



# APWLD ANNUAL REPORT 2013



Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development

Cover Photo: Women protesting in front of governor office, Java. Photo by Seruni

## Reflections on 2013 by APWLD's Regional Coordinator:

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Global recognition of deepening inequalities of wealth, resources and power is growing. While critiques of neo-liberal development models focused on growth have existed for decades, the consequences of the model have now become glaringly obvious. The Rana plaza collapse in April, typhoon Haiyan in November, more forced evictions and arrests of grassroots women leaders in Cambodia were emblematic of the region. In all cases women paid the higher price, with their lives, their livelihoods and their freedom.

Resistance to the growth development model has been matched with growing militarisation. Yet, while political will and new democratic models are needed to address growing inequalities, religious and cultural fundamentalisms continue to drive political debates and public discourse, again with the direst consequences for women.

Yet in 2013, demands for a new approach strengthened with APWLD co-anchoring the call for development justice from civil society in Asia Pacific. In August we led the development of a consolidated position for a new development agenda and co-authored the Bangkok Declaration calling for 'Development Justice' and five transformative shifts: Redistributive Justice, Economic Justice, Social and Gender Justice, Environmental Justice and Accountability to the Peoples.

Campaigns for Development Justice framed our year and allowed us to create stronger cross programme synergy. In advancing the campaign we tried new strategies, like a People's General Assembly in New York and we also used it to inform our existing strategies. We made Development Justice the theme of our annual consultation with UN Special Procedures, we advanced our campaign for a living wage as development justice; we introduced participants in our Women in Power, Breaking out of Marginalisation and Feminist Legal Theory and Practice training to development justice; and we made Development Justice the central call of civil society movements gathered during the WTO meetings in Bali.

In 2013 we embarked on a new five year plan (2013-2017), which takes into account the global and regional political, economic and social moment and expands our work to six interconnected programmes that respond to current challenges. Two new programmes, 'Feminist Development Justice' and 'Climate Justice', reflect priority issues for marginalised women in our region.

Within the plan, movement building was confirmed as APWLD's central approach to fostering lasting structural change. APWLD's external evaluation concluded that "APWLD's strength has been in its ability to build movements

of women's rights advocates at grassroots, regional and international levels. It is most effective when it mobilises these networks across specific policies and platforms and amplifies marginalised voices in the policy making arena." Research released in 2012 confirmed our belief: that the existence of strong and autonomous feminist and women's movements is a key determinant in progressive policy making. The five year plan then builds on our successes and strengthens the four 'domains of change' we use to bring about change: capacity development; knowledge, tools and resources; advocacy to shift laws and policies and structural change, networks and alliances.

We have expanded on use of the Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) method. In 2013 we saw the results of the method utilised by Rural, Indigenous and Migrant women with new movements created that have already had an impact on policy making and democratic space for women at the local and national levels. We began a new project focused on Climate Justice for women using the same method.

We recognise women's movements become more powerful when we collaborate with other social and people's movements demanding human rights, justice, development and peace. We have established new alliances and networks to build pressure for structural change. We also learned that the most meaningful impact happens when we make a clear link between local issues lived by women to global policy making processes. For this, we made coordinated efforts to ensure the involvement of the most marginalised women from Asia Pacific (rural, indigenous and migrant women) to amplify their voices at global decision making processes.

An expanded plan and programmes required a bigger secretariat and more financial support. We are extremely fortunate to have found a great team and in 2013 welcomed four new staff to strengthen our internal capacity and expertise. Our donors also expressed confidence in our expanded plan with work. We are particularly grateful to SIDA and NORAD for the increased support they provided and to the on-going support of the Ford Foundation.

APWLD has been an amplifier for the demands of women in the region for a more equitable and just world. While there are powerful voices shaping and directing global discourse in ways that privilege a few, there is a growing audience listening to our messages and coming to the realisation that the more just and sustainable world women want is essential for the future.

**Kate Lappin**  
Regional Coordinator, APWLD

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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 180 members represent groups of diverse women from 26 countries in the region. We have been active for 28 years. APWLD has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We are an independent, non-government, non-profit organisation.

## Our Work

APWLD fosters feminist movements in Asia Pacific to have impact at the local, national, regional and international level. We develop capacities, research, advocacy and activism to claim and strengthen women's human rights. APWLD empowers women in the region to use law as an instrument of change for equality, justice, peace and development.

## 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 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 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. Each of APWLD programmes are steered by an Organising Committee comprised of our membership. Our Secretariat in Chiang Mai carries out day to day operations and provides for programme implementation as well as financial and technical support.

## Our Herstory

APWLD developed from dialogues among Asia Pacific women lawyers, social scientists and activists, which began at the 1985 Third World Forum on Women. Participants in these dialogues recognised that mobilising movements 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 1986 APWLD was launched and set up a secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Secretariat relocated to Chiang mai, Thailand in October 1997.

## ACRONYMS

ACWC	ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
ADP	Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action
AHRD	ASEAN Human Rights Declaration
APF/ACSC	ASEAN People's Forum/ASEAN Civil Society Conference
APWLD	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
APWWDU	Asia Pacific Women With Disabilities United
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
BOOM-RIW	Breaking Out of Marginalisation-Rural and Indigenous Women
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
COP	Conference of Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CTUHR	Center for Trade Union and Human Rights
CWGL	Center for Women's Global Leadership
DCF	Development Cooperation Forum
DVAW	Declaration on Violence Against Women
EVAC	Elimination of Violence against Children
EVAW	Elimination of Violence against Women
FLTP	Feminist Legal Theory and Practice
FPAR	Feminist Participatory Action Research
FPIC	free prior informed consent
G77	Group of 77
GG	Grounding the Global
HLP	High Level Panel
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IRV	Initiative for Right View
MAP Foundation	Migrant Assistance Programme
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
OWG	Open Working Group
PGA	People's General Assembly
PNG	Papua New Guinea

REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
ToT	Training of Trainers
TPP	Trans-Pacific Partnership
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UN ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHLD	United Nations High Level Dialogue
UN-NGLS	United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service
WC	Women's Caucus
WHRD	Women Human Rights Defenders
WMG	Women's Major Group
WTO	World Trade Organisation

## KEY THEMES IN 2013

Our work is identified and measured against our “Feminist Theory of Change”- a marker to determine structural, cultural, political and legal change for women’s rights.

Throughout this report, we have identified where our efforts had specific outcomes to improve women’s human rights, as well as where our work contributed to the larger goal of building a stronger movement of women who are transforming their national, regional and international landscapes. We use the following icons to indicate where we have tracked impact.

### Capacity Development

Building capacity of our members and movements is central to our theory of change. We work with members to identify areas of need, particularly around structural and legal change, and we build capacity through training, skill sharing and through practice.



### Advocacy towards Changes in Laws, Policies and Practices

Advocacy is a key part of our theory of change. Women need to be central to decision making in their own lives, starting with their own bodies, homes, communities and extending to national, regional and international policy making. We aim to amplify the voice of women in all arena.

## APWLD's Feminist Theory of Change



### Knowledge Building

We believe that knowledge and expertise resides with women, communities and movements. We work with our members and their constituencies to enable knowledge to be documented and owned by those most affected. We aim to have women as the authors and experts of policy making that affects them.



### Movement Building

Strong movements are the foundation for structural change. As a regional forum, APWLD uses our strong network to offer solidarity across the region, and put issues of member concern on the international agenda. We played leadership roles in new international networks and increased the influence of the networks we co-convene.



# Feminist Development Justice Shaping a New Development Framework

## A New Programme for Feminist Development Justice

Women from the global south bear the brunt of the devastating consequences of deepening wealth inequalities, over consumption and production and a planet that has exceeded its boundaries. Yet those women share none of the prosperity of a development model focused on growth.

In 2013, the international community was prioritising the creation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, through several processes: the High Level Panel finalised consultations and released its report; states started to position themselves within the UN through the Open Working Group processes in New York; and regional intergovernmental processes started with ESCAP organising an intergovernmental meeting to identify priorities. While these processes were taking place, the Feminist Development Justice Programme was established to build on our work of the previous two years and position women's rights at the center of development policies at international, regional and national levels.

The Feminist Development Programme took multiple approaches to influence the processes:

- Developed capacity of members and partners to engage in development advocacy;
- Developed tools, campaign materials, analysis and resources for members;
- Engaged in public advocacy through media, public engagement and telling the stories of the impact of

mal-development on women;

- Influenced official processes, language, outcomes and state positions;
- Ignited movements for development justice.

During the year we were able to have an impact by building capacity and amplifying the voices of Asia Pacific Women. We were able to illustrate the interlinkages between women's rights and the global problems we face. We were able to center women's issues and women's rights within the framework of all sustainable development goals, as well as the need to have a stand-alone goal on women's rights and gender equality, and to make a case for transforming global development architecture.

While the road to shape development is not linear or focused purely on the Post-2015 Agenda, we have focused attention there for this period as a critical opportunity. Although the process will continue to 2015, we already believe we have significantly shaped the discourse of development negotiations and civil society positions, have fostered new movements, have built new capacities and opened new spaces.



### From Growth to Development Justice: Shifting the Discourse of Development

A key impact of the work we have been doing is demonstrated by the influence we've had in shaping development discourse. APWLD has used the term 'Development Justice' for some time and in 2013 the term was adopted by Asia Pacific civil society groups together with a framework for development justice that established five

foundational shifts:

**Redistributive Justice**  
**Economic Justice**  
**Gender and Social Justice**  
**Environmental Justice**  
**Accountability to Peoples**

APWLD also popularised a short phrase in the past 2 years that we think is critical for a new development agenda:

**“Development that redistributes wealth, power, resources and opportunities between countries, between rich and poor and between men and women.”**



## Igniting Movements for Development Justice

APWLD was one of the initiators and gender focal point of People’s Goals on Sustainable Development Campaign – a global movement including workers and trade unions, indigenous peoples, women, youth, etc. With the Campaign, APWLD join forces with a bigger movement to push for a people-centered, just and sustainable development. In 2013, together with Campaign for People’s Goals and Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL), APWLD organised a People’s General Assembly in New York City.

We built new capacities on the foundational shifts of Development Justice to our members, partners and peoples movements in various fora in the region: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, Cambodia. In Bali, 600 people attending the People’s Global Camp against WTO adapted development justice in their final statement entitled: “Development Justice Now! Junk WTO”

### Development Justice diary

**3rd HLP Consultation on Post-2015 Development Agenda, Monrovia** APWLD developed civil society consensus to prioritise Control over Resources, Decent Work and Living Wage, EAW and Women’s Voice.

**4th HLP Consultation on Post 2015, Bali** Achieved civil society consensus and support from HLP members for a stand alone gender goal and mainstreamed throughout all goals.

**Bangkok Declaration, Bangkok** In August 2013, 100 civil society groups gathered in Bangkok to formulate a just and transformative development agenda towards Post-2015 and beyond. The Bangkok Declaration, co-drafted by APWLD, ignited several campaigns for Development Justice, lead by various organisations under the banner of Campaign for People’s Goals for Sustainable Development.

These examples underscore the growing popularity and ownership of the concept of development justice in different spaces.

**Open Working Group– Decent Work, Peace and Conflict, Disaster Risk Reduction, New York,** APWLD spoke at the OWG meetings on behalf of the Women’s Major Group on decent work and living wage, peace and conflict and disaster risk reduction.

