



PEACE IS A PROCESS: 15 YEARS OF IPJ PEACEBUILDING WORK IN NEPAL



Workshop participants in the rural area of Humla greet an IPJ team in the early years of the Nepal Peacebuilding Initiative



In Nepal's Far West, the IPJ team interviewed community members from Tharu Village

In January, staff members of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) returned to Nepal for the 36th time in 15 years of engagement in the country. Initially invited by political leaders to do peacebuilding work in the country during the height of its civil war, the IPJ has since responded to requests by various sectors of civil society, security forces, youth and women. These groups were looking for skills to overcome challenges to post-conflict integration and inclusion, and to create the community awareness needed for peace and reconciliation.

Over the 15 years of strategic peacebuilding work, the institute has witnessed:

- the end of the monarchy through a people power movement and the conclusion of the Maoist civil war through the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Accord;
- the establishment of multiparty democracy and two rounds of constituent assembly elections;
- devastating earthquakes;
- the passage of a flawed constitution, which has led to new violent unrest in the Terai region.

Such momentous changes have demanded that the IPJ be flexible and adaptive to meet the changing demands of the country. In the early years, for example, this meant providing negotiation training to those working on the peace accord. Most recently, the institute's work sometimes involves bringing together police officers with protestors upset about the new constitution to discuss their concerns.

The IPJ's "whole community" approach to strategic peacebuilding involves engaging individuals regardless of identity, background or experience, and offers a platform for them to share their experiences and gain skills while being heard. During the January trip, IPJ Director Dee Aker and Program Officer Daniel Orth worked with a wide range of actors. With the help of local partner organizations Sano Paila and Today's Youth Asia, the IPJ brought together more than 100 individuals during roundtable discussions and workshops.

These were held in the midst of continued tensions in two regions of the Terai. One is in the west, where the Tharu ethnic group feels disenfranchised. The other is Birgunj,

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where segments of the Madhesi population, mobilized by political parties, had taken to the streets in protest of the new constitution. The protests created a fuel and food crisis across Nepal, with a blockade on the southern border with India.

From Armed Police Force officers sitting with protest leaders, to women from opposite sides — one who lost a child and one who lost her livelihood — the roundtable discussions allowed individuals to hear from "the other," thus reducing misunderstanding and beginning to rebuild trust.

In one-on-one interviews and small group meetings, the IPJ team also spoke with current and former prime ministers, ambassadors, members of Parliament, high-ranking police officials, and Madhesi protest leaders.

The blockade has recently ended and the protests have quieted down, but the underlying grievances persist and the risk of violence is high. Solutions ultimately must come from within the country. The IPJ remains committed to creating opportunities for communities to engage in productive conversations that address the transition needed for constitutional inclusion and legitimacy that all can accept.

To read more about the IPJ's Strategic International Peacebuilding, please see pages 8 and 9.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Can Neuroscience Contribute to Sustainable Peace?

How can neuroscience decrease intergroup hostility and create sustainable pathways to peace? On February 10, Emile Bruneau, cognitive neuroscientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, gave a Distinguished Lecture on this and many other lines of exploration.

Bruneau has studied various conflicts, and despite the obvious differences between them — spread across three continents, with different religions, ethnic groups and languages — he has been surprised at how eerily similar they were. This insight led him to research how people's behaviors are strongly influenced by unconscious norms rather than "common sense."

“So this is my hope ..., that neuroimaging can indirectly inform our interventions and our evaluations, but also that it can directly add to our understanding of conflict resolution.”

— EMILE BRUNEAU

Bruneau likened the brain to a rider sitting on top of an elephant — the rider representing the conscious part of the brain that people are aware of and have power over, and the elephant representing the subconscious portion of the brain. Many conflict resolution interventions are directed at the rider, and can have the unintended consequence of increasing a negative behavior rather than decreasing it.

