



reSISTERS, perSISTERS, SISTERS



APWLD

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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“Finding the overlaps between movements ... when it is Women’s Day, women from different sectors come together and join on each other’s issues even if they are not the core concerns. This is the start of solidarity. Urban and rural women don’t know each other, but there is an overlap in struggles, in how we feel, in how we overcome things, in how we move forward.”

—Gerifel Cerillo, FPAR Researcher, Tanggol Bayi (Philippines)



APWLD

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

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List of Acronyms

AHA	Anger, Hope, Action
APF	ASEAN People’s Forum
APFF	Asia Pacific Feminist Forum
APFSD	Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
AP-RCEM	Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism
APWLD	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
APWWDU	Asia Pacific Women with Disabilities United
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BOOM	Breaking Out of Marginalisation
CFS	Committee on Food Security
CJ	Climate Justice
CNS	Citizen News Service
COP	Conference of Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
ESCAP	(UN) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FDJ	Feminist Development Justice
FLP	Feminist Law and Practice
FPAR	Feminist Participatory Action Research
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GG	Grounding the Global
ISDS	Investor State Dispute Settlement
IWD	International Women’s Day
MC	Ministerial Conference
MOI	Means of Implementation
MWF	Migrant Workers’ Federation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OEWG	Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group
RCEP	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TPP	Trans-Pacific Partnership
TUT	Trade Union Training
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WGC	Women and Gender Constituency
WHRD	Woman Human Rights Defender
WITCH	Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony
WMG	Women’s Major Group
WTO	World Trade Organisation

About APWLD

Who We Are

APWLD is the leading network of feminist organisations and individual activists in Asia Pacific. Our 228 members represent groups of diverse women from 27 countries in Asia Pacific. Over the past 30 years, APWLD has actively worked towards advancing women's human rights and Development Justice. We are an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organisation and hold consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Our Work

APWLD fosters feminist movements in Asia Pacific to influence laws, policies and practices at the local, national, regional and international levels. We develop capacities, produce and disseminate feminist analyses, conduct advocacy and foster networks and spaces for movement building 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 Justice.

Our Beliefs

We believe that advances in women's human rights are achieved and sustained when autonomous feminist movements exist and have an enabling environment to work. We believe that law can be repressive as well as transformative. We use feminist analysis to dissect, engage with and transform laws, legal practices and the systems that shape and inform them. We believe that the nexus of patriarchy with militarism, fundamentalisms and neoliberal economic globalisation is responsible for gross violations of women's human rights and fundamental freedoms. We believe that equality, Development Justice and the realisation of human rights can only happen when women, particularly marginalised women, are empowered to lead policy and legal debates and determine solutions. We believe, to achieve lasting and sustainable change, engagement with women themselves, both at the grassroots and policy making levels, is needed to bring a feminist approach and perspective to their advocacy.

Our Structure

Our diverse and active membership provides the strength and expertise that drives and executes our work. Members are actively involved in APWLD's programme work through taking part in Programme Organising Committees. APWLD is governed by a Programme and Management Committee comprised from a larger Regional Council of active members. Our Secretariat in Chiang Mai and satellite office in Penang carries out day-to-day operations and provides for programme implementation as well as financial and technical support.

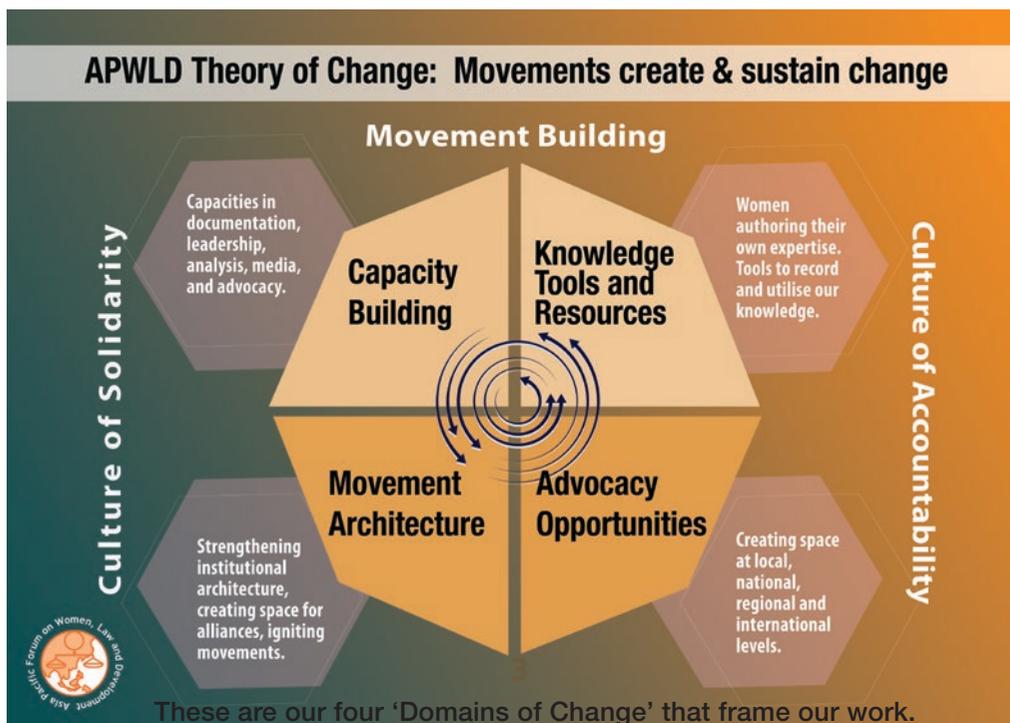
Our Herstory

APWLD developed from dialogues among women lawyers, social scientists and activists from Asia Pacific, which began at the 1985 Third World Conference on Women, held in Nairobi, Kenya. Participants in these dialogues recognised that gaining the capacity to mobilise people to understand social, economic and political dimensions of women's oppression and take collective action for change required a clear focus and strong organisation. In 1986, women lawyers and activists in the region formally launched APWLD and set up a Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Secretariat relocated to Chiang Mai, Thailand in 1997; with a satellite office in Penang, Malaysia opened in 2017 to support the growing work of APWLD.

Our Theory of Change: Amplifying Movements

We believe advances in women's human rights are achieved when powerful feminist movements exist and can thrive, free from any forms of harassments and constraints. Our work is designed around supporting and fostering movements and amplifying their impact through regional and international engagements and solidarity. We have identified four key elements movements need to prosper:

- **Strong capacities** to analyse, organise, advocate and drive social, economic and political change;
- **Knowledge, evidence, tools and resources** to advocate for change;
- **Advocacy space and opportunities** to engage with and influence policy makers at local, national, regional and international levels; and
- **Institutional structures and space to build alliances, coalitions and networks** that amplify common demands and collectively drive change.



Message from Regional Coordinator: Reflections on my 9 years with APWLD

I am grateful for the opportunity to write this introduction to the 2017 annual report, an introduction that will be my last. Consequently, it is written not just as a reflection of the work of APWLD in 2017, but, in part, as an epithet, a reflection on the ways that APWLD has shaped me, and our region in the past nine years.

The region continued to witness a slide toward autocratic patriarchal neoliberalism with governments from Cambodia to the Philippines and Malaysia seemingly abandoning respect for the rule of law, freedom of the press, freedom of association and democracy. As the centre of the global economic and political order swung more rapidly to the region, governments responded with an assurance that the world's increasingly monopolised wealth would be welcome and secure amongst autocrats. APWLD members remain committed to organising women and speaking truth to power.

In 2017, APWLD faced challenges that civil society across the region deals with on a routine basis. For the first few months we were unsure of our capacity to continue to operate in Thailand. Our staff faced visa challenges and insecurity whilst we dealt with the consequences of criminal defamation laws that make transparent operations challenging.

And yet, despite these very existential threats, in 2017 we not only survived – we thrived.

Our Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) has proven, over the past few years, to be the best way to support women's organising and advocacy. The methodology's success enabled us to expand its application and reach an increasing number of communities. In 2017 we introduced a standalone Labour FPAR to support labour organising and documentation in 11 countries as well as initiated a new round of Climate Justice FPAR, and provided support to more than 40 movements to prosper. We organised the 3rd Asia Pacific Feminist Forum, the largest and most powerful yet with our days organised around Anger, Hope and Action. The sisterhood, solidarity and determination amongst the 320 participants was palpable and deeply moving, and importantly ignited further collective action.

Our work influenced two significant policy shifts in 2017 that APWLD has led globally. First, governments began to recognise the potentially adverse relationship between neoliberal trade and women's human rights. Second, governments formally linked the importance of a just (and equitable) transition of the workforce and economy to women's human rights.

For many years governments dismissed the link between women's human rights and trade policy. In 2017 the work elicited policy responses, albeit compromised. During the RCEP negotiations in Hyderabad we mobilised a large number of women's rights activists, received unprecedented media coverage, and recognition from the Indian government that liberalisation of procurement could harm the potential for affirmative action. A number of governments decided to include Gender Equality

chapters in their trade agreements. In the WTO, a number of governments attempted to sponsor a Gender Equality resolution on trade. APWLD responded with a joint statement rejecting the cynical statement that failed to address the structural inequalities enabled by neoliberal trade, and that statement quickly received global endorsement and media attention.

This year, the Commission on the Status of Women focused on labour rights. APWLD was able to propose language that was finally adopted by governments. As a result, governments recognised the link between trade union density and gender equality and for the first time recognised that the commitment to a ‘just transition’ articulated in the Paris Agreement should be developed in a way that advances women’s human rights. We were able to ensure that commitment then made its way into the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan – an important feat, given we failed to secure the language just one year earlier at negotiations in Morocco.

APWLD again hosted the regional civil society preparatory meeting for the UN Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), and for the first time organised the Ground Level People’s Forum to contrast to the High Level Political Forum in New York.

After being unable to recruit new staff at the beginning of the year, we were fortunate to be able to recruit some remarkable women to join our astounding team. When I look back at my nine years with APWLD, I think this, together with our committed membership, was the key to our remarkable success. With the membership

driving our programme committees, we were able to create structures, methods and an uncompromised environment that allowed passionately committed staff to thrive. Our structures, clearly articulated and carefully articulated analysis, and meaningful, empowering methods framed the parameters of work that staff could then implement and expand.

APWLD’s future is secure. In 2017 we secured funding for our five-year plan that allows us to grow, be bold and ambitious. We opened a satellite office in Penang, Malaysia and we rebuilt our Thai structures.

Support for the neoliberal patriarchal order is crumbling. At the same time support for feminist visions and a more just order is proliferating. The seeds of Feminist Development Justice, fertilised by APWLD, are blossoming. I finished my role at the end of 2017 with the knowledge that APWLD’s work will continue to bear fruit with APWLD’s membership and with its new Regional Coordinator, my colleague Misun Woo, continuing to nourish it.



Kate Lappin



2017 – A Year in Review

In the past year, **APWLD developed the capacity of over 1,100 feminists and women's rights advocates** in Asia Pacific in research, training, and advocacy, and built feminist leadership particularly among grassroots, marginalised and young women. We trained women in evidence-based participatory action research; trade union leadership and organising; strategic advocacy; trade and economic policy and feminist litigation.

