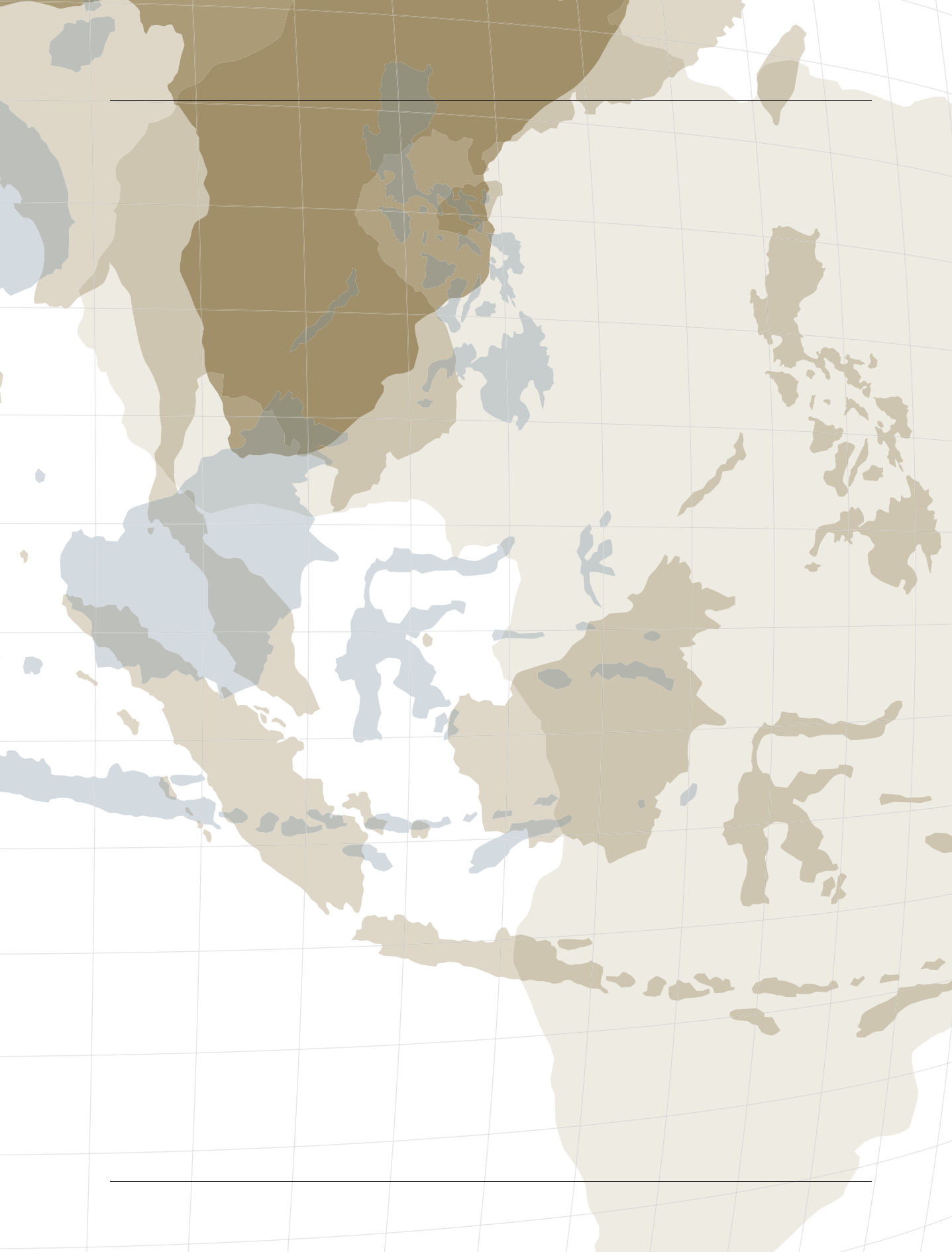




Working
to reduce conflict
in the world





Africa in 2010

Working in Nairobi
Ambassador Hiruy Amanuel

What is your nationality?

Ethiopian.

Which languages do you speak?

Amharic, English, intermediate French and Tirgrinya.

Why did you join the HD Centre?

I wanted to expand my experience by contributing to peacemaking initiatives across the continent. After years of working in government and in inter-governmental organisations, I was curious to enter the world of private diplomacy. The HD Centre is engaged in that area of work and, as such, appealed to me.

