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Remnants of Daesh and other militant groups remain a threat, as they continue to find an audience for their extremist ideologies.

New challenges arise as terrorists utilise secure and encrypted online channels for recruitment, spreading of propaganda, planning of terror plots and funding.



**Chuah Teong Ban**Director - General

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2019 saw important developments counter Daesh's terrorism. so-called physical caliphate was declared defeated on 23 March 2019 by US-backed forces with liberation Daesh's last stronghold, Baghuz, in Syria. Daesh supreme leader Abu Bakar al-Baghdadi was pronounced dead on 26 October 2019, and this also served as a severe blow to the group. Closer to home, two Malaysian militants in Syria, Akel Zainal and Rafi Udin, who were known to have actively recruited individuals in the Southeast Asian region to join the group, were also killed in March and January 2019. respectively. This can be said to have slowed down recruitment in the region quite significantly. Nevertheless, remnants of Daesh and other militant groups remain a threat, as they continue to find an audience for their extremist ideologies. New challenges arise as terrorists utilise secure and encrypted online channels, for recruitment. spreading propaganda, planning of terror plots and funding.

Extremism exists in every pocket of society and in retrospect, 2019 reminded the world just that. The year saw many forms of extremism surface, through a number of horrifying attacks from non-organised groups and "inspired" individual offenders. The perpetrator behind the Christchurch mosque attacks in March 2019, who killed 51 innocent victims, made reference to the 2011 attacks in Norway. On the other hand, the California mosque burning and shooting in El Paso were both said to have been inspired by the atrocity that happened in Christchurch. Sacred spaces were also not spared from being victim to terrorism. The Jolo Cathedral bombings in Philippines, Easter bombings in Sri Lanka and synagogue shootings in the United States and Germany are but a few examples of incidents targeting places of worship in 2019.

Concerns over the return of foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) continued to be voiced by many quarters throughout the year. History has shown that returning FTF with potential battle-hardened ideology, combat skills and networks, pose a serious threat to receiving nations. Southeast Asia, in particular, is mindful of FTF who wish to continue Daesh's fight and bring the "battle" to the region. In this regard, Malaysia has stated its commitment to bring Malaysian FTF home, to be subjected to local judicial and rehabilitation processes. On that note, Malaysia continues to be aggressive and proactive in executing hard power approaches in counter-terrorism through arrests of terror suspects by the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP). Since 2013, 533 terror-related arrests have been made in the country thus far, 72 of which were conducted in 2019.

SEARCCT had a productive and fruitful 2019, forging close cooperation with like-minded agencies and countries with mutual interest, as well as playing an important role in promoting peace, stability and security in the country against the terrorist threat.

SEARCCT has been well-equipped to address these trends. Towards that end, SEARCCT continues, through its Digital Strategic Communications Division (DSCD), to plan, develop and implement programmes designed to prevent, counter and degrade the influence of violent extremist groups and ideologies at home, within the region and beyond.

Aside from continuing to develop and disseminate in-house CVE-themed digital media products as well as holding youth-based workshops, DSCD carried out a number of new programmes throughout 2019, including a series of interviews with the Malaysian Prisons Department; an award-winning public service announcement campaign; a national video competition and youth festival; a

series of webisodes done in collaboration with a leading Malay-language radio station; a series of short videos that covered issues related to the drivers of violent extremism; and the production of Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) themed digital comics done in collaboration with professional artists.

For the Planning and Training Division, 23 programmes were successfully conducted in 2019 SEARCCT introduced several new programmes, namely, 'Active Shooter Response in Terrorist Incidents', 'Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents', 'Critical and Infrastructure Protection against Terrorist Attacks'. SEARCCT also continued to work with its foreign partners, collaborating in five programmes with the United States of America and one programme with Australia. The Commonwealth Secretariat and the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism (UNCCT) also co-organised programmes involving youth and social media investigation with SEARCCT.



Local agencies remain supportive of SEARCCT's programmes and were valuable partners the Centre's capacity-building endeavours throughout the year. For the first time, SEARCCT collaborated with Pertubuhan IKRAM Malaysia, a civil society organisation, in our strengthen effort to "whole-of-society" approach in terrorism countering and extremism in Malaysia.

The Research and Publications Division actively continued to work on two ongoing projects, namely "Online Terrorist Recruitment" as well as "Women and Terrorism". To substantiate the former research topic, the division co-organised a Dialogue with the University of Malaya (UM) entitled "Post 'Caliphate': Daesh in the Digital Realm" in November 2019. With regard to the latter project, the division contributed



an article entitled "Malaysian Women in Daesh: A Reflection of their Roles and Counter-Measures," which was published by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) in May 2019.

Both research projects are expected to be completed in 2020. On engagement with youth, the division organised three University Lecture Series in local tertiary institutions, as well as received interview requests from students researching issues surrounding terrorism and counter-terrorism.

All in all SEARCCT had a productive and fruitful 2019, forging close cooperation with like-minded agencies and countries of mutual interests, as well as playing an important role in promoting peace, stability and security within the country in the face of the terrorist threat. As the battle against terrorism requires a concerted effort. SEARCCT will continue to foster such relations and encourage a whole-of-nation approach to address the threat of terrorism

# CBRNe Awareness Kuantan, October 2019

# YEAR IN NUMBERS



# 51 Staff (as at 31 December 2019)

Divisions in SEARCCT: 4

(Research & Publications; Planning & Training; Digital Strategic Communications; and Administration & Finance)



Total Allocation for 2019:

RM 4.8 Million



Total Expenditure for financial year ended 31 December 2019:

RM4.07 million (95%)



# **YEAR** IN NUMBERS

Total Programmes & Activities :

40



Total Participating Countries:

116



1,513

**Participants** 



Speaking Engagements in 2019:

15

# **ORGANISATIONAL** STRUCTURE

# CHUAH TEONG BAN DIRECTOR - GENERAL

# AMBASSADOR KHAIRI BIN OMAR DEPUTY DIRECTOR - GENERAL I

DIRECTOR, RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

JASMINE BINTI MOHAMED JAWHAR
RESEARCHER

SITI FATIMAH NURAIN BINTI MOHAMAD

DIGITAL STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

ASRUL DANIEL BIN AHMED
ANALYST

ADLYSS ALDELYA MOHD ADNAN

**AMANDA SANGEETHA THOMAS** 

# RIEDZAL BIN ABDUL MALEK DEPUTY DIRECTOR - GENERAL II

# SUPERINTENDENT LOO CHEE LUM

DIRECTOR, PLANNING & TRAINING DIVISION

AHMAD TAJUDDIN BIN MOHD. SAID
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ASP FIRMAN ADI RAHMANA BIN NORSALIM DEPUTY DIRECTOR

CAPTAIN RAWI BIN ISA DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIVISION

MOHD. ZHAFRIE JOHARI

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

# **TOP MANAGEMENT**



Chuah Teong Ban



Ambassador Khairi bin Omar Director-General I



Riedzal bin Abdul Malek Director-General II

### **RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS DIVISION**



Zurina binti Ahmad Tejuddin



Jasmine binti Mohamed Jawhar



Siti Fatimah Nurain binti Mohamad

### **PLANNING & TRAINING DIVISION**



Superintendent Loo Chee Lum



Rahmana Norsalim



Ahmad Tajuddin Mohd. Said



Captain Rawi bin Isa

# **DIGITAL STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS** DIVISION **ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE** DIVISION



**Asrul Daniel** bin Ahmed



Adlyss Aldelya Mohd. Adnan







# **PLANNING AND TRAINING DIVISION**

The year 2019 was a milestone of achievements for the Planning and Training Division as it reached its annual target of a total of 23 programmes. SEARCCT's training programmes continue to be in demand by other government agencies as well as the private sector, and remains the driving force behind SEARCCT's main objective. Despite facing issues such as limited budget and the lack of manpower, the Division succeeded in creating new partnerships, strengthening existing cooperation, which then resulted in programmes that offered greater impact. In 2019, the Division also welcomed two new officers, Superintendent Loo Chee Lum, from the Royal Malaysia Police as a Director, replacing Superintendent Aemran bin Mustafa, as well as Captain Rawi Bin Isa from the Malaysian Armed Forces as a Deputy Director, taking over from Captain Sulaiman Bin Muhd Sofian.

