

# Annual Report 2011



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Human Development Forum Foundation (HDFF)

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## A message from the Chairman

2011 was a year of novelty and challenges for the Human Development Forum Foundation (HDFF). For the first time, a monthly HDFF Chairman's Circle / Strategic Forum was conducted in order to establish a network of people and organizations dealing with Thai or regional security. In eight sessions a broad variety of security relevant topics were covered by national and international experts. Unfortunately this successful program was



HDFF Chairman: General (ret) Bunchon Chawansin

interrupted as severe flooding in Bangkok area made literally many movements impossible from October to December 2011. However, the successful start in 2011 convinced me and the HDFF team to go ahead and continued the program on 26 January 2012 with a presentation on **“Movements of Terrorists in Southeast Asia – Jemaah Islamiah and Al Qaeda.”**

The second newly implemented HDFF program was the introduction of the “Stay Safe Training for (I)NGO safety managers” which was successfully conducted three times in 2011. Participants came mainly from Southeast Asia, but also from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Iraq. 2012 will see at least three more trainings of this caliber also involving training partners such as the Thailand Mine Action Centre, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration’s Fire Brigade Training center as well as UN and INGO facilitators.

Besides these programs, HDFF successfully concluded a research project funded by the Thai Research Fund (TRF) on ASEAN 2015 titled: “AFTA and its social implications for the Kingdom of Thailand related to land rights”. As a result, the research cooperation with TRF continues into 2012 with a new research on “ASEAN’s Climate Change and Land Rights”.

HDFF received several safety and security assignments from INGOs, notably Habitat for Humanity International and World Vision International. 2012 will see more of this kind of activities as well. Additionally several network activities strengthened HDFF’s network so I and the HDFF team joined together in several occasions during international workshops to promote ideas and experiences of HDFF’s work.

Finally, at the end of 2011 there was a successful completion of a two-year process which involved a very successful independent external audit by UK-based firm Moore Stephens. They proved that HDFS administers its funds 100% in accordance with international rules and standards related to accountability and transparency, After concluding this process HDFS was awarded with a two years EU funded project for NGO capacity building on project management and implementation in Southern Thailand. This will be a challenge for the HDFS team, but I am sure that with respective support this task will be also mastered. I wish the HDFS team good luck for all these up-coming tasks in 2012.

Meanwhile HDFS is known beyond Thailand's border and as I am in many times directly involved in programs I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone of you for your important support in 2011 and would like ask for the continuation of your support in 2012 and beyond.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bunchon Chawansin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

General (ret) Bunchon Chawansin  
Chairman of the Board  
Human Development Forum Foundation

## A message from the Executive Director

The 2011 annual report mirrors the originality and variety of activities which challenged the team of the Human Development Forum Foundation (HDFF). However, as in previous years, the HDFF team passed all program and non-program related challenges and can proudly present the achievements of 2011. As usual on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 the HDFF team celebrated the fourth anniversary of the official registration of HDFF as a non-profit Thai foundation based in Bangkok as well as the successful Chairmanship of General (ret) Bunchon Chawansin who inspires the HDFF team again and again to provide superb efforts and produce extraordinary results. Hence, 2011 marks the successful introduction of new HDFF indigenous designed programs: the HDFF Chairman's Circle/Strategic Forum and the new flagship training "Stay Safe Training for (I)NGO" as milestones in the development of the foundation. 2011 was a transition year. Thailand got a new (first female) Prime Minister, the Arab Spring changed the North African political landscape and the opening of Myanmar at the end of 2011 concluded an interesting year. However, there were unforeseen challenges like the big flooding in Thailand and Bangkok, with minor effects also for personnel and programs of HDFF, which were mastered without frictions. HDFF also faced transitions, veteran team members left for to take on new challenges and a new team was built up. New programs were designed and successfully introduced and an independent audit initiated by EU confirmed HDFF's competence in "professional and transparent financial management". However, despite all challenges, HDFF achieved several outstanding results in its new as well as "classical" program fields thus increasing its reputation in and outside Thailand.

The Board and team of HDFF know that these activities and successful programs would not be possible without the teamwork of the involved people as well as cooperation and support from many thoughtful and helpful partners and friends. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everybody of you for your continuous valuable support in the last years and would like to ask for the continuation of your support in the future.

Sincerely



Dr. Wilfried A. Herrmann

Executive Director



HDFF Executive Director  
Dr. Wilfried A. Herrmann

# Annual Report 2011

## Human Development Forum Foundation (Hdff)

### General Developments 2011

2011 was a year of major external and internal challenges for Hdff, which affected the program implementation massively. But – in a good spirit – the Hdff team led by the chairman General (ret) Bunchon Chawansin mastered all these challenges and turned them into opportunities.

#### External Challenges

The politically most relevant event in Thailand was the general election on 03 July 2011 which brought in a new government led by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. While, for obvious reasons, tension could be felt in the pre-election atmosphere, the elections themselves were peaceful, free and fair. The Pheu Thai Party (PTP) landed a convincing victory sweeping the previous Democrat Party led government out of office. As a result, Thailand's first female Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra took office in August 2011. Hdff



as politically neutral organization was not affected by this political change, however, a general political stabilization after the turbulent 2010 had positive effects as networking and program implementation could continue undisturbed.



