

# APWLD ANNUAL REPORT 2010



Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

## REFLECTIONS ON 2010 BY APWLD'S REGIONAL COORDINATOR

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Across Asia Pacific space, resources and security for women's rights activism is perilously tenuous. In 2010 APWLD members experienced threats, harassment and prosecution because of their rights work and at the same time many feminist organisations struggled to secure funds to continue their rights based work.

Despite this climate 2010 was a year of growth for APWLD. Our Secretariat grew from 8 women at the end of 2009, to 16 at the end of 2010. Our programme work expanded and our networks and membership also grew. We increased participatory methods in our workshops which broadened our reach and increased engagement with grassroots women. We implemented a new structure designed to grow the opportunities for members to lead and engage with APWLD's work.

This growth ensured increased impact and output across our four programme areas. The largest programme expansion was the decision to increase our work facilitating the Southeast Asian Women's Caucus on ASEAN (Women's Caucus). The success of the Women's Caucus both in engaging and influencing ASEAN bodies and in building the movement of women's rights activists across Southeast Asia warranted increased resources. The impact of the Women's Caucus was particularly evident in the terms of reference for the new ASEAN Commission on the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) as well as in the increased emphasis on women's rights in ASEAN civil society spaces.

APWLD has focused for many years on the rights of the most marginalised – Rural, Indigenous and migrant (RIM) women and in 2010 we introduced two new initiatives targeting RIM women. The first provides human rights documentation training to RIM women and supports them to carry out a documentation project and related advocacy strategy. The second supports Rural and Indigenous women to conduct community lead research on climate change. As APWLD now has consultative status with the UN FCCC those women will become advocates for fair, binding international climate agreements that recognise the enormous impact global warming is having on the poorest women.

Our established programmes also grew. We held our first Gender and Politics Level 2 training with some graduates then developing national level workshops with impressive results. We trialed a new monitoring and evaluation process in our Feminist Legal Theory and Practice training that allowed us to see how participants put the learning in practice at local level.

Our work with the Special Mechanisms of the UN Human Rights Council continues to be a core activity of APWLD. This year the focus on intersectionality allowed us to make connections across our programmes and document the ways that multiple and intersecting experiences of marginalisation violate women's rights. Re-visiting the issue of intersectionality also reinforced the value of APWLD's focus on structural causes of inequality.

Along the way there were unexpected opportunities and threats. We held our first workshop with Chinese Women Human Rights Defenders, we supported a large gathering of rural women in Tamil Nadu, India and we took place in a human rights fact-finding mission and a trial observation on request of members. Both had positive impacts with a harmful development project that had involved the death of protestors being shut down and charges against our member in Fiji being dropped after the trial observation mission.

The growth that took place in 2010 has set us up for a big year in 2011. We know we will face further challenges and we know that Women Human Rights Defenders across Asia Pacific will continue to do their work regardless of oppressive, systematic pressures and threats.

I thank the many members and partners who make APWLD's work so vibrant and meaningful. Every day we hear of pernicious violations against women but every day we also hear of remarkable resistance, fortitude and change. It's a privilege to be part of that movement. In solidarity,



Kate Lappin



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# ABOUT APWLD

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## Who we are

APWLD is the region's leading network of feminist organisations and women. Our 182 members represent groups of diverse women from 25 countries in the region. We have been active for nearly 25 years. APWLD has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

## Our Work

APWLD uses research, training, advocacy and activism to claim and strengthen women's human rights as enshrined in UN international human rights instruments. APWLD empowers women in the region to use law as an instrument of change for equality, justice, peace and development.

## Our Structure

Our diverse membership provides the strength and expertise that both drives and executes our programme activities. APWLD is governed by a Programme and Management Committee comprised from a larger Regional Council of active members. Our Secretariat in Chiangmai carries out day to day operations and provides for programme implementation as well as financial and technical support.

## Our Beliefs

We believe that justice, equality and the eradication of poverty cannot be achieved without a strong, vibrant women's movement active in civil society. We believe that law can be transformative as well as repressive. We seek to dissect, engage with and transform laws, legal practices and the systems that shape and inform them. We believe that the fusion of patriarchy with militarisation, fundamentalisms and neo-liberal economic globalisation is responsible

for gross violations of women's rights. We believe that equality, development and the realisation of human rights can only happen when women, particularly marginalised women, are empowered to lead policy and legal debates and articulate solutions. We believe that a transformative form of democratic leadership can bring about the structural changes required to claim and advance women's rights.

## Our History

APWLD developed from dialogues among Asia Pacific women lawyers, social scientists and activists, which began at the 1985 Third World Forum on Women, held in Nairobi, Kenya. The women participating in the dialogues recognised that while law is used as an instrument of state control over resources, rights and even women's bodies, it can also be used to help effect political and socio-economic changes in our societies. Participants in these dialogues recognised that gaining the capacity to mobilise populations to understand the social, economic and political dimensions of women's oppression and take collective action for change required a clear focus and strong organisation. In December 1986, women-delegates from across Asia met in Tagaytay, Philippines to discuss the most pressing socio-legal issues facing women and to explore possible areas of collaborative action. The outcome of this meeting was the formation of APWLD, the first regional response to the challenges of Nairobi. In 1986, women lawyers and other activists in the region formally launched APWLD and set up a secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Secretariat relocated to Chiangmai, Thailand in October 1997.

## KYRGYZSTAN

20 local women undertake training that adopts FLTP modules and analysis into the local context which includes discussion on women's human rights in conflict situations.

## CHINA

APWLD hosts a group of Chinese women human rights defenders in Chiang Mai for a five day training using our Guidebook, *Claiming Rights, Claiming Justice*.

## INDIA

*Sompeta:* APWLD supports the people of Sompeta who successfully challenge a proposed power plant on their agricultural land.

*Jharkand State:* Following the GPL2 training, Kalyani Meena organises several orientation trainings in her community for nominated and elected candidates as they prepared for their first Panchayet election in 32 years.

## BANGLADESH

Women Parliamentary Exchange brought together MPs to discuss the role of the state vis-à-vis religion and similarities in patriarchal dominance.

## SRI LANKA

APWLD holds Gender and Politics training with simultaneous translation in three languages for local women in their first formal training.

## MALAYSIA

FLTP training contextualised to apply feminist analysis of the formal legal system and the Shariah system to trans-people in Malaysia.

## INDONESIA

Unanimous support for APWLD nominee Kamala Chandrakirana to the new UN Working group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice.

Women Parliamentary Exchange brought together MPs to discuss the role of the state vis-à-vis religion and similarities in patriarchal dominance.

APWLD submits key report to ASEAN to influence its agenda on Women's Rights for the next five years.

## JAPAN

*Participant of SRVAW Consultation inspired to lobby for creation of National Human Rights Mechanism at home.*

## KOREA

*APWLD participates in first Civil G20 Dialogue to discuss the strategic integration of a feminist agenda into thematic areas of the G20.*

## VIETNAM

*Women's Caucus on ASEAN makes strategic interventions at the ASEAN Peoples Forum 6 that results in the inclusion of women's human rights agenda in ASEAN dialogues.*

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

*Regional campaign support for the Women's Quota Campaign to reserve 33% of seats in Parliament for women.*

## PHILIPPINES

*52% of participants in a national GP training contest local elections. 68% of those win and occupy political seats.*

## TIMOR LESTE

*APWLD member Milena Pires is elected to CEDAW Committee.*

## FIJI

*International team of trial observers see all charges dropped against prominent women human rights defender, Imrana Jaisi.*

**IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS IN THE REGION**

## KEY THEMES IN 2010

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This report highlights our work over the past year. Throughout, we have identified where our efforts have had specific outcomes to improve women's human rights as well as where our work has contributed to the larger goal of building a stronger movement of women who are transforming their national, regional and international landscapes.

Throughout our work in 2010 five key themes in movement building emerged. This report gives an overview and contextual introduction to each of our programme areas and notes where programme activities represent each of the themes.



### Enhancing Advocacy Capacity

APWLD's work in 2010 made practical interventions to equip women with the skills they need to voice their concerns and advance their objectives. In our workshops, conferences, trainings and publications we integrated practical tools for advocacy to our theoretical frameworks of change.



### Amplifying Voices through Networking and Alliances

As a regional forum APWLD used its strong network to offer regional solidarity and put issues of member concern on the international agenda. 2010 has also been a strong year for building the influence of the networks that APWLD co-convenes and further diversifying our membership.



### Integration of a Feminist Framework

In 2010 APWLD worked successfully to integrate our Feminist Legal Theory framework across our programmes. Our focus on 'transformative politics' also saw the strategic integration of a feminist agenda into our work with regional and international actors.



### Strengthening Regional and International Structures

APWLD continued to inform and influence key mechanisms at the regional and international level. 2010 also saw key players in the APWLD network appointed to important mandates and existing mandate holders call on APWLD to assist others in replicating its processes.



### APWLD Organisational Development

After a year of successful restructuring in 2009, 2010 allowed APWLD to adopt a clear strategy for cross-linking our programmes and the development of new programme methodologies. This includes a participatory approach to our trainings and a focus on diversifying participation in our activities (and membership). APWLD has also begun to systematise its Monitoring and Evaluation.



## A NEW ASEAN IS ON HER WAY

### Progress for the Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN

#### Overview and Context

In 2010 the Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN (Women's Caucus) cemented itself as the primary civil society network to engage with and advance women's rights through ASEAN. As part of our larger 'Grounding the Global' programme, APWLD co-convened the Women's Caucus in 2008. 2010 marked the third and most important year yet of the Women's Caucus' influence. The Women's Caucus now includes more than 55 women's human rights organisations and defenders from across all ten ASEAN member states as well as Timor Leste (who is set to join ASEAN in the near future).

