



**APWLD**

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2012**



Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development

Cover Photo: Kushi Kabir, APWLD Programme and Management Committee Member. Photo courtesy of One Billion Rising Bangladesh and Huey Hague Photography.

## Reflections on 2012 by APWLD's Regional Coordinator: Building Movements

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Research released in 2012 confirmed one of APWLD's core beliefs – strong feminist movements are the single most important factor in advancing women's rights. The study, conducted by Mala Htun and Lauren Weldon, spanned 30 years and covered all continents and is the largest study to have been conducted on policy making around violence against women. It concluded that “feminist mobilization in civil society—not intra-legislative political phenomena such as leftist parties or women in government or economic factors like national wealth” is the key determinant in progressive policy making.

APWLD's external evaluators also found that effective movement building has made APWLD the “leading feminist network in the region”. “APWLD's strength has been in its ability to build movements of women's rights advocates at grassroots, regional and international levels. It is most effective when it mobilises these networks across specific policies and platforms and amplifies marginalised voices in the policy making arena”. The positive external evaluation supported APWLD's growth and vision for the next five years.

The Htun and Weldon research also concluded that autonomous movements have an enduring impact “through the institutionalization of feminist ideas in international norms.” In 2012 we found that the enduring legacy of feminist mobilization on international standard setting is under threat. Mobilisation and sustenance of feminist movements in local communities, regionally and internationally is more crucial than ever as existing standards are under threat and new approaches to sustainable development are negotiated.

Member states of the UN Commission on the Status of Women failed, in its 2012 meeting, to come to agreed conclusions. Hostility toward language on sexual and reproductive rights and sexual minorities was primarily blamed but it was also clear that political hostilities were being mapped on the rights and bodies of women. APWLD led a global response with more than 3000 organisational and individual signatures collected calling on states to demonstrate genuine commitment to women's rights. That pressure was evident in the 2013 session where every effort was made to come to agreed conclusions. Women's bodily integrity was also used as a political football at the Rio Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Only the vigilance of feminist movements, including

APWLD's delegation, ensured some sexual rights language retained.

ASEAN regional integration continued its rapid expansion in 2012 but also added to backsliding on existing international standards. The long awaited ASEAN Human Rights Declaration included clauses that allow for expansive limitation of rights. APWLD instigated a campaign against the limitation of rights, focusing particularly on clauses on morality. While the Declaration went ahead with the reference intact, we were able to build strong civil society resistance and critique that attracted global attention. And while the AHRD was a disappointment, the Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN, facilitated by APWLD, grew and made important inroads in expanding the civil society space to engage and influence ASEAN.

While guarding against the erosion of international standards, we continued to work with members to expand and challenge the framing of women's economic rights. The report of the UN Independent Expert on Foreign Debt and other international financial obligations of states, focused on the impact of debt on women's rights. As acknowledged in the report, the focus came about as a result of the regional consultation and subsequent submission by APWLD. We also held the first consultation with the UN Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and practice and focused on women's public and political life.

While the Rio outcome document didn't adequately reflect ‘the world we want’, we worked with grassroots members of rural, indigenous and migrant women to build our campaign for transformative and sustainable development goals. The campaign, launched in Rio and with preliminary work at CSW, was the first feminist campaign for specific goals and focuses on Land and Resources, Decent Work, Peace and Security at home and globally and Women's Voice and Decision Making.

The campaign became a cross-programme focus for the year and will frame our new Feminist Development Justice programme from 2013. Our Breaking out of Marginalisation programme provides the grounded experience for the campaign. Seven rural, indigenous and migrant women's grassroots networks were selected to conduct a one year Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) project around the four campaign areas that documents the

violations women experience as well as builds solutions and movements to bring about development justice. Everyone involved in the programme was inspired by the impact, determination and knowledge generated out of collaboration with grassroots women.

Our Women in Power programme included development justice in the regional workshop with women political leaders and women's economic rights as well as peace and political voice featured in the parliamentary exchange of newly elected members of Parliament from Myanmar/ Burma to Timor Leste.

The focus on development rights and the campaign during the year compelled us to expand our work on development justice and work to articulate what a new, more just and sustainable economy might look like. That need will shape much of our cross programme work in 2013.

This year was another record year for APWLD with our expenditure exceeding 1 million dollars for the first time. Our Secretariat, our membership and our collective impact are all growing with the knowledge that an active and strong movement is the change that our region needs.



**Kate Lappin**



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# ABOUT APWLD

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## Who We Are

APWLD is the region's leading network of feminist organisations and women. Our 180 members represent groups of diverse women from 26 countries in the region. We have been active for 27 years. APWLD has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We are an independent, non-government, non-profit organisation.

## Our Work

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

## Our Beliefs

We believe that justice, equality and the eradication of poverty cannot be achieved without a strong, vibrant women's movement active in civil society. We believe that law can be transformative as well as repressive. We seek to dissect, engage with and transform laws, legal practices and the systems that shape and inform them. We believe that the fusion of patriarchy with militarisation, fundamentalisms and neo-liberal 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 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 members. Our Secretariat executes our operations and provides for programme implementation as well as financial and technical support.

## 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. Participants in these dialogues recognised that mobilising movements to understand the social, economic and political dimensions of women's oppression and take collective action for change required a clear focus and strong organisation. In 1986, feminist activists 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 APWLD was formally launched and set up a secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Secretariat relocated to Chiangmai, Thailand in October 1997.

## KEY THEMES IN 2012

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

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

Five key themes in movement building emerged over the course of 2012. We use the following icons through the report to indicate where we have tracked impact.



### **Capacity Development**

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



### **Knowledge Building**

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



## APWLD's Feminist Theory of Change



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

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



### **Movement Building**

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



### **APWLD Organisational Development**

In 2012 we underwent a major external evaluation and undertook long term strategic planning. This process enabled us to further strengthen our institutional foundations.



## 2012 Highlights of APWLD's Impact



### **Influenced the UN Working Group on Discriminatory Laws and Practices**

to take a broad perspective of their mandate, use participatory methods with civil society engagement and focus on the enabling environment for women's rights enjoyment. For the current report we provided regional voices that expanded the WG's perspective around public and political space (to include for example ICT spaces and recognise domestic environments and restrictions on political engagement for domestic workers).



### **Influenced UN Human Rights council position on debt and women's rights.**

The UN Independent Expert on Foreign Debt focused his 2012 report on the impact of foreign debt on women's rights as a result of APWLD's work. He has stated that the report is substantially influenced by APWLD's submission.



### **Integrated the voices and perspectives of Rural and Indigenous women into the processes of the**

#### **Commission on the Status of Women.**

With the theme of CSW56 focused on Rural Women, APWLD ensured that Rural and Indigenous women were talking, not just talked about, at CSW. It was the first experience of CSW for our entire delegation of 9 women, from 8 countries. While the CSW failed to come to agreed conclusions we were able to draw attention to the importance of the presence of the most effected constituencies and raise key issues around land-grabbing, extractive industries, women human rights defenders and militarisation. We also instigated a practice of having some governments from the region meet with Asia Pacific women during CSW and started the process of advocating for a transformative development framework.



### **Influenced the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration**

While the AHRD includes diluted international standards, the final declaration was improved from earlier drafts after engagement from APWLD and the Southeast Asia Women's Caucus (which APWLD facilitates). APWLD created significant debate and awareness over the inclusion of public morality in international standards. This was the most debated single entry in the declaration. While it was retained we believe

we shifted opinions in at least 8 of the 10 countries and this created the most substantial international debate on the inclusion of public morality in international standards (the clause is included in the UDHR). We think that momentum has also influenced national perspectives on law and constitutional standards.



### **Strengthened women's rights movements engaging ASEAN around the ASEAN Summit**

As Secretariat for the Women's Caucus, APWLD has been able to build a stronger movement of women across southeast Asia, particularly in the sub-Mekong. Evidence of this can be seen in Cambodia where a national Caucus and a young women's Caucus on ASEAN has been particularly active in 2012. They played a leading role in the ASEAN People's Forum and brought attention to human rights situations in ASEAN during the summit.



### **Increased rural, indigenous and migrant women's democratic voices in community processes.**

APWLD has supported 8 organisations to undertake feminist participatory action research in local communities. Research focuses on access and control over land, labour rights, violence against women or democratic participation. Although the research is in process, we have already seen impact in some areas by ensuring local women are involved in community research for the first time. For example in Vietnam the project is focusing on communities that were relocated / evicted following the building of a dam. For many women this is the first time they have been asked about the impact on them, their current situation and asked to be involved in a community process that articulates the impact of development.







### **Feminist Legal Theory and Practice changing practice and building capacity**

Our FLTP training in Bangladesh this year was lauded by participants for both increasing capacity and strengthening movements and feminist communities of practice. It reportedly influenced participants work at country level. A magistrate from Papua New Guinea reported utilising the framework in her work on return; a participant from Laos was able to conduct capacity building using the framework in a country with little feminist legal activism; and by including staff of the ASEAN secretariat and UN Women in the training we were able to influence the perspectives of key decision making institutions.



