



Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS)

Forum for National Security Studies (FNSS)

Event: **Interactive Discussion: CAPS- CGSC
Delegation from Philippines**

Chairman: Air Marshal **KK Nohwar** (Retd)

Speakers: Wg Cdr **KK Nair**, Research Fellow, CAPS

Wg Cdr **M K Sharma**, Research Fellow, CAPS

Ms **Sana Hashmi**, Associate Fellow, CAPS

Rapporteur: Ms **Hina Pandey**, Associate Fellow, CAPS

Date: 01 September 2015

A 34-member delegation of officers from CGSC Philippines visited CAPS between 9:30-1200hrs on 01 September 2015. The delegation also included course officer from South Korea and three officers from Indonesia. Air Mshl KK Nohwar (Retd), Additional Director General, CAPS, welcomed the delegates and began the interaction by briefly introducing the Centre's research activities.





Wg Cdr KK Nair, Research Fellow, CAPS took forward the proceedings by providing an overview of the mission of the Indian Space Programme. There was a need for building convergence between the two countries on space for civilian and security matters. Philippines, like India, can draw advantages from the utilisation of space technology in countering internal and external security challenges such as maritime threats, insurgency, drugs and crime etc. Since Philippines, as a political territory, is a combination of more than 7000 islands, the application of space technology, such as satellite communication, satellite imaging etc can also be employed for effective management of civilian affairs such as suburban planning, telecommunication, resource assessment, medicine, geo-location etc. India and Philippines must take forward these opportunities to build a beginning of a robust bilateral relationship. His concluding remarks urged Philippines to take forward the space initiative with India as its own (Philippines) space technology is at a nascent stage. India being a leading country in space technology can thus offer to bridge this technology gap.

The second speaker, Wg MK Sharma, Research Fellow, CAPS- shared his expertise on cyber issues. Assessment of cyber warfare from an Indian perspective and strongly suggested the need for building and strengthening cyber capabilities for defensive purposes, both for India and for Philippines. The need for the development of a defensive cyber wherewithal emanates directly from the ever evolving cyber domain

threat environment. The vulnerabilities in cyber space have greatly increased over the years. The Cyber arena in the 21st century has in-fact transcended itself into a war-fighting paradigm; wherein cheaply and abundantly available tools such as the internet have often been used for sabotaging government and military infrastructure. Thus, a preventive mechanism in the form of cyber laws and global norm building is needed. In this respect India and Philippines can benefit from each other by addressing common threats and building a common understanding on the international multilateral forum which is used to address these threats. The speaker concluded that Indian experience of Information Technology (IT) that caters to as many as 121 million internet users could be extrapolated to counter the cyber threat environment likely to be faced by Philippines in future.

Ms Sana Hashmi, Associate Fellow, CAPS, gave a brief presentation on the South China Sea. She brought out a comprehensive background of the South China Sea (SCS) dispute and placed Indian interests in the SCS region as that of maintaining stability. As an emerging maritime player, the Indian concerns of the legality and changing positions of China on the SCS were abundantly clear. The SCS is important for China and therefore a peaceful settlement of dispute by all the parties is essential. Towards this, India could play a wider role. She concluded that the future prospects of the SCS dispute indicate a weak possibility for a military confrontation to resolve the SCS issue; however, the dispute has potential to influence the ASEAN as an institution.

Three pointed questions were asked by the delegates. (a) The first one was on India's definition of cyber space (b) The second was on Philippines's investment in own space capabilities , whether it was worth the while considering the ASAT threat from China and (c) The third one was on the prospects of India's playing a bigger and specific role in the SCS region. All the three speakers provided a pragmatic response.
