

ASIA PACIFIC DEFENSE

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 2, 2014

# FORUM

## CHANGING CITYSCAPES

Innovation, Development and  
Growth Bring Security Challenges

PLUS

Building Partnerships on  
a Himalayan Mountaintop



# features

- 
- An aerial photograph of a dense urban landscape, likely in China, showing numerous high-rise apartment buildings and commercial structures. In the foreground, a construction worker wearing a white hard hat and a blue shirt is perched on the edge of a tall, dark red steel framework, looking out over the city. The sky is overcast.
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**ABOUT THE COVER:**

This image of workers dining in their quarters at a construction site in Hefei, Anhui province, China, captures some of the tensions of a city's evolution. REUTERS



U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of *Asia Pacific Defense FORUM*, which focuses on military, political and socio-economic transitions across the Indo Asia Pacific that impact the regional and global security landscape.

Burma's ongoing evolution to an open democracy continues to captivate public and private sector spectators eager to participate in the movement through

partnerships. Countries such as Japan and China have pledged millions of dollars in projects, and foreign banks have trickled in, setting up offices as the Burmese economy grows. In the background, a 2015 election with wide-reaching implications for Burma gains attention and scrutiny.

This issue also examines the progression of megacities, defined as urban areas with more than 10 million people. The Indo-Asia-Pacific region will boast 11 of the world's top 20 largest cities by 2015. Within this context, this edition highlights opportunities and analyzes challenges megacities face for fostering stability, achieving sustainable development and implementing good governance.

In recognition of the importance of advancing one's military career, this issue includes a guide for transitioning into new roles. Certain basic tenets of a good leader resonate, whether an individual has been newly appointed to a position of power or has held a leadership position for years. Top leaders build credibility by knowing what their superiors expect, meeting with subordinates, and assessing their own strengths and weaknesses.

Few countries have garnered as much attention and resources in recent years as Afghanistan. As 160,000 international troops exit the country in 2014, Afghanistan regains control of maintaining order and managing the economy. Its strategic location at the heart of Central Asia make proper management of the short- and long-term goals during and after the troop withdrawal that much more critical.

Readers' voices and experiences are what make *FORUM* engaging and authentic. This issue includes perspectives from Maj. Gen. David Gawn, chief of the New Zealand Army. His insights provide a platform to enlighten readers and generate thoughtful deliberations.

*FORUM* strives to engage readers in discussions about issues and solutions that can make a difference for families, communities and nations. This issue aims to stimulate dialogue about domestic and international transitions affecting the global security landscape.

Please contact us at [contact-apdf@apdforum.com](mailto:contact-apdf@apdforum.com) with your thoughts.

All the best,

SAMUEL J. LOCKLEAR, III  
Admiral, USN  
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## APD FORUM

### Transitions

Volume 39, Issue 2, 2014

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MELANIE WHITMARSH

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is a freelance journalist based in Jakarta, Indonesia, where she has been reporting for the *International Herald Tribune* and *The Christian Science Monitor* newspapers and other publications. Her stories have addressed a range of issues, from violence against minority Shiites to how a growing middle class is shaping trends. Schonhardt also has lived

and worked in Thailand and Cambodia. In this issue of *FORUM*, she explores how the evolution of so-called megacities will impact the security landscape.

Featured on Page 16



JENNIFER WOOD

**ROHIT GANDHI**

is an award-winning television journalist, correspondent and documentary filmmaker. He won an Emmy Award in 2010 for his film *The Afghan Warrior* and won the Edward R. Murrow Award for his documentary on child brides. Based in New Delhi, he has traveled extensively across Afghanistan and Pakistan for more than a decade.

In this issue, he analyzes aspirations for future security in Afghanistan. Featured on Page 34 and Page 38



CAPT. MATTHEW HICKEY/U.S. ARMY ALASKA

**CAPT. MATTHEW HICKEY**

is a U.S. Army artillery officer assigned to 4th Brigade (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. He honed his skills as a military mountaineer while training in Alaska. Most recently, he attended the Indian Army's High Altitude Warfare School in Jammu and Kashmir, India. In this issue, he

writes about his experience at the 11-week mountain course. Featured on Page 46

# Join the Discussion

We want to hear from YOU!

*Asia Pacific Defense FORUM* caters to military and security personnel in the Asia-Pacific region. A product of U.S. Pacific Command, the quarterly magazine provides high-quality, in-depth content on topics that impact security efforts across the region — from counterterrorism to international cooperation and natural disasters.

*FORUM* provokes thoughtful discussions and encourages a healthy exchange of ideas. Submit articles, pictures, topics for discussion or other comments to us ONLINE or at:

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## NEW ZEALAND

# WILDLIFE SMUGGLER

## NETTED WITH FISH IN PANTS

**A** Vietnamese man's attempt to smuggle tropical fish into New Zealand in his pants floundered when he tried to get through customs with his pockets dripping water, officials said in August 2013.

The man arrived at Auckland's airport from Australia, and officials suspected something fishy as liquid seeped from his bulging cargo pants pockets, the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) said.

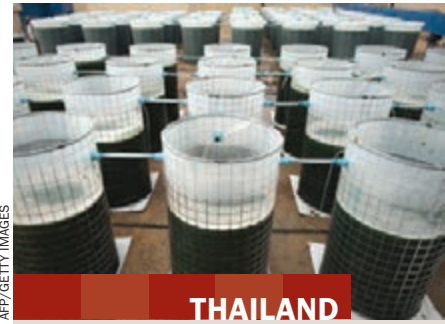
The man said he was carrying water from the plane because

he was thirsty, but subsequent questioning uncovered the fish, the MPI said.

The man had seven fish, all an unidentified species of cichlid, hidden in two plastic bags in his pockets, MPI said. Once caught, he told officers he was bringing them to New Zealand for a friend.

MPI spokesman Craig Hughes said the man will face charges under the Biosecurity Act, which carries maximum penalties of five years in jail or an N.Z. \$100,000 (U.S. \$78,000) fine.

Agence France-Presse



## THAILAND

# EDIBLE ALGAE

COMING TO A ROOFTOP NEAR YOU?

**O**n a hotel rooftop in Bangkok, dozens of barrels of green liquid bubble under the sun — the latest innovation in urban farming.

Proponents of the edible algae, known as spirulina, say it could help provide a sustainable source of protein as an alternative to meat.

Three times a week, Patsakorn Thaveeuchukorn harvests green algae in the barrels. "If you compare it to meat, it will take six months to grow a kilogram of beef, but this we can grow in a week," said Patsakorn.

Spirulina has been described by health food experts as a super food, and it is becoming more popular worldwide.

The empty spaces on top of Bangkok's many skyscrapers provide suitable growing conditions for spirulina, because the constant high temperatures and sunlight are ideal breeding conditions.

The algae also helps combat carbon dioxide levels through photosynthesis, its champions say, and growing it in cities means it can reach consumers the same day it is harvested.

Agence France-Presse



# CLIMBERS STRIVE TO SCALE FIVE MORE PEAKS

Nepal wants to open five more peaks above 8,000 meters for mountaineers to scale when the autumn climbing season begins, a tourism official said in August 2013.



Climbers push on to Mount Everest's summit.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The Himalayan nation has allowed climbers on eight mountains above 8,000 meters, including the world's tallest peak Mount Everest.

Nepal desires to open three peaks in the Kanchenjunga region and two from the Everest region. Lhotse Middle, Lhotse Shar, Kanchenjunga South, Kanchenjunga Central and Kanchenjunga West — all above 8,400 meters — could open for expeditions if the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation approves the plan.

Successfully conquering all the "8,000ers" is regarded as one of the hardest and most dangerous challenges a mountaineer can take on.

Only a handful of the world's climbers have successfully scaled the 14 independent peaks that measure more than 8,000 meters, all of which lie in the Himalayan and Karakoram mountain ranges.

Agence France-Presse

INDIA



## ROCKET RACES to the Red Planet

India has launched its first spacecraft bound for Mars, a complex mission that it hopes will demonstrate and advance

technologies for space travel.

Hundreds of people in November 2013 watched the rocket carrying the Mars orbiter take off from the east-coast island of Sriharikota and streak across the sky.

If the U.S. \$72 million mission is successful, India will become only the fourth nation to visit the red planet after the Soviet Union, the United States and Europe. The orbiter Mangalyaan, which means "Mars craft" in Hindi, will reach the planet in September 2014.

Decades of space research have allowed India to develop satellite, communications and remote sensing technologies that are helping to solve everyday problems at home, from forecasting where fish can be caught to predicting storms and floods. The Associated Press

TAIWAN

## TEMPERAMENTAL DUCK



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A giant yellow inflatable duck has been outfitted with a 24-hour monitoring device to prevent it from bursting. The duck exploded on New Year's Eve 2013 while on display at a Taiwan port because of rising pressure caused by rapid temperature changes.

Hundreds turned out in Keelung on the north of the island to welcome back the 18-meter-tall duck following two days of maintenance after it deflated into a floating yellow disk. It was the second time that a replica of the bath toy had burst while on show in Taiwan. The original duck, designed by Dutch artist Florentin Hofman, was roughly 42 centimeters. Since 2007, giant ducks of various sizes have traveled to 14 cities in nine countries, including Australia, Brazil and Hong Kong. Agence France-Presse



# HOPE *Springs* FROM HAIYAN

HUMANITARIAN AID AND RELIEF EFFORTS SHOW THE POWER OF COOPERATION, RESILIENCY OF THE PHILIPPINES

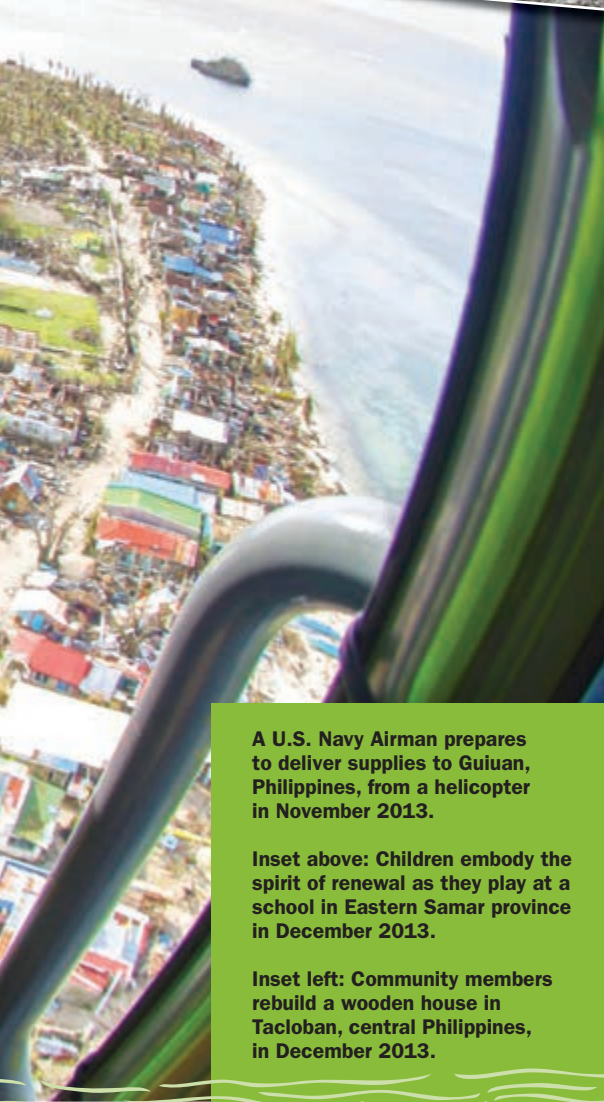
FORUM STAFF

AFP/GETTY IMAGES



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





**A U.S. Navy Airman prepares to deliver supplies to Guiuan, Philippines, from a helicopter in November 2013.**

**Inset above: Children embody the spirit of renewal as they play at a school in Eastern Samar province in December 2013.**

**Inset left: Community members rebuild a wooden house in Tacloban, central Philippines, in December 2013.**

Satellite images revealed a storm like few others. Wind speeds hit 320 kilometers per hour — making Typhoon

Haiyan the strongest recorded storm ever to reach landfall. Known as Yolanda locally, the ferocious cyclonic swirl at times stretched 600 kilometers across. On November 7, 2013, it became the deadliest storm known to strike the Philippines. Typhoon Haiyan claimed more than 6,000 lives and affected more than 4.2 million people, causing an estimated U.S. \$14 billion in damage across 36 provinces, according to December 2013 figures released by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

No matter the sophistication or level of preparations, Typhoon Haiyan's sheer force trounced the best of them, analysts observed. Further frustrating the savviest of planners, the typhoon's storm surge ravaged shores much like a tsunami. "We were ready for the typhoon in the sense that we prepared as best as we could and were very aggressive with our pre-emptive evacuation," Ormoc City official Ruben Capahi said. "But with a typhoon of this scale, everything in this city was damaged if not destroyed."

Within a month of the storm, however, the nation was on the way to recovery. Rebuilding had begun. International and local aid pledges topped U.S. \$320 million. Countries including Australia, Canada, China, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates and United States promised millions in relief, as did such organizations as the United Nations and Asian Development Bank.

Although Haiyan taught planners some difficult lessons, success stories quickly emerged from the debris. Many Philippine authorities took immediate action. Members of the military and civilians proved apt first responders. As a *Washington Post* community blogger described, the Filipino tradition of helping one's neighbor with all that one can was demonstrated not only nationally but globally. People from myriad cultures

and backgrounds provided a steady pipeline of aid and human resources to start rebuilding the nation, helping to clear many roads and reopen schools before the new year dawned.

For example, the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) helped during the initial response to alleviate human suffering by opening airfields, enabling follow-on forces and bridging the gap between local and external organizations. "It is ultimately the little things that are helping the people the most and are making things better. It's the handshake, the smile, the hug and the positive demeanor of the U.S. forces," Capahi said.

"Our biggest challenge was receiving so many different aid organizations and international groups at once and linking them up with the local government," said U.S. Army and JSOTF-P Maj. Herb Daniels. After the first week of relief, Australian forces supplemented the U.S. troops and helped local governments focus on the challenges of long-term recovery.

Philippine disaster relief professionals also initiated longer-term programs to help residents rebuild. The Associated Press reported. Philippine Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman told reporters that the government was building temporary housing and paying residents to help distribute supplies and goods. "We will provide material to rebuild their houses; however, we stressed to the local governments that new shelters have to be built 40 meters away from the shoreline on high tide," she said. The storm underscored the need for greater investment in infrastructure, analysts said.

Local leaders seized the opportunity to improve what stood before. For example, in Tacloban, one of the hardest hit cities, senior city official Tecson John Lim pushed to "rebuild a better city," *The Economist* magazine reported. If local, national and international support and cooperation continue, as signs indicate, a new and more secure skyline will rise countrywide. □





BURMA'S

# BIG BREAK

THE REOPENED NATION UPGRADES  
ITS IMAGE AND RENEWS GLOBAL  
PARTNERSHIPS AMID TRANSITIONS  
TO A DEMOCRACY AND NEW  
LEADERSHIP



GETTY IMAGES

#### FORUM STAFF

It's a place of glittering shopping malls and a burger joint called "Tasmania." The roads expand as wide as 16 lanes. Plans call for the country's tallest building to soon pierce the skyline. Some say it will be the tallest in Southeast Asia.

"It's a place of stark contrast to so much of what we see in Myanmar [Burma] today," said Dr. Nicholas Farrelly, a research fellow in the College of Asia and the Pacific at the Australian National University.

Welcome to Nay Pyi Taw, Burma's newest capital city and the place where the world's youngest democracy has taken its seat.

In November 2005, Burma moved its capital from the port city of Yangon, still known by some as Rangoon, to the more centrally located Nay Pyi Taw, 320 kilometers north.

"Nay Pyi Taw is in the middle. Real Burmese kings have always ruled from the middle," Dr. Miemie Byrd, a professor at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Hawaii and an expert on Burma, told *FORUM*. "They're just going back to their roots."

She described Nay Pyi Taw, host of the 2013 Southeast Asian Games, as being a "hub." Travelers can easily access any of the country's tourist destinations from there.

Since the earliest kingdom of Pagan in the year 849, Burma's capital has been moved 38 times, each having an average tenure of 52 years, according to Farrelly.

"In my estimation, the future of Nay Pyi Taw is the future of Myanmar," Farrelly said during a presentation on the new capital at the East-West Center in Washington, D.C., in September 2013. "If we want to get to grips in the years ahead of what Myanmar will turn into, then we need to understand Nay Pyi Taw and all it will come to represent."

By all accounts, the capital city and national democracy remain under construction.

The newness of Burma's open democracy and rising capital city have spurred business relationships from first-time investors and reinvigorated interest from old ones. Burma approved more than U.S. \$1.8 billion in foreign direct investment from partners during the beginning of the fiscal year that began April 1 through

the end of August 2013, compared to U.S. \$1.4 billion in the previous fiscal year, *International Business Times* reported in September 2013.

Still, economic investments alone can't ensure the country succeeds at political openness. "They know they have a lot of challenges," Byrd said. "The young democracy is one of the most challenging times to maintain stability and security."

Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who has declared her candidacy for president for Burma's 2015 elections, continues to make impassioned pleas for political reforms and national reconciliation.

