



**APWLD**

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

*We Learn and We Rise*

**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**



DON'T GLOBALISE

HUNGER

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018



**APWLD**

*Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development*

# Contents

List of Acronyms	1
About APWLD	2
Our Theory of Change: Amplifying Movements	3
Message from the Regional Coordinator	4
Our Impact: 2018 Snapshot	6
Impact Highlight – Defending Women Human Rights Defenders	10
Programme Highlights:	14
Breaking Out of Marginalisation (BOOM)	14
Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony (WITCH)	19
Labour and Migration	22
Grounding the Global (GG)	25
Feminist Development Justice (FDJ)	28
Women in Power (WiP)	31
Climate Justice (CJ)	35
Feminist Law and Practice (FLP)	38
Cross-Cutting Initiatives	40
Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCM)	40
Breaking the Cause of Inequality: Bali Mobilisation Against World Bank and IMF	41
Women’s Global Strike	42
Information and Communications	43
Institutional Strengthening and Sustainability	46
Tribute for Asma Jahangir	47
Financial Narrative	48
Calendar of Activities	55
The Women of APWLD	57

# List of Acronyms

<b>AFTINET</b>	Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network
<b>APFSD</b>	Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
<b>APRCM</b>	Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism
<b>APWLD</b>	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>BOOM</b>	Breaking out of Marginalisation
<b>BPO</b>	Business Process Outsourcing
<b>BWU</b>	Burmese Women's Union
<b>CFS</b>	Committee on Food Security
<b>CJ</b>	Climate Justice
<b>COP</b>	Conference of Parties
<b>CPTPP</b>	Comprehensive & Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>CSW</b>	Commission on the Status of Women
<b>ECE</b>	(UN) Economic Commission for Europe
<b>ECLAC</b>	(UN) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>ESCAP</b>	(UN) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>FDJ</b>	Feminist Development Justice
<b>FLP</b>	Feminist Law and Practice
<b>FPAR</b>	Feminist Participatory Action Research
<b>FTA</b>	Free Trade Agreement
<b>GFM</b>	Globalisation, Fundamentalisms, and Militarism
<b>GG</b>	Grounding the Global
<b>HLPF</b>	High Level Political Forum
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IPT</b>	International People's Tribunal
<b>ISDS</b>	Investor State Dispute Settlement
<b>IWD</b>	International Women's Day
<b>MP</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>PSI</b>	Public Services International
<b>RCEP</b>	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SWAN</b>	Shan Women's Action Network
<b>ToC</b>	Theory of Change
<b>TPP</b>	Trans-Pacific Partnership
<b>TWG</b>	Technical Working Group
<b>UDHR</b>	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>UNEA</b>	United Nations Environment Assembly
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>WGC</b>	Women and Gender Constituency
<b>WHRD</b>	Woman Human Rights Defender
<b>WITCH</b>	Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony
<b>WMG</b>	Women's Major Group
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization

# About APWLD

## *Who We Are*

APWLD is the leading network of feminist organisations and individual activists in Asia Pacific. Our 236 members represent groups of diverse women from 27 countries in Asia Pacific. Over the past 32 years, APWLD has actively worked towards advancing women's human rights and Development Justice. We are an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organisation and hold consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

## *Our Work*

APWLD fosters feminist movements in Asia Pacific to influence laws, policies and practices at the local, national, regional and international levels. We develop capacities, produce and disseminate feminist analyses, conduct advocacy and foster networks and spaces for movement building to claim and strengthen women's human rights. APWLD empowers women in the region to use law as an instrument of change for equality, justice, peace and Development Justice.

## *Our Beliefs*

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

## *Our Structure*

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

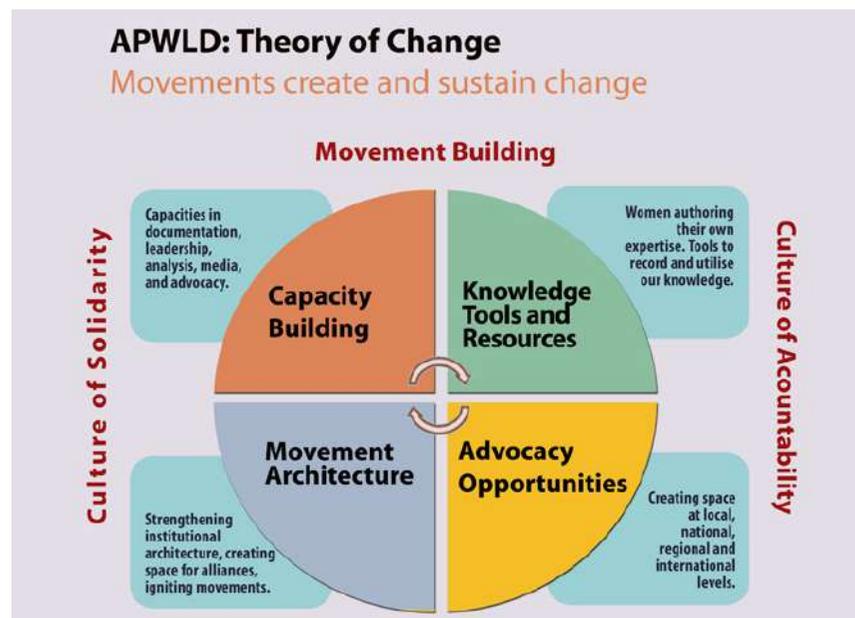
## *Our Herstory*

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

## *Our Theory of Change: Amplifying Movements*

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

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



These are our four 'Domains of Change' that frame our work.

## Message from Regional Coordinator

Across Asia Pacific and the globe, 2018 was a journey of difficulties marked by a harsh political environment. The year saw shrinking spaces for democratic participation, direct attack on multilateralism, governments' rescinding on human rights obligations, and increasing encroachment of corporations and businesses into policy spaces and peoples' territories. The Global Witness report identified 2018 as the deadliest year to defend one's community, livelihood, rights or environment, with the agribusiness industry most associated with attacks against the defenders. Our members experienced threats, harassment, and prosecution because of their work in defense of human rights, equality, freedoms, livelihoods and their communities.



Despite this climate, 2018 was still a year of growth and collective victories for APWLD. Our membership and Secretariat grew reflecting diverse sub-regions and constituencies across Asia Pacific; while we were also able to secure stronger and larger support from our funders that enabled APWLD's nine programmes to fully implement multi-year strategies with renewed Programme Organising Committees to guide our work.

In 2018, we embarked some new and innovative approaches including establishing women's democratic demands (Womanifesto) to influence electoral processes and advance democratic accountability; connecting the trade and finance dots to deepen feminist investigation and analysis to unpack the impacts of neoliberal economic policies; launching our first 'media fellowship' to work with woman journalists to engage and influence public discourse; and concretising our plan for Women's Global Strike on March 8, 2020 to shake the patriarchal global order with a united front feminist solidarity strike actions.

Looking back, 2018 taught us what APWLD is good at - leading political discussions, and positioning diverse movements through the stories, experiences and analysis owned by women in Asia Pacific. These stories with deep structural analysis are powerful, and forge cross movement solidarity (such as workers and women's movements in Burma/Myanmar) and sometimes new coalitions (such as the Gender and Trade Coalition). We also witnessed a growing momentum and solidarity

support for women human rights defenders including the recognition of WHRDs in the CSW outcome document, as well as solidarity support and statements from different UN mandate holders, UN agencies, international media and civil societies. We also learned through our work with FPAR and Womanifesto sub-grant partners that women creating their own spaces to discuss, learn and organise themselves poses one of the greatest threats to the existing socio-economic and political power relations, which is deeply patriarchal. We are ever more determined to continue that very act of resistance - organising women and strengthening feminist solidarity to reduce inequalities of power, resources and wealth between men and women, between rich and poor, and between countries.

I thank the many members, partners and my colleagues at the Secretariat who make APWLD's work so powerful and vibrant, and for making my first year's journey as APWLD's Regional Coordinator meaningful. It is a lifetime privilege to be a part of this movement and I look forward to continuing our collective fight towards a more just, sustainable and feminist world to come.

In solidarity,



**Misun Woo**

### *Capacity Building*

We built the capacity of over 1,700 grassroots women and their communities to document, analyse, lead organising and amplifying Asia Pacific women's voices to advance women's human rights and Development Justice. We trained women and their communities in: evidence-based participatory action research, women's political agenda or 'Womanifesto' building, digital security, political organising and campaigning skills, trade and economic policy, strategic advocacy and feminist litigation.



**Capacity Building**

### *Movement Architecture*

We continued fostering and sustaining new alliances, networks and cross-movement collaborations. We actively participated in 17 regional and international level initiatives, networks or alliances advancing women's human rights and Development Justice; and co-created a new Gender and Trade Coalition, a feminist alliance for trade justice with 218 members across the globe.



**Movement Architecture**



## Knowledge Tools and Resources

We produced 15 new feminist knowledge tools and resources based on the experiences and perspectives of grassroots Asia Pacific women and their constituencies, influencing public discourse, key human rights and development policy processes.

### *Knowledge Tools and Resources*



## Advocacy Opportunities

*Advocacy to Change Laws and Policies*

We were successful in influencing multiple spaces and mechanisms amplifying Asia Pacific women's voices and feminist analysis. We resourced and supported over 90 grassroots feminist women's rights activists to engage in 10 high level advocacy spaces at regional and international levels. Our advocacy influenced language, outcomes, follow-up plans of at least eight global and regional multilateral processes on women's human rights, sustainable development, trade, climate, environment, and peace.

**Global:**

*Generated stronger, coordinated solidarity support for Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) and safeguarded democratic civil spaces, resulting into solidarity statements of the UN mandate holders on the human rights situation in the Philippines, urging Poland to ensure free and full participation of civil society at climate talks as well as increased media solidarity to cover the situation of WHRDs in the region.*

**Tajikistan:**

*Our media fellow's reporting on toxic waste and women's livelihoods contributed to: a) drawing attention of the UN Special Rapporteur on toxic waste to engage and investigate the situation further; b) establishment of a Commission on Water Management by the Government of Tajikistan in December 2018.*

**Bangladesh:**

*AWAƳ Foundation, with women contractual workers in fashion companies, collectively bargained and achieved equal access to benefits enjoyed by permanent workers, e.g. equal wages, leave days, child care, medical facilities and fixed working hours for 600 contractual workers (including 420 women workers).*

**Global:**

*The UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery's report to the Human Rights Council adopted APWLD's analysis on the gendered impact of domestic servitude, citing two of the Labour FPAR partners' work on tea plantation workers in India and home-based workers in Pakistan.*

**Global:**

*The outcome document of the regional consultation convened by the Special Rapporteur on right to development incorporated APWLD's priorities, feminist analysis and Development Justice language. The outcome document will subsequently inform the follow-up work of the Special Rapporteur in developing a state guideline for the implementation of right to development.*

**India:**

*All Adivasi Women's Association of Assam (AAWAA) together with tea plantation workers formed a sub-group in each FPAR research area to campaign and demand decent work in tea plantations. As a result, women workers in one tea plantation achieved paid maternity leave and free rations of rice, oil and other groceries.*

# Locating our Impact

## **Burma/**

**Myanmar:** *Burmese Women's Union (BWU), continuing their FPAR work, successfully organised a strike and May Day rally in Yangon gathering over 800 workers to demand decent work, social protection and living wage. BWU's continued advocacy also contributed to the reinstatement of the 30 women garment workers who were dismissed as a result of joining the strike.*

## **Malaysia:**

*Women members of the National Union of Drinks Industry Workers (NUDIW), using the initial findings of the FPAR on the issues of violence and harassment at workplace, secured the agreement from the union executive committees to include a Sexual Harassment Policy in all future/current Collective Agreements for all the factories covered by the union.*

## **Global:**

*Our coordinated engagement in Green Climate Fund CSO working groups have led to the withdrawal of problematic proposals such as the biomass power projects in Fiji and Papua New Guinea.*

## **Thailand:**

*As a result of their long campaign to establish a national injury fund for healthcare providers, the Nurses Union of Thailand (NUOT) influenced the government to issue a Government Gazette on payment of basic assistance to health care service providers. It ensures occupational health benefits to public hospital nurses.*

## **Philippines:**

*Tanggol Bayi, together with women urban poor communities, successfully safeguarded Trabajo and Sampaloc markets to remain as public facilities with no rent increases for market stalls. Further, women market vendors widened their feminist solidarity with street vendors and continued to collectively fight against the Zero Vendors Policy in Manila.*

## **Global:**

*Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (APRCM) was officially recognised to sit on the Steering Group for the Major Groups and other Stakeholders mechanism of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). APRCEM is represented by APWLD.*

## ***Impact Highlight***

### **Defending Women Human Rights Defenders**



2018, the year marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the 20th anniversary of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, was a difficult year as the region witnessed the rise of authoritarianism as a pattern of governance, shut down of democratic civic spaces, as well as sustained threats, attacks and persecution of women human rights defenders (WHRDs) and their communities. Laws and justice systems are ironically used as tools to undermine the rule of law, criminalise human rights defenders or put heavy surveillance on people's peaceful and democratic assembly through immigration or other regressive policies. Consequently, women, environmental, human rights defenders are often targeted and exposed to malicious and trumped-up charges against them as a form of intimidation, thus challenging, if not stopping, human rights work altogether. Our members were placed under significant risk to their safety because of the work they do: when they speak out defending their communities, land and human rights and when they organise against neoliberal economic policies, corporate capture and state-sponsored violence. At the global level, the Polish parliament passed a bill, giving power to the Polish government to subject human rights and environmental defenders to

***Laws and justice systems are ironically used as tools to undermine the rule of law, criminalise human rights defenders or put heavy surveillance on people's peaceful and democratic assembly through immigration or other regressive policy.***

state-led surveillance, as well as constrain civil society participation in global climate change processes at the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24). We also witnessed the growing power of transnational corporations (TNCs) and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in policy making spaces, as was the case in the World Bank - International Monetary Fund's annual meeting where civil society meeting was shut down to protect the space of IFIs and investors' interest.

