Supporting and Promoting Women’s Leadership in Peace and Security
An Internship with UNDP’s N-PEACE Initiative in Bangkok, Thailand

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About N-PEACE

N-PEACE (Engage for Peace, Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment) is a multi-country initiative facilitated by the UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Hub and Country Offices from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Nepal, Afghanistan, the Philippines, Myanmar and Pakistan.

N-Peace has two key objectives:
• To support and promote the leadership of women as peace builders; and
• To provide a platform for engagement and dialogue between different stakeholders to promote the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, conflict prevention and peace building. These two objectives are met through a range of activities, designed and implemented with network members, thereby adopting a strong community of practice approach.


“Women are widely recognized to play critical roles in preventing and mitigating conflict at the community level, but have been virtually absent* from involvement in formal peace processes and negotiations.”

To help address this gap, UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 recognized women and women’s groups as strong peace capacities in violent conflicts. Furthermore, programming in the peacebuilding field has also begun to reflect the central role of women in building and sustaining peace.

*Source: UN Women, Women’s Participation in Peace Negotiations, 2014

Internship Milestones

• Led training on gender and peacebuilding for conference on Sustainable Development Goal 16, with 20 youth participants;
• Managed nomination process for the 2016 N-Peace Awards Campaign;
• Authored blogpost on gender, inclusion, and peace building;
• Produced video, promotional material and social media marketing content for 2016 N-Peace Awards;
• Provided research and proposal development support to UNDP Governance and Peacebuilding teams.

2016 N-PEACE Awards

The N-Peace Awards were first launched in 2011 to recognize and profile women and men leaders and peacebuilders creating change at the grassroots to national levels in Asia. Coordinated by the N-Peace Network across Indonesia, Pakistan, Myanmar, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and the Philippines, the Awards shine a light on women and men who demonstrate leadership in building peace and empowering their communities.

Timeline

Spring 2016
Applied Peacebuilding Course, SIPA

Fall 2016
Multidisciplinary Approaches to Development Course, SIPA

Summer 2016
N-PEACE Internship

Preparation: Applied Peacebuilding Course

My summer internship was part of a class on practical skills for peacebuilding practitioners taught by Professor Zachary Metz at Columbia SIPA. For the class, I prepared background research and a project plan to better understand issues on women, peace and security.

In the fall of 2016, I presented on my research at the annual Peacebuilding Symposium, in which all students from the Applied Peacebuilding course present on their summer internships.

Acknowledgments

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