

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FORUM FOUNDATION

“De-radicalization and Disengagement in Counter-Terrorism Strategies Conference” 20-21 June 2011 (Summary)



Human Development Forum Foundation (Hdff) along with “The Ministry of Defense of the Kingdom of Thailand”, “Hanns Seidel Foundation”, “German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence of Public Policy and Good Governance, Thammasat University, Thailand”(CPG) and the “Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, St. Andrews University Scotland” hosted and supported a two day conference on 20-21 June 2011 entitled “De-radicalization and Disengagement in Counter-Terrorism Strategies.”



Partner organizations



**Pre-conference meeting
HDTF's Dr. Wilfried A. Herrmann and
Major General Piya Krutvecho, Ministry Of
Defence**



After a short introduction by General (ret) Bunchon Chawansin, HDTF Chairman (left) and Mr. Henning Glaser, Head of CPG (right) the interesting conference started with impressive presentations and lively discussions.

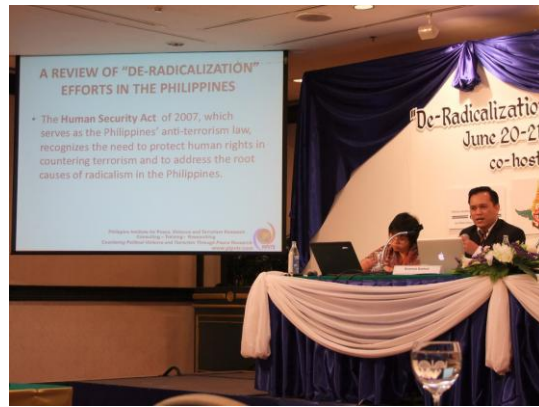


Keynote speaker Max Taylor along with several prestigious experts in counter terrorism representing Europe, Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand came together to define de-radicalization and disengagement and to share best practices, insight, experience and goals for the future. Above all, learning and working together as an ASEAN and international community was emphasized. The conference was moving, educational and inspiring to take action in this newly developing field.

HDFP's direct co-operation partners in various programs contributed to this conference in form of Keynote Speaker Professor Max Taylor and Dr. Peter Lehr (Senior Research Associate), both from the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, St. Andrews University, Scotland and Professor Rommel Banlaoi, Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research, Philippines to underscore the good relationship between the institutes and HDFP which since 2011 was extended to include the CPG of Thammasat University Thailand led by Mr. Henning Glaser.



**Dr. Peter Lehr on
“European De-radicalization and
Counterterrorism Concepts”**



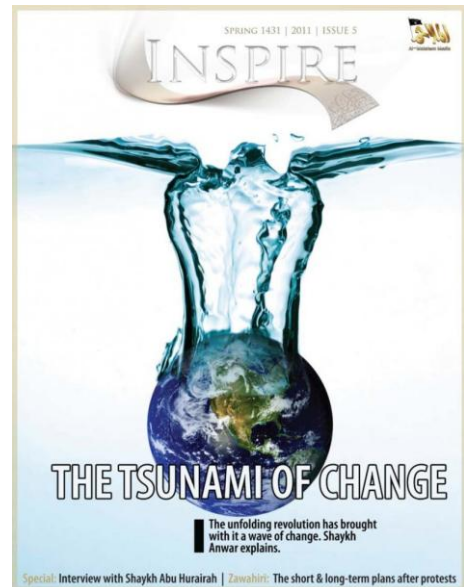
**Professor Rommel Banlaoi on
“Counter-Terrorism Measures and Deradicalization
Programs in Southeast Asia: A View From the Philippines”**

Other key themes included:

- Understanding the defining factors that contribute to terrorism and therefore how to mitigate its roots and consequences is imperative. There are several ways of defining and understanding the approaches to combating radicalism in the context of terrorism.
- These government and organizational approaches, depending on main causations, domestic policies, values and resources, should integrate a holistic method. Globalization is pertinent to identifying solutions. Some approaches include pursue, prepare, protect, prevent.



- Two large contributors to the growth of terrorism is radicalization within prisons and on the internet. Those who enter prison common criminals are often being “converted” and “recruited” to radical causes. The internet provides an easy platform to share information, form relationships and network.
- Terrorists are now using a variety of propaganda to reach out to a wider audience than ever, including English magazines (ex. Inspire).
- Within a country and within a region, practices that integrate all state, non state and international actors together are the most successful. Loopholes diminish effectiveness.



- Counseling as an effective soft approach for prison detainees. Terrorism is related to ideologies and a successful way to work against extremism is work with those ideologies not against them.
- Counseling allows terrorists to share their experiences, air grievances, gain personal relationships, feel heard and understood. Most importantly, they allow themselves to be re-educated.





- Thomas K. Samuel representing the de-radicalization program in Malaysia emphasized that youth is an extremely worrisome growing part of terrorism. Stating “terrorism is in the mental sphere of our youth.” Often youth are recruited because they are easy to influence, more expendable and have no previous records. Youth are captivated by the empowerment, status, identity and purpose.

Participants and presenters were fully satisfied with the outcome of this conference and expressed their sincere thanks to the organizing and supporting partners for conducting this conference.

In this context HJDF would like to take the opportunity to ensure all of the involved partner organizations of our highest consideration and cooperation in the near and long term future.