

ASEAN-IPR Newsletter

Forging and Fostering Peace



Highlight

- *First Expert Meeting – ASEAN-IPR Regional Conference on Cybersecurity and the Role of Information Technology In Fostering Culture Of Peace In ASEAN*
- *ERIA and ASEAN-IPR Kick Off Meeting on Women Economic Empowerment / Independence and Sustainable Peace Research Project*
- *ASEAN-IPR and UN Women “NAP Academy” Training Workshop on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)*

Remarks from Our Executive Director

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we introduce the very first edition of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) newsletter. This newsletter expands our communications strategy to fulfil our functions – to disseminate best practices, lessons learned, and relevant information pursuant to our mandate. Thus, this marks the beginning of our sharing of the latest updates, insights, and stories to our stakeholders.

Each issue of our newsletter will offer a selection of articles, insights, and news, showcasing our works and initiatives that contribute to building a peaceful and harmonious community within the region and beyond.

As we embark on this inaugural newsletter, ASEAN-IPR will continue to issue more editions, sharing our efforts to promote peace and stability as our contribution to ASEAN’s community-building process.

I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja

Executive Director, ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

ASEAN Women for Peace Registry Virtual Meeting

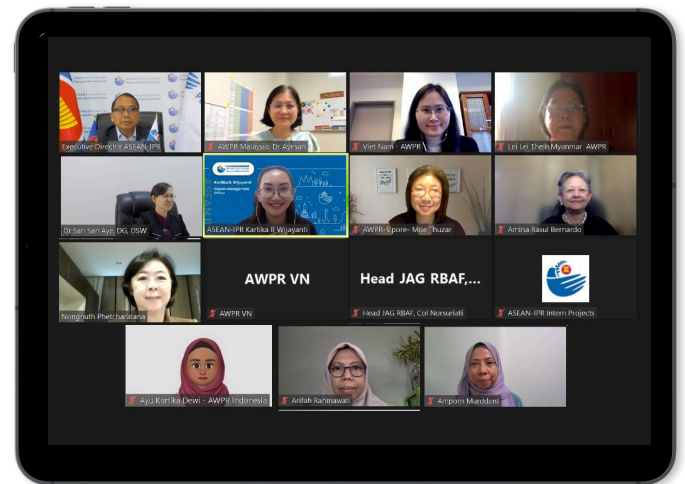
On 23 January 2024, the ASEAN-IPR held an ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR) online meeting focusing on Women, Peace and Security – related projects.

A key highlight of the meeting was the kick-start of the ASEAN-IPR Programme on Women in Peace Processes, a research project focusing on creating database of women peace actors all over the region. The research implementation will be conducted by AWPR as the implementing agency.

This flagship project is supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Norway-ASEAN Regional Integration Programme (NARIP) and aims to highlight women's meaningful participation in peacebuilding efforts across the region.

In addition to discussing the new programme, AWPR Members also explored future opportunities for conducting knowledge exchange sessions and institutional capacity development with other networks of women peace experts.

The meeting also reviewed plans for the upcoming edition of the AWPR Newsletter, which will serve as a platform to showcase the work of AWPR Members and highlight women's contributions in peacebuilding.



Inception Meeting: ASEAN-IPR Training – Enhancing the Role of Youth in Peacebuilding



Jakarta, 6 February 2024 – The ASEAN-IPR Indonesia held an inception meeting to launch the "ASEAN-IPR Training – Enhancing the Role of Youth in Peacebuilding" project. The meeting gathered valuable comments and inputs to enhancing the project implementation plan. This training programme is generously supported by the Government of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

The training programme itself aims to empower and equip the youth with necessary knowledge and skills to fulfil their roles as agents of peace. This initiative is pursuant to recommendations from the ASEAN-IPR and UN Workshop on Youth, Peace & Security back in 2022; as well as the call in the ASEAN Youth Declaration, which was established upon the foundation of the ASEAN-IPR Regional Youth Conference in 2018. The training programme, which took place from 29 July to 2 August 2024, was hosted in Jakarta and Bandung, Indonesia. It included youth representatives from ASEAN Member States, Timor-Leste, and Japan, fostering a diverse and collaborative environment for the next generation of peacebuilders.

33rd Meeting of the ASEAN-IPR Governing Council



Jakarta, 22 March 2024 - The ASEAN-IPR Governing Council (GC), as the Institute's highest decision-making body, conducted its 33rd Meeting at the ASEAN-IPR Secretariat, Jakarta. This was the first GC Meeting under the Chairmanship of Lao PDR, with H.E. Bovonethat Douangchak (Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to ASEAN, concurrently Representative of the Lao PDR to the ASEAN-IPR Governing Council) chairing the Meeting.

