Base of the Future I: peacekeeping missions in the city – design for legacy

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Erella Grassiani (Anthropologist, University of Amsterdam)
Puck van Dijk (Philosophical Moderator)
Floris Alkemade (Chief Government Architect, Chairman of the Board of Government Advisors)
Debra Solomon (Founder of Urbaniahoeve, social design lab for urban agriculture)
Erwin Marx (Senior Staff Officer for Infrastructure & EP at Directorate of Operations)
Renilda Steeghs (Ambassador for Cultural Cooperation, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Which key themes and trends were discussed?
- How to integrate local community needs into the needs of the military base to improve peace-making efforts.

Which challenges and issues were identified?
- How to solve the time gap: referring to combining all different perspectives in practice.
- Anthropological view: how to combine local and ‘Western’ perspectives? First, cooperate with the locals. Second: who are the locals? What are their views, ideas, feelings and so on? Understand them in all different ways.
What were possible solutions offered?
- Combine all different kinds of expertise. This is a theoretical solution; in practice, it appears that we have not yet reached this stage.
- Broaden the 3D-perspective: defence, diplomacy, and development.

Best practices/lessons learned
- Tailor projects: initiate a (design) process to tailor (Western) ambitions and interventions to local context (J.W. Petersen).
- Make a concrete link between Western ambitions and local reality.

Which recommendations/ideas emerged during the sessions?
- Integration of a wide range of sectors, both governmental and non-governmental, when planning a mission. This to create unified goals and positive outcomes for all actors involved (e.g. local communities, military, government).
- Tailor-made approach: by taking into account the local level, perspective, ideas, wishes and culture.
- Be aware of your impact abroad. Be aware of possible (negative) influence in the surrounding area. Merely being present will influence the population one way or another.

Quotes
- From a designer perspective: ‘If you have a hammer, every problem looks like a nail’. (Floris Alkemade)
- Use bases as food for the next generation. (Floris Alkemade)
- Conflicts cannot be solved in isolation. (Malkit Shoshan)
- Crises have a circular effect that needs to be taken into account. (Malkit Shoshan)

For more information on the system dynamics diagram and other deliverables, please visit www.ffc2017.org
Final Report
Future Force Conference 2017
From partnerships to ecosystems: combining our efforts for a more secure world
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