

Washington Seminar Series 2018



Diplomatic staff listening to the WS panel discussion.

WASHINGTON- January 18, 2018– Continuing its engagement with the Washington D.C. diplomatic community, the NESA Center held its second set of the 2018 Washington Seminar (WS) discussions.



Anne Richard (R) answers a question from the audience, on refugees and migration.

NESA Professor Brianne Todd invited two former senior government officials and national security professionals to participate in a conversation on ‘Refugees, Extreme Vetting, and National Security.’

Ms. Anne Richard, currently a Centennial Fellow at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service and the former Assistant Secretary of State for

Population, Refugees and Migration, as well as Mr. Leon Fresco, Immigration Attorney for the Washington office of Holland and Knight, formerly the Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Immigration Litigation spoke to the audience comprised of local embassy staff.

The Washington Seminar series gives diplomats from the NESA region and other U.S. allied countries an opportunity to engage each other in a formal setting, which under the guidance of Chatham House Rules-allowing for a not-for-attribution academic environment.

Over 40 senior diplomats from 30 NESA and U.S. allied countries attended the luncheon.



Participants network with each other, before the seminar.

Building Relationships– Enhancing Security

Afghanistan Future Leaders Seminar



Afghan participants take a group photo in front of the U.S. Embassy, Kabul.

KABUL, Afghanistan- December 16-19, 2017- The Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies conducted a capacity building seminar hosted by NATO RESOLUTE SUPPORT and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.



LTC Michael Rembold gives a briefing to participants.

28 Afghan participants (27 new alumni, one previous alumnus) completed the 4-day program that focused on critical thinking, security-development interdependencies, and leadership development.

NESA Professors John Wood, Brianne Todd, and LTC Michael Rembold conducted the seminar. Deputy Commander for NATO RESOLUTE SUPPORT U.K. Lieutenant General Richard Cripwell and Afghanistan's Ambassador to Germany Ali A. Jalali also addressed the seminar.

Upcoming NESA Center Events

Saudi Armed Forces War Wing Faculty Visit
February 26-March 2

NESA Executive Seminar
March 5-16

Saudi War College Visit
March 19-23

Washington Seminar
March 29

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Korea Middle East Forum



NESA Professor Dr. Bahgat (L) on a panel discussion for the Korea-Middle East Cooperation Forum.

SEOUL, South Korea- November 27-28, 2017- NESA Professor Dr. Gawdat Bahgat spoke at the 14th Korea-Middle East Cooperation Forum. The event was sponsored by the Korean Foreign Ministry and organized jointly by the Korea-Arab Society, Jeju Peace Institute, and the American University in Cairo. Senior officials and top scholars from Jordan, Libya, Iraq, Yemen, Egypt, and several other Arab countries participated in the event. The discussion focused on prospects for cooperation between South East Asia and the Middle East for promoting peace and prosperity in the two regions.

NESA Roundtable Discussion With Mr. Jordi Quero Arias

WASHINGTON- January 30, 2018 – The NESA Center welcomed Mr. Jordi Quero Arias, Researcher on Mediterranean and Middle Eastern conflicts from the Barcelona Center for International Affairs (CIDOB), for a roundtable discussion on the Trump Administration’s National Security Strategy (NSS) focusing on the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region.



NESA Deputy Director Lamm discussing President Trump’s NSS with Mr. Quero Arias (L).

Mr. Quero Arias, a visiting fellow from the Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), was briefed by NESA Deputy Director David Lamm, Professor David DesRoches, and State Department Liaison Ms. Bonnie Beard.

Several points discussed during the meeting, included the impact that the new National Security Strategy will have with countries in the MENA region, as well as China’s growing presence in the MENA region.

Mr. Quero Arias further emphasized the importance of strengthening the ties and

relations between the United States and Europe.

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NESA Peer to Peer (P2P) Competition



NESA Professor Jennifer Jefferis (3rd from R) congratulating students, as they accept their award.

NEW DELHI, India-January 25, 2018- Directed by Professor Jennifer Jefferis, the NESA Center hosted the first Peer to Peer (P2P) competition of the year. The P2P competition is a NESA Center initiative held in partnership with EdVenture Partners that encourages university students to design and implement social initiatives and digital tools that can be used to counter violent extremism in their communities.

Over the course of the fall semester, 5 universities in India worked to develop ideas that could inspire their peers to engage in the fight against violent extremism. This semester, three of the five university teams were selected to showcase their projects at the NESA Center P2P competition.

The projects were judged by esteemed NESA alumni including Ambassador Ranjit Gupta, Dr. Geeta Madhavan and Dr. Uttam Kumar Sinha, as well as NESA Distinguished Professor of Practice Manpreet Singh Anand.

The team representing the Acropolis Institute of Research and Technology took first place in the competition with their "Reclaim Internet" project. The students argued that one of the significant drivers of extremism is the failure from non-extremists to speak out against it. They contended that the primary reason for most individuals' lack of willingness to prevent violent extremism was a consequence of "pacifist inertia." In an effort to bypass this inertia, they created an online tool they called "Flagit", which allows individuals to flag extremist content on the web. Teams representing Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University and Chandigarh University took second and third place respectively.

Faculty Publications

Anand, Manpreet and Kliman, Daniel. 2017. "Expanding US-India Geoeconomic Cooperation Amid China's Belt and Road Initiative." The Asan Forum.

Des Roches, David et al. 2017. "Counterinsurgency: A Generic Reference Curriculum." NATO.

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