



CENTRE FOR PEACE &  
CONFLICT STUDIES

THE 6TH ANNUAL

# PEACE PRACTITIONERS RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Voices of People from Conflict Affected  
Communities

Conference Booklet







# WELCOME TO THE 6TH ANNUAL PEACE PRACTITIONERS RESEARCH CONFERENCE

I would like to welcome you on behalf of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies to our 6th Annual Peace Practitioners Research Conference (PPRC). The PPRC began as the vision of CPCS founder and board member Soth Plai Ngarm to create a space to bring together research and practice. PPRC has been growing every year and past keynote speakers include HRH Prince Norodom Sirivudh, Emmanuel Bombande, Dr. Bilveer Singh, H.E. Datuk Tengku Abdul Chafar bin Tengku Mohamed and John Paul Lederach.

Today it continues to allow the coming together of practitioners, researchers, peacebuilders and educators to share and learn about peace building efforts across the region. The 2017 conference brings together 200 participants around the theme Voices of People from Conflict Affected Communities. Together we will enrich our knowledge and understanding of the experience of communities living in conflict and how to better work towards an inclusive peace. Inside this conference booklet you will find the concept note, conference program and biographies of speakers,

We look forward to welcoming you all and hearing your valuable contributions and insights.

See you at the conference,  
Emma Leslie Executive Director, CPCS










# CONCEPT NOTE

Of all the expert opinions and information coming out of conflict-affected areas, one voice is often missing, quiet or overlooked. That of the people, going about their daily lives in the heart of these spaces where conflict is occurring. Where are these voices on the main stage of peace processes? What is their experience and analysis of the conflicts going on around them? What are their daily challenges of conflict and extremism and how does it impact peace and progress within their communities? What are the innovative grassroots, grounded, community opinions, ideas and interventions working for peace in these spaces?

The 6th Annual Peace Practitioners Research Conference will bring together exceptional community leaders, peace practitioners and scholars to share together the wisdom of community voices highlighting conflict analysis and grounded interventions working for peace.

## CONFERENCE GOALS

- Empower: community voices to speak and be heard
  - Engage: people from across the peacebuilding field in a shared experience
  - Elicit: community learning through discussion and reflection
  - Articulate: local experiences of conflict and peace from across the region. What are common themes and key take away lessons? How can communities be better supported?
  - Synthesise: learning in a summary of the conference reflections
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# CONFERENCE PROGRAM



# FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

8:00-9:00	Registration
9:00-10:00	Welcoming Remarks Emma Leslie, Executive Director, CPCS
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break
10:30-11:30	The Impact of Geopolitical Dynamics on Conflict Affected Communities  The role of the international community Ambassador Pou Sothirak, Cambodian Institute of Cooperation & Peace  Implications of extremism Dr. Bilveer Singh, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
11:30-12:30	Discussion- How does this link to your community?
12:30- 2:00	Lunch (Group Photo)
2:00- 3:30 Option 1	Responding to Structural Violence: Philippines Independent Church (IFI) The Lumad Accompaniment Program  Bae Jocelyn Ventura Agdahan, Tindoga Community Jollibeen Salom Calang, Lumad Accompanier
Option 2	Conflict Dynamics in Rakhine State  Moe Win Aung, Centre for Diversity and National Harmony Khaing Kaung San, Wan Lark Foundation
Option 3	"My Strength Comes from Other People's Strength" Communities' Experience of Conflict and Its aftermath in Sri Lanka  Sushanthy Gobalakrishnan, Embassy of Switzerland Nerea Bilbatua, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies
3:30- 4:00	Coffee Break
4:00-4:30	Small Group Discussions
4:30- 5:00	Closing remarks
6:30-8:30	Dinner- with live entertainment by the Imagine Peace Band

# SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER

9:00-9:15 Welcome to Day 2

9:15-10:45 Exploring Less-Heard Narratives on the Korean Peninsula Conflict

Perspectives from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
Presentation by the Korean National Peace Committee

A peacebuilding approach to the Korean Peninsula conflict  
Caroline Kearney, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies

10:45-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-1:00

Option 1

Lessons from Community Peacebuilding in Afghanistan

Mothers of Peace

Rahima Zarifi , Nasiba Hamidy, Amena Jafari & Abdul Rahim Hamidi,  
UNAMA

Lessons from the Peace and Reintegration Programme in  
Afghanistan  
Ahmad Rashid Watanpahl, UNDP

