# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

## TRAINING COURSES AND FACILITATORS

### What is the Annual Peacebuilding Training of MPI all about?

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

The **2026 Annual Peacebuilding Training** (APT) will consist of nine new (9) courses, with three new courses this year: two Foundation Courses in Week 1 and six Thematic or advanced courses in Weeks 1 and 2, and a field-based course in Week 3. This year, MPI welcomes both long-time experienced facilitators with fresh pairings from Asia-Pacific and North America.

### What will I gain if I participate in this training?

Through this training, you will gain new knowledge and a deeper understanding of peacebuilding and conflict transformation, climate justice, and many more through various context exchanges. Moreover, you will acquire and refine essential skills and capacities to enhance effectiveness in your peacebuilding work. Most importantly, you will become a part of the MPI's growing network of peacebuilders around the globe. The training offers a unique opportunity to immerse oneself in an environment that celebrates diversity and encourages the exchange of diverse histories, cultures, ideas, beliefs, and principles. Many participants value the incomparable bonds, friendships, and sense of community formed during this transformative experience.

You might also want to read our 2025 Annual Peacebuilding Training Report for more insights into the training and/or listen to testimonials.

### When and where will the 2026 Annual Peacebuilding Training be held?

The 2026 APT will be held from **May 18 to 29, 2026,** for Weeks 1 and 2 at **Mergrande Ocean Resort,** located at Bago Aplaya, Talomo District, Davao City, Philippines, and on Week 3 for the field-based course from **May 31 to June 5, 2026,** at **Lantapan, Bukidnon, Philippines.**

### What courses will be offered in 2026?

In 2026, MPI will offer a total of **nine courses,** with **three new courses** classified into three categories: *foundation, thematic, and a field-based course*. In Week 1, two Foundation Courses and two Thematic courses will be offered, while four Thematic courses will be

conducted in Week 2. All courses offered will run each week concurrently.

Participants may opt to enroll for just one or two weeks. For the complete list and a short description of the courses, please visit our website or download the full **Information Packet.**

### Who are the facilitators for the 2026 Annual Peacebuilding Training?

There will be **13 distinguished and high-caliber facilitators** coming from the Asia-Pacific and North America who will teach the courses in 2026. They are as follows:

1. Michael Frank A. Alar (Philippines)
2. Charmaine Baconga (Philippines)
3. May Che Capili (Philippines)
4. Al B. Fuertes (USA)
5. Maria Ida Giguiento (Philippines)
6. Wendy Kroeker (Canada)
7. Myla Leguro (Philippines)
8. Karlos Manlupig (Philippines)
9. Rev. Luis Daniel Pantoja (Philippines)
10. MM Padmakumar (India)
11. Jonathan E. Rudy (USA)
12. Jeremy Simons (New Zealand)
13. Florina Xavier (India)

Traditionally, each course is facilitated by two facilitators. For more details about the facilitators and their respective courses, please visit our website or download the full **Information Packet.**

### How many students/participants can each course accommodate?

Each course is limited to 25 participants on a **"first-come, first-served"** basis. So, you must select alternate courses in case your first choice is not available.

## APPLICATION / ENROLLMENT PROCESS

### Who is 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 in growing and being empowered in their work for peace. Any individual who feels passionate about peace is welcome to apply. For the complete admission criteria, please see the general information here or download the MPI 2026 Full Information Packet.

### Do I have to apply for two weeks? May I take more than one course per week?

The answer is NO to both questions. Participants may opt to enroll for just one week or two weeks. Each week, MPI offers courses that are conducted simultaneously. Therefore, you will only be able to attend one course per week. Please take note that courses in Weeks 1, 2, and 3 might have prerequisites. You will have to satisfy these prerequisites to be considered.

### When is the deadline for applications?

The deadline for receipt of applications with a **discounted course fee** is **March 20, 2026.** The deadline for receipt of applications with a **regular course fee** is **April 20, 2026.** All requirements should be uploaded and submitted by April 20, 2026. Applications not completed by April 20, 2026, will be automatically canceled.

