



Forging and Fostering Peace

ASEAN Institute for  
Peace and Reconciliation

# ASEAN-IPR Newsletter

Forging and Fostering Peace

## Highlights

- *ASEAN-IPR Regional Conference on Cybersecurity and the Role of Information Technology in Fostering a Culture of Peace in ASEAN (CyberCon2025)*
- *ASEAN Women, Peace and Security Community of Practice (WPS CoP) Consultation Meeting*
- *ASEAN-IPR Women in Processes: Regional Symposium and Capacity Building*
- *ASEAN-IPR Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Training Programme (Module Three)*

## Dear Readers,

Welcome to the third edition of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) Newsletter. As we continue our journey to promote culture of peace in the region and beyond, this issue brings you stories, reflections, and key highlights from our work in the first half of 2025. In this edition, we are pleased to feature several of our new publications, which explore critical issues in cybersecurity and contribute to advancing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in ASEAN. Accordingly, this third issue offer updates on key activities such as the ASEAN-IPR Cybersecurity Conference, Regional Symposium on Women in Peace Processes, youth engagement initiatives, and a variety of capacity-building activities. Moreover, we are proud to introduce our newly launched digital catalogue – which showcases inspiring stories of grassroots women peacebuilders from across the region.

These milestones reflect our ongoing commitment to forge and foster peace in the region and beyond.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Members of the ASEAN-IPR Governing Council, Advisory Board, and the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry for their continued support and guidance. Above all, we sincerely thank our partners, stakeholders and you – our readers and the general public – for your unwavering support, which continues to drive our collective efforts forward.

Happy reading!

**I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja**

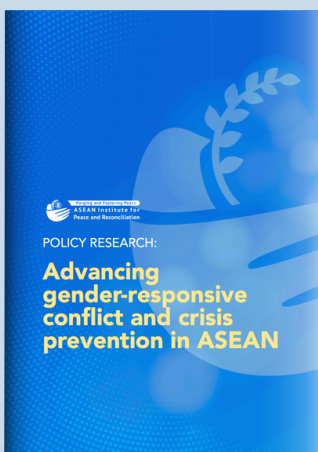
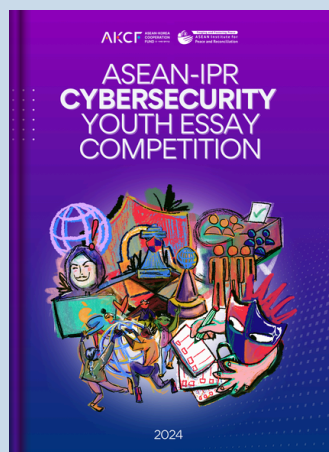
*Executive Director,*

*ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation*



# New Publications Alert!

[Click here to access all publications](#)



**ASEAN-IPR Discussion Series,  
 Session 3 – Fostering Water Diplomacy: Advancing  
 ASEAN’s Regional Water Security Agenda**



**Jakarta, 23 January 2025** – With the support from Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), ASEAN-IPR convened the concluding session of the Discussion Series 2024 at the ASEAN Secretariat/Headquarters. The event was attended by over 240 participants from across the region, including government officials, academics, students, and representatives of think tanks and civil society. The session welcomed two high-level Special Envoys on Water: Mr. Antti Rautavaara, Special Envoy for Water of Finland, and H.E. Retno L.P. Marsudi, United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Water.

This session focused on the escalating challenges of managing transboundary water resources in Southeast Asia, particularly in the context of climate change and regional water security pressures. Throughout the discussion, speakers and participants underscored the urgency of multi-stakeholder cooperation and the role of ASEAN’s consensus-based approach in advancing water diplomacy.

**36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN-IPR Governing Council**

**Jakarta, 13 February 2025** – The ASEAN-IPR Governing Council (GC), as the Institute’s highest decision-making body, conducted its 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting at the ASEAN Secretariat/Headquarters, Jakarta. It was the first under the Chairmanship of Malaysia, led by H.E. Sarah Al Bakri Devadason (Permanent Representative of the Malaysia to ASEAN, concurrently Representative of the Malaysia to the GC). Under Malaysia’s leadership, the Institute will follow and carry the theme “Inclusivity and Sustainability”, reflecting a commitment of broad-based participation and long-term resilience in the region’s peacebuilding efforts.

The Meeting deliberated initiatives of the Institute lined up for the year, as stipulated in its Annual Work Plan for 2025, and finalised the ASEAN-IPR’s Annual Report for 2024. During the meeting, GC Members also extended their sincere appreciation to H.E. Bovonethat Douangchak, Representative of Lao PDR and Chair of the GC in 2024, for his leadership and contributions during his tenure. Members conveyed their best wishes as he concludes his assignment.



