

UPDATES:

Regional

By Radhika
BEHURIA

Regional Update:

The activities mentioned below are being designed based on your identification of shared issues/concerns, as well as the barriers for working in this area in your countries. For the benefit of consolidating what some of these planned activities are, I am dividing them up into three broad areas as discussed during the workshop:

- 1) Several women's organizations and individual women are actively working on gender issues in conflict/crisis and recovery and on building peace on the ground, but very few have the agency to elevate the issues to policy levels. Also often, decision-makers (including women in decision-making positions) are oblivious to the gender impact of conflict or the specific needs of women in recovery efforts. Hence the need to connect downstream and upstream work by promoting strategic partnerships between grassroots women and (women) policy makers on building a common agenda for women, peace and security concerns.

Activity/Response through N-PEACE: A number of country level consultations and dialogues to allow for government and civil society interaction on women, peace and security issues will take place during 2011 in Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste. More information on these will come soon.

- 2) Gender advocates continue to face capacity and resource constraints, and often the critical gaps remain on accessing information and the capacity and skills to influence decision-making.

Activity/Response through N-PEACE: A regional Training of Trainers is being proposed to support organizations and women leaders as trainers in order to equip them with knowledge on conceptual frameworks around conflict transformation and peacebuilding, as well as with skills in negotiations, networking and advocacy. This will take place in the second half of this year, and we hope that the trainers can continue to carry out national/local level trainings.

- 3) While there are several women who are serving as leaders to restore peace and cohesion in their own communities, they are largely invisible and their work unrecognized. There is a need to recognize and provide visibility to those women who are actively working in areas of conflict resolution, negotiation, community and peace building.

Activity/Response through N-PEACE: To identify profile and showcase the work of women leaders in communities, whose voices may otherwise be unheard of and who despite their efforts in building peace and cohesion may remain invisible. The implementation arrangements of such an initiative is still being thought through.

Indonesia

The discussions with Finnish Minister of State Ms. Elisabeth REHN at Aceh, Indonesia.

By Shadia
MARHABAN

On March 15, 2011, HE Minister of State Ms. Elisabeth REHN came to visit Aceh. The Embassy of Finland, the European Union, and the Aceh Women's League (LINA) in its capacity of Coordinator of caucus 1325, organized a special event for a limited discussion entitled **'Where Are the Women in Aceh Now? Participation, Rights, and Future.'** was held at the EU House. The event was opened with remarks from the Ambassador of Finland, HE Kai Sauer and from HE Ms. Elisabeth REHN. Invitees included representatives from 25 institutions, both from the national and Aceh government's relevant officials as well as from the civil society.

Regarding the UNSCR 1325, HE Rehn reaffirms the importance of supporting women not only as victims of conflict but also actors of the peace process. Women should be included as negotiators with the economic and political powers that be on an equal footing with the men. In terms of the 1325 National Action Plan, the Minister very much encourages to create our own plan, in accordance with the country's own culture or national elements without veering off the substance of to the UNSCR itself. Speaking further in the context of post-conflict areas, Minister Rehn stresses the importance of education for women and girls in order that they can avoid being manipulated or abuse by others; therefore, said the Minister, schools are very important.

On the issue of human rights, HE Minister Rehn states that training judges and prosecutors are the first step in gaining knowledge on how to deal with victims and to establish means of investigations. Such environment requires long investment and time; therefore donors should focus on this matter. There is no peace without justice, she said, and impunities cannot be tolerated because peace very much depends on these victims accepting the process.

In accordance with the wish of the Minister that her visit to Aceh was to gain knowledge and understanding on the current situation in Aceh from the participants, the forum was then opened for discussions. The session was divided into three sub-themes where each was opened by a presenter to deliver their brief paper: women participation in politics and society (by *Raihana DIANI*), human rights and access to justice for women (by *Samsidar* and *Asiah UZIA*), and the future of women in Aceh (by *Shadia MARHABAN*). Most participants agreed that the Helsinki MoU and the Law on Governing of Aceh (UUPA no 11/2006) provide room and opportunity for women to get involved in politics but differing interpretations of the sharia law are burdening the women. Other reasons why it difficult for women to move forward in Aceh, are difficulties in gaining access to business/credit facilities, money politics, lack of support from the women organizations-they should have a collective grand strategy to win the women candidate and also access of information.

