

# ASIAN INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

FEBRUARY 2018



## East-West Center

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options.

## WSD HANDA Center for Human Rights and International Justice

The WSD HANDA Center is dedicated to promoting the rule of law, accountability, and human rights around the world through education, critical scholarship, and policy advocacy. Seated within Stanford University's School of Humanities and Sciences, the HANDA Center supports academic and professional-development opportunities for students interested in pursuing work in human rights or international justice.

AIJI

## Asian International Justice Initiative (AIJI)

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THE ASIAN INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE (AIJI) develops capacities and partnerships related to international justice, judicial reform, the rule of law, and human rights in the Asia-Pacific region. The focus is on members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). More than a decade old, AIJI is a collaboration between the East-West Center (EWC) and the WSD Handa Center for Human Rights and International Justice at Stanford University (previously the Berkeley War Crimes Studies Center).

AIJI combines the Asia-Pacific regional expertise of the EWC with the expertise of the Handa Center on capacity building and policy-oriented research in areas such as the rule of law, human rights, and transitional justice in post-conflict societies. The Initiative was formed in recognition of the joint aim of the two centers to promote standards of excellence in international justice, good governance, and human rights in the Asia-Pacific region. Professor David Cohen, a leading expert in international humanitarian law and international criminal law, directs all AIJI activities.

AIJI is currently involved in a wide range of projects in Southeast Asia, some focusing on the national level in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste and others aimed more broadly at the regional level in ASEAN.

## Strengthening the ASEAN Regional Human-Rights System

ASEAN regional integration provides new opportunities for enhancing the rule of law, good governance, and human rights in Southeast Asia. AIJI collaborates with ASEAN to support human-rights research and policy advocacy in the ASEAN region.

■ **ASEAN-related research and capacity development:** AIJI has supported the development of ASEAN's Human-Rights Resource Centre (HRRC), a network of 12 major universities in the region. The HRRC provides research and training on a range of human-rights issues including, most recently, freedom of religion, the rule of law, business and human rights, migration, and gender-based violence and discrimination. More information is available at <http://hrrca.org>.

■ **Summer Institute in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights:** AIJI's Summer Institute is an annual meeting that brings regional and international experts together with the three ASEAN human-rights bodies and other officials. Focusing on a theme of importance to ASEAN each year, the Summer Institute provides a forum for key stakeholders to interact and discuss timely and important human-rights issues.

## Rights of Women and Children and Human Trafficking

AIJI places a special emphasis on vulnerable populations, including women and children.

■ **Human trafficking in Southeast Asia:** The entry into force in 2017 of the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) creates an opportunity to advance the implementation of anti-trafficking initiatives in Southeast Asia. AIJI has published reports on the challenges of assessing the scale of human trafficking and on best practices for data collection and analysis. These studies provide policymakers with a roadmap toward a more unified ASEAN data-collection and analysis system as a resource for combatting human trafficking.

■ **Ending conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence:** In 2016, AIJI produced a documentary series for Cambodian television entitled *Time to Speak Out*. Together with an accompanying international documentary, *Breaking the Silence*, the film explored the prosecution of crimes of sexual violence and forced marriage at the Khmer Rouge trials. These films were produced in partnership with Khmer Mekong Films as part of the British Government's Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI). AIJI has also conducted training for judicial professionals and civil-society leaders to promote awareness and capacity on this critical issue.

### **Rule of Law and Justice-Sector Capacity Development**

AIJI has long-standing technical-assistance partnerships with judiciaries and rule-of-law institutions in Southeast Asia and is currently implementing capacity-building programs in Indonesia, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste.

■ **Judicial capacity building and human-rights training in Indonesia:** Since 2003, AIJI has been involved in a variety of judicial capacity-building projects in partnership with the Supreme Court and the Attorney General's Office of Indonesia. Recent projects include a policy-oriented assessment of the discriminatory implementation of the Blasphemy and Electronic Communications laws and a training program for the Supreme Court on international criminal law and maritime security. AIJI is also working with the National Human-Rights Commission to improve the Commission's capacity to investigate and submit cases of gross human-rights violations for prosecution by the Attorney General.

■ **Legal and human-rights education in Cambodia:** AIJI has worked with Cambodian universities, including Royal University of Law and Economics, Pannasastra University, and the University of Cambodia, to improve the quality of human-rights and legal education and to support capacity building among Cambodian legal academics and lecturers. During intensive courses, lecturers at

these universities receive training in fair-trial rights and interactive-teaching methods. Afterwards, they receive ongoing mentorship and teaching advice.

■ **Support for judicial reform in Timor-Leste:** AIJI Director, David Cohen, is a recognized expert on Timor-Leste and has been deeply engaged with transitional-justice efforts there since 2001. In 2017, AIJI inaugurated a multi-year training program for the Prosecutor-General's office, which will expand in 2018 to include training for the judiciary at all levels.

■ **Anti-corruption project in Indonesia:** Since 2015, AIJI has been implementing a project in partnership with the Institute for Human-Rights Research and Advocacy (ELSAM) and the Institute for an Independent Judiciary (LeIP) that trains lawyers and academics to monitor the newly established Indonesian regional Anti-Corruption Courts. Funded by the European Union, this project involves monitoring five Anti-Corruption Courts and producing assessments of these courts' performance. The assessments provide the basis for revising the curriculum on corruption at Indonesia's national judicial training centers.

■ **Judicial capacity building and human-rights training in the Philippines:** At the request of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, in 2016, AIJI inaugurated a multi-year training program on international criminal law and maritime security for the Philippine judiciary. Program participants are judges at all levels as well as lawyers from relevant government ministries and institutions.

### **Transitional Justice and Dealing with the Past**

AIJI and its parent organizations have a track record in helping societies deal with the legacy of a violent past, including major transitional-justice and accountability processes in Timor-Leste, Sierra Leone, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Bangladesh.

■ **Khmer Rouge Tribunal monitoring and community outreach in Cambodia:** AIJI has been administering a trial-

monitoring program at the Khmer Rouge trials since 2009. The program aims to boost public awareness of the trials through the dissemination of weekly reports summarizing and analyzing the proceedings. AIJI has worked with Khmer Mekong Films to produce television programs covering topics of interest at the trials in a way that is easy to understand, including *Duch on Trial*, covering Case 001, and *Facing Justice*, covering Case 002. The program also trains young lawyers in monitoring and legal analysis at an international tribunal. In 2017, AIJI completed a multi-media project that explored the Tribunal's legacy through Cambodian eyes. For more information, visit the program's blog at <http://krtmonitor.org/>.

### **Recent Publications**

- Cohen, David, Daniel Mattes, and Caitlin McCaffrie (2017). *Justice on appeal: Commentary on the Case 002/01 final judgment at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia*. Phnom Penh: WSD Handa Center for Human Rights and International Justice and East-West Center.
- Brunner, Jessica (2015). *Inaccurate numbers, inadequate policies: Enhancing data to evaluate the prevalence of human trafficking in ASEAN*. Honolulu: East-West Center.
- Cohen, David, and Leigh-Ashley Lipscomb (2015). *Justice at the crossroads*. IPAC Report No. 22. Jakarta: Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict.
- Cohen, David, Melanie Hyde, and Penelope Van Tuyl, with Stephanie Fung (2015). *A well-reasoned opinion? Critical analysis of the first case against the alleged senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge*. Honolulu: East-West Center.
- Sperfeldt, Christoph (2014). *Broadcasting justice: Media outreach at the Khmer Rouge trials*. Asia Pacific Issues No. 115. Honolulu: East-West Center.