Option 2

Listening to Community Voices in Myanmar

Capturing community voices on ceasefires  
Irene Htoon, Kayah State Peace Monitoring Network

Listening methodology for ceasefire monitoring and conflict  
transformation  
Shahpur Tengku, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies

Option 3

Peacebuilding in Southern Thailand

Artef Sokho, Patani Viewers  
Santi Nindang, The Asia Foundation

# SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER

1:00-2:30 Lunch

2:30-4:00

Option 1 Building and Reforming Infrastructures for Addressing Conflict in Nepal

Shifting policing models and approaches in post conflict Nepal  
Manoj Kumar KC, Nepal Police

Conflict affected women and Nepal's transitional justice process  
Susan Risal, Nagarik Aawaz

Option 2 Building a City of Faith for Peace in Marawi

Relationship building for peace  
Dr Abhoud Syed M. Lingga, Institute of Bangsamoro Studies

Psychological and emotional impacts of conflict on internally displaced people  
Bae A Labi Baicon B. Cayongcat,  
Traditional Leader of Marawi and Lanao

Option 3 Empowering Communities Along the Myanmar China Pipeline

Ye Thein Oo , Myanmar China Pipeline Watch Committee  
Dr. Kyaw Thu, Paung Ku  
Jason Tower, American Friends Service Committee

4:00-4:30 Coffee Break

4:30- 5:00 Closing Address

6:30 Closing Dinner







## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## AMBASSADOR POU SOTHIRAK

Executive Director  
Cambodia Institute of Cooperation and Peace  
Cambodia



H.E. Pou Sothirak is the Executive Director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace. He also serves as Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia. He worked as Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia from September 2013 to January 2014 and was a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore from January 2009 to December 2012. He was appointed as Cambodian Ambassador to Japan from April 2005 to November 2008 and has served as elected Cambodian Member of Parliament twice during the general elections in 1993 and 2003. From 1993 to 1998 he was Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

## DR. BILVEER SINGH

Adjunct Senior Fellow  
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies  
Singapore



Bilveer Singh is an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore and Visiting Professor at the Indonesian Defence University and University Muhammadiyah Jogjakarta, January-December 2017-18. He was Acting Head, CENS from January to December 2010. He graduated with Masters and PhD in International Relations from the Australian National University. His current research interests focus on the rise and the management of Islamist terrorism in Southeast Asia, security issues in Indonesia, especially the challenge of separatism in Papua, the role of great powers in Southeast Asia, especially China and India, as well as the domestic and foreign policies of Singapore. He has published widely, his latest work being on the Rohingyas in Myanmar. Currently, Bilveer is the President of the Political Science Association of Singapore.

Responding to Structural Violence: Philippines Independent Church (IFI)  
The Lumad Accompaniment Program

## BAE JOCELYN VENTURA AGDAHAN

Leader

Tindoga community Lumad Indigenous Community  
Philippines



Jocelyn Ventura Agdahan commonly known as Bae Ling-ling. A full-pledge member and tribal leader of the Tribal Indigenous Oppressed Group Association (TINDOGA) of the MANOBO-PULANGIHON tribe in Bukidnon. "TINDOG" a vernacular term for "to stand for". She is 43 years old, supportive wife of Santiano "Datu Andong" Agdahan and gifted with 7 children.

## JOLLIBEEEN SALOM CALANG

Volunteer

Lumad Accompaniment Program  
Philippines



Jollibeen Salom Calang is 30 years of age and one of the 5 children of Bishop Felixberto and Leonila Calang. Married to Gladys and gifted with a son, Cedd Gael. Jollibeen is a government employee, and a volunteer staff member Lumad Accompanier of the Mindanao Lumad Ministry.

## KHAING KAUNG SAN

Director & Founder  
Wan Lark Development Foundation  
Myanmar



Khaing Kaung San was born in Punnagyun, Rakhine State, Myanmar and has lived in a revolutionary area as an armed revolutionist struggling for democracy and human rights in Myanmar. His studies involve an English diploma from the Institute of English Language and Communication Skills (IELCS) in Tak Province of Thailand and Diplomacy Training Programs at the ASEAN Law Center, Thammasat University and University of New South Wales, Australia. In 1997 Khaing Kaung San established Rakhaing Patriotic Literature Club (RPLC) and became its Chairman. While living in exile in Thailand, he (with others) founded the Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) and served as chairman from 1998 to 2000. Khaing Kaung San spent 9 years as a political prisoner in Myanmar from 2000 to 2009. Upon release from prison Khaing Kaung San founded Wan Lark Foundation together with seven comrades and has been working to promote justice, equality, humanity, peace and development in Rakhine State.

