

Factsheet on the Threat-Oriented Passenger Screening Integrated System (TOPSIS) Forum 2018

TOPSIS Forum 2018 is organised by the Centre for Protective Security Studies (CPSS), under the Institute of Safety and Security Studies (ISSS), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The Forum is expected to be attended by about 230 participants, mainly from the security and non-security communities operating at the border checkpoints.

Overview of TOPSIS Programme

2. The TOPSIS programme was conceptualised in 2007 and progressively rolled out at the border checkpoints since 2009, with the aim of providing a more structured and comprehensive framework for traveller screening. The concept of TOPSIS involves complementing the usual means of detection (i.e. through the use of screening measures at checkpoints by security officers) with the detection of suspicious behaviours and other tell-tale indicators by non-security staff.
3. Currently, both the security and non-security communities are involved in the TOPSIS programme at the checkpoints. The security community includes ICA, SPF and the Auxiliary Police Officers deployed at the checkpoints, while the non-security community includes check-in staff, cleaners, retail staff and F&B staff. The non-security community provides additional ‘eyes and ears’ on the ground which in turn improves the chances of detection of threats.

Background of TOPSIS Forum

4. The annual TOPSIS Forum was first held in 2010 as a platform to accord appreciation and recognition to the security and non-security communities at the checkpoints for their support of and participation in the TOPSIS programme. The forum also serves as a platform to promote and launch TOPSIS-related initiatives.
5. The theme for TOPSIS Forum 2018 is “TOPSIS 2.0: Enhancing Homefront Security”. Besides recognising stakeholders’ contributions, TOPSIS Forum 2018 will see the rebranding of TOPSIS.¹ This signals the evolution of TOPSIS from a security enhancement programme at the checkpoints to one which can also be implemented in other domains with high footfall, such as hotels and shopping malls. CPSS has been sharing the TOPSIS concept as a security enhancement programme with various groups such as businesses, schools, religious organisations etc.

Implementation of TOPSIS

6. To-date, the TOPSIS programme has been implemented at the air, sea and land checkpoints. Sentosa Development Corporation has also worked with CPSS to launch TOPSIS for Sentosa and its island partners.

¹ The letter “P” for “passenger” in the TOPSIS acronym is changed to the more generic and encompassing “person”.

7. With the launch of TOPSIS 2.0, the programme will be progressively extended to non-checkpoint domains at key inland locations which are of a high profile or attract a high footfall. CPSS will provide training to organisations that wish to develop their TOPSIS capabilities.

Training and Engagement Efforts on TOPSIS

8. As of end-Dec 2017, a total of 1,270 training sessions have been conducted for the approximately 31,000 members of both the security and non-security communities working at the checkpoints. In addition, about 21,000 members of the wider non-security community at the checkpoints have attended briefings conducted by CPSS on how to identify and report suspicious persons.
9. We have also provided members of the non-security community working at the various checkpoints with a TOPSIS cue card, which serves as a guide for them on the detection of tell-tale indicators.

TOPSIS Award Presentation

10. 36 organisations and 92 individuals have made noteworthy contributions to the TOPSIS programme in 2017 and received the TOPSIS Awards. During the Forum, Minister, Prime Minister's Officer, Second Minister for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Second Minister for Manpower, Mrs Josephine Teo, presented the TOPSIS Organisational Awards in recognition of the organisations' commitment and contributions to the TOPSIS programme. Commissioner ICA Mr Clarence Yeo presented the TOPSIS Individual Awards to the individuals who had made positive detections of suspicious persons over the past year.

Launch of Revised GEBSS

11. Mrs Josephine Teo also announced the launch of the revised Guidelines for Enhancing Building Security in Singapore (GEBSS) at the event. The GEBSS was last updated in 2010. The revised GEBSS has been updated with new content on how to conduct risk assessments and develop a security plan. It will be available to the public in a digital format (PDF book). It is a reference for building owners and developers on the fundamentals of building security and adopting a risk-based approach towards building security. Together with the new Infrastructure Protection Act, it will raise the standard of building security in Singapore. CPSS will be conducting workshops and outreach on the GEBSS.