**High gates and wide 10-lane roads surround Burma's massive parliament building in Nay Pyi Taw.**



“Nobody wants to invest in a country that is not at peace. Peace and prosperity can be obtained only if we, the people, decide that we can do it together and must do it together,” Suu Kyi said in September 2013. “This is why, when we talk about transition, we have to start with national reconciliation. No transition of any kind can succeed in Burma unless we can forge unity out of the great diversity which is the richness of our country.”

### POLITICAL FUTURE

The international media continues to predict a landslide victory for Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy (NLD) party in 2015. Despite her overwhelming domestic and international popularity, Suu Kyi and her party face many challenges. Rebuilding a party, whose members were brutally oppressed and jailed for nearly the past two decades, presents a tremendous task. The NLD appears to struggle with organizational management aspects. Suu Kyi has spent most of the past 20 years under house arrest and in isolation. As such, her resumé lacks extensive management experience, especially leading a large organization through a volatile and complex political and social transitional period. Critics continue to point out her party’s lack of overall strategy, resources and inability to articulate cohesive policy platform.

Meanwhile, the ruling party, Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), has become “a political force in its own right with an interest in maintaining its position of power,” according to Adam MacDonald, a researcher for East Asia Forum. The politically astute Thura Shwe Mann, Union Parliament speaker and chairman of the USDP, has set a goal for himself to replace the current president, Thein Sein, and is charting the course for USDP’s victory in

2015. Additionally, Shwe Mann appears to hold the key to enable a constitutional amendment that will remove barriers currently making Suu Kyi ineligible for the presidency. He has already begun to exercise his political influence, stating publicly in October 2013 that the government should allow Suu Kyi a chance to become president, *The Irawaddy* reported.

The international community remains watchful of Burma’s politics with interest, intrigue and caution. Spectators view the 2015 election as a litmus test for authenticity of Burma’s political transition.

### MILITARY ENGAGEMENT

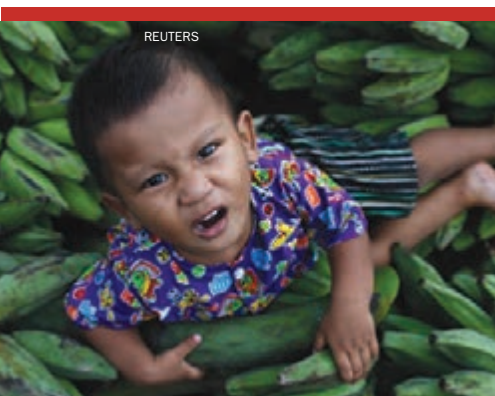
Change takes time. More importantly, it’s what you do with that time that makes the difference.

The world has entered what Byrd calls a “crucial window” for reaching out to the Burmese military. Engagement with them remains central to helping them weave a new vision, she said.

“I would like to see modernization of the civil-military relations between Myanmar Tatmadaw [Burma’s Armed Forces] and civilian-led government,” Byrd said. “They [the military] know they have to change. They want to change, but they don’t know how to change.”

September 18, 2013, marked the 25th anniversary of the most recent military takeover in Burma. It was also the third major military intervention since political independence. The first came in 1958 and the second in 1962.

“There is no guarantee that the present quasi-civilian government will amend the 2008 constitution to remove the inherent role of military in politics. There is uncertainty whether the 2015 elections will be held in a free and fair manner,” *Foreign Policy Journal* asserted in September 2013. “There is every reason to be



REUTERS



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Left: A boy plays on bananas at a wholesale market in Yangon in September 2013.**

**Right: Honor guards participate in a ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw in June 2013, marking the 65th anniversary of Independence Day.**

## AUTHORITIES TAKE STRONG STANCE ON DISCRIMINATION

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Burma's influential parliament speaker vowed in June 2013 to press forward with democratic reforms. However, he said the country already had laws against discrimination amid furor over anti-Muslim violence.

Burma's lower house speaker, Thura Shwe Mann, a former general who is a key architect of reforms and is eyeing the presidency, was visiting Washington, D.C. He said he hoped to study the U.S. democratic system, including the separation of government powers.

"For the interest of our people and the international community, we wish to see that a continuous democratic system is deeply rooted in Myanmar [Burma]," he said at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars.

Leading a delegation of lawmakers, Shwe Mann said that he hoped to encourage reconciliation in the long conflict-torn nation and also to build a "more inclusive society."

Asked whether parliament needed to do more to protect the Rohingya Muslim minority after a wave of violence, Shwe Mann said that "actions will be taken" against anyone who violated existing laws. "According to our law, discrimination does not exist, whether you are a Rohingya or whether you call them Bengali, or even in religion," he said.

"There are still some weaknesses in terms of the rule of law. Therefore, we are working hard so that the rule of law will prevail in Myanmar," he said.

Burma's roughly 800,000 Rohingya are considered by the United Nations to be one of the world's most persecuted minorities. Burma does not consider them to be citizens, saying they are illegal migrants from Bangladesh, and local authorities have reimposed a ban on Rohingya having more than two children.

Up to 140,000 people — mainly Rohingya — were displaced in two waves of sectarian unrest between Buddhists and Muslims in Rakhine state in 2012 that left about 200 people dead. Burma has faced strong international criticism regarding the Rohingya, a stark contrast to the enthusiasm for democratic reforms in recent years that have included an easing of censorship and freeing of political prisoners.

Shwe Mann told Radio Free Asia while in Washington, D.C., that he plans to run for president in 2015, making him the only declared candidate besides opposition icon Aung San Suu Kyi, who was freed from house arrest in 2010.



**Burmese delegates attend a parliament session in the capital city of Nay Pyi Taw in August 2013.** AFP/GETTY IMAGES

optimistic about the democratic reforms. But given the nature of Myanmar's historical problems and the inherent role of military in politics, there are also reasons to be concerned about long-term solutions."

The military continues to remain an influential and powerful element in Burma's political landscape. At least for now. "The way to transform their mindset and shift their paradigm is through engagement, not through isolation," Byrd said.

Many Burmese, including ethnic insurgents and student opposition leaders, believe the isolation of the Burmese military has bred ignorance for international norms and practices in human rights within the leadership and the rank and file. Many of them saw news of the U.S. military's re-engagement as encouraging.

### EVOLVING ECONOMICS

The Burmese government and people want to diversify their economy and reduce overreliance on China. There seemed to be a rising tide of concern within the populace regarding China's overdominance in Burma's economy, Byrd said.

In recent years, Burma has seen increased investment from South Korean companies. Most Burmese businesses appeared to welcome South Koreans' business practices. In contrast with Chinese companies, the Burmese seemed to appreciate that South Koreans do not import large numbers of their own laborers and create their own communities within their host nation.

South Korea and Burma established formal diplomatic ties in 1975. Foreign ministers from the two countries met in 2012 and agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, resources, infrastructure and development.

The list of future South Korean investments encompasses a range of industries, according to Mizzima News Agency. Among the areas of investment: construction, mining, agriculture, electricity, energy, logistics and freight-



SUU KYI:

## CONSTITUTION CHANGES 'CRUCIAL' FOR BURMA'S TRANSITION

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Burma's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said in September 2013 that her country "cannot be a democratic nation as long as the [present] constitution is in effect."

Speaking in Hungary during a tour of central Europe, Suu Kyi said a report ordered by the legislature on possible changes to the constitution would "show how genuine the present government is about democratization."

"The next few months will be crucial for the country's future," she said.

The constitution was crafted under the former military regime. Under it, anyone, such as Suu Kyi, whose spouse or children are foreign nationals is blocked from leading the country.



**Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at Yangon International airport after a visit to Singapore in September 2013.** AFP/GETTY IMAGES

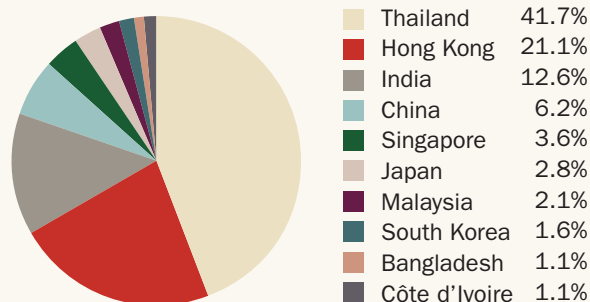
"If the government does not support moves to amend the constitution, then we can conclude that the government is not interested in genuine democracy," Suu Kyi, who has said she will run for president in 2015, told reporters.

Answering a question from a reporter who asked if boycotting the elections was an option, Suu Kyi said, "We believe in keeping doors open for as long as possible."

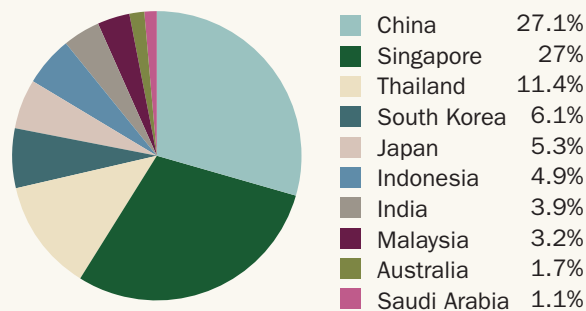
Suu Kyi spent 15 years under house arrest during military rule in Burma before she was freed after controversial elections in 2010. The democracy icon is now an opposition lawmaker as part of sweeping reforms under a new quasi-civilian regime that took office in 2011.

## BURMA FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES

Main Customers (% of Exports) 2010



Main Suppliers (% of Imports) 2010



SOURCE: WWW.SUDDEFRANCE-DEVELOPPEMENT.COM

FORUM ILLUSTRATION

forwarding, vehicles and auto parts, communication and multimedia, iron and steel, agro-fishery, timber and wood, financing, real estate, garment, transport, hotel and tourism and civil engineering.

Commercial trade between Burma and South Korea topped U.S. \$970 million in 2011, Mizzima reported. "There is a lot of potential to make further progress in our bilateral relations," South Korean Foreign Minister Kim Sung-hawn said in August 2012, according to Mizzima, adding that ties with Burma "have been strengthened almost every day."

Once a strong investor in Burma, China has seen its interests decline since Burma's political makeover began in 2011. "China perceives that Myanmar [Burma] is now a more unfriendly and risky place to invest and is displeased that the Myanmar government is not doing more to protect Chinese interests," Yun Sun, a fellow with the East Asia program at the Stimson Center in Washington, D.C., wrote in a September 2013 report on what lies ahead for Chinese investment in Burma.

She estimates that reduced Chinese investment could hurt Burma's economy in unexpected ways.



A couple sits in front of a fountain at a military museum in Nay Pyi Taw.

Since more foreign investment is needed in Burma, alienating any country is a risky move, according to Sun.

“To China, Burma was ‘a beggar with a golden bowl,’ asking for aid despite extensive natural resources,” *The Irrawaddy* newspaper wrote in a three-part series about shifting Sino-Burmese relationships. “The Burmese, always careful about their northern neighbor, developed a saying: ‘When China spits, Burma swims.’”

Since President Thein Sein’s government took office in 2011, China’s three largest projects in Burma — the Myitsone Dam, the Letpadaung Copper Mine and the Sino-Myanmar oil and gas pipelines — have run into challenges.

“Burma must obviously act gingerly with Beijing, as it has always done, but the strong nationalism of its diverse peoples will prevent it from becoming a pawn of any state, even one as powerful as China, the colossus looming over their northern frontier,” *The Irrawaddy* wrote in April 2013.

For the first time in two decades, the World Bank has also returned to Burma. It approved an interest-free U.S. \$140 million loan to fund a power plant in Mon State, the bank’s first international investment project in the country since re-engaging in 2012. Replacing old gas turbines could lead to a 250 percent output increase by the plant, covering half of the rural state’s peak demand.

The World Bank sees its efforts as essential to reducing poverty in Burma and a “first step to

bringing more and cleaner electricity” to the country.

With so many changes and challenges emerging all at once in Burma, some critics wonder if it’s too much for a nascent quasi-democratic government to handle successfully. Not Byrd. She remains encouraged by the resiliency of Burmese people and the Burmese indigenous culture that values the contribution of its women. Chie Ikeya, the author of the book *Refiguring Women, Colonialism, and Modernity in Burma*, noted Burmese women have always enjoyed their autonomy and wielded tremendous influence within the society. Women have played critical roles throughout Burma’s history, according to Byrd. The emergence of Suu Kyi as the matriarch of Burma’s democracy does not come as a surprise given the society’s placement of value on women.

“Myanmar people are resilient, but very impatient,” Byrd told *FORUM*. They want changes yesterday. Still, challenges of implementing new policies and plans remain.

“The ability to govern and provide basic services to its citizens is very low at this moment, regardless of which party is in charge,” Byrd said. “Infrastructure is extremely underdeveloped. However, I am encouraged to see the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank re-engaging with Myanmar.”

She hopes the country can “leap frog” quickly up the development ladder by learning from the experiences of its neighbors. □





# MANAGING MEGA

**F**or most mornings in June 2013, a smoggy haze covered Singapore and Malaysia that was so thick it temporarily blinded crowds of residents as they made their way to work through the city's streets, dust masks strapped to their faces. The noxious haze, largely caused by forest fires burning on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia, illustrates the vulnerabilities posed to the world's "megacities" where dense populations of 10 million to 30 million fall prey to natural and man-made disasters, as well as crime waves and terror attacks.

Since 2007, the majority of the world's population has lived in cities, opening huge opportunities to those looking for work, education and a better quality of living. Urban areas are key to generating jobs that boost incomes and economic development, and megacities — those with more than 10 million people — are often called growth engines.

By 2025, about 440 emerging market cities will generate half the world's gross domestic product, according to a 2012 McKinsey Global Institute report. Already more than half the world's top 20 largest urban areas fall in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. Besides



# CITIES

NATIONS LOOK  
TO PLANNING,  
COOPERATION  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
TO MEET SECURITY  
CHALLENGES  
OF RAPID URBAN  
GROWTH AND  
DEVELOPMENT

SARA SCHONHARDT

Shanghai, Guangzhou-Foshan and Beijing in China, they include Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata in India; Dhaka in Bangladesh; Tokyo and Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto in Japan; Bangkok, Thailand; Seoul-Incheon, South Korea; Jakarta, Indonesia; and Manila, Philippines, according to the 2013 edition of *Demographia World Urban Areas*, which defines urban areas as agglomerations of population.

In addition to being hubs for commercial development and innovation, cities can improve peoples' access to social services, water, sanitation and electricity. The motivating factors are clear, analysts say, and they are driving urbanization

forward at an unprecedented pace and scale. An economic and social survey released by the United Nations in July 2013 revealed that more than 6.25 billion people, or three-fourths of the world's estimated population, would live in cities by 2050. Much of that growth will occur in countries with emerging markets and economies, which often lack the government structure, resources and technologies to deal with rapid population increases.

#### ADVANCES IN URBAN PLANNING

If not managed properly, however, cities can give rise to vast inequality, sparking tensions

FORUM ILLUSTRATION



that can lead to violence, analysts say. In addition, rapid population growth creates competition for increasingly scarce natural resources, puts pressure on urban infrastructure and often breeds public health problems.

“A good city ensures that when people migrate from outside, they have housing and services for their families,” Dr. Gerhard Schmitt, director of the Singapore-ETH Centre for Global Environmental Sustainability, said in an interview.

Schmitt contends that urban planning is necessary to reduce sprawl and congestion, by enabling people to live close to where they work and to prevent other undesirable growth patterns such as clustering of segregated communities. Most cities, however, cannot determine when or how often migrants will arrive, which makes it difficult to execute an urban development plan that can account for a rising population.

“If people are not integrated, they start to develop enclaves,” Schmitt said. Where this happens, “it leads to conflict rather quickly.”

The need for urban planning is crucial in Bangladesh, for instance, where about 600,000 people, most of them poor, move to cities annually. Rapid, high-density urbanization and inadequate employment opportunities are contributing to an increase in crime, said Nazrul Islam, founder of the Centre for Urban Studies in Dhaka. While it’s the poor who often get involved with gangs, their leaders are typically wealthy and well-connected.

## SUPPRESSING HIGH-TECH CRIME WAVES

“Criminals have access to high-tech devices, including weapons and telecommunications,” Islam explained, adding that the police force remains too small and underresourced to launch an offensive.

In 2011, Islam worked with a team of officials and urban planners to draft a national urban sector policy that provides recommendations to the government on how to better plan housing, recreation and urban education. It also includes sections on law and order.

The policy is still awaiting approval from Bangladesh’s Parliament, but Islam said the government has already created special anti-crime forces to combat theft, kidnapping, trafficking and drug trading and is working to upgrade its security forces through training academies that give officers the skills to track criminals.

While the police are often the front line in the fight against crime and terrorism, the military also has a role



REUTERS



As megacities emerge, they often become surrounded by slums, such as this area on the outskirts of Kolkata, India, in March 2013. Those living on the inside can be separated from external sources of food, water and fuel.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**Haze caused by fires in Indonesia obscures Kuala Lumpur's landmark Twin Towers in June 2013 when cities in Malaysia and Singapore faced one of the region's worst air pollution crises on record. Megacities can be more vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters.**

to play in developing technical intelligence and in training law enforcement to combat criminal and terrorist groups, said Rohan Gunaratna, head of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research at Singapore's Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

"When it comes to fighting in built-up areas," Gunaratna said, "the capabilities are largely with military organizations."

