

2011

APWLD

ANNUAL REPORT





Reflections on 2011

by APWLD's Regional Coordinator

Building Movements

TIME Magazine identified 2011 as the year of the activist. But perhaps it should be more accurately remembered as the year of social movements. Movement building is at the heart of APWLD's 'theory of change'. We recognise that without strong, sustained movements of women's rights advocates we cannot achieve the structural change required to enjoy human rights and gender equality. For us, 2011 was a year of movement building and significant growth with our largest budget to date.

While the media's attention was predominantly focused outside of the 25 countries APWLD operates in, social movements prospered and struggled across Asia Pacific and APWLD members were active in many of them. During the year we saw the birthing of new movements, the maturation of some growing movements and the strengthening and innovation of some of our established movements. Recognising the need to bring women's movements from across Asia Pacific together, APWLD held the first Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF). As well as reflecting on the impact, achievements and struggles of existing women's movements, the APFF provided an opportunity to build new skills and birth new movements. A new network of women with disabilities activists was conceived and a number of young women activists took skills and ideas from the APFF that they are already putting into action at home.

The Southeast Asian Women's Caucus on ASEAN (Women's Caucus) continued to develop and pioneer women's new forms of engagement around the growing impact of regionalisms

on women's rights. This year the Women's Caucus was able to host dialogues with the ASEAN Commission on Women and Children (ACWC) and constructively engage with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). ASEAN commenced the process of drafting the first regional Human Rights Declaration for any Asia Pacific sub-region. The Women's Caucus were one of the first groups to engage the drafters around this process and make a submission to influence this crucial document. The Women's Caucus is also fostering new movements in countries with nascent human rights and women's movements in the sub-Mekong by promoting collaboration from women's groups across the region with impressive results.

Movements, of course, must be and are diverse with different purpose and methods. Our programmes include developing movements of feminist lawyers, of migrant domestic workers, of rural and indigenous women, women's rights academics of local and national women's rights organisations and also other human rights and social justice movements who can advance our collective objectives, all committed to the enjoyment of women's rights.

RESULTS were seen this year of long-standing movements. The introduction of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, for example, was the result of many years of struggle by many groups, including APWLD. We are proud to have influenced its birth.

Working with feminist organisations across the globe, we built movements for aid and development effectiveness demanding a rights based approach to development that has one's rights enjoyment at its core. By leading the Global Women's Forum immediately before the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea, we gained some recognition of the importance of gender equality in development and elevated the recognition of rights based perspectives in the US State Department's Busan Joint Action Plan for Gender Equality.

The Asia Pacific region experienced its own growth in social movements this year and women were at the heart of many. The vibrant Malaysian movement for free and fair elections or 'Bersih 2.0', for example, was very much sustained by women's rights activists and organisations who see the link between inclusive and transparent democratic processes and the enjoyment of women's rights. These APWLD members were at the heart of the 'Malaysian Spring' that could have significant regional impact. Despite a threatening environment for activists, social movements were strengthened in Cambodia in 2011 again, with women's rights activists leading the way in many cases. Sustained activism around forced evictions spread to several communities with women facing imprisonment and homelessness as a result. Women's activism around the rights of migrant domestic workers, restrictive NGO laws and garment workers all pointed to a growing active civil society, including Occupy in Indonesia, Philippines, Hong Kong.

Nowhere can the need for sustained activism be clearer than Burma. Women's rights activists, mostly in exile, have been at the heart of the sustained movement building and activism for democracy and human rights. There is no doubt that any change that does occur will be as a result of decades of activism. Women must be at the heart of any new moves to open up Burma.

This year we strengthened our monitoring, evaluation and learning systems focusing on ways to measure our impact on movements on structural change. The framework recognises that collective work as a movement brings about sustainable change. Change does not happen through a single, attributable intervention. And even where women are at the heart of social movements, changes they achieve are easily surrendered if they are not part of leading democratic, transformative processes to sustain change. We can already see some evidence of this in countries where women actively called for change but are marginalised in new governance systems.

