

Grantee information

Name of Grantee: Dr. Saya Kiba (API Fellow batch 9)

Dr. Saya Kiba is an API Fellow 2009-2010 from Japan. A political scientist, she previously worked in the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines, the National Diet of Japan, and the Japan Center for Conflict Prevention (NGO). She is now a research associate of Kobe University and an adviser of the Political Affairs Division, Embassy of Japan in Thailand.

Collaborators:

The project team includes two other API fellows; Dr. Rosalie Hall of the University of the Philippines Visayas and Defense Policies Expert, and Ms. Erna Anjarwati of Tasmania, who specializes on peacebuilding.

Other collaborators are Dr. Atsushi Yasutomi of the Research Institute for Peace and Security, Dr. Christopher Magno of Gannon University, and Dr. Philip Parnell of Indiana University, whose expertise includes civil-military cooperation, peace studies, criminology, and international security.

Project title:

Comparative Analysis of Military-NGO Cooperation Policies in Asia

Abstract:

The significance of military-NGO cooperation is now being highlighted in today's Asia, particularly in Japan and Southeast Asia. For Japan, the 2011 earthquake relief efforts were the biggest event for evaluating the dynamic cooperation between the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and local NGOs in Japan. In its peacekeeping missions abroad, the JSDF has attempted collaboration with local and international NGOs. In Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines, its enhanced cooperation with the local NGOs is becoming one of the crucial defense policy components for effective disaster relief and post-conflict peacebuilding activities.

Despite its increasing importance on the policy and theoretical levels, cooperation between these two sectors has not been so vigorous on an operational level. In the Philippines, for instance, while the recent Filipino defense policies emphasized enhanced cooperation between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and civil society (particularly NGOs), the AFP has shown a number of confused and mismanaged cases that involved working with NGOs on the operational level. Such policy-operation mismatches pertaining to military-NGO cooperation are present not only during domestic FAP ground force deployments, but also during external deployments like in peacekeeping operations abroad.

Two major issues are at stake: (1) policy-operation mismatches between military authorities (e.g., Defense Ministry-Armed Forces, Command-Operation, Commanding Officers (COs)-Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs), etc.); and, (2) gaps over expectations from military-NGO cooperation among the various stakeholders involved (Defense Ministries, Armed Forces, COs, NCOs, NGOs, local businesses, etc).

This research seeks to contribute some new explanations on why military-NGO cooperation often fails. While a relatively large number of studies on this topic exist, and while they typically examine matters from the NGO's perspective, our study sheds light from the perspective of the military. It will analyze various factors that

shape the military's policies and perceptions toward cooperation with NGOs during their civilian aid and peacekeeping operations (both in their home countries and abroad). The study is limited to the dispatch of the military by selected Asian countries (Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines)

This research project seeks to identify and analyze the following:

- 1) What are the existing legal/policy frameworks for engagements between the military and NGOs in providing civil assistance in emergency relief and humanitarian assistance operations in their home country and abroad? How are they relevant to each military's legally accepted mission area?
- 2) Is the civil-military cooperation policy accepted by the military? What kind of interests does the military pursue by conducting civil-military (particularly NGO-military) cooperation?
- 3) How do perceptions on civil-military cooperation differ across various levels and positions? (policy level vs. operational level, ministry vs. commanders, or commanders vs. officers, etc.)
- 4) How can the military satisfy the beneficiaries' interests while satisfying its own interests during its civil assistance activities?
- 5) How do NGOs perceive civil-military cooperation policies and operations?
- 6) How do the military's interests and prospects on cooperation with NGOs differ from those of NGOs in the selected countries?

Deliverables:

The team will produce a paper to be presented at the following:

- a. The 7th Annual Conference of Japanese Studies Network sponsored by the Japan Foundation, October, 2013, Phitsanulok, Thailand
- b. The 2013 International Biennial Conference of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society Conference Registration & General Information, 25-27 October, 2013, Chicago, USA
- c. The Asia-Pacific Peace Research Association (APPRA) Conference, 10-13 November, 2013 Tammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand
- d. The Hyogo Earthquake Memorial 21st Century Research Institute, 2013, Kobe, Japan.
- e. The 3rd Philippine Studies Conference in Japan, 28 February - 1 March, 2014, Kyoto, Japan.

Outputs:

The final product paper will be submitted to academic journals that deal with international relations, defense policies, or international cooperation. The team will also deliver policy recommendations for more effective military-NGO cooperation in future disaster relief and peace-building operations.