

**Salaam - The Spirituality of Service****RELEASE IN PART B7(F),B6****Background:**

The Philippine intelligence community has identified Muslim university students as one of the two Filipino demographics most vulnerable to radicalization, alongside out-of-school youth (OSY). Radicalization of university students often occurs through students' engagement with university-based Muslim student associations (MSA), particularly in the universities of the restive southern Philippines region of Mindanao. Muslim student associations in the southern Philippines engaged in radicalization activities often receive funding from governmental and non-governmental sources based in Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan, and are heavily influenced by radical Salafist ideology that promotes a polarized world view and exacerbates existing tensions between Muslims and non-Muslims.

Factors driving college-aged youth to join Violent Extremist Organizations (VEO) such as Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) include both ideological justification (e.g. religious oppression, perceived injustice) and socio-economic conditions (e.g. poverty, unemployment, inequality). To successfully prevent radicalization of Muslim university students in the Philippines, both the ideological factors that contribute to radicalization as well as the direct material concerns of the marginalized Muslim populations in the southern Philippines must be addressed. Mitigating radicalization of university students will reduce the ability of local VEOs such as ASG and JI and global jihadist groups to recruit from the Philippines.

**Project Proposal:**

The U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (PAS-Manila) and the Global Engagement Center (GEC), in consultation with the U.S. Embassy Political Section (POL-Manila), will partner with universities and NGOs to design and implement a robust integrated program of engagement. The project will help us build constructive relationships with Muslim students and Muslim student organizations; amplify positive narratives from within the Muslim student population; and encourage Muslim student organizations and MSAs to direct their activities towards socially beneficial community development initiatives rather than towards ideologically-driven political or religious activism. The activities of the proposed program will address four key needs based on discussions with Embassy Manila, Muslim studies faculty and advisors to Muslim student associations in Mindanao:

**1. To provide alternatives to the radical messages promulgated by steady stream of radical religious speakers who often speak at mosques, madrasas, and at MSA events in Mindanao and through social and broadcast media:**

- This element of the program will generate a discourse on moderate Islamic values and Islamic principles of community service on the campuses of each of the three target universities. Faculty and moderate religious leaders will lead the discourse through monthly "conversations," forums, lectures, and film discussions. The activities will be open to students from nearby universities and colleges.
  - Philippine, American, and international experts will engage in the discourse through in-person and remote presentations as available. These experts will also engage in broadcast, print, and social media engagement as appropriate.
- This discourse and associated activities will be guided by the research, insight, and local knowledge of a technical working group of moderate Muslim scholars from the partner

universities and institutions nationwide (see #4) who will collaborate to develop locally appropriate topics and frameworks that account for regional differences in sect, ethnicity, and language. The material developed through this portion of the program will form the foundation upon which later program elements will be based.

- This initiative can be rapidly deployed and continued throughout the project period to raise the awareness of a broad audience of Muslim university students, faculty, and the general populace.
- PAS Manila can support this program element sustainably by engaging IIP Speakers, American exchange participants, and other local, American, and international speakers with these audiences in person or remotely and by sponsoring the activities at American Corners.

**2. To provide Muslim university students with socially-beneficial avenues by which to address the social, political, and economic inequality that affect Muslim communities in Mindanao and contribute to alienation and ideological justification for radicalization:**

- This program element will train Muslim university student leaders of MSAs and other Muslim student organizations to be effective agents of positive change in their communities. The program will provide project management and leadership needed to design and implement participants' community service initiatives as well as the social media skills to mobilize peers and publicize their successes. The course material will be grounded in the Islamic principles of community service and highlight the efforts of other Muslim student and community leaders to productive impact their communities through the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) and other initiatives. Guest speakers from around Southeast Asia will be invited to DVC in to the program to offer examples and inspiration from other Muslim communities in the region.
  - Three regional workshops for 35 Muslim university students will be held at partner universities. Grant funds will be provided for teams of Muslim student leaders to engage their organizations in community service endeavors developed at the workshop.
  - A national workshop for 50 Muslim students from selected Muslim student organizations around the country will build upon the regional trainings to provide skills in organizational development, grant and financial management, and project management. Like the regional workshops, grant funds will be available for teams of Muslim student leaders to engage their organizations in community service endeavors developed at the workshop.
  - Before, during, and after the workshop, participants will engage in a Facebook-based group alongside the peers, facilitators, and mentors. They will discuss course materials and participate in periodic webinars offered by Philippine, regional, and American speakers. They will also receive encouragement, advice, and guidance about their project implementation and share the successes and challenges of the community service engagements.
- These workshops will be developed, supervised, and implemented by the program's technical working group (see #4). Muslim YSEALI leaders from around Southeast Asia with established records of community service will serve as speakers, facilitators, and mentors.