Out of the 23 programmes, eight were conducted with foreign collaborators: six were conducted with local partners: seven were 'in-house' programmes run by SEARCCT trainers: and two were carried out under the auspices of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). In terms of SEARCCT's greas of interest the Centre continued to focus its programmes based on five flagships, namely, 'Legal and Investigation': 'CBRNe and Crisis Management': Terrorism. Financing': 'Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE); and last but not least, 'Critical Infrastructure Protection' In 2019, SEARCCT conducted ten programmes under the PCVE flagship, which included themes such as awareness-raising on counter-terrorism, youth terrorism, de-radicalisation and rehabilitation. legal issues concerning PCVE as well as best practices in PCVE.

Given that there was also a high demand for CBRNe and Crisis Management programmes, SEARCCT continued to strengthen its partnerships with first responder

agencies by conducting a total of nine CBRNe programmes, which were well-received by participating agencies. SEARCCT also focused on fostering Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in counter-terrorism campaigns by collaborating with Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad (MRCB).

Understanding that the strategy is always terrorists' and ever-changing. cunning SEARCCT adopted a new and creative approach, by engaging civil society organisations (CSOs), which include Pertubuhan IKRAM Malaysia, in order to assist the government by designing CVE programmes and delivering the intended messages to all levels of society in the future. Through this initiative SEARCCT succeeded in engaging with 27 local CSOs.

CBRNe First Responder Training Programme

Akademi Latihan Polis Bakri, Muar February – March 2018

SEARCCT also conducted its first Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) programme in 2019, which as a subject, was only introduced as a Centre flagship in 2018. Critical infrastructure, being the "life support" of society, has always been vulnerable to terrorist targeting, and currently, the need for training programmes relating to this subject matter is more than imperative. Moreover, CIP also provided an opportunity for SEARCCT to strengthen its Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in Malaysia. SEARCCT's 2019 CIP programmes received tremendous support and were attended by participants from both the government and the private sector.



SEARCCT also conducted two new programmes in collaboration with the United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). which were the "Active Shooter Response to Terrorist Incidents" and the "Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents (PRSBI)" under the flagship of CBRNe and Crisis Management. These programmes were designed specifically for law enforcement and military authorities, to train them to be able to respond to any violent crimes and suicide bombings

addition In with assistance from Wisma Putra SEARCCT also organised two international-level programmes, namely the 'Commonwealth Youth Dialoque Conference: Youth Summit on International Peace Security B and Building Community Resilience' from 1 to 5 April, and the 'ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop Aviation Security and Information Sharing' from 10 to 11 July. Both events were held in Kuala Lumpur and received favourable responses from both international and local SEARCCT organisations. continues to believe that the

sharing of knowledge, expertise and good practices remains a tried-and-trusted model for international cooperation in countering terrorism.

programmes Other conducted by SEARCCT also involved various types of activities that focused on developing immediate outcomes in the form of Action Plans Counter Narrative Digital Products, Check Lists for investigative purposes as well as Group Discussion End Result documents. These end-products are essentially value-added tools. which serve to deepen participants' understanding of the subject matter.

The success of 2019 would not have been made possible without the solid support and cooperation from both the government and private sector. The complete list of programmes organised by SEARCCT in 2019 can be found in Annex A.



# **Budget**

In 2019, the Division was allocated with a total of RM339,530.00. By the end of the year, the total expenditure of the Division was RM 313,532.31 representing 92.34% use of the overall budget. The Division also funding from received Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), local as well as foreign collaborators. This financial support was vital in allowing SEARCCT to materialise its capacity-building programmes in 2019.

CBRNe First Responder Training Programme The Royale Chulan Kuala Lumpur July - August 2018



# **PROGRAMMES** ORGANISED by SEARCCT in 2019



### Cyber Investigation in Terrorism Cases: Introductory Level

Seri Kembangan, Selangor 26-27 FEB 2019 Cybersecurity Malaysia

36 Locals Critical Infrastructure Protection / Legal and Investigation

### Forum on Understanding Terrorism Cases: and Counter Terrorism in Malaysia

Akademi Tentera Darat. Collaborators:

7 MAR 2019 Malaysian Armed Malaysia Port Dickson

81 Locals PCVE

### Commonwealth Youth Dialogue Conference: Youth Summit on International Peace and Security & Building Community Resilience

Collaborators

Kuala Lumpur 1-5 APR 2019 Commonwealth Secretariat

Participants: Flagship PCVE 53 Participants

### CBRNe and Emergency Response (Basic)

Melia Hotel Date Collaborators Kuala Lumpur 16-18 APR 2019 SEARCCT

**Participants** Flaoship:

31 Locals **CBRNe** and Crisis Management

#### Terrorism and Civil Aviation Security Course (Basic)

Collaborators:

Malaysia, Langkawi 22-24 APR 2019 SEARCCT Flagship:

25 Locals **Critical Infrastucture Protection** 

Counter Terrorism Financial Investigation Course (Basic)

Correctional Academy of Date: Collaborators: Malaysia, Langkawi 23-25 APR 2019 SEARCCT

Participants: Flagship:

30 Locals **Terrorism Financing** 

### CBRNe First Responder for Royal Malaysia Police

PULAPOL Secamat Date Collaborators

17-20 JUNE 2019 Royal Malaysia Police Johor

Participants:

32 Locals **CBRNE** and Crisis Management

### Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) with Comedy: A Two

**Day Comedy Writing Workshop** 

Collaborators: Date: Kuala Lumpur 22-23 JUNE 2019 Mythos Lab, USA

Participants: Flagship: 6 Locals PCVE

### Workshop on Role of Media in Covering Violent Extremism (CVE) & Radicalization Leading to Terrorism

Kota Kinabalu Date Collabor

Sabah 25-27 JUNE 2019 US Embassy & Malaysian Press

Participants: Flagship: Institute

32 Locals PCVE

### ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on Aviation Security and Information Sharing

Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Date: Collaborators:

Kuala Lumpur 10-11 JUL 2019 USA

Participants: Flaoship

57 Locals Critical Infrastucture Protection

#### MTCP SEARCCT CBRNe: First Responder Training Programme

Melia Hotel Date: Collaborators
Kuala Lumpur 16-25 JUL 2019 MTCP

Participants: Flagship

17 Participants CBRNE and Crisis Management

#### **Active Shooter Response in Terrorism Incidents**

PULAPOL. Date: Collaborate
Kuala Lumpur 5-8 AUG 2019 NCIS, USA

Participants: Flagship:

21 Participants CBRNE and Crisis Management

#### Incident Response to Terrorist Bombing (IRTB) &

Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents (PRSB)

Seri Pacific Hotel, Date: Collaborators:
Kuala Lumpur 19-22 AUG 2019 NCIS, USA

Participants Flagship

19 Participants CBRNE and Crisis Management

# Enhancing the Skills of Officials in Relation of the Exploitation of Social Media and the Internet to Counter the Foreign Terrorist Fighter Phenomenon and Violent Extremism

Parkroyal Date: Collaborators: Kuala Lumpur 26-27 AUG 2019 UNCCT

Participants: Flagship: PCVE

# Seminar on the Dynamic of Youth and Terrorism: Understanding and Countering the Issue

Royal Chulan Bukit Bintang, Date: Collaborators:

Kuala Lumpur 17-25 SEP 2019

MTCP

Participants: Flagship: PCVE

### CBRNe Terrorism Awareness and Medical Emergency Consequence Management Workshop

Hospital Tengku Ampuan Date: Collaborators

Afzan, Kuantan, Pahang 1-3 OCT 2019 Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Pahang

articipants: Flagship

90 Locals CBRNE and Crisis Management

### **Aviation Security Workshop (Basic)**

Pulai Springs Resort, Date: Collaborators:

Johor 15-17 OCT 2019 SEARCCT

Participants: Flagship

25 Locals Critical Infrastructure Protection

#### Counter-Terrorism Financial Investigation Course (Basic)

Pulai Springs Resort, Date Collaborators:

Johor 15-17 OCT 2019 SEARCCT

Participants: Flaoshin

32 Locals Terrorism Financing

#### Forum on Understanding Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Malaysia

 MRCB VIP Room
 Date:
 Collaborators

 KL Sentral, KL
 21 OCT 2019
 MRCB

Participants: Flagship: **51 Locals PCVE** 

#### Seminar on Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Against Terrorist Attack

Seri Pacific Hotel Date Collaborators:

Kuala Lumpur 5-7 NOV 2019 SEARCCT

Participants: Flaoship:

43 Locals Critical Infrastructure Protection

#### Forum on Understanding Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Malaysia

Akademi Tentera Darat Date: Collaborators:

Port Dickson 14 NOV 2019 Malaysian Armed Forces

Participants: Flagship: 71 Locals PCVE

### Discussion and Dialogue with Civil Society Organisation (CSO) on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) Campaigns

Berjaya Times Square Hotel Date: Collaborators:

Kuala Lumpur 27 NOV 2019 SEARCCT

Participants: Flagship

32 Locals PCVE

#### Peer to Peer Sharing of Best Practices on (PCVE) Online/Offline Campaigns

Akademi Tentera Darat Date: Collaborators

Port Dickson 14 NOV 2019 Malaysian Armed Forces

Participants: Flagship: 71 Locals PCVE

724

# **2019 PARTICIPANTS**





Negara Brunei Darussalam



Republic of Singapore



Lao PDR



Kingdom of Cambodia



Republic of the Union of Myanmar



Kingdom of Thailand



Republic of Indonesia



Republic of the Philippines 8



Socialist Republic of Vietnam



# **Participants**

The year under review saw the Centre train 847 participants. Out of the total, 123 were foreign nationals - mainly from the ASEAN MEMBER STATES - while the other 724 were local participants.