Despite its enhanced capability, the military's role should mainly be "supportive," Gunaratna said, unless the threat is significant, as was the case during the 2008 terror attack in Mumbai.

In that attack, Mumbai benefited from the skills of an elite security squad that was well-armed and trained to operate in urban terrain. Countries such as Singapore and the Philippines have similar forces.

#### **NOVEL TACTICS FOR THE URBAN THEATER**

Militaries in the Indo Asia Pacific routinely cooperate on maritime surveillance, jungle warfare training and humanitarian response exercises and operations.

Increasingly, militaries are partnering on anti-terror and urban security drills and exercises. For example, the Philippines and U.S. have conducted close-quarter combat training and Indonesia's counterterrorism squad, Detachment 88, has trained with both the U.S. and Australian militaries.

Training to fight in built-up areas, Gunaratna added, which typically involves four-to-six man teams in high-intensity operations, should be expanded.

"Militaries must be prepared to fight in urban terrain because the threat is now moving from the jungle to the villages," he said. "In the developing world, the military should play a day-to-day role in education, in agriculture, in building infrastructure. But the more elite units must be kept for counterterrorism and fighting high-end criminal groups."

In September 2013, the first Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus Counterterrorism Exercise was held on the outskirts of Jakarta, Indonesia. Urban counterterrorism exercises included a simulated attack on a crowded public event, and discussions among the assembled military leaders ranged from regional defense to urban security challenges.

To have special forces available, and to have them well-trained, is a choice some cities are making "because they know the types of criminals are beyond normal criminals," said Janine Davidson, a public





## TECHNOLOGY OFFERS INNOVATIVE URBAN SOLUTIONS

SARA SCHONHARDT

Strategy firm Caerus Associates has created mapping software that allows communities to map their environments, highlighting areas where they don't feel safe. Officers can then use that information to determine where they need additional police posts or street lighting.

A number of architects and engineers are also designing solutions that can absorb the influx of people while also mitigating the impacts of future climate change, which is particularly important since most megacities sit along coastlines.

Artist's rendering of the planned Paik Nam June Bridge in Seoul



COURTESY PLANNING KOREA

The Future Cities Laboratory, for example, is testing an alternative to steel and concrete made from a bamboo composite, which, because of its strength and local availability, could contribute to a type of “reverse modernism,” say researchers.

In Japan, architectural firm Shimizu Corp. is developing heavy-duty lightweight carbon nanotubes to support its “city in the air” concept. The design centers on a giant pyramid, which would be suspended 2,000 meters over Tokyo Bay and provide housing for 1 million people, an example of how cities can adapt to shrinking space.

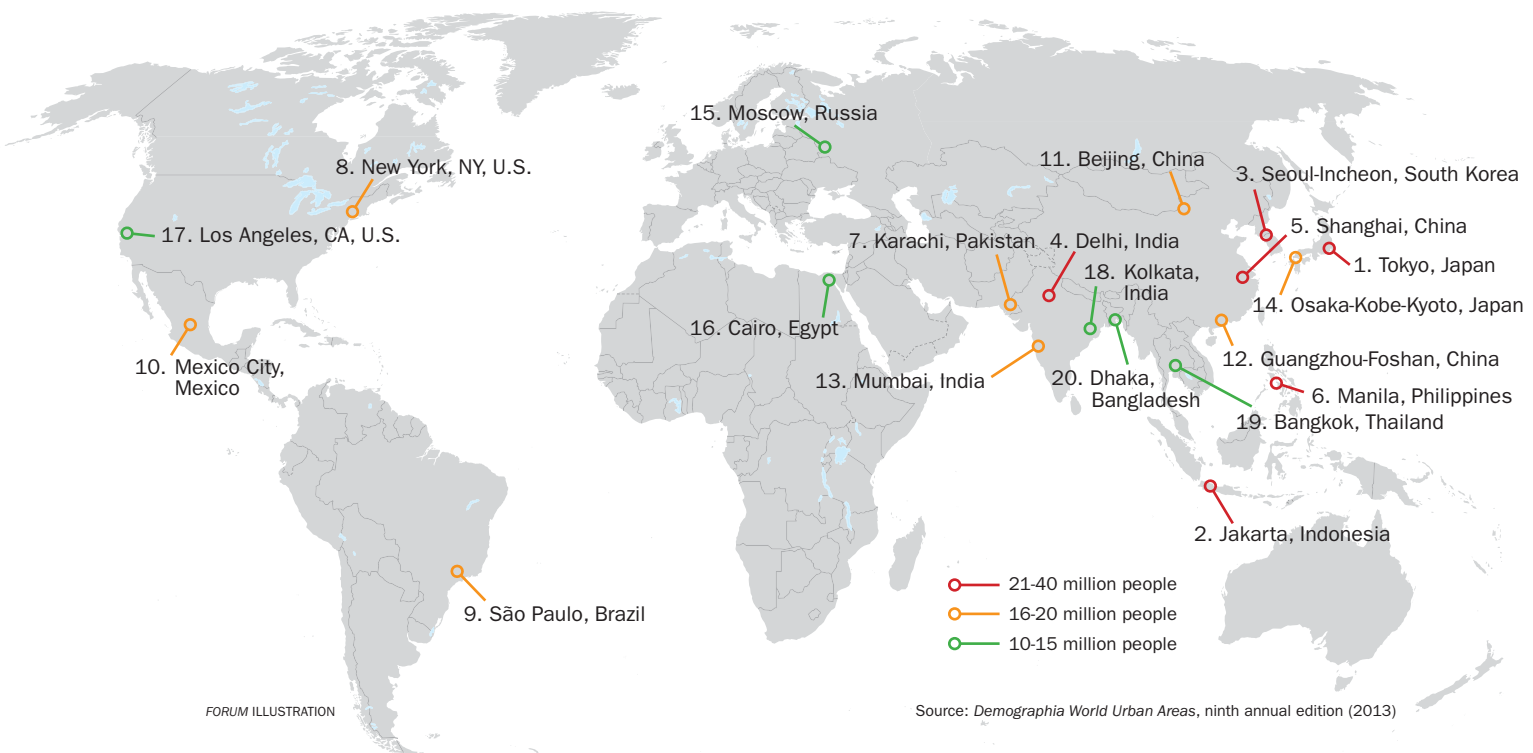
More practical projects include the Paik Nam June Bridge in Seoul, which integrates a mall, park and meeting spaces and uses solar panels for power generation. Global design firm Arup has designed buildings in Japan and the Philippines that are less vulnerable to earthquakes. The company also has designed a zero-carbon building in Hong Kong that produces its own energy by using photovoltaic panels and biodiesel from cooking oil.

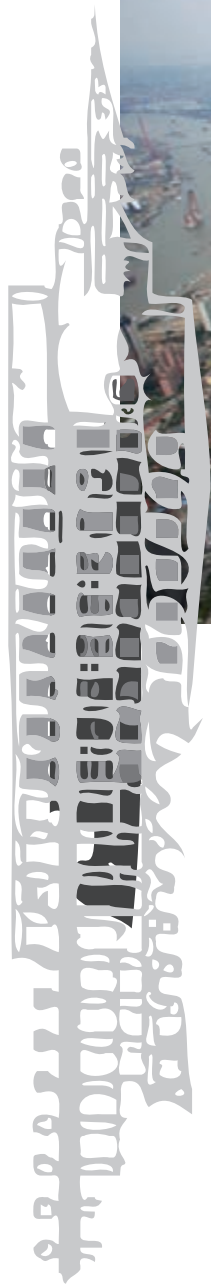
Many architects say microorganisms could one day power cities, pointing to light-emitting trees, oyster farms that could purify water and prevent flood damage, or algae that would heat apartment buildings.

To improve urban layouts, Singapore's Future Cities Laboratory is also testing a “Tropical Town” that will help cities customize environmentally sustainable urban plans. The package includes recommendations for solar energy generation and rainwater harvesting, plus an expandable four-story house that can be nestled in dense urban settlements.

## LARGEST *URBAN AREAS* IN THE WORLD

[by metropolitan population estimated in 2013]





policy professor at George Mason University in the U.S. and a former planning advisor for U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates.

While police and military forces must be better prepared to engage in increasingly crowded, urban environments, she says, they must also understand how to tackle nontraditional security threats, such as religious extremism and political violence, as well as natural disasters and environmental hazards, such as the haze that blanketed Singapore and nearby Malaysia.

Fortunately for Singapore and Malaysia, both of which saw air pollution levels soar to record levels during the June 2013 haze, the Indonesian military came to the rescue, using tons of water to douse the forest fires that caused the heavy smog.

#### **BALANCING RAPID GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Many countries and cities, however, struggle to train and equip security forces quickly enough to keep pace with rapid urbanization and the vulnerabilities it poses, such as the risk of large-scale illness, injury or loss of life posed by disasters or the precipitous rise in urban criminality.

**Shanghai ranks among the world's largest cities. By 2030, more than 65 percent of the world's population will reside in an urban area.**

In Dhaka, the city has grown so quickly “there aren’t enough cops, there aren’t enough legal systems, there aren’t enough traffic lights,” said David Kilcullen, a former Soldier and policy advisor for the Australian and U.S. governments and current CEO of strategy firm Caerus Associates.

As this city and others like it develop, they become ringed by slums that separate those on the inside from external sources of food, water and fuel. Because urban slums are often removed from proper police monitoring, they become safe havens for gangs that can put a stranglehold on a city.

“The government can’t just ignore those gangs, and it can’t go in and sweep them away because the territory they control is the territory all the food, water and fuel have to pass through,” says Kilcullen, whose book, *Out of the Mountains*, is about how to deal with the challenges posed by increasingly crowded, urban and coastal cities.

The solution, he said, is not to flood a city with police but to focus on community-driven policing and get governments cooperating with slum dwellers.

#### **FUTURE MEGACENTERS**

As more and more megacities emerge on the Indo-Asia-Pacific skyline, so do opportunities to foster stability, pursue sustainable development and implement good governance. Many nations in the region are already working to find ways to achieve such aims. Urban planners and innovators must also battle the clock to develop solutions fast enough to keep pace with the emerging challenges these megacities also create. Experts agree leaders, governments and security forces, must plan — and act — now to make megacities more efficient and livable, mitigate public health risks and stop crime and terrorism from flourishing in these highly populated urban environs. □





# EXPATRIATE ENGAGEMENT

*Diaspora members balance ties between homelands and  
host countries to leverage economic and political advantages*

FORUM STAFF

From the moment mankind mastered the art of mobility, humans have traveled from homelands to faraway places, left familiar faces for strange ones and succumbed to that nagging curiosity to see what lies beyond the border.

Some go willingly, taking on the moniker expatriate. Others find themselves forced into exile. Regardless of the departure details, those who leave and never return become known as the diaspora — individuals dispersed from their native lands to begin life anew on foreign soil.

The dynamics of a diaspora can present complex situations and unknown variables. For example, no one knows for sure the number of South Asian diaspora members. Some estimates place it as high as 50 million. Depending on the data source, India's diaspora alone ranges between 18 and 40 million. To complicate things further, individuals may struggle with their national identity and reconciling loyalties to their host nation.

### Virtual and Real Power

Then there's "the notion that today's globalized world has given diasporas unprecedented economic, cultural and political bargaining power," according to Wyn Ellis, a Bangkok-based researcher whose analysis on the Chinese diaspora in Southeast Asia appeared in the magazine *TrendNovation*, for which Ellis serves as chief editor.

Using Singapore as an example, Ellis argued that "the various characteristics of today's diaspora resemble the necessary conditions of a 'virtual nation' — signifying an ongoing reconfiguration of power relationships that erodes the primacy of geography and national frontiers as determinants of economic and political power, in favor of building on shared interests and political, social, economic and cultural alignment."

In fact, our globalized world has prompted many countries to use their diaspora to support economic development and build bridges between cultures. Some nations have even started inviting those who left to return home and contribute their skills within their native countries. Burma President Thein Sein sent out the call in 2011, saying political dissenters could also come home without fear of arrest upon arrival.

Emerging partnerships between actors at home

Our globalized world has prompted many countries to use their diaspora to support economic development and build bridges between cultures.

and those in the diaspora have also spurred a wave of programs aimed at establishing an exchange of resources and knowledge, according to "Engaging the Asian Diaspora," a November 2012 report issued by the International Organization for Migration in Thailand and Migration Policy Institute in Washington, D.C.

China, for example, has an initiative known as the 111 Project. It allows top scholars in the Chinese diaspora to team up with domestic researchers on a China-based innovation.

Launched in 2005, the 111 Project has three main focuses, according to the University of Western Australia. Among them: Establish 100 research and development and education bases in the universities supported by the 985 Project and 211 Project, two concepts



Market gardener Kieng Siong, a diaspora member of Asia's Hmong people — an ethnic group from the mountainous regions of China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam — brushes lemons to clean them in Javouhey, the northwestern French Guiana.





Joe Liu Kee Fatt, owner of a small Chinese medicine shop in Singapore, works on the arm of Suprat Suandi. Chinese descendants make up nearly 75 percent of Singapore's population.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

that also aim to bolster higher education; invite 1,000 overseas talents from the top 100 universities and research institutes worldwide; and strengthen the innovation capability and overall competitiveness in China's leading universities.

### Singapore's Success

Singapore's diaspora story stands out in the region because of the influence of Chinese immigrants, according to "Beijing and the Chinese Diaspora," a June 2013 report published by the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR). Chinese descendants total about 2.8 million in Singapore, comprising almost 75 percent of the total population, according to NBR. "By far the largest percentage in East Asia outside mainland China," the report read. The contributions of ethnic Chinese to Singapore have proven monumental. Former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, a fourth-generation Chinese descendant, oversaw Singapore's independence from Malaysia in 1965 and co-founded the leading People's Action Party.

"The case of Singapore demonstrates the multiple roles and profound social influence of diasporas — extending access to human resources, knowledge, technologies, and markets, and increasingly, in shaping an emerging multicultural identity for the host country," according to Ellis.

### Diaspora Dialogues

In 2011, Singapore held the first South Asian Diaspora Convention (SADC) with a second planned for November 2013. The convention's aim: "Provide a high-powered global platform for creative thinking, debate and purposeful action to help forge deeper links with contemporary South Asia" through regional engagement and growth opportunities to boost its economies.

"SADC has established itself as the leading platform for those who believe in the future of South Asia and its culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. It reflects our belief that South Asia has a tremendous growth potential with a significantly growing middle class population that will contribute positively to the growth of the global economy in the next two decades," said professor Tan Tai Yong, director of the Institute of South Asian Studies, which hosted SADC.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong underscored the impact of diaspora



A Hindu refugee from Pakistan shows her now-expired Indian visa page on her passport during a demonstration in New Delhi in December 2012. Some countries have begun relaxing visa requirements and even offering dual citizenship to lure expatriots back home.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

movements during his remarks at 2011's SADC. "The early South Asian traders established vibrant trade links with Southeast Asia via the Malacca Straits and the Indian Ocean and today, the overseas diaspora are an important source of remittances to the homeland," the prime minister said.

Yet, members of diaspora communities face a delicate balancing act, he said. They must work to balance ties to their homelands and contributions to countries of residence.

"If the diaspora focuses only on its links with their homeland, it may not be welcome by the local communities. On the other hand, if it becomes too localized, then it risks losing touch with its original culture and heritage and being deculturalized and diminishing its value added."

#### Homeland Investments and Politics

Indian information technology engineers rank second in number only to Chinese immigrants in California's Silicon Valley, according to a September 2013 Indo-Asian News Service report. They also make up a sizable proportion of today's high-tech millionaires across the globe, the report added.

"The case of Singapore demonstrates the multiple roles and profound social influence of diasporas — extending access to human resources, knowledge, technologies, and markets, and increasingly, in shaping an emerging multicultural identity for the host country."

~ Wyn Ellis, *TrendNovation* magazine editor

Afghan refugees eat a traditional lunch of naan bread and bean soup in a villa that a group of refugees from Afghanistan rented in Cisarua, Indonesia. Thousands of refugees from many of the world's troubled countries, including Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq, wait in villas in a mountain area south of Jakarta for a chance at a new life.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES



# Burmese Exiles Test Government's Promise of Change

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For years, Burma's former military regime regarded Aye Chan Naing as an enemy of the state, jailing 17 of his reporters and denouncing the exiled news organization he leads as a producer of "killer broadcasts" and a threat to national security.

When he arrived back home for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century, he was neither arrested nor harassed. Immigration police simply asked who he worked for, then smiled and waved him through.

The director of the Norway-based Democratic Voice of Burma, which has broadcast independent news for two decades into one of the world's most oppressed nations, is part of a trickle of exiles spanning the globe who have begun to see for themselves whether the government's reforms are real.

Burma needs its exiles back. Decades of harsh military dictatorship transformed one of Asia's most prosperous nations into one of its poorest. Many of the country's best and brightest fled, draining the nation of doctors, engineers, politicians and journalists.