Our responses to these systemic and structural challenges and oppressions were to intensify advocacy and solidarity actions to support our members, partners and allies in various countries undergoing repression and political persecution. These were done through solidarity statements or campaign to protect women human rights defenders, bringing the cases to the attention of various international human rights bodies and procedures to facilitate access to justice.

In 2018, we saw the multiple signs of growing momentum and culture of solidarity for women human rights defenders when:

- The Commission on the Status of Women recognised the importance of protecting

women human rights defenders in its Agreed Conclusions.

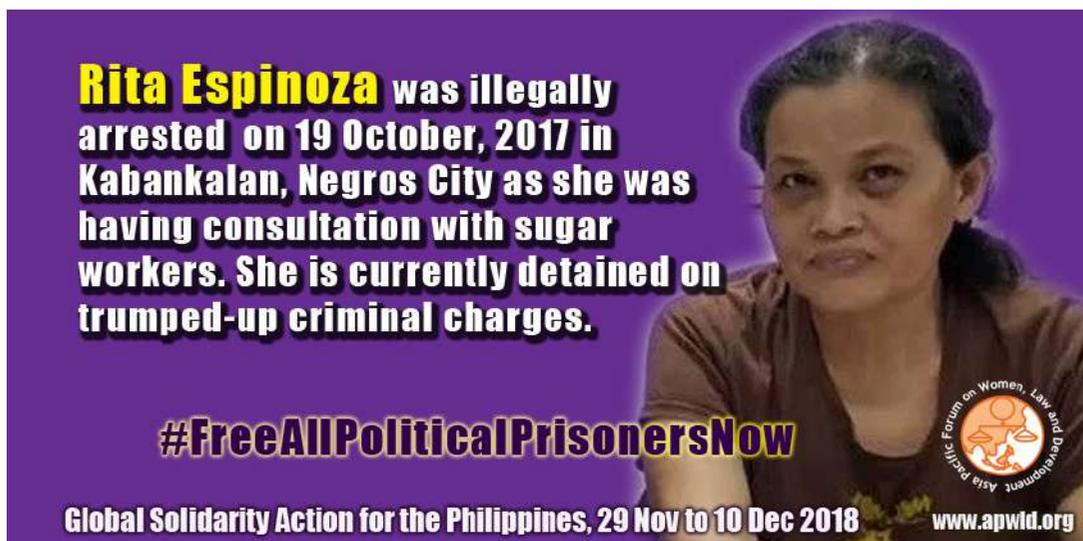
- APWLD’s media advocacy against the Polish Bill criticising the shrinking civil society spaces, and concerns of surveillance and threats to WHRDs at COP24 was covered by media extensively. We were covered in 31 news outlets in Europe, Asia, Pacific and North America on this issue.
- UN Special Rapporteurs, as a result of our sustained advocacy, issued a joint statement on 4th May 2018 urging Poland to ensure free and full participation at climate talks. Subsequently at COP24, on 13th December 2018, UN Special Rapporteurs issued a joint statement condemning measures to stop human rights defenders joining the global climate talks for just climate actions.
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), after seeking our input into their Environment Defenders policy, issued a statement supporting the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous

Peoples when she was targeted by the government of Philippines.

- UN Assistant Secretary General of Human Rights wrote an op-ed in Guardian, decrying the deteriorating respect for human rights in Asia Pacific, and noting the gendered impacts on WHRDs.
- UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions released a solidarity statement in marking 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR),

*‘... count on me and many others around the world. We will be there, denouncing the violations internationally; recalling the State’s obligations; pointing that the near complete lack of investigation into thousands of police killings violates the most basic State obligations; That it points to state-sanctioned killings. Asking searching questions; keeping track; keeping count.’*

**- Agnes Callamard, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions**



**Rita Espinoza** was illegally arrested on 19 October, 2017 in Kabankalan, Negros City as she was having consultation with sugar workers. She is currently detained on trumped-up criminal charges.

**#FreeAllPoliticalPrisonersNow**

Global Solidarity Action for the Philippines, 29 Nov to 10 Dec 2018

www.apwld.org

APWLD contributed to supporting opportunities for WHRDs to be heard and their experiences acknowledged. Our members from the Philippines were driving forces in organising and holding the International People's Tribunal on the Philippines (IPT), and at global platforms such as CSW and HLPF; governments were confronted with the powerful and moving statements of our members.

The region saw a moment of real hope when the Malaysia's 14th general election put an end to the corrupt regimes, with the watershed election victory of opposition parties. It was the victory of Malaysian people's movements represented by BERSIH 2.0 making a historical statement that peaceful, democratic and people-driven change is possible. It was a special moment for APWLD as our member Maria Chin Abdullah was elected as an independent member of parliament. The story of Maria Chin is an exemplary testimony to APWLD's struggle, resilience and collective resistance to build a new feminist future. In 2016, the state authorities harassed, intimidated and then eventually detained Maria under the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act (SOSMA). APWLD led advocacy and campaigns for her release at multiple levels together with other civil society and allies until she was released on the eve of International Human Rights Day. In 2017, she inspired feminists and women's rights activists from across the region at our 3rd Asia Pacific Feminist Forum with the stories of powerful, organised movements and resistance while reminding us of WHRDs who continue to be detained and who may not have the same

support system as she has. Her election to the Parliament of Malaysia embolden us to dream a future, where human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons are the norm to govern, and people, the sovereign power will make decisions over our lives, planet and the future.

### *Solidarity with Women Human Rights Defenders in the Philippines*

In response to the increasing threats facing WHRDs in the Philippines, we:

- Issued a statement and letter condemning the Department of Justice 'terrorist list' (naming over 600 activists as 'terrorists', which included APWLD members and even the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples);
- Along with the Women's Major Group staged a protest at the Philippine Consulate in New York with civil society allies to put global pressure to put an end to the government's attempt to silence human rights defenders by such direct death threats;
- Acted as an observer at the 2018 International People's Tribunal (IPT) on the Philippines in Brussels from 18-19 September 2018 and supported one WHRD to give evidence and conduct advocacy meetings at the 39th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva;

*‘I testified on the cases of arbitrary arrest.... of my father and husband.... the trumped-up criminal cases filed against activists... to silence critics and suppress dissent... I also got the chance to listen to.... other witnesses on cases of extrajudicial killings related to the drug war, the war in Marawi City, martial law in Mindanao, abduction and killing of human rights defenders.’*

In the absence of judicial independence or access to (alternative) justice systems in the Philippines, the IPT provided an important space for human rights defenders to give testimony on the human rights abuses occurring in their country and to feel global solidarity. The Tribunal issued a verdict finding the Philippine president responsible for human rights violations against the people of the Philippines, and called for prosecution in International Criminal Court.

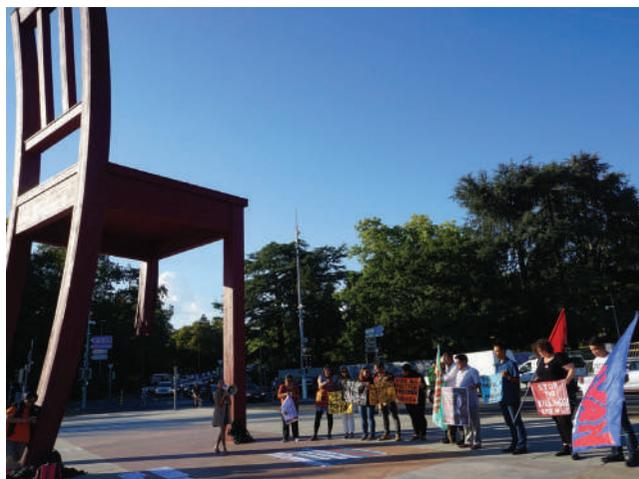
*‘Duterte and his government have committed various crimes against humanity and also war crimes that are committed on a daily basis against the Filipino people.’*

- Mobilised a global 12 days of solidarity action for the Philippines during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence from 29th November 2018 to 10th December 2018. The action was in response to the urgent call from members who are deeply concerned and impacted by the deteriorating state of human rights and democracy in the Philippines. The

campaign, aided with a campaign toolkit, drew the support of over 150 individuals and civil society organisations from across the region.

*‘I would like to personally express my gratitude to my sisters in APWLD for coming up with a strong support statement for me in relation to ... trumped-up charges of kidnapping and serious illegal detention have somehow affected my “usual” routine as an “on-the-go” lawyer because I have to take extra precaution. The statement made me feel secured knowing that I am not alone in this fight because I have the support of brave women human rights defenders from across the region.’*

- Katherine Panguban, NUPL, Philippines



September protest at Geneva's Broken Chair

# Breaking Out of Marginalisation



Community consultation in the Philippines by Sabokahan Tomo Kamalitan

In 2018, the BOOM programme continued supporting rural, indigenous, migrant and urban poor women and their movements to challenge structural inequalities facilitated by patriarchy and unjust development policies. The programme chose to address the fundamental issue for Asia Pacific women, i.e. women's right to land to understand, analyse and strike out the current political, economic and social structures that reinforce inequalities of power, wealth and resources between countries, between rich and poor, and between men and women.

## ***New BOOM FPAR on land launched***

In 2018, the programme launched a new Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR): 'Our Land & Water - Our Life, Our Livelihood, Our

Dignity: Strengthening Feminist Movements for Land Rights and Development Justice' with 12 partner organisations from 11 countries with diverse experience and expertise. The FPAR has three streams of thematic focus: a) land, water and resource grabbing; b) trade and investment agreements; c) patriarchal and discriminatory laws and practices, to interrogate these systemic barriers that are closely linked to women's access to and control over land.

