



NEAR EAST SOUTH ASIA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

NESA Update

October–December 2023

REGIONAL TRENDS – CLIMATE CHANGE

- **The outcome of the Conference of the Parties (COP) 28, held in Dubai from late November to mid-December 2023, is seen as a success.** For the first time, participants from all countries reached a consensus on transitioning away from fossil fuels, though in a “just, orderly, and equitable manner.” It will take time to see if countries will make good on this promise. Equally important, the United Arab Emirates, U.S., UK, European Union, and other countries pledged billions of dollars to compensate developing countries for environmental disasters, and an agreement was reached to establish a fund to manage these payments that will initially be hosted by the World Bank. The bottom line is that people and governments from all over the world are taking climate change and global warming seriously.
- **The scale of resource depletion in our waters is starting to become more of a policy issue** than just for seafarers and maritime policy professionals. Beyond sea-level rise, the scale of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (IUUF) and illegal dumping has caused ongoing strains on maritime environments that, in turn, have adjusted how global fishing operates as an industry. From there, the scope of regulatory seams has expanded, with the seas becoming even more dangerous for fishermen (who remain the largest sector at sea at any given moment in time). Logistical processes tied to fishing, tax revenues associated with fishing, and maritime law enforcement capabilities are, in turn, being tested. All the while, more of the world’s population relies upon fishing as a food source. As the situation worsens, as it looks likely, the price of ocean catch will increase, food insecurity will further expand, tensions at sea will further escalate, and illicit activity in the high seas will become even more common. Traditional policy approaches are seen as insufficient in scale, so the new emphasis among regional conversations is to build networks of researchers, journalists, coast guards/navies/maritime constabularies, regulatory regimes, NGOs, legitimate commercial entities, and even technological firms to develop new transnational approaches to the problem. Reporting of the degradation of our waters is becoming more common in an effort to expand the public’s understanding of what problems loom on the horizon.

IN THIS REPORT

- 1–2 NESA Region Trends
- 3–5 Programs & Events
- 6–9 Engagement
- 10–11 Alumni Pubs & News
- 12 Calendar

Engagement • Education • Outreach

NESA Region Trends

Climate Change Reflections:

- Climate change is not new to the NESA Center. NESA conducted its first Senior Executive Seminar Alumni Symposium in October 2008 with the newly introduced topic of non-traditional security threats — specifically climate change, food, water, and energy security trends before it became a fashionably “hip” or an “in” topic of interest. There were twenty-two participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, and the United States. The focus of the program also included Russia’s adventurism and the U.S. elections.

While the NESA Center was initially skeptical about climate change resonating with regional participants, the opposite proved to be the case. Participants were surprisingly extremely focused on climate change and its direct ties to national and regional security. Climate change, for them, was a real threat. Their very non-traditional approach in looking at security culminated in the symposium with a simulation exercise focused on cascading natural crises as a direct or indirect result of climate change developed in partnership with UN expert/consultant Dr. Marc Levy, Deputy Director of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) at Columbia University. It examined multiple stressors — unusual weather events followed by droughts and floods, food shortages, movements of large numbers of people, and the spread of disease — and the responses and capacity of governments and militaries on a national and sub-regional basis. For most participants, this was a natural extension of discussions on national security and threats in the 21st century.

- One participant mentioned that “... there are things to learn from the South East Asian fire disasters, avian flu, and the tsunami in terms of cooperation among countries cumbered by deep mutual suspicions.”
- All participants seemed ready from the start to accept as a given, the notion that climate change, food crises, pandemics, and the secondary/tertiary impacts (population movements and globalization) need to be treated as “hard” national security issues with devastating political consequences if not managed well.
- Climate change was seen as a “given” by many in the region, so there was no need to “sell” the topic, which, in 2008, was not the case with many U.S. audiences.
- While most countries had Emergency Disaster Plans, the plans were seen as too static and needed to be better equipped for multiple stressors, interagency coordination, or complex international coordination with NGOs and numerous foreign donors. Major institutional reorganization was needed to effectively deal with these issues in the future.

