



Geneva Centre
for Security Sector
Governance

Strengthening Security Sector Governance in Southeast 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.

Country	Partner Institution
Brunei	
Cambodia	Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP)
Indonesia	Centre for Political Studies - Indonesian Institution of Sciences (P2P-LIPI)
Laos	
Malaysia	Research for Social Advancement (REFSA)
Myanmar	Myanmar Institute of Peace and Security (MIPS)
Philippines	Ateneo Initiative for Southeast Asian Studies (AISEAS), Ateneo de Manila University
Singapore	Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
Thailand	Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies (IHRP)
Timor-Leste	Fundasaun Mahein
Vietnam	Vietnam Lawyers Association Vietnam Bar Association



Overview

› BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

In Brunei Darussalam, DCAF is pursuing contacts to identify the right partner to work with. Brunei Darussalam published its first Defence White Paper in 2004, which initiated a sizeable number of changes within the Bruneian security system. Updated Defence White Papers followed in 2007, 2011, and 2015. Moreover, DCAF has identified several SSG/SSR priorities through its own independent research, for example the need to develop a fully functional oversight mechanism on the security forces.

› CAMBODIA

The Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP) is DCAF's Cambodian partner. It is an independent and non-partisan research institute founded in 1994. It promotes domestic and regional dialogue on matters of peace, democracy and other security sector issues. SSG and SSR priorities to address in Cambodia include the lack of cohesive and comprehensive reform policies involving all stakeholders, radicalised politics, the rise of extremist populist movements and natural disasters and climate change prevention.

› INDONESIA

The Centre for Political Studies (P2P) is DCAF's Indonesian partner. It was established in 1986 as part of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI). It focuses on policy and the development of social and political sciences. SSG priorities to address include the increased involvement of security forces in politics, the unfinished military justice reforms, the deadlock on the national security bill, the lack of a common understanding on national security among stakeholders, and the decline of the oversight role played by CSOs.

› LAOS

In Laos, DCAF is still looking for the right partner to work with. DCAF has identified several priorities for SSG/SSR through independent research. Examples of SSG priorities include the need for capacity building in various security forces, for reinforcement of oversight mechanisms, and for strengthening the justice system. Some reforms of the justice system have been undertaken, showing acceptance of the need for reform. DCAF is working to find a partner which shares its ambitions to implement these reforms.



› MALAYSIA

The Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia (ISIS Malaysia) is DCAF's Malaysian partner. It is an autonomous non-profit research organisation established in 1983. Its research work includes economics, foreign policy, security studies, and nation-building. DCAF has developed a project in Malaysia with another partner (REFSA) that supports the implementation of SSR recommendations from the Defence White Paper accepted by parliament in January 2020. DCAF is currently fundraising for this project.

› MYANMAR

The Myanmar Institute of Peace and Security (MIPS) is DCAF's partner in Myanmar. MIPS is a non-partisan think-tank founded in 2017. It works on opportunities and challenges regarding peace and security transitions in Myanmar. DCAF has had extensive activities in Myanmar since 2013, collaborating with the armed forces, parliament, police, political parties, CSOs and ethnic armed organisations. Important SSG issues remains to be addressed in Myanmar to ensure a successful and sustainable completion of their peace process.

› THE PHILIPPINES

The Ateneo Initiative for Southeast Asian Studies (AISEAS) department of Ateneo de Manila University is DCAF's Philippine partner. It is a tertiary education institution founded in 1859. The university is also a sub-regional partner. DCAF has had extensive involvement in the Philippines since 2013, working with the armed forces and the police. Despite big SSR efforts, much remains to be done in the Philippines to achieve sustainable SSG, and some backsliding has been noticed in recent years.

› SINGAPORE

DCAF collaborates with the Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Singapore. RSIS is an autonomous policy oriented think tank, that is part of Nanyang Technological University. It works on conducting policy-relevant research in areas such as defence, national security, international relations, strategic studies and diplomacy. Singapore is currently focusing its SSR efforts on newly emerging non-traditional security threats and challenges, such as cyber criminality.



