

# Southeast Asian University Partnership for Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation

Civil Peace Service Regional Program in Cambodia, Timor-Leste and the Philippines

## Our Objective

The GIZ Civil Peace Service (CPS) has established the Southeast Asian University Partnership for Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation (SAUP) regional program to support and strengthen universities in Cambodia, the Philippines and Timor-Leste in the conceptualization and implementation of curricula on peace and conflict studies. The program is based on the lessons learned and approaches to curriculum development gained within CPS through years of advisory services to partners in this capacity.

The aim of the program is to provide technical and personnel support to university partners to build their capacities in the conceptualization and contextualization of curricula through the integration of best practices from local/traditional practices in non-violent conflict transformation as well as through the application of peace action research to ensure context appropriate approaches to promote sustainable peace. By anchoring and integrating the outcomes of peace action research into the relevant peace and conflict studies, the knowledge of past peace practices is preserved and made available for future generations.

The SAUP regional program will establish a university exchange network as a comprehensive learning platform to exchange on best practices and lessons learned and a means to disseminate knowledge garnered through practice in the South and shared on a South-to-South platform and also globally; a partnership approach envisioned by the UN Sustainability Goal 17 and Agenda 2030.

Project name	Southeast Asian University Partnership for Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Cambodia (Regional Hub), Philippines and Timor-Leste
Lead executing agency	Civil Peace Service Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Volume/Budget	<b>3,4 Million Euros approx.</b>
Duration	09/2019 – 12/2026

The support by CPS to partner universities is enriched by the collaboration with *The Center for Conflict Research* at the *Philipps University of Marburg, Germany* and their role in fostering professional exchange, providing expertise in curriculum development in the specific field conflict transformation. By this, the SAUP regional network will use synergies between the three countries and aims to integrate the partner universities into global exchange programs and research projects on higher education.



Left: University of Battambang, Cambodia

Right: Universidad de Paz, Timor-Leste



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**



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## Initial Situation

The societal impacts of decades of armed conflict run deep. Possibly the most dangerous of these impacts in terms of achieving a peaceful society is the normalisation and social acceptability of violence as a means to address conflict. Universities that offer courses on peacebuilding and non-violent conflict transformation act as bridges between theory and practice by examining the effectiveness of approaches to civil conflict transformation through their research contributions. By offering courses in peace and conflict research, they support the social transformation of violent attitudes and actions and contribute to the distribution of methods of civil conflict management. However, the development of study programs in countries of the global South is rather marginal and often universities lack technical expertise in the field of conflict transformation and the resources for vital peace research and its dissemination.



*Students at the National University of Battambang, Cambodia*

## Civil Peace Service Approach

- Strengthening universities capacities to develop and implement context appropriate curriculum in peace and conflict studies by providing long term advisory
- Bridging theory and practice through close and regular exchange with governmental and non-governmental peace practitioners and students;
- Contribute actively to create closer linkages between academic knowledge and civil society approaches;
- Fostering intergenerational dialogue and providing safe spaces for exchange and understanding;
- Promote the integration of peace action research and the application of current methodologies;
- Sharpen context related approaches of 'working with the violent past';
- Establishment of a regional network of Southeast Asian experts and researchers in the area of peace and conflict studies;
- Support in the global exchange of best practices and lessons learned on a comprehensive learning platform;
- Regional and global exchange of students and staff between partner universities; and
- Digital platforms for exchange of knowledge between South-South and South-North.

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