Our successes in 2011 have set us up for another big year in 2012 as we look forward to a 'women's spring'.

Kate Lappin



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About

APWLD

Who We Are

APWLD is the region's leading network of feminist organisations and women. Our 180 members represent groups of diverse women from 25 countries in the region. We have been active for 25 years. APWLD has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We are an independent, non-government, non-profit organisation.

Our Work

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

Our Beliefs

We believe that justice, equality and the eradication of poverty cannot be achieved without a strong, vibrant women's movement active in civil society. We believe that law can be transformative as well as repressive. We seek to dissect, engage with and transform laws, legal practices and the systems that shape and inform them. We believe that the fusion of patriarchy with militarisation, fundamentalisms and neo-liberal economic globalisation is responsible for gross violations of women's rights. We believe that equality, development and the realisation of human rights can only happen when women,

particularly marginalised women, are empowered to lead policy and legal debates and articulate solutions. We believe that a transformative form of democratic leadership can bring about the structural changes required to claim and advance women's rights.

Our Structure

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

Our History

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

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

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

Impact Highlights in the Region



Kyrgyzstan: 18-year decree signed for state catalogue outlining permitted agrochemicals and pesticide, after successful lobbying on dangers of agro-chemicals on rural women by member Rural Women's Association 'Alga'

Thailand:

- 1st Asia Pacific Feminist Forum held to create a more cohesive women's movement and collaborate more closely with national women's movements; nurture emerging activists
- Women's disability rights network initiated

Sri Lanka: Members of Human Rights Violations documentation team access Human Rights Council for the first time to discuss the situation of women in IDP camps.

Malaysia: CEDAW ruled as binding- APWLD member and FLTP trainer Honey Tan's suit sets national precedent for international treaties and conventions to be observed as law

Southeast Asia: Women's Caucus on ASEAN makes submission for first human rights declaration in Asia and creates more space for CSOs



Global:

International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention and Recommendation on Domestic Workers passes, officially recognising domestic work ILO adopts 'Decent Work for Domestic Workers Convention' and uses some of language proposed by our network

Korea: Global Women's Forum held in Busan advocates for stronger commitment to gender equality in the HLF4

Cambodia:

- UN Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights agrees at Regional Consultation to focus 2012 report to UN General Assembly on impact of foreign debt on women's rights
- Following a regional FLTP TOT training, participant runs workshops for women at provincial level

Indonesia:

- Signs on to ILO Convention after advocacy campaign
- APWLD nominee Kamala Chandrakirana continues to create space for Asia Pacific women when elected Chair, UN Working Group on issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice

Papua New Guinea: 22-reserved seat bill passes 2nd reading; ripple effect for other Pacific countries to use affirmative action process, including Solomon Islands

Timor Leste: 38 women parliamentarians and advocates come together for 1st regional women's rights conference for our partners there

KEY THEMES in 2011

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

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

Five key themes in movement building emerged over the course of 2011. Our report gives an overview and contextual introduction to each of our programme areas, and notes where activities represent each of the themes.

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Enhancing Advocacy Capacity

2011 saw APWLD providing opportunities for further capacity-building to equip women with the skills they need to voice the challenges they face, and strategise ways to address them. In our workshops, conferences, trainings and publications, we integrated practical tools for advocacy to our theoretical frameworks of change.



Amplifying Voices through Networking and Alliances

As a regional forum, APWLD used its strong network to offer solidarity across the region, and put issues of member concern on the international agenda. We played leadership roles in new international networks and increased the influence of the networks we co-convene.



Integration of a Feminist Framework

APWLD has continued to successfully integrate our Feminist Legal Theory framework across our programmes. We also helped members and partners integrate it into their work to strengthen their efforts.



Strengthening Regional and International Structures

APWLD broke new ground in 2011 by bringing key mandate holders together and initiating the first UN report of its kind. This highlighted our continued role not only as a regional advocate, but also as a resource for mandate holders to increase their responsiveness to women’s rights, even if their mandate is not focused on women’s issues.