What do you do for the HD Centre?

I am the Regional Director for Africa, which means that I partake in and oversee the activities of the HD Centre that focus on Africa. With the staff at the Nairobi Office, I identify the conflicts where the HD Centre could play a constructive role in conflict resolution. I also interact with governments, regional organisations and non-state actors with the objective of supporting mediation and building mediation capacity.

Which geographic regions does your work cover?

Africa.

2010 was a year during which peacemaking efforts expanded across the continent to deal with conflicts and tensions in a number of locations. While most parts of the continent enjoyed relative stability and the long-standing southern Sudan crisis appeared to be on the verge of resolution, the Sahel region as a whole faced greater instability. The conflict in Somalia continued to inflict suffering, as did the still unresolved pockets of dispute in central Africa aggravated even more by the destructive forays of the Lord's Resistance Army across three borders. Madagascar, Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria also witnessed more violence in 2010.

In Africa heads of state, governments and inter-governmental organisations take the lead in mediating ongoing and new conflicts which makes it a crowded mediation environment. In 2010, this prompted the HD Centre to think deeply about what it could realistically plan to do on the continent and to develop a strategy to guide its activities for the next three years.

During the year, the HD Centre continued its focus on supporting mediation in the Horn of Africa and strengthening its relationship with African institutions



Local market in rebel area in south Darfur.



such as the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) while seeking opportunities for engagement in central and west Africa.

The HD Centre contributed to dispute resolution in the course of the successful elections in Somaliland and played a key role in launching the popular consultations in two Sudanese provinces in accordance with the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between Khartoum and Juba.

In addition to the capacity-building efforts aimed at strengthening the peacemaking organs of the AU and ECOWAS, the HD Centre co-organised the African Union High Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability In Africa held in Cairo, Egypt.

In the course of the year, the HD Centre launched three assessments covering Liberia, Guinea and the Central African Republic and plans to contribute to national dialogue in Liberia as the country moves towards elections in 2011.

INTERNATIONAL SNAPSHOT

Humanitarian mediation in Darfur

The HD Centre's humanitarian mediation programme specifically focuses on improving the international response to humanitarian crises in conflict zones. This is part of the HD Centre's determination to reduce global conflict as well as its impact on the people who live in conflict-affected areas. In 2010, the humanitarian mediation programme continued its work to improve conditions for civilians caught up in the Darfur conflict by helping to develop stronger humanitarian co-ordination between the Sudanese Government, humanitarian agencies and opposition movements.

The issue of safe access for humanitarian agencies, workers and vehicles is a widespread concern in the region. Other concerns include the rights of displaced people and the use of child soldiers. These issues formed the focus of discussions and agreements between the HD Centre and representatives from the Government, agencies and opposition movements in 2010.

During the year, the HD Centre also began a new initiative to engage the Arab groups in Darfur in humanitarian discussions. Workshops were held in March and June with representatives from Arabic and Nomadic groups as well as United Nations agencies. As a result of these workshops, the African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID) agreed to undertake some projects which would have a quick impact on conditions for nomadic people in the area. A Joint Task Force has subsequently been set up to monitor the implementation of these projects.

The View from **Nairobi**



Africa Regional Office, Nairobi, Kenya.

Where we work in Kenya, the approval by the population of a new constitution and the joint commitment to this by the President and Prime Minister has brought hope to an expectant nation. In neighbouring Sudan, preparations for the southern Sudan referendum – an event of historic proportions – were watched closely. At the same time, conflicts continued to linger in some parts of the continent such as in neighbouring Somalia, making progress difficult on improving civilian protection and attaining regional peace.

The staffing situation in Nairobi improved with the appointment of Project Manager Olivier Kambala wa Kambala. The Office developed an Africa Strategy (2010–2012) and we hope to extend our work to the French-speaking areas of central and west Africa in the year ahead.

A number of key events took place in the course of 2010 with the direct involvement of the Nairobi Office. In February, consultations were held with the Minister of National Reconciliation of the Transitional Federal Government – Somalia at the Nairobi Office. A seminar involving Afghans and Somalis on experience-sharing in similar political circumstances was also held at the office.

