where he helped to organise academic conferences, workshops and reading group sessions related to issues on religion. He was the Programme Officer for the Lee Kong Chian NUS-Stanford Initiative on Southeast Asia. He holds MSc degree from the Department of Sociology, NUS and Honours Degree from Curtin University of Technology, Australia.

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



JOHNSON PAUL
Senior Associate Director

Mr Johnson Paul oversees administration and the execution of research initiatives at ISAS. He manages publishing, partnerships and events. He also oversees talent and financial management at the Institute.

Mr Johnson previously worked as the Deputy Director for Government and Business Information Services of the National Library Board of Singapore. He serves as an international editor for PROGRAM (UK), a journal published by Emerald Intelligence. Mr Johnson has presented papers on several international conferences including the International Federation of Library Association, World Bank Knowledge Management group and European Union Cultural cluster. He has represented Singapore in receiving the International Award for the Most Admired Knowledge City (MAKCi) in 2008 and 2009. Mr Johnson serves as the Vice-Chairman of the National Book Development Council, Singapore.



FELICIA HO
Executive

Ms Felicia Ho's key responsibility involves the management of ISAS website, which includes social media communications. She also assists in media relations, publications and events management. Ms Felicia's working experience includes corporate communications, corporate social responsibility, public relations and events management. She holds a degree in Journalism and Communications from Monash University, Australia and an advanced diploma in TESOL from London Teachers Training College.



KIRBY KHOO
Executive

Mr Kirby Khoo's key responsibility involves managing financial processes and functions. He also assists in human resource matters such as payroll and recruitment, and events budgeting. He has worked as Finance Management Executive in a commercial school. He has relevant experiences with AR AP, GL and GAAP. Mr Kirby holds a Bachelor degree in Business Administration from University of South Australia and is committed to life-long learning. He currently pursues a professional course in certified public accountancy with CPA Australia.

RECENT EVENTS

- ISAS-ARI Seminar by Professor Dennis B. McGilvray, Professor, Anthropology Department, University of Colorado, Boulder, **'Sufis In Sri Lanka: Tradition, Conflict and Innovation'**, 3 May 2011.
- Seminar by Professor G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs, Sri Lanka, **'The Current Situation in Sri Lanka and The Way Forward'**, 19 May 2011.
- Panel Discussion on **'India's Landmark State Elections: What Happened and What it Means'**, 23 May 2011.
- South Asian Diaspora Convention on **'Linking the South Asian Diaspora'**, 21 and 22 July 2011. Keynote speaker: Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister, Republic of Singapore.
- Book Launch **'The Dancing Girl – A History of India'** by Mr S R Nathan, President, Republic of Singapore (Book author: Dr Balaji Sadasivan, late Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Singapore), 22 July 2011
- **Dialogue with Mr Lee Kuan Yew**, former Prime Minister, Republic of Singapore and Senior Adviser, Government of Singapore Investment Corporation, 22 July 2011.
- Seminar (Ambassador Series) by H.E. Ambassador Yoichi Suzuki, High Commissioner of Japan to Singapore, **'Japan-South Asia Relations with Emphasis on Trade'**, 28 July 2011.
- ISAS-Griffith University Workshop on **'The Political Economy of State-Owned Enterprises'**, 2–3 August 2011.
- Seminar by Mr Srivatsa Krishnan, Indian Administrative Service Ex-World Bank Group and IIT, Madras and IIM, Bangalore, **'Why India Counts'**, 20 July 2011.
- Seminar by Mr P.S. Suryanarayana, Former Journalist, The Hindu, **'Vision Deficit in India's Look-East Gaze'**, 28 July 2011.
- Book Launch cum Panel Discussion on **'South Asia in the New World Order: The Role for Regional Cooperation'** (Author: Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS), 23 August 2011.
- Seminar (Ambassador Series) by H.E. Ambassador Oh Joon, High Commissioner of Korea to Singapore, **'The Politics of Nuclear Weapons in South Asia: The Prognosis for Deterrence'**, 24 August 2011.
- Public Lecture by Mrs Sushma Swaraj, Leader of BJP, Republic of India, **'Building Bridges for Peace and Regional Cooperation: India and Its East Asian Neighbours'**, 14 September 2011.
- Seminar (Ambassador Series) by H.E. Ambassador Syed Hasan Javed, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Singapore, **'Pakistan-China Relations: Shaping the 21st Century Together'**, 24 August 2011.
- Panel Discussion on **'India Agitated: Corruption, Lokpal and Anna Hazare'**, 31 August 2011.
- Book Launch cum Public Lecture on **'The Politics of Religion: South and Southeast Asia'** (Edited by: Professor Ishtiaq Ahmed, Honorary Senior Fellow, ISAS), 26 September 2011.
- Symposium on **'Islam in Modern South Asia: Culture, Communications and Commerce'**, 27-28 September 2011.
- Forum by Mirza Yawar Baig, President of Yawar Baig & Associates and Mr Salahuddin Kasem Khan, Managing Trustee of A.K. Khan Foundation, **'Commerce and Islam: Practitioners' Views'**, 27 September 2011.
- ISAS-India High Commission Public Lecture by Mr R Gopalan, Economic Affairs Secretary, Ministry of Finance, India, **'India's Economy: Between Two Budgets'**, 20 October 2011.
- ISAS-NUS Joint Event on **'Second China-India-Singapore Dialogue on Higher Education'**, 21 October 2011.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOME KEY EVENTS

