

APPLIED PEACE NETWORK PHILIPPINES 2026 REPORT



The Applied Peace Network (APN) Philippines hosted eleven participants from June 29 to July 10, 2026. 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.

Index

2026 Cohort Participants **3-4**

Successes **5-7**

Program Overview **8-13**

Capstone Presentations **14**

Conclusion **15**

THE APN 2026 COHORT



Ma. Elenie Mangsat, Public affairs and communications professional – Quezon City
Noel Emmanuell Enjada, Executive Director of Youth Iligan – Iligan City

Hilal Ambag, Assistant Secretary of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (CNSM) – Mindanao State University

Sarah Jane Navia, Peace Advocate and student leader advancing peace through MasterPEACE – Iligan City

Aldei Rodriguez, Passionate youth leader, writer, advocate, and peacebuilder – Valezuela City

Raihana Pacasirang, Licensed Professional Teacher and youth leader – Marawi City

Krizzhanna Maree Barabat, Champions for Peace 2025 fellow, youth leader, and peacebuilder – Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat
Von Jabagaton, Project Chair and President of the Rotary ASEAN Youth Peacebuilders Program Alumni Network – Davao City
Justine Reyes, Mental health advocate and President of AdU-CARES – Pampanga
Ma. Kassandra Janyll Acopio, Teduray youth leader and peacebuilder, championing the WPS and YPS agendas – Maguindanao del Norte

Delnalyn Awali, SK Official, Founder and President of Kaugmaun sa Anak Ayaw Kalimtan – Tawi-Tawi

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

OUR PARTICIPANTS

Gender: Balanced representation with 6 Female, 5 Male participants

Age: 7 participants aged 19–22, 4 participants aged 24–26

Geography: Representation from Mindanao (33%), including BARMM and Indigenous communities, alongside participants from NCR, Region X, Region I, and Region XII.

SECTORAL DIVERSITY

Peacebuilding: 91% considered it their primary field

Other areas: Education (6), Governance (5), Environment/Climate Action (4), Technology (3), Data Science and Analytics (1), Indigenous People (IP) Women and Youth Empowerment (1), Mental Health (1).

Institutional Backgrounds: House of Representatives, KRIS for Peace & REDO Network for Peace & Youth Development, Kutawato Youth Network, MSU-TCTO, Break The Fake Movement, Rotaract Club of Malabon Pioneer, Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology, Women Organization of Rajah Mamalu Descendants / SAMAHAN Department of External Affairs, AdU-CARES, Rotary ASEAN Youth Peacebuilders Programme Alumni Network, Build Youth.

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.

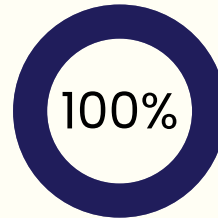


PROGRAM OUTCOME AND SUCCESS

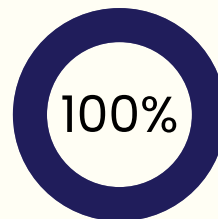
The Applied Peace Network (APN) Philippines 2026 was an intensive two-week seminar that equipped emerging Filipino peace practitioners with the knowledge, skills, and networks to drive innovative peacebuilding. Grounded in the Philippine peace process — particularly the ongoing gains of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) — the program tackled the nation's 'polycrisis' through dialogue, immersion, and action. It was jointly implemented by Innovations In Peacebuilding (IP) and KRIS for Peace, and convened 11 aspiring peace practitioners.



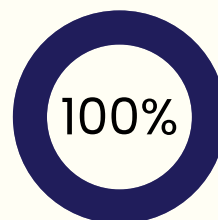
POST-APN SELF REPORTED STATISTICS



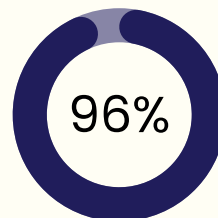
Reported improved understanding of historical roots of conflict, justice, inclusion, and dialogue as tools for peace.



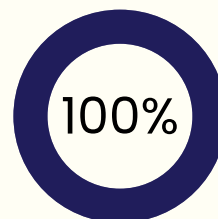
Reported increased knowledge on innovation, technology, and climate considerations in peacebuilding. **(28% increase from APN PH 2025)**



Felt highly knowledgeable about opportunities and practices in the peacebuilding profession. **(11% increase from APN PH 2025)**



Reported increased confidence in engaging in dialogue across differences and leading peacebuilding efforts. **(19% increase from APN PH 2025)**



Planned to reach out to resource speakers and maintain engagement through APN alumni networks. **(22% increase from APN PH 2025)**

QUOTES FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS



"My peers shared insights problems they experienced in their own communities, which helped me see how local challenges connect to national issues. Their perspectives broadened my understanding of inclusive leadership."