# 2019 PARTICIPANTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES



COUNTRY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL	
MALAYSIA	681	1,490	938	1,083	724	4,916	
CAMBODIA	17	14	2	-	2	35	
INDONESIA	15	23	5	8	4	55	
LAO PDR	9	8	4	4	2	27	
MYANMAR	8	4	2	2	1	17	
PHILIPPINES	13	11	4	11	8	47	
SINGAPORE	4	6	5	4	5	24	
THAILAND	16	18	10	5	3	52	
VIETNAM	9	11	5	1	6	32	
BRUNEI	14	6	7=1	3	3	26	

ASEAN COUNTRIES (2015 - 2019)

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
FROM ASEAN COUNTRIES (2015-2019)



# OTHER INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS (2015 - 2019)

i	COUNTRY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
	KENYA	4		1	2		3
	KIRIBATI		1	100		1	2
	KUWAIT		2				2
	KYRGYZSTAN	7.	3	-	<u> </u>	1	1
•	LEBANON		3				3
1	LESOTHO	=:	1	*		<b>#</b> 0	1
	MADAGASCAR			1			1
	MALAWI	4	1	-		1	6
	MALDIVES	8	4		4		16
	MALI		1		_		1
	MAURITIUS	2	2	-	1	1	6
	MEXICO		1731	1	-	-	1
	MOROCCO	1	-	-			1
	MONGOLIA	2	V.23	1		-	3
	NEPAL		2	1	1		4
	NETHERLANDS	-	= 1	2		<del>11</del> 0	2
	NEW ZEALAND	4		1	2		7
	NIGERIA	1	-	-	1	-	2
	NORWAY			2			2
	OMAN	2	=:	0	1	1	2
	PAKISTAN	2	3	3	1	11	20
	PALESTINE	2	1	2	2	2	9
	PAPUA NEW GUINEA					3	3
	REPUBLIC OF PALAU	_	( <u>*</u> )		2	1	3
	ROMANIA		-	3			3
	RUSSIA	2		4	- 1	9	15
	RWANDA		2	4			2
	SAUDI ARABIA				2	\ <u>.</u>	2
	SEYCHELLES	1				-	1
	SENEGAL	1		~ P	1		2
	SIERRA LEONE			~	1	-	1
	SOLOMON ISLANDS	3	2	-			5
	SOUTH KOREA	3		3	5	2	13
	SOUTH SUDAN	-	-	1	-	125	1
	SRI LANKA	9	8	1	5	9	32
١	SUDAN	a	-		1		3
	SWEDEN			-	1		1
	SWITZERLAND	-	-	1	12	-	1
	TANZANIA	1					1

# OTHER INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS (2015 - 2019)

COUNTRY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL	
TIMOR LESTE	1		<u>=</u> 1	1	4	6	
TONGA	320	-	_	1 7	_	1	
UGANDA	2	2	-	1		5	
UNITED KINGDOM	180		2	5		7	
UKRAINE				-	1	1	
UNITED NATIONS	1	( <u>+</u> /	-	4	1	6	
USA	23	3	2	9	4	41	
UZBEKISTAN	1	-	100	. V	-	1	

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
FROM COUNTRIES OUTSIDE ASEAN (2015-2019)

# SEARCCT'S PARTICIPANTS BY YEAR

### YEAR - 2015

TOTAL NO OF PROGRAMMES

681 MALAYSIANS 243 OTHERS 924 TOTAL

### **YEAR - 2016**

TOTAL NO OF PROGRAMMES

27

**1,490** MALAYSIANS **167** OTHERS **1,657** TOTAL

### **YEAR - 2017**

TOTAL NO OF PROGRAMMES

21

938 MALAYSIANS 118 OTHERS 1,056 TOTAL

### **YEAR - 2018**

TOTAL NO OF PROGRAMMES

23

1,083 MALAYSIANS 124 OTHERS 1,207 TOTAL

### **YEAR - 2019**

TOTAL NO OF PROGRAMMES

23

724 MALAYSIANS 123 OTHERS 847 TOTAL

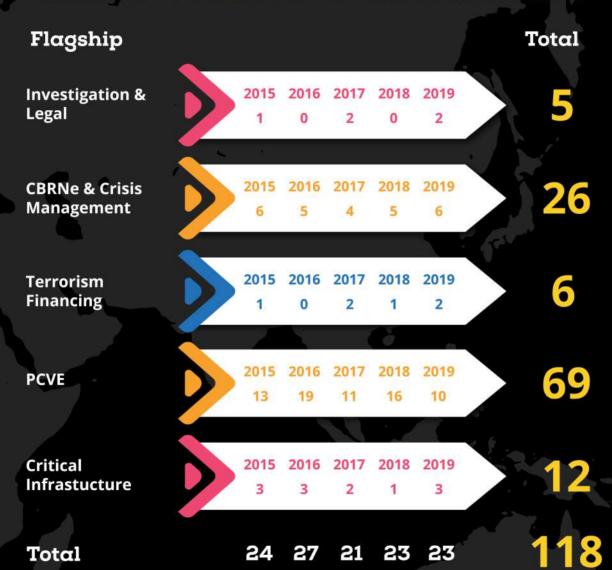
118
TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES

4,916
FROM MALAYSIA

FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

5,691 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS 2015 - 2019

# SEARCCT'S PROGRAMMES BY FLAGSHIP



### **LOCAL SUPPORT** AND **COLLABORATORS**

The support SEARCCT received from local strategic partners in 2019 was a direct result of the Centre's steady and continuous collaborations from previous years. Our partners include but are not limited to:

- Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA);
- Ministry of Defence (MINDEF);
- Ministry of Health (MOH);
- Attorney General's Chambers (AGC);
- National Security Council (NSC):
- Office of the Chief Government Security Officer of the Prime Minister's Department (CGSO);
- Royal Malaysia Police (RMP);
- Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF);
- Fire & Rescue Department;
- Malaysian Prisons Department;

- Immigration Department;
- Royal Malaysian Customs Department;
- Civil Defence Department;
- Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM);
- Marine Department Malaysia;
- Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA);
- Department of Chemistry Malaysia;
- Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB);
- Central Bank of Malaysia; and
- CyberSecurity Malaysia under the Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation.

These partners played an essential role in the Centre's capacity-building endeavours. In fostering public-private partnerships, SEARCCT also engaged with Telekom Malaysia Berhad, Petronas, Malaysia Airlines System, MRCB, Tenaga Nasional Berhad, and Air Asia, in various programmes.

### FOREIGN SUPPORT & COLLABORATORS

Effective collaborations between SEARCCT and its foreign partners resulted in the Centre conducting one training programme with Australia; four with the United States; one with the Commonwealth Secretariat; and one with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT). The year 2019 was an engaging year for SEARCCT as well as its foreign partners, in which the Centre is grateful and honoured to have received their continuous support.

# **COLLABORATORS BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS**

In July 2019, SEARCCT held the Local Collaborators Brainstorming session, which was attended by a total of 15 officials from the local public and private sector entities. The outcome of the discussions were the proposal of 23 capacity-building programs for the year 2020 as well as recommendations for SEARCCT to improve several modules in its existing programmes.

The Foreign Collaborators Brainstorming session was also held in the same month, which in turn resulted in the proposal of 20 capacity-building programmes. These programmes encompassed a variety of topics, namely. Countering Violent Extremism (CVE); Counter Narratives; Maritime Security; Rehabilitation; Terrorism Financing; and also Counter Improvised Explosive Device (CIED).

# **ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES**

Cyber Investigation in Terrorism Cases: Introductory Level; 26 – 27 February 2019.

