

The Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding

Accumulation of Know-How and Knowledge on Developing Peacebuilders This will Contribute to Peacebuilding around the World

Looking back over the five years



Hideaki Shinoda

Director, Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center (HPC) / Associate Professor, Hiroshima University

I started this Program five years ago, only because I believed that those who had a strong interest in peacebuilding itself should be responsible for implementation of a program for peacebuilding.

It was half accidental and half intentional that in such a way I established the Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center (HPC) with myself as director in charge of implementing the Program. Five years later, I still do not have any organizational interest in maintaining and developing HPC.

I was able to meet so many exciting people in the last five years through this Program. Now, such a considerable number of participants in the Program, dozens of Program Associates and graduates, are actively working to contribute to peacebuilding throughout the world. I feel so honored to be involved in the process of assisting them. I am also very glad that many of our former staff members of HPC are working in actual field activities of peacebuilding now as staff members of the UN, governments, NGOs, etc. So many young professionals have taken important steps forward through the channel of HPC during the five-year history of the Program.

It is sometimes not easy, in the environment of our daily jobs, to keep the goal of human resource development for peacebuilding as the only primary goal. The most important actors of this Program are our Program Associates and graduates who are making invaluable contributions to peacebuilding all over the world. In addition, my staff members have been contributing to the mission of human resource development for peacebuilding. The five years of this Program in light of these wonderful people was such a precious experience for me.

Hideaki Shinoda

History of the Program for five years

[JFY 2007]



In June 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) launched the "Pilot Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding". Commissioned by MOFA, Hiroshima University and non-governmental organization Peacebuilders established the Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center (HPC) as a body playing a central role in program implementation and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme was responsible for Overseas Attachment. With the participation of 29 Program Associates—15 from Japan and 14 from other Asian countries—the Coursework was held in Japan for six weeks, starting from September 2007. During the Overseas Attachment that lasted for about six months, Program Associates were dispatched to various United Nations agencies and NGOs abroad. In addition to the Coursework and the Overseas Attachment, public symposia were held mainly in Tokyo and Hiroshima.

[JFY 2008]



The second-year pilot program began in April 2008 with the Coursework in Tokyo and Hiroshima and the Overseas Attachment. In addition to the Coursework, several public symposia titled "Sharing Experiences in Human Resource Development for Peacebuilding" (Hiroshima), "Public Seminar: Challenges Ahead for United Nations Peacebuilding—Lessons from the Field and the New Peacebuilding Architecture" (Tokyo), and "International Seminar: Japan's Contribution to Peace and Human Resource Development—Looking back on the past two years of the 'Pilot Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding' and the Challenges and Prospects for the Future" (Tokyo).

[JFY 2009]



In June 2009, the Program began in a full-scale as "Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding". To make the most of the program outcomes of the previous two years, three courses were newly established, namely the Primary Course comprising the Coursework in Japan and the Overseas Attachment (dispatching of Program Associates to overseas organizations); the Senior Specialist Course; and the Seminar on Basic Peacebuilding designed for short-term training. A new implementation mechanism was built under which HPC, operated by Peacebuilders as main contractor, manages the overall Program, particularly the implementation of each course's training, and UNV carries out matching and other tasks necessary for implementing the Overseas Attachment (dispatching Program Associates to overseas organizations), which extended its duration to one year.

[JFY 2010]



The fourth-year Program began in August 2010. As in the previous year, HPC continued implementing the Primary Course. UNV undertook the Course's Overseas Attachment. Also, the Seminar on Basic Peacebuilding was held in cooperation with United Nations University, and the Civilian Experts Course, two-week training course targeting people already working in the field of peacebuilding, was newly established. In addition, HPC held "Peacebuilding from Asia—Dialogue between Japan and Korea 2010" in Tokyo supported by Korea NGO Council for Overseas Cooperation (KCOC) and Japan Platform (JPF) as a new initiative aimed at developing networks among peacebuilding experts.

