

THURSDAY 29th NOVEMBER
Room 2.04 New Academic Building, LSE
18.30 – 20.00

“The Mindanao Peace Process: prospects for the 2012 Framework Agreement ”

Speaker: Dr Steven Rood (The Asia Foundation)

Discussant: Prof James Putzel (LSE)

The decades-long off-and-on peace process between the Philippine government and Muslim separatist movements reached a milestone on October 15th 2012 with the signing in Manila of the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro, as negotiated with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Widely hailed as a breakthrough, it can also be viewed as only the "end of the beginning." More details need to be hammered out by the end of the year before the Transition can begin, many Christians and Muslims remain skeptical, and the timeframe (closure by the time President Benigno S. Aquino III steps down in 2016) is short. Dr Steven Rood, who represents The Asia Foundation on the International Contact Group in the negotiations in Kuala Lumpur, will explain the framework agreement, the roadmap ahead, and prospects that this time sustainable peace may be achieved.

Steven Rood is The Asia Foundation's country representative for the Philippines and Pacific Island Nations. He served as professor of Political Science at the University of the Philippines College Baguio from 1981 until joining the Foundation in 1999. Beginning in 2009, when the International Contact Group for the peace negotiations between the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front was established, he has attended the sessions held in Kuala Lumpur and witnessed the crafting of the Framework Agreement for the Bangsamoro.

James Putzel is Professor of Development Studies at LSE with a research focus on post-conflict state reconstruction. He is an expert on the government, history and economy of the Philippines and co-author of the 2012 publication 'Meeting the Challenges of Crisis States' which presents findings from a 10-year international research programme, including work done in the Mindanao region.

The event is free and open to all on a first come, first served, basis.