Women in Aceh should re-consolidate their power and use this successful peace process as a starting point to embark, to seek more opportunities and openings ahead, to participate in the local government. Women should have concrete plans on how to achieve positive results from the transitional

process and to have access to justice.

Aceh has managed to rise from the ruin of the devastation of the tsunami and has indeed achieved Clintonian mantra of “building back better”. It also has not only reached a peace agreement after 30 years of conflict, but has managed to maintain it longest in the world today and all indications show that peace in Aceh is irreversible.

Indonesia **Update from *The Ministry of Women’s Empowerment, Jakarta* Indonesia.**

By Jonhar
JOHAN

On Monday, March 14, 2001, the Ministry for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of the Republic of Indonesia in collaboration with the Finland Embassy in Jakarta conducted a seminar on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the Balai Kartini Jakarta. Two presenters, Ms. Elisabeth Rehn of the Republic of Finland and Ms. Irene Gayatri of the Republic of Indonesia respectively presented at the seminar. Ms. Rehn's paper focused on her experiences on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the African countries (Congo and Namibia) and Ms. Irene focused on how women could play their role as peace keeping or peace agent during the armed conflict (Indonesian experiences).

The conclusion of the seminar is how to help Indonesia complete its *National Action Plan on 1325 in the year 2011*. In order to put the Indonesian NAP to be on tiime, the Ministry needs to be assisted by people from the Regional Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security in Asia-Pacific that was launched by the UN in October 2010 in Bangkok.

Indonesia **Update from Jakarta, Indonesia**

By Tommy
HANAFI

This belated updates below but we hope that the activity in Aceh led by Liga Inong Aceh (LINA) in mid-December last year could give a spirit and strong motivation to all N-PEACE members to conduct other similar activity in the near future. This is also to stimulate and promote the spirit of “community of practice “(COP) by using the space in N-PEACE frequently to update, share and tap experiences, lessons learned, and knowledge among other members.

The UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Centre brought together over thirty representatives from civil society, government and UNDP offices from Nepal, Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Sri Lanka. The meeting was held on 4-5 October in Bangkok, Thailand with the aim to establish a multi-country network- N-PEACE (Engage for Peace, Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment), in support of strengthening the role of women in building and restoring peace. N-PEACE members from across the four countries committed to build on the spirit of collaboration, engagement and commitment to function as a network, to benefit from each other’s experiences, and to document their dialogue into lessons to highlight common challenges, solutions and strategies.

After the workshop in Bangkok, Aceh held a local initiatives meeting in December 16,2010 for consolidation among the caucus network that was established since July 2010 organized by the Acheh Women’s League (LINA) and its caucus partner Beujroh. LINA has been active promoting the UNSCR

	<p>1325 by organizing regular meeting through the caucus 1325 network in Aceh. The recent meeting in Aceh as a post conflict area brought up three important recommendation to keep the issue sustain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Initiative on developing a coordination meeting between the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection in Jakarta and regional offices, especially in conflict or post conflict area. The meeting should address the needs of women involvement in the post conflict area, what are their mandate as government bodies, what kind of coordination they can create, what type of capacity building they need to sustain, budgets and regular public consultation for evaluation. — Design a specific module for women, peace and security as part of socialization and campaign. The caucus can share their experience and build a common understanding to produce a guide for future implementation. — Organize an international event in Aceh during or before the launching of the National Action Plan 1325. <p>Exchange programs to other conflict region/country as already established in the network (Indonesia, Nepal, Srilanka and Timor Leste)</p>
<p>Sri Lanka</p> <p><i>By Zoe KEELER</i></p>	<p>Update from Sri Lanka:</p> <p>During 2010/11, with financial support from the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP started a leadership initiative aimed at strengthening skills of women related to negotiation, leadership and project management. Ampara District was identified as the focus for this initiative, given that it had been affected by the tsunami and conflict in Sri Lanka, it has one of the lowest levels of female political participation in the country, and a relatively small network of women's groups existing at the grassroots level.</p> <p>As the project nears its end, UNDP is planning capitalize on the opportunity to bring the 30 beneficiaries from Ampara to Colombo. This will provide them with the opportunity to extend and deepen their networks through engaging with female leaders at the national level. A series of events will allow for the 30 women from Ampara to dialogue with others from across Parliament, Government and Civil Society. At the same time, they will have a dedicated session with other UN agencies and donor partner with a view to raising the profile of the project and promoting its methodology and results.</p> <p>During the interactions, the women will get the opportunity to speak about how their experience of undergoing the leadership training programmes and how they have used their skills to support their communities in different ways. There will also be time dedicated to focusing on the experiences of those women that have recently stood as contestants in the local elections. In particular, development partners working in the field of promoting increased female political participation will benefit from understanding first hand some of the challenges that women face in this regard.</p> <p>These events are being organized by UNDP in support of N-PEACE network activities in the four countries. More details will follow.</p>