For now, however, the vast majority of those abroad are staying put, waiting and watching anxiously for changes to materialize and stick.

A civilian government, at least in principle, took office in 2011, and since then it has freed hundreds of political prisoners, lifted restrictions on opposition parties, signed truces with rebel groups and enacted other major reforms.

In August 2011, President Thein Sein issued a call for the diaspora to return. One of his top advisers later clarified that political dissidents could also come back and would not be arrested if they did.

Half a year later, however, there remained "no official policy, no government strategy to bring us home," said Aung Zaw, another prominent exile who founded the independent Thailand-based *Irrawaddy* newspaper. "They have no idea how to welcome exiles back."

Although international investors and foreign businessmen have begun rushing into Burma to take

advantage of the rapidly changing climate there, and tourism numbers are on the rise, Aung Zaw estimated the number of exiles who have returned so far at only "a few dozen" and most of those are only visiting.

"They need our skills and knowledge to rebuild, but they are giving no incentives or assurances," he added. "People aren't sure whether the doors are really open to them, and so nobody is comfortable enough to return home."

Aung Zaw fled Burma at the height of a mass student uprising that was brutally crushed by security forces in 1988. He returned home for the first time in February 2012 and then returned for a second visit a month later.

He said the official reception he has received has been "very warm, which was quite a surprise."

For the past two decades, he said, regime officials "rarely spoke to the public. There was silence all the time. But they have begun demonstrating they have the ability to listen, and that's refreshing."

One thing the reforms have already given exiles is a look at the country they were compelled to leave long ago.

Aye Chan, the Democratic Voice of Burma director, said Yangon, the former capital, hasn't changed much since he left, despite some new hotels and roads. His high school is now closed and abandoned, swamped by weeds. Paint is peeling from dilapidated buildings all over the downtrodden city. His old friends, he said, seemed poorer than ever. Even educated professionals such as dentists, one of which he once aspired to become, are struggling to survive.

"There are lots of places that look exactly like they did 23 years ago or more," Aye Chan said. "It's like time almost stopped in 1988."

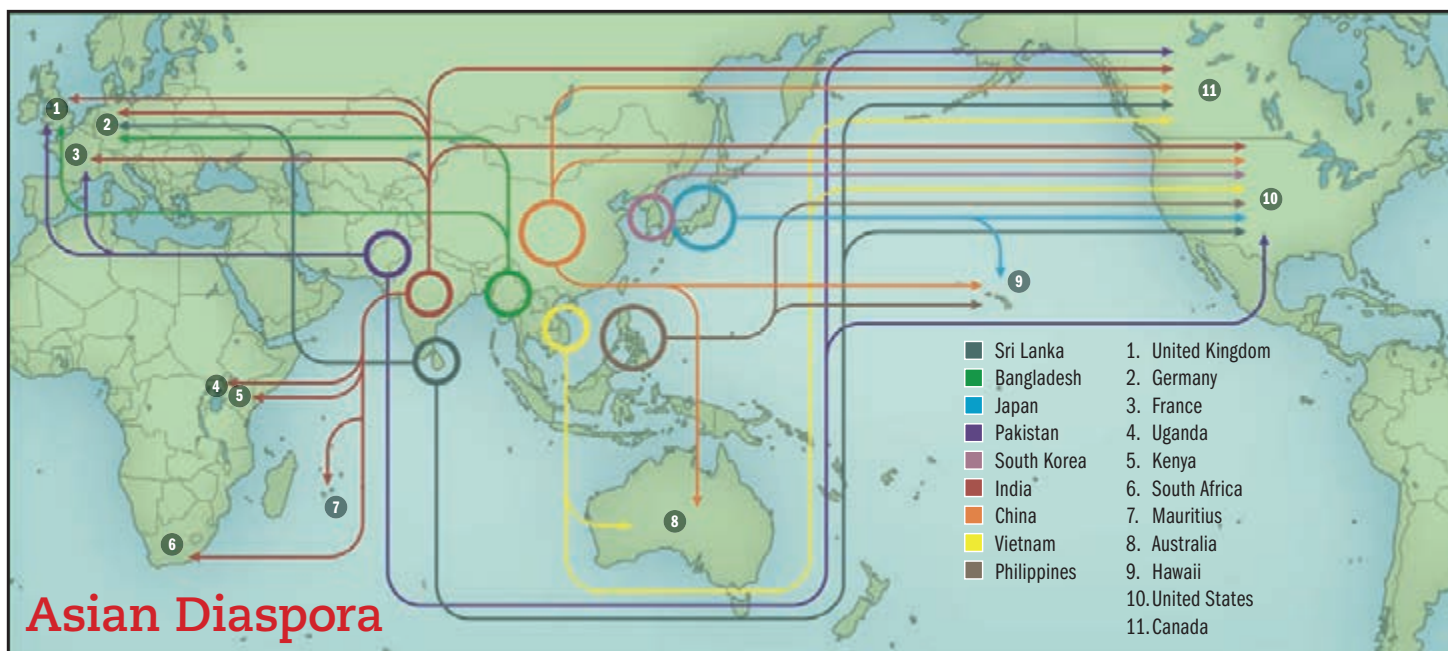
Aung Zaw and Aye Chan both said they would like to move back to Burma one day, but the time is not yet right.

"Much more remains to be done," Aung Zaw said. "We will return to Burma when there is real security — when we can go back and have a dignified return."



**Young Burmese Muslim Rohingya refugees congregate at Indonesia's Belawan immigration detention center in Medan city on Sumatra island. Burma's president has invited exiles to return to the country.**

AFP/GETTY IMAGES



FORUM ILLUSTRATION

Because of their wealth and status, members of India's diaspora returned some U.S. \$50 billion home to India in 2010, Singapore's prime minister said.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono opened the second Congress of the Indonesian Diaspora in Jakarta in August 2013 by touting a new government regulation that allows the Indonesian diaspora to stay in the country permanently without a visa, *The Jakarta Globe* newspaper reported. The president expressed pride that members of the Indonesian diaspora hold key positions in foreign governments and universities. He wants their participation in Indonesia's Master Plan for the Acceleration and Expansion of Indonesia's Economic Development.

"I would like to invite [Indonesian diaspora] to take part in this grand plan," he said, according to *The Jakarta Globe*.

Indonesia seeks about U.S. \$381 million in investment by 2025. The government expects the funds to come from state-owned businesses, private organizations and Indonesians living in other countries, according to the newspaper.

Countries so desire to lure diaspora members home that changing residency restrictions appears to be a new trend.

"Making provisions for dual citizenship and/or nationality is one way for countries to reach migrants," Steven Vertovec wrote

in an analysis on "The Political Importance of Diasporas" for Migration Information Source. "There is now an upward global trend in the prevalence of dual citizenship/ nationality, both in terms of people possessing it and states allowing it." The benefit may be a political one, according to Vertovec. "Different diaspora-based associations may lobby host countries to shape policies in favor of a homeland or to challenge a homeland government; influence homelands through their support or opposition of governments; give financial and other support to political parties, social movements, and civil society organizations; or sponsor terrorism or the perpetuation of violent conflict in the homeland," he said.

In the Indo Asia Pacific, many countries have started viewing their diaspora communities as "brain banks" instead of "brain drains," assets instead of losses to their nation's human capital resources.

"The 50 million strong South Asian diaspora scattered over different continents can help South Asian economies overcome burdens of history and integrate closely," according to the Institute of South Asian Studies. "Most of the diaspora communities work well with each other outside boundaries of their homelands. They can employ those experiences to promote regional development in South Asia." □

**Asians have migrated both to the East and to the West, mostly in search of better lives. Many have prospered in their new homelands and become part of a cultural and economic force. Now their countries of origin are beckoning them to return.**





New Zealand's Maj. Gen. David Gawn participates in a Maori cultural welcome during the Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference VIII and Pacific Armies Management Seminar XXXVII, held in Auckland, New Zealand, in September 2013.



# MOUNTING *a defense*

New Zealand Chief of Army **MAJ. GEN. DAVID GAWN** shares his perspective on leadership and regional security

PHOTOS BY NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE

*FORUM* interviewed Maj. Gen. David Gawn, New Zealand's Army chief, on the sidelines of the Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (PACC) VIII and Pacific Armies Management Seminar (PAMS) XXXVII, co-hosted by New Zealand and the U.S. and held in Auckland in September 2013.

Gawn became Chief of Army in February 2013. He joined in 1978 and trained at the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, in Australia, graduating into the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment as a second lieutenant. In 1994, he served in Bosnia. In 2000, he was part of the U.N. Transitional Administration in East Timor, where he received a Force Commander's Commendation in 2001. He went on to hold many staff appointments, and in 2011, he was promoted to major general and appointed commander of Joint Forces New Zealand.

He studied at the Australian College of Defence and Strategic Studies and is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Leavenworth, Kansas, and the School of Advanced Warfighting at Quantico, Virginia. In 1996, he was awarded a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

## **How have the challenges the New Zealand Army and other armies of the Pacific changed in recent times?**

The nature of conflict has changed from force on force to something that is far more complex, but perhaps more interestingly centers around the protection of civilians and how we actually achieve that with reducing resources and with everything that that means. Everyone has really been

grappling with that challenge, but I'm not sure anyone really has the answer. Hence, the need for conferences like this when the senior leadership can come together to talk, discuss and debate, and develop a better understanding of each other's concerns and be able to work toward identifying solutions. That is part of what this particular conference strives to do.

**Above: New Zealand Army engineers repair water mains at Burwood Hospital after the 2011 Christchurch earthquake.**



Maori dancers prepare to perform for the Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference VIII and Pacific Armies Management Seminar XXXVII at the Auckland War Memorial Museum in September 2013.





# W

## hat is the significance of PACC?

PACC is a unique opportunity to bring together the chiefs of all of the Pacific nations, from

Chile to Canada across India and Asia, to discuss openly issues that concern them within the forum but also without the forum context. What is done outside the forum is equally, if not more important, than the theme of the forum itself. For example, there are roundabout 40 percent of the chiefs of army who have only just taken up their appointments within the last two to three months. For them to get an opportunity to meet their counterparts as early as they have in their tenure basically allows them to be able to pick up the phone and call them if there is a misunderstanding or something that they want to discuss. Having this conversation and their ability to do so prevents miscalculation.

## How do you view the role of New Zealand's Army?

It is expeditionary in terms of its *raison d'être*. It is professional in that it is designed to achieve the outputs that the government of New Zealand and the people of New Zealand expect of it. It is combined arms within a joint multilateral, multinational environment in the terms of the way that we train, and that is an essential part of who we are. It is based on a light brigade, so that sort of projects how small it actually is.

## What is your vision for the future of the New Zealand Army?

We have a defense vision, which is Future 35, that looks at developing a joint interagency amphibious task force capability that will focus on the Southwest Pacific and the issues that they have. It will be at a level that can provide niche capabilities but also be ready for conflicts of a higher nature around the globe. That's a big ask for a defense force of less than 10,000 and a big ask for an Army that is around 4,300. Defense mission Future 35 provides an aiming mark for us, so from a land perspective: How does a small army conduct littoral operations within what is essentially a maritime strategy in terms of what we do as New Zealanders? Our threats nationally are predominantly maritime in terms of resource protection, in terms of immigration and so forth. In fact, we have this massive moat that creates a degree

of security that no other country actually has. It also creates challenges as well.

## How do you define the New Zealand Army?

It's an adaptable, agile organization that exists, operates in regions where there's real austerity. By the same token, we have to have, as I call it, audacity — the audacity to actually identify opportunity and take it. We put a lot of emphasis on training our junior leadership. To me, that is really the most important thing of anything and everything we bring to the party. The junior leader who has those qualities of adaptability, agility, austerity and audacity — that's our value in a multinational environment, no matter what security environment we're involved.



**Maj. Gen. David Gawn led discussions at Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference VIII and Pacific Armies Management Seminar XXXVII, held in Auckland, New Zealand, in September 2013.**

## How would you describe your style of leadership?

I empower my subordinates. I believe that if you have well-trained, well-educated leaders at every level, and you give them your vision and your intent and actually allow them to get on with achieving that, with meeting that, then great things happen. If you can identify somebody's passion, rather than putting a square peg into a round hole, but identify their passion and allow them the freedom to actually follow that passion, then individuals can do things that are well beyond what they would otherwise be expected to do and what they are prepared to do. But we don't do that often enough. We try to fit people into jobs that they don't necessarily want to do.



**What does the New Zealand Army bring to peacekeeping missions in terms of distinct capabilities or even intangibles?**

We're a small, modern defense force. We're in a unique place in the world geographically in terms of the Southwest Pacific. Our closest neighbors tend to be the Asia-Pacific region. That brings a unique perspective in terms of understanding different cultures and so on. In terms of technology, we're able to participate at the highest levels of conflict, but in terms of culture, empathy and understanding, particularly in our region, we are able to bring the unique perspective that we have as a small, multinational, multicultural country.

**What do the success of regional peacekeeping missions in the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste reveal?**

The success of those missions does reflect in part the local flavor of our multinational force. We are frankly actually quite small with limited resources, and we couldn't have done it without those nations and the will of those nations to place those forces under our command.

In Timor-Leste, we had at various times Canadians, Irish, Nepalese, Fijis, Singaporeans, Maltesians, Czechs ... all under one command, which was unique at that stage, the only sort of multinational battalion. As such, it provided an example of how successful multinational operations can be.

**What does *Ngāti Tūmatauenga* mean to you?**

There is a spiritual element to it. *Ngāti Tūmatauenga* means tribe of the war god. That element of being a tribe as being bestowed upon us as Army by all the other tribes of New Zealand, the Maori tribes, that is quite unique. It's a great honor. It represents our culture as Maori and as warriors. It represents the fact that we have a role in protecting this nation.

It recognizes the importance in Maori culture of the Army to New Zealand, our people, our heritage. *Ngāti Tūmatauenga* also includes all of the other cultures, the other nations that encompass it. It includes our British heritage, in that part of our military heritage is British.

It provides a means in how we develop our cultural ties, not just to New Zealand, but how we use that culture on operations, and it does have an effect, a very positive effect, in terms of how we are perceived and received by the other countries we go to.

**Please explain how your culture impacts missions.**

I don't know whether it is a myth or reality, but there is a perception that what we have is enviable to some nations. Even Bosnia, for example, when we were over there, we used the Maori cultural group, which is its song, its dance, in terms of *Ngāti Tūmatauenga*, to break down barriers because song and dance work. It doesn't matter which culture it is, everybody had a respect or their own national similarities that they respect.

Whether Bosnian folk or Maori culture, we seem to be able to break down barriers, but more importantly, create a connection with the local people in particular. Operations today are population-based, so you have to be able to have that connection with the population. You have to be able to make that connection that allows you to have a dialogue or a serious conversation. Kids love song. They love action song. Through kids, you can reach out and touch their parents and influence them. That's pretty powerful, and a lot of nations don't have it.

**Please describe the importance of preparedness for your forces in the face of disaster and for New Zealand.**

The human security issues that are based around demographic pressures, resource pressures and climate change are very real. We provide a ready resource, a ready reaction force that can be tailored and scaled to the level appropriate to any humanitarian affairs or disaster relief operation. Such missions are becoming more and more frequent, not just within our region, but across the globe.

The issue of water and resources comes to mind in terms of Tuvalu, which is a small nation at our northern extremities in terms of our responsibilities. They struggle in the outer island to ensure sufficient potable water for the population. So we have the capacity to deploy to locations like that, in this case with the assistance of the Coast Guard, to assist them in winning water and storing water in ensuring that they have viability as an island going forward.

Within our own country, we've had a number of recent disasters. The key one was [the 2011 earthquake in] Christchurch, where we were committed from first response all the way through to recovery. It provided a real example of the value of the Army that is ready, that is prepared and trained and equipped to undertake that sort of mission. We were able to do so because we trained for the higher end. It was right across the board from planning through to security through logistics support, even things such as victim identification from our dental team. All of those capabilities we hold as an Army, we utilized for New Zealand within the bounds of our country.

**How can you improve disaster preparedness in New Zealand?**

We have to do an awful lot more in the interagency space, and I think all armies recognize that. Militaries can't do anything by themselves, nor should they. It's a collective effort of everything the government can bring to bear, of which the military is only one element. And 98 percent of the time it is the subordinate role, the supporting effort. We recognize from our efforts in Christchurch that we have a long way to go to understand our strengths and weaknesses to work toward providing the best response we possibly can for the next one. And it's not if it happens again, it's when it happens again.



Chiefs of Armies from across the Indo Asia Pacific gathered at the Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference VIII and Pacific Armies Management Seminar XXXVII, held in Auckland, New Zealand, in September 2013.

### How has the duty of care evolved in this changing environment of modern military engagements?

It's the duty to protect and the protection of civilians in terms of what sort of United Nations missions have moved into. Sadly, with that has come all the atrocity: the sights, the smells, the sounds of modern warfare, where you are not sure who the enemy is. Where it tends to be intrastate, where the victim is often as not the civilian, or if it is on the military side, they are horrific injuries that have occurred.

One of the themes for this conference is duty of care of our Soldiers, but not just our Soldiers, but our Soldiers and their families. To a certain extent, it's about building resistance prior to deployment, during deployment and post-deployment. But efforts should not just be focused on the Soldier, but on the family, which is the main support mechanism that they have.