**ASEAN-UK Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Forum**



**Jakarta, 18-20 February 2025** – Youth representatives from ASEAN Member States, Timor-Leste, and the United Kingdom (UK) came together for the ASEAN-UK Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Forum, fostering a diverse and dynamic space for the next generation of peacebuilders. The Forum was co-organised by ASEAN-IPR, UK Mission to ASEAN (supported by the Foreign, Development and Commonwealth Office (FDCO)) and The Asia Foundation. Held under the theme “Building Understanding on the Use of Technology-Enabled Transnational Security Threats,” the Forum provided a platform for youth to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange experiences, and collectively explore how their generation can contribute to addressing pressing security challenges in the digital era.

Throughout the sessions, participants shared their thoughtful insights and proposed concrete ways to strengthen youth involvement in addressing technology-enabled transnational threats. As a key outcome, youth participants developed a set of recommendations, including the establishment of a virtual community of practice for YPS in ASEAN.

## ASEAN-IPR Regional Conference on Cybersecurity and the Role of Information Technology in Fostering a Culture of Peace in ASEAN



**Bangkok, 24-26 February 2025** – Over 100 participants gathered in Bangkok for the ASEAN-IPR Regional Conference on Cybersecurity and the Role of Information Technology in Fostering a Culture of Peace in ASEAN (CyberCon2025). The Regional Conference was officiated with a pre-recorded keynote address by H.E. Dr Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN, and welcoming remarks by H.E. Lee Jang-keun, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to ASEAN, as well as from Mr. I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja, Executive Director of ASEAN-IPR. Over the course of the event, experts, policymakers, and practitioners from across the region engaged in insightful discussions on emerging cyber threats, the ethical use of technology, and strategies for safeguarding the region’s digital future.



The Conference featured five thematic sessions, which included (1) understanding the cybersecurity landscape; (2) IT, cybersecurity, and peace; (3) gender, human rights, and cybersecurity; (4) social media, gaming, radicalisation, and cybersecurity; and (5) cyber threats and political stability.

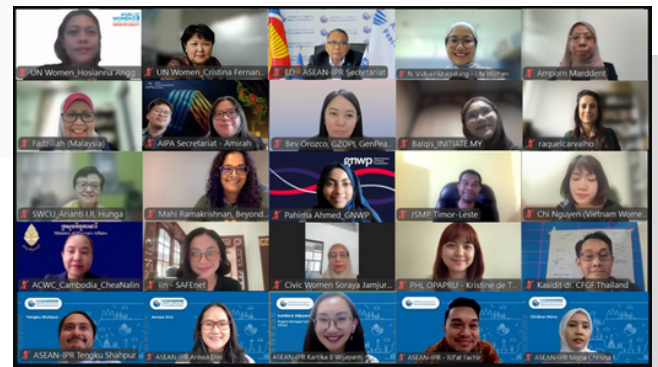
The primary objective of CyberCon2025 was to develop a set of policy recommendations that emerged from discussions between speakers and participants. The Conference also aimed to contextualise the definition of cyber peacebuilding within ASEAN. At the end of each session, participants completed data collection questionnaires designed to capture key insights and recommendations. These findings were later analysed and presented during the Summary Session of the Conference. The final report, consolidating all recommendations, will be provided to policymakers and stakeholders to strengthen ASEAN’s cybersecurity policies.

In the lead-up to the Conference, ASEAN-IPR also engaged youth group through a series of pre-events, including the Youth Discussion: Social Sips & Bytes (July 2024) and the ASEAN-IPR Cybersecurity Youth Essay Competition (November 2024). As one of the Institute’s flagship initiatives in 2025, the ASEAN-IPR CyberCon2025, along with its supporting activities, were supported by the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF).



## ASEAN Women, Peace and Security Community of Practice (WPS CoP) Consultation Meeting

**Virtual, 13 March 2025** – With support from UN Women and funded by the Governments of Canada, the United Kingdom, and Republic of Korea, ASEAN-IPR hosted the inaugural online consultation meeting for the establishment of the ASEAN Women, Peace and Security Community of Practice (WPS CoP).



The consultation brought together a wide range of participants from across the region, including experts, civil society organisations (CSOs), academics, researchers, women and youth organisations, and media professionals. The meeting aimed to consult participants on how to build and operationalise the WPS CoP, as well as to gather input on proposed activities and workflow(s) and coordination. Moving forward, the CoP will serve as a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement, sharing of best practices, avenue to build partnerships, promote joint action, and create a collaborative effort to implement and advance WPS initiatives in ASEAN.



## ASEAN-IPR and UN Women “NAP Academy II” Training Workshop on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

**Jakarta, 9-11 April 2025** – The adoption of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (RPA WPS) marked a significant milestone in promoting WPS Agenda across the region. To further support its implementation, ASEAN-IPR and UN Women co-organised the Second Regional Workshop on National Action Plans (NAPs) on WPS. Bringing together around 60 participants, the Workshop gathered advocates, policymakers, and representatives from civil society organisations across Southeast Asia. Participants from ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste shared their respective countries’ progress, challenges, and lessons learned in developing and implementing NAPs on WPS.

