



Purpose

The Advanced Security Cooperation (ASC) course of five weeks is designed to inform mid-career and senior security practitioners from across the Asia-Pacific Region about this large, diverse, and complex region, its many security issues, and identify opportunities for improving the way we as a region approach these challenges, both on a national and a regional level.

Participation in the course will also enhance the capability of every attendee—or Fellow—in the areas of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and decision-making undertaken in complex and culturally-diverse environments.

Through an increase in regional knowledge, an enhanced network of security practitioners, and refined collaborative skill set, each ASC Fellow will return to their normal duties empowered to enhance security governance in their respective countries and generate / execute effective strategies to manage the Asia-Pacific Region’s most compelling security challenges.

Course Overview and Educational Approach

The Advanced Security Cooperation course comprises a mix of lectures, interactive sessions, and an individual research project called “The Fellow’s Project.” Subject matter experts deliver lectures that examine the security dynamics that confront security practitioners in the Asia-Pacific Region as a whole, as well as those unique to its sub-regions. They will also explore the cooperative mechanisms—or sometimes the lack thereof—that exist to address these complex and, in some cases, seemingly intractable, security matters.

ASC leverages the skills, experiences, and analysis of its Fellows from across the region to broaden every Fellow’s perspective and utilize experiential learning. Fellows engage in seminar activities to share ideas, understandings, and solutions. They participate in interactive exercises and simulations to develop critical-thinking skills, an ability to formulate strategies to address regional and sub-regional issues, and an understanding of the challenges of high-level negotiation.

Fellow’s Project: During the ASC each Fellow will develop and brief a Fellow’s Project that is relevant to their workplace. The aim is for each Fellow to devise a project that analyzes an issue and offer a feasible, implementable solution to a challenge in their agency that can be implemented upon return to their home country. Fellows should give serious consideration to what they would like to do for their Fellow’s Project and discuss it with their supervisor *prior* to attending the course and arrive with a solid idea in mind. APCSS facilitators will assist them in developing the project during the course.

Overall, ASC provides an international setting that strives:

- To stimulate critical thinking, in particular by providing a rare combination of very diverse perspectives of the Fellows combined with an exceptional team of Subject Matter Experts
- To enhance capacity to capitalize on opportunities for regional collaboration and cooperation;
- To improve international cooperation and effectiveness in relation to regional security issues, including promoting efforts to address protracted challenges associated with the global commons;

- To enhance civil-military relations and security sector cooperation and effectiveness;
- To improve governance and security sector integration; and,
- To develop extensive networks and relationships among a community of mid-career and senior level security practitioners and aspirants.

Who Would Benefit by Attending this Course

The Advanced Security Cooperation course typically attracts a broad range of participants from across the Asia-Pacific Region. The course curriculum is designed primarily for security practitioners whose current or future responsibilities require significant participation in, or a need to deeply understand, domestic and international security analysis, policy formulation and execution, and security cooperation. Ideal candidates have the following backgrounds or aspirations:

- Mid-senior civil servants, bureaucrats, or representatives of government agencies, international organizations, or non-governmental organizations;
- Field grade officers (Major to Colonel or equivalent) and equivalent civilians in military, law enforcement, and intelligence organizations;
- Mid-career civilian officials (U.S. FSO-04 to FSO-01 equivalent) in foreign ministries;
- Officials from other national agencies involved in interagency and international efforts to manage both traditional and non-traditional security challenges
- In support of the U.S. Government's National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). ASC especially seeks suitably qualified females for the diverse perspectives, enhanced discussion, and solution development that they bring to the course and the security sector in general.

Educational Objectives of ASC

1. Enhance each Fellow's knowledge on security matters and cooperation:

- Fellows are able to identify key issues and trends impacting on the security environment of the Asia-Pacific Region;
- Fellows share best practices of security sector governance; inter-governmental coordination and cooperation
- Fellows learn tools to reduce tensions and advance cooperation internally across a country's security sector and externally in the international community.

2. Develop each Fellow's effectiveness as security practitioners:

- Fellows understand the relevance of cultural differences, how to leverage them, and the value of examining problems from various viewpoints;
- Fellows are practiced at examining problems from other view points
- Fellows communicate effectively to advocate and persuade (not just to inform);
- Fellows have enhanced problem analysis and individual project management skills.

3. Expand the network of Asia-Pacific security practitioners:

- Fellows have built relationships with practitioners from other organizations and nations;
- Fellows have access to new and emerging information and communications technologies (ICTs) to maintain relationships and connectivity beyond the DKI APCSS experience.

Course Curriculum

ASC is constructed around four modules that walk the Fellows from an exploration of cognitive tools, through an understanding of Asia-Pacific security issues and potential solutions sets, culminating in the application of this knowledge in cooperative simulations. Over the course of five weeks, Fellows will participate in a combination of subject matter expert instruction, seminar discussion, and experiential learning. This experience will be augmented through team building events that help to turn a collection of more than a hundred individuals from across the region into a cooperative security network.

Module 1: Introduction and Tools of Analysis: Fellows participate in activities to enable them to understand complexity and the security environment. These include activities to enhance understanding of the interconnectedness and multi-mindedness of the regional environment, as well as to develop critical thinking via understandings of causal relationships, issue-framing, and critical problem-solving. Analytic tools learned through these exercised will then be used to evaluate a contemporary regional security issue.

Module 2: Strategic Landscape of the Asia-Pacific Region: Through a series of lectures by subject matters experts, Fellows are informed about the strategic landscape of the Asia-Pacific Region and four of its sub-regions. Discussions in seminars heighten understanding of the regional security environment, as well as leverage experiences of the diverse group of Fellows from across the region. The module concludes with an exercise in which Fellows examine and formulate ways to enhance sub-regional cooperation.

Module 3: Major Security Dynamics in the Asia-Pacific Region: Subject matter experts inform Fellows about security cooperation and cooperative attempts to resolve major transnational security issues in the Asia-Pacific Region. Seminar discussions enhance understanding of such matters and of Fellows' concerns about them.

Module 4: Conflict Resolution and Security Cooperation: In this module, Fellows apply the knowledge and analytical tools developed over the previous weeks to display their understanding of deepened security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region. They do so by participating in a negotiation exercise that challenges them to balance interests and many actors in the pursuit of cooperative security. The module concludes with each Fellow completing their Fellow's Project Plan and presenting it to faculty and Fellows.

Electives: The ASC will offer Fellows a number of electives that will enable them to delve more deeply into other issues of their choice.

Other

ASC provides a "Foundations of Fellowship" program that enables all Fellows to engage with their colleagues and relevant DKI-APCSS staff via a number of social activities. Extra-curricular activities enable them to learn about, and see some of, Hawaii. On occasions, the ASC also will offer "brown bag luncheon" events to which Fellows can bring their own lunch and consume it while listening to a knowledgeable speaker discuss a topic of relevance.

ASC Course Manager: Professor Bill Wieninger
ASC Course Coordinator: Associate Professor Sungmin Cho