The Meeting deliberated and approved various projects and activities for 2024, including the ASEAN-IPR Discussion Series for 2024, Training/Capacity Building programmes, and Conferences. It also welcomed H.E. Adam Mulawarman Tugio as Indonesia's new Representative to the Governing Council. The meeting also reviewed plans for the upcoming edition of the AWPR Newsletter, which will serve as a platform to showcase the work of AWPR Members and highlight women's contributions in peacebuilding.

ED's Participation at the 6th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue and Working Visit to Baku, Azerbaijan



ASEAN-IPR ED also introduced the work of the Institute with a visit to Baku State University together with the Secretary General of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).

Baku, 1-3 May 2024 – The Executive Director (ED) of the ASEAN-IPR participated in the 6th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku, Azerbaijan. The forum, themed "Dialogue for Peace and Global Security: Cooperation and Interconnectivity," provided a platform for discussions on fostering peace in a globally interconnected world.

As a panellist during the plenary session, the ASEAN-IPR ED highlighted Southeast Asia's rich diversity and the region's vulnerabilities to security challenges. Stressing the importance of mutual respect and inclusivity, Southeast Asia advocated for the active involvement of youth and women in peacebuilding efforts, leveraging digital technology as a tool for promoting peace.

During this period, the ASEAN-IPR ED also engaged in several courtesy meetings, including discussions with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, H.E. Elnur Mammadov, and the Chairman of the Center of Analysis of International Relations Azerbaijan, H.E. Ambassador Dr. Farid Shafiyev.



The 16th Coordinating Conference for the ASEAN Political-Security Community (16th ASCCO)



ASEAN Headquarters, 9 May 2024 - As an entity associated with ASEAN whose work resides mainly under the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) pillar, ASEAN-IPR participated in the 16th Coordinating Conference for the ASEAN Political-Security Community (ASCCO) at the ASEAN Headquarters in Jakarta. The Conference focused on reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025, while also discussing preparations for the Blueprint's End-of-Term Review in 2025.

This Conference was attended by representatives of ASEAN Member States, APSC Sectoral Bodies and entities associated with APSC. As one of the implementing entities responsible for ten of APSC Blueprint 2025's action lines, ASEAN-IPR also reported its contributions and role to the community-building process.

ASEAN-IPR's Participation at the KAICIID Global Dialogue Forum, Lisbon, Portugal



Lisbon, 15–16 May 2024 – ASEAN-IPR participated in the KAICIID Global Forum entitled “Transformative Dialogue: Building Alliances for Peace in a Rapidly Changing World”, organised by The International Dialogue Centre -- KAICIID. The Forum served as a gathering platform for Global Leaders, Faith Actors, Civil Society & Key Policymakers to explore the continued relevance of religion and spirituality in addressing global challenges and harnessing the transformative power of dialogue to shape innovative and mutually beneficial partnerships across religious and secular insertions. The Executive Director of ASEAN-IPR also contributed to discussions at the Forum as a speaker in one of the thematic sessions focusing on peacebuilding.

Since 2021, KAICIID has been a significant partner for ASEAN-IPR in advancing work in the area of peacebuilding through interfaith dialogue. In 2023, ASEAN-IPR and KAICIID developed a Training module on Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue for ASEAN Officials.

This module was tailored from KAICIID's existing source material and further developed by experts from ASEAN Member States and KAICIID. The training module was utilised in the pilot training held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 27 November to 1 December 2023. Stay updated with our social media and website for more updates on our collaboration with KAICIID and other like-minded institutions!

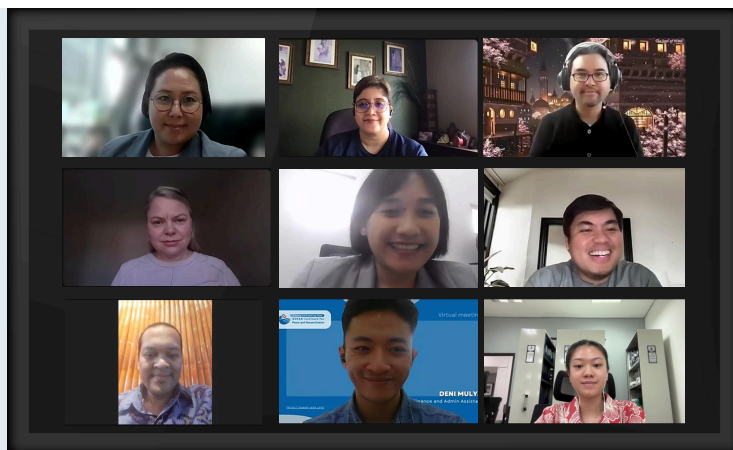
8th Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN



ASEAN Headquarters, 14 May 2024 – The ASEAN Secretariat hosted the 8th Forum of Entities Associated with ASEAN at the ASEAN Headquarters, Jakarta. This event served as a platform for all associated entities listed in Annex 2 of the ASEAN Charter, along with other ASEAN centres/bodies, external partners and stakeholders, to exchange experiences and insights on their roles within the ASEAN community. During the event, ASEAN-IPR delivered a joint presentation with ASEAN Foundation and ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). Together, the presentation highlighted experiences of collaboration between ASEAN institutions and explored the modalities for cooperation with various stakeholders.

