



Dear Colleagues,

This is a long overdue newsletter for our Network. The delay in issuing this newsletter is due to a number of factors. The Steering Committee wanted to complete the revamp of the Website of the Network. We also wanted to both complete the transition of the role of Coordinator from Ashok Swain to Ramses Amer and to recruit a new Research Assistant – Florian Krampe.

The Steering Committee has also been involved in writing a self-evaluation as part of a Sida Process of evaluating the Network. In addition we have completed a proposal to Sida for continued support for the period 2009-2011. We have also been discussing the timing of the next Network Conference originally planned for late October 2007 and in order to avoid a congestion of peace and conflict related conference in Sweden we have postponed into early 2009. An announcement will be made once the dates and venue have been decided upon.

In this Newsletter – which is under new format and design – we highlight the new Website. We issue a call for contribution to our Working Paper Series. We highlight the forthcoming book published by Anthem. We highlight two Network related events in Gothenburg.

The steering Committee

New book release

The Democratization Project: Challenges and Opportunities

Resulting out of last years conference the *Swedish Network of Peace, Conflict and Development Research* will be publishing the book ‘Democratization Project: Challenges and Opportunities’ by Anthem Press (London) in 2009.

Democratization is a field where unexpected and sudden events have repeatedly challenged conventional wisdom. Fore example, who in the mid-1970s would have foreseen the democratization of Cambodia, Albania, South Africa or East Timor? Our current ‘wave’ of democratization is complex and diverse and understanding it requires a variety of theoretical approaches.

Most of the literature on democracy assumes that it is the best form of government. Theoretical works on democratic transition and democratization have also emphasized the internal conflict resolution capacity of democracy. It has been reasoned that democracy reduces the likelihood of discrimination, especially of ethno-political minorities, and thus the possibility of political repression.

However, the democratic peace theory has not been explicitly tested with reference to third world post-colonial states, where most internal violent conflicts take place. Certainly, there is a dearth of practical advice for policy makers on how to design and implement democratic levers that can make internal peace and stability endure in the South.

This volume, drawing on the work of a variety of scholars, will contribute to identifying and understanding the challenges and opportunities of this ‘democratization project’ to the peace and development of the world both at the domestic level in selected countries, trends in regions of the world, and in the global system of the post-Col War Era.

Editors: Ashok Swain is Professor of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University and Director, Uppsala Center for Sustainable Development. Ramses Amer is Associate Professor and Coordinator, Swedish Network of Peace, Conflict and Development Research. Joakim Öjendal is Professor of Peace and Development Research, Gothenburg University.

Open Call for Papers - Working Paper Series

Together with the international advisory board, the Network steering committee has chosen to introduce a working paper series, Working Papers in Peace, Conflict and Development Research, which will publish selected papers presented at Network events.

The working paper series is available freely from the website and will be advertised through the Peace Network Newsletter, the website and at Network events. If you have presented a paper at one of the Conferences organised by the Network or at other Conferences and Workshops on topics that are of relevance to the

The Security-Development Nexus

October 17 | 15:15 – 18:00

School of Global Studies, Gothenburg

Annedal seminarium, 5th Floor

The School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg will hold an open forum at the second Bjorn Hettne biennial seminar on the link between peace and development in today's globalized world.

This year's 'Hettne Seminar' focuses on the 'security-development' nexus — now commonly recognized as urgently in need of attention in policy and academic arenas. On October 17, Professor Emeritus Björn Hettne and 5 leading international scholars will critically discuss the so-called 'security development nexus' to take into account the theoretical, methodological, and policy developments in today's globalized and changing security-development landscape. The biennial seminar series, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA-Sarec), is conceived to be a continuing timely and innovative forum for academic and policy discussion on issues related to peace and development.

Guest speakers: Mark Duffield, Nana Poku, Vanessa Pupavac, Finn Stepputat and R.B.J. Walker

Contact persons: Millisao Nvunga, Conference Coordinator (millisao.nvunga@globalstudies.gu.se); Maria Stern, Associate Professor (maria.stern@globalstudies.gu.se); Joakim Öjendal, Professor (joakim.ojendal@globalstudies.gu.se)

Network, and would like your paper to be considered for publication as a working paper, please contact Editor Ramses Amer.

New website design

The Network redesigned the website over the summer to increase the accessibility for our users. We hope you will enjoy the new design and visit the webpresence more often.

We will in particular use the website to inform you about news concerning the website. Please let us know if you have any questions or miss information on the website.

Mekong Management at a Watershed - IWRM in the global water crisis?

September 29–October 1, 2008

School of Global Studies, Gothenburg

Peace and development research (Padrigu) within School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, will hold a high-level international social science symposium on Integrated Water Resources Management, IWRM, in a transboundary context, focusing on the Lancang-Mekong basin.

This initiative has emerged from the Lancang-Mekong Informal Dialogue, LMID. The LMID is a political dialogue initiative with the purpose to build confidence and cooperation among the Lancang-Mekong riparian countries in order to make use of the great potential for social and economic development in the basin, while at the same time safeguarding sustainable water resources management.

Keynote speakers: Professor Lu Xing, GMS Centre Yunnan University, China. Dr. Chaiyuth Saksri, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. Professor Ashok Swain, Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden.

Sessions: Session 1: Experiences of IWRM in International contexts. Session 2: The Mekong case: background and dynamics. Session 3: The Mekong cooperation, heading...where? Session 4: The Role of second track diplomacy in water negotiations.

Contact: mekongsymposium@globalstudies.gu.se

The Swedish Network of Peace, Conflict and Development Research is an effort to link researchers in Sweden conducting research on peace, conflict and development. The core nexus is made up by peace and development research at Gothenburg University and peace and conflict research at Uppsala University. Through the composition of its Steering Committee and Advisory Board the Network ensures that national expertise in relevant disciplinary and area studies fields are represented and involved in the Network. The Advisory Board also include leading scholars from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

www.peacenetwork.se | secretariat@peacenetwork.se

Uppsala University, Dept. of Peace and Conflict Research Box 514 Uppsala, Sweden SE 751-20