APWLD Organisational Development

2011 saw a strong integration of our Monitoring and Evaluation process into programmes and processes, resulting in a more concrete understanding of outcomes. Cross-cutting initiatives were a significant part of APWLD’s work in 2011, taking on broader issues that affect women’s rights and increasing the capacity of our members and networks to address them.

GROUNDING THE GLOBAL

Bringing UN Mechanisms to Asia Pacific Women

Women's rights advocates have put much time and energy into developing strong international standards, norms and principles. These standards though are meaningless if not enforced at the national level. Standards that have been set are under threat and need constant attention to be relevant.

Our Grounding the Global programme focuses on centering voices of Asia Pacific women into UN human rights mechanisms. We do this by:

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



In 2011, APWLD collaborated with a variety of mandate holders and Treaty Bodies at the regional and international levels, and strengthened its partnership with the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) and Permanent Missions in Geneva.



Cross-cutting the power of human rights instruments



APWLD's Regional Consultation on "Women's Right to Development" with UN Special Procedures mandate holders in Cambodia, included the Independent Expert on Cultural Rights, the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and human rights*, and an expert member of the UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (Committee on ESCR). As a result, the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and human rights will focus his report to the UN General Assembly in 2012 on the impact of foreign debt on women's rights. This will be the first report of its kind and



highlights APWLD's role not only as a regional advocate, but also as a resource for Special Procedures mandate holders to help build their capacity, and ensure they are responsive to the concerns of women, even if their mandate is not specifically focused on women's issues.

Debt is a Feminist Issue!

Debt and international financial instruments play a serious role in determining both the amount of funds available to governments, and the macro and micro economic policies that govern women's lives. States with high debt burdens and binding commitments to neo-liberalism spend less on education, health, social protection and communities. This situation is most dangerous for the poor and exacerbates inequalities. Yet debt is being pushed as an equality measure to increase women's economic livelihoods, such as in the US Gender Equality Plan released



at the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea. Micro credit seems to be the preferred gender equality measure of many development agencies. Increasingly, feminists are wary of this approach and are highlighting the dangers of indebting women.



The Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and human rights has committed to focusing his report to the General Assembly in 2012 on the impact of foreign debt on women which will help expose the transfer of wealth that occurs at the expense of women. APWLD is mobilising its members and network to provide direct input into the report with case studies on the impact of debt in their communities.

“It was a pleasure ... for the mandate to engage more directly and for the first time with women's groups from the Asia Pacific Region. In particular, I welcome the proposal to focus a thematic report on the impact of foreign debt on women and look forward to collaborating with your organization in this regard.”

Dr. Cephias Lumina,

Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt

*and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights





This year's Consultation had a ripple effect, impacting women across the region and identifying new areas of focus:

- Increased the capacity of women to utilise UN human rights mechanisms. Thirty-nine women's human rights defenders directly accessed the Human Rights Council (HRC) through its "eyes and ears" – special procedures mandate holders, providing testimonies of women's lived experiences of their right to development.
- Highlighted the need for critical analysis of development frameworks, to challenge the notion that economic growth automatically equals progress for communities and women. As a result, APWLD will host a side event at the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, for rural and indigenous women to testify to the varying impact of 'development' on their lives and provide alternative development goals that will actually benefit women themselves and their communities at large.



"The Consultation was really useful as it gave space for one-on-one engagements, as well as collective conversations. Getting answers and information about timing of events that could be strategic and other potential mechanism were particularly helpful in further our advocacy. It was really fantastic that the mandate holders stayed for two days and listened to our stories. Their presentations and inputs were invaluable. Also having foreign debt and cultural rights at the same space was really analytically brilliant."

Jac SM Kee,
Association for Progressive Communications

"Very good to link the work of treaty bodies and the special procedures mechanism."