Since discussing climate change in 2008, NESA has continued over these last 16 years to include in its programs these same elements of the security impacts of climate change in our region and expanded our view to also include more of the African continent. More significantly telling is looking back at the takeaways and the keen insights articulated by NESA participants in 2008, especially in light of today’s realities — the Ukraine War and with its global food and energy insecurity; the COVID-19 pandemic; climate migration; and the continuing conflicts over competition for air, land, and water. This simply leaves the open question ... creatively looking ahead as NESA did in 2008, what should the NESA Center be focusing on now?

NESA Programs & Events

U.S.-Russia Track II Talks

On 5–6 October 2023, the NESA Center for Strategic Studies, in partnership with the Middle East Institute (MEI), held track II talks between the U.S. and Russia in Istanbul, Türkiye. Representatives from the NESA Center included Dr. Roger Kangas and Dr. Gawdat Bahgat. The Russian delegation included representatives from civil society and think tanks. The discussion focused on the war in Ukraine and its impact on Russia’s economy and foreign policy, as well as bilateral relations between the U.S. and Russia. [Continue reading.](#)

U.S.-Türkiye Track II Talks

On 9–10 October 2023, the NESA Center, in partnership with the Middle East Institute (MEI), held track II talks between the U.S. and Türkiye in Ankara. The U.S. delegation included Randa Slim (MEI), Robert Ford (former Ambassador to Algeria and Syria), David Hale (former Ambassador to Jordan, Lebanon, and Pakistan), Peter Zwack (retired General), Vali Nasr (Johns Hopkins University), and Gawdat Bahgat (NESA Center). Roundtable discussions were held with senior Turkish officials including Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz, Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Head of the National Intelligence Organization (MIT) Ibrahim Kalin, and Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Turkish Grand National Assembly Fuat Oktay. In addition to meetings with these senior officials, a roundtable discussion was held with the Turkish think-tank SETA. [Continue reading.](#)



NESA-IISS Southern Asia Security Conference in Oman

From 13–15 October 2023, the NESA Center, in partnership with the International Institute for Strategic Studies, held the 16th annual Southern Asia Security Conference in Oman. Dean Dr. Roger Kangas and Professors Dr. Hassan Abbas and John Gill participated in the unique off-the-record track 1.5 event that brought together a strong mix of senior serving/former military and civilian officials, sitting legislators, and subject matter experts from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, as well as top academics from China and serving officials from the UK and the U.S. The theme was “Building Regional Security.” [Continue reading.](#)



NESA Programs & Events

Washington Embassy Orientation & Washington Seminar

From 30 October to 3 November 2023, the NESA Center for Strategic Studies ran a Washington Embassy Orientation (WEO) combined Washington Seminar at the Army Navy Club in Washington, D.C. The WEO engaged 48 participants from 25 countries, and the Washington Seminar had 53 participants from 26 countries. The orientation was targeted toward foreign diplomats and defense attachés who have recently arrived to work at their Embassies in Washington, D.C. The Washington Seminar was held mid-week and was centered on “Reality Casts its Vote: The Continued Importance of the Middle East in U.S. Policy.” [Continue reading.](#)



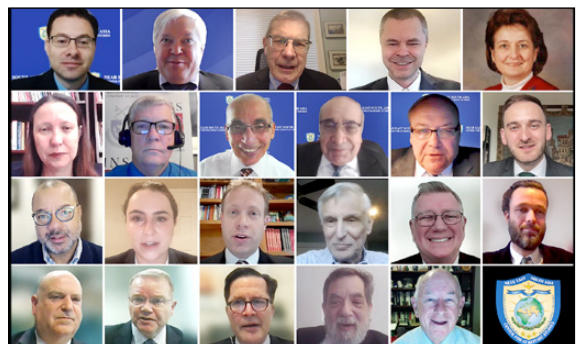
Defense Security Cooperation Agency and Near East South Asia Regional Center Engagement