SEARCCT and CyberSecurity Malaysia (CSM) successfully co-hosted the "Cyber Investigation in Terrorism Cases: Introductory Level" Workshop at Cybersecurity Malaysia, Seri Kembangan, Selangor from 26 to 27 February 2019.

The workshop was attended by 36 participants, consisting of staff and officers from the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), Attorney General Chambers of Malaysia (AGC) and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC). The two-day programme was officiated by Ambassador Khairi bin Omar, Deputy Director-General I of SEARCCT.

The workshop aimed to provide its participants with a thorough understanding of potential cyber threats that could threaten the security of critical sectors in the country. Participants were taught various investigation techniques and procedures, which could be utilised when analysing threats from either terrorist groups or individuals. In the final agenda, participants were separated into four groups, and given different tasks to complete. This exercise aimed to foster and instill the importance of inter-agency communication as well as the sharing of knowledge and good practices. It also helped to highlight the need for a holistic response mechanism, in the event of a possible cyber-terror incident. For this workshop, SEARCCT engaged its established local trainers from the RMP and the AGC as well as experts from CyberSecurity Malaysia.

Overall, the workshop was a success, in which participants voiced their interest in learning more about cybersecurity through future SEARCCT workshops.

Forum on Understanding Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Malaysia; 7 March 2019

SEARCCT, in collaboration with the Malaysian Army, conducted a forum entitled "Understanding Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Malaysia" at the Army Academy, Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan on 7 March 2019. This forum was carried out in conjunction with the Academy's Tactical and Staff Course, in which each series runs for three months.

The objective of the forum was to increase the military's understanding of threats and issues surrounding terrorism in Malaysia. In addition, it also aimed to strengthen their knowledge of terrorism prevention efforts in Malaysia.

A total of 81 local officers ranking between Captain to Major attended the forum, which featured lectures delivered by experts from the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), Islamic International University of Malaysia (IIUM) and also SEARCCT. In order to present the participants with a practical session concerning terrorism in Malaysia, this forum also included a Table-Top Exercise (TTX) on the drivers of radicalisation.

Feedback from the participants indicated that many showed great interest in the topic, particularly because the forum allowed them to expand their knowledge on current issues surrounding violent extremism.

Commonwealth Youth Dialogue Conference: Youth Summit on International Peace and Security & Building Community Resilience; 1 - 5 April 2019

SEARCCT and the Commonwealth Secretariat co-organised a five-day programme for the youth, which focused on international peace and security as well as building community resilience. Fifty-three youth participants from Bangladesh, Brunei, India, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Malaysia completed the course, in which most were undergraduates.

The conference also invited YB Steven Sim. Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, who presented a lecture on 'Active Citizenship'. Other speakers included representatives from the Commonwealth Secretariat, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and SEARCCT.

Given that the end-users of this conference were the youth, it was agreed upon that the programme would be conducted in a less-traditional, unique format, in which only 30% consisted of lectures, and the rest was filled with discussions, dialogues, group activities and as well as a mock Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. During the mock meeting, issues such as hate speech, radicalisation, extremism, equal opportunities, education and economic growth were discussed. These sessions were essentially designed as a safe platform for participants to voice out their opinions.

Given that the participants' feedback regarding this conference was very positive, SEARCCT looks forward to collaborating with the Commonwealth Secretariat to produce programmes for the youth that are more exciting and dynamic in the future.

CBRNe and Emergency Response (Basic): 16 - 18 April 2019

SEARCCT hosted the "Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNe) and Emergency Response (Basic) Training Programme" at Melia Hotel, Kuala Lumpur from 16 to 18 April 2019, which was attended by 31 local participants, consisting of officers from Royal Malaysia Police (RMP); Malaysia Civil Defence Force; the Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (SMART); and other various enforcement agencies from the peninsular region. The four-day training programme was officiated by Ambassador Khairi Omar, Deputy Director-General I of SEARCCT.

This training programme aimed to provide participants with up-to-date knowledge and understanding of the trends adopted by terrorists to utilise CBRNe agents as well as to enhance the current capabilities of the first responders to plan and respond to CBRNe threats and incidents. Besides that, participants were also given the opportunity to familiarise themselves with detection equipment for CBRNe agents. This two-fold module format also enabled participants to obtain hands-on experience, which added value to the scheduled theoretical lectures. This training programme invited SEARCCT's CBRNe trainers, namely from the Royal Malaysia Police; the Ministry of Health; Malaysia Armed Forces; the Department of Chemistry Malaysia; and the Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB).

Terrorism and Civil Aviation Security Course (Basic); 22 – 24 April 2019

SEARCCT organised a workshop entitled "Aviation Security Workshop (Basic)" at the Malaysia Correctional Academy, Langkawi from 22 to 24 April 2019. The workshop was attended by 25 participants from the Ministry of Transport; Royal Malaysia Police (RMP); National Security Council (NSC), Royal Malaysian Customs, Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) and Malaysia Airport Holding Berhad (MAHB).

The objectives of the workshop were to expose participants on issues of terrorism involving civil aviation and the on-going efforts by the Malaysian Government to prevent it as well as to inform and establish public-private partnerships in the field of civil aviation security.

Participants had the opportunity to engage trainers from the RMP, Civil Aviation Authority Malaysia (CAAM), the Immigration Department of Malaysia, MAHB, Air Asia and Malaysia Airlines Berhad. During the workshop, participants were taken to Langkawi International Airport to observe airport security procedures and systems. This study visit facilitates the understanding of lectures delivered by the speakers.

Counter-Terrorism Financial Investigation Course (Basic); 23 – 25 April 2019

The Counter-Terrorism Financing Investigation Course (Basic) was successfully organised from 23 to 25 April 2019 at Malaysia Correctional Academy, Langkawi, Kedah. This workshop was attended by 30 officers from various government agencies.

During the workshop, participants were exposed to the alarming threat of Daesh through the statistics of terrorist suspects in Malaysia while understanding the various legal tools in place. Workshop modules also included lectures on the differences between money laundering and terrorism financing, as well as the various terrorism financing typologies, which were identified through a careful analysis of case studies in Malaysia and abroad.

The speakers for the workshop were SEARCCT's local trainers from relevant agencies, namely the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) and Bank Negara Malaysia, who were trained by Australian officials during SEARCCT's Financial Investigation Workshop in March 2017.

CBRNe First Responder for Royal Malaysia Police Workshop; 17 – 20 June 2019

SEARCCT teamed up with the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) to conduct a workshop entitled "CBRNe First Responder for Royal Malaysian Police" on 17 to 20 June 2019 at Pulapol Segamat, Johor. It was conducted specifically for the RMP in line with their responsibility as a special unit to counter any terrorist incident in accordance with the National Security Council Directive No. 18.

A total of 32 officers ranked from Lance-corporal to Superintendent Police from the Special Forces Unit; Forensics Unit; 69 Commando and Crime Prevention; and Community Safety Department attended the workshop. Lecture topics –delivered by SEARCCT's CBRNe trainers – consisted of an introduction to CBRNe, methods of using appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as well as real-life training exercises.

The course was officiated by ACP Mohammad Rafee Bin Abu Bakar, Assistant Director of RMP Weaponry Unit, and closing remarks were delivered by Mr Riedzal Abdul Malek, Deputy Director-General II of SEARCCT.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) with Comedy: A Two-Day Comedy Writing Workshop; 22 -23 June 2019

The Countering Violent Extremism with Comedy was held at the Intercontinental Hotel. Kuala Lumpur from 22 to 23 June 2019. This programme was co-organised by SEARCCT, Mythos Labs and Moonshot CVE. The objective of the programme was to allow aspiring writers and comedians to learn how to use comedic techniques to counter violent extremist messaging. The participants had the opportunity to have a dialogue session with Mr Harith Iskander, where he shared his experience in developing comedy productions. At the end of the programme, two video proposals were accepted by the co-organisers, and the winners (Danial Ahmad and Prakash Daniel) received funding to make their proposals into CVE comedy videos.

Workshop on the Role of Media in Covering Violent Extremism (CVE) & Radicalisation Leading to Terrorism; 25 - 27 June 2019

SEARCCT, in collaboration with the Malaysian Press Institute (MPI) and the United States Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, co-organised a programme entitled "Workshop on the Role of Media in Covering Violent Extremism (CVE) & Radicalisation Leading to Terrorism" on 25 to 27 June 2019 at The Magellan Sutera Resort, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

The programme aimed to discuss issues and problems concerning media reporting on extremism and terrorism, the use of the Internet for spreading radical ideas, and relevant legislation.