Audry Lee,
International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific
(IWRAP-AP)





Building Leadership

In 2011, APWLD contributed to placing women in transformative leadership positions, and building their capacity. Kamala Chandrakirana, APWLD nominee to the UN Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, was elected Chair of this Working Group. APWLD also nominated women for two Special Procedures positions of the HRC, and although these nominations were not successful, the process was valuable to help normalise a place for women and civil society movements to choose their own nominees.

“APWLD is the one to congratulate on this! The whole nomination has been APWLD’s work and the final list speaks of its leadership and effectiveness. As for me, I will do my best to fulfill the mandate of the position and the trust of those who supported my nomination.”

Kamala Chandrakirana,

UN Working Group on the issue
of discrimination against women in law and in practice



Strengthening Sexual and Reproductive Rights

APWLD achieved a new milestone in expanding our engagement with different UN human rights mechanisms. We played an active role with other human rights groups to inform the drafting process of the General Recommendation on the right to sexual and reproductive health. We will continue to work towards the adoption of the General Recommendation to ensure the concerns and voices of Asia Pacific women are integrated. APWLD will continue with a submission to the Committee on ESCR in collaboration with The Asia-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women and IWRAW-AP. The Special Rapporteur on the right to health is committed to provide his input to the submission, where it will be presented as a first draft in May 2012.



APWLD also provided input into the HRC Resolution A/HRC/17/L.6., “Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: ensuring due diligence in protection”, that was included in the final text adopted by the Council in June 2011. APWLD’s submission particularly addressed regional efforts in eliminating violence against women (VAW) in Southeast Asia.

Through Grounding the Global, the Sri Lankan Human Rights Violations documentation team was able to access the 18th session of the HRC to identify key UN mechanisms and experts and discuss the human rights situation of women in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. The delegation included a victim of human rights violations in post conflict Jafna.





Strategic resources

Much love and labour went into two programme publications in 2011: *Different but not Divided: Women's Perspectives on Intersectionality* (providing new views on Asia Pacific women's analysis of intersectional discrimination) from the 2010 Consultation with the Special Rapporteur on VAW; and *Grounding the Global: A Guide to Successful Engagement with the UN Special Procedures Mechanism*. Both publications are key advocacy tools. A request for extra copies was made by officers supporting the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on VAW for distribution to all Special Procedure mandate holders and relevant offices within the OHCHR, including the Women and Gender Unit, and Treaty Bodies. The OHCHR will also distribute the publication to NGOs and advocates, especially to those new to engaging mandate holders.



“An intersectional approach should push us to focus on harms and causes, rather than the legitimacy of identity. Our commonalities (as women) are in our struggles against structures and systems that marginalise and oppress rather than in identities. This requires collective resistance, across identities, across movements to dismantle.”

Different but not Divided:
Women's Perspectives on Intersectionality



“Grounding the Global: A Guide to Successful Engagement with the UN Special Procedures Mechanism” is a useful tool and resource for organisations which want to better understand the international human rights mechanism and how to effectively navigate its channels.

Challenges-Marginalisation of the UN

While APWLD focuses on amplifying the voices of Asia Pacific women, there are increasing signs of fragility of the UN's influence and effectiveness. Globalisation and its negative effects are increasing with international financial institutions and private sectors exercising powerful influence over the governance of the UN, and undemocratic structures and systems within it are enabling power states to dominate and determine agenda and operations. Countries are also grouping together to safeguard their political interests and values at the expense of human rights.

We are also seeing shrinking political spaces for civil society to participate in the UN as an equal partner with member states. In 2011 we were excluded from delivering an oral statement at the HRC due to delay in the session and subsequent minimal time allocated for civil society. Despite these challenges, APWLD continues our activism in reforming, refocusing and strengthening this global governance.

REGIONALISM AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS



We have seen global power shifting from international agencies to regional groupings and bodies in recent years. This shift has primarily been to accelerate economic growth and, to some extent, move political power from traditional sources. This shift

has broad implications for the enjoyment of women's rights and requires us to at least partially direct our advocacy and analysis to these bodies.

