

Annual Report

Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation Phase II
2015



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Resilient nations.*

UNDP-JAPAN Partnership Fund

Annual Report

**Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation Phase 2
(STEP II) Project**

January - December 2015

UNDP Thailand Country Office

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I. BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation (STEP) Phase II	
UNDP Project ID	00090901
Project Duration	3 years (January 2015-December 2017)
Reporting Period	April-June 2015
Total Approved Project Budget	813,740 USD
Participating UN agencies	-

Implementing Partners/ National collaborating agencies	Prince of Songkla University, Southern Border Provinces Administration Centre. Office of the National Security Council, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior
International collaborating agencies	-
Donors	JAPAN-UNDP Partnership Fund TRAC 1.1.3 (Conflict Prevention and Recovery)
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Project website	http://step.psu.ac.th/

II. INTRODUCTION

(1) Project Background

The impact of violence in the southernmost provinces of Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat, is jeopardizing human security and development for people living in the area. In addition to the victims of attacks, local people are indirectly beleaguered by the impact of violence. Residents, of which Malay-Muslims comprise around 80 percent, have to contend with insecurity, disrupted education, and fears generated by the activities of both the insurgents and security forces on a regular basis. The impacts include (1) A low level of community security and perpetual threats to personal safety; (2) Economic hardship from difficulty securing sustainable livelihoods, particularly for vulnerable groups such as women, youth and those with disabilities; (3) The social exclusion of marginalized groups as a result of distrust and tension in communities; (4) Less space for participation in public affairs and democratic governance processes due to the tightening of security measures, and (5) Deprived access to government services and justice. In order to stop violence and allow for a future peace settlement to be sustained, peace initiative must be built on the support of the majority of the population and address the main grievances such as the economic marginalization of vulnerable groups, access justice and the distrust within different segments of the population.

The Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation Phase 2 (STEP II) Project combines both conflict prevention elements and peace building activities in all deliverables and provides the opportunity for a large number of stakeholders, both government and non-government, to come together with the aim of finding common solutions to achieve social cohesion in the southern border provinces. Prince of Songkla University coordination with responsible parties and stakeholders are the implementing to address a wide range of challenges in the three southern border provinces and to contribute to the achievement of social cohesion and human security and prevent further escalation of the conflict situation in the region.

(2) Project Objectives

The objectives of STEP Phase II include: fostering a resilient society in the southern border provinces of Thailand; expanding participatory planning and sustainable livelihood activities

(commenced in Phase I), and taking a holistic approach to access to justice, and progress towards a peaceful society. With this in mind, the project aims to achieve the following within Thailand's development context,:

- The inclusive participation of all peace networks in the peace process. Local stakeholders' knowledge of the peace building process is enhanced thanks to constructive dialogue and other peaceful resolution mechanisms
- Vulnerable groups can access effective legal services and receive quality legal protection from the key duty bearers
- Communities and populations in need are empowered and equipped with skills and resources to successfully establish and manage community development initiatives based on locally appropriate and sustainable practices that contribute to improved human security and social cohesion

To achieve the project objectives, STEP Phase II takes a two-pronged implementation approach: expanding horizontal peace building and anchoring project activities in the national stabilization process. Having established an enabling environment and the broader inclusion and participation of civil society during the first part of the project (horizontal peace building), the second part seeks to anchor these enhanced mechanisms for interaction into existing structures and institutions that feed the national stabilization process. Initially, this would require a gentle approach, along with careful consideration and design. Within the enabling environment, there will be opportunities to connect to the national normalization process. To identify such entry points and to facilitate the seizure of such opportunities, a team of experts will be created. This team will consist of key players on a local and national basis, who will regularly consult and assess ways to connect the local peace-building process to the national reconciliation process. Only when this team of experts considers the most strategic entry point and the moment for to act has arrived, will the connection be made. The connection can take the form of an event (e.g. a cultural celebration, a conference, a workshop or a public debate). The challenge will be to make a sustainable connection, i.e. to have a process that enables systematic meeting points between the national and the local peace building processes. The livelihoods and improvements to the rule of law are building blocks that are used to consolidate progress made in terms of social cohesion and to enhance the likelihood of linking local level peace building to the national process.

III. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The STEP Phase II project focuses on the continuation of project activities from 2012: capacity development of CBOs/CSOs; improvement of livelihood and self-sustainability of vulnerable population; access of local people to effective legal services and justice system; mainstreaming conflict prevention/resolution and building social cohesion in local governance; environmental management through community participatory approach; enabling common and public spaces for

peace dialogues and policy recommendations; and training for government officials and community leaders to enhance social cohesion and conflict resolutions.

The year 2015 was the inception of STEP II project and marks a productive starting year. The activities to broaden peace processes with inclusive participation of all peace networks have made satisfactory progress thus far. . The Institute of Peace Studies (IPS) and its partners achieved key goals which included (1) Development of Local media for broadened communication on peace in the Deep South through various activities to promote three components of knowledge (i.e. peace process, Melayu language, and communication) (2) Promotion and dissemination of alternative media to enhance communication networks and encourage access to information by extending more accessible spaces for information about the Deep South vis-à-vis discourse on the existing peace process (3) Establishment of Academic Learning Centers on Community Peace in three provinces (Safety Net: Kampong Damai) which aims to open political, democratic, and safety space for people to participate in peace building in potential communities in the three southernmost provinces. (4) Building the capacity of local leaders to exercise a firm command on positive peace components (i.e. justice, equality, and autonomy) with the expectation that local leaders will recognize the importance of participating in the peace-building process and feel empowered to do so. (5) Conducting trainings and workshops under the auspices of various organizations on the peace process for local communities and fleshing out peace networks (6) Promotion of Insider Peacebuilders' Platform (IPP), which for years has been a platform for NGOs/CSOs to meet on a regular basis and discuss peace and conflict in the Deep South, in order to develop a joint roadmap to settle the conflict peacefully. IPP also encourages all parties to establish a safety zone for the fragile peace through close collaboration with academic institutions and civil society organisations in the region.

According to the activities to empower vulnerable groups to access justice, with active cooperation of community leaders and religious leaders, the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) prototype has been solidly developed, in parallel with alternative media initiatives, for reducing the occurrence of disputes and building peace in the southernmost provinces. The College of Islamic Studies (CIS) established a focus group of eminent scholars, including Religious leaders and community leaders from Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat, Satun and Songkhla, and organised focus group meetings, to share and exchange their experiences of using exiting dispute resolution mechanisms in their community. The focus group has accumulated and categorised the various types of ADRs which already exist in communities and take into account the dispute resolution mechanisms which may be suitable or work well, with attention paid to the divergence of social and religious context of local people in the Deep South. CIS also collected data on ADRs in Kelantan state in Malaysia and Aceh in Indonesia for comparative studies. The ADR mechanism is expected to help increase access of local people to effective legal services and justice system and, most importantly, to build social cohesion in the target areas. Another key activity to promote access to justice was supporting Heart Support Group (Duay Jai), an NGO working to empower families (Women and children) of detainees charged of national security offences in the Deep South in order to empower detainees' families on access to justice, to provide legal aid to the detainees through capacity building activities, and to support the detainees' families through various activities including family visits.

Regarding social cohesion enhancement, progress has been made for laying the foundation for social cohesion through livelihood improvement sub-projects supported with small grants. The Small Grants Committee and administrative mechanism were established to monitor small grants disbursement and identify key target areas and beneficiaries. The criteria for the small grants application was approved by the Small Grant Committee in order that local communities would be effectively identified for small grants. After the establishment of small grant mechanisms, the 12 potential community projects were selected, including nine projects in Pattani, two projects in Yala, and one project in Narathiwat. Thereafter, representatives from the selected communities were trained through two key workshops which included a workshop on small project proposal preparation and a workshop on project management and financial management for their effective and transparent project implementation. The last quarter of 2015 was a productive period for local community projects supported by small grants; the twelve local community groups selected by the small grant committee have made significant progress in starting up their project. The groups are grouped into three categories, including (1) Women and Youth Empowerment; (2) Energy and Environmental Management; and (3) Opportunity creation for New Community Enterprises. Most of them have sacrificed their time and energy to move their project forward based on each group's specific needs and skills. Some have manufactured their products and begun selling them at local markets. Others are still in the process of obtaining health certificates for their factories. As the capabilities of community-enterprise management or project implementation of each local community group are at different levels, some projects have moved slowly and while others more quickly.

Additionally, the involvement of local government agencies in development of the aforementioned livelihood-improvement projects was augmented. Various local government agencies such as Sub-district Administrative Organisations, Non-Formal and Informal Education (ONIE), District Livestock Development Office, Provincial Public Health Office, and Provincial Community Development Office have been invited to provide assistance and consultation to local community groups. The involved local governments have demonstrated responsiveness and accountability to local communities, and this participation has built a positive relationship between the two which will further strengthen cooperation and trust among them. To connect all local community groups, a platform called "Small Grantees Meeting" was established to provide an opportunity and a comfort zone to local community groups through which they may present their projects' progress and share experiences and lessons learned while running their projects. In addition to exchanging of knowledge among community groups, the grantee meeting will also maintain the relationship between Buddhist and Muslim families from different communities and provide links between communities and local government apparatuses.

In 2015, as most of the livelihood improvement projects have officially started at the last quarter of 2015, the progress of the projects focuses more on achievement of building social cohesion in community and trust between local people and local government than on the profit the groups have made. Profit was not clearly made in some projects, however, it was clear that the projects have helped foster social cohesion between Buddhist and Muslim communities and promote participation of local government. The most important aim is that sustainable livelihood

development in the Deep South will be promoted through the livelihood improvement projects.

IV. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The project has contributed positively to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The key achievements as per intended outputs can be described as follows:

Output 1: Participation in peace processes are broadened through strengthened capacity of local peace networks and better access to information.

Activity 1.1: Local Media Development

Institute for Peace Studies (IPS) continues to support the Deep South Journalist School (DSJ) to develop media for communication on peace in the Deep South through various activities. This media development aims to promote three components of knowledge: the peace process, Melayu language, and communication. People's civic awareness of the situation in the south and of the peace process was promoted through media developed by the Deep South Journalism School, a strong network of the IPS. In 2015, DSJ has organized a number of activities as follows:

(1) Peace Media Day

As 28 February 2013 was the day that the Thai government and a rebel Muslim group (representatives of the Barisan Revolusi Nasional:BRN) had a peace talk in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and signed an agreement on General consensus document to launch a dialogue process for peace in the border provinces of southern, CSOs and NGOs including academic institutes set the 28 February as the Peace Media Day to be a symbolic day for peace where Media, CSOs, NGOs, academic institutes, which are working on peace and conflicts in the Deep South, are provided with a platform to discuss and share their experiences and knowledge of peace, conflict situation, and other relevant issues. The first Peace Media Day was conducted in 2014 during the STEP Project Phase I. The second Peace Media Day, named "**Pa(t)tani Peace Media Day 2015**", was organised under the theme of 'Visible/Visionary Peace' was conducted on 28 February 2015 at Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus. The event aimed to provide civil society organisations and stakeholders in conflict areas with a public space for expressing their perspectives, and articulating their interest to be involved in future peace processes to decision makers who shape the direction of peace dialogues. This event brought together 1,000 participants from various organizations including 14 CSOs: (1) Civil Society Council of the Southernmost Thailand; (2) Buddhists Networks for Peace (B4P); (3) Chumchonsattha or Kampung Taqwa Network (4) The Network of Civic Women for Peace (NCWP); (5) Foundation for Child Development Pattani; (6) Hearty Support Group; (7) WePeace; (8), Yarang Public Health Networks; (9) Peaceful of Southern Boundary's Organization (POSBO); (10) The Association of Southern Political Science and Public Administration and Peace Studies; (11) Dream South Group; (12) Youth Volunteer Heart Group; (13) Photo Peace of South Group (PPS); and (14)

Melayu Language Institute of Thailand (Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Melayu Thailand) to participate in the following activities:

- Balancing Keynote Speeches on Visible/Visionary of a New Round Peace Dialogue
- Joint Statement: Peace Agenda from the Field (Agenda Damai Dari kakyat). Representatives from 14 CSOs delivered their statement urging the Government to take the political situation into account in a peace dialogue. They requested the Government and separatist movements stop resorting to violent means, targeting innocent people and encouraged them to promote public participation in peace processes.
- Media Platform: This session provided space for media networks to share their vision to develop constructive media outlets and innovative communications in order that the voice of people on the ground be reflected in the agenda for peace building and conflict resolution in the Deep South.