"Stories from local, far flung, and conflict affected communities made us realize our privilege and allowed us to see others in varying lenses, hence, curiosity and not judgment."



"My favorite aspect throughout the entirety of the program is the involvement of the participants in an intimate manner."

QUOTES FROM OUR PARTICIPANTS



"My favorite part of the program was the people. Learning from speakers was valuable, but the conversations with fellow participants from different backgrounds made the experience even more meaningful."

"My peers showed me that there isn't just one way to build peace. Each of us came from different communities and experiences, yet we shared the same commitment to creating positive change."



"My favorite part was seeing everyone be vulnerable and share their stories. It helped me know my fellow peacebuilders better. The program exceeded my expectations because I gained new knowledge and meaningful friendships."

COMPONENT 1: IDENTITY, PURPOSE, AND LEADERSHIP

OVERVIEW

The program opened with an energizing welcome ceremony, bringing the cohort together for their first shared experience. Through group activities and team challenges, participants quickly established the trust and respect that would be required throughout the next 10 days.

Over the course of a two-day workshop, participants were introduced to foundational peacebuilding and facilitation skills rooted in practical application. Sessions covered nonviolent communication, active listening, turning conflicts into dialogue, and the principles of adult learning theory, equipping participants with tools they would apply throughout the seminar and beyond.

GUEST SPEAKER

BETH MANRIQUE

Beth Manrique is an education leader and founder of Boost Quality Minds, with 15+ years of experience in peacebuilding, curriculum design, and leadership development, including as Senior Program Officer at the U.S. Institute of Peace. Having lived and worked across six countries, she now coaches individuals and teams to learn, collaborate, and lead with curiosity and accountability.



COMPONENT 2: HISTORY, CONTEXT, AND PEACE NARRATIVES

OVERVIEW

This component deepened participants' understanding of peacebuilding by situating it within the Filipino historical, political, and cultural contexts. The sessions focused particularly on 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.

GUEST SPEAKERS

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.

DADAH ISMULA

Rep. Dadah Ismula is a Filipino Moro politician and indigenous leader representing Akbayan Partylist in Congress since 2025. A member of the Sama-Bangingi ethnic group, she is a champion for Moro, women's, and indigenous peoples' rights.

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.

COMPONENT 3: INNOVATION AND CROSS-SECTOR PEACE

OVERVIEW

This component focused on reimagining peacebuilding through a lens of innovation and broad collaboration. Building on participants' contextual knowledge, the training encouraged them to move beyond conventional methods by incorporating climate action, digital technology, and international perspectives. Emphasis was placed on "out-of-the-box" thinking to equip them with the partnerships and emerging tools necessary to navigate and mitigate complex global risks.

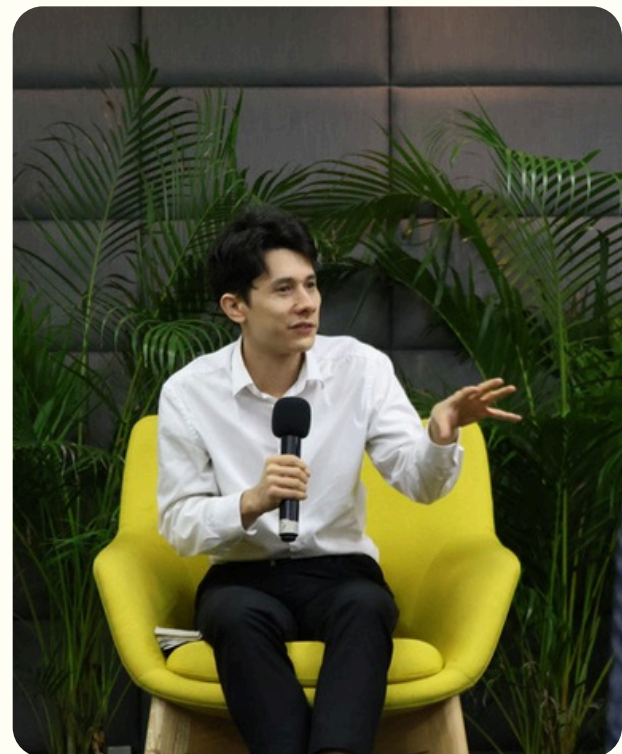
WORKSHOPS AND APPLIED LEARNING

Aurelien Chu, Co-Founder and CEO, Eskwelabs

JT Solis, Co-founder and CEO of Mayani

EXPERT DISCUSSIONS AND SYNTHESIS SESSIONS

Miguel Vera Cruz, Ecosystem Builder and Venture Investor



COMPONENT 4: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

EXPERIENCES

This component emphasized immersive, real-world learning, enabling participants to contextualize peacebuilding within international, cultural, and environmental frameworks. Participants explored diplomatic, historical, and civic spaces, linking classroom and online learning to tangible experiences and cross-sector engagement.

