
Little red link in the chain

Singapore will soon be part of world risk intelligence network

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SINGAPORE will soon join hands with a global intelligence provider to become a key link in the flow of risk-relevant intelligence within the international community.

In a partnership with World-Check, the Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies (IDSS) will be offering a four-year fellowship programme dedicated to developing software applications and systems to manage risk and threat information.

World-Check boasts clients from 2,000 institutions, including 200 government agencies in 90 countries, who have access to its database of "known heightened-risk individuals and businesses" — consisting of political leaders, government officials, fraudsters, terrorists and sanctioned entities.

Describing the partnership as a natural marriage, IDSS director Barry Desker said that together, its International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) and World-Check would help "promote the flow of risk-relevant intelligence to the global community".

IDSS will be upgraded to a full-fledged post-graduate school called the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies next year. The initiative is in line with the new school's aim to train not just academics but future professionals, said Mr Desker.

Details of the fellowship, which also involves Nanyang Technological University's School of Computer Engineering, will be worked out over the next few months as the hunt begins for a suitable recipient.

World-Check CEO and founder David Leppan said yesterday that such collaboration is a first for his six-year-old

company. He added that he was "humbled" by ICPVTR's commitment in its fight against terrorism.

New partnerships of this sort are the way to fight "the contemporary wave of terrorism", said ICPVTR's head, Dr Rohan Gunaratna. "The Internet has become the principal means of terrorist communication, propaganda, recruitment, fundraising and training. It has now become necessary to use the same tools to fight terrorism," he said.

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