



Newsletter

Welcome to IRSEM's newsletter !

Foreword by Wendy Ramadan-Alban

Head of International Development and Institutional Relations



I am still less than a year into my new position as head of international development and institutional relations, but the summer gives me an opportunity to look back. I am very honored to introduce this newsletter by stressing the institute's renewed and continuous efforts to develop its international activities. The latter is also a major boost for IRSEM's scientific production - that was recently praised by our academic board (composed of renowned academics).

Among the major achievements of this semester, IRSEM successfully conducted the second edition of its [Young leaders programme](#) by welcoming twelve young outstanding profiles from Asia-Pacific. The in-depth exchanges we had helped us de-center our narratives and practices. Among the 2023 batch were scholars, think-tankers and institutionals.

Highly committed in fostering exchanges and debates, IRSEM was happy to have two visiting fellows from Purdue University (West Lafayette, USA) and Yonsei University (Seoul, South Korea). This trend towards more outreach and interactions has also been materialized by recent activities, like hosting a US Army War college delegation. I am thrilled to bring new projects and initiatives and continue to further promote our work abroad - the upcoming opening of our new branch in Brussels, IRSEM Europe, will be a major accelerator.

[Read more about IRSEM-Europe](#)

International development

Young Leaders: The Indopacific region in the spotlight

In June (12-16), IRSEM organised its *Paris Defence Young Leaders* programme (YL), aimed at creating a vast international network of young prominent figures in the field of defense and security. This year, it hosted a dozen young Asian promising personalities working on international relations and security issues (defense, economic, energy, climate and technological security, etc.).

Throughout the week, they engaged in discussions, crossing conceptual and disciplinary boundaries, and increasing their mutual understanding of current issues and built lasting and friendly relationships with up-and-coming men and women from many countries. Here is what they did and saw:



Day 1

Candidates were greeted by the IRSEM team, and got right into the thick of strategic topics by debating on the political evolutions of European security after the Russian invasion of Ukraine and European strategic autonomy.



Day 2

After a roundtable on “The new spaces of great power competition”, they visited the Hotel de Brienne where participants met with the Cabinet of the French Minister of the Armed Forces.



Day 3

At the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, they discussed a wide range of international issues with the policy planning department (CAPS) as well as the Asia and Strategic Affairs departments. Then they visited the French Parliament buildings and met with the Parliamentary Commission for the Defence and the Armed Forces.



Day 4

The French company ArianeGroup showed the Young Leaders their factories where the launching systems of Ariane 5 and 6 rockets are partly being built. In the afternoon, participants went to the office of the French land defense and security industry association to attend a presentation on innovation and industry.



Day 5

The Young Leaders took part in a roundtable entitled “Unpacking the narratives of the Indo-Pacific” followed by a Q&A session before meeting with the Directorate General of International Relations and Security’s vice-president who gave the closing address before a goodbye cocktail.

Life at IRSEM : What's new



Benoît Rademacher has been appointed Deputy Director of IRSEM

Benoît Rademacher is a Chief Armament Engineer and a graduate of the French École polytechnique and the Superior National School of Advanced Techniques (ENSTA Paris). Before joining IRSEM in 2016 as Head of the “Armaments and defense economics” department, he held various positions at the Ministries of Defence and Economy and Finance.

Anne Muxel, our head of “Army and Society” department, is replaced by Elyamine Settoul, assistant professor at Arts et métiers

After 6 years at IRSEM, Anne Muxel, a specialist of the sociology of youth, is departing to take on new responsibilities as the head of the SciencePo's Center for analysis of political life (CEVIPOF) where she will continue to study political socialization, electoral behavior, and abstention. She is replaced by Elyamine Settoul, whose research focuses on ethnicity, migrations, and radicalization.



Colonel Stéphane Samaran is replaced by Colonel Stéphane Faudais as the head of the "Strategies, norms and doctrines" department

Stéphane Samaran is now retiring and leaving IRSEM after 3 years as the head of the “Strategies, norms and doctrines” department. He is being replaced by Col. and Dr. Stéphane Faudais, a prominent researcher and director of the War College’s “History, geopolitics and strategy”.

Visiting fellows



Singapore visiting fellow Celine Tham leaves the institute after 2 years at IRSEM

Celine Tham, a visiting fellow in the “Intelligence, Strategy foresight and Influence” department since June 2021 focused on “fake news” in her scientific activities at IRSEM. Her latest research paper is entitled “Trends in legislation against false and harmful information in the Asia-Pacific”.

