

Myanmar alumnus plays key role in nation's safe elections

Fellows Project helps enhance security plan; brings police officer Alumnus of Year award

Police Col. Zaw San, an alumnus of the Comprehensive Crisis Management course (CCM 15-1), played a key role in Myanmar's ability to conduct nearly violence-free elections in November.

The colonel briefed his contribution to 120 Fellows attending CCM 16-1 at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies Feb. 22. Following Zaw San's brief, Center Director retired Lt. Gen. Dan Leaf presented the colonel with DKI APCSS' Alumnus of the Year Award for 2015.

Zaw San served on a Myanmar team tasked to develop the nation's security plan designed to ensure a safe and democratic vote.

Myanmar's 2015 elections were the nation's first fully participatory vote-casting at the national level since the military turned over control to civilian authorities in 2010. Since that time, the country has experienced sectarian and ethnic tensions, leading at times to outbreaks of violence. Tensions caused many inside and outside Myanmar to fear this year's election would not be a peaceful one.

Zaw San said the nation's security plan was crafted prior to his CCM



Myanmar Police Col. Zaw San speaks with DKI APCSS faculty members Dr. Miemie Byrd (right) and U.S. Air Force Lt. Col Danny Makalena following his presentation to 120 Comprehensive Crisis Management course (CCM 16-1) Fellows Feb. 22. His security plan helped ensure safety for millions of Myanmar residents voting in a landmark national election in November.

attendance, but he made improving it part of his course Fellows Project.

"I decided to use it as an opportunity to re-evaluate the plan by applying DKI APCSS' problem-solving model. As I worked through the process, I was able to identify three key additional

challenges for election security: logistics and budget problems, processes that are too centralized, and an inadequate number of special police personnel."

The colonel developed nine supplemental actions to weave into Myanmar's security approach. These

included establishing local, regional and national command centers to systematically control police movements while providing flexibility as situations evolved.

The police officer also implemented practices gleaned from "Whole of Society" and "Inclusion" lectures.

"I didn't think about working with civil society before I came to DKI APCSS, because civil organizations and Myanmar police forces have had an adversarial relationship in the past."

He related, however, the Center's whole-of-society emphasis motivated him to promote cooperation with such organizations, leading to successful partnerships in securing voting stations.

Zaw San noted that he experienced a level of organizational resistance when attempting to implement changes, but said, "I overcame resistance by explaining to my supervisors that I developed my proposal while at DKI APCSS. The Center's reputation provided tremendous credibility to my proposals."

The result of the colonel's work and that of Myanmar's security apparatus was that millions of Myanmar citizens safely voted in their first freely elected national government — headed by the National League for Democracy — in more than five decades.

CCM alum works to enhance disaster management in Pakistan

Shazia Haris, an alumna of the Comprehensive Crisis Management course (CCM 15-1), is helping Pakistan enhance its approach to disaster management.

Haris is a media advisor for Pakistan's Earthquake, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority. As part of her CCM Fellows Project, she's actively advocating inclusion of women in her nation's security sector and for better communication in post-earthquake operations.

Pakistan is especially vulnerable to deadly quakes. An October 2005 event north of Islamabad killed 73,000 people, injured 128 million and left 3.5 million people homeless. A recent quake, centered in Afghanistan, caused at least 214 deaths in Pakistan's northern mountainous region.

Haris' efforts in this field include authoring a 22-page handbook titled "Averting Communication Disaster: Promoting an Inclusive Approach to Disaster Management." Published by the U.N. online at *Prevention Web*, the document explains more than 80 terms commonly used in post-earthquake and reconstruction phases by media and disaster management officials. The handbook defines such terms as "Earthquake Swarm" and "Environmental Degradation" in English and in Urdu, Pakistan's native language.

"The booklet provides a common reference for media and disaster managers, and should improve their ability to communicate with each other and with disaster-impacted populations," said Haris. "My hope is that it will contribute to greater earthquake resiliency for the region."

The alumna has also appeared on 15 television programs to discuss disaster-related issues, to include interviews with BBC and Turkish TV.

Appearing on Pakistani TV with the chairman of Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, ERRA directors general and various community leaders, Haris emphasized the need for close interagency collaboration as well as for leveraging the talents and experiences of women in disaster management operations.

"It is important to educate women; there is a need for more and more women in security and disaster management who would be highly qualified to put forward innovative ideas when handling conflicts and emergencies."

Haris said she believes human security and disaster management are closely tied, and social and economic development are key to effective disaster management. She credited her time at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies as the catalyst for her current work.

