



## Colloquium

# Military AI governance amid geopolitical rivalry: implications for Southeast Asia

25 April 2025 | 0930-1145 | Auditorium, ISIS Malaysia

---

Militaries globally are racing to adopt and deploy AI in search of a strategic advantage. Geopolitical rivalry has also raised the stakes for the adoption of AI by militaries and complicated the possibility of reaching consensus on governance and arms control. Southeast Asia has thus far been underrepresented in global discussions on AI governance in the military domain. In a region with other pressing security and economic risks, concerns over AI applications in the military domain appear overlooked. Although ASEAN launched guidelines on AI governance and ethics for civilian applications in 2024, it has yet to initiate a similar effort on AI in the military domain.

- In an environment of strategic contest, what are the various multilateral platforms which could introduce a long-term legally binding instrument to limit harmful and unethical military uses of AI?
- What do future force structures look like with AI and how should they fit seamlessly within national strategies and policy positions or even other technologies, such as quantum?
- How could the military strengthen cybersecurity and testing, evaluation, validation and verification practices? And what are the gaps to achieve this outcome?

## Speaker



### **Manoj Harjani**

Research Fellow and Coordinator  
Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies  
S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)  
Nanyang Technological University

Prior to joining the Military Transformations Programme, Manoj was part of the Future Issues and Technology research cluster at RSIS, where he worked on building up the school's research agenda and networks at the intersection of science, technology and national security. He is a former public servant with stints at the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Centre for Strategic Futures, where he held roles focusing on analysing long-term trends and building up public-sector capabilities in futures thinking and scenario planning.

## Programme

0930-1000

### **Registration**

1000-1015

### **Opening remarks**

#### **Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah**

Chairman  
ISIS Malaysia

1015-1030

### **Break**

1030-1145

### **Military AI governance amid geopolitical rivalry: implications for Southeast Asia**

#### **Manoj Harjani**

Research Fellow and Coordinator  
Military Transformations Programme  
S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Q&A

1145

End