### **Garnered international support to stop forced evictions along the Bagmati River in Kathmandu.**

APWLD was able to support national members to halt communities being bulldozed in Kathmandu. Through members in UN committees we were able to quickly intervene and suspend the evictions. We followed up with a fact finding mission with a member of the UN ESCR Committee (not in her official role but she will be following the matter through the committee) and women's human rights documenters from 8 countries.



### **Collaborated to build pressure that led to the release of the Boeung Kak Lake women in Cambodia.**

APWLD had been supporting national level action (through Licadho) for evicted communities in Cambodia (community members presented at our 2011 regional consultation with UN mandate holders, we included their case in our CSW interventions and held a solidarity visit with Women's Caucus during the 1st APF in 2012). When 13 women were summarily arrested, charged, convicted and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment APWLD drafted collective statements that were supported by regional and international organisations and secured speaking spots for national members at the HRC which contributed to bringing international attention and pressure that ensured the women were released on appeal.



### **Built the capacity of newly elected women Members of Parliament in Myanmar / Burma around a range of legislative and policy areas, particularly resource revenue and budget transparency.**

As Myanmar/Burma looks to the region to influence its national policy and models for legislative processes, APWLD facilitated a learning exchange with members of parliament from Timor Leste where certain standards in human rights have been some of the most progressive. This includes standards and laws regarding peace and reconciliation, violence against women, numbers of women in parliament and practices such as a cross party women's caucus and increased engagement with civil society, particularly women's groups. An exchange regarding budgetary transparency and resource revenue spawned a model being tabled in parliamentary committee.

MPs also participated in APWLD's Gender and Politics training and roundtable discussion on the post MDG development framework. A further follow up will occur in February with a focused Myanmar / Burmese Feminist Legal Theory and Practice training which will include legislators, lawyers and women's rights movements in and outside of Burma. Together these initiatives are contributing to policy and legislative developments for women's rights in Burma (while also highlighting on-going abuses particularly in Kachin State where one of the MPs is based)



### **Created a dialogue with parliamentarians from the Philippines around outcomes of the Rio process and the post2015 development framework that led to explorations for a CSO-Parliamentarian caucus for post2015 development.**

APWLD co-hosted a Rio\_20 report back meeting to Philippines congress. 11 parliamentarians attended the report back including 2 members of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Committee. Key impacts included the agreement to work toward a joint CSO-Parliamentary Caucus for post2015.

## The power of collective campaigning ...

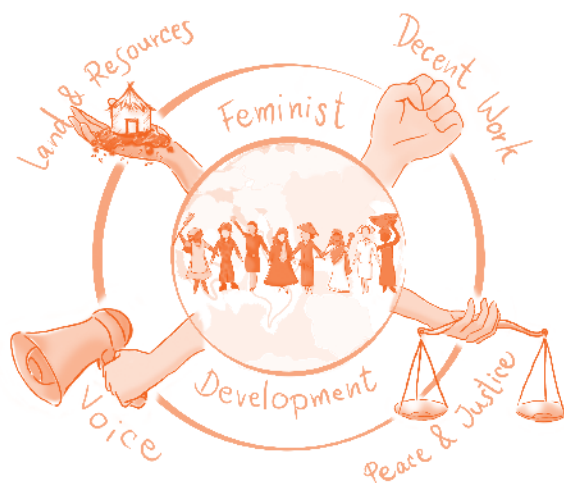
### Shaping a new development framework



APWLD members articulated the need for a new development paradigm in 2012: one that redistributes power, resources and wealth between countries, between rich and poor and between men and women. Members identified four key goals for a new development framework that could make a meaningful difference to the lives of rural, indigenous and migrant women.

- 🏡 Access and control over land and resources
- 🏡 Decent work and a living wage
- 🏡 Voice and democratic decision making and governance
- 🏡 Peace and security at home, in the community and internationally

We advocated for these key issues in many different locations, locally, regionally and internationally. They featured at CSW, Rio+20, Post2015 preparatory meetings, the 'Club de Madrid' of former world leaders, the Campaign for People's Goals for Sustainable Development. We also released a campaign video and launched it at Rio.



Our language made it into: the UNEP CSO Regional Outcome Document, the Bali Post2015 HLP preparatory statement, the CPDE and The People's Goals, and we expect to see more focus in these areas in 2013 when the Post2015 High Level Panel process intensifies and the Sustainable Development Goals are developed.

## Grounding the Global Making UN Mechanisms Meaningful for Women

The Women's Rights Movement has put much time and energy into building strong international standards, norms and principles. Today the struggle is not only to improve upon these standards but also to protect the hard-won achievements of women's rights advocates. As global power shifts from international agencies to regional groupings whose main focus is economic growth acceleration, standards are increasingly under threat. We are also witnessing how international standards can be toothless without enforcement at local, national and regional levels. Similarly, if standards are developed and implemented without the involvement of the women they most affect they struggle to be relevant.

As such, our Grounding the Global Programme focuses on centering voices of Asia Pacific women into UN human rights mechanisms. We do this by:

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



### Centering Rural and Indigenous women at the Commission on the Status of Women

For the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women APWLD focused on channelling the voices of Rural and Indigenous Women from Southeast and East Asia (Burma, Cambodia, China, Indonesia (West Papua), Lao PDR, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam). Our preparatory efforts included a Regional Training Workshop on CSW and Rio +20 in January and resulted in a strong and organised ten-woman delegation that attended in New York.



*In 2012, APWLD held the first consultation with the new UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice. This consultation was the first in the world and was used as a model for civil society engagement for the new working group.*



The preparatory workshop gave 14 rural and indigenous women human rights defenders space to understand the CSW, Rio+20 and other related UN mechanisms and political processes. Concrete outcomes from the workshop included the identification of common priority issues which were drafted into oral statements as well as the development of a CSW Advocacy Calendar for the delegation. In New York, the presence of the delegation was influential as the women asserted their common and specific issues as they engaged with government, delivered oral statements and strategised for national pressure when negotiations on the outcome document failed.

### Backlash and Leading the Resistance

When the CSW failed to come to agreed conclusions, APWLD led a process of drafting a global statement about the failure and the erosion of language around



women's rights. This statement was signed by more than 1000 women's organisations and a further 2000 leading activists and was delivered to the permanent missions in New York and Geneva. The statement will also be utilised to pressure states to make greater efforts in the lead up to CSW57.



### Consultations with the UN Special Procedures

For nearly 18 years APWLD has engaged with the Special Procedures Mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council. In 2012 we expanded our influence and held our

*"I appreciate the sharing from the women leaders on the gains and challenges they face with regards to political participation given their specific contexts. But I particularly appreciate the way the consultation has been carried out from preparation down into the actual conduct. The materials shared to the participants, methods used in surfacing the different issues within various contexts to me speak of a model of engagement. The methodology used in the consultation will be valuable to the working group as a model practice of how we could conduct our own consultations."*



*....We strongly demand all governments and the international community to reject any attempt to invoke traditional values or morals to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope. Customs, tradition or religious considerations must not be tolerated to justify discrimination and violence against women and girls whether committed by State authorities or by non-state actors...."*

*- Excerpt from our statement that was signed by over 3000 organisations and individuals.*



first consultations with the new UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice.



### Regional Consultation

*"Women's Public and Political Life in Asia Pacific"*

- APWLD gathered 45 women from 17 countries to inform the Working Group's first consultation since its inception. The participants contributed to the analysis and helped to build recommendations for the mandate's first thematic report which



addressed women's public and political participation as a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality, sustainable development and genuine democracy. The consultation provided an opportunity for women leaders to learn about the new mandate and engage with treaty body experts and a member of the ILO governing body.



In October 2012, the GG programme also made an initial submission to the Working Group against Discrimination of Women in Law and in Practice for their first thematic report. The submission was yet another opportunity to engage with this new mandate. Recommendations included those concerning public and political life, countries in transition, economic and social life and working with women's groups in the region.



### National Consultation – Nepal

*"Women's Rights in Nepal: Rhetoric and Reality"*

- The national consultation was organised in collaboration with WOREC and the National Alliance

*- Kamala Chandrakirana, Chair of the Working Group*



on Women Human Rights Defenders (NAWHRD) in Kathmandu, Nepal. 107 women representing community organisations, national networks and government officials shared the challenges that political participation presented in relation to the public/private divide and socio-economic considerations. The consultation began with a successful event in coordination with International Peace Day.

“While policies may continue to help in setting up mechanisms to uphold women’s rights, the movement built by women continues to give them hope and strength to push on with the advocacy.”  
- Participant of the national consultation



### **Solidarity Mission in Nepal**

Early in 2012 APWLD took urgent action to stop women and children being evicted from the slum areas on the Bagmati Riverbank of Thapathali. At that time we contacted UN agencies and made urgent interventions after 257 households were demolished. While in Nepal for our Consultation we took the opportunity to conduct a fact finding mission with a member of the UN ESCR committee, Heisoo Shin and women’s human rights documentors from 8 countries. The mission was followed by a press conference and dialogue with government officials reminding all of binding commitments in upholding the ESCR rights of its people. While Heisoo Shin was there in a personal capacity she urged parties to take immediate action and reminded all that this may be raised as an issue for Nepal’s review in 2014.



