

APPLIED PEACE NETWORK PHILIPPINES 2025 REPORT



The Applied Peace Network (APN) Philippines hosted nine participants from November 10 to 21, 2025. Coming from diverse disciplines, participants explored how peacebuilding applies to their respective fields. The seminar culminated in capstone presentations focused on specific regions of the Philippines.

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The 2025 APS Cohort



Kim Nicole Arong, Assistant Vice Chairman
Development Studies Society – UP Manila

Jhiro Gabriel Cruzat, President Junior Jaycees
(JJC) Zamboanga

Al-Mohaimin Duloan, Public Information Officer
RECPASSI- Cotabato City

Jonathan Gelogo, Project Development Officer
MSU-IIT Institute for Peace and Development in
Mindanao

Qatrina Pedrezuela, Head for Education and
Research Katribu Katipunan

Jahir Kalimbol, Youth Leader Maguindanao del
Sur

Jayben Mationg, Prime Minister & Founder
Discourse Society

Pamela Il Pepito, Junior Associate Consultant
for Peace and Conflict Transformation MSU-IIT
Institute for Peace and Development in
Mindanao

Jalilah Sarip (online only), Vice President for
Partnerships MSU-IIT Junior Economics Society

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

OUR PARTICIPANTS

Gender: Balanced representation with 4 Female, 4 Male, and 1 LGBTQ+ participant
Age: 3 participants aged 18–20, 6 participants aged 21–23
Geography: Representation from Mindanao (33%), including BARMM and Indigenous communities, alongside participants from NCR, Region IX, Region VI, and Region X

SECTORAL DIVERSITY

Peacebuilding: 88.9% considered it their primary field
Other areas: Education (5), Governance (5), Environment/Climate Action (5), Technology (1), Faith-based work (1)
Institutional Backgrounds: Discourse Society, JJC Zamboanga, KATRIBU Katipunan, MSU-IIT/IPDM, Maguindanao del Sur, RECPASSI, UP Manila

MOTIVATION & DRIVE

Knowledge Seekers: Eager to gain new perspectives and practical skills
Action-Oriented: Driven to elevate marginalized voices and create tangible community impact
Collaborators: Motivated to connect with peers, share experiences, and build lasting networks

LEARNING GOALS

Conflict Analysis & Peacebuilding Expertise: 8 participants
Climate & Sustainability in Peacebuilding: 7 participants
Dialogue & Facilitation Skills: 4 participants
Technology for Peace: 4 participants
Leadership, Project Management, Gender & Inclusion: 3 participants

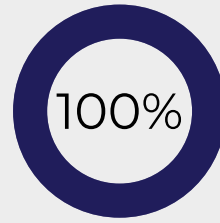


PROGRAM OUTCOME AND SUCCESS

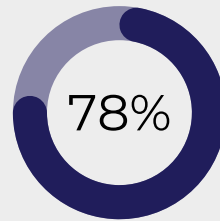
The Applied Peace Network (APN) Philippines empowered 9 youth participants from diverse backgrounds to strengthen knowledge, skills, and networks for peacebuilding in the Philippines. Delivered through online and face-to-face learning, experiential engagement, expert discussions, and capstone project development, participants gained practical tools to design and implement community-centered initiatives.



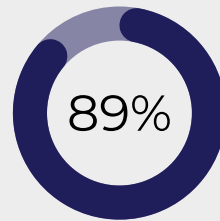
POST-APN STATISTICS SUMMARY



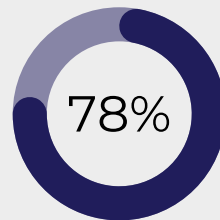
Reported improved understanding of historical roots of conflict, justice, inclusion, and dialogue/mediation as tools for peace.



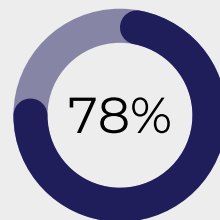
Reported increased knowledge on innovation, technology, and climate considerations in peacebuilding.



Felt highly knowledgeable about opportunities and practices in the peacebuilding profession.



Reported increased confidence in engaging in dialogue across differences and leading peacebuilding efforts.



Planned to reach out to resource speakers and maintain engagement through APN alumni networks.