The other major external challenge resulted from the so-called “millennium flood” which affected wide areas in Central Thailand and even large parts of the capital Bangkok, from September 2011 until the end of the year 2011 with ongoing disaster rehabilitation being expected not to be finalized before mid-2012. Hdff's office is located at what was called the “last defence line” before

Central Bangkok, so the “collateral” damage was the inconvenience of being cut off by 60 cm high flood in our street. However, Hdff team and office stayed dry.

## Internal Challenges

The main challenge for HDFS in 2011 was launched by the EU Commission in Brussels which initiated an independent audit for an EU funded program with the title “Raising the Awareness



**Former EU Ambassador H.E. Hamburger greeted by HDFS study group in 2008**

on Different Concepts of Decentralization in Thailand” which was conducted in 2008-2009. According to EU regulations, audits can be done up to seven years after the end of an EU funded project. In HDFS’s case, it was lucky that at least two members of the implementing team of that project were still working at HDFS, so documentation and explanations could be done easier. The main audit in

June kept key personnel of HDFS busy with non-program related work.. Independent audits are very

demanding. In the end the international audit company -Moore Stephens, London- gave a very positive judgement related to HDFS’s financial management. The leader of the independent audit team was “deeply impressed by the professionalism and transparency of the financial management”. Having passed this challenge, the immediate consequence was the award of a new EU funded capacity building project for capacity building in Southern Thailand going to start in March 2012.

Another internal challenge came up when HDFS board member and long serving key team member Thomas Collein left with his spouse for a job with World Vision Sri Lanka.



So, a new team –from left to right seated: Ms. Elana Zygman, Mr. Daren Moon, Mr. Christoph Gassner, and Mr. Jatuporn Damnomesakunchai - was set up and started the integration process immediately. Thus in 2012 a new capable and highly motivated team will take on the up-coming EU project as well as all other challenges. While the core team will stay on for another two years the permanent support from interns from USA and Europe will continue throughout the coming years. Regular team meetings and team building activities completed this part.

## Program Activities

2011 was characterized by a shift towards three main program pillars, which were the direct result of the experiences of 2010. This transition period is another milestone in the strategic development and consolidation of HDFS's program structure, which should be concluded in 2012. Major cornerstones of the new HDFS program structure are the following:

### a) Chairman Circle /Strategic Forum

2011 saw altogether eight Chairman Circles generously supported by Thai company IRPC coping with a wide range of topics ranging from actual developments in Thailand before and after the elections 2011, maritime security in the South China Sea as well as terrorism in the Philippines or organized crime and piracy. Internationally acknowledged experts and high level international participants played an important part in these events, which will be continued in January 2012 after a forced break by the flooding in Bangkok from October to December 2011.

### b) "Stay Safe Training for (I)NGO" as "Flagship" training of a future "HDFC"

2011 marked the "soft" start of a new to be established "Human Development Training Centre" (HDFC) with the successful introduction of the "Stay Safe Training for (I)NGO" which caters the needs of (I)NGO / UN-agency/ NGO personnel in different levels related to safety and security issues in Thailand, ASEAN and beyond.

### c) Research and Consultancy

2011 saw the finalizing of an ongoing research supported by the Thai Research Fund(TRF) on the ASEAN 2015 integration titled: "Research project about AFTA and its social implications for the Kingdom of Thailand related to land rights". Subsequent to this successful research, TRF awarded HDFS with another study titled: "The social implications of climate change for land tenure and land policy; Case studies from ASEAN, Germany /EU and the United States of America/ NAFTA".

2011 brought also an increasing number of safety/ security related consultancies for (I)NGO namely World Vision International, Habitat for Humanity, Church World Service, Oxfam, et.al.

These ongoing research and consultancy projects strengthened HDFS's research and consultancy pillar sustainably.

## Chairman Circle / Strategic Forum

HDFF's Chairman's Circles in 2011 were a novelty in many aspects. Strategic networking among Thai government agency representatives, UN agencies, Embassies (incl. Ambassadors), INGO managers and academic and military experts in a unique setting favored by the conduct under the [Chatham House Rule](#) which reads as follows: *"When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed"*. In 2011's eight sessions more than 150 participants discussed challenges for Southeast/ East Asian countries as well as regional "hot spots" with the support of international, regional, and respective national experts in order to make alive HDFF's motto "Knowledge Improves Life".

The inaugural session on 27 January 2011 focused on the topic "**Quo Vadis Thailand?**" supported by IRPC Active participants as well as very honest and knowledgeable speakers who contributed to the great success of this inaugural Chairman's Circle/Strategic Forum 2011. The discussions and debates continued even after the official ending of the event. These talks and



HDFF Chairman General (ret) Bunchon Chawansin (seated left) with keynote speaker LtGen Navin Damrigan, Ph.D. (seated middle) and participants of inaugural Chairman's Circle



information exchanges greatly contributed to the event. Participants also mentioned that they were surprised as well as delighted about the openness with which even sensitive issues were discussed, which again was possible due to the aforementioned Chatham House Rule.



