



# NEWSLETTER

REGIONAL CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

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## “From Winning the War to Winning Peace: Postwar Rebuilding of the Society in Sri Lanka”: Seminar co-hosted by RCSS and CSA

“I welcome the opportunity to engage in a discourse on an issue of critical importance to Sri Lanka with a distinguished and erudite group of academics, analysts and professionals who are present here on this occasion. Your choice of topic is of immediate relevance and the convening of this seminar is timely and, indeed, necessary. It is time that we reflect on where we are as a country and where we want to go from here, now that the military capabilities of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have been completely degraded. This demands dispassionate analysis and impartial comment.

On this occasion, the combined talents and strengths of the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, Colombo and the Centre for Security Analysis of Chennai, have created an opportunity for us to engage in just such an exercise. This is not an opportunity that we

should let slip from our grasp. I sincerely appreciate the invitation extended to me by the Executive Director of the RCSS, Professor Amal Jayawardane, to join you on this occasion and share with you some thoughts on the Government’s vision and programmes for the future of the war-affected areas which will, in turn, affect the fortunes of the entire Sri Lankan nation,” said Minister for Disaster Management and Human Rights Mahinda Samarasinghe, in the keynote address he made inaugurating the Seminar “*From Winning the War to Winning Peace: Postwar Rebuilding of the Society in Sri Lanka*,” jointly organized by the Centre for Security Analysis (CSA) in Chennai, India, and the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) in Colombo.

Prof. Tissa Vitharana, Minister of Science and Technology and Chairman, All Party representative Committee (APRC) of Sri Lanka,

made Opening Remarks at the commencement of the Third Session of the Seminar, on “Political Accommodation.” Outlining the action taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to prepare the final solution to the North East problem, Minister Vitharana referred to the work of the APRC and stated that the summary of the APRC proposals prepared at the conclusion of the meetings, would recommend “a home grown” solution to the concerned issues.

The two day Seminar which took place on 28 – 29 August 2009, at Hotel Taj Samudra in Colombo attracted leading government agencies, think tanks, experts, the media and members of the diplomatic corps and international agencies. “Voices from Across the Palk Strait” joined “Voices from Sri Lanka” to lead the deliberations of the seminar.

In his opening address at the

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inauguration of the seminar, Prof Amal Jayawardane, Executive Director, RCSS, acknowledged Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe, the Keynote Speaker at the inaugural session, and Minister Tissa Vitharana, for his Opening Remarks at the commencement of the Session on *Political Accommodation* and welcomed the large number of participants present. He outlined the background of the seminar organised by RCSS in collaboration with CSA in Chennai and emphasised its objective to reflect on reconstruction and peace building activities in Sri Lanka that would allow the long-term social, economic and political stability to take root in the aftermath of the military defeat of the LTTE. He offered his thanks to General Raghavan for the opportunity made available to work together with CSA in staging the event and expressed the hope that it would be the beginning of a fruitful partnership with CSA.

Making introductory remarks on the Seminar Concept, Lt. Gen. V. Raghavan, President, CSA, explained the convening of the seminar as a timely activity with the participation of friends of Sri Lanka in India, particularly those in Chennai, and introduced the themes Economic Reconstruction, Socio- Ethnic Cohesion and Political Accommodation, under which

panel discussions would take place during the working sessions of the Seminar.

The first session of the Seminar on *Economic Reconstruction* was chaired by Prof. W.D. Lakshman, Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance and Planning & Chairman, Presidential Commission on Taxation with three experts presenting papers. A presentation was made on *Strategies to Accelerate Infrastructural Development in Sri Lanka* by Dr. Partha Mukhopadhyay, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi; on *Economic Development and Reconstruction of the North-East: Problems and Prospects* by Dr. Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka; and on *Economic Freedom: The Path to Economic cum Political Empowerment of the Conflict Region* by Dr. Muttukrishna Sarvananthan, Principal Researcher, Point Pedro Institute of Development.

