



# DANIEL K. INOUE ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

## TRANSNATIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION (TSC 17-2)

### **Purpose**

The Transnational Security Cooperation Course (TSC) provides senior security practitioners from the Asia-Pacific region an opportunity to enhance their understanding of transnational security issues of common concern. The course also offers new ways to think about translating shared perspectives into collaborative policies and actions in a complex system context. At the end of the course, we want the Senior Fellows (course participants) to walk away with an enhanced understanding of the opportunities, as well as the challenges, contained in the complex and serious issues they face now and in the future.

### **Course Description**

This is an intensive program for current leaders on the upward track for positions of significant national (and possibly international) responsibility. This is not a military focused course. While the traditional concept of "security" often emphasizes the use of armed forces, it is far narrower than the approach we take. The course will look at a comprehensive array of issues such as: terrorism, environmental degradation, natural disasters, geopolitical competition, maritime disputes, cyber threats, civil-military dynamics, and regional governance. We will explore and "practice" collaborative action in an "exercise" format on strategic response to real-world transnational threat scenarios (e.g., a pandemic or an earthquake). The course will also consider "harder" geo-strategic issues such as power shifts among nations as part of the context in which broader security concerns play out. The program is based on the broad notion that regional security is significantly enhanced by collaborative efforts at monitoring, preventing, preparing for or responding to any transitional threat.

The curriculum emphasizes the impact of change in the region, as well as capacities -- leader and institutional -- to manage change. The course integrates a challenging program of interactive presentations, dialogue and action-planning. Course attendees join an expanding network of regional security practitioners that include their classmates and DKI APCSS faculty, as well as regional "communities of interest" via a dedicated web portal used by alumni.

This course typically includes about 30 senior executives from varied ministries and organizations within governments (as well as approved NGO/IO officials with security-related portfolios); about 30 nations/organizations represented, with usually two representing the United States. Peer level ranks would be ambassador/deputy minister/flag-general rank military and regional directors. This senior executive education opportunity mostly benefits: senior leaders whose current or future responsibilities require influencing and/or making strategic and operational decisions within multilateral, multinational, and whole-of-government forums; as well as those who value the networking opportunities presented by having 30 of their peers from across the Asia-Pacific region sharing in this experience.



### **Educational Objectives**

To achieve the course purpose stated above, the TSC has specific educational objectives in three areas: 1) enhance Senior Fellow knowledge, 2) improve Senior Fellow collaborative skills, and 3) expand Senior Fellow security-practitioner networks.

#### 1. Enhance Knowledge

- a. Strategic planning and leadership skills for understanding the nature of a security situation
  - i. Comprehensive analysis
  - ii. Multi-player (including Non-State Actors)
  - iii. Emergent and unpredictable
- b. Evaluate and integrate the impacts of current trends shaping the regional security environment
  - i. Traditional geopolitical realities (e.g., “Rising Powers”)
  - ii. Trends that will affect future possibilities (e.g., demographics; climate change; technology)

#### 2. Strengthen Collaboration Skills and Leadership Capacity

- a. Strategic Assessment
  - i. Identify what information is needed to support decisions
  - ii. Identify the key components of the system (i.e., actors, processes and linkages), its current condition and mutually desired changes to the system
  - iii. Evaluate the linkages among trends for likely impact, reinforcement across trends, and “Black Swan” possibilities
  - iv. Consider sources of information to keep current on trends and to broaden the range of perspectives considered
- b. Policy Formulation: Articulate succinctly the strategic approach, priorities and purpose for taking action
- c. Development of Strategic Action Options



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- d. Identify and evaluate a set of possible actions that are realistic, effective and produce acceptable 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> order effects
  - e. Evaluate who can best undertake the proposed actions and in what time frame
  - f. Operate as a team: Establish team and mission/task goals/objectives, establish team rules, roles, and responsibilities
3. Empower Networks
- a. Among TSC Fellows, DKI APCSS faculty and guest speakers
  - b. Among “communities of interest” sponsored by DKI APCSS for all alumni
  - c. Through connections with DKI APCSS alumni and alumni organizations at home

### **Educational Approach**

- Beginning with stage-setting, Senior Fellows are provided security challenges as the context for small-group discussions
- Senior Fellows are then placed into small, diverse groups to maximize group interaction and role playing, given likely/possible security issue/threat scenarios. Scenarios are challenging and realistic
- DKI APCSS faculty focuses group discussions with regional and functional area information, as needed
- DKI APCSS emphasizes factual analyses and clear conclusions and recommendations based on collaborative discussions