## MOE WIN AUNG

Senior Program Manager  
Centre for Diversity and National Harmony  
Myanmar



Moe Win Aung is a senior staff member of the Center for Diversity and National Harmony (CDNH), working with his team on setting up and maintaining an Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) system for inter-communal violence in Myanmar. He provides technical support and improves networking with different stakeholders, mitigating the risk of violent conflict in targeted areas. Before CDNH, he worked for UNOCHA on emergency humanitarian coordination in Rakhine state for two years. He studied issues related to developing countries at Yangon University of Economics.

## SUSHANTHY GOBALAKRISHNAN

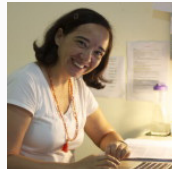
National Programme Officer  
Embassy of Switzerland  
Sri Lanka



Sushanthy is currently attached to the Embassy of Switzerland, Colombo, Sri Lanka as the National Programme Officer for the Human Security Division, assigned to work mainly in the former conflict zone, North-East of Sri Lanka. Her 13 year career spans with national and international nongovernmental organisations involves extensive hands on experience at the field level, with frontline association of the war affected communities, working with war victims including war widows, children, victims of enforced disappearances and Internally Displaced People (IDP). Her main areas of interests are centered on change processes in conflict transformation, Dealing with Past, conflict analysis, conflict sensitivity & Good Humanitarian Practices & impact assessment of peacebuilding programmes. She has been involved in numerous consultancies at the national, regional & international level. She was one of the International Scholar at Kingston University and the recipient of the MSc International Conflict prize for 2011.

## NEREA BILBATUA

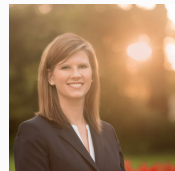
Programme Coordinator - Peace History  
Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies  
Cambodia



Nerea Bilbatúa Thomàs works as a Peace Historian at CPCS. Originally from Spain. Prior to joining CPCS she worked as a gender advisor for the Conciliation Resources programs in Colombia and Philippines. Peace History is a methodology designed to support peace processes by working with personal stories, experiences, memories and hopes for the future with the overall goal of composing a nuanced narrative of conflict that includes a wide range of voices (often unheard). Since 2014 CPCS has published four Peace History publications focusing on Myanmar and the Philippines. During 2017 Nerea has been working on a Peace History project in Sri Lanka looking at Healing and Reconciliation in the country. Nerea holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the Complutense University and a Master's degree in Human Rights and Democratization Processes by the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization.

## CAROLINE KEARNEY

Project Officer - Korean Peninsula  
Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies  
Cambodia



Caroline is the lead coordinator for projects designed to contribute to peace on the Korean Peninsula at CPCS. Prior to this, she conducted research for the CPCS Cambodia Peace Museum. She holds a MA in Global Affairs with a specialisation in Conflict & Development from George Mason University. Her thesis focused on forgiveness and reconciliation in post-conflict societies. Prior to joining CPCS, Caroline worked as a legal assistant providing support to energy, advertising, immigration, criminal and personal injury practice groups at law firms for over five years in Washington, D.C. and in Alabama. She also lived in Spain and is fluent in the Spanish language.

### Lessons from Community Peacebuilding in Afghanistan

## ABDUL RAHIM HAMIDI

Field Worker  
Mothers of Peace, UNAMA  
Afghanistan



Abdul Rahim Hamidi is a political science and International Relations graduate, who has a longstanding record as a journalist, focusing on issues around war and peace. He worked for the peace center at Gawharshad University in Kabul City, where he translated articles and books on peace, reconciliation, conflict management and conflict resolution. For the past seven months he has worked on the Mothers of Peace pilot project, managing the overall project coordination.

## NASIBA HAMIDY

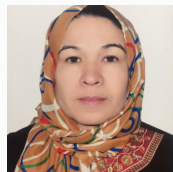
Field Worker  
Mothers of Peace, UNAMA  
Afghanistan



A 2016 law graduate from Aryana University in Kabul City, Nasiba Hamidy originally hails from Aqcha District of Jawzjan, a Northern Province of Afghanistan. Aside from her University studies, Nasiba has continuously volunteered for social and cultural initiatives across the country. For Mothers of Peace, Nasiba is a field worker for Parwan Province.

