



## UPCOMING CSRS PROGRAM

### **Tools for Cross-Cultural Understanding**

#### **A Workshop**

December 6-9, 2009  
Washington, DC Area

The Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies (CSRS) is offering a three-day workshop in cross-cultural learning and communications. The purpose of the workshop is to instill within practitioners a cognitive framework for understanding cultural differences they encounter when deployed to stability and reconstruction operations. This workshop will be particularly

valuable to those engaged in peace operations, security sector reform, humanitarian assistance and sustainable development activities.

#### ***Learning Objectives:***

- *Cultivating self-awareness:* Recognize invisible cultural influences that frame and guide habitual ways of thinking and behavior.
- *Understanding deep culture:* Describe how collective identities embedded in shared historical memories manifest and evolve in times of political crisis.
- *Building cultural fluency:* Learn how to navigate cross-cultural differences and turn them into opportunities for constructive relationship-building, especially in volatile post-war contexts.

#### ***Day-to-day highlights of the workshop include:***

- Use of stories, metaphors and rituals for bridging different patterns of thinking.
- Dynamic interactions between conflict and culture.
- Approaches to creating cross-cultural synergy for transforming conflict.

#### ***Methodology:***

The workshop will be highly participatory and engaging. It will draw heavily on case studies informed by the instructor's extensive cross-cultural experience in East Asia, the African Great Lakes region, the Middle East, the Balkans and North America.

Participants will be asked to build on the instructor's presentations, apply key concepts, develop tools, and engage in simulation exercises and small group discussions. The workshop will serve as a cross-cultural laboratory where participants from diverse backgrounds will jointly explore how to build effective working relationships and communications skills.

***Desired Participants:*** The optimum class size is 40 participants. CSRS will recruit

participants (both US and international) from the four main communities that work in stabilization and reconstruction operations: government civilian agencies, the armed forces, non-governmental organizations and inter-governmental organizations. CSRS will attempt to obtain equal number of representatives from each community.

This course is approved as annual training for members of the US Government Civilian Response Corps.

**Faculty:** Dr. Tatsushi Arai is the lead instructor and facilitator. As needed, other CSRS instructors and course participants will deliver educational modules.

**Specific Dates:** Workshop begins 5 pm Sunday, December 6 and concludes 5 pm Wednesday, December 9, 2009.

**Travel:** All international and domestic participants should plan to arrive by 5 pm, Sunday, December 6, 2009. All are welcome to arrive before or depart after the program officially begins/concludes, but additional accommodation expenses will be their own responsibility.

**Accommodations:** Participants will lodge and the event will be held at a hotel in the greater Washington DC metropolitan area.

**Cost:**

- The course is co-sponsored by the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, U.S. Department of State and the Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies, Naval Postgraduate School. There is no tuition or conference fee.
- Practitioners from non-governmental organizations, governmental civilian agencies, and inter-governmental organizations are offered gratis lodging and meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, beginning with a reception dinner December 6 and concluding with lunch on December 9) at the event site. [Representatives of the defense/armed forces community -- including civilian employees -- pay their own lodging and meals.]
- CSRS may have some limited grant funds available to reimburse reasonable travel expenses for a few representatives of NGOs, IGOs and non-US government officials from civilian agencies (non-defense sector).

**CSRS Contact:** Roseann Johnson, rmjohnso@nps.edu.

**Application:** The application period will close on November 13, 2009. Admission decisions will be announced on a rolling basis starting October 30 until all seats are filled. Applications are accepted via the CSRS online system at: [http://www.csrs-nps.org/logistica/public/conference\\_register.cfm](http://www.csrs-nps.org/logistica/public/conference_register.cfm). Members of the US Civilian Response Corps must also complete the S/CRS-Sponsored Training Agreement at: <http://www.crs.state.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.display&shortcut=CG88>.