



SPOTLIGHT ON R2P



APPAP Third Annual Meeting Jakarta 2019

Executive Summary and Outcomes

In late August, the third meeting of the Asia Pacific Partnership on Atrocity Prevention (APPAP) was held at the Borobudur Hotel, Jakarta. Co-hosted by the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect along with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies and the Habibie Centre, the meetings facilitated dialogue around R2P in the Asia Pacific and led to a number of concrete outcomes.

The week-long meetings and seminars included a business meeting of APPAP with the theme 'Implementing R2P in the Asia Pacific: Overcoming Challenges, Building Resilience'; the second Youth Forum on empowering young people in atrocity prevention, training on gender-based atrocity

crimes for human rights defenders, a dialogue with Indonesian MPs, executive training on R2P and finally the annual Dr. Surin Pitsuwan Memorial Oration, delivered this year by Professor Emeritus Vitit Muntarbhorn.

This year we were extremely honoured to have Dr Karen Smith, UN Special Advisor to the Secretary General on the Responsibility to Protect join the meetings and speak on the current landscape of R2P in the Asia Pacific region. Special guests also included Mr Allaster Cox, Deputy Head of Mission, Australian Embassy Jakarta, and Dr Catherine Hesse-Swain from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Human rights defenders training

The week began with a two-day training program for human rights defenders on gender-based atrocity crimes. Organised by the Philippines Office of the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, the training was delivered by expert academics and leaders in atrocity prevention, for human rights defenders from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Timor Leste, Thailand and The Philippines.

Guests such as Dr Meghna Guhathakurta from Research Initiatives Bangladesh, Dr Aurora De Dios, former Philippine Representative for the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Girls, and Dr Tamara

Nair from the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies generously shared their knowledge and experience, and topics covered included the legal frameworks for SGBV, transitional justice, and women's role in countering violent extremism. APR2P Centre representatives Dr Sarah Teitt and Nikki Marczak presented on the prevention of SGBV and the rights of atrocity survivors, respectively.

This opportunity to learn and exchange ideas on gender and atrocity crimes was invaluable, particularly as global attention on sexual violence in conflict and the pursuit of justice is increasing.

APPAP Executive Meeting

Keynote speakers

Professor Alex Bellamy, Director, Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APR2P) and Mr Hadi Kuntjara, Executive Director, The Habibie Centre and Mr Philips J. Vermonte Executive Director Centre for Strategic and International Studies officially welcomed the more than 50 attendees and introduced the special guests to open the meeting.

Dr Karen Smith, UN Special Advisor to the Secretary General on the Responsibility to Protect emphasised the role of regional dialogues such as APPAP and highlighted her priorities as Special Advisor. The three priorities include: De-mystifying R2P, moving the narrative away from 'intervention' and creating space for better understanding; Focusing on prevention, by developing appropriate mechanisms, promoting success stories and best practice examples; and linking R2P to other key issues such as prevention of sexual and gender based violence or the incitement of hate speech.

A review of progress made towards atrocity prevention in the region was given by Mr Allaster Cox, Deputy Head of Mission, Australian Embassy Jakarta. Mr. Cox warned that concepts such as R2P are under threat from new waves of ultra-nationalism, group-based violence and the spread of hate and division facilitated by new technology. He stressed the importance of rebuilding and strengthening social capital

across religious, ethnic and cultural groups, as well as mechanisms for atrocity prevention at the local, national and regional levels.

Working Groups

Much of APPAP's work is implemented via thematic working groups, two of which gave presentations to the full APPAP meeting on progress made during the year.

Co-chairs of the Working Group on Gender and Atrocity Prevention, Dr Sarah Teitt of APR2P and Dr Ma. Lourdes Veneracion-Rallonza from the APR2P Philippines Office summarised the outcomes of the Working Group meeting in Timor Leste, highlighting the 2019 focus on training, capacity building programs and research. The meeting was followed by a roundtable on prevention of sexual and gender based violence with lessons from Timor Leste and a field trip to Chega to learn about the early warning early response system. The Working Group intends to have broad geographic and disciplinary representation, to share expertise and local best practice. Future work will involve dialogue with AICHR, ACWC and AIPR, and further capacity building projects.

The Working Group on Prevention of Hate Speech and Incitement to Commit Atrocity Crimes co-chairs Dr Noel Morada, Director (Regional Diplomacy), APR2P and Ms Vierna Tasya Wensatama, The Habibie Centre, gave an update from the March 2019 meeting. Given recent cases of incitement to atrocity crimes on social media, such as in Myanmar, Dr Morada acknowledged the importance of strong political leadership and the critical role of educational institutions in teaching values of peace and diversity.



