

Feb 24, 2009

## **Rehab programme works But it's not foolproof.**

By Goh Chin Lian

TWO-THIRDS of Singapore's terrorist detainees arrested since 2001 have been released after rehabilitation, and so far they have not strayed back into terrorism.

They have re-integrated well into society, said Second Minister for Home Affairs K. Shanmugam, but the authorities will continue monitoring them.

He was speaking on Tuesday at the first international conference on terrorist rehabilitation, organised by the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research of the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, and a group of Islamic leaders who make up the Religious Rehabilitation Group.

Some 200 participants from 20 countries are in Singapore to share notes and learn from the best practices in the field.

Mr Shanmugam, who is also Law Minister, said there is still no foolproof way to assess whether a terrorist has been truly reformed.

That is why in Singapore, terrorist detainees released from detention must continue attending a rehabilitation programme that aims to inoculate them against radical ideas.

During the three-day conference, government officials and experts will share case studies from such countries as Iraq, Egypt, Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Officials from Thailand and the Philippines will also talk about the rehabilitation programmes that they hope to put in place.

Mr Shanmugam also launched a web portal, [www.P4Peace.com](http://www.P4Peace.com), developed by the centre. The web portal provides one-stop information on terrorism and efforts to promote peace.

**[chinlian@sph.com.sg](mailto:chinlian@sph.com.sg)**