On the international landscape, regional integration has become increasingly important. Bodies such as the European Union, Organisation of American States (OAS), African Union, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

(SAARC), Pacific Islands Forum, and ASEAN influence the daily realities of women across the world. Until recently however, the considerable influence of regional alliances in Asia did not include a body that had human rights mechanisms to which governments are bound. This year the ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) was inaugurated. The Women's Caucus positively influenced the terms of reference of the ACWC, successfully supported some representatives to be appointed to the body and engaged with representatives at the national level before their first official meeting took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The Women's Caucus national groups were able to link their work on the ground with the regional women's human rights mechanism.



While the terms of reference for ASEAN’s new human rights mechanisms are still restrictive, the Women’s Caucus believes it is imperative to engage with ASEAN and explore opportunities to expand the protection and promotion mandate of its human rights bodies. We have seen other regional and international human rights institutions that were similarly narrow at creation yet progressively expanded their jurisdiction.

The inroads that the Women’s Caucus has made in 2010 to put women’s rights on the ASEAN agenda give us hope that civil society pressure can slowly open up these spaces to bring about positive change.

In order to positively influence ASEAN the Women’s Caucus identified the following two strategies:

- To work to strengthen awareness and expertise of ASEAN and its instruments amongst the women’s movement in Southeast Asia
- To strategically engage with ASEAN to influence its processes, decisions and framework



Several of APWLD’s 2010 activities on behalf of Women’s Caucus

focused on **enhancing the advocacy capacity** of both national groups and the regional Women’s Caucus to engage at ASEAN fora. This is important because many women’s groups have previously had relatively little exposure to ASEAN. With an exception of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, most of the countries do not have national human rights commissions so for many in the Caucus this was their first exposure to human rights bodies.

A regional consultation in early 2010 equipped 64 key actors with knowledge of regional human rights mechanisms, most notably, ASEAN processes and the opportunities within ASEAN’s terms of reference to advance women’s advocacy. Skill building continued at five national level workshops for women migrant workers and culminated in national level advocacy meetings with ASEAN representatives in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. In preparation to the sixth ASEAN Peoples Forum (APF 6), in Hanoi, Vietnam the Women’s Caucus held four workshops on strategies for effective interventions. In addition to skill building, APWLD produced several advocacy materials to unite Women’s Caucus members. These included a branded campaign scarf and a quarterly bulletin. “The sea of green scarves at APF6 brought together Women’s Caucus members and presented a unified and visible presence for women advocates in Vietnam”



The inter-governmental nature of the human rights bodies of ASEAN means that both national level engagement and regional level engagement remain essential. The coordinated efforts and strategic networking of the Women’s Caucus has been key to its success. APWLD’s April Regional Consultation allowed for the development of national plans and a multi-level strategy



calendar. In September the Women's Caucus strategy meeting solidified the coordinated efforts of the Caucus. The Women's Caucus interacts with ASEAN's human rights bodies as well strategically engages with diverse actors in the ASEAN arena. This includes ASEAN member states and line ministries to National Human Rights Institutions and numerous civil society networks. It also includes the ASEAN secretariat and actors within the Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC).

inputs of the Caucus to relevant ASEAN organs. In the following months the ASEAN representatives also responded positively to the Women's Caucus' five priority issues (migration, violence against women, economics rights, women's political participation and discriminatory laws and practices). The Women's Caucus was invited to contribute to a meeting on the development of the ASEAN Community Blueprints. Part of the ACWC mandate is to assist states to implement the concluding observations of the CEDAW committee. To assist them in that role the Women's Caucus compiled a briefing document detailing the consistent concerns raised in Alternative Reports to the CEDAW Committee. The document will be one of eight documents that the ACWC will use to determine its priorities for women's rights during the next five years.



2010 marked significant input from the Women's caucus into informing and strengthening new ASEAN instruments. Early in the year the Women's Caucus had their first face to face meeting with the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. The Division Head committed to conveying the



## ASEAN Peoples Forum 6

As a result of both building strategic advocacy skills and extensive networking, a notable success of the Women's Caucus in 2010 was its effectiveness at the sixth ASEAN Peoples Forum (APF 6). In the past women's rights were barely visible at the APF but the strength and presence of the Caucus with 29 members from 11 countries making strategic interventions placed women's rights at the centre of the forum. The Women's Caucus was represented in three APF committees including the Steering Committee, the Drafting Committee and the Program Committee, where they were able to influence the objectives, methodologies and activities of the Forum. They co-organised four thematic workshops which successfully integrated gender as a priority concern. The Women's Caucus was the only group representing the voice of women at the APF and for the first time the Women's Caucus organised a workshop on women's human rights as part of the Forum. The Caucus was also active in drafting the recommendations of the final statement to ASEAN. In the final

statement, the Women's Caucus' contribution was the only text adopted unanimously and without reservation.





As the growth and success of the Women’s Caucus has grown, so too has APWLD’s own capacity to co-facilitate this increasingly important network. In 2010 APWLD with co-convener, IWRAW Asia Pacific raised funds for Women’s Caucus activities through 2012. We have since employed an ASEAN Programme Officer who is also cross-linking programme activities with our other programmes. In 2011, the activities of the Women’s Caucus will further increase the capacity of the national groups in 11 countries to develop strategic action plans, engage with other organs of ASEAN, such as three Community Councils and their blueprints, and influence the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration to ensure that women’s human rights perspectives are reflected and integrated.



“We will bring what we learned to our country and also share the information on the Caucus. We want to consult with every organisation and decide who will represent Timor-Leste in the Women’s Caucus. We want to have mentorship from Caucus members from other countries.”  
 – Jakarta Regional Consultation, Participants from Timor Leste



The meeting opened my eyes on how important it is to engage in the ASEAN processes that are fast running and how important it is to grab this tactical moment and maximise it in forwarding women’s rights. Its importance and urgency is not felt yet in the Philippines and there is not enough information shared among civil society. I will initiate more activities at the national level to particularly raise awareness and share information so that there is genuine and substantive engagement from civil society and transform ASEAN to the entity committed to human rights and fundamental freedoms of people in the region.



Laramie Castillo, Migrante International, Philippines



## GROUNDING THE GLOBAL

### Bringing UN Mechanisms to Asia Pacific Women

#### Overview and Context

Women's activism has resulted in the recognition of a range of women's human rights and the creation of a number of UN mechanisms to advance equality for women. Those tools provide powerful standards and processes to claim, promote, protect and fulfill women's rights. The challenge for women's rights activists is to make those standards and processes meaningful at a local level. We need to ensure that they are applied locally and that failure to apply them has consequences.

The Grounding the Global programme aims to make those mechanisms relevant and effective in the realisation of women's rights by:

- Enhancing the capacity of women in Asia Pacific to claim and advance women's human rights by engaging with international mechanisms

- Increasing knowledge of and international response to violations of women's rights in Asia Pacific

2010 marked important milestones for the region in overcoming these challenges. In July 2010 one of our members, the Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau (WLB) in the Philippines, received a successful decision under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Optional Protocol (OP). The Philippines was asked by the CEDAW Committee to make its legislation conform to the prevailing international legal standards on rape. Not only was it the first case brought from the region under the OP but it also marked the first ever on rape decided under the Protocol. WLB is currently helping Thailand lodge a similar complaint under the OP. Rippling through the region, 2010 also saw Cambodia ratify the OP. A commitment to ratify the OP was made after a participant in our FLTP provided a mini-workshop

with government officials. Such mechanisms can provide a powerful tool for women and bring weight to local campaigns. Unfortunately however they remain inaccessible for most women in Asia Pacific.



APWLD has both pioneered and institutionalised the annual regional consultations with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women its causes on consequences (UNSRVAW). The consultations have become a venue where individual

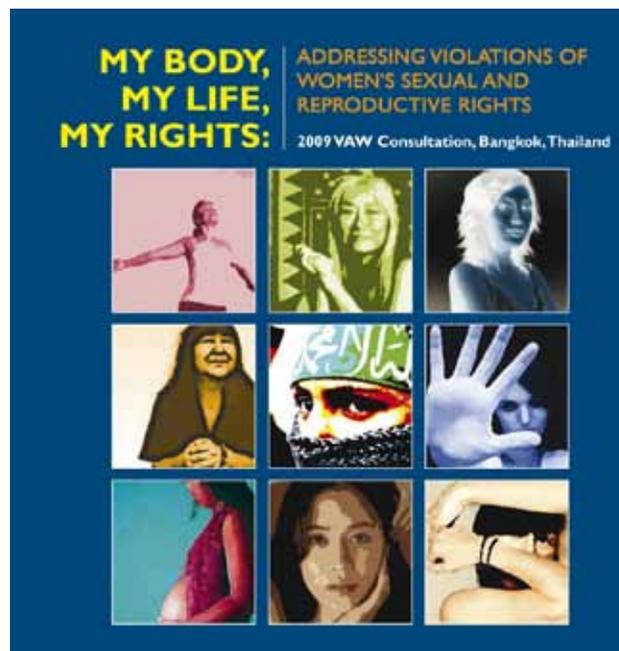


women survivors of violence can inform and influence the most distant and insulated international mechanisms.