In addition, Bruneau discussed the importance of evaluating peacebuilding efforts using



Bruneau is a cognitive neuroscientist at MIT and the recipient of the 2015 Ed Cairns Early Career Award in Peace Psychology



Bruneau has studied conflicts in South Africa, Sri Lanka, Northern Ireland and Israel/Palestine, among others

the right metrics of success. Through various case studies and experiments, he explained how common goals such as trust, empathy and dehumanization can have deeply problematic and unintended consequences. While these are thought to promote peace, Bruneau's research suggests that these metrics are not as straightforward.

Using empathy as an example, he demonstrated how simply growing empathic concern does not necessarily lead to a higher likelihood of peace. "What might predict political violence is not low overall empathy," he stated, "but rather a gap in empathy between in-group and out-group."

Bruneau ended with the aspiration that this awareness would benefit peacebuilding initiatives not only by making them more effective, but also more sustainable. "So this is my hope ..., that neuroimaging can indirectly inform our interventions and our evaluations, but also that it can directly add to our understanding of conflict resolution."

World-Renowned Journalist Seeks the Puzzle Pieces of Truth in Conflict Zones

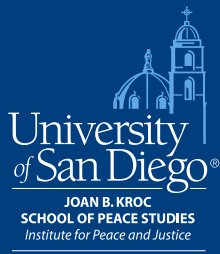


Wright has interviewed and written about leaders such as Nelson Mandela

Robin Wright has worn many hats in her lengthy and distinguished career: war correspondent, author, foreign affairs analyst and Distinguished Scholar at the U.S. Institute of Peace, among others. In December, she gave an inspiring talk to students, faculty and other members of the IPJ and San Diego community.

In her lecture, Wright took listeners through the various conflict zones she has been to and the lessons she learned. "Truth is like a puzzle, with a thousand pieces," Wright told the audience. Her career has been fueled by her desire to complete this puzzle and give people new perspectives to challenge established beliefs. Wright acknowledged that we will never know the absolute truth, but we can all work harder to get closer to it.

Wright has interviewed numerous world leaders, including Mikhail Gorbachev, Nelson Mandela and Muammar Gaddafi, but attributes her most valuable lessons and experiences to ordinary people involved in conflict. Where there might be chaos and violence, she says, stories of hope and perseverance are also present. From a young Egyptian girl trying to eradicate female genital mutilation in her community, to a father creating a comic book series that encourages young men and women to defy extremism, Wright told of the various "ordinary people" who are working to achieve peace in places where it has long been absent.



PEACE TALKS & JUSTICE MATTERS

by Director Dee Aker

BACKGROUND AND MISSION

A gift from Mrs. Kroc enabled the University of San Diego to build and endow the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ). Since 2000, the IPJ — part of the Kroc School of Peace Studies — has worked to build peace with justice by strengthening women peacemakers, youth leaders and human rights defenders, and developing innovative approaches to peacebuilding.

PEACE & JUSTICE COMPASS

An online version of this newsletter can be found at <http://peace.sandiego.edu> together with additional information about IPJ programs and activities. The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the University of San Diego.

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Fifteen years ago, the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) was officially dedicated with an international conference. It brought together 200 people from around the globe. The agreed task was to examine how to get the voices of those ensnared in violence and injustice into peace negotiations and processes. The aspiration was greater resilience and inclusive options for communities building a more enduring peace.

The symposium, entitled “Peacemaking with Justice: Policy for the 21st Century,” looked in particular at four countries in differing phases of conflict, and featured experts in peace negotiations, notable professors in the field, and civil society peacebuilders.

Over the years, the IPJ has continued to prioritize bringing the justice of inclusion to peace-seeking tables. In this issue of the Compass, you will read how some of our field activities do this, and learn of similar perspectives from distinguished journalists, researchers, program officers, interns and students.

At the 60th UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the IPJ was able to keep essential but often dismissed voices in front of policymakers. Our first official side event at CSW and presented in UN Headquarters, “Outside Our Silos,” was drawn from our Defying Extremism initiative with the Women PeaceMakers network over the last two years (see page 7). The event highlighted the importance of including women’s, youth and religious leaders’ experiences and expertise in strategies to prevent extremism.

