

APWLD ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development

STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE

IF YOU BELIEVE, AS WE DO, THAT KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, THERE IS NO DENYING APWLD HAS HAD A POWERFUL YEAR IN 2009.

Our continued efforts to advance feminist perspectives, knowledge and strategies for the realisation of women's human rights culminated in the publication and distribution of 13 comprehensive books; ~6 training courses that created capacity for over 200 women leaders, 3 international conferences that brought diverse women's voices together and 60 collaborative statements and endorsements for action. Not only have we strengthened the knowledge of women's human rights in Asia Pacific but we have also been successful at expanding the ever-constricting democratic space for this knowledge to flourish.



STRENGTHENING VOICES

IN 2009 OUR NETWORK OF GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS GREW TO OVER 180 MEMBERS – EACH WITH A UNIQUE AND IMPORTANT VOICE TO BE HEARD. APWLD’S NETWORK HAS BEEN THE LOUDSPEAKER THAT AMPLIFIED THESE VOICES SO THEY COULD INFORM EVEN THE MOST INSULATED AND DISTANT STRUCTURES.

In 2009 we have continued to use our consultative status with the UN’s Economic and Social Council and our consultations with UN Special Rapporteurs to bring the voices of grassroots women to the most influential global structures. Our collective voices have influenced emerging structures like ASEAN’s new human rights mechanisms and successfully advocated for new appointments within old structures. APWLD has also augmented the voice of women in the region by providing feminist legal training and training to women to help them participate in traditional political arenas.



STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATION

2009 WAS A YEAR OF RENEWAL AND RE-FOCUS ON APWLD'S KEY STRENGTH – OUR MEMBERSHIP.

We wanted to build upon our democratic principles and to do that we needed to increase our member participation in all levels of APWLD structures. This year we have successfully implemented a restructuring of our governance bodies and re-focussed programmes to reflect our existing and emerging expertise. The result has strengthened the accountability of APWLD actions and energised our membership. As well as strengthening our existing membership, 2009 also sought to diversify our membership across the region. New applications from under-represented countries have successfully established APWLD as the pre-eminent women's rights network in Asia Pacific.



**ENSURE
WOMEN'S
PARTICIPATION in
UNFCCC**



APWLD
Forum on Women, Law and Development

STRENGTHENING OURSELVES

IN A YEAR OF ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL UPHEAVAL, APWLD TOOK AN INWARDS LOOK FOR SOLUTIONS TO EXTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING OUR OPERATIONS.

In addition to our major restructuring, APWLD has set in motion processes that will ensure both our sustainability and our ability to make an impact. We have developed a systematic process for building relationships with new pools of funders as well ensuring strong relationships with existing funders. We are using new and innovative ways of communicating. New ways of publishing, and new methods for assessing our impacts.



CONTENTS

13	ACRONYMS
14	A LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL COORDINATOR
17	ABOUT APWLD
19	APWLD ACROSS ASIA PACIFIC
20	PROGRAMME SUMMARY VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP WOMEN' PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL PROCESSES LABOUR AND MIGRATION WOMEN AND ENVIRONMENT RURAL AND INDIGENOUS WOMEN
50	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS PUBLICATIONS NEW STRUCTURES APWLD SECRETARIAT
55	A LOOK FORWARD
57	THE WOMEN OF APWLD REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS SECRETARIAT
59	FINANCIAL NARRATIVE

ACRONYMS

ACMW	ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers
ACWC	ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
AICHR	ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights
AHRB	ASEAN Human Rights Body
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
APWLD	Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
AWID	Association for Women's Rights in Development
BOM	Breaking Out of Marginalisation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CLADEM	Comite de America Latina y Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
FAO	Finance & Administrative Officer
FLTP	Feminist Legal Theory and Practice
FLP	Feminist Law and Practice
FP	Focal Person
GA	General Assembly
G&PT	Gender and Politics Training
GFG on AE	Global Facilitation Group on Aid Effectiveness
GG	Grounding the Global
HR	Human Rights
HRD	Human Rights Defender
HRV	Human Rights Violation
ICC	International Coordinating Committee
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICO	Information & Communications Officer

ILC	International Labour Conference
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
IWRAW-AP	International Women’s Rights Action Watch – Asia Pacific
LM	Labour and Migration
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OC	Organising Committee
ODA	Official Development Aid
P&M	Programme and Management Committee
PO	Programme Officers
PWG	Programme Working Group
ReC	Regional Council
RC	Regional Coordinator
RIM	Rural, Indigenous and Migrant
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
TF	Task Force
TT	Transition Team
TNCs	Transnational Corporations
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSR	United Nations Special Rapporteur
UNSRVAW	United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women
VAW	Violence against Women
WEN	Women and Environment
WG	Working Group
WHRD	Women Human Rights Defenders
WHR	Women’s Human Rights
WILDAF	Women in Law and Development Africa
WIP	Women in Power
WPPP	Women’s Participation in Political Processes
WTO	World Trade Organisation

A LETTER FROM OUR REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Dear Friends,

As we approached nearly a quarter decade of work in Asia Pacific we took a close look at our strength as a regional network. It was obvious; our strength is in our membership – the organisations of grassroots women on the frontlines of the struggle for women’s human rights. In order to create a better network, we needed to support and fortify these frontlines. Similarly, we needed these strong voices to be represented in each of the levels of APWLD governance and action.

2009 has been a transformative year for APWLD. A restructuring of our governance and refocus of our programmes reflected the existing and emerging expertise of our membership. Renewal is never a sudden or simple process. It has however energized our work. The strength we gained early in 2009 is visible across our programme activities in themes of strengthened knowledge, strengthened voice, strengthened participation and a stronger intuition at the centre of women’s human rights in Asia Pacific.

Having joined APWLD as the Regional Coordinator in October of 2009, I feel fortunate to be guiding an organisation that is experiencing such renewed energy and purpose. My first event with APWLD was our annual Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences.

As a result of meeting the members, partners and human rights defenders from the region, and by seeing the dedication of the APWLD secretariat, the Consultation very much affirmed my decision to move my family to Thailand to support the courageous and inspiring women who comprise APWLD. I came away from the Consultation both inspired and enraged. Importantly though I came away hopeful, hopeful that the work of APWLD and its 180 members will be heard and will fuel the efforts of women and men worldwide to claim and advance women’s human rights.



Kate Lappin
Regional Coordinator,
APWLD



ABOUT APWLD

WHO WE ARE

APWLD is the region's leading network of feminist organisations and women. Our 180 members represent groups of diverse women from 25 countries in the region. We have been active for nearly 25 years. APWLD has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

OUR HISTORY

APWLD developed from dialogues among Asia Pacific women lawyers, social scientists and activists, which began at the 1985 Third World Forum on Women, held in Nairobi, Kenya. The women participating in the dialogues recognised that while law is used as an instrument of state control over resources, rights and even women's bodies, it can also be used to help effect political and socio-economic changes in our societies.

Participants in these dialogues recognised that gaining the capacity to mobilise populations to understand the social, economic and political dimensions of women's oppression and take collective action for change required a clear focus and strong organisation. In December 1986, women-delegates from across Asia met in Tagaytay, Philippines to discuss the most pressing socio-legal issues facing women and to explore possible areas of collaborative action. The outcome of this meeting was the formation of APWLD, the first regional response to the challenges of Nairobi.

In 1986, women lawyers and other activists in the region formally launched APWLD and set up a secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Secretariat relocated to Chiangmai, Thailand in October 1997.

OUR BELIEFS

We believe that law can be transformative as well as repressive. We seek to dissect, engage with and transform laws, legal practices and the systems that shape and inform them.

We believe that the fusion of patriarchy with militarisation, fundamentalisms and neo-liberal economic globalisation is responsible for gross violations of women's rights.

We believe that equality, development and the realisation of human rights can only happen when women, particularly marginalised women, are empowered to lead policy and legal debates and articulate solutions.

We believe that a transformative form of democratic leadership can bring about the structural changes required to claim and advance women's rights.

OUR WORK

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

OUR STRUCTURE

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

KYRGYZSTAN

An APWLD trainer and member from Kyrgyzstan joined 15 other women from six marginalised countries for a dialogue in PNG on women in politics and governance.

BANGLADESH

APWLD published a four country analysis entitled, *Anti-Terror Laws and their Impact on Rural Women in Asia*.

BURMA

Over a 3-day Women's Exchange celebrating International Women's Day, APWLD lead a series of workshop sessions for 120 undocumented women workers from Burma on CEDAW and General Recommendation 26.

NEPAL

APWLD co-facilitated a leadership seminar for 30 members of the Constituent Assembly and its youth network.

INDIA

APWLD used powerful video advocacy to highlight the need to protect vulnerable women workers in Chennai's IT Corridor with Malarchi Women's Resource Centre in India.

SRI LANKA

APWLD supported rural and indigenous women of Sri Lanka and four other countries understand issue of climate change and consider its impacts. Each group of women sewed their concerns and calls for action on climate change into a unique collaborative quilt exhibited to much acclaim at the Bangkok Climate Change Talks.

MALAYSIA

As a result of active national level advocacy to influence the process of the ASEAN human rights mechanisms, APWLD members have been nominated as potential candidates for the ACWC representative of Malaysia.

INDONESIA

APWLD published the report, *The Hidden Pillars*, a feminist look at the economic contribution of domestic workers in Hong Kong, Malaysia and Indonesia.

THAILAND

APWLD organised an Asia Pacific NGO Consultation with the Office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences (UNSRVAW).

APWLD facilitated the women's workshop during the Asia-Pacific Conference on Climate Change.

