

Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute 2005



Davao City, Mindanao, Philippines

16 May - 03 June 2005

JOINTLY SPONSORED AND ORGANIZED BY:

**Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)**

With the support of CordAid, Misereor, Trocaire, Caritas Norway and Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst

BACKGROUND

Since 2000, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) have joined efforts and resources to bring together peacebuilders and practitioners from thirty-one (31) countries for the Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute.

The MPI, as envisioned, provides a unique experience in that it brings together a wide range of people with vast experience, knowledge and skills in peace-related work. The intensive training in areas such as religious peacebuilding, conflict transformation, community-based peacebuilding and other themes increases people's skills, drawing on the shared knowledge of both the participants and the facilitators. At the heart of the learning and sharing, the MPI builds upon people's commitment and strengthens their capacity, as well as that of their organizations, to build a more peaceful and just world. Aside from the technical skills that are acquired, many of the participants ascribe equal meaning to the bonding, friendships and solidarity that are created among peace advocates from different countries. Indeed, the Institute has become a venue where participants strengthen their commitment to peacebuilding work.

The diversity of conflict types around the world is highlighted by the more than 700 peacebuilders who have participated in the past Institutes (2000 to 2004), coming from areas such as Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Croatia, East Timor, Germany, India, Indonesia, Korea, Kosovo, Madagascar, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, the former Yugoslavia, and the Philippines. Former participants and facilitators represent local and international humanitarian organizations, local NGOs, youth groups, church-based organizations, people's organizations, local and international networks, corporate foundations, academic institutions, women's groups, and socio-civic groups.

The following vision, mission, goals and objectives guide the MPI:

Vision

Just and peaceful communities in the Asia Pacific.

Mission

MPI seeks to deepen commitment to justice and peace, tolerance, respect for human rights, and solidarity among individuals, communities and institutions.

Goal

Empowered individuals, communities and institutions as catalysts for social transformation.

Objectives

- 1) *Facilitate and animate training and education to more than 1200 individuals and their institutions on various approaches, theories and praxis in the fields of conflict transformation and peacebuilding.*
- 2) *Bring together people from diverse sectors of society who are involved in the promotion of just and lasting peace in order to build community life through sharing of experiences and learning from and challenging one another.*
- 3) *Contribute in building solidarity among Asian peacebuilders by creating a space for formal and informal alliances and networks among participating individuals and institutions.*

Course Descriptions MPI 2005

Week 1: May 16 – 20

Introduction to Conflict Transformation - Wendy Kroeker and Miriam Suacito

An introduction to the field of conflict transformation, focusing on theoretical understanding of conflict transformation as well as the development and application of practical skills, will be presented. Participants will focus on personal communication skills, interpersonal negotiation skills and intervention in organizational and inter-group conflicts. Participants will be expected to engage in discussions, roleplays, exercises and case analyses.

Fundamentals of Peacebuilding - Jon Rudy and Deng Giguiento

This course will explore the challenges and dilemmas of peacebuilding in contemporary protracted and violent conflict. It will focus on the development of a strategic framework for peacebuilding, primarily from the perspective of nongovernmental practitioners. Participants will interact with current approaches and theory, with ample opportunity for developing analytic and peacebuilding skills through exercises, simulations, and case studies. They will be expected to work in teams on a collaborative application of the framework

Introduction to Peace Education – Toh Swee-hin, Virginia Cawagas and Ofelia Durante

This course will provide participants a basic foundation on various paradigms, theories, and concepts of and approaches to peace education in both the formal and informal settings. The discussion of theories and concepts will be made in relation to various Asian-based peace education initiatives. The course will also provide participants a basic orientation to United Nations programs and mandates on the promotion of peace education around the world.