[JFY 2011]



In June 2011, HPC and UNV began implementing the fifth-year Program, consisting of the Primary Course and the Seminar on Basic Peacebuilding. In January 2012, in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011 which many Program Associates participated in volunteer service in Tohoku region, HPC co-organized a public event, "Reconstruction of Hiroshima and Fukushima" in Hiroshima, and also held a public symposium, "Career Development in the Field of Peacebuilding—5th Anniversary of 'The Program for Human Resource Development in Asia for Peacebuilding,' commissioned by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan" in Tokyo.

Messages from Program graduates



Eri Suzuki

(JFY 2007 Program Associate)

I joined this Program when I was aiming to become more specialized. This Program enabled me to obtain a wider perspective in the area of peacebuilding through formal coursework and more informal interaction with a wide range of specialists in different fields. Following this Program I joined the peace-keeping operation (PKO) in Darfur, Sudan, where I was able to consolidate my learning and think through my career development plan, ultimately deciding to specialize in Child Protection. I have recently finished my JPO-ship with UNICEF, which has brought me to my current post as Child Protection Specialist with UNICEF.



Navita Mahajan

(JFY 2007 Program Associate)

Being a graduate of the first year's Program was a life changing experience. It not only introduced me to exploration of the many layers needed to understand the concept of peace to be a peacebuilder, but also gave me an opportunity to interact and learn from my 28 fellow course mates from Japan and other Asian countries. The Program enabled me to emphasize on mechanisms of closing the gaps between rhetoric and policy, and between policy and implementation. The interaction with my course mates was for me the most significant achievement, wherein I came back richer not only in the content and training, but also in knowing and understanding the beauty of different cultures.



Natsuko Kaneyama

(JFY 2008 Program Associate)

After completing my service at UNDP Sierra Leone, where I was dispatched during the Overseas Attachment of the Primary Course, I started working from October last year as a unit chief in charge of election support and gender issues at UNDP Afghanistan. As opposed to my previous position, where the main emphasis was placed on program implementation and management skills, my present post requires me to support and supervise program implementation teams and demonstrate leadership in strengthening my areas of specialization in terms of strategy, financial power, and partnership. In the years to come, I hope to further enhance the practical expertise and strategic thinking that I obtained in this Program, thereby growing into a peacebuilder with strong leadership qualities.



Kalana Senaratne

(JFY 2008 Program Associate)

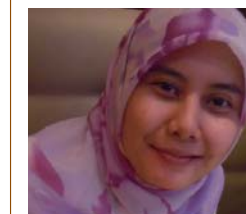
The Program was one which combined theory with workshops. It was intensive, interactive, and immensely useful. The experience I gained thereafter in the field (Timor-Leste) was enriching. Many factors made this Program a most memorable and significant one. Also, it is indeed heartening to note the commitment shown by Asian countries in the promotion of peacebuilding around the world. It is an endeavor which deserves constant support and encouragement.



Minako Manome

(JFY 2009 Program Associate)

After completing the Overseas Attachment of the Primary Course, I began working in my current position, as a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) at the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Headquarters in New York. In that capacity I am required to provide effective and well-coordinated support in such areas as emergency assistance and peacebuilding. Experiences at different UN agencies have helped me obtain the ability to view things from diverse perspectives. At present, as I learn about the links between UN agencies' decision-making and national-level programs, I strongly feel that all my past experiences have helped me carry out my day-to-day activities. In the years ahead, I would like to tackle new challenges as well, while further specializing my skills and knowledge and continuing to ask myself for whom and for what I provide help and the reason why I do what I do.



Sayed Anwar OSMANI

(JFY 2009 Program Associate)

I grew up in my country Afghanistan always aspiring for enduring peace, and since I worked with UNHCR, I was mainly engaged with Afghan refugee returnees and IDPs. In order to respond to their needs, I needed to further build my capacity in the peacebuilding area. At the Program, I was so lucky that I could enrich my peacebuilding expertise. I also learned a lot about Japanese culture, the people and the peace initiatives which helped Japan to be a civilized and peaceful country. I am very much thankful to the Japanese Government and HPC for providing me with such an opportunity for peacebuilding purpose as now I enjoy applying the acquired expertise in my daily tasks.



