Civil society in Asia-Pacific   Below please find reports, statements, and articles by civil society, and information on forums, roundtables, and conferences held on RtoP, prevention, and operationalizing civilian components in the region from 2009 to 2014.

2014
  2013
  2012
  2011
  2010
  2009

2014

 • On 9 September 2014, **The High Level Advisory Panel on the RtoP in Southeast Asia**, the
UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the RtoP
, and the
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia
to the UN
hosted the launch of the report by the
High Level Advisory Panel on
Mainstreaming the Responsibility to Protect in Southeast Asia: Pathway Towards a Caring ASEAN Community
. Speakers included H.E. Mr. Desra Percaya, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the UN; Mr. Adama Dieng, UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide; Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, former Secretary-General of ASEAN; Mr. Hung Nguyen Duy, member of the High-Level Advisory Panel and former ambassador of Vietnam to ASEAN; and Dr. Jennifer Welsh, UN Special Adviser on RtoP.

• In 2013, Mr. Adama Dieng, UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, approached Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, former Secretary-General of ASEAN, and requested advice on the promotion of RtoP in Southeast Asia. Accordingly, Dr. Surin convened a group of experts to establish the High Level Advisory Panel on RtoP in Southeast Asia with the main goal of supporting efforts to promote and implement the norm in the region. In 2014, the High Level Panel released their report entitled Mainstreaming the Responsibility to Protect in Southeast Asia: Pathway Towards a Caring ASEAN Community   . The

report highlights that the ultimate goals of RtoP are consistent with the objectives of ASEAN. It further explains that ASEAN has existing mechanisms that are important for the promotion and implementation of RtoP, as well as underscores the necessity for greater UN-ASEAN partnership.

• **The Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect** held a workshop on ASEAN and Prevention of Violence Against Women in Conflict and Humanitarian Situations on 20 August 2014. Acting British Ambassador to Indonesia, ASEAN, and Timor Leste, Rebecca Razavi, gave a keynote address on "
Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative
."

• **Dibya Shikha** wrote an article for the **Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies**, which was published on 28 May 2014, on how the 2014 ASEAN Summit neglected to include Rohingya Muslims in the agenda. Shikha highlights that the international community needs to ensure that Myanmar's Government upholds its
Responsibility to Protect
and highlights that "there should be a
inter-regional solution
for the forced migration of Rohingyas."

•**Asia Pacific Centre for Responsibility to Protect** hosted an **event** on **"Preventing Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence with Early Warning Analysis"**
on 24 April 2014. Panelists discussed current research on early warning of sexual violence in conflict and the widespread and systematic sexual violence in Sri Lanka.

•**Free Burma Coalition-Philippines** and **Asia-Pacific Solidarity Coalition** made a statement
on March 25 2014 at the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ ASEAN's People's forum in which they urged ASEAN to "popularize the
**application of
RtoP principles in conflict prevention strategies**
."

• **The ASEAN Civil Society Conference**/ **ASEAN's People's Forum** was held in Myanmar from 21 to 23 March 2014. Civil society organizations attending the
conference

discussed different issues relating to
"advancing ASEAN's people's solidarity toward sustainable peace, development, justice and democratization
."

• **Noel Morada,** who is Director (Regional) and Senior Researcher at **Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect,**
wrote a
chapter
on
"Entrenching Responsibility to Protect in the Asia-Pacific,"
which was published in 2014.

• **Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect** produced several policy briefs related to RtoP and the region in 2014.   India and RtoP
, for instance, examines the development of India's view on RtoP. In another brief,
RtoP's Second Pillar: the Responsibility to Assist in Theory and Practice in Solomon Islands
, the authors examine the "implementation of a
regional capacity-building
program in Solomon Islands."

2013

• **Griffith University** held a public seminar in on **Women, Peace & Security 2013: Australia's Role at Home and Abroad**   on
16 August 2013. The seminar focused on the security of women and children in the region, the Australian government's responsibilities to these populations, and the role of the Australian government in supporting women and children who are seeking asylum in the region.

• **Noel Morada,**
who is Director (Regional) and Senior Researcher at
Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect,
wrote a
chapter
on "The Association of Southeast Asian Nations" in July 2013, which "identifies the
institutional frameworks of ASEAN that could be linked to RtoP
."

• **Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies**
held a
roundtable
on 15 April 2013 on
"Enhancing Global and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution."
Panelists discussed multiple issues including how to enhance existing mechanisms to protect civilians, and the role of regional actors in the protection of civilians and conflict management.

• **Over 60 civil society organizations**
published a
statement
on 20 January 2013, urging ASEAN to help stop intensifying conflict in Kachin state in Burma. Namely, they urged ASEAN governments to compel the Burmese government to stop its attacks in Kachin and to also provide humanitarian assistance.