In March, prominent Kenyan women mediators and negotiators convened at the Nairobi Office for the “Women at the Peace Table” roundtable opened by Mrs Graca Machel, a member of the African Union Panel of Eminent African Personalities for the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation. Later in the spring, the Somaliland national elections took place with training provided by the HD Centre to election officials and civil

society organisations and observers on dispute resolution. The Nairobi Office, and particularly the Senior Adviser for Africa, also organised the visit to the HD Centre in Geneva of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia.

Following its facilitation of a study tour for Sudanese officials from the Blue Nile and South Kordofan States at the start of the year, the HD Centre has continued to play a key role in the development of the Popular Consultations in both states.

Catherine Wambui Gatebi was the Acting Office Manager in the HD Centre's Nairobi Office.

Successful elections in Somaliland



By mid-2010, elections in Somaliland (an unrecognised autonomous region of Somalia) had been re-scheduled several times and tensions were mounting. The three political parties had signed a Memorandum of Understanding and agreed to a re-constituted National Elections Commission to manage the elections. This Commission set a new date for the elections for 26 June, 2010 and requested the HD Centre's assistance in preparing the conflict resolution aspects of the elections.

Drawing on its mediation expertise and working closely with Interpeace, the HD Centre focussed its assistance on the resolution of election disputes. The HD Centre provided technical assistance, policy advice and training for the Commission on election dispute resolution.

It also trained senior delegates from the three political parties and the Supreme Court as well as helping to develop training sessions for the police.

Following the successful use of community mediators by the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA) in other African elections, the HD Centre suggested involving respected members of Somaliland civil society in the process. The Commission agreed and the HD Centre worked with EISA to train 600 local youths, women, professionals and elders in conflict resolution and electoral rules so they could act as civil society mediators. These mediators were deployed to areas where tensions were expected to mount during the elections.

On the 26 June, these efforts contributed to the peaceful transition of power from the incumbent to a new opposition leader in Somaliland. All the parties accepted the result and international observers rated the elections as highly successful.

Picture: Somalis queue in Hargeisa, Somaliland, to cast their vote for presidential elections on 26 June 2010.



Asia in 2010

Working in Singapore Ouseph Tharakan

What is your nationality?

Indian.

Which languages do you speak?

Malayalam, Hindi, English.

Why did you join the HD Centre?

I have always been interested in developing a career in conflict resolution. When I heard about the HD Centre and its work, I was struck by the fact that it was one of the handful of organisations globally that focussed on operational mediation at the highest level. In addition, I was excited about being part of a cutting edge initiative in international relations, since the HD Centre is a private organisation seeking to operate in a domain traditionally reserved for governmental or inter-governmental actors.

What do you do for the HD Centre?

I work as a Project Officer at the Asia Regional Office in Singapore. I track conflict developments, undertake field missions and support HD Centre projects in the region.

Which geographic regions does your work cover?

My work covers South Asia and South East Asia.

The HD Centre has a long track record in Asia. Its first mediation project was in Aceh, Indonesia in 1999. Since then, its mediation work has broadened to include several conflicts in Southeast Asia and South Asia most of which are confidential. Currently, the HD Centre's regional office in Singapore supports a dozen projects (confidential and public) focused on mediation and peacemaking around Asia.

Building on this experience, the HD Centre has expanded its efforts to contribute even more to the region's peacemaking efforts. In line with global trends, interstate conflict is rare in Asia, but the region continues to be afflicted by violent internal conflicts, some protracted and resistant to resolution. The HD Centre's strategy is to address these conflicts, strengthen the broader mediation community and reduce the humanitarian consequences of the violence they generate. The principle thematic project for the HD Centre in Asia has the goal of promoting the role of women in peacemaking.

To build sustainability, local ownership and ensure contextually appropriate initiatives, the HD Centre partners with local organisations and states as well as



HD Centre Project Officer, Alberto Kimpo, leads a consultation on the peace process in Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Mindanao, with displaced villagers.



regional and multi-national bodies and multi-stakeholder organisations. For example, in the Philippines, the HD Centre works through the International Contact Group in assisting in the peace process between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. In Mindanao it supports local mediation efforts through assisting the Mindanao Think Tank in its consultation project and with the Armed Violence Reduction Initiative. It also assists the Tumikang Sama Sama (a group of eminent persons) in their violence reduction and local mediation efforts in Sulu.