In early March of 2010 APWLD brought the voices of our 2009 consultation participants directly to UN Headquarters. In a parallel event to the 54<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), APWLD launched the consultation outcomes publication, “My Body, My Life, My Rights” as well as hosted a panel discussion with consultation participants and the UNSRVAW. In her report to the CSW, Rashida Manjoo (UNSRVAW) made direct reference to the APWLD consultation as it contributed to “her mandate to keep abreast of regional and domestic trends and establish direct contacts with women’s organisations, academics and victims”.

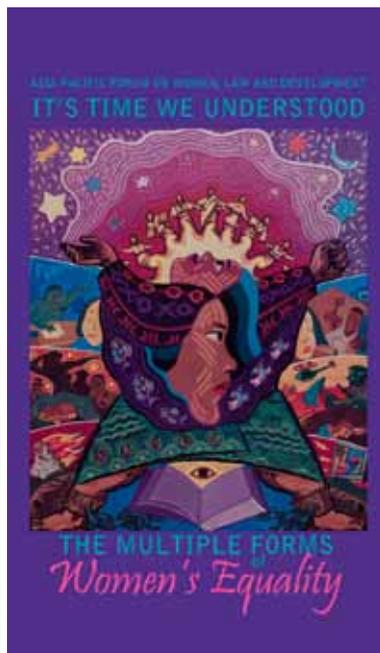


In 2010 “My Body, My Life, My Rights” was widely distributed as an **advocacy tool** which included a database on laws and policies in the region pertaining to sexual and reproductive rights. Distribution included mandate holders of the Special Procedures whose mandate pertain to sexual and reproductive rights such as the SR on the Right to Education whose praise for the report celebrated its “substantive information on the region”. The report will continue be used into 2011 as we seek to advance sexual and reproductive rights, this time particularly through influencing the drafting of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Committee’s General Comment on the right to sexual and reproductive rights.



APWLD’s 2010 Regional Consultation with the UNSRVAW again brought together over 50 women’s human rights defenders from 16 countries in the region. The theme of the consultation examined the intersectional

and multiple discriminations experienced by women. This year's consultation was successful at building solidarity among activists working on different issues and identifying areas of concern that need further regional and international level support and action to aid putting it on the global women's rights agenda.



The 2010 Consultation report will be published as both a theoretical framework on intersectionality and a tool on how intersectionality can be applied to strengthen and guide work on women's human rights. UNSRVAW, Rashida Manjoo acknowledged the unique value of the consultation in creating further advocacy space for women, "This has been a great partnership between the organisations and this mandate in particular. We have been trying to replicate this in other parts of the world including Africa."



As a result of the consultation, participants with diverse backgrounds also **informed APWLD membership and increased participation and representation** of LBT women, indigenous and ethnic minority women and women with disabilities. By having additional APWLD programme staff in attendance the consultation also **cross-linked various programme areas** and resulted in increased diversity within other programme areas.





Over the years APWLD has gained significant familiarity with the Special Procedure Over the APWLD has gained significant familiarity with the Special Procedure Mechanisms of the UN. In 2010 we contributed to key debates about the mechanism and the importance of strengthening the mandates at a side event at the annual meeting of the mandate holders of the Special Procedures in Geneva. The APWLD event aimed to

**integrate gender** and women’s human rights in to the work of the various mandate holders. Both mandate holders and permanent representatives supported the suggestion that APWLD develop guidelines for mandate holders and civil society organisations to achieve this. In 2011 we will continue our active engagement with the Human Rights Council procedures, including the Universal Periodic Review.



I was very much encouraged by hearing the reports of how the women who participated in the consultations were using the CEDAW and the Concluding Comments. In Japan, the Concluding Comments had some, although still small, influence in the formulation of the Third Basic Plan for a Gender Equal Society. We would like to continue lobbying the government with other NGOs of minority women. I was also greatly inspired by the information and reports of using the national human rights mechanisms. There are no national human rights institutions in Japan, and there are no measures or procedures to remedy human rights violations. I hope to campaign for the creation of such institutions by telling people that such institutions are widely established in the Asia-Pacific region, and are being used as organs to provide remedies.



Reiko Yamazaki  
Buraku Liberation League – Aichi Chapter, Japan



I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the support of APWLD which has given me the opportunity to represent Women with Disabilities of Asia Pacific. The Consultation was an excellent opportunity for women from different political and economic cultures to exchange information and ideas. Especially by inviting representatives from Disabled People’s Organisation, it gives a perspective of inclusion and motivated participants from the region to enhance their capacities to join hands and work towards mainstreaming disability. APWLD have taken the initiative to ensure our participation without discrimination in the development process.



Abia Akram  
Handicap International - Pakistan

“

My presentation on violence against indigenous women in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the only militarised zone in Bangladesh, led to a lot of queries about land grabbing and the state of indigenous people in the country. It made me encouraged to see the level of interest on the issue from the activist and also the Special Rapporteur, Rashida Manjoo. It meant that as activists the international community empathised deeply and could be counted on for both raising international awareness and lending a helping hand to put pressure on our government. It also meant that those of us who had access to this community had an enormous responsibility to continue informing and lobbying with this and other networks. Also, the participants as women with their own unique backgrounds and having themselves faced multiple state and social discriminations, it was quite inspiring to know everyone’s multiple identities and the struggles they had overcome.

”

Hana Shams Ahmed

The International Chittagong Hill Tract Commission, Bangladesh

“

The discussions on intersectionality will help me integrate intersectionality into the Feminist Law and Practice and Women in Power programmes - to have in-depth understanding, going beyond conceptual clarity, to locating violations of women’s rights within the intersection of neo-liberal globalisation, fundamentalisms, militarisation with patriarchy. Will try and fit in the intersectional approach across processes to fully understand causes, impact and strategies for change.

”

Rohini Ghadiok

APWLD Programme Officer



### APWLD Members front and centre on the international stage

As part of APWLD’s strategy to ensure the UN Special Procedures are responsive to the concerns of women from the region we initiated the nomination of Kamala Chandrakirana, an active and long standing APWLD member as the regional representative for the new Working Group on the Issue of Discrimination Against Women in Law and Practice. After submitting the nomination with over 100



endorsements to the Human Rights Council, Ms. Chandrakirana received unanimous support from the Council’s Consultative Group.

In 2010 APWLD active members were appointed to UN committees: Heisoo Shin was elected as a member of the UN’s Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Milena Pires and Yoko Hayashi were appointed as CEDAW Committee Experts.



## BREAKING OUT OF MARGINALISATION

### Supporting Rural, Indigenous and Migrant Women

#### Overview and Context

2010 was another year of disastrous climatic events for women in the region. Women in Pakistan battled the worst disaster to hit the country with an estimated 20 million people driven from their homes, left without clean water, without food or without livelihoods. Floods and mudslides in Indonesia, typhoons in the Philippines and drought in Southeast Asia early in the year all had devastating effects on rural and indigenous women in Asia Pacific.

To equip our rural and indigenous members to have a voice in local and international policy making around global warming APWLD has a two prong approach through our climate justice project. First is to work with rural and indigenous women to document their own practices ensuring they become the voices of their community. Second is to find advocacy spaces at national, regional and international levels to ensure rural and indigenous women get heard.

This same approach – of using feminist community-lead research methods and then developing national, regional and international advocacy strategies was used to develop our new human rights documentation workshop for rural, indigenous and migrant women.



As part our objectives to target the capacity building and networking of marginalised women’s groups, APWLD conducted a regional workshop on Documenting Human Rights Violations against Rural, Indigenous and Migrant Women. The four day training took place in Negombo, Sri Lanka in September of 2010. The 24 women that attended represented a diverse recruitment from nine countries in the region. The selection criteria targeted a critical mass of young women (under 30 yrs old) as well as considered the diversity of language in the region. Though the training medium was

English, with simultaneous translation support and consistent use of participatory methods, the inclusion and participation of ‘non-English speaking’ participants was successful.

Our aim was to equip the diverse participants with practical documentation tools and to locate research and documentation within strategies for change. The programme explored Why to Document, What to document and How to document and included tools to gather information as well as package information for advocacy. On the final day of the training participants created plans for documentation in their communities with specific change objectives focussed around law, policy or practice.

The four days showcased almost entirely participatory methods implemented under the approach of feminist popular education. This translated to hands on, non-hierarchical sessions that encouraged participants to share their own experiences and work collectively towards producing knowledge and skills.

Following the training APWLD has sponsored seed funding for groups to carry out their plans for documentation. The long term aim of this project is to change policies, laws or practices that are eroding the rights of RIM women. Coordinated skill sharing through 2011 will be facilitated by APWLD as will collective strategies for advocacy once participants move to the campaigning portion of their plans.



Comments from Documentation Workshop participants:

*“I have a groundbreaking trafficking case which was recently passed to me and I am going to use the documentation methods to do a thorough documentation of the case and create advocacy strategies to push her case forward and get her the justice she deserves and to use this as a test case for others.”*

*“Video documentary film – it is my first time and I’ve been impressed for so long how they make it, so it was exciting. We have been relying for other people to prepare it.”*

*“The workshop made me realise it is important to think about and link our documentation methods together with our advocacy strategies - I had not connected the two previously.”*



In 2010, APWLD initiated women-led participatory research for climate justice for rural and indigenous women in India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and two communities in the Philippines. APWLD recognises that rural and

indigenous women are most affected by the depletion of natural resources, the conflict over resources and the increasingly extreme and unpredictable climate conditions. To gain a voice in policy debates over climate it is important that rural and indigenous women document their own practices and experiences and are the authors of their own research. Women lead participatory research promotes democratic participation of women in policy making around development at local, national, regional and international levels. A further focus of the research is to document the practices and initiatives of rural and indigenous women as sustainable and equitable development models. In 2010 the partner researchers collaborated to come up with a research framework guide and a research tool-kit establishing shared resources and methods.



