

**« SINGAPOUR-MALAISIE-INDONESIE : EQUILIBRES STRATEGIQUES ET
SCENARI D'EVOLUTION A 10-20 ANS**

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Synthesis

In spite of a positive evolution concerning democratic transition, instability in South East Asia remains a cause of concern. Maritime South-East Asia still faces diverse threats even though some debates do exist regarding the relative importance and priority of these threats.

In the near and middle term, the main threats are “intra-regional”. They concern terrorism linked to radical Islam or older threats linked to political or territorial insurgencies. The terrorist threat is also related to the regional perception and use of Islam.

These threats are increased by bad governance and corruption issues which the capacity of the State to establish its control over all the territory particularly in countries like Indonesia. These phenomenas also increase the risk of piracy in territorial waters and add to the threat to maritime security.

In the middle term, bilateral tensions also remain a source of distrust, particularly between Singapore and Malaysia.

In the longer terms, threats linked to the possible coercive policy of outside countries like China or Australia are also taken into account. Position regarding the United States is more

ambiguous. Washington plays both the role of balancer and of destabilising factor, particularly regarding radical Islam and the war on terror.

The security and defence policy answer to these various threats are manifold.

At the regional multilateral level, the answer is rather weak, mirroring the relative weakness of regional institution and lack of trust between countries.

At the national level, defence policy are influenced by the lack of monetary means and the variations in budget orientations. The determination of priorities is also subject to a lack of coherence. Compared with Malaysia and Indonesia, Singapore does escape these limits and has also developed the closest defence links with the United States.

The US do remain one of the most important security factors in the region.

Strategic situation in the region will remain unstable for internal and external reasons. In this context, the other powers can play a positive and stabilizing role in reinforcing its relations with the major players in the region.