APS
Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship
10 years creating leaders for peace
What is the APS?

In an increasingly interconnected world - often divided and facing complex challenges – there is a growing need for innovative solutions to the problems being faced and a united effort in creating them. The Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship (APS) is a joint initiative of the United Nations-mandated University for Peace, Ateneo de Manila University and The Nippon Foundation, created to contribute to the development of Asian professionals who will make a difference in this area. The programme provides an opportunity for students from Japan and other Asian countries to receive an intensive and rigorous dual MA programme that empowers them to become part of finding solutions to the problems that they are seeing in their communities, region and world.

The overall goal of the programme is to strengthen and progressively develop a network of Asian professionals trained for careers focused on implementing innovative solutions for building sustainable peace and addressing policy challenges at all levels. The preparation and uniting of these Asian professionals will be utilized to strengthen their efforts in establishing a society in which all people support one another.

The APS takes the format of a dual degree MA programme that consists of four distinct components: 1) an intensive language learning component, 2) MA degree from the United Nations-mandated University for Peace in an area related to peacebuilding, 3) an MA from Ateneo de Manila University in Political Science, Major in Global Politics and 4) the implementation of a field project in Asia. The programme facilitates up to 30 students per cohort and each cohort spends between 18.5 and 21.5 months to complete the intensive academic activity.

Students emerge from the academic programme possessing a strong theoretical and practical base of knowledge and skills as well as a sufficient command of the English language to contribute fully in international organisations, the United Nations, international and local NGOs, governments and other sectors working on peacebuilding. But equally importantly, they are connected to an inspiring network of Asian professionals with the same interests, which will continue to enrich the efforts of each member of the community after graduating.
In 2007, The University for Peace (UPEACE) and Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU), with support from The Nippon Foundation (TNF), began a dual-campus MA programme (originally entitled the Dual Campus International Peace Studies Programme and later as the Asian Leaders Programme) designed to train young Asian professionals with the overall objective of contributing to the equitable representation of Asian professionals in international organizations, the United Nations and international cooperation. In particular, the programme was designed to strengthen the representation of Asian professionals with expertise in Asian issues, through the provision of specialised English language training, an MA degree in an area related to peacebuilding from UPEACE and study in AdMU to receive the Asian perspective. Student’s study programme was completed with the successful completion of an internship as a final graduation project.

Building upon the first, 5-year cycle of the programme and after an additional sixth transitional year, UPEACE and AdMU proposed a new cycle of the programme based upon the same principles but with programmatic adjustments that reflected the emerging needs of the target population and lessons learned from the first cycle. The programme moved into its second five-year cycle, shifting the name to become the Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship (APS), with a programme design that included the inclusion of an MA degree in Political Science, Major in Global Politics from AdMU in addition to the MA in an area related to Peacebuilding of UPEACE, as well as a shift from the internship project to the design and implementation of a field project as the final graduation requirement.

To-date, 244 students have been awarded scholarships to participate in the programme, many of whom now hold notable positions in a wide variety of organisations including UN offices, IGOs, INGOs and NGOs and government. Approximately 21 alumni are working in the UN system in positions such as International Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at the United Nations Development Programme (Bangladesh), Public Information Coordinator at the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (Turkmenistan), Gender Mainstreaming Specialist at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Uganda) and National Project Manager at the United Nations Development Programme (Timor Leste). Another 74 alumni have reported obtaining positions in IGOs, INGOs and NGOs, including Senior Program Officer at Towards Transparency (Vietnam), Partnership and Community Liaison Officer at the International Organization for Migration (Indonesia) and Programme and Operations Officer at The Asia Foundation (Myanmar).

Building upon the experience gained through ten years of partnership and first two implementation cycles, the proven strengths of the programme, and awareness of the talented pool of scholars who have participated in the programme, UPEACE and AdMU are now implementing a third, 5-year cycle of the programme that adjusts to the emerging awareness of the untapped potential of the alumni network that has been created in the 10 years of the programme. The APS programme now has a new, intensified focus on uniting and empowering the network of impressive alumni that have gone through the programme.
Country of origin of APS Students

1. Afghanistan 1
2. Bangladesh 2
3. Cambodia 17
4. China 3
5. East Timor 1
6. Indonesia 21
7. Japan 106
8. Kazakhstan 1
9. Kyrgyzstan 4
10. Laos 3
11. Mongolia 1
12. Myanmar 20
13. Nepal 6
14. Philippines 24
15. South Korea 8
16. Sri Lanka 8
17. Thailand 21
18. Turkmenistan 1
19. Vietnam 15

APS by numbers
Alumni by master programme.

- **UGP**: Urban Governance and Peace
- **SUGP**: Sustainable Urban Governance and Peace
- **SNRM**: Sustainable Natural Resource Management
- **RMSED**: Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development

**Alumni by gender**
- 56% Female
- 44% Male
Total: 263 students

**Alumni by workplace**

1. **GOVERNMENT**: 34%
2. **UN/INTL ORG**: 13%
3. **PRIVATE SECTOR**: 8%
4. **OTHER**: 19%
5. **UN/RESEARCH INSTITUTION**: 9%
6. **UN/I-NTERVIEW PROCESS**: 6%

**DCIPS**: Dual Campus Programme International Peace Studies
**EDP CCP**: Environment, Development and Peace, specialization in Climate Change Policy
**EDP ESG**: Environment, Development and Peace, specialization in Environment Security and Governance
**EDP SNRM**: Environment, Development and Peace, Specialization in Sustainable Natural Resource Management
**EDP-CCP**: Environment, Development and Peace, specialization in Climate Change Policy
**EDP-ESG**: Environment, Development and Peace, Specialization in Environmental Security and Governance
**EDP-SFS**: Environment, Development and Peace, specialization in Sustainable Food Systems
**EDP-SNRM**: Environment, Development and Peace, Specialization in Sustainable Natural Resource Management
**ESG**: Environment Security and Governance
**ESP**: Environmental Security and Peace
**ESP-CCS**: Environmental Security and Peace, specialization in Climate Change and Security
**GPB**: Gender and Peacebuilding
**ILHR**: International Law and Human Rights
**ILSD**: International Law and Settlement of Disputes
**IPS**: International Peace Studies
**IPS MPCS**: International Peace Studies with specialization in Media, Peace and Conflict Studies
**MPCS**: Media, Peace and Conflict Studies
**NRP**: Natural Resources and Peace
**PE**: Peace Education
**RMSED**: Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development
**SNRM**: Sustainable Natural Resource Management
**SUGP**: Sustainable Urban Governance and Peace
**UGP**: Urban Governance and Peace
Cohort 1 (2007-2008)