Over the course of three days, participants engaged in in-depth discussions on enhancing multi-stakeholder and inter-ministerial coordination, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and exploring strategic approaches to WPS policy development and implementation. With support from the Governments of Canada, Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom, the Workshop marked a pivotal moment in localising WPS Agenda in across the region.



## 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN-IPR Advisory Board

**Jakarta, 22 April 2025** – The ASEAN-IPR Advisory Board (AB) is responsible to generate priority research areas of the Institute. The AB held its 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting, marking the first under Malaysia’s Chairmanship this year on 22 April 2025 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The meeting, conducted in a hybrid format and chaired by Dr. Abdul Razak Ahmad at the ASEAN Headquarters/Secretariat, was attended by representatives from ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste. The meeting focused on updating the Institute’s priority research areas and exploring their implementation through concrete projects.

In addition, the Meeting also explored opportunities for deeper engagement with key stakeholders and discussed potential strategies to broaden participation and collaboration at both regional and global levels. The AB also looked at possible ways to amplify the Institute’s visibility and impact in each ASEAN Member State, bearing in mind that most AB Members are based in each Member State.

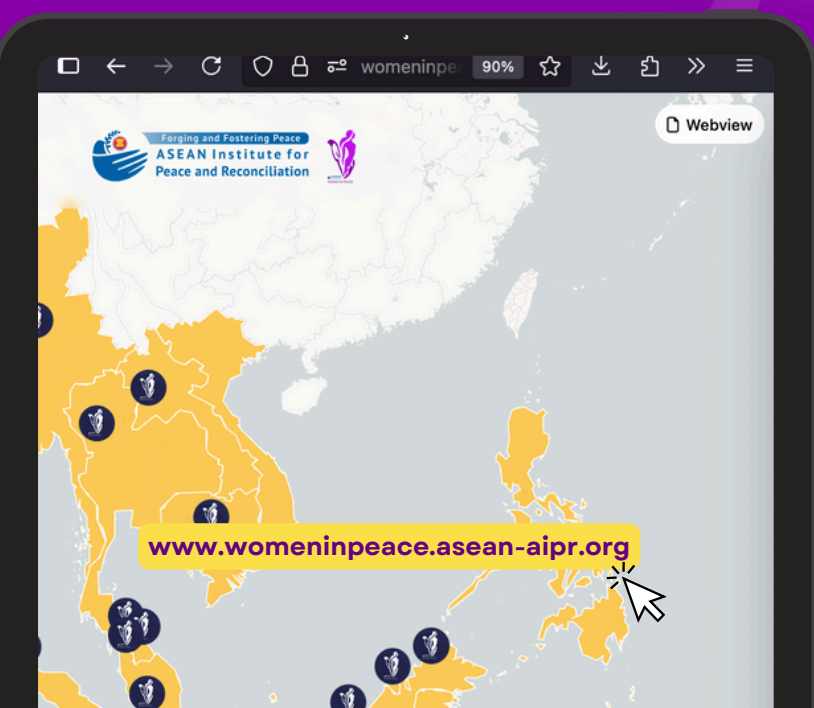
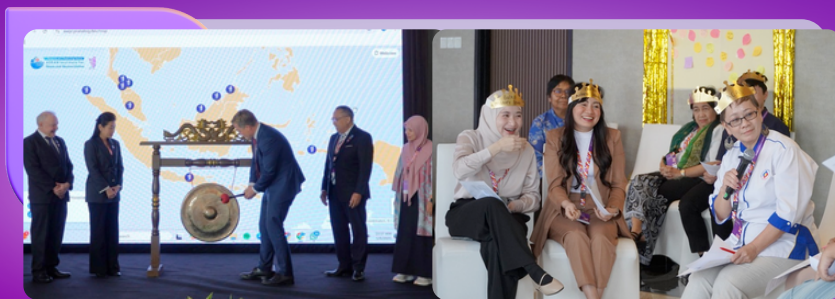
## ASEAN-IPR Women in Processes: Regional Symposium and Capacity Building



**Jakarta, 5-8 May 2025** – With support of Norway-ASEAN Regional Integration Programme (NARIP), ASEAN-IPR convened the Regional Symposium and Capacity Building activity under its Women in Peace Processes Programme. Held under the theme “Her Stories, Our Peace: Women’s Journey in ASEAN Peace Processes,” the Symposium served as a platform for members of the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR) and their research teams to present national-level findings and share stories of women peacebuilders at the grassroots level who have played pivotal roles in peace processes.