In Asia there has been little focus on human rights in regional bodies. After several years of advocacy from civil society, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been the first regional body to specifically develop a human rights mandate.

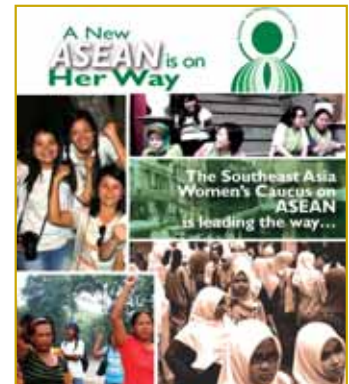
SOUTHEAST ASIA WOMEN'S CAUCUS ON ASEAN (Women's Caucus)

ASEAN has mainly been directed by issues of security and economic growth, rather than state duties. Human rights have been more of an addendum, rather than the core of ASEAN's regionalism.

APWLD members and partners¹ initiated the Southeast Asian Women's Caucus in 2008 as a network that both fosters emerging women's rights movements in the region and advocates for women's rights within ASEAN.

The Women's Caucus, with its 60 organisations and networks in 11 countries, provides a feminist perspective in its advocacy work. The Caucus provides a platform for national and local organisations and networks to explore opportunities to advance their issues in ASEAN, facilitate exchanges and development of advocacy skills, and produce national strategies to engage ASEAN.

Despite the limitations of ASEAN and the repression of states, civil society platforms have grown around it - and in some respects ASEAN has unintentionally enabled movement building that draws from south-south solidarity and capacity building.



¹ Includes Co-Secretariat partner International Women's Rights Action Watch- Asia Pacific (IWRAP)



Creating the First Human Rights Declaration in Asia Pacific

This year the Women's Caucus made significant inroads for women's rights by providing a submission on the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD), the first human rights declaration in Asia Pacific. The Caucus created space to inform the immediate activities of the AHRD Drafting Team, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).



"I trust that we all have gained huge benefits from the lively and multi-faceted discussion. I personally find it very useful, not least for the present endeavour on the AHRD."

Dr. Seree Nothasoot,
AHRD Drafting Team, Thailand

"As the focal point in AICHR on Women and Children, I will carefully study your submission and discuss with my colleagues what is best and workable in ASEAN with reference in particular to women and young girls, and all issues related to gender."

Rosario Gonzales Manalo,
AICHR Representative, Philippines

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Engaging ASEAN Bodies

Over 2011 the Women's Caucus actively engaged key groups within ASEAN: the ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights. This deliberate strategy to open space and dialogue within these bodies has enabled us to influence their direction and content. We made a submission on ACWC's Rules of Procedure and Work Plan, which will set the direction for this commission and guide their operations. We have also been able to attend key events, such as the AICHR Conference on Maternal Health in October in the Philippines. We were granted various informal meetings, particularly by ACWC, and as a result contributed resources to ACWC's upcoming meeting on violence against women and children. Engagement was reciprocal when ASEAN Secretariat members joined Women's Caucus events, including a session for domestic workers in Indonesia in October, to discuss the possible integration of migrant workers human rights into the AHRD.



"I really appreciate the references and request for a meeting you've sent to me and to other representatives and many thanks for all these things. I do believe that those materials will help us in working in ACWC."

Ahmad Taufan Damanik,
ACWC Vice Chair, Child's Rights Representative, Indonesia

"I now know that it is still difficult to use all the existing mechanism to engage with ASEAN because of their policy of non-interference of internal affairs, but I'm happy to see that there still a lot of women groups and civil society groups that are strong and continue to fight for change."

Wah Ku Shee,

Women's League of Burma, on the Regional Worksh upon the AHRD in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Growing ASEAN People's Forum

In May, the Women's Caucus was a visual and vocal force during the ASEAN People's Forum (APF), a growing and diverse civil society space on ASEAN. We initiated dialogues with other organisations on how to engage ASEAN and collaborated for common ideas. We also:

- Took on leadership roles within the steering committees and provided substantial interventions in the plenary sessions and organised parallel events.
- Participated in the drafting of the final statement which is sent to the heads of state attending the ASEAN Summit.
- Honed the leadership skills of Women's Caucus members, especially as the APF is an amalgam of diverse actors and agenda.