APWLD supported 24 young women researchers and their mentors from 12 grassroots women's rights organisations to build their capacities and leadership to conduct FPAR with their communities. All partners were able to work with women in the communities to identify priority issues, collect and analyse data from

## *Partner organisations: FPAR Land Rights and Development Justice*

### *Land, Water and Resource Grabbing*

#### **Rumpun Perempuan dan Anak Riau (RUPARI)**

*Indonesia*

Rural women's movement against the expansion of Acacia plantation, PT Arara Abadi in Kampar district, in Kota Garo village

#### **Babadon Sangho**

*Bangladesh*

The impacts of private and public land investment on the lives of women landowner and fisherfolk in Rampal and Sundarban Area

#### **National Indigenous Women's Forum**

*Nepal*

Understanding the gendered impact of Sunakoshi hydropower dam on Majhi women human rights and land rights

#### **Cambodian Volunteers for Society**

*Cambodia*

Critical engagement of rural and indigenous women in land reclamation against the Sambo hydropower project in Kratie Province

#### **Sabokahan Tomo Kamalitan (Unity of Lumad Women)**

*Philippines*

Voices and actions of Lumad Women in defense of their ancestral land, food and resources within the Pantaron areas

### *Trade and Investment Agreement*

#### **Community Care for Emergency Responses and Rehabilitation**

*Burma/Myanmar*

Enhancing the rights of marginalised rural indigenous women group in Rakhine - including Mro Community - in the area of forest conservation

#### **Tavoyan Women's Union (TWU)**

*Burma/Myanmar*

Impacts of Dawei Special Economic Zones to Nebulal women's livelihood, particularly on access to land and livelihoods

#### **Brown Girl Woke**

*Samoa*

The impacts of women's low political representation to women's access to land and resources

### *Patriarchal Discriminatory Laws*

#### **Public women's foundation 'JIPAR'**

*Kyrgyzstan*

Landless women in Chui oblast assert their land rights from Land Redistribution Fund (LRF)

#### **Sisterhood Network**

*India*

Naga indigenous women interrogating customary law to ensure women's land rights

#### **Roots for Equity**

*Pakistan*

The economic, health and environmental impacts of land grabbing on women especially resulting from various factories (industrial areas) in Haripur

#### **Sangsan Anakot Wayachon Development Project**

*Thailand*

Alternative options to respond to the issues of statelessness and landlessness of indigenous and lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) women in Maesamleap, at the Sobmoei district of Mae Hong Son

a feminist perspective using participatory methodologies.

*‘What I really appreciated about the 2nd FPAR Training in Indonesia was it made me rooted in the FPAR approaches, FPAR tools and how to use them effectively to bring about structural change. I believe that FPAR is one of the most powerful tools for our organisation to empower women and young lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) to increase their participation and amplify their own voices and solution with regard to land rights. I also learned a lot about ethics as Feminist researcher in doing FPAR research, the importance of informed consent, accountability on security issues and ensuring the full participation of women.’*

- Jum Veerawan, Sangsan Anakot, Thailand

The 2nd FPAR regional training incorporated a one-day field visit to Pangalengan, Indonesia

the area where APWLD’s previous FPAR partner and member SERUNI has been working with communities to reclaim their land. The visit generated the exchange of learnings, shared struggles that led us to once again realise macroeconomic and political systems that reinforce people’s oppressions, and feminist solidarity for collective actions.

*‘I was moved immensely by the successful land reclamation from the previous FPAR during the solidarity visit to Pangalengan. It boosted my energy and felt so good to show sisterhood solidarity to the struggle of SERUNI and peasant women to stop the land grabbing threat from PT Agro West Java and Kertajati Highway project. I can say without hesitation that I am a feminist and that movements are so important to bring structural change.’*

- Arenzungla Jamir, Sisterhood Network, Nagaland



Social and resource mapping in exercise Nepal, facilitated by NIWF

## *Growing capacities and leadership to generate changes*

Our FPAR partners and alumni, with their grounded work advancing women's human rights and Development Justice through FPAR, are sought for their expertise, feminist analysis on the links between structural injustices and grassroots communities' experiences and policy recommendations at diverse advocacy spaces: Three FPAR alumni were featured in a UN Women series of articles 'Women Taking Up the Fight Against Oppression' after they shared their FPAR findings at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for CSW62.

MAP Foundation presented their FPAR findings on the situation of migrant workers, and demanded for a living wage while stocktaking the global commitment to achieve Goal 8 (Decent Work) of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our FPAR young woman researcher, Alma Sinumlag from CWEARC, was selected as a speaker at the High Level Political Forum in July 2018 in New York. She shared CWEARC's FPAR findings on the impacts of extractive model of development on indigenous women and the threat to women human rights and environmental defenders; and called for accountability, justice and peace

We are constantly inspired by their stories, their personal and political growth and proud to have shared that meaningful journey with them.



*Young woman researcher of BWU Aye Aye Myo explains the FPAR principles in her community*

## *Powerful advocacy, building feminist solidarity through FPAR*

Our member and FPAR Alumni - Burmese Women's Union (BWU) - continued their work with the women workers in Myanmar/Burma and built their capacity to self-advocate, organise and mobilise for their struggle. For instance, five women workers involved in the previous BOOM FPAR publicly spoke about their experiences, issues and demands in front of 800 participants of the May Day Rally at Yangon. These five women also prepared their concern points, demands and recommendations for their meeting with the state authority.

BWU particularly focused using media to amplify the stories and demands of women workers. They produced a short campaign video showing interviews with women workers speaking on the issues of living wage, decent work and poor working conditions in the factories.

Their advocacy efforts led to BWU's invitation to discuss the situation of women workers at the 'Under 30 Dialogue Media' programme by Mizzima TV Channel in Myanmar. Hel Lay - BWU's young woman researcher - shared their FPAR findings and pointed out that the increment of the minimum wage was insufficient to improve the lives of women workers, as well as stressed the need for raising the minimum wage to a living wage.

Naw Hel Lay Paw and Ma Yin Myo Hlaing were covered also by Swedish media (Arbentaren) on the issues of low wage, unfair dismissal of women workers, sexual harassment of women workers, and lack of social welfare card, women's recognition as union leaders or legal protection. Rainfall Myanmar Feminist Magazine also interviewed BWU's young woman researcher to cover on why women workers choose to strike as way to demand their rights.

The Factsheet on the Situation of Women Workers guided women workers and union leaders' advocacy meetings to demand decent and living wages with local governments, such as the meetings with Amyotha Hluttaw (upper house of Myanmar's parliament) MP Naw Susanna Hla Hla Soe secretary of the Women and Child Rights Committee. During the strike in FU YUEN - when the factory employer dismissed over 30 women garment workers - BWU led the formulation of statements by women's rights organisations supporting the women workers' boycott. After the release of the statement followed by mobilisation of the workers, and pressure from the media, Chief Minister of Yangon Region, Phyo Min Thin, met with the union leaders and arranged a tripartite meeting with the employer, the union, and the state authority. The result was a big win as the 30 women garment workers were given back their jobs.

*BWU released an online campaign short video on garment women workers on May Day 2018*



# *Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony*

Building Support for Feminist Analysis on Trade



Our newest programme, emerging out of our trade campaigns, continued to make waves in its second year, demonstrating the strength of APWLD's approach and feminist analysis. APWLD's statement against the 2017 World Trade Organisation (WTO) Declaration on Trade and Gender Equality continued to circulate and influence discourses of civil society, governments and UN agencies:

- The statement itself, which drew significant civil society support and attention from media, policymakers and governments at the time it was issued (in 2017), continues to circulate via our allies and influence trade discourse at WTO (gender) events.
- An Australian forum on the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), run by Australian Fair

Trade & Investment Network (AFTINET) and ActionAID Australia, incorporated our feminist analysis from the statement.

- At the one year anniversary of the WTO Declaration, a senior UNCTAD official made acknowledgement of the statement and noted women's continuing opposition to the Declaration.
- The statement generated a strong interest from UNCTAD, a principal agency dealing with trade, investment and development issues, which led to co-organising of a side event with APWLD at the CSW investigating the impact of trade on women's human rights.

This ongoing relevance of the statement indicates that it provided an important outlet

and rallying point, giving diverse groups an alternative and feminist analysis in clear opposition to the current trade and gender landscape promoted by governments and the WTO.

Following the Statement, a ‘think-meet’ was convened by key groups representing diverse constituencies with expertise on gender and trade, including women’s movements, think tanks, trade unions and civil society organisations. The meeting led to the formation of a new Gender and Trade Coalition, a feminist alliance for trade justice with over 200 members across the globe, offering a great potential for further strengthening the power of feminist opposition to the current trade system and advance a new just, feminist trade agenda.

APWLD’s statement against the TPP on International Women’s Day 2018 secured

signatories from 53 organisations from 10 out of 11 TPP countries (except Brunei Darussalam). In reviewing growing interest and solidarity to our advocacy to counter the WTO Declaration, it is evident that the legitimacy of our analysis is attracting more support and engagement both from feminist and women’s rights organisations that have previously engaged little with trade issues, and from other constituencies (such as labour or trade union movements) that have previously not incorporated feminist perspectives.

### *Dismantling trade regimes through grassroots capacity and organising power*

In 2018, governments continued with its efforts to fast track RCEP negotiations, join or ratify Comprehensive and Progressive TPP (CPTPP). Two rounds of RCEP negotiations were held in Singapore and in Thailand followed by a series of ministerial meetings, and legislative actions of Thai government in preparation for joining the CPTPP. A necessary strength of the programme is our capacity to respond to the development of secretive trade negotiations with organised actions of cross-constituency movements. To support our advocacy, we updated our RCEP briefer and translated it into two more languages in the region (Thai and Korean).

The Thai government announced its intention to join the CPTPP and organised public hearings in different provinces in the country. We organised capacity building workshops for women’s rights organisations and diverse people’s organisations including farmers,



workers and trade unions to influence the process, especially from North and Northeast Thailand. APWLD's contribution in facilitating the Thai CSO workshop contributed for the groups having shared positions to say No to RCEP, made stronger presences and voices of women's rights organisations and people's movements in Public Hearings in three different provinces, and connecting locally based groups with the movement against FTA which is usually more based in the country's capital.

*'It's good for me to know that this struggle is not alone. We have so many people from different countries as the fight cannot be won by one person or one country and we need solidarity. By joining this APWLD activities I really feel like I am part of something bigger and regional and we can do this together.'*

**- Amonrae, Southern Peasant Federation of Thailand**

### ***Advocacy strategies to shape trade narratives in the media***

APWLD conducted media advocacy around the Thai government's public hearings on the CPTPP both in Thai and English languages. Our press statement in response to the public hearing on CPTPP in Chiang Mai generated public attention and consequently governmental officials who spoke at the hearing felt pressured to respond to our statement on human rights and environmental impact assessment of CPTPP.

Throughout the year we consistently sought to bring feminist analysis on trade to the fore, and in particular to shift media narratives. Along with a series of targeted media releases and media-specific advocacy, we supported our member Solidaritas Perempuan from Indonesia to publish an opinion piece in the Jakarta Post on water privatisation and RCEP; while our Thai member Pranom Somwong published an opinion piece on RCEP in the Bangkok Post, both of which received significant attention.



*Tolak Bala Ceremony, mobilisation against World Bank/ IMF in Bali, Indonesia*

# Labour and Migration



Labour FPAR partners joined the May Day rallies in Chiang Mai with local labour rights groups and allies on 1 May 2018.

The Labour programme continued working with 11 women's rights organisations, unions and informal workers groups from nine countries to document labour rights violations in their workplace, and supporting advocacy based on their Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR). Despite the challenges faced in organising, whether union busting or harassment from their employers, the women workers persist in strengthening their organising to amplify women's labour issues within unions and workplaces.

## ***Courageous actions, defending labour rights of all women workers***

In Bangladesh, our member AWAJ Foundation through FPAR worked with contractual workers in fashion companies. With their increased

legal knowledge on labour rights, the workers organised themselves and exercised their collective bargaining power, and achieved equal access to benefits enjoyed by permanent workers including equal wages, leave days, child care, doctor facilities and fixed working hours for 600 contractual workers (including 420 women).

In Thailand, as a result of their long campaign to establish a national injury fund for healthcare providers, the Nurses Union of Thailand (NUOT) was able to push the government to issue a Government Gazette on payment of basic assistance to health care service providers. As nurses in public hospitals are considered government employees, they are excluded from labour laws which provide protection for

private sector workers. Prior to the Gazette, occupational health benefits to public hospital nurses were ad-hoc and unreliable. NUOT is now advocating for amendment of the Compensation Fund Act to cover all workers in government ministries and has been invited to attend a government consultation on the issue.

In Assam, northern India, All Adivasi Women's Association of Assam (AAWAA) together with tea plantation workers formed a sub-group in each research area to campaign and demand decent work in tea plantations. Despite the heavy surveillance on the union activity by the company management, the women workers in one tea plantation, together with the research team, were successful in negotiating and securing paid maternity leave and free rations of rice, oil and other groceries.

In the Philippines, our FPAR partner BPO Industry Employees Network (BIEN) was invited onto the Technical Working Group (TWG) on business process outsourcing (BPO)

Standards, composed of labour and BPO related government agencies. BIEN has been invited to present to Congress on the need for extended maternity leave provisions for BPO workers and engaged in dialogue with elected representatives to push for Occupational Health and Safety provisions, for which a Bill was recently passed. Women workers successfully increased their leadership and power within BIEN through collective organising, and as a result, BIEN Women's Committee was officially confirmed at its 2018 General Assembly.