In Indonesia, India and the Philippines, the HD Centre has also been supporting local research institutes in an effort to better understand conflict in those countries and contribute to policy-making efforts to reduce it. In line with the HD Centre's principles, efforts are made to highlight and disseminate the lessons learned from the Asia office's work and that of others. A biennial mediation retreat has also been held in Asia since 2006.

INTERNATIONAL SNAPSHOT

Reducing violence in the southern Philippines

Since 2005, the HD Centre has been working to reduce violence and resolve clan conflicts in Sulu (an island province in the southern Philippines) as they continue to undermine the peace process in Mindanao and de-stabilise the region. The HD Centre's efforts led to the creation of the "Jolo Zone of Peace" in Sulu's capital city in 2008 and to the formation of the Tumikang Sama-Sama (which means "Together we move forward"). This is a group of six respected and eminent people from Sulu who help to resolve local clan conflicts and develop initiatives for dialogue with lawless elements.

Since early 2010, the Tumikung Sama-Sama has been supported by an additional group of 20 volunteers who monitor tensions across the province and refer conflicts to the Tumikung Sama-Sama to be resolved. These volunteers were initially recruited to prevent election-related violence in the run-up to the May 2010 elections and they helped to dramatically reduce the number of violent incidents during that period.

In September 2010, the HD Centre and the Office of the Provincial Mufti in Sulu jointly-hosted a clan conference to offer clan members the opportunity for dialogue. Participants in the conference included representatives from 20 of the most prominent clans and two conflicts were actually resolved during the conference itself. Since then, further clan conflicts have been resolved by the group and many others are currently being mediated.

The view from **Singapore**



Asia Regional Office, Singapore.

Geographically and culturally straddling South Asia and South East Asia, Singapore is an ideal location for the HD Centre's regional office to be located. With a thriving policy community driven by a multitude of think-tanks and research institutes, Singapore also provides the HD Centre with the opportunity to reach out to eminent analysts and leading experts of relevance to its projects, particularly the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

In June 2010, a brainstorming seminar on ASEAN's role in conflict resolution was organised in Singapore, in partnership with the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), the Institute of South East Asian Studies

(ISEAS) and the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore. The seminar provided an opportunity to reach out to the key stakeholders including the ASEAN Secretariat and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN of Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar and Vietnam attended.

The Singapore office helped the Oslo forum team to organise the 2010 Asian Mediation Retreat in Hanoi, Vietnam by undertaking preparatory missions, framing the agenda and identifying participants.

The Singapore office was also closely involved in implementing the “Women at the Peace Table – Asia-Pacific”

project. Staff from the Singapore office helped organise a three-day roundtable meeting in Nepal in September 2010 which brought together approximately 40 senior women peacemakers from across Asia and the Pacific. The Singapore office took the lead in convening a roundtable in Jakarta in March 2010 focussing on women mediators from Indonesia.

Singapore office staff also undertook research and field trips as part of a project comparing conflict management perspectives across India, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Ouseph Tharakan is a Project Officer in the HD Centre's Singapore Office.



A Partner's Perspective

Tumikang Sama-Sama

Colonel Undug is a member of the Tumikang Sama-Sama, a group of eminent people in Sulu in the Philippines who are working with the HD Centre to resolve conflict in the region.

How are you/have you been involved in the HD Centre's work?

It has always been a great privilege to be involved in HD Centre's work specifically in terms of negotiation. Fortunately, my previous experience as a retired officer both in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police helped in widening my horizon when I got connected with the said organisation. Through the [HD] Centre, I have realised that curbing violence and criminalities cannot be done through firearms and armaments but more essentially by means of harmonious dialogue between people.

What do you think are the HD Centre's strengths?

HD Centre's strengths are composed of reconciliation through dialogue and mediation between warring parties. Multilateral adversities resulting from various confusions are parts of the questions that have been answered by the [HD] Centre. Attitudinal change from the previous encounters has been a great challenge that the [HD] Centre is facing, sobriety, patriotism and the search for peace are just but [a] few strengths that the [HD] Centre possessed.

What impact is the HD Centre having in your area?

The power to reconcile atrocity between warring clans is one of the impacts of having [the] HD Centre in our area. The [HD] Centre has been influential in settling family feuds in the province through its advocacies and mediation. Co-ordination, organisation of intellectual action group in resolving conflict without the use of arms is a great impact that the [HD] Centre has. Partnership with the government and other line agencies in alleviating the lives of Tausug people is also a grand contribution of [the] HD Centre in Sulu.



