Maria Ressa invited to author a book on the Asian terrorism threat
Author-in-Residence at the International Centre for Political Violence & Terrorism Research
beginning February 2011

Asia’s top counterterrorism centre invites investigative reporter and author Maria Ressa to write a book on the terrorism threats in Asia, their connections to the global jihad and how governments are responding to these evolving threats.

As the former CNN lead investigative reporter in Asia focusing on terrorism, Ms. Ressa wrote one of the first books documenting the growth of Jemaah Islamiyah and its links to Al-Qaeda, Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of Al-Qaeda’s Newest Center of Operations in Southeast Asia (Free Press, 2003).

She comes to Singapore from the Philippines, where she headed the largest news group and multi-media, multi-platform news operations at ABS-CBN. Her work aimed to redefine journalism, combining traditional broadcasting, new media and mobile phone technology for social change.

“Given her experience in counterterrorism and media, we expect Ms. Ressa to bring fresh, interesting insights to our work,” said Dr. Rohan Gunaratna, the head of the International Centre for Political Violence & Terrorism Research (IPCVTR).

Ms. Ressa, a graduate of Princeton University, has worked as a journalist in Asia for 24 years. She will be the first Author-in-Residence at the IPCVTR, a centre within the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at Nanyang Technological University.

“I am thrilled for the opportunity to think about and study these threats in such an outstanding academic environment,” said Ms. Ressa. “What happened to our homegrown terrorist threats paralleled what happened to Al-Qaeda after 9/11,” she added. “Their centralized command structures were degraded and their operational capabilities hampered by the arrests of top and mid-level leaders, but the old networks remain and continue to spread their radical ideology. The threat is more dispersed and harder to track down, but it hasn’t gone away.”

Ms. Ressa’s one year appointment and book aims to assess progress in the region ten years after the 9/11 attacks.