On 27 November 2023, the Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, James (Jim) Hursch, met with the NESA Center. During the briefing, NESA provided an overview of NESA’s programming including core programs, overseas programs, maritime programs, professional military education programs, and a country-specific Foreign Military Sales Program focused on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A demonstration of NESA’s new online dashboard that allows data collection to be simplified and automated was also reviewed. [Continue reading.](#)



Executive Seminar: Strategic Competition & Regional Cooperation

From 4–15 December 2023, the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies hosted the Executive Seminar (ES) “Strategic Competition and Regional Cooperation.” Throughout the two-week virtual event, the NESA Center hosted representatives from all over the world to discuss different topics in security and strategic studies. The seminar included 70 participants from 30 countries. Regarding WPS numbers, 20% of participants who completed the course were female. The ES seminar provided a venue for partners to listen and learn about strategic competition and to consider potential areas of regional cooperation. [Continue reading.](#)



NESA Programs & Events

Nepal Ambassador and Defense Attaché Engagement with the NESA Center

On 7 December 2023, the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies Acting Director COL David Lamm, USA (Ret.) and Academic Dean Dr. Roger Kangas hosted Nepal's Ambassador Sridhar Khatri and Defense Attaché Brigadier Bhuwan Satyal, at NESA Center offices for discussions on collaboration opportunities and upcoming programs. Ambassador Khatri highlighted Nepal's interest in education and the preparation of national security professionals. Brigadier Satyal noted the Nepal Staff College's interest in NESA support for subject matter expert lectures, distance and resident learning opportunities, as well as the development of the Nepali NDU. [Continue reading.](#)



Lebanese Embassy & NESA Center Engagement

On 13 December 2023, NESA Center Professors Richard Wiersema and Jennifer Jefferis, Associate Dean Charles Marks, and Program Manager for Outreach and Engagement Christopher Muller met at the Lebanese Ambassador's residence. The meeting was held with the Charges D'Affaires, Wael Hachem, as well as with two recent NESA Center Alumni, Khaled Hamadeh and Dana Ghazle, to discuss future partnering and a restart of a Lebanese National Defense University (NDU). [Continue reading.](#)



NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

Dr. Hassan Abbas



25–26 November 2023 – Spoke as a panelist at the Karachi Literature Festival in Karachi, Pakistan. Spoke during two sessions with an audience of about 250–300. Topics first focused on the Taliban and regional security and then on Pakistan's political history.



28 November 2023 – Was a seminar speaker along with Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Amb Asif Durrani, in Islamabad, Pakistan.

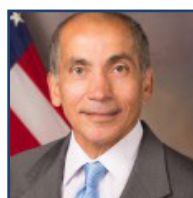


6 December 2023 – Spoke at a virtual book talk on "The Return of the Taliban: Afghanistan After the Americans Left," organized by the University of Nottingham, International Law & Security Centre.

14 December 2023 – Was a keynote speaker for an inaugural event for the World Anti-Extremism Network in Toronto, Canada, where 100 people were in attendance. <https://worldantiextremism.org/event/inaugural-ceremony/>



Dr. Gawdat Bahgat



16 November 2023 – Spoke on the fifth panel at the Fifth Annual Gulf International Conference. The panel's focus was on "The Gulf's Ambitious Climate Action: Renewables, Green Policies, & Emission Reduction." <https://youtu.be/lqmrG-xDy64?>



15 December 2023 – Spoke at the Atlantic Dialogues conference in Marrakesh, Morocco, sponsored by the Policy Center for the New South. Dr. Bahgat spoke on economic and security cooperation in the Middle East. More than 400 hundred participants from 80 countries attended. <https://ad.policycenter.ma/>



NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

David Des Roches



5 November 2023 – Taught a course on Strategic Communications at the Saudi War College in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, at their request to provide instruction on strategic communications, defined by the Saudis as internal communications, public messaging, and theme development. Prof. Des Roches developed the course and produced and delivered all the content. There were over fifty senior Saudi officers in the course, as well as a number of civilians from various Saudi ministries. A damage limitation exercise was conducted, which required the participants to assume the role of an Israeli media spokesman.

