FACT SHEET

Introduction

1. The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) was established on 30 July 1996 by Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence. On 1 January 2007, ten years after its establishment, IDSS will be formally inaugurated to become the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). In the new School, IDSS will remain as a key component Institute focusing on security research to serve national needs while the School would take over its teaching functions. (See Annex A for the structure of the RSIS.)

2. Since its establishment, IDSS has acquired the reputation as a leading research and graduate teaching institution in strategic and international affairs in the Asia-Pacific region. RSIS will bring IDSS and NTU to the next level besides enhancing Singapore’s standing as a regional and international hub for higher education and research.

3. IDSS’ new name also serves to honour the contributions of the late Mr. S. Rajaratnam who held various Cabinet appointments until his retirement. He was also one of Singapore’s founding fathers and well respected as a visionary diplomat and strategic thinker.

Mission of the RSIS

4. The RSIS will:

   a. Provide a rigorous professional graduate education with a strong practical emphasis,

   b. Conduct policy-relevant research in defence, national security, international relations, strategic studies and diplomacy.

   c. Build a global network of like-minded professional schools.
5. The RSIS will adopt the best practices of world-class US professional Schools.

Programmes, Faculty and Student Enrolment

6. Since its establishment, IDSS has experienced robust growth in numbers and quality. When the first Master of Science Programme in Strategic Studies was launched in 1998, there were only 10 students, all Singaporeans. This year, it has 4 PhD students and 130 Masters students (as of 1 August) enrolled in 3 Master of Science Programmes: Strategic Studies, International Relations, and International Political Economy.

7. The student enrolment has also diversified, with 60% from overseas. 65% are self-funded or funded by non-Singapore Government sources. From 2000 to 2006, the number of IDSS’ research programmes increased from 3 to 13, while overall staff strength grew from 28 to 90. IDSS presently has 4 full Professors and 5 Associate Professors. RSIS aims to have at least 12-15 full Professors or Associate Professors.

8. IDSS has been successful in attracting top quality students including many in important government positions. These include promising Indonesian military officers, Chinese diplomats and Vietnamese diplomats and military officers. In the last Academic Year, Agus Yudhoyono, son of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono; Loro Horta, son of the Timor Leste Prime Minister; and Hekmat Karzai, cousin of Afghan President Hamid Karzai; were Masters students at IDSS.

9. RSIS is envisaged to have a full-time enrolment of up to 12 PhD students and 160 students enrolled in five Master of Science Programmes by 2010. It will offer two new programmes: Master of Science in International Studies and Master of Science in Defence Administration. It will also continue to expand its executive and external teaching programmes.

Governance

10. The RSIS will be an autonomous school within NTU. It will have a Board of Governors comprising distinguished local and foreign representatives from the Government, the business and academic communities, and practitioners in diplomacy and national security affairs. The Director of IDSS will also assume the position of Dean of the RSIS.
Annex A: Structure of RSIS

To be established later:

1. Centre for Diplomacy and International Affairs,
2. Centre for Science, Technology and Security,
3. Asian Centre for Negotiation and conflict Management.