Given APWLD's past engagement in campaigning for food sovereignty for women and our body of advocacy in demanding climate justice for women, APWLD, as part of Gender CC continued our efforts to have



Women and Gender NGOs recognised as official constituents in their own right to the

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Our application was provisionally accepted and APWLD has been named one of six constituency members. We are the only organisation on this body from the region and the larger global south. Through 2011 APWLD will use this newly assigned observer status at UNFCCC to provide exposure, capacity building and initial advocacy opportunities for the team of women climate justice researchers.



APWLD will bring the researchers together for a mid-term evaluation and trouble-shooting workshop. In late 2011 a second workshop will launch the research, set targets for advocacy (one of which will include the UNFCCC COP17 in

Durban in November 2011), and ensure that the women have strategies and tools for climate justice advocacy in 2012 and beyond.



In late 2010 APWLD celebrated the triumph of rural and indigenous women over the Nagarjuna Construction Company in Sompeta, India. Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PAN AP) organised the mission in response to violent

crackdown of indigenous peoples protest to proposed power plant construction that would encroach upon their fertile agricultural land and coastal wetlands. PAN AP invited APWLD, represented by member Tati Krisnawaty to join their fact finding mission to ensure a gendered



analysis of the situation in Andhra Pradesh was addressed. The final report reflected CEDAW's recognition of the role rural women in economic development. PAN AP credits the pressure from local and international human rights and environmental groups with the decision of the NCC to quash the construction.



APWLD co-sponsored the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Tamil Nadu Women's Movement in September of 2010. 460 women from 17 districts of Tamilnadu and Ponicherry participated. The goal of the conference was to

exert pressure on governments to take decisive action to combat illegal Panchayats (village councils) and prevent honour killings in the wake of the forcefully abetted suicide of an

innocent Dalit woman. The conference garnered significant media coverage and mainstreamed the subjugation of women in the context of fundamentalisms.

Each year APWLD makes an effort to raise small funds to alleviate the suffering of women in disaster stricken areas. When Trust for Conservation of Coastal Resources (TCCR), an APWLD member in Pakistan assessed that women and girls were subjected to harassment and violence when trying to access relief after 2010's devastating floods, APWLD delivered a small but heartfelt contribution from participants in various APWLD's activities to TCCR.





## COLLECTIVE ACTIONS FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

### Migrant Domestic Workers Breaking out of Marginalisation

#### Overview and Context

Employment in private households is the most common occupation for women in our region; accounting for nearly one third of all female employment in Asia Pacific. Domestic work is also the largest driver of labour migration in the region for women trying to escape poverty.

In 2010, under the mounting weight of globalisation led by neo-liberal demands for cheap, flexible and transitory labour, migration pressures have increased. Despite many governments' increasing reliance on domestic worker remittances as a source of foreign currency, many fail to extend domestic workers the rights and benefits other workers enjoy. A gendered notion of work that links women with the 'private' sphere of the home and men with the 'public' sphere of paid work and enterprise means that domestic work is amongst the lowest paid, least valued, and least organised work in the region.

As such, APWLD as co-facilitator of the United for Foreign Domestic Worker Rights (UFDWR) coalition, has been a key contributor to the movement which is building, within and beyond the International Labour

Organisation (ILO), to recognise domestic work as work. One of our key strategies towards this goal is to centre on domestic workers' right to organise, and its inclusion in an ILO Convention for Domestic Workers. APWLD believes the right to organise is the one right that can unlock all others. Collective representation is essential for the promotion and protection of worker's rights and can provide an important voice in policy and legislative debates in international fora.

With an active and coordinated global constituency of domestic workers advocating for recognition and protection of their rights, 2010 was an exciting year of outcomes. The ILO produced a draft Convention and Recommendation on decent work for domestic workers, which was supported by a majority of governments – something APWLD has been lobbying for since UFDWR formed in 2007. Some governments in the region were not supportive of a Convention, namely Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Bangladesh. We took the first campaigning steps to shift their position. Late in 2010 India unofficially changed its position, potentially signalling a regional shift leading

Bangladesh to do the same. The draft Convention will be tabled for adoption at the 2011 International Labour Conference (ILC) where increased advocacy will be crucial to ensure countries maintain their support and the Convention withholds its strength.

Strong domestic worker advocacy over the past few years also resulted in the adoption of a 'General Comment' on domestic workers by the UN Committee on Migrant Workers. This strong guidance includes the rights to organise and to collective bargaining as well as including comments specific to undocumented domestic workers and recognition of gender as key consideration in the protection and promotion of migrant worker's rights.

As the General Comment's content offers more specific protection for women migrant domestic workers than is negotiated in the ILO Convention, APWLD is hopeful that it will influence the ILO Governing Body meeting in March 2011 and the ILC in June 2011.

Quote from the General Comment :

*"Recognising that most domestic workers are women and girls and taking into consideration traditional roles, the gendered labour market, the universal prevalence of gender-based violence and the worldwide feminisation of poverty and labour migration, States should incorporate a gender perspective in efforts to understand their specific problems and develop remedies to the gender-based discrimination that they face throughout the migration process."*



A further key development in domestic worker rights in 2010 was the made through the SEA Women's Caucus on ASEAN. Through increased

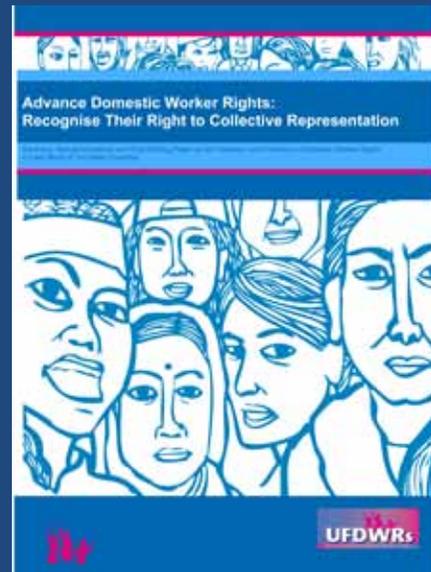
networking and advocacy the Women's Caucus developed strategic skills to influence national governments and the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW). With partner CARAM Asia, APWLD and the Women's Caucus held five national workshops with national groups in Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore. These workshops also represented the cross-linking of APWLD's programme areas.



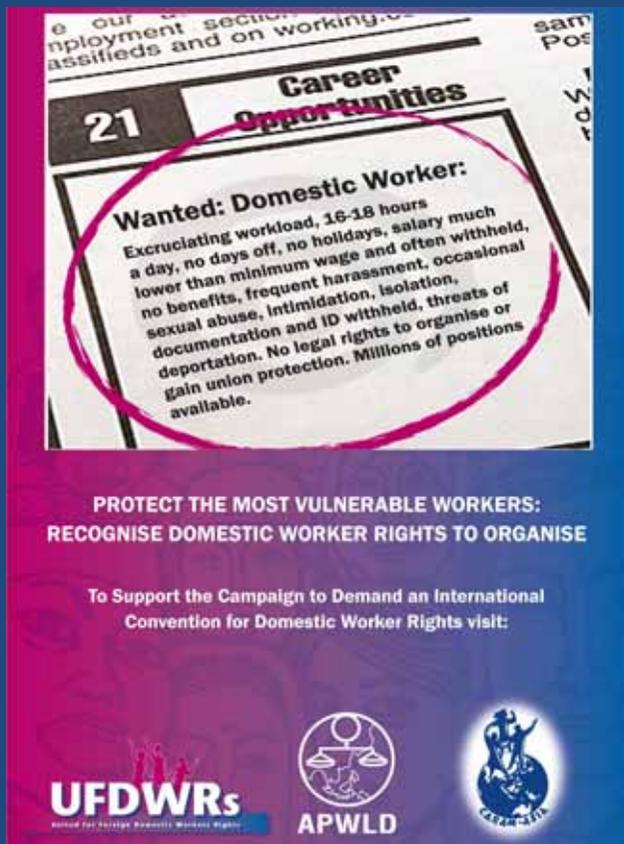
In the lead up to the ILO Convention on Domestic Work and the General Comment by the UN Committee on Migrant Workers, APWLD and the UFDWR Coalition had a busy year of **networking** and **advocacy**. This included the development of several advocacy tools and their use in numerous forums internationally.



**“Advance Domestic Worker Rights Statement and Recommendations ”** – In the lead up to the ILC in June 2010, APWLD on behalf of UFDWR researched and analysed the lack of protection for women migrant domestic workers and published a leaflet/poster with recommendations for the ILO, governments, trade unions and domestic worker organisations. The recommendations received endorsement from over 130 organisations spanning small local domestic worker groups, larger regional associations and national trade unions. APWLD widely distributed the tool at domestic worker forums in Thailand, Korea, Hong Kong and Canada. APWLD’s co-convener of the UFDWR Coalition distributed both our submission paper and the advocacy leaflet/ poster at the ILC. In addition, the Malaysian Trade Union Congress included some of its points and recommendations in its materials.