Ambassador Sumith Nankandala, Additional Director General, UN & Multilateral Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs chaired the Second Session on *Socio-Ethnic Cohesion* with three eminent experts making presentations. Mr. B. G. Verghese, Visiting Professor, Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi spoke on

*Reconciling Ethnic Diversities*; Prof. R. A. Ariyaratne, Director, RCSS focused on *Conflict-Induced Displaced Population of Sri Lanka: Challenges for the Future*; and Deshabandu (Mrs) Jezima Ismail, Founder Co-ordinator, MWRAF, presented the third paper on *Transformation of Conflict with a Focus on Stabilizing and Rebuilding of Relationships*.

The final session on Political Accommodation was chaired by Lt. Gen. (Retd.) V.R.Raghavan, President, CSA. A paper on *Some Parameters of Political Reforms in Wining Peace after the War* was presented by Professor Laksiri Fernando, Professor, University of Colombo; a presentation on *Post-war Rebuilding: Constitutional Recipe for Political Accommodation* made by Mr. N. Selvakumaran, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo and bringing the seminar to a conclusion a paper on *Testing the Waters and Testing the Will* was presented by Mr. N. Sathiya Moorthy, Director, Observer Research Foundation, Chennai Chapter.

The papers presented at each session led to a vibrant discussion of the respective themes and positive recommendations emerged at the end of the two-day event.

# Launching of the new RCSS Website

The formal launching of the new RCSS Website took place on Wednesday July 1, 2009 at the RCSS amidst the presence of a distinguished gathering. Executive Director, Professor Amal Jayawardane, welcoming the members of RCSS, representatives of other organizations associated with the Centre and well-wishers, explained the circumstances leading to the designing of a new website to project the vision of RCSS and its activities. He launched the new website through an innovative introductory process created for the occasion by the designer, Weblook International.

Among the striking features of the new website is the home page with a flash banner depicting the

main focus of RCSS, rotating introductions to events and publications, and links to RCSS brochure and newsletter. The Projects/Workshops page contains elaborate information on RCSS activities, during the last decade, together with photographs. The Publications page brings out amongst other publications, the RCSS Policy Studies, the contents of which can be accessed in PDF format by those interested in reading them. The newly introduced Networks page provides information on the respective organizations that RCSS is networking with, and their activities. While the Research Awards page gives details of the awards made by RCSS to young scholars in the South Asia region the Alumni page lists the names

of the approximately 457 persons who earned alumni membership by successfully participating in RCSS workshops and research work. The website has been designed to meet modern web designing standards along with a prominent feature that enables RCSS to continuously update its activities.

Concluding the launching ceremony, RCSS Associate Director Ambassador Geetha de Silva expressed the hope that the new website being very user-friendly would encourage scholars from South Asia and beyond to visit the site and access its information on a regular and frequent basis.

The website can be accessed at <http://www.rcss.org>

## NESA-RNSSC Working Groups on WMD and NTSI meet in Colombo

The Regional Network of Strategic Studies Centers (RNSSC) of the Near East and South Asia (NESA) Centre, National Defense University, USA, held two Working Group meetings from 21-23 June 2009 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The Working Group on Non-traditional Security Issues (NTSI) continued with the discussions of the two sub-groups – Disaster Management and Small Arms. Participants from India, Israel, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Turkey and USA made presentations on disaster management strategies and experiences in their respective countries. On the basis of the individual presentations and responses, the discussions concluded with

universal lessons that could be learnt from strategies, practices and structures of the respective countries. It is expected that the papers would be compiled in a volume to be published later this year. Presentations in the Small Arms sub-group were made by participants from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

The Working Group on WMD and Border Security took up as its agenda items the presentation of papers on Nonproliferation, Border Issues and Confidence Building. Presentations on Nonproliferation included those of nuclear renaissance and WMD; the Middle East perspective on the India-US deal; the implications of the India-US nuclear deal on the

nonproliferation regime; the security of non-nuclear weapon states; strengthening WMD nonproliferation through border consensus; and political and technical issues of nuclear safety and security. With regard to border security, papers presented highlighted the respective country experiences on border issues. At the end of the two days' deliberations, Prof. Amal Jayawardane, Executive Director, RCSS, addressed the gathering to brief them on the post-conflict phase in Sri Lanka following the military defeat of the LTTE. RCSS was represented by Prof. Amal Jayawardane in the WMD Border Security Working Group and Ms. Gayathri Nanayakkara in the NTSI Working Group.

