

Arms Trade Treaty
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**WORKING PAPER PRESENTED BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK) TO THE
CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT):
UNIVERSALIZATION & TRANSLATION**

A great number of ATT stakeholders including the ROK have constantly highlighted the importance of translation in Treaty universalization efforts. Accordingly, the following recommendation has been added in the CSP5 WGTU co-chair's draft report among others: "Encourage ATT stakeholders, to the extent possible, to translate the two documents to target languages (other than UN official languages) to promote understanding of the treaty."

As one of the handful of States Parties in the Asian region, the ROK would like to share our analysis and ideas on the current status of and way-forward for universalization efforts of all stake-holders in Asia, especially with regard to translation, and it is hoped that this will serve as a valuable reference for states concerned and other stakeholders.

1. ATT participation rate in Asia

The ATT participation remains noticeably low in the Asian region. Among the 50 states in Asia accounting for 25% of the total UN member states, only 14% are States Parties, 22% are Signatories, while 64% have yet joined the treaty. In particular, in south eastern Asia and southern Asia, none of the countries are participating in the treaty.

Area	States Parties	Signatories	Non-participants	Total
Central Asia	1	0	4	5
Eastern Asia	2	1	4	7
South eastern Asia	0	5	6	11
Southern Asia	0	1	8	9
Western Asia	4	4	10	18
Total	7^a (14%)	11^b (22%)	32^c (64%)	50

Source: ATT online platform

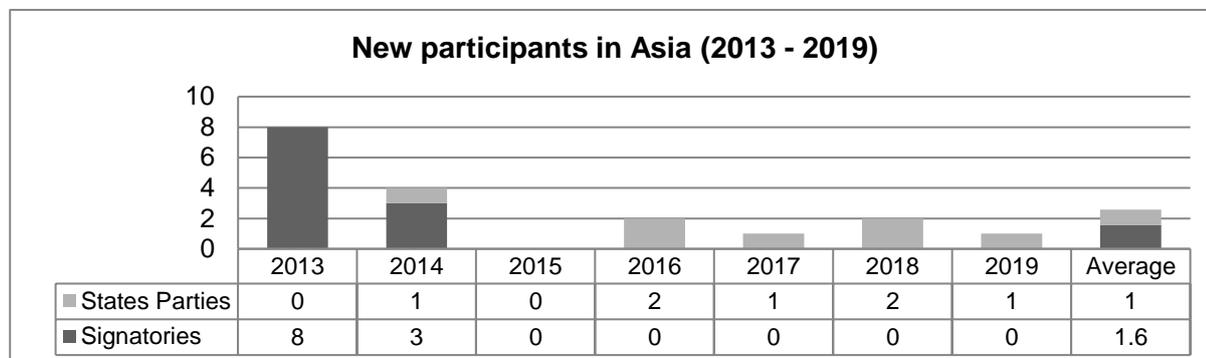
^a Japan, Cyprus, Georgia, Republic of Korea, Kazakhstan, State of Palestine, Lebanon (in order of deposit of instrument)

^b Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Israel, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates

^c Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, China, Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China), Macao

(Special Administrative Region of China), Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen

Moreover, the rate of increase in States parties and Signatories from the Asian region is very low. Following chart shows that one state a year in average joined the treaty and no signatory has joined the Treaty since 2013.



Source: ATT online platform

2. Universalization efforts made toward Asia

In this regard, the former Presidencies have continued to move forward with their own universalization efforts in the Asian region. The presidents of Finland and of Japan have visited seven countries in total including two Signatories during the last two years.

Year	Target	Signatories	Non-participants
2018	Lao People's Democratic Republic		√
	Cambodia	√	
	Sri Lanka		√
	Nepal		√
2017	China		√
	Indonesia		√
	Thailand	√	

Source: ATT online platform

In line with those visits by the presidents, outreach activities were actively undertaken by the VTF Committee and the members of the ATT Secretariat, not to mention continuing VTF projects with the Philippines approved for ATT funding.

Year	Target	Signatories	Non-participants
2019	Thailand and ASEAN	√	
	Kazakhstan		State party

Source: ATT online platform

Adding to the efforts made by the presidencies and the ATT bodies, outreach activities and training programs were engaged in by States Parties such as the EU, Japan and the ROK. Also, there have been numerous outreach efforts by civil society organizations. In 2018, Control Arms translated the Treaty text into local languages of Sri Lanka and provided copies to major political stakeholders.

Despite the stakeholders' concerted efforts for further universalization in Asia, continuously low ATT participation in the Asian region remains one of the major concerns among the States Parties.

3. Translation as an ATT Universalization Tool in Asia

The Asian region evidences great diversity in terms of language and the six UN official languages are not widely used. According to studies¹, among about seven thousand languages existing in the world, the Asian region uses more than two thousand languages. Furthermore, among the world's most widely spoken languages, five languages, Chinese (Mandarin), Arabic, Hindi (Urdu), Bengali and Japanese, are used exclusively in the Asian region.

As stated above, there is very limited access amongst the target audience in Asia to the six UN languages used in outreach activities. In this regard, translation into local languages could be a feasible solution to increase accessibility to the ATT, thereby deepening understanding of the Treaty. Also, the translated materials could be utilized as a useful multi-level universalization tool for relevant politicians or government officials as well as domestic stakeholders including civil society organization and industry.

If the efforts to universalize the ATT through translation succeed in drawing Signatories and non-participants in the Asian region, this may serve as a valuable precedent that has a positive impact for the universalization efforts in other regions.

4. Challenges, Barriers and Way-Forward

However, as for the translation of the two universalization documents, there is a need for discussions among all relevant stakeholders. In particular, we need to share additional creative ideas on the themes of Financial Issues, Translation Infrastructure and Communication.

First, regarding the issue of cost and efficiency, which has been raised by quite a number of states at previous preparatory meetings, the most feasible approach is to utilize the budget of each State Party allocated for bilateral outreach activities. Other possible approaches would be to create a separated fund for the translation project.

¹ Ulrich Ammon, University of Dusseldorf (2015)

Second, in order to seek out competent translators, it would be helpful to sign a memorandum of understanding with academic institutions specializing in foreign language studies. Another possible approach would be to involve regional partners of civil society organizations that will leverage the resources and expertise of local and regional NGOs. Utilizing local networks via diplomatic missions abroad could be another option. It would also be helpful to build a database to share translated documents.

Last but not least, it is important to have regular discussions about the value and utility of the translated documents among all stakeholders including States Parties, the civil society organizations, the academia and the industry. Opening side-events during the preparatory meetings and the CSPs would also be a possible approach. /END/