H.D.F.F. Chairman General (ret) Bunchon Chawansin (seated middle) with keynote speaker LtGen Dr. Perapong Manakit. (seated right), Senior Expert Dr. Peter Lehr (University St. Andrews Scotland, seated left) and participants of inaugural Chairman's Circle

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Showing great flexibility of content and availability of experts from H.D.F.F.'s network, the topic of the second Chairman's Circle in February 2011 was changed on short notice to "Strategic Implications of the Thai-Cambodian tensions" taking in consideration that at that time border tensions at the Thai-Cambodian border were running high with several clashes during the early weeks of February. A wide range of high level participants - among others - H.E. Ambassador Milan Sedlacek from the Czech Republic, former Deputy Permanent Secretary General (ret) Vaipot Srinual, representatives from the Embassy of South Africa as well as INGO regional offices in Bangkok, listened to the excellent speakers: Prof. Thanet Aphonsuvan from Thammasat University and Khun Kavi Chongkittavorn, former Group Editor of the NATION Group on their views on the situation at the



Thai-Cambodian border and the respective ASEAN implications. As a result of the event one could say that despite the fact that there is always the chance of a mistake, cautious optimism remained, i.e., the probability of a full blown war between the two countries was considered low by experts and participants. Nevertheless, nobody could exclude the possibility that smaller skirmishes would most likely continue for a while or even throughout the year as the clashes at the beginning of February 2011 were the most serious in decades. In retrospect the conclusions of the second Chairman’s Circle proved to be applicable. A lively discussion with inputs from various sources created an inspirational environment with some interesting insights into Thai and Cambodian politics was the unanimous judgment of the participants.



HDFF Chairman General (ret) Bunchon Chawansin (seated middle) with presenters Khun Kavi Chongkittavorn (former NATION / standing second right) and Professor Thanet Aphornsuvan (Thammasat University / standing third right) and participants of the second Chairman’s Circle

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 The third Chairman’s Circle on 25 March 2011



As economic, ethnic and religious motivated terrorism seems to spread and gain momentum in the ASEAN region, HDFF looked beyond the borders of mainland Southeast Asia to one of the biggest archipelago countries in the region, the Philippines, in order to analyze the

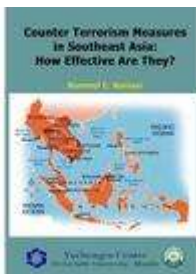
developments referring to terrorism in the Southern Philippines and possible links to Southern Thailand. In this context it was an honor and pleasure to have a renowned guest speaker coming in from the Philippines, especially for this high level event of HDFS to explain the situation in the Philippines:

**Prof. Rommel C. Banlaoi** , Executive Director and Chairman of the Board of Trustees - *Philippine Institute for Political Violence and Terrorism Research*.

Professor Banlaoi served as a Professor of Political Science at the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP), Assistant Professor of International Studies at De La Salle University (DLSU) and Instructor in Political Science at the University of the Philippines (UP) at Los Banos. He also became the Director for Research at the World Citi Colleges, a private university in the Philippines, member of the Board of Regents of the University of Eastern Pangasinan (UEP) and Director of the Mayor's Development Center of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines. He is currently a Senior Fellow at the Yuchengco Center of De La Salle University, Manila. He authored various books and publications pertaining to terrorism, national security, and international relations, most recently (2010):



HDFS Chairman General (ret) Bunchon Chawansin welcomes Prof. Rommel Banlaoi, (left) *Philippine Institute for Political Violence and Terrorism Research*



*Philippine Security in the Age of Terror: National, Regional, and Global Challenges in the Post-9/11 World*  
Rommel Banlaoi, *Philippine Institute for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, Pasig City*

According to the FTI risk ratings the Philippines have overtaken Thailand and Indonesia when it comes to facing terrorism threats. This is underlined by the fact that between 2005 and 2010 altogether 1,536 people were killed by terrorist attacks. These numbers were reason enough to bring Prof. Rommel Banlaoi to Bangkok in order to discuss with him the background and the

respective implications for the ASEAN neighbors. Some remarkable facts: Philippine terrorism is



HDFFF Chairman Gen.(ret) Bunchon Chanwasin (seated middle) with Prof. Rommel Banlaoi (seated third from left) and participants

based on a network of family and business links. Therefore it is very difficult to penetrate and erase these activities. Kidnapping for ransom (KFR) is still a major risk for (inter)national business men and bystanders. Parallels to Southern Thailand are limited as the geographical setting and the cultural background is different. It remains, however, clear that some terrorist training ideas are shared on a region wide basis in Southeast Asia. Interested guests of various INGOs,

UN organizations and businesses were fascinated to listen to the presentation of Prof. Rommel about the terrorism in the Philippines and the respective implications.

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Chairman's Circle 4

**“Renewed Tensions and Continuing Maritime Security Dilemma in the South China Sea and Implications for International Shipping”**

Friday, March 25, 2011

The maritime security topic of the fourth Chairman's Circle coped with the increasing tensions in the South China Sea where security anxieties continue to pervade in the strategic agenda of many states in the Asia Pacific despite all the



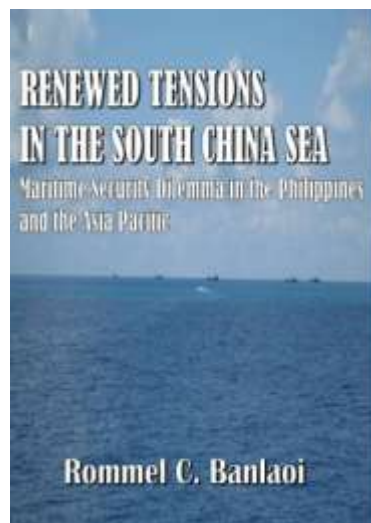
countless confidence building measures (CBMs) that have been undertaken since the end of the Cold War. In this particular part of the Asia Pacific, there are two major territorial disputes causing security tensions and significantly affecting the overall regional peace and stability - the