› THAILAND

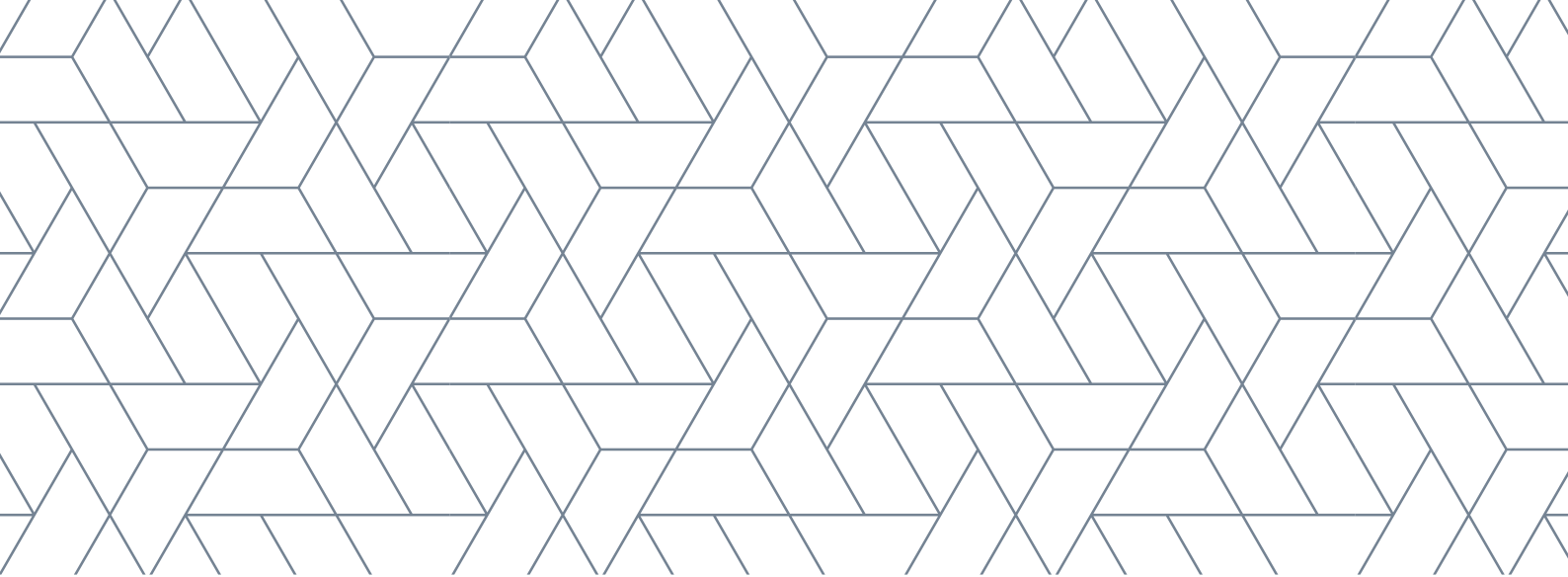
The Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies (IHRP) is DCAF's Thai partner. The institute is associated with Mahidol University. It works to advance human rights and peace via education of practitioners, promotion of outreach programs and research. DCAF has worked in Thailand since 2013 with radio broadcasters, parliamentarians, CSOs, and other stakeholders. Since the 2015 military coup, SSG/SSR progress in Thailand has stalled, and in some areas, backslid. DCAF remains engaged in Thailand to seize any opportunities that might arise to support SSR efforts.

› TIMOR-LESTE

DCAF's partner in Timor-Leste is Fundasaun Mahein (FM), a non-profit organisation created over 20 years ago. It aims to increase the legitimacy and capacity of Timor-Leste's security sector through citizen participation in the development of legislation, policy and budgets. Remaining SSG/SSR issues in Timor-Leste include the lack of mainstreaming of women's participation, the lack of community trust in the police and military, the lack of national security policies, and the prevalence of the "rule of the deal" over the rule of law.

› VIETNAM

DCAF is working closely with the Vietnam Lawyers Association (VLA) and the Vietnam Bar Association in Vietnam. Supported by the Vietnam Association of Ex-Youth Volunteers, DCAF and the VLA are developing a project to support information about SSG reaching remote communities. DCAF is currently fundraising for this project. Vietnam is making significant efforts to improve its SSG. This makes it a good moment for DCAF to provide its expertise in support of nationally-led projects.



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