

Editorial

The first half of 2011 at the Foundation witnessed a wide spectrum of activities including the NMF Annual International Conference on submarines; a workshop on the Indian Ocean Region conducted jointly with the Nixon Centre of USA; informal interactions with several high profile visitors and the regular Round Table Conferences by research scholars.

In February, we hosted Sir Mark Stanhope, First Sea Lord, who spoke on the Royal Navy and maritime security in the Indian Ocean under the aegis of the NMF Eminent Persons Lecture Series (EPL). Other important exchanges included a discussion on India–Pakistan nuclear stability issues and Track II diplomacy, and an interaction with senior officers and faculty from the US Marine War College in May.

This issue carries an interesting mix of speeches, research papers and book reviews. The first chapter is based on a talk delivered by Admiral Arun Prakash (Retd), Chairman of the NMF at the Navy Foundation in Kolkata in January on China's maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean. The next article is based on the speech by Ambassador Shyam Saran, Former Foreign Secretary, titled 'Geopolitical Consequences of the Global Financial and Economic Crisis; Emerging Contours'. The speech was delivered under the auspices of the NMF EPL series in March.

The third article in the journal by Joshy Paul focuses on the emerging security architecture in the IOR. Joshy Paul makes a case for India to emerge as a credible power by assuming a leading role in establishing a cooperative security framework in the region and bringing all the relevant countries of the littoral on board for creating an effective security architecture in the Indian Ocean region. The next paper by K.K. Agnihotri traces the rapid development of the PLAN aviation capability. He

opines that while credible Chinese power projection capability in the Indian Ocean appears to be at least two decades away, the international community must take due cognisance of this inevitability now and commence preparations to manage this forthcoming challenge.

The fifth paper by Jitin George on Japan's nuclear hedging evaluates Japan's experiences in nuclear hedging and analyses the six possible scenarios which would force Japan to reconsider its anti-nuclear stance. George states that given the vulnerable situation in East Asia and changing contours of the US–Japan alliance, it is crucial to study the “push” factors involved in Japanese nuclear hedging. The subsequent paper by Amit Singh on India–Malaysia strategic relations analyses the various dimensions of India–Malaysia relations, as well as areas of convergence and divergence. He categorises the bilateral relation between India and Malaysia as a case of ‘missed opportunity’ and examines various areas of potential cooperation in the future.

The seventh paper by Joshua Ho on the opening of the Northern Sea Route highlights the importance of developing maritime infrastructure and services along the Northern Sea routes before navigation along these routes becomes a reality as anticipated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007. The final piece in the journal is a critique by Rear Admiral Raja Menon (Retd) of *‘The East Moves West, India, China, and Asia’s Growing Presence in the Middle East’*, by Geoffrey Kemp.

As in the past, this issue of the NMF journal covers a wide variety of current issues that would interest a broad range of readers. As always we welcome your feedback and comments in order to improve the quality of *Maritime Affairs* (MA).

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to bid adieu to the extended NMF fraternity and the readers of MA. The past two years at the helm have been rewarding for me and it is my privilege to introduce Vice Admiral (Retd) Pradeep Kaushiva as the next Editor. The editorial team of the journal ably represented by Shishir Upadhyaya and other colleagues have done a splendid job and I wish MA all success in the years ahead.

C. Uday Bhaskar