### **Debt is a Feminist Issue**

#### **The Independent Expert on Foreign Debt focuses on Women’s Rights**



In 2012 the Independent Expert on Foreign Debt and other financial instruments attended APWLD’s consultation and agreed to focus his 2012 report on the impact of debt on Women’s Rights. APWLD submitted a 34-page report collating case studies and analysis from our members in the region.

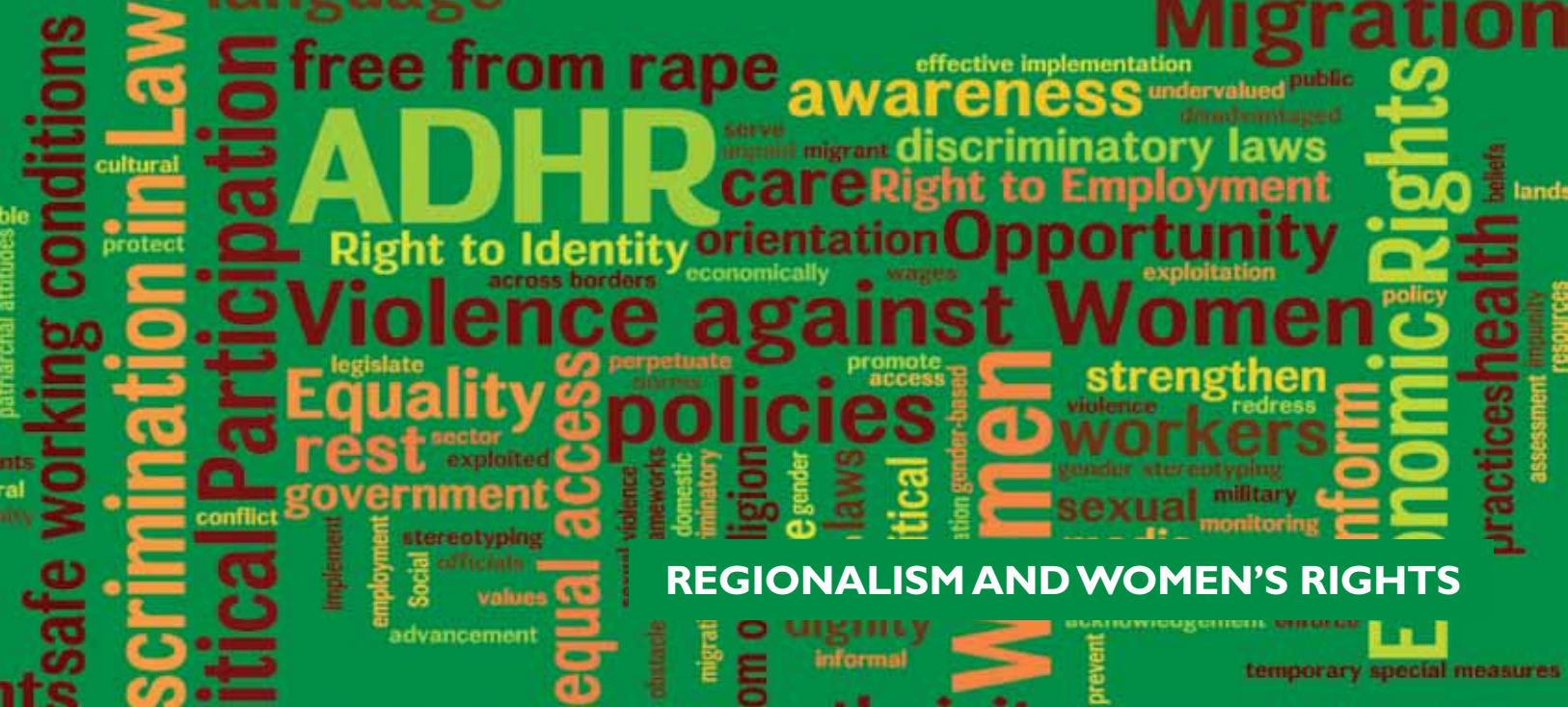
#### **Grounding the Global Programme Challenges**

In 2012 women in the region continued to experience the retrenchment of their rights as the lack of political will and the regressive approaches of some governments were felt deeply. CSW ended with a political stalemate and governments failed to adopt the Agreed Conclusions of the CSW 56. The language around safeguarding ‘traditional values’ and ‘family values’ has been at the expense of human rights and fundamental freedoms of women. Similar language infused the Rio negotiations. This pattern requires us to further our efforts to pressure governments in our region who enable this regression. More than ever we require vigilant preparation and staunch follow up to these meetings to ensure positive change in the global arena for women’s human rights.

*The report argues that women are disproportionately affected by debt and related conditionalities, and that debt and related economic reform policies have, in many contexts, contributed significantly to the impoverishment and marginalization of women, making basic social services even more inaccessible to them, thus deepening gender inequality and contributing to the feminization of poverty.*

*The information presented in this section is drawn from a range of sources, including information submitted to the independent expert in May 2012 by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development on the impact of foreign debt on women in the Asia-Pacific region.*

*-Excerpts from the Independent Expert’s Report to the UN General Assembly (A/67/304)*



## REGIONALISM AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

In 2012 APWLD continued to see global power shifting from international agencies to regional groupings and bodies. This shift has primarily been to accelerate economic growth and, to some extent, move political power from traditional sources. This shift has broad implications for the enjoyment of women's rights and requires us to partially direct our advocacy and analysis to these bodies.

In doing so, regional groupings can provide opportunities for movement building and cross country (South-South) collaboration. Though our work with ASEAN has faced the challenges of the ASEAN brand of regionalism, it has at the same time proved very successful for movement building across Southeast Asia.



### Challenging 'Morality' as a Legal Standard in the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration



In 2012 ASEAN states developed the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration. APWLD and the Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN (for which APWLD provides the Secretariat function), engaged in all the formal consultative processes and campaigned widely to promote a stronger, rights based declaration. Our campaign around the inclusion of the clause "public morality" generated debate within and outside AICHR. Though "public morality" did get included in the final version of the AHRD, the public morality clause, and the broader issue it represented around rights limitations, was the most widely debated clause in the draft and our campaign was widely covered in media both locally and globally. The majority of ASEAN representatives agreed



with the position of APWLD and the campaign helped raise awareness on this otherwise glossed over term which will benefit national negotiations.

In addition to the public morality campaign APWLD supported the Women's Caucus to make several submissions on the AHRD and engage in consultations at the national and regional level.

Apart from producing and contributing to the written resources in its campaigns around the AHRD, APWLD also strengthened its relationship with some AICHR representatives. In September 2012, we endorsed Rafendi Djamin in his successful bid for a second mandate as AICHR representative of Indonesia. Rafendi Djamin has been supportive of the advocacies of the Women's Caucus and APWLD.



### Strengthening the Capacity of Members

By contributing to the work of the Women's Caucus, APWLD has been able to build a stronger movement of women across southeast Asia. Our five-day skill-building workshop for Women's Caucus members,



“ I think all Representatives appreciate your contribution. They were convinced but one, although convinced, could not agree to the change in the AHRD. You educate them a lot. Keep on engaging with them and educate them as well as sensitize them on women issues. I think it is important to continue doing so. Providing them with the actual situation of women in Southeast Asia.

- SriPrapha Petchamerasmee Former representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to AICHR

mostly from the Mekong, presented a module on feminist monitoring and evaluation. Prior to the training, a survey was done that showed a demand for a more comprehensive module that would include fund-raising.

Impacts of the training can easily be seen in Cambodia, where a national Caucus and a young women's caucus on ASEAN has been particularly been active in 2012. They played a leading role in the ASEAN People's Forum bringing attention to human rights situations in ASEAN during the summit.

“ After I participated the workshop...I have applied them to my work such as CEDAW which is sure in my responsibility, ICT advocacy I created network and page through Facebook,... I think I still need to learn more about CEDAW and how to involve CSO to monitor CEDAW application.”

- Phongsy Panyanouvong, Gender and Development Association



## Engaging with ASEAN and the ACWC

APWLD has been recognised as a partner in the



ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). It was invited to the first formal meeting that the ACWC had with CSOs in January 2012 in Manila and in the follow up meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia. In this second meeting, APWLD was the organiser of the formal dialogue between the



ACWC in Indonesia. In this second meeting, APWLD was the organiser of the formal dialogue between the ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) in Indonesia. This invitation represented significant recognition of our work as well as cemented an important new precedent for CSO involvement and boosted calls to institutionalise dialogues between CSOs and ASEAN bodies. In 2012 we also saw some further ground in allowing civil society nominated representatives to engage in formal dialogue with the ASEAN bodies. After significant work to challenge the practice of handpicking nominees in Cambodia, civil society were able to nominate their representatives for the ACWC dialogue APWLD facilitated. Similarly, for the first time, a representative from Burma/ Myanmar was selected by civil society.