Timor-Leste

*by Annie
Serrano*

Update from Timor-Leste:

A Roundtable Discussion is being organized on the 4th March 2011, to discuss the Roles of Legal Actors in Implementing the Law Against Domestic Violence (LAW NO. 7/2010 of 7 of July 2010) in Timor Leste. The event is being convened by The Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality In cooperation with The Prosecutor General and Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ).

This roundtable meeting is an initial activity in a series of consultations that will be held, resulting from advocacy by the working group on UN SCR 1325 (or the Timor-Leste members of N-PEACE network, facilitated by the UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Centre). The final output from these consultations is anticipated to be a National Action Plan on UN SCR 1325 which, per the decision of the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality, will be part of the National Action Plan to Address Gender-Based Violence.

The Roundtable is being supported by UNDP in support of N-PEACE network activities in the four countries.

Objective:

The goal is to ensure access to justice for victims/survivors of domestic violence. A concrete step in this direction is to produce the necessary rules and procedures for the legal system in order that it can effective and efficiently carry out its obligations under the Law Against Domestic Violence. The Roundtable Discussion is a step in the direction of completing:

- (a) the rules and regulation for the implementation of the Law,
- (b) the key obligations or responsibilities of each and every legal actor and how they should link up and coordinate with related sectors like health and social solidarity, and
- (c) the capacity development plan for relevant institutions and actors.

Participants:

The participants include institutions comprising the security and justice sectors, namely PNTL, Office of the Prosecutor, Public Defender, District Courts and the Court of Appeal. Government ministries on related sectors like health, education and social solidarity, as well as civil society organizations particularly the members of the National Referral Network on Sexual and Gender Based Violence will also be participating, as well as the Commission on Human Rights (PDHJ). International organizations such as the United Nations and bilateral partners of RDTL are invited as observers and resource persons.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Centre is pleased to send you details about the **Asia Pacific Leadership Summit: 'From Talk to Action'**. The Summit is being collaboratively designed and hosted by the Asia Pacific Mediation Forum (APMF), Thailand's renowned King Prajadhipok Institute for Peace and Democracy (KPI), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Public Health's Center for Peace in Health Care (MoPH), Chulalongkorn University's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, The Rotary Peace Centre and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Some themed collaborators to date include the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue and Meta Culture.

As part of the N-PEACE network activities, of particular interest for us, is a **theme group on women and mediation**, which is being coordinated by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and UNDP, along with other partners. If you are interested in participating or nominating others from your country that can benefit from being part of the women and mediation theme group at the Summit, **please contact** radhika.behuria@undp.org. We will have a limited number of persons that we can support from each country, so please send in your nominations at the soonest!



ASIA PACIFIC MEDIATION LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: 'FROM TALK TO ACTION', in BANGKOK, JULY 6-8, 2011.

Summit Aim

To engage a range of experienced academics, mediators, conflict transformation and peacebuilding practitioners from different cultural, organisational and professional backgrounds who are culturally fluent, creative and innovative, and want to contribute (and build on) their knowledge and expertise and proactively evolve the way that conflicts are mediated, transformed and built in the Asia-Pacific region.

Summit Objectives

- To evolve capacity, advance collaborations, build networks and promote cross-cultural awareness and understanding of mediation, conflict transformation and peacebuilding processes throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
- To mine the collective depths of the delegates' expertise and skills in order to inspire strategies for change that can advance mediation, conflict transformation and peacebuilding processes that promote peace throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
- To evolve effective 'themed' action plans from focused, cross cutting, facilitated round-table discussions that can be implemented by delegates and their affiliates, and which have real potential to advance mediation, conflict transformation and peacebuilding processes in culturally fluent ways throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
- To inspire and support initiatives to advance mediation, conflict transformation and peacebuilding processes globally.