VIETNAM

National focal persons of the Women's Caucus, convened by APWLD, facilitated workshops in six countries, specifically aimed to increase engagement, raise awareness and facilitate information sharing on ASEAN human rights structures and processes.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

APWLD supported the formation of a regional network to increase women's participation in politics and governance at a dialogue on women's political participation. As well, APWLD launched a regional Quotas Campaign.

PHILIPPINES

APWLD delivered a National Women's Training on Gender and Politics in Manila. The training enhanced the knowledge, skills and confidence of 42 women who will be vying for electoral posts in the 2010 elections.

CAMBODIA

APWLD took action against the intimidation of the Hon. Mu Sochua, a National Assembly member of Cambodia and APWLD training participant who was targeted with verbal attacks, assault and defamation led by the Cambodian Prime Minister Mr. Hun Sen.

FIJI

APWLD delivered our Feminist Legal Theory and Practice training for 25 lawyers and activists from six Pacific nations.

APWLD hosted the first Gender and Politics Workshop for Melanesian, Polynesian and Micronesian women in Fiji.

APWLD ACROSS ASIA PACIFIC

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) programme summary

INTRODUCTION

Violence and discrimination against women continues with impunity in many parts of the region and continues to be one of the most visible manifestations of the unequal and unjust power relations between men and women in our societies. There are clear linkages between violence and other violations of basic rights. Women and girls who experience violence are often less able to realise their other human rights that cover a range of political, economic and social rights, such as participation and inclusion in decision making, employment, education, sexual rights and reproductive health rights among others.

We believe violence is structural – it is both caused by and enables structural inequalities. When patriarchy fuses with militarisation, fundamentalisms and neo-liberal economics violence is enabled and heightened. As early as 1997, APWLD exposed violence and sexual violence in areas with heightened military presence and conflict. We called for compensation for victims of VAW and human rights abuse in situations of war, issues which are still current today. Fundamentalisms continue to express themselves most vehemently on women’s bodies. Economic policies that force women into dangerous migratory patterns, unregulated labour and increase poverty expose women to further violence. We continue to dissect the structural causes of violence and advocate for systemic change.

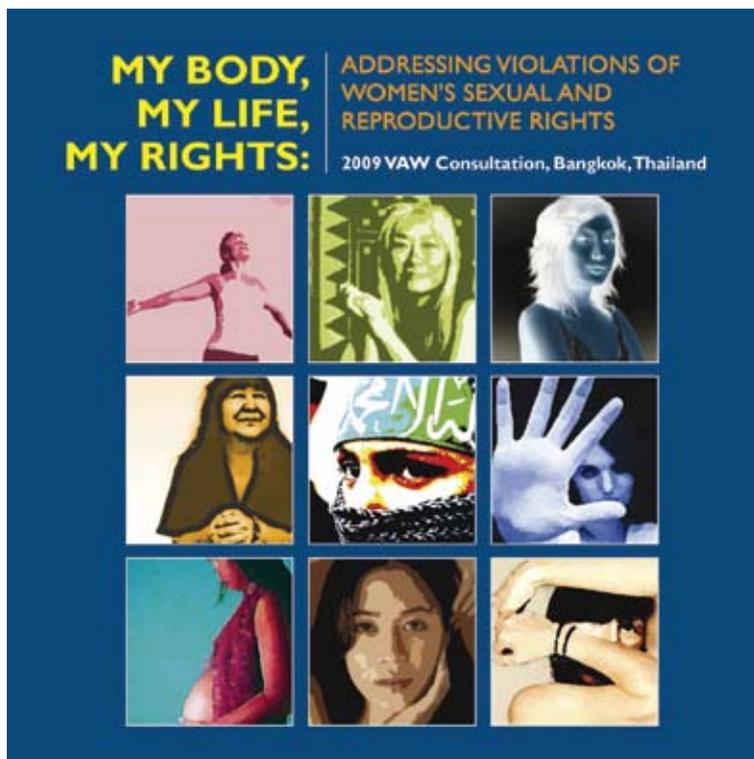


APWLD pioneered the annual Regional Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women (UNSRVAW) after Radhika Coomaraswamy, an APWLD founding and former Steering Committee member, was appointed to carry out the mandate. APWLD institutionalised the annual regional consultation. The consultations are a venue where victim / survivors of VAW and women's rights advocates share their experiences with the UNSR, suggest themes for future reports, raise points for the next report and comment on the previous year's report. Themes raised in the consultations are often included in the UNSR's report to the UN Commission on Human Rights / Human Rights Council.

Regional consultations are followed by a national consultation in the country hosting the event. These consultations have resulted in specific commitments from governments to improve women's rights.

2009 ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

Throughout 2009 APWLD built the capacity of more than 200 women's groups to advocate for the elimination of new and old forms of violence against women in the region. We also worked to increase conceptual clarity among NGOs working on violence against women, on feminist and women's human rights and addressing both recognised and unrecognised forms of violence against women and their causes and consequences.



APWLD organised an Asia Pacific NGO Consultation with the Office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences (UNSRVAW) entitled 'My Body, My Life, My Rights: Addressing Violations of Women's Sexual and Reproductive Rights on 7-8 December 2009. The Consultation was held in Bangkok, Thailand and attended by 54 women's rights defenders (including one man) from 23 countries. We also worked with members throughout the year to strengthen their capacity for effective engagement with other UN Special Procedures to enhance collaborative impact. A publication was produced entitled 'My Body, My Life, My Rights' which details the discussions at the Consultation. This document will not only be used as a tool for advocacy by the participants in national context but will also be provided to the UNSRVAW to aid and assist in her overall report to be submitted to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2010.

It is a unique forum for local NGOs and individual women to directly engage with the UNSRVAW and share their lived realities in a safe environment. At this year's consultation, participants were able to examine laws and policies pertaining to sexual and reproductive rights and whether they are sufficient or not as it stands. It provided an opportunity for women's human rights defenders to identify the gaps between international and national laws and develop strategies to ensure the implementation of laws and policies to hold perpetrators accountable for rights violations. It also enabled new and emerging violations in relation to sexual and reproductive rights to emerge.

APWLD aims to enhance the capacity of women in accessing and engaging with national, regional and international human rights mechanisms to advocate for the advancement and protection of women's human rights. We can directly observe this taking place during our annual consultation with the UN Special Rapporteurs. Participants are not only equipped with the knowledge on the UN mechanisms but are empowered to use them. This includes the individual complaint mechanism of the Special Procedures; shadow reports to different treaty bodies; and reports and advocacy during the Universal Periodic Review. Enhanced knowledge and access to UN Special Procedures mechanism has indeed contributed to empowering participants to use law to promote women's human rights in the region.



“The consultation was very inspiring and I really want to bring back what I have learnt and share with other women’s organisations in my country. It has also motivated me to be more actively involved in women’s networking and promote women’s rights in all aspects of life in Timor-Leste.”

Veronica Correia, Fundasaun Alola, Timor-Leste



Furthermore, APWLD regional consultations are being followed as a model example of engaging with the Special Procedures mechanism. In 2008 two sub-regional consultations modelling ours were organised by the consultation participants in Nepal and Russia respectively. In 2010, a Southeast and South Asia sub-regional consultation with the UNSRVAW and Independent Expert on Cultural Rights is planned by two 2009 consultation participants to examine culture and women’s human rights.

Specifically, this year’s consultaton has generated changes in polices and laws in a short period of time and allowed host countries to benefit from the presence of the SRVAW and other internationally recognised persons such as CEDAW Committee experts.

One such example is the recent changes to immigration detention centre polices in Thailand that were a direct result of a testimony from a North Korean woman that took place during the consultation. A team composed of the North Korean woman a former CEDAW Committee member and an activist from Thailand, had a meeting with a Commissioner of National Human Rights Commission Thailand to address the issues of sexual harassment and violence in the testimony. As a follow up action, the Commissioner initiated a meeting with Thai NGOs and representatives from the Immigration Office, which resulted in a commitment to place women assistants in replacement of the current male assistants to the Immigration Officers. It is expected that this action will lead to the reduction of rights violations including sexual violence in the immigration centre and justice process available institutionalised.

As a result of the consultation, a database of laws and policies specific to women's sexual and reproductive rights in 21 Asia Pacific countries was collated. Information provided by participants included the status of legal structures surrounding; reproductive health and family planning; HIV/AIDS strategies; domestic violence and marital rape; abortion; LGBTIs; dowry and child marriage; trafficking; sexual harassment; prostitution; and policies for the advancement of women. Participants shared information that will assist in identifying and recommending best practices to be followed in protecting and fulfilling women's sexual and reproductive rights. The database is included in CD format in the summary report publication, "My Body, My Life, My Rights; Addressing Violations of Women's Sexual and Reproductive Rights" as well as available electronically on the APWLD website.

The consultation also furthered our membership expansion objectives. We brought in new participants to our consultation with the Special Rapporteur on Violence against women which resulted in applications for APWLD membership. One such application came from Timor Leste where we are seeking to increase our membership.

"The dialogue with the representative from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was much appreciated and an effective way of bringing women's concerns directly to the attention of the UNSRVAV. The sharing of experiences heightened our awareness and strengthened networking as mediated by APWLD. I believe documentation of the issues/problems and recommendations can be used as a basis for advocacy work not only at the national level but also at regional and international levels and will assist strategic allies such as the various Special Rapporteurs in the UN system."

