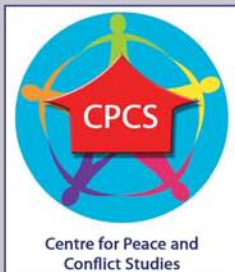


# STRATEGIC PEACEBUILDING FOR ASIA

Supporting Asian Peace Processes  
Through Innovative Conflict Transformation



Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies  
*2013 Annual Report*

# CENTRE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES

The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS) is a Cambodian based non-governmental organisation (NGO) working to strengthen strategic interventions into violent conflict by influencing theory, policy and practice. Based in Siem Reap, CPCS utilises Cambodia's rich history and reconciliation efforts as a learning base for the region, providing insight and inspiration for peacebuilding in other conflict transformation contexts. Today, CPCS is home to a range of interconnected programs and initiatives that are rooted in ongoing analysis and promote the advancement of peace processes, research and learning.

In 2013, CPCS's activities were primarily focused on supporting the peace processes in Myanmar and the Philippines, engaging a wide range of actors including government officials, armed groups and civil society. Over the course of the year, there were several additions to CPCS staff, strengthening our organisational infrastructure and expanding our reach of work. In June, CPCS celebrated a milestone with the purchase of a tract of land in Cambodia as the future site of a peace museum. Staff gathered to mark the organisation's first step towards establishing a peace museum for Cambodians in Siem Reap.



*Site of Cambodia's future peace museum*



*CPCS staff and board members gather at the future site of the peace museum to celebrate the purchase of the land*

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

With several new additions to the CPCS team in the past year, the organisation hosted a number of staff development and team building activities in 2013. Peter Woodrow, Director of the CDA Collaborative in Boston, led a two-day Reflecting on Peace Practice (RPP) Workshop, familiarising staff with RPP tools to provoke greater reflection on the effectiveness and future of CPCS's work. During the workshop, staff completed a conflict analysis, deconstructing Myanmar's current context to better understand root causes and drivers of conflict through the RPP lens. In October, CPCS hosted Ashley South, a leading consultant and political analyst on the Myanmar Peace Process who led the CPCS team in a two-day seminar analysing the history of Myanmar's conflict and current peace process, with particular focus on the role of armed groups. CPCS staff also participated in a team building session that

highlighted each members' strengths and individual contributions to the organisation under the guidance of Victoria Rue, who lent her extensive experience as a theatrical writer and director to the session. Finally, CPCS staff development activities culminated in a leadership development training with Impact Solutions International, headed by Mary Dwyer and Chris Rees. Over the course of three days, staff participated in activities to reflect on organisational identity and capacity and evaluate the merits and effectiveness of CPCS's internal structure and guiding principles. The training encouraged staff to establish a set of clearly defined organisational values to direct the future scope of CPCS's work in the region.

## PEACE PROCESS SUPPORT

Part of CPCS's core programming initiative is to support and strengthen peace processes across the Asia region. In 2013, CPCS focused its activities in two main regions: the Philippines, in partnership with Conciliation Resources, supporting peace negotiations between the Government of Philippines (GPH) and Moro-Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Myanmar, working with several diverse groups to move the country towards a more inclusive and stable peace. Seeking to acknowledge the diverse contexts and needs of all actors involved in conflict, CPCS aims to build the capacity of a wide range of individuals to enhance conflict analysis and intervention strategies. To this end, CPCS engages a number of groups including governments, civil society and non-state armed groups, fostering dialogue, understanding and mutual trust between all parties. This year, CPCS's primary peace process support activities included the facilitation of conflict transformation workshops and trainings, as well as exposure visits for key actors across the Asia region to provide greater insight to local conflict contexts and foster comparative learning.

# SUPPORT TO PEACE PROCESSES

## WORK WITH ARMED GROUPS

CPCS has worked to grow and consolidate its relationship with armed groups to support the development of meaningful and transparent peace processes. CPCS's work with a diverse number of armed groups has placed the organisation in a unique position to build relationships between the relatively isolated groups. By bringing together representatives of different parties, CPCS aims to create a platform of shared needs and common goals among armed groups engaged in the peace process. As a result, in 2013 CPCS launched two major programs convening individuals of different armed groups in efforts to lay a foundation of collaboration and cooperation between key stakeholders.