East China Sea Dispute and the South China Sea Dispute. Territorial disputes in the East and South China Sea punctuated by China's sturdy military rise compound the long standing security dilemma of states in the region. As Thailand is not a directly involved ASEAN country in this conflicts it was of utmost importance to have an internationally recognized guest speaker from an involved nation, in this case the Philippines, as a knowledgeable presenter: **Prof. Rommel C. Banlaoi**, Executive Director and Chairman of the Board of Trustees from the *Philippine Institute for Political Violence and Terrorism Research*, who is conducting extensive research on this topic for his forthcoming book entitled *Renewed Tensions in the South China Sea: Maritime Security Dilemma in the Philippines and the Asia Pacific*.

The South China Sea is currently a tense subject because of unresolved territorial claims and maritime boundary disputes. The area has become a source of renewed inter-state rivalries because the disputes have become closely associated with interrelated issues of energy security, food security, territorial security, maritime security and military security. All these issues have



HDFP Executive Director Dr. Wilfried A. Herrmann (seated middle) with Prof. Rommel Banlaoi (PIPVTR/ seated second right) and some participants of the 4<sup>th</sup> HDFP Chairman's Circle



intensified the maritime security dilemma not only of littoral states but also other major powers and stakeholders. But the major source of maritime security dilemmata in the East and South China Sea is the military rise of China. From an economic power, China is fast becoming a sea power that can alter the balance of military power in the Asia Pacific. Ameliorating the maritime security dilemma associated with the military rise of China is essential for regional peace,

stability and prosperity. Comprehensive engagement is deemed necessary to develop good and friendly relations with China so its rise will not be inimical to regional and global security. Participants from INGO, UN organizations and businesses were mesmerized by the colorful



The internationally recognized guest speaker **Mr. Karsten von Hoesslin** is a Senior Analyst with the Danish-based company RiskIntelligence as well as a Visiting Fellow with the Centre for International Law, at the University of Singapore. He holds a Masters in Strategic Studies and is currently completing his PhD in International Relations in Australia. Karsten has also served temporary postings at the United Nations International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), on the Executive Board for the Canadian Consortium on Asia Pacific Security and chaired its Maritime Security Task Group. Currently Karsten is an active member in the Maritime Security Working Group and the Transnational Crime Group with the Council for Security Cooperation in Asia Pacific (CSCAP) and its Canadian delegation.

Some interesting facts discussed in this 5<sup>th</sup> Chairman’s Circle included insights into both the organizational structures and tactics of maritime organized crime syndicates as well as problems regarding counter-strategies for law enforcement agencies. Frequent links can be



found between piracy - and organized crime groups, specialized in trafficking either one specific item or multiple commodities (e.g. humans, arms, drugs, cigarettes, sand, fuel, etc.). In contrast, there do not seem to be any linkages between terrorist organizations and organized crime or piracy groups as the international attention would be counterproductive for their business, which is purely about making profits and is not

ideology based. Therefore nothing seems to indicate funding for Muslim separatist groups in Southern Thailand by organized crime syndicates. The very good and in depth discussion with high quality inputs from various sources widened the perspective including topic related to Southern Thailand and the imminent ASEAN community (2015) integration process and implications related to the smuggling topic.

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## Chairman's Circle 6

### “Organized Crime and Piracy in Southeast Asia and Repercussions for Thailand”



As HDEF has long standing good relations with the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence (CSTPV) at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland/United Kingdom it was a special honor and pleasure to welcome our friend and Senior Lecturer at CSTPV **Dr. Peter Lehr** to this high level event of HDEF to explain the situation related to organized crime and piracy as well as the repercussions to Thailand.

Dr. Peter Lehr is a senior research associate at the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence (CSTPV), University of St. Andrews, Scotland/United Kingdom. Prior to his appointment at St. Andrews in September 2004, he was a lecturer at the Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg/Germany, and visiting fellow at the Institute for Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok/Thailand.



Being a regional specialist on the Indian Ocean, he currently works on security issues such as piracy, organized crime and (maritime) terrorism with a strong focus on South and Southeast Asia. He has published several articles on political Islam in South and Southeast Asia, and on Indian Ocean maritime security issues. Among them are "The Challenge of Security in the Indian Ocean: Plus ça change...?" (online at <http://www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/archiv/4124>) and Violence at Sea. Piracy in the Age of Global Terrorism, published by Routledge New York in November 2006. Dr. Lehr also is one of the tutors of the CSTPV/Informa Group's distance learning course on terrorism (<http://terrorismstudies.com>). For this certificate course he developed the module on maritime terrorism.

During the 6<sup>th</sup> Chairman's Circle many interesting topics were shared, among others was that piracy is back in Southeast Asia as well as internationally. However, major international attention was gained only after the huge media coverage since 05 November 2005 when the cruise ship MV Seabourn Spirit was attacked off the coast of Somalia. The return of piracy to Southeast Asia (SEA) was accompanied by international globalization, reaching SEA in the 1980s. Global trade led to more private vessels and fewer military ships, therewith increasing the possibility of successful attacks thus opening the opportunity to make considerably more money. Fishermen in the southern Philippines or in Indonesia turned towards piracy when they weren't hired as fishermen simply because of financial needs as to being able to put food on the table. Piracy for them therefore was a necessary evil to survive.