[Read Celine Tham's research paper](#)



Kyles HAYNES's fellowship comes to an end

Kyles HAYNES is an associate professor at the Political Science Faculty at Purdue University (U.S.A). After several months spent at IRSEM, he is to depart at the end of July to continue working on security studies, conflict and bargaining and US foreign policy on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

Events and publications

Latest publications

Strategic Brief - Japan's increasingly active self-defense strategy: what are the implications for France ?

by Professor Guibourg Delamotte and



Captain François Duhomez, 2 p.

At the end of 2022, Japan adopted a new defense strategy that expands upon changes set in motion in 2012-2013. Beyond maintaining defense principles, it marks Japan's adaptation to a strategic context that is perceived as threatening. This brief explains the role [...]

Read the full strategic brief



Research Paper - China's international police and judicial cooperation

by Dr. Carine Pina, 26 p.

How did military dominance come about in Mali following the coups of 2020 and 2021? What shifts has the situation brought about in terms of civil-military relations? What effects have these political changes had on the economies of violence in the Sahel region? [...]

Read the research paper



Report - Turkey's Multi-Sectorial strategy in Libya: a gateway to the Eastern Mediterranean and Africa

by Dr. Sümbül Kaya, 36 p.

Since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, and due to Libya's extremely fragile security and political situation, the country is plagued by permanent crises. Libya is also turning into an arena of power struggles and wars of influence between various actors, both [...]

Read the full report



Report - The Return of Tactical Nuclear Weapons?

by Dr. Tiphaine de Champchesnel, 32 p.

Over the past decade, strategic experts have noted that nuclear weapons have become more prominent on the international stage, despite them not having been used since 1945. A recent and significant milestone in this regard is the way Russia used nuclear [...]

Read the full report



Strategic Brief - Will Russia station nuclear weapons in Belarus ?

by Dr. Tiphaine de Champchesnel, 2 p.

On March 25, Vladimir Putin stated that Russia intended to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, specifying that a special repository would be completed by July 1. For the time being, the issue of the transfer of nuclear warheads has not [...]

Read the full research paper No. 132

Events



30 May: Roundtable discussion on Stéfanie von Hlatky's latest book in partnership with the Embassy of Canada.

IRSEM was happy to host Stéfanie von Hlatky and to engage in a roundtable discussion on her latest book, *Deploying Feminism: The Role of Gender in NATO Military Operations* (Oxford University Press, 2022), in which she provides a detailed account of NATO's Women, Peace and Security agenda.

[Watch the roundtable replay](#)



9 June: Conference on the European Peace Facility

On June, 9, 2023, IRSEM held a seminar on the European Peace Facility (EPF), led by Amélie Zima, European Security researcher. It brought together practitioners and researchers specialising on European affairs and armament issues.

[Read the full article](#)

Interactions with foreign centers and researchers



26 April: Visit of a delegation from the US Army War College

IRSEM welcomed a delegation of US Army officers from the US Army War College. As part of their tour in Europe, they stopped at IRSEM to take part in a group discussion on the war in Ukraine and its consequences on European security.



2 May: Visit of Adam LIU, Assistant Professor at the National University of Singapore

He presented one of his research papers entitled "Assessing Public Support for (Non)peaceful unification with Taiwan: evidence from a national survey in China" [...]

[Read the full article](#)



3 May: Visit of senior European analysts

Wendy Ramadan-Alban organized an exciting high-level meeting between IRSEM researchers and participants of DGRIS's "French Defence Tour".



23 May : Visit of Dr. Yevguenyi Zhovtis, Head of the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Law Enforcement

He met with IRSEM researchers to discuss perceptions of Russian and Chinese influence on current political reforms in Kazakhstan.

23 June: Visit of a Japanese delegation led by MP Hiroyuki Miyazawa and



Lieutenant General Masahito Go

The IRSEM team was delighted to welcome a Japanese delegation, led by MP Hiroyuki Miyazawa and Lieutenant General Masahito Goto, along with four other participants. [...]

[Read the full article](#)



30 June : Visit of a delegation from the Beijing Xiangshan Forum

The IRSEM team welcomed several representatives and researchers of the Forum and held discussions on strategic and security issues in Asia, China's UN international operations and role in the Middle-East, and more broadly, the PRC's role of mediator in conflicts.

Coming up soon...



September 7 : Hybrid conference NATO-AP4-Korea Relations in Flux

IRSEM visiting fellow Wooyeal Paik (Yonsei University) organises this conference dealing with AP4 and Korea's perspective and compulsion for strengthening ties with NATO as the world experiences a convergence of regions and security dimensions driven by the U.S., China, and other significant powers, and the other way around.

[Register : in person and online](#)

IRSEM has significantly increased its outreach over the past few years and is happy to announce the opening of its first office abroad, in Brussels, in September 2023. Headed by Dr. Philippe Perchoc, researcher and former political analyst to the European Parliament, it will be a place for international dialogue, where experts can carry on research on strategic issues and organize events.

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