

Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect December 2010 Newsletter, Issue 1,  
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November: Early Warning for Prevention Conference in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The International Coalition for RtoP, the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and Oxfam Australia co-hosted a conference on Early Warning for Prevention: Technologies and Practice for the Prevention of Mass Atrocity Crimes. The conference explored how international and local actors can harness early warning to contribute to the prevention of mass atrocity crimes, as well as examined how to work effectively with communities once early warning has been raised. There was significant discussion on the role of communications, in particular new technologies such as GIS mapping and 'crowdsourcing' platforms such as Ushahidi, and how these systems can interact with more traditional early warning mechanisms. More than 100 participants from 30 countries attended the conference, representing a diverse range of specialisations, including Special Advisors to the UN Secretary-General, human rights activists, new technology experts, international NGOs and regional civil society focusing on peacebuilding and conflict prevention. The conference was part of a two-year project led by Oxfam Australia and funded by the Australian R2P Fund to bring NGOs together to consider practical means of operationalising the preventative aspects of the **Responsibility to Protect** principle (...)

5 November: Training Seminar with the Office for the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The International Coalition for RtoP and Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect sponsored a training seminar conducted by the Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide to raise awareness on the existing United Nations early warning mechanisms for mass atrocities and the work and mandate of the OSAPG. The seminar sought to enhance understanding of the process and causes of mass atrocity crimes and the legal framework on genocide prevention. Cambodia's Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sirivudh gave the opening remarks to the seminar, which was attended by the UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, Dr. Francis Deng, and nearly thirty conflict analysts, academics and peace practitioners working in Asia Pacific (...)

8-12 November: R2P Seminar Series held in Manila, Philippines

The Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, in cooperation with the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP), conducted a series of seminars for academe, civil society groups, students, and government sector representatives in Manila on 8-12 November 2010. The seminars provided an update on R2P developments, the role of the ICRtoP, and sharing of African experiences in promoting R2P in the continent.

Dr. Noel M. Morada, Executive Director of the APCR2P, Ms. Sarah Teitt, Outreach Director of the APCR2P, and Ms. Doris Mpoumou, Director of the ICRtoP in New York, conducted the seminar with the help of Dr. Lourdes Veneracion-Rallonza of Ateneo de Manila University.

The seminar series is part of the APCR2P's country programme in building awareness and constituency in the Philippines on the norm and prevention of genocide and mass atrocities. Participants in the seminars also identified concrete steps and projects that would advance R2P in the Philippines in the next 2-3 years based on their individual and institutional commitments. During the seminar for students coordinated by Mr. Richard Heydarian, the R2P Student Coalition of the Philippines was launched following a debate between Ateneo de Manila University and University of the Philippines Diliman students on the topic, 'Resolve that R2P is a pretext for Western intervention in developing countries.' The seminar with members of the government sector was co-organised by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) of the Department of Foreign Affairs, with the support of its Director, Ambassador Laura Del Rosario and Ms. Rhodora Joaquin, head of the FSI Center for International Relations and Strategic Studies (...)

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