### What about duty of care in the context of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)?

Those issues are very real. We are just beginning to comprehend the scale of just how big the problem is and pervasive. We need to normalize this is not a disease, this is just a part of what modern warfare is about, and there are significant psychological injuries that Soldiers on today's battlefield get and, sadly, all the time. I don't think any nation is really on top of it. There's a lot of research being done. Research on the effects it has on families is only just being started. We're not even considering the effect it has on NGOs, aid workers, the effect it has on contractors. This is a wave that is sort of washing over us. It's almost like a tsunami that's out there that hasn't quite hit us yet.

When it does, I think we are going to be overwhelmed as countries, individual countries.

### How important is diversity to the New Zealand Army?

Diversity is something that not every nation, but an awful lot of nations, are grappling within their own ranks. The importance of diversity again is that we need every advantage that we can get to find solutions to world security. Today, you can't go with a male-dominated, male-oriented army and expect to be able to connect with, to be able to deal with the problems that you get with modern conflicts that include violence against women, gender conflict, rape camps, children, for example.

If we want to be truly representative of New Zealand society, I say this as chief of the Army, we need to increase our numbers percentages of minority groups. From New Zealand's perspective, we've had women in our combat units since about 1996. Right now, we're at about 12 percent women, but our recruiters have a target of 30 percent. We have a ways to go. In reality, even in New Zealand, as much as we think we are actually gender neutral at times, we are actually gender blind.

### What's really important for security operations and keeping the peace in the region?

What's important? We have a saying in Maori, *in tangita, in tangita, in tangita*, which means "the people, the people, the people." That essentially is what it's all about; that's the bottom line. That's what PTSD is about, that's what culture is about, that's what being Maoris is about, that's what training is about ... the people, the people, the people. □







A full-page background image showing the silhouette of an Afghan farmer in a field of wheat. The farmer is bent over, holding a bundle of harvested wheat. The scene is set against a dramatic sky with a low sun, creating a warm, golden glow. The farmer is wearing a traditional headscarf and a long robe.

# Afghanistan UNSHACKLED

The Nation Must Drive And Manage Its Own Economy For A Secure Future

ROHIT GANDHI

An Afghan farmer harvests wheat on the outskirts of Mazar-e Sharif in June 2013. About 6 percent of Afghanistan's land is cultivated, with wheat as the most important crop.



**I**n September 2013, South Asia watched as Sandjar Ahmadi scored the second goal for Afghanistan against India in the finals of the South Asian Football Federation Championship. The goal would secure Afghanistan's 2-0 victory over India, the country's first-ever international championship. The match proved to the country that if Afghans stand together, they can win against all odds. It was an especially symbolic victory, given that the Taliban banned soccer when they came to power. "You can't imagine how big this moment is for our country, our fans, our team and me," Afghan coach Yousef Kargar told the BBC. "The country needs this encouragement."

In 2014, Afghanistan will go through a massive transition after the departure of the 160,000 international troops that had been maintaining order and protecting the government from a hostile takeover by gunmen. Afghanistan's short- and long-term challenge is driving and managing the economy without international monitoring and support.

Moving forward, Afghanistan can either be a battleground where groups will begin fighting for control again or a country where Afghans can thrive in the heart of Central Asia, strategically located to be an economy of the future. It can be a land where its citizens can live freely in their own motherland and a modern progressive culture holds sway.

### Blueprint for Success

"The stakes are too high for us to fail," said Suleman Fatimie, a partner at the Afghan Holding Group, an audit and management consultancy. "We have come a long way, and we have a long way to go. No doubt we have a bumpy road ahead of us, but failure is not an option." He became a refugee 12 months after his birth. But as soon as he graduated from his master's program at Preston University in the United Kingdom, he returned to his homeland and has helped rebuild his country since 2003. He has been CEO of Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan and vice president of Afghanistan Investment Support Agency.

Afghanistan has achieved much since 2001, when U.S.-led coalition forces began military operations to oust the Taliban from control.

Travel time has decreased by 75 percent with the construction of 8,000 kilometers of national and regional highways and provincial roads. Civil aviation now connects Afghanistan with major regional hubs. Access to electricity has increased by 250 percent. Some 18 million Afghans have mobile phones, said Ashraf Haidari, deputy chief of mission of the Embassy of Afghanistan in New Delhi, while addressing an international gathering in Washington, D.C.

The nation's gross national product increased to U.S. \$591 per capita in 2011 from U.S. \$123 per

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**Afghan girls study in a school in Kabul province in July 2013. Girls have more choices for the future than they did when the Taliban were in charge.**







REUTERS

Afghan football fans celebrate in the streets of Kabul after their team defeated India in the finals of the South Asian Football Federation championship in Kathmandu, Nepal, in September 2013.

capita in 2001. More than 10.5 million Afghans are enrolled in schools across the country. Each year, more than 150,000 students graduate to pursue higher education in Afghanistan and abroad.

### Political Openings

Hope is also emerging in the political realm.

Naheed Fareed, a young graduate from George Washington University in the United States, received the highest number of votes among 100 female candidates who ran for Afghanistan's National Assembly in 2010. When she stood, an ex-member of parliament came to her family and asked her to withdraw. She refused.

Fareed is one of the newest of Afghanistan's resources. She has 70,000 Facebook followers, but she also connects at the local mosque with her constituents who don't use modern social media.

"We have to motivate our young generation. They are 70 percent of Afghanistan's population. Using democracy as a wonderful tool of participation, they can take control of everything in the coming decades," Fareed said.

She also said that she will be proud to become a member of parliament "when she does not have to

stand on a reserved seat." The world over, women face substantial roadblocks in the political hierarchy. The U.S. Congress is composed of only 18 percent women, according to the Swiss organization Inter-Parliamentary Union. Parliaments of many other countries lack equal representation of women as well. Canada's is made up of 28 percent women; India's, 11 percent; and Qatar has none. This is the first time in history that Afghan men have endorsed equal rights for women in governance. Women hold 28 percent of the seats based on affirmative action.

### Deadline in 2014

Many experts look to Afghanistan's ability to develop and manage its economic infrastructure without the direct international oversight and sponsorship to be the deciding factors in the nation's long-term security and future.

After most foreign troops leave the country in 2014, billions of dollars in aid are expected to dry up. An accompanying article on page 38 highlights the 10 key drivers that will take the Afghan economy forward and make its people successful. If Afghans put the drive into their economy that their national team puts into soccer, it will be a difficult economy to beat.



# 10 KEY ECONOMIC DRIVERS TO SECURE AFGHANISTAN'S FUTURE

*Developing these economic sectors requires a concerted effort that Afghans must face alone for the first time. The raw materials are there, and Afghans have learned much since 2001.*

ROHIT GANDHI

## 1 AGRICULTURE

Afghanistan produces exceptionally high quality grapes, pomegranates, apricots, berries and plums. Fruit has traditionally been Afghanistan's main food export, along with dried fruits and nuts such as pistachios, almonds and raisins to countries in the East and the West.

More than 75 percent of the Afghan people live in rural areas where agriculture is the primary activity. The agricultural sector contributes about half of the gross national product (GDP), but 25 years of conflict and unrest have devastated Afghanistan's agriculture sector.

Only 12 percent of the country's 65 million hectares of land is arable. About 30 percent of the country's available water resources are currently being used. Only 40 percent of agricultural land is irrigated. Severe overgrazing and recent drought have contributed to the decline of livestock. Reduction in ground cover on hillsides has led to floods, widespread soil erosion and reduced water retention in aquifers.

The incentive structure for agriculture in Afghanistan is largely market driven, and there are no major distortions arising from input subsidies, price support policies or trade restrictions. Both public and private institutions lack the physical infrastructure, necessary regulatory framework, and the skilled staff to build a modern and competitive agricultural sector.

There is no formal rural financial system. The main sources of credit are the traditional ones — moneylenders, family and friends

— and nongovernmental organization-led micro-finance initiatives under the Micro-Finance Support Facility of Afghanistan. Years of conflict have disturbed tenure security, including farm and pasture rights, weakening administrators' or courts' ability to uphold rights fairly.

Constraints include poorly maintained road networks, fears about security, inadequate market facilities (even lacking basic water, electricity and sewage in many cases), telecommunications and support services such as market information systems, food safety regulations, grades, and standards and quality control, analysts say.

## 2 MINERAL RESOURCES

An internal Pentagon memo said Afghanistan can become "the Saudi Arabia of lithium," an increasingly vital resource essential to the batteries found in mobile phones and laptops, and necessary for electric cars, *The New York Times* newspaper reported in June 2010. Bolivia and Chile have the largest known reserves, but "Pentagon officials said that their initial analysis at one location in Ghazni province showed the potential for lithium deposits as large as those of Bolivia," *The New York Times* reported.

The Pentagon estimates that Afghanistan's vast mineral resources are worth U.S. \$1 trillion.

Geological surveys conducted by the Soviet Union in the 1970s and early 1980s confirm the existence of vast reserves of copper (among the largest in Eurasia), iron, high-grade

chrome ore, uranium, beryl, barite, lead, zinc, fluorspar, bauxite, lithium, tantalum, emeralds, gold and silver.

The copper deposit in Aynak in Helmand province is estimated to be the largest on the Eurasian continent, and its location (40 kilometers from Kabul) makes development economically feasible. The deposit at Hajigak in the central Bamyan province could yield an estimated 500 million metric tons of extraordinarily high quality iron ore. Coal deposits are also nearby.

Unknown to most, Soviet specialists discovered vast reserves of natural gas in the 1960s and built Afghanistan's first gas pipeline to supply Uzbekistan, University of Ottawa professor Michel Chossudovsky points out in a July 2013 article on the [globalresearch.ca](http://globalresearch.ca) website. During that decade, the Soviet Union received about 2.5 billion cubic meters of Afghan gas a year. The Soviets also found large deposits of gold, fluorite, barite and rare marble onyxes, as Chossudovsky chronicled. East of Kabul, pegmatite fields rife with rubies, beryllium, emeralds and kunzite and unique hiddenite extend for hundreds of kilometers. The deposits also include rare metals such as thorium, lithium and tantalum, which hold strategic importance for airplane and spacecraft construction, Chossudovsky reported.

## 3 INDUSTRIAL

Afghanistan's manufacturing sector is beginning to recover from its near collapse. Industry-related aid and development efforts focus on building up small- and medium-size enterprises.



Manufacturing activity is concentrated in Kabul and a few other major cities. At present, only 24 percent of the country's non-opium GDP comes from industrial activity, which employs just 10 percent of the workforce.

Afghanistan must develop a low-cost, labor-intensive manufacturing sector to decrease unemployment and achieve sustainability, economists contend.

One especially frightening challenge: Once small businesses

## 5 OIL AND GAS

Some analysts have interpreted the 2001 U.S.-led invasion and occupation of Afghanistan as a means to secure control over the strategic trans-Afghan transport corridor linking the Caspian Sea basin to the Arabian Sea.

Several trans-Afghan oil and gas pipeline projects have been contemplated, including the planned

are about 5 trillion cubic feet.

A Chinese firm has started extracting oil from the Amu Darya basin in northern Afghanistan, mining officials said, a key sign of progress in the country's quest to pay its own way, some observers say.

Afghanistan signed a 25-year contract with China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC) in December 2011 covering drilling and a planned refinery in the northern provinces of Faryab and Sar-e Pul. It is the first major oil



**An Afghan farmer harvests wheat on the outskirts of Kabul in July 2012. An exceptional harvest and large-scale mining activities in 2012 helped Afghanistan achieve almost 12 percent growth in its gross domestic product, an increase from a growth rate of about 7 percent the year before, according to a World Bank report.**

REUTERS

grow, thugs often begin kidnapping the owners and sometimes killing them. That is why anybody with money stays away. Eliminating crime needs to be a top priority, economic development experts say.

## 4 SERVICE SECTOR

The service sector represents 43 percent of Afghanistan's GDP. Revenues primarily come from the transport, retail and telecommunications sectors. As of 2004, approximately 10 percent of the Afghan population earned its livelihood from the services sector, which took off after 2001. A variety of banks have developed, and 3G phone networks are available.

U.S. \$8 billion, 1,900-kilometer-long pipeline project across Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, or TAPI, which would transport Turkmenistan natural gas across Afghanistan.

Afghanistan also holds large untapped reserves of natural gas, coal and oil. In the 1970s, Soviet experts estimated "Afghanistan's 'explored' (proved plus probable) gas reserves at about 5 trillion cubic feet. The Hodja-Gugerdag's initial reserves were placed at slightly more than 2 tcf [trillion cubic feet]," according to Chossudovsky's July 2013 analysis published on the [globalresearch.ca](http://globalresearch.ca) website.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration acknowledged in 2008 that Afghanistan's natural gas reserves

production in the country, extracting 1,950 barrels a day.

The venture with CNPC, which has invested hundreds of millions of dollars, is expected to produce billions of dollars during the next two decades: CNPC will pay a 15 percent royalty on oil, 20 percent corporate tax and give 50 to 70 percent of its profit from the project to the government. As of January 1, 2013, CNPC was allowed to extract 1.5 million barrels of oil annually, said Wahidullah Shahrani, Afghanistan's mine minister. The Amu Darya basin holds up to 87 million barrels of crude, experts estimate.

This should reassure nervous Chinese investors who halted work on the U.S. \$3 billion Aynak copper mine





**Afghanistan has retained its position as the global leader in production and cultivation of opium, with both hitting record highs in 2013.**

ERIC KANALSTEIN

project in eastern Logar province after insurgents trying to wreck the project stepped up attacks.

The Amu Darya basin should supply Afghanistan's domestic oil needs eventually, said Weis Sherdel, director of the three Amu Darya oil blocks for the mining ministry. Afghanistan imports U.S. \$3.5 billion worth of oil a year from Russia, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan.

CNPC's Amu Darya crude will be sent to Turkmenistan to be refined, then sold to Afghan clients or abroad, Sherdel said. CNPC should complete work on an Afghan refinery in two to three years, officials said.

Shahrani said the development of the Amu Darya basin provided Afghans with 2,100 jobs in the Sar-e Pul province of 500,000, where unemployment is 18 percent, or more than twice the national average.

Chinese and Indian bidders have been front-runners for deals to develop Afghan mineral deposits valued at up to U.S. \$3 trillion, worrying Western firms that hesitated to invest because of security concerns.

Afghanistan will draw up final plans by the end of 2013 to extract oil

deposits in the Afghan-Tajik basin. In the north, reserves are estimated at 1.9 billion barrels, which could lead to the biggest-ever oil production project in Afghanistan.

Interest shown by ExxonMobil in July 2013 lent credence to hopes the government may be making progress in lessening its reliance on aid, Shahrani said in August 2013.

## 6 ELECTRICITY

Afghanistan aims to increase current production of electricity from 300 megawatts (MW) per year to at least 2,000 MW by 2017. The government has ordered the Ministry of Energy and Water and the Ministry of Agriculture to investigate the cost of such projects using funds from foreign entities such as the World Bank and also from internal sources.

The ministries are looking into fuel possibilities, including water, dams, gas and coal. Afghanistan buys nearly 1,000 MW per year from countries in the region including Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan for varying prices, according to industry

sources. If Afghanistan is to grow industrially and commercially, then it will need its own captive power. Otherwise, experts worry that it will be held hostage to energy from its neighbors to the north.

## 7 OPIUM

Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of opium, with production increasing 49 percent in 2013 to 5,500 tons, according to a November 2013 report by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime. For the most part, Afghanistan's opium production has experienced unchecked growth since 1979. Although a decade-long campaign by international and Afghan officials had curbed production levels, opium cultivation has steadily increased in the past four years, the report said. The 2013 Afghanistan Opium Survey put cultivation at 209,000 hectares, topping the previous 2007 record of 193,000 hectares and amounting to a 36 percent increase over 2012. Analysts expect the number of cultivated acres to increase in 2014.



What is more, several provinces in northern Afghanistan that had been poppy-free started growing the crop. Overall, the 2013 U.N. report said, “the hazard this situation poses to the health [of the populace], stability and development, and not only in Afghanistan, is well documented and has been internationally recognized frequently.”

## 8 CARPETS

After agriculture, the carpet industry is Afghanistan's second largest employer. In a population of more than 25 million, about 1 million Afghans work in carpet production, which vies with dried fruit as the country's most important legal export.

Afghanistan's carpets are manufactured by a huge network of weavers throughout the countryside. The majority of production takes place in the northern provinces, but there is also significant production in the western province of Herat and around the capital city, Kabul.

About 95 percent of production is carried out in homes on free-standing looms that are provided, along with the wool and carpet designs, by carpet dealers. During the Taliban regime, from 1996 to 2001, women were forbidden to work, so weaving carpets at home was one of the only ways they could still make a living.

A high-quality, 10-square-meter carpet will take one family about 10 months to weave. When the carpeting is completed, the dealer returns to purchase it. The amount the weaver receives depends on the type of carpet. Payments range from about U.S. \$50 for the simplest, smallest carpets to up to U.S. \$500 for the largest and highest quality ones.

