

MPI 2019 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Training Courses and Facilitators

What is the Annual Peacebuilding Training of MPI all about?

The Annual Peacebuilding Training is a three-week training organized and conducted once every year by MPI. It is part of the Institute's Education and Training Program that aims to capacitate individuals and their institutions in the field of peacebuilding that began in the year 2000. The training offers different courses that explore major themes and cutting-edge debates, including the latest and most pressing issues on matters of peace, justice and conflict.

What will I gain if I participate in this training?

The training will not only provide you with new knowledge and a broader understanding about peacebuilding and conflict transformation; you will not only acquire and develop skills and capacities needed to be more effective in your peacebuilding work, but you will also become part of a growing network of peacebuilders around the world. You will have the opportunity to be immersed in an environment of diversity: diversity of peoples, histories, cultures, ideas, beliefs and principles, where all are celebrated, shared and affirmed. Many participants ascribe equal value to the bonding, friendships, and solidarity that are created during the training.

You might also want to read our [2018 Annual Peacebuilding Training Report](#) for more insights about the training and/or read our [Testimonials](#).

Where and when will the Annual Training in 2019 be held?

The MPI 2019 Annual Peacebuilding Training will be held from May 13 to May 31, 2019, at [Mergrande Ocean Resort](#), located at Bago Aplaya, Talomo District, Davao City, Philippines.

What are the courses offered in 2019?

For 2019, MPI will offer 13 courses classified into three categories: Foundation, Thematic, and Field-Based. Four Foundation Courses will be concurrently offered in Week 1, five Thematic Courses in Week 2, and two Thematic Courses and two Field-Based Courses will be offered in Week 3. Participants may opt to enroll for just one week, two weeks or all three weeks. For the complete list and a short description of the courses, please [go to this link](#) or [download our 2019 Annual Peacebuilding Training Information Packet](#).

Who are the facilitators/trainers of the Annual Peacebuilding Training in 2019?

There will be 21 distinguished and high-caliber facilitators who will come together and teach the courses in 2019. Twelve of them are international facilitators coming from Asia-Pacific, Africa, and North America:

1. *Babu Joseph Ayindo*
2. *Paulo Baleinakorodawa*
3. *Wendy Kroeker*
4. *Kathy Matsui*
5. *Joan McGregor*
6. *Phyusin Ngwethaw*
7. *Kyoko Okumoto*
8. *Shamsia Ramadhan*
9. *Mark M. Rogers*
10. *Jonathan Rudy*
11. *Florina Xavier*
12. *Gladston Xavier*

The remaining nine are Filipino experts based in different parts of the Philippines:

1. *Michael Frank A. Alar*
2. *Catholic Relief Services Peacebuilding Team*
3. *Krizanti Cruzado*
4. *Joey Ganio Evangelista, MJ*
5. *Primo Mique Fagel, Jr., MJ*
6. *Marites T. Gonzalo*
7. *Myla Leguro*
8. *Gabrielle Aziza Sagaral*
9. *Orson Sargado*

Usually each course is facilitated by at least two facilitators. For more details about the facilitators, please see the profiles of the [international facilitators here](#) or the [national facilitators here](#), or [download their profiles here](#).

Can I send an application/letter of interest to be a Facilitator in one of the courses?

We do not accept applications/letters of interest for facilitation of our courses. To facilitate at MPI's Annual Training is by invitation only.

How many students/participants can each course accommodate?

Each course is limited to 25 participants on a “**first-come, first-served**” basis. So, it is important that you select alternate courses in case your first choice is not available. The field-based courses are strictly limited to a maximum of 12 participants although for the MPI 2019 Annual Peacebuilding Training, the field-based course entitled *Indigenous Peoples' Culture-Based Conflict Resolution Practices: Its Potential Contribution to Mainstream Peacebuilding in the Philippines* will be limited to nine participants.

Application/Enrollment Process

Who are eligible to apply for the training?

The training is open to all peacebuilders and peace advocates from any country and from all walks of life who are interested to grow and be empowered in their work for peace. Any individual who feels passionately about peace is welcome to apply. For the complete admission criteria, please [go to this link](#) or [download our 2019 Annual Peacebuilding Training Information Packet](#).

Do I have to apply for all three weeks? If there are four courses in Week 1, can I be enrolled in all of them?

The answer is **no** to both questions. Participants may opt to enroll for just one week or for two weeks or all three. Each week, MPI offers either four or five courses that are simultaneously conducted. Therefore, you will only be able to attend one course per week. However, please take note that courses in Week 2 and Week 3 have prerequisites. You will have to satisfy these prerequisites to be considered.

Is the Annual Peacebuilding Training free?

No, you will have to pay for participating in the training. The course fees vary depending on your organization; if you are based outside or in the Philippines; and if you opt to live-in or live-out during the training. Live-in means you will stay at the venue for the duration of the training. Live-out means you will find your own accommodations and commute to the venue. Please see below:

CLASSIFICATION	Course Fee (Per week)*	
	Live-In	Live-Out
International organizations based outside the Philippines	US\$700	US\$600
International organizations with office/s in the Philippines and Philippine government agencies	PhP23,000	PhP19,500
Philippine organizations/institutions	PhP18,000	PhP14,500

*An **Early-Bird Discount of 7%** will be applied to applicants who will submit their applications **on or before March 1, 2019**.

