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DDP Newsletter

InWEnt Development Diplomacy Programme 2008/2009

Dear Reader

The former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for engaging international cooperation against armed conflict. "The prevention of conflict begins and ends with the protection of human life and the promotion of human development", he said. Peace and development always demand our active intervention, our knowledge. This is exactly what InWEnt's Development Diplomacy Programme (DDP), which is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), stands for: Capacity building in development, peace and security cooperation – nationally, regionally and internationally. Since crisis prevention and post-conflict peace building are becoming increasingly important in today's world, we have developed a new DDP training format especially for Africans: Training courses on regional and international cooperation in the field of peace and security policy in sub-Saharan Africa. We launched the pilot course in cooperation with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in September 2008 in Accra, Ghana. This edition of our DDP newsletter therefore places a special focus on this new training format. Like the pilot course, this training course takes a multidimensional, integrated look at conflict transformation and regional and international cooperation.

Most of our alumni attended our classical training courses in Germany - the first pillar of the DDP. This year we are offering another one on international development cooperation. The training course, scheduled for August, covers principles, key aspects and working techniques of development cooperation.

Our alumni programme is another pillar that helps to form networks for peace and development, builds capacities and promotes professional exchange via InWEnt's "Global Campus 21" learning platform and alumni conferences.

We want to stay in close touch with our alumni. What are you doing? How are you doing? Please send us your news. Has the DDP helped you and your institution to open new doors to development? Have you learnt something that continues to impact your work and life? In this edition of our newsletter Professor Rey Danilo Lacson shares his remarkable experiences. Enjoy

Johanne Erly

inWEnt

Capacity Building International
Germany

In Focus

Security System Reform – a Major Challenge for Security and Peace Policy

Fouzieh Melanie Alamir, Lead-Trainer for the Security System Reform Module

Security System Reform is a Governance Issue

— It is common ground today that stability and peace are preconditions for fighting poverty and for promoting development – and vice versa. The acknowledgement of the inextricable link between conflict resolution, development and security has shaped concepts and policies for more than a decade. Any attempt to discuss this link will come across good governance. It is a requirement for poor and conflict prone countries for solving their security and development problems.

This applies both to development and security policy – two policy fields that traditionally did not have much in common. Good security governance or – in other words – security system reform (SSR) is the terrain where development and security policy meet. Both have complementary contributions to make.

- the legislative bodies (which adopt laws and exert parliamentary control)
- the judiciary and penal system (which prosecutes breaches of law and execute court decisions)
- the executive authorities such as ministries, national security advisory bodies and subordinated agencies (which provide policy guidelines and check or monitor core security actors)
- core security actors for domestic affairs (such as the police, intelligence services, disaster management agencies etc.)
- core security actors for external affairs (such as the armed forces, gendarmerie etc.)
- non-statutory forces such as militias, private security companies etc. (which pursue particular interests) and
- last but not least, civil society actors such as trade unions, media, NGOs etc.



General Challenges of SSR

The encountering of development and security policy poses the first challenge for SSR. Usually, security and peace policy are considered the realm of diplomats and security specialists like the police or the military. However, the concept of the security system encompasses

If understood like this it becomes clear that SSR is mostly about building civilian governance capacities (within the legislative bodies, the judiciary, the executive authorities and civil society), while not neglecting organisational capacities and practical capabilities of the core security actors. As a consequence, development actors need to learn to think in strategic terms and to take security aspects into consideration on the one hand. This might include contributions to police and military reforms, such as the promotion of human rights in the security sector and building linkages between national and human security. On the other hand, the security policy community must widen its perspective and think of security also in terms of long-term development. Security policy requires the cooperation and support of development actors to achieve its broader stability goals.

A second major challenge of SSR that goes hand in hand with the one just mentioned is its nature as a thoroughly civil-military endeavour. The security system itself is the central interface between security, law enforcement and governance as it provides the state with the competence to assert the state monopoly on power and to protect the state from external threats. At the same time it guarantees the rule of law, the protection of human rights and ensures political accountability of the security forces. While



we tend to think of policy responsibilities along traditional lines, even military reform covers many issues where civilian expertise and support are essential (e.g. in the area of education and training, building mind set, organisational culture etc.). Also purely civilian capacity building projects for parliamentarians need to address at least the basics of national and international risks and security. It is therefore essential for both civilian and military actors to know the different roles, levers, capabilities, assets and institutional cultures, to be familiar with their practical interfaces and modes of coping with them.

A third major challenge of SSR is due to the fact that SSR can only be successful within a systemic approach. The security system is a complex system with numerous links, interdependencies and feedback loops between the different elements. The police, for

example, are fundamentally dependent on a functioning legislature (to provide the laws) as well as an independent judiciary and penal system (to apply the laws) in fulfilling its task. Therefore, any police reform effort that does not take account of the systemic links between the police and the legislative system, the judicial and penal system and also civil society, will remain inefficient at best. In some cases, failing to take a systemic approach may even lead to adverse effects. For example: a military reform project that improves organisational and practical military capabilities without strengthening the political oversight capacities of the legislature and executive authorities might increase political instability. The systemic approach can best be implemented by close cross-departmental consultation and cooperation. This requires holistic thinking involving the entire government across traditional departmental lines of responsibility as well as a common and integrative process of problem definition and strategy development. Apart from these general challenges, SSR is a very demanding field of action when it comes to deciding on and implementing specific programs and projects.



Dr. Fouzieh Melanie Alamir is currently Program Manager for Networked Security/ Comprehensive Approach with the private enterprise IABG. Her previous work was for the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the German Federal Ministry of Defence, after serving as an instructor and researcher at the University of the Armed Forces as well as at the Federal Staff and Command College. In addition to writing for numerous publications, Dr. Alamir has worked as an expert on SSR, interagency cooperation and civil-military interfaces for several federal ministries and state agencies.

What Houleymatou Diallo Says about the DDP Pilot Training Course at the KAIPTC, Accra



“The DDP course gave me the opportunity to interact and share ideas with colleagues from different parts of the continent. I appreciate the practical experience I was able to gather. This helps me to contribute my quota for peace initiatives, toward building international cooperation and fostering peaceful co-existence in the sub-Saharan region and beyond”, Houleymatou Diallo told the Ghanaian journalist Salifa Abdul-Rahman. Houleymatou Diallo works as Press Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mali. She is currently working on a project about women in peacekeeping operations in ECOWAS.