Ana Maria Memenzo,
Womenhealth Philippines, Philippines

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP (WHR-WG) programme summary

INTRODUCTION

APWLD works to address the underlying causes and consequences of women's rights violations. While using law as a powerful tool, we know that law is not neutral and indeed shaped to reinforce the status quo of power relations. That's why APWLD puts feminism at the centre of its analysis and uses a human rights framework to challenge structural violence and discrimination against women. The WHR-WG has played an integral role in generating and integrating a feminist analysis and critique of emerging issues that hinder women's full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. It has also been successful at creating an understanding of the international human rights standards and mechanisms as a tool to realise women's human rights.

Our Feminist Legal Theory and Practice (FLTP) Programme focuses on enhancing capacity and skills of women in Asia Pacific to analyse and critique discriminatory laws against women from feminist and human rights perspectives. It further aims to campaign for feminist legislation and policy formulation with an ultimate aim of empowering women to challenge the structural causes of inequality.



As well as delivering regional capacity building training, APWLD works to claim and strengthen women's rights by strategically facilitating network participation and engagement with human rights mechanisms at international, regional and national levels. In 2009 we continued our work to strengthen the 'eyes and ears' of the Human Rights Council – the UN Special Procedures mechanism. As well, our strategy brings grassroots voices to other regional and international fora including the Commission on the Status of Women and conferences on Aid Effectiveness. An important strategy in 2009 was to engage with and impact the Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN) and the new ASEAN human rights mechanisms.

ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

FLTP Training

I plan to conduct a four-day workshop for the members of my trade union and potential leaders to prepare (them) to stand for national level elections in their countries. (I will also work) with the Tongan government to sign and ratify CEDAW.

Mele Amanaki (Trade unionist, Samoa)

¹ Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu

“I am able to re-look at how I have ‘narrowly’ been looking at the law as it stands. This training is an eye-opener to consider and look further beyond my ‘bench’.”

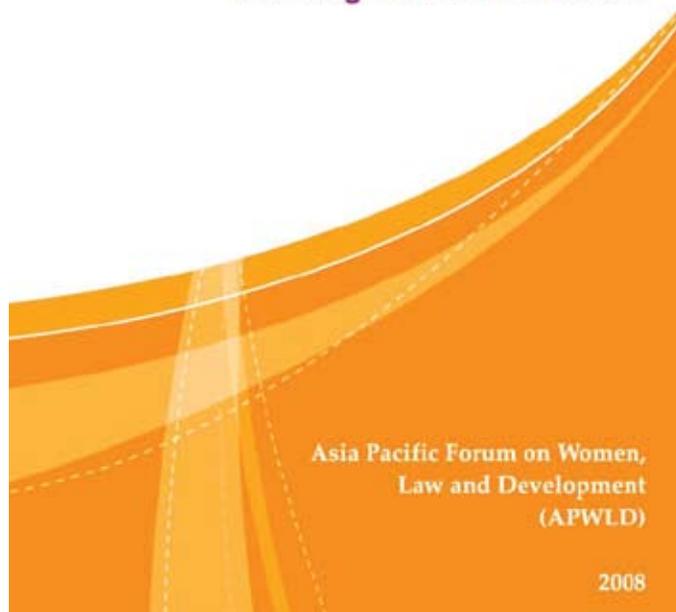
Erite Awira, High Court of Kiribati, Kiribati,
Workshop Participant

Since 1998, when FLTP training began, more than 500 women lawyers, social activists, academics, grassroots organisers and human rights defenders have benefited from our training programme. There were also 18 men who were admitted as participants. Three Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops have been held with more than 40 graduates.

This year FLTP training was hosted by the Fiji Women’s Rights Movement (FWRM). Together we conducted a Feminist Legal Theory & Practice Workshop for 25 lawyers and activists from six Pacific nations . The training increased the capacity of women’s groups to challenge and change discriminatory laws and practices in areas reporting a high incidence of violence against women and girls.

Feminist Legal Theory and Practice (FLTP) for Asia and the Pacific

Training Resource Manual



Women Human Rights Defenders

APWLD and FORUM ASIA co-organised the Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders, Margaret Sekaggya. Originally scheduled on 29 November 2008, the date was rescheduled to 18 January 2009 due to the political unrest in Thailand. More than 120 women and men human rights defenders from Asia, representatives of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and UN agencies in the region attended. The Consultation paid tribute to all WHRDs especially those under threat,

The training has evolved and been refined over a period of 16 years. This year APWLD published a Training Manual & Reader on Feminist Legal Theory & Practice. The manual outlines how litigation, law drafting and legal literacy can enable women to make systematic transformations in their communities and lives. The manual was focus tested in Fiji. By having a visually impaired participant, APWLD recognised the importance of ensuring all of its training materials and workshops are accessible to people living with disabilities.

“The Manual is user friendly and was used by all trainers. It is a handy reference guide and is clearly set out”

Trainers of the 2009 Pacific sub-regional FLTP training

violence, harassment and attacks due to their human rights work both as HRDs and as women. The consultation underscored the importance of having support from mainstream human rights groups and the full implementation of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. The consultation also urged NHRIs, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN agencies to strengthen the role of protecting WHRDs. Specific requests to regional mechanisms, such as Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) were made to integrate WHRDs issues within the system. Defenders expressed commitments to strengthen mutual cooperation and support amongst each other, especially integrating the issues of women human rights defenders into their programme of work at all levels, as well as to constructively engage with governments, NHRIs, regional mechanisms and the UN especially the UN Special Rapporteur on HRDs for the protection and recognition of WHRDs.



When Hina Jilani, a APWLD founding member was appointed UN Special Representative on human rights defenders, we joined other women's and human rights networks in forming the International Coordinating Committee to organize an international consultation concerning women human rights defenders (WHRDs). As a result November 29 was declared as the International Day for WHRDs.

²The ICC is now the Women Human Rights Defenders Coalition

Advocacy at the Human Rights Council



2009 celebrates 15 years of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (UNSRVAW) mandate. To commemorate the achievements of the SRVAW mandate as well as of the women's movement to end all forms of violence against women, its causes and consequences, APWLD participated in the 11th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). An oral statement, supported by 60 organisations was delivered emphasising the need to strengthen the SRVAW's mandate and encourage the HRC to hold state and non-state actors accountable for the implementation of SRVAW recommendations. As well, a panel discussion was organised to strengthen and support the mechanisms that address women's human rights and the existing spaces for NGOs within the UN system. A joint communiqué was released to widely share the discussion and result of the event with global human rights community, including the key recommendations for the way forward for the SRVAW mandate.



ASEAN

Since co-founding the Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN last year, APWLD and its members made significant ground in 2009 in ensuring women's issues were addressed in ASEAN's new human rights mechanisms. 2009 was a monumental year for ASEAN as it saw the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) established with representatives appointed, and the terms of references (ToR) for the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) finalised. It was also a defining year for the Women's Caucus as it entered into the 2nd phase of its engagement with ASEAN taking more active roles in mobilising women to influence the structures and processes of ASEAN. APWLD facilitated important strategy meetings of the Women's Caucus and was at the forefront of high level meetings with senior ASEAN politicians and bureaucrats. This lobbying and advocacy paid off during the year as the Women's Caucus actively engaged in the development of the terms of reference of the AICHR. The Caucus also had a significant input into the terms of reference for the ACWC,

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

Laramie Castillo, Migrant International, Philippines
Participant at APWLD facilitated Women's Caucus strategy meeting in 2009

³It represents a network of women's rights groups and activists from eight ASEAN countries (Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam). Eight national focal points were identified who will facilitate national level activities and implement strategies for the Women's Caucus

While the creation of new bodies is a significant step forward for ASEAN and should be celebrated, a lack of transparency in the creation of the human rights bodies resulted in weak and limited TORs for the AICHR/ACWC. As well, reluctance of a number of countries to engage with civil society on TORs or nomination of AICHR representatives suggest that there are still many obstacles to overcome to make the bodies effective for women.

WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL PROCESSES (WPPP)

programme summary

INTRODUCTION

Women continue to be under-represented in national and local decision making across the region. According to the IPU only 17.8% of parliamentary seats are held by women in the region.⁴ APWLD members have campaigned for quota legislation to be introduced that provides for a minimum of 30% representation of women.

Members have had success in introducing quota systems in some countries- for example Bangladesh and Nepal. In Nepal, where APWLD supported a pre-election women Parliamentarian forum in 2007, women currently hold 32.8 per cent of seats (although only 2 are ministers as detailed below). However overall, Asia has the slowest rate of progress in the world.⁵

The rates are even worse when we look at Pacific Island Nations. Pacific Islands average only 2.8% of women parliamentarians and five countries have no women parliamentarians at all⁶. Consequently APWLD focused our 2009 women and politics activities in the Pacific.

⁴www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org/.../1.she%20said%20Women%20hold%20just%2018%20percent%20of%20parl... -

⁵ibid

⁶Solomon Islands, Palau, Nauru and Federate States of Micronesia and Tuvalu have no women parliamentarians and Papua New Guinea has only 1 elected member,



The women in power programme aims to increase women's participation but we know that women's political power doesn't just come through numbers. Our programme seeks to support women to become involved in the political process, as candidates, policy makers or activists, and to adopt a model of transformative, participatory leadership. When women are elected they often struggle to be heard, face harassment and discrimination while occupying those posts. The programme aims to support women by increasing women parliamentarians solidarity, networking and knowledge exchange.

ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

Helen Maunga, a trade unionist from the Cook Islands was hesitant to stand in recent elections, but after the workshop felt inspired by the success stories from the region, and more confident in her own skills and abilities to represent women in her country.