Likewise, the IPJ’s WorldLink program took part in the first Youth Forum at CSW, and also held a parallel event featuring, among others, a former skinhead and a Syrian youth activist who helped organize the revolution (see page 5). No longer is the United Nations simply talking about youth, but it is including young people in the search for sustainable peace.

As we welcome the new IPJ Executive Director Andrew Blum this summer, I trust that the many communities we serve — and this wonderful university that has celebrated the IPJ’s international impact — will be in good stead going forward. Dr. Blum’s experience and passion for peacebuilding form the heart of his belief in and choice to lead the IPJ.

“I would give wings to children, but I would leave them to learn how to fly.” These are the words of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the Nobel Laureate author from Colombia, in a farewell letter to the many he had touched as he left public life. I have thought of them frequently as I depart communities in Nepal or Kenya or the Philippines, and now the IPJ directorship itself, leaving behind the brave survivors and leaders who are building their peace. These people, to whom we have listened attentively and shared our wings of knowledge and experience, ultimately fly alone. Peacebuilding, personal and communal, is a process accomplished by those who know conflict and loss, and choose peace and possibility instead.

New Executive Director to Lead IPJ

The dean of the Kroc School of Peace Studies, Patricia Márquez, is pleased to announce that Andrew Blum, PhD, will be the new executive director of the IPJ, beginning in July. Blum was most recently the vice president of planning, learning and evaluation at the U.S. Institute of Peace, and was part of the senior leadership team and core strategic planning committee. In addition to his expertise in monitoring and evaluation, he has extensive experience working on peacebuilding programs in such places as Sudan, South Sudan, Nigeria, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Estonia, Guyana and Turkey. Blum holds a PhD in international relations from the University of Southern California.

After 15 years as director/deputy director of the IPJ and creating three of its long-standing programs, Dee Aker is stepping down. She will stay on at the Kroc School as strategic peacebuilding advisor.

YOUTH AND PEACEBUILDING

Youth Survivors and Activists Combat Global Sexual Violence

By Jiayong Li, WorldLink Intern



WorldLink youth introduce the closing plenary session of the 19th Annual Youth Town Meeting (photo credit: Herman Saldana)

At only 20 years old, Joel Davis is the founding executive director of Youth to End Sexual Violence, co-chair of the International Campaign to Stop Rape and Gender Violence in Conflict, and youth ambassador for the U.S. on sexual violence in conflict. At WorldLink's 19th Annual Youth Town Meeting, Davis offered a poignant and personal glimpse into the lives of youth who are living in conflict areas around the world and the struggles they face on a daily basis.

His organization operates in 11 countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cambodia, Colombia, India and Sudan. Davis explained that sexual violence against women is prominent, particularly in areas of conflict, and is generational — meaning the cycle of violence continues to the next generation.



Davis and fellow speaker Alaa Basatneh of Syria snap a selfie before the opening plenary (photo credit: Sofia Vega)

Davis attended the global summit on ending sexual violence in 2014 as a representative for the U.S., but realized that the other attendees were mostly of an older demographic. Young people were not involved in the conversation. "That is not OK," Davis stated. "Young people have their own voice and they know better than everyone, since they are the ones going through that kind of trauma — exactly what's happening — and they may know exactly what needs to change for [sexual violence] to be stopped."

The lack of youth representation at the global summit led Davis to establish Youth to End Sexual Violence, an international organization that involves young people in what is stereotypically a subject for "mature audiences." All of the staff members are under the age of 30, and many are survivors of sexual violence and have founded their own nongovernmental organizations in their countries.

Davis explained to conference delegates that even though this topic is extremely "emotionally demanding," it is one that can no longer be kept in the dark. He emphasized the strength and resilience of everyday people bringing a glimmer of hope in an otherwise bleak environment: "Every day in this field I see the worst that humanity has to offer, but I also see the best. I see the strength that people possess, and it is this exact strength that makes it all worth it."

WATER IS LIFE

Water is life.

And if you don't believe it, then see this.

It's in our makeup and what we take up.

It's in all of biology, runs through our geology, sustains ecology, we call it hydrology.

