



Vision

To secure Sri Lanka by nurturing visionary, collective, and decisive leaders in security policy and decision making

Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) is the premier think tank on national security in Sri Lanka established under the Ministry of Defence

“National Security Conclave - 2023” Held in Grand Note Presided by the Minister of Defence



The National Security Conclave - 2023 organized by the Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) Sri Lanka was held at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) in Ratmalana on 17th May 2023. President Ranil Wickremesinghe graced the opening ceremony as the Chief Guest .



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INSS Contributes to “World Ocean's Day - Towards a National Ocean”

Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc, Acting Director General, and Director (Communications and Publications) was invited by the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) to deliver a lecture at an event titled “World Ocean's Day - Towards a National Ocean” to commemorate the “World's Ocean Day” on 08th June 2023. The topic given for Acting Director General was “Strategic

Importance of Sri Lanka; Opportunities and Challenges; Defense Perspective”. The Chief Guest of the event was Mr. Razik Zarook, Chairman Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka, and the keynote speech was delivered by Prof. Terny Pradeep Kumara from the University of Ruhuna, who was also the former Chairman of MEPA.



Round Table Discussion on “Alternatives to Traditional Schooling System: Asset or Liability?”

Institute of National Security Studies (INSS), the premier think tank on national security established and functioning under the Ministry of Defence organized a Round Table Discussion on “Alternatives to traditional schooling system: Asset or liability?” on Tuesday, the 25th of April 2023 from 0900 hrs. to 1100 hrs. (IST) via Zoom. The Guest Speakers of the event were Susan R. Copeland, PhD, BCBA-D, Regents’ Professor, Department of Special Education, College of Education and Human Sciences, University of New Mexico, Mr. Sanath Jayalath, Director, Bilingual Education of the Ministry of Education, Dr. Udena R Attygalle, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Sirimavo Bandaranaike Specialized Childrens hospital Peradeniya and Mrs. Nirmali

Wickremesinghe, innovative educationist and Consultant, Gateway Group of Schools. The discussion was moderated by Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc, Acting Director General and Director (Communications and Publications) of the Institute of National Security Studies. The audience consisted of Ministry officials, policymakers, academicians, principals, researchers, representatives from Sri Lankan armed forces and Sri Lanka Police. Aftermath of the welcome remarks, Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena commenced the discussion by giving an introduction to traditional schooling and emerging types of alternative schools and the predicament of them. Then, he gave a brief introduction to the speakers prior to their delivery. Firstly, Professor Susan R Copeland delivered an illustrious presentation on the United States of America’s perspective on alternatives to traditional schooling extensively by depicting pros, cons and challenges. Mr. Sanath Jayalath highlighted the perspectives of the Ministry of Education and explained the

INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES
ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
ON
**ALTERNATIVES TO TRADITIONAL SCHOOLING SYSTEM;
ASSET OR LIABILITY?**

Moderator:
Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc, Acting Director General, Institute of National Security Studies

Speaker:
Susan R. Copeland PhD, BCBA-D, Regents Professor, Department of Special Education, College of Education and Human Sciences, University of New Mexico, USA

Speaker:
Mr. Sanath Jayalath, Director, Bilingual Education of the Ministry of Education

Speaker:
Dr. Udena R. Attygalle, Consultant, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Sirimavo Bandaranaike Specialized Childrens Hospital, Peradeniya

Speaker:
Mrs. Nirmali Wickremesinghe, Innovative Educationist and Consultant, Gateway Group of Schools

Date : 25th April 2023
From : 0900 hrs to 1100 hrs (IST)

education structure of Sri Lanka, existing circulars, Acts, expectations and regulations. Next, Dr. Udena R Attygalle delivered a thought-provoking presentation by highlighting psychological implications on alternatives to traditional schooling by pointing how stress can affect humans in many different ways. Final speaker of the event was Mrs. Nirmali Wickremesinghe and she made a lively presentation on parental nurturing of children and its importance. Aftermath of the three presentations, the moderator opened the floor for the Q and A discussion which was fruitful and informative. The event was conducted on a request made by the Ministry of Education as many education institutions named “Boarding schools’ are reported to be mushrooming, which provide in-house accommodation for children and fast track primary and secondary education by making them sit for competitive government examinations at ages much younger than the normal age groups of children who sit for such examinations in Sri Lanka.

