The Hanns Seidel Foundation, founded in 1967, is a German political foundation, close to the Christian Social Union (CSU), providing political education “in the Service of Democracy, Peace and Development” in Germany and abroad. It has been working for more than 40 years in the field of development cooperation and is currently taking an active part in 80 projects in 55 countries worldwide.

Our international activities based on Christian-social ideals seek to promote humane living conditions and to contribute to sustainable development by strengthening peace, democracy and social market economy. In cooperation with our local partners we realise projects in the areas of political consulting and education. Our partners’ independency and ownership are of particular importance to us.

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OUR PROJECT COOPERATION

The South and Southeast Asian countries with about 2.5 billion people are currently home to approximately one third of mankind, and are characterized by vast contrasts: emerging economies like India, which will become the most populous country on earth in the next decade, or Indonesia, which is home to the biggest number of Muslims worldwide, are helping to shape the international agenda in the framework of G20 (Group of 20 major economies). Other countries in the region are characterized by violence, fragility and poverty. Despite impressive economic growth, many people in South and Southeast Asia still have to live on less than two US dollars a day. The rule of law is not always being respected and the situation of girls and women remains poor in several countries. Stability and peace in Asia are also essential for Germany. The projects of the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) are aimed to address foreign and development policy challenges. The promotion of good governance is at the center of its international cooperation. Further, HSF is committed to democratic participation, and to functioning and efficient state structures.

Consistent with the motto “In the Service of Democracy, Peace and Development,” HSF works across projects in South and Southeast Asia on the topic of federalism and the establishment of decentralized structures as well as on the principles of a service- and citizen-oriented police.

ACTIVITIES – EXAMPLES

► SOUTH ASIA
In cooperation with local partners, HSF in India supports local self-administration (Panchayati Raj) through political education of municipal and city councils as well as mayors. In Karnataka, the Indian partner state of the Free State of Bavaria, HSF is implementing a project on safe cities. Issues of cooperation between the police and civil society organizations in the area of women’s and victims’ protection are also at the center of our project work as well as the citizen-oriented training for policemen.

Today, the HSF network in Pakistan is situated at the interface between politics and science. Through training seminars, HSF contributes to a better understanding of the new generation of politicians and scholars about federalism and its importance for peace in the country.

The Hanns Seidel Foundation has set up a series of conferences with the Munich Federalism Days, which over a period of several years, regularly and systematically poses questions related to the global promotion of federalism, analyses reform efforts, and presents options for decision-makers.

► SOUTHEAST ASIA
In Myanmar and in the Philippines, politicians, administrative officials and representatives of ethnic minorities are trained on the possibilities, the prerequisites and the challenges of the introduction of decentralized and federal structures. Meanwhile, the HSF, in close cooperation with the National Parliament, the German “Bundestag” (lower house of parliament) and the Federal Council, supports the parliamentary administration in Myanmar in order to contribute to a citizen-oriented and transparent parliament.

In many Southeast Asian countries, the confidence of the citizens in the police is low. The focus, therefore, is on training activities and dialogue sessions between civil-society actors and the police which foster a responsive, human rights- and service-oriented police force. In Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, curricula that provide a better linkage between theory, practice and personality formation, are being developed together with the police academies responsible for training and are utilized to train trainers.

In close cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, civil servants in Indonesia receive education and training on drafting a constitution and reviewing laws in accordance with the constitution.

In Laos, HSF is committed to the formulation of a sustainable environmental law, and the development of administrative jurisdiction capacity.

A key component of the project work in Vietnam is the support for private and public research institutes in the development of policy recommendations in the area of social policy as well as in environmental and climate protection.

FOCUS OF OUR WORK

Fostering...
► Decentralized and federal structures
► Legal structures
► Dialogue between cultures and religions
► Ecological sustainability and environmentally-responsive action
► Sustainable economic and social policy

In cooperation with the Bavarian police the HSS promotes the principles of a service and people-oriented police force.