Asel Naskeeva
Kyrgyzstan, DCIPS

Binaya Dhungana
Nepal, DCIPS

Erna Anjarwati
Indonesia, DCIPS

Heung Sook Yun
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Hisako Ishizaki
Japan, DCIPS

Husnur Esthiwahyu
Indonesia, DCIPS

Katsuaki Takahashi
Japan, DCIPS

Kazuhide Sainowaki
Japan, DCIPS

Keiko Sasaki
Japan, DCIPS

Kenji Tajima
Japan, DCIPS

Mayumi Ueda
Japan, DCIPS

Menandro Abanes
Philippines, DCIPS

Mizuki Watanabe
Japan, DCIPS

Mohammed Nuruddin Al-Masud
Bangladesh, DCIPS

Ngoc Anh Nguyen
Vietnam, DCIPS

Novri Susan
Indonesia, DCIPS

Peng Ren
China, DCIPS

Saman Gunathilaka
Mastiyage Don
Sri Lanka, DCIPS

Sayako Tokusue
Japan, DCIPS

Sylvia Tjahjakaerani
Indonesia, DCIPS

Takako Ueda
Japan, DCIPS

Takuya Sasaki
Japan, DCIPS

Yoko Fukushima
Japan, DCIPS

Yoko Yokoyama
Japan, DCIPS

Yoshiko Miura
Japan, DCIPS
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Cohort 3 (2009-2010)

- Akarawut Lohacharoenvanich
  Thailand, DCIPS

- Atsuko Itsuki
  Japan, DCIPS

- Bawk Ra Galau
  Myanmar, DCIPS

- Bondan Widyatmoko
  Indonesia, DCIPS

- Chuon El
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- Daisuke Tsubaki
  Japan, DCIPS

- Daryl Manalo Daño
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- Gail de la Rita
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- Nang Khin Lay Nge
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- Naoki Ito
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- Naw Ohnmar Shwe
  Myanmar, DCIPS

- Sachiko Komiyama
  Japan, DCIPS

- Sorawit Sarajitti
  Thailand, DCIPS

- Sovannarith Keo
  Cambodia, DCIPS

- Sun Kyo Park
  South Korea, DCIPS

- Teerapong Praphotjanaporn
  Thailand, DCIPS

- Wahyudi
  Indonesia, DCIPS

- Worrawan Kalyanamitra
  Thailand, DCIPS

- Yasuma Takao
  Japan, DCIPS

- Yuiko Watamoto
  Japan, DCIPS

- Yumiko Kume
  Japan, DCIPS
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Cohort 5 (2011-2012)

Aingkaran Kugathasan
Sri Lanka, ILHR

Jebli Shrestha
IPS

Sachiko Yokota
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Lerma Piol
Philippines, PE

Satheesmohan Santhiramohanathas
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Md. Mizanur Rahman
Bangladesh, ESP

Shigehiro Shibata
Japan, PE

A-Young Moon
South Korea, PE

Mi Ki Kyaw Myint
Myanmar, RMSED

Takakazu Machida
Japan, GPB

Bernardete Da Fonseca
East Timor, NRP

Phyu Kyi Khaing
Myanmar, GPB

Trung Thanh Pham
Vietnam, GPB

Chariya Om
Cambodia, PE

Ricardo Chandra Situmeang
Indonesia, RMSED

Yuka Inoue
Japan, SUGP

Chihiro Imaizumi
Japan, MPCS

Rumia "Rumi" Horie
Japan, SUGP

Hiroko Awano
Japan, MPCS

Rotanak Oudom Oum
Cambodia, ILSD

Vini Wardhani
Indonesia, PE

Jamila-Aisha Sanguila
Philippines, GPB

Similar to Project
## Cohort 6 (2012-2013)

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Cohort 7 (2013-2014)

Ai Tadokoro
Japan, GPB

Kitprasert Nopparat
Thailand, ILHR

Ni Putu Widyastuti
Indonesia, MPCS

Aimi Itoh
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L Bawm Nu
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Akiko Abe
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Vietnam, GPB

Hiroaki Nishida
Japan, IPS

Montana Duangprapa
Thailand, ESG

Tomoyo Ikeda
Japan, PE

Jean Alia Yasin Robles
Philippines, PE

Nang Shining
Myanmar, SNRM

Tun Lin Khaing
Myanmar, SNRM

Kei Shiga
Japan, RMSED

Nani Afrida
Indonesia, IPS

Yasutaka Ota
Japan, SNRM
Cohort 8 (2014-2015)

Abigail Praise Limpin
Philippines, PE

Akihito Ikegami
Japan, PE

Anouxay Phommalath
Laos, EDP-SNRM

Anusara Tanpitak
Thailand, PE

Atsuko Maruyama
Japan, IPS

Bernadeth Anggia Maria Rosarie
Indonesia, ILSD

Chheng Vanthoeun
Cambodia, EDP-SNRM

Dai Nghia Le
Vietnam, EDP-CCP

Eri Uchimura
Japan, RMSED

Hikari Taniguchi
Japan, PE

Jamili Natasha Gooneratne
Sri Lanka, ILHR

Kazumasa Okao
Japan, EDP-ESG

Koji Arisawa
Japan, RMSED

Lioni Beatrik Tobing
Indonesia, RMSED

May Zin Thaw
Myanmar, EDP-SNRM

Melissa Sumangil Calingo
Philippines, MPCS

Miki Nakao
Japan, PE

Minae Takahashi
Japan, RMSED

Miyuki Matsumoto
Japan, ILHR

Ne Lynn Aung
Myanmar, IPS

Nguyen Minh Thinh
Vietnam, ILHR

Pa Pa Phyo
Myanmar, GPB

Shio Kuwabara
Japan, MPCS

Sreysros Keo
Cambodia, MPCS

Taiki Namiki
Japan, RMSED

Tran Thi Thuy Binh
Vietnam, GPB
Cohort 9 (2015-2016)

Amabella Lapiz Carumba
Philippines, IPS

Ma Rowena Hiceta Alcido
Philippines, RMSED

Ma. Reinna Salcedo Bermudez
Philippines, EDP-SFS

Nhung Thi Tuyet Nguyen
Vietnam, RMSED

Bunthea Ly
Cambodia, PE

Maya Mizuno
Japan, PE

Momoko Higa
Japan, EDP-SFS

Nhung Thi Tuyet Nguyen
Vietnam, RMSED

Candy Canezo Diez
Philippines, IPS

Chanchhaya Chhom
Cambodia, RMSED

Momoko Higa
Japan, EDP-SFS

Nist Pianchupat
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Chiho Kozaki
Japan, PE