QUOTES FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS



“Collaboration is a must—APN members come from different parts of the country, yet we’ve built a network where we can share our stories, learn from one another, and offer support.”

“Cross-cultural and regional collaboration strengthens peace by helping us learn from different realities. Working with diverse groups leads to more inclusive, empathetic, and grounded solutions.”



“I am amazed how climate connects with peace. From our Filipino people abusing their land just to put their development. I hope we can have equal rights most especially protecting the IP (Indigenous People) Groups”

QUOTES FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS



"Everyone has something to lay on the table the stories, opinions, questions, and dialogue strengthens a beautiful picture. And we are a piece of puzzle that creates a beautiful picture."

"[After this seminar, I see myself contributing to the peacebuilding movement] by engaging more deeply with communities, amplifying marginalized voices, and applying what I've learned to formulate solutions that are inclusive and grounded in justice."



"Stories added value and worth to the seminar. Through their experiences we were able to strategize new ideas that could help us develop developments in our communities."

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The APN Philippines was designed as a dynamic learning journey that guides youth from self-discovery to real-world peacebuilding practice. The program grounds participants in personal identity, purpose, and leadership before situating their learning within historical, cultural, and political contexts. It then encourages innovation, cross-sector engagement, and integration of technology, climate action, private sector collaboration, and international perspectives.

Through hands-on learning, site visits, and cross-sector engagement, participants applied knowledge in practical ways. Capstone projects provided opportunities to translate learning into actionable, community-centered initiatives. Across all components, APS emphasizes reflective learning, storytelling, peer exchange, and mentorship to cultivate confident, informed, and impactful youth leaders.

PARTICIPANT SHOWCASES

Participants shared their insights from research and lived experience.

Al-Mohaimin Duloan, Technology for Peace
Kim Nicole Arong and Pamela Il Pepito, Business for Peace
Jayben Mati-ong, Climate for Peace
Qatrina Pedrezuela, International Relations for Peace
Jahir Kalimbol, Philippine Peace History and Key Themes
Jon Gelogo and Jhiro Cruzat, Peace Practices and the Intersections of Peace with Climate Action, Mental Health, Faith, and Gender



COMPONENT 1: IDENTITY, PURPOSE, AND LEADERSHIP

OVERVIEW

This component marked the opening of the Applied Peace Network and was delivered fully online. This component focused on grounding participants in self-awareness, leadership identity, and personal motivation for engaging in peacebuilding work. It served as the foundation of the program by establishing a shared understanding of purpose, expectations, and community among participants and the program team.

Storytelling was a central pedagogical approach in this component. Participants engaged with lived experiences of speakers through inspirational conversations that illustrated the personal journeys, challenges, and values that shape peacebuilding practice. The sessions emphasized that peacebuilding is both a professional path and a deeply personal commitment.

GUEST SPEAKERS

DR. CHARLES DAVIDSON

Dr. Charles Davidson, founder and President of Innovations in Peacebuilding, bringing over 15 years of professional peacebuilding and research, kicked off the program with introductions and an overview of the program.

ZOYA MIARI

Zoya is a Palestinian-Ukrainian peace ambassador and storyteller who has twice experienced war and displacement. She founded Waves to Home, a global storytelling movement, and is writing her first book to share a message of hope, healing, and inner freedom.



COMPONENT 2: HISTORY, CONTEXT, AND PEACE NARRATIVES



OVERVIEW

This component deepened participants' understanding of peacebuilding by situating it within historical, political, and cultural contexts. Delivered online, this component focused on the Philippine peace process, particularly the Bangsamoro experience, while also drawing comparative and practitioner insights from international peacebuilding contexts. Emphasis was placed on how history, memory, identity, and lived experience shape both conflict and peacebuilding practice.

The component combined participant-led learning, expert input from government and academe, and practitioner conversations to foster two-way dialogue and critical reflection.

COMPONENT 2: HISTORY, CONTEXT, AND PEACE NARRATIVES

GUEST SPEAKERS

RÉMY NSENGIYUMVA

Mr. Rémy Nsengiyumva holds a Master's degree in International Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid and has been with IP since 2014. With 22 years of peacebuilding experience in Burundi focused on community empowerment and child protection, he is dedicated to fostering harmony within and beyond his country.

