

in conjunction with

Security, Terrorism and Counterterrorism Studies

AN ARMS RACE IN THE REGION? SOUTHEAST ASIAN DEFENCE POLICIES, MILITARY SPENDING AND WEAPONS PROCUREMENT

A Public Lecture presented by Dr Tim Huxley,
Executive Director, The International Institute for Strategic Studies –
Asia, Singapore

With economies in the region manifesting renewed vigour, and amidst inter-state tensions which are in some cases unabated, during the present decade Southeast Asian states' defence spending has expanded in real terms, providing funding for major military procurement programmes. Armed forces in the region are investing heavily not only in sophisticated conventional arms such as multi-role combat aircraft, guided-missile armed 'stealth' frigates and destroyers, modern submarines, and cruise missiles but also in crucial 'force-multipliers' such as in-flight refuelling and airborne early warning aircraft. Some Southeast Asian armed forces are also changing their organisational, logistical and training arrangements, as well as emphasising acquisition of new command, control, communications and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems, in order to take advantage of the opportunities that contemporary technology offers for developing highly-mobile, hard-hitting 'networked' forces. These developments raise important questions. What factors are driving this military modernisation? Is there evidence of an incipient arms race which might further entrench bilateral tensions and thereby destabilise regional security? And what is the relevance for Australia of this upgrading of Southeast Asian armed forces?

Monday 28th April 2008

10:30 am

Murdoch University Senate Room

All Welcome

Tim Huxley was educated at Oriel College, Oxford, the University of Wales Aberystwyth and the Australian National University. He has worked for many years in the overlap between strategic studies and Asian area studies, his research focusing particularly on Southeast Asian states' security and defence policies. He has held research and teaching posts at universities in the UK and Australia, and worked for several years at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. Before joining the IISS in 2003, he was Reader in South-East Asian Politics and Director of the Centre for South-East Asian Studies at the University of Hull. His major publications include *Defending the Lion City: The Armed Forces of Singapore* (Allen & Unwin, 2000) and *Disintegrating Indonesia? Implications for Regional Security* (IISS Adelphi Paper 349, July 2002). Since joining the IISS, he has contributed extensive analysis of recent security-related developments in Southeast Asia and Australasia to *Strategic Survey*, *The Military Balance*, and the *Strategic Comments* series. He is also editor of the IISS Adelphi Paper series, and is closely involved in organising the Shangri-La Dialogue (Asia Security Summit), an annual conference in Singapore for Asia-Pacific defence ministers and military chiefs.

No charge for attendance but registration required by 21st April to Tamara Dent, Asia Research Centre at t.dent@murdoch.edu.au