



# **S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

A Graduate School of Nanyang Technological University

## **S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) receives US\$2.5 million from the MacArthur Foundation for security research**

29 May 2009, Singapore

RSIS received US\$2.5 million in an official launch today from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to conduct research in non-traditional security and regional security cooperation. The grant is part of a US\$68 million Asia Security Initiative by the MacArthur Foundation over a seven-year period to develop new ideas to address Asia's security challenges. RSIS is the largest beneficiary of the Initiative and is the only Singaporean institution selected as a core institution to lead research in one of 3 research clusters. The choice of RSIS as a core institution by the MacArthur Foundation signifies the recognition of the School as a regional leader in the field of security studies.

Speaking at the Official Launch, Ambassador Barry Desker, RSIS' Dean, stated that the MacArthur Asia Security Initiative is "a significant endorsement of the importance of Asian security issues and recognition of its considerable implications for the world at large." Ambassador Desker also said that the Initiative will allow RSIS to "advance cutting-edge research to respond to challenges that affect both the well-being as well as the security of states and societies in the region".

The MacArthur Foundation Asia Security Initiative was created to help Asian policy research institutions strengthen their capacity to work with their counterparts across the globe to develop new ideas to respond to Asian security challenges. The RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies is receiving the bulk of the grant and will under the Initiative spear-head research on non-traditional security challenges facing Asia, such as climate change, environment and human security, energy security, as well as internal conflicts.

The RSIS Multilateral and Regionalism Programme will also be receiving a grant to address the issue of regional security cooperation. Under the Initiative, it will examine the role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), seek to build institutional congruence and coherence in Asia's regional security architecture, and examine the prospect of an ASEAN Security Community.

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## **Background Information**

### **About the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)**

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) was inaugurated on 1 January 2007 as an autonomous School within the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), upgraded from its previous incarnation as the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), which was established in 1996.

The School exists to develop a community of scholars and policy analysts at the forefront of Asia-Pacific security studies and international affairs. Its three core functions are research, graduate teaching and networking activities in the Asia-Pacific region. It produces cutting-edge security related research in Asia-Pacific Security, Conflict and Non-Traditional Security, International Political Economy, and Country and Area Studies.

The School's activities are aimed at assisting policymakers to develop comprehensive approaches to strategic thinking on issues related to security and stability in the Asia-Pacific and their implications for Singapore.

For more information about RSIS, please visit <http://www.rsis.edu.sg/>

### **About the MacArthur Foundation**

The MacArthur Foundation is one of the largest private philanthropies in the United States. It supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the Foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places, and understand how technology is affecting children and society.

### **About the MacArthur Foundation Asia Security Initiative**

The Initiative comes out of MacArthur's 25 years of grantmaking in peace and security. Specifically, the Foundation has invested in training, research, and policy engagement to reduce the danger posed by weapons of mass destruction. MacArthur supported research and track-two diplomacy between U.S. and Soviet officials and nuclear scientists, which helped lead to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. MacArthur grantees also helped develop the conceptual framework for cooperative threat reduction programs that helped Russia and other former Soviet states reduce stockpiles and secure nuclear weapons and fissile materials. The Foundation's Science, Technology, and Security Initiative strengthened university-

based centers of science, technology, and security, creating a new generation of scientists engaged in the study and development of security policy on issues like nonproliferation and arms control.