Hadi Kuntjara, Philips J. Vermonte, Alex Bellamy

The Working Group also identified the priority of defining and raising awareness of hate speech, suggesting the development of toolkits, training for media, engagement between civil society and parliamentarians, empowering youth advocates, and increased engagement with ASEAN mechanisms.

APPAP members agreed to advance the work of the Working Group on Security Sector Governance and Development in order to enhance people-centered approaches to security, good governance and civilian oversight of the security sector, and to consider the establishment of new Working Groups on themes such as transitional justice and peacekeeping.



Youth Panel presentation

Youth Forum

The newly established Youth Core Group, comprising members from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia and Fiji, presented outcomes from the previous day's Youth Forum, including their strategic vision to strengthen grassroots advocacy at the regional level on atrocity prevention. Priorities identified included capacity building, information sharing, and awareness-raising of R2P, which will be further developed as part of strategic planning and campaign development within the core group during 2020.



Alex Bellamy, Karen Smith and Allaster Cox

APPAP Small Grants Program

Dr Kirril Shields, Atrocity Prevention Grants Program Manager at APR2P provided an update on the four pilot projects funded under APPAP's Small Grants Program, which he summarised as prevention, reconciliation and mediation projects. This was followed by presentations from the organisations running the projects.



Dr Kirril Shields APPAP small Grants program

Ms Maria Marilia da Costa from Belun in Timor Leste spoke on their project, Women, Peace and Security Through Women's Participation and Decision Making. The project commenced in April 2019, and looked at access to justice, mediation and conflict resolution, as well as an early warning, early response system to map violent conflict.

The Habibie Center's project is CERITA, Community Empowerment in Raising Inclusivity and Trust through Technology Application. Ms Vierna Tasya Wensatama and Mr Aan Permana explained that the aim was to build social cohesion and reduce stereotypes through the creation of positive online content and a series of workshops that trained community representatives on the prevention of hate speech. Some participants were then trained to become trainers, and subsequently ran smaller workshops in rural areas of Indonesia.

Ms Lway Hlar Reang presented on behalf of ALTSEAN about the Mandalay workshop on strategies to ad-



Maria Marilia da Costa, Ruby Kholifah, Lway Hlar Reang, Dr Meghna Guhathakurta, Vierna Tasya Wensatama

dress hate speech. The focus of the three-day workshop objective was peacebuilding, and ways to protest hate speech on social media, especially Facebook. There were 13 participants from different states in Myanmar, with priority given to youth and women activists. The project was accompanied by the production and distribution of "Love Lotus" stickers.

Dr Meghna Guhathakurta, of Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB) explained the concept of interactive theatre as a means of post-conflict/post-trauma work, and outlined RIB's project on the prevention of sexual and gender based violence through interactive theatre, which has been delivered to Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh. A video has been produced of the creative process.

Panel discussion: Regional Engagement on Myanmar: Overcoming Challenges and Coordinating Strategies

Coordinated and chaired by Dr Noel Morada, APR2P's Director of Regional Diplomacy, this panel discussion by regional stakeholders focused on ASEAN's engagement with the situation in Myanmar especially relating to the persecution of Rohingyas. Panellists included: H.E Ms Yuyun Wahyuningrum, Representative of Indonesia to The ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR); H.E. Mr. Eric Paulsen, Representative of Malaysia to The ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR); and Ms Desi Hanara, Southeast Asia Regional Coordinator - Freedom of Religion and Belief, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR).



Dr Noel Morada, H.E. Ms Yuyun Wahyuningrum, H.E. Mr Eric Paulsen and Ms Desi Hanara

2020 Dr. Surin Pitsuwan Memorial Oration

Professor Emeritus Vitit Muntarbhorn gave the keynote speech at the 2019 Surin Oration, titled “The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) through the Human Rights Lens: Implications for South-east Asia.” For the full transcript please refer to https://r2pasiapacific.org/files/3868/speech_surinpitsuwan_2019oration_vititmuntarbhorn.pdf



Professor Emeritus Vitit Muntarbhorn

Executive Training

The APPAP network conducted its R2P Executive Training in Jakarta on 29 August, with some 30 participants from the Asia Pacific region. The training covered the evolution and emerging issues related to R2P and its implementation; links between R2P and protection of civilians as well as Women, Peace, Security; atrocity prevention and transitional justice. A special panel of speakers also presented their views on overcoming challenges and constraints in implementing R2P in Indonesia, Thailand, and Cambodia, as well as at the regional level through work of the Centre in partnership with the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR). A number of recommendations were generated from this panel presentation, such as expanding the network of APPAP's outreach to include potential champions in the judicial and law enforcement sector, training on R2P for political parties focusing on young and emerging party leaders, as well as deepening the engagement with parliamentarians in the region in promoting freedom of religion and belief in the context of atrocities prevention.



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