**People’s General Assembly, New York** APWLD took the lead in organising the People’s General Assembly, which presented local stories of global problems. The PGA garnered media and widespread interest in development perspectives from marginalised women. Participants in Papua New Guinea (PNG) saw concrete results in increasing women’s voices in development consultations.

**ICT and Development Justice** IT for Change took inspiration from Development Justice and provided analysis of ICT in the Post-2015 Agenda “Towards a Just and Equitable Internet.” Additionally, a network of organisations and individuals in the ICT and Internet governance community established the “The Just Net Coalition” which drew principles from the Development Justice Framework and feed into OWG negotiations.

## **Gaining Ground for a Stand Alone Goal on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality**

As negotiations for the new development agenda progressed, more support was garnered for the stand alone goal for women’s rights. By the end of 2013 we felt assured that the goal was a reality and the content would be critical as well as the need for integrated targets.

Amina J. Mohammed, -- HLP Member -- in the Gender roundtable, in Monrovia: **“In every single goal, women will matter.”**

Justine Greening – UK Secretary of State for International Development – tweeted in her personal twitter:

**“Great round table on gender with activists & CSOs. I’m clear we need standalone gender goal, and mainstreaming throughout #post2015 #HLP”**

after attending the round table organised by APWLD in Bali, Indonesia.

### **Leading feminist analysis on Development**



In early June, APWLD formulated an opinion piece to criticise the new HLP report entitled “Development Report: (BIG) Business As Usual”. This opinion piece was published in three major newspapers - Bangkok Post, Jakarta Post and Kathmandu Post. Bangkok Post averages 450,000 readers a day in Thailand and abroad, Jakarta Post has a daily circulation of 40,000 and Kathmandu Post has a daily circulation of 102,000 copies a day.

#### **Feminist Reflections on the High Level Panel of Eminent Person’s Report**

With 84 endorsements and widespread shared analysis globally.

#### **UN\_NGLS “Advancing Regional Recommendations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.”**

The UN-NGLS report is one of the most significant outcome documents that APWLD was able to influence. This report will be formally submitted to the General Assembly to influence the conclusion of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. APWLD was cited 22 times and Development Justice framework was quoted 3 times and referred to repeatedly throughout the report. Asia Pacific Civil Society’s call for a just and transformative framework comes through loud and clear in the report.

#### **Bangkok Declaration**

100 civil society organisations signed on to this Declaration.

#### **Online Media Outlets such as Common Dreams and Earth in Brackets**

Amplified the various calls for Development Justice at the activities against WTO during its ministerial meeting in Bali, December 2013.

APWLD produced  
**7 campaign materials** that have been widely used for training and advocacy purposes by over 12 civil society organisations and more than 100 participants at our advocacy activities.

 APWLD's position was used to summarise the global civil society position during the UN General Assembly Major Groups and Stakeholders meeting in Sept. 2013. The NGO Major Group, represented by CIVICUS, cited our work - "a new development framework [that] must aim to reduce wealth, power and resources inequalities between countries, between rich and poor, and between men and women."

 **Shaping New Development Discourse and Positions.** APWLD always has a clear message on Development Justice and concrete ideas on goals and indicators. Our advocacy has contributed in shaping new development discourse and positions.

Our positions have attracted government support. At the Development Cooperation Forum, a member of the Ugandan Parliament strongly agreed with our language on the issue of land rights. The Secretary Ministry of Planning of Bangladesh, Md. Nojibur Rahman, commended our analysis on the HLP report as "comprehensive and inspiring" and he referred to the analysis when he made his intervention on the 1st day of the Forum questioning the notion of economic growth. Amanda Ellis, Deputy Secretary of International Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs New Zealand, quoted our statement "not to put women in the margins, women should be at the centre of the development framework" when she made her concluding remarks in the panel.

## Tools and Resources for Development Justice

Our tools and resources are designed for both advocacy and capacity building of members and partners:

- State of Play and Role in Post-2015 and SDGs- A comprehensive guide for civil society advocates that summarises the positions of the 62 ESCAP Member States and Associates and 2 Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group.
- Post-2015 Roadmap was created as an online interactive platform. It maps out the formal process, CSO activities related to SDGs and Post-2015 and has links to all meeting outcome documents. <http://apwld.org/post2015/post-2015.htm>
- Feminist Development Justice Training Materials explains the entire Post-2015 process and the Feminist Development Justice Framework. This tool has been used in trainings for APWLD members, partners and parliamentarians.
- APWLD Purple Scarf - With a FDJ logo on the bottom and a bright purple color, it has become iconic and increases the visibility of APWLD members and partners in meetings related to Post-2015 and SDGs.



### Inside and Outside: A People's General Assembly for Development Justice

While governments gathered in New York in September 2013 for the United Nations General Assembly, APWLD worked to influence both the formal proceedings and a larger audience on development justice. In an outdoor park in New York, APWLD supported grassroots women to narrate their experiences of mal-development. The People's General Assembly received widespread media coverage in the region, including interviews on Radio Australia for our speaker Helen Hakena and a feature on the assembly on a popular Philippines TV channel as well as an article on Banglatimes news website. This coverage promoted action on the issues highlighted as well as increased pressure for development justice.





Photo: CHANAN

# Breaking out of Marginalisation- Rural and Indigenous Women Claiming Rights

**FPAR developed the capacity of grassroots Rural, Indigenous and Migrant women's organisations to engage in dialogues with policy makers. Their advocacy work resulted in 3 progressive legal and policy changes in Kyrgyzstan and in Nepal.**

As inequalities of wealth, power, resources continue to widen between and within countries, rural, indigenous and migrant women are among the most economically and politically marginalised groups in the region. Current development policies promote resource intensive-practices that have led to rural, indigenous, and migrant women in Asia and the Pacific living in the most precarious environments, being rendered homeless, and often forcibly evicted from their homes and land. Further, unsafe household and industrial waste contaminate land and living environments, waterways and cause oceanic pollution. In homes, countries,

and across the region, women's rights and autonomy over their bodies and life decisions are violated, especially due to fundamentalisms and ethnic and religious discrimination, which continue to escalate in the context of an unsustainable, inequitable global economic system.

To challenge these inequalities, strong movements of rural, indigenous and migrant women are needed. In 2013, the Breaking Out of Marginalisation-Rural and Indigenous Women (BOOM-RIW) programme sought changes through Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) for Change, which focuses on:

- Building the capacity, sustainability and skills of marginalised women's organisations to document evidence and engage in advocacy to bring about change;

- Supporting advocacy at local, national and international level to advocate for their rights to access and control over resources, decent work and living wage, peace and security and voice;
- Building and fostering local movements of rural indigenous women in advocating for their rights.



## FPAR: STRUCTURAL CHANGE AND MOVEMENT-BUILDING



In July 2012, APWLD started the second phase of BOOM – RIW FPAR that involved 8 organisations in 8 countries. The 1.5 years project provides funding support for the organisations to hire a young woman researcher who completes APWLD's FPAR trainings and conducts research together with the community. After the completion of the research in September 2013, APWLD extended its support for country advocacy and campaigning that will be finalised in 2014.

FPAR has been an extremely valuable journey. The program has significantly shaped and built capacity at personal and organisational levels, elevated the voices and space available to rural and indigenous women, and fostered new movements at a local and national level.

## Feminist Participatory Education: A Tool for Change

APWLD developed Feminist Participatory Education and used it in all three trainings to facilitate a democratic, inclusive, non-hierarchical mutual learning process. The

**FPAR programme created 3 women's unions (Vietnam and Nepal), 2 campaign movements (Kyrgyzstan and Nepal) as well as strengthened the capacity of larger indigenous movements to claim their land rights in the Philippines.**

methods, tools and materials used in documentation training were replicated and used in participant organisations' local and national activities. This has not only strengthened the capacity of researchers, but has strengthened organisational capacity and sustainability as well.

“The training module and programme is very specific as we had an opportunity to conduct our research with the personal development as researchers and activists. It is the most valuable part of the trainings. It would be good to disseminate this practice to other programs and organisations as it really empowers and strengthen organisations.”

- Aizhamal Bakashova, young woman researcher, PA Shazet, Kyrgyzstan

The young women researchers increased their capacity to use a human rights-based feminist framework and skills to organise women in the community, effective advocacy and campaigns. This has increased their confidence, establishing leadership roles and aspirations for change.

“Doing the research all along has been a learning process and an emotional journey. It has changed my perspective towards viewing the violation of women's human right in a right based approach. Beginning with writing the life stories of women, I had this amazing opportunity to see smiles, sadly but more tears, helplessness, rage and protest, light of independence, and sense of revolution... Doing the research in feminist framework has made me clear that these structures should be brought down to upraise the condition of women in our societies” - Anisha Luntiel, WOFOWON, Nepal – participants from 2nd phase research programme

From personal change, the FPAR programme also leads to structural change and movement-building. Participating in FPAR has led to an increased collective awareness of repressive structures and systems on the part of

participants, which has in turn led to collective, organised, and institutionalised actions of rural, indigenous women.

In **Nepal**, women working in the entertainment sector gained collective awareness of their human rights and formalised a women's movement. They established 2 trade unions and initiated the formation of committees. They initiated a Cultural Campaign Group to change the negative attitude of society towards their work. The launch of the nationwide cultural campaign was done at an open stage in Kathmandu attended by 2,000 people. These women are trying to establish their identity in a unique way and ensure legal protection and recognition. Many women workers now want to take legal action against violence perpetrated against them by reporting their cases to the newly established trade union. By publicising the results of the research and creating a movement of advocates, the National Women's Commission adopted women working in entertainment sectors as a priority issue.



Entertainment workers at a sit in protest against VAW

In **Vietnam**, the FPAR with a community that was forcibly displaced by a hydropower development has significantly strengthened women's voice in decision making and led to the birth of an organised women's movement at the local level. Before the research, women in Phu Loc district were rarely involved in any decision-making processes and none of them had heard of women's rights or human rights. Through the project they decided to establish a Women's Union. The Women's Union meets regularly and articulates solutions for the change they want. In one of the meetings, Women's Union had an initiative to invite the female deputy

of the Department of Justice in PhuLoc District to teach them how to write a complaint letter. With this knowledge, women are able to lead the other community members to make collective actions to address their situation. Currently, many families in the hamlets are drafting complaint letters on the lack of productive land in the resettlement.

In the **Philippines**, indigenous women in Sitio Ag-Agama, Western Uma, Kalinga are at the forefront of a community movement against Chevron Geothermal Energy. Through the research, they were able to document the processes of consultation and challenge the claim that free prior and informed consent (FPIC) had been obtained from indigenous women. During the research period, they drafted two petitions and organised a peaceful dialogue with military troops on January 19, 2013. CWEARC and Indigenous Women in Kalinga launched their research result on October 15, 2013 which was featured in a prominent news paper 'Baguio Chronicle' with the title: "Research Highlights IP Women as Frontliners in Corporate Energisation Battles." The research findings were taken to a broader meeting of indigenous women: "Kalinga Indigenous Women Workshop on Corporate Energy" and was used as an evidence-based position paper that gained endorsement from other indigenous communities. These indigenous women then went to the Provincial Capitol and had their position paper received by Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP or regional council) office and the NCIP (National Commission of Indigenous Peoples).



