



# Annual Report 2005



**Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development**

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Acronyms		MC6th	The Sixth Ministerial Conference of WTO
ALGA	Rural Women's Organisation in Kyrgyzstan	MNCs	Multinational Corporations
AMIHAN	National Federation of Peasant Women (Philippines)	NAMA	Non-Agricultural Market Access
ANWA	All Nepalese Women's Association	NDF	Northern Development Foundation
APMM	Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants	NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
AoA	Agreement on Agriculture	NGO-COD	Non-governmental Organisations' Coordinating Committee
APRN	Asia Pacific Research Network	Novib	Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation
APWLD	Asia-Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development	OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
AWID	Association for Women's Rights in Development	P&M	Programme and Management Committee
APWW	Asia Pacific Women's Watch	PA	Programme Assistant
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	PAN-AP	Pesticide Action Network- Asia Pacific
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action	PO	Programme Officer
BPFA+ 10	Ten Year Review of the Beijing Platform for Action	ReC	Regional Council
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women	RIW	Rural and Indigenous Women
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women	RRRT	Regional Rights Resource Team
CWGL	Center for Women's Global Leadership	Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
ECA	Export Credit Agency	SP	Solidaritas Perempuan, a women organisation in Indonesia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation	SWAN	Shan Women Action Network
FLTP	Feminist Legal Theory and Practice training programme	TF	Task Force
FTA	Free Trade Agreement	TNCs	Transnational Corporations
FTZ	Free Trade Zone	ToT	Training of Trainers
GABRIELA	National Alliance Women's Organisations in the Philippines	TRIPS	Trade Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
GATS	General Agreement on Tariffs and Services	UN	United Nations
HBf	Heinrich Boell Foundation	UNCHR	United Nations Commission on Human Rights
HIVOS	Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries	UNESCAP	United Nations System Conferences Action Plan
HKWWA	Hong Kong Women Workers Alliance	UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
HR	Human Rights	UNSR-AH	United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing
HRD	Human Rights Defender	UNSR-VAW	United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women
ICC	International Criminal Court / International Coordinating Committee (for the International Campaign on Women Human Rights Defenders)	VAW	Violence against Women
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	VAWW-NET	Violence Against Women in War Network Japan
IFIs	International Financial Institutions	WEN	Women and Environment
IGLHRC	International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission	WG	Working Group
IGTN	International Gender Trade Network	WHR	Women's Human Rights
ILPS	International League of People's Struggles	WHRD	Women Human Rights Defenders
IMF	International Monetary Fund	WHR-WG	Women's Human Rights Working Group
Inform	Information Monitor, an organisation in Sri Lanka	WLB	Women's League of Burma
Instraw	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women	WRHR	Women's Rights Human Rights
L&M	Labor and Migration	WPPP	Women Participation in Political Processes
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender	WTO	World Trade Organisation
MAKIBAKA	Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (a revolutionary women's organisation in the Philippines)	WTO MC6th	World Trade Organisation 6TH Ministerial Meeting
MAP	Migrant Assistance Programme	WWII	World War II

# Introduction

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) developed from dialogues initiated among women lawyers, social scientists and other activists of Asia Pacific during the United Nation's Third World Forum on Women held in 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya. In December 1986, the organisation was formally launched by 38 women lawyers and other activists of the Asia Pacific region, and a Secretariat was set up in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Secretariat relocated to Chiang Mai in October 1997. Since then, APWLD has vastly expanded its network, including more grassroots women leaders in its membership. Now, APWLD has close to 150 active network members and over 1,500 partners in its mailing list.

The year 2005 was a year of tragic disasters. It started with challenging impacts of the natural disaster of the Indian Ocean tsunami, earthquake in Pakistan later in the year, and ended with a 'human-made' disaster created by the WTO deals in Hong Kong. Stronger efforts to push globalisation agenda was the significant mark of the year 2005. Debt, trade, tied-aids, globalisation policies were imposed on the countries affected by the natural disasters—in the name of the tsunami and earthquake survivors.

This annual report for 2005 describes APWLD activities in the global advocacy against growing poverty and disempowerment resulting from rapid liberalisation, de-regulation and privatisation of national economies. It remains committed to assert for the universal realisation of human rights, specifically economic, social and cultural rights, threatened under neo-liberal globalisation. The report consists of two parts: the programme report and the financial report. The programme report describes the political context of the respective programme, activities of each program and the lessons learnt, which includes achievements of the programme and future plans as a continuation of the programme. The financial report gives an overview on financial policies of APWLD and status of the finance.

2005 was a challenging year for APWLD in implementing its programmes. I, as the newly appointed Regional Coordinator, had to defer starting my term at the Secretariat to assist my organisation, Solidaritas Perempuan, an Indonesian NGO, with post-tsunami relief and rehabilitation efforts in Aceh. Lynnsay Francis of Cook Islands, a long standing APWLD member, stepped in to assist the Secretariat as the Interim Regional Coordinator until July 2005. The Programme Officer for Labour and Migration and Women's Participation in Political Processes Programmes after a few months on the job had to resign due to unfortunate circumstances. Despite the changes in the Secretariat, a clear policy direction from the Regional Council, active involvement of Task Force and Working Group members in programme implementation, rigorous monitoring by the Programme and Management Committee, efficient and dedicated Secretariat members enabled APWLD to overcome the challenges and accomplish its plans with good results. This indicates APWLD has a functioning stable system.

We would like to thank our funders – Sida, Novib, Ford Foundation, HBF, HIVOS, Mama Cash, Global Fund for Women, Action Aid—for their support to APWLD programmes and activities - be it for the core funds or programme/activity funds - that enabled APWLD to implement its programme in 2005. We also would like to thank the Thai Association as the legal entity of APWLD that allows APWLD run its operation smoothly in the context of the Thai administration.

Chiang Mai, March 2006,

Titi Soentoro

Regional Coordinator, APWLD

# Executive Summary

Globalisation policies, premised on the primacy of the market over peoples' lives, have eroded human rights overall. Privatisation of basic services, trade liberalisation and deregulation have led to loss of livelihoods, food and income insecurity, underemployment, environmental degradation, class/caste/race and gender, religion and ethnic violence among others. Increasing economic insecurity among majority who are disadvantaged by economic globalisation processes has sparked extreme fundamentalist formations. These fundamentalist groups, backed by states in many instances, have been responsible for human rights violations, particularly against women.

States have increased their stronghold over their constituents as political and economic policies are being increasingly determined unilaterally by US, the World Trade Organisation (WTO), international financial institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank and the Export Credit Agency. There is a rise in authoritarian governments riding on fundamentalist and populist agendas. It has fanned nationalist sentiments in order to maintain its popularity among its citizens and at the same time stave off interventions from the UN as the multinational governance body for the enforcement of human rights. State militarisation has implicated governments as perpetrators of human rights violations.

In the light of these developments, there is diminishing enforceability of women's human rights. Women are further marginalised in decision-making at all levels. State militarisation has led to more violence against women. State inaction to redress human rights violations perpetuated by state agents and non-state actors has brought about impunity for these crimes. Alarming, there is also increasing repression of human rights groups and movements.

Together with other patriarchal institutions and practices, law has played a central role in women's

exclusion from development, either as contributors or beneficiaries. Women's participation in development processes have been inhibited as law has legitimised to keep their roles, relations and identities subordinate to men. In a lot of instances, women's access to resources and the benefits of development have also been limited by the non-recognition of their rights. Their lack of legal status has made them vulnerable to violence and other forms of human rights violations.

Increasing fundamentalisms continue to be an area of critical concern for women's human rights as increasingly prohibitive demands and restrictions are imposed on women in the guise of collective values. Increasingly in some parts of the region, states are codifying fundamentalist values into the formal legal system, privileging culture and religion over women in our constitutions and laws as political concessions to powerful sectors of the community. The increasing attacks against women human rights defenders at the hands of both state and non-state actors is an alarming trend which is intricately entwined in the region with the forces of fundamentalisms as well as globalisation and increasing militarism.

## Women's Human Rights Programme

In responding to these concerns, the Women's Human Rights Programme has developed a Women's Human Rights Framework paper which seeks to articulate APWLD's understanding and position/s on women human rights and formulate conceptual tools for addressing these issues and APWLD's programme issues using a WHR framework. The paper is a practical tool to assist APWLD's programmes to use a WHR framework to address women's human rights concerns in the region. The WHR Programme has also continued to develop and enhance the Feminist Legal Theory and Practice

(FLTP) Training. The FLTP training is the oldest training programme of APWLD conducted since 1994 which seeks to address the social, cultural and political contexts that shape the legal system and women's engagement with it. The WHR Programme conducted two FLTP trainings this year: the first for the Secretariat staff and APWLD members with the aim of familiarising staff and members with the FLTP training and APWLD position on using the law as a tool for change; the second training was conducted for women activists and lawyers from the East and South East Asia region. As a result of the trainings, the participants have developed trainings at a national level for community and national level legal practitioners and women engaging with law as a tool for change in a number of countries in the region. To also assist this process, the WHR programme completed the FLTP Manual which is a tool for trainers/facilitators to conduct trainings on feminisms, law and human rights – FLTP trainings.

The International Campaign on Women Human Rights Defenders has increased the visibility of WHRD as a vulnerable group. The WHR Programme as a member of the International Coordinating Committee facilitated an International Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders in November-December 2005 and supported APWLD's campaigns in the region, including through trainings on documenting WHR abuses against WHRD in Nepal and Philippines.

## **Violence against Women Programme**

While undoubtedly the last decade has seen some important developments in the struggle to make women's lives free of violence – including creation of international standards and mechanisms to address violence against women and the recognition of violence against women as a form of discrimination – violence against women continues with impunity in many parts of the region and continues to be one of the most visible manifestations of the unequal and unjust power relations between men and women in our societies. Moreover, it is, in fact, emerging in new and dangerous forms and impunity for VAW persists (particularly violence perpe-

trated in the family and community).

In responding to these concerns, the Violence Against Women Programme conducted a Regional NGO Consultation with UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women (UNSRVAW) on 'Access to Justice: Holding the State Accountable for Violence Against Women by Non-State Actors'. The Consultation created an opportunity for women from the Asia-Pacific region to provide the UNSRVAW with critical and emerging issues affecting women in the region in relation to VAW as well as strengthen the capacity of women's organisation to engage with the UNSRVAW mechanism. The Consultation focused on violence against women perpetrated by non-state actors and the obligations of the state to hold non-state actors accountable for VAW under the due diligence standard. It highlighted challenges to holding states responsible for VAW by non-state actors in the Asia-Pacific region and presented specific strategies and recommendations to the UNSRVAW to strengthen mechanisms for the protection of WHR. The feedback from the UNSRVAW was very positive and she reaffirmed her commitment to continue the regional consultations with APWLD, also requesting APWLD to share its expertise in organising Consultations with women's NGOs in other regions. As a result of the UNSRVAW's meeting with Thai women's groups, the UNSRVAW was able to make recommendations to the Thai Minister responsible for women's affairs on a number of issues including the lack of laws prohibiting marital rape. As a result, the Minister announced at the press conference that he would rectify this deficiency in the law.

The programme engaged in strategic advocacy efforts at the UNCHR in Geneva resulting in coverage of the advocacy issues of APWLD in resolution of the Commission on Women and the Rights to Adequate Housing.

## **Women's Participation in Political Processes Programme**

Worldwide, there is still a persistent and glaring disparity in the number of women who hold decision-making positions at various levels. In reality, there are many hurdles hindering the attainment of

goal of equal access and participation in political processes. Women's groups in the region have worked on programmes to ensure that women are contributing to electoral mechanisms in their countries. In responding to this political development, Women's Participation in Political Processes Programme conducted a research and published its findings as a collation of strategies used by women in Asia Pacific to challenge existing electoral processes that discriminate against women. It provides information on strategies utilised by six women electoral candidates since the late 1990s in Fiji, India, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia and the Philippines. The resulting book titled "Seethings and Seatings: Strategies for Women's Participation in Political Processes" presents the driving forces for women that helped them to win in elections and to be effective in their elective position. The book will be used as a resource by the programme in its Gender and Politics training to assist women to use them as a guide to future efforts at strengthening women's participation in the political process.

The Labour and Migration Programme, in responding to concerns where the promotion of domestic work to semi- and unskilled women migrant workers by destination countries is being systemised and incorporated in the sending countries' government policies and the subsequent lack of recognition of domestic work and workers rights, in 2005 held special meetings with the UN Special Representative on the Human Rights of Migrant Workers and the Committee on the Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers to highlight specific issues of relevance on the precarious situation of women migrant domestic workers and the need for increased recognition and protection of their rights at national, regional and international levels. The UNSR and Committee have concurred with the Task Force on the issues presented to them and have stated their willingness to support NGOs in Asia Pacific and build alliances at regional and international levels to work for the recognition of the rights of women migrant domestic workers. And as a result of the Task Force members lobbying and advocacy efforts, representatives from regional NGOs working on migration issues will be invited to the UN High Panel Dialogue on Migration and Development to be held in New York in September 2006.

## Women and Environment Programme

Globalisation has contributed to the concentrated control of resources by a few elite groups. It has also contributed to greater occurrences of landlessness as well as economically and socially displaced communities. The WTO is the main arena where globalisation is being aggressively pursued. Interlinked with the WTO, the trade agreements are pushed and entered into bilaterally or multilaterally, with the principles and agenda coherent with those of the WTO. Over the years, through trade and investment, transnational corporations, or TNCs, have increased their control over the world's food production. These trade agreements, particularly those relating to agriculture, have not decreased the poverty level as purported. Conversely, they have actually removed women from the overall food production process.

In responding to this situation, Food Sovereignty Campaign has been initiated and launched jointly with the Rural and Indigenous Women Programme to provide a platform for other members of APWLD and its networks to be part of the resistance to the corporate control of food, agriculture and the lives of women and their communities. It covered several activities, including: Support to National Activities as part of the Don't Globalise Hunger! Campaign; as part of the information awareness, campaign materials were printed and distributed in the different forums, workshops and conferences, and within the national actions of the members; Consolidated actions that culminated at the WTO 6th Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong; Network Support Activities by providing a resource person for education and campaign purpose on the food sovereignty.

Women's Regional Conference on Food Sovereignty and Globalisation was an opportunity for grassroots women from the region to share their current issues on food, land and agriculture. Moreover, it also provided additional information and analysis which would link global forces, like WTO, among others, and their role in the lives, and death, of the local communities. The regional forum specifically invited women from grassroots organisa-

tions and those who would have the capacity to share the things learned on this level with the other women from her organisations and communities. In the forum, the “Don’t Globalise Hunger! Assert Women’s Rights to Food Sovereignty!” campaign was launched.

## **Rural and Indigenous Women Programme**

At this moment where the discourse on WTO and the specific agreements within it – particularly Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), Non Agricultural Market Access (NAMA), or General Agreements on Trades and Services (GATS), Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) – all have significant impact on the livelihood and lives of food producers and grassroots communities - have reached a certain level of agreement and consensus that trade policies and rules will be implemented not in a distant future. There are still a lot of women in the local communities who have not yet heard of WTO, let alone understand how powerful it is in creating impacts in their daily lives. In addition to the WTO platform, bilateral trade agreements and free trade agreements (FTAs) are aggressively being pushed and entered into by national governments. Most of these FTAs have grave impacts on the livelihoods of the small communities.

In responding to this current situation, the RIW Programme carried out its activities: Campaign for Food Sovereignty jointly organised with the WEN programme provides a platform for other members of APWLD and its networks to be part of the resistance to the corporate control of food, agriculture and the lives of women and their communities. Women Human Rights Defenders Campaign carried the issues of the WHRD deaths and harassments in the countries where RIW TF members work: Philippines, Nepal, Thailand and Aceh, Indonesia. Urgent action alerts have been written up and circulated to expose the current situation in these countries as well as to call for solidarity in appealing for the stopping of the killings as in the case of the Philippines, and for the release of ANWA leaders and other political leaders of the Nepalese movements for democracy. For Thailand, a round table discussion was organised. Most of the Thai WHRDs

who shared their stories were women fighting for their rights to their land against development projects either by the government or corporations. Three of RIW TF members and networks were supported to participate in the International Women Human Rights Consultation in Sri Lanka. Relief and Rehabilitation Work for Tsunami affected Communities focused on the violations of women’s rights in Aceh. The activities covered joint call to the international community for the military pull-out in the area through issuing statements. A paper on the interlinks of religious fundamentalism, militarism and women’s human rights in Aceh was presented in Femme Globale, an international women’s forum in Berlin. Women and Globalisation Module aimed to assist the TF members in their organising and awareness-raising programmes among the rural and indigenous women.

## **Cross-Cutting Initiatives**

In 2005, response to the Indian Ocean tsunami was APWLD’s most significant Cross-Cutting Initiative. Its advocacy efforts for women’s human rights in the tsunami aftermath proved to be most relevant, timely and needed. APWLD’s report on violations of women’s human rights in the tsunami aftermath turned out to be a valuable source of information for organisations and individuals advocating for women, such as UNIFEM, UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, researchers and activists worldwide. APWLD was able to raise additional funds to convene Consultation on Post-Tsunami Challenges for Women in Aceh which became a starting point for the Survey of Violations of Women’s Human Rights in the Tsunami Aftermath and Guidelines for Gender Sensitive Disaster. It is a project to document violations of women’s human rights in the tsunami aftermath in Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand, to be completed in 2006.

The Anti WTO MC6th programme was a joint action of the four taskforces: L&M TF, WPPP TF, WEN TF and RIW TF. Activities during the People’s Action Week against WTO in Hong Kong were:

Asian Women’s Village served as a focal point and centre for women delegates of the different

movements coming to Hong Kong and participating in the peoples' actions for the 6th Ministerial Meeting of WTO. The Village became a space for ideas, sharing and discussions with and among APWLD network and other Asian women groups. Women's Tribunal Against WTO found the WTO guilty for causing the bankruptcy of millions of rural women, driving them out of the land and agricultural production, which is the main base of their skills and livelihood. The verdict based on the testimonies of rural women in six countries, providing details of the extreme deterioration in their daily lives and of their families. Found guilty also are the co-accused – the national governments who are found guilty for neglecting the peasantry's welfare by the adoption and implementation of the WTO policies. For these crimes, the sentence handed down for the WTO was to "discontinue operating as a world trade body" and for the United States, European Union and other big economies to desist from "bullying" and "arm twisting" small economies into entering bilateral trade agreements with them. Over a thousand women joined the Women's March through the streets of Hong Kong to demonstrate women's growing resistance against WTO and the corporate rule over their lives. One of the highlights of the Women's March was a colourful quilt carried through the Hong Kong streets - patches of fabric from different countries with messages of resistance in different languages sewn together - "Patches of Resistance, towards Global Resistance" was part of APWLD's Don't Globalise Hunger! Campaign. Also, the book *Intensifying Working Women's Burden: The Impact of Globalisation on Women Labour in Asia* - a collaborative work with the Asia Pacific Research Network - was launched in Hong Kong at the Asian Women's Village on December 17.

In terms of Institutional Development, effective functioning of APWLD as a network organisation of 150 members in 23 countries of the Asia Pacific region was ensured. The Regional Council convened for its annual meeting to review membership and policies; Programme and Management Committee met four times a year to monitor implementation of the programmes; sufficient funds were raised for APWLD's programmes; and active sharing of information among network members was facilitated

throughout the year. An external evaluation due at the end of the 3 year programme cycle was conducted from October to December 2005 by two external evaluators. The evaluation covered programme and activities of APWLD for 2003 - 2005 to assess achievements, gaps and challenges at policy and operation level. Recommendations of the external evaluation will be used to improve APWLD's performance in the future.

In terms of finance, in 2005, APWLD spent 96% of its funds. The funds available for 2005 totalled US\$ 776,535.08 and the expenditure was US\$ 685,150.06. The funds were received from Sida, Novib, Ford Foundation, HBE, HIVOS, Mama Cash, Global Funds for Women, and Action Aid.

For the next three years programme cycle starting in 2006:

- The Women's Human Rights Programme will focus on assisting each programme to integrate the WHR framework into their programme and activities including through attending Task Force meetings in 2006. The Programme will conduct a TOT to diversify and consolidate our training pool with an aim to expand the number of trainings conducted at regional and national levels in the future. The FLTP manual will assist this process. The WHRD campaign will be continued with various activities planned including a 'WHRD Documentation Manual' and regional consultations with the UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders. The Programme will also complete and share a paper on 'WHR and Fundamentalisms' which will provide both a deeper understanding on how fundamentalisms manifest and affect WHRs and strategies for addressing it.

- The VAW Programme will hold an Asia-Pacific NGO Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on VAW in September 2006 and will invite other Special Rapporteurs with related mandates to attend this meeting to broaden the reach of our advocacy efforts on VAW at an international level. The work and advocacy on access to justice will also be continued.

- The Women's Participation in Political Processes Programme will refine and update the Gender and Politics Training manual and work towards

developing a level two training manual. Upon completion of the manuals, pilot trainings will be conducted. The book “Seetings and Seatings; Strategies for Women’s Political Participation” will be translated into three national languages: Russian (2006), Bahasa- Melayu (2007) and Korean (2008). Adding to this research, the Task Force will commission another research which will produce an anthology of success stories documenting good practices by women or organisations in politics which resulted in change in policy/ political practices/ structures. Together with continuing support for members’ capacity building and networking opportunities, links with progressive parliamentarians will be made and they will be supported in their advocacy and capacity building efforts. Working towards equal participation and representation for all women, the WPPP Task Force will continue to advocate for policy changes at the regional, national or local levels.

- The Labour and Migration Programme will focus on addressing the lack of legal protection and human rights standards for women migrant workers especially domestic workers and those employed under sub-standard working conditions. A number of researches which seek to analyse policies and laws governing migrant women workers in the realm of domestic work and factory workers in tax free zones in the receiving countries will be completed and translated into national languages to enable and strengthen members’ advocacy efforts on policy reform on these issues. Also in this regard, capacity building for its members and strengthening alliances with other movements will be the focus. The Task Force will also continue to work with various international and UN mechanisms. Additionally, from 2006, the programme will also address the issue of trafficking under the broader themes of migration and forced labour by strengthening national partner’s efforts in their campaigns and advocacy; and by developing a paper on the framework and responses to the issue to be used by members in their national level work

- The Women and Environment Programme will continue its work within the banner of the campaign “Don’t Globalise Hunger! Assert Women’s Rights to Food Sovereignty”. It will also utilise different handles and tools for the campaign against

TNCs control over natural resources.

- For the Rural and Indigenous Programme follow up actions related to the WHRD campaigns and the “war against terror” policies research will be carried out, also more creative enabling support and creation of spaces for the participation in relevant and significant regional and international fora will be provided.

- Under Cross-Cutting Initiatives, Survey of women’s human rights violations in the tsunami aftermath will be completed and the Guidelines for gender sensitive disaster management will be developed to be presented at a regional forum in July 2006.

- In 2006, APWLD members will convene for the General Assembly for 2006-2008 strategic planning. The challenge is to develop a strategic plan that will focus on emerging issues in the Asia Pacific region and at the same time respond to the members’ demands for substantial participation, exchange and discussion. The General Assembly will also address the issues and recommendations of the 2005 External Evaluation and revise or adopt new policies.

# Programme Reports

In previous years, APWLD's programmes were: (A) Technical Assistance/Training; (B) Policy Level Intervention; (C) Network Consolidation (D) Task Force Action (E) Action Oriented Research (F) Human Rights Mobilisation and Action (G) Institutional Building. Under Task Force Action, APWLD works on six issues or sectors: (1) Violence against Women; (2) Women's Participation in Political Processes; (3) Labour and Migration; (4) Women and Environment; (5) Rural and Indigenous Women; (6) Women's Human Rights.

At the Strategic Planning meeting in January 2002, it was observed that the numerous programs had strained the organisation's resources, both human and financial. In effect the Secretariat was trying to implement over a dozen of programmes as carrying out the activities of the six task forces demanded as much time and attention as running the other programs. As commented upon by the external evaluators, there was also a need to better integrate activities of a particular task force with activities of other task forces and other APWLD programs in such a way that they build upon each other for maximum impact.

Since 2003 APWLD's activities have been streamlined into six programmes:

- Women's Human Rights
- Violence against Women
- Women's Participation in Political Processes
- Labour and Migration
- Women and Environment
- Rural and Indigenous Women

The shift implies that the issues which the task forces have been working on for several years become the core programmes of APWLD. The organisation's previous concentration in these issues renders it logical to shift APWLD's programmes along these lines. Previous programmes such as policy intervention, technical assistance/training, action oriented research and others simply become strategies to choose from in responding to the issues.

This set up clarifies the overlap between the task forces as programmes and as part of APWLD's structure noted by the external evaluators. Under this arrangement, the task forces are not considered as programmes per se but remain as the primary mechanism to implement the priority programme areas. They are expected to plan activities under their respective programmes but other mechanisms of programme implementation such as working groups or planning committees may be developed to further democratise programme planning and involve other network members not enlisted under any particular task force. In this context, task forces are considered more as part of APWLD's structure, not programs.

The APWLD task forces as constituted previously remain to implement the corresponding programmes with the exception of the Women's Rights Human Rights task force. As women's human rights become the overall framework of APWLD's programmes, the Regional Council decided that the members of this task force shall try to explore membership in other task forces to share their expertise on this framework in the development of the programmes. It was also suggested that they can reconstitute as members of the working group that will implement the Feminist Legal Theory and Practice programme. In the Regional Council Meeting in April 2003 in Bangkok, it was decided that the WRHR Taskforce will be reconvened as the WHR – Working Group (WHR-WG). The membership of the WG was finally approved in the Steering Committee meeting in July 2003 in Bangkok.

APWLD programmes will continue operating within the framework of holding governments accountable for realisation of women's rights as enshrined in the UN instruments particularly the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Beijing Platform for Action and the World Conference against Racism Platform for Action.



# Women's Human Rights

## 1. Overview

180 countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Despite enjoying such large membership, CEDAW has the largest number of state reservations. This fact says much about the international community and its commitment to women's rights. The last decade has seen much advancement in the recognition of women's human rights at an international level with the BPFA, +5, +10 and the 1993 Vienna programme of Action among others. While women's rights have been a popular international initiative, they have also stirred profound disagreements. As Radhika Coomaraswamy stated, relative to other fields, women's human rights "are more fragile, have weaker implementation procedures and suffer from inadequate financial support from the United Nations"<sup>1</sup>. They are also more likely to be derogated by the competing interests of other parties, particularly in the name

of culture and religion. In this way, culture becomes a euphemism for patriarchy. The values of patriarchy continue to be the most persistent threat to women's human rights.

This year, the HR system of the UN has vividly illustrated the tenuous commitment of the international community to women's human rights. At the Commission on the Status of Women, the US pushed to amend the paragraph in the political declaration reaffirming the BPFA specifying 'provided that they do not create any new international human rights, and they do not include the right to

<sup>1</sup> RADHIKA COOMARASWAMY, EDWARD A. SMITH VISITING LECTURE, HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, 'REINVENTING INTERNATIONAL LAW: WOMEN'S RIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY' 1997.

# Human Rights Programme



abortion'. This is just one example of the pervasive attacks on the gains made by the women's movement during the last decade. The 'political declaration' of the CSW also demonstrated the subtle erosion of human rights language when affirming women's human rights through its bland statement. So too do the popular Millennium Development Goals which fail to adequately address women's human rights. While the strong activism and presence of women at the Commission stopped the opening up of the BPFA for re-negotiation, it demonstrated the current challenges for the women's movement at the international level – that even holding onto the gains already made is a struggle.

The current reform of the UN human rights system is a further area of concern for women's rights. The proposed reforms will diffuse women's critical engagement with the human rights system and will



radically reduce the ability of women from the 'global south' to access and influence the human rights system as it will meet in New York many times a year rather than for a 6 weeks period when NGOs can converge, lobby and strategically influence the proceeding. A critical review of our engagement with the UN system and future strategies will be essential.

At a national level, the last decade has seen little reflection of the achievements gained at an international level in the lives of women. In the last report of Radhika Coomaraswamy as UNSRVAV, she stated that although nearly every country in the world had made some step to address VAW, implementation of these laws was lacking<sup>2</sup>. This statement is true in many other areas of women's human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights. In other areas, we are in fact seeing the rolling-back at an international and national level of the gains the global women's movement have made particularly in the context of economic globalisation, increasing militarism and fundamentalisms in the region.

Increasing fundamentalisms continues to be an area of critical concern for women's human rights as increasingly prohibitive demands and restrictions are imposed on women in the guise of collective values. Increasingly in some parts of the region, states are codifying fundamentalist values into the formal legal system, privileging culture and religion over women in our constitutions and laws as political concessions to powerful sectors of the community. The principles of secularism, liberalism and pluralism have become 'dirty' words and women organis-

ing for the realisation of these principles are attacked and repressed by both state and non-state actors. The increasing attacks against women human rights defenders at the hands of both state and non-state actors is an alarming trend which is intricately entwined in the region with the forces of fundamentalisms as well as globalisation and increasing militarism.

To respond to these concerns, the Women's Human Rights Working Group (WHR-WG) had the following objectives for the programme:

1. To promote the Women's Human Rights framework in APWLD's programmes and among its members and partners;
2. To protect the space of women to defend their rights;
3. To enhance the understanding of emerging issues of women's rights in programmes of APWLD and among members.

## 2. Activities and Results

Given the WHR Working Group only had its first Working Group meeting in January 2004 (a full year behind other Task Forces) the Working Group is still in the process of completing some activities and objectives within this shortened programme cycle.

### Feminist Legal Theory and Practice training (FLTP)

**Output:** FLTP regional training for APWLD members and partners conducted and pool of trainers for FLTP trainings diversified

**Indicators:** At least 5 APWLD members and partners using the FLTP framework

**Funders:** SIDA, Hivos and Novib

### Feminist Legal Theory and Practice Training for Staff and APWLD Members

An FLTP workshop for staff and members of APWLD was conducted from 4-6 February, 2005 in Chiang Mai, back-to-back with the Regional Council and Programme and Management Committee meetings. The rationale of holding an FLTP workshop was to familiarise our own staff and members on the FLTP framework and the training since most of the staff and members of APWLD had never had the opportunity to do so. Moreover, the FLTP training is one of the oldest training programmes of APWLD and it has the articulation of APWLD's position on the use of law for advancing women's rights.

The specific objectives of the training were:

- to familiarise APWLD staff and members with the FLTP framework;
- to serve as a venue for APWLD members to share experiences in using law in advocacy on women's concerns;
- to identify and discuss issues and dilemmas encountered by women's rights advocates in their use of legal strategies to address women's concerns;
- to explore possibilities for use of the FLTP framework in different programmes of APWLD and in the work of its partners.

The workshop was facilitated by Imrana Jalal and Lynnsay Francis Cook, APWLD members from the Pacific. WPPP Task Force member from India, S.K Priya, also conducted a session. The participants were members of all the Task Forces and the Working Group, members of the Regional Council and the Programme and Management Committee and all the staff from the Secretariat. Some members from the Thai Association of APWLD also joined the meeting. The three days were characterised by challenging discussions, thought provoking

<sup>2</sup> REPORT OF THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, MS RADHIKA COOMARASWAMY, TO THE 59TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS 6 JANUARY 2003, 'INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN' E/CN.4/2003/75.

arguments and a rich diversity of views coming from diverse political positions. The workshop was a good reflection of the diversity within APWLD and yet the beauty of such diverse members coming together under one network.

The feedback from participants, sought through feedback forms, was very positive. All the participants found the training very useful, some even found it “excellent”. Some of the reasons they found it useful were:

- it provided a chance to exchange country experiences;
- it gave them greater information on feminism, human rights and law (the substance, structure and culture of law);
- it gave them an opportunity to delve into the different schools of thought of feminism in greater details;
- it served as an “eye-opener” to the feminist critique of law;
- it provided a specific tool which could be used in their work with women.

Through the feedback form, the participants shared diverse ways in which they would be able to use what they learnt in their work including: for staff training within their own organisations; for lobbying and advocacy on women’s rights issues; using the content of FLTP for the para-legal trainings; for drawing up a model Islamic law; in their teaching at the university etc.

## **Feminist Legal Theory and Practice Training for East and South-East Asia:**

FLTP training for East and South-East training was organised in Jakarta, Indonesia from 25-29 July 2005. The training was attended by 19 participants from different countries in South-East Asia, and for the first time, East Asia. The training provided an opportunity for women and human rights activists to explore how the utilisation of a feminist perspective to the law can transform women’s situations.

FLTP training seeks to challenge the traditional notion that law is a neutral, objective, and rational set of rules, unaffected by the perspective of those who possess the power inherent in the legal institu-

tions. It seeks to address the social, cultural and political contexts that shape the legal system. The basic thrust of the training is: feminism as its core, human rights as its foundation and law as an arena of women’s struggle.

The specific objectives of the training were:

- to serve as a venue for participants to share experiences in using law in advocacy on women’s concerns;
- to develop greater understanding of gender, discrimination, equality, law and human rights;
- to identify and discuss issues and dilemmas encountered by women’s rights advocates in their use of legal strategies to address women’s concerns; and
- to enhance the capability of participants to effectively challenge discriminatory laws and practices in their countries by feminist, rights-based legal practice and by applying international conventions and precedents for advancement of women’s rights.

The feedback from the training was very positive. Participants said that the training gave them a new understanding that to really understand the law and its impact on women we must look at how it is implemented and interpreted. Participants also stated that they learnt from sharing and examining examples of women engaging with the law in other countries the empowering and disempowering potential of the law as well as effective strategies to use to promote an empowering engagement with the law.

Participants were asked how they will use the training in their work. Participants stated that they would use the strategies and principles learnt in law reform work and feminist litigation; conduct similar trainings at a national level; incorporate principles and learnings from FLTP in their trainings and conferences; use the contacts and networks made with APWLD and other participants for further knowledge and skill sharing.

Follow-up feedback was done with participants 3 months and 6 months after both the training for staff and members and the training for the South-East and East Asian region. All participants said that they were able to practically apply the learnings from

the FLTP training in their work including: developing FLTP trainings at a national level; conducting workshops at a community and national level for legal practitioners and women engaging with the law on FLTP; experiences shared at the training were used to bridge the gap between theory and practice in courses on women and law; and the training gave new insights into critiquing and analysing laws and policies at a national level.

### Feedback from the participants

The training provided me with a fresh perspective on women's issues. As a result of the training I am able to contextualise what I do within a feminist framework of the law; widen my understanding of women's issues; and speak with confidence about experiences as a woman that I would otherwise have deemed 'just one of those things'. The exposure has helped to better prepare me for the various responsibilities that I handle in my work, including providing a gender analysis of the Philippines agrarian reform programme and legal interventions for hundreds of women inmates in various Metro Manila jails in a project with the Commission on Human Rights. The feminist analysis of the law has also provided me with valuable learning which I will use in advocating for amendments to the laws relating to women in the Philippines. The discussions in the training also gave me a better perspective and understanding of the issues faced by Muslim women, particularly where dual legal systems operate which will be directly relevant to my work on these issues. Also, as a result of my participation in the training IBP National has also approved in principle the inclusion of the Feminist Legal Theory and Practice in the paralegal and IBP trainings conducted in various local government units in the Philippines.

MALU LUZ S.B. RANES-RAVAL, PHILIPPINES

As an activist, the training have given me the opportunity to deepen my understanding on the difficulties faced by peasant women that I work with from a gender perspective. The training helped show me the different venues (like the UN) where we can bring peasant women's concerns - especially with the escalation of political killings in our ranks. Also, my organisation is now going to use CEDAW to file a case on human rights violations against peasant women and it has hosted a South-East Asian discussion on how CEDAW can be used to address peasant women's struggles.

CATARINA ESTAVILLO OF AMIHAN, PHILIPPINES

I have been able to use the gender analysis of the law and social development which I gained in the training in my work. As a member of the Working Group of the Parliaments Standing Committee on current law reform efforts, I am using the gender analysis of the laws and proposed law reforms to ensure that they reflect women's issues and concerns. Also, I am employing the analysis gained from the training on substance, structure, culture of the law in my role as a member of a working committee which is drafting the Gender Equality Bill. Furthermore, I have been able to use the knowledge I learnt on the UN system, structures and conventions by highlighting where Mongolia is failing to meet its obligations under international conventions to which it is a signatory in a recent government evaluation of the sexual harassment in the workplace in Mongolia.