Afghanistan is landlocked and mountainous, and carpets have traditionally been transported to market by mule and later by truck. Washing and finishing centers have now been set up in Afghanistan. In the past, carpets would go to Pakistan for finishing, but now Afghanistan does a fair bit on its

own. International demand for carpets, however, has dropped.

## 9 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Afghanistan is the world's third largest cashmere producer, but the sector has stagnated because of a shortage of production facilities, a lack of investor interest and decades of war.

Afghan officials say only 30 percent of Afghanistan's estimated 7 million goats are harvested for cashmere production, although 95 percent are capable of producing the commodity. “Until now, Afghanistan has exported almost all of its cashmere in raw form, as no significant processing has taken place within the country,” Traitex International's Dominique Godin told WorldBulletin.net in September 2013.

The World Bank's political-risk insurance arm has provided U.S. \$2 million in guarantees for the establishment of a cashmere-scouring and disinfection facility in western Herat province to help the country process more lucrative cashmere fiber for export.

## 10 SECURITY

Ashraf Haidari is an Afghan diplomat whose concern resonates. “Afghanistan's number one challenge is insecurity with external roots, which exploits Afghanistan's numerous vulnerabilities, including ethnic diversity, widespread poverty, and weak state institutions. The externality of insecurity can also spoil the peace process in Afghanistan and impede our progress into a decade of transformation beyond 2014,” Haidari posted on his Facebook page in September 2013.

Haidari, who is Afghanistan's deputy ambassador to India, points to the external forces involved, but many argue that the Taliban is actually internal.

When the war ended in 2001, the Northern Alliance, which had launched the offensive along with support from U.S. B-52 bombers, freed most local

Afghans, despite knowing those fighters were Taliban who fought against them. It was a respectful, conciliatory gesture enabling their fellow countrymen to return to their families. Most foreign fighters were not released.

Suleman Fatimie, a partner at the Afghan Holding Group, pointed out that the international community, especially the U.S., must remember to “ensure long-term sound economic partnerships; constant narrative of ‘we are leaving’ Afghanistan serves no one any good.”

He also said, “Afghanistan's economy at this moment is donor driven, and with the scaling down of international presence and 2014 deadline looming, unless we take concrete steps and bold decisions, Afghanistan's economy is headed for severe turbulence with the possibility of crash landing. Therefore, putting in place a sound investment-friendly framework, curbing corruption and ensuring relative security in the major business hubs will be key if we are to avoid an economic crisis. At the same time, creating viable jobs through private-sector development to absorb the upcoming graduates is crucial. Sixty-five percent of our population is below [the] age of 30; therefore, unless the private sector creates the stomach and platforms to attract fresh graduates in the coming years, 7 million children and approximately 220,000 university students are faced with a very uncertain future. While the youth and the new generation are signs of hope, but [they] could easily turn into a ticking time bomb unless we address their future. We need to ensure that the private sector becomes the real engine for growth.”

As Afghanistan moves forward, things that will continue to hold the country down, said Fatimie, are a “lack of a conducive business environment, red tape and administrative and nontariff business barriers, both at national and provincial levels, have increased, and corruption has spread, making it almost impossible to get anything done without paying a bribe.” □



# ENSURING A SMOOTH CHANGE OF COMMAND

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## GUIDELINES FOR LEADERS TRANSITIONING INTO NEW POSTS

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FORUM STAFF

Members of the honor guard march in ceremonious fashion. Sounds from the national anthem and a 21-gun salute fill the air. Colors pass from one commander to the next. A new era has begun.

Change of command ceremonies represent a familiar part of military life. Budding leaders advance to new positions, and seasoned leaders eventually move on. This transition from one commanding role to another can be a stressful time for the leaders, their subordinates and the organization itself.

“The challenges of leadership are often greatest when there is a leadership transition and thus a shift in roles and responsibilities,”

according to the *Army Leader Transitions Handbook*, a guide created by the U.S. Combined Arms Center – Center for Army Leadership.

Whether you have been tasked with taking command of a massive organization or leading a small unit, preparation is key to a successful transition. The following tips, adapted from the *Army Leader Transitions Handbook*, will help you tackle challenges and seize the opportunities ahead.

### UNDERSTAND YOUR NEW ORGANIZATION

**Ask for overview documents before you start your new post.** Study organizational charts to get a feel for how the organization operates and the chain of

*“The challenges of leadership are often greatest when there is a leadership transition and thus a shift in roles and responsibilities.”*

— U.S. Combined Arms Center – Center for Army Leadership





Philippine Army Special Forces troops march during a change of command ceremony at Fort Bonifacio in January 2013. Whether they're taking command of an entire Army or just a unit, incoming leaders face many challenges and opportunities during the transition period.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, left, hands a ceremonial saber to new Philippine Army Chief Lt. Gen. Noel Coballes during a change of command ceremony at Fort Bonifacio in January 2013. Lt. Gen. Coballes succeeded Gen. Emmanuel Bautista, right, who was appointed the 44th chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## PRACTICAL PREPARATION FOR DAY ONE

- Prepare a biography to be circulated throughout the organization.
- Craft a short introductory statement that you can use as you meet people.
- Order business cards to be available on your first day.
- Set your schedule for the first day, determining who you will meet and what you will do.
- Update phone lists and websites to reflect the change of command.
- Coordinate with the outgoing leader on logistics for handing over your office and any associated vehicle.
- Make sure you have access to a cellphone, voicemail and email.

Source: *Army Leader Transitions Handbook*

command. Learn the mission statement, and familiarize yourself with historical information that might put the organization's current operations into perspective.

**Gather information from all channels.** Official guidelines are helpful, but a well-rounded view of the organization requires soliciting input from a variety of sources. Seek feedback from people at partner organizations. Talk to colleagues and friends who may have connections and insight into the organization.

**Determine outside influences.** No organization operates in a vacuum. Current affairs, politics and the capabilities of partner organizations may affect your operations. Identifying these issues provides context.

**Assess the current state of the organization.** One of the most important undertakings for an incoming leader is an initial assessment. "Be careful of jumping to conclusions," the handbook warns. "There is nothing more disruptive than having a new leader who comes in and dictates personal priorities, objectives and intent on the first day, as they may be way off the mark from what the organization really needs in terms of purpose, direction and motivation." Take the time to visit all the areas under your command and gain an understanding of how the organization really operates — its culture, capabilities, strengths and weaknesses. You may also consider doing a survey of key stakeholders to identify problems and potential for improvement.



Philippine Soldiers perform a 21-gun salute during a change of command ceremony at the Philippine Army's headquarters in Fort Bonifacio in July 2010.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE

### Work with the leader you

**replace.** Ask him or her for insight on current issues and advice on handling sensitive issues. Find out what improvements the outgoing leader did not have a chance to make, and be sure to get a list of important people you will need to know. He or she may also offer opinions on the people you'll be working with; however, the handbook warns: "Be wary of unwittingly adopting outgoing leaders' preconceptions about abilities, previous performance and/or past mistakes of subordinates."

**Know what your new superior expects.** Identify what you will be evaluated on and how he or she will measure your success. Share what you hope to get out of the post, as well.

**Meet with your subordinates.** The people you command can make or break your organization. Try to meet as many of them as you can as soon as possible, and learn their names. "Always find time to talk to your subordinates," the handbook urges. "Listen to them. Find ways to communicate with them early, not conduct reconnaissance on their area of responsibilities, but to get a feel for what is on their minds, their concerns and how they assess

situations. Understanding their strengths, weaknesses, competence, developmental needs, motivation and issues can help you understand how to improve their effectiveness thus improving the organization." To build connections and, in turn, loyalty, keep track of and acknowledge major changes in their personal lives such as weddings and additions to the family.

**Network with your peers from other organizations.** They may be facing some of the same challenges as you. "Don't be reluctant to adopt others' good ideas," the handbook advises, and that goes for implementing suggestions from subordinates.

## KNOW YOURSELF

**Assess your own strengths and weaknesses.** "Understanding yourself is a powerful skill for every leader. ... If you know yourself, you can know better how to interact with others and how they are likely to interact with you," the handbook states. Just as you will form opinions on your subordinates, they will judge you. Your physical condition will say a lot. Participating in physical training with your subordinates provides an opportunity to make a good first impression. It is also imperative to

stay on top of technological advances and professional trends.

**Identify your goals for the organization.** Determine what you expect out of the organization and personnel, and communicate that. Consider putting together a leadership statement to share what is important to you.

**Think about personal connections.** You will be meeting and speaking to many people as you transition into your new post. Consider how you will relay your goals to them. "A story from your background that provides the basis for your vision or why you have certain expectations can be a compelling way to engage your audience," the handbook suggests. "Leaders can reveal a lot about themselves and retain the attention of their followers when they use stories to make a point."

## DON'T FORGET

Even as you are preparing for your new post, another leader is preparing to take over from you. Leave him or her with the tools and information needed for a successful transition and a smooth change of command. □

To read the *Army Leader Transitions Handbook* in its entirety, go to <http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/cal/repository/LeadershipTransition.pdf>









# REACHING A PINNACLE OF PARTNERSHIP

Indian mountaineers in the Himalayas teach  
an American officer about teamwork

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY **CAPT. MATTHEW HICKEY**/U.S. ARMY ALASKA





An Indian officer translated the commandant's words that first morning at the Indian Army High Altitude Warfare School (HAWS): "It is going to take hard work, determination and teamwork to get through this course. Without teamwork, you will fail."

I knew I could work hard, and determination was never an issue. But teamwork? How would I work with a team if I couldn't even speak the language?

That first day in May 2013, I stood in the middle of a 200-man formation consisting primarily of Indian Army officers and Soldiers. I was one of four U.S. Army Soldiers in the formation. Botswana, Bhutan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan had also sent one or two Soldiers each.

We were in the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, 48 kilometers from the disputed Line of Control separating Pakistan and India. The invisible dividing line weaves its way through some of the world's most stunningly beautiful and mountainous terrain. It is because of this line, however, and the treacherous territory that HAWS exists.

As an experienced mountaineer, I had no doubts about my ability to climb the objective in front of me. We trekked to the snout of the Machoi Glacier and halted. About 15 meters ahead stood a steep ice wall that started at a gentle grade but quickly ramped to nearly vertical for the last nine meters. I had climbed steeper and longer pitches many times before and knew this short wall would pose no problem for me. I had my doubts, however, about establishing a bond with my new Indian climbing partners. The strength of that bond would determine if we would succeed on larger objectives.

"Eck-do-eck, eck-do-eck ... One-two-one, one-two-one," we all shouted in chorus at the base of the ice wall, our training ground for the next couple of weeks. With ice axe at port arms, crampons fastened tightly to my Scarpa boots, and climbing gear jingling from my harness, I "high kned" in place with 25 motivated Indians lined on either side of me. The situation was odd. Odd enough to prompt an American compadre to ask me, "Are we ice dancing or getting hazed?"

"Is there a difference between the two right now?" I responded. That day I never threw an axe or kicked a crampon into the steep ice face just meters in front of me. My attention was focused elsewhere.

## MISSION FOCUS

I had embarked on a mission much larger than myself. It was intimidating being in a foreign country surrounded by an unfamiliar Army. Not only was I far away from home and nervous about the three-month course, I was an outsider. The prestigious school, the disputed land and the burden I bore being one of the only American officers that many of these Indian Soldiers would ever encounter intensified the situation further.

I knew I was expected to be an ambassador as much as an American Army officer. The impression that I left with the Indians would be lasting. Not only did I need to perform well as a student but also as a diplomat.

The central HAWS mission, meanwhile, is to train Indian Soldiers how to operate, survive and win in a mountainous environment. The school also provides personnel for search and rescue operations, and most famously, conducts "Adventure Operations" scaling the world's tallest peaks. It is this last charge that garners the most attention.

Before the course started, none of the Indian Soldiers attending HAWS had mountaineering experience. Their trepidation at the course's onset was noticeable. They knew the training was important because the Indian Army relies on HAWS to test its troops' grit and cohesiveness off the battlefield.

## MOUNTING MOTIVATION

A mere four weeks after the course began, most of the Indian Soldiers had opened to the idea of becoming mountaineers. Many even began to thrive and take a strong liking to the art of climbing. It wasn't until the words "Everest" and "Nanda Devi" flashed across the screen, as a legendary sergeant major made a presentation to us, that the Indian Soldiers truly were captivated by the adventurous exploits that mountaineering offered.

A renowned mountaineer, the sergeant major had climbed six of the world's tallest mountains, expeditions all planned and executed by the Indian Army. He surmounted Everest with ease and then moved on to other challenges. He was part of a daring ascent of Nanda Devi, India's tallest peak and one of the world's deadliest. To this day, he is among a small group of mountaineers to reach its summit. As the distinguished sergeant major continued, we all stared at the screen in silence, filled with envy of his daring undertakings.



He also shared the secret of his success with us: “Teamwork,” he said. It was a concept for which we were yet to learn the true meaning. Yet we all wanted to be like him, or as consolation, be on his team for the upcoming expedition.

## TRAINING REGIMENS

We continued to “high knee” regularly to the sound of a HAWS instructor belting out commands. We spent almost five weeks learning the finer points of rock craft and sub-alpine survival. We were now in the middle of our ice craft portion of training. Every day, we hiked 600 vertical meters from our camp to the toe of the Machoi Glacier to tune our technical skills and rope work in preparation for the climb.

Looming more than 1,400 vertical meters above our training grounds was the pointed summit of the glacier’s namesake. Standing at 5,400 meters, Machoi Peak dominated the surrounding terrain. Every day, we gazed at the snowcapped summit and wondered if we had the strength and teamwork to stand on top. It wasn’t long until we would find out.

In the final days before the expedition, we conducted the last of our rehearsals in preparation for the challenges we would encounter on our way to the summit. I would quickly construct a pulley system to hoist my Indian rope-mate out of a crevasse. Then my Indian partner would do the

same. He would hammer in pitons and ice screws to fix rope up a steep pitch. I’d follow on belay, removing the protection he emplaced, so we could move farther up. We practiced. We listened to the instructors. Then we practiced some more.

A few days before our ascent, we hiked into “high” camp at 5,300 meters. I joined a small group of instructors on the *recce*, the Indian Army’s term for recon, to scout the route and mark critical junctures and terrain features with chemical lights. There would be no moon during our ascent. We would need the chem lights to avoid the giant crevasses and snow slopes directing us off route.

After an early dinner, we all went to our tents to get a few hours of rest before our alpine start. Excited anticipation and uneasy nerves kept me awake. My alarm went off before I fell asleep.

Finally, it was time.

## THE ASCENT

We began the climb at 1:30 a.m. The blackness of the evening was interrupted only by the beams of our headlamps. The eerie silence of the night was broken by the clamoring of our harnessed gear. If all went as planned, we would reach the base of the most technical portion of the climb just as the sun was rising and then reach the summit three hours later. In all, we planned for a 10-hour day. Six hours up, four hours down.

Soldiers take a break during ice craft training on Machoi Glacier in June 2013.








High Altitude Warfare School instructor KCK Singh (right) and Capt. Matthew Hickey during the Machoi expedition in July 2013. They summited the more than 5,400-meter-high mountain on July 8, 2013.



High Altitude Warfare School students celebrate on the summit of Machoi Peak on July 8, 2013. Soldiers from India, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Bhutan, Nepal, Botswana and the United States made the summit.



The commandant of the High Altitude Warfare School chats with Capt. Matt Hickey, right, and Sgt. 1st Class Brett Martinson, center, after the graduation ceremony in July 2013 for the strenuous 11-week course.



No one said a word for the first hour of the climb. We put one foot in front of the other and gradually made our way higher. From the rear of the movement, I glanced up at a long string of faint dots — the glow of headlamps showing the way upward.

We reached the base of the couloir, or steep gully, just as the sun began to light up the glacier. I took a sip of water and gazed at the 600-meter crux, the most difficult part of the climb. Again, silence fell on my Indian teammates and me. We didn't need to speak. An experienced or well-prepared mountaineer knows that the language of climbing is not spoken but rather acted out by teammates on the same rope. An action by one is action for all.

I was confident that the training with my Indian rope-mates would serve us well. I trusted them, and they trusted me. One obstacle remained between us and the summit, a goal that we had been working toward for eight weeks. On this portion of the climb, our training and teamwork would make or break us.

## THE TEST

I tied into the rope. I was in the lead. Cpl. Resham Ale, my primary HAWS instructor, was tied in behind me. Behind him was Staff Sgt. Adam Snyder from 2nd Ranger Battalion, Fort Lewis, Washington. An Indian Soldier followed him, and Sgt. 1st Class Mike McNeill of 1st Special Forces Group at Fort Lewis anchored the rope at the rear. The five of us were connected by a 50-meter strand of 9-millimeter rope. We would succeed or fail together.

Ahead of us was a rope team composed of Indian Soldiers. Their job was to place intermittent stakes and pitons along the steep gully to prevent long, potentially deadly falls to the glacier basin.

My rope team needed them to move quickly and cautiously while ensuring proper placement of the protection. If they failed, we failed. Our success was tied together on that precarious pitch that morning. I desperately wanted the summit and direly needed them to perform. They did.