APWLD hosted the first Gender and Politics Workshop for Melanesian, Polynesian and Micronesian women in Fiji during July. Fifteen women leaders, including aspiring parliamentary candidates, trade unionists and activists developed a gender analysis of women's lack of political participation in the Pacific. Women also shared strategies to increase their representation in national parliaments. The workshop was made possible through partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the University of Malaysia.



APWLD supported the formation of a regional network to increase women's participation in politics and governance at a dialogue on women's political participation in Papua New Guinea.



Reiterating the importance of governments adopting temporary special measures such as quotas for women, APWLD launched a regional Quotas Campaign in PNG during July under the patronage of Dame Carol Kidu of the PNG Parliament, as she introduced a landmark motion reserving three parliamentary seats for women.



Partnering with the Gabriela Women's Party, APWLD delivered a National Women's Training on Gender and Politics in Manila, Philippines. The training enhanced the knowledge, skills and confidence of women who will be vying for electoral posts in the 2010 elections. Forty-two women, including councilors, local leaders, mayors, congresswomen and candidates for local and national elections participated.



While 33% of seats in Nepal's Constituent Assembly are occupied by women, only 2 are Ministers. APWLD and the Forum for Protection of the Public Interest facilitated a leadership seminar for 30 members of the Constituent Assembly and its youth network. Bringing both men and women together to identify barriers to women's formal participation in politics resulted in a rich discussion on strategies to address these barriers, including the need to support young people and a culture of change in political parties.

“The significance of regional networks such as APWLD is in its outreach, willingness and capacity to involve grassroots NGOs working on issues of women's participation in political processes. International and regional strategies, plans and actions are valuable only if they go to local groups. The dialogue has tremendous value to APWLD due to its contribution to sharing of excellent cases on using legal tools such as special temporary measures. We saw in Papua New Guinea that the presence of APWLD, a regional network, strengthened the political weight of local groups. It was not only learning and sharing, it was empowering local groups and us from various sub-regions.”

Nurgul Djanaeva, APWLD member and president of Forum for Women's NGOs Kyrgyzstan

APWLD published the proceedings from the Seethings and Seatings: Asia-Pacific Conference on Women in Politics and Governance which provides in-depth analysis of some of the significant issues highlighting accomplishments, strategies, and good practices from across the region.

APWLD took action against the intimidation of the Hon. Mu Sochua, a National Assembly member of Cambodia and APWLD training participant who was targeted with verbal attacks, assault and defamation led by the Cambodian Prime Minister Mr. Hun Sen. APWLD believes that arbitrarily threatening to suspend Hon. Mu Sochua's immunity by the Prime Minister, without due evidence of any crime having been committed by her, is a blatant act of intimidation against an opposition member of parliament.

LABOUR AND MIGRATION (L&M) programme summary

INTRODUCTION

APWLD and our network members recognise that women's struggles are interconnected and complementary and therefore have a commitment to regional and international solidarity. We plan to maximise and retain spaces and to strengthen alliances and collaborative initiatives at all levels through their ongoing regional campaigns with the migrant workers coalitions.

It is estimated that more than 50% of migrant workers in Asia are now women. Most work in unregulated sectors of the economy. A growing number of migrant women workers are employed as domestic workers where they are rarely protected under national labour laws and easily exploited by employers.

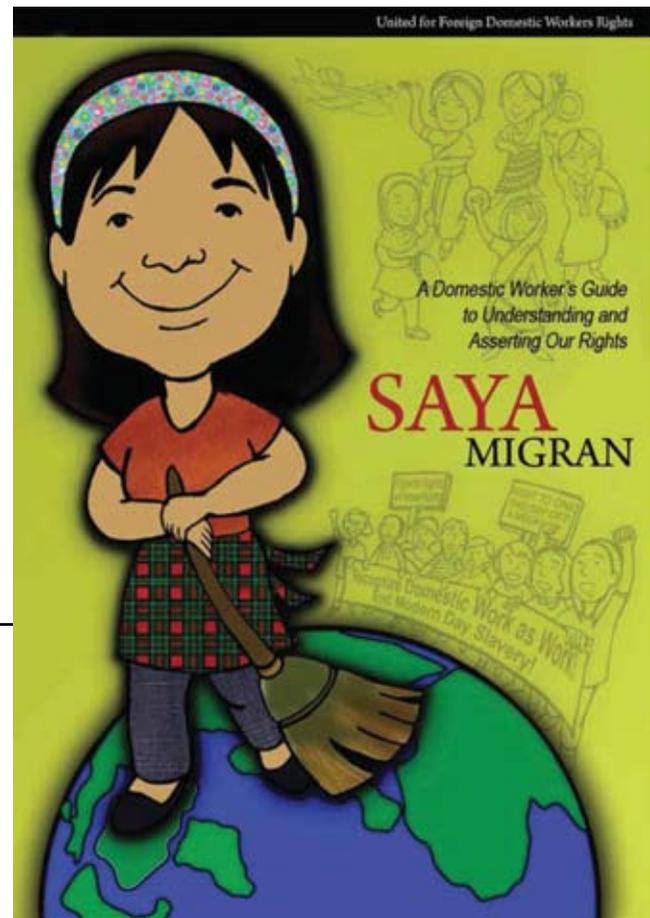
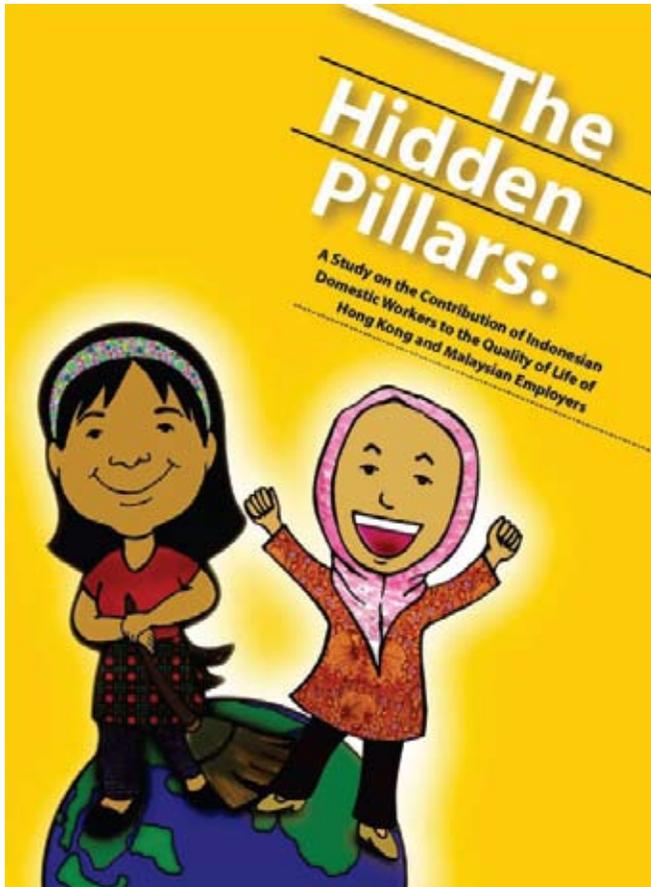
Domestic workers are vulnerable to violence, harassment and exploitation. Isolated from other workers domestic worker associations or unions are rarely recognised as registered trade unions. With harsh working and living conditions, women are routinely paid low wages or suffer from illegal withholding of wages. Without formal legal protections, women across Asia Pacific are unable to protect their labour rights.

We understand that recognizing the contributions of domestic workers is the first step towards greater understanding and acknowledgement of their problems.



ACTIVITIES AND IMPACTS

With a feminist methodology, research into the economic contribution of domestic workers in Hong Kong, Malaysia and Indonesia was published in a report *The Hidden Pillars* by APWLD. Member organisations and domestic worker associations / unions are using this report in campaigning for better legal protections for foreign domestic workers.



The United for Foreign Domestic Worker Rights Coalition, of which APWLD is a co-secretariat member, published a comic for domestic workers on their basic rights. Women workers in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand were able to access easy to understand information about basic rights such as standard working hours, days off and how to access basic health and legal services.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) announced that they would schedule discussion of a Domestic Workers Convention at its 2010 conference.

UFDWR Coalition is a partnership between APWLD's Labour and Migration Task Force, Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM), Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM Asia), Global Alliance against Traffic in Women (GAATW) and Mekong Migration Network (MMN)

APWLD used powerful video advocacy to highlight the need to protect vulnerable women workers in Chennai's IT Corridor with Malarchi Women's Resource Centre in India. The documentary revealed workers living onsite in poorly constructed huts or sheds with no water or sanitation while working 10-12 hours days for under US\$2. Highlighting rampant occupational health and safety issues, the documentary called upon India and its private sector to recognize and protect women working in the Corridor.

Over a 3-day Women's Exchange celebrating International Women's Day in March 2009, APWLD lead a series of workshop sessions for 120 undocumented women workers from Burma on CEDAW and General Recommendation 26.

General Recommendation 26 recognizes the rights of undocumented women workers who migrate independently to work, or who join their families. State parties to CEDAW have obligations to protect these rights. Throughout the year, APWLD and our members have campaigned for its implementation by governments of Asia-Pacific.

WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT (WEN)

programme summary

INTRODUCTION

In 2009 APWLD increased women's awareness and participation in environmental decision making, particularly around climate change. Our advocacy work acknowledges that women are often the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters and should be located at the centre of efforts for address these challenges.

Rural and indigenous women's livelihoods depend on primary resources under threat by climate changes. As the impact on the climate increases, women engaged in small-scale agriculture, fisheries and herding have lower yields of fish and crops. They lose grazing lands to excessive rainfall and drought, unpredictable cyclones and severe flooding. Women's workload becomes heavier as scarcer resources have to stretch further to prevent hunger and sickness.