•
Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
published policy briefs that focused on different aspects of RtoP in 2013.
ASEAN and The UN Secretary-General's report on RtoP: State Responsibility and Prevention
,
for instance, provides recommendations for ASEAN member states and civil society organizations highlighting the need to hold regional and national discussions on the Secretary-General's report. In another brief,
Realizing Commitments to Women, Peace and Security in Southeast Asia
, the authors examine the lack of regional focus on Women, Peace and Security. Additionally, in

Growing Ethnic Tensions in Myanmar and Indonesia: R2P and Promotion of Communal Dialogue
, the authors assert that a regional response, through ASEAN, to the tensions in Myanmar and Indonesia is essential, particularly when addressing the Rohingya crisis.

2012

• **Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies** held a **seminar** on **"Implementing the Responsibility to Protect: Challenges and Opportunities"**
on 2 November 2012. Alex Bellamy presented on the evolution of RtoP and offers recommendation for the strategy forward.

•⬜**The Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect**
released a
Conference Outcome Document, "
Regional Capacity to Protect, Prevent and Respond: UN-Asia Pacific Strategy and Coordination
,
" on 6 June 2012. This publication followed a two-day conference on 17-18 May in Bangkok Thailand hosted by the APCR2P in cooperation with the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and in partnership with Chulalongkorn University in which participants from various sectors discussed and debated
RtoP and its implementation in region
.

•⬜**The Center for Non-Traditional Security Studies**
issued an
NTS Perspectives publication, "
Roadmap for RtoP in Asia
,"
on 29 February 2012 assessing the challenges facing Asia in regards to
how to implement the RtoP norm on all levels
, specifically the national level which includes non-state actors, ASEAN and civil society. The publication investigates and evaluates the reception to and relevance of the RtoP and addresses prospects for concrete actions on the RtoP mandate in Asia.

•
Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
released several policy briefs on RtoP and the region in 2012.
ASEAN, the Rohingyas and Myanmar's Responsibility to Protect
, for instance, provides recommendations on how Myanmar and ASEAN can collectively address the crisis in Rakhine state.
ASEAN and the UN GA Dialogue on the SG's Report on Timely and Decisive Response
also provides recommendations for ASEAN member states that highlight the importance of participating in the interactive dialogue.
Pillar II in Practice: Policy Capacity-Building in Oceania
explores police capacity building ("police-building") in three developing states of Oceania and its relation to R2P.

2011

• **The Stanley Foundation** convened a conference on 11 May 2011 that focused on the theme, **The Role of Regional and Sub-Regional Arrangements in Strengthening the Responsibility to Protect**

. The conference report published on 25 May 2011 included a
 [**paper**](#)
by Noel M. Morada, which focuses on ASEAN and the Asian Regional Forum (ARF). The paper examines the
role of the regional organizations to strengthen RtoP in Asia
and notes that although ASEAN and ARF have not formally adopted the language of RtoP
both bodies have adopted principles and norms related to RtoP.

• **The Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect**
released
 [The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the Responsibility to Protect: Opportunities and Constraints](#)
, the second of a two paper series on the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and RtoP, on 30 March 2011. The report
assesses the potential opportunities to optimize the AICHR's Terms of Reference (TOR)
and asserts that
ASEAN and the AICHR have a
responsibility to play a major role in the protection of peoples in the region from mass atrocities
.

  2010

   • **The Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect** published a report on 30 November 2010 entitled   *[The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the Responsibility to Protect: Development and Potential](#)*
, which is the first of two working papers on the AICHR and RtoP. This paper explores the
role of regional organizations
, such as ASEAN,
in implementing R2P
and discusses how the AICHR can
facilitate the
promotion and protection of human rights in the region
.

• **The Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect**
, in cooperation with
ICRtoP
, conducted a
 [**series of seminars**](#)
for academe, civil society groups, students, and government sector representatives in Manila, Philippines 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.

• **ICRtoP**
and the
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 on 5 November 2010 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The seminar sought to
raise awareness on the existing United Nations early warning mechanisms
and the
work and mandate of the OSAPG
, as well as enhance understanding of the p
rocess and causes of mass atrocity crimes
and the legal
framework on genocide prevention
.

• **ICRtoP**
, the
Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
and
Oxfam Australia
co-hosted a conference held from 3-4 November 2010 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia 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.

• **Alex Bellamy and Mark Beeson**
authored an article in
Asian Security
on 29 September 2010 entitled,
The Responsibility to Protect in Southeast Asia: Can ASEAN Reconcile Humanitarianism and Sovereignty?

This article explores how relevant the
principle of RtoP
is in Southeast Asia, as well as the potential relevance of the norm through an analysis of the impact of Cyclone Nargis on Myanmar. It suggests that
external norms and ideas
can still have a decisive impact in favorable instances even in a region where
national sovereignty
is jealously guarded.