Seminars and Public Lectures



Seminar by Professor G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs, Sri Lanka, 'The Current Situation in Sri Lanka and The Way Forward', 19 May 2011.



Public Lecture by Mrs Sushma Swaraj, Leader of BJP, Republic of India, 'Building Bridges for Peace and Regional Cooperation: India and Its East Asian Neighbours', 14 September 2011.



Ambassador Gopinath Pillai, Chaiman, ISAS (second from right) chairs the question and answer session at the Public Lecture by Mrs Sushma Swaraj. L-R: Mr Chandan Mitra, MP for Upper House, Mr Ananth Kumar, MP for Lower House and former Civil Aviation Minister, Mrs Sushma Swaraj, MP and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, and Mr Balbir Punj, MP for Upper House.

Ambassadors' Series



H.E. Ambassador Yoichi Suzuki, High Commissioner of Japan to Singapore, 'Japan-South Asia Relations with Emphasis on Trade', 28 July 2011. The Ambassadors' Series was initiated by Dr Iftekhar Chowdhury, Senior Research Fellow, ISAS (seen here chairing the sessions).



H.E. Ambassador Oh Joon, High Commissioner of Korea to Singapore, 'The Politics of Nuclear Weapons in South Asia: The Prognosis for Deterrence', 24 August 2011.



H.E. Ambassador Syed Hasan Javed, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Singapore, 'Pakistan-China Relations: Shaping the 21st Century Together', 24 August 2011.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOME KEY EVENTS

Book Launches



Book Launch cum Public Lecture on **'The Politics of Religion: South and Southeast Asia'**, 26 September 2011. Professor Ishtiaq Ahmed, Honorary Senior Fellow, ISAS and editor of the book (R), presenting a copy of the volume to Professor Tan Tai Yong, Director, ISAS.



Book Launch cum Panel Discussion on **'South Asia in the New World Order: The Role for Regional Cooperation'**, 23 August 2011. Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS (L), presenting a copy of his book to Ambassador Gopinath Pillai, Chairman, ISAS.

Collaborations



ISAS-NUS Joint Event on **'Second China-India-Singapore Dialogue on Higher Education'**, 21 October 2011. (L-R): Associate Professor Ho Kong Chong, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, NUS, Professor Pankaj Chandra, Director, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, India, Professor Zhu Qingshi, President, South University of Science & Technology, China, and Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, President, NUS.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ISAS Briefs

Post-Osama: Is it the Beginning of the 'End' in Afghanistan?, Dr Shanthie Mariet D'Souza, Visiting Research Fellow, ISAS, 9 May 2011.

