

ASIA-PACIFIC CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES

ADVANCED SECURITY COOPERATION (ASC) COURSE 1 1- 2

Purpose

Advanced Security Cooperation (ASC) is an executive education course that addresses the major security challenges confronting Asia-Pacific security practitioners. The course is holistic in that it evaluates the complex nature of traditional and non-traditional security dynamics. Most importantly, it affords fellows (country participants) the opportunity to think critically about security issues and explore opportunities to develop collaborative strategies that address a range of challenges directly. These involve topics of internal security, including governance, the rule of law, and security sector development. The curriculum also includes issues of external and transnational security involving trans-border challenges associated with the global commons which require international collaboration and policy cooperation. Through the practical application of critical thinking and problem solving the course allows fellows to effectively understand and, in turn, address the Asia-Pacific's most pressing security issues. The ASC is a participant centered learning experience in which interactive and dynamic teaching methods are adopted for the benefit of a multi-national audience of practitioners.

Course description

Advanced Security Cooperation is a four and a half week course designed to enhance individual leader capabilities in critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and decision-making in complex and culturally diverse environments. Created specifically for senior level security practitioners from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, the course provides an international setting that seeks to:

- Enhance decision-making capacity in order to capitalize on opportunities for regional collaboration.
- Improve international cooperation and interagency effectiveness on regional security issues; construct solutions for addressing protracted challenges associated with the global commons.
- Enhance civil-military relations and security sector effectiveness.
- Increase capacity for improving governance and security sector integration.
- Develop extensive networks and relationships with a community of mid-career & senior level security practitioners and experts.

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Who would benefit by attending this course

The Advanced Security Cooperation Course attracts a broad range of participants from across the region and beyond. The course curriculum is designed primarily for security practitioners and experts whose current and future responsibilities require significant participation in domestic and international security policy formulation and execution, and who have the following backgrounds:

- Military & Law Enforcement Officers; Foreign Service, Foreign Affairs Officers
- Representatives of Government Agencies and International, Regional and Non-Governmental Organizations
- Business (self-funded) and Media Representatives

Educational Objectives

Enhance Knowledge on Security Trends and Tools of Cooperation

- Identify key strategic trends that influence and shape the international and regional security environment.
- Share best practices of governance and security sector development.
- Mitigate tensions toward fostering cooperation in the global commons.

Enhance Leader Effectiveness

- Understand and incorporate cultural and national sensitivities.
- Communicate effectively (advocate/persuade, not just inform) in a variety of situations.
- Cooperate, contribute and lead within a multi-national team.
- Conduct complex problem analysis and project management.
- Use information communication technology to enhance levels of cooperation.

Expand a Network of practitioners within the regional and global security community

- Build relationships with practitioners from other agencies, organizations, institutions, and countries.
- Develop an appreciation for a shared experience.
- Explore new and emerging information communication technologies (ICT) to maintain relationships and connectivity beyond the APCSS experience.

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Educational Approach

Core Curriculum

The ASC has five modules which each provide an opportunity to put ideas into practice through experiential learning. During Module I, fellows participate in understanding the complexities of security cooperation and confidence building, along with carrying out exercises focused upon negotiations, complexity, communications, and critical problem-solving. These processes involve using analytic tools to evaluate the sources, scope and implications of security problems. Module II provides fellows with in-depth lectures, case studies, and seminar discussions on the roles and responsibilities of major powers and issues of cooperation within the Asia-Pacific's sub-regions. Module III focuses on various opportunities to broaden security perspectives through the assessment of Transnational Security Cooperation. Themes include analyses of terrorism, maritime security, law-enforcement cooperation, and disaster management. Module IV provides fellows with a set of topics and discussions on internal security cooperation including governance, rule of law, and security sector development. In Module V, the course concludes with a major capstone exercise intended to tie together and apply the knowledge and skills developed over the previous three weeks. Throughout the course, fellows will also participate in small group case studies on sub-regional and transnational issues, and engage with an individual research project.

Elective Curriculum

The electives provide fellows with intensive study of specific issues through six sessions of a chosen topic. A broad range of electives are offered by APCSS faculty and adjunct faculty that include among others at certain times during the year: traditional security issues (terrorism, maritime security, security-sector development), non-traditional security issues (health security, energy security, soft power, science and technology, environmental security, law of the sea, disaster management) and practitioner skills (diplomacy, negotiations, and media training).

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