The Symposium provided also with a panel discussion which addressed four critical thematic areas, based on the relevance found in the research findings: (1) Gender-Based Violence and Human Security; (2) Conflict Transformation; (3) Peacekeeping and Monitoring; and (4) Emerging Security Issues.

One of the key highlights of the Regional Symposium was the official launch of the Digital Database of ASEAN-IPR Women in Peace Processes, showcasing the profiles and stories of grassroots women peacebuilders from across ASEAN. The launch was officiated by the State Secretary of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik.



Following the Regional Symposium, a capacity building activity was conducted to support women peacebuilders participants in addressing specific needs and enhancing impact within their communities. Co-led by AWPR Members, the activity featured sessions on gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding, peace diplomacy, independent fundraising, and sustainability strategies.

For more information and to explore the Digital Database, visit [www.womeninpeace.asean-aipr.org](http://www.womeninpeace.asean-aipr.org) or through our main website at [www.asean-aipr.org](http://www.asean-aipr.org).

## ASEAN-IPR Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Training Programme (Module Three)



**Bangkok, Thailand, 17-19 May 2025** – In the heart of Bangkok, ASEAN-IPR convened Module Three of its Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Training Programme, bringing together 22 participants from ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste. Building on from the foundations laid by Modules 1 and 2 in the previous year, this session was specifically tailored for senior-government officials from ministries and agencies responsible for defence and security.

Over three intensive days, participants engaged in hands-on sessions, case studies, simulations, and role plays, focusing on peacebuilding, conflict prevention and conflict resolution. Moreover, the Training also explored global best practices in peace processes and political negotiations, with a strong emphasis on gender-responsive approaches. A notable highlight of the Training was a session with H.E. Dr. Marty Natalegawa, Founder/Convenor of the Amity Circle and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia (2009-2014), who shared valuable insights on “Diplomacy, Negotiation, and Dialogue”.

Organised with the support from UK Mission to ASEAN and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Training reflected the Institute’s strong commitment to promoting gender-inclusive peacebuilding and supporting the important role of women in creating a more peaceful and resilient ASEAN.

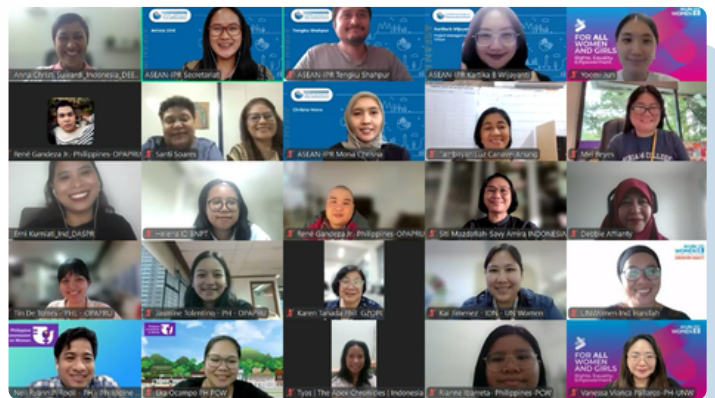


## Second Round of ASEAN WPS Community of Practice (CoP) Online Consultation Meeting

**Virtual, May-June 2025** – Following the first ASEAN WPS CoP consultation held on 13 March 2025, the second round of online consultations focused on discussing the establishment of the CoP Coordinating Committee (CoP CC) and validating key findings from the first consultation. These rounds of consultations were divided into smaller country-clustered consultations to allow for more detailed and thorough discussions.

The second consultation brought together diverse participants from several ASEAN Member States, including experts, civil society organisations (CSOs), academics, researchers, women and youth organisations and media professionals.

Looking ahead, the ASEAN WPS CoP is scheduled to convene its final consultation at the end of July. This session aims to finalise the Terms of Reference (ToR), which will be officially launched during the ASEAN WPS Summit in September 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



## 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN-IPR Governing Council



**ASEAN Secretariat/Headquarters, 30 June 2025** – ASEAN-IPR convened the 37<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting at the ASEAN Secretariat/Headquarters in Jakarta. The meeting reviewed the Institute's on-going programmes, endorsed the Annual Operational Budget (AOB) for 2026 and considered newly proposed initiatives for the current and upcoming year. The Meeting also endorsed the Institute's new organogram, which includes an expanded structure to further strengthen the Institute's functions and operational capacity.

In addition, Members of the Governing Council also welcomed the new Representative of Lao PDR, H.E. Sitsangkhom Sisaketh, and Alternate Representative of the Philippines to the Governing Council, Ms. Maria Elena Cristina Maningat (Charge d'Affaires, a.i., Permanent Mission of the Philippines to ASEAN). Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Political-Security Community (DSG-APSC), H.E. Dato' Astanah Abdul Aziz was also in attendance, representing the Secretary-General of ASEAN, who is an Ex-Officio Member of the GC.



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