Women members of the National Union of Drinks Industry Workers (NUDIW), our FPAR partner in Malaysia, noted the importance of creating space for women workers to address their issues through union. Using the initial findings of the FPAR on the issues of violence and harassment at workplace, women leaders were able to make the union executive committees agree to include a Sexual Harassment Policy in all future and current Collective Agreements for all the factories covered by the union.



*Migration Organising Committee members joined campaign to demand justice for Mary Jane Veloso, a Filipina human trafficking victim, during the Migration OC meeting in May 2018, Penang, Malaysia.*

## ***Labour FPAR amplified at global platforms***

The feminist analysis with evidence and cases and subsequent policy recommendations from our members and grassroots communities through FPAR are well recognised by UN mandate holders, and consequently informing global normative framework. For instance, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery's report to the Human Rights Council in September 2018 adopted our analysis on the gendered impact of domestic servitude, citing two of the Labour FPAR partner's work on tea plantation workers in India and home-based workers in Pakistan.

## ***Advocating for the rights of migrant workers***

APWLD produced migrant women's key demands on the Global Compact on Migration (GCM), which were published in online news outlet Asia Times in December 2018. The key demands document emphasised the roles of grassroots migrants and accountability in implementation and monitoring process on the GCM. With an attempt to highlight the real face of migration for women in the region, we organised a side event on Migrants on Death Row during the intergovernmental conference to adopt the GCM in Marrakech, amplifying the campaign of our members on access to justice for migrant women on death row.

## ***Nurturing young feminist activist through 'South-South Fellowship'***

In 2018 APWLD hosted a South-South fellow in the Labour and Migration Programme. This fellowship aims to provide capacity and

leadership building opportunities for young feminists in APWLD's membership as well to ground our work closer to our members struggles and resolutions. The programme immensely benefited from the fellowship placement, particularly in deepening our understanding on Burma/Myanmar as a 'newly opened' country and its implications on women's labour rights and migration; and in building our relationship with our members and partners from the country through facilitating several workshops and strategic planning processes using APWLD's theory of change and FPAR principles and methodologies.

***'I am grateful to be a South-South Fellow at APWLD. Working with the Labour and Migration Programme has helped me to develop my personal and professional skills while APWLD is directing my concept of a better society with "Development Justice" framework. Moreover, the Theory of Change gives me an observant attitude on planning and implementing my work strategically. Working at APWLD has changed me to have a better vision from who I was as a fresh graduate. After the fellowship, I was offered a Programme Officer position for Political Empowerment Programme at the Women's League of Burma. I'm proud to say that this is the achievement of APWLD's South-South Fellowship programme, and I wish you continue offering this chance to young feminists from the region. I sincerely want to show my gratitude to APWLD which carry out advancing human rights in Myanmar.'***

**- Zar Zar Tun, 2018 South-South fellow from Myanmar/Burma**

# *Grounding the Global*



Our Grounding the Global programme (GG) strives to make regional and global mechanisms more democratic and accountable to grassroots women and their communities in the Asia Pacific region. In 2018 we supported our members and partners to influence multiple spaces and mechanisms with their advocacy founded in their lived realities and feminist analysis. Over the past few years, the programme has significantly contributed in identifying the most strategic and engaging spaces to amplify the voices of Asia Pacific women, particularly highlighting the experience of FPAR partners, WHRDs and environment defenders.

## ***62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62)***

CSW62 focused on ‘Challenges and

opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls’. APWLD, as the organiser of the Asia Pacific regional civil society preparatory processes and co-convenor of CSW Women’s Rights Caucus, shaped collective civil society analysis and positions with progressive feminist language.

APWLD was one of the lead authors of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) report, substantively informed the Secretary General’s report and contributed to the CSW outcome document. This year’s biggest win was the recognition of the WHRDs of their role and protection needs, and tightened linkages between climate justice, labour rights and women’s empowerment in the final Agreed Conclusions.

APWLD organised two high profile side events

together with global partners. Our event with UNCTAD to which we have now received observer status, on ‘Making Trade Agreements work for Rural Women’, was live-streamed receiving 488 views and reaching over 1,500 people. It was a first of its kind that UNCTAD co-organised an event with a civil society organisation at CSW, recognising gendered impact of trade, and the need for democratic participation of women, especially of the rural and other marginalised women in trade policy making.

Recognising the fact that the CSW is the largest forum where feminist and women’s rights movements gather around, we joined with allies in staging a protest outside the Philippines embassy in support of Indigenous Major Group co-convenor Joan Carling and other allies in the Philippines who were named in the Department of Justice ‘terrorist list’. A joint statement with the Women’s Major Group was submitted to the Philippines mission. By the end of the year, following further pressure

nationally and internationally, several prominent names were removed from this list.

### *Informing UN mandate holders, building solidarity for women’s human rights and Development Justice*

APWLD’s annual consultation with UN mandate holders built the capacity of 32 women’s rights advocates from 19 countries across Asia Pacific to understand international and regional mechanisms to protect human rights and advance environmental justice. It provided participants a direct access to four UN mandate holders (UN Human Rights Council’s Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies), including a closed session between Philippine women human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (EJK). The Consultation led to: a) Agnes Callamard, the Special Rapporteur on EJK issuing a solidarity letter to defenders in the Philippines marking the 70th Anniversary of Universal Declaration



*Grounding the Global Programme Organising Committee members and APWLD Secretariat with UN mandate holders*

of Human Rights while her country visit request has been continuously denied or attacked by the President; b) our members in the Philippines submitted over 30 cases of complaints directly to the mandate holders addressing the dire human rights situation. The Asia Pacific consultation was followed by a Thai national consultation with over 40 women human rights defenders from across the country participating. For most of the participants, it was the first time to have direct access to UN mandate holders to present their issues and recommendations.

In 2018, our members and partners influenced global discourses around development, promoting our Development Justice framework with their progressive stances and grassroots lived experience. At a consultation with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, in December, our member Geri Cerillo as an opening speaker focused on structural barriers highlighting the detrimental impact of neoliberal policies on right to development, and other members and staff participated in roundtables and discussions. We prepared a joint submission with members and allies on Development Justice, presenting case studies and local community-led sustainable practices that illustrate some of the foundational shifts of Development Justice. We were pleased to see our priorities and analysis visible in the draft outcome document, and expect that the upcoming guidelines of the Special Rapporteur will reflect Development Justice as Asia Pacific civil society's demand stemming from the right to development.

## ***Binding treaty on transnational corporations and other business enterprises***

APWLD participated in the 4th session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with respect to human rights. We made several strategic interventions to ensure the draft binding treaty incorporates the lived realities of corporate injustice on women's human rights; and provided feminist analysis and inputs to the draft treaty to ensure corporate accountability, states' human rights obligations and primacy of human rights over any other type of laws or regulations including trade and investment agreements. We will continue to monitor and contribute to this process in 2019, and are excited to launch a new Feminist Participatory Action Research on trade and corporate accountability with the WITCH programme in 2019.



*International People's Tribunal in Brussels*

# Feminist Development Justice



Using the Development Justice framework, APWLD continues to advance an alternative development agenda and challenge the prevailing neoliberal development model. We are bringing resources and capacity to women and their communities to influence national, regional and global development policies, and hold governments accountable. We do so by using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a tool for holding governments accountable to their human rights and sustainable development commitments.

## ***Building capacity of women's organisations for SDGs accountability***

Building on from our previous years, APWLD launched a new cycle of critical review and

monitoring of SDGs implementation in Asia Pacific, engaging eight women's rights organisations from nine countries. In 2018, two regional trainings were conducted with the sub-grant partners to understand structural barriers, SDGs and Feminist Development Justice.

To influence and supplement governments' Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), our partners will produce alternative Development Justice reports critically assessing their country's SDGs implementation. At the 2019 HLPF, six countries, where our current and previous partner organisations are from (Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan and Philippines), have vowed to report their VNRs. We expect to engage with relevant

## Partner organisations: FPAR FDJ

Rural women's  
association (Alga )  
Kyrgyzstan

MONFEMNET  
National Network NGO  
and Centre for Human  
Rights and Development  
NGO (CHRD)  
Mongolia

Research Centre  
for Gender, Family  
and Environment in  
Development (CGFED)  
Vietnam

Vanuatu  
Young Women For  
Change (VYWC)  
Vanuatu

Climate Watch  
Thailand (CWT)  
Thailand

Centre  
for Women's  
Research  
Sri Lanka

FKM BKA YWU  
(Forum Komunikasi  
Masyarakat  
Berkebutuhan Khusus  
Aceh)  
Indonesia

Center  
for Women's  
Resources (CWR)  
Philippines

government institutions to influence the state's VNRs and advance Development Justice at national and global levels.

*'It's really good, meeting all the partners as well and specially with the team from APWLD. And with all the sharing of experiences, and tools like Theory of Change and those learning experiences, I think I personally feel like all the support I need is available. I am not talking about the financial support but all the technical support.'*

**- Wanun Permpibul, Climate Watch Thailand**

Our sub-grant partners are already progressing with their advocacy front, including: our partner from Sri Lanka organising a workshop with news outlets to raise awareness about

the SDGs process, and develop greater media reporting and scrutiny; while our partner from Vietnam was able to interact with their government via participation at the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), and subsequently attended national consultations in Vietnam on the SDGs. The group also shaped the civil society intervention from Vietnam at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), during Vietnam's Voluntary National Review (VNR).

Further evidence of our partners effectively taking up our substantive analysis and FDJ approach was seen when our previous SDGs monitoring partner EMPOWER Malaysia, distributed their own 'Womanifesto' prior to the Malaysian general election, incorporating Feminist Development Justice principles.

### ***Taking back peoples' sovereignty: Expanding democratic spaces within regional SDGs processes***

The leadership and influence of APWLD in the Asia Pacific People's Forum on Sustainable Development (People's Forum) and the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), a regional advocacy space for movement building for Feminist Development Justice, was further strengthened. The year 2018 saw the largest number of civil society organisations, over 220 participants (including 12 APWLD members and two SDGs monitoring partners), participating in the People's Forum and collaboratively strategising to influence the APFSD discussion and outcome documents. In a sign of the growing power of our movement at this platform, and of increased support for Development Justice, the Chair's Summary included several key recommendations made through APWLD interventions at the APFSD, specifically the long-standing call for a regional tax body, our critiques of Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism and even a nod to the negative impact of public-private partnerships on human rights.

***'Major groups and other stakeholders emphasised the importance of integrating the commitments to human rights in partnerships to ensure the full participation of rights' holders, integrating issues like accessibility from the start. Partnerships should respect workers and trade union rights, foster decent work and***

***support traditional knowledge systems for the Sustainable Development Goals. Public-private partnerships should be built on human rights standards with high levels of transparency, accountability, whistleblower protection and respect for indigenous cultures. Investor-State dispute settlement, provided for by international investment agreements, risked limiting the space for ensuring such rights.'***

**- Extract from the Chair's Summary/  
Report of the APFSD 2018**



***Alga: 8 March - Solidarity day for human rights in Kyrgyzstan - 'Your rose is not enough'***

## *Women in Power*



After taking time in 2017 to formulate new strategies in response to the challenges of strengthening the impact of women in political processes and decision-making, the Women in Power programme emerged anew from 2018. The programme started its focused work on building leadership, knowledge and movements of grassroots women -the most marginalised yet critical change agents - to elaborate women's democratic demands and increase women's civic and political impact. Simply putting more women to the existing political systems could pose a fundamental limitation in the context of rising autocratic regimes, erosion of democratic principles and participation in the region. Direct interventions to hold the elected leaders accountable to women from the electoral process is more than

ever relevant and urgently required. Our work through 'Womanifesto' attempts to pressure that very pulse of participatory democracy; and exert women's fundamental rights and sovereign power.

We began work with nine women's rights organisations and their local communities from nine countries representing different sub-regions and women's diversities to:

- a) build women's democratic demands (Womanifesto);
- b) engage in policy dialogues with candidates, elected leaders and political parties; and
- c) influence political/election agenda setting.