(2) Publications

Melayu newspaper “Sinaran”, and Melayu Newsletter “Patani Mingguan”.

The IPS supported the production of Patani Mingguan newsletters which were sent to 170 receivers. Sinaran newspapers in Melayu were produced with a total of 2,000 copies distributed both by post and at events to 477 individuals and 195 organisations. The newsletters were also posted on <http://www.deepsouthwatch.org/node/3831>. These two publications also helped link local peace networks to target groups in the southernmost provinces, such as religious schools (Pondok and Tadika Schools) where Melayu is mainly used. These media outlets paved the way for local people to gain better access to information and build a basis for people’s involvement in future peace processes.

A Book “the Road to Patani Peace Process”

Three thousand copies of the book entitled ‘The Road to Patani Peace Process’ authored by Rungrawee Chalernsripinyorat, a freelance researcher, was printed and distributed to peace networks and STEP project’s partners to enhance civic awareness of the situation in the south and the peace process. The book includes various topics, for instance, the background of the peace process, introductory peace dialogue in Kuala Lumpur, politics in Bangkok, and the next step of the peace process.



(3) Local Media Networking

To collectively develop and build reliable sources of the situation in the Deep South and make the information accessible to all, local media and relevant organisations cooperatively worked to promote the use of Melayu language and to develop news and articles in Melayu through network meetings. The Deep South Journalist School and the Melayu Language Institution of Thailand were the key organizations to regularly conduct local media network meetings with the aim to (1)

strengthen local media networks in the three southernmost provinces and Songkhla province; (2) create diverse channels of interactive communication (Patani Mingguan newsletter, Sinaran newspaper and panel discussion); (3) promote the participatory approach to media development for peace building and the preservation of local Melayu dialect. The local media networks agreed that Melayu could be better promoted and widely used in media outlets through a variety of programmes, e.g. news, poems, and cartoons. Therefore, there should be networks of Malayu development for communication in communities with Deep South Journalist School (DSJ) and other sectors relating to Malayu, to exchange points of views on development of Malayu for communication and to develop Malayu media. This meeting was a space for publicizing the networks' activities and discussing about how to strengthen cooperation among Malayu networks to develop Malayu language for sufficient communication and exchange information for promoting peace. In total, the participants included various network organisations including the Southern Tadika Coordinating Foundation (PERKASA), the Malayu Language Institute of Thailand (Dewan Bahasa Dan Pustaka Malayu Thailand-DBPMT), Sinaran newspaper (a newspaper in Malayu); and the Southern Malayu Broadcaster Networks Association. In 2015, there were four local media network meetings conducted in the three southernmost provinces as follows:

- The first Local Media Network Meeting on 'How to Cooperatively Develop Malayu Media for Peace Communication' was co-organized by DSJ, Malayu Language Institution of Thailand, and Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre (SBPAC), on 31 May 2015 at Rajapark Institute, Yala province. This meeting brought in 67 participants who are students and personnel of Rajapark Institute, Yala.
- The second Local Media Network Meeting took place on 9 September 2015 at the foundation of Southern Tadika Coordination, Muang, Pattani. In the meeting, there was a Jawi Malayu language workshop and a dialogue on "the role of Tadika (Islamic primary school) in Malayu Language Development."
- The third local media network meeting took place on 15 December 2015 from 09.00-11.00 hrs., at Darussalam School, a Islamic Schools located in Ra-ngae district, Narathiwat with approximately 40 participants who are students and teachers from the Darussalam School.
- The fourth local media network meeting was conducted on 15 December 2015 from 13.00-15.00 hrs. at Nahdatulsyuban School, Narathiwat with the participation of 40 people from Nahdatulsyuban School, and DSJ's networks.

(4) Thai-Melayu Translation Workshop

A workshop was organized on 12-13 September 2015 at the Deep South Watch, Prince of Songkla Univeristy, Pattani to 1) build capacity of youth translators and interested people for appropriate and precise peace communication and, furthermore, extensively disseminate information regarding the peace process to people in the Deep South to promote the use of Malayu 2) encourage all organisations to translate news and information on peace both from Malayu to Thai and vice versa to accommodate stakeholders involved in the peace process in the Deep South who speak either language. A news reporter from TV 3 Chanel of Malaysia based in

the Deep South of Thailand was invited as the resource person for the workshop. There were 30 participants including students studying the Melayu language from Prince of Songkla University who comprised a translator network, translators of DSJ, and other interested people.

Activity 1.2: Alternative media for communication in communities

The activity aims to promulgate information to people in relevant communities and extend more spaces for information sharing about the Deep South to wider society. Local media has played a key role in publicizing news stories concerning developments within the southernmost provinces to audiences within the Deep South and beyond via various outlets such as community radios, local newspapers, civil society networks, and other related organizations. This alternative media is an effective mechanism to promote access to information and raise awareness of the existing peace process that stresses non-violence.

Articles and interviews related to STEP II project and the peace process were published in a local weekly newspaper named *Focus*. More than one thousand copies were distributed to provincial Islamic Committees, Islamic private schools, and other stakeholders to expand areas for broader communication from communities to wider society and to promote the Deep South peace process. News and articles published in *Focus* in 2015 included:

- *“Patani 2020: Peace Vision, the answer is at civilian”*, Volume 18, Issue 897, 13-19 June 2015
- *“Talk to the watcher: One decade of violence”*, Volume 18, Issue 898, 20-26 June 2015
- *“Deep South crisis resolution: Community restoration for building pride on homeland of local people”*, Volume 18, Issue 899, 27-3 July 2015
- *“UNDP builds capacity of development actors to link the knowledge of communities and government agencies”*, Volume 18, Issue 902, 18-24 July 2015
- *“STEP II moves forward to open for all-round media spaces and to empower vulnerable groups”*, Volume 18, Issue 903, 25-31 July 2015
- *“After having swayed a junk through storm: Thienya, a conflict-affected woman group, is healed with livelihood development project”*, Volume 18, Issue 904, 1-7 August 2015
- *“Peace on economic basis: Communities determine their own development”*, Volume 18, Issue 906, 15-21 August 2015
- *“Comprehensive Justice, a universal voice of Islamic scholars”*, Volume 18, Issue 907, 22-28 August 2015
- *“Tracing a long walk to freedom of Nelson Mandela: Justice does not arise as sunshine”* Volume 18, Issue 908, 29 August-4 September 2015
- *“Unlocked Deep South peace process: Viewpoint of peace experts”*, Volume 18, Issue 910, 12-18 September 2015
- *“Patani: Alive History, Reversing perspective and criticism with the understanding of the concept of ‘us’”*, Volume 18, Issue 913, 3-9 October 2015
- *“Patani: A Terrace of Holy City-History, Philosophers, and New Generation in Mecca”*, Volume 18, Issue 914, 10-16 October 2015
- *“Alternative Knowledge in Conflict areas: Peace Curriculum from Academicians and practitioners”*, Volume 18, Issue 915, 17-23 October 2015

- *“Theories from real situation: From conflict world to the Deep South”*, Volume 18, Issue 916, 24-30 October 2015
- *“Identity of Peace: Getting Up of young generation in conflict areas”*, Volume 18, Issue 917, 31 October-6 November 2015
- *“A talk with the Director of Institute for Peace Studies: Expending to environmental conflict in the Deep South”*, Volume 18, Issue 921, 28 November-4 December 2015
- *“A talk with Martin Hart Hansen from UNDP-‘I don’t want to change the world’”*, Volume 18, Issue 922, 5-11 December 2015
- *“Safety Zone: Will there be safety in the future?”*, Volume 18, Issue 924, 19-25 December 2015

Activity 1.3: Academic Learning Center on Community Peace (Safety Net: Kampong Damai)

IPS has provided strong support to a local NGO (Academy of Patani Raya for Peace and Development: LEMPAR) to assume responsibility for the establishment of an Academic Learning Center on Community Peace in three provinces. The Academic Learning Center on Community Peace was designed to be a learning center and a platform for local people with special focus on three strategies of Campaign, Development, and Networking. Three learning centers will be established in three southernmost provinces with the aim to open political, democratic, and safety space for people to participate in peace building. The following three provinces are planned to establish an Academic Learning Center on Community Peace:

- Tha Kamcham sub-district, Nong Chik district, Pattani province
- Bacho sub-district, Bannang Sata district, Yala province
- Palukasamor sub-district, Bacho district, Narathiwat province

Activity 1.4: Capacity building of local leaders (Local Leaders for Peace)

Capacity building remains a key activity in empowering local leaders. In 2015, two capacity building activities on Positive Peace (justice, equality and autonomy) were conducted. The first was on 28-29 October and the second was on 11-12 November 2015, at the Faculty of Political Science, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus, with a total of 80 participants. This included members of the Sub-district Administrative Organizations (SAO), Sub-district Headmen, Village Headmen, and religious leaders, in Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat. The training workshop was for the benefit of local leaders to provide them with the knowledge of positive peace with the expectation that local leaders understand and be aware of the importance of participating in the peace building process. It consisted of a short course designed to emphasize the importance of the local leaders’ involvement in the peace building process at the grassroots level and to illustrate how they could effectively partake in building positive peace.

Activity 1.5: Trainings and workshops on peace process for local communities in the Deep South

Local communities and peace networks were promoted and empowered through various types of activities such as trainings, workshops, and national and international conferences. This activity

achieved its aim of facilitating common spaces for peace platforms and develop capacity of local peace networks.