Census 2011 - The Curious Case of Changes in Tamil Nadu Demographics, Ms Pratima Singh, Research Associate, ISAS, 16 May 2011.

Tamil Nadu Election Results - An Assessment, Dr S. Narayan, Head of Research and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 16 May 2011.

How the Red Fortress was Won - An Analysis of the West Bengal Assembly Election, Dr Ronojoy Sen, Visiting Research Fellow, ISAS, 18 May 2011.

Kerala: Communist Survival – Now What?, Professor Robin Jeffrey, Visiting Research Professor, ISAS, 23 May 2011.

A No-Win Situation for Pakistan - A Dilemma for the US, Mr Sajjad Ashraf, Pakistan's former High Commissioner to Singapore, Adjunct Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy; and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, 24 May 2011.

India-Australia: Moving beyond the Periphery, Ms Suvi Dogra, Research Associate, ISAS, 26 May 2011.

NMIZs in India: Haunted by SEZs?, Dr Amitendu Palit, Head (Development & Programmes) and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 23 June 2011.

The Challenge of Ethnic Federalism in Nepal, Ms Hema Kiruppallini, Research Associate, ISAS, 24 June 2011.

The 'US-Pak' Relationship: A Complex but Categorical, Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 27 June 2011.

Ye Hai Mumbai Meri Jaan, Professor S.D. Muni, Visiting Research Fellow, ISAS, 19 July 2011.

Pakistan's Afghan Dilemma: Seeking that Elusive Sense of Security, Mr Sajjad Ashraf, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy; and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, 5 August 2011.

America Attempting to Find its Way in Asia: Moving Towards the Obama Doctrine, Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 5 August 2011.

India and Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Meeting: New Hopes and Expectations, Dr Rajshree Jetly, Research Fellow, ISAS, 5 August 2011.

The Emerging Faultlines of the US-Afghan Strategic Partnership, Dr Shanthie Mariet D'Souza, Visiting Research Fellow, ISAS, 10 August 2011.

Pakistan-India Trade, Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 19 August 2011.

Exploding Karachi, Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 19 August 2011.

Opportunities for South Asia in the Revolutions in the West, Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 18 August 2011.

Come September, Manmohan Comes to Dhaka, Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 18 August 2011.

Growth in the Indian Economy - Some Thoughts, Dr S. Narayan, Head of Research and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 22 August 2011.

Al Qaeda, A Decade after the 9/11 Attacks, Dr Shanthie Mariet D'Souza, Visiting Research Fellow, ISAS, 8 September 2011.

The Meaning of Anna Hazare's Movement, Dr Ronojoy Sen, Visiting Research Fellow, ISAS, 9 September 2011.

ISAS Insights

Political Economy of CSR - The Companies Bill Debate in India, Ms Suvi Dogra, Research Associate, ISAS, 6 April 2011.

India, Libya and the Principle of Non-Intervention, Professor C. Raja Mohan, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi; Contributing Editor, The Indian Express; and Adjunct Professor, South Asian Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 13 April 2011.

Anguish in Abbottabad, Pains in Pakistan and American Anger, Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 20 May 2011.

Power-Play of Peers in the Pacific: A 'Chimerican' Chess Game?, Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 10 June 2011.

China-Pakistan Relations: Evolution of an 'All-Weather Friendship', Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 19 June 2011.

The Great American Debate: Is the Drawdown of Forces in Afghanistan a Realistic Option?, Dr Shanthie Mariet D'Souza, Visiting Research Fellow, ISAS, 23 June 2011.

India in Africa: Summits and Beyond, Ms Suvi Dogra, Research Associate, ISAS, 4 July 2011.

Pakistan's Deteriorating Economic Situation: How Much of it is Caused by Politics?, Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 10 August 2011.