The speakers for the programme were from the RMP, MOHA, the Prisons Department, academicians, media practitioners from the US as well as experts from SEARCCT. The main highlight of the programme was the discussion between experts and participants on methods of reporting and writing news articles on terrorism, which can be used as a tool to counter terrorist propaganda.

A total of 32 media practitioners participated in the workshop. Apart from lectures and forums, they were also allowed to witness the impact of blasts through a demonstration of explosives, conducted by the Royal Malaysia Police.

The three-way collaboration programme involving SEARCCT, MPI and the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur was a success, as participants were able to gain theoretical and practical knowledge on terrorism.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on Aviation Security and Information Sharing; 10-11 July 2019

Fifty-seven aviation security practitioners from ARF member countries attended the two-day Workshop on Aviation Security and Information Sharing in Kuala Lumpur from 10 to 11 July 2019. The workshop was co-chaired by Malaysia and the United States (US).

The workshop kick-started with a lecture on Foreign Terrorist Fighters' (FTF) travel patterns and aviation incidents. The sessions mainly incorporated discussions on the challenges of implementing Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Records (PNR). Experts also exchanged best practices on good watchlisting, suspicious traveller encounter management and managing insider threat. Several sessions discussed on promoting a culture of security awareness among aviation industry stakeholders, as well as the importance of information sharing and having effective landside security.

In the final session of the workshop, participants were divided into four groups. They exchanged opinions on the proposed draft principles on aviation security and information sharing, currently under consideration by ARF member states, and provided recommendations on areas of focus for the next workshop. The programme concluded with group presentations, and the co-chairs took note of the recommendations made by participants.

MTCP-SEARCCT CBRNe: First Responder Training Programme; 16 – 25 July 2019

SEARCCT's first MTCP programme for 2019 was held from 16 to 25 July 2019 at Melia Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. This annual programme gathered 17 foreign participants from MTCP-recipient countries namely, Algeria, Bhutan, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Kiribati, Malawi, Mauritius, Oman, Palestine, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, Vietnam and Zambia.

SEARCCT's CBRNe trainers shared their knowledge on various CBRNe topics. They emphasised the significance of understanding the roles of each agency, and the need for swift multi-agency coordination in the event of a CBRNe incident. Participants were also given the opportunity to familiarise themselves with CBRNe detection equipment and procedures involved as first responders. It enabled participants to have hands-on experience on top of their theoretical and practical knowledge of Malaysia's best practices.

SEARCCT, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and Pulapol Kuala Lumpur conducted a workshop on "Active Shooter Response in Terrorism Incidents" at Pulapol KL Simulation Centre from 5 to 8 August 2019. Twenty-one police officers from four different departments, ranked from Corporal to Superintendent of Police attended the workshop. The departments involved were Crime Prevention and Community Safety Department, Special Forces Unit, 69 Commando and Weaponry Unit.

The programme was specifically designed for patrol officers who would be the front-liners to respond to an active shooter or any other type of violent crime. Eighty per cent of the classes were practical sessions on various types of skills to address terrorist incidents.

Lectures were conducted by NCIS specialists based in Singapore and Malaysia. The topics included:

i. Rapid Response

ii. Apprehension

iii. Introduction to Improvised Explosives

iv. Tactical Communication
v. Active Shooter Crime Scene

vi. Active Shooter Weapons Fundamentals

vii. Contact Team Movement

viii. Active Shooter Rescue Team Movement

ix. Bleeding Control

x. Penetrating Chest Wounds

Upon completion of the Active Shooter Response programme, the participants obtained the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to function as a member of an Active Shooter Response Team.

Incident Response to Terrorist Bombing (IRTB) & Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents (PRSBI): 19 – 22 August 2019

SEARCCT, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) Bomb Unit conducted a workshop on "Incident Response to Terrorist Bombing (IRTB) & Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents (PRSBI)" at Seri Pacific Hotel from 19 to 22 August 2019.

The workshop was attended by 19 officers from the RMP, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Chemistry Malaysia and Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB). All sessions involved lectures by NCIS specialists based in the US, Singapore and Malaysia. This programme provided participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop policies, procedures, training and operational capabilities to deter, prevent, interdict, respond and mitigate the effects of a suicide bombing.

Participants experienced a bombing demonstration by the RMP Bomb Unit from Segamat, Johor. Participants were then tasked to conduct post-bombing forensics by collecting the evidence on site. During this task, participants were assessed on their ability to identify possible materials used to ignite the explosive.

Upon completion of the PRSBI course, participants obtained the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to respond to cases relating to terrorist's suicide bombing.

Enhancing the Skills of Officials in Relation to the Exploitations of Social Media and the Internet to Counter the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Phenomenon and Violent Extremism National Workshop for Officials of Malaysia; 26–27 August 2019

SEARCCT, the Government of Japan and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) co-organised a workshop entitled Enhancing the Skills of Officials in Relation to the Exploitations of Social Media and the Internet to Counter the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Phenomenon and Violent Extremism in Kuala Lumpur from 26 to 27 August 2019. The programme was officiated by Mr Chuah Teong Ban, Director-General of SEARCCT, and was attended by 21 local officials.

The workshop addressed five main issues namely, the evolving FTF phenomenon; the use of social media by FTF; gender and human rights; national strategies and good practices to counter the use of the Internet for radicalisation; and investigation and evidence collection.

The speakers were from UNOCT, UNCTED, UNODC, Vietnam Police Academy and SEARCCT. There were several issues discussed and the participants actively exchanged their views on gaps, challenges and the improvement of existing national strategies. There was also a session which allowed participants to share their future training needs. Participants suggested new topics that could be included in similar future programmes such as Artificial Intelligence Technologies in Counter-Terrorism, Cyber Terrorist target selections, open-source intelligence (OSINT) for prosecutors and judges, protection of cyberspace at international events as well as Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Risk Management in counter-terrorism.

SEARCCT - MTCP Seminar on the Dynamics of Youth and Terrorism: Understanding and Countering the Issues; 19 - 25 September 2019

SEARCCT successfully organised the Seminar on the Dynamics of Youth and Terrorism: Understanding and Countering the Issues from 19 to 25 September 2019 at the Royale Chulan Bukit Bintang. Kuala Lumpur. This programme was conducted under the ambit of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), which has been run by SEARCCT since 2012. The seminar was attended by 19 participants from Afghanistan, Albania, Brunei, Philippines, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Egypt, Palau, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

The speakers for the seminar were law enforcement officials, legal experts, academicians, researchers, social media experts and SEARCCT's officers.

The seminar discussed the importance of listening to the voices of youth, the need to empower and guide them in building the right identity. Participants learned that youth voice their opinions on various platforms, namely through youth movements, NGOs, youth councils, political groups, social media and interestingly, through art as well. Participants were also taught that terrorist groups recruit young people at prisons, religious institutions, institutes of higher learning, as well as through the Internet. The programme also exposed participants to Malaysia's counter-terrorism legal framework.

SEARCCT always improves and updates its programmes from time to time, and in this seminar, the Centre incorporated Designing Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Campaigns as part of the course. This topic not only increased participants' knowledge but further empowered them with skills and experience, particularly in producing CVE videos and drafting a proposal for CVE campaigns. As an immediate outcome of the seminar, participants produced 19 CVE campaign proposals that they may implement in their home countries.

CBRNe Terrorism Awareness and Medical Emergency Consequence Management Workshop; 1 - 3 October 2019

SEARCCT, in collaboration with the Emergency Department of Hospital Selayang and Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan, Kuantan, Pahang, successfully organised the "Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNe) Terrorism Awareness and Medical Emergency Consequence Management Workshop" at Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan from 1 to 3 October 2019.

This was the sixth edition of the workshop co-hosted by SEARCCT and Hospital Selayang after the success of the earlier edition at The Duchess of Kent Hospital, in Sandakan, Sabah. This workshop was attended by 90 participants consisting of medical practitioners of hospitals and clinics from the Eastern Peninsular region.

With the aim of creating awareness among the medical practitioners on the use of CBRNe elements as weapons and to prepare them in responding to such events, this workshop was steered by SEARCCT's established local trainers from the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), Ministry of Health (MOH), Malaysia Armed Forces (MAF), Chemistry Department, Fire and Rescue Department and Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB).

A variety of topics on the subject of CBRNe was discussed, ranging from emergency response basics, modes of dispersal and managing post-attack situations to emergency decontamination. It gave the participants an insight into the significance of understanding the roles of other agencies in the event of CBRNe incidents. Through selected hands-on sessions, the participants were allowed to familiarise themselves with detection equipment for CBRNe agents, which added value to the theory they learnt from the lectures.