MUNKHZUL KHUREBAATAR FROM THE NATIONAL CENTRE AGAINST VIOLENCE, MONGOLIA

I have really been able to make use of the material from the FLTP training for my short lecture in Post Graduate Women's Studies in University of Indonesia on Feminism. The materials with a local Asian context have been particularly useful. I am discussing with my organisation how to integrate the FLTP into our Human Rights Training package and we are planning to develop a FLTP for Indonesia.

LILY PURBA, KOMNAS PEREMPUAN, INDONESIA

The training has given me a comprehensive knowledge on gender and law, particularly the substance-structure-culture analysis of the law. I have also been able to use it directly in my work at the 'The Convention Watch Working Group' which is based at the University of Indonesia. The Convention Watch Working Group and our colleagues have used the FLTP materials to assist Faculties of Law lecturers who teach 'gender and law/women and law' or 'women's rights' and also to integrate FLTP learnings into their teachings at their Universities and to develop the FLTP in their respective offices. The Convention Watch Working Group has used the FLTP materials to analyse and re-write cases for one of our publications called 'Implementation of CEDAW Convention in Trial Process in Indonesia'. The Convention Watch Working Group have also been able to use the FLTP learnings on the substance-structure-culture analysis of the law to analyse and formulate a report on how certain cases involving women victims and defendants were being processed through the court system i.e. were the law enforcer being gender sensitive or not, etc. The training has also given me ideas on how to design programmes of women's rights in the legal education system and disseminate the knowledge and understanding on women's rights to the public more widely.

LESTARIYANTI, THE CONVENTION WATCH WORKING GROUP, INDONESIA

A procedural report from the training has been drafted and is in the process of being printed. This publication will be distributed to participants, WHR-WG members and other interested parties.

Several requests for FLTP trainings have been received by APWLD. APWLD members from Indonesia have requested APWLD's assistance and expertise to hold a FLTP training for Indonesia women lawyers and activists in 2006. APWLD members from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan have expressed the desire to host a FLTP training in Central Asia. APWLD received many applications from individuals and organisations outside of South-East and East Asia requesting to attend the FLTP training in July 2006.

One of the three trainers in this FLTP training was conducting this training for the first time after participating in the Training of Trainers (TOT) which APWLD conducted in 2002. In this way APWLD is diversifying its pool of trainers to meet the many requests for FLTP trainings.

## Feminist Legal Theory and Practice Training Manual

**Output:** FLTP manual produced

**Indicators:** Enhanced skill and understanding of APWLD members and partners on issues of law and human rights from a critical feminist perspective

**Funders:** SIDA, Hivos and Novib

The Feminist Legal Theory and Practice Manual is intended as a tool for trainers/facilitators whose skills and experience will enable them to adapt its methods and substance to fit specific audiences. It aims to help women and men who are concerned about gender discrimination and human rights and wish to become effective communicators, to be able to share both their passion and knowledge on feminisms, law, and human rights. This FLTP Training Resource Manual is a work in progress. As such it is put together in a way that will allow its users to build on it, add relevant materials and update its

contents.

The manual is divided into two general sections. The first section contains four parts that include background information, sessions, and suggested activities. Each chapter leads to the next and at the same time can be read and used independently. At the end of this manual are suggestions on how to structure FLTP workshops for specified durations. The second section contains resources for the trainer, including training aids such as presentations, handouts, suggested readings for participants, and additional cases studies.

The Manual will be used during APWLD's FLTP trainings, particularly to guide new trainers of FLTP trainings as APWLD continues to expand its FLTP training pool. The Manual will also be distributed to interested parties who can use the Manual to conduct Feminist Legal Theory and Practice trainings at a national or local level.

## International Women Human Rights Defenders Campaign

**Output:** A regional and an international consultation for women human rights defenders conducted from 29 November – 2 December 2005 and ICC meetings and sharing on Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) at other fora as build up to the International Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders

**Indicators:** Extent of coverage of issues of WHRD at regional/international fora; at least four alliances created at the regional/international fora between women's groups on WHRD issues

**Funders:** SIDA, Hivos and Novib

As a build-up to the International Consultation on WHRDs which took place on 29 November – 2 December 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the following activities were conducted:

#### **a. Women Human Rights Defenders Workshop at CSW, 3 March 2005, New York**

APWLD along with some other members of the International Coordinating Committee of the Women Human Rights Defenders Campaign, organised a side-event workshop at CSW on WHRDs at the 49th Session of CSW held in New York from February 28—March 11, 2005. The objective of the workshop was to share with a wider audience of women the growing persecution that WHRDs face as women and because of the issues that they work on. The discussion focused on who is a HRD (Human Rights Defender) and who is a WHRD (Women's Human Rights Defender) and why there is a need to discuss WHRDs as a separate category. Moreover, the discussions highlighted once again that WHRDs have to be contextualised in the current context of the legitimisation of repressive laws post 9-11 and growing criminalisation of human rights work by states.

The diverse range of speakers from members of Women Living Under Muslim Laws to representatives of Centre for Women's Global Leadership and International Gay and Lesbian Association, shared instances of specific persecution that WHRDs face. Women from Uganda, Nepal and Burma also shared their experiences as WHRDs in their specific countries and contexts. The plan of organising the international consultation on WHRDs resonated well with the participants and several participants showed interest in being part of the campaign.

#### **b. Side-Event on Defending Women Defending Rights at the 61st Session of UNCHR, April 8, Geneva**

The side event was attended by around 60 persons. The discussion revealed that sexuality rights is one of the most resistant issues resulting in women working on sexuality rights issues facing increased levels of persecution. This includes 'sexuality baiting' (attacking and undermining a woman's reputation, character and legitimacy by targeting her sexuality) and treating them as sexual 'perverts'.

WHRDs also shared how women's issues are trivialised not just in the wider community but in the HRDs circle as well. Several speakers also shared the immense amount of pressure single or unmar-

ried WHRDs face and the constant pressure they are under to get married and have babies in many parts of the world. Women from across the region shared how WHRDs are perceived as 'home breakers'. Even simple matters are a challenge for WHRDs as opposed to HRDs. For instance, if WHRDs have to travel for their work and sleep in hotels, they are perceived as prostitutes. Moreover, sexual harassment of WHRDs is a pervasive issue. One of the speakers even suggested that we should have a Special Rapporteur on single women. Another important point that seemed to emerge was that WHRDs need to stop feeling guilty.

The discussion on WHRDs was followed by the discussion on the International Campaign which was well received. Several women attended the both discussions and showed keenness in participating in the campaign and Consultation.

#### **c. The Third ICC Meeting, 9-10 April 2005, Geneva, Switzerland**

For preparation of the International Consultation on WHRDs, the International Coordinating Committee of the International Campaign on WHRDs met for the third time in Geneva during the 61st Session of UNCHR. The meeting was critical in deciding important aspects of the International Consultation including the date, the venue, the different committees which will help prepare for the Consultation, etc. It has been decided that the International Consultation will be held from 29 November - 2 December 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka and Inform will be the local host organisation. APWLD is on three committees, the Participants' Committee, for which it is the focal point, the Programme Committee and the Executive Committee. The Programme Officer of APWLD prepared the documents (including the document on selection process and selection criteria; as well as the nomination and scholarship form) in accordance with APWLD's role as the focal point of the Participants Committee. APWLD is also on the Executive Committee of the campaign.

#### **d. The Fourth ICC Meeting, 2-4 July 2005, London, UK**

A final meeting of the ICC was held in London

from 2-4 July 2005. This meeting was called to finalise key matters for the Consultation, including participation and selection process; documentation; media and communication strategies; monitoring and evaluation and the programme, including speakers. The ICC members present broke into the different Committees to discuss each of these areas and then report back to the ICC. Most time was dedicated to the programme which required a re-working of the framework to ensure that the full spectrum of issues affecting WHRD are reflected in the Consultation and outcomes and points of action from the Consultation encompass the full extent of WHRD risks and vulnerabilities. Thus the framework of the programme was broadly defined as follows: (I) Who are WHRDs; defining the concept clearly since it is easy to keep slipping into violations of women's rights in general; (II) rights and entitlements; (III) Mechanisms and Tools for the Protection of WHRDs; (IV) Accountability and Justice for WHRDs. Each plenary and their objectives were defined and speakers were identified where possible. Tasks were delegated between programme committee members with APWLD and ISHR (International Service for Human Rights) jointly taking responsibility for the programme on Day 2 of the Consultation including identifying, inviting and briefing speakers and moderators and drafting guidance notes for speakers and workshop organisers. APWLD also took responsibility for organising 2 workshops on Day 2 of the programme on protection of WHRD in the context of 'State Repression' and 'Family and Community' in conjunction with Amnesty International.

The 'political perspectives paper' was reviewed and a decision made to shorten the paper and call it rather a paper to 'explain and contextualise' the campaign. The Executive committee (of which APWLD is a member) met at the end of the meeting and discussed and approved the budget, contracts and other financial matters.

#### **e. Programme Committee of ICC meeting, 26 October 2005, Bangkok, Thailand**

As a member of the programme committee, APWLD met with the ICC programme

committee for the last time in Bangkok on 26 October before the International Consultation. The meeting was called to make final decisions and revisions to the programme including restructuring some sessions, reviewing the workshops and making decisions on plenary speakers. A number of workshops were added to Day 2 of the programme on 'protection of WHRD and prevention of abuse against WHRD' based on a discussion of the gaps in the existing workshops based on current and emerging contexts affecting WHRD around the world. The following workshops were added: 'Corporate Actors in the Context of Neo-Liberal Globalisation' and 'Security Imperative and War on Terror'. APWLD took responsibility to organise the workshop on 'corporate actors' given our work in this area.

#### **f. Workshop on WHRD at 10th AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development, 30 October, Bangkok**

APWLD, in conjunction with other ICC members including CWGL, Inform and IGLHRC organised a workshop entitled 'Who will Protect the Protectors? Making Activism Safer for Women's Human Rights Defenders' during parallel workshop sessions at the 10th AWID Conference in Bangkok on 30th October. The workshop was attended by approximately 40 people and it focused on reflecting across movements on the issues and insights raised during the International campaign on women human rights defenders as well as the gains and challenges in the promotion and realisation of women's human rights. The discussions were animated and engaged with the issue at a deep and challenging level and highlighted the widespread interest of many groups to be a part of this campaign and work. Contacts were made with many of these groups to share further information with them on the campaign and Consultation.

#### **International Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders, 29 November – 2 December 2005, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

As a member of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) of the International Campaign on Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD), APWLD co-organised an International Consulta-

tion on WHRDs from 29 November - 2 December 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Consultation was attended by over 200 women's rights and human rights activists from approximately 70 countries worldwide. The meeting was a historic gathering marking the first time women's rights and human rights groups have come together on a global level to address gender-specific concerns and experiences of women as human rights defenders.

The meeting focused on four separate sources of abuses commonly experienced by women human rights defenders. These included state-based violence and issues of accountability and justice; the growing rise in fundamentalist movements seeking and gaining political power; the use of sexuality-based attacks to intimidate women and harm their bodies and reputations; and the need to address abuse perpetrated by communities and families. Over the four day Consultation, WHRD shared a wide range of experiences. From policies and practices that regulate women's sexuality, to restrictions on our work because of misuse of counter-terrorism efforts, the Consultation outlined the nature and depth of these violations as they apply to women human rights defenders around the globe. Furthermore, the Consultation explored responses to abuses of WHRD including use of international and national mechanisms and NGO initiatives including campaigning strategies.

APWLD organised three workshops during a breakout session on the second day of the Consultation:

a. 'Neo-Liberal Globalisation': APWLD organised and conducted a workshop on protection of WHRDs and prevention of abuses in the context of 'neo-liberal globalisation'. This workshop explored the threats to WHRDs opposing corporate control on their lives and livelihoods in the context of neo-liberal globalisation and the dominance of multinational (MNCs) and trans-national corporations (TNCs) around the world. The increasing collusion between states and corporate actors results in State complicity to many human rights violations by corporate actors such as the use of private security forces to intimidate and kill WHRDs who protest against the actions of corporations. This clouds the reality of state accountability for these violations. The workshop was attended by approximately 20 participants

from around the world who shared examples of attacks against WHRDs by corporate actors in their countries. The workshop critically assessed various international, national and civil society mechanisms addressing accountability of corporations (domestic, trans-national and multinational) and their actors (including para-military groups, private security forces and state military and police), for attacks against women human rights defenders. The workshop identified the need for the creation of international mechanisms and strategies to hold corporate actors accountable for human rights violations and the development of more effective strategies for the effective protection of WHRD and prevention of abuses against WHRDs by corporate actors at a national and civil society level.

b. 'State Repression': In collaboration with Amnesty International, APWLD organised a workshop on 'state repression' which was designed to give participants an opportunity to explore protection and prevention strategies and mechanisms in the particular context of state repression. The workshop was attended by over 35 participants from the Consultation from around the globe and was jointly facilitated with ISIS International. The workshop explored the particular difficulties WHRDs face from repressive states when carrying out their work, highlighting the strategies used by the different organs of the state to target WHRDs (such as the use of the courts and legal proceedings to harass and silence activists; enacting regulations that allow for monitoring and tight control of civil society activities; and restrictions of movement of NGO workers). The workshop identified strategies and mechanisms for the protection of WHRDs from persecution by the State and prevention of abuses against WHRDs by the State and state actors and critically assessed their applicability and use for the protection of WHRD. Zenaida Soriano from AMIHAN (an APWLD member) spoke on the difficulties faced by defenders of land rights and peasant rights in Philippines. The workshop enabled participants to share successful strategies for the effective protection of WHRDs and prevention of abuses in situations of State Repression.

c. 'Family and Community': In collaboration with Amnesty International, APWLD organised a

workshop on strategies and mechanisms for the protection and prevention of WHRDs from attacks by their family and community. The workshop explored the difficulties many WHRDs face in the context of their family and community around the globe. The disapproval of family and community of the work of WHRDs can have negative impacts on a WHRDs relationship with her family and status within her community. Participants shared examples of the many obstacles WHRD face within the family and community sphere, including direct attacks (both physical and verbal) against them and against their work, ostracism, and a lack of support (making it difficult for women to continue their work for example if they also need to care for children). Some participants also shared examples of attacks from the HRD community itself. Participants shared that the workshop provided an important opportunity for participants to share with others on the difficulties they encounter in the family and community.

APWLD was responsible for the participation of 12 members at the Consultation many of whom were part of our on-going campaigns on WHRDs at a national level. APWLD used the Consultation to profile some of APWLD members who are at risk as result of their activism through their participation in the Consultation, posters and press releases for those unable to attend and Zenaida Soriano from AMIHAN represented a joint press statement on abuses against WHRDs in Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia as a result of economic globalisation, at the Press Conference on the last day of the Consultation. The Consultation and campaign received significant media attention within Sri Lanka and internationally.

While the Consultation marked the end of the ICC's collaborative work together, the work and campaigning on WHRDs will continue through the ongoing commitment of ICC members to the issue, and the commitment of participants to integrate this issue in their work. The alliances formed between groups at the Consultation will help to support and consolidate this work. A suggestion was made by participants to declare November 29 the 'International Day for Women Human Rights Defenders' as part of the 16 days of activism to mark

the beginning of this Consultation. Charlotte Bunch as the Director of the Centre for Women's Global Leadership stated that the Centre is looking at next year's theme for the 16 days of activism to be on WHRD also. APWLD is furthering this objective and commitment to the campaign by working with Inform and Forum Asia in developing a WHRD Documentation Manual for documenting human rights abuses against WHRDs particularly in the context of conflict situations. With little knowledge of the UN Declaration on HRD, APWLD will also disseminate information on this within the region as well as continuing to work on the campaign at a regional level.

The feedback from participants on the Consultation was very positive with many participants noting that knowing there is a discourse on 'us' gives them much strengthen to continue their work.

## Women Human Rights Framework

**Output:** A framework document on WHR prepared, debated and endorsed by all Task Forces of APWLD

**Indicators:** At least 3 programmes of APWLD were able to use the framework document to deepen their understanding on the issue and incorporate it in their work.

**Funders:** HIVOS, Novib and Sida

When the WHR Working group was created in 2003 one of the specific mandates given to it by the Regional Council was 'to promote and facilitate integration of WHR framework in APWLD'. The working group decided an important starting point was the creation of a position paper on APWLD's women's human rights framework. The purpose of the paper is to clarify and articulate APWLD's understanding and position/s on women human rights and formulate conceptual tools for addressing APWLD's programme issues. Before drafting the paper and seeking to facilitate the integration of a women's human rights approach into APWLD, the Working

Group felt that it was important to assess if there is an agreed upon or common WHR framework within APWLD. Different programmes have different ways of approaching and looking at WHRs. So the working group sought the input of members of APWLD at both APWLD's General Assembly Meeting in February 2004 and at the FLTP for Staff and APWLD members in February 2004. These consultations with APWLD members sought input into: what should be the essentials of a WHR framework; what are the conceptual tools that should be included in the framework; and what are the strategies for the promotion of WHRs that APWLD uses and should use in the future.

Based on these discussions the working group prepared the framework for the paper which has now been drafted. The paper traces the conceptual tools of a women's human rights approach, including feminism as a framework for analysing and interpreting discrimination; the public/private divide; substantive equality approach; intersectional approach; and the substance, structure, culture analysis of the law. The paper traces critical emerging issues in the region, such as fundamentalisms; militarisation and armed conflict; globalisation and neo-liberalism; violence against women; sexual and reproductive rights; accountability of private actors (individuals, trans-national actors, multi-national corporations); and impunity. The paper also outlines the strategies to promote advocacy of women human rights, including engagements with the law as well as informal institutions and processes; building and sustaining networks and movements; and implementing a rights based approach.

The paper will be circulated for comment and feedback to APWLD Task Forces and members to ensure that it is reflective of the programme and members issues and concerns. Input from APWLD Task Forces and members will be solicited at the General Assembly and Regional Council meeting in February 2006 and Task Force meetings throughout 2006. The outcomes of these discussions will inform the further development of the paper and its finalisation at the end of 2006.

## **Paper on Fundamentalisms and Women's Human Rights**

**Output:** A paper on 'Fundamentalisms and WHR' prepared, debated and utilised by APWLD members;

**Indicators:** At least 2 programmes of APWLD were able to use the paper to deepen their understanding on the issue and incorporate it in their work.

**Funders:** HIVOS, Novib and Sida

The Working Group identified a need to develop a more nuanced understanding on the inter-linkages between gender, diversity and identity politics, women's human rights and fundamentalisms and how these impact on the current situation for women's struggle for these rights. Thus the working group decided to draft a conceptual framework for deepening our understanding on these issues. The broad outline of the paper includes: strategies; definitions of fundamentalisms and related issues; manifestations; and strategies for addressing fundamentalisms. The paper will include examples of how fundamentalisms have manifested in various countries around the region gathered from members of APWLD. This paper will be circulated to APWLD Task Forces and members to help enrich each programmes' analysis of these issues in APWLDs programmes and focuses.

## **Additional Activities**

Some additional activities were taken in the course of the year, upon request from members, partners and other organisations. These activities were taken on since they furthered the first and third objective of the programme, i.e., 'to promote the Women's Human Rights framework in APWLD's programmes and among its members and partners' and 'to enhance the understanding of emerging issues of women's rights in programmes of APWLD and among members', respectively.

These additional activities were:

**Participation in the 49th Session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) for the global review of BPFA (February 28- March 11, 2005 New York)**

More than 6,000 women participated in the 49th Session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW), emphasising again that the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) adopted in 1995 is not just a UN document but is a document which still holds a lot of value in the women's movement and is perhaps the strongest statement of consensus on women's equality. Fearing the opening of the BPFA text for re-negotiation, the women's groups were prepared with concerted lobbying efforts to make the UN reaffirm the BPFA at the 49th Session of CSW. The US proposed amendments to the 'Political Declaration' reaffirming BPFA were successfully resisted by women's groups.

Ten resolutions were approved by CSW - six new resolutions (on gender mainstreaming in national policies and programmes; the possible appointment of a special rapporteur on discrimination against women; trafficking; integrating a gender perspective in post-disaster relief, particularly in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster; indigenous women; and women's economic advancement) and four traditional texts (on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS; the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan; and the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women).

A resolution that will be of particular interest to women's groups and members and partners of APWLD, considering APWLD's extensive work with Special Rapporteurs, is the resolution put forth by the Philippines and Rwanda, on creation of a Special Rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women. This would hopefully intensify efforts to revoke laws that discriminated on the basis of sex and to remove gender bias in the administration of justice. The Commission would decide to consider at its fiftieth session the advisability of the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women. For more information on resolutions, please, visit: <http://www.un.org/>

[womenwatch/daw/Review/english/news.htm](http://womenwatch/daw/Review/english/news.htm)

From the Asia-Pacific region, several women's groups participated. The Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW) was coordinating the efforts within the region. APWLD has worked very closely with Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW) since last year for activities relating to BPFA+10. As part of their lobbying efforts, APWW had put together a "Negotiation Kit for Beijing+10", commonly known as the "little purple book". It identified the gains, gaps, emerging issues and recommendations per the 12 critical areas of concern. APWLD had prepared the chapter on Human Rights of Women for the "little purple book". From the region, the Philippines proposed a resolution on integrating a gender perspective in post-disaster relief efforts, particularly in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster. The resolution strongly called on governments and other relevant bodies, in their responses to disaster situations, to take into account the particular needs of women and girls including taking necessary measures to protect women and girls from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and all other forms of violence in the context of natural disasters. It also called on governments to involve women in all levels of decision-making in disaster situations.

As mentioned, APWLD, in collaboration with others, organised a side event on Women Human Rights Defenders, which was well received. APWLD members from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan (Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan and Feminist League) were lobbying for introduction of special measures to promote women's participation in political processes in Central Asia, members from Burma (Women's League of Burma) were advocating for de-legitimising the military regime of Burma and ending the state violence, members from Korea (Korean Women's Association United) were advocating on trafficking issues and on the comfort women issue — to make the Japanese government accountable for its war-time military sexual slavery and also calling for 'no permanent security council seat for Japan until justice to 'comfort women' is achieved. The Programme Officer also joined the documentation team of APWW.

Participation at CSW furthered the objective of the WHR Programme to engage with strategic

international venues to further APWLD's advocacy issues. Participation at CSW in 2005 was crucial to follow-up the WHR Programme's advocacy and involvement in the Beijing +10 review and to further our advocacy and campaign on Women Human Rights Defenders.

#### **Participation in the Consultation on Women and Land Rights, February 10th Delhi, India**

APWLD was invited to attend the Consultation on Women and Land Rights organised by Sathi in collaboration with Asia Pacific Women's Watch and India Women's Watch. The consultation was basically using the BPFA+10 momentum to hold governments accountable to its commitment of giving land rights to women—including access to and control over resources. It emphasised the inter-linkages between VAW and women's right to adequate housing, an area APWLD has worked extensively on. The PO participated in the Consultation.

#### **Participation in the Global Consultation on the Ratification and Use of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 27-30 August 2005, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

APWLD was invited to attend the Global Consultation on the Ratification and Use of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women organised by IWRAW-AP. This four day Consultation was attended by over 100 experts and advocates from around the world to discuss strategies for the ratification and use of the option protocol to CEDAW. The Consultation aimed to increase the skills and understanding of participants on the OP-CEDAW, as well as share experiences and best practices for its ratification and use – with the aim that these participants will then return to their countries and regions of the world to apply what they have learned and to launch into more intensive advocacy towards the increased ratification and use of the OP-CEDAW, thereby enhancing women's human rights overall. On the last day of the Consultation participants broke into regional groups and created regional plans for the ratification and use of the Optional Protocol including means to collaborate and share information and resources.

#### **WHR Working Group Meeting**

From 4-5 December 2005 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the Working Group met to review the activities of the Working Group over the last year and plan strategic objectives and activities for the next three years.

### **3. Lessons Learnt and Future Plans**

#### **Lessons Learnt:**

With the end of the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and with it the end of the BPFA+10 review process, the women's movement is reflecting on where to go from here with BPFA. In 1995, the BPFA was adopted by 189 governments, reaffirmed in 2000 and again in 2005. The critical step now is to make governments deliver against their promises. The gap between commitments and the reality for women is large and is in fact widening for many women. The WHR Programme will take up this challenge in the next programme cycle by building capacity of APWLD members to advocate and protect their rights using a women's human rights framework which rests on implementation of international standards and government's accountability for the fulfilment of WHRs.

The WHRD activities and Consultation revealed once again that 'WHRDs' is a new term for many activists across the world. There is little awareness and consciousness among women on the concept of WHRDs or articulation of the difficulties and challenges they face as arising from being women human rights defenders. There is even less awareness on the existence of the declaration on HRDs, thus, there is a need to continue this campaign under the WHR programme and circulate and disseminate widely the HRD Declaration. The Consultation also demonstrated the widespread nature of the threats and attacks against WHRDs and the need to continue the campaign.

Two of the working group members also participated in the VAW Programmes Planning Meeting on Access to Justice which took place in Mumbai, India from 22-23 April 2005 to assist the VAW TF

to conceptualise a campaign on Access to Justice for Violence against Women which has a women's human rights framework approach. Participation of WG members in the meeting was valuable and provided an example of future involvement in other APWLD programmes.

## **Future Plans:**

The working group will focus on assisting each programme to integrate the WHR framework into their programme and activities. To assist APWLDs Task Forces to integrate the WHR Framework into their programmes and activities, a member of the Working Group will attend each Task Force meeting over the next year to discuss the framework, mechanisms, strategies and dialogue with Task Forces to see how it can be integrated and used to address the issues of each programme. WG will also respond to requests by APWLD Task Forces to take part in activities of the Task Forces as resource people.

For FLTP trainings in the future, APWLD's national partners should play a more active role, in selecting participants and in follow-up with these participants later on how they have been able to utilise what they learnt at the training. Women's groups already conducting trainings should also be targeted so that an even larger audience can be reached. The WG will assist members in Indonesia to conduct National FLTP training in Indonesia in 2006. Alumni from Indonesia of FLTP training of the last few years will be enlisted to assist with the training. The WG hopes to encourage other members to do similar trainings at a national level with the assistance of the WG members and the completed FLTP Training Manual. Diversifying the pool of FLTP trainers is also important and thus APWLD will hold a TOT in 2006.

Recognising the fact that the issues raised by the WHRDs campaign is new for many women activists in the region, the WG will continue to work on this issue at a regional level and support on-going campaigns at a national level. The WG has received requests to translate the Human Rights Defender Declaration into languages from the region for dissemination at the national and grassroots level.

# Violence Against Women



## 1. Overview

While undoubtedly the last decade has seen some important developments in the struggle to make women's lives free of violence – including the creation of international standards and mechanisms to address violence against women, the recognition of violence against women as a form of discrimination and the recognition and visibility of the multiple forms of violence against women – violence against women continues with impunity in many parts of the region and continues to be one of the most visible manifestations of the unequal and unjust power relations between men and women in our societies.

At a national level too measures have been taken to address violence against women. Just this year India and Sri Lanka have both passed legislation addressing domestic violence. In the

last report of Radhika Coomaraswamy (2003) as UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, she undertook a survey of countries around the world and found that in nearly all countries at least some efforts had been made by governments to enact laws to address violence against women since the creation of her mandate in 1994<sup>1</sup>. Yet despite this, violence against women has not decreased, and it is, in fact, emerging in

<sup>1</sup> REPORT OF THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, MS RADHIKA COOMARASWAMY, TO THE 59TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS 6 JANUARY 2003, 'INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN' E/CN.4/2003/75.

new and dangerous forms and impunity for VAW persists (particularly, in the family and community where VAW is frequently perpetrated and/or condoned by States). Thus, while a legal framework is useful in establishing normative standards, it is of little value if: they are not implemented effectively; mechanisms are not created for enforcing the rights and redressing the violations; and the environment in which they operate is not enabling for women to access these rights. Clearly, to create an environment where women can truly live without gender-based violence, much more needs to be done.

Over the last programme cycle, the VAW Task Force has taken up the challenge explicated by the former UNSRVAW and has focused on gaining greater conceptual clarity on the barriers to women accessing justice at a family, community, national and trans-national level. In a Consultation with the UNSRVAW, Dr Yakin Erturk, held in October 2005, discussions focused on the challenges to accessing justice where 'culture' and 'cultural values' are employed to legitimise and justify violence against women. Discriminatory values and beliefs are frequently enshrined (or purported to be enshrined) in the cultural beliefs and values of a community. International law is clear that States can not 'invoke custom, tradition, or religious considerations to avoid their obligations with respect to the elimination of discrimination against women' (Article 4, DEVAW) and in fact the State is obliged to change the attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate the violence. However, culture (as well as tradition and religion) are politicised in many parts of Asia Pacific and used by individuals, communities and governments alike to condone VAW, to justify inaction in bringing perpetrators to justice and inaction in ensuring the provision of appropriate remedies for VAW survivors. Women's rights are pitted against cultural rights and values and in this battle women's human rights lose out. Transforming cultural practices and beliefs is an important step in addressing the underlying causes of VAW and we must demand states uphold women's human rights in the face of competing cultural rights.

The interplay of globalisation, fundamentalisms and militarisms in the region results in the reinforcing of discrimination and inequality, which has

particular and power effects on violence against women and women's ability to access justice. Economic globalisation, premised on the primacy of the market over peoples' lives, has eroded human rights overall. In several countries across the region, States have increased their stronghold over their constituents as their control over economic and political affairs has been eroded by the pervasive role of WTO, International Financial Institutions and TNCs and MNCs. In many parts of the region increased militarism has characterised the responses of states to this threat to their sovereignty. Increasing economic insecurity among the majority who are disadvantaged by economic globalisation process has sparked extreme fundamentalist formations. Increasingly these fundamentalist agenda are backed by the States who ride on the populist agenda. The growing fundamentalisms in the region continue to be a trend of critical concern for women's human rights, and violence against women, in particular, as states are rolling back on gains made at a national and international level by codifying fundamentalist values into the formal legal system which condone and perpetuate violence against women.

In the light of these developments, there is diminishing enforceability of women's human rights and diminishing opportunity for women to access justice as they are further marginalised at all levels of decision-making.

The VAW Task Force has also critically examined the concept of 'justice' in the context of violence against women, particularly in the context of a revival of informal justice mechanisms operating in the region, often with the endorsement of the State. Accessing 'justice' means more than just accessing justice through the courts - justice encompasses a women's life to live her life free of violence in all aspects of her life. While the law is an important mechanism for providing justice to women, it is also important that we look beyond the law because the law frequently fails to deliver justice to women and to meet women's diverse needs and concepts of justice. It is important that the women's movement frames its advocacy for justice for VAW survivors from a point of being responsive to the needs and concept of justice of the survivor. While we need to move away from the victim-

perpetrator/crime-punishment model we must assure that we do not move towards another concept of justice which is equally rooted in patriarchy such as some traditional justice mechanisms and religious courts.

To respond toward addressing these issues, the VAW programme set its objectives for 2003 - 2005 as follows:

1. To strengthen effectiveness of human rights mechanisms, specifically the UN Special Rapporteur mechanism, to address violence against women;
2. To build capacity of women's groups to advocate for elimination of existing and emerging forms of violence against women in the Asia Pacific;
3. To enhance conceptual clarity among NGOs working on violence against women, from a feminist perspective, towards addressing recognised and unrecognised forms of violence against women and their causes and consequences.

## 2. Activities and Results

### Consultations with the UN Special Rapporteurs

**Output:** 1. Regional consultation with UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing (UNSR-AH) on the issue of VAW and Right to Adequate Housing. 2. Establish a working relation with the newly appointed UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women (UNSRVAW) to be able to hold consultations with her on the issues of VAW in the Asia Pacific, with a focus on state accountability.

**Indicators:** The extent of coverage in the UN fora of issues raised in the regional consultations on VAW and the accountability of the states violations in the Asia Pacific (particularly the report of the UNSRs)

**Funders:** Ford Foundation

In the programme cycle 2003-2005, the VAW programme has continued to meet its objective of strengthening the UN Special Rapporteur mechanism in demanding State accountability for violence against women.

### 61st Session of UNCHR in Geneva from March 14 - April 22, 2005

The first big activity for the VAW Task Force this year was participation at the 61st Session of UNCHR in Geneva from March 14 - April 22, 2005. Participation at UNCHR this year was critical because the VAW TF of APWLD had worked closely with the UNSR-AH, Mr. Miloon Kothari, who was to present his report on Women and Housing and the UNSR-VAW, Dr. Yakin Erturk, who would present her report to the UNCHR on Inter-linkages between HIV/AIDS and VAW.

Both reports gave very good coverage to issues raised by APWLD in the consultations organised on 'Interlinkages between VAW and Women's Right to Adequate Housing' in October 2003 in Delhi and 'Sexuality and Violence against Women: Access to Justice' in July 2004 in Jakarta.

In his report to the Commission on Human Rights on Women and Adequate Housing (E/CN.4/2005/43), Miloon Kothari has emphasised that "A State's obligation to eliminate gender discrimination is one of immediate effect and failure to do so constitutes a human rights violation. We strongly encourage states to fulfil their obligation to eliminate all forms of gender discrimination." In the summary of the report he states that "The widespread prevalence of gender-based violence is a central thread in the fabric of human rights violations faced by women, including violations of the right to adequate housing and land".

Cultural norms and practices have long been used to deny women equality. As a women's organisation, APWLD believes that the realm of culture cannot be left untouched if governments are serious about their commitment to gender equality. In this light too, the Special Rapporteur's report is welcomed for recognising this and stating clearly that while respecting legal pluralism, human rights including gender equality must be re-

spected in the application of law—be it customary, common or State law.

In his report, the UNSR-AH also covered the impact of the Indian Ocean Tsunami on women's adequate housing, an area which APWLD has advocated on strongly over the last year.

In an oral intervention made by the PO at the UNCHR, APWLD endorsed the Special Rapporteur's recommendations and urged the Commission to reformulate the mandate to address the interconnections between housing and land, property and inheritance as housing cannot be looked at in isolation from issues of land, property and inheritance.

APWLD along with Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE); International Women's Rights Action Watch –Asia Pacific (IWRAW-AP), Habitat International Coalition – Housing and Land Rights Network (HIC-HRLN) worked on the UN Resolution on women's equal ownership, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing (Resolution 2005/25, at [http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/CHR/resolutions/E-CN\\_4-RES-2005-25doc](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/CHR/resolutions/E-CN_4-RES-2005-25doc)) by analysing the text of the language, suggesting alternate language and following up with government delegates that our recommendations are incorporated.

The resolution was a good resolution by any standards. It noted with interest<sup>2</sup> 'the findings of the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing's progress report on women and adequate housing (E/CN.4/2005/43) and reaffirmed women's right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing. The resolution is particularly noteworthy for its comments on women's adequate housing in relation to domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, customary laws, the impact of gender based violence in emergency reconstruction and indigenous women. Importantly, the resolution recognised that the lack of adequate housing can make women more vulnerable to various forms of violence, including domestic vio-

lence, and in particular that the lack of housing alternatives may limit many women's ability to leave violent situations. The resolution said "laws, policies, customs, traditions and practices that ... prevent women from owning and inheriting land, property and housing and exclude women from participating fully in development processes, are discriminatory and contribute to increasing the poverty of women and girls". The Commission encouraged Governments to "support the transformation of customs and traditions that discriminate against women and deny women security of tenure and equal ownership of, access to and control over land and equal rights to own property and to adequate housing". It noted "the impact of gender-based discrimination and violence against women on women's equal ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing is acute, particularly during complex emergency situations, reconstruction and rehabilitation".

In addition, the resolution is mindful of the impacts of "multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination" on women, and also notes the need to achieve "substantive equality for women and girls", through consideration of women's specific socioeconomic contexts.

Finally, the resolution also made ground on the indivisible nature of rights by noting that women's inheritance rights are linked to women's adequate housing. It "reaffirms Commission on the Status of Women resolution 42/1, which, inter alia, urges States to design and revise laws to ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, and the right to adequate housing, including through the right to inheritance...".

The success of getting very good coverage in the UNSR-AH's report and ensuring the resolution incorporated the important issues that APWLD was raising, was due to the concerted effort of the groups working on the issue which included IWRAW-AP, HIC-ALRN, COHRE in addition to APWLD. The process of regional consultations with grass roots women themselves raising their concerns had built a momentum on the issue. The SR-RAH acknowledged and thanked APWLD at several briefings and meetings in the UNCHR.

<sup>2</sup> COMMENTS COMPILED AND ANALYSED BY ALISON AGGARWAL, APWLD MEMBER.

