

TOKYO PEACEBUILDERS SYMPOSIUM 2008

**“PEACEBUILDING EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE FROM ASIA TO THE
WORLD”**

**THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION’S (IOM)
PEACEBUILDING EXPERIENCE IN RECENT HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS**

“Community Stabilization and Human Security”

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

IOM would like to take this opportunity to thank the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations University and all attendees for the opportunity to participate in this important symposium.

Since its foundation 57 years ago, IOM has expanded its scope of activities in accordance with changing circumstances to provide a comprehensive set of responses for and policy advice on migration issues in all their complexity. Stabilization through durable socio-economic solutions presents particular challenges, and IOM has developed over time a core of expertise capable of applying IOM reintegration methodologies to the unique situation of any given country or region, therefore contributing to the community stabilization and human security.

In fact, IOM has been involved in peace building efforts since the early 90s through the key role that the Organization has played in the design and implementation of disarmament demobilization and reintegration (DDR) operations in support of former combatants and on behalf of the UN Peace keeping missions and governments. Other IOM programmes have helped governments to confront unsafe migration, to combat trafficking in persons, to train police and border authorities, to carry out security sector reform (military downsizing) and to understand the complex issues related to irregular migration flows.

It is from this vantage point that IOM has observed and responded to the change in the way the world has come to understand “human security” and the peace building process. Today, most human security threats come from within communities or states. Instability and its consequences can emerge from ethnic, religious and social struggles fueled by a lack of access to political decision-making power, poor distribution of opportunities for wealth generation, limited public services and competition for access to shrinking environmental resources. The results are similar to inter-state conflicts: mass migration, diversion of state resources, degradation of public

institutions, lack of economic investment and opportunity, brain drain, and social scarring, to name a few.

IOM takes a holistic approach towards the achievement of human security, an approach encompassing humanitarian action, development, capacity building assistance and empowerment. Our programming activities include: return & reintegration; alternative livelihood assistance; community infrastructure reconstruction; counter-trafficking; reintegration of former combatants; border management and law enforcement training; strengthening health care services and psychosocial trauma counseling. From Mozambique to the Balkans and Indonesia we have learned important lessons.

I intend to use IOM's Aceh operation as an example, as it embodies most of the activities for which we are responsible. Aceh is also an excellent example of close cooperation between IOM and the Government of Japan.

Following the signing of the 2005 Helsinki Peace Accord, IOM worked closely with the Indonesian Government and the former Free Aceh Movement (GAM) to provide reinsertion and resettlement assistance to 2,000 amnestied political prisoners, and to establish a reintegration program for an additional 3,000 former GAM combatants, using an individual case-management approach based on IOM's internationally field-tested Information Counseling and Referral Services (ICRS) model. In parallel IOM supported the Indonesian police reform, reinforcing its post-conflict work by training police officers in human rights and community policing.

The "Aceh Peace Process" will celebrate its third anniversary in August of this year, a remarkable achievement and a credit to the Indonesian Government and key donors such as Japan. IOM's work in reintegrating former combatants and vulnerable youth is making a significant impact.

The success of IOM programmes is due to stakeholder's engagement -- donors, host country

governments and communities, beneficiaries and relevant third party organizations such as the military, NGOs, administrations and diplomatic steering groups. Meaningful engagement includes sharing pertinent information; inclusion in programme design; prioritization of projects; and participation in monitoring and evaluation of programs. Increased support and commitment on the part of all stakeholders allows better quality decision making and improved programme outcomes.

As of today the IOM achievements in Aceh Province Peace Building can be summarized statistically as follows:

- **4,941** former-combatants and amnestied political prisoners registered and provided with livelihood opportunities that focused predominantly on vocational training and small business start-up.
- **91%** registered former-combatants and amnestied political prisoners participated in small business and vocational training, comprising 4,527 individuals.
- **741** former combatants referred by IOM counselors to local and provincial medical facilities for further attention, of which 257 (35%) were mental health cases and 484 (65%) medical health cases.
- **65%** higher monthly income than regulated minimum wage as found in IOM's internal beneficiary survey
- **2,192** villages supported by the Post-conflict and Reintegration Program.
- **30,931** participants in socio-cultural events in the Central Highlands (arts training, peace concerts, community radio, local arts festivals).
- **4,630** community meetings and focus group discussions aimed to bring communities together and reinforce understanding and support for the Aceh Peace process
- **317** self-help groups (farmer's co-ops, small business groups) composed of community members selected by their communities because of their vulnerability (war widows, displaced families, families impoverished by the conflict); 47% are women.

All in all, an important balance of achievement that has contributed significantly to peace and stability in Aceh.

Let me here say a word about *other IOM cooperation with the Government of Japan*. Thanks to Japanese support, IOM is presently engaged in supporting stabilization efforts in Afghanistan, Iraq, the African Great lakes region and Somalia. IOM is implementing projects which are contributing to regional stabilisation and human security by fostering socio-economic recovery, strengthening border security and management, reducing youth unemployment and generating income for former combatants, returnees, their families and unemployed citizens.

Response to *natural disasters* deserves particular attention. As part of its emergency response to the Tsunami in Indonesia and the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, IOM partnered with Japan Disaster Relief Teams, including JICA medical teams and Self-Defense Force units, as well as Japanese NGOs, for medical support, evacuation, and distribution of relief items. IOM also carried out activities related to public health, including improving the quality of drinking water and sanitation, as well as vector and infection control assessments in IDP camps and accommodation centers.

Engaging the Government of *Afghanistan* with regards to emergency preparedness and disaster management, the IOM Development Adviser in Kabul has served as a key conduit through which technical insight and advice on emergency preparedness and disaster management has been readily and rapidly administered.

As part of complex emergencies preparedness, such as the threat related to *avian influenza*, IOM supported by the Japanese government, is working to include migrants in contingency plans. IOM has participated in the Multinational Cooperation Programme in the Asia-Pacific (or MCAP 2007), organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Defense. This event brought together academics, humanitarian operators, the military and governmental representatives from within

the region and around the world to discuss salient concerns related to improving response through joint resource mobilization during natural and human-made disasters.

Lastly IOM actively supports the “*Pilot Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peace building by the Government of Japan*” that enhances the capacity of professionals in Asia to respond to growing global needs for civilian personnel in peace building operations. IOM’s staff members with peace building experiences from the field and the Tokyo office actively participate in training events organized by the *Hiroshima Peace-Builders Center (HPC)*. In parallel to the HPC training course, IOM’s experts also support the training of members of the Central Readiness Force, which is a specialized unit of the Japan Self-Defense Forces for international cooperation.

The challenges that we face today continue to drive us all towards finding better ways of cooperating. In this regard, IOM remains committed to partnership in the field of human security and peace building. We encourage the good work of all of you and are proud to be your partner in the huge and significant task of achieving peace in the world.

Thank you.