Two hours after beginning the ascent of the couloir, we topped out on a corniced saddle. We were physically exhausted from the arduous ascent and mentally drained by the threat of falling 600 meters back down the couloir, but we needed to keep moving. The leeward side of the ridge could collapse at any moment, as our collective weight continued to stress the unsupported snow and ice extending over the 900-meter north face of the mountain. We were told to move fast, but we could only muster a slow stagger toward the final crux of the climb — that 12-meter, nearly vertical pitch of ice that led to the summit ridge.

I waited my turn as another Indian climber led the way up the precipitous pitch. He hammered in an anchor and called me up. I swung my tools and kicked my crampons into the steep grade. He belayed me,

as I made my last laborious movements before the welcoming reprieve of the low-angled slope leading to the mountain's pinnacle. We were almost there. I could see prayer flags flapping in the wind. I knew that was the summit. I wanted to run but could barely walk. I felt as if I were stuck in mud. The remaining distance was less than 75 meters. I could make that distance in less than two minutes at a lower elevation with fresh legs, but at that altitude after a long ascent, my rope-mates and I could barely move from fatigue and lack of oxygen.

Finally, 20 minutes later, I touched the colorful prayer flags and embraced my Indian and American rope-mates on the 5,450-meter summit of Machoi Peak, gazing over the Kashmir Himalayas. I took my American flag from my pack as the Indian expedition leader, Maj. Sanat Kumar, unfurled his country's colors next to me. We snapped photos with the large flags and embraced. We then attached smaller flags to our ice axes and took a photo with our mountain tools crossed. His flag near me and my flag near him — a symbolic portrait of the teamwork necessary to accomplish our common goal. Without each other, neither of us would have succeeded.

## AT THE SUMMIT

Aside from military combat, few exploits can replicate the trials and hardships of war the way mountaineering does. On the flanks and ridges of a mountain, just as on the plains and trenches of a battlefield, a man must rely on those around him to survive. Act alone and one may die. Work together and chances of survival are increased. Master teamwork and act decisively, and victory becomes a likely outcome. These are the lessons that I had gleaned from the HAWS instructors.

When I reached the massive summit of Machoi Peak high in the Himalayas, I found myself surrounded by my Indian teammates who just a few weeks before were completely unknown to me. On the expedition, we came together to form a team and communicated with the same unspoken language. That teamwork manifested itself on the summit of a challenging mountain.

When I stood on the summit, I knew I had fulfilled my duties as a student. I negotiated the challenges put in front of me and accomplished the required tasks. I was pleased with my marks and my performance, but had I fulfilled my real duty? Had I presented myself on behalf of the U.S. Army in an honorable and memorable manner? Did I leave a lasting and positive impression on my classmates?

There is no way to know the answer. However, I am encouraged by the photos of me and my new teammates rejoicing on the summit. The relationships I forged at HAWS are real and sincere, and I can only hope they reflect a much larger, more solid relationship between our countries. Although my part was relatively brief and small in relation to the international spectrum, I am optimistic that I did my job well. □





# Sri Lanka

SECURING

Growing presidential  
power threatens  
progress toward  
post-civil war  
reconciliation and  
stability

FORUM STAFF

Sri Lanka has been fervently rebuilding since government forces defeated the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 2009. The end of the 25-year civil war presented Sri Lanka with a golden opportunity to restore its splendor.

While much progress has taken place, concern is growing among human rights groups, United Nations officials and others that Sri Lanka's efforts at reconciliation have been inadequate and that the nation is descending into an authoritarian state. Some security experts worry that this turn puts the country at risk for relapsing into another civil war.

## ECONOMIC PROGRESS

The country has abundant potential. Its prime location within a major East-West shipping corridor has made Sri Lanka important from the time of the ancient Silk Road. It possesses one of Asia's fastest-growing economies, with an average gross-national-product growth rate of 6.43 percent during the past decade, according to the country's Department of Census and Statistics, and the nation's tourism sector is booming. "The Sri Lanka government has the wind in their sails, and they want to define the future of their country in their own terms," Harsh V. Pant, professor at the Defence Studies Department at King's College in London, told *The Washington Post* newspaper in July 2012.

The Sri Lankan government has allocated 215 billion rupees (about U.S. \$1.6 billion) to the rehabilitation of the Northern and Eastern provinces. Housing, electricity, drinking water and education have been given priority. Sri Lanka opened its first expressway in 2012, and an airport expressway linking its main international hub in Katunayake to the capital city of Colombo opened in September 2013.



Tamil protesters hold photos of missing relatives during a demonstration in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, in August 2013.



## SETTLING THE PAST

Since the end of the civil war, many experts have pushed for reconciling the past as a critical step in moving forward. Forty-thousand civilians were killed in the final months of the war, and both sides were accused of war crimes. Many observers have long contended that a full investigation is the most certain way to move toward peace. At the request of the U.N. Human Rights Council, Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa created a body in August 2013 to appoint a commission to investigate war-crime allegations and share its findings with him in six months, The Associated Press reported. He stressed the importance of identifying those who are responsible and taking legal action against them. Opponents have doubts the investigation will be objective, given that earlier efforts have fallen short, but they remain hopeful.

There are other encouraging signs. In September 2013, Sri Lanka held provincial elections for the first time in 25 years in the nation's north, which is predominantly Tamil. Alan Keenan, Sri Lanka Project director for the International Crisis Group, said the Northern Provincial Council election was “an indicator of the state of the ethnic reconciliation and political progress in the South Asian Island,” the *Sri Lanka Guardian* reported in September 2013. As expected, candidates from the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) won in a landslide against

contenders from the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA), which holds more than two-thirds of seats in the national Parliament. The TNA party campaigned on a platform for Tamil rights but within a unified Sri Lankan state. The victory could help cooperation between the majority Sinhalese, who are mainly Buddhist, and the minority, mainly Hindu, Tamil populations, according to Lisa Curtis, a senior research fellow for South Asia in the Asian Studies Center at The Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Some Rajapaksa critics worry that the council will have marginal control of the region because the region's governor was appointed by the president and aligned with the UPFA. Meanwhile, the Army is maintaining substantial troop strength in the region.

If the government attempts to rescind the 13th amendment, which established provincial councils in 1987, however, the council's powers could be stripped. Shiv Shankar Menon, India's national security advisor warned the Rajapaksa government against such a move during a July 2013 visit, arguing it would violate the Indo-Lankan Accord also signed in 1987 between the two nations that delegates power to the provinces.

Its importance cannot be underestimated. “The 13th amendment is historically significant and currently indispensable because [it] is the only structural reform of the centralized Sri Lankan

**A Sri Lankan man bicycles with a boy a day after the Northern Provincial Council election in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, in September 2013. The landslide victory for the Tamil National Alliance party was seen as a resounding call for wider regional autonomy.**



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

state which devolves power, makes for some measure of autonomy and thereby provides a basis for the reconciliation of the Sinhalese and Tamil communities,” explained Sri Lankan political scientist Dayan Jayatilaka in his book, *Long War, Cold Peace*, released in 2013. During an August 2013 visit, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay called the reconstruction achievements in the Northern and Eastern provinces “indeed impressive” and confirmed that the majority of the more than 450,000 people who were internally displaced at the end of the civil conflict have now gone home, according to a U.N. news release.

Still, concern lingers that the nation’s democratic institutions may be in jeopardy. On her August visit, Pillay also said that “Sri Lanka, despite the opportunity provided by the end of the war to construct a new vibrant, all-embracing state, is showing signs of heading in an increasingly authoritarian direction.”

### GROWING PRESIDENTIAL POWER

Other critics go further, accusing President Rajapaksa of undermining reconciliation efforts. They worry that the changes he is making don’t factor in the will of the people. Some of these changes include constitutional amendments that extend presidential powers, reduce oversight and eliminate presidential term limits. The international security community is particularly concerned about the liberal use of the military in place of police in civil situations, and until just recently, the Sri Lankan government had refused to investigate the allegations of war crimes at the culmination of the war — a step experts say is crucial for successful reintegration.

Concern is growing over diminishing government oversight. In August 2012, the Sri Lankan Parliament passed a constitutional amendment to remove presidential term limits that previously held a leader to two six-year terms. The new law now allows a president to remain in office indefinitely. The amendment, moreover, weakened other checks and balances on the nation’s democratic institutions. It discontinued the use of independent commissions as oversight for appointments to the judiciary, police, public service and the elections office, leaving the president with power to appoint at his discretion. This worries critics in the face of Rajapaksa’s January 2013 impeachment of the former chief justice, which further weakened the power of Sri Lanka’s judiciary.

The Rajapaksa family controls about 70 percent of Sri Lanka’s budget, according to the East-West Center. Many security experts worry that this opens the door for a family dynasty. Currently, two of the president’s brothers hold senior minister positions, another serves as defense secretary, and other close relatives serve in various cabinet positions.

Reversing this trend is crucial for Sri Lanka to recover. Authoritarianism can lead to increased corruption, with no outlet for citizens to voice their opinions. Growing oppression has led to more violence. The Sri Lankan government has responded with force to nonviolent government protests in the north and south, a February 2013 International Crisis Group report stated.

Attacks from militant Buddhists on Muslim religious sites and businesses are on

the rise. Increasing use of the military can undermine local law enforcement. “The Sri Lankan military has not been demobilized since the end of the civil war, instead it is venturing into civilian commercial projects in ways that undermine fair business practices,” Neil DeVotta, a political science professor at Wake Forest University in the United States, wrote in a February 2013 article for the East-West Center. Concern grows that the military is used so regularly.

Rajapaksa supporters argue, however, that refugees returning from India is a sign that the repression depicted in the media is a misconception, *The Australian* newspaper reported in April 2013.

### A BRIGHT FUTURE

Despite undergoing political transition, the country ranks as one of the world’s leading travel destinations. Lonely Planet, the world’s largest travel guidebook publisher, places Sri Lanka at the top of the list of countries to visit in 2013. “Prices are affordable, and with low-cost flights from the convenient travel hub of Bangkok, Sri Lanka is emerging as one of the planet’s best-value destinations.”

The possibilities for Sri Lanka extend beyond its lure as a tourist destination. The island nation is strategically located in the Indian Ocean both economically and militarily. The Sri Lankan government holds much power in its hands. The country sits at a crucial political juncture — on the brink of great opportunity. If Sri Lanka can reunite its ethnic groups and build a national consensus on postwar reconciliation, the country can move forward and achieve its potential. □



**Sri Lankan Special Task Force commandos patrol near a mosque that was vandalized in Colombo in August 2013, raising international concern.** AFP/GETTY IMAGES





Soldiers conduct a team-building event at the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus Counterterrorism Exercise in September 2013. Teams composed of Soldiers from participating countries navigated an obstacle course at the Indonesian Peace and Security Center in Sentul-Bogor.



# COUNTERING

## ◀ T E R R O R I S M ▶

Defense ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations lead the region's fight against transnational threats

STORY BY FORUM STAFF  
PHOTOS BY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PACIFIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

More than 300 counterterrorism personnel from 18 nations assembled September 9-13, 2013, in Indonesia to share information, discuss future cooperative efforts and build rapport. It was the first Counterterrorism Exercise of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM+). Participants, meeting at the Indonesian Peace and Security Center (IPSC) in Sentul-Bogor, made significant progress in building cooperation against transnational terrorist threats.

Developing partnerships to counter terrorism requires different approaches in each region of the globe. In the Indo Asia Pacific, nations have a network of strong bilateral partnerships, but the region lacks a multinational alliance or cooperative security structure, such as NATO. The ADMM+, one of the regional groupings associated with ASEAN, has begun filling that gap. ADMM+ is leading efforts to cooperate against terrorism, guided by the consensus of ASEAN and in a manner appropriate for the region.

The 18 countries of ADMM+ came together for the first time in 2010. ADMM+ consists of the 10 Southeast Asian nations that comprise ASEAN, along with "plus" countries that include Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and the United States. At its formation, the ADMM+ established five experts working groups to further practical cooperation in five key areas: maritime security, disaster management, peacekeeping operations,

military medicine and counterterrorism. Indonesia and the United States were designated as the initial co-chairs of the experts working group on counterterrorism.

At the 2010 ADMM+ meeting, participants agreed to conduct a counterterrorism exercise in 2013 with Indonesia as the host. The United States assisted and supported Indonesia. The IPSC session in September 2013 was the culmination of those plans.

Participants shared information and discussed cooperative approaches to secure the liquefied natural

gas export and import network, defeat the threat of man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) to commercial air travel, and counter improvised explosive devices. The head of Indonesia's national counterterrorism agency, known as BNPT, provided a comprehensive overview on their successes and challenges in responding to terrorism. Participants in the practical portion of the exercise worked together in multinational teams to surmount a variety of challenges and share information.

As demonstrated by the exercise, the ADMM+ grouping is building practical cooperation to take on the threat of terrorism and other security challenges. This event was the second ADMM+ exercise; the first convened in June 2013 in Brunei and focused on humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and military medicine. A third ADMM+ exercise focused on maritime security and was conducted in September 2013 in Australia. □



**Indonesian Special Forces demonstrate vessel boarding during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Defence Ministers Meeting Plus Counterterrorism Exercise at the Indonesian Peace and Security Center in Sentul-Bogor in September 2013.**





# [A CALL TO COOPERATIVE ACTION]



The 21st century will be a century of peace and development for the Asia Pacific. Of late, our region has undergone major changes. It is a region — which once experienced confrontation, division and wars — that has made a strong bend to an Asia Pacific with the most dynamic cooperation and development. Geopolitically, the Asia Pacific has three permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. In terms of future development, the Asia Pacific is the center stage for countries with high technology, advanced management, abundant workforce[s] and plentiful natural resources. These are the decisive factors for the Asia Pacific to become one of the hubs of development for the world. With the above-mentioned strategic status and big potential — together with the major trend of peace, cooperation and development — the Asia Pacific is enjoying great opportunities to make a decisive contribution to the global development in the 21st century.

Nevertheless, I am willing to share your concerns about the regional situation. In reality, our region has not enjoyed absolute stability. ... The increase of military engagement and the competition for influence of nations are driving the region to new challenges, of which an arms race is one example. In addition, the scale and complicated nature of nontraditional security challenges are on the rise. No single country can deal with these challenges by itself. Hence, it is more essential than ever before to promote defense cooperation for a collective strength to cope with the common challenges. This is one of the key measures to maintain peace, stability and development to meet the aspiration of nearly 4 billion people in our region.

It is clearly seen that the trend for cooperation, including the Asia-Pacific defense cooperation, takes place more vigorously here than in any other regions in the world. A few decades ago, the cooperation was limited to some countries, mainly bilateral ones or in some particular spheres. However, the defense cooperation has nowadays been expanded multilaterally and in various areas. Even some nations that used to face contradiction or confrontation are now moving forward to the defense cooperation more obviously. Thanks to this trend, we have made massive progress in confidence building and preventive diplomacy, which is a key factor to reduce the risks of conflicts and contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in the Asia Pacific for more than three decades.

As for the Asia-Pacific defense cooperation, ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] nations have gained the common sense, strong determination, collective efforts and effective cooperation. After a period of time facing division, since the late 20th century, ASEAN has become a common house of 10 members and is now advancing toward the target of the establishment of the ASEAN community in 2015. To preserve regional peace and stability, the ASEAN member states wish to establish a strong cooperation mechanism. Thus, ASEAN organized the first ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) successfully in Malaysia in 2006. Since ADMM was established, there have been major progresses in building confidence, strengthening solidarity and promoting multifaceted cooperation.

ASEAN does not limit itself to the defense cooperation within ASEAN; the initiative for a new, open and inclusive security structure adopted by ASEAN nations and eight partner countries was proved by the successful organization of the first ADMM Plus in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 2010. This is the consulting mechanism and the highest defense-security cooperation between ASEAN and its partners with a view to boosting the cooperation and sharing experience and human resources to deal with the challenges. Although the mechanism was established not long ago, a lot of ADMM Plus' commitments have been carried out in a flexible, practical and specific way, which is suitable for both the common requirements of the region and the capacity of each member country. In addition to these mechanisms, ASEAN has been proactively taking part in the cooperation within the framework of ASEAN Regional Forum and Shangri-La Dialogue.

How will we promote our regional defense cooperation?

Some scholars contend that only actions can bring about the outcomes, which is the foundation for success. Every great objective and massive plan requires actions as a last resort for completion. This is definitely true. We have had quite a few defense-security cooperation mechanisms at regional and global levels, and we also have made a number of agreements, statements and commitments. In reality, having joined various mechanisms and adopted cooperative items means that we have built the confidence at the onset. To put these commitments into practice, the best way to do this is to keep building confidence. The best way of building confidence is action.

Vietnamese Minister of Defense Phung Quang Thanh, left, walks with U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta during a ceremony in June 2012 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

This is an edited excerpt from a speech delivered by Senior Lt. Gen. Nguyen Chi Vinh on behalf of Vietnamese Defense Minister Phung Quang Thanh at the 12th Shangri-La Dialogue in June 2013. The original speech was titled "Asia-Pacific Defense Cooperation: Effective coordination for peace, stability and dynamic growth of the region."



## NETHERLANDS

THOUSANDS LINE UP  
FOR ONE-WAYMars  
Trip

More than 200,000 people from 140 countries have applied to go to Mars and never return, according to a September 2013 tally by the group behind an ambitious venture to colonize the inhospitable planet.