### When will I register in person for my course?

Registration will be held at the training venue, Mergrande Ocean Resort, Davao City, at the following times:

- **Week 1:** May 17, 2026 (Sunday), 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- **Week 2:** May 24, 2026 (Sunday), 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- **Week 3:** May 30, 2026 (Saturday), 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Expected arrival in Davao City should be by 2:00 PM on **Sunday, May 17** (Week 1), **May 24** (Week 2), and Saturday, **May 30** (Week 3) on the day of registration. Please inform the MPI staff if you will be arriving early and need assistance with your board and lodging arrangements. **Expenses for early arrivals or late departures will be the responsibility of the participant.**

## TRAINING FEES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

### Is the Annual Peacebuilding Training free?

The course fees vary depending on your organization, whether you are based outside or in the Philippines, and whether 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 accommodation and commute to the venue.

| COURSE FEES | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **CLASSIFICATION** | **COURSE FEE** (PER WEEK) * | | |
| | LIVE-IN | LIVE-OUT | **FIELD-BASED COURSE** |
| International organizations based outside the Philippines | **US$725** | **US$650** | **US$725** |
| International organizations with offices in the Philippines, Philippine government agencies, and Philippine organizations or institutions. | **PhP30,000** | **PhP28,000** | **PhP33,000** |

*** 5% discount** will be applied to applicants who submit their applications and pay a **50% down payment** on or before **March 21, 2026.**

The course fees include the following:

| LIVE-IN | LIVE-OUT |
|---|---|
| • Course tuition<br>• Course materials or handouts<br>• Processing fee<br>• Other course-related expenses<br>• Simple shared room/accommodation<br>• Full meals and snacks<br>  ○ **Week 1**: *May 17 dinner to May 23 breakfast*<br>  ○ **Week 2:** *May 24 dinner to May 30 breakfast*<br>  ○ **Week 3:** *May 30 dinner to June 5 breakfast*<br>• MPI 2026 T-shirt | • Course tuition<br>• Course materials or handouts<br>• Processing fee<br>• Other course-related expenses<br>• Lunch, dinner, and snacks<br>• MPI 2026 T-shirt |

Please note that there will be **no live-out option** for the **field-based course** in Week 3.

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

### How can I or my organization pay for the training?

**Please wait for the billing statement,** which will be sent to you or your sponsoring organization along with your acceptance letter after your application has been received and reviewed, before making any payment. You may choose one of the following two options:

**OPTION ONE:** Full payment of the course fee **on or before April 20, 2026,** through a bank transfer, PayPal (credit card, debit card, or PayPal account), or directly in cash in US dollars or Philippine peso currency only at MPI's office. *This will reserve and confirm your slot in the course(s) you have selected.*

**OPTION TWO:** A non-refundable down payment of 50% of the one-week course fee is due by **April 20, 2026,** via bank transfer. The remaining balance must be paid on or before the registration day of your course. *This down payment reserves your slot in the training but does not guarantee placement in your selected course(s) until full payment is received.* If your chosen course is full at the time of full payment, you may be enrolled in another course with available slots.

Please transfer your payment to the following bank or online accounts:

| DOLLAR ACCOUNT | | PESO ACCOUNT | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bank Name: | Bank of the Philippine Islands<br>Davao Main Branch<br>CM Recto Street<br>8000 Davao City, Philippines | Bank Name: | Bank of the Philippine Islands<br>Davao Main Branch<br>CM Recto Street<br>8000 Davao City, Philippines |
| Account Name: | Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute Foundation, Inc. | Account Name: | Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute Foundation, Inc. |
| Dollar Savings Account No.: | 2084-0541-38 | Peso Savings Account No.: | 2083-8730-38 |
| **SWIFT Code:** | **BOPIPHMM** | | |
| **PayPal** | Go to *https://mpiasia.net/mpi2026payment* to pay with a credit card, debit card, or a PayPal account. | | |

**Bank charges for electronic payments should be shouldered by the applicant.** Once payment has been transferred, please **scan a copy of the transaction/deposit slip or your receipt of payment from PayPal and email it to** *apply@mpiasia.net*. This will verify your payment and will serve as the basis for the issuance of an official receipt.