The UNSR-VAW, Dr. Yakin Erturk, also presented her report on “Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective: VAW; Intersections of VAW and HIV/AIDS”. The report is very comprehensive and covers the multi-faceted dimensions of the problem. She addresses issues of VAW both as a cause and a consequence for HIV infection; the stigma and discrimination experienced by women living with HIV/AIDS; as well as issues of obstacles women face in accessing medical care and justice. The report expresses concern over the increased politicisation of culture and articulation of religions fundamentalisms. She explicitly notes APWLD’s contributions and covers several issues raised by APWLD in our consultation with her including, those of enhanced vulnerability of migrant women, sex workers and women living in situations of armed conflict to the pandemic; the male construct of sexuality and its contribution to the pandemic; as well as the close links of VAW with the pandemic.

The publication from the consultation with her on ‘Sexuality and Violence against Women: Access to Justice’ in July 2004 in Jakarta, was printed early this year. It was circulated at the UNCSW and UNCHR and was well received.

Apart from following up on the resolutions, APWLD co-organised the following side events:

**a. Women and the Right to Adequate Housing: Connections and Strategies Forward; April 4, 2005**

The side event was organised by APWLD along with the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE); International Women’s Rights Action Watch –Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP), Habitat International Coalition – Housing and Land Rights Network (HIC-HRLN) with the objective of raising awareness of women’s rights to land, housing and inheritance. The workshop was well attended by around 40-45 participants. The workshop began with sharing from the Asia Consultation, the Pacific Consultation and the Middle East and North America Consultation on Women and Housing. Starkly similar issues came up in each consultation, for instance, that poverty was a determining factor, that social customs and traditions play a critical role in denying women their rights, weak

protection for victims/survivors of domestic violence, forced evictions, adverse impact of globalisation, etc. Key points that emerged as common areas of concern were: lack of access to justice; non-implementation of laws; and lack of awareness among women of their rights. Importantly, the discussions highlighted the barriers which culture and religion can form to prevent women accessing their rights to housing, inheritance and land, particularly in the case of women facing intersectional discrimination, such as Dalit women.

Thematic presentations on specific issues that affect women’s housing and land rights were also made. Marilyn Tahi, APWLD’s VAW TF member from Vanuatu spoke about the impact of discriminatory customs and traditions on women’s land, housing and inheritance rights in Pacific. Alison Aggarwal, APWLD member, presented the findings of the Pacific consultation, which highlighted the customary and legal barriers faced by women in the Pacific in accessing equal rights to land and housing, particularly for women experiencing intersectional discrimination on the grounds of disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation and other factors. Yamini, the PO, made a presentation on Women and the Tsunami. The UNSR-AH tied the discussions together with an overview of the status of women’s rights to land, housing and inheritance. The presentations generated a lot of interest and the feedback was very positive.

**b. Violence against Women in War: Justice, Redress and Empowerment for Women; April 7, 2005**

This side event was organised by Korea Women’s Associations United/Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan. The co-sponsors were APWLD, Centre for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL) and Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice for the ICC.

Charlotte Bunch opened the discussions and Dr. Yakin Erturk gave a broad overview on VAW in War situations and Yamini, PO of APWLD, located the issue in the context of Asia Pacific. The panel had a testimony by a 78-year old surviving comfort woman who had come from Korea to speak on

the matter. Nang Lao Liang Won of Women's League of Burma made a presentation on the systematic use of rape as a weapon of war by the military regime in Burma. Heisoo Shin, member of CEDAW Committee and APWLD, chaired and facilitated the discussions.

The panel was followed by Heisoo Shin presenting signatures collected for the Petition to the UN, ILO and to Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The petition is to urge the Japanese government to make an official apology and legal compensation to the victims of sexual slavery.

This specific side event helped advance the second objective of the VAW programme by supporting national campaigns in Asia Pacific—the campaign against Japan's Sexual Slavery in WWII and the Stop License to Rape Campaign of WLB and Shan Women's Action Network.

### **c. Defending Women Defending Rights; April 8 2005**

(See the section under WHR Programme report)

#### **Asia Pacific NGO Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Bangkok 5-6 October 2005**

From 5-6 October in Bangkok, the VAW Task Force held its second regional Consultation with Dr Yakin Erturk, the UNSRVAW on 'Access to Justice: Holding the State Accountable for Violence Against Women by Non-State Actors' in line with the focus of the UNSRVAW's next thematic report to the UNCHR in April 2006. The Consultation was proceeded on 4 October by a one-day Study Workshop with participants which studied the UNSRVAW mandate and the international legal standard of 'due diligence' for violence against women (and international mechanisms for enforcing it), which was a new concept for many of the participants. The learnings in the Study Workshop created a common understanding for the ensuing discussions in the Consultation.

The Consultation brought together over 30 women's NGO from the region to share their issues and concerns relating to VAW with the UNSRVAW. The Consultation focused on violence against women perpetrated by non-state actors

and the obligations of the state to hold non-state actors accountable for VAW under the due diligence standard particularly where 'culture' and 'cultural values' are employed to legitimise and justify violence against women. The Consultation identified the need to address 'cultural norms' as an underlying cause of VAW. Participants gave examples of the impact and implication on violence against women for women living under legal and normative justice systems as well as the challenges in holding states accountable to their obligations to ensure women's access to justice under dual legal systems. In some countries, discriminatory cultural norms and religious beliefs are utilised to oppress women through the parallel operation of legal and normative justice mechanisms. Normative justice systems, such as the 'jirga' and 'punchiat' in Pakistan, may authorise violence against women by classifying acts of violence as acceptable under 'traditional' or religious norms or by sentencing women to harsh punishments (for example honour killings), for breaking societal norms or religious laws. In other instances, the formal legal system may impose a reconstruction of the cultural values of a minority community on victims of violence against women which results in a gender discriminatory outcome and no justice for the survivor. For example, the formal legal system in Australia has mitigated sentences for sexual assault against Indigenous women within their communities on the basis that in Indigenous Australian culture such practices are accepted. The sharing of participants from many countries in the region demonstrated the challenges posed to accessing justice under plural justice system.

The Consultation also highlighted some other challenges to holding states responsible for VAW by non-state actors in the Asia-Pacific region including: in conflict situations; for migrant and trafficked women; for women with disabilities; where the actors are MNCs and TNCs; where the actors are military personnel during military occupation; and in disaster situations.

The Consultation presented specific strategies and recommendations to the UNSRVAW for inclusion in her report including: campaigning states to remove reservations to CEDAW and ratify the Optional Protocol so that women can access

the CEDAW committee to seek a remedy where domestic remedies fail; setting up a permanent regional mechanisms in Asia Pacific; and lobbying for international standards and mechanisms which will hold MNCs and TNCs accountable for VAW.

The feedback from the UNSRVAW was very positive and she reaffirmed her commitment to continue the meetings. She requested APWLD to share its expertise in organising these Consultations with women's NGO's in other regions to encourage them to hold similar meetings. The extent to which the discussions have been included in the UNSRVAW's report will be revealed when the UNSRVAW presents her report to the UNCHR in April 2006. A summary report was prepared and sent to the UNSRVAW at the end of October. A more extensive report is in the process of being finalised and will be distributed to the UNSRVAW, participants and other relevant members and groups early next year.

#### **Thai National Consultation with the UNSRVAW, 7 October 2005, Bangkok Thailand**

After feedback from the UNSRVAW that the National Consultation organised in Indonesia following the regional NGO Consultation last year was very useful for her mandate, a Thai National Consultation was held in Bangkok directly after the regional Consultation. This was organised by a member of the APWLD Violence Against Women Task Force, Suteera Vitchitramonda of the Association for the Promotion and Status of Women, Thailand. The Consultation brought together over 100 women and men from all over Thailand to discuss the critical issues relating to violence against women in the country. These included women's NGO activists, academics as well as members of the Thai government and the police. The Consultation focused on three main areas of concern: the status of violence against women, particularly violence in the family; discriminatory laws and law enforcement; protection from violence against women in the state and community.

The UNSRVAW spoke to the participants of the Consultation expressing her concern on the situation of migrant workers, stateless and refugee women within Thailand and the interlinkages with violence against women. She stressed that as signatory to UN conventions the government is

obligated to take actions in accordance with the measures prescribed in the conventions. She made recommendations directed at the Thai government which included; the ratification of conventions relating to migrants, trafficking in persons and Convention on rights of the Child; inviting the Special Rapporteur on trafficking and other mandates to visit Thailand; the removal of CEDAW reservations; speeding up the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act; and creating legislation on marital rape.

The Special Rapporteur also met with the Minister of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand and other High Level officials (including a Supreme Court Judge and the Human Rights Commissioner) while in Bangkok and made strategic recommendations to him regarding measures to address violence against women based on the concerns women's groups raised during the National Consultation. Particularly, the UNSRVAW highlighted that the laws in Thailand on sexual assault specifically exclude 'marital rape' from the ambit of the legislation. As a result, at an interview with the media a few days later the Minister said he was surprised to learn of 'marital rape' and would amend the legislation to criminalise marital rape. The Minister subsequently proposed the amendment to the Thai parliament. The Thai government recently reported to the CEDAW Committee and stated that the proposal to amend the law on sexual violence to criminalise marital rape was met with strong objections from the Council of State. However the Minister stated he was 'trying to reach a compromise on this'.

### **Supporting national campaigns**

**Output:** Support provided to national campaigns in the Asia Pacific for elimination of existing and emerging forms of VAW at regional/international fora

**Indicators:** Extent of coverage of these campaigns at regional /international fora; at least four alliances created at the regional/international fora between women's groups

**working on these issues and how useful have they found these alliances**

**Funders: Ford Foundation and Action Aid**

The side event co-organised by APWLD at the UNCHR on April 7, 2005 on 'Violence against Women in War: Justice, Redress and Empowerment for Women' helped advance the second objective of the VAW programme by supporting national campaigns in Asia Pacific—the campaign against Japan's Sexual Slavery in WWII and the Stop License to Rape Campaign of WLB and Shan Women's Action Network. Both these campaigns are campaigns of APWLD's members and partners that APWLD has endorsed and supported.

As a part of creating opportunities for women from underrepresented geographical regions in Asia Pacific, the VAW TF supported the participation of Marilyn Tahi, from Vanuatu, Pacific at the UNCHR. This was critical in ensuring that issues and voices of Pacific women were raised at our advocacy venues. In her reflection, Marilyn wrote 'It is an excellent opportunity for dissemination of information as well as to learn from experiences of different groups and to make contacts with other people and groups. For NGOs, it is a venue to provide information and gain support for their issues and campaigns'.

She felt concerned about no representation from Pacific Island States at the UNCHR session; 'This meant that the issues and concerns of the Pacific people, especially women, are not being heard by the commission. Though the Pacific is "lumped" in the region of the Asia Pacific, rarely did I hear any of the Asian countries sharing views from the Pacific'. Therefore, the following is recommended:

That the Pacific Women's Network against VAW and other groups should obtain UN ECOSOC status to be able to bring the Pacific issues and concern to the UNCHR. Pacific Island governments become members of the UNCHR. That UN Special Rapporteurs should be invited to make country missions to the Pacific Island States – especially on Land & Housing and VAW.

APWLD also supported the accreditation of a VAW Task Force member, Nang Lao Liang Won from the Shan Women's Action network and Women's League of Burma to attend the 61st Session of the UNCHR in Geneva. As well as speaking in APWLD panel discussion outlined above, Nang Lao Liang Won engaged in: lobbying of government representatives on strong language on women and violence in the Burma Resolution; making oral statements on violence against Women and Indigenous women issues in Burma and Shan state; speaking at self-organised panels; and attending parallel meetings with Special Rapporteurs. As a result of this strong advocacy work the Burma Resolution included a clause reading 'to end widespread rape and other forms of sexual violence persistently carried out by members of the armed forces, in particular against women belonging to ethnic minorities, and to investigate and bring to justice any perpetrators in order to end impunity for these acts'. Nang Lao Liang Won pushed for the resolution to include the term 'systematic rape' rather than just 'widespread rape'. While the term was not included in the Resolution, discussion and debate on the terminology with government mission 'agreed in principle' with this and so they will continue to lobby for this at the next UNCHR.

The VAW Programme organised its second regional consultation with Dr Yakin Erturk, the UNSRVAW in Bangkok from 5-6 October 2005. APWLD supported many of our members to attend the Consultation and share critical issues relating to VAW affecting women in their countries and communities at present. VAW Task Force members attended the Consultation and shared their national level concerns with the UNSRVAW as both formal speakers and during discussions. Other APWLD members were also invited to the Consultation giving them an opportunity to speak on their national campaigns and advocacy issues at this regional forum and disseminated at an International level through the thematic report of the UNSRVAW to the UNCHR. The National Consultation with the UNSRVAW organised in Bangkok directly after the regional consultation, also gave a platform for members in Thailand to raise issues of specific concern to women living in Thailand. As mentioned above, one concrete re-

sult of the UNSRVAW's presence in Thailand and meeting with women's groups was the Minister for Social Development and Human Security's statement that he would amend the current law on sexual assault to ensure that marital rape was not excluded from its ambit.

Following the Consultation with the UNSRVAW in Bangkok in October the VAW programme held its annual Task Force meeting where the Task Force reviewed the achievements of the programme over the last 3 year programme cycle and planned and prioritised objectives and activities for the next 3 year programme cycle.

APWLD has also supported many action alerts on VAW issues in the region in the last year including many of the campaigns of our members. For example, APWLD supported the translation into the Mongolian language of the UNSRVAW's 2005 report to the UNCHR on 'Interlinkages between VAW and HIV/AIDs' to assist a Task Force members awareness raising campaign on this issue during the 16 days of activism.

**The Planning meeting for the VAW Programme's campaign on 'Access to Justice', Mumbai, 22nd-23rd April 05 followed by the field trip to Pune, 24th April:**

The planning meeting for the 'Access to Justice Campaign' was critical in laying the initial groundwork for the VAW Programme's work on Access to Justice. The meeting started with a discussion on why the VAW programme should develop a campaign on access to justice. It then discussed the modalities of the campaign, what would be the activities initiated by the TF members and how it would weave in together as one campaign. It was agreed that each VAW TF member would initiate a specific activity under the campaign and would send the secretariat the details of such activity. The VAW programme's work on 'access to justice' will attempt to redefine the notion of justice from a critical feminist perspective. Methods of redress will not just look at legal redress within the formal legal system but will examine other forms of redress as well the increasingly prevalent role of informal justice mechanisms in addressing violence against women. It will review and develop recommendations on how best to realise the international human rights

standards towards the elimination of VAW.

Subsequently at the VAW Task Force meeting in October, the Task Force re-assessed the 'campaign' and felt that while work on 'access to justice' should be a critical focus of the Task Forces work, a 'campaign' was not the best modality for the Task Force to address this issue. The Task Force decided to rather integrate a focus on 'access to justice' into the programmes activities, making 'access to justice' a perspective with which issues addressed by the programme should be looked at.

Much of the analysis of how the programme will approach this question of 'access to justice' was done at the planning meeting for the campaign in Mumbai. The planning meeting discussed some of the issues around justice for violence against women which form the backdrop for the Task Forces work on this issue and that will also inform the direction of its work. After decades of trying to use the legal system to gain justice for women victims of violence there is a sense of frustration that the legal system is not delivering justice to women and in many cases in fact further victimises women (for example where women making a complaint of sexual assault to police are put in detention for 'their protection'). Rarely do women receive equality of opportunity, access and results within the legal system and its institutions for violence against women. So, while the law remains an important mechanism for providing justice to women, it is also important that we look beyond the law to more effective mechanisms for delivering justice for women.

The meeting discussed the need for a holistic approach to women's lives when talking about 'justice' for women. We have to factor in what the individual experiences as justice. Punishment is not a mandatory component of justice and alternative dispute mechanisms such as mediation and conciliation need to be explored. However, it is also important to consider how we will measure 'justice' without 'punishment' as the remedy. While we need to move away from the victim-perpetrator/crime-punishment model we must assure that we do not move towards another conception of justice which is equally rooted in patriarchy. For some men their measure of 'justice' or success rate in resolving

domestic violence may be how many women go back to their husbands. However this is clearly not the justice we want to promote for women. While we need to move away from the victim-perpetrator/crime-punishment model we must assure that we do not move towards another conception of justice which is equally rooted in patriarchy.

We must look beyond the law to open paths for women seeking justices outside of the legal system. What do survivors of violence against women want in terms of redress? What does justice mean to survivors of VAW in a myriad of contexts? We need to explore non-violent ways of living together and defining justice. How do we mediate between the immediate and practical and the transformative and strategic actions at different levels? We need to explore these questions in dialogue with the survivors of VAW and imagine and create possibilities for justice beyond the limits of the law. Our campaign on Access to Justice will provide a space for discussing these questions and to advance, broaden and expand our concepts and notions of justice.

The meeting was attended by the members of the VAW task Force and the Women Human Rights Working Group. As outcomes of the meeting each Task Force member drafted an 'action plan' for work on access to justice and the PO drafted an 'essay on justice' and some 'guiding questions' to help shape our enquiry into 'justice' in our national level work. The meeting was followed by a field trip to Pune where we visited Masum, the organisation of Manisha Gupte, the Convenor of the VAW TF, and a number of the communities in which Masum works.

#### **Training on Documenting Human Rights Abuses Against Women Human Rights Defenders in Nepal:**

The VAW Programme supported a training on Documenting Human Rights Abuses against WHRDs in Nepal as part of APWLD's cross-cutting campaign on Women Human Rights Defenders. Please see the full report on APWLD's WHRD campaign for further information in the cross-cutting section.

#### **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 25 November**

APWLD drafted a statement and participated in a demonstration in Chiang Mai, Thailand on November 25 for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, condemning the continuing prevalence and impunity of violence against women in the region. In a build-up to the anti-WTO activities in Hong Kong APWLD's statement denounced the erosion of women's human rights, increasing poverty, hunger, unemployment, landlessness and exploitation brought about by the unfair trade policies pushed by the WTO and demanded government accountability for the increasing violence against brought about by the trade liberalising agenda. The statement demonstrated the inter-linkages between women's ESC rights and violence against women.

#### **Development of the concept of VAW from a feminist perspective**

**Output:** Enhance conceptual clarity among NGOs working on VAW, on feminist perspective, towards addressing recognised and unrecognised forms of VAW and their causes and consequences including by producing a paper on VAW and globalisation.

**Indicators:** At least 3 TF members could deepen their understanding on the issue and have been able to use strengthen their work.

**Funders:** Ford Foundation

The inter-linkages between VAW and globalisation have been a running theme in the work of the VAW Programme over the last programme cycle. Rather than a specific paper explicating these inter-linkages, all of our reports have included elaborated descriptions of the multi-faceted and complex relationships between globalisation and VAW. The VAW programme has developed a nuanced understanding of the interplay between the forces of globalisation, increasing militarism and fundamentalisms in the re-

gion on violence against women. The report written by the VAW programme arising from the Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing in 2003, explored the role of globalisation (and neo-liberal economic globalisation in particular) in eroding women's access to adequate housing and the corresponding increased vulnerability of women to violence. The Report from the Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women in 2004 explored the deleterious impacts on women of the rapid spread of neo-liberal doctrines and practices in the region through the process of globalisation. A cycle of poverty and exploitations defines the experience of globalisation for many women in the region as it has opened up new exploitative trans-national markets, created new demands for cheap, unregulated labour markets, destroyed the livelihoods of communities all of which increases women's vulnerability to violence in the family/community, nationally and trans-nationally. In the recent Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur in October 2005 the role of TNCs and MNCs in perpetrating VAW (through the employment of para-military forces to attack women fighting for their right to live without corporate control over their lives and livelihoods) and creating conditions of poverty and despair which increases women's vulnerability to violence was explored and recommendations and strategies to address this suggested.

Many VAW Task Force members have reported on how they have been able to use and share the VAW Programmes analysis of globalisation and VAW in their national level work including in trainings and lectures; shaping advocacy strategies particularly on migration and trafficking issues; and in Sri Lanka in the shadow reporting to CEDAW.

### **Additional Activities**

The following additional activity was undertaken during the course of the year since it furthered the objectives of the VAW programme:

#### **Contribution to the UN Secretary-General Study on Violence Against Women**

In December 2003, the General Assembly of the United Nations requested the Secretary- Gen-

eral to prepare an in-depth study on violence against women (resolution 58/185) which will be presented to the General Assembly in September 2006 for consideration. The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has responsibility for preparing the study, in close cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, and by soliciting information from Member States and non-governmental organisations. The study aims to enhance the knowledge base with regard to the extent and prevalence of violence against women, and expose the gaps and challenges in the availability of data, including methodologies for assessing its prevalence. APWLD is a member of the Task Force for the Study and the PO spoke in a panel discussion on the Study at the 10th AIWD International Forum on Women's Rights and Development on 30 October 2005. APWLD has disseminated information about the study and the calls for NGO inputs to our members and encouraged their participation in the preparatory process. APWLD submitted an input paper outlining some of the emerging and persistent concerns related to violence against women in the region arising from discussions between 30 women's NGOs and the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, in Bangkok Thailand from 5-6 October 2005.

## **3. Lessons Learnt and Future Plans**

### **Lessons Learnt:**

A continuing challenge for the programme is balancing the priorities of the programme set by the Task Force with the need to respond to the chosen theme of the UNSRVAW's report to meet our indicator – 'the extent of coverage in the report of the UNSRVAW'. Furthermore, if the UNSRVAW does not decide on the theme of her report until late in the year the programme may be unprepared to respond to it adequately thus missing an opportunity to provide the UNSRVAW with strategic information on the focus of her report.

The recent Consultation with the UNSRVAW demonstrated that legal standards like 'due dili-

gence' are unfamiliar concepts for many participants so a Study Workshop organised before the Consultation becomes crucial ground work for the Consultation to follow. Ideally two days should be given for the Study Workshop with facilitators identified from within APWLDs' resource pool.

The discussions in the Consultation demonstrated the gaps in strategies at an International, national and civil society level in addressing violence against women by non-state actors and thus the need to continue to work on this area. Also, there is a need to continue work on addressing 'culture' as an underlying cause of VAW and cultural relativists arguments as an underlying cause of impunity for VAW in the region.

Organising back-to-back National Consultations with the regional consultations should be continued. However the VAW Task Force must design guidelines for organising such Consultations to ensure that they meet their objectives of being a space for local women's NGOs to raise their concerns and dialogue with the UNSRVAV.

The VAW TF has received very positive feedback from members on the report from the UNSRVAV Consultation in 2004. Members have reported using the report extensively in trainings and disseminating the information widely to their networks. This feedback confirms the importance of continuing to write and publish reports from the Consultations. The report from the Consultation in October 2005 will be finalised and distributed in early 2006.

This year, the HR system of the UN has vividly illustrated the tenuous commitment of the international community to women's human rights. This was demonstrated by: the push by the US (which was successfully resisted by women's groups) to amend the Political Declaration to BPFA to limit its applicability particularly to reproductive rights; the sidelining of women's human rights in the Outcome Document of the UN Summit; and the only fleeting mention of violence against women in the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan's report 'In Larger Freedom'. These developments have demonstrated that despite the achievements at an international and national level, women are still at the point of having to continue to assert our women's right to live without discrimination, inequality

and violence even at the UN. We need concrete, specific and time-bound plans with resources for implementation of promises made at numerous International conventions and treaties, from both the UN and our governments. As details of the proposed reforms to the UN HR system emerge, we may also find that the way in which civil society can engage with the UN, particular the Special Procedures (like the Special Rapporteurs), is transformed.

## **Future Plans:**

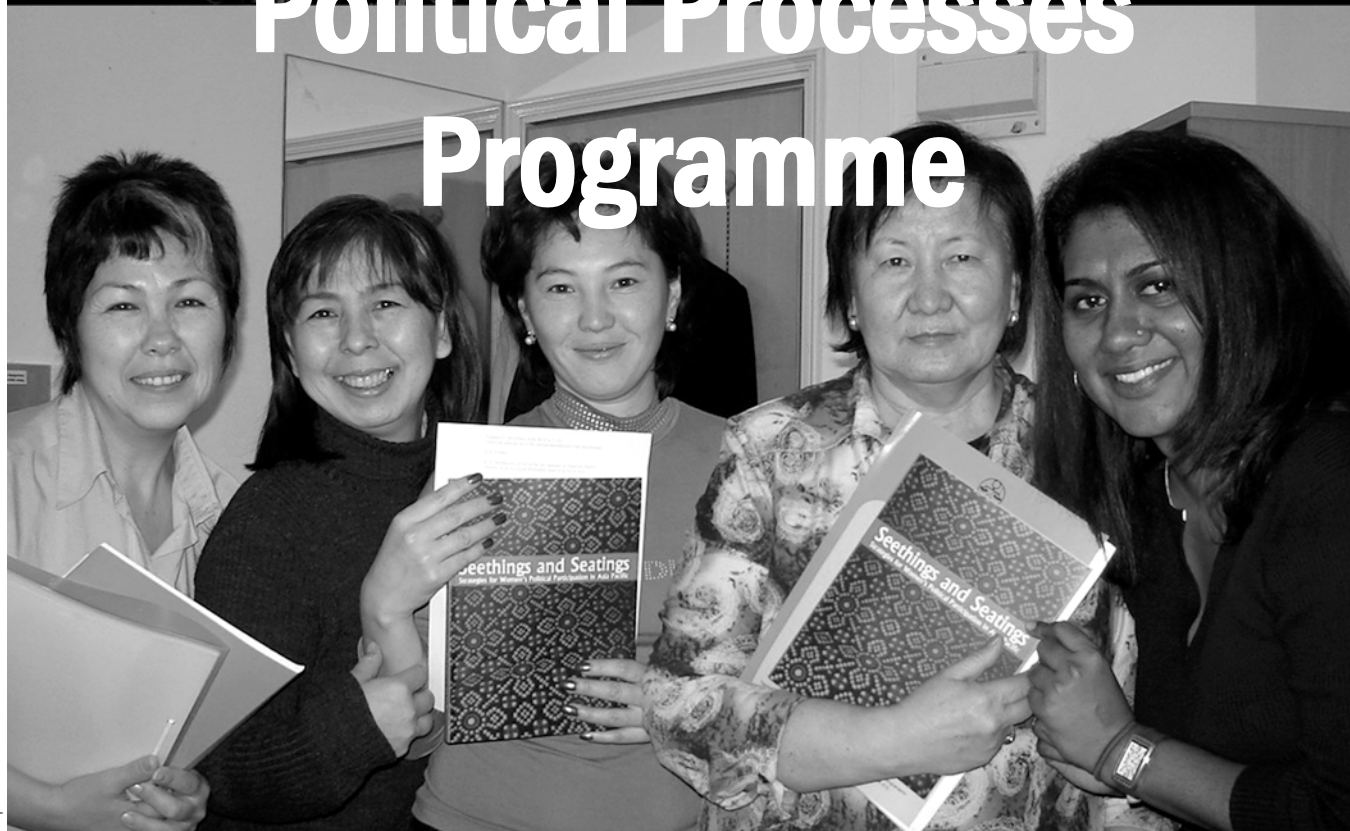
APWLD's VAW Programme will continue to organise Asia-Pacific NGO Consultations with the UN Special Rapporteur on VAW as they continue to provide an accessible and relevant UN mechanism to women's NGO's in the region in the absence of a regional human rights mechanism. The VAW Programme plans to build relationships with other UN Special Rapporteurs where their mandate relates to violence against women. The UNSRVAV has also indicated that she would like to work more closely with other SR mandate holders on areas of overlap. In response to this and to maximise the reach of the regional Consultations, the VAW Programme will invite another UN SR to join a Consultation with the UNSRVAV in the future. The VAW programme will also share its reports and resources with other Special Rapporteurs to try to infuse their mandate with a perspective on women's rights and VAW as a cross-cutting issue essential for the fulfilment of human rights, security and development.

The VAW Programme will continue to develop its work and advocacy on access to justice at a national and community level and develop a more nuanced understanding on the concept of 'justice' for VAW in the current context in the region, particularly on the inter-linkages between violence against women and women's economic, social and cultural rights.

The VAW Programme will critically review its tactics in engaging with the UN HR system (particularly the Special Procedures and UNCHR) as details of the reforms to the UN HR systems emerge.



# Women's Participation in Political Processes Programme



# 1. Overview

In 2005, the world watched as a number of momentous political feats for women came into realisation: from Iraqi and Afghani women coming out in large numbers to vote and run for positions in their countries' first permanent post-war legislatures to the election of Africa's and Chile's first female presidents. These gains are at a time when almost all the constitutions of free democracies have provided for equality for their citizens before the law, doubly enforced by being signatory to international conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and strategic documents and instruments such as the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action.

There is still a glaring disparity in the number of women who hold decision-making positions at various levels worldwide. In Asia Pacific, only 15 percent of all parliamentarians are women, as in reality, there are many hurdles hindering the attainment of this goal of equal access and participation in political processes.

Women's attitude of hesitancy towards involvement in political life is generated by pervasive patriarchal systems which stereotypically confine women's roles in the private sphere in conjunction with male-dominated traditional political systems. Women have yet to overcome societal stereotyping and invisible barriers based on their gender, age, race, caste, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, class, religion and other factors.

In Asia Pacific there is a general lack of laws enacted for electoral processes and in countries where there are laws, the lack of implementation of these laws hinders women's participation in politics. An incredible amount of social transformation taking place at an uneven pace inequitably is impacting on women in all parts of Asia Pacific. In Central Asia, women in newly independent states have experienced losses in parliamentary representation due to changes from a socialist to a capitalist system. Drastic changes in political leadership and governance, such as that witnessed after coups, also sets back women's participation in politics.

Women's political space and access to decision-making fora is directly affected by the increasing

feminisation of poverty. States are neglecting rights of local electorates by prioritising demands of international financial institutions and multi-national corporations and are increasingly adopting repressive stances and escalating levels of state violence towards dissenting communities and organisations, targeting women specifically, and continue to marginalise them from existing political processes.

Democratic mechanisms have been negatively impacted upon by globalisation, as States relinquish many of its roles to the private sector, denying people access to decision-making or failing to hold decision-makers accountable to the people. This, combined with the high levels of corruption, is leaving a system where participation of women is very limited. In 2005 many elections in the region have been wrought with discrepancies.

Freedom of expression, media, opinion, peaceful assembly, association, and others are essential tools for women's full political participation. In countries where the freedom of association is limited with growing fundamentalisms and militarism, women find themselves under constant surveillance and threat by their own governments. The fulfilment of basic survival and social needs, economic independence, and freedom from violence are crucial requirements in women's realisation of their political potentials.

In 2005, in Asia Pacific general elections were held in Japan, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Sri Lanka. Progressive trends in the number of women participating in politics were reflected in these countries. However, it should be noted that whilst this is a positive indicator in the numbers game, many of these successful candidates were from ruling parties not necessarily working with feminist perspectives for women in their countries.

Throughout 2005, WPPP Task Force members continued to lobby for electoral reform, and the strengthening of the links between women candidates, and women's agendas and progressive political parties in their countries. In the Philippines, Gabriela Women's Party has successfully used the party list system to win a seat in Congress. The women's movement in Fiji have launched a '10 year Women in Shared Decision Making Plan of Action' and conducted voter education programmes. As

a measure of results, local government elections held in Fiji recently saw the WPPP Task Force member, Priscilla Singh, successfully securing her term as her constituency's councillor in a landslide victory for her party. In the Solomon Islands, women's groups are preparing a campaign strategy focusing to have a minimum of 30 percent women in parliament by 2015 from a current baseline of zero. Many groups in the region are actively involved in reviewing electoral processes and they are working to realise the goal of the equal participation of women in decision making as highlighted in the Beijing and Pacific Platform for Action.

Amongst other gains, in Korea, after the comparative success of women in last year's elections, there is a push amongst political parties to recruit politically active women to represent the women's agenda. A refreshing concept of a Parliamentary Gender Caucus that cuts across ethnic and party politics to address issues that curtail women's participation in politics is been put forward by Malaysian groups.

These gains are significant, however, the full attainment of equal representation in all levels of government and decision-making bodies across the region is still being firmly challenged by a decisive rollback in democracy across Asia Pacific, abetted by the onslaught of globalisation and resulting State's antithetical policies. In 2005, APWLD members reported an escalating climate of patriarchy and corruption in forms that continued to marginalise women candidates and diminish government accountability.

Operating within this context in recognising the importance of counteracting emerging political processes which reduce spaces for women's political participation, the Women's Participation in Political Processes Programme (WPPP) objectives for 2003-2005 were:

- To assist women in Asia Pacific to challenge existing political structures (i.e., electoral processes) which hinder women's political participation; and
- To increase the capacity of Asia Pacific women decision makers to promote a feminist perspective and agenda in existing political processes and structures.

## 2. Activities and Results

### Collation of Strategies

**Output:** A collation of strategies used by women in Asia Pacific to challenge existing electoral processes that discriminate against women produced

**Indicators:** Three women's groups in Asia Pacific using the collation to guide and develop appropriate strategies to challenge national electoral processes that discriminate against women.

**Funders:** Sida, Novib, HIVOS

For women to effectively use law as an instrument to effect changes and improve their situation, gaining equitable representation in the decision-making bodies of their countries is an important step. However, achieving this has proven next to impossible, where countries do not have real democracy to guarantee peoples political participation and where women are discriminated against and subjected to various forms of violence. Here, learning from the experiences of women who have directly engaged in electoral politics, whether they have won seats in their parliament or government or not, is vital.

Under the objective to assist women in Asia Pacific to challenge existing political structures, the WPPP programme undertook this research with the main aim to collate information on strategies utilised by six women electoral candidates in elections which took place in their countries since the late 1990s. Women's participation in politics cannot just be a question of numbers and ratios but of what kind of women will represent women. Women's movements and its allies have a few among its ranks to run for elected office and gain seats in parliament or other government positions. These are the women who can be most depended upon to fight for women's rights and they are the ones who will be more formidable against being co-opted and swallowed by a monopolistic, patriarchal and unjust system. And it is important that we learn from the experi-

ences of the few, such as those chosen for this research, who have worked in a usually corrupt and graft-ridden government.

### **Research:**

The study undertaken by six researchers in Fiji, India, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia and the Philippines was successfully completed within the allocated time period. The resulting book titled "Seethings and Seatings: Strategies for Women's Participation in Political Processes" presents a collation of strategies in the form of six case studies identifying the restraining and driving forces for women that helped them to win in elections and to be effective in their elective position. The six women depicted in the book are Adi Ema Tagicakibau (Fiji), Balabarathy (India), Kim Hyen Mi (Korea), Toktokan Borombaeva (Kyrgyzstan), Zaitun Kasim (Malaysia) and Liza Largoza-Maza (the Philippines). The book pinpoints and assesses the strategies used by women candidates to meet women's objectives in the elections; assesses how these women advance the women's agenda while in their elective position; and outlines the lessons from women's engagement in elections and work in government, and use them as a guide to future efforts at strengthening women's participation in the political process.

Selected countries: Fiji, India, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia and the Philippines were chosen as case studies for the purpose of analysis. Some countries are multi-ethnic (Malaysia, India and Fiji) while others may be rather homogeneous (South Korea). Some countries have a long tradition of parliamentary election while others are practicing the presidential form.

This research initiated in 2004, under the guidance of WPPP Task Force members took on a three-pronged approach, i.e. contextual assessment, descriptive and inferential analysis. The three member editorial board, comprising of Task Force Co-convenor Rashila Ramli and Task Force members Nurgul Djanaeva and Elisa Tita Lubi, met in May and August 2005 to track progress of the research and to provide editorial guidance to the researchers.

### **Book Launch:**

The book was launched on 17 December 2005, after the annual Task Force meeting in Hong Kong

as part of the People's Action Week against WTO activities. The WPPP Task Force invited researchers and research subjects to be a part of the launch to share experiences and strategise on how to move forward towards equal representation in all political mechanisms and institutions within the region.

At the launch the research subjects, standing and former parliamentarians Adi Ema Tagicakibau, Toktokan Borombaeva and Liza Largoza-Maza; iterated that women have always participated in politics and in electoral systems but there are many obstacles and challenges. On the one hand, the obstacles can bring forth frustration, anger and resentment. On the other hand, the challenges can lead to innovative ideas, character building and the discovery of hidden potentials. It is imperative that women learn from other women in order to champion women's issues especially at the national level.