(1) A training workshop on cease fire in Mindanao

To enhance knowledge and skills of local peace networks, a training workshop on cease fire in Mindanao and the South of Thailand was organised by the Institute for Peace Studies on 12 January 2015 at the Faculty of Economics, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai Campus. Mr. Atif Hameed, Director of the Nonviolent Peaceforce, Philippines, and Mr. Shadab Mansoori, Director of the Nonviolent Peaceforce, Myanmar, were invited as resource persons to share their knowledge and experiences of cease fire observation in Mindanao, the Philippines and in Myanmar. The workshop brought together 30 participants including government agencies, notably the Royal Thai Army and the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC), CBOs such as the Muslim Attorney Center (MAC), and media representatives in Songkhla, Pattani and Yala. The focused areas of discussion and learning were:

- Civilian participation in an early warning and early response system.
- Women's reporting on rights protection in violent situations.
- Collective collaboration of government agencies, civil societies, local civilians, and other related organizations in field monitoring and evaluation mechanism.
- Development of positive relations between local authorities and local communities.

(2) Symposium on “Wawasan Patani 2020: arah tuju Patani (Patani vision)”

Common space was provided to the public for sharing experience of peace through the symposium titled “Wawasan Patani 2020: arah tuju Patani (Patani vision)” held on 6-7 June 2015 at Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus, by People's College with the support of the Institute for Peace Studies (IPS). Dr. Kamarulzaman Askandar, Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Malaysian Sabah (UMSO, and the coordinator of Southeast Asia Conflict Studies Networks (SEACSN), was invited to deliver a special speech on peace building. Speeches about the direction of Patani and other related issues were also delivered by leaders and representatives from various organisations who have been driving peace processes. At this event, there was a Graduation Ceremony for graduates (potential young people and community leaders) of peace training courses from People's College. On this special occasion, graduates were provided a platform to share their knowledge gained from 'People's College,' which included an academic presentation on 'Case study of Peace Process in seven conflict areas' by graduates of the TOT curriculum (Training of trainers on conflict in transition period). A debate on 'Is violence needed?' by graduates of conflict in transition period course, a performance on 'Future of Patani/Deep South' by students of democracy course, and a panel discussion on “Our Preparation for Peace Process” by graduate representatives of three courses of People's College.

(3) Peace study seminar on “Long distance to freedom: Past and future of South Africa”

The seminar was organized on Friday 14 August 2015 at the Learning and Resources Center, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai Campus with the aim of broadening perspective through learning from peace building in local communities and reconciliation in South Africa from the past

to present. Experiences and knowledge of experts and scholars in this seminar were shared with 30 participants consisting of local people and local government officers with expectation of precipitating improvements toward suitable educational policy for education in the Deep South. The participants included students, teachers, and local people in the three Southern most provinces. The activities in the seminar were:

- Presentation on “*A Long Walk to Freedom: Past and Future of South Africa*” by H.E. Ms. Robina P. Marks, Ambassador of South African in Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Lao PDR
- Panel Discussion on the book “*Nelson Mandela with his uneasy walk to Freedom: Lesson Learned from his Autobiography*” by professors and graduate students from the Institute for Peace Studies, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai Campus, Songkhla province

(4) Historical Academic Seminar on “History of Siam-Patani: New Information on the relations with Mekkah”

This seminar was organized on 18 September 2015 at Prince of Sonkla University, Pattani Campus, Pattani province, the seminar featured the participation of 300 people from universities, media, CSOs, NGOs, and religious schools in the three southernmost provinces. It was the second year of this seminar and it aimed to provide information on relations of both Siam and Patani with Mecca, an important historic place which, as a city of faith, has been closely associated with denizens of the Sultanate of Patani, Siam, and the Cham people in Cambodia and Vietnam. In addition, the seminar inspired people to seek new knowledge of historical and multi-dimensional relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. With the expectation that this historical information will help usher in greater perspective and understanding in Thai society at both the local and national levels, the history of relations between Siam-Patani was provided to the participants through the following activities:

- A talk on “*Critical History: Siam and Patani*” by Professor Dr. Thanet Apornsuwan, a well-known historian and scholar, Faculty of Arts, Thammasat University, Bangkok.
- A panel discussion on “*Serambi Makkah: History of Siam and Patani in the relations with Mekkah*” by Dr. Maroning Saleaming, Dr. Numan Hayimasae, and Dr. Muhammad Arafat bin Mohamad, experts and professors from Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Songkhla.

(5) Movie Event named “Building Happiness and Good Environment in Society”

The movie event was conducted on 19 September 2016 from 13.00 – 16.00 hours at the theater room, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai Campus featured the participation of 50 people including students and local people from Songkhla and Pattani. The movie event was an effective peaceful mechanism to communicate with students and local people about the current situation in the Deep South. It also helped them understand the impacts of conflict and how disputes are resolved in communities. During the event, a movie about the Deep South was shown. A photo exhibition was also arranged to present the multiple dimensions of conflict: political and environmental conflict. Finally, a small concert at the conclusion of the event provided a relaxation

space for people after having been instructed in regards to the conflict and peace building in the region.

(6) International Conference on “TriPEACE via ASEAN Muslim Societies: Muslim Societies, Knowledge and Peacebuilding in Southeast Asia”

The Institute for Peace Studies along with its network partners: (1) AL-SALAM Institute, Fatoni University; (2) Center for Conflict Studies and Cultural Diversity (CSCD) Prince of Songkla University (PSU); (3) Faculty of Political Sciences, (PSU); (4) Peace Resource Collaborative (PRC), PSU; (5) College of Islamic Studies (CIS), PSU; (6) Deep South Watch (DSW), PSU; and (7) People’s College (PC), organized the international conference on “TriPEACE via ASEAN Muslim Societies” on 30 September 2015 at Imam al-Nawawi Conference Hall of International Islamic College, College of Islamic Studies, Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Pattani, Thailand, to open space for all peace networks to:

- Share and exchange knowledge among Muslim and non-Muslim academicians about Muslim dynamics in conflict areas
- Generate debate on controversial topics and issues about conflict and peace from Islamic perspectives
- Create academic and Muslim intellectual networks in the domestic region and Southeast Asia

In recent years, the Institute for Peace Studies and its key collaborator, the Center for Conflict Studies and Cultural Diversity (CSCD) among other network organizations, have been developing multiple peacebuilding support mechanisms. The activities involve academic and outreach projects such as research, training programs, conferences, and workshops designed to empower scholars as well as civil society practitioners to contribute toward peace efforts in Thailand’s Deep South region. Being aware of the difficult and sensitive process of peacebuilding, which depends on many different factors and social contexts, CSCD and other peace networks have decided to organize the International Conference on Muslim Societies: Knowledge and Peacebuilding in Southeast Asia to introduce local perspectives concerning conflict resolution in Thailand and other countries and sub-regions, including the Southern Philippines and Aceh in Indonesia. The core idea of the international conference was to bring together the lessons and thoughts of Southeast Asian academicians concerning Islam and Muslim societies in order to build a platform for future cooperation between academic institutions and civil societies within Southeast Asia. It was expected that the experiences of guest speakers from international and national communities will greatly contribute to local insights on peace processes bringing about enhanced peacebuilding platforms for the southernmost region of Thailand. 400 persons including academics, civil society participants, government officers and students attended the conference. The STEP II project’s potential partners (the Faculty of Political Science, Deep South Watch, and People’s College), which are key actors working on peace in the Deep South, took this opportunity to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to present their commitment to share and work closely to build peace in the region.

National and international experts were invited to join a panel discussion to share knowledge and explore new peace and conflict related issues with members of peace networks and local communities. Experts who presented at the conference included (1) Professor Yusny Saby, Former Rector of Universitas Islam Negeri Al-Raniry, Aceh, Indonesia, (2) Professor Macapado Abaton Muslim, President of Mindanao State University, the Philippines, (3) Assistant Professor Ismail Lutfi Chapakiya, Rector of Fatoni University, Thailand, (4) Associate Professor Khairuddin Aljunied, Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore, (5) Professor Datuk Dr. Osman Bakar, Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, and (6) Associate Professor Abdul Razak Ahmad, National Defense University of Malaysia. In addition to panel discussion, paper presentations were issued as follows:

- **“Conflict Resolution of Muslims in the Contemporary World: From Principles to the Tools”** by *Ms. Yasmin Sattar*, Ph.D. candidate, Institute of Social Sciences, Political Science and International Relations, Istanbul University, Turkey.
- **“Islamophobia, Ignorance or the Miscommunication? The Response of Muslim Community to the Adhan Conflict in Phuket Thailand”** by *Mrs. Oracha Rakdee*, Lecturer, Faculty of Political Science, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand.
- **“Basic Law and the Future of Socio-political Structure of Mindanao”** by *Professor Asnawil G. Ronsing*, Dean of The King Faisal Center for Islamic, Arabic and Asian Studies Mindanao State University, Marawi, the Philippines.
- **“Roles of Universities in Socio-political Development in Post Tsunami”** by *Dr. Muhammad Abdurrahman*, Deputy Dean Faculty Of Science & Technology UIN Ar-Raniry, Banda Aceh, Indonesia.
- **“Leadership Roles: Muslim Women in Three Southern Provinces of Thailand”** by *Dr.Suthirus Choochuen*, Lecturer, Faculty of Political Science, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand.
- **“Deliberative Democracy through Citizen Jury: The Case of the Administration in the Three Southernmost Provinces of Thailand”** by *Assistant Professor Suthisak Duereh*, College of Islamic Studies, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand.
- **“Examining the Role of Islamic Finance in the Peacebuilding Process in Southernmost Provinces Thailand”** by *Dr.Tawat Noipom*,Lecturer, College of Islamic Studies, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand.
- **“Role of Business in Peacebuilding: A Preliminary Survey on the Southernmost Thailand”** by *Mr.Aris Hassama*, Lecturer, College of Islamic Studies, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand.

Activity 1.6: Insider Peacebuilders’ Platform (IPP)

For years, the Insider Peacebuilders’ Platform (IPP) has been a platform for NGOs/CSOs to meet on a regular basis to discuss peace and conflict in the Deep South. The Institute for Peace Studies together with the Center for Conflict Studies and Cultural Diversity (CSCD) has supported its

implementing partners (Deep South Watch, Deep South Journalist School (DSJ), and People's College) to participate in IPP. Government agencies and national and international peace experts have been invited to share and discuss peace issues in the platform with the mutual hope that conflict will be solved and peace will be built with the cooperation of multi-stakeholders. IPP has been active in expanding peace networks and promoting the role and participation of NGOs and CSOs in the peace process in the Deep South. This platform brings together various peace builders including Thai-Buddhists, Thai-Chinese, Malay-Muslims and people with different political convictions who share a common interest in the peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Deep South of Thailand. The Platform started out as a joint conflict analysis to foster a common understanding of the unrest in the region and is widely perceived as being rather enigmatic.

In 2015, there were three IPP organized at Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus on 29-30 August 2015 (17th Insider Peacebuilders' Platform), on 3-4 October 2015 (18th Insider Peacebuilders' Platform), and on 28-29 November 2015 (19th Insider Peacebuilders' Platform), respectively by the Center for the Study of Conflict and Cultural Diversity (CSCD), Peace Resource Center (PRC), and Deep South Watch (DSW) at the Faculty of Political Science, PSU Pattani Campus. The IPPs brought together people of differing political persuasions (Party A and Party B) who nonetheless professed a joint interest in finding a peaceful solution to the conflict in the three southernmost provinces. The representative of the Royal Thai Government, NGOs, CSOs, Media, international organisations, and experts were invited to share their experiences and critical analysis on violence in the Deep South, for instance; the formation and roles of MARA Patani (Patani Consultative Council: PCC) on 25 October 2014, safety zone, and international humanitarian Laws, peace dialogues, and so on.

