Fellow Projects

NORTHEAST ASIA

SOUTH ASIA

THE AMERICAS

SOUTHEAST ASIA

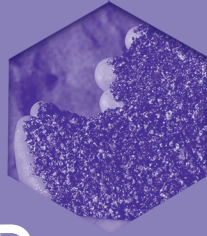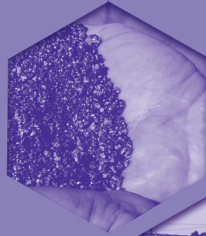OCEANIA

DANIEL K. INOUYE

ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

Educate
Connect
Empower

April 2025

Directors'
Message

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I present to you the latest edition of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) Fellow's Project Booklet. This compilation showcases the remarkable initiatives undertaken by our Fellows, reflecting their dedication to advancing peace, stability, and cooperative security throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

At DKI APCSS, we are committed to educating, connecting, and empowering security practitioners. Our Fellows Projects embody this mission by translating academic insights into practical solutions that address real-world challenges. These projects not only demonstrate the innovative spirit of our fellows but also their unwavering commitment to effecting positive change within their respective communities and beyond.

DKI APCSS publicly celebrates the completion of this projects by presenting a distinguished Certificate of Completion and, most importantly, a Laulima lanyard that signifies a milestone achievement of any alumni. The projects featured in this booklet serve as a testament to the power of partnership and the shared commitment to a secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

As you explore the pages that follow, I encourage you to reflect on the innovative approaches and diverse perspectives presented. May these projects inspire continued collaboration and serve as catalysts for new initiatives that further our collective goal of enhancing regional security cooperation.

With warmest regards,

Suzanne Vares-Lum
Director
Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center
for Security Studies

Fellow Projects

The Fellow Projects were introduced into the core curriculum of DKI-APCSS in 2009. Since then, the program has become an integral process of learning, understanding, and implementing policy-based research and analysis pertinent to the Indo-Pacific region. What the Fellow Projects do is provide an opportunity for our fellows to think big and attempt to influence policy in their organization or maybe even in their country. Projects developed by Fellows have included creating national security strategies, counter-terrorism training programs, and technical solutions to monitor IUU fishing, to name just a few. Ideas for projects develop from policy discussions with peers and faculty during their residency at the DKI-APCSS campus in Hawaii.

• All participants in DKI APCSS Comprehensive Security courses complete a Fellow Project, a tangible demonstration of the center's core motto of Educate, Connect, and Empower.

• Through a project-based learning model, the program strives to develop the critical thinking, collaboration, assessment, and analytical skills required to design and implement solutions relevant to the Fellows' work with the goal of improving organizational performance, security sector governance, and national capacity.

• The Fellow Project provides the opportunity for the fellows to gain the necessary skillsets and knowledge to effectively diagnose and develop pragmatic solutions to a set of problems that they identify as being critical to the national security of their country and region.

• The project intends to demonstrate the ability to think broadly and make multiple connections with complex issues. Additionally, the Fellow Project also assists in the growth of a professional network with colleagues, faculty, and subject-matter experts both within and outside the center.

FELLOW PROJECTS ARE ORGANIZED INTO THREE CATEGORIES:

Strategic, Operational, and Tactical

Strategic Level Projects
Develop a new national security policy
Update national counter-terrorism strategy
Develop a multinational anti-trafficking strategy
Develop a plan to counter IUU Fishing

Operational Level Projects
Improve inter-ministerial security cooperation
Develop HADR training for naval cooperation
Improve intelligence sharing to detect terrorist activities
Develop SOP for agency crisis operations

Tactical Level Projects
Efficient Use of Manpower and Transport in my Unit
Establish Digital Security Controls at Ports
Improve Base Security and Access

For more information on Fellow Projects, please visit
https://tinyurl.com/ypmszhds
or scan below:

Shashika Sandaruwan Ekanayake

Directing Staff, Junior Command & Staff College

BUILDING CYBER RESILIENCE AMONG MIDDLE-GRADE OFFICERS IN SRI LANKA AIR FORCE

Project timeline: 6/29/2023 – 12/4/2023

As the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) continues to adapt to evolving threats in cybersecurity, Squadron Leader Shashika Sandaruwan Ekanayake identified network vulnerabilities that current and future officers must address. To best protect critical cyber infrastructures, he concentrated his efforts on revising the existing cybersecurity training module for junior and middle-grade SLAF officers. Sqn. Ldr. Ekanayake surveyed samples of students to identify weak areas of cyber awareness and successfully adjusted the curriculum accordingly.
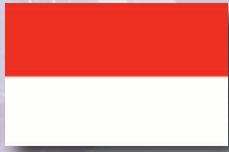

Ananda Raj Khanal

Senior Director, Nepal Telecommunications Authority

DEVELOPING A NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY POLICY FOR NEPAL

Project timeline: 3/13/2015 – 8/7/2023

Over the course of eight years, Mr. Ananda Raj Khanal took the initiative to develop and implement Nepal's first National Cyber Security Policy. He coordinated with international and national stakeholders, like the International Telecommunication Union and Nepal's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, to create a comprehensive policy. The Cabinet approved this document in August 2023, and Mr. Khanal is pursuing several initiatives to fully implement the policy and raise cyber awareness across government, academia, and the general population.

Indonesia

Atika Rachma

Policy Analyst, Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs

OPTIMIZE THE COORDINATION WITHIN THE INDONESIAN INTER-INSTITUTIONAL "SYNERGY PROGRAM FOR COUNTERTERRORISM"

Project timeline: 6/30/2022 – 1/5/2023

Ms. Rachma addressed the coordination gap in a national counterterrorism program by synchronizing national objectives with the local government's available resources. Arranging meetings between relevant stakeholders, her efforts culminated in the formation of an initiative focusing on the social integration of former convicted terrorists. Ms. Rachma ultimately demonstrated the possibility of multi-actor collaboration under this national counterterrorism program. The Indonesian Counter Terrorism Agency has plans to implement this initiative in several provinces.

Papua New Guinea

Charlie Siniu

Agreements & Implementation Chief, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PNG – US DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Project timeline: 5/25/2022 – 2/28/2023

Mr. Charlie Siniu was part of the negotiating team that established the Papua New Guinea—United States Defense Cooperation Agreement in 2023. He participated in consultations with the Washington team to identify shared areas of interest and points of contention. The agreement provided a foundational framework to enhance security cooperation and bilateral relations between the United States and Papua New Guinea.

Philippines

Analyn
Antonio

Director, Intel Research & Analysis Center,
HW Naval Intelligence Security Force, Navy

APPROVAL FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A READILY DEPLOYABLE SURVEY BOAT AND SKIFF: A KEY TO ENHANCE THE HYDROGRAPHIC CAPABILITY OF THE NAVAL METEOROLOGICAL AND OCEANOGRAPHIC CENTER

Project timeline: 10/26/2022 – 3/13/2023

Lieutenant Commander Analyn Antonio identified several opportunities to advance hydrographic capabilities within the Naval Meteorological and Oceanographic Center. She produced a position paper, arguing for new equipment that will provide a better understanding of the maritime environment. Acquiring a survey boat and skiff, LCDR Antonio was responsible for this enhanced capability that assessed and prevented deployment dangers for Navy personnel.

Sri Lanka

Harsha Sandamal
Weerasuriya

Head of the Special Investigations Unit /
Acting Deputy Chief Security Manager
Sri Lanka Ports Authority

DIGITAL DOCUMENTATION OF VEHICLES & PERSONS AT PORT ENTRY / EXIT GATES

Project timeline: 9/21/2022 - 8/15/2023

Mr. Harsha Weerasuriya sought to enhance the security measures within Sri Lanka's maritime ports by streamlining access control procedures and modernizing documentation efforts. Faced with a high volume of consistent activity, Sri Lanka's ports were faced with the challenge of manually documenting each individual and vehicle accessing these High Security Zones. Mr. Weerasuriya successfully implemented a system that digitizes this process using mobile Barcode/QR Code Scanners, alleviating the time-consuming nature of manual registration.