# GPPAC-SA Marks International Peace Day

*Shades of Peace*  
Peace is a dream that we all dream

But in more vivid colours  
By those caught in conflict....

Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) is the South Asian regional initiator for “Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC).”

Focusing on International Peace Day as a rallying point,

RCSS organized a wall painting in the town of Kantale, 46 kms South of Trincomalee.

With the ready support of the Zonal Education Office of Kantale, GPPAC-SA brought together youth from 12 schools in the area, representing Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim communities. An Art Competition among schools was conducted on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2009, through which skilled students were selected to paint the wall of the Zonal Education Office, Kantale.

The Kantale Zonal Education

Office coordinates the educational activities of 13,000 students in schools in the area and the outer wall of the office was the most appropriate nerve point where the dreams, hopes and skills of Kantale’s multi-ethnic youth could be captured as paintings on the themes, “Peace” and “Nature.” This indeed is a groundbreaking collaboration between GPPAC-SA and the educational establishment in the area.

Among the many objectives of the project, multi ethnic interaction, nature appreciation, and focusing on common positive platforms of convergence such as the link between humanity, peace, and nature are some of the more prominent ones. This activity was also the first in the area that brought youth of different ethnicities and religions together for over a period of six consecutive days.

On 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2009, students and teachers from 12 schools assembled at the Cultural Centre, Kantale. There was a buzz of excitement in the room, as the students took their seats. Hugging their boxes of paint and paint brushes, the students looked on expectantly as officials conducting the day’s session walked into the room. Addressing the gathering Mr. Ranikin A.Liyanage, Deputy Education Director Aesthetic Studies, Kantale, said that celebrating International

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# Regional Workshop on Security Sector Transformation

The Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) collaborated with the Global Facilitation Network for Security Sector Reform (SSR), Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF)/ International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT) in Geneva, the Institute for Strategic and Defence Studies (ISDS) in the Philippines and Centre for South Asian Studies in Nepal, in organizing a Regional Workshop and Training on Security Sector Transformation from 12-14 May 2009, in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop was conducted under the activities of the Association for Security Sector Reforms Education and Training (ASSET) of which RCSS is a founding member.

The workshop brought together 25 participants exclusively from civil society organisations from 11 countries in South and South East Asia in a bid to assist those organisations to discuss Security Sector Transformation (SST) issues in the two regions and to develop their own training material, to be used both regionally and nationally.

The Kathmandu workshop was a follow-up to the Security Sector Reform Training Workshop held in Manila in December 2008, where the need to conduct similar SST training in South Asia had been identified. On the first day, participants were offered an overview of the key policies and principles of SST and the various contexts within which SST is conducted. Through the use of case studies, participants were then introduced to SST related issues in four South

and South East Asian countries. The key focus on the second day was on SST training. Participants were introduced to the specific skills and methodologies required to design and deliver SST training and were offered hands-on experience in preparing modules in this respect. The third day highlighted different trends and processes of SST in the two regions and explored possibilities for future collaboration.

The uniqueness of the event was the presence of several participants from the Manila training programme who were invited to design and deliver training sessions. As such, the introductory session on key SST policies and principles, and the four case studies on the region were conducted by the participants. The case studies dealt with the issues of, Security Sector Transformation in the tribal areas; case study of the Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR) in Pakistan; policing organized crime in India: a case study of the Mumbai police; reforming without transforming: challenges and opportunities for Security Sector Transformation in the Philippines; and human rights and justice reform in Cambodia. Through the case studies, the organizers expected the participants to gain more insights on key SSR issues in the region and also encourage discussion and comparison across sub-regions.