- **Conflict Transformation Modular Course for Armed Groups:** In April, CPCS conducted the first of a series of conflict transformation trainings for members of various armed groups including the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), the Karen National Union (KNU) and the Arakanese Democratic Party (ADP). This modular course was designed to provide participants with a greater understanding of the concepts and tools of conflict transformation. Sessions were organised to challenge participants to discuss and reflect on lessons from regional peacebuilding contexts. The course aimed to provoke consideration on how these lessons may be successfully translated and integrated into participant's own peace process, highlighting concrete examples of how theory and knowledge may be applied to peacebuilding situations. In addition, it sought to promote collaboration and build alliances



*Participants present their evaluations of the first module of the Armed Groups Conflict Transformation Course*



*Participants engage in an ice-breaker activity during a session of the Armed Groups Conflict Transformation Course*

between key armed group actors by creating a safe space for networking, dialogue and relationship building among armed groups engaged in peace process negotiations.



- **Listening to the Voices of Foot Soldiers:** In August, CPCS launched a project aimed at elevating the voice of foot soldiers based in Myanmar and around the Thai-Myanmar border in order to support the development of a more inclusive and dynamic peace process in the country. Using listening methodology, CPCS identified key individuals to conduct conversations with foot soldiers from non-state armed groups in Myanmar including the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), the Chin National Front (CNF), the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO), the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), the Karen National Union (KNU) and New Mon State Party (NMSP) to highlight their needs, concerns and challenges regarding the Myanmar peace process and their future. Over several months, CPCS held a series of workshops that sought to prepare listening teams to conduct conversations with foot

soldiers and afterwards, to discuss and analyse the information listeners heard in their conversations. Through conversations with 99 soldiers, the CPCS facilitation team identified key themes and insights of non-ranked soldiers that provide new perspectives, key messages and valuable lessons essential to building an inclusive and sustainable peace process. This information has become the basis of CPCS's publication: *Listening to the Voices of Foot Soldiers* (working title) which will be published in 2014 once the organisation has incorporated information from other listening groups.

CPCS also employs a method of accompaniment, working alongside particular armed groups, both facilitating and following their development as empowered and informed actors in peace negotiations. CPCS's engagement with these stakeholders is based on on-going analysis of armed groups needs, concerns, and gaps in knowledge to enhance their capacity and involvement in peace processes. In 2013, CPCS focused on three main armed groups:

- **All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF):** CPCS has continued to accompany the ABSDF facilitating and attending a number of workshops and capacity building activities (such as negotiation training exercises). These activities serve as an opportunity for the ABSDF to gain more information on the peace process, including Myanmar's internal government initiatives and the status of other armed groups' on-going negotiations. In addition, they present an occasion for the ABSDF to reflect on the process and engage in strategising and planning future actions for continued engagement in and support of Myanmar's peace process. Most notably, in 2013, CPCS launched a peace history publication project to document the 25 year-long ABSDF journey from armed struggle to peace.



*Members of the CNF listening team prioritise the points they heard the most in their listening conversations during a processing workshop in Yangon*

- **Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP):** In the past year, CPCS focused on building the capacity of the KNPP through the support of local ceasefire monitoring groups. In March, CPCS facilitated the visit of the Karenni Civilian Ceasefire Monitoring Group to the Philippines, providing participants from Kayah State the opportunity to learn from ceasefire monitoring non-governmental organisations working in other contexts. In collaboration with Bantay Ceasefire, a local monitoring non-governmental organisation in Mindanao, program participants studied peace, ceasefire and human rights mechanisms used in the Philippines, examining how these concepts and tools may apply to the Karenni context. Enhancing the potential of local actors to effectively monitor ceasefire and peace agreements signed between the government of Myanmar and armed groups empowers these individuals to actively participate in planning, decision making and implementation of project activities. In addition, these ceasefire-monitoring groups create a forum for individuals and organisations to discuss issues surrounding the ceasefire, ultimately establishing a network of local agents committed to maintaining and promoting peace in the region.
- **Karen National Union (KNU):** In 2013, CPCS consolidated its relationship with the KNU, providing the first in a series of liaison office trainings as part of an initiative to build KNU capacity and encourage more informed and dynamic engagement in Myanmar's peace process. In response to KNU requests for liaison office trainings, CPCS hosted a preliminary assessment workshop, for the first time bringing together members of all seven Liaison Offices as well as respective district office staff to evaluate their current role, resources, strengths, weaknesses, challenges and capacity needs. This created an opportunity for KNU leadership to directly hear