The horn of Africa, which currently attracts the most media attention, was at that time, the 1980s



and beginning of 1990s still considerably safer than it is today. Originally Somali piracy consisted of four groups: Marka Group and Puntland Group, which were a loose association of fishermen, and the National Volunteer Coast Guard Somalia and Somalia Marines, who saw themselves as defenders of the homeland. Today there are about 1,400 "full time" pirates in Somalia with an unknown number of "part-time" pirates. Their

reach continued to grow and currently is up to 1,500 nautical miles off the shore – a reaction to international ships getting better protection closer to the coast. Apart from the sea-based

operations piracy is furthermore a land-based business as pirates need to be well connected and have good relations with the various clan leaders. Additionally, pirates are a substantial business factor along the coast, which explains why they are sometimes held in high regard. In relation to counter activities and protection methods the tiny difference between decent fishermen and pirates in appearance complicates things, as pirates usually just drop their specific goods (weapons, armor) in the ocean when approached by a Western military ship and can then claim to be simple fishermen. Furthermore no regional activities combating piracy can be found internationally. Dr. Peter Lehr reminded the participants though, that only about 1% of the passing ships actually get attacked. Just as with international terrorism the fear factor is an important element of piracy.

The defining moment of recent piracy history was identified as the attack on the French luxury yacht *Le Ponant* in April 2008. The captives were released after the payment of a ransom of \$ 2 million, making it the first ransom payment in the million dollar range. From then on the ransom industry continuously grew reaching an average ransom of \$ 5 million today. As more money was to be made in the ransom industry more



militia members joined the piracy industry. Another new development can be identified in the cooperation with outside actors. Piracy in Somalia usually has been a clan-based industry however more and more Yemenis can now be found on Somali pirate ships. Because of the political situation in Yemen, it might develop into the next Somalia.

Somali-like piracy will probably not be possible in SEA as the lack of government is a crucial element for land bases for piracy, and no government of a SEA country would allow pirates to park a ship with western hostages on their shores. Regarding a possible cooperation between pirates and Al-Shabaab no linkages can be identified so far as Al-Shabaab is not in need of funding and has a profitable line of smuggling themselves. Additionally, some members of Al-Shabaab declared piracy as “un-islamic”. If ransom payments for hostages taken by pirates stopped pirates might be tempted to sell them to Al-Shabaab.

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On Thursday, July 21, 2011, HDFS's Chairman, General Bunchon Chawansin welcomed representatives from the Asia Foundation Thailand, the former group Editor of the NATION group and various high level guests to the 7<sup>th</sup> HDFS Chairman's Circle 2011 supported by IRPC at the Rembrandt Hotel, Bangkok. It was an honor and pleasure to have two renowned guest speakers for this high level event of HDFS to explain the situation related to the recent Thailand elections and its aftermath:

**Mrs. Pauline Tweedie**, Deputy Country Representative Asia Foundation Thailand. Her expertise is Institutional capacity-building for government agencies and civil society organizations mainly coping with gender issues, political participation and governance. Working places among others include Afghanistan and Thailand. Pauline joined The Asia Foundation in 2003 as regional ICT program officer based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Since then, she has worked for the foundation in various countries in Asia, now being the foundation's deputy country representative for Thailand since July, 2009.



**Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn**, former Group Editor of the Nation Group. He is also a publisher of English and Thai language news: The Nation and vernacular, Krungthep Turakij and Kom Chat Luek in Thailand. He has been a journalist for more than two decades covering Thai and regional politics. He was a bureau chief in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 1988-



1990 and Hanoi, Vietnam from 1990-1992. He also served as special assistant to the secretary general at the Jakarta-based Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) from 1993-1994 before returning to journalism until the current position.

Interested participants from UN agencies, INGOs, businesses and Thai governmental organizations were informed about the 03 July 2011 elections in Thailand by an informative photo collage in relation to the voting process. In general, the process went very smoothly, fairly easy and well organized with good administration. It was pointed out that though elections now and in the past, Thai citizens should remain active and have more concern about transparency and corruption, especially vote buying from all parties. Though aware of vote buying, citizens feel secure knowing that their votes are confidential and they are free to vote as they please. One key point was that many people said they want to vote as they want to finish the political turmoil with a sound vote.

Further discussion was on whether the election will end up in political turmoil or not. It was stated that Thai democracy is progressing and the game is changing, people want a different rhythm. Public perception is that the new government will come in and change everything but infrastructure is not quite ready so Thai people will wait to see the truth unravel itself in about three months time. Some few things to consider include: A new assessment on the military needs to be implemented to identify and measure changes as military already reformed during the last decade but this was not noticed by the public. Capacity for mass mobilization is very good and we have a unique Thai democracy. A reoccurring comment from the event was media, media, media. The importance of media was stressed as a major contributor in influencing the minds of Thai society as well as globally. It is the most important part of the new government, if it is not handled well it can be dangerous.