We resourced and supported over **90 grassroots feminist activists to engage in at least 13 high-level advocacy spaces at regional and global levels**. Our advocacy to influence policy at global, regional and national levels was guided by **35 new feminist tools and knowledge resources and 12 thematic submissions** we produced with our members, partners and their constituencies.

In 2017 we celebrated signs of our strengthening movement and growing power of women in our region when:



CAPACITY BUILDING

BOOM FPAR partners told us that they built the capacity of their own networks and constituents using our FPAR tools and Development Justice framework, collectively reaching 2,791 women and 181 men in 10 countries.



CAPACITY BUILDING & MOVEMENT BUILDING

A local researcher was elected Vice Mayor following her FPAR work with her communities, while two representatives from the FPAR community are now members of the Women's National Land Rights Forum in Nepal.



CAPACITY BUILDING & MOVEMENT BUILDING

A trade union training graduate from Cambodia used our mapping tool to organise within her workplace, leading to 300 new members in the entertainment sector of her union and 172 new members in the food and general service sector.



ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

Six of our Feminist Development Justice (FDJ) partner organisations to monitor and engage with Sustainable Development Goals carved space for feminist and structural analysis, and shaped their national SDG processes.



ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

We advanced feminist agendas in global policy, including the recognition of ‘just transitions in the context of climate change’ at CSW61 and the adoption of a Gender Action Plan at COP23.



ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

We can see a shifting discourse around trade and women’s human rights when governments growingly recognise the gendered impact of trade as well as evidenced by substantial media attention to our ‘No RCEP’ campaign.



MOVEMENT BUILDING

Our members played a strong role in **protecting space for civil society to set their own agendas**, from the ‘Convergence Space on Corporate Greed’ at ASEAN People’s Forum (APF); to leading an organised resistance against the description of civil society organisations as ‘terrorists’ by the Executive Director at UNEA-3; and the inaugural ‘Ground Level People’s Forum’ (GLPF) held in parallel with the HLPF.



ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

Our work attracted **four times more coverage in media** than the previous year, in part due to the ‘No RCEP’ campaign and the 3rd Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF).

Impact Highlight

Feminist Convening for Movement Building: 3rd Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF) Chiang Mai, Thailand

In September 2017, 320 activists, women human rights defenders, academics, lawyers and allies from 43 countries gathered in Chiang Mai for the third Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF), themed ‘reSISTERS, perSISTERS, SISTERS’.

Building in reach and impact since the first APFF in 2011, our APFF has become established as an important regional space for feminists to energise, strategise and take strength from the solidarity of sister activists.



1st APFF 2011
APWLD's 25th
Anniversary
130 delegates



2nd APFF 2014
Creating waves,
fostering
movements
259 delegates



3rd APFF 2017
reSISTERS,
perSISTERS,
SISTERS
320 delegates

The three-day conference programme followed a journey of ‘Anger, Hope, Action’ (AHA), a framework rooted in the labour movement to organise workplaces, and which APWLD has adopted in some programmes as a way for feminist activists to mobilise and communicate. On day one, presenters and delegates elicited their shared anger at structural injustices; following which stories of courage, resistance and sharing of effective strategies and new organising methods inspired hope on the second day, culminating in an energised closing day in which participants shared the concrete actions and commitments resulting from the conference.

“I expected passionate activists and interesting plenaries and workshops. The part that made it go beyond my expectation was the joy expressed so strongly, especially through the inclusion of the arts in the forum. Given the current global climate, I really appreciated space to be joyful.” — *Marisa Charles, Tharthi Myay Foundation*

Designed to build capacity and grow the power of our movement, while providing activists with opportunities to learn, connect and reflect, the APFF included 43 workshops, Donor-Activist Dialogue Circles (with four donor organisations), a Feminist Bazaar that included a ‘Really Really Free Market’, a Solidarity Hub, an Art Space, a Reality Theatre, and a Wellness Space.

“... APFF made it very clear that **there is so much to learn from others working in our region and many of the challenges we face are common. The conference also brought to light the importance of building and rebuilding a wider feminist movement beyond our in-country work and made me think about better articulating what is it we are working for (rather than against).** ... I will be posing these questions at our next board call with the hope of informing some of our future strategic work.”
— Anon, India



Building the Movement

APFF 2017 enabled new networks and alliances, led to development of feminist resources, and facilitated powerful advocacy:

Members and partners joined together in solidarity actions to call attention to human rights violations including extrajudicial killings in the Philippines, attacks against Rohingya in Burma/Myanmar, and the murder of journalist Gauri Lankesh in India.

Participants of the Strengthening Feminist Media Literacy workshop drafted a **Feminist Media Manifesto**, which was later

published by APFF participant Archanaa Seker in the New Indian Express.

APFF participatory workshops delivered recommendations that are already informing our work, such as the continued development of a new feminist strategic litigation framework, and the formation of a **Global Strike Working Group**.

In addition to being the largest APFF yet, the growing interest in feminist convening in the region was demonstrated when **#APFF** was the top trending topic on Twitter in Thailand and Malaysia throughout the four days of the conference.



Figure: 'ACTION' words, some of the individual commitments, and outcomes to date from third APFF

First Pacific Feminist charter has been distributed to allies and partners

Engage with labour unions!

Submission to the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

Petition against palm oil industry in Indonesia!

Insist intersectionality, break down silos!

CONNECT

Decent Work rap video released for Global Day of Action Against Precarious Work and went viral.

UNITE

RESISTANCE

Challenge corporate hegemony!

LITIGATE

STRIKE

Support the marriage migrants' movement!

QUESTION

Fight for living wage and against precarious work!

Follow up consultation on Feminist Witnessing and Strategic Litigation, December 2017

Committed to building knowledge!

Global Strike Working Group formed

Describing Our Movement

Movement building is at the heart of our work, with strong, connected feminist movements core to our vision of achieving progressive change. APFF provided us with a strategic opportunity to document the ‘state of the movement’ as seen by the Forum participants; to identify which groups are powerful with the capacity to mobilise, and where is the need to build greater connection, capacity or new alliances to advance Feminist Development Justice. The initial pilot ‘movement map’ produced from the APFF provided some key considerations for APWLD to absorb into our future work, including how to build solidarity and connections between local grassroots groups, and their links with national and international feminist movements.



The pilot map highlighted the importance of APFF as a regional feminist convening space, and APWLD’s crucial role in bringing the voices of grassroots women to international platforms and building bridges with other people’s movements. We will continue to work with members and partners to understand and strategise to build the strength of our movement.

Impact Highlight

Changing Public Discourse Around Trade

As one of the only women's rights groups globally analysing the gendered implications of trade, finance and investment rules, APWLD's position on these issues over time has won increasing recognition by civil society and governments. In 2017 we saw the adverse impact of current trade rules on women's human rights beginning to feature in political and public discourse.

Growing Solidarity with Feminist Perspectives

In 2017 we saw increased engagement by broader civil society and some governments on feminist analysis of the impacts of trade on women's human rights.

Our statement protesting the planned WTO Declaration on Women's Economic Empowerment at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) in Buenos Aires received support from over 200 feminist allies and organisations within a week's time. The strong civil society participation, combined with our strategic social media strategy, ensured that the statement was picked up by media and garnered the attention of governments and the United Nations.

The Canadian Minister of Trade, François-Philippe Champagne said on Twitter in response a tweet on the feminist statement:



"Today is a critical beginning to a new approach to trade, acknowledging that not everyone can currently benefit & access diverse markets. I appreciate hearing from you; more can and must be done! Let's continue this discussion & work together to advance #progressivetrade!"

Increased Reach and Impact of our Advocacy

We contributed to a growing media interest in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and specifically their impact on women.

Our 'No RCEP' campaign attracted extensive media coverage, where more than 40 local, national and international media outlets reported on our grassroots-based feminist advocacy. We saw further evidence of shifting public discourses when we were asked to author a piece in the Indonesian Journal Strategic Review; and when bilaterals.org, a leading website on Free Trade Agreements requested our collaboration to develop a Women and RCEP section.

Governments Acknowledging Trade Impacts on Women's Human Rights

We celebrated a tangible sign of our movement's power following a powerful mobilisation at the 19th RCEP Negotiations, in the streets of Hyderabad, India and supported by a concerted mainstream



media and social media campaign, which gained extensive press coverage: an Indian government official was quoted expressing concerns about the RCEP including its impact on women's livelihoods. Without our members and networks of grassroots women from rural India who came to Hyderabad, there wouldn't have been a feminist presence in the protests.

This specific acknowledgement, by a government in our region, shows the traction

we are gaining in generating increased recognition of the disproportionate impact of trade and neoliberal policies on women and women's human rights. This is part of a trend which has seen some recent FTAs include a specific Gender Chapter (for example the Canada-Chile FTA). While we are ready to push back against the whitewashing of neoliberal policies by tokenistic inclusion of 'Gender Chapters', we recognise this as evidence of our impact.



Analysing Our Impact:

2006

Our record of thorough and in-depth feminist analysis of trade rules and their impact on women began with our **advocacy around trade at the World Trade Organisation (WTO)**. Following the deadlock of WTO negotiations, and the emergence of a new generation of FTAs, our members perceived the **need to shift focus to analysing and mobilising around FTAs**.

This meant a process of **building capacity for our membership and others**, to develop understanding of the (often secretive) processes, threats like Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) clauses and highly technical language of FTAs.

2014

Our members made a strategic decision to engage with what was then the **Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)** from 2013-14, including at the 2nd Asia Pacific Feminist Forum in 2014.

With the advent of the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** negotiations, our analysis and experience developed around the TPP meant that we were well placed to commence building a strong people's movement.



Impact Highlight

Building a Movement for Just and Equitable Transitions

Climate change presents the greatest emergency that humankind has faced, and the impacts are felt disproportionately by rural communities, and particularly women. APWLD has long argued that there is a connection between neoliberal economic policies and human-induced climate change. In the lead-up to COP21 and the Paris Agreement in 2015, the regional report of our first Climate Justice FPAR documented the impacts of climate change on women's lives in eight countries in the Asia Pacific region, and outlined women's demands to governments.

APWLD has strongly supported the principle of 'just transitions' advocated for by trade unions and others as a response to climate change, in calling for a 'just and equitable transition'. Our vision incorporates not simply alternative jobs in a 'greener' economy, but a wholesale re-design of the patriarchal system of work and economy, including redistribution of the sexual division of labour and a re-imagining of economies that are gender equitable and sustainable for all people.

The concept of a just and equitable transition is reflective of our Feminist Development Justice (FDJ) framework, which emerged from our advocacy leading up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2017 we celebrated a significant step in the journey towards an alternative development model, at the 61st Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61), themed

around '*Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work*'.

At CSW61 some progressive states took on our recommendations, including: Canada introducing an entire paragraph from our annotation, verbatim; Pacific Island states took up our recommended language on 'just and equitable transition'; and one of our members was appointed to the Philippines official delegation.