The workshop ended with a roundtable discussion that identified trends and best practices related to SST in South and South East Asia.



# NESA Workshops on “Confronting Political Violence in the Near East and South Asia”

A series of workshops/conferences on “Confronting Political Violence in the Near East and South Asia” convened by the Near East South Asia Centre for Strategic Studies (NESA) of the National Defense University of USA, took place in Washington DC from 6–10 July 2009. Members of the NESA Working Group on Combating Terrorism, drawn from Strategic Studies Centres of the region participated, together with experts on the subject from the Near East and South Asia regions and NESA officials.

The week long activity commenced with a workshop on “Conflict without Borders.” The participants focused on the themes of Regional Perceptions of the War on Terrorism; Nature of the Threat; Who becomes a Terrorist? How? ; Identifying Lessons; What works?; and What does not work?

The Workshop was followed by a Conference on “Lifting the Fog of Law: Managing Political Violence in the Near East and South Asia.” The participants focused on three themes during this session, i.e. *Context for Dealing with Violent Actors*; *National Law Case Studies, the French Influence*; and *National Law Case Studies, Under the Microscope*.

During the panel discussions Ms Geeta Madhavan, from the



Centre for Security Analysis in Chennai, India, made a presentation on India’s national legislation against terrorism while Mr. Hekmat Karzai, of the Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies in Afghanistan and Mr. Nishchal Pandey, of the Centre for South Asian Studies in Nepal spoke on, *National Law Case Studies. Mountains of South Asia*. Dr Rohan Perera, Chairman, UN Ad-hoc Committee on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism presented a paper on *The Universal Terrorism Treaty*.

Dr. Tyler Rauert, of Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA) moderated the above activities.

The grand finale of the week-long series of events was the conference on “Perspectives on Terrorism: Views from the Near East and South Asia on Combating a Common Threat.” The Conference also brought to a conclusion a research project conducted by the RNSSC Working Group on Com-

bating Terrorism for almost three years chaired by Mr. Hayatullah Khan Khattack of the American University of Cyprus.

The conference focused primarily on three areas, the Political Sector, the Security Sector and Strategic Communications and was conducted in the presence of a large number of decision makers, think tanks and the media in Washington DC. Following the deliberations of the conference, recommendations and observations regarding the issues addressed came to the fore.

Ambassador Geetha de Silva, Associate Director, Regional Centre for Strategic Studies who was the Project Coordinator of the Conference made opening and closing remarks at the conference and moderated the panel discussion on *Strategic Communications*.

# Regional Conference on “Peace and Development in South Asia

R CSS was represented by Prof. R.A. Ariyaratne at the Regional Conference on “Peace and Development in South Asia: Opportunities and Concerns” organized by the Bangladesh Centre for International Studies (BCIS) in Dhaka from 16-17 May, 2009.

The objective of the conference was to discuss the changing political context in the region and its impact on regional peace and development as well as to identify the concerns and opportunities arising from these changes.

Protracted conflicts in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and India have created political turmoil in the respective countries and regional instability in general. Weeks before the conference was convened, a mutiny staged by a section of the Bangladesh army sent shock waves across the country. It is against the backdrop of such disturbing regional trends that several leading scholars and policy makers were invited to meet in Dhaka to analyse the situation and suggest measures needed for collective peace and stability in South Asia.

Among the participants were seven scholars and specialists on



regional affairs drawn from India, Pakistan, China, Sri Lanka and Nepal and a galaxy of foreign policy and strategic studies experts from Bangladesh. The themes of the conference were designed to focus on, the type of changes taking place in contemporary South Asia; their impact on political stability and socio-economic development in the respective countries and the region as a whole; the common challenges to national security and peaceful co-existence; and the effective ways and methods to address these challenges.