The view from **Manila**



HD Centre office in Manila, Philippines.

In 2010, the HD Centre continued to play a key role in the GRP-MILF peace process with its involvement both in the International Contact Group, assisting the GRP Peace Panel's consultation process with Local Government Unit chief executives in Mindanao and with the various activities of the Mindanao Think Tank Project.

In March, the HD Centre partnered with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) in organising the Senior International Mediators' Roundtable. The HD Centre brought to the Philippines senior international mediators to share their experiences in mediating efforts to resolve conflict. Among the important outcomes of the conference were the insights on techniques mediators have used in other conflicts to overcome impasses familiar to the Philippines such as constitutional issues.

The HD Centre and the Mindanao Think Tank (MTT) formally launched its four-monograph publication series last September. These contained the results of the MTT consultation

process that lasted from June 2009 to August 2010. OPAPP Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles attended the launch and delivered a message that called for more involvement by stakeholders in the overall peace discourse. The HD Centre, through the MTT, has partnered with the Manila-based academic community and OPAPP to bring the public dialogue on peace in Mindanao to universities and colleges in the National Capital Region.

Finally, the HD Centre continued to support the activities of partners in Manila. These included initiatives on gender by participating in the launching of WE ACT (Women Engaged in Action) 1325 to implement a Philippine National Action Plan for the realisation of United Nations Security Council Resolution Number 1325.

Mila T. Son is the Secretary in the HD Centre's Manila Office.



Produced by the HD Centre

Video

“These conflicts here really need to be solved by the people here, the types of conflicts these are it’s going to be most effectively resolved by them and most sustainably resolved by them. So we need to encourage that and help build up their capacity. The role that we play is as an independent party which has expertise that’s very important.

...

I think being there on the ground, engaging with the parties, going through the thick and the thin with them really develops a relationship of trust and confidence and a seriousness that is very important in the process.”

David Gorman, Project Manager for the HD Centre, speaks about the HD Centre’s work in the Philippines as part of a short video (“Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in the Philippines”) available to view through Vimeo and YouTube

The view from **Sulu**



HD Centre office in Sulu, Mindanao.

The support of the HD Centre to the Tumikang Sama-Sama, to the Armed Violence Reduction Initiative (AVRI) and to Preventing Election Related Violence (PERV) volunteers has paved the way to enriching the lives and security of Tausugs in their undying quest for peace.

For the first time ever, 20 representatives of the most prominent Sulu-based clans came together in September 2010. The two-day conference, jointly organised by the Office of the Mufti of Sulu, the Islamic leadership in the province, and the HD Centre, discussed ways of resolving conflicts peacefully and facilitated deeper understanding of clan conflict and family feuds.

The HD Centre was at the centre of crucial and historic activities in Sulu province in 2010. After the declaration of the Jolo Zone of Peace, the HD Centre facilitated the review, assessment and finalisation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations. A peaceful election was observed through the aid of the HD Centre as it took the lead in facilitating the signing of the covenant for peace. The office also became a focal point for all stakeholders as it served as the rendezvous point for advocacy. The HD Centre deployed 20 volunteers all over Sulu to monitor and help prevent election related violence during the conduct of the May 2010 national and local elections.

In 2010, the HD Centre resolved five major clan conflicts in the province and a series of ongoing clan conflicts are being facilitated through the Tumikang Sama-Sama.

Vandrazel Birowa is the Office Manager in the HD Centre's Sulu Office in the Philippines.

The Middle East in 2010

2010 was dominated by evolving dynamics in areas of crisis and conflict, such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Yemen. At the same time, political frustration was building up in a number of countries across the region as several electoral processes were flawed and democratic standards kept deteriorating. The changing situation in the region has led the HD Centre to explore new initiatives for mediation.

The HD Centre's approach to the Middle East is based on building contacts and dialogue which may provide the possibility for preventing or resolving conflict in the future. Its high-level local and international network can fill a gap between actors which often face difficulties in maintaining a dialogue due to the sensitivities surrounding international relations and the pressures of public opinion.



In August, the HD Centre expanded its capacity to engage in the region with the appointment of Angelo Gnaedinger, the former Director General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as Regional Director for the Middle East.

In 2011, the HD Centre will follow political changes in the region and will continue to explore ways to complement initiatives being undertaken to address critical issues in the Middle East.