**UNAOC Asia South Pacific Regional Consultation**

**Harmony through dialogue and diversity**

**Rooting the Alliance of Civilization in Asia Pacific Region**

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**Report on session6：Possibilities of dialogue in situation of conflict and tension**

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The topic of possibilities of dialogue in situation of conflict and tension is raised because it is one part of the mission of the Alliance and is the activity that the Alliance uses as a mechanism to prevent conflicts. The main ideas discussed center around the nature of conflict in the Asia South Pacific region, the cultural aspects of dialogue of conflict in the region, suggested collaborative research questions, how nationalism exacerbate conflict, ethic for co-existence, and preventive perspective on conflict. The nature of the conflict in the Asia South Pacific region can be categorized into two types – intrastate and interstate. The intrastate nature of the conflict is when one ethnic group dominates the others so that the other ethnic groups are not only different but also unequal culturally and politically. The interstate nature of the conflict can be divided into another two types – cultural/political conflict and territorial conflict. Cultural/political conflict arises when there are different interpretations of historical trauma of one country conquering the others. Territorial conflict happens when there is conflict on border issues or maritime territorial issues. There are four cultural aspects of dialogue about conflicts in the region.

First, it is truly personal, not only professional. Second, it is emotional and sentimental, not only cognitive. Third, it is collaborative rather than individual. Forth, it is metaphorical rather than direct. One of the collaborative research questions suggested in relation to conflict and tension is how dialogue can attend not only cultural differences but also the difference when one group dominates the others. In the era of globalization, nationalism can be considered to worsen global problems such as intercultural miscommunication and conflicts because nationalism is developed based on the context of its own culture and belief, which may trigger the idea that one’s culture is superior to others’ culture. The question which we should ask is whether we should abandon nationalism which is apparently old-fashioned and whether there is any way nationalism can be compatible with the new community spirit of co-existence. To develop community spirit, it is important to build ethics for co-existence in the Asian community by educating people to appreciate and respect other cultures, and this ethic for co-existence should be built based on the existing value of one’s nation. Some recommendations are proposed by both the speakers and participants. It is suggested that women should also be included in the dialogue of conflicts because women are believed to be natural peace makers. In the family, women have the roles to harmonize children when there are conflicts, so women can use this skill to contribute to peace building in the society. Educational instruments that are based on Islamic principles should also be used to promote pluralism and co-existence in the Islamic communities. There should be many tables for dialogues starting from grassroots level to the middle sectors. Intra-dialogue which is the dialogue among ourselves is also suggested before having a dialogue with others. It is also suggested that state leaders should be involved in the dialogue and negotiation in the situation of conflict. There may be a need for a third party to facilitate and make this dialogue between state leaders happen. There are also several suggested preventive approaches to situation of conflict and tension. First is the need to develop dialogue to avoid crisis. Second, various means of education such as the internet or media should be used to educate people to be more rational when it comes to dealing with conflict. Third, conscious scholars should proactive in expressing ideas and proposing solution to any possibility of conflict.