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Momoko Higa
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Veasna Prom
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Erika Inoue
Japan, EDP-CCP

Nist Pianchupat
Thailand, EDP-SNRM

Nova Rotua Lilis Doloksaribu
Indonesia, MPCS

Jun Fujihira
Japan, EDP-SFS

Thome Xaisongkham
Laos, EDP-SNRM

La Ring
Myanmar, IPS

Trang Thi Thuy Tran
Vietnam, GPB

Tra Ngo Thu
Vietnam, GPB

Tsubasa Enomoto
Japan, EDP-ESG

Veasna Prom
Cambodia, MPCS
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Featured Alumni Stories
Hemantha Dayaratne

Sri Lanka, APS 9, MPCS
Media Officer, Directorate of Media, Sri Lanka Army (Sri Lanka)

I have been entrusted with the duties and responsibilities towards peace and reconciliation between communities in the post armed conflict in Sri Lanka Army. I greatly involve in official military media relations and particularly in the news making for www.army.lk the official website of the Sri Lanka Army. We promote media in reconciliation and peace building process and we support the government’s ongoing reconciliation efforts much.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
APS programme really inculcated in me professional knowledge in peace-building. I have been an infantry officer in the Army for many years fighting pitch battles but later wanted to change my self in search of peace in a different way to that of armed efforts until I got injured two times in the battlefields. APS programme helped me greatly to change myself towards peace in a different way. Sri Lanka Army is also happy the way I am contributing after the completion of my APS programme towards peace.

Abigail Prais Andes Limpin

Philippines, APS 8, PE
Education Program Development Specialist, Research & Development Officer, Center for Community Transformation - Visions of Hope Christian School (CCT-VOHCS) (Philippines)

As an Education Program Development Specialist, I design, implement and supervise the development, evaluation and monitoring of education program of CCT-VOHCS. Working specifically with schools serving children from tribal communities, I conduct and review research, literature and legislation, consult with culture bearers and experts (in culture-based education) and develop curriculum, projects and/or programs in cooperation with other organizations involved in the community to preserve and strengthen the promotion of the culture of the community. I also assist the School Principal in developing policies, programs and curriculum activities for students and staff that are related to the development and implementation of culture-based education in the school. As a Research and Development Officer,

I design, monitor and evaluate curricula, presentations, logical frameworks and materials needed by the different programs of the organization.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
I applied for the Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship thinking of pursuing a certain career path. I was chasing a dream after all, and I was given an amazing opportunity to equip myself for what I thought my future would be. Never did I imagine that studying Peace Education in Costa Rica and taking up courses in Political Science in Ateneo would change the way I thought about and value education and culture. It brought me closer to my roots, reviving my passion to redeem the Filipino culture; and brought me to places where service is not equated to a position or how much I did, but who I was able to reach out to and walk hand in hand with, recognizing that the heart of everything I do is my faith in God.
Bernardete da Fonseca

Currently I am a climate change, environment specialist. I am project manager on implementing climate change resilience rural infrastructure project which funded by Global Environment Facility. The best part is I can able to help community in the rural area on how to adapt to climate change risks also support local government for providing capacity building.

What experience with APS has helped your career and life today?
I have a privilege to joint ALP and learned a lot which is helped me elevate my career became a professional specially issues related to climate change, environment, watershed management, natural resource management. ALP have taught me professionally of how I am confident to do my work.

L Bawm Nu

In the capacity of Programme Coordinator, I am currently working with the Parliaments in Myanmar both at the Union and Sub-national levels. My programmes are designed and developed to strengthen the parliaments to fulfill their parliamentary roles, making sure that processes they perform are inclusive and they represent the genuine interests of the citizens.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
Having joined the APS journey has been one of the best things I have done in my life. It helped me to change many perspectives in reconstructing my career path as well as personal life. I am forever grateful for that life-changing experiences.
Nghia Dai Le

My current work experience in the travel operation industry is based in Switzerland, but destination to my country, Myanmar. It gives me special opportunity to build a connection between two countries. Our services are to promote and marketing about Myanmar in Swiss market, as well as to organizing customized tour program. So that Swiss people from Europe are safely travelling and experiencing beautiful holidays in Myanmar, Asia. The most challenging about this travel industry is directly relating to the political situation of Myanmar.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?

The APS program has qualified myself considerably for current job positions. Knowledge and skills gained from study programs gave me great opportunities to be employed at better levels compared to previous periods before taking the APS program. My academic and social lives thus positively changed accordingly.

Bowk Ra Galau

My current work experience in the travel operation industry is based in Switzerland, but destination to my country, Myanmar. It gives me special opportunity to build a connection between two countries. Our services are to promote and marketing about Myanmar in Swiss market, as well as to organizing customized tour program. So that Swiss people from Europe are safely travelling and experiencing beautiful holidays in Myanmar, Asia. The most challenging about this travel industry is directly relating to the political situation of Myanmar.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?

A “Master Degree in the International Peace Studies” is my second master degree. My first master degree from my country gave me already a high-level achievement in education. Significantly, MA in International Peace Studies Dual Campus gave me both more higher level of education and more bigger impact to my life and career. The experience of being a DIPS was so grateful and unforgettable educational journey to me. I am a “Peace Maker” and “Peace Maintainer” at home, at work, at society, at community, at everywhere I am.
La Ring

Myanmar, APS 9, IPS
Senior Coordinator, Equality Myanmar (Myanmar)

I am managing a consortium three-year project called EIDHR (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights) which is to promote human rights defenders, civil society organizations and government officials through capacity building, financial support, and advocacy strategies. The project is determined to execute in six ethnic conflict affected regions in Myanmar. On behalf of my organization, Equality Myanmar, I am a focal person for this project through directly supervising thirteen field staffs in six regions. My main role in this position is to plan and design a quarterly work-plan both for activities and budgets with my team, communicating and coordinating with other consortium partner members and other stakeholders, monitoring and reporting project interventions and pitfalls.

The most challenging task for me is about managing staffs who are very diverse with different expectation and capacity as well as commitment for the work.