Despite a hostile internal environment (for example far-right groups were represented in the US delegation) and repressive immigration policies (several APWLD members were prevented by increased restrictions in the United States visa policy from even attending), **APWLD celebrated the successful inclusion of a crucial key paragraph in the Agreed Conclusions on "just transition of the workforce" in the context of climate change, and another on the role of trade unions in addressing**

"Develop and adopt gender-responsive strategies on mitigation and adaptation to climate change, in line with international and regional instruments, to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to the adverse effects of climate change, with the aim of strengthening their economic empowerment, through inter alia, the promotion of their health and well-being, as well as access to sustainable livelihoods, including in the context of a just transition of the workforce;" (CSW-61 Agreed Conclusions, paragraph 40 (hh)).

“barriers to decent and dignified living conditions” (CSW61 Agreed Conclusions, paragraph 21). This formal acknowledgement by States (in the first intergovernmental text to address just transitions) represents a stepping stone in our efforts to advance feminist visions of development and climate justice. We celebrate it more because it was hard fought for: At COP23, ‘just transition’ failed to be adopted in the outcome document, although after extensive advocacy it was included in the key asks of the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC).

Growing Momentum

The momentum for this achievement was increased by solidarity and alliance building within APWLD’s network and with new allies, particularly with trade union movements that are increasingly supporting a transformative approach to just transitions.

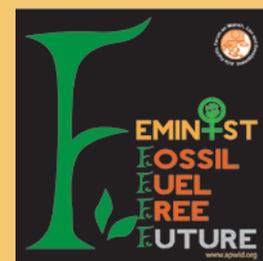
Our advocacy in 2017 made concerted efforts to amplify principles of a just and equitable transition in the context of climate change at other platforms, including the Committee on Food Security, COP23 and UNEA3. The importance of coalition-building and collaboration has been key: at COP23 the WGC included just transitions in their key asks, and at UNEA3 the Women’s Major Group took up the call for a just and equitable transition, as did the Trade Unions Major Group, one sign that trade union movements are increasingly supporting a transformative approach to just transitions.



Reflections on the Path to This Point:

This moment is about the **persistence of APWLD women in bringing their advocacy to global platforms despite setbacks and opposition.** The legitimacy, courage and strength of our members in articulating their knowledge and their demands are core to our advocacy. Along with others in our membership network, our **FPAR researchers are powerful advocates at international processes,** directly shaping responses by civil society and governments.

We have been recognised for producing credible, in-depth feminist analysis; in this case building on work we have done over a number of years around Feminist Development Justice, and more recently, our calls to envision a Feminist Fossil Fuel Free Future (5Fs).



Breaking Out of Marginalisation



In 2017, the BOOM programme continued to work with ten rural, indigenous, migrant and urban poor (RIMUP) women’s organisations from eight countries, supporting advocacy based on their Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR).

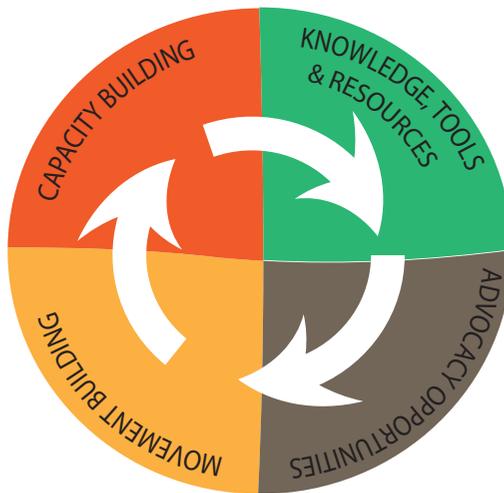
The FPAR cycle facilitated by APWLD from training, to research, reporting and advocacy lasts around 18 months, and with the groups well into the advocacy stage of their journeys, we are proud to see that many of them view FPAR not as a ‘project-based’ activity but a continuous element of their work with local communities and forging feminist communities and movement power. The ten groups came together in 2017 for a reflection workshop where they were able to collectively learn, document and demonstrate the power of FPAR to generate structural, meaningful changes.



- Collectively, our FPAR has built the capacity of 2,837 women and 186 men in 9 countries on issues of women’s rights, gender equality, globalisation, labour rights, land rights, living wage, minority rights, and access to justice.

- Fifteen new women’s groups were formed, and one women’s group in Thailand is reignited.

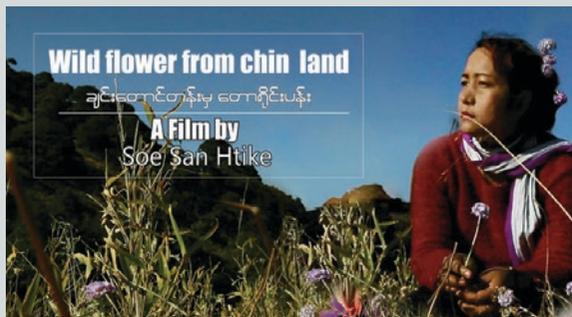
- Ten FPAR participants collaborate with 37 new networks/partners in the research and advocacy phase, not only with women’s groups but also with other movements (including urban poor, land rights, workers, migrants, etc) and government bodies.



- All FPAR partners successfully completed the FPAR with their communities and in total produced 91 publications/ materials that contain original evidences from the communities.

- **Dialogue with decision makers** who can influence policy or practice is integral to FPAR. Partner organisations and local communities secured **meetings with 87 national and local government** and other decision makers over their two years’ FPAR journey. In total, 19

government bodies gave commitments of support to partner organisations during the FPAR. As a result, at least 11 policies and practices are established, amended or under review responding to women’s demands and priorities.



Customary Chin practices in FPAR communities are changing on divorce, marriage and inheritance. Women and community members have started to see that women should also benefit in arrangements, and young people in Chin villages are advocating for inheritance rights of women in families. MPs and men are speaking out about the research and gender equality.

Ninu Women in Action Group’s film, “Wild Flower from Chin Land” was screened during the Human Rights and Dignity Film Festival in Yangon.

“Ninu’s documentary film is chosen to be shown at Human Right and Dignity Film Festival ... produced as the advocacy phase of FPAR 2015-2017. The film is about a divorced mother from Chin State who continues to pursue her dream. Thank you APWLD for providing us this opportunity.”

—Mai Len Nei Cer, Ninu Women in Action Group, Burma

In India, **Bonda tribal women successfully engaged with authorities on the issue of livelihoods** to enable women to find decent work in their home areas. Responding to recommendations in the FPAR, the government has opened a cashew processing plant as alternative community livelihood, employing 30 women; and the Integrated Tribal Development Agency now **regularly inspects hotels and hostels** where Bonda women work in the state of Odisha to ensure their working conditions meet labour rights standards. About 25 to 30 Bonda families (mostly women headed-households) now have **subsidised food ration cards** in Odisha.



In Nepal, as of September 2017, from no women owning land prior to the FPAR, 250 women have now obtained joint land certificates, after a **campaign by our partner to enforce joint land ownership policy**. As a result, the national **Inheritance Law is undergoing amendment** to acknowledge that inherited land is also owned by the wife. The **local researcher from this project has been elected as Vice Mayor** following the FPAR and continues to push for joint ownership and titling of land, while two representatives from the FPAR community are now members of the Women's National Land Rights Forum.

A documentary video **“Forgotten Voices of Women Garment Workers Behind the Reform in Myanmar”** produced by our partner in Burma/ Myanmar was covered by Swedish magazine Omvarlen Axel Kronholm (as well as local media), leading to a formal response from the clothing brand H&M to address the working conditions in their supply chains:



“This is totally unacceptable, and we will follow up on this information immediately. We demand that people are treated with respect and that our suppliers offer their employees good working conditions. It is immensely important for us that all our suppliers follow national legislation and ILO Conventions. All our suppliers commit to follow our strict code of conduct and we conduct regular inspections of the factories. If a supplier does not live up to our demands we will take action and in some cases even terminate the business relations.” — *H&M Representative*

Subsequently, the Minister of Finance and Revenue of Myanmar promised to upgrade the standard of social welfare clinics.

Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony



APWLD has continued to raise awareness and build feminist analysis with our members and other movements on the impacts of multilateral trade agreements on women's human rights, such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). The strength of our movement has continued to grow since the first People's Meeting on RCEP in 2016.

19th Round of RCEP Negotiations

In July 2017, APWLD mobilised 20 women, mostly farmers from the state of Tamil Nadu, along with women's rights activists from other parts of India to participate in the People's Convention and actions at the 19th round of RCEP negotiations in Hyderabad, India. The mobilisation stemmed from a preparatory workshop held in April in Bangalore on understanding

RCEP. Here, APWLD provided strategic communications support and facilitated a powerful collective social media campaign leading up to the negotiations. Our members and partners specifically highlighted the impact of RCEP on women's human rights, drawing significant media coverage and attention (see impact highlight pp.12-15).

Building Capacity and Networks

Through similar workshops, we continued to build the capacity of members and partners to understand and organise against neoliberal trade policies in various fora, including a workshop at the APFF in September and several workshops at the ASEAN People's Forum (APF) in November. The latter presented an opportunity to reach out to groups that have not traditionally engaged with issues of trade.

With rapid changes in the trade negotiations, we saw the need to update our RCEP briefer, and distributed this at APFF and the APF. The briefer was translated into Burmese, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Thai, and Vietnamese, while our member Solidaritas Perempuan did their own Bahasa translation.

Leading with Feminist Analysis and Expertise

APWLD's leadership and strength in feminist analysis on trade agreements led to an invitation by Oxfam Canada for APWLD to shape Canada's Feminist Foreign Policy through a visit to Canada's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Trade. We shared our perspectives on trade agreements and their impact on women, with a specific focus on the revived Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP); and lobbied for the introduction of a gender chapter and a stronger labour chapter in the TPP.

The increasing recognition by governments and other agencies on the interlinkages of trade and gender inequality can be seen in the Ministerial Declaration on Gender at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference, the inclusion of Gender Chapters in some recent trade agreements, and the success of the feminist advocacy in Hyderabad. While we view the changes in government positions with caution, the shift does open space for discussions around alternative models of trade that could benefit people instead of corporations.

RCEP Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
Robbing Communities to Extract Profit

Sixteen countries of the Asia Pacific region are negotiating a dangerous trade agreement designed to give multinational corporations unprecedented power and rights over resources, wealth and policy making. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership is a trade agreement between big corporations, ASEAN and its 6 major trading partners from the Asia Pacific region. In its current composition, the RCEP covers more than 50% of the world's population and 29% of the global GDP.

Countries Part of RCEP (and their GDP in US\$)

- Australia (1,205 Trillion)
- Japan (4,939 Trillion)
- Singapore (266.9 Billion)
- South Korea (1,411 Trillion)
- Brunei (11 Billion)
- Laos (15 Billion)
- Malaysia (206 Billion)
- Thailand (406.8 Billion)
- Cambodia (20 Billion)
- Myanmar (67 Billion)
- Vietnam (202 Billion)
- China (11,190 Trillion)
- New Zealand (185 Billion)
- India (2,263 Trillion)
- Philippines (304.9 Billion)

RCEP covers
50% of the world's population
29% of global GDP

Multinationals from RCEP Countries that have Used ISDS:
Intel, Samsung, etc.

