



Purpose

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

Course Description

This is an intensive, one-week program for current security sector leaders – both civilian and military -- on the upward track for positions of significant national and international responsibility. The course will look at a comprehensive array of emergent and over-the-horizon issues such as: terrorism, environmental degradation, natural disasters, geopolitical competition, maritime disputes, cyber threats, civil-military dynamics, and regional governance. 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. Senior Fellows will interactively exercise strategic thinking and cooperative responses to real-world transnational security scenarios (e.g., the evolving security dynamics on the Korean Peninsula). 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 security threat.

The curriculum emphasizes the impact of change in the region, as well as capacities to manage change -- leader and institutional. The course integrates a challenging program of interactive presentations, dialogue and action-planning. Course attendees join an expanding network of regional security practitioners that includes their classmates and DKI APCSS faculty, as well as over 12,000 alumni across the region, linked via a dedicated web portal.

This course typically includes about 30 senior executives from varied ministries and organizations within governments, as well as NGO/IO officials with security-related portfolios. Peer level ranks would be ambassador/deputy minister, flag-general rank military officers, and regional directors. This unique education and networking opportunity mostly benefits: senior leaders whose responsibilities require influencing or making decisions within multilateral, multinational, and whole-of-government forums.

Educational Objectives

To achieve the course purpose stated above, the TSC has specific educational objectives in three areas:

1. Enhancement of Senior Fellow Knowledge
 - a. Strategic planning and leadership skills for understanding the nature of a security situation

- i. Comprehensive analysis
 - ii. Multi-agent (including Non-State Actors)
 - iii. Emergent and unpredictable
 - b. Integration of the impacts of current and emerging 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. Strengthened Collaborative 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, and reinforcement across trends
 - 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: Identify and evaluate a set of possible actions that are realistic, effective and produce acceptable 2nd/3rd order effects
 - d. Evaluation of who can best undertake the proposed actions and in what time frame
 - e. Team building: Establish team and mission/task goals/objectives, establish team rules, roles, and responsibilities
3. Senior-level Security Sector Networks
- a. Among TSC Fellows, DKI APCSS faculty and guest speakers
 - b. Through connections with DKI APCSS alumni and alumni organizations at home

Educational Approach

1. Beginning with stage-setting, Senior Fellows are provided security challenges as the context for small-group discussions
2. 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
3. DKI APCSS faculty focuses group discussions with regional and functional area information, as needed
4. Senior Fellows sharpen their skills through role-playing exercise