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## Chairman's Circle 8

“From Foes to Friends: Peace building between Royal Thai Armed Forces and the communist movement in the 1980ies”

On Thursday, 01 September 2011, HDFS's Executive Director Dr. Wilfried A. Herrmann welcomed HDFS Chairman **General (ret) Bunchon Chawansin** (right) and **Mr. Thongchai Suwanvihok** (left), former Secretary General of the Communist Party for the Southern Districts of Thailand and various high level guests to the 8<sup>th</sup> HDFS Chairman's Circle 2011 supported by IRPC in the Rembrandt Hotel, Bangkok. It was an honor and pleasure to have renowned guest speakers who could speak from life experiences to explain the situation in solving the conflict between the Thai Army and the communist movement in the 1980s.



During that time (then-) Colonel Bunchon Chawansin was staff officer at the headquarters of the 4<sup>th</sup> Army Region, Royal Thai Army while Mr. Thongchai Suwanvihok a former university student who turned to be a member of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) was the Secretary General of the Southern CPT responsible for five provinces (Pattalung, Trang, Satun, Nakhon Sithammarat and Krabi). Later both men jointly wrote a book outlining what was common and unique between their experiences, while serving on opposite sides of the conflict.



When they first met, both of them occupied important roles in their respective organizations. In the general setting, the situation of the country did not improve because of the long ongoing fighting between the Royal Thai Army and the CPT. Against this background the two men discovered an opportunity how to end the conflict based on the same conclusion. Both men realized that solving the conflict with violent means will cause more losses and more damages to the people involved. As a result the best solution would be to collaborate in order to solve the national problems together in peaceful ways.

As a starting point Gen (ret) Bunchon Chawansin took a step back in history to explain the worldwide divide after World War II - the capitalist United States of America vs. Communism as well as the fear the domino theory created, especially after the communist takeover in Vietnam after the Vietnam War in 1975. Thailand followed the United States, which in turn showed to the Thai Army how to use force against communists. As a result the three “F strategy” (fight, fix and finish them), already used in the Vietnam War, was transferred and used in Thailand as well. At that time, , General (ret.) Bunchon Chawansin explained, there was no time to reconsider the strategy, its effects, and the ultimate backlash it would produce, resulting in a growing hatred people felt toward the army. Additionally, killing the Communist Party members was considered to be the right thing to do at that time, as army members were trained to hate communists and saw them as traitors to their country.

Mr. Thongchai Suwanvihok started his presentation by recalling growing up in a rural part of Thailand and the injustices he felt at that time. People in the rural areas had fewer rights, therefore it felt like living under a dictatorship, while the army was allowed special privileges like using helicopters for private hunting tours. When in 1971 students and professors asked for a constitution as well as general elections the army responded by arresting 12 of their leaders. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of October (1973) two prominent generals of the army were ousted, itself being the starting point for the most active time of student protests combined with farmers



all around the country asking for a fair price for their goods. The army, in turn, started capturing civilians to interrogate and hiding the evidence by throwing the captured civilians in a bag out of a helicopter or burning them in a barrel.

The CPT already had a small army at their disposal at the time and considered the armed fight against the Thai Army and government as the only available option. This notion was reinforced after the massacres on 06 October 1976, when police forces killed 46 students and protesters at Thammasat University, which led to an overthrow of the government. The communist movement assembled itself after this event in the jungle.

General (ret.) Bunchon Chawansin further elaborated on the changes happening inside the army between 1973 and 1976 and pointed towards two schools of thought inside the army. There was the Democratic Soldier Group, which thought more in-depth about solving the conflict with the communist movement as well as with ordinary people. This group gradually accumulated more support by army staff, which led to a change in tactics away from the three “F’s” to the so called Order 66/23. In place during all eight years under the government of PM General Prem Tinsulanonda, Order 66/23 was important because it created a democratic platform as well as a pardon and amnesty policy.

With a democratic platform established CPT members felt their action should come to an end. First though, also as a sign of respect and reconciliation, the fallen members and friends of the



communist movement should get a proper Buddhist burial, a project to be later remembered as “Ash in the Urn” project. Right after the appropriate funeral for fallen comrades the CPT, as announced publicly, would stop the fighting and its members would turn themselves in. During the preparation of the project Mr. Thongchai was captured and

imprisoned. In solitary confinement he was denied medical care. General (ret.) Bunchon Chawansin was sent to visit Mr. Thongchai in prison and learned about the planned project, which was carried out afterwards.

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Even though some more Chairman's Circles were planned, external influences in form of the massive flooding of Bangkok and neighboring vicinities did not allow HDFS to conduct another Chairman's Circle in 2011. However, in January 2012 the tradition will be picked up again, in order to provide a regular network basis for people interested in strategy and security.

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### **Capacity Building in the framework of the Human Development Training Centre (HDFC)**

In 2011 HDFS moved ahead with the idea of establishing a "Human Development Training Center" in line with HDFS's motto: "Knowledge Improves Life". 2011 marked the "soft" opening of HDFC as, altogether three, "Stay Safe Trainings" were conducted catering to participants from INGOs from Iraq to Indonesia.

The new "flagship" training comes at a time where the need for security measures are increasing on a daily basis, and the respect for implementing personnel of UN organizations, aid agencies and other (inter)national non-governmental organizations is rapidly decreasing. HDFS sees that these staff members run an ever greater risk of becoming victims of violence and conflict. Consequently, this will jeopardize the



continuity of aid operations and prolongs the humanitarian suffering. Against this backdrop HDFS developed – in the context of the UN initiated program "Saving Lives Together (SLT)" - the Stay Safe- Safety and Security Training.

