



ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

CURRENTS



BUILDING
PARTNERSHIPS

CURRENTS

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Moving forward

Vietnam's Tran Phuoc Anh briefs a strategic vision framework during a joint U.S.-Vietnam workshop March 20 at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. Anh was one of 30 Vietnam leaders who took part in a five-day event designed to enhance their understanding of international cooperation. The event was another step forward in the growing U.S.-Vietnam partnership. The complete story and others within the "Building Partnership" theme are found on pages 16-27.

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Building partnerships vital to peace, stability

In an interconnected world, the effects of events in one nation often extend into neighboring nations, and even throughout the world. A tsunami in Southeast Asia or an earthquake in Nepal, can spark a global response. Additionally, crime, conflict and terrorism often occur today at the transnational level, requiring multinational engagement.

In such a world, achieving stability and prosperity demands a commitment to building international partnerships. This edition of *Currents* showcases how the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies is reaching across language, cultural and political barriers to foster an effective network of bilateral and multilateral partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region.

APCSS alumni have literally changed the world by engaging in informed and successful professional partnerships at the individual, organizational and national levels.

With that in mind, we partnered with the Office of the (U.S.) Secretary of Defense for Policy and U.S. Pacific Command to conduct the “Building Maritime Shared Awareness in Southeast Asia” workshop in May. The event enabled the United States and 10 ASEAN nations to increase cooperation through sharing best practices on operations such as combating piracy, and narcotics smuggling.

In April, we teamed with the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help prepare that nation to assume the ASEAN Chair-



Frequent bilateral and multilateral courses and workshops enable APCSS to partner with governments and agencies to address challenges impacting multiple security-related arenas, to include effective governance, security sector development, and health and environment.

manship. Lao PDR will lead various ASEAN organizations and events, including hundreds of summits. Thus, we facilitated discussions on effective coordination and organizational change.

Partnering with the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, the Center hosted the “Vietnam and Regional Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific” workshop in March. Our team helped strengthen 30 Vietnam leaders’ understanding of how cooperation can enhance integration into the global community.

Our entire focus at APCSS is to empower people through education and connection; over time, this focus has borne much fruit. APCSS alumni have literally changed the world by engaging in informed and successful professional partnerships at the individual, organizational and national levels. Over the last two decades, these have resulted in a host of positive security sector developments throughout the region.

My hope is that over the next two

decades, APCSS will become even more of a force for fostering the vital partnerships needed for a peaceful, prosperous Asia-Pacific region.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Congress re-designated APCSS as the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, or DKI APCSS. We will still be called “APCSS” for short by many, but at the same time, we are very honored to be taking on the name of the late Senator. A Medal of Honor recipient and long time U.S. Senator from Hawai’i, he was instrumental to the establishment of our Center. See the related news story on Page 37 for more details.

Sincerely,

Lt. Gen. (Ret) Dan Leaf
Director, APCSS