IPS and its peace networks have expected that IPP will continue to be a key platform for all peace stakeholders. The IPP participants have worked on developing a joint roadmap to facilitate conflict resolution through peaceful methods. They also used the IPP platform to encourage all parties to establish a safety zone to protect and ensure the implementation budding peace efforts through close collaboration with groups of academic and civil society organisations in the region.

Output 2: Vulnerable groups empowered to access justice with support of key institutions and networks.

Two main activities have gradually achieved their key aim of developing access to justice for local people:

Activity 2.1: Alternative Dispute Resolutions (ADR) Prototype

Descriptive research on alternative dispute resolutions (ADR) was conducted by the College of Islamic Studies (CIS), which aims to study dispute-resolution methods exercised in communities in the three southernmost provinces. Qualitative and quantitative information was collected to develop and propose a suitable ADR prototype for local communities in the Deep South. Information on ADRs used in the southernmost provinces of Thailand was collected from religious and community leaders in Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat, Satun and four districts of Songkhla province (Chana, Thepha, Na Thawi, and Sabayoi). Data collected through questionnaires featuring multi-

stage sampling techniques was analysed and results of the analysis were evaluated and presented to eminent scholars, legal and justice-administration experts, and local stakeholders.

Data of ADR was also collected in neighbouring Muslim countries including those following:

- Malaysia, where the CIS research team interviewed two main groups of community leaders in Kelantan state, Malaysia. The first was the community-leaders group supported by the opposition Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS party). The second was a group of community leaders supported by United Malays National Organisation (UMNO party). Two community leaders from each group (totaling four) were interviewed in depth.
- Indonesia, where the CIS research team interviewed various groups of people in Aceh, a semi-autonomous province on the northwest tip of Sumatra Island. Aceh showcases an interesting lesson learned about conflict resolution and peace building. Nine people—including community leaders, religious leaders, academics (professors who conducted research on ADR in Aceh), and the vice-governor responsible for customary law enforcement for dispute resolution—were interviewed for comparative studies and to develop new prototypes.

The research result pointed to the fact that similar types of ADR already existed in communities and there were myriad dispute-resolution mechanisms commonly available at the sub-national level in provinces. However, certain mechanisms may work very well in some particular community settings while proving difficult in other environments. The evidence substantiates the conclusion that if resorting to ADRs, one needs to pay attention to the divergence of social and religious backgrounds. The disputes or conflicts in communities are mostly resolved at the community level. Local people have a positive attitude toward alternative dispute resolutions and most of them preferred to have their disputes negotiated by the respectable elders.

The ADR popularly used in the three southernmost provinces involves negotiation, which includes the steps of (1) complaint receiving, (2) negotiator appointment, (3) interview, (4) dispute evaluation, (5) individual negotiation, (6) mutual negotiation, (7) agreement preparation and (8) negotiation closure. The success of negotiations depends upon the capacity of the negotiator and good cooperation of the dispute parties. The main obstacle, however, is a lack of cooperation between the two parties and the negotiator's unfamiliarity with legal affairs. The research indicated that local people should understand and be able to conveniently access alternative dispute resolutions, and the negotiator should be trained in both technical and practical negotiation procedures. A suitable ADR prototype for local communities in the three southernmost provinces should be flexible with uncomplicated operation procedures, compatible with the local community setting, easily applied in a range of scenarios—given the social and cultural contexts in each area, and applicable in both civil and criminal cases.

When developing a model to facilitate goals, one must be flexible and ready to adjust to local circumstances. The project will disseminate an ADR model in which participants accrue merit by de-escalating issues. There are six dimensions of the model that need to be taken into account: (1) sociological, (2) resolution of family conflicts, (3) religious conflict-resolution guideline, (4) deliberation with local religious leaders, (5) receiving and addressing complaints (6) incorporating

aspects of the Malaysian model—i.e. conflict resolution at the national level (complaints lodged with police in case of criminal case) and local level (head of the village resolves civil cases before problems intensify). After a prototype of alternative dispute resolution is developed and the ADR manual is produced, alternatives for improving the effectiveness of existing legal mechanisms in provision of legal assistance and the possibility of introducing alternative dispute-resolution mechanisms will be explored. The project will further discuss the possibility of initiating options for ADR by verifying the role of religious leaders and other possible local actors/community leaders who could fill the gap as service providers for local access to justice. Additionally, the capacity of community and religious leaders, legal aid networks, and negotiators will be developed through training modules to make available a range of legal assistance, integrate the available information on access to justice, and implement the ADR mechanism to enable vulnerable people to access justice.

Activity 2.2: Awareness Raising

On resolving the problems in the Southern Border Provinces, the “Safety of Area, Safety of People” approach has been promoted by the Royal Thai Government. However, violence has continued in the Deep South and injustice has been a consequential issue of conflict. STEP II project has urged for cooperation from responsible parties to empower local communities to access justice. On 3 August 2015, STEP II project met with Mr. Kitti Surakhamhaeng, director of SBPAC's Justice Administration Bureau, Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre (SBPAC), and Mr. Santhan Rattana, Provincial Justice, Pattani Provincial Justice Office, to explore avenues of cooperation in order to raise awareness of local communities and promote the existing justice system and its accessibility for all. The production of an alternative media outlet for information, education and communication in communities was also discussed. Even though there are a great number of organisations, both government and non-government, providing assistance to local people to access justice, there are barely enough publications or materials that provide comprehensive information on the existing justice system. STEP II project together with SBPAC and Pattani Justice Provincial Office agreed to cooperatively work to produce much-needed publications, either a manual or booklet, about the justice system and legal services. They planned to establish a working group to develop the access to justice tools in 2016.

Activity 2.3: Small Grants

The families of detainees, one of the vulnerable groups being affected by the conflict, have trouble finding accessible legal service or representation through the justice system. They need to be empowered to take advantage of these basic services to which they are entitled. STEP II project by the Small Grant Committee approved the sub-project on empowerment of detainees' families on access to justice proposed by the Heart Support Group (Duay Jai), an NGO located in Songkhla working to empower families (women and children) of detainees charged of national security offences in the Deep South. This sub- project aims to provide legal aid to the detainees through capacity-building activities and support the detainees' families through various activities including family visits. The beneficiaries are 200 national security offense prisoners in Central Prison in Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat, 50 former national security offense prisoners, and 50 members of national security offense prisoners' family. The project will take 1 year from January-December 2016.

Output 3: Local communities more resilient, with stronger social cohesion, through the improvement of livelihoods.

Activity 3.1: Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Materials

Two key publications for development planning and participatory community planning were published and disseminated to the project's counterparts and networks:

(1) A Manual on 'Social Capital-Based Development Plan and Budget Allocation'.

During the implementation of the STEP phase I, the King Prajadhipok's Institute (KPI) conducted research and pilot tested models for strengthening local authorities and communities in the Southern Border Provinces of Thailand through Public Participation and Planning Process. Two sub-districts in Pattani (Laem Pho sub-district, and Mae Lan sub-district) were selected for social capitals survey. The survey/research results were presented to the Sub-district Administrative Organisations (SAO) from Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat by KPI. Through this pilot testing and data collection, a manual on Social Capital-Based Development Plan and Budget Allocation was developed and published in English, Thai, and Malayu. In May 2015, 1,000 copies of the Thai manual and 1,000 copies of the Malayu/Yawi manual were published and distributed to targeted beneficiaries and stakeholders, especially all Sub-district Administrative Organisations in the three Southernmost provinces.

(2) A Book titled "Lessons Learned from the Implementation of Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation (STEP) Project 2010 – 2014".

Upon the completion of the Step I Project, experiences and knowledge gained from the implementation of project activities were captured and summarized as a lesson learned for future project implementation. In June 2015, 100 copies of the lesson-learned book were initially printed and distributed.

Activity 3.2: Development of Monitoring Mechanisms for Small Grants

To make the selection process of local community groups for small grants systematic and transparent, small grants body was established and selection criteria was created.

(1) Small Grant Committee

A Small Grant Committee was established on 16 April 2015, with endorsement from Dr. Yusuf Talek, Director of CIS and the chairperson of STEP Project Management Committee, including representatives from various project implementing parties, for instance, College of Islamic Studies, Institute for Peace Studies, the Center for Conflict Studies and Cultural Diversity, Faculty of Communication Sciences, and King Prajadhipok's Institute. Its functions are to develop the criteria and procedures for small grants and to identify small grants projects and target areas.

(2) Criteria for Small Grants Application

After the endorsement of the Small Grants Committee, the criteria for small grant proposals was approved by the Small Grants Committee.

The key criteria are (1) A grant of up to £10,000 available for livelihood improvement projects; (2) Only local communities, community-based organisations, civil society organisations, and non-governmental organizations in the three Southernmost province of Thailand are eligible for small grants application; (3) The group should have at least 10 members ; (4) The project should be a minimum of 12 months duration; (5) The project should focus on livelihood improvement of people in the three Southernmost provinces of Thailand; and (6) The project can be new or ongoing project but not being supported by any other funding source.

(3) National Advisory Consultants for Small Grantees

The project has recruited experts to help monitor, support, and provide consultation to the eight sub-projects. Dr. Hamdia Mudor and Ms. Jareeya Arttanuchit, who previously helped implement the income-generation projects in STEP Phase I, will provide technical advice to the eight sub-projects from September 2015- August 2016 2015. Key functions include:

- Develop sub-project implementation plans based on the needs, skills and social capital of local communities;
- Provide specific vocational training to the sub-projects;
- Work cooperatively with local authorities to effective implement the sub-projects;
- Provide consultation on project management, budget planning, product development, and market accessibility for the selected sub-projects; and,
- Engage stakeholders in the activities linked to social cohesion and ensure needs of local people are addressed.

(4) Small Grantee Meeting

To build social cohesion within communities and participatory governance capacity, a small grantees meeting was conducted on 1 September 2015 at C.S Pattani Hotel, Pattani in which 65 participants from various local government agencies and the eight grantees (local community groups) were invited to meet and share their experience in running their small grant projects. Local government agencies in three Southern provinces, including the Provincial Office of Non-Formal and Informal Educations, Provincial Public Health Offices, Provincial Community Development Offices, and Provincial Commerce Offices, were also invited to discuss and provide guidance for each community project. In the meeting, local community and local government agencies were matched for partnership in order for each community project be developed with multi-participation of stakeholders. The small grantees meeting was conducted quarterly to exchange knowledge among community groups, maintain the relationship between Buddhist and Muslim families from different communities, and provide links between communities and local government apparatuses.

Activity 3.3: Small Grants (Sub-projects on Livelihood Improvement)

Small grants have been provided to potential local community groups as a mechanism to build relationship between Buddhist and Muslim families, and to provide linkages between communities and local governance for social cohesion and community resilience through greater employment and livelihoods, as well as through longer-term community development and participation.

Vulnerable groups of people, including conflict-affected female-headed households and their families, are beneficiaries who will benefit from sustainable livelihood improvement. Pilot community enterprise in the STEP project Phase 1 was learning sites and trainers for new local community groups.