The six case studies portrayed in the book do not make a generalisation on overall strategies in political participation. It will not allow for a formulation of a universalised method of participation in Asia Pacific. It, however, gives insights to the challenges and obstacles that women face and need to overcome in different electoral systems. By having these insights, better strategies can be developed in order to cater to local situations in the future. To facilitate this, the WPPP programme in 2006 - 2008 will assist three national partners in translating the publication into local languages (Russian, Bahasa-Malayu and Korean) so that the strategies documented can be used by aspiring women politicians and in doing so meeting the indicators for the objective. The book will be distributed to APWLD members and partners and follow up will be done to see if it has been a useful tool in enabling women to challenge existing political structures in their local situations. The book will also be used as an educational tool for upcoming national and regional level Gender and Politics Training workshops and the inclusion as text in some academic institutions.

### **Gender and Politics Training**

WPPP Gender and Politics Training workshops are aimed at increasing the capabilities of women decision-makers and leaders to formulate women's agenda for political participation and to promote women's rights in political spaces. There were no

workshops held in 2005, however follow up was done for the December 2004 Regional Gender and Politics Training workshop held in Chiang Mai, Thailand twice during the year (at three and six months intervals) to gauge feedback on how useful the training has been in the day to day work of participants.

mentarian meetings and to lobby and liaise on how to more effectively raise women's agenda and set guidelines for governments and parliaments within the region. A "Database of Progressive Women's Advocates in Asia Pacific" has been created which currently has a list of 11 women's advocates.

### **Feedback from December 2004 Regional Gender and Politics Training workshop Chiang Mai, Thailand:**

PROF. DR. BAHIIYAH DATO'HJ. ABD. HAMID (MALAYSIA)

- I see the components of the training presented by all the presenters in the workshop as beneficial with regard to the gender sensitisation programme being developed by the Department of Women's Development under the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development. (Bahiyah is now working with the Department of Women's Development).

CRISTINA PALABAY (PHILIPPINES)

- What struck me particularly in the training was the input on the international instruments which can be used in the advocacy and lobbying of some pro-women and pro-people legislative measures. I gained broader knowledge on the specifics of each international law/ instrument and had insights on the particular application of such knowledge in analysing particular laws.

KULAVIR PRAPAPORNPIPAT (THAILAND)

- The workshop had strengthened my belief that in order to change society in any aspect especially to better women's status, participating in politics and decision making at the national level is somehow necessary. Changes

### **Additional activities:**

**Output: Database on Progressive Women's Advocates in Asia Pacific created**

**Indicators: Partners using feminist perspectives to develop and advocate for gender sensitive political structures**

During sharing and exchange of ideas at the 2004 Regional Gender and Politics Training held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, participants identified that there is a pressing need to strengthen the presence of women advocates in the formation of progressive parliaments in the region. To respond to this need, it was decided that the WPPP Task Force would compile contact information on those women who are engaged in politics in the region and who advocate for women's concerns in their work. The idea behind this was that the database could be used to strengthen our networks by inviting the women on the list to upcoming parlia-

The Task Force members in 2005 had discussions on how to make the database a more useful resource. As a result, the database will be expanded with the help of Task Force members and will also contain profiles, descriptions of political parties and affiliations of women's advocates from Asia Pacific. The database will also contain advocacy on gender and women's issues that these advocates have addressed in their capacity. This will be an ongoing activity for the programme and it is hoped that by the end of 2007, there will be a comprehensive database available.

**Output: Participation of the WPPP Task Force in anti- WTO Activities in Hong Kong, 08-16 December 2005**

Working under the context of globalisation and as a focal point on women's human rights in Asia Pacific, there is increasing recognition of APWLD's capacity to mobilise other organisations and project women's human rights campaigns. And

as the WTO 6th Ministerial Meeting was happening in our region, WPPP Task Force joined other programmes (Rural and Indigenous Women; Women and Environment and Labour and Migration) in Hong Kong to protest against the WTO. The APWLD delegation organised and participated in various activities with the objectives to raise awareness of the devastating impacts of the WTO and its trade policies on the lives of women and to express solidarity with the women's movement. (For full report see page 80)

**Output: Support and make links with progressive parliamentarians and women in politics in Asia Pacific, 2005**

**Reversing the trend: parliamentarians and social movements for alternatives to neo-liberalism. Hong Kong, 13 and 18 December 2005**

WPPP Task Force supported the participation of Toktokan Borombaeva, a former Member of the Kyrgyz Parliament, to the European United Left/Nordic Green Left parliamentary groups of the European Union organised meetings during the WTO 6th Ministerial Conference. Toktokan attended a meeting where participants discussed defining alternatives to the current international trade negotiations and another which looked at prospects for common actions after the Hong Kong WTO meeting. At the meetings, Toktokan mentioned, interesting discussions have deepened her understanding on international trade agreements and the impacts they have on people's lives.

**Meeting with Progressive Women in Politics from the Philippines, Hong Kong, 15 December 2005**

Toktokan also met with several members of the Gabriella Women's Party from the Philippines to discuss and share strategies to enhance women's human rights in their countries.

### **3. Lessons Learnt and Future Plans**

#### **Lessons learnt**

In 2005, the WPPP Task Force has continued

to confront emerging trends in the region such as increasing state violence, fundamentalisms, anti-terrorisms, militarisms and anti-democracy movements within the context of globalisation. Through their collective actions and discussions, Task Force members have considered how these forces constrain women's participation in all political spaces, in and outside of election periods, and have focused on how to build solidarity across the region in overcoming these obstacles to equal participation. In this framework, the WPPP Task Force members carried APWLD's calls for the derailment of the WTO negotiations in Hong Kong. They joined and supported the women's voices in exposing the trouble and the violence that the unjust and anti-people trade policies have brought into the lives of the rural communities in the last 10 years of the WTO's existence.

In December, the Task Force launched the results of groundbreaking research as a book 'Seethings and Seatings: Strategies for Women's Political Participation in Asia Pacific', which documents strategies for increasing women's successes in entering decision-making positions at the national level. The research is a critical resource for network members who are working to challenge existing electoral processes as it will provide data on country specific forces that prevent more women from being able to assert their voices within respective political institutions and highlight ways in which feminist agendas can be pushed within various levels of governments. For the Task Force, the finalisation and publication of the research within the projected timeline was in itself an achievement and will list the strategies used in completing this project as good practice.

Ongoing Gender and Politics Trainings carried out by the Task Force have been an important venue for capacity building, developing feminist agendas and strategising about how to challenge existing gender discrimination in political processes and structures in Asia Pacific. Evidence of the success of these trainings is found in the continued requests by APWLD network for more training and for more APWLD resource publications on gender and politics. Leadership trainings drawn from the Gender and Politics manual are scheduled for members in countries where elections are upcoming.

Follow up with participants at the last Regional Gender and Politics Training reported that the exchange of ideas was useful in understanding common challenges in the region but also for sharing ideas on how various groups have been successful in advocating for increased representation and reform of repressive laws regarding political participation. Participants at national level trainings have also reported that they are drawing on the support and knowledge of other past participants as they run as candidates in upcoming elections.

## Future Plans

At its annual meeting in December 2005, the Task Force outlined plans to continue to respond to its network's need for current publications on gender and politics in the upcoming months. The research book will be translated into three national languages (Russian, Bahasa-Malayu and Korean) and distributed to individuals and organisations working on women in politics issues. There are future plans to refine the Gender and Politics training manual and produce a second level manual based on participants' feedback to include more case studies and to strengthen the sections of the manual that deal with lobbying, advocacy and campaigning so that the manual can continue to be a useful and relevant educational tool. Participants who work in the area of politics have expressed interest in being part of this ongoing project and providing input to the revision of the manual and supporting materials.

There are future plans for WPPP Task Force members to raise issues of Asia Pacific women at regional and international fora. Task Force members will be present at upcoming meetings such as the Commission of Status of Women's regular session in 2006. At that time Task Force members will join with other groups from Asia Pacific to ensure that there is no renegotiation of BPFA texts and to advocate for the realisation of time-bound targets on women's political participation. The Programme will also support progressive parliamentarians and women in politics to participate in regional and international fora to build their capacity and raise women's agenda.

In all of its activities for the upcoming year, the WPPP Task Force will continue to provide useful resources on women's political participation in the region, it will continue to provide capacity building and networking opportunities and support for its members, and it will continue to advocate for policy changes at the regional, national or local level as it works towards equal participation and representation for all women.

# Labour and M



## 1. Overview

As economies open up for competition to enhance growth in an increasingly globalised world, developing countries with minimal comparative advantages have taken the option of providing cheap and flexible labour to the world market. The UN Population Division estimates the global migrant population in 2005 at between 185-192 million people – up from 175 million in the early 1980's. However, the classical profile of a migrant worker has shifted from a male to a single or a married woman leaving the home alone or with her spouse to support her family and community.

# and Migration Programme



Demographic transition experienced by some countries demands labour from other countries to off set their own labour shortage. At the same time, in economically booming countries, more women are participating in the workforce. Hence, migrant women workers are brought in to occupy the reproductive segment of the labour force such as domestic work, informal sector and the emphatically de scribed 'entertainment industry'-sex industry. Recent surveys have revealed that more than 90 percent of the 240,000 domestic workers in Malaysia are Indonesians.<sup>1</sup> Currently, at least 74 percent of 2,000 Filipinos that leave the country daily are women, mainly as domestic workers or to do other unskilled work.

The promotion of domestic work to women migrant workers by destination countries is being systemised and incorporated in the sending countries' policies in order to gain foreign earnings. By 2005, total remittances worldwide by migrant workers have surpassed the US\$126 billion mark.<sup>2</sup> Forced by growing competition, sending countries are veering towards deregulating labour markets. Host countries are adopting more restrictive immigration and labour policies, ensuring a niche for its local labour. This results in lesser protection for migrant workers and increasing vulnerabilities to human rights violations. One such example is Malaysia's crackdown on undocumented workers that commenced in March 2005. The crackdown

has created more unlawful arrests of migrant workers. Continuous holding of passports by employers and lack of thorough investigations had led to migrants being incessantly charged and punished.

Within the migrant population, women are more marginalised as their labour is considered unskilled and cheaper. Surveys show that women work longer hours than men and at least half of women's total work time is spent on unpaid work. Indonesian women domestic workers in Malaysia typically work gruelling 16 to 18 hours, seven days a week, and earn less than U.S. \$0.25 per hour.<sup>3</sup> National accounting systems do not account for this creating this invisibility of domestic work which translates into lack of government support for the recognition of their labour rights. Also, the individualisation of domestic work restrains workers from collective bargaining and assertion of their labour rights. Domestic workers are more vulnerable to exploitation, due to their subordinate status as women and as foreigners. They face discrimination on the basis of gender, race, class, caste, religion and other social statuses. There are numerous cases of employer abuse reported every week by women migrant domestic workers in host countries.

Increased level of foreign direct investment is often characterised by the growing number of special economic zones/ free trade zones, such as those seen in Fiji, Malaysia and South Korea. These zones target cheap and flexible labour to maximise profits. Women workers in these countries as well as migrant workers are concentrated in these sub-standard places of employment with minimal labour protection. Women workers in these sectors bare the brunt of economic contraction of the country and are discriminated against in terms of working hours, maternity leave and childcare. Jobs are fragile as the zones can easily close down due to competition from other countries offering more profitable conditions such as even cheaper labour and fewer requirements on workers' rights. As a result, these women workers are more vulnerable to violence and their relative isolation, making them the hardest group to reach and assist.

2005 will be remembered for its natural catastrophes. Relief efforts for victims of the 26 De-

cember 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami continued well into this year. In terms of migration, thousands of Burmese documented and undocumented workers were affected in Thailand; plans of some governments to deport migrant Indonesian workers were delayed; survivors in other countries spurred to move out of their traditional space to rebuild their lives; and made thousands of orphaned children vulnerable to exploitation. In October, a massive earthquake in northern Pakistan killed at least 87,000 and left millions displaced.

Amidst this scenario, a few notable gains were made in 2005. Internationally, it was encouraging to see civil society organisations and institutions push for the protection of the human rights of migrants and ratification of the U.N. Migrant Workers Convention. Regionally, in India, after lobbying by parliamentarians and states, the Planning Commission released a list of 200 districts where the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act will be implemented. The Act safeguards the right to work by providing guaranteed employment at the statutory minimum wage to at least one adult per household who volunteers to do casual manual labour in rural areas. The Cambodian government, employers and workers organisations met in December in an open and collaborative way to revise labour laws attuning it to the nation's development needs. Also in December, thousands of representatives from various labour and migration organisations joined forces in Hong Kong to collectively protest against the World Trade Organisation. This show of unity in the portrayal of misery and anger has led to the global showcase of issues impacting lives of workers both in-country and as migrants.

These gains are significant, however the attainment of equal opportunities, legal protection and fair entitlements for workers is still being firmly chal-

<sup>1</sup> EXCERPTED FROM:  
[HTTP://GEEKLOG.TENAGANITA.NET/  
ARTICLE.PHP?STORY=20050418110821463](http://GEEKLOG.TENAGANITA.NET/ARTICLE.PHP?STORY=20050418110821463)

<sup>2</sup> EXCERPTED FROM:  
[HTTP://WWW.IOM.INT/EN/NEWS/PR882\\_EN.SHTML](http://WWW.IOM.INT/EN/NEWS/PR882_EN.SHTML)

<sup>3</sup> EXCERPTED FROM:  
[HTTP://GEEKLOG.TENAGANITA.NET/  
ARTICLE.PHP?STORY=20050418110821463](http://GEEKLOG.TENAGANITA.NET/ARTICLE.PHP?STORY=20050418110821463)

lenged by the onslaught of globalisation and repressive policies across Asia Pacific. L&M Task Force members continued to lobby for policy reform, and strengthening links between grassroots organisations and national level efforts in bringing about awareness of labour and migration issues in their countries and in the international fora. With this in mind, the L&M Task Force's objectives for 2003-2005 were:

- To develop an acceptable working definition of "domestic work" with APWLD members and partners towards the State recognition of domestic work as work;
- To strengthen the capacity of APWLD members to build alliances at national, regional and international levels for the recognition of migrant women's rights; and
- To identify and expose exploitative and discriminatory policies and laws affecting women workers in free trade zones in Asia Pacific.

## 2. Activities and Results

### Migrant Women Domestic Workers

**Output:** An acceptable definition of domestic work produced / participation of Task Force members in the campaign for the recognition of domestic work.

**Indicators:** Three Task Force members have used the definition in advocacy for state recognition of domestic work at the national level.

**Funders:** Sida, Novib, HIVOS

The pressing need for state recognition of the importance and value of women's domestic work has been a central focus for the L&M Task Force in its activities over the last few years. Activities under the programme's objective to develop an acceptable working definition of domestic work is aimed at eventually enabling members to work on securing equal protection of migrant and non-migrant women domestic workers on levels with

all other workers.

One of the obstacles in achieving formal recognition of domestic work has been the lack of consensus on a definition of what constitutes domestic work and a domestic worker. The absence of clear definitions has allowed governments to exclude this group of workers from standard labour protections with impunity. As one of the activities which is part of the ongoing campaign, the L&M Task Force has in the later half of 2005 commenced a research which will collate baseline data on the scope of work which is expected of migrant domestic workers in two sending (Indonesia and the Philippines) and two receiving (Malaysia and Hong Kong) countries and the existing legal standards which are currently applicable to this sector.

The research, using feminist participatory methodologies and under the women human rights framework, is intended to provide an appropriate definition of domestic work which encompasses all aspects of the work undertaken in this sector and which can then be used by APWLD network members for lobbying for the full protection of this group of workers within national legislation. Initial plans had pegged the research to be completed by June 2005, however due to difficulties in finding appropriate researchers and the lack of Secretariat staff during the programme cycle 2003-5, the research will now be finalised by April 2006. The Task Force has finalised the terms of reference for this research and formed a subcommittee to work closely with the selected researchers. The final output will be published and will form the basis for discussions on advocacy at the national level.

**Output:** Poster campaign on Indonesian women migrant workers in the Middle East by Komnas Perempuan, December 2005.

An integral part of the campaign on migrant women domestic workers is supporting efforts of APWLD members working on this issue at the national level. This year, the L&M programme supported a poster campaign initiated by Komnas Perempuan, a member from Indonesia, on protecting women migrant domestic workers in the

Middle East. Under the title 'Combat Modern Slavery in the Middle East', the campaign was launched in December 2005 to create more public awareness and support on this issue. After the 1990's economic crisis, many Indonesians opted to finding employment abroad. Out of about 400,000 Indonesians leaving per year to find work abroad, more than 70 percent are women. And out of this about 90 percent work as domestic workers mainly in the Middle East. There are many incidents of exploitation, physical torture and even sexual abuse by employers and recruitment agencies for which there are little or no formal protection systems.

The poster fits into the larger campaign strategy which provides information on the number of Indonesian women migrant workers in the Middle East and their situation; building awareness amongst the general public that these women have significantly contributed to the national economy; and to engage the civil society to force the Indonesian government and government's of the Middle Eastern countries to formulate formal and explicit protection systems for migrant workers. The target groups for this campaign include NGOs working on the protection of women migrant workers; government officials from areas where the women migrant workers come from; government ministries working on migrant workers issues; embassies of receiving countries; national and international labour organisations; and recruitment agencies.

### **Meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur and Committee on Migrant Workers**

**Output:** Meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families and the Committee on Migrant Workers.

**Indicators:** Specific issues of relevance to women migrant workers in Asia Pacific are highlighted in the regional and international fora.

**Funders:** Sida, Novib, HIVOS

Within the larger framework of policy intervention, one of the main activities of the L&M programme has been to work with the UNSR on the Human Rights of Migrant Workers. The Task Force has had a successful relationship with Ms. Gabriela Rodriguez Pizarro, the former UNSR. Ms. Pizarro's 2003 report focused exclusively on the position of migrant domestic workers within the context of globalisation. This was partially the result of continuous awareness raising done by the APWLD L&M Task Force.

During the 2005 L&M Task Force meeting it was decided that the Task Force would actively seek an audience with the new UNSR on the Human Rights of Migrant Workers, Mr. J.A. Bustamante and the Chairperson of the Committee on the Convention on Migrant Workers, Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam. As the UNSR has just started his term and is yet to announce his main area of focus, the meetings provided timely discussions on ways and means of developing effective collaboration and to familiarise him on contentious issues of the region.

Two representatives from the Task Force Tati Krisnawaty (Convenor) and Avelina Rokoduru met with the UNSR and Committee members in Geneva from 12-16 December. They were invited to attend as observers the third session of the Committee on the Protection on the Human Rights of Migrant Workers; a day of general discussion on protecting the rights of migrants as a tool to enhance development; and informal meetings with Chairperson of Committee and UNSR. The members introduced APWLD, explained the work the L&M programme does in Asia Pacific and presented an intervention at the general discussion outlining the issues surrounding the feminisation of migration in Asia, underlining it from a gender perspective. The members requested that the UNSR and the Committee urge all states to uphold the principles of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990) and to continue identifying, exposing and challenging exploitative and discriminatory policies and laws which affect migrant domestic workers. They also called upon the UNSR to have regular regional consultations with NGOs in Asia

Pacific and assured APWLD's support in working together with other NGOs in the region and readiness to facilitate this process.

The UNSR and Committee have concurred with the Task Force on the issues presented to them and have stated their willingness to support NGOs in Asia Pacific and build alliances at regional and international levels to work for the recognition of the rights of women migrant domestic workers. And as a result of the Task Force members lobbying, representatives from regional NGOs working on migration issues will be invited to the UN High Panel Dialogue on Migration and Development to be held in New York in September 2006. Other activities in relation to this will be reflected in the L&M programme for 2006-8.

## Participation at Regional and International Fora

**Output:** Participation of APLWD members at regional and international fora to address the issues affecting women migrant workers.

**Indicators:** Two new alliances forged and how have these alliances strengthened the advocacy for rights of migrant women workers.

**Funders:** Sida, Novib, HIVOS

The L&M Task Force has continued to raise women migrants and workers issues at various regional and international venues during this reporting period.

In April of 2005, Task Force Convenor, Tati Krisnawaty and Co-convenor, Aegile Fernandez represented the interests of women migrant domestic workers from Asia Pacific at the 61th Session of the UNCHR in Geneva. On behalf of the Task Force, Tati and Aegile attended workshops on the Human Rights of Migrants, panel meetings and discussion sessions on relevant issues. They were also able to meet with the Chairperson of the Committee on Migrant Workers and Aegile had an informal meeting with Gabriela Rodriguez, the outgoing UNSR on the

Human Rights of Migrant Workers. As part of their interventions, they raised the issue of the ongoing punishment of human rights defender Irene Fernandez, undocumented women migrant workers in Asia Pacific and the massive crackdown on undocumented migrant workers by the Malaysian government. Written statements were delivered to the Chairperson of the Committee on Migrant Workers, Chairperson of the 61th Session UN Commission on Human Rights, and Special Representative of the Secretary General on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders. Through its presence at the UNCHR the Task Force was able to connect with other groups lobbying for migrants rights.

## Women Workers in Tax Free Zones

**Output:** A paper providing a feminist critique of policies and laws affecting women workers in tax free zones in Asia Pacific.

**Indicators:** Two Task Force members have used the paper in their advocacy on women working in tax free zones.

**Funders:** Sida, Novib, HIVOS

As part of expanding the scope of its activities, the L&M programme has started a research on the state of women employed in tax free zones. This activity has been delayed and subsequently downsized from two case studies to only that of Korea. It is expected that a comprehensive case study from Korea will be completed by mid 2006.

Korea was chosen as a case study as the government has continuously pursued plans to place itself at the centre of business in North East Asia. As early as 1970, free export zones were created, despite opposition by workers and their groups. To increase the effectiveness of these zones, the Korean government enacted several other legislations in quick succession to enable the government to use these Acts to conclude trade agreements with Chile, Singapore, Japan, USA and the ASEAN+3.

These Acts pose challenges for workers as they allow foreign investors to have lower labour standards within these zones and permit them to break down social security nets like education and medical services. Centred on high production over worker rights, economic rationalist policies have resulted in widespread workplace restructuring. This all leads to the weakening of workers ability to fight for decent wages.

To study this, Seoul Women's Trade Union, L&M Task Force member, will carry out a contextual analysis of legislations relating to tax free zones. The research will pinpoint discriminatory aspects of these legislations and list the impact on the lives and livelihoods of women workers in one of the designated areas. The case study will also look at the push- pull factors that bring women to work in that area; the type of work they carry out; the problems they face in accessing social security and in carrying out their work; the strategies they have for coping and whether there are any mechanisms for confronting their employers; how laws regulating this zone should be reformed to improve the position of these women.

The research will be published in 2006 and will be used as a resource for network members advocating for reform of discriminatory laws affecting women working in these zones. There are future plans for the L&M Task Force to include more case studies in the research and to host a regional consultation in order to develop regional strategies for dealing with this issue.

## Additional Activities:

### Women's Exchange

**Output: Supported 4th Annual Women's Exchange Get Together, 5-9 March 2005, Chiang Mai, Thailand**

Four years ago, Women's Exchange (WE) was established by a small group of women of different nationalities who were living in Chiang Mai either for work, in exile or taking refuge to create a monthly forum where women could get together to discuss women's issues. Over time, WE has

expanded to include branches all over Thailand, with local NGOs as members also.

2005 WE Annual Conference was held in March, organised by Migrant Assistance Programme (MAP)- L&M Task Force member. The conference hosted 120 participants from organisations and in individual capacity, majority of who were from Burma now living on the border areas of Burma-Thailand and from India. APWLD and some network partners were also invited to participate.

The L&M programme provided support for the four day exchange and contributed expertise in a workshop on the "feminisation of migration". Discussions concluded with the participants agreeing that having crossed state borders has given them more freedom from patriarchal control that they experienced at home. However, they are not totally free from discrimination as they are prone to exploitation as women migrant workers (semi-skilled and unskilled) and as foreigners. A statement was released listing pressing issues and immediate concerns that arose during the exchange, which was carried by L&M Task Force members to the 61st Session of the UNCHR in Geneva held in April.

### Poster campaign

**Output: Poster Campaign by Ain-O-Salish Kendra on Human Rights for all Garment Workers and Migrant Workers, Bangladesh**

As part of ongoing efforts in supporting members' campaign efforts, in December, the L&M programme supported a poster campaign by Task Force member Ain-O-Salish Kendra from Bangladesh which highlighted the issues of women workers in the garment industry. The working situation of these workers is marked with high propensity of occupational hazards, minimal or no protection of workers rights, and no job security. The garment sector of Bangladesh has been a competitive sector for the country's economy especially with a 30-year-old textile quota system that was granted under the WTO. However, WTO's Multi Fibre Agreement has

phased out so now the industry has to compete against countries with more comparative advantage. From the protection of workers rights perspective, this will translate into further erosion of worker's rights and increased migration to look for employment.

Thus, Ain-O-Salish Kendra saw an immediate need to raise awareness about the worsening situation of workers in the country. The poster campaign for rights for all Bangladeshi garment and migrant workers aims raise awareness on the situation of the workers in light of WTO policies and highlight the lack of protection within Bangladesh and for migrant workers; have effective implementation of the labour/workers' rights and bring groups (NGOs, labour rights organisations) working on the issues of workers rights together. The posters were used as campaign material in Bangladesh in collaboration with WTO Fair Trade Solidarity Network and distributed to 12 partners and 50 network organisations.

**Output: Labour and Migration Task Force Participation in Anti WTO Activities in the People's Action Week against WTO, Hong Kong 12-18 December 2005**

The L&M Task Force decided in its 2005 annual meeting that it would support and participate in the People's Action Week against the WTO in protest of the WTO 6th Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong. L&M programme joined efforts of other APWLD members and partners in highlighting the plight of women migrant workers working under increasingly unfair policies.

L&M programme also supported the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM), a Task Force member, for the organisation of a workshop on Migrant Workers with focus on GATS Mode IV; supported the participation of Task Force members, Connie Regalado and Pranom Somwong; and Pam Pagabaldo, a migrant workers' activist in the Philippines. (For full report see page 80)

### 3. Lessons Learnt and Future Plans

#### Lessons Learnt:

In 2005, the L&M Task Force has continued to raise awareness on the precarious situation of women migrant workers in particular domestic workers and the need for increased recognition and protection of their rights at national, regional and international levels. For example, as a result of Task Force efforts, the UNSR on Human Rights of Migrant Workers has consented to working with groups in Asia Pacific to highlight the issues of women migrant workers at the international level. The Committee on the Convention of Migrant Workers has created space and extended an invitation to regional NGOs working on migration issues in the region to attend the UN High Panel on Migration and Development to be held in 2006. Closer collaboration will be examined in 2006 for activities which will see the Task Force bringing in grassroots organisations in consultative fora to voice their concerns.

Task Force members also raised awareness about the ongoing challenges for women migrant workers at the 61st session of the UNCHR. Throughout 2005 Task Force members were able to explore emerging issues in the region, expand alliances and strengthen the regional dimension of the existing migrant domestic worker campaign. Working under the objective to strengthen national partner's efforts in advocacy and campaigns at the national level, notable work has been done by Komnas Perempuan and Ain-O-Salish Kendra's work on highlighting the plight of women migrant domestic workers. Participation at the anti WTO activities with other APWLD members and partners strengthened the Task Force's efforts in building alliances at the regional and international levels. Members and partners came together to collectively protest against the WTO as one of the major players contributing to unjust and anti-people policies that have come into existence in the last 10 years of the WTO's existence.

Back to back with its annual meeting, the L&M Task Force members had an excursion to

meet with plantation and migrant factory workers in the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia is one of the largest importer of foreign labour in Asia. There are an estimated 2.4 million migrant workers in Malaysia, half of them undocumented, primarily employed in construction, factories, palm oil plantations and domestic service. Women make up majority of the workforce in Malaysian plantations, and have been historically employed as unskilled, temporary contract workers doing the most menial and underpaid jobs. These meetings revealed that because of Malaysia's failure to reform its flawed immigration and labour policies, migrant workers become prey to abusive employers and labour agents. The authorities regularly arrest suspected undocumented workers and detain them in immigration detention centers prior to deportation. Women play the dual role of providing cheap labour and social stability as urbanisation and industrialisation has pushed men and the young to work in the new industrial zones. Women's work in plantations is generally to spray pesticides and with lack of proper protection against chemicals, these women suffer from many illnesses. The L&M Task Force will continue to work with national partners in highlighting this situation.

Also, research has commenced which will collate baseline data on the scope of work which is expected of migrant women domestic workers and the existing legal standards which are currently applicable to this sector. The research is intended then to provide an appropriate definition of domestic work which encompasses all aspects of the work undertaken in this sector and which can then be used by APWLD network members for lobbying for full protection of this group of workers within national legislation. Research has also started on the state of women employed in tax free zones or export processing zones in Asia Pacific. The research focuses on the macro-economic forces under globalisation that worsen conditions of work of this highly vulnerable group, as well as the available mechanisms or potential for mechanisms to enforce these workers rights to fair and decent work. This signifies the Task Force's renewed commitment to not only addressing migrant worker issues, but also those challenges being faced by local women workers at the national level in an era of increased globalisation and employment scarcity.

## Future Plans

In the upcoming year the L&M programme will focus on addressing the lack of legal protection and human rights standards for women migrant workers and those employed under sub-standard working conditions. It will also look into State laws and policies under globalisation that exploit women workers and women migrant workers. To address these issues, it will adopt a two-pronged strategy: identifying and exposing discriminatory laws and policies, human rights violations against migrant women workers and women workers, and advocating for the recognition of domestic work and the realisation of the human rights of women workers.

The L&M programme intends to work with women migrant workers in home countries and host countries. APWLD's extensive network among women and human rights groups and the legal expertise of its members positions the L&M programme to strategically address the lack of legal protection for women workers and migrant women workers in the area of domestic work. The development of human rights standards for the recognition of domestic work is intended to respond to the concerns of women workers, at home and abroad. L&M members will also work with other migrant and labour groups for the recognition of domestic work and realisation of women workers' rights in Asia Pacific. In this regard, the L&M programme will focus on capacity-building for its members and strengthening alliances with other movements. The Task Force will continue to build capacity of its members with the use of UN Mechanisms.

In every aspect of its work, the Task Force will endeavour to increase recognition for the invaluable and often unrecognised contributions that women workers in Asia Pacific make to national and global economies. At the same time it will continue to respond to changing landscapes in Asia Pacific, and the changing needs of its network members, as it pushes for the promotion and protection of all women workers rights.



# Women and Environment Programme

## 2. Overview

The rhetoric of the promises of globalisation or the global integration of market has been proven to be empty. Globalisation, which has been marketed as the only way to development, has, in fact, widened the disparity between the developed and developing countries; the elite and the marginalised sectors of our societies. It has expanded the access and control of resources of the few and on the other hand, increasing the number of the landless and the economically and socially displaced communities. Globalisation reinforced power relations between the elite state and the people; between lackey governments and the transnational corporations. Economic policies of free market breed social policies and relations which reinforce patriarchal systems affecting livelihoods and lives of women.



This is the framework which the World Trade Organisation (WTO) operates in, and with which the various free trade agreements are being made coherent. The need for a uniform set of trade rules which would result in fair trade has been exposed to be a ruse to facilitate control by the developed countries over the developing countries. Under the WTO trade regime, the developed countries are able to maintain protectionist policies while forcing open the markets of the developing countries. These agreements are entered into by the different member countries under a semblance of democratic processes, when in reality, arm-twisting and economic blackmails are the main ingredients of the negotiations in the different WTO meetings.

Interlinked with WTO are the trade agreements pushed and entered into bilaterally or multilaterally. Over the years, through trade and investments, the control of transnational corporations or TNCs has been increasing in the world's food production. Only four companies control 90% of the world's exports of corn, wheat, coffee, tea and pineapples. As long ago as 1983, over 70% of world trade in rice, cocoa beans, bananas and sugar, was controlled by just 3 to 6 TNCs. Also, in 1983 over 85% of world trade in such materials as forest products, cotton, tobacco and jute were controlled by just 3 to 6 TNCs. Trends in globalisation will most likely have increased, rather than decreased, this control on agricultural commodity distribution.<sup>1</sup>

#### **What has it meant to the lives and livelihoods of women in the region?**

The Asia Pacific accounts for 40% of the world's territory, and has 61% of the world's population. The region has also almost two-thirds of the world's poor, living on less than a single US dollar a day. (UN ESCAP, 2004) This poverty level is not improving given the impacts of the trade agreements being entered into by national governments within this region, particularly on agriculture.

Women account for more than half of overall food production. In South East Asia, women provide up to 90% of labour for rice cultivation, while their contribution is even greater in secondary crop production such as legumes and vegetables. In fisheries sector, women play significant role throughout the Asia Pacific region. However, this has not

ensured food in their mouths, nor money in their pockets. More than half of the 512 million hungry and malnourished in the region are women and girl-children.

Rural and indigenous women in the Philippines are forced to leave their communities to become migrant workers due to the increased level of poverty. "Urgent issues are land rights and mining. Water insecurity is caused by the pollution of mining companies. ... Water resources are also being taken over by foreign mining companies..."<sup>2</sup>. The accelerated trade liberalisation of the Philippine government has opened the resources to market – minerals, water, forest and land. This has made basic services unavailable and inaccessible to women from the rural communities whose livelihoods have been taken away by the corporations.

Along with this is the intensifying violence as response to the growing resistance to globalisation and the corporate control over our resources, particularly in the countries of the Philippines, Pakistan, Indonesia and Thailand, there has been a growing determination to accelerate organising and mobilising women at the grassroots level.

#### **Food Sovereignty as alternative to Corporate Control**

Food sovereignty has been consistently the guiding framework of the 3 year programme of WEN (2003-2005). With food sovereignty, APWLD not only aspires for food security but recovering women and men's control of their means of production, and putting their well-being as central for development, not profits for corporation.

At the core of the struggle for food sovereignty, APWLD believes that an integral part of this advocacy is the dismantling of power structures which govern food production, control of means of production, marketing, distribution and decision-making. These power structures are not only present in the relationship between the state and the people, but also within communities, and within families.

<sup>1</sup> FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, PRIMER ON TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

<sup>2</sup> INNABUYOG 'S REPORT AT WEN TF MEETING, JULY 2005, CHIANG MAI, THAILAND

The 3 year programme of WEN (2003-2005) has set the following objectives:

- to further develop and deepen the framework of food sovereignty from a feminist perspective;
- to build the capacity of the APWLD network members and other organisations to advocate for food sovereignty and other related rights at the national, regional and international levels; and
- to support organising of marginalised women's groups on the issues of food sovereignty.

To continue to meet these objectives, activities and campaigns have been undertaken and launched by the Task Force, some are part of ongoing bigger projects, some are new initiatives which are hoped to be continued in the coming years.

## 2. Activities and Results

**Output: Don't Globalise Hunger! Assert Women's Rights to Food Sovereignty Campaign**

**Indicator: Five new women initiatives have emerged out of assistance of WEN programme working on Food Sovereignty campaign**

Within the framework of the advocacy for food sovereignty, "Don't Globalise Hunger! Assert Women's Rights to Food Sovereignty" Campaign has been initiated and launched jointly by WEN task force and the Rural and Indigenous Women (RIW) task force. This is to provide a platform for other members of APWLD and its networks to be part of the resistance to the corporate control of food, agriculture and the lives of women and their communities.

The main objectives of this campaign:

- raise awareness among women from grassroots organisations about the link of the role of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other significant international and regional instruments and institutions in the current situation with hunger and poverty;

- contribute in mobilising and strengthening of grassroots women organisations in their struggle against corporate globalisation, in the Region in general, in participating countries in particular, from a rights-based perspective;

- link the promotion of corporate agenda with state violence particularly against women activists fighting for their rights to food and land; and

- promote Food Sovereignty as an alternative to corporate globalisation by supporting related national campaigns.

Through out the campaign, the calls made were:

- derailment of the WTO 6th Ministerial Meeting
- WTO and TNCs out of food and agriculture
- women's right to land and food
- protection and promotion of rights of women to defend their rights to food and land;
- food sovereignty as an alternative to corporate control of food and agriculture.

This campaign has been launched in 2005 and will be carried throughout the next 3 year programme cycle. It is under this campaign that series of activities at the regional as well as national levels have been carried by the APWLD Secretariat and the APWLD members.

### Women's Regional Conference on Food Sovereignty and Globalisation (Chiang Mai, Thailand/July 18-21, 2005)

The Forum was an opportunity for women from the region to share their current issues on food, land and agriculture. But more than that, the Forum was also tasked to provide additional information and analysis which would link global forces, like WTO, among others, and their role in the lives and death of the local communities. The sharings from resource persons like Azra Talat Sayeed (Roots for Equity, Pakistan), Titi Soentoro (APWLD Regional Coordinator), Marina Durano (International Gender and Trade Network – IGTN), and Amarsanaa Darisuren (UNIFEM) were instrumental in doing this.

