



AP R2P

Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect

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Council Resolution 1325 (2000). One of the recommendations from the workshop was for the APR2P Centre to help facilitate additional training, tools and networking opportunities for WPS advocates in the ASEAN region. In response to this request, the APR2P Centre partnered with the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace; Legal Support for Women and Children, Cambodia; Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines; and Human Rights Working Group, Indonesia to develop an Australia Awards program aimed at deepening knowledge and skills to advance the implementation of the WPS agenda in Southeast Asia.

The two-week fellowship was designed to facilitate knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer learning to equip participants to devise strategies to contribute to, and help enable, a regional shift from a culture of women's exclusion from political and security structures in ASEAN to a culture of gendered conflict prevention and societal resilience in the region. The Centre's local partners nominated participants based on their commitment to enhancing women's participation in political, security and judicial institutions in their home country and in ASEAN institutions and mechanisms. Recognising the importance of building cooperative linkages across sectors, the fellowship program included participants from civil society, media and academia; advisors to ASEAN human rights bodies; as well as government representatives from the armed forces, national human rights commissions and judiciary.

SPOTLIGHT ON R2P

Toward a Culture of Prevention: Advancing Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN

AP R2P CENTRE WELCOMED 26 DELEGATES FROM CAMBODIA, INDONESIA AND THE PHILIPPINES

In June 2015 the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect hosted 26 delegates from Cambodia, the Philippines and Indonesia for the 'Toward a Culture of Prevention: Advancing Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN' fellowship supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia Awards grant program.

The proposal for this Australia Awards program emerged from a regional workshop the APR2P Centre hosted in Jakarta in August 2014 on [ASEAN and Preventing Violence Against Women in Conflict and Disaster Situations](#), which drew attention to the fact that although ASEAN member states have endorsed multiple commitments to prevent violence against women, ASEAN has yet to adopt specific measures to implement Women, Peace and Security (WPS) into its political-security policy framework, as advised for all United Nations member states in UN Security



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Dr Sarah Teitt, Deputy Director of the AP R2P Centre, designed and facilitated a fellowship that featured a combination of teaching seminars, policy roundtables and peer-to-peer learning workshops. Drawing on research expertise at the University of Queensland and Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, seminars included:

- **R2P and Preventing Mass Atrocities in Southeast Asia**
by Dr. Noel Morada, Director, Regional Diplomacy and Capacity Building, AP R2P Centre
- **What is a 'Culture of Prevention'? : Gender and Mass Atrocities Prevention**
by Dr. Sara Davies, Director of Program on Gender and Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities, AP R2P Centre & Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of Law, Queensland University of Technology
- **International Criminal Law and Sexual and Gender-based Violence: Addressing the Impunity Gap**
by Dr. Melanie O'Brien, Research Fellow at the AP R2P Centre and Postdoctoral Research Fellow, TC Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland
- **The legacy of impunity for gender-based atrocities in Southeast Asia**
by Dr. Annie Pohlman, Lecturer, Indonesian Studies, School of Languages and Cultures, UQ
- **WPS Regional Action Plans: Lessons from the Pacific**
by Dr. Nicole George, Senior Lecturer in Peace and Conflict Studies, School of Political Science and International Studies, UQ
- **Child Protection in the ASEAN region**
by Dr. Melissa Curley, Senior Lecturer in International Relations and Director of UQ Rotary Peace Centre, School of Political Science and International Studies, UQ; and Ms. Carol Ronken, Research Manager, Bravehearts



Two Australia Awards Fellows from Indonesia in Brisbane, June 2015:
Valentina Sagala from the Institut Perempuan (Women's Institute)
and Maria Rita Hasugian from the Tempo Media Group

The program also benefited from the teaching and research expertise of Dr. Ma. Lourdes Veneracion-Rallonza, Assistant Professor, Ateneo de Manila University. The APR2P Centre welcomed Dr. Rallonza in May 2014 for a seven-week research fellowship on 'Women, Peace, Security: Mapping Regional Initiatives and Institutional Mechanisms in ASEAN', which was made possible by the support of another DFAT Australia Awards grant. Drawing lessons from the Philippine WPS experience, Dr. Rallonza led seminars for the delegates on developing WPS National Action Plans and devising appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks for these plans. For the latter seminar, participants from the Philippines armed forces, civil society and National Human Rights Commission shared their experience regarding how monitoring and evaluation tools can serve as accountability mechanisms for implementing WPS commitments. This seminar, along with the seminar on 'Preventing Violence Against Women in Queensland – Legislative processes and government programs' led by the Honourable Desley Boyle (former Minister for Child

Safety of Queensland in 2006-2007, and Minister for Women of Queensland in 2004-2006) served as introductory sessions for intensive peer-to-peer learning workshops to share Cambodian, Indonesian, Philippine and Australian experiences in developing and implementing initiatives to advance women's peace and security. Participants reflected that these knowledge-exchange workshops were one of the most beneficial aspects of the fellowship program, as they provided the opportunity for in-depth discussions to learn from their respective areas of expertise, and allowed participants to share strategies for addressing their common challenges to advancing gender equality and ensuring women's rights protection in political and security institutions.