Through demonstration exercises, participants were also briefed on coordination, security procedures, command control and communication in handling mass casualties in the event of CBRNe incidents, thus emphasising the need for an all-inclusive approach when it comes to response mechanisms.

SEARCCT received encouraging feedback from the participants with hopes that this programme would be conducted more than once in a year. The workshop proved to be a beneficial platform for participants to not only obtain theoretical knowledge on CBRNe but also to apply the knowledge through practice. Consequently, SEARCCT will ensure value-added elements to be introduced in future CBRNe workshops.

SEARCCT organised a programme entitled "Aviation Security Workshop (Basic)" at Pulai Springs Resort, Johor from 15 to 17 October 2019. The workshop was attended by 28 participants, (grade 41 to 44), from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA). Ministry of Transport (MOT), Royal Malaysian Police (RMP), National Security Council (NSC), Royal Malaysian Customs, Immigration Department of Malaysia, Attorney General's Chambers (AGC), Malaysia Airport Holding Berhad (MAHB) and Pos Aviation.

Objectives of the workshop included exposing participants to issues surrounding terrorism in civil aviation and the steps taken by the Malaysian government in prevention, sharing of information and the establishment of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in the field of civil aviation security.

During the workshop, participants were given lectures by speakers from the RMP, Civil Aviation Authority Malaysia (CAAM), the Immigration Department of Malaysia, MAHB and also from a flight safety consultant.

Participants were also taken to Senai International Airport, Johor Bahru, to observe further on airport security procedures and systems. The study visit complimented the participants understanding of the subjects delivered by the speakers.

At the end of the workshop, participants were divided into four groups, with each group solving different questions or situations. The results of the discussion were presented and evaluated by the trainers.

Counter-Terrorism Financial Investigation Course (Basic); 15 – 17 October 2019

The Counter-Terrorism Financing Investigation Course (Basic) was successfully organised from 15 to 17 October 2019 at Pulai Springs Resort, Johor. This programme was the second series of Counter-Terrorism Financial Investigation Course (Basic) after it was held in Langkawi, Kedah in April 2019. It was attended by 32 participants (grade 41 - 44) from various agencies.

The three-day workshop exposed participants to the various terrorism financing typologies, methods utilised by terrorists to transfer, store and use funds and the techniques applied by terrorists to raise their funding. Participants were able to apply the knowledge they learnt through the tabletop exercise.

Forum on Understanding Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Malaysia; 21 October 2019; MRCB KL Sentral, Kuala Lumpur

SEARCCT in collaboration with Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad (MRCB), Prasarana Malaysia Berhad and Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB), conducted a forum entitled "Understanding Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Malaysia" at KL Sentral, Kuala Lumpur on 21 October 2019. This programme was designed especially for senior officers in railway operating company. Fifty-one participants attended the forum, including Chief Executive Officers, Chief Operation Officers, Senior Managers, Security Managers and business operators at KL Sentral.

The objective of the forum was to increase understanding of threats and issues surrounding terrorism in Malaysia. It also aimed to strengthen participants' knowledge of terrorism prevention efforts in Malaysia, particularly in railway businesses. They were also given a chance for a question and answer session after the forum. Participants showed great interest in the topics discussed.

SEARCCT's inaugural Seminar on Critical Infrastructure Programme (CIP) against Terrorist Attacks was held from 5 to 7 November 2019 in Kuala Lumpur. The seminar managed to gather 43 participants from Malaysia's CIP community in both the public and private sectors.

Speakers for this seminar were from Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) Singapore, Deakin University Australia, Naval Crime Investigation Service (NCIS), Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), Chief Government Security Office (CGSO), Cybersecurity Malaysia, Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad (MRCB), United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (UN CTED), Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia and SEARCCT.

The seminar gave four main messages to the participants. Namely, critical infrastructures remain an attractive target to terrorists particularly if located at public places, the importance of being prepared for any possibility, close cooperation among Critical Infrastructure sectors is vital, and the need for the CIP community's support for SEARCCT to enhance future programmes on this subject.

The highlight of the seminar was the group discussion in which participants gave their views on the challenges they face, as well as recommendations on improving CIP in Malaysia. All in all, the inaugural programme was successfully conducted, and participants encouraged SEARCCT to hold similar programmes and invite other critical infrastructures sector players in the future.

SEARCCT, in collaboration with the Malaysian Army, conducted a forum entitled "Understanding Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Malaysia" at the Malaysian Army Academy, Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan on 14 November 2019. This was the second forum conducted in collaboration with SEARCCT and the Royal Malaysian Army in conjunction with their Tactical and Staff Course, which runs for three months each series.

The objective of the forum was to help participants gained a better understanding of the threats and issues relating to the threat of terrorism in Malaysia. It was also to increase participants' knowledge of terrorism prevention efforts in Malaysia.

A total of 71 local officers ranked Major and Captain attended the forum. Speakers were invited from the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), MERCY Malaysia and also SEARCCT. Participants were divided into three groups for a tabletop exercise at the end of the forum. Participants were delighted that the forum allowed them to express their opinions and thoughts on the issue of terrorism and counter-terrorism in Malaysia.

Discussion and Dialogue with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) Campaigns; 27 November 2019

In a bid to strengthen further the "Whole-of-Society" approach in countering terrorism. SEARCCT and Pertubuhan IKRAM Malaysia held a one-day programme entitled "Discussion and Dialogue with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, (PCVE) Campaigns on 27 November 2019. Thirty-four participants representing 27 local CSOs attended the programme. Experts from the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Pertubuhan IKRAM Malaysia and SEARCCT were invited to speak in this programme.

The main discussion centred around terrorist recruitment strategy, terrorism and social media, women and terrorism as well as organising effective online and offline campaigns. The programme provided an avenue for SEARCCT to learn more about CSOs roles and efforts in PCVE. It also paved the way for further collaboration in the future.

The programme concluded with a group discussion, and the participants gave 10 recommendations on enhancing the existing synergy of government and CSOs in PCVE activities.

Peer-to-Peer Sharing of Best Practices on (PCVE) Online/Offline Campaigns; 5 December 2019

SEARCCT's final programme for 2019 was the "Peer-to-Peer Sharing of Best Practices on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE): Online/Offline Campaigns". It was co-organised with Deakin University Australia, whereby 22 participants from local CSOs, universities, social media practitioners and relevant government agencies were in attendance.

The programme aimed to allow participants to share and learn from best practices and gained insights into Malaysia and Australia's Online/Offline CVE campaigns. Participants also learnt from Australia's experience in engaging with Civil Society Organisations (CSO) in PCVE as well as to plan and implement a suitable strategy to collaborate with CSOs in PCVE campaigns.

Among the matters raised included the importance of building trust and relationship between the government and CSOs, understanding and respecting each other's roles, and sharing of information. Participants also deliberated CSOs' involvement in deradicalisation and rehabilitation of terrorists. Participants and the co-organisers acknowledged the value of continued discussions and recommended sustained interactions between the government and CSOs in areas relating to PCVE



## **RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS DIVISION**

The Research and Publications Division of SEARCCT is instrumental in conducting research on various terrorism and counter-terrorism issues in the region and beyond. The findings and analyses of research will then be published in the form of monographs, and/or articles and journals, to be distributed to counterparts, stakeholders as well as participants of SEARCCT's programmes. The Division also delivers papers and talks based on conducted research at workshops, as well as seminars and conferences at the local and international levels. In addition, the Division also shares its findings with postgraduate students through interview requests made by the students themselves and/or universities they are affiliated to.

The Division is also involved in organising public awareness programmes, particularly SEARCCT's University Lecture Series (ULS). Since its commencement in 2011, SEARCCT has engaged with more than 8,000 students from tertiary education institutions nationwide.

As an agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, the Division is also responsible for providing briefs and input on relevant issues and subject matter for the consumption of the Ministry as well as other relevant government agencies, to be presented at international meetings and forums. These input and briefs outline the soft approaches taken by SEARCCT, and Malaysia as a whole, in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) and terrorism.

#### AREAS OF **RESEARCH**



#### ONLINE TERRORIST RECRUITMENT

The Division continued to look into the issue of terrorist recruitment via social media platforms and online communication applications. To substantiate the research, the Division co-organised a Dialogue with the University of Malaya (UM) entitled Post 'Caliphate': Daesh in the Digital Realm' in November 2019. The Dialogue was a good platform to engage with practitioners and academicians who are involved in the subject, to get perspectives of the current situation on the use of the Internet by terrorists.