What experience with APS has helped your career and life today?
The experience of studying as part of APS program really helped my current career changes. Despite I am now working at the same organization, the trust and high expectation I received from my organization to handle this huge long-term EU grants means a lot for me. The APS has changed me a person who is a confident; teach-ability, active learner, visionary, and able to see where to find which knowledge. These skills are crucial elements that I need to possess and to develop when managing the project I am working on now.

Ha Thi Thu Nguyen

Vietnam, APS 7, GPB
Project Manager, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Southeast Asia (Vietnam)

Currently, I am working as a Project manager at Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Southeast Asia which embraces the mission of supporting countries in democratic transition, such as Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam to socially just, sustainable, participatory and democratic societies. With this scope of work, we have been gladly supporting various partners, from State agencies, Parliament, Academia, to local NGOs in 3 main themes: Social justice, Socio-Ecological transformation and Participatory politics.

The biggest challenge for me is about managing staffs who are very diverse with different expectation and capacity as well as commitment for the work.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
Joining APS was one of the greatest decisions I have ever made. Not only academic knowledge could I improve but the social network and peer supports are beyond words. Having friends all over the world who are experts in their working field and willing to offer assistance and advice helps me a lot in my regional work and outreach!
Kunaporn Patthawaro

Thailand, ALP 5, IPS
Membership Programs Officer, The Asia and Pacific Seed Association (APSA), Thailand

Four years ago, I worked as a Program Officer in JICA Project Office for ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net). I have just started working with APSA for 3 months, so there are still several things to learn. My work is to coordinate with the association’s members and to arrange technical programs like study tour, workshop and trainings related to seeds in several aspects for example trade&marketing, seed technology, IP-R&Biodiversity and vegetable&ornamental seeds. The best part of this job is to learn about seed movement around the world and how it links to global food security.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?

The experience with ALP has enabled me to learn how to tackle with different culture and to cope with conflicts. I found that conflicts happen everywhere starting from family level, career level and in the world conflict level. The ALP experience has helped me to be able to help others to aware of the world conflicts, to give them ideas on how to deal with them. Studying abroad gives you a chance to look at the world differently. Studying on Peace & Conflict make me realize that I am not only helping my own country, but I am the citizen of the world. A small movement and action can make the world better, and I am doing that.

Ricardo Chandra Situmeuang

Indonesia, APS 5, RMSED
Lecturer, Del Institute of Technology (Indonesia)

After graduated from UPEACE in 2012 I worked as a consultant in nonprofit organization and International Labor Organization, mostly to develop and design program. I started teaching at Del Institute of Technology since April 2014 at Faculty of Industrial Engineering. I enjoy teaching very much because I believe through education, student can develop their horizon to give contribution to society, to make impact and to make a change.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?

Asia Leaders Program is one of the most highlight I have ever experiences, not that I can get my MA degree, but I can develop my understanding about how I see the world and which approach should I use in order to give impact and make sure the sustainability.
May Zin Thaw

Myanmar, APS 8, EDP-SNRM
Independent Researcher, Researchers’ Republic (Myanmar)

Working as independent researcher and consultant upon request from the local and international organization, youth-led organizations related to natural resource management, social cohesion and peace process. Being independent researcher life was good to support anything upon the requested consultancy firm, however it was no specialization to focus on what could be the best to support my country back as there were always demand on local capacity build up program and the local struggles on conflict. On the other hands, it was good to start and contribute doing research, while conducting the capacity building program at the same time simultaneously.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
1. Peacebuilding among each other was very important.
2. Networking make strength to access every corner of the world.

Thome Xaisongkham

Laos, APS 9, EDP-SNRM
Natural Resource Management Programme Officer, Oxfam (Laos)

I am working with International Non-Government Organization, Oxfam in Laos, my role is Program Officer which I am focusing on water governance and ecosystem protection in the lower Mekong Region. The best part of my work that I like the most is working with local community people who are depending on natural resources to maintain their livelihood and I am happy to support them (a little part) via my work. The challenge part of the work is engaging with private sector to support community to being aware of responsible investment on natural resource that local people might be affected. However, this is gradually improving and I will work harder with partners, including government, local people and private sector

Related to research methodology and theory, it was paid less interested by the local community and the international donors to conduct, the research trainings were not prioritizing to build and promote the local researchers for proving the evidence of local demands and needs on development and social change.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
APS has helped my career and life today in several ways. Firstly, APS has helped me understand how practitioner like, understand how important to build peace for community. In addition, I have connected with people who are from different background but shared passion to work for a better world. This connection has helped me to learn from others about their works, life and their country. On top of that, the program is unique in the way of how it run by providing 2 degrees plus English training. This meant I have not improved only my knowledge of my specialization but also learned about politics and improve language proficiency (English) as well. Those benefits are with me to continue to support others in improving their lives and environment better.
Nansiri Iamsuk

Thailand, DIPS 2
Project Manager, ActionAid Thailand (Thailand)
I am now working as Project Manager at an international non-governmental organization where I develop and implement women’s rights programme focusing on integrating a more gender-responsive community development intervention in the prolonged armed-violence affected areas across the southern border provinces of Thailand. My responsibility also involves campaigning for marginalized and vulnerable women to get involved in decision-making process on issues matter to their lives. I love my job as I can utilize my skills and knowledge to make a difference, even though a small one, to the society I live in. My work embraces sustainable development and upholding human rights towards peacebuilding. So far the most challenging aspect of my work is to make people understand that sustainable development can address poverty, reduce vulnerabilities, and enhance justice and equality which are a lasting peace.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
Coming from a political divided country, attending DIPS program had widened my perspective of peace and justice. I learned that in order to achieve peace, there is a lot of aspects to consider, to act, and to continue doing such as sustainable development, gender equality, good governance, peace education, international laws and human rights and many others. I am thankful for UPeace for its diversity in students, faculty and staff and for The Nippon Foundation for its scholarship and intention of practice-oriented studying opportunity. My DIPS experience had transformed me to a more liberal and open-minded person, especially to those holding different political and religious beliefs. The 19-month program living in ‘pura vida’ and ‘it’s more fun in the Philippines’ styles had equipped me knowledge and skills - specifically of non-violent communication, gender sensitive practices and negotiation and mediation – which I have been applying in my personal, and professional life.