PROF. YASMIRA MONER

Prof. Yasmira Moner is the Program Director of the Gender and Development Resource Center at MSU-IIT and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science. She previously served as Acting Director of the Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao (2020–2022). As a native Meranaw, she brings deep insight into the cultural and political dynamics of the Ranaw region and Bangsamoro post-conflict governance.

DIR. ISHMAEL BAHJIN

Dir. Ishmael Bahjin is the head of OPAPRU's Social Healing and Peacebuilding Office, also leading the National Government–BARMM Intergovernmental Relations secretariat; former GPH–MILF peace process official. UP Law graduate, admitted to the Bar in 2018.

JHON ROBERT KO

Jhon Robert Ko is a social development worker with over a decade of experience in community organizing, conflict mediation, and peacebuilding in the Philippines, he currently serves as Executive Director of the Mediators Network for Sustainable Peace, Inc.

VICTORIA KRUEGER

Victoria Krueger is an International Junior Consultant with UNDP, supporting DDR and stabilization efforts and helping countries transition from conflict to peace and stability.

COMPONENT 3: INNOVATION, FUTURES, AND CROSS-SECTOR PEACE

OVERVIEW

This component focused on reimagining peacebuilding through innovation, future-oriented thinking, and cross-sector collaboration. Building on participants' grounding in identity, history, and context, this component challenged them to expand traditional peace frameworks by integrating technology, data, private sector engagement, climate action, and international perspectives.

Activities emphasized out-of-the-box thinking, highlighting how emerging tools, industries, and partnerships can strengthen peacebuilding practice in an era marked by polycrisis, intersecting conflicts, climate risks, digital harms, and economic instability.

Delivered primarily face-to-face, the component combined participant showcases, expert-led discussions, synthesis conversations, and practical workshops, with some experts joining online.



COMPONENT 3: INNOVATION, FUTURES, AND CROSS-SECTOR PEACE

GUEST SPEAKERS

JESSA MALLEA

Jessa is an Incident Response Associate at GIFCT and a researcher at CeMAS, focusing on online far-right extremism. She has held research roles at leading institutions and works to prevent online extremism while promoting inclusive, peaceful communities.

SADDIQ BASHA

Saddiq Basha is a Senior Analyst at the ICPVTR, RSIS, NTU, Singapore, researching far-right extremism in digital spaces in Southeast Asia. He holds a BSS in Political Science from NUS and is pursuing an MSc in Strategic Studies at RSIS, NTU.

GEORGI ENGELBRECHT

Georgi Engelbrecht works with the International Crisis Group, formerly serving in Mindanao with the EU and Nonviolent Peaceforce. He has also worked internationally including with WHO. He holds a Master's in International Law with additional degrees in Diplomatic and International Relations studies.

WORKSHOPS AND APPLIED LEARNING

Facilitators guided hands-on, practical sessions, equipping participants with digital skills, AI tools, and strategic communications techniques for designing impactful peace initiatives.

Aurelien Chu – Co-Founder and CEO, Eskwelabs

Stuart Samson – Managing Director, Diginspire Philippines



COMPONENT 3: INNOVATION, FUTURES, AND CROSS-SECTOR PEACE

PRIVATE SECTOR AND IMPACT PANELS

Panelists demonstrated how business, youth leadership, and women's empowerment can be leveraged for sustainable peace, inclusive development, and project implementation.

Helen and Owen Tiu – Zonta International

Janni Boydon – Lead Creator, Start Up Podcast Philippines

Juanquine Castro – Founder and President, Youth Service Philippines

Monica Maralit – Founder, Victoria Heartstrong Foundation



COMPONENT 4: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

EXPERIENCES

Site visits and discussions exposed participants to global and local peacebuilding practices, climate awareness, and youth-led development.

EUROPEAN UNION OFFICE FOR THE PHILIPPINES, MAKATI CITY

Participants engaged with EU representatives to understand the role of international relations in advancing peace in the Philippines.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Participants explored exhibits to connect environmental and climate awareness with peacebuilding practice.



JCI QUEZON CITY CLUBHOUSE

Participants discussed strategies and experiences in sustaining youth-led national movements for development.