In addition to the Needs Assessment Report prepared by Ms. Rungrawee Chalernsripinyorat, an independent consultant initially considered potential local community groups for small grants. NGOs, CSOs, and local people were approached to submit a proposal to apply for small grant if interested and qualified.

After the end of selection process through the Small Grants Committee, twelve local community groups in Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat, were selected for small grants. Eight local community groups were selected in the third quarter of 2015 and officially started their project in October 2015 whereas four more groups were selected in the last quarter of 2015 and will start their project in 2016. Therefore, the progress of these livelihood improvement projects in 2015 highlighted how these sub-projects help build social cohesion in community and promote the participation of local government than how much the profit have been made. In a short period of sub-project implementation, building social cohesion was clearer than making a profit.

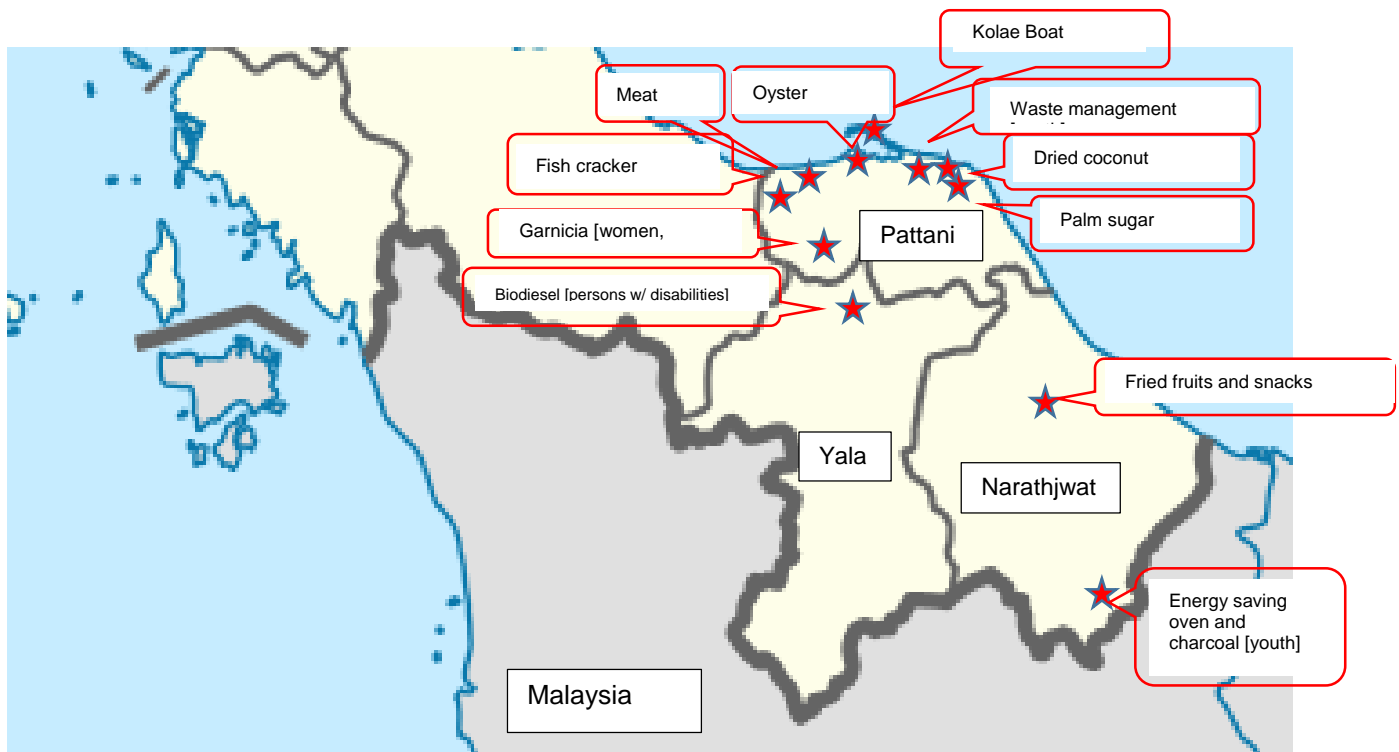
The selected twelve local community groups, including groups of women, elderly, people with disability, and vulnerable youth, in Pattani, Yala, and Narathiwat separated into the following four categories:

Empowerment of women, youth, and vulnerable group of people

Prolonged conflicts have various negative impacts in the communities. Adult men, often breadwinners, have been the victims of the conflicts or in prison. Yet, there are not many job opportunities for women, particularly widows, in conflict areas. Lack of employment opportunities pushed other men to migrate to other parts of Thailand or even to Malaysia; leaving women, children, and the elderly of the family behind. Unemployed youth are exposed to illicit drug activities.

The following seven projects targeted women and youth for providing income generating activities. However, ultimate goals of the project interventions are to provide a space for them to gather regularly, talk and share their conflict experiences or learn from each other to build a sense of pride and hope.

Map of Project Sites



1. Project on “Production of Kolae Boat Model—a traditional wooden boat souvenir”

The project on “Production of Kolae Boat Model” located in Ban Datoh, Yaring district, Pattani. Ban Datoh, a coastal village located in Laem Pho sub-district, is a long-time fishing community. Due to the decline of natural resources as a result of decreasing fish stocks, income from fisheries have significantly plunged. Many villagers travel to Malaysia to seek income leaving their children behind with the elderly. While this coastal community has received some negative impacts from the ongoing conflict, Ban Datoh suffers from rampant illicit drug activity, popularly spreading among the unemployed youth. Robberies occurs more frequently due to the illicit drug situation. Wanting to address this problem, adults and young men in Ban Datoh decided to set up a group called “Underprivileged Youth Group” and began to provide vocational training for young people to make ‘Kolae boat model’ – a traditional wooden souvenir by hoping to take them away from illicit drugs.



The members of this project are underprivileged youth between 15-20 years of age living in Datoh village known as a high-risk illicit drugs area. The project is initiated with the membership of 10

vulnerable youths and with the main objective of taking unemployed youth or vulnerable youth in community away from the use of drugs or drug dealing. After the project was approved and members were trained on how to manage the project, the group members started to buy good quality tools for making Kolaie boat models and planned to organize regular workshop (one workshop per month) for members to learn basic and specific skills to produce Kolaie boat models.



Two technical workshops were conducted for members on boat carving and on tracery painting. Kolaie boat models were made and sold out. Two months after the project has started, there were some youths and children in the village interested in joining the project. The members of this project have currently increased to 16 members. The members have planned to invite technical experts to provide them with other necessary skills for making Kolaie boat models and will produce and sell more Kolaie boat models at resorts and hotels located in tourist areas in Pattani.

The progress of this project was featured in an article entitled “**Fisherman provides employment opportunities for young people in southern Thailand**” on UNDP Thailand website on February 11, 2016. The article was also introduced in Japanese on UNDP Tokyo facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/UndpTokyo> and in English on Relief Website <http://reliefweb.int/report/thailand/fisherman-provides-employment-opportunities-young-people-southern-thailand>

2. Project on “Roasted Coconut”

This project located in Thienya village, Thienya sub-district, Yaring district, Pattani. Once a harmonious mixed community, recent brutal and violent attacks against Buddhists have strained the relationship between Buddhists and Muslims here. The Sang-amphai family who encountered serious violence have felt the full brunt of this increasingly hostile environment. The father of Duangsuda Sang-amphai, a leader of Thienya Women Group, was shot dead while riding a motorcycle home in 2004. Three years later, her grandfather was beheaded and his house was set on fire. Duangsuda, her mother and grandmother were struggling to pick up the pieces after these gruesome incidents. The climate of fear has driven Buddhists in Ban Thienya to leave the village. Numbers of Buddhist households reduced from 30 plus to 10. Duangsuda said she still has trust in her neighbours but other Buddhists may not have the same level of confidence. Duangsuda hopes that a livelihood project could help rebuild trust and harmony in her beloved community. During a consultation, Duangsuda and her neighbours – Muslims and Buddhists – expressed their desire to start an income-generation project by setting up a hot pressed coconut oil production plant. Traditionally, villagers in Ban Thiraya earn their living from growing rice, palm and coconut trees. In recent years, young men and women have increasingly left the village to find better-paid jobs and steady incomes in the city.

The group is a Buddhists-Muslim mixed group of conflict-affected women from Thienya village and a newly-established group with 10 members which its members do not have experiences of running either a small business or community enterprise. However, they, as a group of conflict affected women, have shown their strong interest and put an effort to have a better quality of life by learning and gaining more skill to manage small grant project. As there are a lot of coconut trees in the village, the group wants to use coconuts which are the existing raw materials for their income generation.

Workshop on hot-pressed coconut oil production was organized on 24 July 2015 at a Nutrition Learning Center, Prince of Songkla University, at Chana District, Songkhla province, for the group members to learn from the first to the last process of making hot-pressed coconut oil. After the workshop, the group members collectively decided against producing the hot-pressed coconut oil due to a number of factors and instead agreed to produce roasted coconut to compliment southern Thailand dishes. When the final decision was made, the group began its first step of roasted coconut production by preparing to purchase kitchenware and necessary equipment to produce roasted coconut.



As this project started in September 2015 and the group has moved quite slowly due to multiple conditions particularly a difficulty of finding a permanent place for producing products and fear of insecurity which the members need to get back to their home early and unable to spend adequate time for the project. However, at the end of the year, the group found an appropriate place to be their project site. They have built a small building for producing products and started to practice making roasted coconuts and looking for a market to sell. At this stage, the members were enthusiastic to collectively work to move the project and were happy to be part of the group. The project is expected by all members that it will not only be a community enterprise, but also a relaxing place for members who have lived with fear for a while due to the conflict in the area to share and support one another.

The progress of this project was featured in an article entitled “**Childhood friends uplifting women affected by conflict in southern Thailand | #VoicesofWomen**” on UNDP Thailand website on March 3, 2016. The article was also introduced in English on UNDP Thailand Website <http://www.th.undp.org/content/thailand/en/home/presscenter/articles/2016/03/03/childhood-friends-uplifting-women-affected-by-conflict-in-southern-thailand/> and in Japanese on UNDP Tokyo facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/UndpTokyo> on March 28, 2016.

3. Project on “Palm Sugar Development”



The project on “Palm Sugar Development and Branding” located in Ban Thung and Ban Huakhlung, Panareh district, Pattani. Ban Thung and Ban Huakhlung are mixed communities, which are located in two adjacent sub-districts in Panarae district. Ban Thung is in Tha Kham sub-district, while Ban Huakhlung is in Ban Noak sub-district. These two villages are relatively peaceful and Muslims and Buddhists still maintain good ties, although nearby villages occasionally witness violent attacks. Ban Thung has a population of 458 with 194 Buddhists (42.36 per cent) and 264 Muslims (57.64 per cent). Traditionally, villagers earn a living by growing rice. They produce mostly for household consumption. Some villagers have additional sources of incomes from fish farming and crop-growing, such as coconuts, palms, beans, and cashew nuts. Others occasionally seek jobs outside the villages. But violence in the surrounding areas has forced

villagers to minimise their travel outside the familiar territory, reducing the chance of earning extra income.