HDFP's "Stay Safe Training" addresses, in either five or two days of intensive training, management and security-related issues as well as general management personnel levels of UN organizations and (inter)national non-governmental organizations. All actions are designed for the security needs of this target group and are conducted by experienced and culturally sensitive facilitators in an utmost participatory way.

- This training is designed for the daily security needs of executives and security focal points/ employees of UN organizations and (inter)national non-governmental organization in Southeast Asia
- Focus on all aspects of development work in risk areas, management and implementations of security plans, protocols and strategies
- Focus on main security risks and how to prevent and/or to mitigate these risks
- Improving security awareness and risk avoidance behavior as well as practical security management skills to handle personal and organizational security
- Sharing best practice security management tools as well as already implemented and successful security concepts
- Considering cultural/socio-political sensitive approaches regarding safety and security in Southeast Asia

**Content examples of HDFP's "Stay Safe Training" (5 days):**

**I. Security Management**

- a. Roles and Responsibilities
- b. Security Management Process

**II. Situation Assessment**

- a. Context Analysis
- b. Determining Risks / Risk Assessment

**III. Security Planning**

- a. Risk Reduction Strategy/  
Evacuation Planning
- b. Contingency Planning
- c. Standard Operation Procedures (SOP)
- d. Security Briefings and Debriefings



#### **IV. Incident Management**

- a. Incident Reporting
- b. Incident Analyses
- c. Incident Management/ Incident Command System

#### **V. Practical Exercises**

In order to make the training as realistic as possible Hdff teamed up with Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC) for mine/IED awareness training. Therefore, TMAC organized a special presentation on both topics.



The participants were amazed and impressed by the skills presented by TMAC and were also very happy about knowing better how to behave in mine-infested areas. Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, and many other countries in the region are still facing huge problems related to unmarked / marked land mine areas causing several hundred injured and /killed people each year. This is why this content is of imminent importance for humanitarian organizations and NGO personnel in the field.

Another cooperation partner for all 2011 HDFS's "Stay Safe Training" trainings was the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration Fire Brigade 3's training unit which provides theory and practical training related to firefighting as most of the participants had never used a fire extinguisher in their lives before.



But sometimes you do not even need an extinguisher; you just have to turn, the gas off.

In the beginning some of the participants were scared of the fire, but in the end everybody was confident to fight a fire properly.

This mixture of theory and practice was well received by the participants who gave an overwhelming positive feedback to these training topics, methodology and the HDFS team.

After the great success of the pilot course, as reflected by the very positive responses from

**"STAY SAFE TRAINING" 2011\_2**

The next "Stay Safe Training" will be held between August 22 and August 26, 2011. This training designed by HDFS and based on countless inputs from IHL organizations and IO, NGO senior society personnel is recommended for security focal points in NGOs or international organizations and other people who would like to work in this area.

Topics include:

- safety management
- situation assessment
- safety planning
- incident management
- storage and shipping protocols
- evacuation planning
- communication during crisis
- practical lessons on
- water resources/CEDs as well as fire fighting

Cost per Person: 17,700 Baht

For inquiries please contact [training@hdfs.org](mailto:training@hdfs.org) or [collabor@hdfs.org](mailto:collabor@hdfs.org). More information can be found at [www.hdfs.org](http://www.hdfs.org)

the participants, a second five-day training with slightly improved contents (including first aid) commenced in August 2011, and will be followed by at least two more in 2012.



**HDFFF's Stay Safe Training 2011 – 2**

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In 2011 HDFFF also piloted the first two-day “Stay Safe Training” for (I)NGO / UN organization general staff members in November 2011. Participants from Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and Bangladesh gave another overwhelming positive response about the training contents, methodology and training team, which will result in the continuation of this short program in 2012 as well.



In 2011 HDFF also conducted “in-house” training for Habitat For Humanity International (HFHI) Regional Office and trained volunteer leaders from South and Southeast Asian offices of HFHI in safety and security awareness.



In 2012 more “in-house” trainings on “Stay Safe” are expected to take place. The variety and tailor made programs of HDFF are well received thus increasing the awareness related to safety and security issues in (I)NGO and UN organizations. It is anticipated that more local NGO will join the programs, as already one smaller organization from Myanmar did in November 2011.

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## Research on ASEAN/ AFTA integration process: land rights

ASEAN, one of the most dynamic regions in the world, is moving fast towards the integration into an ASEAN Community by 2015. This community will be based on three pillars, the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) as outlined and agreed upon in the Bali Concord II from 2003.

In this context HDFS is strengthening its research efforts related to the developments in the framework of the ASEAN 2015 integration. Against this backdrop and based on the strong research capacity of HDFS the Thai Research Fund (TRF) and HDFS started in August 2010 a cooperation



project on a study titled “The ASEAN Free Trade Area and its Social Implications for the Kingdom of Thailand related to Land Rights” which was concluded with a well received report and presentation in July 2011.

The results of the bi-lingual study are contributing towards both the ASEAN and the Thailand level of political and social decision making processes in the Royal Thai Government and -with lesser extend- in the ASEAN as well.



