

## Grantee information

**Name of Grantee:** Rosalie Arcala Hall (API Fellow, Philippines, Year 2004)

She is a Professor of Political Science and University Scientist I at the University of the Philippines Visayas. She is author of numerous publications on civil-military relations and security, the most recent being “Modern soldiery interrogated: Cataloguing the local military’s task and their perception of local civilian actors” (*Philippine Political Science Journal* 2012) and two chapters (co-authored by Leslie Advincula-Lopez) in the book *Soldiers without frontiers: The view from the ground. Experiences of Asymmetric Warfare* (2013). Dr. Hall has been the recipient of competitive research grants under Fulbright, The Nippon Foundation, Toyota Foundation, the East Asian Development Network, and Austrian Exchange Services.

### **Collaborators:**

1. Prangtip Dauroeng (API Fellow, Thailand, Year 2004), is an independent journalist writing investigative reports for the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). She also writes articles on Thailand and Southeast Asia for Bangkok-based Isranews.org and reports for different publications such as Malaysiakini.com, which is based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She is currently an independent researcher for the Peace Information Center of Thammasart University, Thailand. Her research inquiries for different organizations such as Singapore-based Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC), Thailand’s National Reconciliation Commission (2005-2006), and the Bangkok-based Prince Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Center (2007, 2010) center on conflict and media issues in Southeast Asia.
2. Rufa Gacoco-Guiam, (API Fellow, Philippines, Year 2008), is a Professor at the Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao, Mindanao State University-General Santos City, Philippines. She is a published author and an international consultant for development, gender, and conflict concerns in Mindanao. Her recent works include “Gender and Livelihoods for Internally Displaced Persons” for the Brookings Institution and the London School of Economics Project on Internal Displacement; “A Deadly Cocktail? Illicit Drugs, Politics and Violent Conflict in Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao” (co-written with Steven Schoofs) for International Alert; and “Gender and Conflict in Mindanao” (co-written with Leslie Dwyer) for The Asia Foundation.
3. Rina Shahrullah (API Fellow, Indonesia, Year 2009), is concurrently Head of Postgraduate Study of Law, Law Faculty and Head of Academic Development Center of Universitas International Batam, Indonesia. Her two most recent research projects are “Green Campus Initiative: A Concrete Participation of Academic Community in Batam in Minimizing Global Warming” funded by the Directorate of Higher Education of Indonesia, and “Modern Arbitration Legislation in the Context of International Commercial Arbitration (A Comparative Legal Study Between Australian and Indonesian Arbitration Law)” funded by the World Bank under the research grant of the Indonesia-Managing For Higher Education Relevancy And Efficiency (I-MHERE) Project.

### **Project title:**

No more guns: Documenting local conflict resolution initiatives in select Asian communities

**Abstract:**

Violent confrontation between and among state and non-state actors in a geographically-confined space has claimed numerous lives and impaired local economies in southern Philippines, southern Thailand, and in Kalimantan province, Indonesia. Initiatives by international donors, national governments, and civil society towards resolving or managing these local conflicts have tended to focus on presumed conflict drivers such as poverty, inequality, or weakness governance. However, many interventions often miss or neglect traditional and customary institutions which carry greater potential for community acceptance and sustainability. The study argues that indigenous conflict management (focused on containing the conflict) or resolution (eliminating conflict or transforming it from violent to non-violent form) strategies offer alternative templates.

The project examines the nature and dynamics of local conflict resolution initiatives in four settings: (1) mixed local government and religious councils and “zones for peace” set up in Maguindanao and North Cotabato (Philippines) communities to address insurgent conflict (army-Moro Islamic Liberation Front), *rido* (clan wars), and lawlessness (kidnapping and cattle rustling); (2) initiatives by women’s group to open spaces for dialogue with government agents for more culturally-sensitive security practices and demand justice for the victims of the insurgency in Pattani province (Thailand); and (3) the use of *adat* law (customary law) as a mechanism for easing tensions between the majority ethnic Melayu and Dayaks versus the minority Maduras in Sambas, Western Kalimantan (Indonesia). The project seeks to describe available national-local government frameworks for resolving localized violent conflicts and their connections to a broader government-initiated peace process or external-donor programs. The various case studies will be compared and analyzed in terms of their intersection with national political contestations. The modalities, typology (traditional/customary, hybrid or adaptive mechanisms), how they work (i.e., by employing organic notions of justice, third party mediation, personal networks), and their outcome (whether they reduced violent incidents or not) are explored.

The project is a qualitative research, using a purposive sample of four community cases where local violent conflict transpired and where grassroots initiatives were set up to respond to the problem. Secondary data from academic writings, local news articles, government or civil society reports, national-local laws and relevant government policies will be examined to establish a chronology of violent conflicts and interventions in the area. Primary data will be generated from focus group discussions (FGD) with select community members with historical memory and interviews using semi-structured interview schedules of instrumental figures (local government chief executive, religious or tribal leaders, and civil society representatives). A comparative conflict and intervention footprint mapping (i.e., an inventory of policy and public service deliver/infrastructure projects in the community by internal or external actors following conflict resolution initiatives) will be made from the data generated.

**Deliveries:**

There are four major deliveries for this project: (1) an inception meeting for the collaborators to discuss and agree on the project framework, comparative variables, methodology, and timelines in April 2014; (2) a case study writeshop to generate comparisons from the data gathered and to ensure uniformity in the case study

treatment in July 2014; (3) a panel presentation of the papers derived from the project at the Association of Asian Studies conference in Singapore on 17-19 July 2014; and (4) a public forum presenting the project findings at Mindanao State University-General Santos City (Philippine) in October 2014.

**Outputs:**

The project will have three outputs: (1) one peer-reviewed journal article; (2) a 200 page monograph containing the case studies, community narratives, photos, a comparative synoptic chapter, and incorporated proceedings from the public forum; and (3) news reports to Isranews.org (under Thai Journalists' Association) and the Malaysiakini.com news site in Malaysia.

**Formatted:** Font:  
Bold, Complex Script  
Font: Bold