And then there is we.

What's up, WorldLink, the name is Evan Wesley.

I'm a student with a dream.

A dream to change the world of water, a dream for me that starts in small town Kentucky.

So make no mistake, there is a lot at stake.

For the sake, of this conversation, know we could change entire nations.

Let's be clear, lend me your ears, so you can hear

About the story to give and save a life,

Because water ... is ... life.

Rap by Evan Wesley
Director of Education, Thirst Project
Performed at the Youth Town Meeting



Wesley speaks about the importance of access to safe and clean water for people around the world (photo credit: Paige Nordland)

Youth as Partners in Countering Violence



Left to right: Martinez, Basatneh, Ismail, Michaelis and Dasgupta

At the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the United Nations hosted its first Youth Forum on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030. Debbie Martinez, IPJ senior program officer for youth and peacebuilding, was one of 200 young women and men in attendance, who together focused particularly on SDG 5: Gender Equality.

Over the course of two days, the delegation drafted the “2016 Youth CSW Declaration on Gender Equality and the Human Rights of Young Women and Girls.” The document came three months after the UN Security Council adopted the first-ever resolution on Youth, Peace and Security, which recognizes the influential role youth can play in resolving conflicts, countering violent extremism and sustaining peace in their communities.

The challenge now is turning these declarations into action and building strategic intergenerational partnerships with a youth population of 1.8 billion worldwide. On March 17 at CSW, the IPJ’s WorldLink program hosted the session, “The Power of Youth: Inclusive Dialogues to Prevent and Counter Violence.”

The panel included Anindita Dasgupta, post-doctoral research fellow from Columbia University; Arno Michaelis, author of *My Life After Hate* and educator for Serve 2 Unite; Alaa Basatneh, Syrian youth activist and protagonist of the documentary *#ChicagoGirl*; and Saba Ismail, executive director of Aware Girls.

The session demonstrated that by providing a platform for young women to work with young men, academics, policymakers and practitioners in peacebuilding, youth can become well-informed, active participants in the prevention of violence in communities around the world.



Martinez, far left, moderated the panel held in New York City

WorldLink Alumna and Aspiring Journalist Covers Pressing Environmental Issues

“My experience with journalism and WorldLink has influenced where I am right now,” says Katherine Guerrero, a junior at Colorado College majoring in environmental policy with a minor in journalism. “Understanding the power of writing first-hand has been present in all my experiences these past few years, and I wanted to thank WorldLink for that.”

Guerrero first learned of WorldLink as a student at High Tech High International. Through her experiences as an ambassador for the International Rescue Committee and intern at the San Diego Zoo, she was eager to explore her growing interests in global affairs, in particular environmental conservation and journalism.

“Reflecting back on my experience with WorldLink, it accelerated my love for storytelling and using creativity to send important messages.”

— KATHERINE GUERRERO

With her involvement in WorldLink, Guerrero discovered several unique platforms that would help combine her two interests, which are fields she believes deserve much more attention. She served as WorldLink’s Spring 2012 editor-in-chief of the bilingual, student-produced newspaper, the theme of which that year was “The Right to be Human.”



Guerrero has worked in Thailand and Angola

While a sophomore at Colorado College, Guerrero spent several months living in Chiang Mai, Thailand through the International Sustainable Development Studies Institute, and studied the country’s environmental policies. Last summer, she served as a media intern at the U.S. Embassy in Luanda, Angola under the Public Diplomacy Section, evaluating ways of strengthening communication with local Angolans.

“Reflecting back on my experience with WorldLink,” Guerrero recently wrote, “it accelerated my love for storytelling and using creativity to send important messages.”