Toshihisa Nakamura

Japan, APL 6, ILHR
Programme Analyst, UN Women, (New York, USA)
I am in charge of promoting gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, both in policy and programme level. I also oversee programmes of our country and regional offices.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
Academic skills, internship experiences, as well as exposure to international environments with students who had diverse background have helped my career development. Everyone I have met through ALP has enriched my life.
Thi Thanh Mai Le

**Vietnam, APS 4, ILSD**  
Enterprise Advisor, Betterwork Vietnam-ILO (Vietnam)

My current job is conducting assessment and provide garment, textiles factories with advice and technical inputs to ensure the compliance with international labour standards and Vietnamese labour laws for the purpose of enhancing factories' competitiveness and improving working conditions of workers. I have facilitated monthly discussions among management, workers and trade union representatives for the purpose of reaching an agreement for continuous improvements as well as promoting social dialogues at the workplace. Conflict of interests is the most challenging part however improving lives of hundred thousand workers and their families is a strong motivation for me to enjoy the works every day.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?

Undoubtedly, the time I have spent at UPEACE has been one of the most valuable time of my life. I have gained and learnt a lot from the program. It has granted me not only with a second Master degree but also a community with many good friends from all over the world which has enlarged my network, knowledge and points of view. Furthermore, I believe that not many programs could provide you qualified time at Central America as well as Asia such as ALP. I have really enjoyed nature in Costa Rica and lifestyle in the Philippines with classmates. Once thinking of UPEACE, I have smiled and felt lucky to be part of the program.

Trung Thanh Pham

**Vietnam, APS 5, GPB**

Trung is now a working as an Advocacy Specialist for Wildlife Conservation Society, Vietnam Program where he leads the Influencing and communication works to build the political commitment for effective control of wildlife trafficking in Vietnam. Before that, Trung was Program Manager for Law and Advocacy at Towards Transparency, a Vietnam based national contact of Transparency International, where he provided advice on advocacy efforts at the national level focusing on right to information, anti-corruption, criminal justice and legal aid.

He finds the most challenging parts of his work is to design and implement strategies on how to influence key governmental and nongovernmental partners at different levels in becoming more engaged in the advocated issues such as ending trafficking and consumption of wildlife or fighting against corruption.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?

Skills for building alliance and strengthening/expanding network as well as the ability to adapt to different environment.
Yohsuke Amano

Japan, APS 6, SNRM
Programme Associate, United Nations University (Japan)

At the United Nations University, I am involving the environmental program called the “Satoyama Initiative”. “Satoyama Initiative” is the concept to tackle against biodiversity loss and to enhance human well-being through promoting the landscapes and seascapes where people practice production activities such as forestry, agriculture and fishery in sustainable manner.

We deliver our findings to the Convention on Biological Diversity which recognize this initiative as the useful tool to fill the gap of international discussion on sustainable-use. Working at the Convention is not so exciting as we are often locked in venue for a week with sandwiches. One organization cannot do everything. Therefore, we form the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative to collect voices from diverse organizations around the world.

Thinking what kind of research and program themes meaningful for knowledge facilitation and how to motivate member organizations actively involve to the partnership is fun and most challenging part of my work.

Sachiko Yokota

Japan, APS 5, RMSED
Consul, Consulate General of Japan in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

I am a consul in the economic section of Consulate General of Japan in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. My responsibility is looking after Japanese enterprises located in Rio de Janeiro and two other nearby states (Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo). I am also responsible for examining the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (GGP), which aims to improve basic human needs in our responsible states in Brazil.

The most challenging part of my work is that how I can provide the best provision and service as a think tank, while the state of Rio de Janeiro suffers a major financial crisis, after the Rio Olympics. This financial crisis links directly to the performance of Japanese enterprises and also deterioration of security, which includes gang conflicts in public.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?

Many funs and insights, I gained from the program! Spending almost two years as a group and living in two different environments is not normal thing in our life and this intensive two years surely gave me a lot beyond my expectation. Sometimes having assignments from the class was pain, but it helped me to build the knowledge. The program touches so many different aspects and made me being able to see issues that I had never seen or recognized before. As the reality is complex, having this view gained from the program is helps me a lot. But what I want to highlight most is that because of uniqueness of ALP fellows' characters, I enjoyed from bottom of my heart and learned a lot from them. They are good friends and teachers.

The best part of my work is that I can experience the dynamics of Brazilian economy and taking a role of Japanese representation in Rio de Janeiro. It is very astonishing experience both professional and personal level.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?

I am very honoured and grateful to be part of Upeace family and it has definitely helped my career and the life that I have today. It is because the variety exposures of the course contents (RMSED) made my vision and understandings extended. Also my dear Upeace colleagues in the most of cities in the world, made me feel that the world is small. It has provided me the knowledge and great network to move around the world.
Supranee Kamponsun

**Thailand, APL 6, EDP-ESG**
Senior Program Officer, IUCN-Thailand Program (Thailand)

Currently, I am working for IUCN Thailand program. I am in charge of Marine and coastal resources, and private sector engagement. IUCN is the intergovernmental agency working with several local NGOs, international NGOs, local communities, academic institutions, local authorities, government agencies and local communities in Thailand. Most importantly, IUCN bridges local communities and the Thai government agencies together. We encourage the synergy among those playing an important role is natural resource management and engagement of local people. Bottom up strategy and participatory engagement have been encouraged by IUCN throughout different project implementation on sustainable natural resource management. The most challenging parts of my work include how to address the global challenges; for instance, impacts of climate change and Sustainable Development Goals, as well as developing the synergy between the Thai government and local communities for natural resource management plan and action.

Jamila Aisha P. Sanguila

**Philippines, APS 5, GPB**
Freelance Consultant, Mindanao (Philippines)

Jamila is now a freelance Consultant on Mindanao history and peacebuilding efforts in collaboration with several NGOs working in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. Challenges is always part of any work. Best one can do is embrace it.

What experience with APS has helped your career and life today?
I think the multicultural set-up in both UPEACE and Ateneo had helped me to have a better understanding towards others and being resilient, reliable, and accountable in every actions I take.
Dani

Indonesia, ALP 6, IPS
Project Coordinator, UNDP Indonesia (Indonesia)
Managing a PVE project with the Jakarta State Islamic University, which includes managing the project team, ensuring effective planning - budgeting & implementation, creating and nurturing strategic partnerships, & facilitating knowledge building.

