



OPENING REMARKS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ASEAN-IPR

Making Peace In The XXI Century (Module I):

**Introductory Training On Conflict Analysis and Conflict Resolution for the
ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Bodies/Centres/Entities**

19 November 2025 (09.00 – 09.30, UTC+7)

Jakarta, Indonesia

Opening Remarks – 5 minutes

Excellency, DSG Nara,

Dear Esteemed Partners from the CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation,

Distinguished Facilitators and Panellists,

Colleagues from the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Bodies/Centers/Entities, and
ASEAN Member States Representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are living in a disruptive world. There are no quick wins in today's conflict. No
instant conflict resolution.

No consensus what the future would be. Uncertainty increases.
No perfect forecast of the future, as peace space is shrinking.

Conflict management has become a defining feature of contemporary governance.

It requires regional capacity to handle and better anticipate crisis as well as prevent
new conflicts.

So, making peace for the 21st Century is even more challenging.

However, as the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2008 President Marti Ahtisaari said:
*“Peace is a question of will. All conflicts can be settled, and there are no excuses for
allowing them to become eternal”.*

Valued and Growing Partnership

1. The recent Chairman's Statement of the 47th ASEAN Summit, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 26 October 2025, paragraph 32:

“We reaffirmed the importance of upholding ASEAN’s unity and centrality in promoting peace and stability in the region. In keeping with this spirit, we recognised the role and continued contribution of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR). We supported efforts to improve the effectiveness and ensure the sustainability of the ASEAN-IPR”.

2. In this regard, I extend my utmost gratitude to the CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation, for our robust partnership and working closely with the ASEAN-IPR team in co-designing the training programme, to ensure the smooth delivery of this training.
3. Our collaboration has been a source of great strength. This partnership has only grown stronger. It is these continuous dedication and commitment that have made today’s training possible, reflecting our shared, higher goal of supporting peacebuilding across the region.
4. We wish our partnership will sustain for the years to come.

The Purpose and Promise of the Training

5. This brings us to the core objective of our training. While training on conflict analysis and resolution widely exists, this program is specifically designed for professionals within the ASEAN system and working on regional affairs.
6. In facing new and contemporary challenges, it is necessary to be equipped with diverse modalities and a deeper understanding of conflict analysis, conflict management, knowledge on mediation, and facilitation methods.
7. On the other hand, this training directly supports ASEAN’s efforts to strengthen its institutional capacity and effectiveness, ensuring we are future-ready in addressing regional and global challenges, as anchored in the ASEAN Charter.
8. It is also a reaffirmation of our commitment and keeping the spirit to upholding ASEAN’s unity and centrality in promoting regional peace and stability, as reflected in the Chairman’s Statement of the 47th ASEAN Summit.
9. As part of its mandate and functions to hold capacity building initiatives among relevant government officials on conflict management resolution, the ASEAN-IPR is proud to initiate this training on conflict analysis and conflict resolution.
10. This Introductory Training aims to provide a comprehensive baseline of learning to empower you with knowledge and practices that can foster strategic actions in your professional work, ultimately contributing to a more peaceful and resilient region.

11. Furthermore, we also expect this Training will guide you in developing concrete recommendations and solutions for ASEAN on conflict resolution mechanisms.

Closing

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. ASEAN cannot simply be standing still. ASEAN must have a clear vision of what the challenges of our region are.
13. Sustainable peace supports ASEAN as a community to deal better with traditional and non-traditional challenges to stability and security.
14. ASEAN needs to be adaptive, responsive and forward looking, and able to anticipate opportunities and address emerging and future challenges.
15. We need to seek a regional architecture reflecting a renewed commitment to the promotion of peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region through:
 - Continuously waging peace.
 - Balancing high aspiration with local reality.
 - Create more space for dialogue.
 - Create regional ecosystem to prevent new conflict.
 - Empowering the regional institutions and mechanisms.
16. Before I conclude, my gratitude goes to our facilitators and experts for this 3-day Training.
17. My sincere appreciation also to our esteemed participants. Your commitment to being here is a testament to your dedication to advancing peace and security.
18. My hope is that over these three days, this Training will be more than just a learning space – may it be a source of inspiration. I encourage you to use this as an affirmative space for dialogue, to exchange ideas, and share best practices from your own institutions.
19. You can learn from one another and let the insights gained here translate into actionable recommendations that shape our region's approach to conflict management and resolution.
20. ASEAN continues to be the driving force in the promotion of a regional architecture that is conducive for the maintenance of regional peace and stability.
21. Diplomacy is about managing flash points and avoiding miscalculation.
22. It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you all to this ASEAN-IPR and CMI Introductory Training on Conflict Analysis and Conflict Resolution.

23. I wish you all a profoundly insightful and productive training.

24. Thank you.