

F O R E W O R D

A complete assessment of the challenges and opportunities that will define the future of the Asia-Pacific region requires a careful examination of the linkage between science and technology (S&T) and security. The region's growing international technoscientific footprint is matched by its increasing importance in shaping the evolving global security architecture, and exploring this dynamic relationship will allow us to suggest key features of the future international strategic landscape.

The workshop that the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies hosted in October 2010 addressed this issue. Specifically, its aim was to examine scientific and technological phenomena that will generate significant security concerns in the Asia-Pacific region in the next 20 years and beyond. The workshop brought into sharp relief the need to adopt an integrated, synergistic approach to frame our analysis of the emerging risks and opportunities that lie ahead. The 31 participants from 12 countries of the region represented a broad array of disciplines and professions from senior levels of the S&T and security communities. This diverse composition produced a cross-cutting dialogue on issues of mutual and divergent interests that established a common framework for understanding the S&T-security nexus. APCSS places a high value on collective and multidimensional processes of learning and knowledge-sharing, and utilizing these during the workshop discussions proved useful in breaking down silos and creating an open environment for discourse.

This publication comprises more than traditional workshop proceedings. Most of the contributions were written within eighteen months after the event, reflecting the authors' commitment to develop their own ideas in greater detail based on the insights acquired through their participation. The twenty papers and briefs document the multidisciplinary and transinstitutional requirements of strategic interventions and decisions for the future. They provide a deeper understanding of the complex forces that will accelerate or inhibit regional cooperation residing in the intersection of S&T and security issues.

We live in a hyperconnected, complex and rapidly changing world. This publication represents an effort to support a collective thread of dialogue about our future.

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