Research featured in Baguio Chronicles



Peasant women's voice in the city/ Photo by Seruni



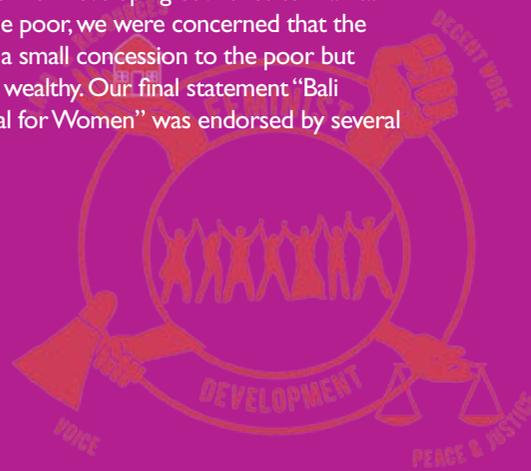
Photo by APWLD

## Igniting the Movement towards Development Justice: Resisting the WTO

APWLD has been part of civil society advocacy opposing harmful trade practices. Our members see the case with the WTO, which is an undemocratic space where trade rules that benefit wealthy countries have been imposed on

developing countries. In December 2013, APWLD joined civil society actions to oppose the WTO and spoke on development justice. We also sent an observer for the first time to the WTO meeting.

Despite strong civil society resistance, the WTO crafted a new agreement 'the Bali Package.' While the demands of the Group of 77 (G77) countries, particularly India, resulted in temporary permission for developing countries to maintain food subsidies for the poor, we were concerned that the agreement provides a small concession to the poor but further gains for the wealthy. Our final statement "Bali Package is a Bad Deal for Women" was endorsed by several groups attending.



In **Indonesia**, the FPAR has strengthened women's movements and their struggle for land rights in Sampalan, West Java; and significantly strengthened Seruni as a membership-based feminist organisation working with grassroots rural women. For West Java, Seruni members from grassroots communities are expanding, especially in Pangelangan and Bandung where the research is conducted. Seruni was able to improve their narrative on women and land rights and expand their campaign in the national level. In some areas, such as Jambi, Riau, Sulawesi and West Java, there were significant improvement in the perspectives of the highly male-dominated mainstream farmers' movement.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the research result was an advocacy tool against bride kidnapping and forced marriage. PA Shazet, other women's organisations and women-deputies of the National Parliaments successfully advocated for amendments of Criminal Code no. 155 and 156, related to bride kidnapping sanctions from 1-3 years to 5-7 years and forced marriage with underage girls up to 5-10 years and forced marriage with underage girls up to 5-10 years.



### **Shaping Feminist Perspectives on the Issue of Trade**

While the WTO warrants close scrutiny, multi-lateral and bi-lateral trade agreements are developed behind closed doors with potentially even worse outcomes for women. APWLD is among the very few feminist organisations who work on the issue of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The threat of the TPP Agreement, a secretive trade agreement that will give overwhelming power to corporations, was initially raised by APWLD during the preparation for the Public Forum on Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, which was organised by Indonesia People Alliance, APRN and APWLD in October in Bali. A more concrete analysis by APWLD was delivered in a presentation on the TPP during the Feminist Conversation on Trade and Human Rights organised by APWLD as well as during the Association of South East Asia Women Caucus on ASEAN Annual Meeting where participants agreed that more capacity building and advocacy is required.



## **Challenges and Lesson Learned**

Providing stronger support for dedicated young women researchers has increased the capacity and sustainability of rural and indigenous women organisations. The young women researchers gained new knowledge and skills, not only on research, but also on feminist leadership, advocacy and campaign skills; and they shared this with other staff in their organisations. This practice has helped rural and indigenous women's organisation to build their feminist cadre.

During the project period, the young women researchers from Nepal and Thailand left the research and two new researchers came on board. It posed a challenge to the project as the young women researchers were expected to attend the whole series of trainings and be ready to commit to the research work for the whole year. Learning from Nepal and Thailand, we learned the necessity of having stronger criteria and selection process for young women researchers for the next research programme. The situation with the Thai research partners also taught a very important lesson on knowledge distribution and transfer for organisational sustainability. Learning from the situation, our project partner IWNT has improved their organisational knowledge management practice.

Additionally, increasing attacks on civil society, particularly Indigenous groups, created security problems for young women researchers. The young woman researcher in the Philippines experienced military harassment and shared the experience with others. Risks cannot be eliminated but risk management will be further incorporated in the training.



## Women's Labour Rights in Asia Pacific

Photo by APWLD

Women migrant workers account for more than half of the 50 million migrant workers in Asia Pacific, employed primarily as domestic workers, 'entertainers' and factory workers. Domestic work also constitutes the largest driver of labour migration in the region for women. Since domestic work is considered an extension of housework, it is deeply undervalued and women domestic workers are excluded from the current development framework and are marginalised in terms of decent work, living wage, labour rights, and legal protection. The individualisation of domestic work also restrains workers from collective bargaining and assertion of their labour rights. Domestic workers are more vulnerable to exploitation, due to their subordinate status as women and as migrant.

With this context in mind, the Labour and Migration-Breaking out of Marginalisation Programme aims to enhance women migrant workers' enjoyment of their rights to organise, associate, decent work and make informed choices about migration and labour by:

- Developing capacity of organisations, associations, networks promoting women's labour rights to organise in informal sectors and promote rights based perspectives;
- Building the body of knowledge pertaining to existing laws and policies on labor and democratic rights of women migrant workers;
- Advocating for labor laws and policies that protect the rights of women workers in the informal sphere, and for the implementation and enforcement of existing international labour standards.

Our call for a living wage for low paid workers featured across our programmes. The collapse of the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh drew attention to the plight of garment workers and APWLD organised a regional consultation, covered in our Grounding the Global chapter.



### Developing Capacity of Grassroots Migrant Movements

As co-convenor of the Women's Exchange Get Together Workshop in Chiangmai, APWLD conducted four workshops on the ILO Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Work and campaign techniques for grassroots women activists and migrant workers from Thailand and Burma. The workshop also explored how different accessible communication mediums, for instance mobile phones, could facilitate migrant groups in self-organising,



Photo by Pranom Somwong

building social support and safety nets for migrant women, especially for those working in the informal sectors.

“ I felt at ease and excited to share in this workshop. For a topic that I think is important and deep, I find it fun and easy to understand. I will use the learning from here, especially interactive activities and method, in organising meetings with migrant groups when I go back.  
-- Ei Ei Khaing (Burmese migrant worker in Southern Thailand)

### ))) Forging Collaborations for Advocacy on Changes in Law, Policies and Practices

The 2nd United Nations General Assembly's High Level Dialogue (UNHLD) on Migration and Development in October 2013 convened governments to determine policy and decisions concerning migration in the new development framework. APWLD was chosen as a speaker at the CSO Interactive Hearing on UNHLD on behalf of the CSO Steering Committee, where we emphasised our agenda on decent work and living wage. APWLD, in collaboration with over 50 other migrants networks globally, contributed to the mobilisation of civil society, grassroots migrants and refugee communities, and activists around the world who condemned neo-liberal development policies while demanding genuine people-centered development grounded in the principles of human rights for all, transparency, accountability and justice.

APWLD called upon member States, throughout the 2nd UNHLD Process, to ensure decent work and legal

protections of all workers, especially migrant domestic workers, and to ratify, implement and enforce existing international labour standards such as the ILO Convention 189. Our proposed language and the joint CSOs recommendations were broadly adopted by the UNHLD and reflected in the Declaration of the UNHLD:

1. Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status.
2. Improving public perceptions of migrants, with a view to addressing discrimination and stigmatisation.
3. The need to incorporate gender perspectives into national laws, institutions and programmes.
4. Protection of rights of women migrant workers of all sectors, especially domestic workers.
5. Consider the roles of environmental factors (disasters and crises) in migration.
6. Ratification and effective implementation of the new ILO Domestic Workers Convention (C189) and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

UN Women and UN ESCAP provided APWLD and partners with a space to educate governments around domestic workers rights and the Convention. APWLD created a puzzle that illustrates the rights in the Convention, where involved governments got to solve it. Following the event, the governments of Pakistan and Bangladesh immediately called for amendments to the draft outcome document to ensure stronger language on the rights of domestic workers. They were able to add a section on the need to recognise domestic work as work in line with the C189 and consequently secured that language in the global outcome document.

Our Focal Person for Labour & Migration, Pranom Somwong, on Brooklyn Bridge joining the mobilisation and marching of migrants, New York, September. Photo credit Pranom Somwong





Photo by APWLD



Photo by APWLD



## Building Knowledge, Tools and Resources

APWLD produced a puzzle activity kit as an interactive tool to promote participatory learning, awareness, and education on the decent work standards enumerated in C189. The kit has traveled from Thailand to Indonesia to New York, utilised by migrant advocates and activists in grassroots education on labour rights and in promoting wider understanding and support for ratification of the ILO Convention on Domestic Work.

“**Know your rights: Claim your rights under ILO C189**” publication was translated in Burmese, Shan and Thai in partnership with our member, Migrant Assistance Programme (MAP) Foundation. With translation, the publication reached out to wider grassroots women migrant workers and their organisations, particularly aiding our campaign work on ILO C189 ratification. It is planned that the publication will be translated into Bahasa Indonesia and Filipino in 2014.

“**APWLD provided the framework of decent work and rights of domestic workers under the ILO Convention C189. The participants realised they did not know much about C189 until joining our workshop and agreed to bring the education to promote C189 back to their countries.**”

-- **Pranom Somwong, APWLD Member**

“**APWLD support and solidarity has helped us to bring our cause and voices from the grassroots to the international level. I am a contract worker- a foreign domestic worker- in Hong Kong and have been for more than a decade. For a long time, people who do not represent our interests spoke for us; for a long time, people who wanted to silence us spoke for us; and for a long time, we are being left out of the process that makes global policy on labour migration that directly impact us. Now we speak for our rights; we want people-centered development that promote migrant’s human rights .”**

-- **Eni Lestari, Spokesperson, Asian Migrants Coordinating Body**

## Challenges

Precarious migration is predicted to increase in the region, particularly for women. Governments choose to bargain migrant workers conditions bilaterally. The recognition by some governments of the abusive conditions women are subjected to has resulted in withdrawal from agreements or re-negotiation. However, this has meant that the receiving government simply shifts to other countries (i.e. Malaysia has sought workers from Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos). Advocacy then may have perverse results.

Growing activism in the region in support of living wages, particularly for garment workers, has also led to increased attacks on workers and activists. It is also clear that women are rarely trade union leaders, even in industries dominated by them. APWLD will introduce a new project building capacity for women trade union leaders in 2014.



# Climate Justice

*Photo of devastation caused by Haiyan, by Eoghan Rice*

The urgency of addressing climate change can no longer be ignored. In 2012 climate related disasters continued to impact our members in the most immediate ways. Typhoon Haiyan, for example, hit the Philippines on November 2013; the cost of this disaster is estimated to be 5% of Philippines GDP, with 6,000 total number of death and still counting 1779 missing persons and total 27,022 injured. Last October 2013, 1 million people had to be evacuated when super Typhoon Phailin hit the Bay of Bengal, India. Whereas in North India, 5,700 people were missing and presumed dead during the flood and landslide on July 2013.

There is no shortage of evidence that climate change threatens the livelihoods of women. With such need APWLD decided to separate our climate work into a stand-alone programme.

Our climate justice programme seeks to make change by:

- Building the capacity of women’s rights advocates at the local level to document evidence and responses to climate change;
- Supporting advocacy at the local, national and international level to address the causes of climate change and to properly address loss and damage experienced by women;
- Building movements and awareness to shift approaches to climate change

**We increased the capacity and knowledge of 9 grassroots women’s organisations from 8 countries on feminist participatory action research (FPAR), the issue of climate justice and women’s human rights.**



## Gathering evidence and supporting climate justice advocates

In 2013 we started using Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) as a tool to address both the need to increase the evidence base around climate policies and practices that impact women and to support women as vocal and effective advocates in climate debates.