### I am already enrolled and have paid my course fees but have to cancel my participation. What should I do? Will I get a refund?

Please inform the MPI Secretariat immediately through apply@mpiasia.net. Please state the reason behind the cancellation.

Please note that MPI will only refund **100%** of the tuition fee if cancellation of the application is made **seven weeks** prior to the training schedule; a **75%** refund if participants withdraw

**six weeks** before the training schedule; and a **50%** refund if participants withdraw five weeks before the training schedule.

**No refund** will be issued for cancellations **made four weeks prior to the start** of the course/training schedule. Withdrawal of application on April 21, 2026, onwards will be charged at the full price. MPI reserves the right to withhold a **20% non-refundable** processing fee for each cancellation.

If an international participant must withdraw because their visa was denied, MPI will provide a 100% refund, less a **20% non-refundable processing fee**, provided this is done **four weeks** before the start of the classes.

### Does MPI provide scholarships to applicants?

For the 2026 Annual Peacebuilding Training, MPI will **not** be offering scholarships.

## 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 the port of origin or next port of destination and their **passports are valid for 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 30 days. Those holding Hong Kong or Macau passports should see the bottom of that page.

If your country is not listed, please see the general guidelines and requirements here: https://www.dfa.gov.ph/guidelines-requirements. However, we strongly urge you to visit or contact the nearest Philippine consulate or embassy designated to issue a visa to nationals from your country for their specific requirements, since these vary widely and, in some countries, are very strict. You may also require documents from MPI that will be provided to you. You should begin this process as soon as possible.

As of 14 August 2023, all travelers to the Philippines must register with etravel.gov.ph.

### Are there any COVID-19 protocols that participants must follow?

MPI highly encourages everyone to be fully vaccinated (two doses of a vaccine plus at least one booster shot) against COVID-19 before the start of the training. Please contact your airline or travel agent for the latest information on the entry requirements to the Philippines regarding vaccination and your country or locality's minimum health requirements.

All incoming travelers to the Philippines are to fill out the **eTravel registration form within 72 hours before departure from your country of origin.** Please visit etravel.gov.ph to register. See their Frequently Asked Questions for more information.

We will not require proof of vaccination as part of the application process or upon entry to the training venue. Given the changing nature of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, this advice may change. MPI will attempt to inform accepted participants of any significant developments before the training.

### 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 Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Manila only, and in a few places in Davao City (banks, shopping malls, shops). Be sure to have cash ready (in Philippine Pesos) to pay for your local transportation and other needs and expenses.

You may check the daily peso-dollar exchange rates at http://www.bsp.gov.ph/. Please note that exchange rates change frequently, and rates quoted on the Central Bank of the Philippines website may not reflect the rate you will get at the money-exchange service.

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

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

### 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, Philippines. You can take a **taxi** or **book a Grab taxi/car** from the airport to the Mergrande Ocean Resort.

If you choose to use Grab, please download the Grab mobile application in advance. You will shoulder this expense at **a one-way trip rate that should not exceed PhP600.**

Upon exiting the terminal, cross the airport road and proceed up the steps/ramp to the taxi stand, where taxis are lined 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.

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., Roxas Blvd., and SM-Ecoland); instruct the driver to drop you off at the crossing going to Mergrande Ocean Resort. **The one-way fare will not be more than PhP50 for one person.**

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 on the tricycle. **The going rate should not exceed PhP45.**

For further inquiries, please contact us at:

**MINDANAO PEACEBUILDING INSTITUTE FOUNDATION, INC.**
Apt. 301, Casa Graciana Inn, 6 Juna Avenue, Matina, 8000 Davao City, Philippines
Tel: (+63) 82 295-3776
Email: mpi@mpiasia.net
Website: www.mpiasia.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/mpiasia