*Peace Process Program Coordinator Sweta Velpillay and Liaison Officers chart the locations of KNU liaison offices in Myanmar during the preliminary assessment workshop*

Liaison Officers' challenges and clarify officers' role. Subsequently, CPCS provided a three-day training aimed at addressing both KNU organisational and peacebuilding capacity needs. These trainings also granted KNU liaison officers with a safe space in which they could share their experiences, concerns and needs, strengthening KNU communication systems and establishing a more coherent, connected system of KNU operations and activities throughout Myanmar.

In addition, CPCS has fostered relationships with other armed groups including:

- **Arakan Liberation Party (ALP):** In February, CPCS facilitated an ALP visit to the Philippines to provide greater insight to Myanmar's peace process and build the group's capacity to make positive contributions towards the progression of peace in the region. Program participants met with government and armed group representatives, as well as their respective ceasefire committees and civil society organisations, to foster greater understanding of the

roles these key groups have played in the Philippines peace process. By providing an in-depth look at the peace process in the Philippines, this program sought to challenge participants to draw successful elements from the Filipino context and reflect on how they may be applied to Myanmar.

## WORK WITH BURMAN MAJORITY

Though the Burman majority is frequently overlooked in peacebuilding approaches in the country, CPCS believes they need to be informed and included in the peace process to establish a dynamic and inclusive peace in Myanmar. CPCS's work with the Burman majority is aimed at ensuring that peace processes are locally grounded to incorporate the opinions of all sectors of the population. Working with a number of diverse NGOs, CPCS aims to support the establishment of peace processes that practice community consultation and address the needs of all local actors. Through the facilitation of workshops, exposure visits and modular courses, CPCS sought to build the knowledge and capacity of the Burman majority so they can better support the development of peace in their country.

As an opportunity to expand comparative knowledge and create a platform for experience sharing across conflicts, exposure visits were a core part of CPCS programming in 2013. In January, CPCS facilitated a visit to the Philippines for 20 **democracy leaders** from Myanmar's 88 Generation Students Group. Since their release from prison in 2011, Myanmar has increasingly looked towards the 88 Generation for direction and guidance as the nation transitions towards a more peaceful democracy. Mindanao was specifically chosen by the 88 Generation for its similarities with Myanmar, including a history of long standing military rule and the role and influence of the public in forcing space for positive social and political reform. The similar contexts of both countries provided a valuable opportunity for participants from Myanmar to gain greater insight to their own country's peace process, reviewing the impact of events like the 1986 People Power Revolution in the Philippines. The visit aimed to build the capacity of some of Myanmar's fledgling democracy leaders by helping the 88 Generation participants increase knowledge relevant to the creation of an inclusive and democratic nation where numerous ethnicities and governments can coexist non-violently.



*Members of the 88 Generation sit down with the Philippines Armed Forces Chief of Staff on their exposure visit to Mindanao, Philippines*



*Director Emma Leslie and 88 Generation member Heun Myint Aung view pictures of Philippines Armed Forces generals awarded with medals of valour*





*Participants award their course certificates to one another at the final module of the Democracy Leaders Conflict Transformation Course*



*Participants present their visions for Myanmar's future in the first module of the Democracy Leaders Conflict Transformation Course*

Mid-year, CPCS organised a **peace journalism** visit of media executives from Myanmar to the Philippines. For a country experiencing years of militarised rule and controlled media, Myanmar currently lacks the capacity and tools for conflict sensitive reporting. Often, reporting in the country can further incite and contribute to the conflict, deepening divisions between groups. Over the course of a week, executives met with key representatives from both the government and MILF peace panels to deepen their understanding of the peace process in Mindanao. Participants were introduced to teams of Filipino media reporters closely involved in the MILF and government peace process to gain greater insight into reliable and conflict sensitive reporting methods in the Mindanao context. Discussions centred around the crucial role of media in conflict situations and the contributions media can make to strengthen peacebuilding processes.