**“The Right to Unite”** - On behalf of UFDWR, APWLD conducted research on the domestic worker rights and the right to organise across ten Asian countries. APWLD published the findings in a handbook on domestic worker rights complete with an analysis of the ILO draft Convention in relation to women domestic worker rights. The guidebook identifies gaps, highlights concerns and gives concrete recommendations for change. The handbook was strategically distributed to key national labour offices, worker’s unions and ILO decision makers. As well, components of the research were added to the ILO submission by the Hong Kong Congress of Trade Unions. It received mention in the 2010 report of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery as well as being circulated amongst numerous online human rights forums.



“

We would like to thank you for furnishing us with a copy of your handbook. It is a very useful tool to inform members and leaders of the association about the initiatives of other Asian countries as well as their position on the international instruments.....we would like to share with you that the Magna Carta for Domestic Workers has just passed in the Senate... Just this morning we had a fruitful meeting with a Congressman of the Labour Committee. He committed to prioritising the second reading of the bill before the IL in June. We used the handbook in our information kit.

”

Lilibeth Camag Masamloc  
National President  
SUMAPI, Philippines



### International Advocacy and Action



Through workshops, conferences, meetings and networking, APWLD and the UFDWR Coalition brought the voices of women domestic workers to numerous international forums in 2010. These included:



- Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) International Conference- Bangkok
- Asia Pacific Conference of Migrants Service Providers on Undocumented Migrants and the Current Global Economic Crisis, Korea
- The Government of India and UNIFEM’s “Empowering Women Migrant Workers” Regional Consultation – India
- Pre-Global Forum for Migration and Development meeting to draft the framework for the annual GFMD– Mexico. APWLD was able to insert stronger rights based language into some elements of the final document including the addition of the recognition of domestic work as work.
- The Third International Assembly of Migrants and Refugees (IAMR3) – Mexico. APWLD members convened two workshops, “The Many Faces of Women’s Migration and their Struggle for Rights”, and “The Struggle for Recognition of Domestic Work as Formal Labour.”
- Caritas International Conference on the Female Face of Migration, Senegal. APWLD convened a workshop on “Migrant women as a labour force: Regulation of markets of female labour; better access to the labour market; domestic work as a specific case.”

**Media:** In September 2010, the UK's Guardian newspaper highlighted APWLD's campaign activity with domestic workers as an important action towards achieving part of Millennium Development Goal Three -increasing the women in paid employment.

### UFDWR Blog and Facebook Page

APWLD and UFDWR has generated awareness and activism through its use of social media tools like its popular Facebook page and Blog with over 9000 hits to date.



As well as prolific advocacy on the international stage, APWLD contributed to increased awareness of domestic worker rights locally. As co-convenor of the Women's Exchange Get Together Workshop in Chiangmai which coincided with International Women's Day, APWLD presented four workshops on human rights mechanisms and campaigning techniques to grassroots women activists and migrant workers from Thailand and Burma.



In 2010, APWLD in coordination with Trans-Asia Sisters Taiwan began conduction and extensive study into the use and effectiveness of Information and Communications Technology, particularly mobile phones, by migrant domestic workers. The research's objective is to explore the use of mobile technology as an organising tool.





## TRANSFORMING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

### Supporting Women's Political Participation

#### Overview and Context

While there have been numerous initiatives in 2010 to address the continued gross under-representation of women in national and local decision making across the region, few women have been able to occupy positions. Those that have succeeded have often had to do it in the face of immense obstacles.

In the lead up to 2010, women's rights movements in the region made inroads into securing gender responsive measures such as quotas for women in parliament (Bangladesh and Nepal). Unfortunately, in 2010 there have been persistent barriers to implementation - the increasing impacts of globalisation, militarisation, and fundamentalisms have fused with patriarchy making it difficult for women with progressive ideas to involve themselves in decision making processes. In many countries in the region such as Kyrgyzstan, Fiji and the Solomon Islands shrinking democratic space and increased political repression have regressed

rights for women. To date, too few countries in the region have developed policies and implemented strategies on the inclusion of women in political structures. Even countries that have signed and ratified CEDAW have not adopted Special Temporary Measures to ensure representation, participation and leadership of women in formal decision making processes.

APWLD recognises that simply increasing the numbers of women in parliaments is not the entire solution to achieving democratic equality. The Women in Power Programme seeks to increase women's political participation but also to offer a transformative model of governance and equip women with the knowledge, resources and networks to make a positive contribution to the realisation and advancement of women's rights when elected. The objectives of the programme are:

- To increase women’s political participation in the Asia Pacific region
- To increase the skills, knowledge and networks of women political leaders and potential political leaders in the region



In June 2010 APWLD conducted Gender and Politics Level 2 (GPL2) training in Malaysia. Participants included women from 11 countries in the region including current, potential and ex-members of parliaments, members of political parties, political activists and academics. An additional aim of this training was to develop the capacity of the participants to mainstream gender issues within political systems from a women’s human rights approach. Of the participants, six women planned to contest local elections. Pakistan, Mongolia, Timor-Leste elections are still upcoming. The participants from Kyrgyzstan (2) and Solomon Islands occupied top candidate positions in the run up to the elections but were defeated owing to growing pressures against inclusion of women in decision making and opaque political processes. While Kyrgyzstan has a quota for women at the parliament level, Solomon Islands has not ratified CEDAW and does not have any women parliamentarians.



This experience reflects the prevalence of patriarchy within political systems. Despite community support, high awareness levels and understanding of political processes, women find it increasingly difficult to step into politics. These challenges only reinforce the importance of programmes such as WiP to provide women leaders with the knowledge and skills required for transformative politics; to increase their effectiveness in political processes; and to create space for greater participation of women leaders in the future.



Nonetheless the June Gender and Politics training sprouted considerable national level activities and impact as well as serving to further consolidate APWLD’s decision to adopt participatory methodologies, include national and local level trainers, and systematise the tracking of follow-ups and impact assessments. Participants of workshops who were unsuccessful in elections still reported that it increased their leadership skills and participation in civic life. The networking and organising skills can lead to greater influence on public policy and community engagement around women’s rights issues.



## Regional Gender and Politics Training - National Level Outcomes



**Philippines:** A three day workshop with a group of 60 women including current and aspiring leaders of local politics was hosted by local partners and partially supported by APWLD. The newly finalised APWLD Gender and Politics Level 2 Manual was adapted to meet the priorities of participants including the inclusion of an anti corruption

module , incorporating women’s issues into the development agenda and campaign strategies for women candidates to challenge corrupt practices. A guideline document was produced called, “Winning an Election Campaign”. Following the training, 52% of the participants contested local (barangay) elections out of which 68% won and now occupy political posts.



**Nepal:** As Nepal is in the process of re-writing its new constitution, preparations are underway to organise a workshop on how to incorporate women’s human rights in the draft. With support from APWLD, Binda Pandey, one of the GPL2 participants and sitting MP and WiP’s Organising Committee member from

Kyrgyzstan will facilitate the workshop in early 2011 with fellow legislators, activists, youth groups and lawyers.



**Papua New Guinea:** Following the GPL2 session on advocacy, the workshop participants drafted a joint statement in support of the Women’s Quota Bill in PNG urging the government to ratify CEDAW, table the Bill and adopt and implement a quota bill for women in Parliament. APWLD collected nearly 50 endorsement

for the statement and used circulated it along with a news release to regional media. The Bill was expected to be tabled at the end of November 2010 but has again been postponed indefinitely. Despite this, the campaign generated increased dialogue about women’s political participation. APWLD facilitated a live radio interview with Australia Broadcasting Corporation and Aiche Bassarewan, a women MP from Timor-Leste and GPL2 participant to comment on the significance of quotas and participation of women. The GPL2 participants have now formed an ongoing alliance called Asia Pacific Network of Women to further support one another in local campaigning.





**India:** Following the GPL2 training, participant Kalyani Meena from Jharkand State organised several orientation trainings in her community for nominated candidates as they prepared for their first Panchayet election in 32 years. Two trainings took place in December and two more held in January 2011.



APWLD organised a two day Gender and Politics training workshop in Negombo, Sri Lanka with a group of 25 women candidates aspiring in upcoming municipal elections. Facilitated with the help of local partner, NAFSO, the training workshop adopted participatory methodologies to collectively



develop an understanding on local and national political and social contexts. The group comprised participants from both Sinhala and Tamil ethnic groups and while some priorities differed, the larger vision of including women in formal politics was shared. For many participants it was the first time they had participated in a formal training. The training also marked new territory for APWLD as our approach did not require English language or own language literacy.



*“Winning or losing is not important, what is important is to plant the idea that women’s participation in politics is a significant issue” – Participant, GP training, Sri Lanka*

Since the training, participants who had expressed keen interest in contesting elections were unable to do so because of threatening and hostile conditions within their families and communities. The participants however went on to mobilise further groups of women to contest. A group of 11 women from Puttalam filed their nomination and will run in elections expected in early 2011.



APWLD’s annual Women Political Leaders Exchange took place in January 2010. This year, three Indonesian women Parliamentarians travelled to Bangladesh. APWLD member organisations, Ain-O-Salish Kendra (ASK) and Steps Toward Development hosted the exchange. During the three day visit the MPs shared experiences and strategies with 20 Bangladesh women MPs and 30 women activists covering topics from challenges at policy making levels to the status of women in education, health, economics and law. Lively discussion on structural paths to empowerment arose on laws governing property inheritance, marriage and other challenges of religious extremism. Consensus from participants was that “the exchange was of great encouragement and empowerment.”