"The intellectual discussions in my seminars and interactions at APCSS helped build my confidence and gain a strong belief in the possible success of my project. As a result of my participation in CCM, upon my return to Pakistan, I was able to emphasize that an inclusive approach to disaster management is a security imperative for Pakistan."

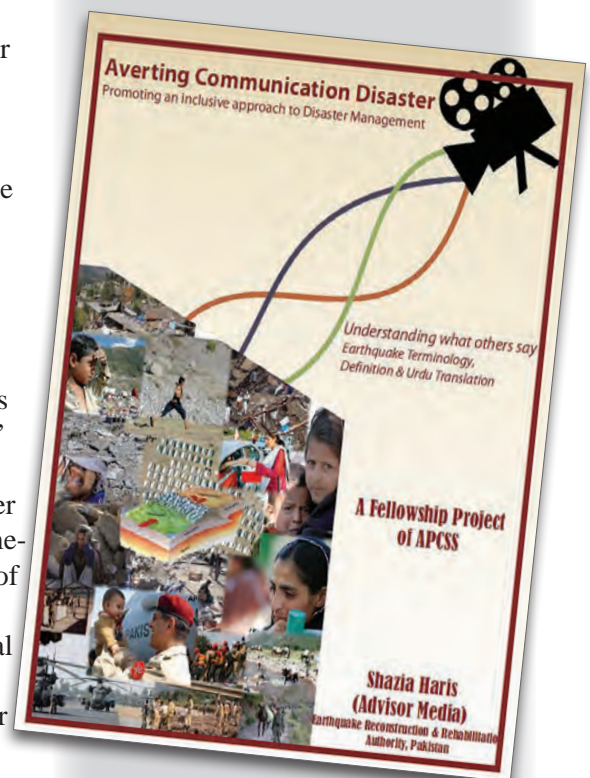
Haris is a clinical psychologist whose work focuses on post-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation, media management and development of communication strategies. She extensively interacts with international organizations such as the U.N.

She's earned commendations for her work from the prime ministers of Pakistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



"My hope is that it will contribute to greater earthquake resiliency for the region."

Shazia Haris on her authorship of a 22-page handbook (*below*) that provides a common point of reference for disaster-related terms.



Alumna crafts DKI APCSS-inspired course in Philippines

An alumna of the Advanced Security Cooperation course (ASC 15-2) has used her ASC experience to expand security education for university students in Manila, Philippines.

Dr. Charmaine Misalucha, an associate professor with De La Salle University's international studies department, developed and introduced a new "Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific" course. She offers it as an elective to senior undergraduate students in the school's European studies program.

The course introduces students to traditional and non-traditional security challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and how to cooperate in addressing them. Misalucha said she modeled her teaching methods and curriculum on the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies system of "education through engagement and empowerment."

DKI APCSS faculty encourage Fellows to drive discussion and to share their knowledge and expertise with one another.

Misalucha said, "If I step back and give my students space to be themselves and never hesitate to ask questions, they'll learn something new, perhaps from a different perspective."

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The course consists of four modules with Module 1 introducing students to the security framework and terminology related to the region's security environ-



Dr. Charmaine Misalucha instructs students in negotiation skills at De La Salle University in the Philippines. Misalucha, an alumna of the Advanced Security Cooperation course (ASC 15-2), implemented an ASC-like course for senior undergraduate students.

ment. In Module 2, plenary discussions focus on major security issues. Module 3 offers an in-depth look at regional cooperation mechanisms and attempts to address security challenges. Module 4 enables students to apply their new knowledge and skills in a final negotiation exercise.

The course offers topical lectures, such as "Introduction to Security Cooperation," "Overview of the Asia-Pacific and U.S. Role in the Region," "International Maritime Legal Architecture," and "Regional Security Architecture," and moves to overviews of sub-regions such as Northeast Asia and Oceania. It also includes lectures in civil-military relations, maritime and border security, climate change, and disaster risk reduction and response in the region.

The two-month program is interactive in that it features several exercises that make up 30 percent of the course. These include writing assignments and a causal loop exercise as

well as two negotiation exercises. The final negotiation is the course's capstone and challenges students to work through a major climate change issue while representing various simulated government agencies.

According to Misalucha, she designed and shaped the course in the short time between ASC completion in October and introduction in January. In the long-term, she stated she will be able to implement improvements and evolve the curriculum to be more in-line with the abilities of undergraduate students in the Philippines.

Thus far, she's found the new program a success. "This is, by far, my favorite class to teach. I've never seen students so engaged and so eager to learn."

Misalucha has a Ph.D. in international relations from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and her areas of specialization are U.S.-Southeast Asia relations, ASEAN and regionalism in the Asia-Pacific.