## Research on ASEAN/ AFTA integration process: Climate Change

Immediately after finishing the first TRF funded study on ASEAN integration and land rights issues another research grant was given to HDFF to conduct a research on the social implications of Climate Change on land issues in Thailand and ASEAN. While some policies and regulations exist on the national level in Thailand– mainly improved after the big flood 2011 – on the regional ASEAN level coordination on Climate Change matters is merely political talk. However, Climate Change has tremendous social impacts and in many cases mitigation measures are related to land rights and land usage regulations. Thus, HDFF will present policy recommendations to the Royal Thai Government as well as to the ASEAN Secretary General related to this topic in 2012.



*"Knowledge Improves Life"*

The social implications of climate change for land tenure and land policy in Thailand & ASEAN based on experiences from Germany /EU as well as USA/ NAFTA

Thailand Research Fund  
28 July 2011



## Research on ASEAN/ AFTA integration process: Labor movements

HDFF expanded its research activity related to ASEAN Community 2015 also in the social sector, namely labor movements. The Royal Thai Senate Standing Committee on Labour and Social Welfare invited HDFF to present a proposal on “ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2015: Liberalization of the Labour Market – Challenges and Opportunities for Thailand” in the Sub-Committee session in June 2011.



HDFF's team supported by Chairman General (ret.) Bunchon Chawansin presented convincingly and after the awarding of the project started the research in October 2011 with the aim to finish it by mid 2012.



## Continuous during 2011

Besides writing applications for projects to various donors HDFS core staff conducted in 2011 constant research on developments in Thailand. Results from this activity were published on the



website and Facebook in form of a newsletter called “Weekly Thailand Review” providing information to the political, economic and security situation of the Kingdom of Thailand. At the end of 2011 more than 30 people – from Washington D.C. (USA) based think tanks via academics in Europe to INGO, UN personnel in Asia - subscribed to this service and for 2012 it is expected that the number will increase.

Overwhelming positive feedback came during the flood times (October – December 2011) for this weekly review which also covered the flood in two special editions of the “Thailand Review”.

### HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FORUM FOUNDATION

#### HDFS Thailand Flood 2011 SPECIAL

Overview 04 November 2011



Hopeful that the flood will not reach their level ... Photo by W.Boermann, 04 Nov 2011.

## Selected network activities in 2011

Since its registration HFFF has always been keen to expand its national and international network activities in the academic and non-for-profit fields as well as UN and government sectors.

In February 2011 the Asian Crisis and Security Group (ACSG) invited HFFF Chairman General (ret) Bunchon Chawansin and HFFF Executive Director Dr. Wilfried A. Herrmann to give a presentation on the situation in Southern Thailand before a high level group of corporate and business representatives.



About 2 hours of intensive exchange of ideas showed the competency of the HFFF team and it was a pleasure to receive and answer all the various kind of questions. As HFFF is member of several safety and security related groups, it is from utmost importance to continue this kind of networking and presentations. Thus in 2012 similar activities will be on the agenda.

In March 2011 the Kingdom of Thailand's Ministry of Defence co-hosted with CPG a conference on "UN and ASEAN Mechanisms & Conditions for a National Plan on Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance."



HDFF' team attended the conference and HDFF Executive Director Dr. Wilfried A. Herrmann contributed a presentation on the topic: "Experiences of Civil Society Organizations in Disaster Management"



An international academic seminar on "De-Radicalization and Disengagement in Counterterrorism Strategies" was opened by HDFF Chairman General (ret.) Bunchon Chawansin on 20 June 2011. This event was supported by HDFF with Keynote Speaker and panelists including a high level delegation from the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence (CSTPV), University of St. Andrews, Scotland/ United Kingdom (Prof. Max Taylor and Dr. Peter Lehr) as well as Prof. Rommel Banlaoi from the *Philippine Institute for Political Violence and Terrorism Research* and it was



organized by the German Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPG) / Thammasat University and the German Hanns Seidel Foundation.



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In September 2011 a strong HDFS team was tasked to care about safety and security arrangements for the “3rd Asia-Pacific Housing Forum & Exhibition” a biannual event from Habitat for Humanity



International with high level speakers and guests.



In Bangkok Philippine Vice-President H.E. Jejomar C. Binay was the VVIP beside a long line-up of dignitaries.

No security incidents happened and HDFS’s team was praised for their good work.

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## Planning for the future

2012 will see the continuation of the Strategic Forum/ Chairman’s Circle covering security relevant topics in Southeast Asia as well as the implementation of approved projects especially the EU funded capacity building project in Southern Thailand and the continuous research on TRF and Royal Thai Senate funded projects related to challenges and opportunities of the ASEAN Community 2015. Additionally, the Human Development Training Center (HDFTC) will increase the number of trainings – including the flagship “Stay Safe Training” with the aim to become a substantial pillar of HDFS by 2015. All these activities will be carried out in close cooperation with national and international donors and partners and will lead to a further increase of HDFS’s reputation in these fields. The newly designed projects are highly result oriented with a strong positive impact on the domestic and international network of the foundation. Of course, HDFS will also continue to design new and adequate human resources capacity building programs related to leadership, peace building, Security Sector Reform, conflict management, media work, “Stay Safe” trainings, community capacity building and sustainable economic development as well as civil-military dialogue. Advisories, publications to human security, maritime security and ASEAN 2015 will complete the ambitious program for 2012. However, all these activities will still follow the motto of HDFS:

**“Knowledge improves life”**