## *Partner organisations: WIP Womanifesto*

### **Astitva Samajik Sanstha**

*India*

Ensuring the most marginalised (particularly Dalit and Muslim) women have a voice and their demands are met in the elections

### **Blind Women Association Nepal (BWAN)**

*Nepal*

Creating equal access to justice, education, employment and social activities for women with disabilities

### **Da Hawwa Lur**

*Pakistan*

Organising women home based workers and trans\*persons to advocate for themselves and exercise their rights to citizenship

### **Bougainville Women's Federation**

*Papua New Guinea*

Increasing the number of women supporting women candidates in elections and for women getting into the political arena to advocate for women, given the possibility of an independent Bougainville

### **Democracy Restoration Group**

*Thailand*

Addressing the barriers to young women's participation in the democracy movement

### **Dem-Oloft**

*Mongolia*

Building capacity of grassroots women to engage in electoral politics, and collectively organise

### **Jeepyah Civil Society Development Organization (JCSDO)**

*Myanmar*

Encouraging Mon women to organise, advocate, and vote critically in elections

### **Kilusan ng Manggagawang Kababaihan (Women Workers Movement)**

*Philippines*

Strengthen women workers' agenda for change through the Womanifesto

### **Viluthu**

*Sri Lanka*

Promoting the economic, social, and rehabilitative rights of single women affected by the decades long civil war and ethnic conflicts

The programme provided two regional trainings to build partners' capacity to understand the state of democracy and women's political participation including systemic injustices, and how Womanifesto has been used to advance women's meaningful democratic participation, political leadership and democratic accountability. The trainings also offered key elements to build women's democratic demands through feminist participatory methods and organising with their communities and constituents.

*'Participatory methods were really helpful, it's so much better than a roundtable where people just talk and talk. I realised the difference between my understanding of the community's issues and the real issues facing them.'*

- Shawana Shah, Da Hawwa Lur, Pakistan

*'The personal transformation for me has been increasing in my confidence and also alliance building and networking. For the community, now they are better aware of all the issues affecting women workers in the unorganised sector.'*

- Jacqueline D. Ruiz, KMK, Philippines

All partners, led by young community organisers, were able to hold consultations with their grassroots women constituency. Organising women, and women discussing their own issues itself could pose 'threat' to a patriarchal society. Our young community organisers responded bravely and innovatively to this restrictive situation. In India, for instance, in order to ensure women are not censured for attending the meetings particularly by their male family members, the community

*Participants and resource persons at the second Womanifesto training in Chiang Mai, Thailand*



organiser visited each household to speak with community women, with ‘timetables’ that reflected women’s (domestic) work schedule to facilitate women’s participation and discussions. Various resources and tools, based on the learning from the trainings, were also developed by the partners in local languages to effectively communicate with grassroots women in their communities.

***‘When I left after the first training, I had thought that the most urgent issues among women in my community would be to do with health, particularly sexual and reproductive health. When I actually went into the field, I discovered a new reality. The most urgent issues, as identified by the women, were employment and financial insecurity. I have been a community organiser for many years and have experience in bringing women together for meetings and consultations. But this is the first time I used practical games and therefore, the level of understanding among the women was different. Earlier the women were fragmented, there was not a sense of community but since they saw some difference being made, they have started having hope again and now we see women taking initiative in leadership roles in some of the villages.’ – Kavita, Astitva Samajik Sanstha, India***

In Nepal, the community organiser is visually impaired and from an ethnic minority community bordering India. She shared that in the society, daughters and women with disabilities are a source of shame to the family so they are often confined to their homes. Therefore, it has been extremely challenging to work with women living with disabilities from her community but the work itself became political education, action, organising and liberation for women. The community consultations included some women who had never gone outside their family homes:

***‘One of them could not stop crying throughout the first day, she was terrified. She started sharing her difficulties and her aspirations gradually on the second day and opened up.’***

Working with this partner organisation and recognising the specific needs of visually impaired participants in trainings also offered APWLD important opportunities to review and adapt our tools and methods, which, while founded strongly in participatory principles, have traditionally relied largely on visual materials and processes. The lessons from this experience will continue to inform the strategies we undertake to increase inclusion in our programmes.

# Climate Justice



*Climate Justice Programme Organising Committee members joining the Climate Solidarity action with Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice outside UNESCAP building during the Bangkok intersessional on 4 September. Photo Credit KiaraWorth*

The programme supported grassroots women organisations to develop feminist climate solutions through Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR). With the completion of three regional FPAR trainings, all partners were able to work with women in their communities to identify issues, collect data and use the evidence in engaging with climate policy makers and the public.

### ***Strengthening evidence-based advocacy capacity***

Using their FPAR findings, our FPAR partners actively participated and voiced their positions at multiple policy platforms such as UN Environment Assembly and SDGs processes particularly around climate displacement. Five partners established their advocacy plans based

on the FPAR findings containing critical action on engaging with policy makers to strengthen community livelihoods and local adaptation in response to climate-induced displacement.

Through our Feminist Fossil Fuel Free Future or ‘5Fs’ sub-grants we worked with Green Climate Fund Watchers to strengthen the monitoring and analysis capacity of groups in Nepal and Bangladesh. Our coordinated engagement in Green Climate Fund CSO working groups have led to the withdrawal of problematic proposals such as the biomass power projects in Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

In 2018, in collaboration with the Grounding the Global programme, we made efforts to deepen our understanding and analysis

on the political economy of environmental injustice. Our strategies included convening spaces to discuss the impact of economic or development policies on women's right to safe and clean environment; unpacking elements of environmental justice through learning from grassroots, local community-led sustainable environment friendly energy or livelihood solutions; building the capacity of grassroots women rights organisations and their communities to understand international and national legal standards to exercise their right to a healthy environment, and; learning from organising and resistance strategies of diverse people's movements to defend people's rights, sovereignty and the planet.

### ***UNESCAP global SDG 7 energy consultation***

Seven of our members attended the consultation, sharing their work on environment and energy issues. As the Asia partner of the Women's Major Group, we co-hosted a side event with Public Services International (PSI) and Trade Unions for Energy Democracy, where we held a soft launch of our brief on 'Just and Equitable Transition'. At this event, we chose to highlight the importance of recognising grassroots people's movements, and invited Thai groups who held a hunger strike outside the UN building just days before. They were from communities in Krabi and Thepha, who are campaigning against new coal-fired power stations in their province.

Alma Sinumlag from CWEARC, Philippines shared her FPAR findings around communities

fighting against state, corporations, and military imposition of energy projects in the Philippines; and Govind Kelkar, our member from India spoke on the nexus of energy, land and gender and articulated the concept and practices of energy democracy.

### ***Safeguarding democratic spaces for just climate actions***

APWLD conducted extensive advocacy against the Special Polish Surveillance Bill for COP24, criticising the shrinking civil society spaces at COP24 in Katowice, Poland, and concerns of surveillance and threats to WHRDs by giving unrestricted access to the personal information of participants to police authorities. Our campaign advocacy garnered support from wide human rights and climate justice groups and was covered by the global media extensively, including in 31 news outlets in Europe, Asia, Pacific and North America. Women and Gender Constituency formally submitted this statement to the UNFCCC Secretariat and Executive Director. On 7th May 2018 our sustained advocacy led to UN Special Rapporteurs issuing a statement urging Poland to ensure free and full participation at climate talks. At COP24, on 13th December, UN Special Rapporteurs issued a joint statement condemning measures to stop human rights defenders joining the climate talks. It also enabled civil society, when the Bill's impacts were felt at COP24, to be better equipped to take response measures and safeguard our active participation despite the severe limitations and policing. The programme's critical analysis on intersectionality and public

participation for climate action, particularly from the Global South feminist perspectives, plugs a massive gap that is currently present at these multilateral diplomatic processes.

### ***Amplifying Feminist Fossil Fuel Free Future through media advocacy***

The programme worked with four women journalists to amplify Asia Pacific women's voices on the issues of climate and environment in media.

One of our media fellows wrote a news story on radiation and toxic waste impacting women's livelihoods in Tajikistan, for which her newspaper received significant attention. It also caught the attention of the UN Special Rapporteur on toxic wastes, Baskut Tuncak, who plans to engage and investigate the story further. Her story added to the impetus to establish a Commission on Water Management in Tajikistan.



*APWLD members join the solidarity march with feminists during the COP24 in Katowice, Poland*

# Feminist Law and Practice



2nd and 3rd generation FLTP trainers

Inspired by the radically progressive resolution of our founding members to use law as a tool to achieve equality, human rights, peace, development and justice, the programme continues to evolve with APWLD's longest-running programme activity, Feminist Legal Theory and Practice (FLTP) training. In 2018 we built the capacity and sub-regional connections between feminist activists, expanded our pool of trainers and dived deeper into shaping our feminist legal strategies in an effort to be more responsive to the needs of our grassroots members and partners, especially the women human rights defenders.

## ***Strengthening feminist legal expertise and practice in Central Asia***

For the first time, our Feminist Legal Theory and Practice training was conducted in Central Asia, in Almaty, Kazakhstan to support women's rights advocates in feminist analysis and using of law to challenge and transform discriminatory laws, policies and practices. The training gathered 11 participants from four Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). A session that organised a People's Tribunal on bride kidnapping attracted huge interest from participants as an alternative justice mechanism and a way to organise women's movements in the sub-region to counter one of the most violent and intrusive practices in the sub-region.

*‘The key things I learned from the FLTP are: a) UN mechanisms; b) substance, structure, culture; c) people’s tribunal; and d) women’s experience of discrimination. Having learnt all of these I am affirmed in my commitment and grounding in feminism as I engage in protecting women’s human rights. I also think more can be done in terms of legislation for women in Kyrgyzstan, for example on Reproductive Health bill. But I think when this is pushed women need to be part of this and it needs to be grounded in the understanding of women’s human rights. I commit to developing an awareness education on this for women in various districts.’*

- Essenya Ramazanova, Kyrgyzstan

### **Expanded pool of regional FLTP trainers**

APWLD has taken steps to maintain an active and up-to-date regional and national resource pool through FLTP Training of Trainers (ToT), previously held in 2006, 2007 and 2013. The 2018 ToT brought 17 participants from nine countries in an expanded six-day workshop. The ToT graduates identified plans to apply FLP in their national contexts, including to advocate against discriminatory laws in Indonesia and Burma/Myanmar; and to translate resources for local use in Indonesia, Maldives, Burma/Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan. The ToT increased the number of trainers by 14 with the capacity to conduct regional and national FLTP trainings, including Asel Dunganaeva who acted as a FLTP trainer for the first time at the Central Asia FLTP training.



Participants from Kyrgyzstan at the Central Asia FLTP

*‘I’ve brought to my organisation from FLTP training principles of gender and feminist analysis, we used that to develop our Women’s Human Rights training programme with highlight of different aspects of international human rights standards and procedures, transdisciplinary areas of development and democratisation, etc. The FLTP training provided a framework to analyse and critique existing laws and practice under the ‘substance, structure, culture’ analysis of how laws contribute to the oppression of women as well as how to transform the law to advance women’s rights and gender equality.’*

- Asel Dunganaeva, Kyrgyzstan

# Cross-Cutting Initiatives

## Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCM)

APRCM, now comprising 694 organisations and 17 constituencies, continued growing and increasing its influence in 2018, setting a global standard for democratic, transparent and accountable civil society engagement with UN processes. In 2018, it was officially recognised to sit on the Steering Group for Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Mechanism for the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). It continues to inspire other regions, and in 2018 the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) adopted the RCEM approach while discussions in Africa and Latin America and Caribbean regions are heading in the same direction.

2018 saw the largest number of civil society organisations, over 220 participants, participating in the Asia Pacific People's Forum on Sustainable Development (People's Forum) and the subsequent Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD). The APFSD outcome document 'Chair's Summary' used large sections of the CSO interventions verbatim with stronger recognition of human rights, accountability as well as neoliberal economic system as a fundamental barrier to sustainable development. We believe the growing uptake by governments at the

regional spaces of progressive positions can be attributed to the organised, strategic advocacy with a strong political unity of Development Justice across different constituencies through the APRCEM. APWLD continues to serve as a co-chair and women's focal point of APRCEM and make specific efforts to carry forward the regional achievements to the global level advocacy. APWLD together with APRCEM organised the first ever cross-regional, South-South exchange/conversations between ESCAP, ECLAC and civil society from Asia Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean regions to strengthen SDGs accountability. In 2018, APRCEM facilitated 332 Asia Pacific civil society representatives to participate and influence seven intergovernmental processes on sustainable development, with in total 74 speaking roles, from high level panels to official interventions from the floor. In 2019, APWLD together with APRCEM will make a focused effort to influence the process and results of HLPF modality reform to strengthen democratic participation, accountability, human rights obligations as well as to challenge structural barriers to SDGs commitments.