This FPAR is an 18-month programme involving 9 organisations from 8 countries in Asia and the Pacific working with rural, indigenous, migrant and urban poor women. These grassroots based organisations together with women in the local communities will conduct action research on:

- The adverse loss and damage due to climate change and the impact of climate policies and practices on rural, indigenous, fisher, migrant and urban poor women at the country level;
- Community-owned adaptation solution and safeguard measures for women.

## Research participant organisations and topics

Mitigation		
Sustainable Development Foundation	 Thailand	Situation of Women Fisherfolks Impacted by the Law on the Conservation of Mangrove Forests
Perserikatan Solidaritas Perempuan (SP)	 Indonesia	The Impact of REDD+ Climate Policy on Women in 3 villages in Central Kalimantan; Mantangai, Kalumpang, and SeiAhas.
Indigenous Women and Children Foundation – India	 India	A Critical Analysis on Violence Against Women and Climate Change: A Search for Adaptable Strategies on Climate Change to End Violence against Women in Tamenglong Hill District, Manipur, India”
Adaptation		
Initiative for Right View (IRV)	 Bangladesh	Indigenous Munda Women who are Particularly Vulnerable to the Impacts of Climate Change, Including Food Security in Shyamnagarupazilla of Shatkhira District.
Centre for Sustainable Rural Development	 Vietnam	Documenting the Role, Responsibilities as well as Contribution of Women in Coping with Disaster and Climate change in the Poor Communes of Quang Tri and ThuaThien Hue
Mugal Indigenous Women Upliftment Institute (MIWUI)	 Nepal	Adaptation Strategies of Mugal Indigenous Community to Address Climate Change.
Loss and Damage		
AMIHAN	 Philippines	Loss and Damage and Gendered Differentiated Impact of Typhoon Haiyan in Central Philippines.
Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR)	 Philippines	Urban Planning, Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness and Climate Change Policy Making in the Interests of Urban poor Women in Metro Manila
LeitanaNehan Women Development Agency	 PNG	Forced Migration of Atolls Community due to Climate Disaster

APWLD provided the 9 organisations with a small grant to employ a young woman researcher and assisted by a mentor. APWLD will support the young women researchers and their mentors to participate in capacity building workshops, advocacy and networking opportunities.

“

”I really enjoy the way the training was conducted. It was informative but relaxing and easily received. In early March, at my organisation, I applied the principle of feminist participatory action research in our training for our other programme. It’s still in a early stage, but we saw the change almost immediately.  
--Tran ThiThanhToan, mentor, Center for Rural Sustainable Development, Vietnam

”

“

”FPAR regional training was very significant for the new researchers. Its topics, methodology, different sessions, facilitators, materials are very much effective to understand FPAR and Climate Justice. I acquired vast knowledge about the climate injustice on women, especially on indigenous women. Effect of climate, mitigation, adaptation, national and interventional politics related idea were acquired through training. I also think that FPR is a perfect method to identify the problem and can play significant role to solve the problem. Now I’m implementing it in the community, The method will help find out the strength of the women and parallel help increasing unity for taking collective initiatives.

- Marina Juthi, young woman researcher, Initiative Right View, Bangladesh

”



Photo by APWLD



“Gender inequality worsens women’s coping capacity. This has been clearly shown in the recent Haiyan tragedy in the Philippines, with the worst affected area is Eastern Visayas. Haiyan has underscored the need for women to be at the center of disaster preparedness plan and in building resilience of communities. Women

have traditional knowledge of potential solutions but are not being included in the negotiations – Indigenous women also have traditional ways of predicting an impending storm, and knowledge on sustainable agriculture. They have been in possession of this knowledge and have been guiding their lives for hundreds of years. It is heartening to note in the various negotiations particularly from African countries echoing the importance of traditional knowledge of women, indigenous and local communities but unfortunately these are still voices in the wilderness in this Conference of Parties (COP).”

– Teresita Vistro, AMIHAN and APWLD  
Focal Person on Climate Justice



## Shaping Regional and International Positions on Climate Change

APWLD takes a leading role in infusing women’s rights perspectives in climate change and environment negotiations globally, regionally and locally. We are the only women’s rights group from the region within the Gender Constituency of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In 2013 we collectively expanded its’ role in the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) and UNESCAP.

**Loss and Damage in COP 19 - Pushing forward the voices of rural indigenous women.** Amidst the fiery and tense negotiations at COP 19 in Warsaw, Poland, APWLD represented by our member Tess Vistro from the Philippines, played a leading role in demanding accountability for the loss and damage of rural indigenous women due to climate change. During the negotiations, APWLD focused our advocacy work on the issue of ‘Loss and Damage’ and the next legally binding treaty: the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP). APWLD organised the Women Action in Solidarity for the Philippines during the meeting, a candle vigil attended in memoriam of victims of Typhoon Haiyan.

During the COP 19 meeting a group of 133 developing countries walked out of the negotiations on ‘loss and damage’, amidst growing frustration at the intransigence of many developed countries on the G77+China proposals on Loss and Damage mechanisms. This action and subsequent support by 800 civil society actors caused the UNFCCC party States to set up the **Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage**. The discussion on the definition of “Loss and Damage” – which is currently highly contested – will be discussed and finalised in the next

COP 20 in Peru. APWLD has been advocating for a long term view of loss and damage that addresses the damage to livelihoods, particularly of women as demonstrated by our research.

**Rejecting a Zero Outcome** - In COP 17, APWLD, as the regional representative in the gender constituency, brought the voices of grassroots women to demand more accountability. The COP agreed to promote gender balance and improve the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations, and adopted a goal of gender balance in bodies established under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol to inform more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women. At COP 19, the first ever session on gender and climate change was conducted with a growing numbers of actors considering gender sensitive climate policies. The issue will be placed more firmly on the agenda in Lima and Paris for the 2015 agreement. The victory on gender will not mean anything without an ambitious climate policy outcome.

**Engendering UNEP** - APWLD attended the 14th Global Major Group and Stakeholder Forum and the 27th Session of the UNEP Governing Council – Global Ministerial Environment Forum. APWLD presented the four demands for a Just and Sustainable Development and was elected as Regional Women’s Major Group (WMG) Focal Point representing Asia and the Pacific. In the regional UNEP meeting in Cambodia APWLD was elected as 1 of the 2 alternate Regional Representatives for 2014.

**Engagement with ESCAP: Fostering Regional Dialogue for Post Rio+20** - In 2013 APWLD cemented a stronger relationship with UNESCAP and provided a strong voice for civil society in several meetings. APWLD delivered the “Joint Major Group Statement” during the Ministerial Segment of ESCAP 69th Commission Session on the issue of Post-2015 and SDGs as well as several statements for the Women’s Major Group.



APWLD’s demands and language were included in the Chair’s Summary of the ESCAP regional implementation meeting on Rio+20. Language on **decent work and living wage** – including **domestic workers, rights of indigenous peoples and collective right to self-determination, the elimination of all forms of violence against women, sexual and reproductive health and rights, social protection, and food sovereignty** were included. The Chair’s summary also made reference to our call to address **land-, resources and ocean grabbing**, importance of farmer-centric agrarian reform and peace and security as integral to sustainable development.

The Chair’s Summary also acknowledged the need to **address a failed development model, reform economic governance, radically rethink the concept of growth and tackle the root structural causes of inequality.**

## Challenges

Our call for proposals for our FPAR programme solicited numerous strong applications. As a result we decided to include an additional partner and stretch resources. Also, Haiyan then occurred and members in the Philippines implored us to include another partner who could follow the long term loss and damage and utilise this for critical negotiations. This resulted in 2 more partners. This demonstrates the relevance and critical importance of the programme while requiring APWLD to establish measures to ensure the coordination of FPAR project within available resources.



## Grounding the Global

**We contributed to building capacity and knowledge of 93 grassroots women's rights activists and organisations from 22 countries to understand and utilise international mechanisms (UN Special Procedures, Treaty Bodies and CSW).**

...

**Asia Pacific Women with Disabilities United (APWWDU) became the first network of women with disabilities in the region**

International instruments and mechanisms, such as treaties and intergovernmental negotiations, can provide opportunities to claim, promote, protect and realise women's rights at local, national, regional and international levels. Yet, human rights standards and norms are often not actively enforced and often have little bearing on women's lives at the local level. In 2013, contestation over women's human rights was at the forefront of discussion over the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as international negotiations on violence against women; discussions from which the voices of grassroots and marginalised women were often absent. The Grounding the Global (GG) International Programme addresses the significant gap between international human rights standards and their implementation at local, national and regional levels, as

well as the need to ensure that the priorities of grassroots women are reflected in these standards. In bridging this gap, the programme make these standards and mechanisms accessible to, and meaningful for, women in the Asia Pacific.

To make international norms and processes more meaningful and accessible to Asia Pacific women, APWLD adopted the following strategies in 2013:

- Developing the capacity of members and partners to engage in international advocacy around women's human rights, including by influencing international processes and outcomes;
- Developing new tools and resources for members about UN mechanisms and processes that can promote and protect their human rights;
- Strengthening movements of Asia Pacific Women with disabilities and increasing their visibility and influence at an international level.

We achieved impact by building capacity and amplifying the voices of Asia Pacific women at an international level. We ensured that the priorities of Asia Pacific women were reflected in internationally agreed documents, and that Asia Pacific women have the capacity to engage with international processes that are designed to promote and protect their human rights.

## Strengthening Movements: Women with Disabilities



### Asia Pacific Women with Disabilities United (APWWDU)

APWLD's delegation to CSW-57 in 2013 involved the active participation of women with disabilities activists from Thailand, Laos, Indonesia, Nepal and Korea who made the most of the space provided at a regional and international level to strengthen their movement. After forming APWWDU at the CSW-57 Regional Strategising Workshop in February, APWWDU then actively participated in the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for CSW-57 organised by ESCAP and UN Women; participated in CSW-57 and formally launched APWWDU at an event co-organised by APWLD entitled *Women with Disabilities and Violence: Challenges and Visions in the Asia Pacific*, at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations.

APWWDU formally defined its objectives: "Protection and promotion of rights and benefits of women with disabilities and combating all kinds of discrimination and violence against women in Asia and Pacific Region" through "networking, building capacity of the women with disability-leaders and community workers, carry out research and studies on disability and women, advocacy for ratification and implementation of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities." (APWWDU Terms of Reference, July 2013)



## Advancing International Standards and Compliance

In 2013, APWLD worked to ensure that Asia Pacific women engaged with and influenced international processes and norms, including CSW-57 and UN Special Procedures. In collaboration,<sup>1</sup> APWLD organised 48 women from 18 countries in the region (including indigenous women, rural women, and women with disabilities) to participate in the Regional Strategising Workshop for CSW-57. This was a critical process for preparing delegates to CSW-57 for engagement with the various policy-making spaces and opportunities. For the first time UNESCAP and UN WOMEN organised an intergovernmental meeting in preparation for CSW and APWLD and representatives from the workshop stayed on as resource people for the intergovernmental meeting. This was seen as a critical strategy to avoid the disaster of the previous CSW where governments failed to reach agreed conclusions. The regional document included language that became useful in the final negotiations in New York.