"...I see that there is only one woman speaker among 4 men at the panel. I hope that maybe in the next ASEAN Civil Society /APF, there would be more women speaking. There continue to be limited space for women to participate in the decision making processes, even under this so-called people-centered ASEAN. But from the perspectives of the CSOs, can you please tell us how we can further increase women's spaces in ASEAN?"

Nadzirah Samsudin

Association for Women in Action and Research (AWARE),
Singapore, Women's Caucus member, in APF plenary session

Gaining Media Attention

The Women's Caucus leadership and interventions in 2011 garnered significant media attention in national and regional publications. The Caucus' statement, "ASEAN Women's Caucus: Can We Still Trust ASEAN", landed on the front page of the *Jakarta Post*, *ASEAN News Network*, and in other national media.

Challenges-Uneven development of women's movements; rapid change in closed processes

Our work on the Women's Caucus is helping to boost women's movements, as various actors pursue women's human rights perspectives in their pursuit of alternative regionalism. However women's movements across Southeast Asia share uneven development and live in varying contexts. Moreover, the developments in ASEAN are happening at a rapid pace and often in closed processes, requiring constant monitoring and careful strategising. These developments have implications in other areas of our work that are equally meant to strengthen the Women's Caucus and allow APWLD to reach out to women's rights actors outside ASEAN that are envisioning regionalisms in their part of Asia Pacific.

The unpredictable pace and scheduling of ASEAN is a challenge that requires constant changes to our programme plans as well as vigilance. Maintaining information flows is in itself extremely time consuming and can result in a lot of reactive, rather than proactive work.



FEMINIST LAW AND PRACTICE

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

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



Making legal history in Malaysia

In July 2011, for the first time the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)- to which the country became a signatory in 1985- was determined to have force of law in Malaysia. APWLD member and Feminist Legal Theory & Practice (FLTP) trainer Honey Tan represented Nurfadilla Ahmad Saikin, who was denied employment as a temporary relief teacher by the district education office because she was pregnant. The suit sought definition of 'gender discrimination', since a definition had yet to be adopted by the Malaysian judiciary, nor had CEDAW been applied for this purpose. This case also set a crucial precedent making international treaties and conventions legally binding and observed as law in the country.

I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the training that APWLD via FLTP gave me... It's a good day to be a lawyer!

Honey Tan

Lawyer, FLTP Trainer, Malaysia



Piloting "Strategies for Change"

The 2011 Regional FLTP training in Thailand provided a unique opportunity for participants, all from South Asia and Southeast Asia, to make use of their group's sub-regional focus with similar socio-cultural and political contexts, for more in-depth discussion and analyses on issues that impact women's rights. 'Strategies for Change', was piloted, which is a multi-pronged approach to analytical frameworks to assess ways to make change, and identify how the FLTP framework can enhance or be used to effectively respond to globalisation, fundamentalism, and militarisation.

Putting training into action

<i>Malaysia</i>	Participant's organisation lead national campaign against sexual harassment and runs legal clinics using FLTP framework
<i>Bangladesh</i>	Participant applied FLTP framework to design training modules on women's rights and violence against women
<i>Laos</i>	Participant used training to support the country's network of Legal & Life Skills of Sex Workers
<i>Thailand</i>	Participant representing disability rights group pioneered two workshops on disability issues at Asia Pacific Feminist Forum, and introduced intersectionality to her organisation to move from service delivery to a rights based perspective



Researching Right to water and sanitation

With the UN's recognition of the right to water and sanitation in 2010, APWLD continued to focus attention on this crucial area for women, who are disproportionately affected. After mapping our members' work on water and sanitation, a specially-themed September issue of our newsletter Forum News was released. Research findings incorporated a feminist perspective and analysis, and laid the groundwork for more advocacy work and a campaign to be done in the future. Research on the right to water continued with work presented at the Asian Rural Women's Coalition in India. The event was supported by APWLD to map women's groups in the region working on the right to water and sanitation.



