



CENTRE FOR PEACE &  
CONFLICT STUDIES

*Strengthening strategic interventions into violent conflict with the overall aim of fostering sustainable peace in the Asia region*

## Call for Tender

### Interpretation/translation service for the project “Building on Foundations for Future Peace in the Deep South”

Funder by European Union



## **I. Background**

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CPCS is a Cambodian NGO working in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation in Asia. Our mission is to strengthen strategic intervention into armed conflict with the overall goal of reaching sustainable and positive peace in the Asia region. CPCS is home to a range of interconnected programmes and initiatives that are informed by on-going analysis and consultation with a myriad of local partners from the various contexts in which CPCS works, including Myanmar, the Philippines, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka. CPCS is an outsider organisation, and conducts research and delivers resources that are not available within the communities, thus not competing with local organisations. Being based in Cambodia also provides space to bring participants of our interventions out of their contexts when hosting programmes, allowing for more freedom to critically reflect on their context and strategies for moving forward towards peace.

CPCS focuses on demand-driven interventions that are informed by critical analyses and tailored to the needs of stakeholders within their conflict contexts. To enhance the sustainability of outcomes, CPCS prioritises long-term accompaniment over one-off programmes. Through this approach, CPCS expands safe spaces and creates platforms for dialogue and understanding, which are essential for establishing mutual trust and an environment conducive for transforming conflict. CPCS also works to build relationships with key individuals and institutions directly involved in peace processes, as well as key actors driving or influencing conflicts. These relationships provide a myriad of perspectives on conflict dynamics as well as opportunities to support and strengthen locally led efforts. New projects are frequently identified through feedback from these partners and are designed to fill identified gaps, strengthen conflict transformation approaches, or to bring together key actors to develop new strategies for reducing conflict.

## **II. Context and Purpose**

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CPCS has been accompanying the evolving peace process in the Deep South of Thailand for over two years. Our work is conducted in partnership with a number of key stakeholders in the peace process, various local and international organisations that form a part of the civil society. As part of our engagement, CPCS has received funding from the European Union since 2017 to conduct projects to improve conditions to enable peace negotiations to reduce violence and address the core political factors that sustain the conflict. For these purposes, we hire consultants with extensive experience in peace process, community empowerment and key policy issues that merit discussion.

The peace process between the Thai government and Malay-Muslim leaders from the Deep South had reached an impasse. Despite a few promising steps, it had become clear that the negotiators on the side of the Malay-Muslims, commonly referred to as MARA Patani, did not have the influence or authority to control the armed violence plaguing the region.

Further, the outstanding grievances and related demands of the Malay-Muslim population have remained fundamentally unchanged over many decades. Popular demands include, among others: calls for greater local autonomy, more locally appointed civil servants, recognition of Islamic law in certain areas of civil law, and the use of Malay as a working language and medium of school instruction alongside official Thai. By and large, the State has adopted a heavy-handed security-led approach that has contributed to growing public resentment and a widespread perception of injustice among local Malay-Muslims. The State's approach to the insurgency has served to exacerbate the conflict and ignored the political nature of the problems underlying the violence.

There are strong indications that the Thai government and the Malaysian government as facilitator have concluded that the current track is not likely to produce the desired results. The military government in Bangkok is not convinced that MARA Patani has adequate command-and-control over combatants on the ground, as demonstrated by its failure to push through a unilateral ceasefire. The government currently seems to be more interested in talking directly with BRN, as the latter is thought to have direct control over most insurgents on the ground. One key issue is the lack of consensus on the Malay-Muslim interlocutor in the process. So long as there is a dispute between Malay-Muslim factions over the accepted interlocutor, the peace negotiations will continue to have little impact on the security situation.

The emergence of a younger generation of Malay-Muslim leaders is a promising new development. Given the inaccessibility of BRN leadership, and secretive nature of the organization, there is a critical need to build an associated but independent platform for engagement with a much wider, more diverse group of people that enjoy access to—and the trust and respect of—different elements of the insurgency as well as local communities. From the perspective of youth leaders, while the peace initiatives have generated some hope within the Malay-Muslim community, the dialogue is neither based on nor takes account of the genuine needs of the people. The ongoing initiative is also not balanced as the government is calling for an end to the symptoms of conflict (e.g., safety zones to reduce violence) without offering adequate concessions of its own.

For these reasons the current project is focused on supporting emerging leadership within the Malay-Muslim community to continue consolidation of their policy issues

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and build a broad consensus on key issues in the peace process, and establish a platform for inclusion of the full spectrum of views.

### **III. Objectives & Deliverables**

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This consultancy aims to provide an average of sixty seven (67) days of translation service *from English to Thai and vice versa* during the implementation of this project.

#### *Deliverables*

The consultant shall work as translator at the preparatory/coordination and implementation of the following activities:

- Civil society dialogues between key stakeholders in the Deep South
- Meetings between Malay-Muslim civil society leaders and international actors in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Aceh
- Leadership development programmes for men and women

The work at the preparatory/coordination phase shall include translating documents and online communication between CPCS and participants for coordination purposes. During the conduct of activities, the consultant would be required to either do simultaneous or consecutive translation depending on the need.

### **IV. Methodology**

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The consultant shall coordinate with the Peace Process Facilitator on Thailand and CPCS Finance Manager during the contract period.

### **V. Timeframe and Budget**

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An average of sixty seven (67) days translation service shall be rendered with the period of project implementation, **January 10, 2020 to December 30, 2021**. Specific dates of the activities shall be determined depending of the availability of the target participants.

Remuneration shall be based on CPCS rate for translation. All expenses associated with activity (travel, accommodation, meals, etc.) will be covered by CPCS.

### **VI. TECHNICAL REQUIRMENTS FOR APPLICATIONS**

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About the consultant:



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- At least two (2) years of experience working as a translator/interpreter on the following topics: Conflict Transformation, Peace Building, Thai Politics, and Peace Process. Knowledge or familiarity of the technical terms used in the above-mentioned topic is a must;
- Demonstrated capacity to do consecutive and simultaneous translation/interpretation;
- In-depth knowledge of the conflict dynamics in the Deep South. Proven experience in translating/interpreting for Deep South related activities is desirable; and
- Established network with key stakeholders in the Deep South is an advantage

Interested applicants may email their application letter with consultancy rate and CV by January 7, 2019 to Ms. Rachana Thummala at [rachana.cpcs@gmail.com](mailto:rachana.cpcs@gmail.com)