Building on this foundation, CPCS facilitated a conflict transformation modular course for members of numerous democracy organisations in Myanmar, bringing together young like-minded activists and civil society members from groups including the 88 Generation, Myanmar Student Union and Generation Wave.

Convening a number of active peacebuilders created a forum for more dynamic and constructive discussion, as well as a platform for inter-organisational collaboration on peacebuilding in Myanmar. The workshop was aimed at enhancing participants' skills through capacity building training; providing the knowledge and tools necessary for understanding the roots of conflict; the dynamics of post-conflict environments and the most effective approaches to transitioning communities into positive peace.

## WORK WITH GOVERNMENT

Since CPCS began collaborating with the Myanmar Government in 2011, the organisation has increased its efforts to engage Myanmar civil servants, a group that largely remains overlooked and unengaged in peacebuilding activities in the country. The desire of civil servants to participate in the peace process is undermined by a mistrust of outsiders that stems from years of isolation and historical conflicts with non-state armed groups. Acknowledging that government support is key to the peace process's success, CPCS has focused attention on building the capacity of Myanmar's civil servants to strengthen their support to the peace process and increase trust between the key stakeholders



involved. In May 2013, CPCS carried out a pilot training workshop in collaboration with the Myanmar Peace Center (MPC) for 25 civil servants. This training aimed to provide participants with basic understanding of concepts, tools, theories and skills related to peacebuilding and conflict transformation in efforts to increase the analytical skills of Burman civil servants and promote their more positive and informed participation in the peace process. By increasing the involvement of the Burman majority, CPCS hopes to foster stronger foundations for a broader and more stable peace in Myanmar.

## WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES

As a member of the International Contact Group (ICG), CPCS Director Emma Leslie frequently attended ICG meetings to accompany and observe peace negotiations in Kuala Lumpur between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro-Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Established in 2009, the ICG consists of four countries and four international NGOs, functioning as a mediation support structure to maintain trust between parties and ensure the implementation of mutually agreed upon approaches in the GPH-MILF peace process. In 2013, the ICG witnessed substantial developments in the GPH-MILF process culminating with the signing of the Annex on Power Sharing in December. In support of ICG initiatives, Emma Leslie coauthored the paper “Innovation in Mediation Support: The International Contact Group in Mindanao” alongside Kristian Herbolzheimer. Published by Conciliation Resources, this paper draws on key lessons from the ICG experience to analyse important implications for the field of mediation and conflict transformation.

## CAMBODIA AS A LEARNING CENTRE

Over the course of the year, CPCS hosted and facilitated a number of workshops, conferences and meetings



*CCA Conflict Resolution Workshop participants pose for a picture during their week-long training.*

drawing on Cambodia’s conflict and reconciliation experiences to provide insight to different conflict contexts. As part of a larger initiative to share CPCS experience and knowledge of conflict transformation, staff from organisations currently involved in Myanmar’s peacebuilding activities, including Puang Ku and Dan Mission, visited CPCS offices in Cambodia. During their stay these groups were encouraged to draw out insights and lessons from Cambodia’s experiences to deepen their understanding and reflect on the conflict context in which they work.

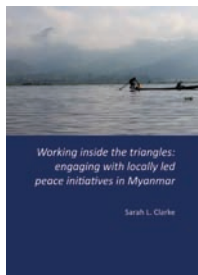
In addition, CPCS focused on programs that examined the role of conflict transformation and peacebuilding in faith based organisations. In January, CPCS hosted an interfaith conference in collaboration with the United States Institute of Peace to stimulate a collaborative interfaith approach to peacebuilding in Myanmar. In partnership with the Christian Conference of Asia, CPCS also held a conflict resolution workshop aimed to train a number of participants from the Asia region to better empower and equip them to integrate peacebuilding concepts into their roles as mediators in church and society.

# RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

To further promote and consolidate Asian approaches to peacebuilding, CPCS conducts research and produces publications that aim to influence peacebuilding theory, policy and practice across the region. With particular focus on grassroots action research, CPCS strives to identify, consolidate and share best practices in peacebuilding, and make them accessible to peace practitioners and scholars across the Asia region and beyond.