What will the RCEP Cover?
Although the RCEP is being secretly negotiated, we know what chapters are being proposed and some of the draft content has been leaked. The agreement covers trade issues including trade in goods, services and agriculture, customs, tariffs and trade subsidies through this represents only a small portion of the agreement. The agreement goes far beyond trade and gives wealthy countries and large corporations the authority to reach across borders to impose constraints on a vast array of domestic policies.

In a world where inequality is on the rise and climate change is threatening our existence and these trade agreements will hinder poor and developing countries from pursuing and protecting their interests and sovereignty.

List of Currently Proposed RCEP Chapters/Annex:

- Rules of Origin
- Trade in Services
- General Provisions and Exceptions
- Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation
- Telecommunications
- Institutional Provisions
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
- Investment
- Dispute Settlement
- Standards, Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures
- Economic and Technical Cooperation
- Financial Services
- Intellectual Property
- Annex on Product Specific Rules
- Competition
- Schedules of Tariff Commitments
- Services and Investment Schedules

RCEP will hit economically backward women the most
Nikhila Meery

Hyderabad, July 24, 2017 (PTI) Peoples groups today called for rejection of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the mega Free Trade Agreement (FTA) which is currently being negotiated in the city.

Peoples groups from different parts of the city took out a protest rally demanding to stop RCEP talks.

Cold reception to RCEP as People's Resistance consolidates
Monday, 24 July 2017, 10:18 am
Article: AFTINET

INDIA TODAY
NEWS • LIVE TV • APP

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Peoples groups demanded rejection of RCEP.

speakers said the agreement was being negotiated in 'complete secrecy' and RCEP chapters have been negotiated behind closed doors.

negotiation have been leaked online and analysed which are of misinformation. The analysis indicates that the RCEP as the mega-FTA will impact nearly every sector of the economy and all of it is an onslaught on peoples lives, livelihood and human mind.

but such far-reaching agreements are being negotiated without or with the public or in the Parliament, state legislatures and local MLAs," the activists said and demanded that India should reject RCEP talks and negotiations on other FTAs.

Cold reception to RCEP as People's Resistance consolidates

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July 24, 2017

Cold reception to RCEP as People's Resistance consolidates

"The Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network strongly supports the community mobilisation taking place in India on July 24 to challenge TPP-like corporate proposals in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership," said AFTINET Convenor Dr Patricia Ranald today.

"Concerted campaigning by public health, trade union and environmental organisations stopped the Trans-Pacific Partnership, but the same agenda for corporate powers to sue governments and stronger monopolies on medicines and seeds is emerging in the RCEP.

Labour and Migration



FPAR for Labour Rights

We began work with **11 partners**, including women's rights organisations, unions and informal groups from nine countries to build their capacity to document, organise and collectively bargain for feminist labour rights agenda.

AWAJ Foundation

Bangladesh

Through FPAR, AWAJ Foundation will be focusing on organising contractual workers in various parts of the supply chain in the garment sector where precarious work is prevalent.

Penn Thozhilalar Sangam (PTS)

India

This FPAR project aims to strengthen their organising efforts and document labour rights violation among women domestic workers in Tamil Nadu

BPO Industry Employees Network (BIEN)

Philippines

This FPAR is aimed to strengthen workers' collective power in the Business Process Outsourcing industry through building women workers' base.

Chemical Workers Union Alliance (CWUA)

Thailand

Through FPAR, CWUA's focus is to organise janitorial workers and cleaners and improve social security protection, and the right to organise and collective bargaining to improve working conditions.

NEthing – All Assam Adivasi Women’s Association

India

This FPAR project aims to address health and child care, social security, casualisation of workers and living wage for tea garden women workers.

Independent Democracy of Informal Economy Association (IDEA)

Cambodia

IDEA’s focus on this FPAR is to organise informal workers, especially street vendors in Phnom Penh, to increase the workers’ collective power and address the harassment they face from the authorities.

National Union of Bank Employee (NUBE)

Malaysia

Through FPAR, NUBE aims to promote women’s rights by focusing on organising and recruiting local and migrant workers in manufacturing industries to strengthen trade unionism and labour rights for all workers in the industries.

Solidarity of Trade Union of Myanmar (STUM)

Myanmar

STUM’s FPAR project aims to hold their government accountable by documenting evidence of labour rights’ violation on the issues of the lack of paid leave, sick leave, health care and social services for women workers.

Home Based Workers Union (HBWU)

Pakistan

HBWU will focus their FPAR on occupational health and safety issues faced by home-based workers in Pakistan as well as their struggles for minimum and living wage.

The Nurses’ Union of Thailand (NUOT)

Thailand

NUOT will be focusing their FPAR on decent work conditions, occupational health and safety for healthcare workers, and efforts to get formal recognition for the Nurses’ Union in public hospitals in Thailand

The Palangkaraya Ecological and Human Rights Studies (PROGRESS)

Indonesia

PROGRESS will focus their FPAR project on palm oil plantation women workers in Central Kalimantan and provide evidence-based data to the government about labour rights violations faced by women workers.

“Every work is successful through the participation of the community. Women at times find it difficult to share their stories, situations and their issues and sometimes do not even realize what is happening around them. The [FPAR] tools of workplace mapping and the power mapping, I find to be more effective and interactive. It will help me to work in a connective manner and more effectively with the women to get a clear picture about their lives, tea plantation and the powerful people controlling over them.”

—*Sangeeta Tete, Labour FPAR Young Women Researcher All Assam Adivasi Women’s Association, India*

Building Solidarity Between Trade Unions and Migrant Workers

Tailored to meet the specific needs of migrant worker women, the 4th Trade Union Training (TUT) brought together 22 migrant worker leaders and trade union leaders from eight countries to share strategies and build solidarity based on common issues faced by their respective movements in the region.

The training provided our tried and tested tools for participants to strengthen the work of their own organisations. For example, a participant from MAP Foundation in Chiang Mai reported that she **used the Mandala activity in working with migrant workers in the community and used power mapping to identify organisations and allies that could support their work.**

“I changed myself in different side after getting your training, like, when I deliver speech in any community or in from of related stakeholder I try to follow the AHA (Anger, Hope, Action) theory that I learnt from your training. I read out your document when I (organise) any campaign/ other event and try to follow up my learning that I learnt from the training. ... I also follow your power mapping during our advocacy program.”

—*Sabiha Sultana, Shobujer Oviyan Foundation, Bangladesh*



The transformative power of Trade Union Training - impacts following the 3rd TUT:

A participant from the Cambodian Food and Service Worker’s Federation reported that our **mapping tool assisted her to organise workers in her workplace to demand informal workers be registered in the national security system.** After the TUT training, her union membership saw an increase of **300 members in the entertainment sector and 172 new members in the food and general service sector.** Moreover, she was able to **form four new groups among the entertainment workers.**

Participants from Cambodia’s Workers’ Information Centre **shared the mobilising speech with workers** and introduced the method into their organisation’s strategic plan.

Similarly, participants from Women’s Centre and Women Labour Solidarity Union in Sri Lanka **started factory mapping for the first time** for more effective organising. They also **introduced five field officers to the Anger-Hope-Action framework** and consequently they gave **public speeches demanding women’s labour rights** during the International Women’s Day (IWD) rally in Sri Lanka.

Strengthening Solidarity Between Feminist and Labour Movements

The programme increased its **engagement with local labour rights organisations beyond our membership** such as the Northern Labour Network and Migrant Workers Federation based in Chiang Mai, through providing capacity building support, resources, and conducting joint activities on International Women’s Day, May Day, and International Migrants’ Day. A series of workshops on women’s labour rights conducted for the Migrant Workers Federation (MWF) led to women migrant workers **forming Women Workers for Justice as a sub-group within MWF.**

Global Strike Campaign

Our vision of feminist-led Global Strikes to demand Development Justice grew closer to becoming reality, with advocacy and movement building opportunities in 2017. In conjunction with the Grounding the Global programme, our Labour Focal Persons held a side event at CSW61 promoting the Global Strike campaign and strengthening links with the trade union movement.

“I think if we do global strike together all over the world with all the workers including garment workers, domestic workers, migrant workers, informal workers, only striking for one day, those in power will hear us. Those multinationals, governments, business, recruitment agencies will realise that without the workers, they will not survive. That’s why we need all the support from all groups, global unions, NGOs and other movements to come together to demand for Development Justice”

—*Nazma Akter, AWAJ Foundation, Bangladesh Focal Person, Labour Programme*

Our Global Strike toolkit was widely shared around International Women’s Day and May Day, with one of our members from Kyrgyzstan translating the infographics into Russian for a presentation and distribution in her networks. The International Women’s Strike shared our infographics on their Facebook page, as did the [Indian online news outlet Firstpost](#). Our videos on why we are striking were shared by international news media outlets like The Guardian and Al-Jazeera.

A Global Strike workshop held at the APFF was well attended by our members and allies from various movements, resulting in formation of a ‘coordinating committee’ to further advance the planning of Global Strikes.



Grounding the Global



APWLD member Arieska Kurniawaty from Solidaritas Perempuan speaks at a side event in Geneva on a feminist perspective to the treaty. October 2017

In 2017, the voices of grassroots women shaped international agreements and processes on women’s human rights, gender equality, business and trade, and climate change. The Grounding the Global programme worked to elevate our members’ knowledge and advocacy at civil society, government and intergovernmental spaces. Against a backdrop of increasing challenges to feminist activism including restrictive visa regimes and growing corporate power, we saw the leadership of our members and our movement in strengthening civil society positions and leading advocacy:

61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61)

At CSW61, which focused on ‘Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Changing

World of Work’, APWLD was requested by the Women’s Rights Caucus to lead the process of annotating the zero draft of the Agreed Conclusions. The Caucus’ annotated draft is used as an advocacy guide for women’s rights movements in evaluating the Agreed Conclusions. We provided accreditation support to 17 members and directly sponsored three grassroots members to attend to ensure the voices of Asia Pacific women. APWLD was subsequently invited to provide an expert paper and to lead author the Expert Group Meeting paper which will inform the drafting process of the UN Secretary General’s report to the CSW62.

44th Session of the Committee on Food Security (CFS44)

Our engagement at CFS44 was an

opportunity to assess this space as an advocacy platform for members. We achieved a win in seeing the **Committee overwhelmingly pass a Declaration on Women's Empowerment**, despite the overt resistance of several states. This outcome emerged from several years of work including FPAR, and advocacy with South Asian governments, while ultimately the powerful plenary speech made by our member and FPAR researcher visibly impacted the delegates present.

Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises

We continued to strengthen our collaboration with women's groups and other movements including the growth and formalisation of a feminist group within the **Treaty Alliance for the Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEWG) on transnational corporations and other business enterprises**; and collective efforts with the **Women's Major Group at the 3rd UN Environment Assembly (UNEA3)**, where our members led in delivering strong positions and protecting civil society space.