This laid the foundation for the activities of APWLD's delegation at CSW-57 in New York, March 2013, where delegates further engaged with governments— including Malaysia, Australia, Philippines, Nepal, Bangladesh and Indonesia—to influence the outcome of the inter-governmental negotiations. As a result of the delegation's advocacy efforts, the structural marginalisation and discrimination experienced by indigenous women, migrant women and women with disabilities was recognised in the final version of the Agreed Conclusions.

After significant lobbying by APWLD and our partners in the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRD-IC), were acknowledged for the first time by the CSW.

<sup>1</sup> Asian Indigenous People's Pact, Disabled People's International – Asia Pacific, and the Fiji Women's Crisis Center

**4 organisations (from China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam) utilised the knowledge from the Consultation to engage with UN human rights mechanisms – individual complaint mechanism of the Special Procedures, coordinating women's voices during the country visit of the Working Group and a submission to the CEDAW Committee.**



Having been part of the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) delegation organised by APWLD and its' members and networks, for two years in a row (2012 and 2013) I see this as one of the sure ways it can ensure the participation and voice of women in the region. I looked and observed other organisations that were present there and I note that only APWLD ensures such a delegation that is representative of marginalised women's groups in the Asia Pacific region. Being at the CSW this year as my second time to go, I noticed my interest and was grateful to observe some of the formal sessions. We were able to get in one of the discussions on the Agreed Conclusions and I witnessed how governments negotiate on this, how other countries try for language that upholds women's rights and governments that use consensus as a way to drag the discussion. I am grateful for being able to come for two times so that I can learn more about the CSW. APWLD should continue preparing for a delegation like this so that more women can come and witness the CSW at work."

Lin Lixia, China, Women's Watch-China and Beijing Zhongze Women's Legal Counseling and Service Center

## From Economic Empowerment to Economic Rights

In October 2013, APWLD also brought together 45 women from 13 countries in the region with UN Special Procedures Mandate Holders and Treaty Body Experts for a Regional Consultation in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on the theme, "Framing Development Justice." The Regional Consultation provided space for marginalised women's groups to articulate the challenges they face as a result of current development frameworks; to inform the thematic report of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice; and to understand the work and role of the UN Mandate Holders and Treaty Body Experts<sup>2</sup> in strengthening women's human rights. Consequently, a number of APWLD's members submitted communications to the UN Mandate Holders and Treaty Body Experts detailing cases of discrimination against women in the local contexts, as well as breaches of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). APWLD also submitted a detailed report to the Working Group on Discrimination Against Women that captured the principal concerns that were raised by women at the consultation.

The Regional Consultation was followed by a National Consultation between the UN Mandate Holders and Treaty Body Experts and women in the readymade garments sector in Bangladesh. The strength of the Consultation was the ability to bring together all stakeholders, a rare feat. Approximately 30 stakeholders attended including workers (Rana Plaza survivors and families of victims), union leaders, activists, owners, industry and government representatives. The Consultation allowed for an exchange between the UN mandate holders and industry and government representatives on issues of decent work and a living wage for workers in the Bangladeshi garment sector, as well as the need for the Bangladeshi government to comply

with its international human rights obligations, including in relation to economic and social rights. Workers, union leaders and activists were also able to demand government accountability for a living wage and health and safety regulation in the industry, as well as increased support for collective bargaining and the role of women in trade unions.

**“We collected 5 specific cases related to the human rights violations of women and have sent those to the CEDAW Committee as this was encouraged by the CEDAW Committee member during the consultation. We will be attending the next Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva. This progress has been achieved by me and my organisation due to APWLD's assistance and training in my view.” --APWLD member who attended the regional consultation**

## Challenges

The ongoing challenge for the GG International programme is ensuring that spaces exist in international processes for the meaningful participation of grassroots and marginalised women, particularly in the context of intergovernmental negotiations. In addressing this challenge, APWLD has the advantage of a well-established relationship with various UN Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies, including the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. However, APWLD is committed to broadening its relationship with a greater range of mechanisms so that its members have the maximum amount of space possible to influence international processes and ensure those processes are meaningful to them.

2 Kamala Chandrakirana, UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice; Heisoo Shin, Member of the UN Committee for Economic Social and Cultural Rights; and Milena Pires, Member of the UN Committee for the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women Committee.



# Regionalism and Women's Rights

The push towards regionalism continues to gain momentum in the Asia Pacific. In the South-East Asia sub-region, member states of ASEAN are committed to integration into one community by 2015, based on 3 pillars: economic, socio-cultural, and political security. This consolidation, together with the growing political influence of ASEAN, requires the women's rights movement in the region to look into the impact of regionalism on women's human rights and economic justice. This is particularly urgent given the slow progress in making ASEAN more people and rights-oriented. The Grounding the Global Regional Programme strengthens the engagement of women in regional processes and standards, building on its experience in convening and facilitating the widely-recognised Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN (WC).

In 2013, APWLD empowered women in Southeast Asia to address regionalism by:

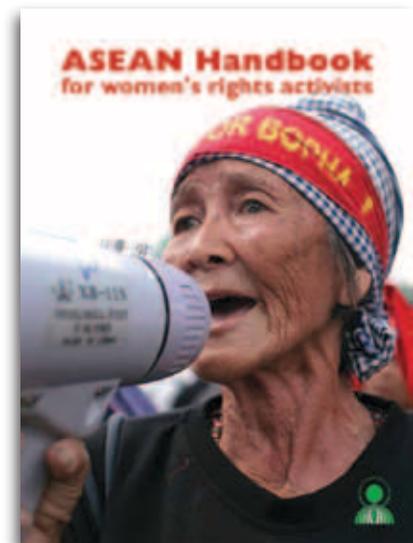
- Building the capacity of women's movements, particularly of young women, to engage with and influence regional processes;
- Conducting and providing evidence-based research and resources on women's human rights;
- Advocating for regional processes to be more democratic by opening up space for women to be heard;
- Strengthening the existing network of the WC for sustained movement -building



## Building Knowledge on Regional Mechanisms

APWLD, as co-coordinator of the WC, provided knowledge, capacity-building and analysis to remedy the clear deficit of public knowledge and engagement with ASEAN. APWLD published an ASEAN Handbook for women's human rights activists that aims to increase knowledge and awareness around ASEAN and its mechanisms. It is expected that this handbook will be a resource for activists working to

advance women's rights. Additionally, ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) forums were convened to educate grassroots women's groups on what AHRD comprises and its implications. The WC also began developing a feminist analysis of the ASEAN Economic Community, including models of corporate social accountability, to clarify the kind of 'people-centered' ASEAN that works for women. This included original research on the plight of migrant domestic workers from Indonesia and Philippines in Brunei Darussalam.





## Influenced the Language of the ASEAN Declaration on Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence against Children (DVAW and EVAC)

The work of the WC has been acknowledged by the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), which referred to the WC's submission on the DVAW and EVAC in their internal discussion. The WC has been active in promoting understanding the strengths and weaknesses of regional and international mechanisms pertaining to violence against women, including by convening an Asia Pacific Roundtable on 'International and Regional Standard Setting on Elimination on Violence Against Women'.

We were able to influence the language of the Declaration at least in five areas, which includes:

- The title of the Declaration on VAW and VAC reflecting specific and varied perspectives and contexts of violence and its consequences women and children experience differently. The earlier proposed title from the ACWC was Violence against Women and Children;
- Removing “balance between rights and responsibilities” in the Preamble;
- Using both terminologies of “victims” and “survivors” in identifying women and children who have experienced violence (all throughout the Declaration);
- Recognising and addressing the emerging forms of violence such as in the use of new ICTs to perpetuate violence against women in cyberspace (in the Preamble);
- Recommending the Declaration include the most marginalised women, particularly indigenous women, migrant women, and ‘women and children with disabilities’ was accepted (in the Preamble)

## Strengthening Women's Leadership in Regional Civil Society

The WC took on a leadership role in regional civil society fora, such as steering discussions on a number of human rights-related topics. The WC was a particularly visible presence during the ASEAN People's Forum/ASEAN Civil Society Conference (APF/ACSC) 2013: the WC organised, moderated, and spoke at workshops, influencing the objectives, methodologies and joint outcome statement of the Forum. It was a historical moment when the co-Focal point for the WC in Burma/Myanmar, May May Pyone (also a member of APWLD), was handed the APF flag to lead the steering committee of the APF/ACSC in 2014. A number of other APWLD and WC members were also nominated to participate in a number of organising committees for that event.

### Challenges:

The biggest challenge of working with ASEAN is the closed nature of many of its processes. It is difficult to receive timely updates about its schedule, which has made it even more challenging by the lack of an institutional mechanism for civil society engagement with ASEAN. For example, in 2013, despite the considerable amount of time and energy that was invested by APWLD and other civil society organisations around the Declaration on the Elimination of VAW and VAC, including calls for a more transparent negotiating process, the Declaration was adopted without a final draft being shared and in the absence of civil society consultation.



## Feminist Law and Practice

In Asia and the Pacific, discrimination against women in law, in legal structures and in the broader social and cultural contexts in which law is developed and applied, continues to persist. In some countries (and some provinces within countries) legal rights are being eroded and significant work is needed to protect existing rights. Further, many lawyers, women's rights advocates and activists are not equipped to challenge and critique discriminatory laws and practices from a feminist or rights-based perspective, or to use existing human rights standards in their work. To address this gap, APWLD's Feminist Law and Practice (FLP) Programme has been developing and strengthening the capacity of lawyers, judges, women's rights activists and organisations, paralegals, and administrative personnel to effectively challenge discriminatory laws and practices in their countries by:

- Increasing the capacity of women's rights lawyers, activists and organizations to utilise feminist perspectives and women's rights standards in their work;
- Building a network of activists, lawyers, policy-makers and implementers who are committed to advancing women's rights through law.

A key component of the FLP programme is the Feminist Legal Theory and Practice (FLTP) trainings, which are conducted at a national and regional level.

**FLTP pool of trainers has increased from 13 to 25 people from 14 countries (16 regional trainers and 12 sub-regional trainers)**

...

**A graduate of FLTP litigated against the threat of forceful eviction of 500 female sex workers from a brothel in Dhaka, using the provisions of CEDAW and the Bangladesh constitution**



Developed the capacity of 14 women's rights advocates from Burma/Myanmar to challenge discriminatory laws, policies and practices.

### **Strengthening the Women's Movement in Burma**

In February 2013, a FLTP training was held specifically for women in/from Burma. This training had particular significance given the considerable impediments, including the local political context, to the participation of women from the country in previous trainings. In light of the country's current political transition, it is critical that women's groups have the capacity to represent women's interests effectively in their individual work and together as a movement. The training provided the space for learning and sharing among diverse groups of participants, from varying ethnic groups, communities, and states in Burma.

After the training, a number of the participants applied FLP principles in action taken at a personal, organisational and community level. This included:

- Collaboration between 4 of the participants and other civil society groups and government agencies in a celebration of women's rights on International Women's Day in Nay Pyi Taw, during which they raised public awareness of women's rights; and
- A number of trainings focused on women's rights, education and leadership conducted by one of the FLTP participants. The trainings have included a three-day women's empowerment programme; a training on women's participation in leadership; and a training on violence against women.



### **Tailor-made FLTP Tools for Burma**

Burmese translations of several key materials were used during the FLTP. Issues and case studies specific to the Burmese context were also included. The relevance of these materials to the participants is evident in the numerous requests APWLD has subsequently received for videos, presentations and other materials used during the training which participants wish to use in their own advocacy and training.