Active Nonviolence: Philosophy, Theory and Practice – Jill Sternberg and Susan Granada

This course is for people working with community-based organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and peace and justice movements, especially those working in or with communities facing protracted violence. We start with the assumption that people involved in local conflicts have the capacity to make peace, and those peace strategies arising from local initiatives will be more enduring, culturally and contextually appropriate, and require less outside support. The course will emphasize nonviolent approaches promoting self-reliance and empowerment in the local community through application of transformative strategies aimed toward resolution of injustices. The course will address: a) different approaches to active nonviolence; b) comparison in cultural understandings of nonviolence; c) nonviolent struggle, contemporary and historical, including violence reduction and resistance; d) development of nonviolent action plans addressing participants' focus/nonviolent work. The course methodology will be participatory, including discussion, role play, case studies, small group work, reading, video, etc.

Gender and Peace - Irene Santiago and Mindanao Commission on Women team

Recognition of the significant role that women play in conflict prevention, peacemaking, peace building and peace maintenance ensures that peace is attained and sustained. International agreements such as UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Beijing Platform for Action specifically call for the substantial participation of women in peace efforts. This course will review the concepts of gender and gender mainstreaming as foundations for developing a gender-aware peace program. Gender issues in post-conflict situations will be discussed using the experiences of countries such as Cambodia, the Philippines, and Timor Leste. There will be interaction with women who have been in the forefront of the efforts to ensure that women as victims and as change agents are central to any peace building program in Mindanao.

Week 2: May 23 – 27

Conflict Resolution Skills Course: Mediation, Negotiation and Dialogue

Wendy Kroeker and Emmanuel Amancio

This course will explore the theory and practice of different conflict resolution methods with an emphasis on mediation, negotiation and dialogue. Studies in mediation will focus on the conceptual framework, process and practice of mediation in both interpersonal and group contexts. Discussions in negotiation will explore frameworks and applications for interpersonal and group/community conflicts. Participants will also learn techniques for facilitating dialogue and relationship building between different ethnic and religious groups as a method of helping to resolve conflict. Pre-requisite: Introduction to Conflict Transformation

Religion: Source of Conflict, Resource for Peace

Mohammed Abu-Nimer

This course will provide an overview of the issues and approaches of religion as it relates to conflict and peacebuilding. It will explore faith-based ways of believing and acting that divide, and then develop the participants' capacities to respond constructively and effectively to such behaviors. It will then explore the diverse roles performed by religious peacebuilders and the underlying values, assumptions and factors that shape peacebuilding methodologies. Skill building will include dealing with religious diversity, including prejudice and stereotyping. This course seeks to examine the issues and approaches of religion as it relates to conflict and peacebuilding. It will help participants develop an awareness that is both appreciative and critical of the resources and ethical responses of the various religious traditions and/or spiritual practices to conflict, peace and conflict transformation. Pre-Requisite: Any week 1 foundation course

Peace Advocacy –

CRS Regional Advocacy Training Team

This course, using the advocacy training module developed by CRS with Just Associates, aims to assist participants in developing a shared understanding of advocacy and its relationship to the overall vision of working for peace and justice. It is not meant to respond to needs for in-depth or advanced advocacy training. This approach to advocacy capacity-building requires not only learning how to change policy, but also being aware of and changing the values and structures that exclude people and perpetuate poverty and injustice. From this perspective, advocacy planning and action aim to empower and engage citizens in the continuous task of making public decisionmaking more inclusive, responsive, fair, and accountable, and in building relationships of cooperation and solidarity. (Pre-Requisite: Any week 1 foundation course)

Arts Approaches to Peacebuilding –

Babu Ayindo, Antonio Apat, and Bert Monterona

The course will explore the theory and practice of the arts and conflict transformation will be explored in an interactive format. In particular, the role and responsibility of the artist in envisioning, enhancing dialogue, healing and transcending conflict will be examined from ritualistic art to contemporary visual and performance arts. The course will also suggest skills and techniques of warming up to individual creativity and imagination, and developing arts approaches to contextual peacebuilding. Pre-Requisite: Any week 1 foundation course

Community-based Trauma Healing, Critical Incident Defusing and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing

Al Fierres and Miriam Suacito

This course is designed towards a broader knowledge and a deeper understanding of 1) the dynamics of (war) trauma through people's images, feelings, and behaviors; and 2) human coping mechanisms through personal and collective narratives, rituals and other community-based healing approaches. Participants in this course will explore various community-based conflict views as well as coping mechanisms found within their respective socio-historical and cultural contexts towards creating a comprehensive approach to post-conflict reconstruction and community building. Participants will also explore various theories in peace and community building processes towards community-based trauma healing and rebuilding. Pre-Requisite: Any week 1 course