Professor R.A. Ariyaratne presented a research paper on

“Internal Conflict and State Responses: A Perennial Challenge to Peace in South Asia, with Special Reference to Sri Lanka.” By fortuitous circumstances, the sequence of events covered by this paper coincided with the climax of Sri Lankan government’s decisive military victory over the LTTE in the long-drawn war, and as such, generated animated discussion among the participants. All of the participants expressed the fervent hope that the Sri Lankan government would make use of opportunities presented by the termination of the war to create an inclusive political framework in the island.

## GPPAC Produces Documentary on Post Conflict Sri Lanka

R CSS as Regional Initiator in South Asia for Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), together with Young Asia Television (YATV) and Ars Donandi, produced a documentary on Post Conflict Sri Lanka.

The documentary, **Peace in Practice - the Welikande Experience**, focuses on moving beyond

victim-hood to surviving with dignity. It examines how Sri Lanka’s rural villages face up to the challenge of living together as multi-ethnic communities in a post conflict society.

Click <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzZ4eKMwxqI> to view the documentary.

# Laughter, friendship and learning in the Himalayas

**T**hirty three youth from seven countries in South Asia and South East Asia converged in Dhulikel Valley in Nepal from 23-26 August, 2009, to participate in the “International Training on Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding” initiated by the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) South Asia. The Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) and Kathmandu based DidiBahini jointly organized and hosted the workshop. The participants consisted of 1<sup>st</sup> year and 2<sup>nd</sup> year university students and youth facilitators from Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Thailand and the Philippines. The resource persons were Swati and Agyat Mitra from “Play for Peace.”



*Participants engrossed in re-thinking peace*

Experiential education with its foundation in participatory methods played a key role in training methodology used during the programme. The training for youth focused on evolving an understanding of peace and conflict and aimed at developing skills to work in the community with values of inclusion for university students.

Among the students’ feed

back were reminiscences of new friendships made, fun and laughter that reverberated around the mountains, appreciation of “we do, we remember” methods that were used during training, and facilitation skills that were inculcated in the youth enabling them to utilize the new skills in their own communities.

An immediate impact on the youth was seen when within a week after the training, the whole group got connected to an email loop. Events pertaining to peace and conflict, and community activities are now being regularly shared and invitations are being sent out for participation. Some participants have shared in a community radio interview the positive impact of the training programme on their daily lives.



*Being mentored by the trainer*



*Participants engaged in a group activity*

# Communicating Peace: Workshop for Media Focal Points of GPPAC

As a part of its Awareness Raising Programme, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) has always shown a keen interest in creating strong bonds with the media.

The impact the media can have on conflict is well known. More often than not, the perception is that the media is being used as a vehicle for war. However, GPPAC seeks at all times to create a partnership with the media to make it a vehicle for peace; to make it a medium to communicate peace – not war.

With this in mind GPPAC recently organized a training workshop for its media outreach people, the Media Focal Points (MFPs). Nilakshi Gunatillake, GPPAC –



*Third generation of Agent Orange Victims*

South Asia Regional Liaison Officer based at RCSS, attended the workshop. The workshop focused on media training, peace portal development and its optimal utilization. The Peace Portal is an interactive, online platform for peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Its development is initiated by GPPAC's Global Secretariat, the European Centre for Conflict

Prevention (ECCP).

The workshop focused on honing the media outreach skills of participants; enhancing the capacities of MFPs to become active contributors to the peace portal, the importance of an overall GPPAC media strategy, the connecting of the peace portal to GPPAC's overall media strategy and developing an action plan etc.

The workshop was held in Da Nang, Vietnam and onboard PEACEBOAT from Da Nang to Singapore from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 06<sup>th</sup> September, 2009.

The participants were also present at an exchange held in Da Nang between Agent Orange victims of Vietnam and Hiroshima Nagasaki Atomic Bomb survivors.