*People's Forum 2018*

## Breaking the cause of inequality: Bali mobilisation against World Bank and IMF

A strong movement for Development Justice relies on the capacity of groups to understand, articulate structural inequalities, and for them to have opportunities to advocate their demands in decision-making spaces. APWLD joined forces in mobilising people's movements against World Bank and IMF at its annual meeting in Bali - through capacity building events, feminist knowledge production, media advocacy, direct actions inside the space of World Bank-IMF and creating alternative spaces.

*'After this trip I have better understanding on the root of the land grabbing that was driven by IMF and World Bank, as we had only pointed to the government of Cambodia in the past.'*

- Member of Buong Kak Lake community, Cambodia

Civil society spaces were shut down by the government of Indonesia, protecting the interest and space of World Bank and IMF. APWLD members led people's action to denounce IMF and World Bank for banning democratic civil society organising and peaceful assembly, while organising alternative feminist space - *Tolak Bala* (a traditional Balinese ceremony to resist the curse) and Feminist Carnival to share women's struggles, stories of resilience and solidarity to break the very chain of inequalities facilitated by World Bank and IMF policies in the region.



*Feminist Carnival Mobilisation against World Bank IMF Bali*

With our members and broader civil society from the region, we worked to ensure that civil society voices were heard and amplified by media during the annual World Bank-IMF meeting. Facing a restricted environment for civil society on the sidelines of the official meetings, we enacted a strategy of direct engagement with national and international media personnel at the forum and worked with civil society allies including the People's Global Conference against World Bank and IMF to mutually amplify our voices. Despite experiencing coercion and threats, we managed to hold and attract news coverage for our side events. We ensured all our content went out in both Bahasa Indonesia and English, resulting in extensive local as well as international coverage.

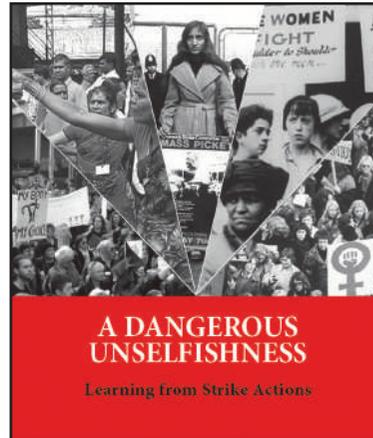


*Protest art at the Feminist Carnival Mobilisation against World Bank and IMF in Bali*

# WOMEN'S GLOBAL STRIKE

Over the past few years, APWLD has been incubating an idea of a global strike as a means to regain people's sovereignty and advance women's human rights, Development Justice. The world is faced with multiple crises, including the failing of participatory democracy, multilateralism, and rising corporate power that fuels systemic inequalities. We learn from our history what power strikes have brought – harnessing the power of movements to break the chain of oppression, whether it be patriarchy, neoliberal globalisation, militarism, fundamentalisms or environmental destruction – and we are more than ever determined to put this historical learning to an action.

2018 was an important year for APWLD to progress our resolution for a global strike. We continued conversations with our Regional Council and followed through with a smaller



members' meeting in November. The meeting resulted in the formation of an APWLD's Working Group and a decision to call for a Women's Global Strike on 8 March 2020 on the following key priority issues for women across the globe:

- Decent Work and Living Wage
- End to Gender-Based Violence
- Women's Access to and Control over Resources

APWLD believes in the power of a feminist movement, that has the capacity and solidarity to work with other diverse movements to effect structural changes. We are thrilled with our Women's Global Strike campaign, which will be a testament to our belief and an experience to exercise and understand our feminist solidarity and the power of movements.



Secretariat staff join the march for International Women's Day in Chiang Mai

# Information and Communications

In 2018 the strengthening and development of a clear communications strategy in APWLD provided significant communications support for advocacy, campaigns and urgent response to our members and partners; and effective engagement with various stakeholders – governments, human rights bodies, media, our members and strategic allies.

APWLD and our members were covered in 178 media outlets including print, online, TV and radio news in five continents, which demonstrated APWLD’s growing role in amplifying the voices of women from Asia Pacific in the public discourse through a feminist lens. We also continued to use the power of social media for campaigns on trade justice, climate justice and protection of WHRDs.

## *Defending space for activism – building solidarity*

Dealing with a series of attacks on civil society’s democratic right to engage in multilateral spaces, we concentrated advocacy around the lack of meaningful engagement at COP24 and particularly the ‘Polish Bill’, which effectively sought to minimise the involvement of civil society actors in the forum. We continuously highlighted the issue throughout the year, leading up to COP24 and were successful in gaining extensive coverage, including by mainstream Global North media outlets, on the very real risks that the legislation presented to environmental defenders from Global South including the possibility of retribution in their home countries.

ENVIRONMENT

## Poland clamps down on environmental defenders ahead of UN climate talks

Poland recently passed a bill that bans spontaneous protests and allows police surveillance at this year’s world climate summit. Civil society groups say Poland wants to silence environmental defenders.



Our statement calling on the Polish Government to repeal the bill attracted more than 100 signatories from women’s, indigenous and human rights organisations around the world. Our advocacy resulted in support from United Nations Special Rapporteurs, who released two statements in May and in December, condemning measures to stop human rights defenders joining the climate talks.

Despite the constraining environment and continued heavy presence of state surveillance, the global attention we generated enabled our members and allies a degree of security in mobilising. A concrete outcome was a pool of lawyers created, available to provide legal assistance to members experiencing judicial harassment at the event. Significantly, these activities brought the advocacy of our members to the world stage, with coverage in 31 news

outlets in Europe, North America and Asia Pacific.

### *Building media alliances*

In our inaugural Feminist Media Fellowship, which aims to shape public discourse on women's human rights in Asia Pacific, five women journalists came together for a participatory training in structural analysis of inequality and feminist reporting, before embarking on investigative research into climate change and ecological crises. During the fellowship, our media fellows covered climate and ecological justice stories featuring our members, partners and other communities, including women working on climate change in South Korea, environment defenders' struggle against dam projects in the Philippines, and ecological issues facing women in Tajikistan.

*'I like how this training invites trust and confidence in our working together as women. The training makes me realise how we also uncritically assume the unfair views and treatment of women.'*

- Marya Salamat, Media Fellow, Philippines



Our media fellow Zebojon Kurbonova from Tajikistan, who reported on toxic waste and women's livelihoods, shared that APWLD's capacity building training gave her the confidence to begin reporting on climate change and ecological justice, and that she now feels empowered to continue covering climate justice stories. The fellow made new links with civil society and other organisations working on these issues. Her journalist activism contributed to the establishment of a Commission on Water Management by the government of Tajikistan in December 2018; and a 'women journalist club' comprising of nine women journalists from television, radio and print who aim to generate coverage of climate issues with a feminist lens.

The Jakarta Post **OPINION | 7**

## Court rules to end water privatization: What next?

**O**ver the last two decades since the water supply in Jakarta was privatized, the poor and the most marginalized have only been able to access this irregular, dirty and contaminated water supply with one of the highest water prices in Southeast Asia. Jakarta has been facing a water crisis, which some experts estimate will impede by 2025.

In 2015, the NGO Solidaritas Perempuan (Women's Solidarity) spoke to women from all of Jakarta's five districts to document the impacts of this public private partnership (PPP) on women.



**Ariessa Kurniawaty**  
JAKARTA

While this judgment marks a victory for the coalition and the communities that have struggled for 13 years to reclaim water for the public, it is also part of a global turning of the tide as communities in other parts of Asia, Latin America and Africa are insisting on returning water and wastewater services to public control.

Thus the government must refrain from entering into trade and investment agreements that promote the exact opposite, such as the regional comprehensive economic partnership and the comprehensive economic partnership Agreement.

This Supreme Court verdict strengthens the legal basis for the struggle for the right to water and sanitation in Indonesia after the previous Constitutional Court decision.

The Constitutional Court on Feb. 18, 2015, revoked the 2004 law on water resources, thus revoking parties would no longer

Often women in North Jakarta's Perjaringan subdistrict have to wake up well before dawn to collect water because usually in the morning the water fails to flow.

They started to create a water calendar to record the water discharge and its quality. They also collected receipts of water payment. They also held discussions about the right to water until they were finally involved in the coalition and filed a lawsuit.

Yet despite the legal victory, we should be wary of President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's aggressiveness toward investment, which has encouraged companies

## Digital content creation

In 2018, we expanded our digital content creation by producing podcasts and developing video content for campaigns and advocacy. We used these mediums to highlight our members' work and share our feminist analysis on Development Justice - climate and environmental justice, gender justice, economic justice and labour rights among other issues. We produced seven podcast episodes in 2018, on topics ranging from disability rights to a gendered perspective on tax reforms. We did our first on-the-ground audio reporting to highlight our members' concerns on suppressing feminist organising and resistance against the World Bank and IMF



in Indonesia. Our podcast on FPAR was the most listened to in 2018, which was 'played' over 200 times.

We also introduced a blog section on our website, where staff, partners or Secretariat members can share their reflections on advocacy and thematic issues.

## In 2018:

APWLD and our members were covered in **178 media outlets** globally

### Upacara Larung Mengkritisi Bank Dunia dan IMF Digelar di Bali

Reporter: Tempo.co  
Editor: Alisha Shatora

Selasa, 11 Oktober 2018 19:30 WIB

KOMENTAR 169 0 164



Kelompok perempuan, buruh, dan petani melakukan upacara larung untuk mengkritisi kebijakan Bank Dunia dan IMF (Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development)

TEMPO.CO, Jakarta - Sekitar 50 organisasi hak perempuan, organisasi akar rumput, organisasi petani, serta buruh dari seluruh Asia berkumpul di Pantai Padang Galak di Bali, Indonesia. Mereka berkumpul untuk mengkritisi Bank Dunia dan Dana Moneter Internasional (IMF) terkait dampak dari proyek pembangunan yang didanai Bank Dunia dan IMF.



Our **Facebook** had **8,487 likes**, an increase of **18.5 per cent** from previous year



Our **Twitter** had **3,693 followers**, an increase of **27 per cent** from previous year

**Top Tweet** earned 7,760 impressions

APWLD condemns the government of **#Malaysia**'s decision to sentence two women to caning for same-sex conduct. Caning is a form of torture and this indicates the growing threat and discrimination against **#LGBTQ** community. **#LGBTQIRights** **#GenderJustice**  
[wp.me/p4Uvy2-1rb](http://wp.me/p4Uvy2-1rb)

47 32

# Institutional Strengthening and Sustainability

2018 was for APWLD, a year of reinvigoration and strategic growth. We have consolidated our nine programmes with some new and innovative approaches, including our support to grassroots women's movements to conduct Feminist Participatory Action Research on land rights; established women's democratic demands (Womanifesto) to influence electoral processes and advance democratic accountability; continued connecting the trade and finance dots to deepen feminist investigation and analysis to unpack the impacts of neoliberal economic policies.

In 2018 our membership grew from 228 to 236 as we welcomed nine new members from nine countries (Pakistan, Mongolia, India, Nepal, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar/Burma, Philippines and Thailand). Our nine Programme Organising Committees have completed their respective 'transition' process, ensuring the continuity of our strong programme work as well as creating space for new, innovative and strategic approaches to our work.

In 2018, we have undertaken three capacity building workshops with our members and Secretariat staff: a) training on digital security to stay informed and take necessary safety and security measures, particularly in the context of increasing attacks against WHRDs and their organisations; b) campaigning skills and strategy meeting where specific tools

and methods for organising and campaigning were developed; and c) FPAR Plus meeting to strengthen capacity to deliver and manage FPAR projects with relevant programme staff, FPAR graduates, facilitators and programme members. In the four-day workshop, 28 participants discussed FPAR concepts, evaluated impacts of FPAR, reviewed FPAR training modules and programme management processes, as well as built their capacity on feminist facilitation, participatory data gathering and analysis.