Week 3: May 30 – June 3

I - Classroom-based Courses

Playback Theater

Babu Ayindo and Dessa Quesada

The "playback experience" will be a creative response to conflict. Drawing from indigenous artistic resources and community experience, the course will explore ways to "risk" warming up to individual creativity, imagination and spontaneity with a view to applying such resources to collective transformation. Personal narratives will be weaved to the larger narrative through Forum Theater techniques and other art forms.

Pre-Requisite: Any week 2 course

II - Peacebuilding Field Exposure –

The MPI field-based exposure component will draw from the diversity of peacebuilding initiatives present in Mindanao and help participants consolidate the classroom-based learning of the previous two weeks. Participants are expected to live and interact in the community and gain an understanding of the different strategies used and successes and challenges encountered as communities and peace practitioners strive to transform conflict. ***In order to maximize impact, each section will be limited to a maximum of ten participants.*** The course will be divided into three sections on the following themes:

- A. Inter-Faith and Inter-Religious Dialogue Initiatives –** Participants will visit several communities engaged in dialogue initiatives and study their strategies and approaches to dialogue as well as learn about the strengths and weaknesses of the program and the challenges the participants have faced. (Edwin Antipuesto) Pre-Requisite: Religion
- B. Community Responses to Conflict -** This section will focus on community based peace and empowerment initiatives in response to conflict . Visits will be to communities which recently have experienced sectarian violence and have undertaken initiatives to transform the conflict. The Zone of Peace and Sanctuary for Peace models will be highlighted. (Emmanuel Amancio) Pre-Requisite: Conflict Resolution Skills
- C. Formal and Informal Approaches to Peace Education –** Participants will visit various peace education programs ranging from informal community programs to programs that are a part of formal education in the school system spanning pre-school to university level. Emphasis will be placed on peace education as a core component to peacebuilding initiatives and the Culture of Peace paradigm.. (Orson Sargado) Pre-Requisite: Introduction to Peace Education



Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute 2005 Application Form

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: MARCH 14, 2005

1. PERSONAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION *(Please type or print clearly in black ink):*

Name (first name, middle name or initial, surname/family name)			
Name You Preferred To Be Called			
Organizational Affiliation			
Job Title/Position			
<i>Street or PO Box</i>		<i>City</i>	
State or Province		<i>Country</i>	
Home Phone		<i>Work Phone</i>	
Fax Number		E-mail Address	

** For phone numbers, be sure to include country and area codes.*

Gender		Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)	
<i>Country of Citizenship</i>			
Do you need assistance obtaining a visa for the Philippines?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
First Language			
Other Languages			
Religious Affiliation (optional)			
Special Needs (dietary, etc.)			

2. COURSE SELECTIONS

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY:

- ❖ Although five courses are offered most session, these take place concurrently. You can only attend one course per session/week.
- ❖ Put a "1" to the left of the course of your first preference for each week/session. Put a "2", "3", "4" or "5" next to your second, third, fourth or fifth course of preference in each session/week.
- ❖ Acceptance for the courses is on a **first come, first served basis**. Some courses fill up quickly so you may not get your first preference. If you have not selected an alternate, you will not be considered for that session.
- ❖ Courses in sessions 2 and 3 have pre-requisites. Please make sure that you sign up for the appropriate pre-requisite course(s).
- ❖ Fluency in English is **required** for all courses.

(Over)

Session 1 – May 16 - 20**(Foundation Courses)**

	Introduction to Conflict Transformation
	Fundamentals of Peacebuilding
	Introduction to Peace Education
	Active Nonviolence: Philosophy, Theory and Practice
	Gender and Peace

Session 2: May 23 – 27**(Thematic Courses)**

	Conflict Resolution Skills: Mediation, Negotiation and Dialogue
	Religion: Source of Conflict, Resource for Peace
	Peace Advocacy
	Arts Approaches to Peacebuilding
	Community-based Trauma Healing, Critical Incident Defusing and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing

Session 3: May 30 – June 3

I. Classroom-based course

	Playback Theater
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II. Peacebuilding Field Exposure

Due to logistical constraints each section of the field practicum will be limited to a maximum of 10 (ten) participants.