## PUBLICATIONS

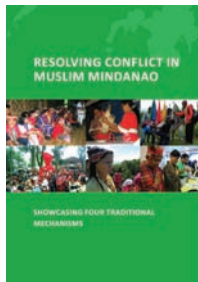
In 2013, CPCS released the following publications:



### ***Working Inside the Triangles: Engaging with Locally Led Peace Initiatives in Myanmar***

By Sarah Clarke

Analysing the state of the current peace process in Myanmar, this book examines the role of different actors in the process and the dynamics between them, providing specific recommendations for international actors regarding strategies of engagement in the country. Authored by Sarah Clarke, a member of the CPCS Board of Directors, this book aims to support informed and strategic engagement in Myanmar's peace process.



### ***Resolving Conflict in Muslim Mindanao: Showcasing Four Traditional Methods***

Inspired by Dr Abhoud Syed M. Lingga

A joint CPCS and Institute of Bangsamoro Studies (IBS) initiative, this publication showcases different traditional dispute resolution mechanisms from Mindanao. Emphasising contributions of local populations in working towards peaceful societies, the research papers included in this publication attest to the contribution of local populations incorporating indigenous structures and mechanisms into formal peacebuilding practices.



### ***Identifying Effective Measures to Combat Organised Crime in Post-Conflict Nepal***

By Manoj Kumar

Employing action research, this publication analyses the dramatic increase in organised crime in Kathmandu, Nepal after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Examining potential causes behind this rise in crime, it identifies effective measures to combat crime in the capital, making specific recommendations for the Kathmandu Metropolitan Police. Once published, the book was well received among high-ranking members of Kathmandu's Police who have considered integrating the findings into part of their strategic plan of addressing crime in Kathmandu.

### **Annual Peace Practitioners' Research Conference**

**(PPRC):** In December, CPCS hosted the Second Regional Peace Practitioners' Research Conference in Siem Reap, Cambodia convening 40 Asian peace practitioners and scholars from 17 different countries including Cambodia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, India and Pakistan. With a diverse array of participants, the conference sought to create a platform for collaborative learning, encouraging participants to share their expertise and identify best peacebuilding practices. This year, the theme of the conference was the transformation of identity-based conflict, engaging participants in dynamic discussions on how identity can trigger, perpetuate and transform conflict. The conference combined practical experience with analytical frameworks, presentations and seminars which exposed participants to new ideas and insights surrounding identity-based conflict to deepen understanding of peace and conflict transformation tools and practices.

**Mindanao:** CPCS funded a Mindanao based research project examining the perspective of one of Mindanao's non-Muslim indigenous tribes regarding the new Bangsamoro political entity. The project seeks to promote better understanding of indigenous tribes' views on current peace negotiations between the MILF and GHP.

**Manipur:** In Manipur, CPCS supported the Ningol Chakouba research project, which examined how a traditional familial event can be used as a tool for inter-communal relationship building. This project analysed how such traditions can contribute to the development of inter-ethnic relationships in Manipur, India. In addition, CPCS consultants traveled to Manipur to conduct conflict analysis designed to evaluate opportunities to engage with armed groups based in the area and to expand the organisation's knowledge of the conflict situation in Manipur.



*His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sirivudh, President of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace delivers the keynote speech at this year's Peace Practitioners' Research Conference*



*CPCS Staff and conference participants at the second annual Peace Practitioners' Research Conference*

# APPLIED CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION STUDIES (ACTS) MASTERS COURSE

Run in collaboration with Pannasatra University of Cambodia, the ACTS course is aimed at strengthening the skills of individuals dedicated to building greater peace and justice in their own countries. ACTS provides a platform for participants to share their knowledge with one another and to generate and test creative hypotheses and theories of response in their work for peace. Through action research methodology, participants are given the opportunity to apply their new learning and skills to work in their respective communities, not only strengthening local responses to peace but contributing to a literature of best practice methods and growth in the field of conflict transformation in Asia.