Summit Format

- We are identifying cross-cutting, key and sub-themes, in collaboration with participating delegates in advance of the Summit via an interactive internet site and/or an on-line survey.
- We are inviting inspirational Keynote speakers for each of the chosen themes to summarise the key issues and their relevance to the Asia-Pacific region in order to stimulate round-table Action Group discussions.

- We will identify and invite volunteer expert facilitators and recorders who can focus and inspire a number of round table discussions over three days, each table with a focus on a different topic.
- Participants are invited to submit a paper of 2000 words prior to the Summit which addresses one of the themes. Papers will be distributed to all participants and the authors will be invited to re-work and re-submit their paper for peer review post-Summit for possible inclusion in an edited book – see the guidelines on the Summit website.

Summit Themes

The themes for round-table discussions are currently being developed with the collaborators and with participating delegates on-line prior to the Summit via the interactive Summit website – they will be cross-cutting and of interest to people from all fields of practice in the Asia-Pacific region. Upon registration, delegates are invited, as change makers, to engage directly in their theme(s) of interest.

APMF Peace Prize

Please put your thinking cap on and consider who you or your organisation could nominate for the APMF Peace Prize this year. More information about how to nominate an individual or organisation for this prize is on the Summit website.

*Early Registration: **Closing 31 March 2011.***

Summit website: <http://www.mediation-leadership.com>

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N-PEACE NETWORK STATEMENT FROM MEMBERS:

October 2010 marks the ten-year anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. While there are some successes to celebrate, this is, in fact an opportune time to reflect on the challenges that remain

To perform a deliberate exercise in such reflection, the UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Centre brought together over thirty representatives from civil society, government and UNDP offices from Nepal, Indonesia, Timor-Leste and Sri Lanka. The meeting was held on 4-5 October in Bangkok, Thailand with the aim to establish a multi-country network- N-PEACE (Engage for Peace, Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment), in support of strengthening the role of women in leading community recovery and building and restoring peace. The members identified a number of challenges, including the existence of gaps between the needs of women on the ground and the considerations of policy makers, and collectively discussed strategies that can be employed to bridge these gaps, starting with the establishment of women, peace and security caucuses within their countries. They also articulated the need to create further advocacy and recognize the roles of women as agents of recovery efforts, peace initiators and mediators at the community level.

Representatives present from UNDP, government and CSOs from the four participating countries discussed concerns and potential activities that can be carried out in three areas: (i) protection and security of women and girls; (ii) participation and promotion of women in decision-making; (iii) recovery, reconstruction and re-integration efforts to be more responsive to the needs of women, girls, men and boys.

N-PEACE network members committed to build on the spirit of collaboration, engagement and commitment to function as a network, to benefit from each other's experiences, and to document their dialogue into lessons to highlight common challenges, solutions and strategies.

To demonstrate the uniqueness and common spirit for the work on women, peace and security, the country team representatives proposed the following slogans for the network^[1]:

"Ita Bele- We can!"

Timor-Leste

"Baku Bae- Togetherness!"

Indonesia

"Single bangle creates no jingle: working together"

Sri Lanka

"Break the silence against the violence"

Nepal

Joint Statement by Network Members:

Babita BASNET, Micaela XIMENES, Durga SINGH, Natercia MARTINS, Rose WIJESEKERA, Tommy (Thamrin) HANAFI, Filomena DOS REIS, Lily THAPA, Maria Do Rosario FATIMA CORREIA, Angkhana NEELAPAIJIT, Yashoda TIMSINA, Adam COOPER, Laura Menezes LOPES, Shamila DALUWATTE, Maja SUHUD, Ichsan MALIK, Shadia MARHABAN, Oliva LASOL, Jonhar JOHAN, Desti MURDIJANA, Rajany CHANDRASEGARAM, Wijesinhe BANDARA, Shreen SAROOR, Shienny ANGELITA, Zoe KEELER, Rosanita (Annie) Serrano, Kasumi NISHIGAYA, Sanny JEGILLOS, Rajesh SHARMA, Pairach HOMTONG, Kingkarn SANGWANICH, Radhika BEHURIA

^[1] For more information about the future work of the network or to join the network,
Email: N-Peace@groups.undp.org