11 December 2023 – Was a speaker at the “Doha Forum 2023 - Building Shared Futures” held from 10-11 December in Doha, Qatar. The Doha Forum is the largest event of its kind in the Gulf. Speakers also included the Russian and Iranian foreign ministers, as well as Senator Lindsay Graham. Prof. Des Roches spoke on a panel on peace-building, titled “Reinvigorating Peacebuilding: Optimizing Regional Solutions and Revitalizing Global Engagement,” which was sponsored by the Stimson Center. Des Roches also took part in closed-door meetings on Yemen. The overall tone of the conference was dominated by the crisis in Gaza. <https://dohaforum.org/theme>



NESA Alumni photos at the forum with Prof. Des Roches (Yemen FM Bin Mubarak on the left and Jordan PM Khasawneh on the right).

19 December 2023 – Presented to the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) Maritime/Red Sea working group on U.S. and coalition maritime responses to Houthi attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea and Indian

Ocean. ECFR is an EU-funded pan-European organization that engages with issues globally. Prof. Des Roches was the only American who spoke. His remarks focused on the history of U.S. maritime operations in the region, past U.S. responses to Houthi aggression, and the U.S. maritime capabilities in the region. It was a virtual meeting based out of Berlin. Links referenced in the presentation: [\[Making Sense of the Naval Missile Exchanges in Yemen\]](#)[\[Dominance versus Disruption: Asymmetry in Gulf Security\]](#)

Ali Ahmad Jalali



October 2023 – Was interviewed by domestic and foreign media for comments on the war in Gaza and a review of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The interviews also focused on the role of the United States and what can happen when the military operation ends. [\[8 October –VOA\]](#)[\[27 October –VOA Pashto\]](#)

13–14 November 2023 – Contributed to a European study on the drug production history in Afghanistan. The German Parliament commissioned the report. The report’s author, Dr. Florian Kuhn, interviewed Prof. Jalali to review the situation and ways of drug control in the region. Also discussed was whether the current ban on poppy cultivation by the Taliban government is sustainable.

November–December 2023 – As the year drew to a close, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution (on 30 December) for an independent assessment of Afghanistan that provides recommendations on international engagement to address the challenges faced by the country. The resolution calls for the appointment of a Special UN Envoy for Afghanistan to help initiate and broker talks between the Taliban government and anti-Taliban Afghan forces. The resolution was welcomed by Afghanistan non-Taliban political groups, was immediately dismissed by the Taliban government as an unnecessary move.

The resolutions came in the wake of last summer efforts by the UN Secretary General for designing a roadmap to address the most difficult issues in Taliban-ruled Afghani-

NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

stan, including the domestic and international legitimacy issues of the regime, restoring basic human rights, particularly women's rights, and civil liberties. The roadmap is to integrate the Afghan government through a process of power-sharing and the establishment of an all-inclusive government. Prof. Jalali was interviewed by several media outlets on related issues. Some are listed below:

- **28 November** – Interviewed by the [VOA Hail](#) program for comments on a roadmap to broaden the base of the Taliban government in Afghanistan as suggested by the UN and certain Afghan political circles.
- **11 December** – Was a guest of the [Afghanistan International TV](#) network for comments on the UN Special Envoy for Afghanistan report on a roadmap to create a broad-based government in a Taliban-ruled country and was also asked to assess the capacity of anti-Taliban groups to bring changes.

1 December 2023 – Was interviewed by Radio Free Europ Radio Liberty (RFERL) for a focus on the late Henry Kissinger's views on U.S. policy in Afghanistan and the dynamics of the Afghan conflict. The late American diplomat and political scientist had distinct views on U.S. Afghan policy, including his suggestions to seek resolving the conflict through regional arrangements. *Video in Pashto:* <https://pa.azadiradio.com/a/32711639.html>



Dr. Roger Kangas



17–19 November 2023 – Attended the IISS Manama Dialogue (along with Prof. David Des Roches) in Manama, Bahrain. This is an annual event in which the International Institute for Strategic Studies

(IISS) brings together “government ministers and policy-makers, as well as members of the think tank community and private sector, to what is the premier security-focused event in the Middle East. In this current iteration, the Israel-Gaza conflict dominated the discussion, although other topics, such as climate change, debt diplomacy, and the role of outside powers, were also addressed. <https://www.iiss.org/en/events/manama-dialogue/manama-dialogue-2023/>

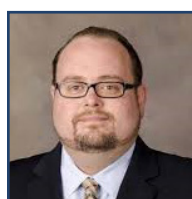


Dr. Roger Kangas (left), NESA Alumna Eman Ragab (center), and Prof. David Des Roches (right) during the Dialogue.