#### WOMEN AND TERRORISM

The Division continued to conduct research on women and terrorism, the first milestone being the publication of an article on "Malaysian Women in Daesh: A Reflection of their Roles and Counter-Measures" in May 2019. Further, in conjunction with the DSCD's Prisons Project, the Division also gathered valuable information for this research through interviews with detained Malaysian female terror offenders undergoing rehabilitation in several institutions. The Division is planning to organise a dialogue for the purpose of this research in 2020.



#### REVIEW OF SECURITY IN ESSZONE

As a follow up to SEARCCT's publication on 'The Lahad Datu Incursion and Its Impact on Malaysia's Security' in 2016, the Division is currently re-examining the current security situation in the Eastern Sabah Security Command Zone (ESSZONE), in the hopes to formulate a tangible strategy against the threat of terrorism in the area. It will also place more emphasis on the role of local communities and youth in PCVE.

#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMMES: UNIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES**

The ULS is a platform created in 2011 for SEARCCT officers to engage directly with university students, in hopes to sensitise tertiary level students on the dangers of terrorism and violent extremism. In 2019, the Division conducted ULS in three tertiary institutions. These include:





UNIVERSITI SAINS ISLAM MALAYSIA جَامِكَة الْمُلُورُ الْإِسَادِيَة الْمُلَارِكَة



#### **PUBLICATIONS**

The Division's publications in 2019 include;

"Malaysian Women in Daesh:

A Reflection of their Roles and Recommended Counter-Measures"

- Published by IDFR's Diplomatic Voice Vol. 1/2019

This article discusses the multifaceted roles of women in Daesh, by examining case studies of Malaysian female terror offenders, as well as recommended counter-measures to curtail the growing concern of women's participation in terrorism. Particularly, the article looks at the roles played by Malaysian female terror offenders in terrorist activities and possible motivational factors behind it. This article is part of the ongoing research on Women and Terrorism that is expected to be completed in 2020.

"The Lahad Datu Incursion and Its Impact on Malaysia's Security"

- Published in Maritime Security in the Sulu Zone: Readings on History,
Peacemaking and Terrorism by Centre for Defence and
International Security Studies (CDiSS), National Defence University of Malaysia (NDUM)

This title was first published as a monograph by SEARCCT in 2016, following a look at the security landscape in Sabah's eastern seaboard after the 2013 Lahad Datu Incursion. It outlines the various threats to the area, particularly threats posed by terrorist groups such as the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and Daesh and the challenges in securing the area. It then provided several recommendations in the effort to mitigate the issues, including building trust between authorities and local communities and monitoring through restoration of water villages and community engagement with the locals, among others.

#### **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

The Division also gave presentations at the local and international levels in 2019.

- Presented at Kolej Damansara Utama (KDU) Glenmarie campus on "Terrorism: What's Trending?", in Shah Alam (March 2019):
- Presented on "Terrorist Use of the Internet" at the Workshop on Court Security conducted by the Chief Government Security Office (CGSO) in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice, OPDAT, in Melaka (April 2019);
- Presented at Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Shah Alam on "Cyber-Terrorism", hosted by the Media and Information Warfare Studies (UiTM) in Kuala Lumpur (May 2019);
- Presented at Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) in Nilai (June 2019):
- Presented at the Workshop on Enhancing the Skills of Officials in Relation to the Exploitation of Social Media to Counter the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Phenomenon and Other Violent Extremism, hosted by United Nations (UN) in Tokyo, Japan (August 2019);
- Presented at the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) on Terrorist Use of the Internet and Service Providers' Efforts, organised by SEARCCT and MTCP in Kuala Lumpur (September 2019):
- Presented at the Persidangan Meja Bulat Membanteras dan Mencegah Keganasan dan Ekstremisma Keganasan. Negeri Sabah, organised by ASASI Sabah in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah (October 2019); and
- Presented at the Forum on Understanding Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Malaysia, co-hosted by Akademi Tentera Darat, Kem Segenting, Port Dickson and SEARCCT in Negeri Sembilan (November 2019).



**REACHING THE YOUTH:** COUNTERING THE TERRORIST NARRATIVE

by THOMAS KORUTH SAMUEL

AL - JAMA'AH AL - ISLAMIYYAH by KENNIMROD SARIBURAJA

**AVIATION SECURITY IN** MALAYSIA by THOMAS KORUTH SAMUEL

YOUTH AND TERRORISM: A SELECTION OF ARTICLES **VARIOUS AUTHORS** 



TERRORISTS USE OF THE INTERNET: THE CASE OF DAESH by JASMINE JAWHAR







## DIGITAL STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Since its inception in 2016, the Digital Strategic Communications Division (DSCD) has sought to design its preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE) strategies around three core elements: the message; the messengers, and the medium. The importance of messaging lies in the fact that the Internet – with its repository of information – is as dangerous as it is undeniably useful. Whilst being able to facilitate the free movement of cultures, people and information, the Internet remains vulnerable to exploitation by terrorist organizations who unfortunately, are free to disseminate dangerous narratives swiftly, and more often than not, unchecked. And despite the pressures placed upon social media giants to govern their spaces, it is virtually impossible to rely solely on social media platform providers to ensure their digital spaces are completely safe from terrorist groups due to its vastness.

#### FOCUSING ON THE MESSENGERS

While agreeing that the State should be at the forefront of CVE initiatives, it must be acknowledged that other actors may be more credible when reaching out to certain communities or target groups, for example, the youth. Hence, projects conducted by the DSCD this year have focused not only on the creation of attractive CVE messages, but also on ensuring its resonance by identifying and working together with effective messengers.

In 2019, DSCD launched two different types of campaigns, which 'Hebat Youth! Positive were Expressions' (HYPE) as well as '#SenjataSaya' (#MyWeaponIs). respectively. HYPE was a content creation campaign that aimed to encourage youth to formulate creative, community-based solutions in order to potential drivers address of radicalization such as intolerance and racial prejudice.

The notion behind HYPE was essentially to provide Malaysian youth a safe platform for them to explore their creativity in voicing out their opinions and solutions on relevant societal issues. The campaign first kicked-off with a video competition.

in which participants were required to submit videos based on the theme "Bringing Communities Closer Together". SEARCCT received more than 60 video entries and external judges were brought in to choose 10 winning videos, which were subsequently showcased at the HYPE Youth Carnival that was held on 4 May 2019.



**HYPE** Campaign



#SenjataSaya The Campaign was a public service announcement (PSA) media campaign that sought to redefine the word "weapon" in order to promote alternative, non-violent methods to create and instigate meaningful, positive change. Not only that, the campaign identified inspirational, local Malaysians whose efforts and talents were being used to support communities - to feature in the PSAs in an attempt to show that even "ordinary" citizens could be heroes Influencers who participated in the campaign include Fazleena Hishamuddin Madhusudhan poet: Dr. Shanmugan, founder of Teddy Mobile Clinic; Azra Banu, founder of Carefugees; Amy Dangin, radio announcer for KK12FM: and Airliftz musician

DSCD also collaborated with the Prisons Department Malaysia to produce the 3R (Radicalisation, Rehabilitation & Reintegration) Series, in which the SEARCCT team received the rare opportunity to interview current and ex-detainees who had been convicted of terrorism-related activities, to hear first-hand what drove them towards extremism and subsequently, terrorism.

Based on previously held programs and workshops with focus groups, DSCD believed that stories coming from perpetrators themselves would seem much more authentic as well as captivating, as compared to theoretical stories from CVE practitioners

#### **REACHING** THE AUDIENCE

Apart from the general knowledge of one successful terrorist attack by Daesh (so-called Islamic State), that being the grenade attack on the Movida nightclub in 2016, the fact remains that most Malaysians are still unaware of the dangers of extremism and terrorism. Many, interestingly, believe that violent extremism or terrorism is not a current nor pertinent threat to Malaysian society.

For the purpose of improving the agency's awareness-raising initiatives, DSCD also sought to focus on identifying innovative messaging methods, working primarily with experts in the media industry in order to ensure that the counterand alternative narratives were crafted in a way that would be more appealing to the general

public, but more specifically, young people.

In 2019 SEARCCT and Suria FM embarked upon a CVE-based digital miniseries, Bongkar! - the first of its kind - in issues directly indirectly related to CVE were explored in a more dramatic and humorous fashion. DSCD was of the opinion that one way that could prove to be effective messaging is that if complex issues such as radicalisation and terrorism were broken down into smaller relatable and more digestible concerns. An example of topics broached were the importance of digital literacy, the dangers of online anonymity on and gaming social media platforms as well as the effects and consequences of radicalisation on family members of radicalised individuals. In line with experimenting with diverse methods of messaging, DSCD also commissioned comic artists to "ink" out a series of comics based on various CVE-related situations.

