

## GPPAC meets with GRP and MILF

GPPAC's International Steering Group, Regional Liaison Officers and Southeast Asia Regional Steering Group are currently meeting in Davao, Mindanao, the Philippines.



On Friday October 2nd, the GPPAC Executive Committee, consisting of Emmanuel Bombande (WANEP, West Africa), Raya Kadyrova (FTI, Central Asia), Augusto Miclat (IID, Southeast Asia) and Florence Mpaayei (NPI-Africa, Central and Eastern Africa), GPPAC Secretary General Paul van Tongeren and the global secretariat's executive director Peter van Tuijl undertook a mission to Cotabato. The area has been affected by the conflict between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) since its inception in the 1960s. A peace process has been ongoing since 1997 but has not yet been concluded

The GPPAC delegation met with MILF Chairman Al Haj Murad Ibrahim, Chair of the MILF Negotiating Panel Mohagher Iqbal and MILF Secretariat Head Jun Mantawil along with other members of the MILF Central Committee.

The delegation offered GPPAC's involvement in the International Contact Group of the peace process between the MILF and the GRP. The MILF leadership expressed its gratitude for the offer, and will respond following further discussion with various stakeholders.

The group later met with Major Carlos T. Sol Jr., Head of the Secretariat of the Government Coordinating Committee for the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) and Toks Ibrahim of the MILF CCCH.

GPPAC will make the same offer of joining the International Contact Group when a delegation meets with Undersecretary Rafale Seguis of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process in Manila on October 6th.

Added on 4 October 2009

## GPPAC offers to help revive stalled peace process



DAVAO CITY - The Global Partnership for the Prevention of the Armed Conflict (GPPAC), is offering to join a body that is being set up to break the impasse in the peace process between the Philippine government (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and to also support and sustain it.

During his appearance in the ABS-CBN's regional morning TV show, Maayong Buntag Mindanao (Good Morning, Mindanao), on 29 September, Gus Miclat of Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), the GPPAC Regional Secretariat for Southeast Asia, said that the network is offering itself as a potential member of the International Contact Group (ICG) of the GRP-MILF peace process.

Mr. Miclat said that GPPAC could share its experience and knowledge from peace processes in other conflicts if chosen as a member. The ICG will be a body of both governments and international non-

governmental organizations that aims to restore the mutual trust between the GRP and MILF. The formation of The ICG was agreed during a meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, last September 15, between GRP and MILF.

IID is hosting the annual meeting of the GPPAC International Steering Group in Davao City, Manila and Jakarta between October 1-9, 2009. Nearly sixty peacebuilders from around the world will come together. They will visit local communities in Mindanao, particularly those affected by the conflict, and meet with various local peace organizations, policymakers, donor and diplomatic communities in Manila. Over the course of the meetings, the group hopes to meet both with President Macapagal-Arroyo and the MILF leadership to discuss issues of peace and conflict prevention in general and specifically its offer to join the ICG. Following this, they will go to Jakarta to meet with Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Dr. Surin Pitsuwan.

Mr. Miclat was joined during the TV appearance Tatjana Popovic of Nansen Dialogue Centre - Serbia, regional secretariat for the Western Balkans, and Marte Hellema of the GPPAC Global Secretariat in the Netherlands.

Ms. Popovic pointed out the similarities between the conflicts in Mindanao and the Western Balkans. She said that sharing experiences and approaches to conflict can be very beneficial for civil society organizations to develop more effective peacebuilding mechanisms.

Ms. Hellema emphasized that sharing and learning from each others' experiences in conflict prevention and peacebuilding is indeed one of GPPAC's key strengths. This is the capacity that the network would bring to the table if joining the ICG. "Together we can make peace possible. Also for Mindanao."

[Click here to read the article in the Mindanao Times](#)

Added on 29 September 2009