Annual Regional Consultation with Special Mandate Holders

Our 2017 Consultation with the Special Procedures included two themed workshops, on 'Using International Mechanisms to Challenge Corporate Hegemony' and on 'A Gender-Just Approach to Climate'. The Consultation engaged a member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and a member of the Working Group on Discrimination



Against Women in Law and Practice. The workshops were planned as capacity building and strategising spaces for the WITCH and CJ programmes respectively. A third session was held for members of Asia Pacific Women with Disabilities United (APWWDU), (a group formed out of the first APFF and co-convened by APWLD), on understanding and engaging with UN Processes.

As a result of our previous year's Consultation, the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights' report to the General Assembly on access to remedy focused on gender and women's human rights.

ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ ASEAN People's Forum (ACSC/APF)

One of the regional spaces that APWLD continues to engage in and bring forward our analysis to other civil society is within ASEAN, and specifically the ASEAN Civil Society Conference held in conjunction with the ASEAN People's Forum (ACSC/APF). Within the ASEAN region, a neoliberal emphasis on free market economics results in a narrow focus on creating a single market, reducing policy space and protections for small-scale farmers and fisherfolk, among other groups. ASEAN states exemplify the growing gaps between and within countries, and cause growing concern in their embrace of new generation trade agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

With this backdrop, APWLD along with Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN), were co-leads of the 'Convergence Space on Corporate Greed and Power' at ACSC/APF 2017. The Convergence Space on Corporate Greed and Power brought together regional, national civil society, and peoples' organisations to raise attention to the growing power of corporations and international financial institutions in pushing for regional economic integration that dispossess the ASEAN peoples of their resources, undermine their human rights, and diminish their access to essential services. The convergence space identified four focus issues where corporate power is most felt and peoples' struggles are most critical: RCEP and ASEAN Free Trade Agenda; Corporate-control of Agriculture and its Impact on Food Sovereignty; Climate Change and Financing; and Energy

and Extractive Industries.

"Corporate dominance and greed, supported by ASEAN states, also manifest in the unabated pursuit of extractive activities and fossil fuel projects, even as climate science has shown incontrovertible links between climate change and dirty energy use. Our region ranks among the most threatened in the world by intensifying climate-related impacts."

— *Press Statement, ACSC-APF 2017, 14 November 2017*

Our members (including five of our BOOM FPAR partners) articulated strong positions based on Feminist Development Justice, Climate Justice and our work on Free Trade Agreements including RCEP. This, along with our participatory approach, attracted a strong presence of civil society allies.

"While we have been critically reflective of why and how APWLD engages with the ASEAN and the ASEAN People's Forum, this year's (2017) core thematic convergence space on Corporate Greed and Power makes a strong case on why APWLD engaged and with a delegation of our members, partners and allies. As women we are disproportionately affected by growing inequalities that comes as a consequence of a strong push for a regional integration model that is devoid of peoples' needs and realities. WE therefore have a stake in unmasking how ASEAN's regional economic integration ushered in and legitimised corporate power in the region. A process that has led to the dispossession of our resources, where human rights have been severely undermined; and our access to essential services have largely diminished if not totally cut off. In this dire situation our voices needs to be one of the loudest in calling for development justice within our respective countries and in Southeast Asia."

— *Vernie Yocogan-Diano, Philippines*

Feminist Development Justice



Strengthening SDGs Accountability: Reclaiming Feminist Development Justice

We supported nine national partners with sub-grants, training and mentoring to critically monitor and review the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals using our Feminist Development Justice framework.

Building Capacity

Having built the capacity of our partners on the Feminist Development Justice framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we saw our partners and members extend this capacity building to their own civil society networks resulting in a more structural approach to

engaging with SDG monitoring among civil society.

“Using the Development Justice framework, the most significant change is our understanding of the different issues. As activists we get involved in cases which are symptoms of larger systemic issues and to be able to make those connections. There is an increased space for more informed discourse in Civil Society, from our position. This project has been very helpful for that.”

— Sarah Zaman, *Shirkat Gah, Pakistan*

In Thailand, Nepal and Cambodia, APWLD members and partners, Foundation for Women, WOREC and SILAKA built the capacity of other local and national organisations on SDGs, and on systemic and structural barriers, using Feminist Development Justice as an overarching framework.

“We shared about the High Level Political Forum and the systematic barriers. Mostly the CSOs follow the shallow challenges. They don’t know about the systematic barriers. They are surprised... especially about privatisation and neoliberalism. The second thing is that most of the NGOs are male-led; when I bring the statistics about gender based violence and that gender is cross-cutting across all goals and one man stood up and asked why I didn’t have statistics on women raping men. Even in NGOs, male centric is still there. I was accused of being biased towards women... I tried to encourage that we make our own indicators. We can produce our own indicators; this is the citizen agenda.”

— *Reasey Seng, SILAKA, Cambodia*

Developing Resources, Tools and Knowledge

Our partners produced seven national briefing papers, and four alternative People’s Development Justice reports which continue to be utilised in national and international advocacy.

Partners have also translated our tools and resources to support their local civil society networks, including a wall chart on the SDGs translated into Nepali; and APWLD publications such as the Road to Development Justice video, the FDJ briefers and SDGs briefer translated into Khmer.

Providing Opportunities for Advocacy

Six of the nine groups achieved formal engagement with their governments around the SDGs, demonstrating their recognised expertise and legitimacy. Our partner in Malaysia was invited to be part of the Malaysian government’s multi-



stakeholder **SDGs Steering Committee** where they successfully advocated for the inclusion of other women's rights organisations; while our partners in Cambodia and Thailand are now invited to attend formal meetings on **SDGs organised by government and other civil society organisations.**

Strengthening National Movements

Our partner **SILAKA** is engaging with other CSOs and local groups in Cambodia to establish and set up a permanent working group to engage collectively with the government on the **SDGs**. The groups developed and submitted feedback on national indicators to the **Cambodian government.**

“By doing (the **Women2030**) project, it is really giving a lot of opportunity and chance to unite CSOs. Because of funding ... at some point CSOs is losing what they used to be, having to compete, by using **SDGs** I can bring them back together. We already decided that CSOs would create our own indicators. ... we need to build each other's capacity to be more critical.”

—*Reasey Seng, SILAKA, Cambodia*

In Nepal, we supported **WOREC** to organise a **National Consultation** attended by a total of 92 CSOs as well as representatives from the **Ministry of Youth and Sports**. **WOREC** and other CSOs wrote collectively to the **Nepali government** when a **SDGs Steering Committee** set up by the government had included representatives of the private sector but not CSOs. After the letter was circulated, **WOREC and others were invited to be on the committee.**

“When I went back to Nepal ... **WOREC** had not been invited to any meetings. Nobody knew that we were working on this. ... They wouldn't call when there was a meeting. After this project, we are invited to all the meetings. Even the government meetings, we are called. And with the setting of indicators and writing the draft report, our input is now expected.”

—*Ranjana Giri, WOREC, Nepal*

The Planning Commission Bangladesh endorsed our partner ASK's People's Development Report as a valued civil society input into **SDG planning processes** and committed to including **ASK** in consultations for planning and reforms in the future.

“When we invited the member of the **Planning Commission** ... responsible for developing the **7th 5-year plan** which came just before the **SDGs**, for them to learn from the very grassroots level it was very special. They are more macro thinking and we are talking about very micro. We thought at least if we can give them the input on how to link the two very separate arenas.”

—*Sheepa Hafiza, ASK, Bangladesh*

ASK's report and civil society consultation received significant media coverage in Bangladesh and the national report contributed to international advocacy.

Climate Justice



In 2017, the programme commenced its second round of Climate Justice Feminist Participatory Action Research (CJ FPAR), with ten partner organisations undertaking research and advocacy on climate-induced displacement and the links with resource conflict and corporate power.

CJ FPAR partners and their priorities:

Agriculture and Forestry Research & Development Center for mountainous Region

Vietnam

Mobilisation of Tay women around climate change and articulating their priorities in governance systems.

Chetana Mahila Samuha

Nepal

Impacts of climate change on agriculture, displacement and women's health in the indigenous and marginalised hill communities.

Chin Centre for Emergency Response and Rehabilitation

Myanmar

Elevate Chin women's voices in process of rehabilitation in Hakha post-cyclone.

Highlanders Association

Cambodia

Dialogue with local authorities to ensure proper rehabilitation with livelihood opportunities due Displacement caused by Lower Sesan II Dam.

Indigenous Women's Network of Thailand

Thailand

Ineffective policies around national parks management, tourism and its impact on women's lives and livelihoods of the indigenous communities.

NEADS

India

Alternative livelihood strategies for the indigenous communities of Xadiya subjected to violence and displacement exacerbated by climate disasters and mega development projects.

Maleya Foundation

Bangladesh

Rakhine indigenous women's access to natural resources and documenting effects of climate change leading to their migration.

Rise Up

Papua New Guinea

Women mobilising and shaping local government environment policy around problematic polluter industrial unit from the last 20 years.
[This partner will be continuing their work in the upcoming Land FPAR in 2018.]

Roshni

Pakistan

Landlessness, decent work and food security within the feudal political contexts and gender discriminatory practices of the Sindh province.

We Women Lanka

Sri Lanka

Lack of representation and loss of livelihoods post tsunami and landslides of 2016 among women tea workers of Meeriya Badhadha.

The programme provided two regional level trainings to build partners' capacity through the first stages of their FPAR.

"This training makes me feel equipped and feel confident to start my new journey. I felt lost and hopeless before the training ... (the) knowledge and skills I got from this training is the answer for my community and the answer for myself".

— *Young Woman Researcher from Burma/Myanmar following the first training*



Using FPAR knowledge, one of the young women researchers from Cambodia has mobilised her community to fight further relocations away from their ancestral lands and livelihoods. She has shared the oppression experienced by her community at international platforms including UNEA3. The Women and Gender Constituency of the UNFCCC recognised our Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) as a ‘transformational solution’ for Gender Just Climate Solutions.

23rd UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP23)

Following our lobbying along with the Women and Gender Constituency, COP23 adopted a Gender Action Plan (GAP) from the Lima Work Program. While leaving much to be desired (for example, there are no commitments for financing of the GAP), we saw it as a positive step towards creating space for women to engage with and shape global climate change processes. Our newly launched CJ FPAR project is an

important contribution to the objectives of increasing women’s capacity to engage with climate policy and building the body of evidence around the urgent need for climate finance to specifically address **Loss and Damages** as well as building resilient communities through targeted adaptation funding made available to local communities.

We collaborated with the Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice (DCJ), bringing regional context in Asia, a focus on gendered impacts and solutions, and continued to raise the link between climate and militarism to shape the ‘Military Emissions – Count Them in and Count Them Out’ campaign.

Building Feminist Movements Against Fossil Fuels

Our involvement in the ‘Stop Rampal Power Plant’ campaign brought a feminist perspective to the issue of the coal power plant planned in Bangladesh. If built, millions of local people will be



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displaced and women are particularly at risk, as displacement is linked to increase in gender violence, including human trafficking. We raised this in letters to the governments of India and Bangladesh, investors in the power plant and UNESCO. The media picked up on the campaign and disseminated our messages focused

around the particular impacts on women. However, in July, owing to pressure from 12 countries, UNESCO withdrew its objection to the power plant and construction is expected to proceed, although protests are continuing and are seeing increased international solidarity.

