



Ambassador James Keith
Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism
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Handover of Counter-Terrorism Reference Materials

Ambassador Dato' Hussin Nayan,

Yang Berbahagia Datuk Iskandar Sarudin, Deputy Secretary General (III), Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Zainuddin Yahaya, Senior Undersecretary, Americas Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Honored Guests,

Good morning. Thank you so much for welcoming me here today. One of the great rewards of my job is the opportunity to lend a helping hand to colleagues and friends. And here at SEARCCT, we are among friends.

When SEARCCT was founded in 2003, the United States was here. We cheered you on, and we collaborated with you right from the start. The war on terror is a global responsibility, and we have been impressed and gratified that Malaysia wants a leadership role in regional counter-terrorism capacity building. I'm pleased that America has sponsored more than 40% courses at SEARCCT over the years. With American cooperation, SEARCCT has trained officials from across Southeast Asia on topics including maritime security, bioterrorism, and cyber-terrorism – just to name a few. This is just the kind of teamwork that was envisioned in the Joint Declaration of Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism, signed by the U.S. and Malaysia back in 2002.

Today, I'm delighted to announce a new and lasting hallmark of our cooperation. SEARCCT has been working to build a library capable of supporting research on counter-terrorism trends and incidents. Compiling such a specialized portfolio of documents is no easy task. I'm pleased that here, too, the United States can deliver on our commitment to our friends at SEARCCT. This morning I am handing over a selection of materials to help them realize that goal. Researchers and officials working at SEARCCT now have at their disposal a set of award-winning books and reference materials worth more than RM15,000. The collection includes titles such as *Global Terrorism: the Complete Reference Guide*; *The UN and Regional Organizations in the Fight against Terrorism*; and *The Reference Shelf: Homeland Security*. More general references are also included, such as the *Atlas of Global Development* and the *Gale Encyclopedia of Everyday Law*.

We make these contributions because we believe in SEARCCT and its promise to contribute to a future free of terrorism. It is an exceedingly challenging goal, one which requires long-term participation from stakeholders across the globe. But I believe it remains the most important goal facing us today. So long as the specter of terror remains, we must keep our commitment to narrowing and, ultimately, eliminating the space for extremists to operate around the world.

It has been nearly five years since SEARCCT opened its doors. I congratulate SEARCCT on this upcoming milestone, which we'll celebrate with you in July. And I challenge Ambassador Hussin Nayan and his team here to take time in this, their fifth anniversary year, to take stock and reaffirm SEARCCT's vision and unfailing commitment to the task before all of us. Much work remains to be done. The United States looks forward to continuing this work in partnership with SEARCCT.

Thank you.