### **A New Tool: Applying the FLTP Framework to Labour & Migration**

The FLP programme has developed a new three-day module on labour and migration in collaboration with APWLD's Labour and Migration programme in response to the increasing visibility of labour rights concerns in the region, including those of migrant workers. The module will allow labour activists, migrant workers, trade unions, and policy-makers to incorporate the FLTP framework into advocacy concerning decent work, living wage, migration, and labour rights for women. It also provides capacity-building in relation to recently crystallised international standards, such as the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers.



### **FLTP Graduates Influence the Domestic Violence Law in Burma**

One of the participants in the FLTP training currently coordinates the Gender Equality Network, a multi-stakeholder network of civil societies and international NGOs that is providing data and technical advice to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to support the drafting of a new law seeking to criminalise domestic violence. Two other FLTP graduates were also part of the network, and all of them stated that they drew on their training to develop a more rigorous critique of the proposed law. APWLD also assisted the network to invite our member Heisoo Shin, Expert Member of the UN Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to one of its meetings which was attended by the relevant Ministry and stakeholders. Dr. Shin provided a strong feminist framework for the discussion of the proposed law. Further, several tools and resources that were shared during the training was used during the meeting. The law is in parliament and is expected to pass.



## Tomorrow's FLTP Trainers: Building the Capacity of FLTP Graduates

The FLTP Training of Trainers (ToT) is an essential tool for expanding and diversifying the reach of FLTP trainings. As a result of the FLTP ToT held in November 2013, the pool of FLTP trainers increased from 13 to 25, covering 14 countries: Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Timor Leste, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, India, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Fiji Island, Papua New Guinea and Australia. In their personal action plans, participants spoke of adapting the FLTP framework to their national contexts and including issues that are particularly pertinent to women in their communities, as well as including introductory sessions for men.

“I was able to attain my personal objectives for the training. What helped me in particular were learning from the participatory methodologies, feminism and law, how to develop a session.”

**-Abantee Nurul, Ain O Salish Kendra, Bangladesh**

“I feel I am going to be able to train after this. The activities I participated in and observed from the participants sharing will help me with my court advocacy. I really found it useful to have the participatory activities, FLTP checklist and just that practice of being more aware of others.”

**-Barbara Paulini Briar Mali-Mali, Fiji Women's Rights Movement, Fiji**

“I really learnt a lot from the different kinds of feminism, sexual orientation and marriage, and law that were taken up in this Training of Trainers (ToT). When I come home I want to be able to conduct trainings on feminism, fundamentalism, globalisation and militarisation. I expect to promote awareness of feminism. This will help develop women's lives and capacities.”

**EiEiZin, Mote Oo Organisation, Burma**

## Online Community of Practice for FLTP Graduates

was launched via WorkVoices. This online community has a primary purpose of supporting FLTP graduates after trainings with resources on feminist legal analysis, sharing of progressive laws, policies and practices as well as a space where graduates can collaborate for collective campaign for feminist law and policy. It currently has 23 members from the recently conducted FLTP ToT but will gradually invite former FLTP graduates while we also collate feedback from initial users to upgrade the functions of the online community.

## Challenges

One of the challenges for the FLP Programme is the limited pool of resource persons to conduct regular FLTP trainings. The ToT, which has doubled the pool of resource persons for the region as well as expanding expertise in different sub-regions, has been a successful strategy for addressing this constraint. There are now 13 resource persons in Southeast Asia who are available to conduct trainings at the sub-regional and national levels. As the programme has a plan to conduct 7 national FLTP trainings in 7 countries in Southeast Asia in 2014-2015, the increased pool of FLTP trainers will contribute to offering opportunities for women's rights activities and lawyers in those countries for trainings and reforming laws and policies that discriminate against women.



## Access to Justice for Women in Plural Legal Systems in Southeast Asia

Most countries in the Asia Pacific region have plural legal systems and, for many women, formal legal systems are not always the most relevant institutions for accessing justice. Advancing women's access to justice --and human rights more broadly --therefore demands an understanding of the diversity of legal systems and norms that operate in local contexts; how they are implemented in practice; and where there may be scope for change in cases where they reinforce inequalities, oppression and marginalisation of women.

To build this knowledge, APWLD in collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) convened a Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) project to address access to justice for women in plural legal systems in Southeast Asia. The project aims to understand women's notions and experience of justice and laws, and to ultimately construct solutions to advance women's access to justice whether in the context of formal or informal legal contexts.

To achieve these goals, the FPAR access to justice project:

- Develops the capacity of women's and research organisations to understand women's notions of justice, and to document their experiences in accessing justice;
- Builds knowledge, resources, and skills of women's rights organisations to critically assess the impact of plural legal systems on women's access to justice at local, national and regional levels; and
- Strengthens the capacity and opportunities for women

to challenge discriminatory laws, seek accountability around existing laws, and influence progressive legislation and justice practices.



### FPAR: Empowering Women to Challenge Discriminatory Laws and Practices

The FPAR access to justice project began in April 2013. It supports 8 organisations in different Southeast Asian countries to work in their communities, with the aim to empower women to tell their own stories of accessing justice in the context of plural legal systems. Partner organisations participated in 2 training workshops to strengthen their understanding of the FPAR framework and to produce research plans. An online community of practice was created to facilitate exchange of experiences, knowledge, tools and challenges in conducting FPAR in their respective communities.

“FPAR is about changing power dynamics, deconstructing the notions of researchers and research participants. Issues can be compelling only when it's coming from women's experiences, and solutions can be powerful only when it's constructed by women affected by such problems.”



Organisation	Country	Research Topic
Justice Base	Burma/Myanmar 	Women's Access to Justice Working with Five States (Diverse in Religious, Ethnic and Cultural History/Background)
Sustainable Economic Development for Cambodia	Cambodia 	Women's Experience of Access to Justice Particularly Addressing the Issues of Domestic Violence and Women's Land Rights
Semarak Cerlang Nusa Consultancy, Research and Education for Social Transformation	Indonesia 	Women's Access to Justice: Balinese Women's Experience on Domestic Violence and Property Right
Lao Women Union	Lao PDR 	Women's Access to Justice in Plural Legal Systems
Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau	Philippines 	Women's Access to Justice, Particularly Working with Two Indigenous and Muslim Communities
Law Reform Commission of Thailand Institute for Population and Social Research Mahidol University	Thailand 	Women's Access to Justice: Muslim and Hmong Women's Experience
Centre of Studies for Peace and Development	Timor-Leste 	Women's Access to Justice, Particularly Addressing the Issue of Women's Land and Property Rights
Department of Policy Studies Center for Leadership and Policy Studies, HCM Academy	Vietnam 	Women's Access to Justice, Particularly in the Context of Domestic Violence

At the heart of FPAR's methodology is the principle that the research should create a democratic and safe space for women to tell their stories, and that this will empower them to advocate for change in their communities.

Although the research is still at an early stage (it will conclude in 2014) there are already examples of change happening at a local level. The Indonesian partner organisation has developed a strong relationship with local communities, including village leaders who are open to changing discriminatory customary laws, allowing it to challenge conventional understandings of the law based on women's experiences.

At the final workshop in 2014, partner organisations will identify advocacy plans based on their work with communities, including using country and regional reports as an advocacy tool for reform in law and practices to advance women's access to justice in Southeast Asia.

An Online Community of Practice is established with over 50 current users from all national research partners, resource persons and coordinating team. The platform is used in sharing research progress, questions and inputs on FPAR principles and methodologies as well as to share some changes already happening in the communities as result of their work.

## Challenges

The different pace at which the different research is being conducted, including the addition of an organisation from Burma/Myanmar after the first training, has made it challenging to coordinate trainings and planning. To accommodate this, the timeline for the project was extended.



## Women in Power

**We developed the transformative leadership of 37 women leaders from 7 South Asian and Southeast Asian countries.**

**A participant from Kyrgyzstan who attended the Central Asia Gender and Politics training in 2012 ran for a local government election and was successfully elected.**

As of December 2013, women represent 21.4% of women in parliaments worldwide—far below the mark for equal representation of women in politics. While the number of women in parliament has increased in recent years, this obscures the fact that progress in increasing women's participation in politics is the slowest of all spheres of public life—slower than progress in areas such as health and education. This is because women still face considerable barriers to political participation. Further, women who successfully overcome these multiple challenges to assume a leadership position continue to suffer personal threats and attacks not often seen in the case of any male politicians.

While women's equality in politics and decision-making is a human right, representation is also critical to the promotion and protection of women's rights. With that in mind, the Women in Power programme seeks to build and enhance

women's transformative leadership in order to promote laws and policies that strengthen the democratic political participation of women. This will ensure that decision-making processes are accountable and responsive to the needs and rights of women.

In order to increase women's participation and decision-making at all levels, APWLD is:

- Strengthening the capacity of individual women, women's organisations, and women's movements to participate in leadership and decision-making at various levels;
- Creating exchanges of resources, tools and best practices for women leaders and activists to promote women's rights and transformative leadership at various levels; and
- Strengthening the women's movement at national and regional levels.



### Advancing Women's Leadership

Participants in APWLD's 2013 Gender and Politics training subsequently made significant progress in increasing the representation of women in leadership roles in their communities and organisations.



### Nepal

2 of the participants ran for the Constituent Assembly while one was successfully elected.

6 of the participants from Nepal were all members of the same political party. At the end of the training they were all committed to ensuring women's representation and participation in the upcoming election by advocating for a quota within their party. Their political party subsequently passed a 30% quota for women prior to the election.



### Afghanistan

One of the participants was able to carry out similar capacity building activities with female police officers whom her organisation regularly engages with and trains.



### India

Both of the participants from India who are local council leaders are also members of a federation of 3000+ women local council leaders from the State of Karnataka. The federation has been advocating to increase the current reservation for women in local government from 30% to 50%.

The participants have also been organising and preparing campaigns and capacity-building workshops to assist other women to contest local council elections that are scheduled for 2015. They also subsequently collaborated with APWLD in the Women Leaders Exchange programme to exchange knowledge and information with women local council leaders from the Philippines.

“I am happy to inform you that I have been elected as a Constituent Assembly / Legislative Parliament Member through PR system. I look forward for your continued cooperation so that I can discharge my responsibilities to the optimum.”

- MP from Nepal

## Exchanging Knowledge and Strengthening Movements

The Women Leaders Exchange brought 2 newly elected women local council leaders from the Philippines to meet with a federation of women local council members from India (SUGRAMA). The women from the Philippines

learned from the experiences of their Indian counterparts in mobilising and working collectively to raise women's issues. The women from SUGRAMA drew on the recent election experiences of their Philippines counterparts to enrich their preparation for the next local council election. The participants also spoke of a potential collaboration between them in the future, including the production of a compendium of experiences of women local council leaders from both countries.

“It provided me with a great idea on organising and how women's groups can be good source of information and education that can effectively share with their own groups and with a strong network or alliance of women's movement. They can even show case collectively their power to pressure political groups.”

- Barangay leader from the Philippines

For SUGRAMA, the exchange was an important illustration of the support that the broader women's movement can provide to them. While they previously felt reliant on another local organisation that assisted in their establishment, after the exchange they realised that support was available from other women's organisations and the movement more broadly.

“All of us always thought that (as an organisation) we can never survive without The Hunger Project support, but after meeting all of you (APWLD, the other women's organisations from the last Gender & Politics training and the delegates from Philippines), I feel now that we can.”