'United States' Economic Problems and Their Ripple Effects, Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 26 August 2011.

DMIC: Addressing India's Infrastructure Woes?, Dr Amitendu Palit, Head (Development & Programmes) and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, and Ms Suvi Dogra, Research Associate, ISAS, 1 September 2011.

Continued on page 22

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ISAS Insights

Suicides in India: The Economics at Work, Dr Amitendu Palit, Head (Development & Programmes) and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, and Pratima Singh, Research Associate, ISAS, 7 September 2011.

Iran, US and the Afghan Conundrum, Dr Shanthie Mariet D'Souza, Visiting Research Fellow, ISAS, 5 September 2011.

China and Its Aircraft Carrier: The Dragon's Deft Dealings with a Nervous Neptune, Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 7 September 2011.

China's 'Look West' Policy, Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, and Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 7 September 2011.

South Asia's Diminishing Prospects, Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 8 September 2011.

Afghanistan in Transition: Will 'Bonn II' be a Game Changer?, Dr Shanthie Mariet D'Souza, Visiting Research Fellow, ISAS, 19 September 2011.

A Working America is Good for Asia, Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 28 September 2011.

The Haqqanis as the Pivot in the Deteriorating US-Pakistan Relations, Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 7 October 2011.

The Crisis in United States-Pakistan Relations: An Alliance Unstuck?, Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 7 October 2011.

The Turbulent South-China Sea Waters: India, Vietnam and China, Professor S.D. Muni, Visiting Research Professor, ISAS, 12 October 2011.

ISAS Working Papers

The Future of Financial Liberalisation in South Asia, Professor Ashima Goyal, Professor of Economics, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, India, 19 April 2011.

Shaping the Coordinates of India's Trade Policy Architecture - Domestic versus International Drivers, Professor Amit Shovon Ray, Professor of Economics, Centre for International Trade and Development, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 21 April 2011.

South Asia: Policy Responses to the Global Crisis, Dr S. Narayan, Head of Research and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 9 May 2011.

Inflation in India: An Empirical Analysis, Ms Pratima Singh, Research Associate, ISAS, 10 May 2011.

India's Engagement with ASEAN: Beyond Trade in Goods, Dr Shankaran Nambiar, Head (Policy Studies Division) and Senior Research Fellow, Malaysian Institute of Economic Research, 26 August 2011.

An Outsider's View of Some Issues in Contemporary Indian Foreign Policy, Mr David Malone, President of the International Development Research Centre, Canada's former High Commissioner to India, and former Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, 29 August 2011.

How Well Has South Asia Coped With the Global Financial Crisis: Monetary Management, Regulation and Market Discipline, Professor D. M. Nachane, Professor Emeritus and former Director of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai and Honorary Senior Fellow, ISAS, and M. Shahidul Islam, Research Associate, ISAS, 1 September 2011.

Recruitment of Labour Migrants for the Gulf States: The Bangladeshi Case, Dr Md Mizanur Rahman, Research Fellow, ISAS, 6 September 2011.

An Approach to Forecasting Market Demand in India: A Case Study of Steel, Dr S. Narayan, Head of Research and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS. The Working Paper is co-authored with Sarin Paraparath, Asha Abraham and Deepa Karthykeyan, Research Consultants of Athena Infonomics, 21 September 2011.

Manmohan in Bangladesh: The Visit Revisited, Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, and M. Shahidul Islam, Research Associate, ISAS, 14 September 2011.

Migration Bring About Economic Advantage?: A Case of Bangladeshi Migrants In Saudi Arabia, Dr Md Mizanur Rahman, Research Fellow, ISAS, 3 October 2011.

ISAS Special Reports

South Asian Diasporas: Agents of Change in a Poorly Integrated Region, Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 29 July 2011.

Explaining South Asia's Relative Economic Backwardness, Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, 6 September 2011.

ISAS Books

South Asia and New World Order: The Role of Regional Cooperation, Mr Shahid Javed Burki, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS, August 2011.