For the first formal meeting between CSOs and the ACWC, APWLD produced a joint submission with the Women's Caucus and the International Women's Rights Action Watch – Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP), titled “Due Diligence and Violence against Women: Enhancing Accountability to ASEAN Women and Girls.” The paper is recognised as quite strategic as ACWC representatives themselves, who were consulted beforehand on what ACWC needs, guided its production.



“With their regional activities, the Women’s Caucus is instrumental in convening and educating women in the region. These commendable efforts definitely contribute to promoting the rights of women and children and hopefully they will play greater role in ASEAN. ACWC has completed its five years work plan and will need partners in the implementation. The Women’s Caucus has expressed support of ACWC’s work and hope they will play a significant role in the implementation of the work plan.

– Datin Paduka Hjh Intan Hj Muhd Kasim, ACWC Representative of Brunei”

### **Influencing the proposed ASEAN Declaration on violence against women and children**

 APWLD, along with other CSOs, also contributed to a set of recommendations, which were articulated and submitted during the second meeting between CSOs and the ACWC. These recommendations pertained to the proposed ASEAN Declaration on VAW and VAC. It is important to note that through these recommendations, CSOs corrected the initial understanding of ACWC of VAWC, pointing out that VAWC refers to violence against women and the latter’s own children.

“Women Caucus has contributed to sharpen the work of ACWC. Many of Women Caucus’ input has been taken into account by ACWC commissioner in its discussions. For instance, how ACWC develop the plan of action related to violence against women in its 5-year work plan used Women Caucus input as a reference. It also the same thing when ACWC discuss the draft of declaration VAWC. The Women Caucus has given many significant input relate to the realization of women rights into ACWC work.

– Taufan Damanik, Vice Chair, ACWC”

### **Challenges- Seizing the Opportunity of the Increasing Openness of ASEAN Bodies**

Although “public morality” was kept in the approved version of the AHRD, the discussion on this issue raised awareness as well as the need to go beyond existing international human rights documents, which affirm “public morality” but without any clear definition and scope. Because of the substantive contribution of APWLD and the Women’s Caucus, “public morality” was always



within the radar of AICHR. Advocacy was also carried by other CSOs.

It can be said that the persistence to have “public morality” in the AHRD is part of the drive for “traditional values.” But women’s equal persistence to question “public morality” allowed AICHR to discuss it extensively, even though behind closed doors. It has contributed in their appreciation of women’s human rights.

The challenge now is to ensure the limitations of the AHRD don’t undermine international standards, particularly as AICHR expresses interest in develop a convention on Violence against Women.

## FEMINIST LAW AND PRACTICE



The Feminist Law and Practice Programme builds the capacity of lawyers, policy makers and activists to apply legal instruments from a feminist-based perspective and critically analyse mechanisms and institutions that discriminate against women. It explores the intersectionality of discrimination that women face - the multiple layers of discrimination based on race, nationality, religion, class, (dis)ability, caste, sexual orientation, and political beliefs.

Law can play both a repressive and an enabling role in women's lives. In analysing the impact of law on women's rights we build capacity to analyse and reform the Substance (laws that directly discriminate against women), Structure (processes, resources, principles that make justice inaccessible to women), and Culture (beliefs and assumptions that infuse laws and personnel) of law and legal processes and mechanisms.



### Building Feminist Communities of Practice



In 2012 APWLD held our Regional Feminist Legal Theory and Practice training in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The training succeeded in building capacity but also instilled an enormous sense of solidarity amongst the participants as well as APWLD members in Bangladesh who were mobilising feminist movements at the time.



*As for myself I am into court room work but I now have the appreciation of a lot of things from the perspective of human rights, the different conventions and speaking from the feminist perspective. It is difficult but a pleasant challenge.*

*FLTP participant, Magistrate from PNG*



*Prior to this, I have only heard of the names of all the countries we have here, but now I can say that I actually know people from all these countries, and that we are all together fighting for the same thing.*

*FLTP participant, Attorney General's office, Tonga*



“

*From the training, I acknowledge for many things such as the meaning of Feminism. Feminism has the potential to make the walls of patriarchy slowly crumble; brick by brick and feminism intervention has the potential to change the discriminatory effect of law, patriarchy's biggest supporter”*

*- FLTP Participant, Activist from Laos*

”

### Putting training into action

<p>Papua New Guinea</p> 	<p>A Magistrate found the FLTP framework to be very useful and has been able to apply it in some of the court room cases that she has come across as a Magistrate. She will also be touring 6 states of Australia in March 2013 as a keynote speaker and has been preparing herself by reading materials from the training in Dhaka.</p>
<p>Laos</p> 	<p>The participant is now a trainer and has been carrying out trainings through his own organisations on gender equality and anti-VAW. His target groups have been legal professionals, law students, village authorities and several different ethnic groups such as Lao, Hmong and Khwmu in 4 provinces in the country</p>
<p>Burma / Myanmar</p> 	<p>The participant shared that upon her return from the training she began for the first time ever, a process of going through some of the laws in her country and using the FLTP framework that she had learned to analyse it. She was also able to share what she had learned in the training with her organisation and in other trainings that she has conducted. She is using the framework in her work as part of the coalition working on the new Violence Against Women law currently being drafted in the country.</p>
<p>ASEAN Secretariat</p> 	<p>The participant shared that the training had been helpful in developing her analysis in her work at the Secretariat and has been in touch with us for other materials and information.</p>
<p>Bangladesh</p> 	<p>The participant has been able to incorporate her learnings in a workshop that her organisation organised for lawyers, judges, government officials and human rights activists around the outcomes of public interest litigation and the consequent responsibilities of the government, judiciary and lawyers in implementation.</p>
<p>Sri Lanka</p> 	<p>The participant who works for of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka has been able to use some of the information and the teaching methods in her own International Women's Day National Programme and in practice.</p>





## A Stronger, Cross Programme Future for FLTP

Trainers and programme committee members came together prior to the 2012 strategic planning to consider the future direction of this long standing programme. They realised that FLP can be utilised beyond the original target constituencies and work particularly well when developed to support other programme advocacy. For example, the FLTP manual was utilised in our Breaking out of Marginalisation feminist participatory action research training. The FLTP approach to

understanding feminist approaches was particularly useful for the grassroots researchers who were developing their perspectives on feminism and policy advocacy. This was found to be useful for grassroots researchers developing their perspective on feminism and legal advocacy.

In the next five years the programme will provide capacity building support to other programmes, particularly where legal capacity building is required to advance the rights of marginalised women. Further national training will also be incorporated.

## Challenges- Multiple instruments, eroding standards

In recent years there has been a proliferation of instruments that could be employed in the protection of women's rights both at the international, regional and local levels. However, many of these don't reflect advances in women's rights as was witnessed in the development of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration. While feminist lawyers and activists need to be aware of the many instruments, it can also detract from substantive work. Plural legal systems also pose a major problem in the region and are particularly likely to impact on women at the local, community level. While much attention has been paid to formal legal systems, it is often only women with resources and information that access them. In 2013 we will look at incorporating research into plural legal systems into our FLP Programme.



## WOMEN IN POWER



Across the globe women in political decision-making roles remain an exception rather than the norm. While some parts of Asia Pacific have increased the number of women in the political arena in the past five years, it remains low by international standards and well below the critical mass required. In 2011 those figures were 18.2% for national politics in Asia and 3% in the Pacific islands<sup>1</sup>. While statistics for local representation are more difficult to certify, in most countries without quotas the figures look even worse.

APWLD recognises that progress cannot only be measured by the number of women in political roles, but whether women have the capacity and commitment to affect real policy change. Historically, almost all women heads of state in the region were born into political dynasties.

The Women in Power programme seeks to increase and facilitate transformative leadership of women political leaders through capacity building and practical skills building to create and support women leaders. The programme also looks for ways to strengthen the solidarity and collaboration of women in politics and governance, with the common goal of advancing women's rights through democratic processes.



### Strengthening Gender and Politics Training



In 2011, women accounted for 18.9% of members in Asia's legislatures, up from 13% in 1995. In order to further strengthen and realise

a transformative leadership of women in politics, two Gender and Politics Trainings were organised, one at the regional and one at the sub-regional level. The trainings aimed to equip the participants with the practical tools to advocate for better law and policy for women's rights. Further, it provided participants with a platform to build network and solidarity with each other and with other women rights organisations in the region.

**East & Central Asia Sub-regional Training** In May, the first sub-regional training on Gender and Politics for East & Central Asia took place in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia. 20 participants attended the training from 8 countries. This was the first time that we welcomed participants from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The training was carried out to enhance the representation of the East & Central Sub-region in APWLDs activities. The training brought together activists, academics, current and potential members of local councils, young women and women with disabilities. Mongolia was selected as parliamentary elections were held in 2012.