Charles Marks



17 October 2023 – Gave a presentation on alliances for the newly established Global Alliance Center. The Global Alliance Center focuses on National Security education for undergraduate and graduate students at William and Mary's Williamsburg campus and the newly established conference center in Washington, DC. William and Mary's Veterans Program Director provided an invitation to teach undergraduate students on alliances from a practitioner's perspective. The presentation is now part of NESA's Learning Management System course catalog in GlobalNET.



Jeffrey Payne

1 November 2023 – Performed an interview on behalf of the European Union and the United Nations pertaining to the

NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

viability of existing maritime security efforts in the Western Indian Ocean to counter illegal activity. The interview was off-the-record to help constitute a more extensive report to both institutions.

2 November 2023 – Discussed Maritime Security efforts in the Indo-Pacific and the development of the European Union’s Indo-Pacific approach with a visiting delegation from the European Council on Foreign Relations.

15–17 November 2023 – Participated and presented at the 2023 Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue in Delhi, sponsored by the Indian Navy and led by the National Maritime Foundation. The Dialogue is India’s premier gathering for discussing regional maritime security challenges. There were approximately 400 participants, and the event featured keynote addresses from the Vice President of India, the Indian Navy Chief, and three Indian Ministers.

<https://maritimeindia.org/indo-pacific-regional-dialogue-2023/#tab-id-2>



30 November 2023 – Participated in a roundtable organized by the Africa Center on China’s influence efforts in Africa. Twenty-five participated in the discussion, and Interagency representatives included USAFRICOM, USAID, the Department of State, and OSD.

5 December 2023 – Took part in SIGNAL’s discussion of its recent visits to China and Japan to evaluate how those states are interpreting the conflict in Gaza. SIGNAL is an Israeli think tank focused on engagement in the Indo-Pacific. The session was entitled “China – Gaza, U.S. Rivalry, and UNSC Presidency: Insights from SIGNAL’s China Policy Trip.”

7 December 2023 – Participated in an invite-only discussion with India’s Ambassador to the United States Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu, at the Hudson Institute, Washington, D.C., where conversations pertaining to U.S.-India relations, the Indo-Pacific, and other issues were discussed.

Dr. Michael Sharnoff



12 October 2023 – Was invited as a guest speaker for the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia regarding the 7 October Hamas terrorist attack against Israel and the regional implications. The talk was held virtually on Zoom with approximately 30 participants from the Jewish community in the Philadelphia area.

Richard Wiersema



2 November 2023 – Richard Wiersema, Chris Muller, and Charles Marks had a virtual meeting with Dr. Vivian Walker (Georgetown) for a presentation to RJNDC on Public Diplomacy. The NESA Center’s relationship with RJNDC is based on a signed Memorandum of Understanding designed to deepen the curriculum and faculty in Jordan. Public Diplomacy is an identified shortfall in the RJNDC curriculum. The virtual session was provided to the full student body of the RJNDC and will be followed by an in-person planning session in January 2024 to develop a full curriculum for Public Diplomacy.

28 November 2023 – Richard Wiersema and Charles Marks had a discussion with Dr. Ali Naqvi on Artificial Intelligence and the potential for integration into Professional Military Education programs. This was a follow-up from other AI-related engagements with Dr. Naqvi.