Tomoya Soejima

(JFY 2010 Program Associate)

This Program gave me a valuable opportunity to obtain field experience in refugee camp settings. A series of workshops and lectures in Hiroshima was directly relevant and useful to the field operation. For example, the exercise ended up demonstrating different dynamics, excitement and politics among humanitarian agencies in operations, whereas I believe that it was more or less the same as what I am actually observing here now in the field. The Overseas Attachment has certainly given me a chance to touch upon a real and vivid life in the refugee camp and I will continue to work for refugees in the various fields in the future with the knowledge and passion that I learnt from this Program.



Aida Safura Niza Othman

(JFY 2010 Program Associate)

I really appreciate the experience and exposure I got from being a UNV with the Communications Unit in UNICEF Uganda. A major lesson I'd like to take away from this experience is that there are many ways a person can contribute towards peacebuilding. Whether you're on the ground engaging first hand, face-to-face with people directly affected by conflict, or you're behind a desk and computer pushing for approval on a proposal that will get funding for the peacebuilding effort, these several parts form a whole. We all have to find how we can best contribute to the effort.

Participants with a wide range of expertise and backgrounds

This Program, which was initiated in JFY 2007 and celebrated its fifth anniversary this year, has so far welcomed 275 Japanese and other Asian participants. Japanese Program Associates in the Primary Course include people from various backgrounds: some were engaged in peacebuilding-related activities in such organizations as various NGOs and JICA and some worked at private companies related to peacebuilding, albeit in indirect ways. Program Associates from other Asian countries, who also have broad backgrounds, such as working in government agencies and participating in UN missions, have made the Coursework more exciting and effective.

The Overseas Attachment has so far dispatched Program Associates to 29 countries and regions. Also, approximately 90% of the Japanese Program graduates in the Primary Course are currently working in the field of peacebuilding for such organizations as the United Nations, other international organizations and so on.



HPC Staff Member

Report by
Program Coordinator for
PAs/Graduates Affairs
JEON Hyeonjeong



Peacebuilding is
not a job,
but a calling

The Coursework in Japan is the most fascinating part for HPC staff, and I can't wait to have new PAs every year! My major task covers recruitment of PAs, course preparation of PA-related issues, in charge of PAs' affairs during the Coursework, functioning as a focal point of UNV matching process and so forth. Above all, building a network with PAs, the future worldwide peacebuilders, is my best part!

Cumulative total number of participants

| (Name of course / Fiscal Year) | | JFY2007 | JFY2008 | JFY2009 | JFY2010 | JFY2011 |
|---|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Primary course | Japanese | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| | Asian | 14 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 14 |
| Senior Specialist Course (JFY2009) | Japanese | | | 10 | | |
| | Asian | | | 9 | | |
| Civilian Experts Course (JFY2010) | Japanese | | | | 10 | |
| | Asian | | | | 10 | |
| Seminar on Basic Peacebuilding (Since JFY2009) | Japanese | | | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| | | 29 | 29 | 78 | 80 | 59 |

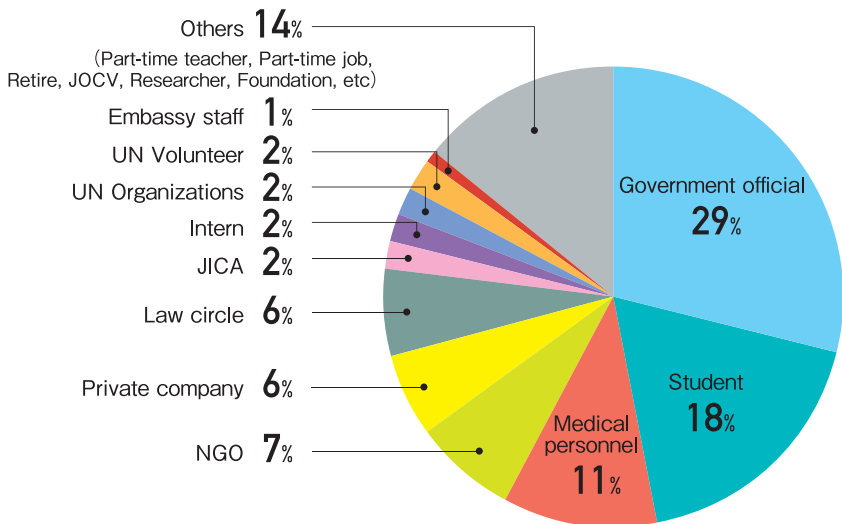
Cumulative total number of participants (JFY2007 - JFY2011)