Defence Attaché of the Embassy of France to Sri Lanka and the Maldives Visits INSS



Defence Attaché of the Embassy of France to Sri Lanka and the Maldives in Colombo, Commander Jean-Baptiste TROUCHE officially visited the INSS on 03rd April 2023. He was warmly welcomed by Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc, Director (Communications and Publications), and Acting Director General, INSS. During the discussion, Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena elaborated on the research work and other events conducted by the INSS related to National Security in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, they discussed building focused academic relationships between the institute and the Embassy of France to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Finally, tokens of appreciation were exchanged to signify the visit of the Defence Attaché to INSS.

Delegates from the British High Commission Visits INSS



Mr. Dylan Hendrickson, Researcher, and Colonel Paul Clayton MBE, Defence Adviser, British High Commission, Colombo officially visited the INSS on 24th May 2023. They were warmly welcomed by Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc, Director (Communications and Publications), and Acting Director General, INSS. During the discussion, Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena elaborated on the research work and other events conducted by the INSS related to National Security in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, they discussed building cooperation between the institute and the British High Commission in Sri Lanka.

“NESA-AFRICOM Workshop Series”

NESA-AFRICOM WORKSHOP SERIES
CHANGING NATURE OF SECURITY
TRANSNATIONAL THREATS KNOW NO BOUNDARIES
THE WOMEN'S REVOLUTION: LIFE, LIBERTY, AND FREEDOM

29 APRIL – 7 MAY 2023
BANGKOK, THAILAND



Course Director: Professor Anne Moisan
Deputy Course Director/Program Coordinator: Mr. Fahad Nadeem
Rapporteur: Ms. Genevieve Garsone
As of 7 April 2023

Ms. Charani Patabendige, Acting Research Analyst and Research Assistant, and Ms. Kalpani Gunathilake, Research Assistant, attended the NESA - AFRICOM Workshop Series In Bangkok, Thailand, from 29th April 2023 to 07th May 2023. The Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies organized and funded the workshop series. The workshop was a women-led series with over 60 participants, out of which over 50 were women. The workshop series was titled “Changing Nature of Security; Transnational Threats Know No Boundaries and on The Women’s Revolution: Life, Liberty, and Freedom”. Ms. Patabendige and Ms. Gunathilake actively participated in the workshop and were able to network with many countries and widen their knowledge.



Staff of INSS Participates at a Discussion Titled “Sri Lanka Foreign Policy in the 21st Century Context, Contours, and Challenges”



The staff of INSS participated in an event titled “Sri Lanka Foreign Policy in the 21st Century Context, Contours, and Challenges; Discussion on Sri Lanka Foreign Policy with former Ambassador and Secretary to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ravinatha Aryasinghe on 26th April 2023. The event was organized by the Gamini Corea Foundation. Initially, Mr. Ravinatha Aryasinghe, Former Secretary of External Affairs, presented his paper on Sri Lanka’s foreign policy issues in the 21st century. Aftermath, a distinguished panel shared their thoughts on his speech and enriched the discussion.

Staff of INSS Participates at a Conference Titled “Ocean Governance and Maritime Security”



INSS participated in a full day conference on “Ocean Governance and Maritime Security” on Monday, 08th May 2023, at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKI) Auditorium. The opening remarks was delivered by Mrs. Aruni Wijewardane, Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The keynote speech was delivered by Hon. M.U.M. Ali Sabry, PC, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The conference consisted of three panels. Namely, the first panel delivered their presentations under the title “Treaty of the High Seas-Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement and the Way Forward.” The second panel deliberated upon “Regional Security Cooperation on an Open and Rule-Based Maritime Architecture. The final panel discussed “Environment Maritime Protection and Disaster Preparedness.”

Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc, MSc(DS)Mgt, MMS, MSc(NS & WS), BSc(Hons), Acting Director General and Director Communications and Publications, Ms. Charani Patabendige, Acting Research Analyst and Research Assistant and Ms. Sandamini Madhushi, Research Assistant participated in the event from Institute of National Security Studies.