The Forum was organised with the objectives of assisting women to have a broader perspective of

their struggle, that will empower the communities and organisations they belong to, to be able to see their problems, or their situations as linked, and in fact, affected by the other forces and factors outside themselves, outside their communities; and to be able to see how other groups from other communities and countries are actually doing something about their situation, in affecting positive changes in their lives as individuals and as communities. On the fourth day, the Forum was brought to a village in Chaiprakhan District of Chiang Mai. There, the sharing was continued, this time with a bigger community of women in the village. This village, which mostly thrived from their produce of garlic and chilli, is being adversely affected by dumping of Chinese garlic into the Thai market. This dumping is legalised by the trade agreement entered into by the Thaksin government with China. The sharing with the women from the village was very significant as it contributed to the organising efforts of the Thai group (Northern Development Foundation) among the women in the village. A week after the forum, NDF shared with us that the community meeting had positive impacts on the women that they decided to have a regular meeting among themselves to talk about the different issues they are facing with.

The regional forum specifically invited women from grassroots organisations and those who would have the capacity to share the things learned on this level with the other women from her organisations and communities. There were around 55 participants coming from Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Cambodia, Mongolia, Burma, Korea and Nepal. The women came from different sectors – peasant communities, agricultural workers, women from the fisheries, Dalit and indigenous communities. This effort was made to ensure that there will be similar forums or dialogues on the national and community level. It was geared towards empowering women as well as broadening the ranks of people actively involved in the formulation of alternatives.

In the forum, the “Don’t Globalise Hunger! Assert Women’s Rights to Food Sovereignty!” campaign was launched. A calendar of activities of community actions, and plans for national as well as international campaigns and actions was drawn up from the participants. Dates of collective action were identified.

## Support to National Activities

As part of the Don’t Globalise Hunger! campaign, the TF members committed to carry out national activities/campaign actions at the community and/or national level. These actions in different countries would culminate at the WTO MC6th. There were national members which were given financial support by the TF, while there were others where the secretariat actually participated in one of the national actions:

Center for Human Rights and Development (Mongolia) – Women, Poverty and Free Trade National Forum / October 3-5

Sustainable Development Foundation (Thailand) – National Consultation on Women, Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods/October 16-18

Bantay Srei (Cambodia) – People’s Caravan on Food Sovereignty and Justice (Action Aid and People’s Alliances and Social Groups of Cambodia) / November 13/Phnom Penh

Other groups had series of different actions in their own countries –

Solidaritas Perempuan (Indonesia)

Roots for Equity (Pakistan)

Innabuyog (Philippines)

Thanal (India)

## Campaign materials

As part of the information awareness, campaign materials were printed and distributed in the different forums, workshops and conferences that the APWLD Secretariat attended. But these campaign materials were also distributed to the TF members for their own use in the national actions. These materials are - posters (2 types), flyers, bandana, banners, campaign paper, and flags.

## Website

A website was created which is the portal for the different actions, events, statements, photos from the different countries in the region – [www.dontglobalisehunger.org](http://www.dontglobalisehunger.org)

## Consolidated Actions

There were a few significant dates during the year in which the participating organisations agreed to have simultaneous actions. Some participating organisations held demonstrations in their areas, forums, and issued press statements on October 16 - World Foodless Day and November 25 - International Day to End Violence Against Women

These actions within the “Don’t Globalisation Hunger!” campaign culminated at the WTO 6th Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong.

**Output:** Participation at the WTO 6th Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong

**Indicator:** At least 6 members have participated, along with their community partners, in WTO MC6th Sovereignty campaign

**Funder:** HBF

Please see report on page 80.

**Output:** Support to members in their national actions

**Indicator:** Five new women initiatives have emerged out of assistance of WEN programme working on Food Sovereignty campaign

**Funder:** HBF

## Network Support Activities

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) of Thailand with other countries (e.g. USA, China and Australia) are one of the major issues that the NGO movement in Thailand is trying to hype up to generate interest and understanding among the local communities as well as general public. FTA WATCH-Thailand is conducting campaign actions to get the participation of the public in the discussion of these agreements, and expose the actual and

potential impacts of these agreements on the livelihood of the communities. As part of its support, APWLD PO participated in the Thai action in Pattaya (March 2005), during the negotiation of the THAI-US governments, and public forum in Bangkok (May).

In Indonesia, the PO acted as resource person for the Women and Food Sovereignty public forum (April), as part of the ongoing advocacy of Solidaritas Perempuan on food sovereignty.

As part of capacity-building of the TF members, WEN TF supported the participation of the programme officer and a staff of Roots for Equity (Pakistan) to the HBF Summer School (Berlin/September).

**Output:** Resource kit on Food Sovereignty

**Indicator:** 100 copies of resource kit distributed/requested and how they have been used

**Funder:** HBF

## Food Sovereignty Kit

This has been the greatest challenge for the TF. The TF members have continually expressed that this is an important project that needed to be continued, and finished. However, there has been delay one after the other in the finalising of this project. In the last editorial meeting, (January, 2005/Karachi, Pakistan) most of the chapters were drafted. There was a peer review of these chapters which happened in February (Chiang Mai). The main task now is to finalise these chapters, and print in the first quarter of 2006.

## 3. Lessons Learnt and Future Plans

### Lessons learnt

This year, in fulfilment of the 3-year objectives of the WEN programme, two major tasks have been taken on by the TF members: one is among

the members and the communities they work with. There were activities and campaigns to contribute in their understanding that the continuing poverty and the hunger that people of the developing countries are experiencing is directly connected with the economic policies that our national governments have passed and are operating in. These economic policies are within the globalisation framework. As activists, the TF members assist the national groups in organising and mobilising women especially in the grassroots communities to be part of their national movement, and the global resistance against globalisation and unjust trade rules which govern and are being promoted by WTO and bilateral agreements.

On the other hand, the other task that the task force took, especially in the recent mobilisations for and in the 6th WTO Ministerial Meeting, is exposing the social impacts of these trade policies. It has been one of the major premises of economics – that trade policies are economic policies which are disconnected with social policy. This is the farce that as feminists we are exposing as we believe that economic policies are interlinked with social policies and have great impacts on social services and social relations. We believe that economic policies should be in place to provide the basic needs of the women and men as their constituents and not the transnational corporations and their profit.

This is the premise of the vision of food sovereignty – the critique of how the governments have reneged on their roles as providers, and have now taken on the role of middlemen for the TNCs business on agriculture, on food and of utilisation of natural resources; critique of how food have become a source of profit, rather than a basic need of the people; critique of how food producers have become mere consumers. Food sovereignty has developed into the alternative to the corporate rule of our food and agriculture, and our livelihoods. Within this advocacy, APWLD continues to highlight the manifestations of patriarchy in this current model of development, and that in any alternative that we develop and promote, an integral part of this is the breaking down of power relations that is present even in the basic unit of our society – the family.

The objectives that have been set by the 3-year WEN programme have been satisfactorily met, if not

more. This can be measured in the dynamic participation of the TF members in Hong Kong, especially at the national level activities.

In Cambodia, Bantay Srei's active involvement in the November People's Caravan for Justice and Food Sovereignty, was one of the first national activities that they had. Centre for Human Rights Development held for the first time a grassroots level women gathering on the issue of trade and food in Mongolia. The success of that gathering was manifested in the enthusiasm of their large and active participation in Hong Kong. In Thailand, Sustainable Development Foundation was instrumental in the organising of the very first national meeting among women farmers, vegetable growers and fishers. It was in this conference that Women's Action Network in Thailand was formed. All these actions were initiated after the Women's Regional Conference on Food Sovereignty and Globalisation.

The TF members, which are mostly mixed groups, have reported that being part of WEN TF and its activities have contributed in the development and strengthening of women's perspectives, women's programmes for others, within their organisations.

Throughout the 3 years as well, the APWLD WEN programme has steadily become one of the major facilitators of grassroots women's voices in the regional level among the broader people's movements. That has been our main contribution in our membership and engagement with different regional networks such as Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN), International League of People's Struggles (ILPS) and Pesticide Action Network-Asia Pacific (PAN-AP).

## **Future Plans**

This is where the WEN programme stands on and will build on for the next 3 years. Still within the banner of the campaign "Don't Globalise Hunger! Assert Women's Rights to Food Sovereignty," there will be the focus on corporate control over natural resources and how trade liberalisation perpetuates this. TF will pay more attention to the mineral resource. The mineral resource is one of the resources which are attracting the TNCs to come

and to stay in the countries in the region, but particularly in the communities where food and livelihoods are mostly dependent on agriculture. The presence of TNC mining companies have been one of the major issues raised in the last two years by most of the TF members. Large-scale commercial mining operations have been creating so much ecological destruction, affecting health and livelihoods of the communities. These mining operations have also caused a lot of social and economic displacement. The WEN TF will focus on countries which have not been traditionally prominent in the anti-mining campaigns but because of the escalating economic liberalisation, have opened up to TNCs – Mongolia, Pakistan and Cambodia.

The presence of large commercial mining corporations is facilitated by various trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties. Thus, activities to further understand the links and impacts of these trade agreements and other trade instruments within and aside from those of WTO will continue to be part of the ongoing campaigns of the programme.

Strengthening the links and partnerships made in the last three years with the broader women's and peoples movements which are forwarding the advocacy against globalisation and corporate control over resources, and towards food sovereignty, is essential.

The WEN programme will utilise different handles and tools for the campaign against TNCs control over natural resources and advocacy for food sovereignty. However, the main strength of the programme is the commitment of the TF members as individuals and their organisation to further the struggle towards a just, humane and genuinely sustainable development for all.

The WEN programme has been generously supported by HBF throughout its 3-year programme.

These stories from women from grassroots communities in the region are living testimonies of the empty promises, failures and crimes of the grand project of economic globalisation and its global agents like WTO and transnational corporations. But these women, too, are the living inspiration of the global movement.

In Indonesia, where there are around 500 TNCs present (eg. Monsanto, Newmont, Freeport, etc.), struggle for land is an ongoing issue in village and urban areas as the mining corporations, with the connivance of the Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY) government, aggressively confiscates land from the rural and indigenous communities. This meant deprivation of resources for food production. Solidaritas Perempuan (SP) reports "... mine tailings from the mining operations affect health of women. Malnourishment of villagers in areas surrounding mining areas is rampant because the villagers find that they have no access to land to grow food and nutrition of what land has remained has been ruined by the pollution. .... Since the country acceded to the WTO in 1995, a number of legislation adjustments have been made to accommodate WTO accession, some of which are the following – Law 23 (2001) on Water Resources Privatisation; Law 22 (2001) on Mining; Law 23 (2001) on Patent; and Internal Security Act 2003 as part of the anti-terror policy which was deemed to protect the TNCs."

According to Banteay Srei, Cambodia, as other countries in the region, did not have to import food as the country has subsistent agrarian sector. However, the influx of bilateral trade agreements on agricultural products with China, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia, "resulted in the flooding of imported food in the local markets. This meant that local food producers could not compete with the cheap imported food products such as cucumber, tomato, green cabbage, onion, potato, watermelon." On the other hand, life is made more difficult for the small food producers as their agricultural lands are confiscated by land speculators, mostly for foreign mining companies. Communities from the surrounding areas where there are mining operations are suffering from the pollution, which affect the health of the people as well as killing their livestock. "Mining operations by Chinese and Taiwanese gold mining corporations have been real threats to the economic and social rights of the people. The government officials who have vested interests in these investments turn blind eyes to the suffering of their people."

In the southern part of Thailand, there has been a national policy to promote the economic growth in the coastal areas. "Introduction of the corporate fishing industry in the areas created conflicts between the corporate fishing industry and the small fisher folk. In the context of globalisation, the centralised government has the policy of privatisation of natural resources for economic growth." Sustainable Development Foundation reported that "the Thaksin government wants to privatise the sea so that whoever wants to use the sea they can lease out a portion of the sea." Further, "under the poverty reduction policy, individual has the right to borrow money from

the bank so what happened is that those who have capital are likely to claim the ownership of public resources. This kind of policy will create more conflict over resources between rich and poor, and the coastal resources will be virtually owned by the rich.”

Thailand farmers are having the same experience of unfair competition with the cheap imported food and agricultural products, reinforced by the free trade agreements the Thai government is negotiating with China, Australia and US.

Mongolia with its very different landscape, has very similar issues with the other countries in the region. Gold mining companies are wreaking havoc in the ecology and in the livelihoods of the food producers and herders in the country. With the rural communities suffering intensive loss of livelihoods because of the ecological impacts of mining operations, as well as use of pesticides, immigration from rural to urban has increased. However, “migrant groups, especially women-headed families face difficult situations as they have no skills relevant to urban areas. Thus, these women are vulnerable to trafficking to Singapore, Korea, Japan and Macau.” This is according to Centre for Human Rights Development (CHRD). Land privatisation law (2002) which was backed by the World Bank proved to have had adverse impact on women, as they are further alienated from the land. Mongolian women, even those who are head of the families, cannot own land.

Sunflower, which is a pretty attractive crop, has injurious effect physically, as well as economically on women of Pakistan. Roots for Equity reported that there is an issue of water scarcity in some areas thus landlords are shifting to the sunflower plantation as it is a residual crop and does not need water. “It is threatening to food security because cash-crop plantation is taking over food crops.” Moreover, sunflower seeds are mixed with pesticides, thorny and hardy, and women are the ones who handle the seeds, causing health issues. The sunflower seeds are imported from foreign countries at a very high price and monopolised by agro-transnational corporations.

Mining, yet again, is a major concern in Pakistan. “Mining is destructive to the local community. The profits from the operations go to local elites and the foreign companies. Some of the findings of the research done by some public interest institutions reveal that labor, like the carrying of limestones is done by marginalised people from drought-stricken areas of the country. Working conditions are so inhumane that incidents of people losing eyesight or their hands, is not uncommon.”



# Rural and Indige

## 1. Overview

At this juncture where the discourse on WTO and the specific agreements within it – particularly Agreement on Agriculture (AOA), Non Agricultural Market Access (NAMA), or General Agreements on Trades and Services (GATS), Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) – all have significant impact on the livelihood and lives of food producers and grassroots communities - have reached a level of sophistication, and expertise, there are a lot of women in the local communities who have not yet heard of WTO, let alone understand how powerful it is in creating impacts in their daily lives.



# Indigenous Women

On the other hand, bilateral trade agreements and free trade agreements (FTAs) are aggressively being pushed and entered into by national governments. Thailand, for example, has concluded four FTAs, including that with China and Australia. It is presently having heated negotiations with US, and new ones with Australia and Papua New Guinea. Most of these FTAs have grave impacts on the livelihoods of the small communities. Indonesia and the Philippines have pending Trade and Investment Framework Agreement with the United States. Malaysia too has pending trade agreements with the US and Japan. ([www.us-asean.org/ASEAN/](http://www.us-asean.org/ASEAN/)

FTA\_Matrix.doc) In Kyrgyzstan, 70% of the total population is in the rural communities and 60% of them are women. While positive changes have been observed in the poverty alleviation programmes of the government, ALGA (rural women's NGO in Kyrgyzstan) reports that the country is also witnessing the loss of role of the local harvesters, mostly women, in the food production sector as there is a rising flow of food importation from China and other countries. However, there has been a lack of information and understanding on the different trade policies that the Kyrgyz government has been implementing.

These agreements are being entered into and negotiated without public consultation or information at all. The lack of transparency from the part of national governments, systematic information dissemination, and public consultation among their constituencies make the governments, the trade negotiators in particular, commit sell-out trade agreements on food and agriculture at the expense of the rural communities with impunity. The public, let alone grassroots women, are left in the dark about the negotiations, as they suffer the brunt of all of these. The trade agreements on investments, and those on food and agriculture, have detrimental impacts on our food security, the quality of food that we have, and control over means of food production and natural resources.

This lack of transparency is compounded with the climate of fear created by the ongoing “war on terror” and unabashedly intolerant policies of national policies. This climate of fear is so real that the campaign for women human rights defenders has been one of the urgent campaigns the RIW programme is involved in. In the Philippines, the political killings under the Arroyo government have become so much part of the political landscape. For the year 2005 alone, there have been 31 human rights defenders killed. According to AMIHAN (Philippines National Federation of Peasant Women), a significant number from this has been involved in the land struggle in the Hacienda Luisita case, which was between farmers and agricultural workers on one hand, and the Cojuangco family on the other. Cojuangco is the family of former President Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino.

In Nepal, there is little information on the actual situation of the indigenous women. The mobility of women has been limited by the state of insecurity in the country. This became even worse with the King Gyanendra taking over the governance of the country. Killings and disappearances have become almost difficult to monitor. The leaders of ANWA (All Nepalese Women Association), who are actively involved in the protest actions, have suffered arrests and harassments from the state police. According to ANWA’s report “There is no sex disaggregated data on the numbers of women killed during the conflict. It is a known fact that the issue of women’s human rights violations takes backseat

to national reconciliation.”

This “backseat taking” of women’s issues is unfortunately still very real within the broader people’s struggles. Patriarchy is still very much alive, and made alive even by the communities. “In the Philippines, it is said that the land is so limited so why should women separately fight for women’s rights to land; why not focus on the community struggle for land, and the women will benefit from it as they are ‘part of the family’”. But the reality is once the community gains victory, the women end up in the subordinate position in landownership. Women’s fight for land rights has been interpreted as capitalist because it is individualistic, and veering away from communal struggle,” AMIHAN shared at the 2005 TF meeting.

This hierarchy of issues, and the blindness to the specific interests of women was very much highlighted in the post tsunami situation in the four countries where RIW TF members work. The tsunami has had great impacts on the regular community as well as political work of our members from Indonesia, India, Thailand and Sri Lanka. The post-tsunami report, which compiled the data and experiences of our members who responded and continue to work with the affected communities, showed that women’s particular issues remain invisible, if not less prioritised. The issue of actual sexual harassment and the situation which make them more vulnerable to such, has largely been ignored. The particular needs of women such as sanitary napkins, underwear and separate toilets have been set aside. It was the TF RIW members and APWLD which responded to this, and highlighted these in the reports and information materials.

The post-tsunami situation also paved the way for a more aggressive presence of the agents of different political and economic interests. There was the military in Aceh and Sri Lanka, which made their presence felt even stronger, causing more fear and actual violence in the communities. There are the businessmen who took the opportunity to grab lands from the coastal communities to expand their tourist businesses in Thailand. There were the agents of religious fundamentalists who took advantage of this moment of vulnerability of the communities in Aceh and impose their morality and religious values over them, especially women.

More information and stories are being compiled to be able to have a clearer picture of the situation of women post-tsunami and also during disasters, which the region has been experiencing lately at a devastating scale. This would assist the governments, and the development agencies and the communities themselves to become more aware of and responsive in a strategic manner to the particular needs and interests of women in the communities.

However, the sharing of information from those that the non-government organisations and the activists can obtain, and analysis – from any of the issues discussed above – have been little use for the rural and indigenous women – given the language barrier and the limited and limiting ways of sharing them. This is the case with most of information. It also works the other way around where because of the language and other limiting factors (lack of mobility, bureaucratic requirement to travel), most women from rural and indigenous communities could not participate in the national and regional forums where they could get different information, analysis, as well as share their own. Most of the time, rural and indigenous women are represented, borrowing voices from those who can freely speak out, and those who are allowed to speak out. Grass-roots women are unfortunately experiencing yet another marginalisation in the struggle.

Indeed, there are various layers of marginalisation rural and indigenous women face. But over the years, we have seen that rural and indigenous women are unrelenting, as this is a matter of survival, indeed a matter of life and death – for them, their families and their communities.

APWLD, through its RIW programme, joins this struggle of survival for the rural and indigenous women. For the past three years (2003-2005), the RIW programme has set its objectives as:

- to assist RIW Task Force members in awareness-raising, organising, mobilising and strategising against globalisation and its negative impacts on rural and indigenous women;
- to involve young women lawyers to assist RIW Task Force by sharpening their feminist perspective on the impacts of globalisation on rural and indigenous women; and

- to influence the agenda of people's and social movements on the impacts of globalisation on rural and indigenous women from a feminist perspective.

## 2. Activities and Results

### Campaign for Food Sovereignty

**Output: Don't Globalise Hunger! Assert Women's Rights to Food Sovereignty Campaign**

**Indicator: Three new women initiatives have emerged out of assistance of RIW programme working on Food Sovereignty campaign**

**Funder: Sida, Novib, HIVOS**

Within the framework of the advocacy for food sovereignty, this campaign has been initiated and launched jointly by WEN task force and the Rural and Indigenous Women (RIW) task force. This is to provide a platform for other members of APWLD and its networks to be part of the resistance to the corporate control of food, agriculture and the lives of women and their communities. (please refer to WEN report on the details of this campaign)

### Support to National Activities

As part of the Don't Globalise Hunger! campaign, the TF members committed to carry out national activities/campaign actions at the community and/or national level. These actions at the different countries would culminate at the WTO MC6th. There were national members which were given financial support by the TF, while there were others where the secretariat actually participated in one of the national actions.

- Amihan National Federation of Peasant Women (Philippines) – WTO Out of our Rice, Food and Agriculture: A Campaign Advocacy Project / July-December 2005
- Northern Development Foundation (Thailand) – National Consultation on Women,

Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods/  
October 16-18

- Binadesa (Indonesia) – National Women Consultation on WTO 6th Ministerial Meeting / Dec. 9

## Campaign materials

As part of the information awareness, campaign materials were printed and distributed in the different forums, workshops and conferences that the APWLD Secretariat attended. These campaign materials were also distributed to the TF members for their own use in the national actions. These materials are - posters (2 types), flyers, bandana, banners, campaign paper, and flags.

## Website

A website was created which is the portal for the different actions, events, statements, photos from the different countries in the region – [www.dontglobalisehunger.org](http://www.dontglobalisehunger.org)

## Consolidated Actions

There were a few significant dates during the year in which the participating organisations agreed to have simultaneous actions. Some participating organisations held demonstrations in their areas, forums, and issued press statements on October 15 – Rural Women's Day, October 16 - World Foodless Day, November 25 – International Day to End Violence Against Women. These actions within the Don't Globalisation Hunger! culminated at the WTO 6th Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong.

## Activities at the WTO 6th Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong

**Output:** Participation at the WTO 6th Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong

**Indicator:** At least 6 members have participated, along with their community partners, in WTO MC6th

**Funder:** Sida, Novib, HIVOS, UNIFEM

Please see separate report on the participation at the WTO 6th Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong on page 80.

## Women Human Rights Defenders Campaign

**Output:** Involvement and Contribution to the Women Human Rights Defenders Campaign

**Indicator:** At least 2 members experiencing urgent WHRD issues have been responded to

**Funder:** Sida, Novib, HIVOS

As the political situation at national level becomes volatile, more so at the community level, where human rights violations are committed almost always with impunity. This is the case in Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia.

Thus, in response to the worsening situation of the communities where RIW TF members are present, RIW programme has carried the issues of the WHRD deaths and harassments in these countries – AMIHAN (Philippines), ANWA (Nepal) and to a certain extent the women from Thailand and Aceh, Indonesia.

See full report under Cross-Cutting Initiatives/ Women Human Rights Defenders Campaign, p.74

## Relief and Rehabilitation Work for Tsunami affected Communities

**Output:** Assistance to the Relief and Rehabilitation work of the Tsunami-Affected Communities

**Indicator:** At least 3 members assisting tsunami-affected communities would have been supported

**Funder:** Sida, Novib, HIVOS

Four of our TF members were actually involved in the relief and rehabilitation work of the tsu-

nami-affected communities – SRED (India), Bina Desa (Indonesia), Northern Development Foundation (Thailand) and NAFSO (Sri Lanka). Two of the WEN TF members were also heavily involved – Solidaritas Perempuan (Indonesia) and Sustainable Development Foundation (Thailand). And so were the other member organisations from the other task forces. APWLD had a central programme for supporting – fund raising, video documentation, and publishing of report. Apart from assisting these initiatives, RIW TF also tried to assist in other ways by looking into and highlighting the different RIW issues which were present in the post-tsunami areas. One of these issues was the militarisation of the relief and rehabilitation work (particularly in Aceh). The strong presence of the military meant less active support from the international community and the undermining the separatist movement in the region. The increased presence of the military in Aceh also reinforced the political relationship between the military and the Shariah government in Aceh. The fundamentalist religious leaders and the military were in heyday in their increased power over the communities, especially women, in their promotion and practice of fundamentalist values.

RIW TF then joined the international community in clamouring for the military pull-out in the area through issuing statements. A paper on the interlinks of religious fundamentalism, militarism and women's human rights in Aceh was presented in Femme Globale, an international women's forum in Berlin (September 12, 2005). The information mostly was from the two visits of the programme officer to Aceh within the year.

There were similar issues among the communities surviving the tsunami, particularly among the women – increased reproductive work in a hostile environment, vulnerabilities to sexual harassment, neglect of their health and nutrition in favor of the men, elders and children in the families, among others. But there are also some distinct issues among the different women from different communities. The land struggle against a large business family with a lot of political clout was the main issue of K. Ratree from Phuket, Thailand. As they fled to safety during the tsunami, the businessmen came and took over their lands. This was the same plight among

the other families in those particular areas. In India, caste system was a very entrenched discrimination factor in the societies that not even tsunami was able to wash away. The Dalit women receive the least support from the government and the opportunities for rehabilitation made available were limited. The Burmese women migrant workers faced a different set of challenges in the coastal areas of Thailand. Their insecure status as migrant workers hindered their receiving of relief and assistance from the Thai government.

These are some of the issues discussed and shared among themselves as well as with some support groups in the Regional Conference on Women's Human Rights in the Post-Tsunami Aftermath (July 2005/Aceh) and among the TF members in the solidarity visit the RIW TF had in Phuket, Thailand in July.

The members of the TF are now involved in the ongoing community research coordinated by APWLD on the gendered impacts of disaster, such as tsunami, and the experiences in the response of the governments and the non-government institutions. This research would hopefully provide guidance as to how RIW TF and APWLD can programmatically respond to these needs and issues.

## Anti terrorism research

**Output: Young Women Lawyers Research on anti-terror policies**

**Indicator: Three young women lawyers involved in Task Force Activities**

**Funder: Rights and Democracy**

This has been a long-standing research which the TF has yet to finalise. The TF members recognise that this is a significant research which will assist the TF's advocacy against the state policies which are guised under the "war against terror" but in reality are in place to quell the growing resistance among the rural and indigenous communities. However, there were a lot of challenges in finalising this. But with the resolution of the TF to still finalise and publish

it, then it is scheduled within the year 2006.

While young women lawyers from five different countries were involved (Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, India and Bangladesh), there was no programmatic involvement to sustain the active participation of most of the lawyers. However, Susmita Chakma (Bangladesh) who is part of the research team is now a member of the RIW TF. Salma Safitri (Solidaritas Perempuan) sat as co-convenor of the TF for a while and had to be replaced as she became the Secretary-General of SP.

## Women and Globalisation Module

**Output:** Women and Globalisation Module

**Indicator:** Three members have used the module to organise actions on the impact of globalisation on rural and indigenous women

**Funder:** Sida, Novib, HIVOS

The Women and Globalisation Module is to assist the TF members in their organising and awareness-raising programmes among the rural and indigenous women. This was written in English, and the TF members committed to translate it in their own languages. In the first quarter of 2006, the module would have been printed and released in English, and will be distributed to TF members for their translation and printing in their own countries.

## Network Support

**Output:** Participation of TF members in workshops, consultations, actions in broader people's movement

**Indicator:** At least five workshops, conferences etc. attended by Task Force members, who have included women's agenda in their statements, declarations, resolutions

**Funder:** Sida, Novib, HIVOS

The RIW is a member of the Women and Agriculture Task Force of Pesticide Action Network – Asia Pacific (PAN-AP). This TF meets once in two years. This year (June 24-26/Penang) the programme officer attended for the task force. This is one network where rural and indigenous women's issues are discussed from an anti-globalisation perspective. APWLD brings to this mixed network our broad representation from the RIW sector.

The TF also facilitated the participation of our convenor and co-convenor – Olga Djanaeva (ALGA/Kyrgyzstan) and Tess Vistro (AMIHAN/Philippines) respectively to the Action Aid-sponsored forum on "Discrimination, Exclusion and Food Rights" (December 3-4/New Delhi, India).

## 3. Lessons Learnt and Future Plans

### Lessons Learnt

The Rural and Indigenous Women Programme is different from the rest of the other programmes of APWLD as it is sector-based. While the other programmes are issue-based, RIW is supposed to cover any issues affecting or particular to RIW. RIW, in itself as a sector, is multi-sectoral, as well. Rural and indigenous women are peasants, fishers, agricultural workers, herders, vegetable growers, housewives. Thus, the range of possibilities of issues, as well as actual issues and problems being faced by the women from the rural and indigenous women are so broad. This is a big challenge for the task force in terms of focus.

So for the past three years, the RIW programme has been focusing on providing enabling support to the TF members. Movement building has been the main contribution of the programme – the assistance in the convening of the second Asian Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN); the Asian Peasant Women's Network (APWN), and the most recent is the Regional Forum on the Women in Fisheries.

While the AIWN and APWN are established networks already, though would need continuing support, the women in fisheries network is one

that has not yet been established. But work, though slowly, is being done. The work is at both fronts - in trying to consolidate women from different fishing communities in the region, but also in bringing women in fisheries issues in the food sovereignty network and women's movement.

As planned last year, two seats now in the TF are being occupied by groups working on fisheries issues. While these are not solidly women's groups, it is the task of RIW TF to strengthen the women's programmes they have started. These are sure steps contributing towards an establishment of a network of women in fisheries in the region.

## Future Plans

Facilitating young women lawyers' active involvement in the RIW Programme is still in the objective of the TF, where a lot of work has to be done, in a more programmatic way. Follow up actions from the "war against terror" policies research will create a space for collaboration with them. Follow up actions will be related to the WHRD campaigns as most of the repressive policies are being legitimised under the anti-terrorism policy.

Another venue where collaboration between the TF members and young women lawyers can take place is in the planned activities of the TF related to women's rights and international instruments which embody these, e.g. CEDAW.

This and more creative enabling support and creation of spaces for the participation in relevant and significant regional and international forums are the continuing tasks of the RIW programme. The WTO MC 6th was one of the more recent displays of the growing organised voices of the rural and indigenous women. Their active involvement at the national level in the lead up of activities to WTO, and their actual presence in Hong Kong was indeed a promising indication of the contribution of RIW TF in the movement building within the rural and indigenous women sector, and its intensifying collective strength.

# Cross Cutting Initiatives



## 1. Overview

Cross-cutting initiatives are activities which do not fall solely within a programme but cut across the different programmes of APWLD and are directly related to the general objectives of the network. These are either initiated by the members of the Secretariat, given the urgency or significance of the issue at hand, or in support to a national initiative of the members.

The objectives for 2003 – 2005 are:

- To respond to urgent issues of the day which are within the mandate and general objectives of APWLD; and
- To respond to requests from APWLD members and partners which are within the mandate of APWLD.

## 2. Activities and Results

**Output:** Relevant and timely responses to urgent issues initiated by the Secretariat

**Indicator:** a) Number of statements from feminist and women's human rights perspectives released on issues; or number of related actions initiated or participated in by the Secretariat

b) Number of other networks seeking APWLD's endorsement of their issue

c) Number of networks endorsing APWLD's issues/campaigns

## 2.1 Response to Natural Disasters in Asia: Indian Ocean tsunami and earthquake in Kashmir

As on December 26, 2004, the Indian Ocean Tsunami struck 12 countries spanning South East Asia, South Asia and East Africa, APWLD started receiving requests for immediate assistance from its members in India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. At its annual meeting on February 8-9, 2005, the Regional Council of APWLD issues a resolution to act as a focal point of advocacy for women's human rights in the tsunami aftermath and proposed calling a conference of women human rights defenders from the tsunami affected countries to share information on women's human rights concerns in the tsunami aftermath. An APWLD statement on women's human rights concerns in the tsunami affected countries was released and widely disseminated.

In terms of immediate financial assistance, APWLD was able to raise USD 10,000 through cost saving measures during Regional Council and Programme and Management meetings, 10% contributions from the members' per diems during the meetings, personal donations from the members, pledges from the APWLD programme budgets and proceeds from sales of APWLD publications and t-shirts. These funds were divided between 6 member-organisations involved in the tsunami relief and reconstruction efforts: Society for Rural Education and Development (India), Solidaritas Perempuan (Indonesia), Sustainable Development Foundation (Thailand), International Movement against all forms of Discrimination and Racism (Sri Lanka), INFORM (Sri Lanka) and Women's Studies Center, Chiang Mai University (Thailand).

In response to call of Azra Talat Sayeed of Roots for Equity, APWLD member-organisation in Pakistan, for immediate assistance to survivors of the October 2005 earthquake in Pakistan facing the imminent winter in the mountainous Kashmir, APWLD was able to donate USD 1,200 for purchase of housing materials.

The following are the reports from some of these 6 member-organisations who received financial contributions from APWLD for the tsunami relief efforts:

### Society for Rural Education and Development, India

SRED received USD 2,500 from APWLD in support of their relief assistance to Dalit communities affected by the tsunami. The SRED team distributed relief materials to 1496 families in 22 villages of three districts in Tamil Nadu. The relief materials included cloths such as saris, lungi, towels, children's clothes, household utensils and food items. SRED team also supplied school uniforms, school bags and notebooks to the children.

Most of the Dalit communities have not received any assistance from the Indian Government and NGOs. Komala, an activist involved in relief work with SRED, reported saying that through SRED's relief work 460 families in her area got benefited. She targeted affected people, especially women. The relief material went directly to affected people not to the leaders who exploited the situation. Many women commented saying "they have eaten for the day".

Rasaram from Pondicherry appreciated that relief material distributed by SRED were of good quality and that new cloths were distributed. Along with SRED team he distributed relief materials to 1468 families in his area. Rasaram was particularly happy that the material given benefited Dalit villages in this area. Dalits were kept 50 km away from the relief camp where the other community was staying. Even temporary shelters were not given to all Dalits.

It was reported to SRED that 500 families in 13 islands have not received any support from the government. SRED team went to the islands by the boats and distributed relief materials to them. In Cuddalore district relief material were given to Dalits, and Vasu reported that the reactions from the faces of the women when they got relief materials that he will never forget.

## International Movement against all forms of Discrimination and Racism, Sri Lanka

IMADR Asia Committee intervened in tsunami relief activities from the 27th December 2004 as our partners at the district level had to respond immediately to the crisis situation. We express our appreciation to APWLD for giving us a contribution to strengthen our work during the early phase of disaster relief. Our committee decided to allocate the funds received from APWLD for the following activities:

Received from APWLD

47,300 SL rupees  
(USD 1,500)

Expenditure

— Galle District:

Launching of Livelihood Programme for Women affected by the tsunami:  
116,477 Rp

— Matara District:

Lace making equipment for 10 women  
50,000 Rp

Contribution from IMADR 30,823 Rp

IMADR's livelihood programme was launched on March 8, International Women's Day, by giving kitchen utensils to 3 women who were earning livelihood income by making breakfast for tsunami survivors. Women in Galle camps made a special request to facilitate setting up a community kitchen and a children's activity at a camp located along the railway line which houses 75 families/or 350 people in tents. A lunch and food items were provided to the camp residents. Also, 47 women with children received 200 Rp each as a cash gift.

10 elderly women received lace making equipment to maintain their traditional livelihood activity, and 50 lace making pillows were provided to encourage younger women to learn the skill. Marketing assistance is being envisaged to develop a self reliance scheme for these women.

## Chiang Mai University Women's Studies Center, Thailand

In support of the tsunami relief effort in southern Thailand, the Chiang Mai University Women's Studies Center received donations in the amount of US \$1,000 (or 40,000 Baht) from APWLD to support its Women in the South Project.

Following is a breakdown of the budget expenditure:

-- Support for Ratree Kongwatmai and the Laem Pom community: 20,000 Baht

-- Stipend for Jintana Kaewkhao and the Ban Krut community: 10,000 Baht

-- Publication of Women's Studies Masters students' research: 10,000 Baht

Total: 40,000 Baht

Ratree Kongwatmai from Laem Pom village, Phang Nga, encountered a double tragedy when, after the tsunami had devastated her community, she found that hired guards from the Far East Company, owned by a powerful politician, had been posted around what was left of her house, preventing her from entering the premises to search for her missing daughter. Her frantic calls to local authorities went unanswered, and by the time she gained access to her land, she found the body of her daughter decayed beyond recognition. Ratree's rage at this injustice has fuelled her fight against the company, which is seeking to profit from the natural disaster, illegally confiscating villagers' land to develop a 418-rai area in Hat Laem Pom into a golf course and a luxury hotel.