- Padmini Ananth, Director of SUGRAMA

## Challenges

While the level of women's political participation in the region is likely to continue incrementally, it cannot be assumed that the presence of women in positions of power and decision-making will necessarily translate into an improvement in the fulfilment of women's rights. APWLD therefore continues to engage with women leaders after they are elected to ensure that they remain accountable to the women's movement.

# Organisational Development

## Growing, Emboldening, Activating: A new 5 year plan

In 2013, APWLD embarked on a new 5 year plan. The plan is the result of preparation involving external evaluations that drew its findings from 50 survey respondents, 32 interviews and analysis of our programme work and reports. We then held strategic planning meetings with our Regional Council and our Organising Committee members drawing from the results.

We have retained our guiding analysis around the pernicious intersections of globalisation, fundamentalisms and militarism with patriarchy.

Our new five year plan resulted in:

- Expansion to 6 Programmes with the addition of Feminist Development Justice and Climate Justice programmes;
- Expansion of the FPAR method to ensure all research supports the voice of local women but also leads to advocacy, structural change, institutional strengthening of local women's groups and strengthened, vibrant movements;
- Expansion of our existing programmes to include more national level support and stronger integration of our programmes;
- Expanded focus on women workers broadly (in addition to domestic workers);
- Establishing a Feminist Learning Institute;
- Increasing the Secretariat staff to 21; and
- Purchasing an APWLD building to ensure long term sustainability.

## Communications

The work of movement building and knowledge sharing is strengthened by APWLD's communication work in the various media. In 2013, APWLD's communication work contributed to discourse through consistent social media engagement and concerted outreach to mainstream media. We also developed new knowledge tools and campaign materials such as the publication on ASEAN and the stickers and bookmarks on development justice.

**Publication of opinion piece** Our opinion piece on development justice "Big business as usual" appeared in 3

major national newspapers: the Bangkok Post, the Jakarta Post, and Kathmandu Post.

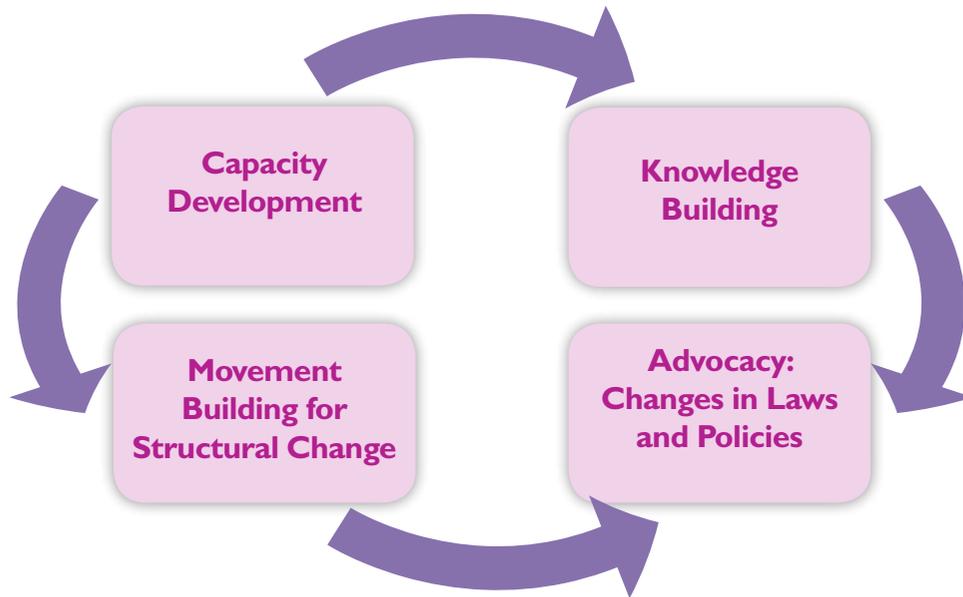
**Articles on development justice** in mainstream media We gained coverage of our activities in mainstream and independent media outlets particularly around the People's General Assembly.

**Contributing to discourse through #hashtag use/proliferation** Partners, individuals and members are using the hashtag #developmentjustice on twitter. Some organisations have also used the hashtag including the UN-NGLS.

**Publications** We produced the ASEAN Handbok for Women's Human Rights Activists that aims to increase knowledge and awareness around ASEAN and its mechanisms. We have also released an issue of Forum News in the final quarter of 2013, with articles and analysis on issues around development justice, including land rights, micro credit, women's rights in the information society.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

APWLD has cemented our monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to support our work analysing and documenting APWLD's Feminist Theory of Change, the impact of our programmes and the context we operate in. The tool illustrates our belief that structural change, an ultimate target of our work, can happen when there are strong women's movements. We use our M&E framework to establish our strategic objectives, analyse and document how we are progressing to achieving the objectives as well as to facilitate our reflection and learnings processes. 2013 saw our M&E framework guiding not only the work of Secretariat but also significantly of our programme members and partners. For instance, all national partners of BOOM FPAR project were able to utilise the tool for their individual research project, and collectively. It demonstrated once again that movement building is the key to advancing women's human rights. We recognised that movement building requires multiple strategies as well as multiple organisations, activists and skills. Our work aims to provide support to movements in 4 'domains' that are articulated at the beginning of this report: Building Capacities; Creating Tools, Knowledge, Resources and Opportunities; Providing Advocacy Opportunities to influence Laws, Policies and Institutions, and Creating Structural Change, New Networks and Alliances.




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## Financial narrative

In 2013, APWLD received funds amounting to USD 1,325,494.44. This is an increase of about 22.8% from the previous year. Our total expenditure for this year was USD 1,093,356.20 which is a slight increase on the previous year.

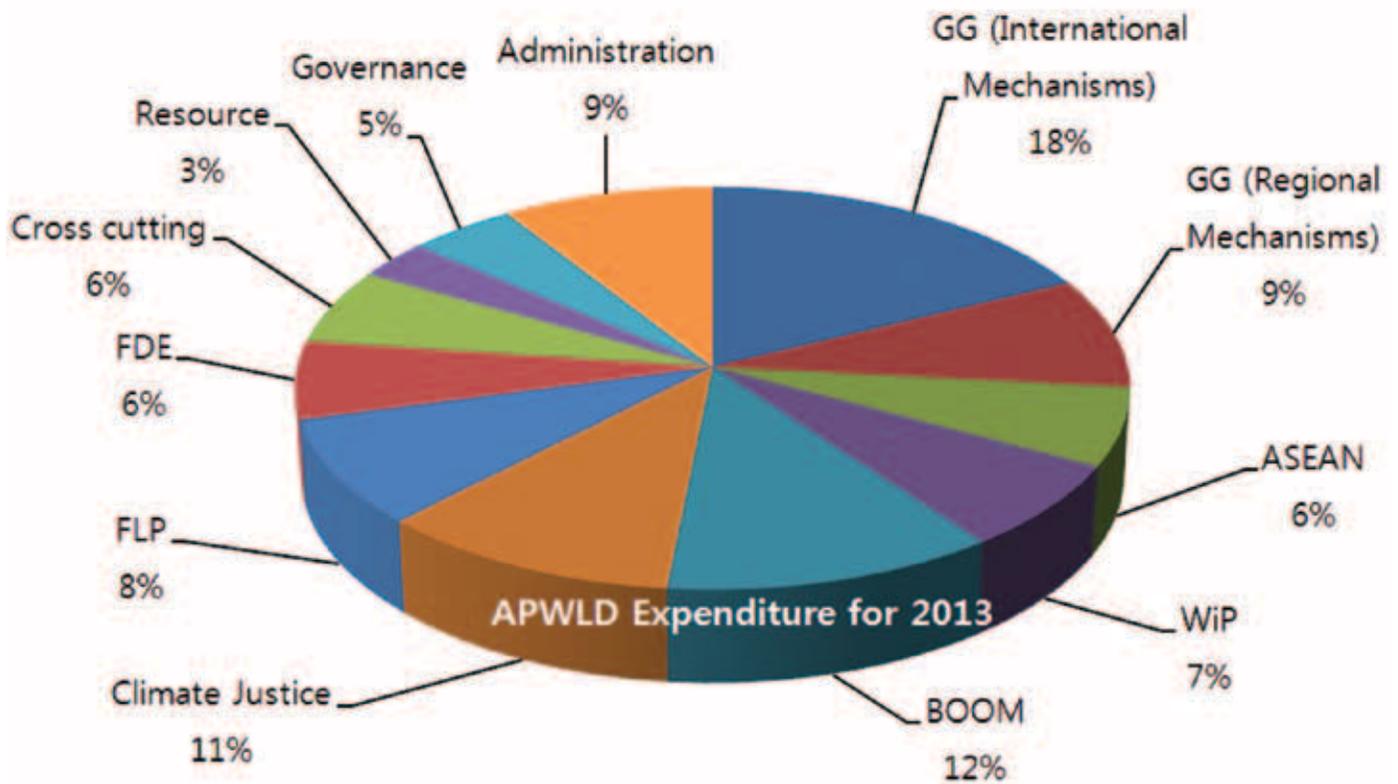
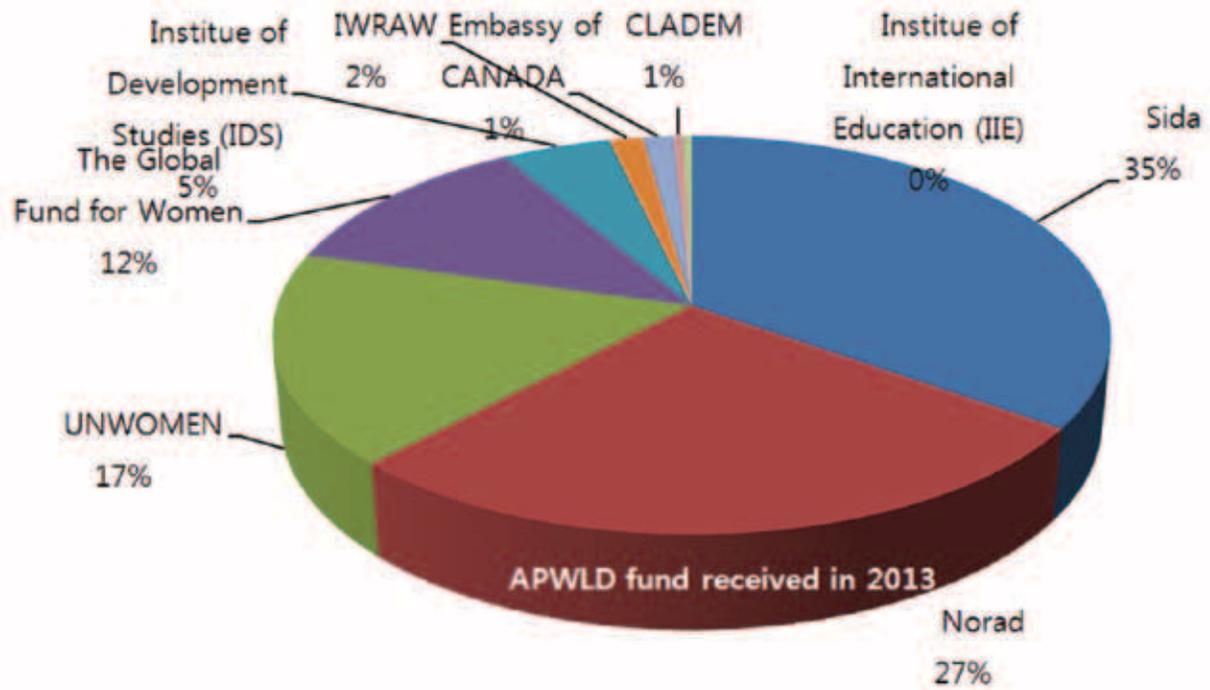
Several of our contracts were finalised in the middle of the year which delayed some programme activities and recruitment of new staff. This resulted in higher receipts than expenditure for the year and some activities delayed until 2014.