**Asia Pacific Regional Training** The training took place in Jakarta in Indonesia in November and saw the participation of 16 women from 12 countries. The training focused on identifying and raising gender issues and political barriers that hinder women's participation in political processes.

<sup>1</sup> InterParliamentary Union, September 3, 2011

## From Training To Action

Tajikistan



Participant, who is already a city councillor organised gender training with the other members of the city council.

Kazakhstan



Participant incorporated her knowledge from the training into the trainings carried out by her organisation for leadership development of women with HIV and those working closely with the Ministry of Health. She also joined the women's committee of her country.

Kyrgyzstan



Participant incorporated the training knowledge into research carried out by her organisation which is working towards advocating for access to infrastructure and communication for women with disabilities in her country.

China



Participant incorporated some of the training knowledge and material into the university course of her department.

Mongolia



One of the participants at the time of the training was preparing to run for the next general election

*This training has been very useful in my understanding of a feminist transformative leadership, which now I understand should be more participatory and inclusive to form a good leadership. This training has also brought the basic key elements of political participation to discuss and share. It has also been great to share experiences and best practices with each other.*

*- Participant of Asia Pacific Regional Gender and Politics Training, Level I*

*I appreciate APWLD offering this wonderful opportunity for me to meet so many trainees from different countries. Those excellent trainers and staff themselves are models for me and I have also broadened my perspective on women's political participation. This has also helped in gaining more confidence and strength to address women's issues.*

*- Participant of the East & Central Asia Sub-regional Gender and Politics Training, Level I*



### Building Alliances through Exchange



In May, Timor Leste emerged from its general elections as the country in Asia with the highest representation of women in parliament at 38.5%. Later in October, APWLD in cooperation with Alola Foundation and Caucus Feto Timor-Leste organised an MP Exchange for two of Myanmar/Burma's member of Parliament, Daw Khin Waing Kyi, House of Nationalities and Daw Doi Bu, House of Representative to Dili, Timor Leste. During the four day visit, the 2 MPs met with the Election Commission, watched the Timor Leste Parliament in session, met with members of the Women Parliamentary Caucus, GMPTL (Grupo das Mulheres Parlamentares de Timore-Leste) and several members of the Ministry, including the Head of the President's Office. It marked a milestone in developing cooperation between the two countries, in particular between the women parliamentarians of both countries. The 2 MPs later in the year also attended the Gender and Politics Training in Jakarta in Indonesia.

With the deliberations that are currently taking place around the election system in Myanmar/Burma this initiative aims to contribute to policy and legislative developments for women's rights in Myanmar/ Burma.



“ I am inspired by the high level of women’s political participation and strong movement of women groups and organisations in Timor Leste. I will share with my House of Parliament of the good practices and experiences I have learnt from this exchange, particularly on Timor Leste’s transparency initiative. I believe that transparency and accountability to the stakeholders (people) are the significant keys to successful democracy, among many others”.

- Daw Doi Bu, Member of the House of Representatives of Myanmar/ Burma’s Parliamt



### Response to the Processes Surrounding Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

In November, a round table discussion was held back-to-back with the Regional Gender and Politics training in Jakarta, Indonesia. The roundtable, “Transformative Leadership and Development from a Women’s Perspective” was aimed at getting women involved in leadership and political participation in the development processes. The objective was to increase the understanding of women leaders, activists and civil societies towards the development framework, as well as convey the significance and potential



networking and engagement opportunities it holds. The discussion was the first step towards a national-level advocacy plan on development goals. Apart from the participants from the Gender and Politics

training, the roundtable invited other civil society members from Indonesia who have been working on development issues in Indonesia and were able to share the national plan currently being developed in Indonesia. The outcomes of the roundtable also fed into APWLD’s current work on the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda.



**Outcome** Participants developed indicators and further content suggestions for the 4 key thematic areas that have been identified by APWLD. Some were able to utilise the material in national consultations.

“This is the first time that I am being exposed to the current development processes. This roundtable has been very helpful in informing us of the processes that are taking place and in building awareness of the significance and potential of civil society’s engagement with the entire processes.”

- Participant of the Roundtable “Transformative Leadership & Development from Women’s Perspective” in Jakarta, Indonesia

### Milestone Achievement for Women in Politics

2012 saw several general elections in many different parts of Asia Pacific. The election in Timor Leste saw the country shooting ahead with the highest representation





of women in parliament in the Asia Pacific region at 38.5%, while Mongolia saw a reasonable increase from 3% to 12.7%. Both South Korea and Kazakhstan saw a small increase in elected female representatives to 15.7% and 24.3% respectively. South Korea notably, just elected its first ever-female President. While it remains a question whether or not these increases and new precedences will bring about actual change for women, perception and acceptance seems to have altered to some extent towards women's participation in political leadership.

In Timor Leste, women played a significant and equally important role in the uprising and the fight for independence, and this significant role continued post-independence. There are also many promising practices and laws designed to increase women's rights and gender equality that can be constructive for other countries in the region. Likewise, as Myanmar/Burma furthers its democratisation process and prepares for its Chairship of Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN) in 2014, we hope that women will have a larger role to play, not only in the economic processes, but also the social, political and peace processes that will continue in the country. As a follow-up to the MPs exchange and the Gender and Politics Training, a focused Myanmar/Burmese Feminist Legal Theory and Practice (FLTP) training is scheduled to take place in early 2013.

### Challenges

Enormous barriers for women to genuinely participate

and lead democratic processes remains. It is particularly difficult for women without family connections, financial resources for campaigning or long term allegiances to established political parties to enter into formal politics. While those who benefit from the above face enormous challenges in advancing a transformative political agenda.

While we selected Mongolia as a venue to maximise the opportunity for pre-election capacity building, we were



confronted by a bylaw that prevented candidates for the election from participating in events held by or funded by regional or international organisations. Nominations were coincidentally required days before the workshop and our Mongolian trainer and another leading partner were prevented from participating.





## Breaking out of Marginalisation (BOOM)

Rural, indigenous and migrant women remain amongst the most economically and politically marginalised groups in the region. Most rural and indigenous women engage in subsistence activities which make their lives and livelihoods susceptible to climate change events, environmental degradation, militarisation, land-grabbing, forced evictions, ethnic and religious discrimination and unsustainable economic policies.

- Women farmers constitute 70% of the total agricultural force in Asia, but hold only 5% of all agricultural resources
- \$18.4 billion was spent on agricultural aid between 2002 and 2008, only 6% included a gender focus.
- Women constitute 90% of the rice cultivation work force in South-East Asia
- 80% of women in South Asia work in vulnerable employment, lacking basic security, benefits and conditions
- Domestic work is the single largest form of employment for women in Asia

In order to challenge these inequalities, strong movements of rural, indigenous and migrant women are needed. They must be supported to build capacity, document evidence and engage in advocacy to bring about just and sustainable solutions. In 2012 the BOOM programme focused on three key areas of particular importance for marginalised women:

- 🏠 Supporting Feminist Participatory Action Research with RIM women for change
- 🏠 Sustainable development and climate justice frameworks
- 🏠 Migrant Domestic Worker Rights



### Feminist Participatory Action Research for Change




In July 2012 a new phase of Feminist Participatory Action Research for change began. The 18 month project supports local organisations to work with their communities to build evidence and advocate for change. The research project will be completed in 2013.

The project provides funding support for the organisations to hire a researcher who, together with an organisational mentor, goes through APWLD's FPAR training and conducts research together with their communities..

The method of the research, including the trainings, is designed in an inclusive, participatory way to empower communities and build the sustainability of RIM women's movements. At the end of the project participant organisations will have concrete evidence for advocacy, increased advocacy tools and a stronger organisational capacity for research and sustainable planning. APWLD also provided participants with opportunities for regional and international advocacy ensuring their research has widespread impact.

Programme Partners		
Issue	Organisation	Research Topic
Access and Control over Natural Resources	Indigenous Women of Northern Thailand	The rights of Indigenous Women in a conservation project in Houi Ai Kang, Northern Thailand.
	CWEARC – The Philippines	Indigenous Women's Rights to land, resources and voice and Chevron Mining Company in Philippines
	Seruni – Indonesia	Women claiming land rights in Sampalan, West Java, Indonesia
	CSRD – Vietnam	Resettlement of women from the river community displaced by a hydropower plant in Vietnam.
Decent Work and Living Wage	CHANAN – Pakistan	Human Rights Violations of women domestic workers in Pakistan (location)
	WOFOWON - Nepal	The situation of women working in the entertainment sectors, Kathmandu.
Peace and Security	Kapaeng Bangladesh	Sexual Violence Against Women in Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) Community
Voice	PA Shazet – Kyrgyzstan	Young women's limited access to civil rights and livelihood due to unregistered marriage practice

 In 2012 the first two workshops were held to introduce FPAR methods and approaches. The first Regional Workshop on Documentation of Women's Human Rights Violations was organised by APWLD and WOREC in September 2012 in Nepal. The second Regional Training was held in December in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The trainings adopted a feminist participatory education approach which facilitated democratic, non-hierarchical and mutual learning processes.. Training



methods involved interactive and creative presentations, games and exercises which enabled participants to have a clear understanding of issues while sharing their knowledge and experience.