NATIONAL SECURITY

The Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) Sri Lanka, the premier think tank on National Security, functioning under the Ministry of Defence, organized the third edition of its national conference titled “National Security Conclave 2023” on Wednesday, 17th May 2023. The event was held at the auditorium of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Kandawala Estate, Ratmalana. Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, the President of the Democratic Socialist

Republic of Sri Lanka graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The conference was attended by ministry officials, military officers, law enforcement agencies, researchers, academics from state universities, think tanks, and senior experts from across the country.



The event commenced with the lighting of the traditional oil lamp, the national anthem and a welcome dance performed by the cultural troop of Sri Lanka Navy which was followed by a documentary video of the Institute, its history and various facets of national security threats that Sri Lanka had undergone throughout the history. This was followed by a welcome speech delivered by the Acting Director General of the institute, Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena, RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, ndc, hdmc, psc highlighting the fact that the national security of the 21st century has taken many dimensions other than military security. After a message sent by Secretary to the Ministry of Defence General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd.) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPil was read out to the audience, the President, Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe was then invited to the podium to address the gathering and delivered a comprehensive speech on the national security challenges in the 21st century. The chief guest stressed the necessity to address the national and global level national security concerns which may have a security concern to Sri Lanka. He further thanked and appreciated the effort taken by the staff of INSS to organize this conclave which enables to promote the research studies related to national security in Sri Lanka.

Subsequent to the inauguration ceremony, the first session, under the theme of “Elimination of Corruption for a Prosperous, Secure and Stable Sri Lanka,” was moderated by Major General Udaya Perera (Retd) RWP RSP VSV USP USAWC M.Sc. (IND)M.Sc.(USA) NDU-CT (USA) psc (SL) psc (IND), Group Head of Administration, Brandix Lanka Ltd. The three speakers of this session were Mr. S. Ranugge, Former Secretary to the Ministry of Export Development and International Trade and Visiting Lecturer at the University of Colombo, Sri Jayawardanapura, Open University of Sri Lanka, and Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration. Mr. Ranugge critically discussed “Creating a Change in Administrative Systems and the Public Service Culture to Eliminate Corruption,” which enables to define corruption from a broad perspective. Mr. Sarath Jayamanne, PC, former Director-General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption, spoke on “The Need for Vibrant and Efficacious Laws and Independent and Efficient Law Enforcement” based on the significance of laws in preventing corruption in Sri Lanka. Hon. Justice Yasantha Kodagoda, PC, Justice



NATIONAL SECURITY CONCLAVE 2023

of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, deliberated on "Maintenance of the Rule of Law and Efficient and Effective Administration of Justice to Combat Corruption," which signified the importance of an independent justice system to eliminate corruption in Sri Lanka.



The Second Session, themed "Climate, Cyber and Technology: Changing Dimensions in Security," was moderated by Dr. Thesara Jayawardane, Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Industrial Management, University of Moratuwa. Three speakers of this session were Senior Prof. Deepthi Wickremesinghe, Department of Zoology and Environment Science, University of Colombo, who discussed "Climate Change: Immediate Global Action in this Crucial Decade," which highlights the impact of climate change as a global, national security challenge. Mr. Indika De Zoysa, Strategic Advisor/Vice President, Huawei Technologies Lanka Co.,(Pvt) Ltd, spoke on "Improving Cyber Resilience and Rapid Response to Enhance Cyber Security,". In his presentation he mentioned how data has become the fuel in the new world and the importance of readiness and resilience. The third speaker, Senior Prof. Ajith de Alwis, FNASSL, BSc Eng (Hons) Moratuwa, MBA, (PIM-Sri J), Ph.D. (Cambridge), Senior Professor of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa, discussed on "Technologies, Integrated Data, and Analytical Tools for Decision Making" . In his presentation he finely portrayed how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is taking over jobs of people and the future in a world of AI.



The third and final session was themed "Geopolitics in the New World Era" and was moderated by Dr. Harinda Vidanage, Head of the Department of Strategic Studies at KDU. Three speakers for this session included Ambassador Bernard Goonetilleke, Chairman of Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka, who delivered a presentation titled "Russia Vs. Ukraine War: Insights and Analysis," which emphasized the effects of global security threats to Sri Lanka. Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinghe, Former Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Former Ambassador to the USA, UN in Geneva, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the EU, who deliberated upon the "Power Struggle in the Indo-Pacific Region: Implications for Sri Lanka," where he highlighted the crucial role played by Sri Lanka amidst the power struggle in the Indo-Pacific Region. Finally, Professor Chaminda Padmakumara, Head of the Department of International Relations at the University of Colombo, discussed "Sri Lanka's Significance in South Asia's Initiatives for Foreign Cooperation," . His presentation gave a South Asian aura for the audience which highlighted how international cooperation can be enhanced further.



Concluding the event, Ms. Nilmini Ulluwishewa, the Director Administration gave the official vote of thanks and extended gratitude to all those who helped INSS to make this event a success especially Major General Milinda Peiris RWP, RSP, VSV, USP, ndu, psc, MPhil (Ind), the Vice Chancellor of KDU for giving the venue and other assistance for the conduct of the event and Col Nalin Herath, RSP Director Media, Ministry of Defence for all efforts rendered to give wide media coverage for the event.

Further, a reception organized in view of showing gratitude to all those contributed to the success of the "National Security Conclave 2023" was held on 30th May 2023 at the at the Command Wardroom, Western Naval Area, SLNS Rangalla, Colombo 1. The Chief Guest for the event was the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd.) WWW RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil.



Military Research Officers Participates at a Workshop on Structural Planning at the Centre for Strategic Assessment (CSA)



Commander Amila Prasanga, psc, Lieutenant Colonel Nalin Samaranayake psc IG, and Wing Commander Udith Pathirana psc participated in a recent workshop on the structural planning of the Centre for Strategic Assessment (CSA) located at the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU). This capacity building program and structural planning initiative were conducted by a team from the Institute of Security

Governance, USA which included esteemed individuals such as Dr. Oscar De Soto, Dr. Barak Salmoni, Mr. Max Kelly, and Mr. Matt Ashley. The primary objective of establishing the CSA at KDU is to develop a research capability that can provide in-depth analysis on complex strategic security challenges, thereby assisting in the formulation of effective policy solutions for the nation.



“CTBTO in the Current International Context”



The staff of INSS participated in a guest lecture on “CTBTO in the Current International Context” delivered by Dr. Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) which was held on



01st June 2023 at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies. During his lecture, Dr. Floyd explained the necessity of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Further, he emphasized the role of the CTBTO as it is mainly focused on promoting universal support of the Treaty and building up the CTBT verification regime to ensure its operationalization at entry into force of the Treaty.

INSS Participates at the “Third Bay of Bengal Maritime Dialogue”



Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc, Acting Director General, and Director (Communications and Publications), INSS was invited as a lead presenter for the final session of the “Third Bay of Bengal Maritime Dialogue” which was conducted on 23rd and 24th May 2023 at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel organized jointly by the Pathfinder Foundation, Sri Lanka and Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. The focus areas for the third round of the Dialogue were regional cooperation around marine scientific research, marine environmental protection, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and the humanitarian treatment of fishermen.



INSS Participates in a Workshop on “Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism for SAN PVE Stakeholders”



Wing Commander Udith Pathirana psc and Ms. Charani Patabendige (Acting Research Analyst and Research Assistant) participated in a workshop on “Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism for SAN PVE Stakeholders” on 12th June 2023 at the Ministry of Defence. The workshop was conducted mainly to raise awareness among the Thematic Working Group (TWG) members and to formulate



a road map to create a National Strategy to prevent and counter-radicalization, violent extremism, and terrorism within the country. The workshop was conducted by Prof. Rasheen Bappu (Professor in Anthropology and Data Analysis), Lt Col RT Ansar (SLA), Subhashi Dissanayake (Country Director - HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Sri Lanka) and Hasanthi Kahandawala (Project Manager - HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Sri Lanka). The one-day workshop successfully concluded with a certificate-awarding ceremony.

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Renewable Energy; Securing the Present and the Future of Sri Lanka

Today, Sri Lanka is in the face of a burning economic crisis. This major crack in the economy has led to serious national security concerns including the energy sector. With the disruption of the day-to-day lives of people, the energy insecurity has imposed threats to other sectors such as education, health, transportation, food etc. With these issues, Sri Lanka needs to understand the importance of the renewable energy transition and capacity building.