	Inter-Faith and Inter-Religious Dialogue Initiatives
	Community Responses to Conflict
	Formal and Informal Approaches to Peace Education

3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. The following information must be received before we can process your application. (Please attach on separate sheets)

- A. Statement of Experience:** In several paragraphs, please describe relevant work and personal experiences that motivate and prepare you for study at the Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute.
- B. Statement of Intent:** In several paragraphs, please describe your objectives for studying at the Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute and the ways in which you expect to apply the training you receive.
- C. Letter of Recommendation:** Please forward a letter of reference from an organization that knows you and your work. The letter should comment on how long they have known you; in what capacity they have observed your work; what your work has entailed; your facility in spoken English; and in what ways they think this training will be helpful in your ongoing work.

(Over)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Fees and Registration

Rates per course are as follows:

International NGOs based locally	PhP 6,000/course
Local NGOs	PhP 3,500/course
International NGOs	US\$ 300/course
Local POs	PhP 2,500/course

Upon submission of the application form, an **application fee** of PhP300 for local participants and US\$50 for international participants will be charged per participant. The application will not be processed if without the corresponding application fee. Course fees are due upon registration. You may transfer your fee to the following bank account:

Bank Name: Bank of the Philippine Islands
Account Name: Davao Main Branch
Account Number: Catholic Relief Services – USCC
2081-0530-68

After transferring your application fee, please e-mail us with the details of the transaction. Since our ability to provide financial assistance is very limited, we encourage you to find sponsors in your own country or region. Organizations with whom you have worked or are associated are most likely to provide support.

Admissions Criteria

- Ability to communicate in English
- At least two years experience in peacebuilding, or in the related areas of development and human rights
- Clearly outlined objectives/strategies for applying the learnings and skills from the MPI to work or specific context to be outlined in a Statement of Intent (See application form.)
- Individuals must be mature and committed to fully participating in the course
- Openness to dialogue with people of other persuasions

Classes

Class numbers will be limited to 25 participants per course on a “first come, first served” basis. So, it is important that you select alternates in case your first choice is not available. Course materials and handouts will be provided during the course. Classes are typically from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, with lunch and coffee breaks. Participants are encouraged to interact after class. Participants are also encouraged to prepare for a country presentation.

Venue

The MPI will be held at the Mindanao Training and Resource Center, Davao Medical School, Circumferential Road, Bacaca, Bajada, Davao City, Philippines. Registration will be held between 15:00 – 17:00 the day before each session starts at the lobby.

Travel and Medical-related Costs

Travel and medical-related costs are the responsibility of the participants or sponsoring organization. The Institute will cover travel costs for training-related excursions. If help is needed in obtaining a visa to the Philippines, please indicate this in the application form.

Food and Lodging

Accommodations and meals are covered in the costs of the course. Accommodation is simple and dormitory-style with several people in a room. Please note any special dietary needs on the application form. Those interested in off-campus accommodation may do so at their own expense. We can provide a list of hotels and contact details upon request.

Groups

We would encourage those coming in groups to select a delegation head for direct and easier coordination. In order to maximize the learning opportunity, group members are encouraged to choose separate courses.

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for receipt of applications for the MPI is **March 14, 2005**. Applications will be reviewed by a committee and decisions made by March 21, 2005. Notifications will be sent out in late March via e-mail or fax. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at:

Peace & Reconciliation Program
Catholic Relief Services
Mindanao Regional Office
Lot 5 Block 37 Luisa St.
Juna Subdivision, Matina
8000 Davao City, Philippines

Tel: ++63 (82) 297-1761
Fax: ++63 (82) 299-2969
E-mail: mpi@crs-mindanao.org.ph

If possible please submit this form electronically to the above address to speed processing.

All information, unless marked optional, is needed for you to be considered for the MPI. We cannot process your application without this information.