



**Institute for Defense Analyses**  
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## **Council for Asian Terrorism Research (CATR)**

**CATR Open Symposium**  
**Tokyo**  
**November 12, 2008**

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## **CATR's Mission**

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- To build a network of Asian terrorism researchers who are:
  - Country-based specialists on terrorism
  - Familiar with local culture and languages
  - Career subject-matter experts from a range of disciplines
  
- To Produce
  - High-quality, collaborative terrorism and counter-terrorism publications
  - Bi-annual regional forums for in-depth discussion of terrorism and counter-terrorism topics of mutual interest
  - Collaborative relationships between senior counter-terrorism policymakers and subject matter experts
  - High-quality/low-cost analytical products
  - Access to alternative intelligence perspectives



## Planning for CATR

- Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), USA, and South East Asian Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT), Malaysia, co-hosted a conference on counter terrorism in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 18-20, 2005.
- Participating Countries: Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and U.S.
- Participants agreed to discuss in the near future the establishment of a permanent forum.
- The Publication: *Proceedings of the International Symposium on the Dynamics and Structure of Terrorist Threats in Southeast Asia*.
- The US Ambassador to Malaysia said, “One of the most successful regional conferences that I am aware of...”



## CATR's Founding

- CATR was founded in Jakarta in July 2005
- Founding Institutions:
  - State Islamic University (UIN), Indonesia
  - SEARCCT, Malaysia
  - Int'l Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, Singapore
  - Int'l Center for Terrorism Research and Conflict Management, Sri Lanka
  - IDA, U.S.
- The founding institutions agreed to convene the first bi-annual conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka in the fall of 2005, and selected UIN to hold the first chair.
- IDA drafted the Charter and suggested the name; founding members ratified these decisions.



## History of the Bi-Annual CATR Conferences

- 1<sup>st</sup> Conference: Bali, Indonesia, Oct 2005  
Theme: Anatomy of Terrorism in South Asia
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference: Colombo, Sri Lanka, March 2006  
Theme: How Do Terrorist Movements Start?
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference: Goa, India, October 2006  
Theme: Creating Effective State and Regional Responses to Counter-Terrorism
- 4<sup>th</sup> Conference: Manila, March 2007  
Theme: Understanding Terrorist Group Behavior for a More Effective Policy Response
- 5<sup>th</sup> Conference: Kuala Lumpur, November 2007  
Theme: Understanding the Role of the Media in Facilitating the Spread of Radical Ideology
- 6<sup>th</sup> Conference: Sydney, Australia, May 2008  
Theme: Terrorist Use of Cyber Operations/Attack and Post-Iraq: Where Will the Jihadis Go, and Is Your Region Ready?



## CATR's Current Membership

- **Afghanistan** –Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies (CAPS)
- **Australia** –Centre for Policing, Intelligence and Counterterrorism (PICT),  
Macquarie University
- **Bangladesh** –Bangladesh Institute of International & Strategic Studies (BISS);  
Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS)
- **India** –Institute for Conflict Management (ICM)
- **Indonesia** –Center for the Study of Islam and Society, State Islamic University
- **Japan** –Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society (RISTEX)
- **Malaysia** –Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT)
- **Pakistan** –Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS)
- **Philippines** –Strategic and Integrative Studies Center (SISC); Philippines  
Institute for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (IPVTR)
- **Singapore** –International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR)
- **Sri Lanka** –International Centre for Terrorism Research and Conflict Management (ICTRCM)
- **U.S.** –Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA)



## IDA's Role in CATR

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- IDA is a private, not-for-profit federally funded research and development center (FFRDC).
- IDA coordinated the creation of the CATR and drafted the charter at the request of other founding members.
- IDA has provided administrative and financial support to bi-annual conferences, executive board meetings, and publications of proceedings and the White Paper.
- IDA develops the CATR research agenda and works closely with other CATR members to map out plans for the future.
- IDA facilitates dialogue among members and suggests research topics.
- IDA shares the insights gained from conferences and members' research with relevant policy makers in the US and in the region



## CATR's Support for U.S. Government Interests

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- CATR provides insight from local analysts for U.S. military and government officials.
- CATR facilitates cooperative research on key factors related to the origins and conduct of the global campaign against terrorism.
- CATR has established an open and neutral forum for discussion and intellectual cross-pollination.



## **CATR and U.S. Strategic Communication Goals**

- CATR contributes materially to our understanding of regional cultures, attitudes, and interests.
- Assists policymakers in understanding the global implications of U.S. policy.
- Provides input and advice to U.S. policymakers, diplomats, and military leaders.
- Enables the US to communicate with and engage influential regional elites.
- Conveys positive impressions of U.S. commitment and policy to regional audiences of policymakers, researchers, students, and journalists.
- CATR's sustained strategic communication effort makes it possible to measure the impact of CATR's activities over time.

15 December 2008

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