COMPONENT 5: CAPSTONE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENTATION

OVERVIEW

This component focused on translating knowledge, skills, and networks gained throughout the program into actionable peacebuilding initiatives. Participants were guided through structured design sessions, pitching exercises, and feedback loops to refine their project proposals. Practical tools on communications, project management, and monitoring and evaluation were integrated to ensure proposals were feasible, measurable, and impactful. Each participant was given 10 minutes to present their project and 10 minutes to respond to questions from the panel, allowing for in-depth feedback and reflection on their proposed initiatives.



PARTICIPANT CAPSTONE PROJECTS

PARTICIPATION-ENHANCING ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN'S EMPOWERMENT (PEACE) PROJECT

Presented by: Al Mohaimin Duloan

Location: Cotabato City & Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao del Norte (BARMM).

Focus: Strengthening children's confidence, socio-emotional skills, and participation through culturally grounded social-emotional learning (SEL).

Impact: Builds resilience, leadership, and active participation among Bangsamoro children.



UTAK AT PUSO: A CAPACITY-BUILDING SEMINAR

Presented by: Nicole Arong & Qatrina France Pedrezuela



Location: Floridablanca, Pampanga.

Focus: Empowering the Ayta community through legal and organizational capacity-building. Combines intellectual training (Utak) with leadership and unity development (Puso).

Impact: Strengthens the community's agency, enabling sustainable advocacy for land, rights, and organizational development.

PARTICIPANT CAPSTONE PROJECTS

DIALOGUE FOR CHANGE: BUILDING PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES

Presented by: Jayben Mationg

Location: Kalibo, Aklan, Philippines

Focus: Strengthening youth skills in respectful dialogue, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding; formation of peer-led Youth Dialogue Network; reducing online and offline hostility.

Impact: Youth trained in dialogue facilitation, improved social cohesion, and established sustainable peer-led initiatives in schools and communities.



PROJECT SAKSI+ (WITNESS): YOUTH FELLOWS FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Presented by: Jonathan Gelogo

Location: Iligan, Philippines.

Focus: Equipping youth as witnesses and leaders for community-based Transitional Justice (TJ); training in peace education, mediation, and conflict-sensitive planning.

Impact: Youth applied TJ principles in local initiatives, produced TJ-aligned outputs, and demonstrated improved understanding of historical injustices and reconciliation.



PROJECT KAPAG ISA-ISA (“ONE STEP, ONE YOUTH, ONE PEACE”)

Presented by: Jahir Kalimbol

Location: Maguindanao del Sur, Philippines.

Focus: Empowering conflict-affected youth through peace education, livelihood skills, and cultural unity activities; promoting community resilience.

Impact: Youth gained leadership skills, strengthened peace awareness, and actively contributed to sustainable community development.



AWARDED PARTICIPANT CAPSTONE PROJECTS

These participants qualified to receive seed grants. In addition to the funding, the Innovations in Peacebuilding and KRIS for Peace teams will provide guidance and support to help them successfully launch their projects.

KAVOTETAAN: VOTER EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH

Presented by: Jhiro Gabriel Cruzat

Location: Zamboanga City, Philippines.

Focus: Addressing barriers to voter registration for Indigenous youth; providing education, mock elections, and direct assistance for COMELEC registration.

Impact: Increased voter registration, strengthened civic engagement, and empowered Indigenous youth with knowledge of their electoral rights.



KAAGAPAY

Presented by: Pamela Il Pepito



Location: Barangay Tambacan, Iligan City.

Focus: Addressing religion-based exclusion among children aged 3–5 by providing inclusive storybooks, teacher and parent training, and integrating new narratives into daycare centers.

Impact: Promotes early acceptance of diversity, reduces bias and bullying, and fosters social cohesion from an early age.

THANK YOU

TO OUR DONORS

None of this would be possible without your unwavering support. We cannot thank you enough for the contributions you made to make this program such a success.

TO OUR TEAM

The dedication and support provided over the two-week program displayed by the entire team at IP and KRIS for Peace was outstanding and is a testament to our passion for nurturing the next generation of peacebuilders.



TO OUR PARTICIPANTS

Your commitment to learning about the field of peacebuilding is inspiring and affirms our mission. Thank you for your hard work, we cannot wait to see all that you accomplish.