*"FPAR is very good as we can learn how to adjust this tool into our country context, and Power Mapping is very useful for critical thinking and analysing situations concerning rights holders and powerful people in our community and target area. The critical pathway exercise was a useful tool for explaining what we want to do, why and what we want to see eventually with the community leader and community researcher"* Anchalee Phonklieng, Indigenous Women Network Thailand

*"The training was an excellent learning platform for me as well as a good opportunity for my organisation to increase our insight regarding women working in entertainment sectors from a feminist point of view. The trainings were interactive, participatory, creative and rich in conceptual clarity; and the trainings have given us more focus and tools to carry out the research as well as other activities. I have been very optimistic since the training that we can bring down patriarchy if we put on more such collective works throughout the world. Thank you APWLD for such an opportunity!"* – Srijana Pun, WOFOWON, Nepal.





To expose the researchers to international advocacy the first workshop was held back to back with our annual regional consultation with the UN Special Procedures Mechanism. The young women researchers were able to participate in the consultation and prepare themselves as possible presenters when their projects are completed. For most this was their first experience with UN mechanisms.



The training capacity of young women researchers from 8 countries was strengthened and sustained as they used APWLD training methods, tools and materials in their pre-research induction activities in their respective communities. The pre-research inductions in 8 countries has increased rural, indigenous, and migrant women's awareness and knowledge of their rights as well as allowed them to collectively discuss their own research and advocacy plans. The use of FPAR inclusive principles has provided democratic spaces for rural indigenous and migrant women to raise their issues and increase their ability advocate on their own behalf and to claim their political spaces in the decision making processes.



### Climate Justice and Sustainable Development



in 2012 APWLD identified the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) as a crucial policy making venue for rural, indigenous and migrant women that would significantly impact future development frameworks. As recognised by several development actors, the global model of development is not working for rural, indigenous and migrant women of Asia Pacific and has done little for women living in poverty. Conversely it often makes women's lives less sustainable and secure.

As a member of the Women's Major Group and the Asia Pacific focal point, APWLD contributed to the various drafts of 'The Future We Want' throughout the process both globally and regionally to advocate for women's rights, and especially those of rural, indigenous and migrant women.



*In Vietnam, APWLD's FPAR training with a river community that was forcibly displaced by a hydropower plant has significantly strengthened women's voices in community decision making and led to a women's organised movement at the local level.*

*Before the research, women in Phu Loc district, Vietnam, were rarely involved in any decision making processes and none had been exposed to knowledge of women's rights and human rights. During the research women in 5 hamlets in Vietnam increased their knowledge on women's human rights enabling them to identify the violations that happened to them during the resettlement. With their collective awareness, they*

*decided to establish a Women's Union to continue to learn to articulate their opinions and express them publicly.*

*One of the initiatives of the Women's Union was to invite the female deputy of the Department of Justice in Phu Loc District to teach them how to write a complaint letter and identify the relevant departments to send it to. With this knowledge, women were able to lead the other community members to make collective actions to address their situations. Currently, many families in the hamlets are drafting complaint letters regarding the lack of productive land in the resettlement area.*

We engaged in the major UNCSD preparatory meetings, including the 3rd Preparatory Committee Meeting for the Conference with negotiations on the text, joining other key stakeholders in providing input and analysis for the various drafts of the outcome document. Our focus was to promote the centrality of rural, indigenous and migrant women to sustainable development and advocate for strong accountability mechanisms to protect and promote women's human rights.



### **Making Asia Pacific Rural and Indigenous Women Visible and Audible at Rio**

APWLD helped ensure rural, indigenous and migrant women were visible and audible in the Rio+20 negotiations. Our feminist development campaign was launched during Rio+20 and will continue in the post-Rio+20 process to bring the rural and indigenous women's transformative agenda to global policy making spaces. The campaign focuses on "Four Demands for Just and Sustainable Development Goals: Access to Resources; Decent Work and Economic Rights; Peace; and Voice". We also released two videos – one on the four demands and one on the impact of climate disasters in the Philippines at Rio.



Throughout the APWLD Rio+20 Campaign, information was disseminated and people were engaged through the APWLD website, the campaign blog, APWLD social media, a weekly email update to our broader Rio+20 team beyond our delegation, as well as daily updates on the Women's Major Group blog.

Six press releases and statements were released, and one delegate was featured on a Brazilian news network, along with articles in two newspapers in the Philippines, on the



Women's News Network and in other blogs and media.

Six grassroots women-based organisations were supported by APWLD to attend Rio+20, among others from Solidaritas Perempuan (Indonesia), Kachin Women's Association (Burma), AMIHAN (The Philippines), Center for Environment Concerns (The Philippines), Asian Peasant Coalition (The Philippines), Sustainable Rural Development Centre (Vietnam), and the Indigenous Women's Network Thailand (Thailand). They articulated the demands of rural, indigenous and migrant women for sustainable development in APWLD side events and to the media, provided inputs for Women Major Group Statement, and some were able to meet and discuss with their government delegations.

### **Preparing, consulting and building capacity**

Prior to the Rio meeting APWLD used various opportunities to consult with Rural and Indigenous Women and prepare our delegation. Rural and Indigenous women came together to prepare both for the CSW and Rio early in the year and identify their campaign demands. Our members participated in the global and regional preparatory processes and held a pre-meeting workshop to prepare the delegation and finalise our input. Most of the women had not participated in these processes before and the workshops served as both capacity building and content preparation.

In total, Thirty five organisations built capacity to engage with global policy setting bodies including the Rio Earth Summit. As a result rural and indigenous women were prepared to take leading roles in advocating for stronger regulatory frameworks, and raising the voice and message from rural, indigenous women in the national and international arena.



**Social Media Stats:** APWLD topped over 3,000 views of our Rio+20 updates on Facebook and we gained over 400 new "followers" on Twitter, who read and shared our 700+ updates (@apwldrio20 and @apwld). APWLD became a social media leader reporting on women's rights for Rio+20, with UN Women and Global Fund for Women among many others "retweeting" our updates to their vast networks.

*“I saw strong networks with Asian women organisations and women in other regions. We were able to raise the voices of Asia Pacific women and I was able to raise awareness on the Kachin and Burma issue among the international community. “I have learnt how the UN operates for the meeting and how civil society takes this opportunity to advocate to the government delegations. I have also met with African women groups and learnt how they handle social problems. By attending the side events I realised Burma has some uranium and the Burmese government want to build a nuclear reactor. So I want to know how uranium mining will effect humans especially women.” – Naung Latt, Kachin Women’s Association*

*“As leader of the APWLD delegation, this was a pivotal leadership capacity building opportunity to gain strategic insight into the pre and post Rio+20 process and lead the analysis of the draft Outcome Document for our campaign. This was my first time leading a regional delegation on an international platform. As APWLD representative, I was able to deliver the women’s intervention in a dialogue with the Rio+20 bureau and member states during the 2nd round of ‘informal informal’ negotiations on the Zero Draft. Being in this leadership role also enabled me to help develop the farmers Major Group statement at the negotiations to ensure that a gender perspective was included in their statement.” - Tess Vistro, AMIHAN National Federation of Peasant Women*

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*As a feminist organisation who is leading the women’s movement’s advocacy on the issue of climate change and environment, APWLD has given us valuable knowledge and skill for advocacy in a global forum like UNFCCC and Rio+20. We learned how to critically read a ‘zero draft’ of Future We Want, how to give inputs with strong feminist language, how to make statements, and how to strategise for better advocacy in our national platform.*

*Aliza Yuliana, Solidaritas Perempuan*

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Mongolia	Following the preparatory workshops our Mongolian participant from the Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD) led the organisation of a national CSO conference to assess the past 20 years of Mongolian sustainable development initiatives, and focus on the critical issues in Mongolia such as mining, gender equality, health and ‘green development’. Though a press conference and submission of recommendations to the relevant Ministers issues of gender equality and sustainable development were profiled.
Laos	Following our preparation, Women Rights Study Association organised the “Campaign on Rio+20 Sustainable Development Meeting in Laos” with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and civil society organisations including INGOs. The participant shared our outcomes including the zero draft analysis made by the workshop participants. There was also discussion on the feminist development priorities focusing on the rights of rural women and the “Four Demands for Just and Sustainable Development Goals”.
Philippines	APWLD delegation organised a de-briefing following the Rio meeting with members of the Philippines parliament. The APWLD campaign was included as well as analysis of the outcome document. Outcomes included a proposal to establish joint CSO and parliamentary working group.