“Destruction of Sundarbans by corporations planning to build the coal fired power plant in the name of development is going to make 50 million coastal people completely unprotected. Political boundaries cannot limit environmental destruction to a specific region. It will also impact coastal lives far from Bangladesh too. Our earth is one and environmental destruction affects us all. Therefore we must protect our earth, our common present and future,”

—Anu Muhammad, Member Secretary, National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Port, Bangladesh.

“The right to health for women and children is at risk with the construction of coal plants. Our experience in the Philippines is that many suffer from skin disease and asthma because of ash fall. It is also dangerous to pregnant and breastfeeding women. Food security is also violated because water becomes polluted and coal plants occupy large tracts of land that should be devoted to agriculture instead.”

—Edna Velarde, Program Coordinator of National Federation for Peasant Women (AMIHAN), Philippines.



Feminist Law and Practice



Evolving Our Feminist Strategies to Engage with Law

Over the years, APWLD has harnessed the power of feminist witnessing: from the trial observation of our member Imrana Jalal in Fiji, to fact-finding missions on land rights and forced evictions, solidarity missions like the one to Thai village Rak Ban Haeng and to Bong Kak community in Cambodia, to the International Observers' Mission at the BERSIH rally in Malaysia. Our concrete expressions of solidarity strengthen civic resistance, exposed human rights violations, and supported women human rights defenders under threat.

In 2017 our members sought to deepen our analysis, evidence and resources for the use of feminist strategic litigation as a tool to advance and defend women's human

rights. The **Feminist witnessing and litigation as feminist strategies** workshop held at the Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF), helped identify expertise among members in these areas, particularly in public interest litigation.

Following this workshop, we brought together 24 lawyers and women human rights advocates for a two-day **Consultation on Feminist Strategic Litigation**. The consultation provided the space for critical reflection on public interest and strategic litigation and surface the challenges in upholding women's human rights. The case summaries and experience in case handling shared by participants was an opportunity to define what feminist strategic litigation should be if it is to be truly be useful in attaining women's human rights.

“I picked up key learning points that will be very useful in my practice. The mapping exercises proved useful as we could see that the issues across the region are the same. Participants and their respective organisations have been utilising strategies to secure a favourable outcome. And there was the friendship and bonding. It is interesting to listen to the practices adopted by the participants to address the issues concerning women’s human rights; most appeared to be practices that we are also adopting. There are practices like watching briefs that we could look into. Overall, it was a fantastic consultation and I am happy to have been invited to attend.”

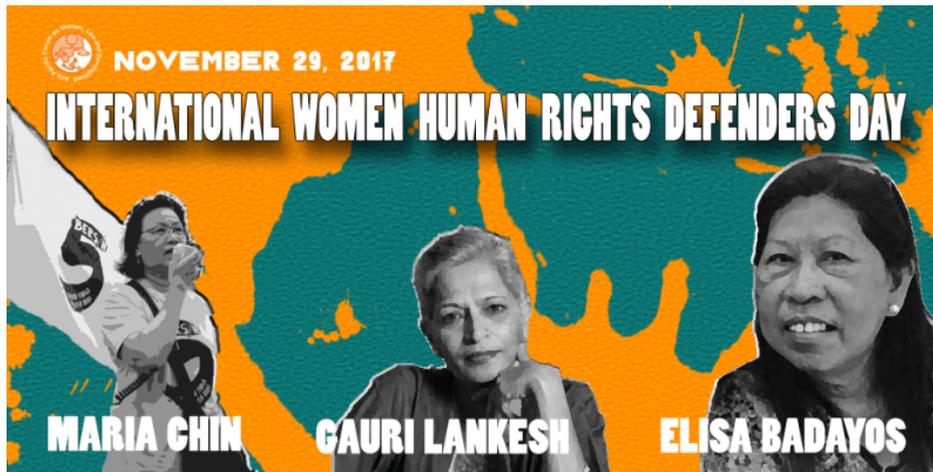
—Selvi Palani, India, Garment and Fashion Workers’ Union

“The meeting allowed a very rich and varied sharing of cases and strategies. Often we are familiar with what is happening within a domestic context, or in the immediate region so it was all the more important to hear about the ‘behind-the-scenes’ negotiations and challenges that sustain the legal struggles. For instance, there is much known about the Jennifer Laude case but little about the intensive handholding it took to get the case to run its full course. It was instructive and inspiring to be part of this.”

—Madhu Mehra, India, Partners for Law and Developme



The consultation resulted in the formation of the Asia Pacific Lawyers for Feminist Strategic Litigation (APLawyers4FSL), initially as an online information sharing community.



Urgent Response and Solidarity for WHRDs

APWLD continues to respond to persistent attacks on women human rights defenders (WHRDs). In 2017 we lent solidarity to Lena Hendry's two-year long case of being charged and fined under the Censorship Act of Malaysia for organising a film screening of "No Fire Zone: The Killing Fields of Sri Lanka". This case illustrated how states resort to seemingly innocuous laws to punish WHRDs and curtail the right to freedom of expression. Lena was one of

the first activists to be charged in Malaysia under this law.

In collaboration with Urgent Action Fund Asia Pacific, we mounted a short solidarity action for Marawi and Mindanao on the 'International Day of Action for Justice and Peace in the Philippines'. Our members and former FPAR partners in the Philippines are at the forefront of supporting the people affected in these areas and continue to inform our analysis around the impact of militarism on women.



Cross-Cutting Initiatives

Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM)



AP-RCEM, now comprising 582 organisations representing 17 constituencies, continues to set the global standard for engagement with UN processes.

AP-RCEM was invited to facilitate the Global Major Group and Stakeholder Forum, a global CSO Forum preceding the Third UN Environment Assembly in 2017 (UNEA-3) for the first time, to coordinate and consolidate global civil society positions on environmental justice and is expanding its focus to include the Agenda 2030 processes and other UN spaces. It demonstrates the growing recognition of AP-RCEM as a transparent, accountable, democratic and legitimate platform for civil society to engage and influence diverse intergovernmental processes by collective analysis, advocacy and alternative solution – Development Justice.

4th Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (APCFSD)

APWLD hosted the APCFSD prior to the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD). Partnering with UN ESCAP, UNEP, UNDESA and the AP-RCEM, we engaged 150 civil society organisations and representatives (including 23 APWLD members) from 15 countries. The meeting built capacity of Asia Pacific civil society to critically engage in SDGs monitoring, consolidate positions advancing Development Justice and establish strategic engagement plans. This year's APFSD provided several moments to celebrate our collective activism and recognised leadership role:

- The report of the APFSD and the Chair’s summary **incorporated APWLD’s language**, including on systemic barriers to SDGs (land and resource grabbing, trade and financial systems, militarism and conflict, patriarchy and fundamentalisms, and corporate capture); reference to Development Justice and SDGs compatibility impact assessment for trade and investment agreements;
- **The presence of 90 CSOs within the APFSD was largest ever**, enabling powerful interventions and increased role (APWLD member Helen Hakena from PNG opened the Forum as a civil society speaker, four members as panelists spoke on gender equality, poverty eradication, land and sustainable agriculture with over 20 statements and interventions from the floor);
- We hosted a ‘Development Justice café’ which provided us a space to **informally yet politically engage with government delegates**.

The ESCAP Executive Secretary attended the CSO Forum and praised the work of Asia Pacific civil society through RCEM:

“The AP-RCEM has invested time, energy and resources and commitment to regional processes including the APFSD and the Regional Roadmap. Your efforts are valued. This model of a CSO network is influencing networking at the global level and in other regions. Civil society participation has enhanced the dialogue at APFSD and is critical in this year’s APFSD.”

—Shamshad Akhtar, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNESCAP Executive Secretary



High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

We facilitated the participation of 53 APWLD and AP-RCEM members at HLPF, the central platform for monitoring Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. Many governments' reports continue to lack analysis on either systemic obstacles to SDGs or plans to achieve their commitments, and indeed several countries including from our region failed to engage substantially with civil society at all. Nevertheless, our members made their voices heard and strengthened solidarity and movement building within and outside the formal space.

Our members spoke on panels and made formal interventions; we collaborated with AP-RCEM and the WMG in a position paper on structural and systemic barriers to the SDGs, calling for states not to trade gender for financing, and lobbying to keep the Ministerial Declaration intact.

Several 'wins' were seen in **government positions at the closing of HLPF reflecting our advocacy**:

- G77 + China highlighted the missing right to self-determination and questioned the missing language on distribution of wealth and harmony with nature, and coherence on trade and financial systems.
- Mexico took on the WMG's position around a stronger MOI as well as gender language in the declaration, stating that "we cannot understand why people don't understand that without women and girls, society is incomplete".
- Sweden also took on the WMG position

on voting, expressing that they were "disappointed that it came to a vote, needs to avoid that in the future. Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, as well as issue of trade are priorities. We are abstaining from voting to illustrate our disappointment on the vote".

Creating a 'People's Forum'

In light of the constraining environment at the HLPF where civil society voices were limited despite formal acknowledgment of civil society as stakeholders, APWLD and partners moved to establish a 'counter space' to give priority to civil society positions, solidarity and movements. We organised the **very first Ground Level People's Forum (GLPF)** with AP-RCEM, BAYAN-USA, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), ESCR-Net, GABRIELA-USA, Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO) and endorsed by the WMG. Through this Forum, we are strengthening solidarity across movements and creating alternative spaces for people's movements.

"I felt frustrated during the HLPF but I felt a lot of powerful things come from the GLPF. It brought back humanity and the real voice of the people. It was ground breaking."

—Reasey Seng, SILAKA

Cross-Cutting Initiatives

Information and Communications



In 2017, our communication activities included working across all our programmes to create media advocacy opportunities, build communications capacity, disseminate knowledge tools and create communications resources. We assisted in strengthening movements, generating momentum, amplifying women's voices in their struggles across the region and shifting the public discourse. We produced a five-year strategic plan for communications to engage meaningfully with our members, partners, stakeholders, media and general public. We extended our advocacy reach and impact through significantly growing media coverage and increased social media and online presence. We strengthened the capacity of the team by hiring a communications intern who was able to provide crucial support for Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF) and our video campaigns.

In 2017:

Our work was covered **161 times** by news media outlets



Our Facebook 'likes' increased by **37%**, to 7,152



Our Decent Work campaign video went viral  9400  167  177

2,867 new Twitter followers, and 3X more tweets in 2017



#APFF trended at number 1 in Thailand and Malaysia for four days

#NoRCEP trended at number 1 in India during the Hyderabad negotiations

Media Coverage

In 2017 our work was covered **161 times** by news media outlets, **more than four times** that of the previous year. This was possible because we strengthened media outreach and built relationships with journalists worldwide. We increased visibility of our member's feminist voices, campaigns and struggles globally through strategic media advocacy.