• **The EastWest Institute** partnered with the **ASEAN Institute of Strategic and International Studies** (ASEAN-ISIS) for **two special sessions** at the 24th Asia Pacific Roundtable held from June 8-9, 2010. The first session brought together the heads of ASEAN-ISIS and of ASEAN think tanks, while the second engaged policymakers, government officials and experts from across Asia. The sessions focused on
outlining the steps necessary to develop a regional conflict-prevention agenda
.

• **Forum-Asia**
dedicated its June 2010 edition of
Asian Human Rights Defender
to the theme:
A Human Rights Mechanism for South Asia
. The articles within the publication focus on
efforts to establish a regional human rights mechanism
within the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and emphasize establishing a
regional response for South Asian human rights situations
. Articles also examine ASEAN and human rights, and country-specific scenarios.

• **The Europe-Asia Policy Forum**
held its
7
th
annual Roundtable Experts Meeting
from 20-21 May 2010 on the subject of
Early Warning Systems in Minority Conflicts
. The Roundtable, which produced a
report
upon completion, aimed to work towards
developing a regional early warning framework for the prevention of ethnic conflict.

• **The Center on International Cooperation**

published a paper written by Elsina Wainwright in April 2010 entitled
__Conflict Prevention in South East Asia and the South Pacific__
. The paper
examines regional crises and the role of actors
, such as state governments and NGOs, to manage and respond to conflict. The author
provides recommendations on how to
enhance the effectiveness of regional measures
used to prevent conflict.

2009

 ⬜ • **Oxfam Australia** held a workshop entitled *__NGOs & the Prevention of Mass Atrocities__*
from 23-24 November 2009, and released the
outcome document
from this event on 16 March 2010. The workshop focused on
NGO engagement on RtoP
in order to
develop and share strategies in implementing the Responsibility to Protect
throughout the Asia-Pacific Region.

•
The Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP)
established a
study group on the Responsibility to Protect
in November 2009 with the goal of
exploring the implications of RtoP for regional actors and organizations
. A
final report
was presented to the CSCAP Steering Committee in June 2011, which focuses on the
role of regional organizations
, such as the Asian Regional Forum,
in the implementation of RtoP
.

• **The**
Initiatives for International Dialogue
(IDD) participated in the ASEAN Civil Society Conference held in Cha-am, Thailand from 18-20
October 2009. IDD
called on ASEAN
to take a more proactive role in the prevention of internal state conflicts
as the regional body has been largely absent in this area.

• **The Asia Pacific Centre for R2P**
published a report in October 2009,
 Protection of Civilians and the Responsibility to Protect: Perspectives and Precedents in the Asia-Pacific
, by Charles T. Hunt. The report discusses the
connection between Protection of Civilians (POC) and RtoP
, explaining that though the two concepts are closely linked,
the scope of RtoP is narrower and RtoP applies to situations beyond armed conflict
. The report specifically discusses the
contributions
of China, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Australia, Japan and Myanmar in the Security Council POC meetings in May 2008 and January 2009.

• **The Asia Pacific Centre for R2P**
published a report detailing the
role of Asia-Pacific nations during the 2009 General Assembly debate
entitled
 Implementing the Responsibility to Protect: Asia Pacific in the 2009 GA Dialogue.
This report gives a summary of the background to the dialogue and discusses the Asia-Pacific region, first
outlining general consensuses and challenges
, and then
paying attention to each nation and their relations with the norm.

• **Global Action to Prevent War**
in cooperation with
Center for Strategic and International Studies
and the
Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney
hosted a regional workshop on "
Peacekeeping and Civilian Protection
" in Jakarta, Indonesia on 11 June 2009. The workshop focused on the following: Southeast Asia and Asia-Pacific perspectives on civilian protection and the possible role of a standing UN peacekeeping service; and the impact of Southeast Asia and Asia-Pacific norms, language, politics and culture on proposals for UN peacekeeping reform.

• **The Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia**
released a brief on 1 April 2009 entitled
 The Responsibility to Protect: Conceptual Misunderstanding and Challenges of Application
. The document examines the origin and principles of the norm and discusses
regionalism and RtoP, specifically what lessons ASEAN can draw from the African Union.

• **The Asian Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect**
released an update brief entitled
The Responsibility to Protect and the Protection of Civilians: Asia-Pacific in the UN Security Council
on 10 February 2009. The purpose of this update brief was to set out the
positions taken by Asia-Pacific governments at the Security Council meeting
on the protection of civilians and to
examine their implications.

•

The Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
released a report on 30 January 2009 entitled
The Responsibility to Protect in Southeast Asia
, which focuses on
the position of ASEAN Member States on RtoP and their policy priorities
in areas related to implementing the norm.