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Breaking the Wall of Silence in Namibia



UN Photo/John Isaac



Dempers (in hat on far right) on the day of her release from SWAPO dungeons in 1989 (photo credit: John Liebenberg)

The following excerpt is from “Tell Them Our Names,” the narrative of Pauline Dempers of Namibia. It describes the establishment of her organization and her search for the truth about what happened to other survivors like herself, who had been members of SWAPO — the South West Africa People’s Organization — and were accused of it of being spies. Dempers was held and tortured for three years in dungeons in Angola.

by Peace Writer Jenna Barnett

Pauline had a stage and an audience of Namibian soldiers, politicians, mothers and ex-detainees. This was not her first podium, but it felt like a significant one. So significant that she was almost too scared to come — to begin the needed but terrifying fight for truth and peace. So significant that she almost stayed asleep at a friend’s house with the sluggish comfort of the previous night’s beer.

But today was the day she would officially launch the organization she co-founded, *Breaking the Wall of Silence* — a group that would advocate for the rights of ex-detainees and would push for the truth from SWAPO. The group shared their name with the German pastor Siegfried Roth’s book title. With Pauline’s help, he had collected the testimonies of other ex-detainees.

“... today was the day she would officially launch the organization she co-founded, *Breaking the Wall of Silence* — a group that would advocate for the rights of ex-detainees and would push for the truth from SWAPO.”

Now, Pauline shared the stage with him and one other ex-detainee. She spoke for 10 minutes about the torture: “I could smell the alcohol on their breath.” Spoke of her separation from Survival [her daughter]: “I may never be able to forgive SWAPO for that.” Of the people she lost: “I still dream that they are alive.” And of the economic challenges that came with returning to Namibia with the label of “enemy agent”: “No one wants to take advice from a spy.”

The crowd seemed receptive enough.

But something snapped during the question-and-answer period. One of the SWAPO combatants took hold of a microphone: “How do you really know that SWAPO was not infiltrated?”

“I don’t know that,” Pauline said. “I just know that we did not infiltrate SWAPO.”

“There is a policy of national reconciliation,” another SWAPO man said, “so shouldn’t we just move on and forget about all this?” His question hung in the air, angering the ex-detainees in the audience. One ex-detainee stood up, a respected SWAPO commander before his arrest and imprisonment. He unbuckled his pants in silence. He pulled down his underwear with angry confidence. Part of his buttock was gone. It had grown rotten from the beatings, so SWAPO had cut it off.

Some people looked at his eyes, some at his scar, others at the ground he defiantly stood on. Then he spoke: “I fought for the independence of my country and all that I got from the stupid Ovambos is this.”

He silenced the room for three thick minutes. Then another ex-detainee stood up, a former senior commander of SWAPO: “I never killed a fly in anyone’s home. I never killed a fly in your houses,” he said, pointing to the SWAPO members in the audience. “But you killed my brothers, and you tortured me. I will always remember that.”

The SWAPO members left the room. They didn’t want to hear this. And a week later they bought all the copies of *Breaking the Wall of Silence*. SWAPO used to burn South African textbooks; now they burned the books of their own people.

On the TV a broadcaster made an announcement for SWAPO to the ex-detainees: “If you want a war, we’re ready.”

They still don’t get it, Pauline thought. *We don’t want a war — we just don’t want the “peace” you’re offering.*

Pauline just wanted a conversation. She wanted SWAPO to listen without leaving the room.

They printed more books.

To read all of Dempers’ story, as well as the other narratives of the 2015 Women PeaceMakers — Najla Ayubi of Afghanistan, Galia Golan of Israel and Glenda Wildschut of South Africa — please visit the program’s new online platform: <https://womenpeacemakers.atavist.com>

IPJ Presents with Member States at UN Headquarters

In October 2015 the UN Security Council passed resolution 2242, and in January 2016 the Secretary-General presented the UN Action Plan for Preventing Violent Extremism. Both of these policy frameworks explicitly recognize the gendered nature of violent extremism and the diverse roles women and girls are playing to either support or stop this violence.

However, many questions remain on how these plans will integrate with, support or undermine the existing Women, Peace and Security agenda; how the voices of not only women, but also girls and other marginalized populations, will be integrated in the design, planning and decision-making processes; and how tensions about the instrumentalization of women and girls, religious leaders and others within security responses might be addressed.

