



**NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA  
NETWORK (NESA NETWORK)**  
Website - [www.ndu.edu/nesa/](http://www.ndu.edu/nesa/)

- RCSS is an institutional partner of the Regional Network of Strategic Studies Centres in the Near East and South Asia regions.
- NESA Network was established by the National Defense University (NDU) Washington, D.C.
- NESA network initiative envisages creating more space for interactive dialogue and increased practical cooperation among premier institutions dealing with security studies.



**NON TRADITIONAL SECURITY-ASIA  
CONSORTIUM  
(NTS-ASIA CONSORTIUM)**  
Website - [www.rsis-ntsasia.org](http://www.rsis-ntsasia.org)

- RCSS is a member of the network of research institutions and think tanks in Asia that forms the NTS-Asia Consortium.
- The consortium will develop further the process of networking among scholars and analysts working on issues on NTS in the Asia region
- This would build long-term and sustainable regional capacity for research on NTS issues and mainstream and advance the field of NTS studies in Asia.



**Association for Security Sector  
Reform Education and Training  
(ASSET)**  
Website - [www.asset-ssr.org](http://www.asset-ssr.org)

- The Association for Security Sector Reform Education and Training (ASSET) is an open and voluntary association of organisations and institutions engaged in Security Sector Reform (SSR) education and training.
- RCSS is a founding member, having participated in the inaugural meeting of the Association in Sando, Sweden, to adopt the Cooperation Statement on establishing ASSET.
- ASSET aims to support the development and delivery of education and training courses and teaching materials in order to meet the increasing need for highly qualified SSR practitioners, planners, trainers and policymakers.

**The Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks  
(COSATT)**  
Website - [www.ipcs.org](http://www.ipcs.org)

- The purpose of COSATT is to facilitate cooperation among leading think tanks in South Asia to come together as required on a voluntary basis, to collectively address common peace and security issues in the region.
- Leading think tanks in South Asia are currently members of COSATT and additional members will be added as required. The Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks (COSATT) was set up in January 2008. The Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) acts as the Secretariat of COSATT.

## SUPPORT

Activities of RCSS have been supported and sustained by many donors including Ford Foundation, Asia Foundation, European Centre for Conflict Prevention, Hivos Netherlands, Independent Group on South Asian Cooperation (IGSAC), Japan Foundation Asia Centre, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Small Arms Survey, Geneva, UN Department of Disarmament Affairs (UNDDA), University of Bradford, University of Oxford, Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, Rockefeller Foundation, W.Alton Jones Foundation, Ploughshares Fund, MacArthur Foundation, Merck Fund, Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), Saferworld and Henry L. Stimson Center

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# Regional Centre for Strategic Studies

**RCSS, a South Asian regional think tank, is an independent, non-profit and non-governmental organization, set up in 1993 and based in Colombo, Sri Lanka.**

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**Web: [www.rcss.org](http://www.rcss.org)**

## MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Sponsor, coordinate and support research on South Asian strategic and security issues
- Promote interaction among scholars and professionals in the region and beyond who are engaged in South Asian strategic and international studies
- Foster linkage and collaboration among institutions focusing on studies related to conflict, conflict resolution, cooperation, stability and security in South Asia

The work of RCSS is planned, designed and implemented under the supervision of an International Research Committee (IRC), consisting of members from South Asia and outside the region. The administrative and financial matters are conducted with the approval of the Board of Directors drawn from different countries of the region. Membership of the Centre is on application and is approved by the Board of Directors.

## AREAS OF INTEREST

RCSS facilitates scholars and professionals of South Asia to address, individually and collectively, problems and issues of topical interest to the region. The principal areas of focus are:

- Conceptions and problems of national & regional security and recent trends in thinking and approaches to security and strategic studies
- Problems of conventional defence build-up & proliferation of nuclear weapons
- Issues of defence expenditure and disarmament
- Disputes and conflicts in intra and inter-state relations and their implications for regional and inter-regional cooperation and development
- External factors in the security and stability of the region
- Refugees and internally displaced persons, forced migration and other coercive forms of movement of people and their impact on security.

## ACTIVITIES

### RESEARCH AWARDS

Short-term research grants to young scholars and professionals of South Asian countries to work on areas of interest to RCSS.

**Kodikara Award for Individual Research:** Named in honour of Prof. Shelton U. Kodikara, the founding Executive Director of RCSS, the Award is designed to encourage individual research by a younger generation of South Asian academics and professionals to bring into focus fresh perspectives and ideas on issues relevant to South Asia. Reports by recipients of the award are published under the RCSS Policy Studies Series.

**Mahbub-ul-Haq Award for Collaborative Studies:** Named after a distinguished South Asian whose vision made the UN Human Development Report a landmark of all international developmental discussions, the Award supports joint research projects conducted by pairs of young scholars from different countries in South Asia.

**RCSS-Summer Workshop Awards:** RCSS presents three research awards at the end of the annual Summer Workshop to conduct future work on the key themes of the workshop.

### WORKSHOP SERIES

Two residential workshops are organized annually as forums for young South Asian professionals to mutually and collectively examine and understand the major issues of defence and national security, conflict transformation, regional stability and confidence building in South Asia.

#### Summer Workshop on Defence, Technology and Cooperative Security in South Asia

Focuses on nuclear technology; weapons and missile proliferation; conceptions, context and recent trends relating to security; nuclear policies; arms control and disarmament; and cooperative security, terrorism and other related issues.

#### Winter Workshop on Non-traditional security

Focuses on ethnicity and religion; governance and security; environment and security; globalization and its impact on security and human security.

## LIBRARY

RCSS Library has a collection of books, journals, reports and web documents covering current international studies. The subjects include, conflict and peace, traditional and non-traditional sources of conflict, defence, arms proliferation, war-displaced populations and human security issues. The information transfer of the library database is conducted through both traditional and innovative technology. The Library is being used by local and foreign students and researchers on a regular basis.

## PUBLICATIONS

- **The RCSS Policy Studies** - Focuses on specific topical issues, expected to stimulate policy-debate and serve opinion-building processes.
- **Newsletter** - Published quarterly, includes news on RCSS activities, presentations, upcoming events and news on its Alumni. The Newsletter can be accessed on the RCSS website.

## RCSS ALUMNI

RCSS Alumni are young academics and professionals from South Asia who have participated in the Summer and Winter Residential Workshops conducted by RCSS. As of January 2008, the strength of the alumni adds upto 450.

## NETWORKING



**GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PREVENTION OF ARMED CONFLICT (GPPAC)**

Website - [www.gppac.net](http://www.gppac.net)

- GPPAC is a world-wide civil society-led network to build a new international consensus on peace building and prevention of armed conflict.
- GPPAC is structured through fifteen regional networks, with separate regional action agendas to reflect regional principles and priorities.
- RCSS is the regional secretariat for GPPAC – South Asia.