- This program element will be deployed in the program's mid-term as the technical working group identifies reliable, moderate Muslim student organizations and leaders and develops effective instructional materials.
  - PAS Manila can sustainably engage program participants after the conclusion of the workshop and their follow-on projects through Youth Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), USG alumni, American Corner, Peer2Peer, and other USG-supported programming, providing a steady stream of opportunities for these student leaders to pursue exchange, program, and funding opportunities for themselves and for their organizations.
3. **To provide a sustainable, institutionalized curricular outlet by which to generate long term impact on Muslim university students and facilitate interfaith understanding:**
- This program element will develop a "Salaam: Spirituality of Service" curriculum that will introduce students of all faiths to moderate Islamic principles of community service.
    - The curriculum will be deployed as a 6-8 week module within the mandatory National Service Training Program (NSTP) course required of all first year university students. NSTP is a nationwide program that will be localized by the partner institutions to include the Salaam module. The module will combine classroom instruction with community service activities in the field.
    - The curriculum will be developed by the technical working group and made available digitally for use by academic institutions nationwide.
    - A national "Salaam" conference for university faculty and administrators will highlight the successes of the overall program and promote the "Salaam" curriculum module for inclusion in other universities' NSTP curricula.
  - This curriculum will be guided by the research, insight, and local knowledge of a technical working group of moderate Muslim scholars from the partner universities and institutions nationwide (see #4) who will collaborate to incorporate locally appropriate topics and frameworks that account for regional differences in sect, ethnicity, and language into the curriculum.
  - The implementation of the curriculum will be the culmination of the program, providing a sustainable, institutionalized curricular home for the program outputs. Through implementation in the National Service Training Program at partner institutions, the curriculum will reach all university students at partner universities and be available for implementation at other interested institutions nationwide.
  - PAS Manila can support the curriculum development by providing American experts to consult with the technical working group. We can also encourage adoption of the "Salaam" curriculum by other universities in our interactions with university administrations and Islamic studies faculty.
4. **To establish a baseline of the state of radicalization on Mindanao university campuses; to promote discourse and leadership about radicalization and violent extremism among university**

**and community leaders; to expand the pool of policy-relevant local research on the drivers of radicalization of Muslim university students; and to guide, develop, and implement the program elements in line with regional differences in sect, ethnicity, and language:**

- This program element will convene a technical working group of faculty and administration from partner universities in Mindanao, like-minded Islamic Studies programs, and religious and community leaders from around Mindanao and the country for three three-day meetings to guide, plan, implement, and monitor the individual components of the project. This group will also share information critical to understanding the rapidly shifting landscape of radicalization and violent extremist activities on university campuses; and expand the network of like-minded scholars and institutions committed to preventing radical extremism from taking root on their campuses. Participants will be sub-divided into committees to work on specific program elements.
  - The technical working group will also conduct preliminary, mid-term, and end-state assessments on the state of radicalization of Muslim students, Muslim student organizations, and formal MSAs at target universities. The assessments will provide qualitative evaluations of the leadership, activities, and degree of radicalization of MSAs and Muslim student organizations specifically, and of Muslim student populations generally based upon focus groups, reportage from key contacts and informants, qualitative research by authors, and other sources. The assessments will also provide quantitative data on the Muslim student enrollment at the target universities, and membership in Muslim student organizations and formal Muslim student associations. The assessment will also catalog Filipino scholarly activity on preventing youth radicalization, peace building, interfaith dialogue, and related topics by tracking publications by Filipino scholars on these topics as well as conference and symposium activities in the field.
  - Research outputs and reports on the implementation of the overall program and the Salaam curriculum will be publicized in the implementing partner institution's academic journal  as appropriate.
- Core members of the technical working group from partner institutions will be assembled immediately after project launch to begin development of the program elements. Over the course of the program, the working group will actively seek to expand its memberships to include new members, new institutions, and complementary expertise.
- PAS Manila can sustainably support the technical working group by providing American experts to consult with the technical working group in-person and remotely; by offering opportunities for academic and professional exchanges; and by supporting working group members' participation in local, national, and international fora on preventing violent extremism.

B7(F)

**Implementer Information:**

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>POC Name</b>	<b>POC Email</b>	<b>POC Phone</b>

B6  
B7(F)**Budget**

	<b>Cost</b>
Generate a discourse on moderate Islamic values and Islamic principles of community service on the campuses of each of the three target universities.	\$15,000
Three regional workshops for 35 Muslim university students will be held at partner universities. Also national workshop for 50 Muslim students from selected Muslim student organizations around the country	\$78,500
Develop a “Salaam: Spirituality of Service” curriculum	\$9,000
A national “Salaam” conference for university faculty and administrators	\$32,500
Convene a technical working group for four three-day meetings to guide, plan, implement, and monitor the individual components of the project.	\$22,000
Conduct preliminary, mid-term, and end-state assessments on the state of radicalization of Muslim students, Muslim student organizations, and formal MSAs at target universities.	\$12,000
Program Coordinator	\$3,000
Indirect Costs	\$17,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$189,200</b>

## Cost-sharing contributions:

<b>Global Engagement Center</b>	\$90,000
<b>US Embassy Manila</b>	\$99,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$189,200</b>

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2016 8:40 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Possibly Responsive

B6  
B7(F)  
B6  
B7(F)

RELEASE IN PART  
B5,B7(F),B6

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 05, 2015 5:22 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Hussain, Rashad; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Sprint team updates

B6  
B7(F)  
B6  
B7(F)

Rashad and CSCC team: Thanks for all your help so far with the Sprint team. Your openness and help in every aspect is much appreciated by the team and everybody involved. As you know, they have met with many folks inside USG and outside to understand the challenges presented by ISIL messaging and the potential capabilities that are needed to innovate and upgrade our efforts. I've put together some notes from Week 1 to give you a sense of their meetings and discussion. I know there have been additional requests to meet with the team and they have all been passed on to Sean Garrett. The team is off campus absorbing all the info and going through their notes. Happy to provide additional info and want to keep everyone in the loop. Best, [REDACTED]

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B7(F)

**Sprint Team (Week 1) Overview**

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