The villagers discussed establishing a livelihood project that is most suitable for their needs and way of life and agreed with a project proposal to improve and standardise the quality of palm sugars, which are normally produced by each household for household consumption and sometimes for sale. There are approximately 70 members from 35 households in these two villages.

However, as the members previously has their own way of producing palm sugar and the quality is different. To standardize and brand the product, the group began with collecting basic data from each member household for instance; existing equipment, lacking equipment, number of palm trees possessed by each member, quantity of palm sugar produced per household, markets, and problems. After the data survey, places for producing palm sugar of each household are checked and the project found that kitchens and shelters are used as a factory to produce palm sugar and they are not standardized. The group renovated a shelter to be a mutual proper factory for palm sugar production. At the last quarter of 2015, the group started modifying palm sugar syrup as palm powder sugar powder which can make a higher profit than palm syrup sugar syrup and palm sliced sugar. Palm syrup sugar was produced and sold out easily. However, the profit made has not calculated clearly because they used the money as revolving fund of the project for buying raw materials, transportation and additional technical trainings. After the project is managed systematically in 2016, the financial management will be executed properly to make the profit management clearer.



4. Project on “Dried fish Crackers and fresh fish Cracker”

The project on ‘Dried fish Crackers and fresh fish Cracker’ located in Na Pradu sub-district, Khok Pho district, Pattani. Na Pradu sub-district has 1,316 households with a population of 3,177. It is mixed with 80 percent Buddhists and 20 percent Muslims. The main occupation of the villagers are rubber plantation, rice farming, and fruit farming.

A Muslim family together with a couple of neighbors group of villagers initially produced fresh and dried fish crackers branded “Harofat” for sale in 2004 . Even though, they have produced the fish crackers from more than 10 years, it has been a small business run by a small group of villagers. The products are produced for sale in communities and have not yet been certified in accordance



to the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) or HALAL food certification because they have used a small factory located on backyard of the group founder to produce the products and the factory is unstandardized for obtaining any food standard certifications. The group and other villagers who are interested in running a community enterprise established the Harofat Fish Cracker Group with 15 members (3 men and 12 women)

who have a mutual aim of becoming self-sufficient and to generate income by producing fresh fish crackers and dried fish crackers for sale. Even though the consumption of fish crackers is high, the community group are unable to compete with big businesses due to various factors and the key factors are health/halal certificate and unattractive packaging. Therefore, the group expect to develop the products and have health/quality standard certificates.

As the group members want to develop and standardise the quality of the products, provincial public health office, consumer protection offices were contacted to provide consultation about manufacturing process, product quality, and factory standards. A public health officer and a pharmacist visited the group's factory and suggested that the group need to take into account all factors including location, environment, quality control, and sanitation of the factory and workers, to be qualified for obtain a primary GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) certificate. After having consulted closely with relevant government officials, the group was helped with factory planning and design and the group members expected that the factory will be demolished and renovated after receiving a complete factory plan. In November, the group has started to demolishing and renovating the old factory. As it is a huge renovation in accordance with the standard factory plan, it will likely take time before the factory will be completely renovated. At the end of 2015, the construction has reached 50 percent. The group, even though it is not a direct conflict-affected group, lives in a conflict area, which limits the villagers' opportunity to travel freely to work without fear and find a job outside their village. Therefore, it is more sustainable for the members to have a stable job by developing a community enterprise in the village.



5. Project on “Development of Prepared/Preserved Garcinia”

The project on ‘Development of Prepared/Preserved Garcinia’, Sai-Khao Sub-district, Khok Pho district, Pattani. Sai-Khao is an ancient village with a long history and rich in natural resources. It has produced a large number of agricultural products, particularly, well-known seasonal fruits of the South such as Durian, Longkong, and Garcinia. As Garcinia is a sourish fruit and widely planted in Sai Khao, farmers sell it at a low price to the merchants (4-5 Baht/kilogram). The Sai-Khao Agriculturist Housewife Community Enterprise, which currently has 50 elderly members, was established to process Garcinia in order to add value to the Garcinia. They have produced a variety of products from preserved Garcinia and want to develop more products including to have a GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) certificate in order that the group can expand its market.



The small grants project consultants visited the factory and met with group members to discuss what should first be done for the group. They concluded the GMP standard is the first issue to be taken into account since it is a significant component for a food business/industry to have a GMP certificate. A public health officer was contacted to provide advice to the group. As the factory of this group is well-built, it did not need to be immensely renovated; only some parts were

improved to meet the requirement of primary GMP standard. In September, the group spent the whole month to improve the factory and at the same time created new products such as Garcinia tea and spicy preserved gancia. The group members, together with the project consultants, created a recipe of spicy preserved gancia and other kinds of prepared/preserved garcinia and will try to make them into the best new products.



The progress of this project was featured in an article entitled “**Product development training boosts livelihoods for women in southern Thailand**” on UNDP Thailand website on February 10, 2016,

and on Asia-Pacific Regional Hub website,

<http://www.th.undp.org/content/thailand/en/home/presscenter/articles/2016/02/10/livelihood-opportunities-for-women-in-southern-thailand-boosted-through-training-and-small-grants.html>

and the article was translated into Japanese and uploaded to UNDP Tokyo website,

<http://www.jp.undp.org/content/tokyo/ja/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/02/10/gender.html>, as well as UNDP Tokyo facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/UndpTokyo>

6. The Project on “Economic Empowerment for Gujingluepa Conflict-affected Women”

The project located in Gujingluepa village, Chalm sub-district, Ra-ngae district, Narathiwat. A group of women called their newly-established group that Muslima KL group and hope that their group and other villagers will be more secure in term of economic security in the environment of life insecurity in the Deep South. Gujingluepa village become well-known from the abduction of an idealistic teacher, who left her native North to teach children in the South and died in 2007 after abducted and beaten by some villagers. Since then Gujingluepa is considered a dangerous area and people in the area has been in fear and encounter difficulties of living, which affects their livelihood and well-being.

A group of conflict-affected women from Gujingluepa with 15 members was seeking for support for their livelihood development has just been selected in December 2015. The group planned to produce various products for instance donuts, fish crackers, and hot-pressed coconut oil, by using raw materials in the community. As some members of the group were victims of violence and some have lived in violence for a long time in the high conflict area, they have put their effort to play an important role in participating in peace platform conducted by Network of Civic Women

for Peace (NCWP). Therefore, they considered themselves a women peace builder group that can be part of peace building and have tried to use the word “eatable peace” to introduce their group and their products. The group expect that the products will be developed and produced seriously in 2016.

7. Economic Empowerment for Po-Ming Conflict-affected Women

The project located at Po-Ming sub-district, Panareh district, Pattani. Pho Ming sub-district is one of the “red zone” areas (considered by the military to be under the sway of armed Islamic separatists). Several violent incidents, clashes, and arrests of suspected insurgents have taken place in this area. Most villagers make a living by growing rice and other crops, such as palms, coconuts and beans. The cross-village project will be undertaken to help foster social cohesion between Buddhists and Muslims in one of the most contentious areas.

A group of conflict-affected women from Po-Ming sub-district who have regularly participated in peace platforms conducted by Network of Civic Women for Peace (NCWP), showed their interest in running a community enterprise to develop their quality of life and to help people in their village for the better life. They established a group named ‘Warnita group’ to start the project with close cooperation with the women group from Gujingluepa.

This group was selected and approved in December 2015 with 15 members. Samahae Marisa, the main responsible person of this project who lives in Po-Ming. Her husband was a civilian volunteer working with the government and was killed in February 2005 by the insurgency. There are many more women in the area who have been seriously affected by the conflict. Apart from their access to participation in peace platform, the group members would like to access to good quality of life with expectation that the project will assist in improving their livelihood. As Po-Ming is the area of coconut trees, the group will mainly produce products from coconuts and also want to produce traditional handicrafts. The project consultant is looking for an expert to provide vocational trainings to the group members based on their needs and will start the project in 2016.

Energy and environment preservation

While fuel price has been declining globally, oil smuggling from Malaysia to Thailand via Southern Border Provinces will continue as long as fuel price differences between Malaysia and Thailand and conflicts in the Southern border provinces remain. Lack of income-generating opportunities in the Deep South triggered migration of male members of households to Malaysia and elsewhere, but those who cannot leave the hometown reaming unemployed or underemployed. The following three projects aim to build a sustainable community economically, socially and environmentally.

8. Project on “Energy Saving Oven Production”

The project on ‘Energy Saving Oven Production’ located in Lochut sub-district, Waeng district, Narathiwat. Due to environmental problems and an energy crisis in the country, there has continually been an increase price of oil, gas, and electricity, which contradicts the income of local people.

A youth group with 30 unemployed members from five villages in Lochut sub-district, Waeng district, Narathiwat want to promote the use of energy saving household appliances and income generation in the community by producing energy saving ovens and charcoal kilns. This project will help take the youth away from illegal activities and help them earn a living and be more productive with their leisure time.

As most of the villagers in Waeng district still use charcoal stoves for cooking instead of electric stoves to save energy and economize on expenditure of the household, charcoal is in high demand. Therefore, the group will produce not only energy saving ovens/stoves but also charcoal kilns to meet the demand of users. In September, the Pleasant Community Development Foundation, an escort organization of the youth group, planned to organize a workshop on production of energy saving ovens and charcoal kilns. Village philosophers of the foundation and an expert from Narathiwat Energy Office were invited to teach and share their knowledge in the workshop. Materials used include rambutan branches, trees and old, dried coconut shells.



After the first workshop, the group so far produced 60 ovens and placed some of them at each member's house to produce charcoals for household consumption and for sale. There are several positive effects in the community as a result of the project. First, smoke from the oven helps in keeping mosquitos away from the vicinity. Second, each member contributes 2 percent of their income to the group's savings. Young men now have a sense of pride. Third, community leaders were not so interested in community development projects before, but realized the positive impacts that the project brought on young men, their families and their communities. Fourth, other villages that have interest in similar income-generating activities and community development activities visited project sites, leading to increased communication between villages. The group started thinking of producing charcoal products such as soap and mosquito repellent for income diversification and job creation in the community.



This project initially focused on taking the unemployed or underprivileged youth in the project area away from illegal activities by providing them an opportunity to develop their vocational skills and to use their leisure time wisely through the project's activities. Prior to participation in the project, the youths did not have a certain income. After they have joined the project and learned how to produce the energy saving ovens, their income from selling the products were between 1,500-3,000 Baht per month depending on their production capacity.

9. Project on “Sustainable Waste Management”

Laem Pho sub-district is a densely populated area with some 9,000 population in Yaring district, Pattani province. It is a Muslim community and has become a touristic area in Pattani years ago. The survival of tourism in conflict zone signifies that the area can still maintain some semblance of normalcy. It provides an oasis amidst violent conflict and serves as an income-generating activity for those living in difficult situations. Seaside tourism in Laem Pho sub-district has expanded and new resorts have blossomed in recent years but with little planning. The waste increased and piled up quickly and the most importantly, villagers do not appropriately manage the household garbage.