Now, more than ever, a move beyond silos toward more collaborative, inclusive approaches is vital to any progress in effectively preventing violent extremism. Thus, during the 60th UN Commission on the Status of Women, the IPJ — together with the Permanent Missions of Switzerland and Finland to the UN, and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers — co-hosted a side event entitled, “Outside Our Silos: The Power of Inclusive Engagement to Prevent Violent Extremism.”



The 60th session of CSW took place in mid-March at UN Headquarters in New York

The event brought together civil society practitioners, experts and senior officials to discuss practical means to advance a rights-based framework and effectively support women to prevent violent extremism.

The event provided substantive material for the development of a human rights framework that could be used to advance practical, contextually tailored, and sustainable policies on preventing and countering violent extremism. Importantly, the event highlighted women's and young women's direct experiences and engagement in preventing violent extremism across the globe, and builds upon the work the institute has been engaged in through its Defying Extremism initiative.



Speakers at the IPJ's first Side Event at CSW included Azza Karam of UNFPA and Sussan Tahmasebi from the International Civil Society Action Network

IPJ and International Consortium Receive NATO Grant for Gender-Awareness Training



Opening of the 174th Military Committee in Chiefs of Defence, NATO Headquarters, Brussels, January 2016 (Photo courtesy of NATO)

The IPJ's Women, Peace and Security initiative has been jointly awarded a grant to launch the project “Tailor-Made Gender-Awareness Applications for the NATO Community.” The grant is awarded from NATO's Science for Peace and Security Programme.

The project is spearheaded by Stéfanie Von Hlatky, PhD, of Queen's University in Canada, and is a collaboration between the IPJ and researchers at the Australian Defence Force and the University of California at Irvine.

Next year, the IPJ will host a high-level event launching the results of this cutting-edge research on the effectiveness of women's participation in security and peacekeeping.

IPJ Welcomes Kroc School Alumna as Program Officer



Zanoni with the Peace Club at the Daraja Academy in Nanyuki, Kenya earlier this year

Katie Zanoni (MA '06) is the new IPJ program officer for Women PeaceMakers. Zanoni co-founded and lectured in the first peace studies associate degree program at San Diego City College. As a peace and human rights educator, Zanoni developed curricula as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, a Stanford Human Rights Education Initiative fellow, and most recently for the Daraja Academy — an all girls' school in Kenya where she incorporated narratives from Kenyan Women PeaceMakers into the lesson plans. She is pursuing her doctorate in education from the University of San Francisco (USF).

“Katie's background in human rights education from the Kroc School and USF brings a valuable skillset to enhance the Women PeaceMakers program,” stated Senior Program Officer Jennifer Freeman. “We are very pleased to have her join the team.”

IPJ Leads Mediation Trainings for Youth in Nairobi



Kenya training participants simulate a mediation under the supervision of Dola Oluoch of CYU



Training participants engage in discussion during a practical group assignment

As Kenyan security forces continue to battle the threat of terrorism and with the 2017 elections looming large on the horizon, many Kenyan communities are experiencing heightened levels of insecurity. In late February, Director Dee Aker and Program Officer Daniel Orth traveled to Nairobi, Kenya to continue the IPJ's Violence Prevention Project with local partner *Chemchemi Ya Ukweli* (CYU).

“My mediation skills can be used better now compared to when I came in to solve disputes.”

— KENYAN TRAINING PARTICIPANT



Orth leads a debrief session after the mediation simulation

The primary purpose of the trip, identified through a strategic planning session held with CYU in August last year, was to conduct a three-day training with youth from the Nairobi communities of Kibera, Korogocho and Mathare. These youth, half of whom had previously engaged with the IPJ and half of whom were new to the organization — and all of whom have been identified as leaders by their communities — will contribute to community resiliency by more effectively resolving conflicts that arise before they become violent. A large segment of the training focused on mediation skills, to which one participant remarked, “My mediation skills can be used better now compared to when I came in to solve disputes.”

Orth also had the opportunity to meet with a high-level police official to discuss improving relationships between officers and community youth, information that will help to inform joint IPJ-CYU programming in the future.