*At Rio+20, APWLD delegate members from the Philippines organised a briefing with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department of Environment. The briefing was followed up by a meeting with 100 gender and development focal persons in Manila in July. Members also met with Congressman Rafael Mariano, part of the Philippines delegation to Rio+20, who then decided to organise a joint organised parliamentary and civil society de-briefing on Rio in September 2012. There has been an initial agreement to establish joint CSO and parliamentary working group on Rio+20 and sustainable development.*





### Localising Rio

At national and community levels, consultations were organised to reach more rural and indigenous women to build their capacity to critically analyse the draft framework and develop advocacy plans both at Rio+20 and at national and community level. In addition, women strategised to engage relevant government sectors and other stakeholders to help ensure women's rights were part of the ongoing development dialogue.



### Continued Engagement in Shaping the World We Want

The most crucial outcome of the Rio meeting was the agreement to produce sustainable development goals. As APWLD went to the meeting with clear goals in mind we have been able to persist with the campaign. In November UNEP held a post-Rio regional meeting with Civil Society. APWLD, as the Regional focal point for the Women's Major Group played a leading role in the meeting. The outcome statement reflected APWLD's key goals and language.



Our work in 2012 has increased democratic space for feminist organisations and rural and indigenous women in regional and international fora. APWLD was one of the initiators and appointed as the gender focal point on the "Demand Climate Justice" and "People's Goals on Sustainable Development Campaign" – a global movement including workers and trade unions, indigenous peoples, women and youth. With the People's Goals campaign, APWLD joined forces with the larger movement to push for people-centered just and sustainable development.

**The Post 2015 Development Framework should acknowledge and address the inequalities between countries, within countries and between men and women, and also consider intergenerational responsibilities.**

Our recommendation for the key area and indicators is the following: 1) **A Human Rights based approach** (which means to fully recognise and integrate international human rights standards; 2) **to address the root structural causes of inequality and poverty including gender inequality and woman impoverishment**, with special emphasis on marginalised communities) (equal attention to Social, Economic, Cultural and Environmental pillars); 3) **equality and right to development** (fair access, control and distribution/delivery of natural, social and economic resources; with requisite political participation; equality specifically between and within countries, between men and women, intergenerational) 4) **common but differentiated responsibilities**; 5) **Principle of Intersectionality**, to address different discriminatory systems on the basis of gender, class, race, ethnicity and other intersects that create inequalities that structure multiple forms of discrimination. 6) **democracy, transparency, and accountability**;

We propose that the following Sustainable Development Goals should be included in the Post 2015 Development Agenda: (i) **Access to and control over resources** and sustainable livelihoods; (ii) the integration and full enforcement of **Decent Work and Living Wage** (iii) **Peace and Security** Based on Justice (iv) Democratic Participation and **Voice** of the most marginalised.





## Migrant Domestic Workers Breaking out of Marginalisation

While women make up more than 50% of the workforce in Asia, most work in unregulated sectors of the economy. Migrant women workers are likely to be employed as domestic workers where they are rarely protected under national labour laws and easily exploited by employers. Domestic workers most often experience violence, harassment and exploitation. Isolated from other workers, domestic worker associations or unions are rarely recognised as registered trade unions. With indecent working and living conditions, women are routinely paid low wages or face illegal withholding of wages. Without formal legal protections, women across Asia Pacific are unable to protect their labour rights. APWLD, as a member of the United for Foreign Domestic Worker Rights (UFDWR) coalition contributes to the movement to recognise domestic work as work.



### Ratification of ILO Convention on Domestic Work (C189)

Since the adoption of International Labour Organisation's Convention on Domestic Work (C 189/ DWC) at ILO's 100th Session in July 2011, APWLD, as a member of United for Foreign Domestic Workers (UFDWR) has undertaken lobbying for ratification of the Convention 189. On 6 August 2012, the Philippines become the first country in Asia Pacific to ratify the Domestic Workers' Convention.<sup>2</sup> This set the domestic labour standard in the region, and the coming into force of the Convention and its accompanying Recommendation 201 will officially result in a legal obligation to apply its provisions by the nations.



### Building Global Support to Recognise Domestic Workers' Rights

APWLD, as an implementing member of the United for Foreign Domestic Workers (UFDWR), has contributed in building global support and consolidating movements to recognise domestic workers' rights in various regional and international forums and mechanisms.

In August, APWLD submitted questions to CERD committee session on Thailand, particularly on the additional questioning of the deportation of pregnant migrant women, and consequently, the CERD committee raised concerns about the Labour Ministry's proposal to the Thai government. Following this, the Thai Labour Ministry withdrew the proposal.



APWLD brought women migrants' human rights perspectives in the 9<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Peoples' Forum/AEPF. Our workshop on "Combating Erosion of Workers and Trade Unions' Rights" included 80 participants. The outcome recommendations to AEPF were unanimously adopted by the participating organisations.

In November, APWLD participated in the 5th World Social Forum on Migration. We provided support to grassroots women migrants through 'ATKI- Association of Indonesian

2.The Philippines is the second country to agree to be legally bound by the DWC, following Uruguay's ratification in April, 2012. <http://ihrlaw.org/2012/08/07/domestic-workers-convention-to-enter-into-force-in-2013-following-second-ratification/>



Migrant Workers' as speakers for APWLD's Workshop on "Feminisation of Migration: Domestic Work". Twenty-six delegates from more than 10 organisations participated in the session.



*"We are organisers and leaders active on the ground. APWLD's support to send me as its official representative to the World Social Forum on Migration is the manifestation of their solidarity with the grassroots migrant workers movement. It has helped us to deepen the knowledge about international engagement and enabled a great opportunity for us to bring the message from the grassroots to the international arena*

*Iweng, Case Officer ATKI-Indonesia (Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers)*



*"For me, this is my first experience attending an international forum, and APWLD's support has given us opportunity to expand the influence and reach of our campaigns. We hope APWLD will continue to support us."*

*Ganika, Chairperson of ATKI-HK (Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Hong Kong)*

*"In 2012, the Malaysia Trade Union Congress, with over 800,000 members, decided to re-print APWLD's publication 'Know Your Rights, Claim Your Rights; Under the New ILO Convention on Domestic Workers' and distribute it to its members as a powerful advocacy tool*

## Organisational Development: External Evaluation



In 2012 APWLD conducted an external evaluation assessing the impact of our work for the past 3 years (2010-2012). The evaluation involved 32 interviews, 50 survey responses and a documentation review by the evaluators. The evaluators concluded that APWLD plays a pivotal role as the leading network of women's human rights organisations and advocates in Asia Pacific. It stated APWLD:

*"...is undoubtedly the region's leading network of feminist organisations in the Asia Pacific and currently sits at the cross-roads of many historical changes both in Asia Pacific and internationally, when it comes to issues that are meaningful to today's women's movement."*

### **Building Movements For Structural Change**

Evaluators found that **over the last few years in particular, APWLD's strength has been in its ability to build movements of women's rights advocates at grassroots, regional and international levels.** APWLD has been most successful in bringing national issues to the regional and international levels and disseminating information in both directions.

“

*APWLD's impact lies in its ability to straddle two worlds – the one on the ground through its membership base and the one on regional and international advocacy platforms where key decisions are taken. Forums such as UNHRC, CSW, ASEAN have been spaces where APWLD has along with partners made significant inroads.*

*Tess Vistro, NFPW, Philippines*

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### **Building Capacity And Fostering Knowledge For Women's Movement Building.**

APWLD has been instrumental in supporting emerging local, national and thematic groups, providing them with capacity building, resources, networks and advocacy opportunities. Our membership utilise their connections through APWLD both explicitly and implicitly in their struggles. In addition APWLD has been successful in establishing networks and coalitions to grow the women's rights movement in Asia Pacific, expanding the space available for women from the region to advocate for rights.

### **Shifting Power Through Feminist Advocacy**

Feminist perspective and analysis of APWLD have influenced laws, policies and standards at the local, regional and international levels. In particular, the activism of APWLD and programme strategies have influenced the focus, content, approach and structure of key regional and international human rights and development mechanisms. These changes have come about as a result of years of campaigning using multiple strategies that cut across organisations.