Japanese 185 Asian 90

Total 275

Occupations of participants
of the Seminar on Basic Peacebuilding

※JFY2009 - JFY2011



Total number of duty stations for the Overseas Attachment

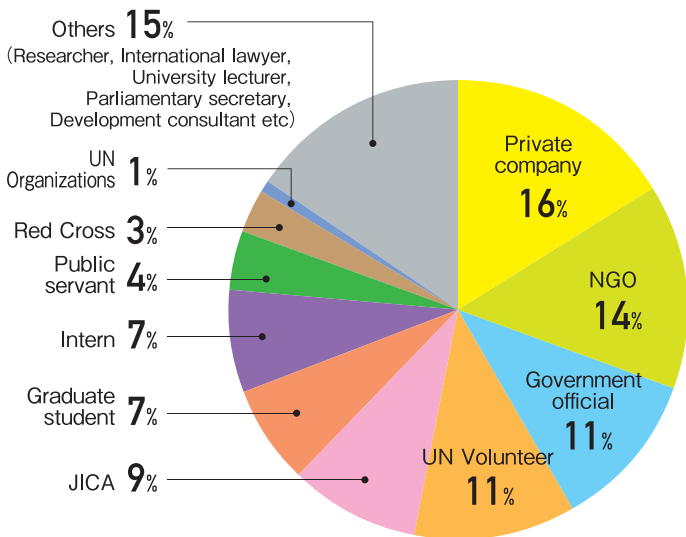
※JFY2007-JFY2010



29 countries and territories

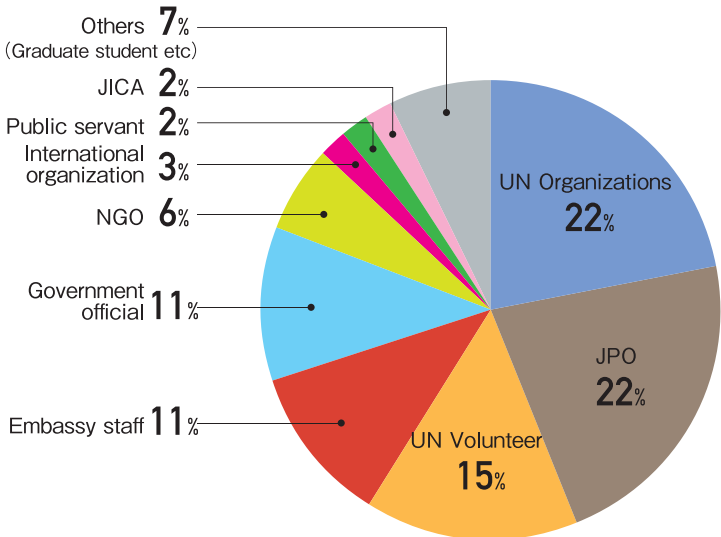
Occupations of Program Associates
before the Primary Course

※Japanese Program Associates in JFY2007 - JFY2011



Occupations of Program
graduates after the Primary Course

※Japanese Program Associates in JFY2007 - JFY2009



HPC Staff Member

Report by
Public Relations Officer
Daisuke Goto

Working for
supporting
future peace

As a public relations officer, I was engaged in advertising the Program including recruiting PAs who would become future peacebuilders, and making this year's annual pamphlet of the Program, etc. I have met a variety of people with diverse backgrounds through this Program, which have all been great opportunities for my future tool.