In 2013, we were delighted to continue our relationship with Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and signed a new 4 year contract providing core support across our programmes. We also signed a new 3 year contract with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) to support our Climate Justice, Breaking out of Marginalisation and Feminist Development Justice programmes. We continued to receive support from the Global Fund for Women for our Women in Power programme and we received support from UN Women for our Grounding the Global Regional Mechanisms programme (support specifically to the Southeast Asia WC) and a new contract with UN Women for our Feminist Law and Practice programme. We received project support from the Embassy of Canada for

the Burmese translated Feminist Legal Theory and Practice training and from the IDS (from a UN Women grant) for the coordination of the regional Access to Justice and Plural Legal Systems project. We continued to be supported by Ford Foundation with funds carried over from the grant transferred in 2012. Other receipts from IWRAW Asia Pacific and CLADEM represent partnership work on joint activities.

In 2013, programme costs amounted to 83% of total costs. Institutional development costs, which include network support, non-programme resources and materials, member governance meetings and staff development amounted to 7.7%. Administration costs were a very low 9%.

Our financial accounts have been audited and approved by NB accounting of Chiang Mai, Thailand. Our auditors undertake both financial and management audits to identify any risks or improvements associated with our internal management systems. The auditor identified no material weaknesses or reportable conditions during the audit while recognising progressive measures APWLD has undertaken to improve and monitor our internal systems.





## 2013 APWLD Events Calendar

### JANUARY

- 22 January: Meeting of Campaign for Peoples Goals for Sustainable Development (Jakarta, Indonesia)
- 28-30 January: CSO Outreach: Third High Level Panel (HLP) Meeting on Post-2015 Development Agenda (Monrovia, Liberia)
- 30 January: Gender Roundtable with HLP Members (Monrovia, Liberia)
- 3-4 February: Grounding the Global: Strategising Workshop for the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (Bangkok, Thailand)

### FEBRUARY

- 16-17 February: 14th Global Major Group and Stakeholder Forum UNEP (Nairobi, Kenya)
- 18-19 February: UNEP Governing Council - Global Ministerial Forum (Nairobi, Kenya)
- 19 February: WMG Side Event in UNEP GC/GMF - Gender Priorities on Sustainable Development, (Nairobi, Kenya)
- 18 February: Strategy Meeting to meet with Indonesian Government (Jakarta, Indonesia)
- 19 February: Meeting with UKP4 - Indonesian Government on Post 2015 (Jakarta, Indonesia)
- 28 February - 1 March: Global Thematic Consultation on Governance and the Post-2015 Agenda (Johannesburg, South Africa)

### MARCH

- 4-15 March: Grounding the Global: Making the CSW-57 Meaningful to Women in the Asia Pacific (New York, USA)
- 5-7 March: Annual Migrant Women Exchange Get Together (Chiang Mai, Thailand)
- 8 March: International Women's Day Rally (Chiang Mai, Thailand)
- 23-25 March: CSO Outreach: Fourth High Level Panel (HLP) Meeting on Post-2015 Development Agenda (Bali, Indonesia)
- 25 March: Gender Roundtable with HLP Member on Post 2015 Development Agenda (Bali, Indonesia)
- 28 March: Programme and Management Committee Meeting (Chiang Mai, Thailand)
- 29-30 March: Regional Council Meeting (Chiang Mai, Thailand)
- 31 March: Programme and Management Committee Meeting (Chiang Mai, Thailand)

### APRIL

- 6-8 April: ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum 2013 (Brunei Darussalam)
- 9 April: Strategy Meeting of CSO engaged with ASEAN/AICHR/ACWC (Brunei Darussalam)
- April EU Development Justice (Brussels, Belgium)
- 22-24 April: ESCAP Regional Implementation Meeting on the Follow Up of Rio+20 (Bangkok, Thailand)
- 26-29 April: ESCAP 69th Commission Session (Bangkok, Thailand)
- 27-29 April: Ministerial Meeting of Democracy (Ulaanbataar, Mongolia)

### MAY

- 8-10 May: Workshop on 'Feminist Analysis of ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint' (Bogor, Indonesia)
- May ALCMR Meeting (Jakarta, Indonesia)
- 12-16 May: Global Forum on Migration and Development (Stockholm, Sweden)
- 29-31 May: Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (Bangkok, Thailand)
- 27-29 May: Access to Justice First Regional Workshop (Chiang Mai, Thailand)

### JUNE

- 6-7 June: Development Cooperation Forum (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
- 17-19 June: 4th OWG Meeting (New York, USA)
- 10-11 June: ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism: Challenges and Ways Forward (Bangkok, Thailand)
- 10-11 June ACWC Expert Meeting to Develop Study Framework on Economic Rights (Jakarta, Indonesia)
- 16-18 June: UNDP Regional Exchange on engagement with International Human Rights System and following up on the UPR (BKK, Thailand)
- 18-19 June: SAPA CSO Engagement in ASEAN (Bangkok, Thailand)
- 28-29 June: Programme and Management Committee Meeting (Chiang Mai, Thailand)

### JULY

- 9-11 July: 3rd BOOM FPAR Regional Training on Data Analysis, Reflections and Ways Forward (Chiang Mai, Thailand)
- 15 July: Civil Society Interactive Hearing on the United Nations High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (New York, USA)



17-19 July: South Asia Gender & Politics Training (Kathmandu, Nepal)  
 26-28 July: FAO High Level Consultation on Gender, Food Security and Nutrition (Bangkok, Thailand)

### AUGUST

3-6 August: Regional Consultation on ACSC/APF (Yangon, Burma)  
 19-22 August: Regional Workshop on Promoting the Rights of ASEAN Women & Children (Danang, Vietnam)  
 23-24 August: AP CSO Consultation on Just and Transformative Development Agenda (Bangkok, Thailand)  
 26-28 August: ESCAP Asia Pacific Ministerial Dialogue on Post 2015 Development Agenda (Bangkok, Thailand)  
 26-28 August: Access to Justice 2nd Regional Workshop (Chiang Mai, Thailand)



### SEPTEMBER

11-12 Sept: UNEP Regional Consultation Meeting Post-2015/SDG (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)  
 12-13 Sept: NGO Forum on ICPD (Bangkok, Thailand)  
 16-20 Sept: 6th Asian and Pacific Population Conference (Bangkok, Thailand)  
 16-18 Sept: Oxfam JRAS Gender Justice Kick Off Workshop (Chiang Mai, Thailand)  
 19-26 Sept: UN General Assembly (New York, USA)  
 21 Sept: People's General Assembly (New York, USA)  
 22 Sept: UNGLS Regional Recommendation on Post 2015 (New York, USA)  
 22-25 Sept: ACWC Expert Meeting on Study on the ASEAN Progress Report on Women's Advancement and Gender Equality & Institutional Strengthening of the ACWC (Manila, Philippines)

### OCTOBER

1-2 Oct: 6th Regional Consultation on ASEAN and Human Rights (Jakarta, Indonesia)  
 3-4 Oct: The United Nations General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (New York, USA)  
 4-5 Oct: Programme and Management Committee Meeting (Chiang Mai, Thailand)  
 3-5 Oct: Asia Pacific Forum Dialogue on the European Development Cooperation (Bali, Indonesia)  
 7 Oct: Public Forum on Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) - Bali, Indonesia  
 20-21 Oct: APF/ACSC Preparatory Meeting (Yangon, Burma)  
 25-26 Oct: Ford Foundation Public Interest Law School Symposium 'Striving for Justice: The Power of Public Interest Law' (New York, USA)  
 26-29 October: Civil Society Partnership for Development Effectiveness, Feminist Strategic Planning (Kampala, Uganda)  
 27-29 Oct: Regional Consultation with UN Mandate Holders (Dhaka, Bangladesh)  
 30 Oct: National Consultation with UN Mandate Holders (Dhaka, Bangladesh)  
 29-31 Oct: ESCAP Committee on Environment and Development (Bangkok, Thailand)



### NOVEMBER

5-7 Nov: Peoples Forum on Business and Human Rights (Bangkok, Thailand)  
 11-22 Nov: COP 19, UNFCCC (Warsaw, Poland)  
 12-13 Nov: Workshop on ASEAN Community Blueprints (Jakarta, Indonesia)  
 22-28 Nov: FLTP Training of Trainers (Chiang Mai, Thailand)

### DECEMBER

1-2 Dec: 1st FPAR Climate Justice Training (Bali, Indonesia)  
 3-6 Dec: WTO (Bali, Indonesia)  
 3-6 Dec: People's Camp against WTO (Bali, Indonesia)  
 6 Dec: 'Trade is a feminist Issue' forum (Bali, Indonesia)  
 7-8 Dec: Asia Pacific VAW Roundtable (Bali, Indonesia)  
 9-11 Dec: SEA Women's Caucus on ASEAN Annual Meeting (Bali, Indonesia)  
 9-10 Dec: Workshop on Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN (Manila, Philippines)  
 9-12 Dec: Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition Executive Committee Meeting (Kathmandu, Nepal)  
 10-12 Dec: WiP Annual Women Leaders Exchange (Bangalore, India)  
 11-12 Dec: AICHR Regional Workshop on Post Millennium Development Goals and Human Rights (Jakarta, Indonesia)  
 15-16 Dec: SAPA WG on ASEAN Writeshop (Bangkok, Thailand)  
 16-17 Dec: Programme and Management Committee Meeting (Chiang Mai, Thailand)  
 18 Dec: Thai Association Meeting (Chiang Mai, Thailand)



## The Women of APWLD

### Regional Council members 2012-2014

Khushi Kabir  
Sanaiyya Ansari  
Priscilla Naidu  
Vandhna Narayan  
Albertina de Jesus Piedade Almeida  
Esther Beulah Devakumari  
Titiek Kartika Hendrastiti  
Mikiko Otani  
Yevgeniya Kozyraeva  
Heisoo Shin  
Aizhamal Bakashova  
Nurgul Djanaeva  
Ivy N. Josiah  
Noor Farida Ariffin  
Rashila Ramli  
Mandkhaikhaikhatan Tsevegmid  
Judy M. Taguiwalo  
Teresita Oliveros-Vistro  
Hsiao Chuan Hsia  
Yevgeniya Kozyreava  
Virada Somswasdi  
Nuthamon Kongcharoen  
Kate Lappin



### Programme and Management members

Sanaiyya Ansari  
Titiek Kartika Hendrastiti  
Mikiko Otani  
Judy M. Taguiwalo  
Virada Somswasdi  
Wanee B. Thitprasert  
Kate Lappin



## Secretariat

Kate Lappin – Regional Coordinator  
Misun Woo – Deputy Regional Coordinator  
Wardarina – Programme Officer  
Marion Cabrera – Programme Officer  
Diyana Yahaya – Programme Officer  
Sunee Singh – Programme Officer  
Tessa Khan – Programme Officer  
Leanne Sajor – Programme Associate  
Wint Thiri Aung – Programme Associate  
Punika Shinawatra – Finance Officer  
Kornvika Paoprathum – Finance Assistant  
Navarat Nophiran – Liaison Officer  
Aileen Familara – Information and Communication Officer

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