## GPPAC-SA Marks...

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Peace Day through the togetherness of 12 schools was indeed a gigantic achievement. He commended the commitment of the school principals, teachers, and students to engage in the painting activity for a whole week.

Professor R.A. Ariyaratne, Director RCSS/GPPAC – SA, spoke on the importance of co-existence in a multi ethnic country. He appreciated the efforts of the Zonal Education Office and the Youth Service Officer, Kantale, and noted that these initiatives would bring about proper interaction among the students in the area and enhance the reconciliation effort. Nilakshi Gunatillake, Regional Liaison

Officer for GPPAC-SA, said that though 21st September is called International Day of Peace, peace is not just a day but is a journey that needs to be undertaken with the strength of especially the youth in the country.

On 15th September, 2009 at 8.30 am, students assembled in front of the wall and were enthusiastically waiting for the painting to begin. After a briefing session, the students got down to work, and it was a great pleasure to watch them. The front of the wall was a hive of activity and within an hour the students were busy with their creations. Some students held consultations with teachers, while

some were measuring and marking the spaces allotted to them. Meticulous planning was evident within the student groups. Some were painstakingly transferring shared ideas onto the wall, while some were seen carefully mixing the required colours. It was clear that the students thrived on team work to complete the assigned tasks.

The end of the activity on 19th September, marked the beginning of new friendships for the youth. The feelings and thoughts that were laid down on the wall through colours and strokes of brushes vividly depicting the hopes of the young and old in post conflict areas of Sri Lanka.

# Meetings attended by Members of the Staff

Mrs Kamani Perera, Librarian of RCSS, attended the International Conference of the International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST) at Tampere University, Finland, May 26-29, 2009. IASSIST is an international organization of professionals working in and with information technology and data services to support research and teaching in the social sciences. Its 300+ members are from a variety of workplaces, including data archives, statistical agencies, research centres, libraries, academic departments, government departments, and non-profit organizations.

The 2009 IASSIST conference theme, *Mobile Data and the Life Cycle*, focused on how technology can affect aspects of data stewardship throughout the data lifecycle. Topics of the conference addressed the full range of digital data life cycle issues, including those that focus on access, documentation, dissemination, preservation, data use and current

empirical research activity, which are critical to the development of a democratic culture. Mrs. Perera presented a poster on “*Digital Repositories: Vehicles for Delivering Mobile Data to the Scholarly Community.*”

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Mrs. Kamani Perera also attended the ETD 2009 Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations which was organized by the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD). The NDLTD initiative is an open federation of hundreds of universities and supporting organizations worldwide, including research institutions and private companies. The 2009 conference was held from June 10-13 at the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, PA, U.S.A.

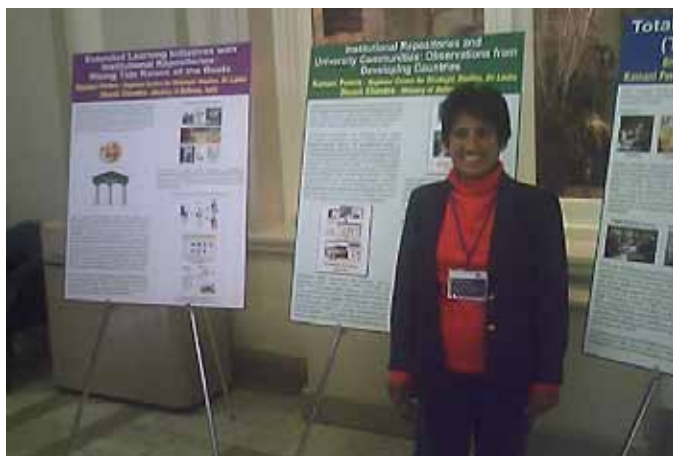
The theme of the conference was, *Bridging the Knowledge Divide* for which Mrs. Perera made poster presentations on, Observations from Developing Countries; Rising Tide Raises all the Boats; and Total Quality Management

(TQM) for ETDs.

