

Concept Note

PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY: SKILLS AND TOOLS FOR ASEAN TOWARD EFFECTIVE PEACEBUILDING

The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshops on Preventive Diplomacy (PD) Skills Building are designed to serve as a follow-on effort to deepen and enhance concepts introduced in the Myanmar workshop, which is scheduled to convene from June 19 to 22, 2017, in Yangon. These Workshops may be seen to complement some of the key points outlined in the Recommendations from previous PD workshops (notably Yogyakarta and Hanoi), in that the main purpose of these programs is to strengthen the capacity of the ARF, and importantly the AIPR, to be able to manage, resolve, and prevent violent conflict in the region.

The 2018 follow-on program will focus more specifically on skills building, and be designed to be highly interactive with the intention of engaging participants directly in applying presented concepts. Concepts will have been taken largely from evaluation feedback submitted by ARF participants in the Yangon workshop. The program will be preceded by an online course component, essential in understanding terminology that will be discussed.

Learning Objectives: By the end of the program, participants will be able to:

- Identify both individual and small group needs with regard to ARF and AIPR support for regional mediation efforts
- Learn to apply conflict-analysis skills to identified conflict areas
- Develop strategies for engaging with multiple and diverse actors
- Enhance capacity to build trust and mentor others
- Strengthen the ability to work collaboratively and in consultation with others
- Take into account the lessons and best practices from ARF experiences
- Understand what constitutes third-party effectiveness
- Learn the basic principles of effective mediation
- Develop skills for designing a mediation process

The conceptual emphasis and methodology of the ARF program are structured in such a way as to not only build capacity for preventing and managing conflict in the region, but also to enhance greater ability to coordinate and collaborate among members, and among external partners.

Key thematic areas to be explored include, but are not limited to:

1. Conflict Analysis: Concepts and Application
2. Effective Negotiation
3. Effective Mediation
4. Mediation Design
5. Working Effectively with External Actors