“

*We get a lot of support from APWLD. As we are at the forefront of a conflict situation where things are often quite fluid, there is very little time to reflect on gains and changes, but association with APWLD offers the opportunity to keep that feminist lens, as a part of that feminist coalition, we gain a sense of solidarity and apply that lens in our work and take a critical lens to global financial crises, issues such as fundamentalism and increasing militarization and what that actually means to women's human rights.*

*Virisila Buadromo, Fiji Women's Rights Movement*

”

*"My first engagement with APWLD was in October 2011 when I was invited to speak at their event in Cambodia. During that regional consultation, I indicated a desire to focus one of my annual UN reports on the issue of debt and women. APWLD undertook and collected case studies on the impact of sovereign debt on women in the Asia Pacific region which they sent to me in the form of a submission. My report to the General Assembly in October this year (2012) draws heavily on that submission."*

**The UN Independent Expert on Foreign Debt**



In summary the evaluation revealed that the organisation is most effective when it:

- mobilises its networks across specific policies, platforms and campaigns for change
- amplifies voices of marginalised women and their experiences in the policy making arena
- focuses on connected programmes of work with impact oriented outcomes
- positions itself in spaces where it can elevate the voices of marginalised women in a variety of regional, and international platforms
- includes the authentic voices of grass-roots women, while at the same time provides them with the capacity development in key areas, i.e., such as documentation training
- develops on the ground opportunities such as the Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN that can not only assist within ASEAN but also helps inform human rights campaigns in other parts of the Asia-Pacific region
- continues to build a evidence-based advocacy through targeted research conducted by women themselves
- continues to build on its regional and international platforms to include strategies to combat new challenges, i.e., work on development effectiveness



*APWLD provided an orientation on International Conventions such as CEDAW, UN instruments, which I carried back to my groups. APWLD has taught me about food security, land rights, political rights, issues of culture and religion. APWLD has also campaigned on caste discrimination and supported the Dalit movement to bring up the issue of caste discrimination to the international level ... **APWLD is the only network that supports grassroots women to participate at regional level which helps grassroots movements to grow with other movements.***

**Fatima Burnad, Tamil Nadu Dalit Women's Forum**



*“APWLD offers analytical strengths which can be applied in interpretations of human rights mechanisms and others. It has provided a forum and opportunities for women's rights activists to speak out in international forums. This in itself is very empowering for local rights activists and provides momentum to the movements they represent.”*

**Antonio Tujan, IBON**

# Financial Narrative

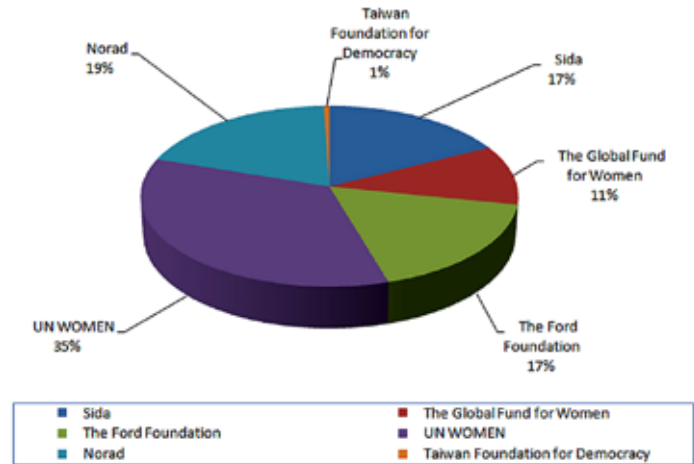
In 2012, APWLD received funds amounting to USD 1,079,180. This is an increase of about 25% from the previous year. Our total expenditure for this year was USD 1,087,332.14. This is an increase of over 20% on the previous year which reflects our expanding programmes.

In 2012, we continued to receive core funding support from SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) and the Ford Foundation. We also appreciate the continued support for specific programme from NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation) for breaking Out of Marginalisation Programme and the Feminist Law and Practice programme; UN Women for the Regional Mechanisms programme (through funds from CIDA – Canadian International Development Agency) as well as two smaller grants for Grounding the Global activities; Global Fund for Women for the Women in Power programme. We also received a small grant from the Taiwan Foundation For Democracy for a Grounding the Global activity.

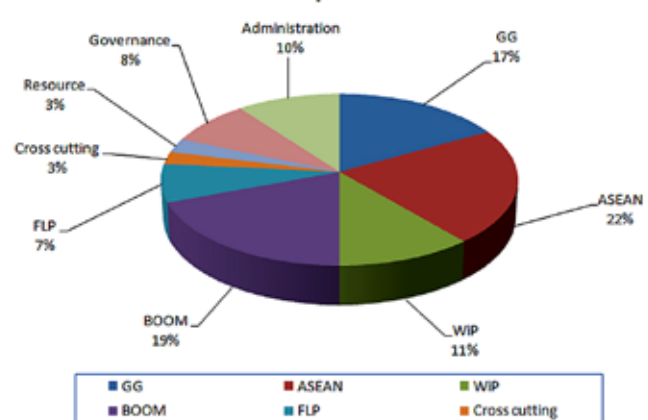
In 2012, programme costs amounted to 79% of total costs. Institutional development costs, which include network support, non-programme resources and materials, member governance meetings including strategic planning and staff development amounted to 11%. Administration costs were 10%, 1% decrease from the previous year. Our Grounding the Global programme utilised the largest budget percentage due to the expansion of the work with the Southeast Asia Women’s Caucus on ASEAN and our global advocacy. Our second largest programme was the Breaking Out of Marginalisation programme where three projects are placed including our Feminist Participatory Action Research.

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

APWLD funds received in 2012



APWLD Expenditure for 2012



# ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT

Chiang Mai, Thailand

Fund receipts in 2012

<b>Balance forward from 2011</b>	<b>258,373.72</b>
<b>Fund received in 2012</b>	
Sida	188,510.43
The Global Fund for Women	115,724.98
The Ford Foundation	186,115.57
UN WOMEN	374,225.51
Norad	208,804.03
Taiwan Foundation for Democracy	5,799.68
<b>Total funds in 2012</b>	<b>1,079,180.20</b>
<b>Total funds available</b>	<b>1,337,553.92</b>
<b>Others Income</b>	
- Exchange Rate Gains	106.73
- Bank interest	7,523.95
- Miscellaneous income	4,107.00
<b>Total receipt</b>	<b>\$1,349,291.60</b>

(a) Average rate of exchange : USD1 = Baht 31.15

ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT  
Chiangmai, Thailand  
Expenditure in 2012

Title	Budget Used (USD)
<b>GROUNDING THE GLOBAL (GG)</b>	<b>383,352.12</b>
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	122,773.68
- Capacity Building	5,146.13
- Secretariat costs	846.16
- Programme Implementation costs	36,950.43
- Evaluation	1,172.35
- Asean Projected fund (Unifem)	216,463.37
<b>WOMEN IN POWER (WiP)</b>	<b>111,819.56</b>
- Capacity Building	75,170.88
- Secretariat costs	712.10
- Programme Implementation costs	34,764.23
- Evaluation	1,172.35
<b>BREAKING OUT OF THE MAGINALISATION (BOM)</b>	<b>191,183.19</b>
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	114,351.48
- Capacity Building	32,502.02
- Secretariat costs	897.58
- Programme Implementation costs	42,259.76
- Evaluation	1,172.35
<b>FEMINIST LAW &amp; PRACTICE (FLP)</b>	<b>70,878.77</b>
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	8,060.43
- Capacity Building	38,705.05
- Secretariat costs	660.46
- Programme Implementation costs	22,280.48
- Evaluation	1,172.35
<b>CROSS CUTTING INITIATIVES</b>	<b>23,358.15</b>
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	8,342.20
- Secretariat costs	567.67
- Programme Implementation costs	13,275.93
- Evaluation	1,172.35
<b>Sub-total A</b>	<b>780,591.79</b>
<b>Institutional Development</b>	
- Resource Development and Publications	25,922.33
- Network consolidation	25,634.93
- Governance/Management Meetings	31,318.75
- Staff Development	2,179.55
- External Evaluation	23,125.08
<b>Sub-total B</b>	<b>108,180.64</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>101,397.50</b>
<b>Obligation of advance account</b>	<b>97,162.21</b>
<b>Total Expenditure 2012</b>	<b>\$1,087,332.14</b>



Independent Auditor's Report

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

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2012, the statements of income and expenses for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

*Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Thai and International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Thai and International Standards on Auditing. 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 from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about 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. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of

accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

*Opinion*

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position as at 31 December 2012 and the financial performance for the year then ended of ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT in accordance with Thai and International Financial Reporting Standards.



(Mrs. Pilanthana Ketthongsook)  
Certified Public Accountant  
Registration No.3650

H M D Consultants Co., Ltd.  
Bangkok,  
March 27, 2013

## Women of APWLD

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Virada Somsawasdi  
Noor Farida Ariffin  
Albertina de Jesus Piedade Almeida  
Sanaiyya Ansari  
Khushir Kabir  
Esther Beulah Devakumari  
Judy Taguiwalo  
Rashila Ramil  
Tess Vistro  
Titiek Kartika Hendrastiti  
Priscilla Naidu

Edwina Kotoisuva  
Mikiko Otani  
Mandkhaikhaikhatan Tsevegmid  
Hsiao Chuan Hsia  
Nurgul Djanaeva  
Sutada Mekrungruengkul  
Heisoo Shin  
Yevgeniya Kozyreava  
Ivy Josiah  
Aizhamal Bakashova  
Kate Lappin (Ex Officio)

## P&M 2012

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



## Secretariat 2012



Kate Lappin

Marion Cabrera

Wardarina

Wint Thiri Aung

Josephine Mann

Sarah Matsushita

Kornvika Paupratum

Navarat Nophiran

Punika Shinawatra

Diyana Yahaya

Misun Woo

Tomoko Kashiwazaki

Nina Somera

Kamonwan Petchot

Rawnak Jahan

Panee Jainanta

Philippa Smales

Seng Bu

June Taguiwalo

Tatjana Bosevska