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Ms. Gayathri Nanayakkara, Programme Officer, RCSS, participated in the Workshop on “Enhancing Engagement between Civil Society Organisations and (Sub) Regional Inter-Governmental Organisations,” in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9-11 July 2009. The Workshop was organized by the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) and facilitated by the Initiative on Conflict Prevention through Quiet Diplomacy in cooperation with the Folke Bernadotte Academy. The meeting included discussions regarding necessary tools, strategies, planning and activities to engage with regional and sub-regional international organizations to promote peace building and conflict prevention strategies on a regional basis.

The 3-day workshop brought together representatives from CSOs from all regions of the GP-PAC network. Workshop participants were encouraged to reflect critically on their own experiences in engaging, or seeking to engage with IGOs, and lessons learned. Participants were also asked to consider challenges, opportunities and successes that formed the discussion during the workshop. The cross-regional exchange that ensued in the workshop helped in identifying how CSOs could contribute to conflict prevention and peace building work of IGOs and the corresponding approaches for contact, confidence-building and collaboration.



## Visitors to RCSS

**Mr Richard Vokes**, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Sri Lanka visited RCSS on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2009. He had discussions with Prof. Amal Jayawardane, Executive Director and Amb. Geetha de Silva Associate Director on a wide range of issues including possible space for collaboration between ADB and RCSS. Mr. Vokes provided an update on the activities of ADB office in Colombo as well as on its interest in regional integration. Mr. Vokes, an expert on South Asia, has extensive experience in South and Southeast Asia's economic development, with particular focus on agriculture and rural development, and, the transition from planned to market economies.

**Lt. Gen. (Retd) V. R. Raghavan** is President, Centre for Security Analysis (CSA) and Advisor, Delhi Policy Group, New Delhi visited RCSS on 27 August 2009. A member of the Board of Directors of RCSS, Gen. Raghavan attended a Board meeting convened that day. Gen. Raghavan's visit took place during his stay in Sri Lanka to participate in the Seminar "*From Winning the War to Winning Peace: Postwar*

*Rebuilding of the Society in Sri Lanka*" which was co-hosted by CSA and RCSS. General Raghavan who had a distinguished career in the Indian Army, held many key positions after his retirement from the Army. He was a Council Member, International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS), London and is presently an elected member of the Council of United Service Institution of India. He is also advisor and research consultant to the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament convened by the Governments of Australia and Japan.

**Mr. Larry Attree**, Team Leader, Asia for Saferworld, UK met with the Executive Director and Associate Director of RCSS on 17 June 2009 to discuss future collaboration between the two organizations. Mr. Attree expressed interest in seeking ways to further stimulate discussion on training and policy dialogue with regard to issues of small arms, security sector reform and the peace, democracy and development nexus. ED, RCSS briefed Mr. Attree on the Centre's partnership with the Association for Security Sector Education

and Training (ASSET) and the meetings on security sector reform that were organized by ASSET and RCSS which are expected to result in more training workshops on SSR in the region.

**Prof. Guo Ming**, Executive Director, Regional Security and Cooperation Center, Academy for World Watch (AWW) in Shanghai China visited the RCSS on 27 August 2009. The Regional Security and Cooperation Center's main study area is the political environment in South Asia. Prof. Guo expressed a particular interest in maritime issues in South Asia as the study of modern sea power is part of an ongoing project of his center and as part of China's strategy in South Asia. He discussed this issue in view of the important strategic positioning of Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean. ED, RCSS provided an update of the country's post-conflict situation and prospects for future development. It was decided to communicate further with regard to collaboration between the two institutes on topics that have a wider regional reach.

Views expressed in materials published in **RCSS NEWSLETTER** are of contributors, and not necessarily of the RCSS. The **RCSS NEWSLETTER** is published quarterly. For copies, comments, contributions and further information please write to:

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