Alumni Publications & News

Alumni Publications & News

October 2023 – **Thokozani Chazema (Malawi)** co-authored a research publication for the International Journal of Membrane Science and Technology: [“Upholding Constitutionalism in Precarious Times: Case Study of Malawi Defence Force.”](#)

October 2023 – **Thokozani Chazema (Malawi)** co-authored a research publication for the International Journal of Membrane Science and Technology: [“Drivers Keeping Civil-Military Relations in Equilibrium in Malawi: A Quantitative Approach.”](#)

10 October 2023 – **Arslan Chikhaoui (Algeria)** wrote an Op-Ed for the NESACenter Website: [“IAEA: Algeria Elected as a Member of the Agency’s Board of Governors for 2023-2025 \(Analysis\).”](#)

18 October 2023 – **Shanthie Mariet D’Souza (India)** wrote an Op-Ed for The Middle East Institute: [“Earthquake in Afghanistan: Natural Disasters, International Isolation, and Taliban Incapacity.”](#)

19 October 2023 – **Shanthie Mariet D’Souza (India)** wrote an article for The Diplomat: [“China’s Belt Road Initiative and the Taliban’s Economic Dreams.”](#)

30 October 2023 – **Shanthie Mariet D’Souza (India)** co-authored an analysis for Mantraya: [“India’s Central Asia Outreach: Countering China’s Expanding Footprint.”](#)

30 October 2023 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** wrote an article for International Journal of Security Studies & Practice: [“Analysis of Money Laundering in Sri Lanka: A National Security Saboteur.”](#)

30 October 2023 – **Shanthie Mariet D’Souza (India)** wrote an article for The Diplomat: [“Pakistan’s Afghan Gamble: Refugees as a Strategic Tool Against the Taliban.”](#)

10 November 2023 – **Asanga Abeyagoonasekera (Sri Lanka)** wrote an Op-Ed for Global Strat View: [“Postponing Elections and Inviting the Dragon: Sri Lanka President’s China Tilt.”](#)

13 November 2023 – **Antonia Dimou (Greece)** wrote an article for Modern Diplomacy: [“The Eastern Mediterranean’s Shifting Dynamics: Now is the Time for Greater Cooperation.”](#)

14 November 2023 – **Shanthie Mariet D’Souza (India)** wrote an article for The Diplomat: [“An Iranian Reversal on Afghan Refugees.”](#)

17 November 2023 – **Kashif Ehtisham (Pakistan)** wrote a CSAG Strategy Paper for the NESACenter Website: [“Analyzing the Kashmir Conflict – Chinese Connection and Implications for the US.”](#)

21 November 2023 – **Arslan Chikhaoui (Algeria)** wrote an Op-Ed for the NESACenter Website: [“The Geopolitics of Critical Minerals in Meditterrafrica.”](#)

27 November 2023 – **Eman Ragab (Egypt)** wrote a book that was published by the Al-Raham Center for Political and Strategic Studies: [“Warfare Strategies in the Twenty First Century.”](#)

28 November 2023 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** wrote a study that was published in the Proceedings of the Annual Research Conference on Sustaining Excellence through Multidisciplinary Research at the University of Colombo: [“An Analysis on the Potential of Religion in Preventing Violent Extremism.”](#)

30 November 2023 – **Shanthie Mariet D’Souza (India)** wrote an Op-Ed for The Diplomat: [“Managing Dissent Within: The Taliban Way.”](#)

December 2023 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** published an analysis in the Sri Lanka Military Academy Journal: [“Combating Online Falsehoods: Striking a Balance Between Freedom of Expression and National Security in Sri Lanka.”](#)

04–16 December 2023 – **Dr. Haykel Ben Mahfoudh (Tunisia)** was appointed as a judge to the [International Criminal Court \(ICC\) for the period of the 2024–2033.](#)

06 December 2023 – **Majd Al Naber (Jordan)** co-authored a research paper for the WANAIstitute: [“Gender, Climate, and Cohesion – Uncovering the Linkages Between Climate Change, Human Security, and Gender in Jordan.”](#)

Alumni Publications & News

07 December 2023 – **Asanga Abeyagoonasekera (Sri Lanka)** wrote an article for the NESACenter Website: [“Fragility in Sri Lanka and Myanmar, Expanding China’s Geopolitical Ambition.”](#)

