

Strengthening Security Sector Governance in East Asia



DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance is committed to making people more secure through accountable and effective security and justice. We help national and international entities to deliver security that respects human rights, upholds the rule of law, and is democratically driven, by:



Helping to improve the way national security sectors are governed



Guiding the development of sound, sustainable security governance policies



Promoting locally owned reforms that are inclusive, participatory, and gender responsive

DCAF's engagement consists of:



Providing technical expertise to nationally led SSG/R processes



Capacity building for state and non-state actors



Publishing research and knowledge products



Promoting internationally recommended good governance practices



Advising on security sector-related legal and policy questions



Sub-Regional Network

DCAF's Asia-Pacific Unit (APU) takes a unique sub-regional approach to promoting good security sector governance (SSG) and security sector reform (SSR) in the Asia-Pacific region. APU has a vision of fostering interregional and intraregional dialogues, experience-sharing and cooperation within and between the sub-regions of South, Southeast and East Asia, in order to improve ongoing and launch new national SSR processes.

APU has created a network of partner institutions and SSG associates (experts working on security sector-related issues) in all three sub-regions. These partners are brought together at annual sub-regional and Asia-Pacific regional forums to allow participants to share and learn from each other's experiences in promoting good SSG through SSR activities.

APU's partners in turn assemble a group of security sector representatives and experts in national SSG working groups. They review the status of good SSG in their respective countries and define needs for improvement. These are translated into specific SSR activities, for which APU seeks funding so that such SSR activities can be implemented.

Beyond specific network activities, APU continues national-level activities in different countries in the Asia-Pacific region. This includes its long-standing work in Myanmar, as well as direct requests by national actors that are not part of the regional network. However, for any such activities to happen, external funding must be secured to cover operational and staff costs for partners and APU.

Area	Partner Institution
China	Beijing Modern Urban Development Research Center
Japan	Center for Global Security (CGS), National Defense Academy of Japan
Mongolia	Women in International Security (WIIS)
South Korea	International Policy Studies Institute of Korea (IpsiKor)
Taiwan	Taiwan Study Centre (TSC), National Chengchi University



Overview

› CHINA

In China, DCAF's partner institution is the Beijing Modern Urban Development Research Center, a municipal-level foreign-related scientific research institution. DCAF engagement has led to the focus on SSG issues in China. One of the areas on which the partner institute would specifically like to focus is building the capacity of municipal level administration on urban safety and security governance. DCAF has also engaged in an annual Swiss-China Dialogue on conflict prevention, organized by the government of Switzerland.

› JAPAN

In Japan, DCAF works with the Center for Global Security, which is a part of National Defense Academy of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. The centre primarily works on promoting "SSG by Japan" to other countries in the region. DCAF's engagement has helped to focus on identifying and highlighting SSR issues in Japan. As a part of this, "Improving Maritime SSG Governance" and "COVID-19 and State of Emergency" have been identified as key ideas.

› MONGOLIA

In Mongolia, DCAF's partner institution is Women International Security (WIIS) Mongolia. DCAF has worked with WIIS to develop a concept note on parliamentary oversight over security sector actors in Mongolia. Further, DCAF has also been working on the development of a concept note for an examination of the role of the executive and the Mongolian Armed Forces during the COVID-19 crisis and their long-term implications on Mongolia's democratic institutions.

› SOUTH KOREA

In South Korea, DCAF's partner institution is the International Policy Studies Institute of Korea (IpsiKor). DCAF has developed a concept note on "Gender and Security" issues in South Korea, that aims to increase women's representation in national security sector institutions and promoting South Korea's gender responsiveness role, including in UN peacekeeping operations. DCAF is also working with IpsiKor to develop a project on parliamentary oversight over the intelligence sector.



› TAIWAN

In Taiwan, DCAF partner institution is the Taiwan Studies Center (TSC), which is one of the important centres of the National Chengchi University. DCAF, with the help of TSC, has identified “Maritime Security Sector Governance and Reform” as a potential project idea in Taiwan. As a part of this, DCAF and TSC have discussed conducting a multidisciplinary assessment on maritime security sector governance, with the aim of developing guidelines on maritime governance.

THEMATIC EXPERTISE



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