In 2013, 12 of our ACTS students graduated, examining a comprehensive range of subjects in their Action Research papers. These papers were titled:

- Operational Guidelines for Effective Partnership Mechanisms between OXGB and its Partners (*Watanpahl Ahmad Rashid*)
- Developing Mechanism for Better Unity and Cooperation Among Clergy of the Diocese of Myitkyina, Myanmar in Humanitarian Response to Katchin Armed Conflict Internally Displaced People (*Fr. Mahkaw Noel*)
- Sustaining Trust During Peace Accord Implementation: A Case Study of the Implementation of the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front Joint Mine/Unexploded Ordnance Clearance Operations (*Alfredo Lubang*)
- Empowering Women Through Dialogue for Political Participation: Case Study from Trincomalee, Sri Lanka (*Ariyapala Jathindra*)
- Framework for Civil Society Organizations to Increase Democratic Participation of the People in Post-Conflict Sri Lanka (*Hamangod Duncan Alwis*)
- Initiating Civil Society Non-Violent Campaign Plan for Federalism: A Case Study of Balay Mindanaw Foundation Inc. (BMFI), Philippines (*Pritush Maharjan*)
- Creating an Opportunity for Conflict Affected Women to Access Information on Governments Compensation Policies and National Action Plan to Take Initiatives Towards Their Rights (*Susan Risal*)
- Identifying Ways to Formulate Conflict Sensitive Tools for CORD and Its Partners' Climate Change Initiatives (*Thavy Chhoeun*)
- Initiating the Evaluation Process of Peace Education: Inter-Ethnic Peacebuilding Project in Kampong Chhang Province (*Meas Sokeo*)
- How to Engage Bamar Buddhist People in the Peacebuilding Process: A Pilot Study in Peacebuilding at Six Selected Regions in Myanmar (*Nang Shan Lahpai*)
- Using Photography as a Tool to Engage Different Ethnic Communities in a Dialogue Process For Better Communal Understanding (*Abdul Cader*)
- Staff and Clients Perceptions on Savings: Initiating Viable Mechanisms in Motivating the Poor to Save (*Kilian S. Deveza*)



## STAFF PROFILES

**Emma Leslie** leads CPCS as the organisation's executive director, providing endless support to strengthen and develop the CPCS team. Most notably, in 2013 Emma delivered the keynote address at the UNDP Community of Practice on Conflict Prevention and Peace Building for the Asia Pacific, contributed to the Wilton Park Conference on Southeast Asian peace processes and supported the MILF-GPH peace process in her role as a member of the International Contact Group.

**Elizabeth Padilla** continued in her role as Peace Process Support Officer, contributing to CPCS's capacity building initiatives through the facilitation of a number of conflict transformation modules including those for armed groups and democracy leaders. Originally from the Philippines, Betchak also provides invaluable support to CPCS Mindanao based programs and exposure visits.

**Samrith Sambo** from Cambodia is CPCS's Administrator and Finance Manager, overseeing the organisation's finances. Most notably in 2013, Sambo travelled to Yangon to attend an EU Training on grant management.

**James O'Keefe** participated in numerous programs throughout the year in his role as project officer, including the 88 Generation exposure visit to the Philippines and the Listening to the Voices of Foot Soldiers project. James also completed the first year of the ACTS MA course, which he will continue with in 2014.

**Oum Sotheavy (Da)** is currently the principle Administrator of CPCS and has worked at the organisation since its start in 2008. Da ensures

the smooth running and accreditation of our ACTS courses, liaising with representatives from Pannasastra University. In 2013, Da played a key role in supporting CPCS's Peace Practitioners' Research Conference.

**Py Sokunthea** works as CPCS's accountant, ensuring the smooth running of day-to-day organisational finances. This year Sokunthea travelled to Myanmar as part of the Listening to Foot Soldiers project where she was in control of program finances.

**No Maline** from Battambang supports CPCS in the role of assistant administrator. Maline helps CPCS facilitate visits to Siem Reap, providing invaluable logistical support.

### CPCS CONSULTANTS:

**Soth Plai Ngarm** has worked extensively throughout Southeast Asia with particular focus on areas of post-conflict, nationalism and ethnic identity. As a Consultant on Peace Processes and Research, Ngarm provides invaluable support to CPCS programs in the region. In 2013, Ngarm oversaw CPCS's Listening to Foot Soldiers project and served as an ACTS faculty member where he provided insight to post conflict contexts and reconciliation processes.