One of the most severe problems is no waste management executed in the area. Landfill site for dumping garbage is almost full. Some homestay owners take the matter into their own hands by burying the waste on their own land. The Laem Pho Sub-district Administrative Organisation (SAO) which is the responsible local government is in need of technical support and a sustainable and environmentally-friendly way for waste management.

A group of 9 villagers who show their willingness to voluntarily solve this waste problem was gathered and encouraged by the Laem Pho SAO to apply for a small grant to run a waste management project. Even though the project is clearly not an income generation project, it mainly aims to manage waste in the community to improve quality of life of villagers. However, it was considered a good mechanism of promoting cooperation between local government and local people and of building trust among them which can be an effective tool for social cohesion. Therefore, the project was finally approved by the Small Grants Committee.

After the approval of the project, the Laem Pho SAO, a consultant organization of the group, invited representatives from relevant local government agencies including village public health volunteers, public health officers from sub-district health promotion hospitals, and members of Laem Pho Sub-district Administrative Organisation (SAO), to discuss the waste issue and seek cooperation in waste management. The discussion led to the solution that the measures of raising awareness, campaign activity, and policy implementation should be seriously implemented. The group together with Laem Pho SAO started visiting households in the four villages of Laem Pho sub-district to talk to them about the waste management project and ask them to get involved in or support the project.



With the name of UNDP and Prince of Songkla University presented in the project agreement, the waste issue was more taken into account by both local government agencies and villagers than before. Various types of activity have been implemented including weekly garbage collecting activity by youth and children, determination of garbage points in the community, recycling activity in schools and households, and so on, to make the households and schools realize about the waste issue and its negative impact to their life. After a couple of month of activity implementation, the group received an excellent feedback from villagers and school children since they have the mutual understanding of what needs to be done to solve the waste issue, activities would certainly get cooperated and move quickly. It is obvious that the waste piled up in the area was well managed and there was an increase of tourists and visitors. Once the waste management systems are well in placed for all stakeholders who take will mutual responsibility to keep their community clean, the next step of this project will be how to make a profit from the waste. All stakeholders will cooperatively work together for sustainable waste management.

10. Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise for People with Disabilities

The Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise located in Lam Mai sub-district, Muang District, Yala. It was established since 2009 with the concern of environment and the awareness of energy crisis. Bio-diesel is an alternative energy which helps save energy and also preserves the environment by recycling used cooking oil. Households or restaurants will likely not throw used cooking oils in inappropriate places/ways. A small Bio-diesel manufactory run by the Yala-Biodiesel Community Enterprise provides an opportunity to its members to use bio-diesel for their diesel vehicles as alternative energy. Even though Bio-diesel is not widespread used, it will be more useful and widespread accepted when energy and environmental crisis emerge and when diesel is in short supply or its price is high.

The Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise has 167 member including 20 people with disabilities (PWDs) who earn for living by buying used cooking oil from households and restaurants and sell it to Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise with some profit. 20 PWDs earn approximately 500-1,000 Baht/month depending on the capacity of buying used cooking oil. Some do not have enough money to buy much used cooking oil and some do not have appropriate containers. The most important factor is that, as they are disabled, they encounter difficulty in going around to buy the used cooking oil. These factors affect their income and then impact on their quality of life.





A small grant is provided to the group with the aim at improving the quality of life of PWDs in Yala through the project on Bio-diesel for PWDs by connecting more PWDs to the Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise so that greater number of PWDs earn for living by buying used cooking oil from households and restaurant and sell it to the Yala Bio-diesel Community Enterprise. The project was approved in December 2015 with totally 40 members of PWDs (20 old members and 20 new members) from 68 villages in Yala. It aims to help three thousand PWDs in Raman district and other districts in Yala have a better life by making a profit from selling used cooking oil and products from bio-diesels.

Creating opportunity for new business

The following two projects have the potential to create new industries for job and income generation in Southern border provinces based on culture and natural resources they have.

11. Project on “Meat Goat Raising”

Project on “Meat Goat Raising” located in Paka Harang, Muang Pattani, Pattani. Goat raising has long been associated with the Thai Muslim community. The distribution of goat population is associated with the areas where Thai Muslims live. Goats are normally feed on natural grass or weed plants available nearby. Typically farmers raise 2-3 goats per family and fed their goats with a cut and carry system of feeding. In smaller farms with a few goats, the animals are let out to graze and roam freely in the rubber plantations or around the house. Goat raising is commonly associated to the Muslim way of life in Thailand. It is commonly used in religious ceremonies or ritual. Two types of important Islamic rituals are “Aqeeqah” which is a ritual for newborn children and “Qurban” which indicates the sacrificial offering to God. The slaughter method must also be in accordance with Islamic rules which is called the process of Halal meat. The Halal meat must not be contaminated with dirty or religious prohibited materials to assure Muslims that the meat is trustfully consumable.



Paka Harang sub-district composes of eight villages with a population of 5,230 and where 87 percent of the population are Muslim. Most of the villagers earn a living through rice farming, crop rotation, and goat farming. However, as Paka Harang sub-district is in the area of Muang district, many villagers go to work as hired workers in the city and some travel to work in Malaysia. A Meat Goat Farming Group (20 members) in Paka Harang was established to maintain goat raising in the community.

In August 2016, group members began with consulting with Pattani Province Livestock Office to have a drawing plan of a standard enclosure. When the drawing plan was approved, construction

of an enclosure was planned. The meat goat raising project moved quickly through active cooperation of the members. At the end of August the construction of goat enclosure began and the members spent their leisure time from their work (rice farming and working for wages) to build the enclosure. Meanwhile, the group leader attend workshops with the provincial Livestock Office with his expectation of disseminating his knowledge gained from the workshops to his group members in order that they are well prepared for goat farming.

The group leader had a small goat house of his own for 1-2 goats, but the house was in bad shape as the area can get flash flooded or muddy with rain easily. Therefore, the group built a stilt house; in this way, it is easy to clean the goat house. The goat farm is well established to promote goat farming to meet market demand for local consumption to improve the income of the local people in the southern provinces of Thailand. In addition, it helps maintain goat raising occupation in the community for sustainable livelihood improvement.



The group started raising 25 goats, which now increased to more than 40. By collecting all the goats in one place, caring goats has become easier and reproduction becomes more effective. The group already sold some goats. The market price is currently around BHT170/kg for a 6-month-old goat, which is suitable for sale, weights around 30kg, translating into BHT 5,000 or US\$150. This would become significant additional income to rice farmers. Members take turn to come to the farm to take care of goats between rice farming activities.

From hearing the good results, residents from other villages have visited the group trying to learn the know-how. The group is now looking to develop some products from goats such as goat curry and tried to make the project sustainable for villagers. This group has also been a goat raising prototype for other communities.

The progress of this project was featured in an article entitled “Small grants reducing unemployment and increasing livelihoods in southern Thailand” on UNDP Thailand website on February 8, 2016. The article was also introduced in Japanese on UNDP Tokyo facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/UndpTokyo> and also on <http://reliefweb.int/report/thailand/small-grants-reducing-unemployment-and-increasing-livelihoods-southern-thailand>

12. Mussel Farming for Fishermen

The project on Mussel Farming for fishermen located in Pattani Bay, Munag, Pattani. It was newly established by a group of fishermen supported by a group of researchers from Fisheries Department, Faculty of Science and Technology, PSU, Pattani Campus with membership of 20 fishermen. The project is developed from a mussel demonstration farm, which is a model on

participatory and sustainable coastal natural resource management in Pattani Bay of STEP phase I. Most of the members were volunteering fishermen who participated in activities to strengthen capacity and knowledge on raising mussels in demonstration farms.

As there is a high demand for mussels in the market because the numbers of mussel farms remain limited in Thailand, the project will help increase income of Pattani Bay Fishermen and increase food security as well as the number of aquatic resources in the area where the fishermen will also directly benefited from the increasing number of marine resources. Other villagers or fishermen who are interested in mussel farm can involve in this project and take this as their main job or a sideline.

Activity 3.3: Social Capitals Survey

(1) Social Capitals Survey Presentation

On 9 July 2015, there was a meeting to present the result of Social Capital Survey of STEP Phase I by the King Prajadhipok's Institute at C.S hotel, Pattani, with the participation of 35 persons from various responsible parties and academic institutes including UNDP Thailand, Institute for Peace Studies, College of Islamic Studies, Fatoni University, Center for Conflict Studies and Cultural Diversity (CSCD), Sub-District Administration Office, Provincial Local Administration Office, Faculty of Communication Sciences of Prince of Songkla University, and Community Development and Education Center. Researchers from the Research and Development Office, King Prajadhipok's Institute, presented the social capital survey was conducted in two sub-district in Pattani which were Laem Pho Sub-district (Yaring district, Pattani province), and Mae Lan sub-district (Mae Lan district, Pattani province), to find norm, value, natural resources, and folk wisdom in communities for development plan of government agencies. The social capital survey was developed as the Social Capital-Based Development Plan and Budget Allocation Manual, which will help strengthen local governments by public participation through the process of social capital-based development plan preparation. It showcases the process of development plan and budget preparation based upon public participation and working-capital paradigm, defining and explaining the concept of "working capital", displaying the methods whereby to identify the working capital and how to produce community's ground diagram, utilizing the working capital with respect to preparing the plan, following up with and evaluating the development plan. The result report of social capital survey and the Social Capital-Based Development Plan and Budget Allocation Manual were disseminated to Sub-district Administration Offices in the three Southern most provinces to be of use to those who take interest in the subject of public participation in development plan and budget allocation.

(2) Social Capitals Survey

In connection with the usefulness of the social capital survey from the STEP Phase I project, the social capital survey will continue to be conducted in the STEP II project. A couple of Sub-district Administrative Organisations (SAO) will be voluntarily recruited from Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat to cooperatively conduct the social capital survey. After having selected potential SAOs for social capital survey on voluntary basis, King Prajadhipok's Institute (KPI) will also be selected as a responsible organization for conducting a social capital survey. A one-and-a half-year social

capital survey contract (1 Jan 2016-June 2017) is approved covering three sub-districts in Pattani: (1) Takae sub-district in Yaring district (2) Pho Ming sub-district in Panare district, and (3) Napradu sub-district in Kok Pho district. The survey process will start in January 2016.

V. SITUATION IN SOUTHERN BORDER PROVINCES

The first two quarters of 2015 was of concern for government officials since martial law was lifted across the country except for the southernmost provinces and was replaced with the enforcement of Article 44 of the nation's interim Constitution. Under the proviso of Article 44, unlimited powers are granted to the Government of the Prime Minister, Prayuth Chan-Ocha in imposing security measures in the areas. Security officials in the southernmost provinces were therefore placed on full alert as they were apprehensive of the probability of increased insurgency attacks in response to the government's controversial decision of lifting martial law in the country whilst replacing it with Article 44 in the Deep South. Furthermore, April 28 was the 11th anniversary of the violent incident at Krue Se mosque Pattani. There were some violent incidents and campaign activities marking the 11th anniversary of the Krue Se incident. The escalation of violence, both shooting incidents and bomb blasts ahead of the 11th anniversary of Krue Se incident caused hesitation of stakeholders to participate in project activities. Even though projects encountered some difficulties in conducting activities in the project areas in April, the projects, in the meantime, continues to support alternative media and ADR research; and, later speeded up most activities in May and June. The violence in the Deep South in 2015 has remained mostly contained.