For further details on the Forum and insights shared, visit the [ASEAN Website](#).

First Expert Meeting – ASEAN-IPR Regional Conference on Cybersecurity and the Role of Information Technology In Fostering Culture Of Peace In ASEAN



10 May 2024 - ASEAN-IPR kicked off its latest project entitled “ASEAN-IPR Regional Conference on Cybersecurity and The Role of Information Technology in Fostering Culture of Peace in ASEAN” on 10 May 2024. The project is conducted with generous support of the Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN, through ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF). The project started with an inaugural Experts’ Meeting to provide a platform for Experts from all over the region to get to know each other.

Furthermore, the Meeting also discussed the preparations for the upcoming Focused Group Discussion (FGD), including outlining key topics and setting up foundational terms for an in-depth exploration of cybersecurity’s role in regional peacebuilding. The Regional Conference itself aims to create a platform for collaboration between experts, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders to forge strategies that enhance cybersecurity and encourage regional peace and stability.

The Meeting concluded with the selection process for FGD participants, with emphasis on balanced representation across ASEAN and specific inclusion criteria to ensure comprehensive discussions during the FGD.



**ERIA and ASEAN-IPR
 Kick-Off Meeting on
 Women Economic
 Empowerment/
 Independence and
 Sustainable Peace
 Research Project**

Jakarta, 19 June 2024 – Pursuant to one of the recommendations of the Regional Study on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) to integrate WPS into the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), the ASEAN-IPR and ERIA (Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia) initiated a Joint Research Project on Women Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Peace.

The two partner institutions held a kick-off roundtable entitled "Women Peace and Security (WPS) and Women in the Digital Economy (WDE): Understanding Synergies for the Future of ASEAN.", as a foundation to explore the intersection of these crucial areas. More than 30 participants engaged in fruitful discussions, setting a solid foundation for the project's phases and identifying the next steps for the research ahead.

High-level participants included Indonesia's Minister and Deputy Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Cambodia's Minister of Women Affairs, together with the President of ERIA, Executive Director of ASEAN-IPR, and Chair of ASEAN-IPR's Governing Council. Other participants consisted of senior representatives from ASEAN Member States, ASEAN partners, ERIA's member countries' representatives, and like-minded institutions.

This project aims to explore the connections between the WPS and WDE in the context of post-conflict peacebuilding. By examining these ties, the study seeks to provide valuable data and analysis to support the mainstreaming of the WPS agenda into broader ASEAN economic integration efforts, facilitating women's economic empowerment across the region.

14th Meeting of the ASEAN-IPR Advisory Board

ASEAN-IPR Secretariat, 21 June 2024 – ASEAN-IPR's Advisory Board (AB) convened its 14th Meeting – the first under this year's Chairmanship of Lao PDR. The Meeting was held in a hybrid format, with AB Members attending both in-person at the ASEAN-IPR Secretariat in Jakarta and others through videoconference.

The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Khamfeuag PHANTHAXAY, Chair and Representative of Lao PDR to the Advisory Board and was attended by AB Representatives/Alternate Representatives from ASEAN Member States. The Meeting discussed and deliberated the Institute's priority research areas, implementation of such priorities, as well as initiatives to further/actively engage with stakeholders in ASEAN Member States.



The 14th AB Meeting also welcomed the Representative of Timor-Leste, Mr. Hugo Fernandes who joined as Observer for the very first time.

ASEAN-IPR and UN Women “NAP Academy” Training Workshop on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)



Bangkok, 24-28 June 2024 - The adoption of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace, and Security (RPA WPS) marked a significant step forward in promoting the WPS agenda across the region. To further support the implementation of this plan, ASEAN-IPR and UN Women co-organised a Regional Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, from 24 June to 28 June 2024.

This workshop is designed to target: i) ASEAN Member States (AMS) that are already engaged in the development and/or implementation of national action plan (NAPs) on WPS; and ii) AMS that are interested in exploring opportunities for localising the RPA-WPS at the national level. In line with these ongoing efforts, this workshop has two main objectives. The first one was to equip representatives from various Line Ministries of ASEAN Member States with the skills and knowledge needed to integrate gender considerations and effectively implement WPS NAPs; while the second was to provide an opportunity for ASEAN Member States focal points interested in RPA localisation on WPS to learn through networking and knowledge exchange with other ASEAN Member States.

Through interactive sessions and in-depth discussions, participants explored ways to align national priorities between NAPs and the ASEAN RPA on WPS. This collaborative approach is designed to develop comprehensive and sustainable WPS frameworks, utilising regional experiences and global best practices.

The Workshop also provided specific, actionable guidance and resources to assist organisations in creating and executing NAPs within their institutions. By sharing insights and strategies, the workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of ASEAN Member States to advance the WPS agenda effectively.



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