Ngoc Anh Nguyen

Vietnam, DCIPS 1, DCIPS
Program Manager, CBM (Vietnam)
Having worked as a program manager at CBM (an INGO working in development issues and supporting persons with disabilities), I involve in different stages of program from early needs assessment, proposal development till evaluation phase. My responsible projects have a strong focus on supporting persons with disabilities in reintegration in the community. The best thing of my work is that persons with disabilities are placed as the center of intervention plan, in which, their voices are listened, their needs are met in the community. However, that is only one track of issue. The involvement of different stakeholders in the community and and service providers/policy makers at the central level is also another important track. Therefore, my job is to empower persons with disabilities and their families in the community, and advocating for more opportunities for persons with disabilities to be heard, to be voiced and being a part of the community at the same time is really challenging.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
There are several points of experience:
(1) a thorough but critical peace studies and its related subjects, (2) a balance between theories and practices, (3) a network with diverse background people.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
DIPS has equipped me essential skills and knowledge in development issues. At first, I thought DIPS were something about conflict and peace topics. However, the more I engaged with different courses provided during DIPS, I have learned the inter-relation between conflict resolution and peace building. This has actually equipped me a good problem solving skill when studying at any development issue. Therefore, after graduating, I had a strong desire to work in development sector though it was a new area for me at that time. I had applied in different INGOs, in which CBM was one of them. I have worked for CBM since 2010. It is fair to say that DIPS has shaped my career today.
Bunthea Ly

Cambodia, APS 9, IPS
Program Manager, Youth Resource Development Program (YRDP), (Cambodia)
I am working with the Cambodian young people who are studying at different universities in Cambodia by providing them for alternative education programs including civil and political rights education, conflict resolution and peace building, education for sustainable development and education personal growth. More than that, engaging them to take concrete actions for community development, peace and social justice. More than working in organization, I am a social activist who are joining different NGO networks that support the promotion of human rights, rule of law and environmental protection. There are thousands of youth who join YRDP program every year to gain new knowledges, to take action for societal change and mobiles others. However, the cooperation between civil society organization and the Cambodian governments is a biggest challenge.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?

The Cambodian government always put restrictions of CSOs that are for education related to human rights issues. Freedom of expression and gathering are very narrow and limited.

Maria Luisa Maglonzo Lentejas

Philippines, APS 7, UGP
Research Project Manager, WomanHealth Philippines Inc. (Philippines)
After graduating from the Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship program in 2014, I worked with WomanHealth Philippines, a national organization that promotes, advances and defends women’s rights to health, reproductive self-determination and sexuality towards women’s empowerment in society. Best part is working with women from the different sectors of the society on sexual and reproductive health & rights issues and the challenging part is the sustainability and continuity of the programs / projects when the funding is over.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?

The project implementation component of the APS program has helped me a lot with my career and life as it made us work and experience how to successfully conceptualize, plan, and implement a project that would make an impact to the people and their community. The project implementation experience helped us in how to work and coordinate with government and non-government agencies and local government and their communities. We also learned how important people’s participation in planning activities which is very important in the work and advocacy that I’m currently involved with.
Trang Thi Thuy Tran

Vietnam, APS 9, GPB
Gender Programme Officer, UN Women Vietnam (Vietnam) / Founder, Open Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

1. Playing the role of a Gender Programme Officer at UN Women, my work mostly involves into coordinating the Gender Theme Group of UN in Vietnam. Working at UN Women provides the opportunity to reflect on the challenge that we discussed a lot in the two universities: structural violence and understand the operation of the UN and what could be possible for change.

2. As the Founder of Open Inclusive DRR, I have to seek for networking and potential opportunity for the sustainability of the project.

Deepak Kumar Bhattarai

Nepal, APS 6, IPS
Coordinator at Dialogue Centre, Kathmandu (Nepal)

Currently I am working with ‘Dialogue centre’ as a volunteer. Dialogue Centre is a non-profit organization, working on peace building issues in Nepal. It mainly focuses on community dialogue to resolve community conflicts. Similarly, I work as a freelancer. My working areas are peace and conflict, dialogue facilitation, and local governance.

I think, most challenging part of my work is fund raising and sustainability. Due to irregular and short duration type of funding approach of the donor communities, my organization has been facing problems. We are not even able to success to complete project cycle of the project of few projects. Best part of my work is ‘feeling of internal happiness’ working with rural people. Geographic difficulties (due to remote areas), are obstacle for travel in my country and face problem for communication access.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?

- APS makes me think about development work in a more active way, especially in South-South cooperation. It prepared me for diversity and familiarized to challenges in reality.

- I think APS was milestone for me, it provided me great opportunities of learning and exposure. Even more, I met best friends from around the world especially from ASIA. English language helped me to build my confidence level, and also supported in my day to day professional work, and study program. Academic program helped me to combine theory with practice. It helped to extent information level wider and built broader perspectives. More than that, ALP team/friends helped me to build my exposure and informational level, and knowledge through their personal insights. Therefore, I would highly appreciate APS program which has great role in my life.
Thinh Minh Nguyen

I'm running an NPO, Better Life Vietnam (BLV) working to improve education conditions for underprivileged children and youth in Vietnam. Our three main programs include Books Library, Scholarship, and English Class for underprivileged Youth. In order to sustain BLV, I have also launched a social enterprise, Tours For Books. We organize tours and provide travel services in Vietnam.

Profits generated from Tours For Books will be used to support education projects of Better Life Vietnam.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
The Project Design and Implementation Course at Ateneo equipped me with knowledge and skills to design and implement projects for my organization. The network I have made during my years in the Philippines and Costa Rica also helps with our work.

Eric Namolata Bruno

After more than two decades of working with environmental NGO, in the last three years I am now working with State University in the Philippines. The last 2 years on disaster hazard mapping. At present I serve as a Program Planning and Development Office and a concurrent affiliate faculty in the College of Forestry and Environmental Science. In the last three years my technical knowledge has been enhanced and my management experience has proven to be very helpful and effective in areas of project development, disaster risk reduction, environmental security.

Philippines, APL 6, EDP-ESG
Program Planning/Affiliate Faculty, Central Mindanao University (Philippines)

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
The ALP experience enhanced my personal and professional growth. It gave me a global perspective and experience in development organizations, academe and research as well a cultural engagement in a global context. This is very helpful in dealing with people, organizations and interventions because of the opportunity to experience an entirely different context.