Highlights include coverage by international news outlets like The Guardian, Al Jazeera and TV Monde 5 for our International Women's Day 'Global Strike' campaign. We also received widespread media coverage in local, national and international media for the **No RCEP** campaign, amplifying women farmers' voices in the lead up to and during the Hyderabad RCEP Negotiations. The US 'travel bans' affecting CSO participation in CSW61 in New York received **media coverage on four continents**.

"The communications team supported the women farmers' team nationally who attended the People's convention to say No to RCEP Hyderabad and also helped five women activists/farmers to participate in the southern regional meeting on RCEP in Bangalore. Almost more than 40 media covered the news of our gathering. It was the hard work of the communication team made us to join the farmer leaders in the press meet and it was covered and got wide publicity. APWLD was instrumental in the preparation of press statement with gender lens where it was quite absent with other statements. We got more visibility of women farmers involvement in the campaign against RCEP."

—*Burnad Fatima, Society for Rural Education and Development, India*



The greater willingness of media to pick up and incorporate feminist analysis into coverage of issues shows that **we are making ground in changing public discourses** – around trade, women's human rights, climate and development justice.

Strategic Use of Digital Media

In 2017, our aim was to create a consistent and coherent feminist voice on social media on our programmatic issues while keeping an eye on developments worldwide. We shared timely and relevant articles, resources and information through our social media channels. We debuted our Instagram channel for a wider audience reach.

As part of our communications strategy, we increased our digital content production by producing more infographics and videos in 2017, including live and short videos uploaded to our Facebook and Twitter from events and campaigns. **Our Decent Work campaign video went viral**, with 9,400 views, 167 'likes' and 177 'shares'. We saw increased user interaction on social media when videos and graphics were posted.

APWLD - Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
Published by Neha Gupta [?] · 30 June · 🌐

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR 3rd ASIA PACIFIC FEMINIST FORUM 2017!

The 3rd Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF) is a participatory event bringing together activists, women human rights defenders, academics, lawyers, and global allies. Click on the link for more information.

#APFF #reSISTERS... See more



Applications Open For 3rd Asia Pacific Feminist Forum 2017

Feminists from Asia Pacific, join APWLD members and allies to strengthen our movements, our solidarity and our resolve to dismantle economic, social and...

APWLD.ORG

👍 Get more likes, comments and shares
Boost this post for ₱34 to reach up to 1,400 people.

👤 22,736 people reached Boost Post

👍❤️🌈 116 6 Comments 174 Shares 🌐

❤️ Love 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Performance for your post

22,736 People Reached

957 Reactions, comments & shares 📊

673 👍 Like	107 On post	566 On shares
44 ❤️ Love	7 On post	37 On shares
1 🌈 Pride	1 On post	0 On shares
1 😂 Haha	0 On post	1 On shares
5 😲 Wow	1 On post	4 On shares
57 Comments	9 On Post	48 On Shares
178 Shares	174 On Post	4 On Shares

1,777 Post Clicks

0 Photo views	849 Link clicks	928 Other Clicks 📊
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

4 Hide Post	1 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Our growing strategic capacity with social media has been a key contributing factor in many of our advocacy successes. For example, by ‘hijacking’ the #RCEP hashtag we ensured that the top tweets on the trade agreement were about its negative impact on women. We used new digital tools like Thunderclap to assist our Twitter campaign ‘Stop Rampal’ to trend on the day of the campaign. At UNEA-3 we worked closely with our partners to create a Twitter campaign to highlight the corporate capture of the UN, shrinking spaces for civil society and attacks on women human rights defenders.

Supporting Our Members

We strengthened member communications with regular quarterly newsletters, updates,

statements and campaign support. We circulated nine statements and letters, 15 press releases and 23 newsletters throughout the year to advance our work engaging our membership, expressing solidarity, highlighting their struggles, demanding remedies, justice and accountability.

“APWLD’s statement and letter certainly helped raised awareness on the harassment against WHRDs like me, and as a consequence perhaps, it has been useful in ensuring my safety, aside from being an expression of solidarity, which is very much appreciated not only by my organisation but other human rights advocates and WHRDs too.”

– Cristina (Tinay) Palabay, Karapatan, Philippines

Supporting Programme Campaigns

The communications team worked closely with programmes on seven campaigns. Our campaign videos for ‘Global Day of Action to Stop Rampal’ and ‘Global Day of Action Against Precarious Work’ were widely shared on social media **garnering over 10,000 views.**

Our No RCEP campaign used media advocacy and digital communications strategically to **highlight and shape public discourse** on impact of trade agreements on women’s human rights. Our news coverage led to opportunities for writing a journal article on RCEP and women’s rights and the creation of the ‘Women and RCEP’ section on leading trade agreements website bilaterals.org.

Media Partnership at Asia Pacific Feminist Forum

We developed a media partnership at APFF with Citizen News Service (CNS) to highlight the work of our members and partners who attended the forum. The collaboration yielded daily newsletters, and **36 news articles, videos and podcast interviews** emphasising underrepresented feminist voices from Asia Pacific.

“I liked the hard work of the organisers, how they would send us newsletter after every day of the conference, manage all the logistics and keeping everything on time.”

- Kriti Adhikari, *Word Warriors Nepal*



Knowledge Tools and Resources

We developed communications training modules for FPAR and APFF. These modules on feminist digital storytelling and communicating our movements **enhanced strategic communication capacities of 23 members and partners in 2017.**



Institutional Strengthening and Sustainability

The year 2017 was for APWLD to consolidate, transform and strengthen our institutional structure and programme work. We commenced our support to national and grassroots labour movements to conduct Feminist Participatory Action Research to advance women's labour rights and union leadership; our Feminist Law and Practice and Women in Power programmes critically reflected their programme's strategic directions and the need of the movements, and exploring new approaches by using feminist strategic litigation and building womanifestos: women's agenda for political organising of women respectively; and sought strategic opportunities to support our members' local mobilising and strategic advocacy through expanding our sub-granting methods. We also have successfully secured our registration in Thailand as well as completed our second registration in Malaysia with a small satellite office in operation.

This was also the year for APWLD to convene our triennial membership meeting, the General Assembly, which successfully elected new Regional Council and subsequently elected new Programme and Management Committee members, for the term 2017-2020. Our newly elected Regional Council members represent all five sub-regions of Asia Pacific, indigenous, migrant domestic workers, women with disabilities

members and for the first time, a member from Vietnam. Our membership has grown from 211 to 228 with new members from eight countries representing indigenous, trade union, migrants, and public interest litigation movements. Our nine Programme Organising Committees are renewed with old and new members ensuring the continuity of our strong programme work as well as creating space for new, innovative and strategic approaches to our work.

We continued our efforts to improve our monitoring and evaluation and for the first time conducted a mid-year evaluation to reflect, learn and re-strategise our work. It provided an invaluable opportunity for staff members to seek cross-programme collaboration opportunities as well as commit to strength our internal accountability processes, particularly in the context of our expanding sub-granting work with our members and partners. Our monitoring and evaluation database system (on impacts, sub-grants, APWLD's presence at regional and international meetings, members' engagement) have been accordingly improved and updated utilising google spread sheets.

Our Secretariat has seen significant transition as we bid farewell to Kate Lappin, who served as APWLD's Regional Coordinator from October 2009 to December 2017. Through an open application process, former Deputy Regional Coordinator Misun Woo was appointed the new Regional Coordinator. Our Secretariat currently is made up of 17 skilled and committed staff members from ten countries, including a South-South Learning fellow who was selected from our member organisation in Burma/Myanmar.

Financial Narrative

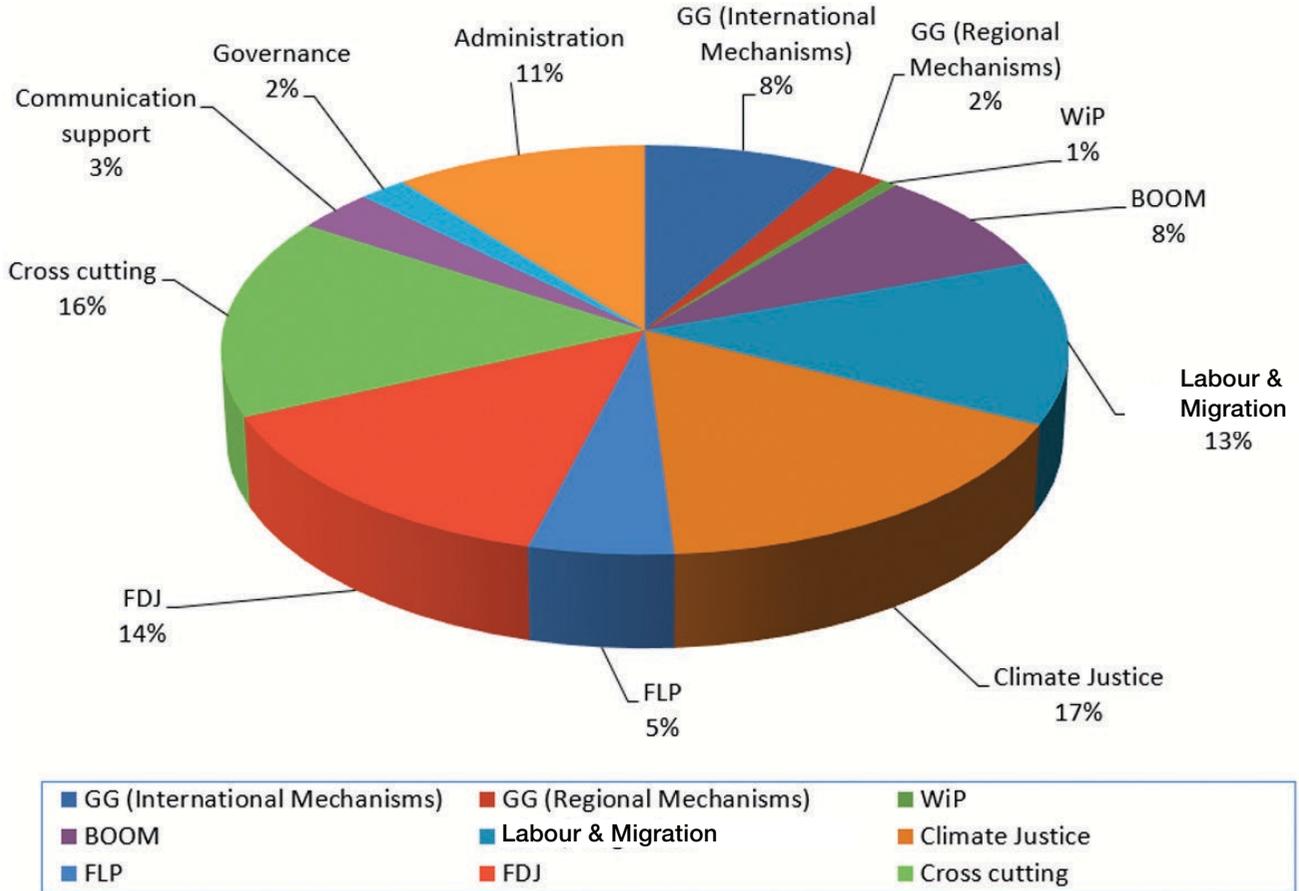
In 2017, APWLD received grants totalling USD 1,567,378.30. Our expenditure for the year was USD 1,505,457.95. Despite the fact that we were unable to execute most of our programme activities or hiring of new staff for nearly the first half of the year due to the challenge we had experienced with our registration and other external risks, our expenditure in 2017 is the largest in APWLD's herstory. This itself demonstrates not only the capacity of APWLD to deliver its strategic plans but also the nature of work we have that is owned, directed and driven by our grassroots members and partners. In 2017, we directly supported 57 women's rights groups through access to sub-grants, along with extended mentoring for their research, documentation and advocacy.