Efforts to work out how to adapt and prepare for climate change have rarely benefited from women's lived experience. In fact some so-called 'solutions' have devastating effects on rural and indigenous women. For example, increasing hydro-electrification often means women lose their land. Subsistence farmers are displaced to plant mass bio-fuel crops. Carbon trading schemes or taxes constructed by wealthy nation emitters may have devastating effects on women in the global south.

Women need to be able to understand climate change and its impact on their lives. With the capacity to come up with strategies for climate change, they can adapt and mitigate in ways that work for them. Women's experiences of the impact of changing climate patterns on their livelihoods need to be properly documented if gender is to be taken seriously in policy making on climate change.



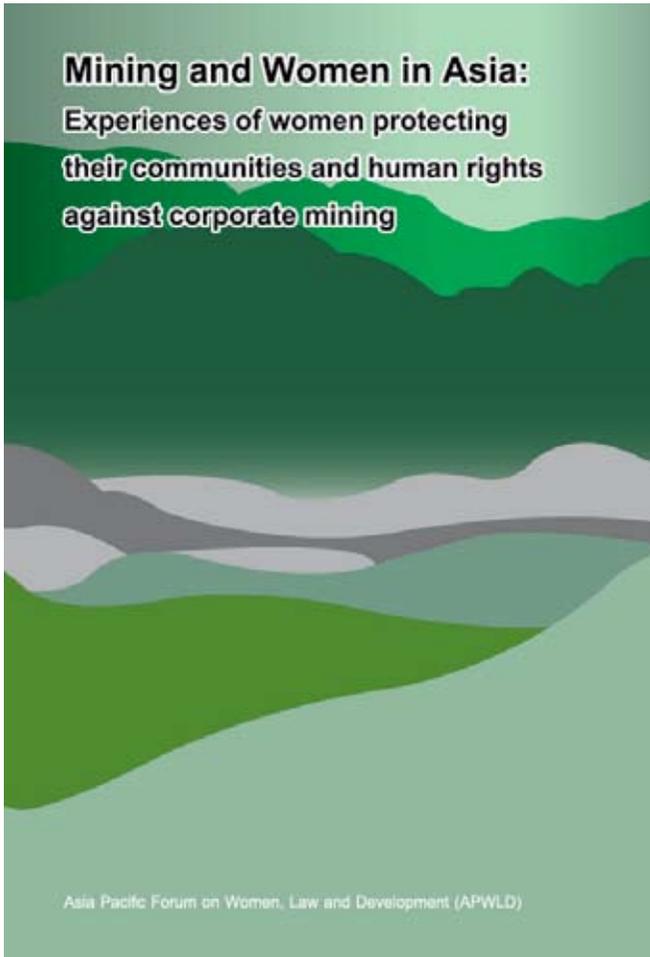
ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

APWLD members from India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand shared first-hand observations and experiences of the negative impacts of changing climate at a planning workshop on climate change research during the UNFCCC meeting in Bangkok.



APWLD facilitated the women's workshop during the Asia-Pacific Conference on Climate Change in March. APWLD prepared a working paper on rural and indigenous women and climate change which presented the vulnerabilities of rural and indigenous women. The workshop and paper also included recommendations regarding the conduct of research cum discussions to enrich the gender component of climate strategies. Specific recommendations included bringing global processes to grassroots women where they can actively engage and impact processes and negotiations through position papers and creative actions. The workshop also circulated the People's Protocol on Climate Change among women and organisations as an alternative to the Kyoto Protocol. It was also in this conference that the People's Actions on Climate Change during the UNFCCC meeting in Bangkok, was planned.

APWLD designed an innovative action research project with members to increase the capacity of women to promote their own sustainable methods of agriculture, aquaculture and natural resource management.



We published a new report titled “Mining and Women in Asia: Experiences of women protecting their communities and human rights against corporate mining”, and distributed to indigenous peoples’ organisations and environmental NGOs gathered at the Bangkok Climate Talks. Compiled from a series of case studies under discussion at the Study Session on Women and Mining in 2008, APWLD members also contributed reports from fact-finding missions in Thailand and Mongolia. The report provides evidence of threats to women’s health, livelihood, economic and physical security, resulting from large scale mining.

In October 2009, APWLD members participated in the People’s Action on Climate Change which was organized in parallel to the Bangkok Climate Change Talks of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The events generated awareness and ensured that ‘gender justice’ must be an integral part of ‘climate justice’.

APWLD circulated the appeals for support from partner organizations in the Philippines (Amihan and Innabuyog) after the onslaught of two successive typhoons in October. APWLD also launched fundraising activities in Chiang Mai, Thailand for the typhoon victims which generated financial and material support. APWLD demonstrated its mobilisation capacity when responding to urgent disasters.





Quilts are a lasting symbol of unity, creativity and diversity. APWLD supported rural and indigenous women from Thailand, peasant women in the Philippines, fisher women in Sri Lanka, Dalit women in India, and women's groups in Mongolia understand issue of climate change and consider its impacts. Each group of women sewed their concerns and calls for action on climate change into a unique collaborative quilt exhibited to much acclaim at the Bangkok Climate Change Talks.



A member was admitted to attend the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) as an observer. However upon registration at the COP 15 on December 14, she was not issued with a badge due to the changes in the policy of UNFCCC and the host country and therefore was not allowed to access to the conference venue.

Despite APWLD and member efforts, the UNFCCC, The Kyoto Protocol and other existing frameworks on climate change still do not adequately consider women's vulnerability, capacity and roles in addressing climate change. Popularising the issue of gender justice in advocacy carried out by wider civil society is now more crucial than ever.



RURAL AND INDIGENOUS WOMEN (RIW) programme summary

INTRODUCTION

Rural and indigenous communities are within areas rich with natural resources which are primary sources of livelihood for rural and indigenous women who are mainly farmers and fishers. With the depletion of resources, rural and indigenous communities are most affected by conflict over resources.

APWLD's strategy is to support rural and indigenous women to deepen their understanding and advocacy around global and regional economic, political and human rights frameworks. We bring a women's human rights-based approach, and facilitate participation at international and regional human rights fora. This year we were able to integrate rural and indigenous women's concerns into all APWLD programmes.

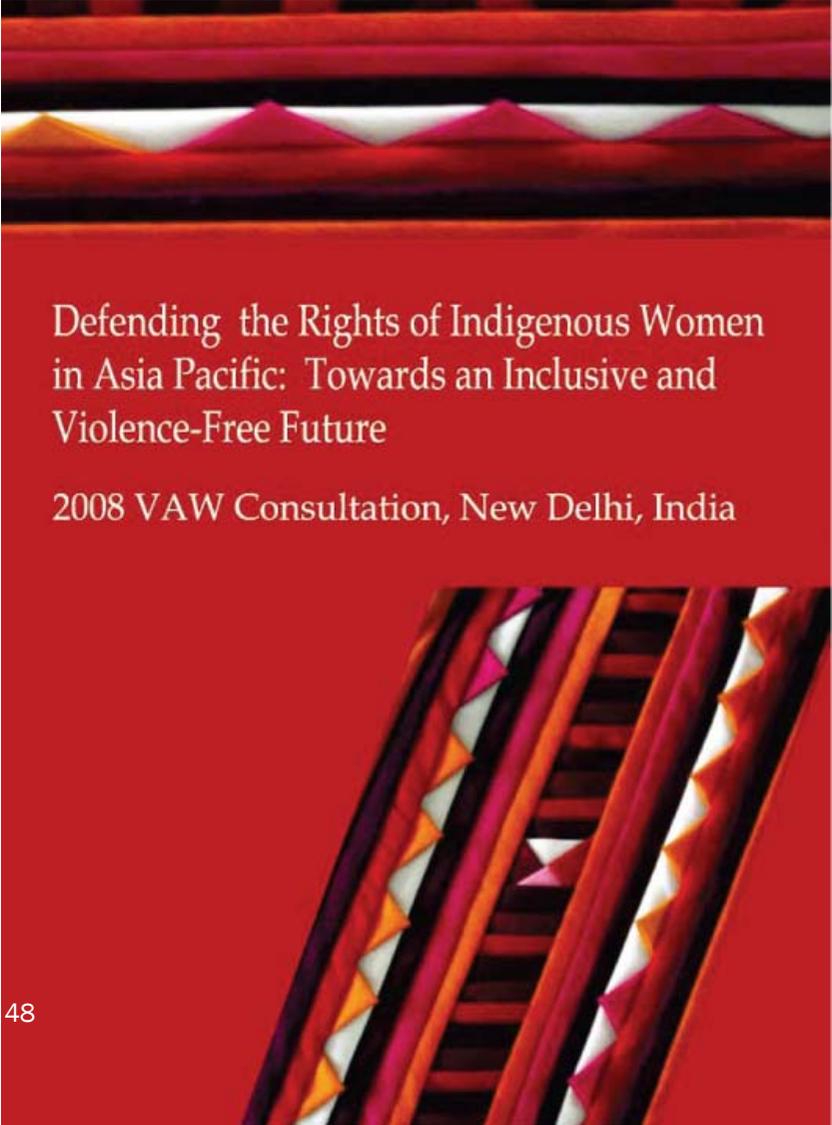


Along with five other regional networks in the Asia-Pacific region as co-authors, APWLD initiated and coordinated the Rural and Indigenous Women's Statement on Climate Change; A Submission to the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The submission paper emphasises gender-differentiated impacts of climate change on women, especially the most marginalised sector; rural and indigenous women. It calls for increased participation of rural and indigenous women in all decision making levels and consultation to prioritise rural and indigenous women's rights and concerns with regards to climate change. It was created with the experiences and demands of rural and indigenous women as farmers, fisherfolk, herders, farm workers, indigenous food producers and natural resource managers. The submission was distributed during the Bangkok Climate Change Talks and received 151 endorsements from organisations and individuals world wide. It was then submitted to the UNFCCC towards the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December 7-18, 2009. It was also used as a tool for community discussions among women who were surviving the Typhoon "Ondoy" in Manila in October 2009.

ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

In 2008, we hosted a regional consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In 2009, APWLD published the corresponding report, “Defending the Rights of Indigenous Women in Asia Pacific: Towards an Inclusive and Violence-Free Future”. The report comprises the proceedings of the Asia-Pacific NGO consultation with the two UN Special Rapporteurs on Violence against Women in New Delhi, and documents multiple forms of violence experienced by indigenous women in the Asia-Pacific. The report proved an essential resource for informing the Special Rapporteurs work and the in country UN programs on Violence against Women in 2009.

Since instigating the first Asian Rural Women’s Conference, APWLD continued to actively support the Asian Rural Women’s Coalition.



Defending the Rights of Indigenous Women
in Asia Pacific: Towards an Inclusive and
Violence-Free Future

2008 VAW Consultation, New Delhi, India



“APWLD has been a focal point to integrate women’s rights and fights in wider people’s movements”

Vernie Yocogan-Diano, Innabuyong
(Regional Alliance of Indigenous Women’s
Organisations in the Cordillera Region,
Philippines.

Two journals were the outcome of an exchange programme between women working in small-scale fisheries in Thailand and Sri Lanka during 2008. Kept by exchange participants, the journals documented their day to day activities, experiences and learning in a personal and accessible way. Journals touch on diverse topics like environmental conservation, coping with adverse impacts of tourism development, large-scale commercial fishery, and the impacts of free economic zones on women workers. Thai and Sinhalese versions of the journals were shared at workshops and meetings conducted by National Fisheries Solidarity Movement in Sri Lanka and Sustainable Development Foundation Thailand, hosts in the exchange programme.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNICATIONS AT APWLD

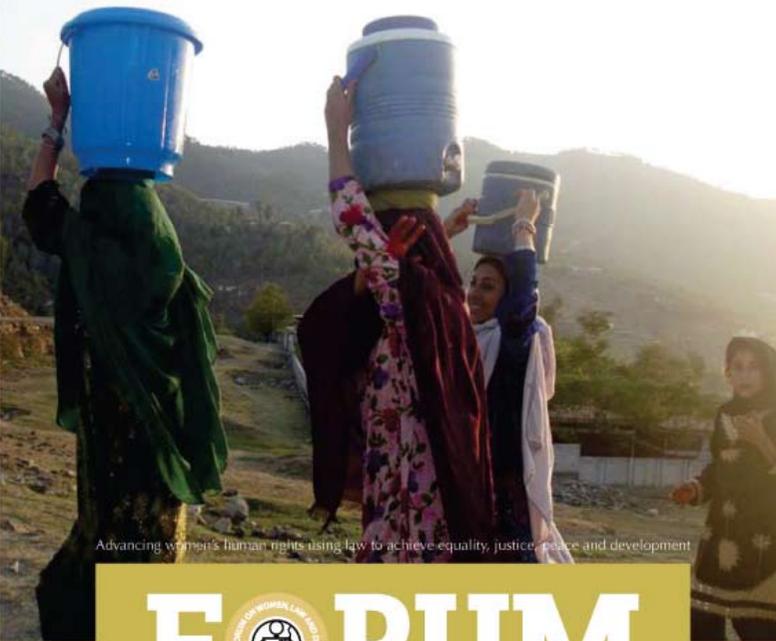
APWLD has an active Information and Communications Programme keeping members informed and engaged in program activities. It also plays a crucial role in mobilising our membership on important campaign actions, distributing publications, and updating the membership on key developments.

In 2009 we issued a record number of publications with 13 new reports and 3 reprints of reports in high demand (a full list of publication can be found on the next page).

In 2009, APWLD distributed its first electronic issue of Forum News to 180 members, 80 partners, and 50 media, while also making it publicly available on the website. We also distributed high resolution electronic copies to members who wanted to print & distribute publications in their own countries and languages.

JANUARY TO JUNE 2009

Vol. 22 No. 1



Advancing women's human rights using law to achieve equality, justice, peace and development

FORUM NEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

Editorial 2 | Pakistan and the Global War on Terror 3 | Sri Lanka after the War 6 | Voicing Women's Concerns to ASEAN! 8
Southeast Asia Rural Women Gathering on the AHRB and ACWC 10 | Changing the Existing Climate on Climate Change 12
Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders 14 | Development Effectiveness and Women 16
Philippine Rural People's Camp-Out for a Genuine Agrarian Reform 18 | How Women Fared in Elections around the World 21
In and around Asia Pacific 23 | March 8, Women's Day across Asia Pacific! 27
Publication Updates: Guidelines for Gender Sensitive Disaster Management 29 | At the Secretariat 30

As well as providing Secretariat and member updates, Forum News featured diverse stories on Pakistan and the Global War on Terror, Sri Lanka after the War, Voicing Women's Concerns on ASEAN, Changing the Existing Climate on Climate Change, Development Aid Effectiveness as well as a feature on the Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders. We also distributed irregular news to members on elections in the region, publication updates as they occurred and relevant news from the region.

APWLD Action Alerts highlight violations of women's rights in member countries requiring urgent intervention. In 2009 APWLD called attention to, and rallied support for over sixty human rights emergencies in our online campaigns. These official statements and urgent action alerts spanned 12 countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Our website averaged over 12,000 hits each month during 2009, a notable increase on the previous year. New visitors made up approximately 75% of hits, while 25% were return visitors. In addition to our main website, APWLD hosts two campaign websites. For example, APWLD posted 23 alerts on our women human rights defenders site which continued to grow in popularity throughout 2009. See www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org

In November, APWLD organized a letter writing campaign targeting the government of the Philippines urging them to meet their human rights obligations concerning the rights of 26 women victims of the Maguindanao massacre. The letter condemned the sexual atrocities committed against the women and was printed on a 1.5 meter long banner with individually signed messages from the 50 participants of the UN's Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women consultation. We demanded an impartial investigation, prosecution of perpetrators and the delivery of justice. The oversized letter was then sent to the office of the President of the Philippines.

PUBLICATIONS PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED IN 2009

- Political Economy of Violence Against Women: The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women Consultation, 2007
- Defending the Rights of Indigenous Women in Asia Pacific UNSRVAW consultation 2008.
- Feminist Legal Theory & Practice Training Manual
- Anti Terror Laws and Their Impact on Rural Women in Asia
- Saya Migran: a domestic worker's guide to understanding and asserting our rights
- Your Life is in Your Hands - Fiji Tax free zones.
- Collation of Papers and Proceedings of the 20th Anniversary of the Women, Law and Development networks with Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (CLADEM) and Women in Law and Development Africa (WiLDAF) held in Bangkok, Thailand, November 2007.
- Mining and Women in Asia: Experiences of Women Protecting their Communities and Human Rights against Corporate Mining.
- Demanding Protection for Foreign Domestic Workers and All Women Migrants - the 2008 Joint Regional Consultation with UN Special Rapporteurs UNSRs) on the human rights of migrants Jorge Bustamante, and on contemporary forms of slavery including its causes and consequences Gulnara Shahinian, held on 24-25 October 2008 in Manila, Philippines co-organised by APWLD, Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM Asia) and the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW).
- The Hidden Pillars: A Study on the Contribution of Indonesian Domestic Workers to the Quality of Life of Hong Kong and Malaysian Employers.
- Guidelines for Gender Sensitive Disaster Management (Updated).
- Seethings & Seatings: The Asia-Pacific Conference on Women in Politics and Governance
- In Solidarity: Proceedings of the Third Regional Human Rights Defender Forum and the Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders.
- Due to high demand, APWLD reprinted three key publications in 2009: *Negotiating Culture: Intersections of Culture and Violence Against Women in Asia Pacific*; *Seethings and Seatings: Strategies for Women's Political Participation in Asia Pacific*; and *Fundamentalisms in Asia Pacific: Trends, Impact, Challenges and Strategies Asserting Women's Rights*