Building upon the belief on the integral roles that can be played by the youth in P/CVE, DSCD conducted the Inisiatif Mahasiswa Muslim Perangi Ancaman Keganasan (IM2PAK) – the Muslim Undergraduates Against Terrorism Initiative – which saw religious-based terrorist narratives being addressed and debunked by local religious scholars. Aside from the informative sessions, SEARCCT also ran a CVE campaign design session, in which the participants were required to create a full CVE campaign along with accompanying digital end-products, such as posters and videos, based on the narrative and counter-/alternative narratives that they learned earlier.

Besides that, DSCD also ran a 'Monitoring & Evaluation for Countering Violent Extremism (M&E4CVE) Workshop on 12-14 June 2019, in which participants from various universities were invited to share their opinions on DSCD's digital products that had been produced over the past two years.

The objective of this initiative was essentially to obtain constructive feedback and more importantly, guidance from the target audience of whom the products were intended for in the first place. This is reflective of DSCD's core concern, which is to ensure that counter-messaging strategies are constantly reviewed so that they better reflect the realities on the ground and resonate effectively with intended target audiences.

#### **FUTURE ASPIRATIONS**

DSCD hopes to expand local its and regional engagements not only with civil society and community leaders, but also with non-traditional CVE actors such as industry experts. Focus will also be given to enhance the sustainability of P/CVE programs in order to fully maximise the impact of efforts to counter the influence of violent extremism. partly through established adopting practices on monitoring and evaluation (MSE)





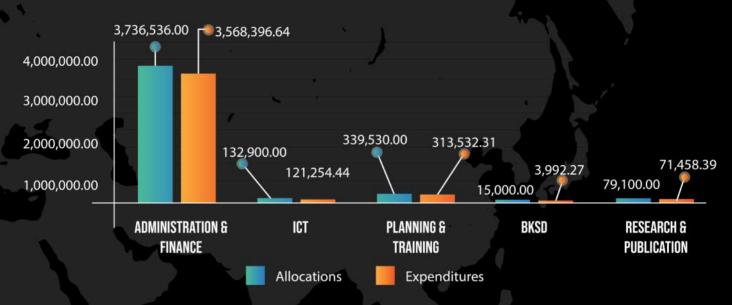
## **ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIVISION**

The Administration and Finance Division is responsible for the overall administrative and financial performance for the agency and delivers core support services to the three Divisions under SEARCCT. SEARCCT has a total of 54 posts, with 51 of them filled at the end of 2019. The Centre has officers from the uniformed services on a secondment basis - two from the Royal Malaysia Police and one officer from the Malaysian Armed Forces.

#### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

SEARCCT's overall budget in 2019 was RM4,303,066.00 with a total operating expenditure of RM4,078,634.05 (95%). The expenses were for the payment of salary and emolument, capacity building and training programmes, PCVE workshops, publication and research work as well as maintenance, general services and infrastructural upkeep.

### SEARCCT'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR 2019



#### **AUDIT**

In 2019, SEARCCT was audited by a number of Divisions from within the Ministry as well as other government agencies. This aided SEARCCT in making sure its operations & management of core activities were conducted according to procedure. The audit sessions were as follows:

- i) Audit on SEARCCT's emoluments Account Division, KLN
- ii) Accounting and Expenses audit Accountant General's Department of Malaysia
- iii) MS ISO 9001:2015 Division of Policy Planning & Coordination, KLN
- iv) Accounting interim audit Internal Audit Division, KLN
- y) National Language audit Institute of Language and Literature (DBP)
- vi) Audit on Prohibited Areas Chief of Government Security Office (CGSO)

#### RECOGNITION

SEARCCT's personnel were also recognised through the Service Excellence Awards. The awards were accorded to them for their excellent service and achievements in 2019. The four officers were, Ms. Jasmine Mohamed Jawhar, Mr. Mohd Azizul Zakaria, Mr. Mohd. Hadafi Mohd. Nor and Mr. Khairul Alimin Alias.

#### WORKING VISITS TO SEARCCT

SEARCCT regularly receives familiarisation visits from various foreign government agencies and officials who are keen on being informed about the Centre's programs and views on terrorism in Southeast Asia.

Visits in 2019 include:

- i) Visit by the Commander, Special Operations Command of the United States of America Brig. Gen. Jonathan P. Braga, 18 January 2019;
- ii) Visit by the Deputy Commissioner for Victoria to South East Asia, Mr. Leigh Howard, 21 February 2019;
- iii) Visit by the Ambassador of Belgium to Malaysia, H.E Pascal Gregoire, 19 March 2019;
- iv) Visit by the Ambassador of Denmark to Malaysia, H.E Jesper Vahr, 30 May 2019;
- v) Visit by the Head of Regional Delegation for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Mr. Daisuke Shiba, 13 June 2019;
- vi) Visit by the 10th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

  Caucus Meeting Kuala Lumpur led by YB Dato' Sri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, 17 June 2019;
- vii) Visit by the Ambassador of Tajikistan to Malaysia, H.E Ardasher Oodiri, 15 August 2019;
- viii) Visit by the Ambassador of Ukraine to Malaysia, H.E Olexander Nechytaylo, 11 September 2019;
- ix) Study Visit by the King Prajadhipok's Institute of Thailand led by General Nakrob Bunbuantong, 17 September 2019;
- x) Visit by the Ambassador of Norway to Malaysia, H.E Gunn Jorid Roset, 26 September 2019;
- xi) Courtesy Visit by the Regional Security Officer, Kingdom of Netherlands, Mr. Roy Hans, 3 October 2019;
- xii) Courtesy Visit by the Ambassador of Sweden to Malaysia, H.E Dag Juhlin-Dannfelt, 3 October 2019:
- xiii) Courtesy Visit by the Deputy Chief of Mission, The United States of America to Malaysia, H.E Dean Thompson, 4 October 2019;
- xiv) Courtesy Visit by the Counsellor, Embassy of Egypt in Malaysia, Rania Gharib, 6 November 2019; and
- xv) Courtesy Visit by the Special envoy of France for ASEAN, H.E Jean Baptiste Main de Boissiere, 20 November 2019.



## **ICT UNIT**

The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Unit is part of the Management Services Division of SEARCCT. Its main roles and functions are as follows:

Managing SEARCCT ICT Steering Committee Meetings and participating in the Ministry's ICT Steering Committee

Planning, designing, managing and implementing communication and collaboration needs of the ICT network for SEARCCT:

Managing and monitoring SEARCCT's website and email system;

Providing advisory services in ICT infrastructure ICT security and development of the latest ICT Technology for SEARCCT; and

 $Facilitating \ other \ divisions \ in \ SEARCCT \ to \ improve \ services \ offered \ in \ accordance \ with \ requirements \ of \ stakeholders.$ 

# OFFICIAL WEBSITE

www.searcct.gov.my



The ICT Unit of SEARCCT is also responsible for keeping SEARCCT's website up-to-date through regular monitoring of its contents and the uploading of latest articles published by the Centre. Also published on the website, are the summary reports on capacity-building programmes, as well as events conducted by the Centre. The digital version of the Centre's annual prospectus is also available online. Additionally, related articles on terrorism and counter- terrorism, as well as the Client Charter are also made available on the website. It is hoped that SEARCCT's website can be one of the tools that the public can utilise, should they wish to learn and understand more about issues relating to terrorism and its counter-measures.

As of 31 December 2019, SEARCCT's website recorded 25,332 visits from 155 countries around the globe. Aside from Malaysia, the visitors were mainly from the United States, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, India, Singapore, Pakistan, Australia, Canada and Indonesia.





PERANGI ANCAMAN KEGANASAN (IM2PAK)
10-11 APRIL 2019















## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS



SEARCCT gave a presentation on "Terrorism: What's Trending?" to students at KDU Glenmarie, 12 March 2019.



SEARCCT was invited to give a presentation on "Terrorist Use of the Internet" at a workshop conducted by the Chief Government Security Office (CGSO) in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice, OPDAT, 22 April 2019.



SEARCCT made an intervention during the Workshop on Enhancing the Skills of Officials in Relation to the Exploitation of Social Media to Counter the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Phenomenon and Other Violent Extremism, hosted by the UN, 29 August 2019.



SEARCCT was invited to present a lecture to Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM)students, 25 June 2019.





SEARCCT and University of Malaya's joint Dialogue on Post "Caliphate": Daesh in the Digital Realm, 20 November 2019.