In addition to peer-to-peer learning among the countries represented, the training included advanced training on the protection mandate of ASEAN institutions and mechanisms. Yuyun Wahyuningrum (Senior Advisor on ASEAN and Human Rights, Human Rights Working Group, Indonesia) led a training seminar on opportunities to advance WPS through the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and

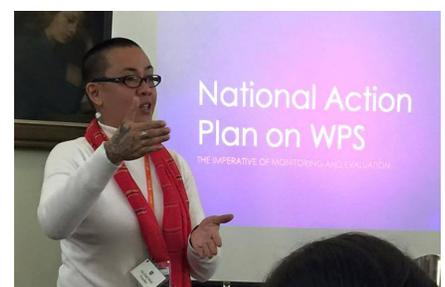
Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), which focussed in particular on avenues for encouraging and assisting the ACWC to develop a monitoring mechanism for the 2013 ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children (DEVAWC). The DEVAWC was the first ASEAN document to recall UN Security Council resolutions on WPS, and represents one of the strongest ASEAN mandates to date for protecting women and children affected by conflict and natural disasters, as well as stateless, migrant and refugee women and children. The need to better assist refugee and displaced women in Southeast Asia was also a key topic of a policy dialogue led by Lucy

Morgan, Information and Policy Coordinator, Refugee Council of Australia.

Together, these training and dialogue modules aimed to encourage participants to leverage the present window of opportunity to prioritise WPS implementation in the ASEAN region. Specifically, participants were asked to develop collaborative strategies to advocate for the ACWC to incorporate provisions to implement WPS in its 2016-2030 Regional Action Plan on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and to encourage ASEAN leaders to commit to implement WPS as part of the ASEAN 2025 agenda. As ASEAN representatives are presently negotiating both of these agendas, participants were tasked with devising

action plans for strategic advocacy to advance WPS through these channels upon their return to their home countries.

At the end of the fellowship program, participants travelled to Canberra for policy roundtables at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The full-day program included informal dialogue with DFAT's Multilateral Policy Division, Humanitarian Response Branch, and Southeast Asia Division. Discussions covered the role of Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls in the ASEAN region; Australia's implementation of R2P; measures taken to progress Australia's National Action Plan on WPS (2012-2018); the Australian Civilian Corps' application of a gender-specific lens to humanitarian



Clockwise from left: Australian Defence Force Captain Jennifer Wittwer with AAF Fellow Ms Leilani Santiago Lucas, Chief of Gender and Development in the Philippine Army (Canberra). Mr Sovachana Pou and Mr Lak Chansok from the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, and Dr Neak Chandarith, from the Royal University of Phnom Penh (Brisbane), Dr Lourdes Veneracion Rallonza from the Ateneo de Manila University (Brisbane), Ms Fatima Shalom Allian from Mindanao's Nisa UI Haq Fi Bangsamoro (Brisbane), Ms Yuyun Wahyuningrum from the Indonesian Human Rights Working Group (Gold Coast), Dr Sarah Tett with Ms Vichuta Ly, Director of Legal Support for Children and Women, Cambodia (Brisbane).

responses in the Asia Pacific region; and the promotion of gender equality through Australia's country aid programs in Southeast Asia. In addition, Captain Jennifer Wittwer, Office of the Chief of Defence Force, presented on the implementation of Australia's WPS National Action Plan in the armed forces; and Amy Sheridan from the Australian Civil-Military Centre briefed the fellows on the recent development of advanced training exercises to build capacity within Australia's armed forces to prevent and respond to SGBV in military operations.

The 2015 Australia Awards Fellowships is one way in which the AP R2P Centre progresses policy action to prevent violence against women and women's rights in ASEAN

This fellowship is part of the AP R2P Centre's ongoing program on the prevention of widespread or systematic sexual and gender based violence in Southeast Asia.

Through this program, the Centre has strengthened understanding of the unique threats that sometimes confront women, the costs of excluding women from political and security structures amongst ASEAN member states, and the need to ensure the economic, political and social empowerment of women in conflict and post-conflict settings. This Australia Awards fellowship provided an important opportunity to progress policy action to foster a culture of prevention of violence against women and women's rights protection in ASEAN.

The Centre thanks the Australian government for its support, and thanks the Awards fellows for sharing their considerable expertise and passion for advancing women's peace and security in Southeast Asia.



Sarah Teitt is Deputy Director and Researcher at the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, where she is responsible for advancing research and building partnerships aimed at the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocities in the Asia Pacific.

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