NEW STRUCTURES, RENEWED PARTICIPATION, INCREASED IMPACT

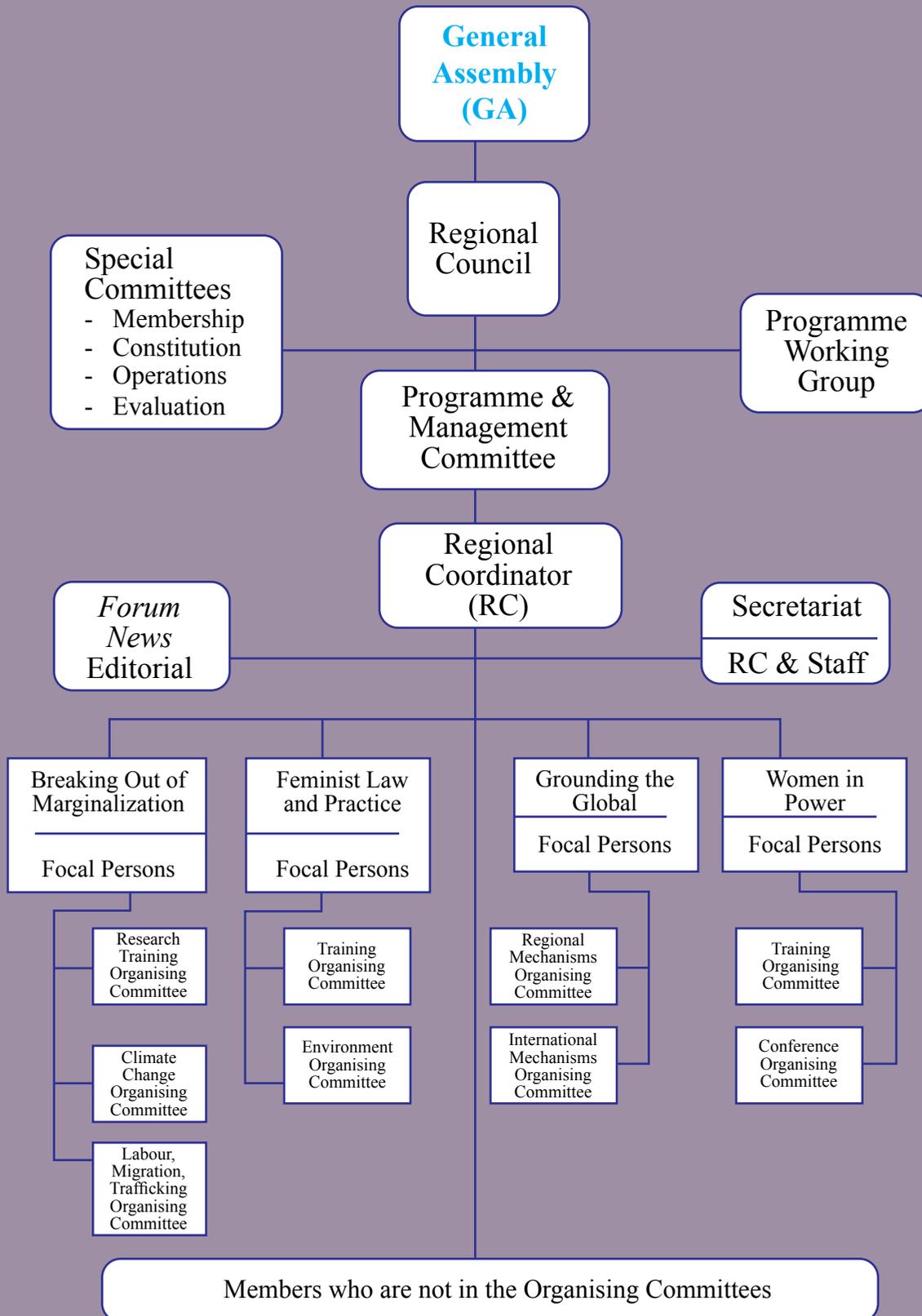
Substantial effort in the second half of 2009 went into a major re-structuring of our governance structures. The re-structure was prompted by several factors: an assessment of the synergy between our programmes; the need for renewed membership participation in governance; impact of the global economic and financial crises; and the findings and recommendations specified in APWLD's External Evaluation 2006-2008 report.

The challenge for us was to find a way to retain the strength of the organisation – our engaged and knowledgeable membership – while reducing governance costs and encouraging new member involvement. After extensive consultation with members we decided that our taskforce model needed to be re-considered. The taskforces delivered a lot of impressive work but they also meant that APWLD relied on a handful of active members. A more dynamic model was needed.

The taskforces have now been replaced by Organising Committees. Unlike taskforces, organising committees will not be permanent, constitutionally based groups. They will form around a particular project and exist only for the life of that project. They allow us to involve more of our current members, to grow our membership, and to respond to emerging issues more rapidly. Organising Committees can germinate from member concerns and provide a vehicle for members to mobilise around those concerns. Two focal persons will be identified per programme that will assist secretariat programme officers with programme implementation. The focal persons will also work closely with organising committees.

The General Assembly (GA), Regional Council (ReC), Programme and Management Committee (P&M) and the Thai Association (Board of Directors) are being retained but with some variation to minimize the costs of governance.

APWLD looks forward to the new structures and is confident that it will enable the network to remain the pre-eminent women's rights network in the Asia Pacific region.



Looking Forward

Twenty-four years ago APWLD founders had a vision to claim and strengthen women's human rights by using the law as an instrument of social change for equality, justice and development. Today, that vision remains as relevant as it was a quarter decade ago.

Fostering our movement

APWLD's biggest strength is our membership. 2010 will see members bolstered by new organising structures, better communications strategies and new energy from increased volunteer and intern work. Focussing on the strength of our membership is the key to fostering renewed participation in our movement and delivering collaborative activism that brings about real and sustained change.

Building on our strengths

APWLD has mapped out a programme of work for the next three years that builds on our existing work as well as draws on the emerging expertise of our membership in the areas of climate change and aid effectiveness. The following focus areas are a direct result of our 2008 evaluation recommending build on our key strengths and continue to be accountable to our membership.

Feminist Legal Practice and Training

We will continue to deliver and grow our highly regarded Feminist Legal Practice and Training programme. Most of our training has been at the regional or sub-regional level but we will also establish both national and international training programmes. We will increase our focus on ensuring our training has long term impacts and informs strategies and campaigns. To do this we will further engage with participants to build collaborative campaigns and offer ongoing support.

Engaging with the Special Rapporteurs

The UN Special Mechanisms have been described as the 'eyes and ears' of the Human Rights Council. If that is the case our annual consultations with the SRVAW form part of the mouth – providing the voice of women from the Asia Pacific. We will continue with our strategy to integrate these consultations into the work of other Special Rapporteurs. We will also seek to strengthen the mandate of the Special Procedures Mechanisms and encourage the Special Rapporteurs to consider their mandates from a gender perspective.

Rural and Indigenous Women

We have a clear message from our rural and indigenous partners that they want to increase their activism and advocacy around the impact of development projects, global warming and intersectional discrimination. To do this we will focus primarily on three projects in the next three years. Firstly, to develop training modules that enable rural and indigenous women to document human rights violations, with a particular focus on economic, social and cultural rights. We will work with women to document systemic violations and then, with them, use that material to advocate for change at national, regional and international levels. We will also work with communities to document the gender impact of climate mitigation and adaptation measures. APWLD will also work with domestic worker associations / unions to help them realise their goal of a Domestic Workers Convention and ensure that their voices are heard at the UN's International Labour Conference.

Women in Power

As APWLD increases the participation of its members in our structures, we will also work towards increasing their participation in larger political structures of their own countries and communities. Our established programmes will remain in action but we will increase our focus on facilitating dialogue among women in the Asia Pacific region to share experiences, good practices, strategies and lessons learnt from a feminist perspective. Our aim is to develop and enhance linkages with national, regional and international women's networks in promoting greater and more effective political participation of women.

ASEAN and the SEA Women's Caucus

Given the potential for ASEAN's new human rights mechanism to be a model for human rights in the region, and our recent successes at influencing it, APWLD will continue to engage with ASEAN, particularly its new human rights mechanisms to advance women's human rights in the region. We hope that through our continued campaigns of awareness and capacity building we will enable women to challenge and redefine ASEAN's complex human rights structures and processes.

THE WOMEN OF APWLD

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nijera Kori

Khushi Kabir
Bangladesh

Fiji Women's Rights Movement

Virisila Buadromo
Fiji Islands
www.fwrn.org.fj

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre

Edwina Kotoisuva
Fiji Islands
www.fijiwomen.com

The Mission for Migrant Workers (MFMW Limited)

Cynthia Ca Abdon-Tellez
Hong Kong SAR (PRC)
www.apmigrants.org

Partners for Law in Development

Madhu Mehra
India
www.pld-india.org

Koalisi Perempuan Indonesia

Titiek Kartika Hendrastiti
Indonesia

Komnas Perempuan

Kamala Chandrakirana
Indonesia
www.komnasperempuan.or.id

Mikiko Otani

Legal advocate
Japan

Feminist League

Yevgeniya Kozyreava
Kazakhstan
www.women.kz

Korea Women's Associations United

Cho Young Sook
KOREA

Rural Women's NGO "Alga"

Olga Djanaeva
Kyrgyzstan

Sisters in Islam

Malaysia
www.sistersinislam.org.my

Centre for Citizens Alliance

Zanaa Jurmed
Mongolia
www.cca.mn

ROOTS for Equity

Azra Talat Sayeed
Pakistan

Elisa Tita Lubi

Gabriella
Philippines

Innabuyog

Vernie Yocogan-Diano
Philippines

**Foundation for Women, Law and Rural Development
(FORWARD)**

Virada Somswadi
Thailand

Phanomwan Yoodee
Thailand

SECRETARIAT

Regional Coordinator
Kate Lappin

Programme Officers
Misun Woo
Tomoko Kashiwazaki
Philippa Smales (Volunteer)

Liaison Officer
Navarat Nophran

Finance Officer
Punika Shinawatra

Information and Communications Officer
Tina Lee

Financial Assistant
Kornvika Paupratum

Office Assistant
Nee Jainanta

FINANCIAL NARRATIVE

In early 2009 APWLD recognised that it did not have the financial security to implement its full programme of activities. As well, an external evaluation recommended a restructuring of governance and programme areas. As a result, APWLD programme activities in the first half of 2009 were modified.