The Politics of Religion: Experiences from South and Southeast Asia, Professor Ishtiaq Ahmed, Honorary Senior Fellow, ISAS, September 2011.

LATEST BOOKS



South Asia and New World Order: The Role of Regional Cooperation

Shahid Javed Burki

Visiting Senior Research Fellow, ISAS

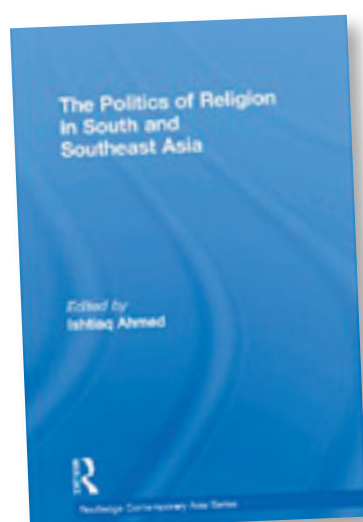
Published by Routledge, August 2011

Rapid changes have taken place in the structure of the global economy, and this book looks at how South Asia can take advantage of these changes. The author argues that the developing global economy will be more complex than originally thought, that instead of a bipolar model with two countries, the US and China, at the centre, it will be multipolar with eight centres of economic activity, including India.

The book goes on to suggest that in the context of such a model, there should be regional cooperation between India and its immediate neighbouring countries for South Asia to advance as an economic region. The institutional underpinnings from achieving this exist. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the South Asian Free Trade Arrangement (SAFTA) should help to bring these countries together. Good economic relations among the countries in the region should result in significantly increasing the growth rates in their gross domestic products.

It argues that for these outcomes to be realised, countries in the region will have to cast off the burdens of history they have accumulated over many decades. This is particularly the case for India and Pakistan, the region's two largest economies. The book also argues that India, the region's anchor economy and the one that is growing most rapidly at this point, should provide the leadership for region's economic integration. India will not be able to achieve its economic potential if it fails to establish good working relations with the countries in its immediate neighborhood.

To purchase a copy, please contact Ms Brenda Foo at Tel: (65) 6741 5166 or via email at info@tandf.com.sg, or visit www.routledge.com.



The Politics of Religion: Experiences from South and Southeast Asia

Edited by Ishtiaq Ahmed

Honorary Senior Fellow, ISAS

Published by Routledge, September 2011

The erstwhile South and Southeast elites upon whom power devolved at the time of decolonisation were committed to the preservation and sustenance of pluralism, albeit in different forms and types of government. From the late 1960s onwards, religious revivals began to take place in many parts of the world. In most South and Southeast societies lobbies existed in favour of recasting state and society in the mould of religious beliefs and values, but not until the 1980s did such a trend gain momentum.

Almost invariably, politicised religious revivals entailed majoritarian nationalism and in some cases minority separatism. Pluralism, democracy and issues of security cropped up as a result. What has been the response of the South and Southeast Asian states to politicised religious revivals within their territories and in their neighbourhood? Some light will be shed on this subject.

To purchase a copy, please contact Ms Brenda Foo at Tel: (65) 6741 5166 or via email at info@tandf.com.sg, or visit www.routledge.com.



The Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), established in July 2004, is an autonomous research institute within the National University of Singapore. ISAS is dedicated to the study of contemporary South Asia. Researchers at the Institute conduct long-term and in-depth studies on social, political and economic trends and developments in South Asia; and their impact beyond the immediate region. In addition, ISAS produces regular up-to-date and time-sensitive analyses of key issues and events in South Asia. ISAS disseminates these information to policymakers, the academia, business community and civil society.

CONTACT US

Institute of South Asian Studies
469A Bukit Timah Road
#07-01 Tower Block
Singapore 259770
Tel: (65) 6516 4239 / (65) 6516 6179
Fax: 65) 6776 7505 / (65) 6314 5447
Email: isassecc@nus.edu.sg
www.isas.nus.edu.sg