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Bunthea Keo

Cambodia, APS 6, ILHR
Human Rights Officer, UNAMID in South Dafur state

I am currently working for United Nations/African Union Mission in Dafur, under human rights section in south Dafur state, Sudan. My responsibilities include monitoring, fact-finding, follow-up and reporting activities in relation to the observance of human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL) in the south Dafur region through: field monitoring missions and dialogue with local and state authorities, security forces and non-state actors; networking with human rights defenders active in the region. I also do follow up individual cases that contribute to regular and spot reporting on human rights and IHL concerns, violations and abuses in the region, including identification of regional trends, early warning analysis and regular reports on activities. Furthermore, I do take part in promoting and overseeing initiatives linked to supporting human rights protection, in collaboration with the existing civil society organizations (including NGOs) and UN agencies in the region.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
Without a strong credential academic background from UPEACE including my progressive professional experience in human rights field, I would have not been able to land in this career with United Nations. However, it’s not the academic teaching from UPEACE alone that played out this significant achievement, but those interactions with experienced professors, ALP scholars from various fields in the Philippines, and UPEACE classmates in Costa Rica, these are the profound experiences that had genuinely built on me and made me become very confident in my current field. Last but not least, these invaluable experiences that I had informally learned overtime, have become part of a generator of knowledge that elevate me to my current position and this position allows me to contribute to world peace building which is in line with the objective and goal of UPEACE and ALP scholarship. Finally, I’m so grateful and thankful to be part of DIPS/ALP/APS.

Maki Tsukamoto

Japan, APL 6, MPCS
Project Coordinator, ICA JAPAN, (Japan)

My tasks in the organization are to create new projects and to monitor the current projects in developing countries, especially in Africa and South-Asia.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
In development field, the knowledge of peace building is very useful because developing countries especially Africa have many conflict situations and we always must think about negative change by projects. Therefore, the knowledge of peace building can help to analyze the future situation.
Mohammed Nuruddin Al-Masud

Bangladesh, DCIPS
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, UNESCO (Afghanistan)
Currently I am working with UNESCO Afghanistan to provide technical support to the national literacy programme in relation to the programme planning, development, monitoring, reporting and knowledge management. The main challenges are security threats, strengthening institutional capacity, collection of real time data, poor mobility, and lack of accessibility and logistics. It is also important to mention that there is donor fatigue because of huge fund flow with very low level of achievement in terms of peace building and reintegration, institutional capacity building, infrastructure development, and staff capacity development. Unfortunately, issues of corruption have been taken with high priority to address.

Donor community and UN agencies have recently met the senior leadership of Afghanistan to develop policy for anti-corruption.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
DIPS degree helped me enormously in building my career in the field of peace building and social development. I had the technical expertise and practical experience in programme/project monitoring, survey, assessment, and reporting before I joined DIPS. However, I could confidently set my programme specific career goal once I could achieve the DIPS degree. It also brought me opportunity to switch my career from national to international, especially in UN.

Jebli Shrestha

APS 5, IPS
Rights Documentation and Advocacy Manager, Asia Catalyst (Thailand)
I manage a regional human rights research and advocacy program. My work allows me to be at a grassroots level meeting/listening to communities, sharing and learning with them as well as bringing these voices to regional global policies spaces. This bridging role I have is both the best and most challenging. Best as I do not lose sight of what’s most important, allows me to be aware of realities on the ground and challenging as the spaces for rights advocacy is shrinking and is being hijacked by “anti-rights” agenda.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
I think the best part of the ALP (5) is the friends I have made. I work regionally and travel a lot with my work. It is awesome to think that I have a friend to catch up to in almost each one of them. It is refreshing to catch up with them after meetings and workshops and be able to rejuvenate. My friends are awesome!
Kazumasa Okao

**Japan, APS 8, EDP-ESG**  
CSR Consultant, SusTB communications Co., Ltd. (Japan)  
I'm a CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) consultant, working in a company providing services to create CSR reports for private companies. I collect information and make documents for consultation services to our clients, most of which are Japanese leading companies in varied fields of automotive components, telecommunication, pharmaceuticals, energy, steel and food manufacturing etc. I help my clients to incorporate CSR strategy into their business strategies in order for them to get higher score evaluated by rating agencies such as S&P Dow Jones Indices, MSCI and FTSE Russel, which has been becoming significantly important for companies from ESG (Environment, Social, Governance) investment point of view.  
In other words, I help private companies aim not only to maximize profit but also minimize negative impact to the environment and society as well as employees and their families.

Also, it assists companies to develop corporate policies that don't discriminate for gender, disabilities, nationalities or other minorities. My company creates CSR reports for our clients too.

**What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?**  
Through the classes in UPEACE and Ateneo de Manila University, I’ve learned what are challenges for all stakeholders to develop an economy and conserve ecosystem of the earth at the same time, academically and practically. I’ve been motivated to go forward on the field where I would be able to work in a good way as a “game changer”. Having learned there are no such things like the infinite economy, I’m sure that private industry needs a more sustainable way of business activities. There is no doubt that the APS programme has given me a lot.

Kei Shiga

**Japan, APS 7, RMSED**  
Consultant, Koei Research & Consulting Inc. (Japan)  
I am working as development consultant, mostly engaging the project of Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). Currently, my field is in Rwanda for supporting technical college to develop capacity of teachers and students. The big challenge in this job is the meaning of development is different in each country and each person. I always keep asking myself what I am doing is helping people.

**What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?**  
It was a really good experiences for me to study nice people together. During APS, we always discussed about the meaning of peace & happiness. As a development worker, the input of thoughts was very helpful to move forward not only my career but also my life itself.
Sakiko Kurosaka

**Japan, ALP 5, IPS**
Program Manager, Embassy of Japan (Nepal)

Assisting to develop a wide-range of projects that aim to improve the life of people especially at the grassroots level. One of the challenges is to balance between demand and limitation while maximizing the benefit of the project.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
So much and so many ways, professionally and personally. Class discussions, role plays, time spent with people with different backgrounds and values are helping me now to deal with and enjoy daily encounters by detaching myself from the situation while still being a part of it. Enabling myself to locate in a larger picture.

Akiko Yoneyama

**Japan, APS 7, RMSED**
Consultant for mainly JICA projects (Japan)

Working on research and projects funded by JICA. Best part: Learn and compare different national policies, cultures. Challenging part: Working with counterpart governments.

What experience with DIPS/ALP/APS has helped your career and life today?
Writing research papers. Approaching analyzing issues using various theories and tools. Working with people from different countries. Sharing information and opinions with APS alumni.
Alumni Secretariat

In August 2017, UPEACE officially established an APS Alumni Secretariat to facilitate and guide the revitalization of the alumni network. This is a fundamental step for the programme to begin to structurally streamline a focus on the alumni in all aspects of the APS programme, in pursuit of the new, overall goal of the programme in the third cycle to strengthen and progressively develop a network of Asian professionals trained for careers focused on implementing innovative solutions for building sustainable peace and addressing policy challenges at all levels.