## RAHIMA ZARIFI

Field Worker  
Mothers of Peace, UNAMA  
Afghanistan



Rahima Zarifi is a graduate of economics. She has worked on Peace and law issues for around 20 years. From 2008 to 2011 she was the head of the Women Affairs and Provincial Peace Council in Baghlan province. Currently she is working as field worker in Kandahar province for the Mothers of Peace program in the High Peace Council.

## AMENA JAFARI

Field Worker  
Mothers of Peace, UNAMA  
Afghanistan



Amena Jafari studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh. Currently she is working as a field worker in Ghor province with the "Mothers of Peace" project since April 2017, in the High Peace Council of Afghanistan. She is passionate about Women's empowerment and believes in women's essential role in building sustainable peace.

## AHMAD RASHID WATANPAHL

Program Analyst  
United Nations Development Programme  
Afghanistan



Ahmad Rashid Watanpahl works as a programme analyst in UNDP Afghanistan's Governance Programme Unit, responsible for the management of the peace and reintegration portfolio. Previously, he has worked with Norwegian Church Aid as head of the peacebuilding and conflict mitigation portfolio, senior partnership coordinator with Oxfam GB, planning and advocacy manager and programme director with Sanayee Development Organization. He has served as a Steering Committee member of Afghanistan's biggest civil society network (ACBAR) for two consecutive years. As a civil society activist, he is a steering committee member of the Afghan People's Dialogue on Peace Process. He is also member of the Action Asia Peace Network. He has a decade of experience working in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation. He has a Bachelor degree in National Economics from Kabul University and a Masters degree in Applied Conflict Transformation Studies from Pannasastra University of Cambodia. He is currently enrolled in a Doctoral programme run jointly by the Pannasastra University of Cambodia and Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. He is focusing his doctoral research on drivers and narratives of violent extremism in Afghanistan.



## IRENE HTOON

Kayah State Peace Monitoring Network  
Myanmar



Irene is a Kayah ethnic woman, born in Loikaw, Kayah State, studied and grew up in Yangon, Myanmar. Irene graduated from Yangon University majoring in Mathematics in 1995 and did further study in Social Work and Economics in Manila, Philippines from 1997 to 2002. Irene is a graduate of the Applied Conflict Transformation Studies Masters course (2006-2008). Irene has previously worked with Caritas in Loikaw Diocese, Kayah State as a training coordinator and for the Spirit in Education Movement as a zone coordinator for Kayah State and Southern Shan State. She also has worked with a local NGO, Gaia Sustainable Management Institute (GSMI), based in Yangon, Myanmar. She currently is involved with Kayah State Peace Monitoring Network (KSPMN) a network formed with local organizations and individuals with the purpose of civilian ceasefire monitoring in Kayah State, Myanmar.

## SHAHPUR TENCKU

Project Officer - Research and Analysis  
Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies  
Cambodia



Shahpur is from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and is a Project Officer for the Research & Analysis Team at the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. He holds a Bachelor's degree in business and is currently enrolled in the Applied Conflict Transformation Studies course. This year he has been conducting his action research into the listening methodology with the ceasefire monitoring project in Myanmar.

## ARTEF SOKHO

Head Coordinator  
PATANI Viewers  
Thailand



## SANTI NINDANG

Programme Officer  
The Asia Foundation  
Thailand



Mr. Santi Nindang is currently a senior program officer for the Asia Foundation, Thailand. During the past ten years, he has worked to support bottom-up, community-driven initiatives in promoting peaceful solutions to the Patani conflict.

## SUSAN RISAL

Chief Executive Officer  
Nagarik Aawaz  
Nepal



Susan is the Chief Executive Officer of Nagarik Aawaz, a strategic peace building organisation working for justice and peace in Nepal. Susan recognizes that the situation in Nepal is continuing to change and this requires newer and more nuanced approaches and working on different issues such as Terai movements, federalism, ethnic violence, religious violence and the effects of earth quakes. She is a previous Applied Conflict Transformation Studies MA student with the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. The findings of her MA focused on creating ways for women to access their new legal rights for compensation if they had lost sons or husbands due to the conflict, which was funded and implemented in Nepal. Susan is currently enrolled in the Doctoral programme run jointly by the Pannasastra University of Cambodia and Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.

