WASHINGTON Seminar Series 2018

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. 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.

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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.
Afghanistan Future Leaders Seminar

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.

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, Bri- anne 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.

LTC Michael Rembold gives a briefing to participants.

Upcoming NESA Center Events

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Building Relationships– Enhancing Security
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.

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.
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.