Bas Lansdorp, a Dutch engineer and entrepreneur, plans to establish a permanent base on Mars in a mission he hopes will take off in 2022 if he can find the necessary U.S. \$6 billion.

A quarter of the 202,586 applicants for the one-way trip are Americans, said Mars One, the nonprofit group that initiated the hunt for "would-be Mars settlers" in April 2013.

By 2015, Mars One expects to put up to 10 four-member teams through intensive training, with the first of those teams reaching Mars in 2023 on a high-risk journey that would take seven months to complete.

If they survive the trip, the human Martians will have to deal with temperatures at minus 55 degrees Celsius in a desertlike atmosphere that consists mainly of carbon dioxide.

Space agencies, including NASA, have expressed skepticism about the viability of the plan, saying the technology to establish a human colony on Mars does not exist.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## TURKEY

UNDERWATER TRAIN TUNNEL  
BRIDGES BOSPORUS STRAIT

The dream of an Ottoman sultan 150 years ago to link Europe and Asia via an underwater tunnel has become a reality. The Marmaray tunnel opened in October 2013 in Turkey and runs under the Bosphorus, the strait that connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara and divides Istanbul between Asia and Europe. The 13.6-kilometer tunnel includes an underwater stretch of 1.4 kilometers that reaches a depth of 55 meters. Officials hope that with as many as 1.5 million passengers a day, the tunnel will ease some of Istanbul's chronic traffic, particularly over the two bridges linking the two sides of the city. The project began in 2005 and was scheduled to be completed in four years, but it was delayed by important archaeological finds.

Ottoman Sultan Abdulmejid is said to have proposed the idea of a tunnel under the Bosphorus in 1860. One of his successors had architects submit proposals in 1891, but the plans were not carried out.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## INDIA



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## Indian Sprint HERO INSPIRES BOLLYWOOD BIOPIC

The courageous story of the “Flying Sikh” — India’s most successful track athlete, who overcame childhood tragedy to seek Olympic glory — has become a recent Bollywood biopic.

*Bhaag Milkha Bhaag* (*Run, Milkha, Run*) charts the journey of young Milkha Singh, who lost his family during India’s tumultuous partition in 1947 and went on to compete at the 1960 and 1964 Olympic Games.

“We all grew up with the folklore of Milkha. He’s a larger-than-life figure for us,” said Rakeysh Mehra, the film’s director.

The movie title refers to the poignant last words spoken to Singh by his father. As he was dying, he told Singh to flee or he, too, would be killed in the post-partition riots sweeping the subcontinent. Singh ran for his life and boarded a train with other refugees.

Mehra was drawn to Singh’s story, not just for his sporting achievements, but for the impact the athlete had on a newborn nation struggling to assert itself.

“This man never ran away from his fears — he ran along with them.”

Agence France-Presse

## THAILAND

## JUMBO CLASH AT ELEPHANT POLO

Elephants lumber across a manicured playing field as riders wielding extra-long handled mallets chase a small white ball in the tropical heat. Welcome to polo — Thai style.

About a dozen teams from around the world, including former New Zealand All Blacks rugby players and transgender beauty queens, competed in the King’s Cup Elephant Polo Tournament in the Thai seaside resort of Hua Hin in late August 2013.

Even polo professionals taking part in the annual event say the pachyderm version is far harder.

“The horses naturally move much quicker. The elephants don’t actually trot, which was a surprise,” said Steve Thompson, owner of the Polo Academy in Dubai.

“We thought they’d run a little bit, but they just walk very fast, and as a result, the gait that they use makes it quite unstable, so your hand-to-eye coordination is quite affected on the approach to the ball and, of course, it is much higher.”

The tournament raises money for elephant projects across Thailand.

Agence France-Presse



AFP/GETTY IMAGES



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## SUDAN

## WRESTLING FOR PEACE

In the thousands of years of Sudanese Nuba wrestling history, there has never been anything like it: a barefoot Japanese diplomat in a tight-fitting singlet stepping onto the sandy pitch to take on Sudan’s toughest.

Four times during 2013, Yasuhiro Murotatsu challenged the Sudanese. Four times, he lost. But “Muro” refuses to give up. He says his wrestling diplomacy highlights this “precious culture” and can help unite a divided country.

The Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan state are home to a linguistically and religiously diverse group of people collectively known as Nuba. Wrestling is central to their farm-based society, but for more than two years, a more modern form of combat has devastated the region.

“Sudanese wrestling can be a symbol of a united Sudan,” says Murotatsu, 33, a Japanese Embassy political officer who tries to spend one hour a day training for his bouts.

Agence France-Presse



## RISKING LIFE AND LIMB TO MAKE PHILIPPINE



Inset: Philippine tapper Eugenio Andaya harvests coconut sap in Tayabas, south of Manila.

The coconut sap is used in a local wine called "tuba," which can be further distilled to become lambanog.

# 'VODKA'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PHOTOS BY AFP/GETTY IMAGES

With their huge copper vats and open fires, little-known backyard liquor makers have toiled for generations on Philippine coconut farms to distill their equivalent of Russian vodka.

Their concoction, once considered a lowly peasant's drink, has a potency that makes other liquors and spirits worldwide seem tame. The "lambanog," as it's called, is the Philippine version of coconut arrack made in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. "Many have compared it to Russian vodka or English gin, but what sets our lambanog apart is that you don't get a hangover," said 65-year-old distiller Isabelita Capistrano.

The family-owned Capistrano Distillery in coconut-rich Tayabas is one of two leading Philippine makers of lambanog. Capistrano sells its products to the country's biggest supermarket chain. "It is a very hard drink. Japanese and South Korean [tourists] especially like it. Americans find it too strong, but smooth," said the former high school teacher.

Although drinking it is a challenge, making it is a high-risk pursuit. Climbing coconut trees to collect the frothy sap that is fermented to produce the drink can be hazardous. "People have fallen and died or had broken bones," said Eugenio Andaya, 53, who has been climbing the trees since he was a teenager. "It is a very difficult job, but I just pray and leave my fate to the Lord," he said during an August 2013 visit to Tayabas, a sleepy, picturesque rural town about three hours' drive from Manila.

Workers climb the trees without protective harnesses to prune the coconut flowers before they turn into fruits. The sap is allowed to drip into bamboo receptacles.

Like high-wire performers, the tappers navigate a network of bamboo bridges connecting the trees 9 meters above the ground. The workers carry blades on their waists and bags tightly strapped to their shoulders.

Pruning is mostly done in the afternoon, and the climbers return at dawn to collect the liquid "even before the roosters crow," said Andaya. Farmhands then deliver the sap to the distillery in big plastic containers that are carried behind their backs or on pack horses. The sap is fermented into a local wine called "tuba," which

if distilled further, yields the colorless lambanog, with methanol as a byproduct.

## CHEAP AND POPULAR

Capistrano said the process of distilling the equivalent of coconut vodka was first recorded in Tayabas in the early 19th century. The town was founded by Spain in the 1580s as part of its move to Christianize its Asian colony. Tayabas lies in the shadow of Mount Banahaw, a spiritual place where shamans live and where rainwater rushing down the slopes keeps the land fertile.

According to local lore, the first known Tayabas distillery was owned by a Spanish Soldier named Alandy who settled in the area. Alandy's line is now produced by Mallari Distillery, whose owners trace their ancestry to the Soldier and who still maintain the original recipe of a drink with a 90 proof grade, which means it contains 45 percent alcohol.

Lambanog remains a cheap, popular drink across the Philippines. But official data on how much income it generates domestically remain sketchy, with the beverage sold locally through neighborhood shops that do not remit taxes or reports.

In 2001, the government approached the Mallari and Capistrano houses and 14 other smaller lambanog distillers with a plan to develop the product for export. It provided packaging expertise, introduced modern bottling operations and sponsored alcohol-tasting tours for foreign buyers.

The trade department said the drink had been slowly penetrating the beverage markets in Australia, Japan and Macau, though official data are unavailable. The Capistrano family said it has taken a lead in promoting the drink abroad.

Lambanog faces competition from Sri Lanka in particular, which targets Japan, South Korea and the Maldives with premium blends.

Capistrano's best-seller is lambanog spiked with local wild blackberries called "liputi," which offer a slightly sweet, tangy taste. "We want the world to know that lambanog is the official Philippine liquor," said Capistrano.



## AUSTRALIA



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## Australia Opens 'WORLD'S SMARTEST' AQUARIUM

A major research aquarium that opened in Australia in August 2013 is able to simulate ocean climate changes and conduct key studies on the deadly crown-of-thorns starfish that is devastating the Great Barrier Reef.

Industry Minister Kim Carr unveiled the AUS \$35 million (U.S. \$31.4 million) National Sea Simulator, or SeaSim, in the northern city of Townsville. He said it was a vital weapon in protecting the reef and Australia's vast territorial waters.

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), where SeaSim is housed, has labeled it the "world's smartest aquarium." It features an "awesome" array of technology, according to AIMS principal research scientist Mike Hall.

Hall said researchers would be able to tweak a sophisticated array of parameters in the SeaSim tanks, including water temperature, acidity, salinity, lighting, nutrient levels and water quality to test hypotheses.

Researchers hope to use the simulator to help thwart the predatory crown-of-thorns starfish responsible for widespread damage to the reef, according to AIMS chief John Gunn. Coral cover on the embattled reef has been reduced by half in the past 27 years, with the starfish blamed for 42 percent of the damage. "We need to understand why starfish populations periodically boom, leading to massive reef destruction," Gunn said.

Agence France-Presse

## JAPAN



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## ROBOT TRANSFORMS

JAPANESE CHILDREN INTO  
MASTER CALLIGRAPHERS

N ijiya Kurota's little hand grips a calligraphy brush dangling above a clean sheet of rice paper. The brush itself is being held dead straight, just as an expert who has spent years learning the art of shodo, or Japanese calligraphy, would do.

That's because a robot arm is also attached to the brush and for a moment, as thick lines of glistening black ink are laid down on the page, Nijiya is transformed into a master calligrapher.

In July 2013, the junior high school student and his classmates in Yokohama, close to Tokyo, encountered this strange invention.

An assembly of metal rods and whirring motors proves a deft

practitioner of such a subtle art form, with the robot writing just like an expert calligrapher. Its inventor hopes it will help teach a new generation of Japanese children an ancient skill that many fear is fast dying out.

"The teaching of calligraphy is all but lost, so I thought I could forever preserve the art of our great masters on the robot's memory," explains Seiichiro Katsura, a professor at Keio University.

The machine's hard drive has been imbued with the skills of 90-year-old Juho Sado, a master calligrapher who taught the robot how to write a series of "Kanji" characters down to the most imperceptible of wrist movements and brush strokes. Agence France-Presse

# Cambodian Jungle Graveyard Mystifies Experts

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**M**ore than 100 “burial jars” and a dozen coffins arranged on a ledge in a remote Cambodian jungle have for centuries held the bones — and secrets — of a mysterious people who lived during the Angkor era.

Why the bones were placed in jars on a cliff 100 meters high in the Cardamom Mountains, and whose remains they are, has long puzzled experts.

For seven years, Nancy Beavan, an archaeologist who specializes in carbon dating, has been looking for an answer, painstakingly piecing together clues left by the enigmatic people at 10 sites dotted across the area in southwestern Cambodia.

Tests show some of the bone fragments are six centuries old, according to the New Zealander.

“Why put these bones in jars? This was a practice that was not observed in any other part of Cambodia,” she said.

Ten jars, dating from the 15th to the 17th centuries, and 12 coffins — the earliest from the 14th century — have been found at the Phnom Pel site.

Some are believed to have come from the kingdom of Siam, now Thailand. Others date back to the powerful kingdom of Angkor, which ruled for six centuries and built the famous Angkor Wat temple complex farther north.

Experts remain mystified as to why the bones were preserved in a Buddhist country where cremation is — and was — a key religious custom.

Tep Sokha, an expert in Cambodian ceramics, said the jars are of the “highest ceramic quality,” and the number indicates that “this was a sacred and widely practiced ritual.”

Villagers living near the cliff have stayed away, allowing foreigners to study the relics at their leisure, which has been left to Beavan’s team.

They are picking through the evidence, often left to guess the origins of the artifacts they find, including 12 coffins lined up on a rock. The coffins are too small to hold a child’s body but contain the



**Cambodian guides carry coffins in a cave at Phnom Pel, southwest of Phnom Penh, in March 2013. More than 100 “burial jars” and a dozen coffins arranged on a ledge in a remote Cambodian jungle have for centuries held the bones of a mysterious people who lived during the Angkor era.**



**Cambodian archaeologist Tep Sokha holds a bone from a jar in a cave at Phnom Pel in March 2013.**

individual bones of adults.

“These coffins are unique. There is no other example in the history of Cambodia. They are relics that have never been disturbed,” Beavan said.

Among her theories: The bones belonged to Khmer tribesmen who lived deep in the mountains far from the influence of the Angkor kingdom, which spanned Southeast Asia from the ninth to 15th centuries, but perhaps failed to reach this corner.

“They have nothing to do with the inhabitants of the kingdom of Angkor but lived in his shadow,” she said. “Who knows — maybe they were also slaves fleeing the Angkor kingdom.”

The search for answers took a leap forward in 2005 when fishermen off Koh Kong province found the same Siamese jars in their nets, prompting the discovery of a 15th century wreck containing ivory, Chinese porcelain, and Siamese and Angkorian jars.

The discovery provided the first scientific evidence of how Siamese

jars could have been brought to the Cardamoms. Beavan believes the ship came from the Siamese empire to trade jars for ivory and precious wood.

The discovery has led local authorities to consider establishing a museum for the artifacts to preserve this part of the nation’s heritage.

They hope it could become a valuable tourist attraction and spur proposals to protect the region.

In 2012, the province recorded 100,000 local and foreign tourists, drawn to the beauty of the Cardamom Mountains, home to stunning waterfalls and one of the region’s most biodiverse forests.

For two years, UNESCO has been building a case to list the mountain range as a key “biosphere reserve.” The shipwreck, the sacred jars and the coffins add a cultural dimension that could boost the case for listing the area.

“To do nothing would be a crime,” said Anne Lemaistre, the director of UNESCO in Cambodia.



## Goat Gimmick

First, there were the maid cafes, where customers were pampered by women in maid uniforms. Then came the cat cafes, which allowed cat lovers to play with frisky felines while sipping a cup of coffee. Now, enter the goat cafe, which houses a pair of friendly goats for customers to pet, play with and even take for walks through Tokyo's concrete jungle.

Rena Kawaguchi and her staff got Sakura and Chocolat three years ago, hoping to attract a new breed of animal-loving customers and spice up flagging weekend business. "Back then, animal cafes were booming, places where

you could play with cats or dogs," Kawaguchi said. "But we reckoned a normal animal like that wouldn't have the wow factor of a goat."

Keeping the goats has its challenges. Staff members have to muck out the goat pen between serving customers, and the goats eat special protein-rich pills to prevent foul-smelling droppings.

With the goats proving a hit, Kawaguchi has even bigger plans. An elephant cafe is at the top of her list, although it was not clear what her pen-cleaning staff thought of the prospect.

Reuters



VEER

## NO. 1 SUSPECT: SNAKE

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A chaotic crime scene that included a hole in the ceiling and a smelly pool of liquid mystified Australian police — until they found the culprit: a 5.7-meter python. Authorities captured the massive snake weighing in at 17 kilograms in July 2013 after a suspected burglary was reported at a charity store in Queensland in northeastern Australia.

"Its head was the size of a small dog," police Sgt. Don Auld said.

Before they found the python, investigators' working theory was that a human burglar with an appetite for destruction had gone on a rampage inside the store. "We thought a person had fallen through the ceiling because the roof panel was cut in half," Auld said. "When they've hit the floor, they've vomited and then staggered and fallen over. That's what we thought, anyway."

Police now suspect the python entered the store through the roof, which was damaged in a cyclone two years ago. The animal then plummeted through the ceiling, knocking over dishes, clothes and other items, before relieving itself on the floor. A local snake catcher captured the reptile, which was relocated. The Associated Press

## World's Tallest Man *Weds*

### Sultan Kosen,

the world's tallest man at **2.51 meters tall**, who once said it was difficult to find a girlfriend because of his height, has found a bride.

Kosen was married in Turkey to the 1.75-meter-tall Merve Dibo, in October 2013. *Guinness World Records* recognized him as the world's tallest man in 2009. In addition to that honor, *Guinness* also noted that Kosen has the biggest hands and feet of anyone in the world, at 27.5 centimeters and 36.5 centimeters, respectively.

Getty Images

GETTY IMAGES







## HUMANITARIAN AID AFTER HAIYAN

Crew members from the Indian Air Force unload pallets of supplies from a C-130 transport plane at the airport in Tacloban, Philippines. International relief and rehabilitation efforts are helping millions of residents rebuild their lives after Typhoon Haiyan razed vast swaths of the central and eastern provinces in November 2013. Known as Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines, the storm, one of the most powerful typhoons on record, claimed more than 6,000 lives and damaged more than a million homes.

Photo By Wally Santana, The Associated Press

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