This year saw APWLD members in the Philippines gain ground on mining issues including the repeal of the infamously

discriminatory Philippine Mining Act of 1995. Some local government officials particularly in the Cordillera region, including the Committee on Indigenous Communities and Environment of the House of Representatives in the Philippines adopted the positions of people's organisations and mine-affected communities to disallow mining project applications in their respective areas of responsibility and support the repeal of the Mining Act. An alternative mining law is being pushed in Congress through the peoples' party list Bayan Muna.



APWLD members participated in the Women Resisting Crisis and War: a conference on the impact and women's responses to the economic and climate crises held in Baguio City, Philippines on 19-21 July 2010. The conference was co-organised by Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN), GABRIELA Philippines, Asia Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC). APWLD led a workshop on community resistance to war's displacement and a skills sharing workshop on strategies for effective campaign and advocacy work.

The Baguio Conference concluded with a Conference Declaration that contained women's analysis on the current crisis and war and a plan for future action. The Conference was also considered as a process for women in the Asia Pacific region to contribute to the International Women's Conference in Montreal on 13-16 August 2010 which APWLD also attended. Six APWLD members attended the Montreal International Women's Conference and APWLD was appointed to the steering committee for the International Women's Alliance born at the conference.





## FROM FEMINIST THEORIES TO FEMINIST TOOLS FOR CHANGE

### Feminist Law and Practice

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#### Overview and Context

The longstanding Feminist Law and Practice programme has been a staple in APWLD training for women lawyers, policy makers and activists. While we use law as a powerful tool, we know that law is not neutral and indeed is shaped to reinforce the status quo in power relations. That's why APWLD puts feminism at the centre of its analysis and uses a rights based framework to challenge the structural causes of inequality.

In the Asia Pacific region the barriers to justice may be legislative (numerous discriminatory laws exist as well as a lack of legislation to promote women's rights in many countries), administrative (barriers within the judiciary, evidence requirements, accessibility and corruption), lack of enforcement (entrenched barriers within the police forces and priorities), cultural (social and familial pressure not to persist with claims) and economic (inability to afford legal representation, pay officials, attend courts or lodge forms). In some countries

in the region legal rights are being eroded and significant work needs to be done to protect existing rights let alone advance them.

In 2010 APWLD recognised that while our Feminist Legal Theory and Practice training discussed both the use of litigation and non legal strategies (advocacy, campaigning and mobilisation), it needed to address campaigning more comprehensively. In the past FLTP trainings have influenced existing campaigns and advocacy of participants, which has led us to discussion on whether to include campaigning as a separate strategy in FLTP trainings. A campaigning module assists participants to identify a specific barrier to women's legal equality in their region, country or local community and map out a strategy to change it.

In 2010, FLTP's theoretical and analytical aspect of training was strengthened by the addition of a

practical campaigning stream in the programme equipping participants with the tools necessary to bring about the transformative politics needed to ensure better legislation and policy formation for women.

This programme has two key strategies:

- To build the capacity of lawyers, activists and policy makers through Feminist Legal Training
- To instigate campaigns to advance women's rights

### Feminist Legal Training and Practice

- Enhance the capacity of national groups and individuals to effectively challenge discriminatory laws and practices in their countries by applying international conventions and precedents
- Build a network of women working to advance the legal rights of women in Asia Pacific

### Instigating Campaigns

- To increase the capacity of legal advocates in Asia Pacific to campaign for women's human rights
- To change one identified law, policy or practice in the region to advance women's human rights



In 2010 FLP was strengthened as a core programme and identified as a niche area of our work which could then be better applied to guide

the processes of other APWLD programmes. Deliberate efforts were made in 2010 to formalise this integration. A one day FLTP capacity building training with APWLD staff



enabled the secretariat to apply FLTP principles and frameworks in the implementation of their respective programmes.

FLTP frameworks were applied to the principles of the Regional Consultation with the SRVAW and the Annual Meeting of the Special Procedure Mandate Holders where the SR on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers expressed interest in working with APWLD on our FLTP programme.

The FLTP principles were also applied to the Women's Quota Campaign in the Pacific and the Gender and Politics training as a focus on 'transformative politics'.

*"The FLTP training helped me to do a local campaigning environment project in Chiangmai."*  
– Punika Shinawatre, Finance Officer, APWLD

To further formalise the integration of FLTP across APWLD's work, a regional FLTP training targeted representatives of member organisations with an objective of expanding the integration across programme management and the larger APWLD network.



APWLD held a regional Feminist Legal Theory and Practice (FLTP) training in Chiangmai in October 2010 for 19 women's rights activists and lawyers from 14 different countries in the region.

As well as serving to integrate FLTP principles across APWLD structures, the FLTP targeting of member organisations had the objective of increasing our network of activists using law with a feminist lens to address women's concerns. Despite targeting a smaller member group, this year's training welcomed an expanded group

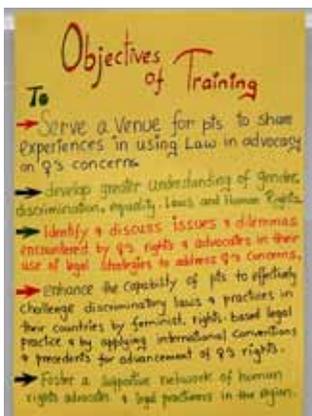
of women. In 2010 APWLD removed selection criteria that included proficiency in English as it excluded many activists from benefitting from the training. In October's training there were two participants who had translation support from co-participants from the same country. Language ceased to be a problem and in fact, gave a further boost to the participatory methodology employed in this year's training.



*“The training reminded me again why I became a feminist.” – Fatima Burnad, SRED, India*



Including active members in FLTP training also supported a new APWLD initiative to increase tracking, monitoring and evaluation of outcomes from our activities. The FLTP was a starting point for the systemisation of our Monitoring and Evaluation framework.



## National Level Outcomes from the Regional FLTP Training



**Malaysia:** Following the regional FLTP, Malaysian participants of Sisters in Islam and Musawah organised a national FLTP training in December 2010. The training was supported by APWLD trainer



Alison Aggarwal and the FLTP modules were contextualised to apply a feminist analysis to the legal system and the Shariah system of Malaysia. The workshop explored the application of the formal legal system and the Shariah system to trans-people in Malaysia.



**Kyrgyzstan:** A local level training was also held in Kyrgyzstan. 20 local women leaders came together for a three day training that adopted FLTP training modules and analysis into the



local context which included discussion on women's human rights in conflict situations. The training facilitators had previously participated in APWLDs' FLTP Training of Trainers. Feedback praised the increased conceptual understanding of the women leaders towards feminist and rights based approaches. Kyrgyzstan plans to replicate this training for activists and lawyers from civil society.



**Indonesia:** After attending the regional FLTP, Emmy Astuti from Southeast Sulawesi organised a series of five discussions with grassroots communities on how they could increase their



advocacy using feminist perspectives. Over 150 women have been involved to date. Plans

to carry out a full FLTP training are underway. Emmy has also used the training to inform her advocacy to fight discrimination against a Head Village candidate who has been blocked by her village election committee because she is an unmarried woman. The case has been registered in court citing CEDAW and the Convention on Civil and Political Rights, both ratified by Indonesia. *“Lessons learned from FLTP training, made me aware that international instruments are very important in fighting women’s human rights enforcement. We cannot just expect the national law or local law, but must be supported by international covenant.”*

*“After training, I often attend networking meetings with other women’s organisations ... We have a schedule to discuss and sharing of knowledge and experience about FLTP Framework in our working. And they are very interesting and impressed with my experience from FLTP Training in Chiangmai for last year. They want to participate in this training but sometimes they face a obstacles in terms of English language, including to understand what the facilitator speaks.”*

**Case study: Example of FLTP in Practice Story submitted by Emmy Astuti, a participant of the 2010 FLTP from Indonesia.**

*“When we met with the Head of Police in Kendari City to follow-up the case (of a rape which had not been submitted by police to the office of the public prosecutor), he asked me why I’m accompanying the victim while she was not good woman ... The Head of Police said “because she has old injuries on her vagina. It’s means she was not a virgin. And I asked him, ‘what is the link between not being a virgin and her rape case. Rape is violence with any element of coercion. If you think like that, whether a widow can be arbitrarily raped?’”*

And the Head of Police was silent.

From this experience, I realised that FLTP training very helpful in my work to analyse a statement of someone or government ... *Feminist legal theory is based on the belief that the law has been instrumental in women’s historical subordination (structure of law, culture of law and substantive/content of law). Male-dominated legal doctrine defines and protects men, not women.*



As part of FLP’s larger objectives to instigate campaigns, APWLD co-sponsored the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) Conference in Baguio City with an objective to strengthen network capacity and explore opportunities in the region to advance environmental rights. APWLD is now in the process of focusing the research on the Right to Water and Sanitation with a feminist perspective and facilitating campaigning around this new right.



In November 2010, APWLD welcomed 24 members of Earth Rights into our offices for Sexual Harassment Awareness training. APWLD was asked by the INGO to conduct the training upon knowledge of our FLTP workshops. The opportunity to build capacity in our local community and initiate training for income generation was welcomed.



## DEFENDING WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

APWLD's work over the years to gain recognition of the specific issues facing Women Human Rights Defenders has been a successful element of our work. In 2010 it continued to be important as members of APWLD were targeted with politically motivated charges as a result of their work to defend human rights.

In Fiji, APWLD took part in the international trial monitoring mission for a prominent member. In a rare win for judicial independence the charges were dropped. According to the member the observer mission played a large role in the decision to dismiss the inflated charges.