## MANOJ KUMAR KC

Research and Planning Directorate  
Police Headquarters  
Nepal



Manoj is a previous ACTS MA student and current PhD student, working for the Research and Planning Directorate at Police Headquarters. He has previous experience with the UN in Kosovo and Haiti. His understanding is that a conflict transformation perspective on policing creates a more peaceful society. He believes that a nuanced understanding of security is needed for effective law enforcement. In his PhD he would like to develop pragmatic ways to enhance the sense of security at the community level.

## DR ABHOUD SYED M. LINGGA

Executive Director  
Institute of Bangsamoro Studies  
Philippines



Abhoud Syed M. Lingga is the Executive Director of the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies in Cotabato City, Philippines. He holds a Master of Arts in Islamic Studies and a Master of Arts in Education. For some years he was an Associate Professor at the Mindanao State University in Maguindanao and lecturer at Cotabato City State Polytechnic College, Sultan Kudarat Islamic Academy Foundation College, and Mindanao State University Buug College. His research interests are on Bangsamoro self-determination, conflict management, human rights, sustainable development, and Islamic education. As an accomplished author and writer, he has published numerous articles in local and international journals and chapters of books. Professor Lingga is an active member of various non-government organizations, and has served in management capacities in various public and private sector organizations. In recognition of his peacebuilding efforts, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front offered him, in 2010, to be a member of the MILF Peace Panel, negotiating with the Government of the Philippines. The Notre Dame University, Cotabato City, conferred him an honorary degree Doctor of Humanities in Peace and Development (honoris causa) on March 25, 2017.

## BAICON B. CAYONGCAT

Bae A Labi  
Traditional Leader of Marawi and Lanao  
Philippines



## YE THEIN OO

Coordinator  
Myanmar-China Pipeline Watch Committee  
Myanmar



Ye Thein Oo is the Coordinator of Myanmar-China Pipeline Watch Committee since 2014. He is also a National Steering Committee member of Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability. Prior to his role at MCPWC, he was a farmer producing chili, banana, and sunflower and merchant of rice and oil. He has more than ten years experience in different NGO's. He obtained an Economic's degree from Distance Education University Mandalay (2003) and has attended various training courses from CSOs such as Human rights and Citizenship, Human rights, Environmental and Land law, EITI Standard, Community Health Impact Assessment and Research Training on Social Accountability.

## DR. KYAW THU

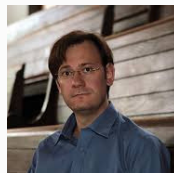
Director  
Paung Ku  
Myanmar



Dr. Kyaw Thu is current Director of Paung Ku, a consortium initiative designed to innovate methods for supporting Myanmar civil society. Paung Ku's work focuses on poor and marginalized communities with an emphasis on improving the delivery of services, strengthening networking and organizing advocacy projects. Kyaw Thu has over 15 years' experience in the development sector in Myanmar including work with CARE and HIV/AIDS Alliance, and has extensive knowledge of civil society in the region having worked frequently with networks in India, China, Thailand and Cambodia.

## JASON TOWER

Global Quaker International Affairs Representative  
American Friends Service Committee  
China



Jason Tower is a China based peacebuilder with a special focus on the role of the business sector with respect to conflict. He presently works as the Global Quaker International Affairs Representative of the American Friends Service Committee, coordinating the work of a team of international affairs representatives based in four strategic locations around the globe. Jason previously served as the Quaker International Affairs Representative for East Asia and the Business and Peace Program Director for the AFSC from 2009 – 2017. Jason has lived and worked in China for nearly 20 years. Since 2009, Jason has conducted extensive research in Southeast Asia, Africa the Middle East and China on corporate approaches to conflict, and has worked between Asian company stakeholders and government regulators and Southeast Asian civil society and community stakeholders to build platforms for dialogue and conflict transformation. Before entering the peacebuilding field, Jason worked as a political scientist researching and writing on issues related to community governance in China. Jason has been a visiting fellow at Peking University, a U.S. Fulbright Research Fellow, and a Harvard Yenching Fellow. He has published articles on US-China relations, and regional politics in Asia, and held numerous consultancies for international organizations, law firms and NGOs. Jason completed his undergraduate work in Business Administration, and his graduate studies in Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Most recently, Jason completed an advanced course in Company – Community Mediation at the Capetown Graduate School of Business, and earned certification as a Company – Community Mediation.

Jason is fluent in mandarin Chinese, and has translated several books and dozens of academics articles from Chinese to English.



# REFLECTIONS & THOUGHTS





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"WE DON'T WISH FOR  
ANYTHING BUT PEACE"