Thusitha Jayarathne

Sri Lanka

Senior Instructor, Sri Lanka Army War College

AWARDING ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY QUALIFICATION FOR SRI LANKA ARMY WAR COLLEGE COURSES

Project timeline: 2/15/2023 – 11/7/2023

Colonel Thusitha Jayarathne sought to provide additional opportunities for officers in the Sri Lanka Army War College by awarding academic qualifications to its courses. He recognized the benefits of receiving accreditation because officers had to balance coursework alongside their potential deployment and intense scheduling. His Fellow Project provided postgraduate diplomas to eligible students.

Mendee Jargalsaikhan

Mongolia

Director, Institute for Strategic Studies of Mongolia

DKI APCSS – MONGOLIA SECURITY DIALOGUE

Project timeline: : 2/15/2023 – 10/30/2023

Dr. Mendee Jargalsaikhan observed a disconnect in the security dialogue between Mongolia and the United States despite shared interests and an extensive network of DKI APCSS alumni. To address this knowledge gap, he proposed an event between DKI APCSS and the Institute for Strategic Studies of Mongolia titled "APCSS – Mongolia Security Dialogue." Experts came together to discuss threats and challenges in the Indo-Pacific and potential future iterations of this event.
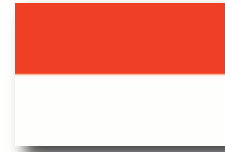
Mahima Duggal

Researcher, Center for Air Power Studies (CAPS)

POLICY PAPER ON NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY AND AIR POWER

Project timeline: 6/17/2021 - 8/2/2022

Ms. Mahima Duggal's proposed a research project focused on air power in the Indo-Pacific and its strategic importance. She prepared a policy memo titled "A New Air Power Doctrine for the New Era" that emphasized the importance of establishing a refined doctrine that encapsulates opportunities and challenges for India. She released her paper as part of the Air Power in the Indo-Pacific book project aimed at the Indian Air Force leadership. She is also involved in another project about air power dynamics in East Asia.
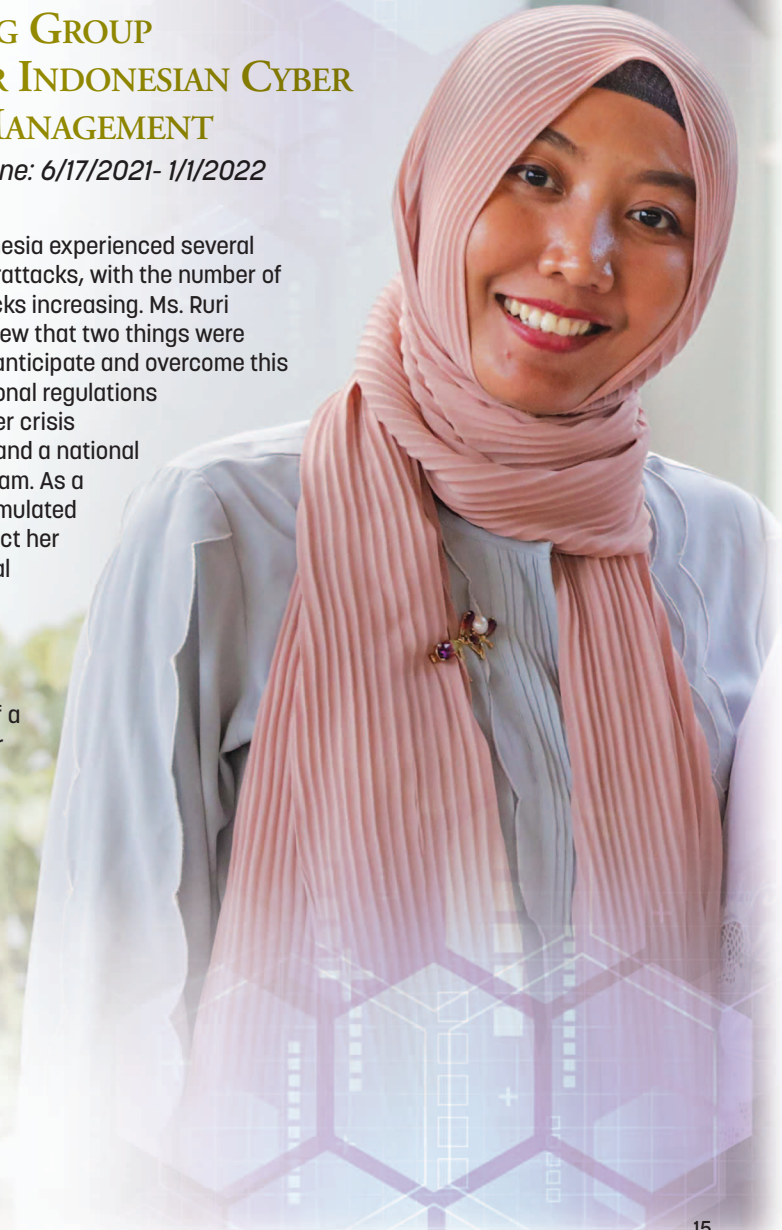
Ruri Prabaswari