Do the course fees cover transportation to and from the training venue in Davao City, Philippines?

The course fees only include the following:

LIVE-IN	LIVE-OUT
- Course tuition	- Course tuition
- Course materials/handouts	- Course materials/handouts
- Processing fee	- Processing fee
- Other course-related expenses	- Other course-related expenses
- Simple dormitory-style accommodations	- Lunch, dinner and snacks
- Full meals and snacks	

Participants or their sponsoring organization will have to cover all travel expenses (international and domestic airfares, local transportation, visa fee, etc.) and make the necessary travel arrangements.

I am already enrolled and have paid my course fees but have to cancel my participation; what should I do? Will I get refunded?

For participants enrolled for three weeks and two weeks: MPI will refund 100% of the tuition fee if cancellation of application is made three weeks prior to the training schedule (**on or before April 19, 2019**); a 75% refund, if cancellation is made two weeks (**on or before April 26, 2019**) before the training; and a 50% refund if participants withdraw a week (**on or before May 3, 2019**) before the training schedule.

For participants enrolled for one week only: MPI will refund 100% of the tuition fee if cancellation of application is made three weeks prior to the start of the course; a 75% refund, if cancellation is made two weeks before the course; and a 50% refund for cancellation made a week before the course begins.

If an international participant must withdraw because his/her visa was denied, MPI will provide a 100% refund, less **US\$100** for a processing and administrative fee, provided this is done a week before the start of class.

MPI reserves the right to withhold a 10% non-refundable processing fee for each cancellation. **No refund** will be issued for cancellation made less than a week prior to the start of the course/training schedule.

When is the deadline for applications?

The deadline for submission of regular applications is **April 1, 2019**. All requirements should be [uploaded](#) by **April 8, 2019**. Applications not completed after the latter date will be automatically cancelled.

Scholarships

Does MPI provide scholarships to applicants?

MPI is unable to offer any scholarships at this time. Participants have to find their own sponsors and/or personally cover the overall cost of the training.

Some organizations do offer scholarships for individuals to attend trainings. You can find [links to some of those organizations on our website](#), but these are very limited.

Logistics and Other Arrangements

I'm not from the Philippines; do I need to get a visa to enter the country?

Most foreign nationals "who are traveling to the Philippines for business and tourism purposes are allowed to enter the Philippines without visas for a stay not exceeding thirty (30) days, provided they hold valid tickets for their return journey to port of origin or next port of destination and their passports are valid for a period of at least six (6) months beyond the contemplated period of stay." Please see <https://www.dfa.gov.ph/list-of-countries-for-21-day-visa> to determine if your country is listed as one whose nationals are allowed to enter the Philippines without a visa for a period of 30 days.

If your country is not listed, please see <https://www.dfa.gov.ph/guidelines-requirements> or visit or contact the nearest Philippine consulate/embassy that is designated to issue a visa to nationals from your country.

Can I pay in US dollars when I am in the country?

No. The Philippine Peso (₱ or PhP) is the official currency for all transactions within the country. However, there are money exchange services at the airports and in many places in Davao City (banks, shopping malls, shops). Be sure to have ready cash (in Philippine Pesos) to pay for local transportation and for your other needs and expenses.

You may check the daily peso-dollar exchange rates at <http://www.bsp.gov.ph/statistics/sdds/exchrates.htm>. Please note that exchange rates change frequently, and rates quoted here may not reflect the rate you will get at an exchange service.

I want to stay in another hotel in Davao City other than the training venue.

If you choose to live-out, you have to make the necessary arrangements yourself. However, we can provide a list of hotels and contact details upon request.

The training will be held during Ramadan. Will MPI be making arrangements for participants who will fast?

The entire three weeks' schedule of the MPI 2019 Annual Peacebuilding Training will be held during the time of Ramadan. For those participants who will be fasting during this time, MPI and Mergrande Ocean Resort Management will make special arrangements to accommodate their needs.

How do I get to the training venue from the airport and/or from other parts of Davao City?

For participants arriving at Francisco Bangoy International Airport in Davao City, MPI will provide an airport pick-up. This will be shared with you once your application is accepted. If you are unable to make any of the pick-up schedules, please plan to take a taxi from the airport to the venue. You will have to shoulder this expense. A one-way trip rate should not exceed PhP600.

Upon exiting the terminal, cross the airport road and go up the steps to the taxi stand where taxis line up for passengers. It will be much more expensive if someone approaches you to offer you a ride-service.

For participants within Davao City or Mindanao and those who want to make use of local transportation, you may take the jeepneys bound for Toril/Mulig.

1. Take a Toril/Mulig bound jeepney from downtown Davao City (coming from Toril, this jeepney passes by S&R on MacArthur Highway, JS Gaisano/Ilustre St., Aldevinco/Roxas Blvd., and SM-Ecoland); instruct the driver to drop you off at the crossing going to Mergrande Ocean Resort. One-way fare is PhP30 for one person.
2. From the crossing, take a sidecar/tricycle and tell the driver to take you to Mergrande Ocean Resort. Be sure that you ask for the price before you get in the tricycle. Going-rate should not exceed PhP40.