In responding to Ratree's request for support, the Women's Studies Center invited her to a meeting organised by APWLD and the WSC in Phuket on August 8-10, 2005 on State Violence and Women's Human Rights. There, Ratree had the opportunity to meet activists from throughout the tsunami-affected region. Of particular support were Jintana Kaewkhao and her colleagues from Ban Krut, who have been involved in the fight against a coal-fired power plant project in Ban Krut, Prachuab Khirikhan Province of southern Thailand since 1997. As experienced activists from the south of Thailand, Jintana and her colleagues were able to share with Ratree a wealth of information and advice in strategising her fight against the Far East Company.

From November 22-28, 2005, the Chiang Mai University Women's Studies Center led a group of twenty women's studies students in the masters' programme on a trip to Phang Nga and Phuket provinces of Thailand to study the effect of the tsunami on women and the role of women in the rebuilding process. The students' papers will be published as a compilation entitled *The Effect of the Tsunami on Women and the Role of Women in the Rebuilding Process*. The compilation will be published in the Thai language, and distributed to relevant groups within the country in an effort to promote understanding of the gendered aspects of disaster relief.

## 2.2 Survey of Violations of Women's Human Rights in the Tsunami Aftermath and Guidelines for Gender Sensitive Disaster Management funded by Mamacash, Cordaid, and Global Fund for Women

This project developed in response to the resolution of APWLD's Regional Council to act as a focal point of advocacy for women's human rights in the tsunami aftermath and to call a conference of women human rights defenders from the tsunami affected countries to share information on women's human rights concerns in the tsunami aftermath. APWLD participated at the Asian Civil Society Consultation on Post Tsunami Challenges in Bangkok, February 13-14, 2005, and based on discussions of the women's caucus made a commitment to draft a comprehensive report focusing on women's human rights violations in the tsunami aftermath given the gravity of the violations and the extent of marginalisation and exclusion of women from the rehabilitation process. The report was compiled, based mainly on inputs from APWLD members, and submitted to the Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Dr. Walter K?lin, during his visit to Bangkok, at the Practitioner's Forum on Human Rights organised by the OHCHR Asia Pacific Regional Office (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights).

The report was widely disseminated through electronic list-serves and uploaded on the APWLD website. It was later printed as a publication "Why are women more vulnerable during disasters?" 200 copies were printed and distributed at various international meetings such as AWID Forum in Bangkok, October 27-30, 2005, and UN ESCAP Regional Workshop on the Impact of the Tsunami on Vulnerable Groups and Women, Phuket, November 21-23, 2005. Additional 500 copies have been printed later in the year adding a section on women's human rights concerns in the aftermath of the October 8, 2005 earthquake in Kashmir, Pakistan.

The report has been translated into French and Japanese and used for advocacy purposes by local

groups. The report gave impetus to women's groups in Japan such as Asia-Japan Women's Resource Centre and Women's Net Kobe, to renew their advocacy efforts for women's need for special protection during natural disasters. They raised concerns about sexual abuse of women after the earthquake in Kobe, in 1995 but were silenced by the right wing media at the time.

### Feedback from UNIFEM, Bangkok

...I am writing to let you know that UNIFEM has found your research on the impact of tsunami relief operations on women, very useful:

- The presentation by Cholpon at the UN event to mark International Women's Day on March 8 2005, was very informative for UN staff and helped to boost the message presented by the UNIFEM Regional Programme Director, Lucita Lazo, on the need to take rights based approach in disaster recovery operations to ensure the rights of women are protected.
- Information from the research paper by APWLD on the tsunami was used to inform the presentation by Lucita at the IWD event
- Information from this paper was also used by me to provide examples as to why a rights based approach to development and emergency relief is essential. The examples of what went wrong for women post-tsunami illustrates the failure of a needs based approach over a rights based approach. I intend to give this presentation again in Cambodia in June this year.

I would like to congratulate you on the excellent work by APWLD on behalf of the women victims of the tsunami. It has greatly helped to inform the work of the UNIFEM CEDAW SEA programme.

BEST WISHES,  
SABINA LAUBER  
PROGRAMME MANAGER  
UNIFEM CEDAW SOUTH EAST ASIA PROGRAMME  
BANGKOK, THAILAND

The project has three phases:

- 1) consultation on post-tsunami challenges for women of the affected countries (July 25-27, 2005)
- 2) a survey to document women's human rights violations (August– April 2006)
- 3) compilation of guidelines for gender sensitive disaster management and relief (April 2006 – June 2006).

## **Phase 1. Consultation on post-tsunami challenges for women of the affected countries**

The project started with the Asian Women's Consultation on Post Tsunami Challenges held in Aceh, Indonesia, from July 25 to 27, 2005. Over 60 women, activists advocating for women's rights in the tsunami aftermath and survivors of the tsunami, from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand and from international and regional NGOs convened for a meeting to identify challenges women face in the tsunami aftermath. The Consultation was organised by APWLD member-organisation Solidaritas Perempuan.

The following were the objectives of the consultation:

- Documenting and sharing cases of women's rights violations
- Identifying of post-tsunami challenges for women
- Developing strategies to address the identified challenges
- Identify what kind of guidelines are needed
- Set up the survey, with a developed questionnaire.

The meeting was held "right in the middle of the tsunami context": in the village of Lambaro Seubun affected by the tsunami. The plenary sessions were held in the only community building in the village – the mosque, and the workshops - at the villagers' houses. The participants stayed at the villagers' houses where every family lost members in the tsunami. As one of the participants noted: the context facilitated staying focused on the tsunami related issues as well as conveyed the message of solidarity with villagers who participated in workshops and cultural performance every night. A young Acehnese woman activist who lost her husband and two children said that sharing experiences with tsunami survivors from other countries gave her strength to move on with her life as she felt she is not alone in her grief. The participants found workshops on trauma healing and counseling methods, morning sessions of Taichi and yoga a helpful collective healing process.

As part of the consultation, site visits were or-

ganized to refugee camps in Banda Aceh and Lampulo village, Community Centre of by UPC/ Up Link project and Media and Communication Centre of the Oxfam International in Banda Aceh. The visits to the refugee camps gave an opportunity for tsunami survivors from different countries to exchange information on the post-tsunami women's situation in their countries and strategies used to address the issues. The Peukan Bada Village Community Centre showcased a successful community development initiative where men and women work together to restore their livelihoods. The visit to the Oxfam office was aimed at learning how they use the Sphere Project Manual "Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response" to facilitate discussion among the participants on the Guidelines for Gender Sensitive Disaster Management: whether such guidelines should be developed under this project and how useful they will be. The participants noted in the exchange session after the trips that although they are survivors of the tsunami themselves the field trips were an "eye opener" in terms of the magnitude of the disaster scale and its implications for the Acehnese people.

### **Consultation outputs:**

#### **Output 1: Challenges identified**

On the 1st day of the Consultation there were country presentations from India, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Malaysia identifying post-tsunami challenges faced by women in these countries. These have been summarised in the Statement released after the meeting.

#### **Output 2. Women's rights violations in the tsunami aftermath documented and used in advocacy efforts**

Testimonies of the tsunami survivors on women's rights violations during the Aceh meeting were videotaped and compiled into a 30 minute documentary film entitled "Why are women more vulnerable during disasters?" The film was presented during the Asia Pacific NGO Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Dr. Yakin Erturk, in Bangkok, October 5-6, 2005. There was a special session at the Consultation on the tsunami's impact on women with Titi Soentoro, Fatima Burnad and Cholpon Akmatova as the panel

speakers. The film received good feedback from the participants, including Yakin Erturk herself, who took a copy of the film to use in her work and suggested that the film is a valuable tool for raising gender awareness in disaster management and should be distributed to UN Divisions for disaster response and humanitarian affairs.

To mark 1 year after the tsunami, copies of the film and the publication “Why are women more vulnerable during disasters?” were sent to the President of Indonesia and the Primer Ministers of India and Sri Lanka along with the letters expressing the network’s concern with the lack of progress in the post-tsunami rebuilding process and marginalisation and exclusion of women from the reconstruction efforts.

### Feedback on the film “Why are women more vulnerable during disasters?”

Perhaps natural disasters are not designed in a gender-specific way, but we see in the film [Why are women more vulnerable during disasters?] that the results are gender-specific. The devastation has differential impact depending on class, caste etc. I brought up the issue of differential impact of natural disasters at the Beijing +5 and many there agreed. It was raised again at the CSW in 2002 but nothing moved forward. We respond to disasters but forget about gender issues and each time has to renew our responses. We do need to develop intervention strategies that are in line with our knowledge of these differential impacts.

DR. YAKIN ERTURK, UN SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (COMMENT AFTER THE FILM PRESENTATION)

Thank you so much for sharing your video about violations of women's human rights in the aftermath of the tsunami. I think it is important to tap into alternative media sources to understand perspectives that are usually hard to access. I learned a lot from the film- it clearly answered the question 'Why are women more vulnerable during disasters?' Most importantly, if women are marginalized and discriminated against within normal social and cultural structures, disaster will clearly exacerbate these norms... quite daunting to think about, but I know APWLD and many other orgs I discovered at the Bangkok (AWID) conference are taking steps to alleviate these problems. Overall, I think the video struck the right balance of being emotional and factual. I like that there were interviews as well as voice-over, instead of just narration from an outsider. I appreciate that the video ended on a hopeful note- it is imperative for furthering solidarity and getting people involved. Hopefully the next video will be about the success women have had in tsunami-affected areas!

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### Output 3. The survey framework, questionnaire and schedule developed and agreed

The Aceh Consultation was a starting point of the documentation project “Survey of Women’s Human Rights Violations in the Tsunami Aftermath and Guidelines for Gender Sensitive Disaster Management and Relief.” Women’s groups who expressed commitment to conduct the survey had a separate workshop to discuss the methodology, the survey plan and framework.

Solidaritas Perempuan, the organisation co-ordinating the survey in Aceh, planned to use Feminist Participatory Action Research Approach (FPAR) as the basis for their research. They presented the FPAR principles to the Consultation participants. The researchers from other countries expressed interest in using the FPAR approach in the survey. The researchers from India, Indonesia and Thailand expressed the need for training in FPAR methods for researchers and documenters since using FPAR methodology implies involving women from the communities affected by the tsunami to collect and analyse the data.

The survey framework and questionnaire for the data collection were drafted and circulated before the Aceh Consultation. Although there are country-specific issues the researchers agreed to use the survey framework and the questionnaire as a guiding set of questions for collecting and analysing the survey data to ensure that the major areas of concern and overarching issues are covered by the survey and in the report. The questionnaire will be used for individual interviews and focus group discussions. Each research group will have to adapt the questionnaire to their country context and the focus group such as fisher women, migrants, Dalit, Irula etc. The participants also recommended using CEDAW and other human rights documents as the basis for the questionnaire. At least, 100 interviews with women-survivors, local women’s organisations, community leaders, humanitarian aid providers and government officials who have been involved in the post-tsunami relief and reconstruction

process will be conducted in each country.

The agreement was reached among the research groups about the project timeline:

1. The country research coordinators shall submit the 1st draft of the report on the survey findings to APWLD in the English language by March 1, 2006.

2. The final draft of the report will be submitted to APWLD no later than March 31, 2006.

3. The Guidelines will be completed by May 30, 2006

4. At least, 1,000 copies of the Guidelines printed in the English language by June 30, 2006

5. A Regional Forum organised in one of the research countries to present the survey findings and the Guidelines by July 31, 2006

#### **Output 4 The need for Guidelines for Gender Sensitive Disaster Management discussed**

General understanding was reached among the participants that there is a need for Guidelines for Gender Sensitive Disaster Management. The challenge is to ensure that the Guidelines are followed by state and non-state actors involved in the relief process. Therefore, it is important to link the research at all stages with advocacy efforts.

The researchers agreed:

- that the Guidelines will be based on recommendations from the country reports on the survey findings;
- to study existing guidelines/manuals such as Sphere Project Manual, Sri Lankan manual to identify gaps
- the Gender Sensitive Guidelines will address the identified gaps
- the Guidelines will be drafted by one writer who will be assisted and consulted by a team of advisers, at least one from each participating country.
- The Guidelines will be presented to representatives of the involved governments, aid agencies and community-based, national, regional and international NGOs and agencies at appropriate forums.

## **PHASE 2: Survey to document women's human rights violations**

### **Training of researchers and documenters in FPAR methods**

Phase 2 of the project started with the training for researchers in India, Indonesia and Thailand. As was mentioned above, the researchers from these countries expressed the need for training in FPAR methods for researchers and documenters since using FPAR methodology implies involving women from the communities affected by the tsunami to collect and analyse the data. The documenters need interviewing skills, especially related to sensitive questions about family members lost in the tsunami. The researchers noted during discussions in the Aceh meeting that the data collection process should be flexible: no "door to door" interviews, take into account "survey fatigue", use cultural performances in the communities to facilitate group discussions.

As Fatima Burnad, the research coordinator from India, put it in the rationale for training of grass roots women: "We decided to do the study with more participation of the tsunami affected Dalit and other women. For the first step we felt that the tsunami affected women should also undergo the training like we did to understand the whole process of this study so there is more cooperation from the target group and we will have first hand information for more in depth study. For this we are planning to have a 3 day training workshop for tsunami affected grassroots women from 11th to 13th November in Chennai. This way the tsunami affected women will be more empowered to participate and will be involved in the research from start to end. We will bring 30 women from fifteen villages selected for the study from five districts, i.e. two from each village."

In Thailand, Sustainable Development Foundations held a training workshop for 25 researchers from participating organisations and villagers on September 7-9. They have revised the survey framework and the questionnaire to reflect issues of the focus groups: migrant workers, fisherfolks, women widows and others.

In Indonesia, Solidaritas Perempuan conducted a training workshop on September 3-4 for 20 researchers from 6 participating organisations. They

completed the data collection process and are at the stage of analysing the data.

In Sri Lanka, the research has commenced in the southern province, Galle District, led by Durga and her group, the Nirmana Sansadaya. Most of the researcher were themselves affected by the tsunami and have been working with young people and children affected by the tsunami. Sunika Perera of CATAW has conducted a training workshop on the methodology and the questionnaire was revised and adapted to the local context. There are five women carrying out the survey at present. They are initially looking into single women and women heads of household in the post-tsunami situation, with a special focus on identifying livelihood needs and potential skills and capacities for future livelihood options and opportunities. In the initial stage they have conducted interviews with 50 women and are planning to carry out another 100 interviews. INFORM is planning to conduct the survey in the east of Sri Lanka, in Batticaloa, in collaboration with Suriya Women's Development Centre and in Akkaraipattu with the Affected Women's Forum.

#### Organisations conducting the survey

The following are organisations conducting the survey in Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand:

- Indonesia: Solidaritas Perempuan Aceh and Solidaritas Perempuan national; Flower Aceh; RPUK (Relawan Perempuan untuk Kemanusiaan); Paskah; Anisah; Serikat Inong Aceh; Kontras Aceh; Matahari; KKTGA (Kelompok Kerja Transformasi Gender); WCP; LBH-WK; JARI (Jaringan Advokasi Perempuan dan Anak Aceh)
- India: Society for Rural Education and Development
- Sri Lanka: INFORM, Suriya Women's Development Centre, Nirmana Sansadaya, CATAW
- Thailand: Sustainable Development Foundation

In the initial proposal, the survey was to be carried out also in Malaysia by a local NGO, Pusat Jana Daya Berhad (Empower). Salbiah Ahmad of Empower Malaysia participated in the Aceh meeting. However, later they decided to withdraw from the project as they conducted research on the tsunami's impact on women in February 2005 and given the comparatively small number of affected people in Malaysia they felt going back to the communities and interviewing affected women again would be inappropriate.

nami's impact on women in February 2005 and given the comparatively small number of affected people in Malaysia they felt going back to the communities and interviewing affected women again would be inappropriate.

## 2.3 APWLD's Women Human Rights Defenders Campaign

**Output:** Greater protection of women human rights defenders in Asia Pacific

**Indicator:** Extent of coverage of issues of WHRD at regional /international fora (including the SR's report); at least four alliances created at the regional/international fora between women's groups on WHRD issues.

**Funder:** HIVOS, Novib and Sida

The WHR WG has coordinated APWLD's cross-cutting campaigns on WHRDs and facilitated a number of activities on WHRDs in the region including trainings and giving visibility to specific campaign at international fora, including the UNCHR and the International Consultation on WHRDs.

The increasing attacks against Women Human rights Defenders at the hands of both state and non-state actors is an alarming trend in the region which is intricately entwined with the forces of fundamentalisms as well as globalisation and increasing militarism. As the political situation at national level becomes more volatile and more repressive in many countries, APWLD has undertaken activities to promote and protect the rights of WHRDs in specific countries of our members including: Philippines, Thailand, Nepal, Japan and Indonesia. The objectives of the campaign are to highlight specific cases from among our members around the region for the protection of WHRDs at risk and to raise awareness on the specific vulnerabilities faced by WHRD because of their gender and the specific issues they work on.

### **a. Philippines**

APWLD supported the campaign advocacy project of one of our national partners, AMIHAN National Federation of Peasant Women in the Philippines. The objectives of the project were to resist political repression of human rights activists in the Philippines by: raising awareness and visibility of the issue inside the country through actions and distribution of materials; seeking justice for the relatives of human rights defenders who died; and increasing the capacity of human rights defenders to protect themselves and respond to abuses by the state against WHRDs.

Assistance was provided by the RIW TF to AMIHAN to raise funds to conduct a national training for WHRDs in the Philippines working on peasant issues. The aim of the training was to equip WHRDs with knowledge and skills to use the HR framework and remedies available for the protection of WHRD and addressing abuses. This part of the training was conducted by a member of the WHR WG. The training focused on the specific vulnerabilities of WHRDs and their needs in framing response mechanisms. The training also provided a space for WHRDs to share their experiences as 'women' activists. As a result of the training participants stated that they felt better equipped to respond to attacks against them and their colleagues. The training helped create many new strategic alliances between AMIHAN and other organisations in Philippines.

### **b. Nepal**

In conjunction with Forum Asia and Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) and Inform, the VAW Task Force supported a 'training for trainers' (TOT) for Nepali WHRDs from 28th July to 1 August 2005. 22 Nepali women activists participated in the TOT. The first three days of the training examined the background of VAW in conflict and conflict situations. The remaining days were utilised for learning effectual skills of documenting human rights violations against women activists including VAW. Relevant examples were given from different parts of the world. The objectives of the training were to: to understand conflict situation from the women's perspective; to know the effect and impact on women caused by conflict situations and explore

strategies to deal with these; and to learn the skills of documenting human rights violations. A report was produced from this training which will be used to develop a training manual for further trainings in the region (WHR working Group will be working on this in 2006). In follow-up to this training, the 22 women who participated in this conducted trainings for over 120 WHRDs in Nepal. These defenders have since documented over 500 incidences of human rights abuses and violence against WHRDs in Nepal. APWLD will support WOREC to disseminate this information to strategic regional and international points including the UNCHR and Special Rapporteur and Representatives.

### **c. Japan**

APWLD supported the on-going campaign of VAWW-NET Japan to highlight attacks against WHRDs in Japan working on the issue of Japan's war-time sexual slavery during WWII. Following the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal, members of VAWW-NET Japan have been facing harassment and threats for their on-going advocacy on the issue of sexual-slavery and their efforts to expose the alliance between right-wing members of parliament and the media through an on-going court case against a national broadcaster who incorrectly portrayed the purpose of the Tribunal and questioned whether war-time sexual slavery in fact happened. APWLD supported VAWW-NET Japan to publish a book clarifying the position of activists working on the war-time sexual slavery issue after debates about political interference in the TV programme which drew attention to the Tribunal and the issue of sexual slavery. WHRDs working with VAWW-Net Japan are receiving threatening phone calls, emails and faxes. The book aims to raise awareness of the issue at a national level.

### **d. Aceh, Indonesia**

Three months after the Tsunami and the end of a long conflict, activities were organised by a member of the WHR WG in Indonesia under the WHRD campaign to assess the challenges that women activists in Aceh are facing. Meetings were held with women in Aceh which highlighted among other things: the cultural expectation on young married women; the lack of support from families; and the impact of Shariah law on their lives. The

workshops were aimed at collective understanding and revealed that 'recognition' needs to be the most important focus of the WHRD campaign in Aceh because the challenge for WHRDs in Aceh is based on cultural and religious expectations and restrictions. The campaign will be launched by Komnas Perempuan in 2006 on 29th November which has been declared the International Day for WHRDs.

#### **e. Thailand**

For Thailand, a round table discussion was organised by the RIW TF on August 9 in Phuket, Thailand. There were 15 Thai WHRDs joined by the 8 RIW TF members from the region. Most of the Thai WHRDs who shared their stories were women fighting for their rights to their land against development projects either by the government or corporations. The sharing and discussion between the Thai WHRDs and the members of the TF RIW was enriching and inspiring for all. It provided an opportunity among the Thai WHRDs to share their strategies among themselves as some of them have been fighting for some years now, and have won tactical victories (eg. delayed the projects), while some, especially those from the tsunami-affected area, are just beginning to raise their issues. Regional and international mechanisms and networks were introduced to the Thai WHRDs which they can tap into should they deem it necessary.

#### **f. Profiling and Responding to Cases**

APWLD used the International Consultation on WHRD to profile some of APWLD members who are at risk as result of their activism through their participation in the Consultation, posters and press releases for those unable to attend and Zenaída Soriano from AMIHAN (RIW TF) represented a joint press statement on abuses against WHRDs in Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia as a result of economic globalisation, at the Press Conference on the last day of the Consultation. The participation of 12 APWLD members in the International Consultation supported members in skills learning and networking. Some members also scheduled interviews with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Ms Hina Jilani at the Consultation where they were able to share the difficulties facing them.

Information gathered on situations for WHRDs in Nepal, Philippines and Thailand were collated

and disseminated at the UN Commission on Human Rights (April 2005) by the APWLD team who went there. The cases were also brought to the attention of the UN Special Rapporteur of Human Rights Defenders for inclusion in her report.

Urgent action alerts have been written up and circulated to expose the current situation in these countries as well as to call for solidarity in appealing for the stopping of the killings as in the case of the Philippines, and for the release of ANWA leaders and other political leaders of the Nepalese movements for democracy. These letters were endorsed by different groups within and outside the network.

### **2.4 Attendance at the APMDD activities (Seminar on GATS and Privatisation on August 19, 2005, and JS-APMDD Regional Assembly on August 20-21, 2005)**

APWLD has been invited to join the Asia-Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), a network on debt issues. APMDD was a continuation of the Jubilee South Asia-Pacific, a part of the world jubilee movements that advocated for debt release. Though it was based on a Christian tradition on debt release and, therefore, many Christian groups in the world joined it but the movement itself was not a religious one and joined by many non religious (Christian) groups of the social movement. It was important for APWLD to accept this invitation as APWLD advocates against the globalisation, and foreign debt and privatisation are its manifestations among others. It is expected that membership in this network would strengthen APWLD activities. The WEN TF meeting in 2005 discussed the issue of water privatisation and its impact on the public services and livelihood. Membership in the APMDD is expected to strengthen the national work of APWLD members through capacity building on that issue, mobilisation, organising and policy advocacy against this destructive policy. The P&M meeting in August 2005 resolved to accept the invitation as a member of APMDD. Regional Coordinator will represent APWLD in that network.

In line with the decision, the RC has attended the activities of APMDD from August 19 to 21,

2005 in Bangkok. The Seminar on GATS and Privatisation has increased the understanding on the issue of GATS and Privatisation since it gave an overview of WTO and its key policy areas and principles including the Agreement on Agriculture/AoA; NAMA, TRIPS and GATS, the Doha Round and its current development. The seminar also provided space for sharing of experiences on struggles on GATS issues based on experiences in Korea and Hong Kong. Since this seminar was also leading up to anti WTO activities in Hong Kong, strategies and plans for WTO Hong Kong meeting were also discussed.

The seminar was followed by the JS-APMDD Regional Assembly which aimed to set up the regional programme 2005 - 2008 and was attended by around 100 participants from various countries in Asia Pacific working on issues of debt, privatisation and international financial institutions. Themes discussed during the Regional Assembly included: current global and regional and political and economic trends as setting and context of the programme of JS-APMDD; debt which was elaborated in the discussions on the illegitimacy of debt and the social, historical and ecological debt of the North to the South; regional debt profile; overview on debt policy instruments, creditor frameworks and initiatives for debt relief; debt and trade; debt and labour; debt, land and agriculture; illegitimate and odious debt based on country cases and trends; debt conditionalities and international financial institutions; the regional trends in privatisation of water and power services. In this Regional Assembly, Titi Soentoro, the Regional Coordinator of APWLD, contributed a paper on ECA (Export Credit Agency) Financing of Privatisation Project. This paper focused on public institutions of the industrialised countries that give political risk insurance and investment guarantee to privatisation projects in the developing countries that mostly have negative impact on people and environment. Sectors supported are the power industry (dam, nuclear, coal-fired power plants), pulp and paper mills, and mining.

Campaign and actions of the JS-APMDD for the next three years will cover: campaign on the illegitimacy of debt, campaign on the people's right to basic services, focusing on the privatisation of water and power services; advocacy and actions challeng-

ing the international financial institutions and advocacy and actions on debt related to trade, land and agriculture, food sovereignty, war and militarism and the global financial architecture. Looking at this programme, giving feminist perspectives as a strong hold of APWLD would enrich JS-APMDD campaign; on the other hand it could contribute to enrich knowledge, campaign and advocacy of APWLD members.

## **2.5 Actions on Important Dates**

### **Celebration of International Women's Day, March 8**

The APWLD Secretariat joined the celebration by women's groups in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Hundreds of women-activists and students gathered at Tapae Gate for the rally carrying banners to mark the day and voice their concerns about gender based violence and gender inequality in every sphere of life in Thailand. Kulavir P.Pipat of Women's Studies Center, Chiang Mai University, spoke at the rally on how Thai women suffer from every facet of the gender oppression that stems from the patriarchal nature of the Thai society. In Thailand, annually 1.5 percent of pregnant women test HIV positive because of their husbands' promiscuity. As a result, 4,000 HIV positive babies are born every year. Due to male irresponsibility, 300,000 Thai women seek abortion every year. As many as 12 percent of this number, or 36,000, die from unsafe abortion. Women comprise 47 percent of the workforce, yet they get from 60 to 84 percent of their male counterparts' wages. Women's under-representation in the Thai political processes is glaring. In national politics, women make up only 8 percent of the cabinet of ministers and 9 percent of the Members of Parliament

APWLD was invited to speak at the International Women's Day event organised by UNIFEM Regional Office in Bangkok. The meeting focused on the impact of the December 26, 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami on women. Cholpon Akmatova, APWLD Information and Communications Officer, raised women's human rights concerns in the tsunami aftermath in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand based on testimonies of women survivors. The presentation raised a lot of interest among the audi-

ence. The event was broadcast on national TV and covered in the local media. APWLD was later contacted by international researchers who saw the event in the TV news for further information on NGOs supporting vulnerable groups in the tsunami affected countries.

### **March 20: Day of Action against the War around the region**

March 20 marks the second year of the occupation of Iraq by the United States. It also marks the anniversary of the biggest anti-war protest rallies the world has ever seen. APWLD Secretariat joined a “people’s occupation” rally outside the US Consulate in Chiang Mai on March 20 to call for an end of the US occupation in Iraq. Protesters read out statements, sang songs and offered flowers for the thousands of lives taken by the war in Iraq and in the South of Thailand. Pornthip of EMPOWER (APWLD member-organisation) read out the statement of United for Peace-Chiang Mai, a network of organisations, activists, students, migrant workers, sex workers, artists and concerned individuals working for peace and justice. “In Iraq, over 100,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed; half of them are women and children. And here in Thailand, over 600 people in the South have died. Most of them have been killed by the state police and military.” The group encouraged the Thaksin government to find peaceful solutions to the problems in the South and lift the martial law in the three southern provinces. Judy Pasimio read out APWLD’s statement calling for an end of the military junta in Burma, which continues to intimidate, imprison, and kill Burmese and other members of ethnic communities in the country. The event was covered by the local TV and press media.

### **Solidarity Action on 60th birthday of Aung San Suu Kyi, June 19**

APWLD Secretariat joined a solidarity rally for Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League of Democracy of Burma, who has been under house arrest since 1995. The Friends of Burma-Chiang Mai, a network of solidarity groups of which APWLD is a member, gathered in Nod Puak Park wearing t-shirts with the slogan “freedom for one, freedom for all” and carrying purple paper umbrellas. They sang songs for peace and released 60 balloons.

loons.

### **International Day to End Violence against Women, November 25**

APWLD issued a statement focusing on violence against women caused by WTO and other global free trade actors read at VAW day rally in Chiang Mai attended by around 200 people from NGOs and civil society groups as well as villagers, students and nurses. The event was hosted by Friend of Women Foundation, a Thai national organisation. One of the main themes was alcoholism and VAW and the speakers called for men to stop drinking as it leads to violence against women. APWLD Secretariat members who participated in the event, however, felt that focusing on the link between drinking and VAW diverts public attention from the root cause of VAW which is gender inequality. Burmese women’s group organised “White Ribbon” campaign distributing ribbons to the participants. They brought the poster “Stop State Violence” to the rally, but the host organiser did not allow putting up the poster or its distribution.

## **2.6 Supporting networks**

**Output:** Assistance provided to APWLD members and partners as requested in the form of sign-on letters and urgent actions

**Indicator:** Number of APWLD members and partners assisted and how useful was the assistance

Activities under this output include mainly APWLD’s response to action alerts: letters and messages from women’s groups, NGOs or people’s movements seeking assistance or support to an issue requesting a particular action. These are mainly requests for a sign-on petition or a letter of concern to be sent to a government. Action alerts is a very important tool for campaigning, therefore, APWLD always responds to action alerts coming from its members, network or partners. In 2005, APWLD responded to 25 action alerts. Below are some of the significant and successful ones in terms of achieving the objective (e.g. release of the arrested people)

or receiving a response from parties responsible for the human rights violations.

### **Nepal: 100 women-activists arrested during demonstration on the International Women's Day**

APWLD issued a statement which was widely disseminated demanding an immediate and unconditional release of the hundreds of women activists who went out on the streets of Nepal to celebrate the International Women's Day, on March 8, 2005. Bidya Devi Bhandari, chair of All Nepalese Women Association (ANWA), an APWLD member, was among the arrested. After a month in detention, not allowed any visits or communication from the family, or comrades from ANWA, Bidya was released but the human rights violations in Nepal remain rampant - arbitrary arrests, torture, extrajudicial killings and disappearances of activists, journalists, human rights lawyers and Maoists sympathisers.

### **Pakistan: UN Special Representative Hina Jilani, among 50 human rights activists, arrested at the rally on violence against women, 14 May, 2005**

APWLD, among other human rights groups, signed a letter to General Pervez Musharraf, expressing concern over the arrest of 50 human rights activists, including Hina Jilani, UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders, and Asma Jehangir, Chair of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. Although the activists were released after four hours in detention, violent actions of the police in preventing a peaceful marathon to raise awareness on the issue of violence against women in Pakistani society is a matter of grave concern.

### **India: Brutal Attack on Dalit Youths, July 25, 2005**

APWLD sent letters demanding justice to the Indian Government in support of the action alert sent by SRED, APWLD member in India. Five Dalit youths were severely beaten by 40 youths of higher caste. Deadly weapons were used to beat them besides stone and rods. They were barbarously bitten at the back and their clothes were removed and burnt on the spot. Among the five victims, Ashirvatham was struggling for life with head injuries in Chennai hospital and later succumbed to his injuries.

### **Indonesia: Trafficking Case in Japan**

APWLD endorsed an action alert sent by Solidaritas Perempuan, a WEN Task Force Member, APWLD sent letter to Ambassador of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Republic of Indonesia in Japan to enquire into a trafficking case of 17 Indonesian women who were employed in a sex bar and to provide appropriate assistance to the victims to ascertain their salary during 4 months work to be paid.

### **Philippines: Illegal Arrest of Protestors Condemned**

APWLD sent a solidarity statement to Gabriela protesting the illegal arrest of Gabriela Womens Partylist Secretary General Cristina Palabay, GABRIELA Secretary General Emmi de Jesus, and GABRIELA staff Joan Salvador after they run to rescue Karla Padilla, a KARAPATAN paralegal staff, who was arrested and carried to a police mobile car.

### **Thailand: Burmese workers deported after attempting to assert their legal rights**

APWLD sent letters of concern to the Thai authorities and ILO. A group of migrant workers at the Chotiwat Manufacturing Company in Songkla province was deported on August 17 after attempts to renegotiate their working conditions: they were threatened and at least one assaulted by employer representatives. Subsequently, when the Law Society of Thailand and other organisations sought to intervene in the case, the Sadao Immigration Office removed 38 workers and sent them to the Bangkok Immigration Detention Centre from where they were subsequently deported. ILO responded to this statement with a letter committing to take necessary measures against the perpetrators.

### **Philippines: Nestle Union President and KMU Leader Shot Dead**

APWLD sent letters to the Philippines Government demanding justice in the case of a brutal murder of labour leader Diosdado "Ka Fort" Fortuna, President of United Filipino Employees – Drug, Food and Allied Industries (UFE-DFA-KMU), the Nestle Cabuyao Workers' Union. APWLD received a letter from Nestle Co. informing that they are investigating the case.

### **Philippines: Call for justice against gang-rape in the Philippines, November 2005**

APWLD issued a statement demanding to bring US servicemen to justice in the case of a 22-year old Philippine woman raped by 6 US servicemen, who were among the 4,000 US troops in the Philippines for counterterrorism military exercises. This happened in Subic, Olongapo, where the US military bases were situated until 1990 when the Philippines said “no more.”

### **Hong Kong: 900 protesters arrested during WTO Ministerial Meeting, December 18, 2005**

APWLD issued a statement widely disseminated calling for the immediate release the 900 protesters arrested, among them 45 Thais and 20 Indonesians, 5 of them - women. The arrested protesters were kept in the outdoor yard of the Kwun Tong Court all night. They had to suffer throughout the cold winter night with no blankets, no food, and no water. Women were physically abused and stripped naked for body search. The arrests followed violent police dispersals using tear gas and water canons while protesters staged a peaceful sit-in on a road near the convention centre where the WTO Ministerial Conference was taking place. APWLD condemned police brutality against people who are exercising their right to assemble and protest.

### **Global petition to the UN and ILO**

APWLD joined the signature campaign initiated by its member, War and Women's Human Rights Centre of Korea, and set up a weblink on APWLD website. The campaign collected one million signatures and Heisoo Shin of the War and Women's Human Rights Centre submitted them to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in March 2005 requesting the international community to urge the Japanese government to solve the issue of military sexual slavery and say no to Japan's wish to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

## **2.7 Consolidated Report on the WTO MC 6th Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong**

**Output:** Participation at the WTO 6th Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong, December 2005

**Indicator:** At least 6 members have participated, along with their community partners, in WTO MC6th

**Funders:** HIVOS, Sida, Novib, HBF, UNIFEM

### **Participation in international/regional preparatory meetings for the WTO MC6th**

In the first international planning meeting organised by the Hong Kong Peoples Alliance (HKPA) in February 2005 in Hong Kong, different Task Forces were represented - the Women and Environment (WEN) and Rural and Indigenous Women (RIW) TFs were represented by Judy A. Pasimio/PO, Women's Participation in Political Processes (WPPP) TF by Tita Lubi (TF member/P&M) and Labour and Migration (L&M) TF by Connie Regalado. From there, the preparations for the participation and involvement of the different TFs started.

The WEN/RIW TFs were also represented (Valentina Soe/PA) in the regional preparatory meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka (June 2005). Here the WEN/RIW TF plans were shared with the other networks. Even during these meetings, it was apparent that APWLD is one of the very few women's networks which is actively involved in the anti-WTO campaign.

