Dear NESA Center Alumni and friends,

I hope this message finds you well. These are uncertain times in the world with the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. Organizations that emphasize person-to-person engagement and large scale programming have to make considerable adjustments on how to do business. The NESA Center is no exception. We have had to postpone upcoming Foundation Seminars and specialty projects until the various travel restrictions and social distancing rules are relaxed. At this stage, it is too early to tell when exactly that might be – not just in the United States, but in your countries, as well.

It is no surprise that the coronavirus is dominating our discussions, but other security challenges have not ceased. This is true for the countries of North Africa, the Levant, the Gulf, to South and Central Asia. In order to remain engaged, the faculty and staff of the NESA Center will be using our website and social media platforms, in an effort to address these challenges. This includes (1) posting of policy comments by faculty and alumni, (2) providing links to suggested readings, and (3) seeking your views on a range of issues relevant to the security of our region.

We intend to continue these virtual engagements long after the pandemic has passed. It is important that the NESA Center community remains connected – and perhaps this immediate crisis is making us carry out approaches that have been “planned” or “discussed” for too long. Finally, our intent is to have this letter, my colleagues’ policy briefs, and other communications from NESA translated into our working languages as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you and will continue to seek new ways to engage in the coming weeks, months, and beyond.

Stay safe and healthy,
Respectfully,

Sincerely,

Dr. Roger Kangas
Academic Dean
The Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies

30 March 2020