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U.S.-Singapore-Malaysia-Indonesia Multilateral Dialogue on Biosecurity: Year 2

Center on Contemporary Conflict; Cicero, Anita

Monterey, California: Naval Postgraduate School

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The Project on Advanced Systems and Concepts for Countering WMD (PASCC) is run at the Center on Contemporary Studies (CCC) and sponsored by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). PASCC awards and supports strategic studies and dialogues that anticipate and try to reduce the threat of WMD capabilities.



The CCC has a respected track record for providing research and timely analysis on a variety of topics to leading decision makers in the U.S. national security community. Located in the Naval Postgraduate School, the CCC is the research wing of the Department of National Security Affairs.

Research in Progress describes ongoing PASCC research. For more information, please contact pascc@nps.edu.

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U.S.-Singapore-Malaysia-Indonesia Multilateral Dialogue on Biosecurity: Year 2

Performer: University of Pennsylvania Medical
Center (UPMC) Center for Health Security

Project Lead: Anita Cicero

Project Cost: \$223,784

FY16–17

Objective:

This follow-on project will comprise two biosecurity dialogues among the United States, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia to address regional risks related to deliberate or accidental misuse of biological materials, biosecurity and biosafety vulnerabilities at high-containment laboratories, security issues posed by dual-use science, and infectious disease outbreaks that might pose security threats. Countries in Southeast Asia are particularly vulnerable to biosecurity threats due to the region's dense population, high volume of cross-border traffic, and frequent, close-quarter co-location of humans and animals. For these reasons, Southeast Asia is susceptible to emerging and re-emerging diseases (e.g., SARS, H5N1, Nipah virus). Bioscience labs are also becoming more common in the region, and “viral sovereignty” continues to be an issue. Moreover, there are known terrorist networks active in the area.

Approach:

UPMC will convene two two-day meetings to address a range of issues relevant to biosecurity in Southeast Asia, including the prevention of biothreats, strategic weapons of the future and evolving biothreats, sharing pathogens and data during international public health emergencies, and preventing accidental misuse of biological materials. The first meeting will be held in Washington, DC, and the second meeting will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia. Prevention, detection, and response capabilities and challenges will be discussed in relation to biological weapons, laboratory accidents, and high-consequence infectious disease outbreaks. In addition, the group will consider emerging and future technologies in the biological sciences that could present security risks (as well as economic opportunities). Dual-use research of concern and possible insider threats will also be addressed.

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