### **At the WTO MC6th, Hong Kong, December 2005**

Joining forces with thousands of anti-WTO protesters from the region and world over, APWLD had a strong contingent of 86 women, majority from RIW, WEN and WPPP Task Forces. Some representatives from L&M Task Force were also present. The TF members were supported to have broader participation from their organisations, enabling them to extend invitations to members of the

grassroots communities they work with to participate in the events. However, a significant number of our members from Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Burma were not able to get into Hong Kong. As most of our members' national partners have not traveled outside their communities, let alone their countries, the bureaucratic requirements of the embassies were obstacles in their participation in Hong Kong. From those who were able to go, some of them experienced harassment at the airport (ie. Tita Lubi and 2 other women from ILPS).

While APWLD's participation in Hong Kong was a network-wide activity, there were activities specific to the Task Forces. The WPPP TF had its annual TF meeting in Hong Kong. The participation of WEN and RIW Task Forces was part of the "Don't Globalise Hunger!" campaign. Thus, the activities were designed primarily to respond to the objective of contributing in the mobilising and strengthening of grassroots women organisations in their struggle against globalisation, in the region in general.

The following are the major activities of APWLD at the WTO MC6th:

### **Asian Women's Village**

The Asian Women's Village served as a focal point and physical center for women delegates of the different movements coming to Hong Kong and participating in the peoples' actions for the 6th Ministerial Meeting of WTO (December 11-18, 2005). The Village became a space for ideas, sharing and discussions with and among APWLD network and other Asian women's groups.

The activities which were held there included:

- photo exhibits of women's struggles and actions on food sovereignty
- display of local food and non-food products
- scheduled small group discussions on women's issues on food and trade
- distribution of statements and press release for media
- display and distribution of campaign materials, publications, videos

Media interviews with APWLD community

partners were held at the Village on a daily basis. It was also the venue for the launching of important books - "Seethings and Seatings: Strategies for Women's Political Participation in Asia Pacific" of the WPPP TF; and "Intensifying Working Women's Burden: The Impact of Globalisation on Women Labor in Asia" by the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN). APWLD, as a member of APRN, had collaboration with it on the Women and Work research, through the research carried out by members of L&M and WEN task forces.

### **Women's Tribunal Against WTO**

The Women's Tribunal, which was organised by APWLD along with AMIHAN (National Peasant Women's Organisation) and GABRIELA, found the WTO guilty for causing the bankruptcy of millions of rural women, driving them out of land and agricultural production, which is the main base of their skills and livelihood. The verdict held that "the greatest crime of the WTO to women and humanity is the fact that it exposed women to frightening levels of hunger and malnutrition."

Irene Fernandez, who has been recently awarded the Alternative Nobel Prize 2005, read the verdict, as the head of the presidium of judges. "The WTO has pushed thousands of rural women and their daughters to the flesh trade as they are driven out of the land. Furthermore, the WTO exacerbated the existing discrimination suffered by women producers in the sphere of employment, wages and conditions of work; women have less rates of participation in the labor force, are unpaid, and if they enter paid employment, they receive wages lower than men. WTO has worsened this discrimination."

As the presidium for the Tribunal, Irene Fernandez was joined by 5 other anti-WTO women activists from the region: Titi Soentoro, Regional Coordinator of APWLD; Liza Maza, President of the GABRIELA Women's Party; Gigi Francisco, Asian representative of International Gender and Trade Network; S.K. Priya, human rights lawyer and educator from India; and Connie Ledesma, from MAKIBAKA, a revolutionary women's organisation.

The testimonies came from rural women in six

countries, providing details of the extreme deterioration in their daily lives and of their families. "It is clear that the agent responsible for the destruction and desolation in women lives and their communities is the World Trade Organisation," read Azra Talat Sayeed in her summation of the testimonies. Azra, director of Roots for Equity of Pakistan, is also the convenor of WEN Task Force. "The testimonies further verify the presence of other pillars of the profit mongering capitalist system such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the ruling elite in the third world countries."

Found guilty also are the co-accused – the national governments who are found guilty for "the neglect of the peasantry's welfare by the adoption and implementation of the WTO policies clearly inimical to the interest of the peasantry." It was further found guilty with the charge of "failure to recognise and break up patriarchal values entrenched in laws and policies that continue to oppress and discriminate against women, which make them the frontline casualties in the havoc wreaked by the WTO."

For these crimes, the sentence handed down for the WTO was to "discontinue operating as a world trade body" and for the United States, European Union and other big economies to desist from "bullying" and "arm twisting" small economies into entering bilateral trade agreements with them.

The Women's Tribunal proceedings will be published in 2006 as it proved to be a good documentation of women's life stories of their struggles and their resistance.

## Women's March

The Women's March came after the handing down of the verdict of the Women's Tribunal against the WTO. Thus, it was a celebration of the Guilty verdict against the WTO, as well as taking it to the streets of Hong Kong to further show the WTO, the Hong Kong public, and the world of women's growing resistance against WTO and the corporate rule over their lives.

There was almost a thousand women in the march, and definitely more than a thousand along the streets of Wanchai, both women and men, curious and interested by-standers, watching women

march, dance and listening to the slogans and chants in English, Cantonese, Bahasa, Filipino, Thai, and sprinkles of Tamil, Khmer and Mongolian.

The Women's March and its success in terms of the good turn-out was an indication of the significant role that APWLD plays in the organising and mobilising of women, particularly from the grassroots level, in the region. This is especially so within the anti-globalisation movement.

The good media coverage it had (in most of the daily newspaper of Hong Kong, both in English and Cantonese) contributed in achieving the main objective of the march which was to reach out to the broader Hong Kong public amidst the active presence of grassroots women in Hong Kong for the people's actions against the WTO.

This was co-organised with GABRIELA, AMIHAN and the Hong Kong Women's Workers Alliance (HKWWA), with a lot of support from the women of Asosiasi Buruh Migran Indonesia (Indonesian Migrant Worker's Association).

## Patches of Resistance

From the Regional Conference, the participating organisations in the campaign were called to start "Patches of Resistance, towards Global Resistance". Throughout the campaign, the call was for Asia Pacific women to draw or write messages of resistance and of solidarity for the movement on pieces of fabric. Throughout the months leading up to Hong Kong, groups from Thailand, Philippines, Mongolia, Pakistan, Cambodia, Indonesia weaved and stitched together the patches from the different activities and actions they had in the communities. Each group then brought their ensemble to Hong Kong, and there, with an evocative ceremony introduced the Patches of Resistance and its representation of the ongoing and growing activism within the women's movement at the grassroots level. The patches from the different countries were sewn together, and other women from the region as well as other countries stitched together their own patches then and there. This resulted in a huge women's quilt of resistance. This colourful and meaningful quilt representing the voices of resistance from the different communities was marched throughout the streets of Hong Kong by hundreds of women who

joined the Women's March. This was also taken to the Hong Kong Convention Center, venue of the WTO Ministerial Meeting by APWLD women leaders to convey the message in different languages: Women say NO to WTO!

### **Support to protesters arrested during anti-WTO demonstrations**

At midnight December 17, in what is now known as the Siege of WanChai, 900 protesters were arrested and detained by the Hong Kong police. Among these 900 were some 87 Indonesian women and men and some 90 Thai women and men. Most of them were from farming and fishing communities. Majority were Korean peasants.

The arrested and detained people from Indonesia and Thailand were from the close networks of APWLD country members. In response to the urgent situation, the APWLD team who were still in Hong Kong, divided themselves into two groups: one, to provide assistance to the Indonesian group, and the other, to the Thai group. There were quick actions taken by the teams – going to the detention centres to get facts, as well as close coordination with the Hong Kong People's Alliance legal team. There were pressure actions taken as well in the detention centres. With facts at hand, the teams did media work, exposing the situation as well as the appeal for the intervention of the embassies of Thailand and Indonesia. The media work involved both Hong Kong, as well as national media – Thailand and Indonesia. This is where the coordination with, and the quick response of, the secretariat in Chiang Mai contributed a lot in the effectiveness of the media work.

On the day the rest of the APWLD team left, December 20, all Indonesia and Thailand detainees had been released. The Korean women were released earlier, while the men were left behind. APWLD joined the international community in condemning this act of human rights violation by the Hong Kong police and the government for continuing the detention of Korean protesters. This assistance led to closer coordination and cooperation with other networks such as Via Campesina and Focus on the Global South. To this date, there are still 3 protest-

ers in detention, awaiting their trial. APWLD will continue to join the international pressure until their release.

### **Massive Loss, Significant Gains in Hong Kong**

The deal from the recently concluded 6th WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong has proven that WTO can never ever be about fair trade and development. While there were substantial concessions from the developing countries, they got hardly anything in return.

In agriculture, which is the main sector that the WEN programme is involved in, the countries from the South basically got the date for the final phase-out of export subsidies in agriculture – 2013. However, the structure of agriculture subsidies of the United States and the European Union has remained untouched. Along with the “box-switching” schemes, these rich countries will maintain their high domestic agricultural support and other forms of subsidies protecting the interests of the large agribusinesses. The European Union, for one, will be able to continue its export subsidy of 55 billion euros beyond 2013.

On cotton, the developing countries got nothing. In the “development package” the commitment of the United States to eliminate export subsidies on cotton is an implementation of an actual ruling. Under the Brazil-US Cotton ruling, the United States was already obligated to eliminate export subsidies a year and half ago. This Development Package, which actually belies the claim that what is being held is a Development Round, is nothing but a sham. While the United States offered duty free and quota access to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the flexibility that the United States has to protect products such as sugar and other products of real interest to LDCs render this inutile. The billion-dollar “aid for trade” is actually a programme of loans reminiscent of the structural adjustment programmes of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. This would leave the LDCs deeper into loans and tied to the agenda of the United States and other powerful countries.

The impending NAMA deal possibly by 2006, can bring more problems for small fishers everywhere, especially in Southeast Asia: Philippines,

Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia and Vietnam. We can expect more importation in the fisheries sector of these countries. Aquaculture will get more government support, boosting the investments of corporations, to the detriment of small fishers. The coastal resources will be increasingly in the hands of corporations, which will mean more environmental degradation, and lead to loss of livelihoods of coastal communities.

The GATS (under its Mode 4) framework allows only for temporary movement of workers across borders to provide services. Its resemblance to the form of a global guest worker programme rather than a broad improvement in the mobility and rights of workers. Historically, guest worker programmes have led to the abuse and exploitation of guest workers whilst at the same time undermining the rights of national workers. This transformation of employment, where workers are commodified and work patterns towards flexibilisation, informalisation and deregulation is taking place to the detriment of working women in the service sector. Liberalisation and efficiency required in the service sector are only shifting work from the paid sector into the unpaid sector. Women end up with having fewer secure jobs and more unpaid work. At the ministerial meeting it was feared that developed country concessions on Mode 4 would be made in that there would be forced agreement to the entry of more professionals from developing countries. As it turned out, this did not press through.

The Hong Kong deal has undoubtedly exposed the genuine spirit behind the WTO – not that of development of peoples and their communities but that of profiteering from the sweat and blood of the working and food-producing masses by large corporations and the colluding governments.

However, it was on the streets of Hong Kong that women showed that they will not be silenced. Women, especially those from the grassroots communities who braved the chill of the weather as well as that brought by the Hong Kong anti-riot police, proved that they will continue to resist WTO.

### 3. Lessons Learnt and Future Plans

#### Lessons learnt

In 2005, response to the tsunami was APWLD's most significant cross-cutting initiative. Its advocacy efforts for women's human rights in the tsunami aftermath proved to be most relevant, timely and needed. APWLD's report on violations of women's human rights in the tsunami aftermath turned out to be a valuable source of information for organisations and individuals advocating for women, such as UNIFEM, UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, researchers and activists worldwide, such as Japanese activists advocating for special protection of women during natural disasters. Women's Edge Coalition, a US based NGO, was able to use the information from the APWLD report to successfully lobby the US Senate to approve a USD 10 million grant to support livelihood initiatives of women-survivors of the tsunami.

The Hong Kong activities showed the significant role that APWLD plays in the peoples movement in the region – the facilitator and amplifier of grassroots women's voices to the regional level and in the broader peoples movement. And beyond Hong Kong, APWLD can very well bring the network's activism in the broader women's movements to enjoin them to be part of the people's movement resisting economic globalisation. This would be in recognition that violation of economic rights of women is another form of violence against women.

As stated above, the Secretariat has participated in numerous actions, developed statements on various issues, integrating a feminist and women's human rights perspective, and responded to urgent action alerts from network members and partners. In 2005, urgent action calls served as an important instrument to forge solidarity with other human rights groups, support members and partners' campaigns as well as demand actions from the governments and alert international community of gross violations of human rights when APWLD members were arrested during demonstrations: in Nepal, when 100 women-activists were arrested dur-

ing demonstration on the International Women's Day and in Pakistan, when Hina Jilani, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, and Asma Jehangir, Pakistan Human Rights Commissioner, were arrested during a peaceful marathon on violence against women in May 2005. These women were released under pressure from the international community.

## Future Plans

The plan for 2006 is to complete the Survey of women's human rights violations and develop the Guidelines for gender sensitive disaster management to be presented at a regional forum in July 2006. The challenge is to ensure that state and non-state actors involved in the disaster response follow the guidelines. APWLD will continue its advocacy efforts at the regional and international level.

Due to the scale of the disaster which affected 12 countries and APWLD's rapid response with the report on women's human rights concerns in the tsunami aftermath, APWLD was able to raise additional USD 120,000 to fund the Consultation on post-tsunami challenges faced by women in Aceh and the Survey of women's human rights violations. However, year 2005 exposed the need for APWLD to budget more funds to respond to urgent calls for assistance from network members in emergency cases such as natural disasters. Thus, APWLD's Programme and Management Committee has proposed to introduce a contingency network members support budget line.

# Institutional Development

## 1. Overview

Institutional development refers to all activities related to organisational development to ensure the effective functioning of APWLD as a network. Specifically, the following outputs are expected under institutional development: review of task force and general membership; development of planning, monitoring and evaluation tools for its programmes; review of staff positions and workload; capacity-building for staff; raising funds and maintenance of the financial system of the network; maintenance of the relationship with APWLD National Thai Association; production of Forum News and other publications; development of organisational campaigns; provision and exchange of information among the network through the website and publications.

The objectives for institutional development are:

1. to ensure effective functioning of APWLD as a network at all levels for the full implementation of its programmes;
2. to facilitate active sharing of information among APWLD members and partners;
3. to stir debate and contribute towards developing a common understanding among APWLD on critical, urgent issues facing women in Asia Pacific; and
4. to assist programmes and APWLD members obtain information relevant to their work.

## 2. Activities and Results

### Governance meetings

Output: Regional Council Meeting convened

Indicator: APWLD annual report approved  
APWLD membership reviewed and approved

# nal Development

The Regional Council met on 8-9 February, 2005 in Chiangmai, Thailand, to set the agenda and programme directions of APWLD and to review and approve APWLD's membership list. The Secretariat reported on the APWLD activities in 2004 and upon recommendation of the APWLD Programme and Management Committee the Annual Report for 2004 was approved with suggestions for revising the Executive Summary.

In response to the December 2004 tsunami disaster which affected several countries where APWLD members are based, the Regional Council issued a resolution to act as a regional focal point of advocacy for women's human rights in the tsunami affected countries with focal points in the affected countries: Titi Soentoro in Indonesia, Nimalka Fernando and Sunila Abeysekera in Sri Lanka, Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk in Thailand and Fatima Burnad in India. In terms of immediate financial assistance, the Regional Council resolved on cost saving measures during its meetings and was able to raise USD 10,000. These funds were divided between 6 member-organisations involved in the tsunami relief and reconstruction efforts: Society for Rural Education and Development (India), Solidaritas Perempuan (Indonesia), Sustainable Development Foundation (Thailand), International Movement against all forms of Discrimination and Racism (Sri Lanka), INFORM (Sri Lanka) and Women's Studies Center, Chiang Mai University (Thailand).

The newly appointed Regional Coordinator, Titi Soentoro of Indonesia, requested the Regional Council to approve a deferment to her contract as Regional Coordinator by six months to resume from 1 July, 2005. She had been assisting in post-tsunami relief and rehabilitation efforts in Aceh and felt the need to continue the work for at least six months. Her request was granted and the Regional Council had to come up with several options to replace Titi

Soentoro until July. Eventually, Lynnsay Francis of Cook Islands acted as the Regional Coordinator from March to July 2005.

The Regional Council reviewed applications for membership in the Regional Council, General Members, Task Forces and Programme and Management Committee. The Regional Council approved the membership of Sunila Abeyesskera from INFORM, Sri Lanka as a new Regional Council member, Azra Talat Sayeed as a new Programme and Management Committee member to replace Titi Soentoro, and Mary Jane Real and Amarsanaa Darisuren as General members. It also approved Shahnaz Iqbal of Pakistan and Nang Lao Liang Won of Women's League of Burma for the VAW Task Force, Sunila Abeyesekera, Sri Lanka for the WHR WG, Verniee Dyocogan, Philippines, Gombosurengiin Urantsooj of Mongolia and Kim Choony of Korea for the WEN Task Force; Priscilla Singh of Fiji, Nimalka Fernando of Sri Lanka and Beissova Svetlana of Kazakhstan for the WPPP Task Force and AMIHAN of Philippines for RIW TF.

**Output: Regular Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation during Programme and Management Committee meetings**

**Indicator: More systematic monitoring and evaluation of outputs and activities against objectives and outcomes as reflected in Annual Report**

In 2005, the Programme and Management Committee met four times on 7 February, 17 May, 3 August and 31 October for its regular meetings. Mandated activities included making recommendations for the approval of the Annual Report 2004 and monitoring implementation of the 2005 work

plan and budget. It reallocated funds not spent under the programmes for various reasons towards supporting participation of APWLD members at the events related to the WTO Ministerial Meeting in December 2005.

The Programme and Management Committee members also recommended and endorsed the appointment of an interim Regional Coordinator, two Programme Officers and Assistant to Regional Coordinator. It also approved the recommended changes in job descriptions of the secretariat and amendments to the secretariat staff leave guidelines.

In May meeting, Lynnsay Francis, the interim Regional Coordinator, reported to the Programme and Management Committee about the activities she had undertaken during her four months stay at APWLD. The Programme and Management Committee thanked her for her time and support. In October meeting, Programme and Management Committee discussed preparations for the 20th Anniversary Celebration of APWLD in 2006.

## New staff at the Secretariat

**Output: Review of staff positions at the APWLD Secretariat**

**Indicator: Implementation of staff workplan as planned**

As mentioned above, Lynnsay Francis of Cook Islands stepped in to assist the Secretariat as the Interim Regional Coordinator from March till July 2005. She was a member of APWLD's Steering Committee and Regional Council from 1999.

In March, Julie Kon Kam King, Programme Officer for Labour and Migration and Women's Participation in Political Processes programmes, resigned due to unfortunate circumstances. Nalini Singh, who was the Assistant to the Regional Coordinator, was appointed as Programme Officer for these two programmes. She is a graduate of the University of the South Pacific, where she focused her studies on development issues in the region. Before joining APWLD, Nalini was working with UNDP's Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) based in Suva, Fiji.

Jyotsna Maskay of Nepal was appointed as the Assistant to the Regional Coordinator in July. She is a graduate of Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok in 2005. Her thesis was on retrenched women and their marginalisation in the post economic crisis labour market in Thailand. Her paper will be published as part of AIT occasional paper series in January 2006.

Yamini's contract as the Programme Officer for Women's Human Rights and Violence against Women programmes came to an end in June. She was replaced by Lisa Pusey, a solicitor from Australia with law and social science background, who had previous work experience with APWLD as an intern from April to October 2004 assisting the VAW and WHR programmes. She worked in a Community Legal Centre in Australia before joining APWLD.

APWLD acknowledges the invaluable contributions of the Secretariat staff members, who resigned, to APWLD's work and development.

## Interns:

Asha Abraham was an intern at APWLD from March to December 2005. Asha is a student at the La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia. She worked on Don't Globalise Hunger Campaign and anti-WTO activities in Hong Kong under the Rural and Indigenous and Women and Environment programmes.

Gita Medita, an Indonesian, joined APWLD as an intern in August 2005 working for the Women's Human Rights Defenders campaign. She assisted the WHRD-ICC Secretariat in implementing the media and communication strategy of the International Campaign on WHRDs. She is currently assisting the Rural and Indigenous Women; and Women and Environment programmes.

APWLD also hosted Rachel Rouhana, a Canadian, as an intern working on co-ordinating communications and administrations regarding participants to the international WHRD consultation from July to November 2005. Rachel is a graduate from University of Pennsylvania, USA.

Adriana Cortes joined in September 2005 to the intern pool working for ICC, where she assisted in

the preparation and production of documentation related to the International Campaign on WHRDs. She is originally from Colombia. Adriana prior to joining APWLD worked for Fundauraba based in Geneva.

## External Evaluation

**Output:** External Evaluation Conducted

**Indicator:** APWLD's programmes effectiveness evaluated

APWLD has undergone two evaluations in recent years: 1996 and 2001. This year's external evaluation was carried out by Josephine Dongail from the Philippines and Roshan Dhunjibuoy, Thailand, from 9 October to 15 December 2005. The objectives of the external evaluation were 1) to look into the cohesion, coordination, communication and consistency of the APWLD programmes through the assessment of its programme activities, programme strategies, organisational and institutional development and 2) to identify strengths and deficiencies in the programmes in terms of planning; management and implementation; administrative capacity and mechanisms; and to recommend ways to address these.

The results of the evaluation are intended to feed into the Strategic Planning meeting for the next programme cycle 2006-2008 at the APWLD General Assembly scheduled for February 2006.

## Staff development

**Output:** Capacity building for staff

**Indicator:** Number and kind of exposure training and how used to enhance work

## Participation at the AWID Forum on women's Rights and Development, October 27-30, 2005, Bangkok, Thailand

It was a unique opportunity for the APWLD Secretariat members to participate in the AWID Forum as it was the largest event which brought together women's rights leaders and activists from around the world to strategise, network, and learn. The event was an invaluable opportunity for APWLD to network with women's organisations from around the world (outside the Asia Pacific region) working towards gender equality, sustainable development and women's human rights. Lisa Pusey, APWLD Programme Officer, made a presentation on violence against women in the Asia Pacific region as part of a panel discussion on the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Women. Also, APWLD, in conjunction with other ICC members, organised a workshop entitled 'Who will Protect the Protectors? Making Activism Safer for Women's Human Rights Defenders.' And APWLD publications were widely distributed during the Forum.

## Participation in Training on Gender and Trade, July 25-29, Bangkok

Valentina Soe, Assistant to the Programme Officer, attended the training Workshop on Gender and Trade conducted by International Gender Trade Network (IGTN) Asia. The objective of the training was to build capacity of women activists on understanding and analysing the implications of trade on women in the developing countries. It was a very useful training for Val in preparation for the upcoming WTO Ministerial, the information and knowledge gained from the workshop assisted her gaining in-depth understanding of the impacts of trade on women. She was able to use the gained knowledge in preparation of "don't globalise hunger campaign" of WEN and RIW programmes.

## Participation at New Tactics in Human Rights Training Workshop, August 5-11, Chiang Mai

Cholpon Akmatova, Information and Communications Officer, participated in this workshop

among 50 human rights activists from 20 Asian countries. The workshop was an initiative to engage innovative human rights practitioners from the Asia region in sharing and developing ideas, practices, knowledge and skills to further the effectiveness of efforts to advance human rights. It was a rare opportunity for the participants to learn about each others campaign and projects in human rights in the most applied way with details and analysis.

### **Participation at Global Consultation on the Ratification and Use of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 27-30 August 2005**

Lisa Pusey, Programme Officer for VAW and WHR programmes, participated as one of over 100 participants in this Consultation organised by IRAW-AP. The workshop was important in building capacity of the Programme Officer on the uses of OP-CEDAW as a tool for change and strategies for ratification and use in the region.

### **Participation at “First Regional Leadership Course For Young Leaders in Governance,” 28 November- 2 December, 2005, Chiang Mai, Thailand.**

Jyotsna Maskay, Assistant to the Regional Coordinator, participated at the regional leadership course among 76 participants from 20 countries. The course covered transformational change; conflict resolution and negotiation; cross-cultural communications for leadership; and team building and networking. Participation at the workshop was useful for Jyotsna Maskay as it opened an opportunity to share knowledge and ideas with various participants and to enhance her skills in organisational management.

### **Thai Association**

**Output:** Maintenance of relationship with APWLD National Thai Association.

**Indicator:** Effective functioning of APWLD as a network at all levels for the full implementation of its programmes.

The annual meeting of the APWLD Thai Association was convened on November 1, 2005, in Bangkok, attended by 12 members. The 2004 annual report on APWLD activities was presented to the Association. The Thai Association members praised APWLD for its various activities but noted that low participation of Thai people in APWLD activities which may be because of the English language limitations. The members encouraged inviting Thais with English language abilities to participate in activities, especially, those held in Thailand.

As part of the annual meeting, APWLD, Women's Study Center of Chiang Mai University, and Foundation of Women, Law and Rural Development (FORWARD) co-organised a seminar on the women's movement in Thailand entitled “Voices of Women in Development at work”. This seminar was to acknowledge the work of the twelve Thai Women who were nominated for the “Nobel Peace Prize 2005” among one thousand women from different parts of the world. The meeting was attended by 80 women activists, academics, lawyers, politicians and legal aid volunteers for rural women from the northern region of Thailand. Eight Nobel prize nominees shared their views on the government policy, environmental issues, community rights and security issues. They encouraged women activists to keep monitoring the government's accountability for human rights issues in Thailand. They also encouraged calling regular forums to reflect women's voices on important issues.

### **Information Dissemination**

**Output:** Active information sharing among APWLD members and partners facilitated

**Indicator:**

- 1) website updated
- 2) Forum News produced and circulated periodically
- 3) Special publications produced and distributed

## APWLD website updated: [www.apwld.org](http://www.apwld.org)

The webpage has continued to serve as the immediate source of information on the campaigns, activities and statements of APWLD. In 2005 it carried campaign actions and APWLD statements on the tsunami aftermath, International Women's Day, March 20 global anti-war day, the November 25 International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women and APWLD statements on urgent action alerts demanding release of Hina Jilani and Asma Jehangir among 50 women arrested during peaceful demonstration in Pakistan, release of hundreds of women arrested during March 8 demonstrations in Nepal, on killings of human rights defenders in Philippines. It also carried information on APWLD's participation at the 61st session of the UN Commission of Human Rights in Geneva.

### Feedback from web browsers

**FROM:** ELAINE ENARSON  
**TO:** APWLD@APWLD.ORG  
**SENT:** WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2005 1:39 AM

Dear friends—hello from a long-distance fan. I'm finalizing the Gender and Disaster Sourcebook this week (see attached) and am, of course, referencing APWLD's great work with and on behalf of tsunami-affected women. For the photo gallery, we are soliciting photos such as those on the Tsunami Aftermath report. Would it be possible to use 2 or 3 of these, e.g. the two on the T Aftermath page—or others showing women mobilizing around the tsunami? If so, many thanks. I would simply download from the web using the caption provided but don't have the photographer's name and of course won't do this w/out your permission. If possible....an answer by the end of this week? Thanks for all your good work. Elaine

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ELAINE ENARSON, PH.D. INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR  
SOCIOLOGY AND WOMEN'S STUDIES, COLORADO  
EMAIL: EENARSON@EARTHLINK.NET

**FROM:** GAST6  
**TO:** CHOLPON@APWLD.ORG  
**SENT:** TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2005 3:31 PM  
**SUBJECT:** SURVEY OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE TSUNAMI AFTERMATH AND GUIDELINES FOR GENDER SENSITIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RELIEF

Dear Cholpon Akmatova,

on the apwld website there was written about a coming "Survey of Women's Human Rights Violations in the Tsunami Aftermath and Guidelines for gender Sensitive Disaster Management and Relief." Could you please inform me whether this Survey is already available and if so how I can get it?

Best regards,

Claudia Felten-Biermann

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TRAINEE MEDICA MONDIALE E.V., GERMANY  
GAST6@MEDICAMONDIALE.ORG  
(WWW.MEDICAMONDIALE.ORG)

Special sections on APWLD campaigns on Women Human Rights Defenders, Don't Globalise Hunger, Women say No to WTO and Tsunami Aftermath were set up on the website. Judging by the feedback from web browsers the tsunami section proved to be useful source of information on women's issues in the tsunami affected countries. The tsunami section carried appeals for assistance from APWLD members and partners involved in relief operations, their reports on relief work, APWLD's report on Women's Human Rights Concerns in the Tsunami Affected Countries, information and the statement of the Women's Consultation on Post-Tsunami Challenges in Aceh.

The website still maintains its regular sections

– publications, Forum News on line, announcements of the upcoming events and job vacancies. In 2005, there were 37,514 web visits compared to 36,608 in 2004. And most of the information on the website came from APWLD members.

### Forum News produced and circulated periodically

Forum News, newsletter of APWLD, is released three times a year. It has a circulation of 1,400 and about 300 more copies are distributed at conferences and trainings. The publication is mainly distributed to APWLD network members, funders, subscribers, requesting individuals, organisations and school libraries. The number

of pages has been increased to accommodate more contributions from APWLD members who shared their reflections on APWLD activities, their national campaigns on International Women's Day, the March 20 actions against the war in Iraq and their reports on tsunami relief activities and women's issues in the tsunami aftermath. Tsunami's impact on women was a first page story in all the three issues of Forum News throughout the year. Forum News also carried congratulations to APWLD members who received awards for promoting women's human rights: Irene Fernandez of Malaysia, Virada Somsawasdi and Pornpit Puckmai of Thailand, Charm Tong of Burma and Enkhjargal Davaasuren of Mongolia.

In 2005, several requests for subscription have been received from NGOs in India and Bangladesh and several others who stopped receiving Forum News wrote to renew their subscription. Throughout the year there were a lot of letters from subscribers informing us of change of their postal addresses, which is an indication of their interest in Forum News.

### **Publications produced and distributed to the members and partners**

In 2005, APWLD produced two publications:

"Why are women more vulnerable during disasters?" - a report on women's human rights violations in the aftermath of the December 26 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami in Indonesia, India, Thailand and Sri Lanka. In a later reprinting of the publication a chapter was added on the impact of the October 8, 2005 earthquake in Kashmir, Pakistan.

"Seething and Seatings- Women's Strategies in Electoral Processes in Asia Pacific" is a publication from the research project which is part of APWLD's Women's Participation in Political Processes Programme's initiative to assist women in Asia Pacific to challenge existing political structures (such as electoral processes) which hinder women's political participation. It is based on case studies from Fiji, India, Korea, Kyrgyzstan and Malaysia.

A documentary film entitled "Why are women more vulnerable during disasters?" was produced based on testimonies of the tsunami survivors on women's rights violations during the Aceh meeting,

July 2005. The film was presented during the Asia Pacific NGO Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Bangkok, October 5-6, 2005. Copies of the film and the publication "Why are women more vulnerable during disasters?" were sent to the President of Indonesia and the Primer Ministers of India and Sri Lanka along with the letters expressing the network's concern with the lack of progress in the post-tsunami rebuilding process and marginalisation and exclusion of women from the reconstruction efforts.

A diary and a poster were produced to mark APWLD's 20th anniversary of promoting women's human rights in the Asia Pacific region.

## **3. Lessons Learnt and Future Plans**

### **Lessons Learnt**

In 2005, effective functioning of APWLD as a network organisation of 150 members in 23 countries of the Asia Pacific region was ensured. The Regional Council convened for its annual meeting to review membership; Programme and Management Committee met four times a year to monitor implementation of the programmes; sufficient funds were raised for APWLD's programmes; and active sharing of information among network members was facilitated throughout the year.

"It is, without doubt, the leading feminist network of organisations and individuals in the region" was one of the findings of the recent External Evaluation. "APWLD is a very strong and dynamic regional network that outlines and takes on women's issues into its programmes. Even as APWLD works at the regional and international levels with various decision-making levels and personalities, APWLD is very grassroots oriented and its activities can be adjusted to the members' needs. The network is accessible to grassroots women and encourages them to learn about international issues that affect their lives."

However, APWLD has a large and diverse membership spread over a vast geographical area. As noted by External Evaluators, "it takes up a large

variety of issues and concerns of women from different backgrounds, political persuasions, and religious backgrounds. This diversity is a great strength but sometimes this diversity of concerns has been perceived as diffusing the cohesiveness of ideas”.

Although running a big network organisation with members based in different countries is a challenge it was most admiring to see how in the face of disasters such as the Indian Ocean tsunami and the Kashmir earthquake APWLD members showed solidarity and responded with financial and programmatic assistance.

Effective functioning of APWLD was made possible by members of the Programme and Management Committee and the Secretariat who have been working hard throughout the year to implement the programmes. New staff members have been hired and some staff members had the capacity building opportunities of acquiring new skills and knowledge. It is important for a regional organisation such as APWLD that its staff members have the capacity to address emerging issues in the region and different contexts under which Asia Pacific women live.

## **Future Plans**

In 2006, APWLD members will convene for the General Assembly for 2006-2008 strategic planning. The challenge is to develop a strategic plan that will focus on emerging issues in the Asia Pacific region and at the same time respond to the members’ demands for substantial participation, exchange and discussion.

Interns have been making a significant contribution to the planning and implementing of programme activities. Most of the interns come from developed countries with their own expenses and the organisation understands the need to provide opportunity for the capacity building of interns from developing countries and its members as well. It is planned to develop an internship programme integrated in the overall APWLD programmes and budget.

# Financial Report

As a non-profit organisation, APWLD receives funds in support of its programmes and activities from donors. The fundraising activities are carried out based on action plan proposed by the taskforces and working group and approved by the Regional Council. It means that APWLD's finance reflects finance management of an activist organisation that manages funds according to the budget plan but on the other hands is open to accommodate urgent needs of its members and provide network support. The tsunami case was an example how APWLD accommodated the needs for support to the tsunami survivors and channelled it through its members. However, APWLD has developed financial guidelines for its operation that covers matters such as payment and reimbursement, travels, agreements, events, loss or theft of cash or valuable.

For 2005, APWLD received funds from Sida, Novib, Ford Foundation, HBF, HIVOS, Mama Cash/Cordaid, Global Funds for Women and Action Aid totalling US\$ 776,535.08. This amount consisted of:

1. Cash balance as per audit report: US\$ 21,3912.03, including US\$ 27,634.27 carried forward from 2003-2004;
2. Grants received in 2005: US\$ 524,753.36
3. Fund received in advance for 2006 activities: US\$ 37,869.69

Thus, funds available for 2005 activities were US\$ 738,665.39.

At the beginning of 2005, the budget was approved by the Programme and Management Committee in amount of USD 605, 086.47, including funds from Actionaid for Access to Justice campaign and partly support to the consultation with UNSRVAW. As the Regional Council meeting in February 2005 decided to support advocacy efforts for women's human rights in the tsunami aftermath, including convening the consultation, additional fundraising was carried out. This has increased the

budget in amount of 78,500 Euro which came from Cordaid through Mama Cash and Global Fund for Women. Since the activities related to the tsunami will be completed in 2006, the fund was divided into 2005 (Euro 48,000) and 2006 (Euro 30,500).

The expenditure in 2005 totalled USD 686,734.15 or around 96% from the fund available for 2005.

Funds carried forward was one of the main concerns of APWLD. In the past two years APWLD on an average only utilised 80-90% of its annual budget. Reasons were cancelled and delayed activities, balance left from an event because some participants could not attend a meeting, and a vacant position of a programme officer position that affected the implementation of the programme. The Regional Council meeting in 2005 has considered this issue seriously and approved various suggestions to monitor budgets by the P&M to reduce funds carried forward to the next year.

Several measures were taken to address the issue of carry forward, such as shifting the funds to other programmes if there are remaining funds from activities which took place, limiting additional fundraising for particular activities but using available funds. These measures taken under supervision of the Programme and Management have brought good result. Most of the programmes utilised 96-100% of its budget funds.