Senior Data Analyst, Indonesia National Cyber and Crypto Agency

WORKING GROUP FOR INDONESIAN CYBER CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Project timeline: 6/17/2021- 1/1/2022

In 2022, Indonesia experienced several massive cyberattacks, with the number of potential attacks increasing. Ms. Ruri Prabaswari knew that two things were necessary to anticipate and overcome this situation: national regulations regarding cyber crisis management and a national cyber crisis team. As a result, she formulated a plan to protect her nation's critical infrastructure sectors. Ms. Prabaswari recommended the creation of a National Cyber Crisis Management Team, which will form the blueprint for establishing Indonesia's National Cyber Crisis Management.

Charukris
Ruangsuwan

Chief of Operation, Thailand Ministry of Defense

CRITICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT PROCESS IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, THAILAND

Project timeline: 3/22/2023 – 6/29/2023

Despite ranking highly as a country utilizing information and media systems, Thailand places lowly in global assessments of cybersecurity infrastructure. Lieutenant Colonel Charukris Ruangsuwan observed this operational gap within the Ministry of Defense and proposed a project to address it. He used a Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) framework provided by the Cyber Security Act of Thailand (2019) to examine its possible application to information systems within security organizations. Collaborating with cybersecurity experts and other government working groups, LTC Ruangsuwan created a guideline for implementing a CII framework within the Ministry of Defense.

Kristina Camille
Cablayan

Chief, Multilateral Cooperation Division (DND)

IMPROVED THE COMMUNICATION FLOW ON THE APPROVAL OF INDIVIDUAL MILITARY DEPLOYMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE OPERATIONS

Project timeline: 10/26/2022- 3/6/2023

Ms. Kristine Camille Cablayan sought to improve the implementation of a previous memorandum concerning effective military deployments to the United Nations Peace Operation (UNPO). She ultimately produced a Department Circular establishing guidelines that improved the communication flow processing military deployments. Her project produced strong cooperation among different offices within the United Nations to coordinate these deployments into conflict zones.

Completing a Fellow Project requires initiative and resilience, and DKI APCSS recognizes the Fellows' accomplishments. Upon completing their project, Fellows are awarded with a Certificate of Completion and Laulima lanyard. This distinguished group also has a higher probability of being selected to return as a visiting Seminar Leader in future CSC courses and competing for the Alum of the Year Award.