11 December 2023 – **Shanthie Mariet D’Souza (India)** wrote an Op-Ed for The Diplomat: [“Tajikistan and the Taliban: A Lone Voice in Central Asia.”](#)

15 December 2023 – **Sandun Gunawardana (Sri Lanka)** published an educational comic book on Combatting Human Trafficking for the NESACenter Website: [“The Invisible Trap.”](#)

16 December 2023 – **Arslan Chikhaoui (Algeria)** wrote an article for L’Expression: [“Les enjeux stratégiques issus de la COP 28.”](#)

19 December 2023 – **Shanthie Mariet D’Souza (India)** wrote an Op-Ed for The Diplomat: [“Afghanistan Left Out of Global Climate Change Conversation.”](#)

26 December 2023 – **Arslan Chikhaoui (Algeria)** wrote an Op-Ed for the NESACenter Website: [“Algeria-Turkey: Consolidating the Strategic Partnership.”](#)

28 December 2023 – **Thokozani Chazema (Malawi)** wrote an Op-Ed for the NESACenter Website: [“Reimagining Agriculture as a Culprit and Victim of Climate Change in the Global Village.”](#)

29 December 2023 – **Syeda Tahreem Bukhari & Abdul Basit (Pakistan)** co-authored an Op-Ed for the NESACenter Website: [“US-Pakistan Relations: Unraveling Complexities, Forging a Shared Future.”](#)

On-Demand Courses for Alumni

The NESACenter had a successful seven months since the Learning Management System (LMS) with on-demand courses for Alumni was launched in May 2023.

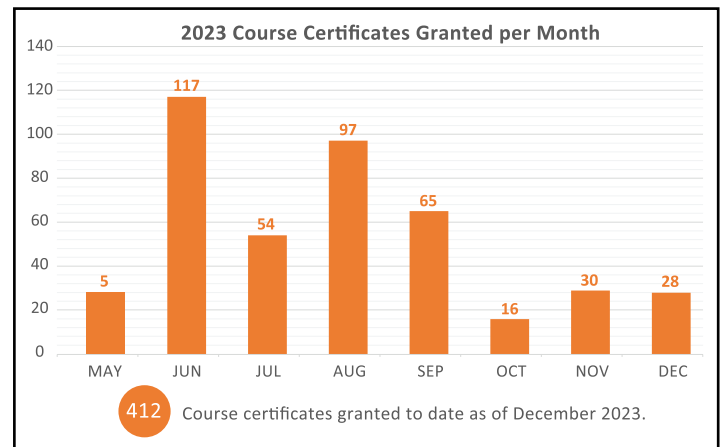
May–December 2023 Statistics at a Glance

Top 3 countries represented:

1. Lebanon
2. Nigeria
3. United States

Top 5 most active courses:

1. Drone and Counter-Drone Warfare
2. Strategic Implications of AI
3. Law of Armed Conflict
4. Strategic Intelligence and Technology
5. National Security, Stability, and Progress: Ten Recommendations for National Leaders



- Courses available to date: 42
- Countries represented to date: 39
- Users that have taken courses to date: 111
- Course certificates granted to date: 412

NESACenter Alumni can log in to their GlobalNET account to access the on-demand course user guide, take the on-demand courses, and earn certificates.

<https://globalnetplatform.org/nesa/on-demand-courses>

Calendar

Upcoming NESACenter Events

- **AFRICOM-NESA-IEMED “Human Security” Workshop** | 10–11 January 2024 | Tunis, Tunisia
- **Oman Diplomatic Institute Seminar** | 14–18 January 2024 | Oman
- **RJNDC Program** | 19–24 January 2024 | Amman, Jordan
- **Combating Transnational Threats Senior Executive Seminar** | 22–26 January 2024 | Washington, D.C.
- **Countering Violent Extremism & the Role of Community Policing Program** | 28 January–1 February 2024 | Kathmandu, Nepal
- **Saudi War College: Military Strategy Workshop** | 29 January–1 February 2024 | Riyadh, KSA
- **SANDU Faculty Development Workshop** | 5–7 February 2024 | Riyadh, KSA

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