APWLD's Theory of Change and FPAR approach continue to inspire our members in their strategic planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning processes. In 2018, we have received increasing requests from our membership to co-facilitate their institutional building and organisational strategising, such as: Burmese Women's Union (BWU) used APWLD's Theory of Change and FPAR participatory methods to establish their first ever feminist five-year strategic plan; MAP Foundation built the capacity of 100 women workers from Burma/Myanmar to use storytelling for organising, advocacy and collective campaigns.

In 2018, the Secretariat welcomed a new Regional Coordinator assuming her role in December 2017, and the Deputy Regional Coordinator by the second half of the year. Three new positions (Sub-grant Coordinator, two Programme Associates) were created

reflective of our growing work and demands. Recruitment for some more positions is underway while our current Secretariat is made up of 22 skilled and committed staff members

from 12 countries, including a South-South fellow who was selected from our member organisation in Burma/Myanmar.

### ***Tribute for Asma Jahangir (1952-2018), Pakistan***

Asma Jahangir, one of the founding members of APWLD passed away on 11 February 2018 at the age of 66 in Lahore, Pakistan. She was a renowned lawyer and women human rights defender and her vision and guidance were integral in shaping APWLD's work in the region. We join in mourning this great loss to the human rights and feminist movements.

*'Asma Jahangir's sudden death has come as a shock to many of us. Not only because at 66 years she had many miles to go and many causes to serve. We have known her as a champion of democracy and human rights, defending the rights of women and speaking out courageously against authoritarian systems, in her own country as well as in the rest of South Asia...we will remember Asma for her activism in the court in her own country, in international platforms and her contributions to regional fora. In recognition of her work she has received several awards and accolades during her life, including the 2014 Sweden's Right to Livelihood Award and France's Officier de la Légion d'honneur in 2014. We will continue to respect Asma for her undaunted courage and perseverance in the defence of human rights. The best tribute to her is to continue our collective struggles for human rights, democracy and justice. And to do so without fear or favour.'*

**- Excerpt from tribute for Asma Jahangir by Hameeda Hossain, prominent Bangladeshi human rights activist and APWLD member**



*APWLD Founding Member Asma Jahangir introducing the regional conference in 1986, Tagaytay*

# Financial Narrative

In 2018, APWLD received grants totalling USD 2,389,898 (over 1.5 times more than the previous year). Our expenditure for the year was USD 1,835,978, which was approximately 81 per cent of the budget. This means that 2018 was the largest year for APWLD's income and expenditure to date. The largest budget and expenditure is the reflection of APWLD's growth, capacity to deliver our strategic plans driven by our membership and grassroots partners, and sustained support and trust from our funders. In 2018, we directly supported 33 women's rights organisations through access to sub-grants for FPARs, Womanifestos and SDGs monitoring.

While our long-time funder Ford Foundation ended its support with the last tie-over grant in 2018, we were fortunate to receive additional funding support from our two existing funders - from Norway (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation - Norad) as addendum to our original grant support for 2017-2020 period; and from Foundation for a Just Society (FJS) to strengthen our strategic communications work. With this additional support, we are thrilled to expand our programme activities to include two more thematic FPARs on migration, trade justice and corporate accountability starting in 2019. APWLD continued to receive core multi-year funding support from Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency - Sida) and FJS. We also continued to

receive funding support from an anonymous donor for our Grounding the Global programme, from the European Union for our work on sustainable development, particularly the Feminist Development Justice programme, and an activity-related funding from UNESCAP for the Asia Pacific People's Forum on Sustainable Development and the UN Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

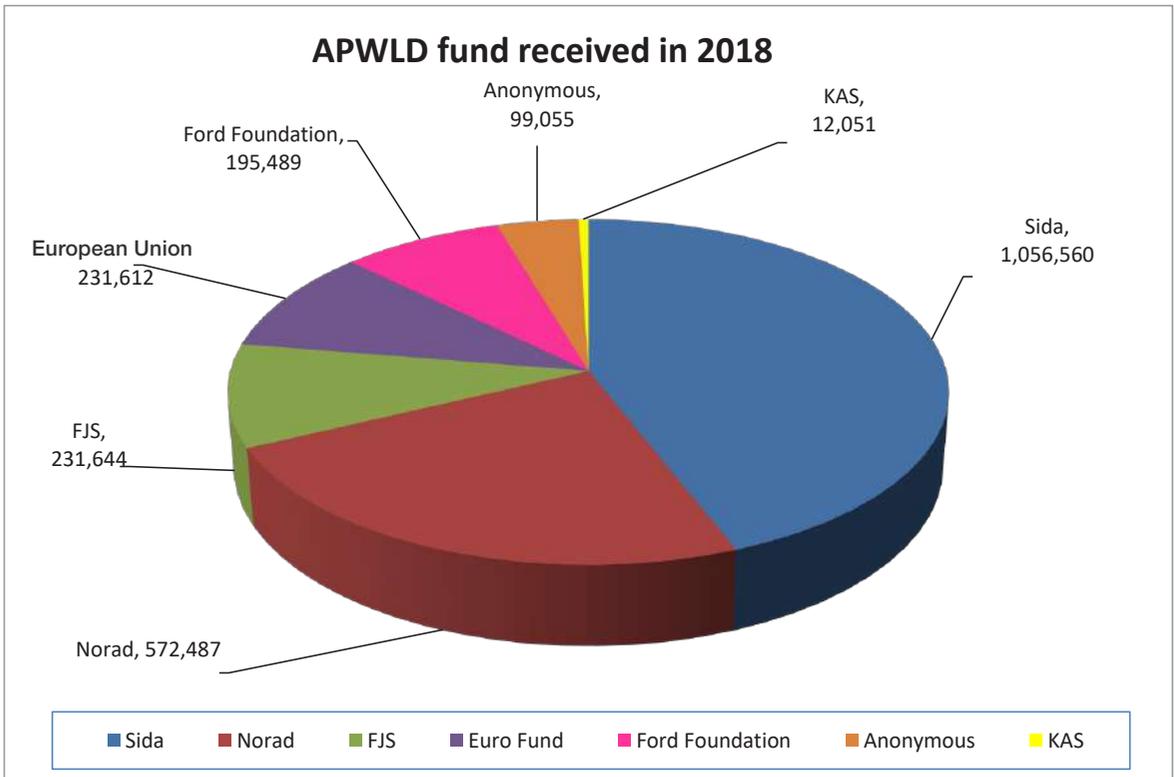
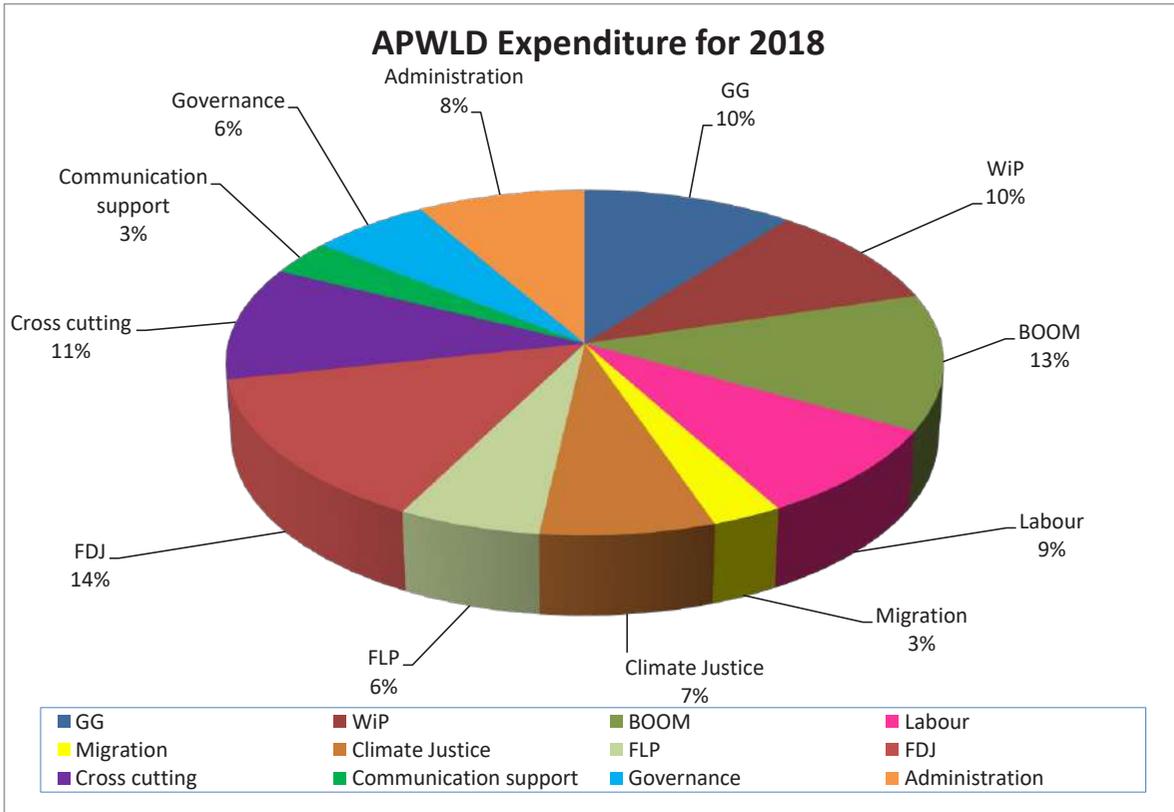
Our income was considerably larger than the expenditure as a combined result of the receipt of additional funding support from Norad later in the year 2018, and the time it takes to hire new staff members to match our growing work. Looking forward to 2019, we anticipate an even larger budget with nine programmes in full operation resulting in APWLD's budget to grow over USD 2.8 million and greater sub-grant support to our members and partners.

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

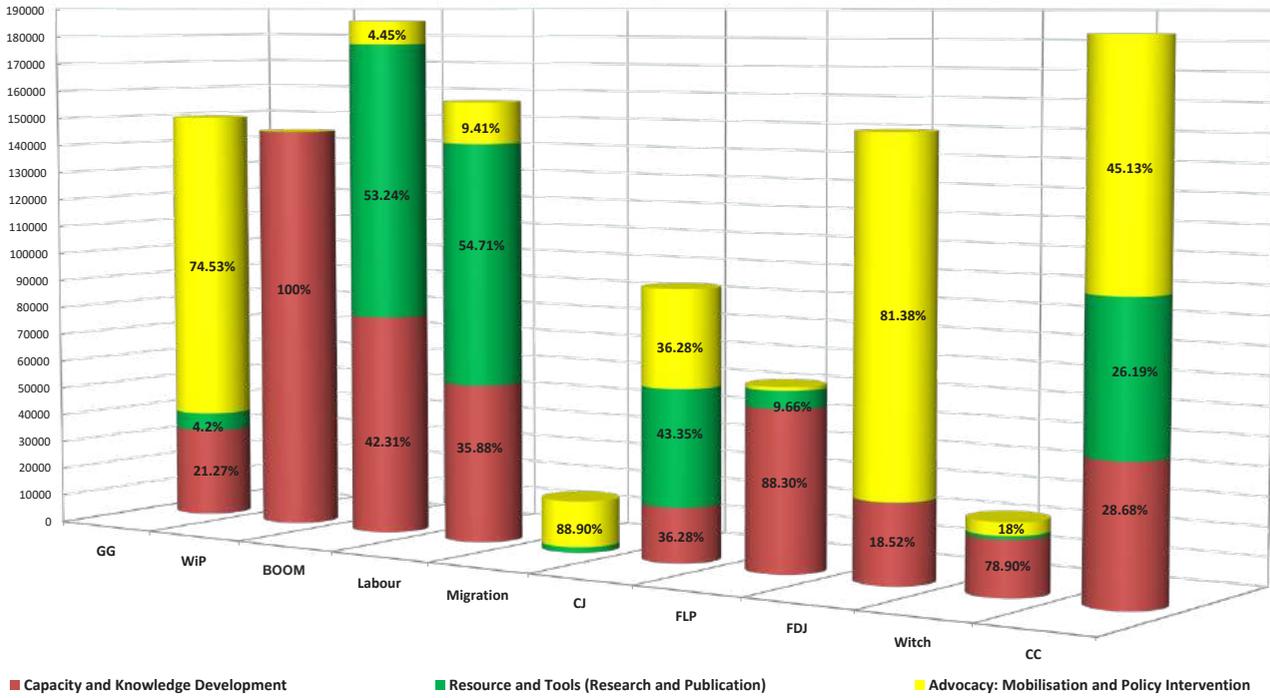
<b>ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<b>Chiangmai, Thailand</b>	
<b>Expenditures in 2018</b>	
Title	Budget Used (USD)
GROUNDING THE GLOBAL (GG) -International Mechanism	132,351.38
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	3,587.43
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	91,309.85
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	1,412.88
- Secretariat costs	878.46
- Programme Implementation costs	35,162.76
GROUNDING THE GLOBAL (GG) - Regional Mechanism	60,910.40
- Capacity Building	31,803.33
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	2,692.99
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	20,135.59
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	1,412.88
- Secretariat costs	335.14
- Programme Implementation costs	4,530.47
WOMEN IN POWER (WiP)	178,587.17
- Capacity and Development	145,130.67
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	-
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	-
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	1,412.88
- Secretariat costs	844.33
- Programme Implementation costs	31,199.29
BREAKING OUT OF THE MAGINALISATION (BOM)	233,029.38
- Capacity and Development	78,584.00
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	98,879.53
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	8,268.84
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	1,412.88
- Secretariat costs	1,082.92
- Programme Implementation costs	44,801.21
LABOUR -WOMEN ORGANISING WORKERS (WOW)	160,652.87
- Capacity and Development	56,412.31
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	86,028.44
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	14,802.24
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	3,409.88
MIGRATION	52,179.03
- Capacity and Development	-
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	2,009.45
- Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	16,098.51
- Secretariat costs	1,052.72
- Programme Implementation costs	33,018.35
CLIMATE JUSTICE	129,999.18
- Capacity and Development	19,316.19
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	41,100.49
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	34,400.83
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	1,412.88

