



**Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF) 2024
Feminist World-Building: Creative Energies, Collective Journeys**

12 - 14 September 2024, The Empress Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Context:

In 2017, we sounded the alarm at Asia Pacific Forum (APFF) 3; the nexus of capitalism, authoritarianism, militarism, fundamentalisms, and patriarchy were rising at an escalating speed, and with a power that threatened democracy, development justice, and human rights for women in all their diversities, and for transgender and non-binary communities all across our regions. The rise of fascism in our regions led to increasing challenges for our movements.

Seven years later, as the consequences of political turmoil and a global recession are multiplied by a pandemic and wars, we sound the alarm once again. We must come together and face the pressing task of building a new feminist world. A task made more urgent as we continue to witness increasing human right violations in which women in all their diversities, and transgender and non-binary persons bear the brunt of marginalisation and discrimination. The pandemic exacerbated the rising backlash against women's human rights in our regions, exposed inequitable systems between and within countries, and enabled increasing state repression under the pretext of pandemic measures.

Our competing challenges and crises are further complicated by geo-political conflicts in our regions, which divide and disunite us along religious, gender, geographical, generational, and political lines, all at the whims of imperialist powers. We continue to witness shrinking spaces for freedom of expression and association as governments impose harsher repressive policies and practices against feminists, Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) and civil society. Militarism and militarisation have intensified, as geopolitical tensions and territorial conflicts in our region escalate and multiply - displacing more people and putting more women, girls, transgender and non-binary people at risk.

Climate crises continue to devastate whole communities, especially in the Pacific where deep sea mining poses additional threat to local ecology. Simultaneously, corporate attempts to capture new opportunities to multiply their profit by pushing their agenda through various international agreements and coalitions such as G20, G7, APEC, IPEF, RCEP, etc. while the debt crisis has plunged countries deeper into the sinkhole of IMF policies and austerity measures. The new normal manufactured by pandemic measures allowed corporations and governments to serve the interests of Big Data, by using pandemic measures to compromise our safety in the name of public health and alleged national interest without any guarantee of data security or safety. This has only served to increase surveillance capitalism.

And yet... still we rise. The past 3 years of pandemic-induced isolation, government lockdowns and repressive state policies could not silence or weaken us. Women across countries and sectors continue to organise, voice their demands, and develop creative forms of expressions, whether online or offline. We know the power of people's movements to shake up the system, to build transformative social, political, and legislative changes from the margins to the centre. That is why we must come together now and when we do, we will not just build our feminist analysis to strengthen our



knowledge and share strategies; we will build a roadmap to a feminist world, the one that we are fighting for today and now.

About APFF:

The APFF is organised by APWLD as a tri-annual event which brings together feminists, activists, and WHRDs from all regions of Asia and the Pacific, to participate in a three-day feminist convening. The APFF Activity Organising Committee (AOC) is convened by APWLD to help steer the direction of APFF, the APFF theme, structure, programme, etc. are finalised with their guidance and input.

A call for participation in APFF will be launched in December 2023, alongside a call to pitch workshops for the APFF.

The APFF 4 Theme: Feminist World-Building: Creative Energies, Collective Journeys

We are here to reflect on our collective journey to this moment including our accomplishments; how we can make a breakthrough in our resistance against structural and systemic oppressions; and internal fractures within our movements. What writings and stories of our movements are we leaving behind to remember or celebrate as lessons learned for the future? At APFF 2024, we are inviting feminists, WHRDs, and activists in all our regions to come together not only to strengthen our movements, but to learn from each other's creative energies, share our stories of resistance, and build solidarity for our collective journey.

Objectives

- To engage in a cross-regional, cross-issue, cross-identity, and cross-generational sharing of skills, strategies for advocacy, and best practices in our movements, and strengthen the ability of activists and feminists to foster political, economic, and social change.
- To reflect on the systemic oppressions we face, trace the roots of our most difficult and persistent struggles, identify the new forms of our oppressors, and overcome our internal fractures.
- To reinvigorate our solidarities and alliances across movements and generations, and catalyse greater feminist movement-building among our local, regional, and global allies.
- To build a new roadmap and commitment to our feminist world that celebrates and supports us all as equal people on a shared planet.

Where We Are: We know that patriarchy, globalisation and corporate capitalism, imperialism and colonialism, militarisms and fundamentalisms must be dismantled, but our movements do not do the work of reform, because these systems, and this world order, only benefits the 1%. The work that we are doing today, forms the building blocks of a feminist world.

Where We Want To Be: Our journeys are shared across our regions, and at APFF 4, we will dream together to examine our collective journey towards feminist world-building. We will envision a feminist world built by our movements, one that is free, just, and able to support all of us on this planet. Our feminist world-building journey is incomplete without reflecting on the systemic and structural challenges we face and how our movements have fought back to create our present world of



feminist resistance. What alternative systems have we created? What freedoms do we enjoy? What kind of leadership is needed to sustain this new world we are envisioning?

How We Get There: The process of feminist world-building is not only to understand our journeys, but to create the building blocks for a new, feminist world order. Such world-building means understanding how we can reclaim and shift power from the global, regional, and national elite who collaborate to maintain their power through exploitation and inequity. It means (re)committing to the principles that are the foundational building blocks of our feminist world. We must co-create the conditions for a feminist response; identify forms and opportunities for radical political feminist education; and we continue to honour our journeys across movements, generations and regions. What inclusive practices must we embrace to get to our new world? How do we show and demonstrate our care for ourselves and each other? How do we nurture our creative energies and ensure it continues to spark our resistance along the way?