AYALA MUSEUM, MAKATI

Participants toured an exhibition of historical Philippine artifacts and critically examined how this history was presented, discussing both the strengths of the exhibition and its shortcomings, including the ways in which certain stereotypes were represented or reinforced.



ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

Participants were invited to meet businesses creating positive peacebuilding impact in the Philippines at the Dado Banatao Incubator at the Asian Institute of Management, the Philippines' most prestigious and selective startup incubator.

COMPONENT 4: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

NORWEGIAN EMBASSY, PHILIPPINES

Participants engaged with the Norwegian Ambassador and local staff to understand the role of international relations in advancing peace in the Philippines. Both sides participated in open and honest conversations, eager to learn.



TIMBERLAND HEIGHTS

Participants explored nature and discussed its importance to connect environmental and climate awareness with peacebuilding practice.

QUEZON CITY MUNICIPAL HALL

Participants were invited to spend a full day at Quezon City Municipal Hall to explore successful municipal peace initiatives across multiple government agencies.



COMPONENT 5: APN ALUMNI NETWORK ENGAGEMENT

VIDEO MESSAGES

Rozafa Berisha, an alumna of APN Kosovo 2026, shared a video with the cohort welcoming them to the APN family and offering words of advice as they embarked on their two-week journey.



VOLUNTEERING

Jahir Kalimbol, an APN Philippines 2025 alumnus, joined the 2026 cohort as a volunteer. For Jahir, the APN is a community he wanted to return to and contribute to by sharing his knowledge and experience with incoming participants.

ALUMNI PANEL

Near the conclusion of the seminar, APN Philippines 2025 alumni returned to speak on a panel and serve as mentors as the 2026 cohort worked to finalize their capstone projects.



COMPONENT 6: CAPSTONE PROJECTS

An integral part of APN is the capstone project, where participants turn their learnings, skills, and networks from the seminar into a concrete peacebuilding initiative. Through design sessions, alumni mentoring, and practical workshops, participants develop and refine their proposals. Each participant then presents their project to a panel for feedback and discussion.

Two 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.

Project KUYOG: A Storybook and Coloring Book Initiative on Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC)

Presented by: **Noel Emmanuell Enjada**

Location: Iligan City

Focus: A Storybook Initiative on OSAEC for Daycare Learners in Barangay Tambacan, Iligan City.

Impact: Strengthen child protection awareness among daycare learners, parents, and teachers in Barangay Tambacan through the use of an interactive Storybook and Coloring Book centered on OSAEC prevention.



Care Certified

Presented by: **Justine B. Reyes & Ma. Elenie Mangsat**

Location: Adamson University

Focus: Building a Student-Led Mental Health Response Network for Disaster and Crisis Situations.

Impact: Providing immediate volunteer support during emergencies, this project ensures Adamson University students and nearby community members receive early mental health intervention before seeking professional services.



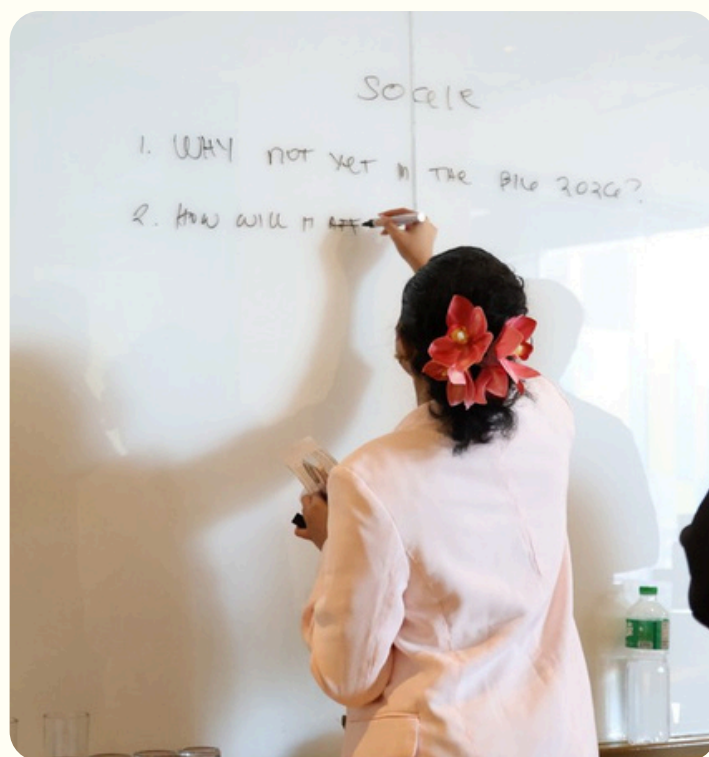
THANK YOU

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.