

Global Security Asia 2009

LHZB (14 Mar 09, Pg 10) reported that despite the gloomy economy, the number of exhibitors at this year's Global Security Asia has not fallen. The three-day event – to be officiated by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Wong Kan Seng on 17 March at the Singapore Expo – will see some 159 exhibitors from more than 20 countries participating in this year's largest homeland security exhibition in Singapore. Dr Rohan Gunaratna, head of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies of NTU, said that this year's conference will be focusing on global anti-terrorism. LHZB (14 Mar 09, Pg 14) carried an article on the impact of global economic crisis on terror networks. Dr Gunaratna was quoted as saying that when more people become politically and economically marginalised because of the worsening economy, they become more vulnerable and susceptible to extremist ideas. He added that terrorists increasingly resort to engaging in “low-cost, high-impact” attacks on soft targets.

NTU expert on war against terror

Weekend TODAY (14 & 15 Mar 09, Pg 10), BT Weekend (14-15 Mar, Pg. 16) reported that the engagement of businesses is 'crucial' in fighting terrorism, said Rohan Gunaratna, head of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) at RSIS, NTU. Prof Gunaratna, who was speaking to journalists ahead of next week's Global Security Asia 2009 conference, said that he had observed a trend of terrorists engaging in 'low-cost, high-impact' attacks, which entailed shifting focus from 'hard' and 'hardened' targets, such as military bases and airports, to 'soft' targets, such as commercial property.