While our long-time funder Ford Foundation is ending its support with the last tie-over grant support in 2018, we were fortunate to receive a new multi-year grant from Norway (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation – NORAD); APWLD continued to receive core funding support from Sweden

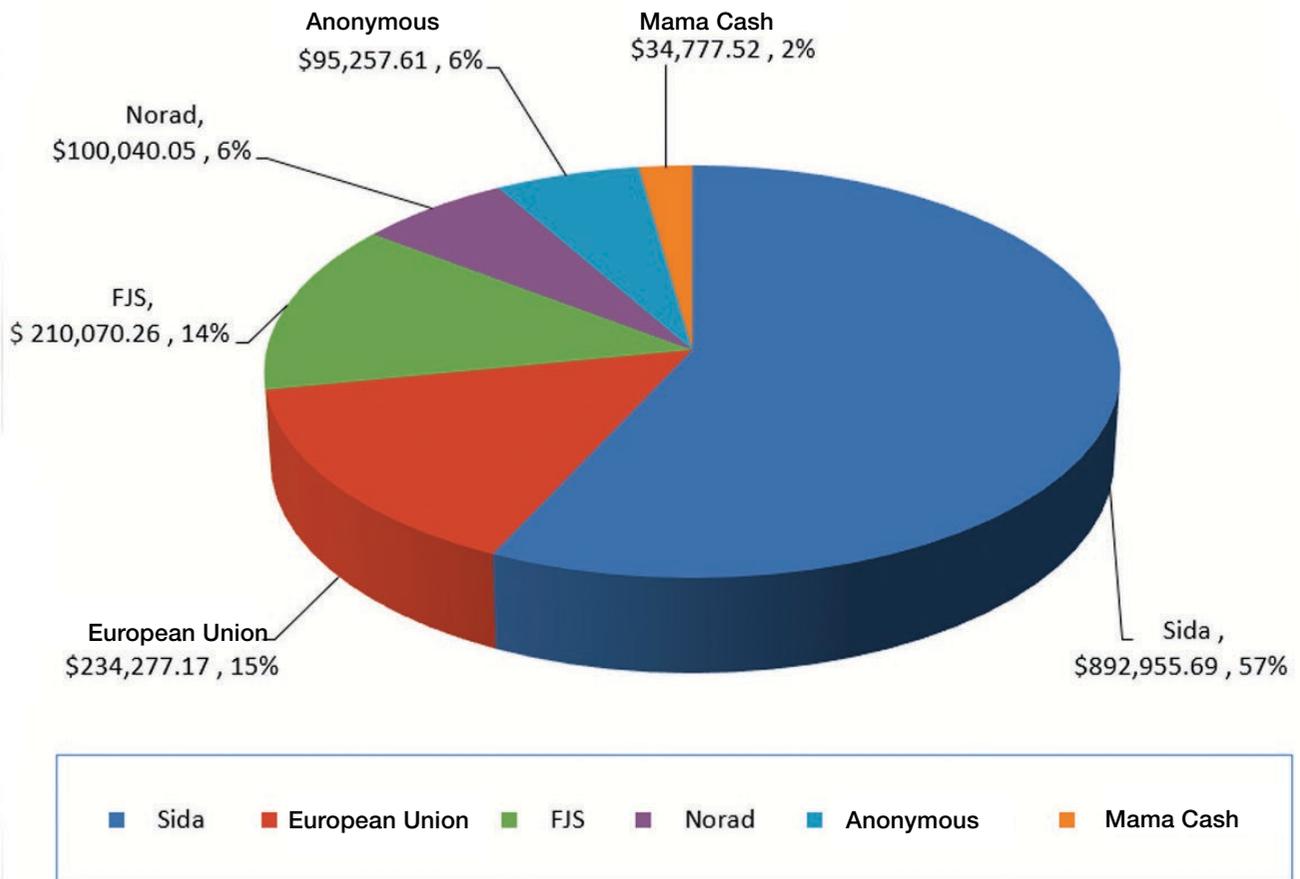
(Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – SIDA), Foundation for a Just Society (FJS) with an increased grant amount for a three-year period. We also continued to receive funding support from an anonymous donor for our Grounding the Global programme and from the European Union for our work on sustainable development, particularly the Feminist Development Justice programme, and an activity-related funding for the third Asia Pacific Feminist Forum from Mama Cash.

Our financial accounts have been audited and approved by NB Accounting, who have reported that our accounts are prepared in accordance with Thai and International Financial Reporting Standards for non-publicly accountable entities and in accordance with the terms and conditions of our donor contracts. The APWLD auditor is also requested to undertake management auditing to ensure continual improvement of finance, accounting, and systems management.

APWLD Expenditure for 2017



APWLD funds received in 2017



Our Networks:



Our donors:



Calendar of Activities in 2017

January

- 7 **Global Day of Solidarity**
Chiang Mai, Thailand

February

- 1-3 **Secretariat annual planning day**
Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 15-17 **Regional Consultation on the APF 2017**
Manila, Philippines
- 16-17 **P&M Meeting**
Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 23-24 **CSW61 Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue**
Bangkok, Thailand

March

- 8 **International Women's Day**
Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 13 - 24 **CSW 61**
New York, USA
- 21,23 **Policy Forum on Development**
Brussels, Belgium
- 22 - 24 **2nd FDJ Regional Meeting of Partners**
Bangkok, Thailand
- 25 **AP-RCEM Coordination Meeting**
Bangkok, Thailand
- 26 - 28 **Asia Pacific CSO Forum on Sustainable Development**
Bangkok, Thailand
- 29 -31 **Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development**
Bangkok, Thailand



April

- 1,4 **RCEP strategy meeting**
Bangalore, India

May

- 1 **May Day**
Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 2,7 **1st CJ FPAR training**
Dhulikhel, Nepal
- 8 - 18 **Intersessional Climate Negotiations - Gender Workshop**
Bonn, Germany
- 16 - 17 **WIDE Global Strike Discussion**
Vienna, Austria

June

- 15-16 **P&M Meeting**
Chiang Mai, Thailand

July

- 10 - 19 **High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**
New York, USA
- 18 - 20 **Nurses Union Conference**
Sydney, Australia
- 23,26 **People's Convention against FTAs and RCEP**
Hyderabad, India
- 24-29 **4th Trade Union Training for Migrant Workers+Global Compact**
Chiang Mai, Thailand

September

- 2,6 2nd CJ FPAR training
Bangkok, Thailand
- 4 CSO Forum for Forum of Environment Ministers - UNEP
Bangkok, Thailand
- 4 P&M Meeting
Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 5,6 Regional Council meeting
Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 6 General Assembly meeting
Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 7 - 9 3rd Asia Pacific Feminist Forum 2017
Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 10 Global Compact Strategic meeting

October

- 9,13 Committee on World Food Security
Rome, Italy
- 23-27 3rd Session of the OEWG on TNC-OBE / legally binding treaty negotiations
Geneva, Switzerland

November

- 6-8 Global Compact Asia Regional Meeting
Bangkok, Thailand
- 6 - 17 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - Conference of Parties 21st meeting
Bonn, Germany
- 8-10 ASEAN People's Forum 2017
Manila, Philippines
- 13,17 1st Labour FPAR training
Manila, Philippines
- 1-14 Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN Annual Meeting
Manila, Philippines
- 20-21 P&M Meeting
Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 27-28 Global Major Group and Other Stakeholder Meeting
Nairobi, Kenya
- 27-29 UN Forum on Business and Human Rights
Geneva, Switzerland

December

- 29 Nov – 1 Dec
3rd Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR)
Nairobi, Kenya
- 4,6 United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3)
Nairobi, Kenya



Regional Council Members 2017-2020



Abia Akram – National Forum of Women with Disabilities, Pakistan

Azra Sayeed – ROOTS for Equity, Pakistan

Cristina Palabay – Tanggol Bayi, Philippines

Fatima Burnad – Society for Rural Education and Development, India

Joan M Salvador – GABRIELA, Philippines

Govind Kelkar – India

Eni Lestari – Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Helda Khasmy – SERUNI (Indonesian Women Union), Indonesia

Matcha Phorn-in – Thai Association, Thailand

Mijoo Kim – Korea

Nalini Singh – Fiji Women's Rights Movement, Fiji

'Ofa Guttenbiel Likiliki – Tonga Women's Crisis Centre, Tonga

Olga Djanaeva – Rural women's association "Alga", Kyrgyzstan

Raushan Nauryzbayeva – Public Foundation "Development of Civil Society" in Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan

Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk – Sustainable Development Foundation, Thailand

Renu Rajbhandhari – Women's Rehabilitation Center, Nepal

Sultana Kamal – Bangladesh

Thida Khus – SILAKA, Cambodia

Titi Soentoro – Aksi! for gender, social and ecological justice, Indonesia

Tran Thi Thanh Toan – Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Vietnam

Yasso Kanti Bhattachan – National Indigenous Women Forum, Nepal

Misun Woo – Ex-officio

Programme and Management Committee Members



Govind Kelkar – India

Matcha Phorn-in – Thailand

Joan M. Salvador – Philippines

Titi Soentoro – Indonesia

Thida Khus – Cambodia

Ivy Josiah – Malaysia (Ex-officio)

Kate Lappin – (Ex-officio)



Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

Empowering women to use law as an instrument of change and promotion



APWLD Secretariat *(as of December 2017)*

Kate Lappin – Regional Coordinator (outgoing)

Misun Woo – Regional Coordinator (incoming)

Diyana Yahaya – Programme Officer

Suluck Fai Lamubol – Programme Officer

Madhura Chakraborty – Programme Officer

Marion Cabrera – Programme Officer

Sanam Amin – Programme Officer

Shradha Shreejaya – Programme Officer

Wardarina – Programme Officer

Trimita Chakma – Research and Publications Officer

Neha Gupta – Information and Communications Officer

Kornvika Paoprathum – Finance Officer

Satnam Kaur – Finance and Admin Officer

Chachanok Anjanbhati – Finance Associate

Visaline Phuntip – Liaison and Admin Officer

Kim Anh Nguyen – Executive Assistant

Zar Zar Tun – South South Young Feminist Leadership Intern



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YouTube: [youtube.com/c/Asia-
PacificForumonWomenLawand-
Development](https://www.youtube.com/c/Asia-PacificForumonWomenLawand-Development)