The core role of the APS Alumni Secretariat is to mobilize the APS alumni body and to facilitate and guide activities targeted at creating opportunities for, and connection between its members. The Secretariat is governed by an Executive Council, who works closely with a Board of Directors.

The Executive Council of the Secretariat consists of a Chair (currently Ms. Maya Mizuno, APS Programme Officer and Alumna of the APS programme) and 10 Executive Council Members, who are alumni representing each priority country of the APS programme (Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam) and an alumnus who represents all non-priority countries.

The current executive committee members of the APS Alumni Network Secretariat are listed below. In the period of 2017-2018, the Secretariat will be working to:

- Update the alumni database
- Plan and implement some activities at 10th Anniversary Events
- Develop media and communication platform
- Organize reunion and networking events
- Provide career development opportunities
Bunthea Ly

Cambodia, APS 9

What I want to see is to build strong networking as a powerful platform among the Cambodian alumni enables them to take concrete actions for building peaceful and just society and world without violence. To accomplish expectation, first, to develop the activities is needed to allow the alumni members to get together to discuss, interact, share their experiences related to peace work or value what they had learned from Upeace among and between each other. The gathering should be realized what the alumni members could be able to return something back to Upeace and Nippon foundation as we received full scholarship. Second, to engage the Cambodia alumni jointly take actions with regard to peace building together should be next expectation, for example, joining to do peace campaign or conference.

Chamath Ariyadasa

Sri Lanka, APS 7

The APS alumni secretariat presents the exciting prospect of bringing together alumni and students of Upeace and Ateneo de Manila University across the region for collaboration, knowledge sharing, as well as focused events and conferences. Together with the network of the Nippon Foundation, the alumni are unique in the field of peace and conflict studies. My aim will be to stimulate conversations and help share information on events across the network. In Sri Lanka, the graduates are spreading across various occupations in several countries, and not all of them know each other. So the first push would be to bridge that gap. Alumni can aim to elevate fellowship events to community level events and conferences. If they put their minds to it, what the alumni can achieve has no limits.
Dani
Indonesia, APS 6

In a wide range of building network and motivated activities to initiate, to be very practical to promote and to expend UPEACE and APS program including not only with alumni, students, and candidates but also with multi-stakeholders among countries and regions. My contribution will be ensured with the followings:
1) Building Alumni networking with all over the world for active mobilization
2) Initiate the promotional activities with alumni in respective countries

Deepak Kumar Bhattarai
Nepal, APS 6

APS alumni should be informed every now and then in regarding to the movement of the programme and also the career and life of alumni in contributing in respective country. In addition, alumni should promote the programme in their own country to get more applicant every year, the more applicant the more quality programme. We should organize kind of get together to exchange experiences and support each other annually. This can be organized rotatably in priorities or relevant countries. In addition, to promote the programme-it should exchange how to organize and promote the programme in each country that seeing it is doable, allocate some budget to launch the event.
Grace Bernabe
Philippines, APS 2

As a member of the APS alumni network executive council, I would like to contribute to facilitating discussions and provide venue for the APS alumni to positively respond to the call to organize and work together for a common purpose –building a sustainable peace through following: 1) documentation of peace missionaries’ life changing experiences, including information sharing/exchange and gathering; 2) development of alumni database; 3) mentoring and need-based capacity building; and 4) joint/collaborative project engagement.

Mario Nishihara
Japan, APS 5

Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship is extremely rich in the knowledge, experience and expertise in the world of development and peace. It is not only a waste, but improvident not to share these knowledge and talents to not only our own network, but to the greater community. As TED puts it, these “ideas are worth sharing.” Therefore, it only makes sense to put together a TED x UPEACE talk to bring together our own community in order to educate ourselves and the rest of the world. “Knowledge is not meant to be hidden. You get an education to show others, to teach others. You do not get an education to show how much more you are “better” than others. The purpose of your education should be to better others, to inform others on how they can also get opportunities like you have gotten, it is not and should never be for the sole purpose of self. Knowledge should be shared, given when asked and should make others grow in ways they never thought possible. That should be the essence of an education.” - Ijeoma Umebinyuo
May Zin Thaw

Myanmar, APS 8

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Thome Xaisongkham

Laos, APS 9

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Tran Thi Thuy Binh
Vietnam, APS 8

As a member of APS Alumni Secretariat, I am inspired by DREAM, SUPPORT and RESPONSIBILITY. In the role of a secretariat working for both Communication and Media, and Alumni-led Initiatives & Career Development, I commit to devote my time and experience to strengthen the communication of alumni; produce media outreach; as well as build guidelines, criteria and evaluation tools on alumni-led projects. I also take full RESPONSIBILITY to SUPPORT DREAMS of female and male peacebuilders to come true. Through these activities, the alumni network benefits not only for each individual but also for other underprivileged people in Asia. Pura Vida

Worrawan Jirathananapiwat
Thailand, APS 3

About 10 years, I have been working in different organizations and social development projects requiring me to involve in organizing several kinds of activities including capacity-building, training, workshop, research and conference at local, national, regional and international levels. I expect that I will be able to share my experience being part of various activities to initiate events and activities for the sake of everyone in APS. Also, my experience on monitoring and evaluation should be helpful to clarify and develop guideline on relevant issues. Since graduation from Upeace in 2010, I have been working more or less related to development project, so I am certain that I can provide assistance regarding to project proposal review, and guideline of project implementation to APS alumni. My experience working with different organizations in terms of work criteria and type of organizations can also help me to give pragmatic and proper suggestion to APS alumni on job opportunity and career development. Working with different kind of organizations trains me to recognize different nature of organizations and can help me to provide advice how to make successful activities in Thai context.
Maya Mizuno

Japan, APS 9

It is such a great honor to be part of an Executive Council of the APS Alumni Network. I am excited to work with other council members as well as other alumni. The APS alumni, who have rich knowledge and experience, have been accomplishing great achievement in their personal and career development. Some are devoting their lives to delivering better solutions to the communities in conflict, some are taking their passion into supporting for people whose human rights are violated, and some are working busy as moms and teach their own kids how to be compassionate for others. No matter where they are and what they do, there is no doubt that all APS alumni have been inspiring people in a different way, which greatly contributes to build peace in our world. “Together, We Can Move the Mountains” - I believe we would be more powerful and bring positive impact on the society when each of alumni’s talent get together, therefore connecting and mobilizing alumni is a quite crucial role of the council members. I will try my best to create opportunities for alumni to be able to share their stories, ideas and visons with one another.