The so-called peace process has been a widespread accepted mechanism to bring peace to the Deep South. Peace talk which initiated in 2013 has been discontinued since then. . While peace talks, it seems their expectation for productive talk is low because the talks are very primary meetings and the likelihood of a formal peace process is a long way off. Even though, in 2015, peace talks have been resumed and the insurgents have been trying to compel the government to make the peace process a national priority. They think that if it is not a national agenda, there will be no productivity in the dialogue.

The Royal Thai Government also issued their own demands, which include the creation of a "safety zone" in the Deep South, "economic development," and "justice for all". The issue of creation of a "safety zone" in the Deep South was also the topic discussed widely in various platforms. The government wanted one place in each of the 41 districts across the provinces of Narathiwat, Yala, Pattani and parts of Songkhla that have been affected by the insurgency to be guaranteed free of violence. This would then be expanded. This proposal seems to be a non-starter with the insurgents.¹ MARA Patani, issued a statement in November to make clear that it has not concluded any agreement with the Royal Thai Government. The group denied the media report in a mutual agreement of the peace dialogue on 11-12 November 2015 to establish safety zones on two districts of Bacho and Cho-Ai Rong in Narathiwat. The peace dialogue process is

¹ <http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/newmandala/2015/09/07/no-peace-soon-in-thailands-deep-south/>

still at the confidence building stage and informal stages. Thus the establishment of safety zones will not be discussed until the process is formal

Even though the possibility of having successful peace talks between the government and the insurgent is low and the safety zones are still not agreed, local communities, academic institutes, civil societies, and non-governmental organisations have been actively establishing peace platform to provide the opportunities to local people and peace networks to share and discuss the situation to find appropriate resolutions or recommendations for both parties. They have tried to urge the Military government to find a solution through peaceful dialogues to make safety zones possible in the Deep South.

Government Policy Response

The Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center (SBPAC) launched a project to develop the quality of life of local residents at the village level in Pattani in the 2015 fiscal year focusing on developing Pattani into a "well-being society" and self-reliant community, where local residents could earn more income. The SBPAC implemented projects to develop the quality of life of people in the southern border provinces on a continual basis, as a way to resolve problems in the Deep South and improve the southern situation. These projects were part of the Government's proactive campaigns to encourage local villagers to participate in southern development in response to their needs and would be a development model leading to a sustainable solution to the southern conflicts. In this regard, this may be a positive sign for peace talk process.

Development of Peace Building Process

The initiative launched on 28 February 2013 and has languished for more than a year without progress until a coup d'état was launched on 22 May 2014. Since the Prime Minister Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha, came to power after a military coup, he vowed to make peace in the south an urgent national priority and to continue the peace talk. The government tried to revive peace talks with Muslim separatist groups to end the insurgency. However, there has been a little progress on putting an effort to build peace or end violence. In 2015, the peace talks between MARA Patani and the Royal Thai Government have been informally resumed since June where the first two rounds were held in secret, with few details emerging. On 25 August, representatives of Thailand's military government met with MARA Patani in Kuala Lumpur. It aimed at restarting formal peace talks. The head of the Thai delegation General Aksara Kerdphol declared the talks a success, but there was still no evidence of progress or clear result. This round was followed by an unprecedented press conference by the representatives of the six groups and factions that comprise Mara Pattani, as the group of insurgents is commonly referred. On 11-12 November 2015 another round of informal peace talk between the Royal Thai Government's Peace Dialogue Panel and MARA Patani was conducted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The two parties proposed a mutual plan to have a Joint Technical Peace Dialogue Committee and it is expected that a signed agreement will lead to the start of formal peace talks.

MARA Patani made three proposals to the Royal Thai Government's representatives:²

- (1) Recognize MARA Patani as an official dialogue partner
- (2) Place the peace talks as an issue of national importance endorsed by the Thai Parliament, so that future administrations must continue to work on it.
- (3) Immunity for MARA members, so that they can enter Thailand and converse with citizen

MARA has proposed these three proposals as prerequisite for a formal official talk. However, it seems peace is a long way off since peace talks have still been in formal and in the stage of trust building.

VI. MONITORING&EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The year 2015 was the STEP II project's first year of implementation, which marks an ideal milestone for an assessment of the results achieved by the project and its impact in response to the needs of people in the Deep South. All levels of project monitoring mechanisms were used to ensure that project were managed efficiently and the activities were implemented productively as planned. The project conducted a number of project reviews through the STEP II project monitoring committee and national experts.

(1) Project Monitoring

Project Working Group Meeting

The Project Working Group was organized to ensure management of development results, effective resource mobilization, fairness, integrity and transparency at the field level, and to review project activities at filed level in order to ensure appropriate project management/implementation milestones. A Project Working Group Meeting, consisting of 17 participants, was conducted on 8 July 2015 at CS Hotel Pattani and chaired by Dr. Yusof Talek, Director of College of Islamic Studies to update the progress of the STEP II's six-month project implementation from January to June 2015. The Governors of the three southernmost provinces and representatives from the Pattani Islam Committee Office, Development Strategy Division, Provincial Office for Local Administration, Network of Civic Women for Peace (NCWP), Muslim Attorney Center (MAC), Prince of Songkla University, Fatoni Univeristy, as well as STEP II project implementing parties—the Science College of Islamic Studies and Institute of Peace Studies—participated in the meeting. The responsible parties of each output of the STEP II project presented their project's progress.

The following is the highlight of key comments based on the review and assessment in the meeting:

² <http://www.prachatai.com/english/node/5731>

- Peace-building activities and a common space for engagement of the local peace networks and key target groups—i.e. youths, religious leaders, and local authorities—have been initiated successfully. Sharing and exchanging knowledge and experiences among local networks has been encouraged.
- Capacity of local peace networks and youth were built through various activities such as training, workshops, and short courses conducted by universities, CSOs and NGOs.
- Media coverage on the Deep South has been broadened through alternative media development, as it enables target groups in the southernmost provinces to gain better access to information.
- Civic awareness of the peace processes and the Deep-South situation are actively advanced through local media and distributed to local peace networks, local communities, youth, civil society organisations, and students in religious schools (Pondok and Tadika schools).
- Religious leaders and community leaders should be more encouraged to involve in justice process and dispute resolution.

Project Management and Implementation

To make all project's activities effectively managed and implemented, this project has made a variety of communication channels available such as phone, electronic mail, regular meetings for local communities, implementing parties, and all stakeholders, to communicate with the project when any help and cooperation were needed. As communication was considered an important tools to make the project run effectively and to help solve any problem which might occur during the activity implementation in time, monthly meetings were conducted to ensure mutual understanding of what needs existed and to keep all parties updated on their progress and challenges. Additionally, reporting was an effective means to keep all stakeholders updated on the status of project implementation and budget spending.

Implementation of the activities for the three outputs were regularly monitored by the project manager through monthly meetings with implementing partners. The monthly meetings have provided opportunities for partners and representatives of beneficiaries to discuss and share their progress and challenges so that problems could be solved in a timely manner prior to moving onto the next step.

The sensitivity of the issues and the ongoing violence limited the project's role in some activities and the project's access to project sites. However, to speed up the activities and obtain updated information of the activity implementation, the responsible parties who are familiar with the area were cooperatively requested to conduct some activities. The project also tried to facilitate meetings for all beneficiaries and stakeholders from different areas for reporting. This measure helped reduce risk and save time.

In addition to violence, cooperation and engagement of the implementing parties was another constraint to implementation. In 2015, implementing parties had many commitments and could not fully involve in project management and implementation. This caused delay of activity implementation and report submission.

The STEP II project has continued to support responsible parties to open platforms and activities for communities including peace networks in order to promote their participation in peace process and to build their capacity regarding peace and conflict. However, these activities were carefully implemented to avoid causing any problem that may lead to the difficulty of or limitations on entire project implementation.

(2) Micro-Assessment on the Financial Management Capacity

EY Corporate Services Limited (EY) conducted a Micro Assessment on the financial management capacity of the Implementing Partners of the STEP II project, which includes the College of Islamic Studies (CIS) and Prince of Songkla University, to identify strengths and weakness in the Implementing Partner's capacity for financial management and areas for capacity building by the Government and other partners, and to assist in the establishment of appropriate cash transfer modalities, procedures, and assurance activities to be applied to the project.

The Micro Assessment was conducted at CIS on 14-16 December 2015 through interviews and discussions with relevant STEP II project staff and a financial officer of CIS who are responsible for project management and in charge of accounting function. Project's reports, policies and procedures, and other relevant supporting documents were reviewed to confirm the micro-assessment provider's understanding of the answers and information provided by the implementing parties.

Based on the results assessment, the College of Islamic Studies's management and administrative structure is clearly defined. There are implementations of segregation of duties, procedures for review and approval, and procurement and disbursement procedures, which comply with Government's and Prince of Songkla University's rules and regulations. Monitoring mechanism is also in place to facilitate the oversight of project implementation. A significant observation from the assessment was not found. The overall risk rating of the College of Islamic Studies, as the implementing party, was considered "Low".

VII. DISBURSEMENT AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

From 1 January to 31 December 2015, **USD 359,572.08** (96.70 per cent) out of the total annual budget (2015) of **USD 371,839.00** was disbursed as per outputs as follows:

STEP II Budget

Year	Donors			
	Fund Code 04160 CPR/TRAC	Fund code 32045 JP/UNDP	TRAC 1&2	Total
Approved Funding	500,000.00	300,240.00	13,500.00	813,740.00
2014 Utilisation	25,676.57	-	-	25,676.57
2015 Budget	250,999.00	107,340.00	13,500.00	371,839.00
2016 Budget	128,600.00	152,940.00	-	281,540.00
2017 Budget	94,724.43	39,960.00	-	134,684.43

STEP II Expenditure 2015

Year 2015	Expenditures			
	Fund Code 04160 CPR/TRAC	Fund code 32045 JP/UNDP	TRAC 1&2	Total
2014 Utilisation	25,676.57	-	-	25,676.57
2015 Disbursement	223,628.06	84,767.45	25,500.00	333,895.51
<i>Quarter 1</i>	15,528.52	-	-	15,528.52
<i>Quarter 2</i>	86,226.13	-	-	86,226.13
<i>Quarter 3</i>	71,939.16	45,225.53	13,500.00	130,664.69
<i>Quarter 4</i>	49,934.25	39,541.92	12,000.00	101,476.17
Total Expenditure	249,304.63	84,767.45	25,500.00	359,572.08

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolutions
APR	Annual Project Report
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CSCD	Centre for Conflict Studies and Cultural Diversity
CIS	College of Islamic Studies
CSO	Civil Society Organization
IPS	Institute for Peace Studies
ISOC	Internal Security Operations Command
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MAC	Muslim Attorney Center Foundation
SDG	Millennium Development Goals
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PSU	Prince of Songkla University
RTG	The Royal Thai Government
SBPAC	Southern Border Provinces Administration Centre
STEP	Southern Thailand Empowerment and Participation Project
SAO	Sub-district Administrative Organization
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
ToR	Term of Reference
TPBS	Thai Public Broadcasting Service
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme