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ICWA NEWSLETTER

INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS | SAPRU HOUSE, BARAKHAMBA ROAD, NEW DELHI

Interaction with the Delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia on " Maritime Affairs" Chaired by Shri Piyush Srivastava, IFS, Joint Secretary, ICWA 26 May 2016

A delegation comprising officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia visited ICWA on 26 May 2016. The delegation comprised Widya P. Gulton, Faiz Ahmad Nugroho, Agnes Rosari Dewi and Akbar Nugraha. The ICWA side was headed by Shri Piyush Shrivastava, JS, ICWA. Other members of the ICWA side comprised Dr. Pankaj Jha, Dr. Rahul Mishra, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar and Dr. Avinash Godbole.

Shri Srivasta welcomed the delegation to ICWA and intriduced the Indian perspective on regional maritime security. India is a stakeholder in the Southeast Asian security architecture because a lot of Seaborne Indian as well as Asian trade passes through the region and the transit routes are also important for the global oil transportation. Asia is also home to two most important oil transit checkpoints, Strait of Malacca and Strait of Hormuz and the disruption of these checkpoints may fuel an economic crisis in the world.

ICWA HIGHLIGHTS...

- **Roundtable on "The Al Qaida and the Daesh: The Present State of Play".**
- **Release of an ICWA publication entitled "A CHINA PRIMER: An Introduction to a Culture and a Neighbour", authored by Ambassador G.S. Iyer**
- **Meeting of the Head of Think Tanks (HoTT) Forum**
- **Interaction with the Delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia on "Maritime Affairs"**
- **Presentation on Conflict Prevention - The Impact of Supernational EU Legal Institutions" by H E Mr. Demetrios Theophylactou, High Commissioner of Cyprus**
- **Book Discussion on Shri Mohan K. Tikku's book " After the Fall: Sri Lanka in Victory and War"**

He said that enabling secure maritime environment is key for the Indian interests in the region and in that context, cooperation is the keyword of India's present and future actions in the region. He mentioned India's recent peaceful settlement of boundary with Bangladesh under UNCLOS as an example worthy of evaluation.

Mr. Widya Parsaoran Gultom spoke on the subject of Indonesia's Maritime Fulcrum Diplomacy and governance of maritime security. He said that the Joko Widodo government was keen to expand South-South cooperation as a major foreign policy instrument for Indonesia. In that case, Indonesia saw India as a key player in South-South Cooperation framework. The second objective of the visit, he said, was to explain Indonesia's maritime fulcrum diplomacy and seek regional engagement.

Roundtable On The Al Qaeda and Daesh: The Present State of Play

12 April 2016

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) organised a Roundtable on 'The Al Qaeda and Daesh: The Present State of Play' on 12 April 2016, at the Sapru House. The roundtable was attended by various dignitaries. In his welcome remarks, Director General, ICWA, Ambassador Nalin Surie introduced the research project on the above mentioned theme undertaken by a team of ICWA Research Fellows. The Roundtable was organised to have a critical view by the participating experts on the draft manuscript produced by the research team.

At the outset, the four members of the research team presented the manuscript. Dr. Zakir Hussain, team co-ordinator, introduced the subject. He talked about the domestic, regional and global causes of emergence and expansion of Al Qaeda and Daesh and the similarities and differences between the two groups.

In her presentation, Dr. Stuti Banerjee talked about the Al Qaeda and Daesh in the U.S. and Europe. She discussed how these groups, particularly, Daesh has been recruiting people from different background (rural/urban) from these areas.

She mentioned that the projection of jihadi propaganda and use of social media by Daesh have been important tools in attracting people/youth from the U.S. and Europe. She pointed out that because of the U.S. counter strikes at the major power centres of Daesh, the latter had asked its members to stay in their homeland and carry out attacks on the former from there. She also mentioned the responses of governments in two forms: military actions and non-military actions, which included family members and relatives divulging information to the intelligence agencies about the whereabouts of the cadres.

Dr. Indrani Talukdar talked about Al Qaeda and Daesh in Russia, Central Asia and Turkey. She stated that it was because of the Afghan policy adopted by Russia that terrorism had emerged. Dr. Talukdar discussed the policies of anti-terrorism followed in Russia along with the Taliban policy of the Kremlin. As far as Turkey is concerned, unlike Russia, it follows an ambivalent policy.

Dr. Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee discussed the presence of Al Qaeda and Daesh in South Asia, particularly Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives and India. However, Al Qaeda and IS plan to motivate the Muslim population of the region, has not yet received the response that they had expected.

Release of an ICWA publication entitled "**A CHINA PRIMER: An Introduction to a Culture and a Neighbour**", authored by **Ambassador G.S. Iyer**, which was released by **Dr. Shashi Tharoor**, M.P., Hon'ble Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs & Vice President of the Indian Council of World Affairs.

Interaction between ICWA faculty and students from Sudan

11 April 2016

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) organised a meet with Sudanese students and scholars on April 11, 2016 at Sapru House. Discussions between the research fellows of ICWA and the Sudanese scholars and students. The Sudanese delegation comprised of 25 students from the Higher Academy for Security and Strategic Studies (HASSS) under the Sudanese Ministry for Higher Education and Scientific Research. The discussions ranged from India Africa relations, role of Sudan in regional and international politics, threats and challenges faced by nations in South Asia and Africa and the manner in which such bilateral interactions can be enhanced.

Presentation on "Conflict Prevention – The Impact of Supernational EU Legal Institutions" H E Mr. Demetrios Theophylactou, High Commissioner of Cyprus

6 June 2016

High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus, H E Mr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou gave a presentation on the subject "Conflict Prevention – The Impact of the EU Supranational EU Legal Institutions" at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), Sapru House, New Delhi on 6th June, 2016. H E Mr. Tomasz Kozlowski, Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to India, delivered the opening remarks. The event was chaired by Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA, New Delhi.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Tomasz Kozlowski said that the EU is not a regular original intergovernmental organization. It is a regular regional integration organization. Second, he noted that the EU has evolved through legal treaties. Lisbon treaty is the last treaty, which has defined legal standard of the EU. Apart from national and international laws, the EU has a set of European laws. The EU acquis communnautaire consists of legislation, legal acts and court decisions. Third, Ambassador Kozlowski said that the European Parliament is directly elected by eligible voters of EU member states. The parliament has legislative powers and is a gathering of all member states of the EU. The powers of EU have been given by member states. The member states have pooled a part of their powers in the EU. It is believed that the EU is a better place to solve certain issues acting as one entity. He stated that the EU faces multiple challenges, such as fiscal crisis, migrant and refugee crisis, international terrorism, etc. It was not prepared to deal with some of these challenges. Thus, it took around three-four years to prepare itself to effectively d e a l with these challenges. He sounded positive on future of the EU and opined that it would emerge better after each crisis.

Mr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou thoroughly explained various aspects of EU role in the conflict prevention and conflict resolution. His presentation was divided into significance of soft power of the EU, rule of law at EU level, Europeanization of conflict resolution and prevention and the EU's soft and civilian power. He also discussed the reforms brought in and sustained people trust in the EU. The presentation was based on his research paper titled, "Conflict Prevention - The Impact of Supranational EU Legal Institutions," published in AALCO-Journal of International Law, Volume 4, Issue 1 (2015). He argued that European integration was aimed at not only ending the war, but also usher vigorous cooperation among the European countries. European peace architecture has further been strengthened through evolution of EU institutions. The EU has created the EEC, EURATOM, the Custom Union, Common Agriculture Policy, etc. Despite some crises, the European integration project has gradually matured. Based on the soft/normative measures, the EU has played an important role in promoting peaceful resolution of conflict and addressing causes of conflicts.

Mr. Theophylactou noted that legal aspect of EU model has long-term impact. Soft power in terms of institutional capacity is an important aspect of the EU. In his view, the EU is better positioned than national governments to deal with international terrorism, transnational crimes and other global and regional threats. Citizens' trust in the supranational legal institutions is higher than the respective national ones.

On EU reforms and rise of Euroskepticism, he was of the view that the EU would implement the Lisbon treaty. Democratic deficit has become a crucial political issue in the European politics. There is a demand for greater role for the national parliaments. The normative approach and legal aspects of the EU attract citizens outside the Union.

He concluded that the EU is still perceived as a more effective entity than national governments. People have trust in the EU institutions. The EU model transcends a soft power mainly emanating from its legal structures and fundamental laws.

Rise of far right parties, fiscal and economic challenges, energy union, Brexit, EU role in maritime security and Asia Pacific, and democracy discussed during the Q&A. The EU is able to maintain synergies among its member states on crucial policy issues. In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Tomasz said that the EU is still evolving, therefore, it is successful sometimes and it could not deliver up to the expectation in other cases. He discussed the legitimization of authority, conflict prevention not by force and the EU engagement in Balkans. He also noted that EU is successful in Central and Eastern Europe.

High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus,
H E Mr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou

15th Meeting of the Governing Body and Governing Council of ICWA

28 June 2016

Book Discussion on Shri Mohan K. Tikku's book "After the Fall: Sri Lanka in Victory and War", 30 June 2016

The Indian Council of World Affairs organised the Book Discussion on "After the Fall: Sri Lanka in Victory and War" by Shri Mohan K. Tiku on 30 June 2016 at the premises of ICWA. The Director General (DG) of ICWA, Ambassador Nalin Surie opened the discussion.

The author said that the book starts after the cease fire that took place in Sri Lanka between the Sri Lankan government and LTTE in 2002. The book studies the dynamics of the transition from 'war making' to 'peace making' under the tenure of former President Percy Mahendra "Mahinda" Rajapaksa in 2005. The author linked the increased production of military hardware, foreign aid and support of the International Community to the victory of the Sri Lankan government. According to the author, the victory would not have been possible without the support of the International Community.

Shri Tikku concluded by saying that there were certain peculiarities and dynamics in Sri Lanka for which the model of eliminating the LTTE by the government cannot be applied on other conflicts of the world.

The first discussant of the book was Ambassador Ashok K. Kantha. He said that the contemporary concerns such as information on the missing people, JVP movement, deficiency of governance, human rights violation etc. that the author touched upon in the book are valuable contribution to the existing literature that would help in highlighting India's strategy towards the country.

The second discussant was Dr. Samatha Mallempati, Research Fellow at ICWA spoke about the relevance of the book in the contemporary times. She also brought the common point that the panellists observed that there is a thin line between intervention and infringement of sovereignty of a state. How to use this right in internal conflicts is debatable. In her conclusion, she suggested that the author could have explained in the book more on the consequences of using these rights.

The third discussant was Shri H.K. Dua, former M.P. and Senior Journalist. He said that the book gives an account of war and peace. He said that India cannot keep away from Sri Lanka as it is its immediate neighbour. He said that with the Indian Ocean becoming active in future, relation between India and Sri Lanka will become active. Balance has to be there between India and China, and New Delhi needs to work out its own national interests. He suggested that both the countries can join hands in exploiting fish from Indo-Sri Lankan waters and beyond. He gave the example of the cooperative model of the Indian company Amul. He said that both countries, with alternate chairmanship, can open a joint company on fishery and let the fishermen of both the countries have stakes in the profits. This kind of arrangement will alleviate the tension between the fishermen. He said that modern fishing facilities for catching fishes can be explored by both the countries fishermen and sell the catch abroad. The selling of the fishes abroad will help the fishermen to be rich that will allay the insecurities within them. He said that these ideas can be implemented by both governments.

About **ICWA**

The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) is a prestigious pro-active autonomous Think Tank specializing in foreign policy issues and external affairs. It was established in 1943 by a group of eminent intellectuals under the inspiration of Jawaharlal Nehru, who served as the first Prime Minister of India. The Council conducts policy research through its in-house faculty as well as external experts. It regularly organizes an array of intellectual activities including conferences, seminars, round table discussions, lectures and publication. It maintains a landmark and well established library, website and a journal named 'India Quarterly'. It is engaged in raising public awareness about India's role in international affairs and offers to the Government and people policy models and strategies, and serves as a platform for Track-II dialogue and interaction with other foreign Think Tanks.

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