- Secretariat costs	943.92
- Programme Implementation costs	32,824.87
FEMINIST LAW & PRACTICE (FLP)	105,949.02
- Capacity and Development	56,220.92
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	6,152.14
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	1,295.34
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	1,412.88
- Secretariat costs	844.33
- Programme Implementation costs	40,023.41
FEMINIST DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE	257,635.91
- Capacity and Development	27,847.19
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	152.39
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	122,355.98
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	2,825.76
- Secretariat costs	1,300.01
- Programme Implementation costs	78,164.02
- Emerging Programme - Trade and Corporate Power	24,990.56
CROSS CUTTING INITIATIVES	194,245.71
- Capacity and Development	47,857.19
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	52,408.59
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	82,466.76
- Programme Implementation costs	11,513.17
Sub-total A	<b>1,505,540.05</b>
Institutional Development	
- Resource Development and Publications	59,645.55
- Network consolidation	33,107.49
- Governance/Management Meetings	38,695.90
- Staff Development	12,211.76
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	25,190.77
Sub-total B	<b>168,851.47</b>
Administration	154,394.50
<b>Total Expenditure of 2018</b>	<b>\$1,828,786.02</b>

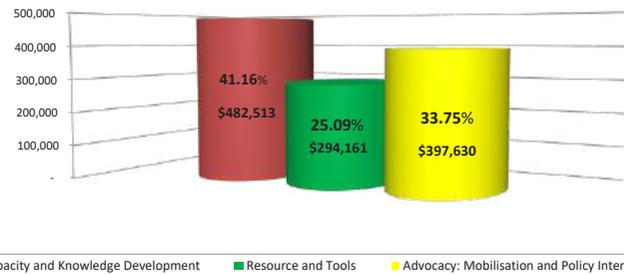
<b>ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<b>Chiang Mai, Thailand</b>	
<b>Fund receipts in 2018</b>	
<b>Balance forward from 2017</b>	<b>810,290.70</b>
<b>Fund received in 2018</b>	
Sida	1,056,559.69
Norad	572,487.49
FJS	231,644.31
European Union	231,612.01
Ford Foundation	195,489.18
Anonymous	99,055.17
KAS	12,050.57
<b>Total funds in 2017</b>	<b>2,398,898.42</b>
<b>Total funds available</b>	<b>3,209,189.12</b>
<b>Others Income</b>	
- Bank interest	4,593.89
- Miscellaneous income	17,536.79
<b>Total receipt</b>	<b>\$3,231,319.80</b>
(a) Average rate of exchange : USD1 = Baht 32.81	



Column chart by 2018 programmes budget



Column chart by categories from 2018 programme budget



## Our Networks:



## Our donors:



# Calendar of Activities in 2018

## January

- 18 - 19** Secretariat Annual Planning Meeting  
**Chiang Mai, Thailand**
- 25 - 26** Programme and Management Committee Meeting  
**Chiang Mai, Thailand**

## February

- 7 - 13** World Urban Forum – 9  
**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
- 20 - 21** Regional Workshop on SDG's on Environment (12,14,15)  
**Bangkok, Thailand**
- 21 - 23** Global SDG 7 Conference  
**Bangkok, Thailand**
- 22 - 23** Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for 62nd Commission on the Status of Women  
**Bangkok, Thailand**

## March

- 7** Women Call for Peace Workshop  
**Chiang Mai, Thailand**
- 12 - 23** The 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women  
**New York, USA**
- 21 - 24** 1st FDJ Regional Partners Meeting  
**Bangkok, Thailand**
- 25 - 27** Asia-Pacific People's Forum on Sustainable Development  
**Bangkok, Thailand**
- 28 - 30** 5th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development  
**Bangkok, Thailand**

## April

- 10 - 12** Expert Group Meeting on Contemporary Forms of Slavery  
**Geneva, Switzerland**
- 15 - 17** Stockholm Gender Equality Forum  
**Stockholm, Sweden**
- 23 - 26** ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FfD)  
**New York, USA**
- 30 - 4 May** 2nd Regional Labour FPAR Training  
**Chiang Mai, Thailand**

## May

- 5 - 8** 3rd Regional CJ FPAR Training  
**Chiang Mai, Thailand**
- 17 - 20** Programme and Management Committee Meeting  
**Penang, Malaysia**
- 18-19** Regional Council Meeting  
**Penang, Malaysia**
- 21 - 22** Digital Security Training with Regional Council Members and Secretariat  
**Penang, Malaysia**
- 29 - 6 June** Womanifesto 1st Training  
**Chiang Mai, Thailand**

## June

- 25 - 26** EU DEVCO Partnership Forum  
**Brussels, Belgium**
- 27 - 30** CSO Green Climate Fund Preparatory Meeting for B.20  
**Songdo, Korea**

## July

- 1 - 4** 20th Meeting on the Board of the Green Climate Fund  
**Songdo, Korea**
- 3 - 4** Campaigns Workshop  
**Chiang Mai, Thailand**
- 5 - 6** Secretariat Mid year Reflection  
**Chiang Mai, Thailand**
- 8-18** High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development  
**New York, USA**
- 9** RCEP Thailand Workshop  
**Chiang Mai, Thailand**
- 19 - 26** 10th BRICS Summit  
**Johannesburg, South Africa**
- 21 - 22** RCEP Peoples' Regional Strategic Meeting  
**Bangkok, Thailand**
- 23** RCEP Stakeholder Meeting  
**Bangkok, Thailand**

## August

- 1 - 3 Climate Justice Media Fellowship Workshop  
Bangkok, Thailand
- 4 - 5 Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on Realising Feminist Environmental Justice with UN Mandate Holders  
Bangkok, Thailand
- 6 Thai National Consultation with UN Mandate Holders  
Bangkok, Thailand
- 21 - 22 Programme and Management Committee Meeting  
Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 25-1Sept FLTP/ Feminist Strategic Litigation Training of Trainers  
Chiang Mai, Thailand

## September

- 2 - 10 UNFCCC Additional Negotiating Session SB 48 before COP24  
Bangkok, Thailand
- 10 - 12 UNCITRAL Trade Law Forum  
Incheon, Korea
- 11-12 UNESCAP South East Asia Subregional Consultation on 2030 Agenda  
Bangkok, Thailand
- 18-19 International People's Tribunal on the Philippines  
Brussels, Belgium
- 20 - 21 Human Rights Council  
Geneva, Switzerland
- 22 - 28 BOOM Land FPAR 1st Training  
Chiang Mai, Thailand

## October

- 1 - 2 OHCHR Expert meeting on Foreign Debt, Finance and Human rights  
New York, USA
- 2 - 4 WTO Public Forum  
Geneva, Switzerland
- 9 - 12 Civil Society Policy Forum on World Bank-IMF  
Bali, Indonesia
- 10 - 14 Global Peoples' Alliance against World Bank-IMF  
Bali, Indonesia
- 15 - 19 45th Session of the Committee on Food Security  
Rome, Italy
- 15 - 19 4th Session of the OEWG on TNC/BE/ legally binding treaty negotiations  
Geneva, Switzerland
- 29-1Nov FPAR Plus Workshop  
Chiang Mai, Thailand

## November

- 2 - 4 8th World Social Forum on Migration  
Mexico city, Mexico
- 4 - 8 Central Asia Sub-Regional FLTP Training  
Almaty, Kazakhstan
- 12 - 13 Programme and Management Committee Meeting  
Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 14 Global Strike Strategy Meeting  
Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 16 - 20 Labour FPAR 3rd Training  
Chiang Mai, Thailand
- 28 - 30 ESCAP Committee on Social Development, Fifth Session  
Bangkok, Thailand

## December

- 2 - 14 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24)  
Katowice, Poland
- 4 - 9 BOOM Land FPAR 2nd Training  
Bandung, Indonesia
- 10 - 11 Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration  
Marrakech, Morocco
- 12 - 13 OHCHR Regional Consultation on the Right to Development  
Bangkok, Thailand
- 12 - 16 Womanifesto 2nd Training  
Chiang Mai, Thailand

## Regional Council Members 2017-2020



<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Abia Akram</b>	<b>Kazakhstan</b>	<b>Raushan Nauryzbayeva</b>
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Azra Sayeed</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk</b>
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>Cristina Palabay</b>	<b>Nepal</b>	<b>Renu Rajbhandhari</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>Fatima Nateson Burnad</b>	<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>Sultana Kamal</b>
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>Joan M Salvador (Joms)</b>	<b>Cambodia</b>	<b>Thida Khus</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>Govind Kelkar</b>	<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>Titi Soentoro</b>
<b>Hong Kong</b>	<b>Eni Lestari</b>	<b>Vietnam</b>	<b>Tran Thi Thanh Toan</b>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>Helda Khasmy</b>	<b>Nepal</b>	<b>Yasso Kanti Bhattachan</b>
<b>Thailand</b>	<b>Matcha Phorn-in</b>	<b>APWLD Secretariat</b>	
<b>Korea, Republic of</b>	<b>Mijoo Kim</b>		<b>Kate Lappin</b>
<b>Fiji</b>	<b>Nalini Singh</b>		<b>(ex officio - outgoing 2017)</b>
<b>Tonga</b>	<b>‘Ofa Guttenbiel Likiliki</b>		<b>Misun Woo</b>
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	<b>Olga Djanaeva</b>		<b>(ex officio - incoming 2018)</b>

## Programme and Management Committee Members 2017-2020



- India** Govind Kelkar  
**Thailand** Matcha Phorn-in  
**Philippines** Joan M Salvador (Joms)  
**Indonesia** Titi Soentoro  
**Cambodia** Thida Khus  
**Malaysia** Ivy Josiah, Malaysia (ex-officio)  
**APWLD Secretariat** Misun Woo, Republic of Korea (ex-officio)

## Secretariat Staff (Chiang Mai and Penang) 2018



Regional Coordinator - Misun Woo  
Deputy Regional Coordinator - Tess Vistro  
Executive and Programme Associate - Kim Anh Nguyen  
Sub-Grant Coordinator - Aizhamal Bakashova  
Programme Officer - Marion G. Cabrera  
Programme Officer - Wardarina  
Programme Officer - Sanam Amin  
Programme Officer - Suluck Fai Lamubol  
Programme Officer - Shradha Shreejaya  
Programme Officer - Madhura Chakraborty  
Programme Associate - Hien Nguyen  
Programme Associate - Patricia Wattimena  
Research and Publications Officer - Trimita Chakma

Information and Communications Officer - Neha Gupta  
Information and Communications Associate - Andita Listyarini  
Finance Officer - Kornvika Paoprathum  
Liaison Officer - Visaline Phuntip  
IT & Finance Associate - Chatchanok Anjanbhati  
South-South Young Feminist Leadership Intern - Zar Zar Tun  
Programme Officer - Diyana Yahaya (Penang)  
Finance and Admin Officer - Satnam Kaur (Penang)





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