**Richard Smith** continues to support CPCS in his role as a consultant. Based in South Africa, Richard frequently travels to the region to facilitate CPCS peace process programs and contribute his extensive knowledge and experience towards strengthening CPCS's conflict transformation approaches.

## ACADEMIC IN RESIDENCE:

**Kathryn Poethig** served as CPCS's Academic in Residence for a period of five months this year, while continuing her research on Cambodia's spirit world, reflecting on religious practices in post-conflict societies. In her role, Kerry provided support to the research team in establishing guiding principles on CPCS research and forming editorial policies. Kerry also played a key role assisting in the ACTS revision process, expanding the use of academic materials and strengthening the program's academic quality.

## CPCS WELCOMES NEW STAFF:

**Sweta Velpillay** from Sri Lanka joined CPCS in February 2013 as the organisation's Peace Process Program Coordinator, where she currently oversees all peace programs in Myanmar. In her role, Sweta spent the last year working to build relationships with armed groups and other key stakeholders in Myanmar's peace process to support CPCS's peacebuilding initiatives in the country.

**Nerea Bilbatua** joined the CPCS team in January 2013 from Madrid to head CPCS's Peace History Project, working to document the 25 years journey of the ABSDF and support their transition from armed struggle to peace. For Nerea, her work this year culminated in witnessing the ABSDF signing of the ceasefire agreement in August.

**Noah Taylor** became CPCS's new director of the ACTS Master program early this year, launching a core curriculum review and restructuring of the course. In 2013, under Noah's direction, the ACTS received a record-breaking number of 47 applications for the 2016 program graduates.

**Inanna Göbel-Bösch** transitioned to a new position as CPCS's Research Program Coordinator in 2013. In her role she liaises with CPCS's editorial board and partner organisations in the region, coordinates research-related projects and events and oversees online and book publications. This year, Inanna organised the second annual Asian Peace Practitioners' Research Conference in Siem Reap, convening 40 Asian peace practitioners and scholars from 17 different countries.

## CPCS THANKS:

**Kaltuma Noor** arrived in Siem Reap from Eastern Mennonite University in the USA where she is studying conflict transformation. From Kenya, Kaltuma spent three months at CPCS as a program documenter and editor for the research and publications team.

**Aung Myo** from Myanmar, supported CPCS as a University of Peace student, providing support and insight to a number of CPCS's programs in Myanmar.

**Amelia Breeze** joined CPCS from the Quaker United Nations Office in New York. Originally from Scotland, Amelia assisted CPCS's research and publications team, particularly with her work on the publication "Working inside the Triangles: engaging with locally led Initiatives in Myanmar."

**Amie Kirkham** from New Zealand joined CPCS following her graduation from the University of Ortego with a Masters of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies. During her time at CPCS, Amie provided support for the research and editing team before transitioning to her current role as Listening Project Officer, where this year she coordinated the Listening to Foot Soldiers project.

**Quinn Davis** arrived at CPCS as part of her global program at Boston College Graduate School of Social Work in the USA. Over the last year she provided support to a number of CPCS programs before joining CPCS as part of the Peace Process Support Team.

**Ry Chantha** from Cambodia joined CPCS later this year, where she provides program support and assistance with organising conferences and other CPCS courses.



*Staff celebrates Christmas at CPCS offices in Siem Reap*

## FUNDING PARTNERS

CPCS work would not be possible without the generous support of its valued partners including:

**AusAid**

**Catholic Agency For Overseeing Development**

**Conciliation Resources**

**Ecumenical Scholarship Program (Bread for the World)**

**Embassy of Finland, Bangkok**

**Misereor**

**DanChurchAid**

**Royal Norwegian Embassy, Thailand**

**Stiching Building Capacities for Peace**

**The Asia Foundation**

**International Management Group**

**Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs**



*MISEREOR representative Elizabeth Strohscheidt thanks CPCS at the close of the second annual Peace Practitioners' Research Conference*

*"It has been really fantastic having you guys as a partner and I think your work is the most amazing and worthwhile in Myanmar! You all do such a fantastic job and have seen so many results, it must be incredibly fulfilling."*

*- CAFOD Myanmar Country Director*

The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies is home to a range of interconnected programmes that promote the advancement of peace processes, research and learning. It creates opportunities for practitioners, students, academics and analysts to access information and resources that are contextually grounded.



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