*"I cannot reinforce how important it was to have the international scrutiny as well as your presence at the various hearings. I am convinced that both were critical to the outcome of our case and both were necessary. You all made a very powerful statement by your presence last week in the courtroom."*



*--Imrana Jalal*

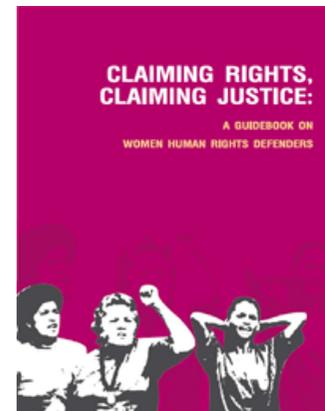
Similarly in the Philippines, 43 health care workers were illegally imprisoned for their work to improve rural health care after criticising the previous regime for not doing so. With media releases, statements and networking, APWLD joined an international campaign to have the "Morong 43" released. After 10 months of incarceration, the campaign was successful at having 36 of the prisoners released.



Both of these cases point to the importance of the national, regional and international solidarity for human rights defenders.

The formation of the International Women Human Rights Defenders Coalition has brought greater recognition of the needs of women HRDs in the work of mainstream human rights organisations as well as governments. In 2010 APWLD continued to serve on the Coalition's executive, host the WHRD Coalition website and distribute the WHRD Guidebook, "Claiming Rights, Claiming Justice".

In 2010 APWLD produced the 3rd reprint of our Women's Human Rights Defenders Guidebook. First published in 2007, and available in 5 languages (English, Thai, Spanish, French and Arabic), the WHRD Guidebook has become a valuable resource for women's rights activists and others, and APWLD continues to receive requests for copies. Examples of the reach and use of the resource for 2010 include:



- The University of Oxford used the Guidebook for its Human Rights Defenders Course which is part of their Masters course in International Human Rights Law.
- Distributed at SEA Human Rights Conference at Mahidol University, 14 - 15 October

- WHRD meeting being organised by OHCHR in Papua New Guinea in November
- Request for 50 copies of the Guidebook to Forum Asia's office in Bangkok
- Request for 50 copies it ISIS office in the Philippines
- 30 copies provided to Pacific Regional Human Rights Defenders Consultation, September 2010
- Distribution at APWLD's regional FLTP training



APWLD also participated in the "Strengthening Protection for Human Rights Defenders International NGO Seminar in Norway. APWLD founder, Virada Somswasdi was part of the meeting to bring together key

actors involved in working for the international protection of human rights defenders to review the effectiveness of current efforts, indentify gaps and discuss ideas and proposals for more action. In 2011 APWLD will explore a programme for WHRD trial observation in the region.



In December 2010, APWLD hosted a group of 11 Women Human Rights Defenders for a five day training and networking course. Our first workshop with Chinese WHRDs was a space that promoted solidarity amongst the Chinese women but also with regional networks of women, particularly Burmese women. The workshop allowed the women to share the challenges they face and discuss strategies. They were introduced to the WHRD framework and regional and international networks and tools that could aid their human rights work. Participants valued very practical information - like how to manage CSO finances as well as learn more about international mechanisms and bodies. APWLD also learnt a lot from the workshop about the challenges faced by WHRDs working in China. We hope to build on that knowledge for future work and to extend our networks there.

## ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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### **Building and Diversifying our Membership and Partnerships**

In 2010 APWLD made progress towards its goal of diversifying our membership and strengthening our partnerships. Our events and trainings specifically targeted young women and women with grassroots experience regardless of English proficiency. Five new applications for membership in 2010 include 2 members specifically targeting the human rights of LGBTI women and one member working to ensure equal rights for women with disabilities. We also had our first application representing the struggle for human rights in West Papua.

Not only did APWLD again prove itself to be one of the strongest networks of women in the Asia Pacific region, but a significant area of work in 2010 was accomplished in the strong networks that we help facilitate. This includes the many successes of the Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN, the United for Foreign Domestic Worker's Rights alliance, the Asian Rural Women's Coalition, and the Women Human Rights Defenders Coalition, to name just a few of our successful partnerships.

### **Feminist Approach to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning**

APWLD has made significant progress in strengthening our approach to monitoring and evaluation (M&E). In 2010 we secured the assistance of a self-funded M&E/Funding Officer to work with the secretariat to build awareness and develop M&E strategies in conjunction with Programme Officers. APWLD is developing an approach to M&E based on feminist principles, and on the intention to integrate reflection and evaluation into our ongoing activities to promote greatest organisational learning.

APWLD interprets feminist M&E as:

- using methods which benefit the work of women's rights activists
- analysing political and structural context and change (both positive and negative)
- acknowledging that creating structural changes to benefit women is a complex, long-term process that cannot be simply measured and attributed in direct and tangible terms
- women as the key stakeholders are the 'implementers' and drivers of the M&E
- promoting organisational learning and accountability to our constituencies

### **Piloting improved practices**

In October 2010 APWLD piloted the integration of M&E into our regional Feminist Legal Theory and Practice (FLTP) training, held in Chiang Mai with 19 participants. In following up with a series of key questions on how participants have been able to apply the framework, we have been able to document outcomes, lessons learnt, and opportunities for further engagement in a way that we have not been able to previously achieve. One of the key outcomes of the process itself has been through strengthened engagement between APWLD and participants, and a direct result will be the creation of an online community of FLP 'practitioners'. APWLD's intention for 2011 is to progressively develop a unique approach to the remaining programme areas, by developing specific tools and processes for ongoing collection of outcomes and lessons, in accordance with feminist principles.

## Gender and Development Effectiveness

In 2010 APWLD continued its twin-track strategy in relation to development effectiveness: engaging in CSO-led processes to promote CSO development effectiveness and undertaking strategic women's advocacy in the lead up to the 4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF IV).

As a member of the Global Facilitation Group of **Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness**, represented by P&M member Azra Sayeed, APWLD participated in the development of the Draft Framework on CSO Development Effectiveness and attended the First Open Forum Global Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey 28-30 September 2010, where the Istanbul Principles for Development Effectiveness were formed.

As a member of the **Better Aid Coordinating Group** (BACG) APWLD is pursuing the objective of increased recognition for women's rights within Aid and Development, both in terms of accountability of donors to support programmes that promote, not undermine women's rights, and in relation to the level of funding made available to women's organisations in the global South to carry out women-led and locally driven human-rights based programmes.

Given that APWLD is the sole women's organisation represented on the Open Forum GFG, and the only women's organisation from Asia Pacific in BACG, we will actively promote women's agenda in both these fora to ensure that CSO advocacy towards the HLF IV incorporates a sufficiently gender-central approach.

## Environmental Assessment and Policy

APWLD completed an environmental impact assessment in 2010, and has formed an Environmental Sustainability working group to develop a Sustainability Policy to guide APWLD in minimising the negative environmental impact of our operations.

## Communications

In 2010 APWLD made significant progress in implementing the 2009 Communications Strategy. Improved communications within APWLD's members, management structures and secretariat were fostered through:

- Open source relationship management software for mailings and communications.
- New multimedia html Internal Updates sent quarterly to the Regional Council and Programme Organising Committees, which have received very positive feedback in regards to fostering more understanding across programme and governance structures.
- The same software has been used for our electronic Forum News allowing subscribers to access multimedia content and navigate easily through the newsletter.
- The electronic editions of Forum News created costs savings that allowed us to return a print edition of Forum News in November 2010.
- Strategic processes such as mapping of objectives, target audience and development of distribution and advocacy plans were incorporated more effectively into our publications.

In July 2010, APWLD secured a volunteer web developer for the creation of the new, interactive website. The new site was launched in March 2011 and features integration with our relationship management database, a 'Community' section for member interaction and increased space for member activities and news. The new site is built on Content Management Software for easy secretariat maintenance.

2010 also saw the creation of an updated member database, an improved system for file back up and storage as well as much needed upgrades to secretariat software and some hardware.

## FINANCIAL NARRATIVE

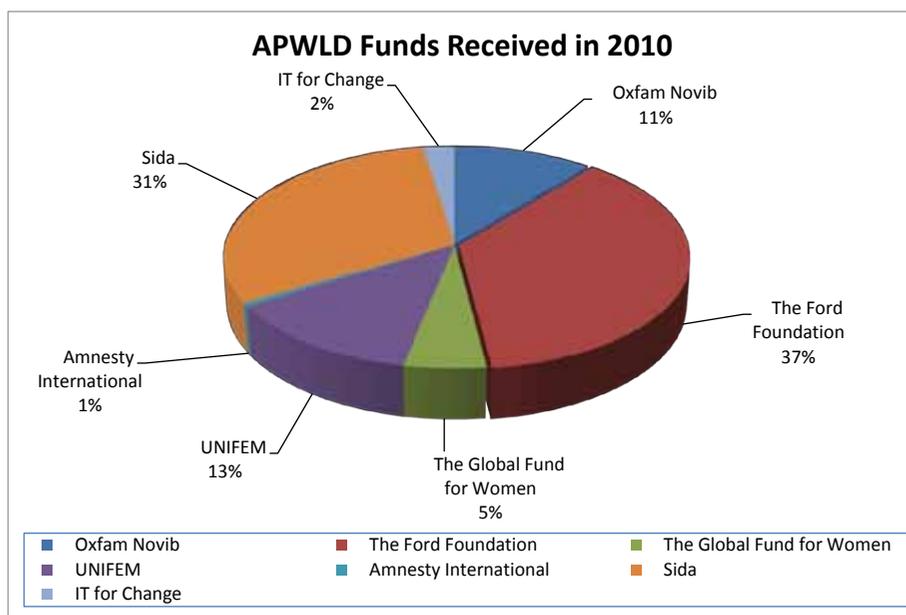
In 2010 APWLD received funds amounting to USD579,361.96. Our major funders for the year were Ford Foundation, Sida, UNIFEM (UN Women), The Global Fund for Women and Oxfam Novib. We also received funds from IT for Change, Amnesty International Netherlands and a small amount of funds from income generation from women's rights consulting. We signed a new, multi-year agreement with UN Women (funded by CIDA) to support the work of the Southeast Asian Women's Caucus to ASEAN to the end of 2012.