IPJ Collaborates on Peace Initiatives in Southeast Asia

In late January, one week after Myanmar's first Union Peace Conference, IPJ Program Officer Kara Wong returned to the country to meet with local organizations on the possibility of collaborating on an arts-based peacebuilding initiative. They also discussed a new education-for-peacebuilding project, servicing communities displaced by the recently resumed civil conflict in Kachin State.

A half-day roundtable in Hpa'an, the capital of Karen State, was also held. Karen State is the site of a 60-year conflict that has been called "the longest civil war in the world" and has led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, including a refugee community of 1,500 currently residing in San Diego.

The roundtable, co-hosted by IPJ and community partners Stay in School and Mehn Kan Kyi Education Network, gathered youth leaders from both sides of the Thai-Myanmar border to identify challenges and priorities facing young people living along the borderline. The lively discussion and exchange mirrored the energy of the IPJ's 19th Annual Youth Town Meeting, held the week prior to the trip. The roundtable led to a Thai-Myanmar proposal to develop a cross-border youth network.

From there, Wong traveled to Cambodia where the IPJ has been working since 2011 in partnership with Khmer Ahmisa, a local NGO headed by Woman PeaceMaker Thavory Huot. Wong and Khmer Ahmisa's team of trainers facilitated workshops in Kampot



Wong facilitates a roundtable on youth engagement in Myanmar

and Svay Rieng for 60 women leaders. Representing different generations, political parties, organizations and communities, the participants identified shared challenges, thereby helping to set the workshop agenda.

Responding to the women's requests for training in public speaking and community organizing, the training team designed two workshops featuring experiential communication activities and a safe environment to practice facilitation and negotiation skills.

The IPJ also facilitated a roundtable in Phnom Penh for influential women leaders from civil society and the political sphere, together with land rights activists and those affected by forced evictions. They explored strategies for addressing Cambodia's widespread land-grabbing crisis. The half-day discussion highlighted the complexity of the issue and the need for NGO staff and those affected by this ongoing crisis to share resources and develop collaborative responses.



Youth and educators from Myanmar's borderline region share stories in Hpa'an



Women leaders conduct a communication exercise in Svay Rieng, Cambodia

IPJ Thanks Associate Dean for Many Years of Service

After more than 15 years of dedication to the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies — including as interim dean for a time — Associate Dean Lee Ann Otto has returned to full-time teaching as professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations.

Dr. Otto directed the master's program in peace and justice studies since its inception in 2000, and oversaw its transition from the College of Arts and Sciences to its home now in the Kroc School. In addition, Dr. Otto served as interim dean from 2013 to 2014, a period which saw the undergraduate minor in peace and justice studies move into the Kroc School.

“She truly cares about her students and the work of the school; her dedication has and will continue to live on through the work of alumni and future students to come.”

— ALI WOLTERS

Ali Wolters, alumna of the master's program ('14) and former IPJ intern, reflected on Dr. Otto's contributions: “Dr. Otto has been the backbone for the School of Peace Studies, the faculty and staff, and most especially the students for many years. Seemingly quiet and serious, you could always count on Dr. Otto to crack a witty joke, or to stop you in the hall and ask how you are doing,” Wolters recalled. “She truly cares about her students and the work of the school; her dedication has and will continue to live on through the work of alumni and future students to come. Thank you Dr. Otto for everything!”



Students come from 30 countries to become peacebuilders and changemakers

NEW MA PROGRAMS OFFERED AT KROC SCHOOL

The Kroc School is now offering two distinct graduate degrees: a Master of Arts in Peace and Justice and a Master of Arts in Peacebuilding. The former can be taken as a two-year, full-time program, or on a part-time basis and does not require work experience. The latter is a one-year program for highly motivated leaders with at least five years of experience in peacebuilding.

Both programs prepare individuals to work effectively for peace and justice across multiple organizational settings, from start-ups to grassroots organizations, from international nonprofits to government agencies and businesses. The course portfolio for either degree includes human rights, conflict resolution, leadership and organizations, development, technology and social change, and social entrepreneurship.