Sri Lankan energy supply is dominated by three major components; 41% by petrol, 46% by biomass and 13% by electricity. Although the energy produced by electricity is low, it is counted as the most impactful component, since it is strongly intertwined with the daily lives of the people. In Sri Lanka, electricity is generated using three primary sources: thermal power (which includes coal and fuel oil), hydropower, and other non-conventional renewable energy sources (solar power and wind power). The usage of coal and oil in thermal power generation has faced a huge crisis, because the economic crisis has disrupted the import of these components. The significance of renewable energy for the present and future of Sri Lanka has been unveiled with these developments.

Entwining of Energy Security and National Security

Energy becomes a national security issue when energy insecurity affects a country's governing policies and the security of the people. Current energy crisis has directly affected the day-to-day lives of the citizens. Revealing the seriousness of the situation, the country is facing electricity cuts, and long petrol and diesel queues in gas stations have become a common sight. Gas shortage has closed down a large number of restaurants thus far. The tourism sector had a mini-boom in the beginning of February 2022, but yet again severely affected due to the power outages. Hospitals are facing a critical situation and online education has been hampered. It is obvious that the security threat posed by the energy insecurity has spilled over to transportation, health, food, education and many other sectors creating a detrimental effect.

The international factors like, the dependency of oil from the international market imposes national security threats on Sri Lanka. The reliance on the production and transportation of fossil fuels creates national vulnerabilities since the importing country can be influenced by the regulations made by the exporting countries. Not to mention, burning fossil fuels contributes to climate change; yet another aspect of national security. These factors have revealed the importance of moving towards renewable energy, rather than surviving on coal & oil for energy production.

Sri Lanka and Renewable Energy Policies

The government has given prominence to the renewable energy sector through the current policies. The plan is to increase the power generation capacity of the country from the existing 4,043 megawatts (MW) to 6,900 MW by 2025 with a significant increase in renewable energy. The government is striving to increase the contribution of renewable energy to 70% to the national grid by the year 2030, which is a very effective target. Sri Lanka has already achieved a grid connectivity of 98 percent, which is relatively high by South Asian standards.

Hydropower in the country has almost reached its capacity and produces a fluctuating amount of energy due to less predictable weather patterns. As a result, the authorities have plans to add additional renewable and non-renewable power plants over the next 10 years. The construction of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant was initiated in 2021 in Kerawalapitiya, identifying the increasing energy need.

Among the renewable energy projects, 'Soorya Bala Sangramaya' is one of the most efficient one that take solar power into the public domain. Making awareness on solar energy, empowering houses, religious places, factories, tourist hotels and other infrastructure, providing relevant technology is done under this program. On a different note, Sri Lanka's first large scale Wind Farm in Mannar which is expected to generate 400 GWh of electricity annually is a huge achievement by the authorities, motivating the renewable power generation.

Way Forward

In the near future, gradual depletion of oil and coal will disable the thermal power generation. Also, depending on fossil fuels make Sri Lanka's foreign expenditure increase, impacting on the economic security. Therein, development of other energy sources must be improved and the capacity of renewable power sectors must be increased. Since the establishment of the Norochcholai power plant in 2013, there were no other power plants established which could generate a considerable amount of electricity to the national grid. Currently Sri Lanka is experiencing the repercussions of it. Hence, it is vital to invest in advanced renewable energy power plants to safeguard the energy security of the country.

Contribution of people equally matters in this transformation to renewable energy. The government must educate the people on the advantages and the benefits of the transformation. Encouraging people to individually move on to renewable sources like solar energy must be done and in doing so the government must give the proper assistance, guidance and concessions. Further, diversifying our energy sources on a national level will be a good move to counter future threats and will help in insulating from supply shocks. Sri Lanka being an island nation, the potential of tidal power generation must be taken into consideration. More research and development must take place to identify the potential of it. On a concluding remark the current developments clearly denote that the future of power generation lies in the context of renewable energy. Therefore, it is crucial to address energy security in the context of renewable energy to ensure national security in the country.

Ms. Gayanga Dias was a Research Assistant at the Institute of National Security Studies (INSS). The opinion expressed is her own and not necessarily reflective of the institute.



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