In 2010 APWLD spent \$590,281.68. Almost all APWLD planned activities for 2010 were carried out and some additional activities were included where important opportunities were identified.

Our expenditure is predominantly program related spending with only 16% for administration and 7% for governance. Our

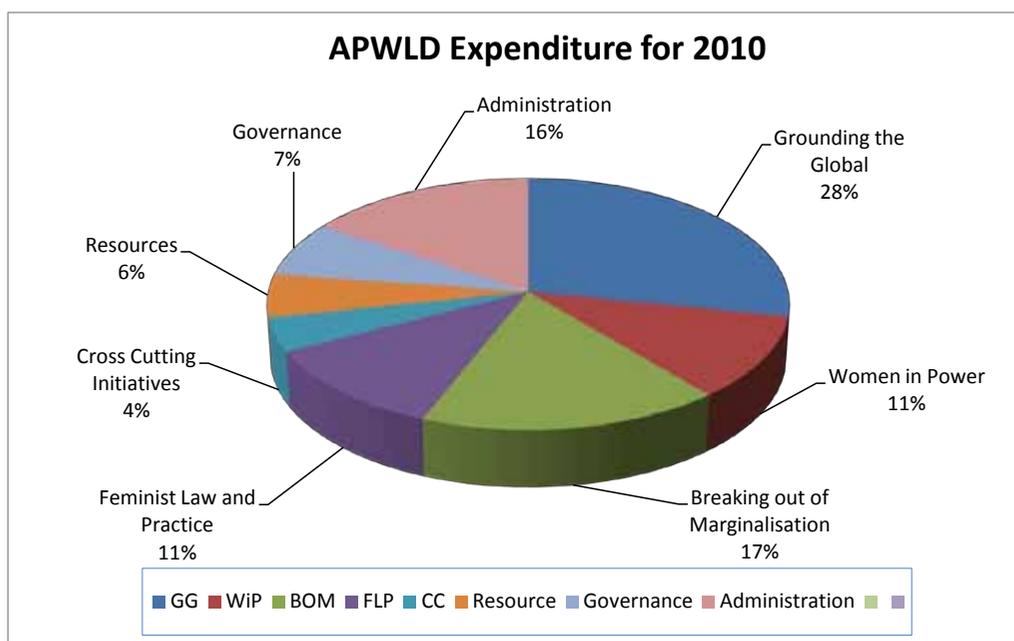
Grounding the Global programme utilised the largest budget percentage due to the expansion of the work with the Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN. Our second largest programme was the Breaking Out of Marginalisation programme where 3 projects are placed. We expect that this ratio will continue into 2011.

Our financial accounts have been audited and approved by HMD Consultants Co. Ltd of Bangkok. This year our auditor also undertook a management audit to identify any problems or risks associated with APWLD's internal management systems. The auditor identified **no material weaknesses or reportable conditions** during the management audit. They did, however, provide feedback on potential areas of improvement which have all been acted on. This process will continue on an annual basis to ensure that APWLD continues to improve and monitor our internal systems.



**ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**Chiang Mai, Thailand**  
**Fund receipts in 2010**

<b>Balance forward from 2009</b>	<b>193,970.60</b>
<b>Fund received in 2010</b>	
Oxfam Novib	63,021.32
The Ford Foundation	215,270.74
The Global Fund for Women	29,870.25
UNIFEM	74,750.36
Amnesty International	3,196.76
Sida	179,165.41
IT for Change	14,087.12
<b>Total funds in 2010</b>	<b>579,361.96</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>773,332.56</b>
<b>Others Income</b>	
- Exchange Rate Gains	59.94
- Sales on APWLD Publications and Advocacy Materials	27.80
- Bank interest	679.71
- Training Delivery Income	1,110.11
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>775,210.12</b>
<b>(a) Average rate of exchange : USD1 = Baht 32.37</b>	



**ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**Chiangmai, Thailand**  
**Expenditure in 2010**

Title	Budget Used
<b>GROUNDING THE GLOBAL (GG)</b>	<b>158,977.53</b>
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	100,506.01
- Capacity Building	5,000.00
- Secretariat costs	1,462.33
- Programme Implementation costs	33,442.04
- <i>ASEAN Projected fund (UNIFEM)</i>	<b>18,567.15</b>
<b>WOMEN IN POWER (WiP)</b>	<b>61,087.20</b>
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	-
- Capacity Building	41,736.48
- Secretariat costs	895.33
- Programme Implementation costs	18,455.39
<b>BREAKING OUT OF THE MARGINALISATION (BOOM)</b>	<b>96,596.48</b>
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	14,018.31
- Capacity Building	39,318.81
- Secretariat costs	1,496.38
- Programme Implementation costs	34,498.61
- <i>Research : Use of ICT by Women (IT for Change)</i>	<b>7,264.37</b>
<b>FEMINIST LAW &amp; PRACTICE (FLP)</b>	<b>64,204.33</b>
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	4,315.51
- Capacity Building	40,340.30
- Secretariat costs	1,093.14
- Programme Implementation costs	18,455.38
<b>CROSS CUTTING INITIATIVES</b>	<b>24,441.79</b>
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	9,746.71
- Secretariat costs	663.12
- Programme Implementation costs	10,835.20
- <i>WHRD China Workshop (Amnesty International Australia)</i>	<b>3,196.76</b>
<b>Sub-total A</b>	<b>405,307.33</b>
<b>Institutional Development</b>	
- Resource Development and Publications	31,471.93
- Network consolidation	16,896.79
- Governance/Management Meetings	21,481.96
- Staff Development	1,668.65
<b>Sub-total B</b>	<b>71,519.33</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>88,555.58</b>
<b>Obligation of advance account</b>	<b>24,899.44</b>
<b>Total Expenditure 2010</b>	<b>590,281.68</b>

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR**

To the member of Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development  
(Association in Thailand)

I have audited the accompanying balance sheets of **ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT** as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 and the related statements of income and expenses for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Thailand and International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error by using ISA 315 as a basis of risk assessment. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT** as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.



(Mrs. Pilanthana Ketthongsook)

Authorised Auditor No.3650

Bangkok,

February 17, 2010

# WOMEN OF APWLD

## REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS



*Standing, pictured from left to right:*

- |  |   |   |  |                                   |  |                                      |
|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Titiek Kartika Hendrastiti</b><br>(Indonesia) | <b>Edwina Kotoisuva</b><br>(Fiji Islands) | <b>Chuzaifah Yuniyanti<br/>to represent Kamala<br/>Chandrakirana</b><br>(Indonesia) | <b>Virisila Buadromo</b><br>(Fiji Islands) | <b>Zanaa Jurmed</b><br>(Mongolia) | <b>Kate Lappin</b><br>(Regional Coordinator) | <b>Olga Djanaeva</b><br>(Kyrgyzstan) |
|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|

*Sitting, pictured from left to right:*

- |  |  |   |  |                               |                                      |  |
|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Vernie Yocogan-Diano</b><br>(Philippines) | <b>Kushi Kabir to represent<br/>Nijera Kori</b> (Bangladesh) | <b>Elisa Tita Lubi</b><br>(Philippines) | <b>Azra Talat Sayeed</b><br>(Pakistan) | <b>Madhu Mehra</b><br>(India) | <b>Virada Somswadi</b><br>(Thailand) | <b>Cynthia Ca Abdon-Tellez</b><br>(Hong Kong, POC) |
|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|

Missing from picture

Mikiko Otani (Japan)  
Cho Young Sook (Korea)  
Noor Farida Ariffin (Malaysia)

Sisters in Islam (Malaysia)  
Phanomwan Yoodee (Thailand)

Shirkat Gah (Pakistan)  
Yevgeniya Kozyreava (Kazakhstan)

## PROGRAMME AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



**Mikiko Otani**  
(Japan)



**Cho Young Sook**  
(Korea)



**Azra Talat Sayeed**  
(Pakistan)



**Virada Somswasdi**  
(Thailand)



**Cynthia Ca Abdon-Tellez**  
(Hong Kong, POC)



**Wanee B. Thitprasert**  
(Thailand)



**Kate Lappin**  
(Australia)



## 2010 SECRETARIAT

Kate Lappin  
Tomoko Kashiwazaki  
Misun Woo  
Dalina Prasertsri  
Rohini Ghadiok  
Philippa Smales  
Punika Shinawatra  
Tina Lee  
Navarat Nophran  
Kornvika Paupratum  
Huong Tran  
Grace Bangoy  
Claire Layden  
Gaayathri Nair  
Dana Meads



APWLD is Asia Pacific's leading feminist, membership driven network.  
We hold consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.  
Our 180 members represent groups of diverse women from 25 countries in the region.  
For nearly 25 years APWLD has been empowering women to use law as an instrument of change for equality, justice, peace and development. We use research, training, advocacy and activism to claim and strengthen women's human rights.



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