Students have the opportunity to learn from and participate in projects through the school's practice-based institutes: the IPJ, Trans-Border Institute, and Center for Peace and Commerce.

To learn more about the Kroc School's MA programs, visit: sandiego.edu/peacemasters



Dr. Otto directed the master's program in peace and justice studies since its inception in 2000



Alumna Shobha Shrestha ('08) of Nepal with Dr. Otto in 2014

IPJ and CPC Examine Social Innovation in Light of Myanmar's Transition from Dictatorship

While IPJ Program Officer Kara Wong was in Myanmar in January exploring opportunities to collaborate with local partners (see page 9), she was joined by Grace Michel, assistant director of the Center for Peace and Commerce (CPC). The CPC — a joint initiative between USD's Kroc School of Peace Studies and the School of Business — prepares a new generation of changemakers and contributes to a new paradigm for business and peacebuilding, through teaching, scholarship and social enterprise development.

Myanmar provides a unique environment to explore what social innovation means in a country transitioning from military dictatorship and intense social challenges. Throughout the period of military rule, innovation was repressed and access to technology and capital was severely limited.

Michel, who serves on the board of the Karen Organization of San Diego (which assists Karen refugees from Myanmar), met with several local organizations and attended a social enterprise fair while in the country.

“... it is really exciting to see a growing innovation and entrepreneurship space in Myanmar, as businesses and social enterprises now have access to external and international resources.”

— GRACE MICHEL



Myanmar, emerging from years of military dictatorship, is seeing an expanded space for innovation and access to technology and capital (photo credit: Paul Arps/Flickr)

“What struck me most is the paradoxical nature of the role of business in Myanmar,” reported Michel. “On the one hand, it is really exciting to see a growing innovation and entrepreneurship space in Myanmar, as businesses and social enterprises now have access to external and international resources. On the other hand, with increasing global investment for large-scale business and projects, there is a greater need for vigilance against human rights violations such as land grabs, environmental degradation and increasing social exclusion of the poor.”

The CPC and IPJ continue to explore student involvement in organizations and companies in Myanmar, and look forward to exchanging knowledge on peacebuilding, innovation and overcoming social challenges.

Prominent Mexican Journalist Gives Presentations at Kroc School

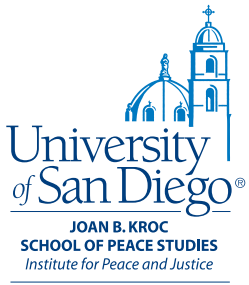


In March, the IPJ and the Trans-Border Institute (TBI) collaborated to host Marcela Turati, a journalist and human rights defender based in Mexico City. A writer for the prominent Mexican magazine *Proceso*, Turati is at constant risk for her reports on drug violence, disappearances and other human rights violations in her home country.

Turati was the keynote for the IPJ's International Women's Day Breakfast, and was honored as the speaker for the Sister Sally Furay Memorial Lecture hosted by TBI.

“People often ask me about the choices I've made focusing on the victims of violence, including journalists. I don't choose to cover a war. The war took over my country and I became a war correspondent without at first knowing it. Many other journalists made the same choice. What I and other journalists know is that whatever the circumstances, we need to go on reporting and we need to find better ways to use journalists to witness and record the impact of violence, to hold the powerful accountable, and to effect change. This is the most important lesson I have learned in my almost two decades as a journalist.”

— MARCELA TURATI



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Fostering Peace, Cultivating Justice, Creating a Safer World.

This year's WorldLink Youth Town Meeting, part of the WorldLink program, featured the organization Youth to End Sexual Violence (see page 4), part of the International Campaign to Stop Rape and Gender Violence in Conflict. The campaign was also a partner organization for the IPJ's 2008 Women PeaceMakers Conference. The worldwide movement to end this horrific violence continues, and remains a feature of the IPJ's programs and events.



Top: Delegates at this year's Youth Town Meeting
(photo credit: Veronica Martinez)

Right: Participants at the 2008 Women PeaceMakers Conference, "Crafting Human Security"



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