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## **Thai Professor Visits Warriors for Peace**

September 28, 2007, Bacolod City. Dr. Sombat Tapanya, a noted professor in Thailand's foremost Chiang Mai University arrived to visit the **Warriors for Peace Academy**, a program run by Warriors for Peace Pilipinas.

He expressed his curiosity and interest in the way the program is run in work with people who are involved or have been involved in conflict situations and how the practice of Aikido can affect or transform how they look at and approach conflict.



The program output after two years is to have good conflict workers with a strong Aikido background upon which to base their approaches to conflict. Aikido approaches conflict in the spirit of loving protection.

This means that one is not only concerned about his or her own welfare but also concerned with the welfare and well-being of the other party, such that both conflict parties involved develop cooperation and collaboration, a good working relationship, all based on trust and the sincere intentions of wanting what is best for everybody.

Mr. Tapanya, who has a PhD in clinical psychology, shared his experiences and insights with the Warriors for Peace in terms of working with trauma affected youth, bullying and rehabilitation programs. Dr. Tapanya also heads the Chiang Mai University Aikido Club.

His interest in the Academy signals that Aikido in peace work is a good and creative option in developing many strategies to educate and propagate peace and harmony in this world today. Mr. Tapanya also went to Manila to attend a child abuse prevention conference.

In his visit here, he has established contacts and networks regarding the thrusts of his programs as well. It was just timely that his visit coincided with the visit from the Peace and Justice Center delegation from Silliman University of Dumaguete and Pax Christi Institute here in Bacolod and the graduate school of the University of St. La Salle.

The presentation of his studies concerning bullying and positive discipline in schools was deeply appreciated and well received by those who were able to attend his short lecture.

It is hoped that these new found connections can support and uplift the movement for peace here in Negros.