## Status of Budget as of December 2005

Budget Line	Title	Approved Budget 2005	Revised Budget 2005	Budget used	Budget Available	%used
<b>A.</b>	<b>Programmes</b>					
<b>A.1</b>	<b>Women's Human Rights (WHR)</b>	<b>58,047.00</b>	<b>72,377.00</b>	<b>71,100.40</b>	<b>1,276.60</b>	<b>98%</b>
	A.1.1-A.1.6	<b>39,000.00</b>	<b>53,330.00</b>	<b>52,258.07</b>	<b>1,071.93</b>	
	A.1.1 Network Support	-	-	-	-	
	A.1.2 Policy Intervention	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>16,330.00</b>	<b>16,847.26</b>	<b>(517.26)</b>	
	• BPFA-CSW	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,960.10	39.90	
	• WHRD Campaign and consultation	-	14,330.00	14,887.16	(557.16)	
	A.1.3 Training/Workshop	<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>26,906.19</b>	<b>(1,906.19)</b>	
	• FLTP South East Asia Training	23,000.00	23,000.00	24,905.66	(1,905.66)	
	• FLTP Orientation for staff and key Task Force members	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.53	(0.53)	
	A.1.4 Human Right Mobilisation	-	-	-	-	
	A.1.5 Working Group's Meeting	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>7,162.74</b>	<b>2,837.26</b>	
	• Task Force Meeting	10,000.00	10,000.00	7,162.74	2,837.26	
	A.1.6 Secretariat costs (communication, local transport, publication stationery, bank charges)	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>1,341.88</b>	<b>658.12</b>	
	A.1.7 Programme Implementation costs (Salary and related costs)	<b>19,047.00</b>	<b>19,047.00</b>	<b>18,842.32</b>	<b>204.68</b>	<b>99%</b>
	A.1.8.1 Balance b/f from 2002-3	<b>3,792.35</b>	<b>3,792.35</b>	<b>3,788.67</b>	<b>3.68</b>	<b>100%</b>
	• FLTP Orientation for staff and key Task Force members	3,792.35	3,792.35	3,788.67	3.68	
	A.1.8.2 Balance b/f from 2004	<b>4,505.71</b>	<b>4,505.71</b>	<b>4,525.44</b>	<b>(19.73)</b>	<b>100%</b>
	• WHR framework paper on fundamentalism	1,505.71	1,505.71	1,524.00	(18.29)	
	• WHR Campaign	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,520.42	(20.42)	
	• BPFA -CSW	500.00	500.00	481.01	18.99	
				-	-	
<b>A.2</b>	<b>Violence Against Women (VAW)</b>	<b>76,047.00</b>	<b>74,007.00</b>	<b>73,287.72</b>	<b>719.28</b>	<b>99%</b>
	A.2.1-A.2.6	<b>57,000.00</b>	<b>54,960.00</b>	<b>54,477.06</b>	<b>482.94</b>	
	A.2.1 Network Support	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>2,926.48</b>	<b>1,073.52</b>	
	• Support for Tsunami relief	500.00	500.00	478.03	21.97	
	• Support research for "Access to Justice Campaign"	3,500.00	3,500.00	2,448.45	1,051.55	
	A.2.2 Policy Intervention	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>6,000.00</b>	<b>6,059.86</b>	<b>(59.86)</b>	
	• UNCHR 2005 Session Commission Human Rights	4,000.00	6,000.00	6,059.86	(59.86)	
	A.2.3 Training/Workshop			-	-	
	A.2.4 Human Right Mobilisation	<b>40,000.00</b>	<b>38,960.00</b>	<b>39,328.94</b>	<b>(368.94)</b>	
	• Planning meeting for Campaign Access to Justice	<b>17,000.00</b>	<b>13,000.00</b>	<b>12,843.64</b>	<b>156.36</b>	
	- Action Aid	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,008.45	(8.45)	
	- APWLD (shift fund to Cross cutting (WTO) 2000	7,000.00	3,000.00	2,835.19	164.81	
	• Annual Consultation with UNSRVAW and Sexuality & VAW	<b>23,000.00</b>	<b>25,960.00</b>	<b>26,485.30</b>	<b>(525.30)</b>	
	- APWLD (shift fund to Cross cutting (other) 4000	14,043.84	17,003.84	17,546.45	(542.61)	
	- Action Aid	8,956.16	8,956.16	8,938.85	17.31	

Budget Line	Title	Approved Budget 2005	Revised Budget 2005	Budget used	Budget Available	%used
	A.2.5 Task Force Meeting	7,000.00	4,000.00	4,392.73	(392.73)	
	• Task Force meeting (shift fund to cross cutting (Wto) 3000	7,000.00	4,000.00	4,392.73	(392.73)	
	A.2.6 Secretariat costs (communication, local transport, publication stationery, bank charges)	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,769.05	230.95 (1,769.05)	
	A.2.7 Programme Implementation costs (Salary and related costs)	19,047.00	19,047.00	18,810.65	236.35	99%
<b>A.3</b>	<b>Women's Participation in Political Processes (WPPP)</b>	<b>56,701.00</b>	<b>60,701.00</b>	<b>56,654.10</b>	<b>4,046.90</b>	<b>93%</b>
	A.3.1- A.3.6	39,000.00	43,000.00	40,523.58	2,476.42	
	A.3.1 Network Support	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,396.26	103.74	
	• FLTP Orientation for 2Task Force members	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,562.63	(362.63)	
	• Others (Tsunami relief)	500.00	500.00	475.04	24.96	
	• ICN in Hongkong	300.00	300.00	358.59	(58.59)	
	• Other	500.00	500.00	-	500.00	
	A.3.2 Policy Intervention	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,029.04	(29.04)	
	• Research on Women's strategies in Electoral Processes	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,029.04	(29.04)	
	A.3.3 Training/Workshop	18,500.00	22,500.00	18,962.69	3,537.31	
	• Launch/ workshop Women's Strategies in Electoral Processes	18,500.00	22,500.00	18,962.69	3,537.31	
	A.3.4 Human Right Mobilisation	-	-	-	-	
	A.3.5 Task Force Meeting	10,000.00	10,000.00	12,301.93	(2,301.93)	
	• Task Force Meeting	10,000.00	10,000.00	12,301.93	(2,301.93)	
	A.3.6 Secretariat costs (communication, local transport, publication stationery, bank charges)	2,000.00	2,000.00	833.67	1,166.33	
	A.3.7 Programme Implementation costs (Salary and related costs)	17,701.00	17,701.00	16,130.52	1,570.48	91%
<b>A.4</b>	<b>Labour and Migration (L&amp;M)</b>	<b>55,701.00</b>	<b>55,701.00</b>	<b>47,196.26</b>	<b>8,504.74</b>	<b>85%</b>
	A.4.1- A.4.6	38,000.00	38,000.00	31,064.44	6,935.56	
	A.4.1 Network Support	6,500.00	6,500.00	3,799.11	2,700.89	
	• MAP's conference on trafficking & forced labour	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,478.72	21.28	
	• National Consultation on Domestic Workers	-	-	-	-	
	• Postcard Campaign follow up	500.00	500.00	-	500.00	
	- Support for Tsunami releif	500.00	500.00	478.03	21.97	
	- Others	-	-	-	-	
	• Support 3migrant workers (Thai, Philippines & Japan)	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,842.36	1,157.64	
	to participate in Anti WTO activities in Hongkong			-	-	
	• Support TF member from Korea to participate in Anti WTO activities in Hongkong	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	
	A.4.2 Policy Intervention	19,500.00	19,500.00	16,219.02	3,280.98	
	• Research on migrant workers in tax free zone	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,503.05	(3.05)	

Budget Line	Title	Approved Budget 2005	Revised Budget 2005	Budget used	Budget Available	%used
	• Research on legal standards of domestic worker	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	(500.00)	
	• ILO Annual Meeting / UNHCR 61th session	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,213.86	(213.86)	
	• South/ South dialogue meeting UNSR on Migrants	-	-	-	-	
	• Consultation on Domestic workers with CARAM Asia	-	-	-	-	
	• Meeting with UNSR on rights of migrant workers & other UN personnel in Nov/Dec 05(3TF and PO to attend meeting in Geneva)	11,000.00	11,000.00	9,502.12	1,497.88	
	• Support CEDAW Watch Centre, Mongolia for translation of law for research on domestic work.	500.00	500.00	-	500.00	
	• Support WTO Campaign	-	-	-	-	
	• Support Task Force to attend WTO	-	-	-	-	
	A.4.3 Training/Workshop	-	-	-	-	
	A.4.4 Human Right Mobilisation	-	-	-	-	
	A.4.5 Task Force Meeting	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,006.39	(6.39)	
	• Task Force meeting	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,006.39	(6.39)	
	A.4.6 Secretariat costs (communication, local transportation, publication, stationer, bank charges)	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,039.91	960.09	
	A.4.7 Programme Implementation costs (Salary and related costs)	17,701.00	17,701.00	16,131.82	1,569.18	91%
	A.4.8.1 Balance b/f 2004	6,339.86	6,339.86	5,837.39	502.47	92%
	• Partners' Meeting on domestic workers with Caram Asia	-	-	-	-	
	• Post card printing for WHR	-	-	-	-	
	• Postcard campaign for migrant workers in Indonesia with Komnas Perepuan	500.00	500.00	411.33	88.67	
	• Postcard campaign on migrant worker in Bangladesh with ASK	500.00	500.00	482.22	17.78	
	• Support PO to attend anti WTO activities in Hong Kong	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,287.03	(287.03)	
	• WTO Campaign	3,339.86	3,339.86	2,663.61	676.25	
	• Exposure trip to meet migrant workers in Malaysia	1,000.00	1,000.00	993.21	6.79	
				-	-	
<b>A.5</b>	<b>Women and Environment (WEN)</b>	<b>60,422.60</b>	<b>68,422.60</b>	<b>69,315.17</b>	<b>(892.57)</b>	<b>101%</b>
	A.5.1-A.5.6	40,000.00	48,000.00	49,236.08	(1,236.08)	
	A.5.1 Network Support	11,000.00	3,000.00	2,420.63	579.37	
	• Agrarian reform	3,000.00	-	-	-	
	• ILPS	3,000.00	-	-	-	
	• WTO	2,000.00	1,730.07	1,185.93	544.14	
	• Support for Tsunami relief	1,000.00	1,000.00	965.60	34.40	
	• others	2,000.00	269.93	269.09	0.84	

Budget Line	Title	Approved Budget 2005	Revised Budget 2005	Budget used	Budget Available	%used
	A.5.2 Policy Intervention	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,674.16	(174.16)	
	• WTO planning meeting	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,674.16	(174.16)	
	A.5.3 Training/Workshop	15,500.00	31,500.00	34,447.84	(2,947.84)	
	• launching Summer School	3,500.00	1,500.00	1,077.49	422.51	
	• Water Research Meeting	12,000.00	-	-	-	
	• Regional Forum Globalization & Food Sovereignty	-	16,000.00	17,492.69	(1,492.69)	
	• WTO Campaign	-	14,000.00	15,877.66	(1,877.66)	
	A.5.4 Human Right Mobilisation			-	-	
	A.5.5 Task Force Meeting	10,000.00	10,000.00	9,847.27	152.73	
	• Task Force meeting	10,000.00	10,000.00	9,847.27	152.73	
	A.5.6 Secretariat costs (communication, local transportation, publication, stationer, bank charges)	2,000.00	2,000.00	846.18	1,153.82	
		-	-	-	-	
	A.5.7 Programme Implementation costs (Salary and related costs)	20,422.60	20,422.60	20,079.09	343.51	98%
				-	-	
	A.5.8 Balance b/f from 2003	7,346.98	7,346.98	7,244.51	102.47	
	• Resource kit on Food sovereignty	7,346.98	7,346.98	7,244.51	102.47	
<b>A.6</b>	<b>Rural and Indigenous Women (RIW)</b>	<b>59,422.60</b>	<b>59,789.46</b>	<b>66,083.22</b>	<b>(6,293.76)</b>	<b>111%</b>
	A.6.1- A.6.6	39,000.00	39,366.86	45,999.26	(6,632.40)	
	A.6.1 Network Support	5,000.00	1,000.00	950.08	49.92	
	• Support for Tsunami relief	1,000.00	1,000.00	950.08	49.92	
	• Other	4,000.00	-	-	-	
	A.6.2 Policy Intervention	7,000.00	26,000.00	33,821.81	(7,821.81)	
	• Proceeding of fisheries conference	-	-	-	-	
	• Module layout & printing on globalisation	2,000.00	265.10	-	265.10	
	• WHRD international meeting in Indonesia	5,000.00	1,734.90	1,993.67	(258.77)	
	• WTO Campaign	-	24,000.00	31,828.14	(7,828.14)	
	A.6.3 Training/Workshop	15,000.00	366.86	-	366.86	
	• Consultation laws affecting RIW	15,000.00	366.86	-	366.86	
	A.6.4 Human Right Mobilisation			-	-	
	A.6.5 Task Force Meetings	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,107.64	(107.64)	
	• Task Force Meeting	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,107.64	(107.64)	
	A.6.6 Secretariat costs (communication, local transportation, publication stationery, bank charge, etc.)	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,119.73	880.27	
				-	-	
				-	-	
	A.6.7 Programme Implementation costs (Salary and related costs)	20,422.60	20,422.60	20,083.97	338.63	98%
				-	-	
	A.6.8.1 Balance b/f from 2004	3,649.37	3,649.37	3,589.40	59.97	
	• Young women lawyer Research	3,649.37	3,649.37	3,589.40	59.97	
				-	-	
<b>A.7</b>	<b>Cross-cutting Initiatives</b>	<b>20,210.80</b>	<b>110,610.80</b>	<b>101,976.37</b>	<b>8,634.43</b>	<b>92%</b>
	A.7.1- A.7.5	11,000.00	101,400.00	93,533.30	7,866.70	
	A.7.1 Network Support	10,000.00	10,000.00	8,191.59	1,808.41	
	• FLTP Orientation for staff and key Task Force members	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,017.76	(17.76)	
	• Support for Tsunami relief	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,033.86	(33.86)	
	• Others	5,000.00	5,000.00	3,139.96	1,860.04	

Budget Line	Title	Approved Budget 2005	Revised Budget 2005	Budget used	Budget Available	%used
	A.7.2 Policy Intervention	-	90,400.00	84,708.36	5,691.64	
	• Tsunami aftermath activities	-	81,400.00	76,036.64	5,363.36	
	- Consultation	-	51,320.00	55,653.84	(4,333.84)	
	- Research	-	30,080.00	20,382.80	9,697.20	
	• WTO Campaign (taken off 22,000)(shift fund from VAW)	-	5,000.00	5,062.14	(62.14)	
	• others	-	4,000.00	3,609.58	390.42	
	A.7.3 Training/Workshop			-	-	
	A.7.4 Human Right Mobilisation			-	-	
	A.7.5 Secretariat costs (communication, local transportation, publication, stationery, bank charge, etc.)	1,000.00	1,000.00	633.36	366.64	
	A.7.6 Programme Implementation costs (Salary and related costs)	9,210.80	9,210.80	8,443.07	767.73	92%
				-	-	
				-	-	
	<b>Sub total A</b>	<b>386,552.00</b>	<b>501,608.86</b>	<b>485,613.24</b>	<b>15,995.62</b>	<b>97%</b>
	<b>Balance b/f 2003-4</b>	<b>25,634.27</b>	<b>25,634.27</b>	<b>24,985.42</b>	<b>648.85</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Institutional Development</b>			-	-	
<b>B.1</b>	<b>Resource Development and Publications</b>	<b>40,765.00</b>	<b>39,265.00</b>	<b>36,466.88</b>	<b>2,798.12</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>RESOURCE TOTAL</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>18,500.00</b>	<b>15,843.59</b>	<b>2,656.41</b>	
	B.1.1 Website	2,000.00	2,000.00	706.70	1,293.30	
	B.1.2 Acquisition of Materials	1,500.00		-	-	
	B.1.3 Librarian /database Management			-	-	
	B.1.4 Newsletter Forum News	10,000.00	10,000.00	8,639.01	1,360.99	
	B.1.5 Promotion Materials	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	
	APWLD identity items:	-	-	-	-	
	Calandar	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,436.82	(436.82)	
	Primers	-	-	-	-	
	Support for Tsunami releif	500.00	500.00	478.03	21.97	
	Others	500.00	500.00	2,011.22	(1,511.22)	
	B.1.6 Special Publications	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,516.13	(16.13)	
	B.1.7 Secretariat costs (communication, local transportation publication, stationery, bank charge, etc.)	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,055.67	(55.67)	
				-		
	B.1.8 Implementation costs (Salary and related costs)	20,765.00	20,765.00	20,623.29	141.71	99%
				-	-	
<b>B.2</b>	<b>Network consolidation</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>	<b>14,766.08</b>	<b>233.92</b>	<b>98%</b>
	B.2.1 Regional Council meeting (1mtg/year)	18,000.00	15,000.00	14,766.08	233.92	
<b>B.3</b>	<b>Governance/Management Meetings</b>	<b>19,000.00</b>	<b>19,000.00</b>	<b>18,721.34</b>	<b>278.66</b>	<b>99%</b>
	B.3.1 Thai Association (1mtg/year)	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,707.13	292.87	
	B.3.2 Programme and Management (4mtgs/year)	16,000.00	16,000.00	16,014.21	(14.21)	
	B.3.3 Strategic Planning Meeting	-	-	-	-	
<b>B.4</b>	<b>Staff Development</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>6,815.00</b>	<b>6,805.40</b>	<b>9.60</b>	<b>100%</b>
	B.4.1 General staff development (shift 7400to B.5)	8,000.00	6,815.00	6,805.40	9.60	
<b>B.5</b>	<b>External evaluation</b>	<b>12,500.00</b>	<b>32,900.00</b>	<b>33,357.82</b>	<b>(457.82)</b>	<b>101%</b>
				-	-	
	<b>Sub-total B</b>	<b>98,265.00</b>	<b>112,980.00</b>	<b>110,17.52</b>	<b>2,862.48</b>	<b>97%</b>
	<b>Balance b/f 2004</b>	-		-		

Budget Line	Title	Approved Budget 2005	Revised Budget 2005	Budget used	Budget Available	%used
<b>C.</b>	<b>Administration</b>			-	-	
				-	-	
<b>C.1</b>	<b>Salaries and related costs</b>	<b>52,335.20</b>	<b>52,335.20</b>	<b>50,721.88</b>	<b>1,613.32</b>	<b>97%</b>
	C.1.1 Regional Coordinator	20,448.80	20,448.80	18,623.11	1,825.69	
	C.1.2 Programme Officers	6,857.40	6,857.40	6,811.46	45.94	
	C.1.3 Resource Officer	2,039.40	2,039.40	2,075.49	(36.09)	
	C.1.4 Liason Officer	11,833.20	11,833.20	11,863.82	(30.62)	
	C.1.5 Finance Officer	11,156.40	11,156.40	11,348.00	(191.60)	
				-	-	
<b>C.2</b>	<b>Short-term Assistance (computer, account, administrative when required)</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>4,011.24</b>	<b>(11.24)</b>	<b>100%</b>
				-	-	
				-	-	
<b>C.3</b>	<b>Special Expatriate/relocation</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>6,500.00</b>	<b>4,672.83</b>	<b>1,827.17</b>	
				-	-	
<b>C.4</b>	<b>Secretariat costs (communication, local transportation, stationery, etc.)</b>	<b>6,000.00</b>	<b>6,000.00</b>	<b>6,595.09</b>	<b>(595.09)</b>	<b>110%</b>
				-	-	
				-	-	
<b>C.5</b>	<b>Audit/bank fees</b>	<b>1,800.00</b>	<b>1,800.00</b>	<b>2,483.02</b>	<b>(683.02)</b>	<b>138%</b>
				-	-	
<b>C.6</b>	<b>Office rental</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>	<b>13,195.30</b>	<b>1,804.70</b>	<b>88%</b>
				-	-	
<b>C.7</b>	<b>Sundry</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>527.41</b>	<b>(27.41)</b>	<b>105%</b>
				-	-	
<b>C.8</b>	<b>Equipment, technical facilities &amp; office furniture</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>6,500.00</b>	<b>5,684.49</b>	<b>815.51</b>	<b>87%</b>
				-	-	
	C.8.1 Replacement and upgrading	3,500.00	5,000.00	4,233.59	766.41	85%
		-	-	-	-	
	• Computers & printer for 3staff	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,484.84	15.16	
	• Furniture	1,000.00	1,000.00	226.37	773.63	
	• Digital video camera	-	1,500.00	1,492.82	7.18	
	C.8.2 Maintenance and repair	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,450.90	49.10	
	C.8.3 Balance b/f from 2004			-	-	
	• Projector LCD	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,969.16	30.84	
<b>C.9</b>	<b>Contingency</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>2,464.29</b>	<b>2,535.71</b>	<b>49%</b>
				-	-	
<b>C</b>	<b>Sub-total C</b>	<b>92,635.20</b>	<b>99,135.20</b>	<b>90,355.55</b>	<b>8,779.65</b>	<b>91%</b>
	<b>Balance b/f 2004</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>1,969.16</b>	<b>30.84</b>	<b>98%</b>
				-	-	
	<b>Total Expenditure 2005</b>	<b>577,452.20</b>	<b>713,724.06</b>	<b>686,086.30</b>	<b>27,637.75</b>	<b>96%</b>
	<b>Total balance brought forward - 2003-4</b>	<b>27,634.27</b>	<b>27,634.27</b>	<b>26,954.58</b>	<b>679.69</b>	<b>98%</b>
				-	-	
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>605,086.47</b>	<b>741,358.33</b>	<b>713,040.88</b>	<b>28,317.45</b>	<b>96%</b>
				-	-	

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE**  
**For the period of December 2005**

Description	Baht	USD [a]
Fund Balance as per audit report as at 01/01/2005	8,645,479.42	213,070.32
		-
<b>Receipt: 2005 Grants received in 2004</b>		-
- Action aid (GBP 10,000)	<b>750,710.00</b>	<b>18,501.46</b>
		-
<b>Balance brought forward from 2004</b>	7,894,769.42	194,568.86
Grants received in 2005		-
HIVOS	1,755,950.00	43,275.89
HBF (USD9,375.-) = 153,673.50 Baht *		-
The Global Fund (USD15,000.- on 30/5/05)	604,050.00	14,886.99
HBF (USD24,200.- on 26/5/05)	972,629.00	23,970.72
SIDA (SEK 1,500,000 = USD194,952.-)	7,827,666.10	192,915.08
NOVIB (USD84,641.84)	3,456,772.75	85,193.16
Mamacash (Euro12,000.- = USD14,400.-)	589,960.00	14,539.73
HIVOS (Euro17,000.-)	844,772.50	20,819.66
Ford (USD65,000.-)	2,713,100.00	66,865.13
Mamacash (Euro 36,000.- = USD43,200.-)	1,813,680.00	44,698.66
HBF (USD3,500 on 14/10/05)	147,070.00	3,624.58
HBF (USD13,484 on 12/12/05)	566,597.68	13,963.96
<b>Total received fund in 2005</b>	<b>21,292,248.03</b>	<b>524,753.57</b>
<b>Fund received in advance for 2006 activities</b>		
Mamacash (Euro 30,500. = USD36,600)	1,536,590.00	37,869.70
<b>Total fund available</b>	<b>31,474,317.45</b>	<b>775,693.60</b>
Interest received	32,878.55	810.30
<b>Total receipt</b> <1>	<b>31,507,196.00</b>	<b>776,503.90</b>
<b>Less : Expenditure</b>		
A. Programmes	20,717,902.37	510,598.66
B. Institutional Development	4,468,096.23	110,117.52
C. Administration	3,746,140.50	92,324.71
<b>Programmes and Activities Expenditures</b> [2]	<b>28,932,139.10</b>	<b>713,040.88</b>
Assets	561,974.70	13,850.03
Account receivables [b]	235,341.41	5,800.06
Account payables [c]	(1,604,600.67)	(39,545.84)
<b>Balance</b> <3>	<b>(807,284.56)</b>	<b>(19,895.76)</b>
<b>Total expenditures &lt;2&gt; + &lt;3&gt;</b> <4>	<b>28,124,854.54</b>	<b>693,145.12</b>
<b>Cash balance as at 31 December 2005 &lt;1&gt; - &lt;4&gt;</b> [d]	<b>3,382,341.46</b>	<b>83,358.78</b>

[a] Average rate of exchange : USD1 = Baht 40.58

[b] Details of account receivables

[c] Details of account payables

[d] Cash Balance details attached.

\* Fund from HBF for 2005 activities is the unused 2004 fund. (return to HBF on 11/3/05 and get it back for 2005 APWLD activities.

**Average rate of Exchange for 2005  
December 2005**

[a]

Date	Description	Baht	USD
-	Cash Balance as per audit report at 01/01/2005	8,645,479.42	212,995.30
	<b>Receipt : 2005 Grants received in 2004</b>		
-	- Action aid (GBP 10,000)	750,710.00	18,494.95
	<b>Balance brought forward from 2004</b>	7,894,769.42	194,500.36
	<b>Grants received for APWLD in 2005</b>		
3/3/2505	HIVOS (Euro 35,000.-) (1 Euro = 1.3123 USD)	1,755,950.00	45,930.50
11/3/2005	HBF (USD9,375.-) = 153,673.50 Baht	-	-
30/5/2505	The Global Fund (USD15,000.-)	604,050.00	15,000.00
26/5/2005	HBF (USD24,200.-)	972,629.00	24,200.00
14/6/2005	SIDA (SEK 1,500,000.= USD194,952.- (5.32375)	7,827,666.10	194,952.00
14/6/2005	NOVIB (USD84,641.84)	3,456,772.75	84,641.84
24/6/2005	Mamacash (Euro 12,000.- = USD14,400.-)	589,960.00	14,400.00
30/6/2005	HIVOS (Euro 17,000.-) (1 Euro = 1.2071 USD)	844,772.50	20,520.25
15/7/2005	Ford (USD65,000.-)	2,713,100.00	65,000.00
26/8/2005	Mamacash (Euro 36,000.-)**	1,813,680.00	43,200.00
14/10/2505	HBF (USD3500)	147,070.00	3,500.00
12/12/2505	HBF (USD13,484)	566,597.68	13,484.00
	Total fund available for 2005 activities	<b>29,937,727.45</b>	<b>737,823.89</b>
26/8/2005	<b>Fund received in advance for 2006 activities</b> Mamacash (Euro 30,500).	1,536,590.00	36,600.00
	<b>Total fund available</b>	<b>31,474,317.45</b>	<b>774,423.89</b>
	Average fund received		<b>40.58</b>

\* Fund from HBF for 2005 activities is the unused 2004 fund. (return to HBF on 11/3/05 and get it back for 2005 APWLD activities.

\*\* Fund from Mamacash is divided as follows: Euro 36,000 for 2005 activities  
: Euro 30,500 for 2006 activities

# Annexs

## APWLD CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES 2005

Date	Place	Title
23-28 January	Pakistan	Food Sovereignty Kit editorial meeting
25 January	Chiangmai, Thailand	Follow up on L&M Postcard Campaign
26 January	Fiji	Research on definition of Domestic Work
26-31 January	Brazil	World Social Forum (WSF), WHRD ICC
January		Finalisation of FLTP Manual
January	Respective countries of the editors	Young Women Lawyers Editing
January	Chiangmai, Thailand	Research on Women Migrant Workers in Tax Free Zones
4-6 February	Chiangmai, Thailand	*FLTP workshop for ReC, Secretariat and Task Force members
7 February	Chiangmai, Thailand	* Programme and Management Committee meeting
8-9 February	Chiangmai, Thailand	* Regional Council Meeting
10 February	India	Asia Consultation on Women and Land Rights
22 February	Chiangmai, Thailand	Research on definition of Domestic Work
22-25 February	Chiangmai, Thailand	Research on Women Migrant Workers in Tax Free Zones
26-27 February	Hong Kong	WTO-International Coordinating Network (ICN) Meeting
February	Respective countries of the researchers	Young Women Lawyers editing
February	Chiangmai, Thailand	Fisherfolk proceedings editing
February	Thailand & Pakistan	Food Sovereignty Kit testing- Thailand & Pakistan
28 February-11 March	New York	Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)-BPFA+10
8-11 March	Chiangmai, Thailand	Migrant Action Programme (MAP)- Women's Conference on Trafficking & Forced Labour
14 March-22 April	Geneva	UNCHR Advocacy (Violence Against Women & Right to Adequate Housing)
14 March- 22 April	Geneva	UNCHR Advocacy (L & M)
20 March	Chiangmai, Thailand	Young Women Lawyers research launch
29-31 March	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	National Consultation on Domestic Workers (CARAM Asia)
18-20 April	Colombo or Pune	Planning meeting for VAW-Access to Justice Campaign
30 April	Chiangmai, Thailand	Publication: Forum News
April	Chiangmai, Thailand	Food Sovereignty Kit
April	Chiangmai, Thailand	Food Sovereignty Paper
April	Chiangmai Thailand	Statement on Anti Terror Laws
April	Respective countries of the TF members	Food Sovereignty paper translation
April	Chiangmai, Thailand	FLTP for Secretariat and Task Force follow up
April		Editorial meeting for research on definition of Domestic Work
2-6 May	Indonesia	FLTP South East Asia & identify key people to follow up
21-23 May	Thailand	*Programme and Management Committee meeting
May	Indonesia	Statement based in Young Women Lawyers research (Indonesia)
May	In respective countries	Translation of Young Women Lawyers research
May	Chiangmai, Thailand	*Consultation on laws affecting rural indigenous women (launching of research)
May	Chiangmai, Thailand	RIW Task Force meeting
May	Indonesia	Food Sovereignty Training
May	Chiangmai, Thailand	Research on Women's Strategies in Electoral Processes-editorial meeting

Date	Place	Title
June	Indonesia	Consultation with Women from Tsunami Affected Areas
June	Mongolia	Food Sovereignty paper translation (Mongolia)
June	Germany	Summer school for women and macro economics (Germany)
June		Asian Women Forum on Agrarian Reform (proposal)
June	Cambodia	WEN Task Force Meeting
June	Thailand	Water Research
June	Netherlands	International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) meeting
June	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Consultation with L&M Task Force on research on definition of Domestic Work
June	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	L&M Task Force Meeting.
June	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Campaign meeting with CARAM Asia
June	Korea	2005 International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women
July	Korea	Food Sovereignty paper translation (Korea)
July	India	Statement based on Young Women Lawyer's research (India)
July	Chiangmai, Thailand	Presentation of the Young Women Lawyer's research at the APWLD Consultation on Impacts of Anti Terror Laws on Rural Indigenous Women's lives
July	Chiangmai, Thailand	Publication of FLTP training
July		WHRD International Consultation
July	Chiangmai, Thailand	Report: Half Yearly Report
July	Thailand	*Staff Assessment and Planning meeting
July	Thailand	FLTP South East Asia follow up
July	Thailand	FLTP for Secretariat and Task Force follow up
21-23 August	Thailand	*Programme and Management Committee meeting
August		Research on Women's Strategies in Electoral Processes editorial meeting
August	Chiangmai, Thailand	RIW – Module layout and printing
August	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	APWLD CARAM Asia 11 partner meeting
August		WHR Working group meeting
August	Tamil Nadu, India	Food Sovereignty paper translation (Tamil)
	Philippines	International Solidarity Mission to Philippines
August	Chiangmai, Thailand	Publication: Forum News
September	Bangladesh	Statement based on Young Women Lawyer's research (Bangladesh)
September	Chiangmai, Thailand	FLTP South East Asia follow up
September	Chiangmai, Thailand	Women's Human Rights Framework report
September		Editorial meeting for research on Migrant Workers in Tax Free Zones
September	Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia	Women and Globalization Module training
October		* Consultation with the UNSR- VAW
October		VAW Task Force Meeting
October	Philippines and India	Food Sovereignty Training
November	Bangkok, Thailand	Thai Association Annual Meeting
November	Chiangmai, Thailand	*Programme and Management Committee Meeting
December		Publication of the Consultation with UNSR- VAW
December	Hong Kong	WTO meeting (Hong Kong)
December	Philippines	WPPP Task Force Meeting
December	Hong Kong	Workshop on Women's Strategies in Electoral Processes
December		*Collation and launching of research on Women's Strategies in Electoral Processes
December		Report: Annual Report
December		Publication: Forum News

# APWLD Structure as of 2005



## Annex 2

### Regional Council

Alison Aggarwal (Australia)  
 Sultana Kamal (Bangladesh)  
 Virisila Buadromo (Fiji)  
 Gina Houn Lee (Fiji)  
 Madhu Mehra (India)  
 Fatima Burnad (India)  
 Tati Krisnawaty (Indonesia)  
 Titi Soentoro (Indonesia)  
 Mikiko Otani (Japan)  
 Young Sook Cho (Korea)  
 Nurgul Djanaeva (Kyrgyzstan)  
 Olga Djanaeva (Kyrgyzstan)  
 Zainah Anwar (Malaysia)  
 Ivy Josiah (Malaysia)  
 Zanaa Jurmed (Mongolia)  
 Hina Jilani (Pakistan)  
 Azra Talat Sayeed (Pakistan)

Eleanor Conda (Philippines)  
 Elisa Tita Lubi (Philippines)  
 Wanee B. Thitprasert (Thailand)  
 Virada Somswasdi (Thailand)

### Programme and Management Committee

Sultana Kamal (Bangladesh)  
 Nurgul Djanaeva (Kyrgyzstan)  
 Azra Talat Sayeed (Pakistan)  
 Elisa Tita Lubi (Philippines)  
 Wanee B. Thitprasert (Thailand)  
 Virada Somswasdi (Thailand)

### Secretariat

Regional Coordinator - Titi Soentoro  
 Assistant to the Regional Coordinator - Jyotsna Maskay  
 Programme Officers  
 Lisa Pusey (Women's Human Rights, Violence against Women)  
 Judy A. Pasimio (Women & Environment, Rural & Indigenous Women)  
 Nalini Singh (Women's Participation in Political Processes, Labour & Migration)  
 Liaison Officer - Satchee Vilaithong  
 Finance Officer - Punika Shinawatra  
 Information Officer - Cholpon Akmatova  
 Programme Assistants  
 Tomoko Kashiwazaki  
 Valentina Soe  
 Bookkeeper - Kornvika Paupratum

### Task Force on Labour and Migration

<b>Convenor</b>	Tati Krisnawaty (Indonesia)
<b>Co-Convenor</b>	Aegile Fernandez (Malaysia) Avelina Rokoduru (Fiji) Cythia Tellez Abdon (Hong Kong) Fusae Oshita (Japan) Jocelyn de Guzman (Philippines) Kim Hye-Seon (Korea) Zanaa Jurmed (Mongolia) Sujata Mody (India) Pranom Somwong (Thailand) Sultana Kamal (Bangladesh)

### Task Force on Rural and Indigenous Women

<b>Convenor</b>	Olga Djanaeva (Kyrgyzstan)
<b>Co-Convenor</b>	Tess Vistro (Philippines) Lilly Luisa Natesan (India) Sita Poudel (Nepal) Dwi Astuti (Indonesia) Susmita Chakma (Bangladesh) Geetha Fernando (Sri Lanka) Kingkorn Narintarakul (Thailand)

### Task Force on Violence against Women

<b>Convenor</b>	Manisha Gupte (India)
<b>Co-Convenor</b>	Shyamala Gomez (Sri Lanka) Ferdousi Akhter (Bangladesh) Desti Murdijana (Indonesia) Yevgeniya Kozyreva (Kazakhstan) Ivy Josiah (Malaysia) Enkhjargal Davaasuren (Mongolia) Young Sook Cho (Korea) Suteera Vichitranonda (Thailand) Merilyn Rose Tahigogona (Vanuatu) Shahnaz Iqbal (Pakistan) Nang Lao Liang Won (Burma)

### Task Force on Women and the Environment

<b>Convenor</b>	Azra Talat Sayeed (Pakistan)
<b>Co-Convenor</b>	Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk (Thailand) Taslina Islam (Bangladesh) Kim Young Ran (Korea) Ushakumari Jayakumar (India) Risma Umar (Indonesia) Verni Yocogan-Diano (Philippines) Chhooen Thavy (Cambodia) Gombosurenegiin Uranstooj (Mongolia)

### Task Force on Women's Participation in Political Processes

<b>Convenor</b>	Tahira Khan (Pakistan)
<b>Co-Convenor</b>	Rashila Ramli (Malaysia) Priscilla Singh (Fiji) S.K. Priya (India) Chung-Nam Ha (Korea) Nurgul Djanaeva (Kyrgyzstan) Beissova Svetlana (Kazakhstan) Elisa Tita Lubi (Philippines) Virada Somsawasdi (Thailand) Nimalka Fernando (Sri Lanka)

### Working Group on Women's Rights Human Rights

<b>Convenor</b>	Eleanor Conda (Philippines)
<b>Co-Convenor</b>	Madhu Mehra (India) Imrana Jalal (Fiji) Kamala Chandrakirana (Indonesia) Heisoo Shin (Korea) Hina Jilani (Pakistan) Zainah Anwar (Malaysia) Sunila Abeysekera (Sri Lanka)

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