Overall, the financial expenditures of the reporting period reflect the transitional year APWLD has experienced. Throughout the transition, APWLD recognised the value of its key secretariat staff. With their help, new Programme Working Groups (PWG) convened in August with a clear direction for activities. The importance of the APWLD staff and institutional learning is reflected in the financial expenditures in 2009. This year also saw APWLD led by rotating Regional Coordinators until October when Kate Lappin filled the permanent position. Increased stability and a clear mandate of work translated to a busy last quarter of 2009.

During the reporting period APWLD received funding from Oxfam Novib, HIVOS, the Global Fund for Women and Asia Pacific People's Forum with collaboration from the International Women's Rights Acton Watch Asia Pacific. In late 2009 APWLD was successful with its funding proposals to SIDA and the Ford Foundation which have secured our new programme structures for 2010.

In 2009, APWLD received funds from HIVOS, The Global Fund for Women, NOVIB, The Ford Foundation, UNIFEM, Gerbode Foundation Education Fund and Amnesty International Australia. The Total funds for 2009 were US\$ 638,771.66

This amount consisted of

Funds carried forward from 2008	150,008.19
Funds received during the year	487,655.61
Other income (interest and publications)	1,107.86

Total expenditure in 2009 was US\$ 444,801. The funds contributed to the following activities:

Program implementation	24%
Resources development and publications	5%
Consultations	21%
Training and workshops	15%
Annual task forces/Working group meetings	12%
Salaries	12%
Secretariat	11%

The total expenditure was distributed to the programmes as follows:

Women human rights	15%
Violence against women	12%
Women's participation in political process	18%
Labour and migration	4%
Women and the environment	6%
Rural and indigenous women	4%
Cross-cutting initiatives	2%
Resource	17%
Administration	22%

ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT
Chiang Mai, Thailand
Funds Received in 2009

Description	USD
Balance forwarded from 2008 *	150,008.19
Funds received in 2009	
HIVOS	21,094.43
The Global fund for Women	14,842.62
NOVIB	175,531.91
The Ford Foundation	242,341.91
UNIFEM	20,034.13
Gerbode Foundation Education Fund	10,343.92
Amnesty International Australia	1,766.43
Accrued funds (will be received in 2010)	
UNIFEM	1,700.26
Total funds received in 2009	487,655.61
Total funds available in 2009	637,663.80
Other income	
Sales on APWLD Publication, books and T Shirt	141.08
Interest Received	853.41
Gain on Exchange	83.04
Gain on Exchange(hbf)	-
Other income	30.33
Total receipt	638,771.66

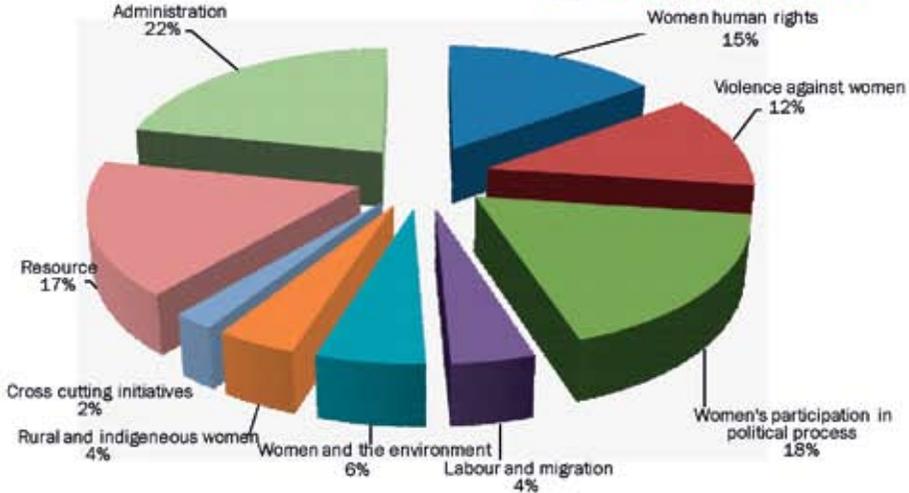
Average rate of exchange: USD1 = Baht 34.31

* Funds carried over from 2008 came from HIVOS, SIDA, The Global fund for Women, NOVIB, The Ford Foundation, UNIFEM

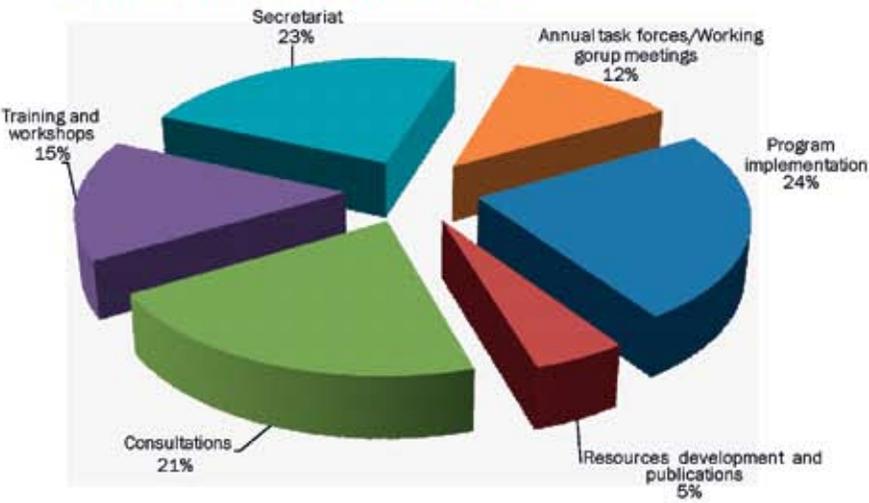
ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT
Chiang Mai, Thailand
Expenditure in 2009

Title	Budget used
WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS (WHR)	67,186.50
Policy Intervention/Social Dialogue/Mobilisation	19,003.02
Technical Assistance/Training	28,752.67
Secretariat costs	1,324.07
Program Implementation costs	18,106.74
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW)	53,492.55
Policy Intervention/Social Dialogue/Mobilisation	34,417.52
Secretariat costs	843.37
Program Implementation costs	18,231.66
WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL PROCESS (WPPP)	79,598.56
Policy Intervention/Social Dialogue/Mobilisation	25,882.02
Technical Assistance/Training	38,731.35
Secretariat costs	939.87
Program Implementation costs	14,045.32
LABOUR AND MIGRATION (L&M)	19,087.71
Policy Intervention/Social Dialogue/Mobilisation	4,809.30
Secretariat costs	262.24
Program Implementation costs	14,016.17
WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT (WEN)	25,051.29
Policy Intervention/Social Dialogue/Mobilisation	6,725.95
Secretariat costs	627.04
Program Implementation costs	17,698.30
RURAL AND INDIGENEOUS WOMEN (RIW)	18,233.53
Policy Intervention/Social Dialogue/Mobilisation	124.80
Secretariat costs	342.69
Program Implementation costs	17,766.04
CROSS -CUTTING INITIATIVES	9,644.26
Policy Intervention/Social Dialogue/Mobilisation	3,140.22
Secretariat costs	417.91
Program Implementation costs	6,086.13
Sub-total A	272,294.40
GOVERNANCE	54,486.84
Network Consolidation	597.56
Governance/Management Meeting	53,241.77
Staff Development	647.51
ADMINISTRATION	91,191.11
TAXATION	88.16
Loss on exchange rate	655.20
Resources Development and Publications	21,519.74
Depreciation	4,565.61
Sub-total B	172,506.66
Total Expenditure 2009	444,801.06

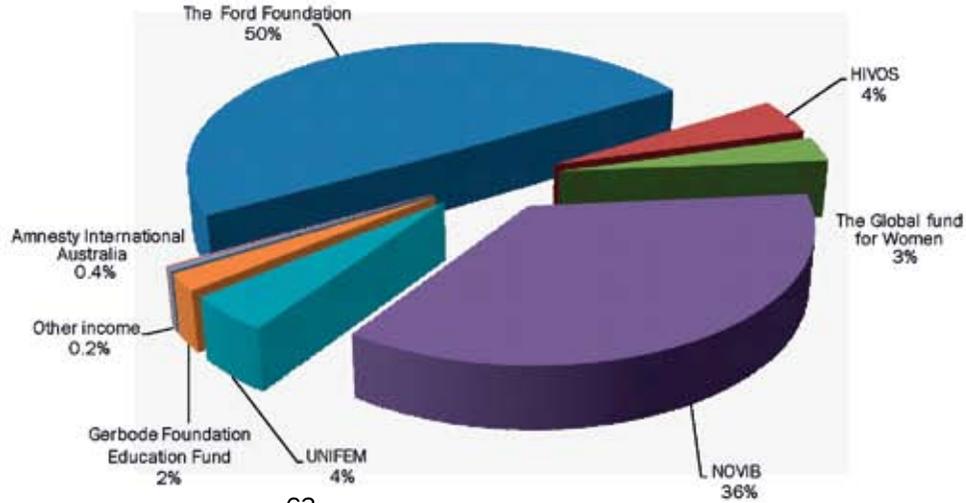
APWLD Expenditure 2009



APWLD Expenditure by Categories



APWLD Funding Received in 2009



REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

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

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

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

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



(Mrs. Pилanthana Ketthongsook)

Authorised Auditor No.3650

Bangkok,

February 17, 2010

Cover Shot

Moro women and men adversely affected by armed conflict gather in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's (MILF) Camp Bushra, Mindanao Island, the Philippines.

The Philippine

government's 35-year confrontation with Muslim separatists and a second conflict with communist insurgents have caused 160,000 deaths and displaced up to two million people.

Photo Credit: Jason Gutierrez/IRIN

Programme summary images courtesy of Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN)

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



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