

ASSET BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2009

1. ASSET webportal: The ASSET webportal is currently being revamped in order to have a more user friendly, interactive webpage that will facilitate communication among members. Many thanks to those members who responded to our questionnaire. James Cohen from ISSAT and Ben Kelly from GFN are currently working on the technical aspects. We hope to have our new website ready by November.

2. Scoping study: The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, IEPADES, ISDS, RCSS, FBA, Clingendael, SNDC, PRAWA/ ASSN, ACCORD and DCAF/ ISSAT are currently conducting a scoping study of institutions working on SSR-related issues in various regions. It is hoped that this study will help us identify key actors conducting SSR-related activities on the ground, explore possible collaboration and identify key trends and gaps in SSR training in various regions. The initial data gathering phase will be completed in October. Data will then be analysed and a report produced shortly thereafter.

3. SSR Training Guidelines: GCSP, in collaboration with DCAF/ISSAT, has developed draft guidelines for SSR training. The document will be finalised shortly and circulated among ASSET members for comments.

4. Terms of Reference for ASSET Secretariat: DCAF/ ISSAT has developed draft Terms of Reference for the ASSET Secretariat (see attached document). You are invited to send your comments to the Secretariat on or before 30th September.

5. Follow up to Nepal workshop: As a follow-up to the May 2009 workshop in Nepal, we are currently in the process of transforming the case studies presented in Nepal into training modules that could be used by all ASSET members in future trainings. Preparation of training modules on India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Cambodia and Thailand is now under way and will be ready in October. Once finalised, the training modules will be uploaded on the ASSET webportal.

6. Timor-Leste Training: At the request of Norway and Ireland, DCAF/ISSAT will conduct an SSR training for civil society organisations in Timor Leste from 13 - 15 October. Two participants from the Nepali training have been invited to present case studies on the Philippines (ISDS) and Indonesia (LIPI) in Timor Leste.

7. ASSET Practice Notes: The four Practice Notes for 2008 are currently being finalised by DCAF and BICC and will be available in October. Practice Note topics for 2009 are still available. You are invited to inform the Secretariat if you are interested in drafting one or several of the Practice Notes (see attached document for list of topics).

8. Membership requests: The Secretariat has received several requests for membership since the AGM. Below is a list of membership requests received to date:

- Security Research and Information Centre (SRIC), Kenya;
- Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute of the US army, USA;
- Columbia/Harvard Universities' IRDF Project, USA;
- Libra Advisory Group, UK.

While there was consensus among members at the AGM about having a moratorium on new membership until ASSET's operational procedures have been finalised, ASSET could also benefit by having some of these members on board. The above organisations have been informed of ASSET's decision to freeze membership this year but the Secretariat has also promised to review their requests at the next AGM. The Secretariat is currently developing a policy on membership procedures and would appreciate your initial thoughts and suggestions on these procedures.

9. 2010 AGM: Preparations for next year's AGM have begun. The Secretariat is currently looking at funding options for the next AGM. As you may be aware, the 2010 AGM will be hosted by ISDS in Manila at the end of February 2010.

If you wish to include information on your organisation's activities in the next bulletin, please contact Eleanor Pavey of the ASSET Secretariat at: e.pavey@dcaf.ch