Challenges-Devaluation of international rights mechanisms; declining funding for women's rights issues

In 2011, we have seen devaluation of international mechanisms protecting women's rights- the mechanisms that FLP teaches to help women lawyers, activities, academics and politicians activate their work. While the adoption of human rights conventions is a major step, the conventions are not always ratified and translated into practice on the ground. We have also continued to witness the tightening of laws and regulations on the women's movements and civil society, such as a proposed law heavily regulating NGOs in Cambodia. This creates any number of restrictions, from freedom of assembly and expression, to human rights advocacy and acceptance of foreign assistance.

It is also important to recognise the recurring financial pressure on individual NGOs in the face of changing donor funding trends to implement learning from our workshops and trainings.



WOMEN IN POWER

WOMEN'S Leadership

Across the globe women in political decision-making roles remain an exception rather than the norm. While some parts of Asia Pacific have increased the number of women in the political arena in the past five years, it remains low by international standards and well below the critical mass required. In 2011 those figures were 18.2% for national politics in Asia and 3% in the Pacific Islands². The region continues to be at the bottom rankings but with at least six national elections expected in 2012, there are opportunities to increase this.

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

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







Strengthening Gender and Politics Training

Recognising the limitations of having smaller numbers of women attend regional workshops and the need to run programmes at local level, we piloted a new Gender and Politics Training of Trainers (ToT) in June in Nepal. The regional training brought 15 participants from eight countries. The module is a direct follow up to 2010's Gender and Politics ToT Level 2 analysis, to strengthen the programme by integrating specific themes on women's roles in post conflict environments.



² InterParliamentary Union, September 3, 2011

Advocating at National Level

 Nepal	Participant organised dialogue with women members of Nepal's Constituent Assembly. High level of women's representation and the legislative advances made as a result
 Cambodia	Participant and her organisation went on to train provincial women leaders , also conducting a training of trainers for Cambodian activists on Gender, CEDAW and provincial administration of law
 Malaysia	Participant submitted a proposal to conduct a workshop on "Gender and Decision-Making" at the state's Women's Advisory Council Meeting in 2012
 Kyrgyzstan	Participant will initiate a national advocacy and lobbying campaign for election quota for local women for the 2012 election

"This training will enable strengthening capacity of my organization to become more effective in terms of building transformative leadership and making changes in politics in favour of women's human rights."

Participant of the ToT



Marking milestones for new democracies in Asia

In September, APWLD hosted "Amplifying Women's Voices: The Second Asia Pacific Conference on Women in Politics & Governance" in Timor Leste. It marked a milestone for the youngest democracy in Asia to be able to host its first event of this nature, and provided context of a young democracy in a post-conflict environment, with Asia Pacific's second highest female representation in parliament³. Women politicians were able to strengthen their network among the region's MPs.



"I am learning from different country about their situation, their struggle and how they deal with the situation. It's encouraged me to apply with my condition here that sometimes also face similar situation".

Participant,
 "Amplifying Women's Voices: The Second Asia Pacific Conference
 on Women in Politics & Governance"



"This workshop gave me an opportunity to interact with politicians who have struggled for longer periods and could listen to their wisdom. This, to me, is definitely is a wonderful memory to take back and of course a source of strength"

Participant,
 "Amplifying Women's Voices: The Second Asia Pacific Conference
 on Women in Politics & Governance"

³ Inter-Parliamentary Union

Building affirmative action

In September, Papua New Guinea's bill for 22 seats for women unanimously passed its first reading and was expected to become law in November. However, it was halted by parliamentary upheaval when the Prime Minister suddenly changed. APWLD first joined the movement supporting the bill in 2008 and publicly called for a gender-based quota with other regional activists in 2009 at a regional dialogue on furthering women's participation in political processes. In 2010 we released a call for action circulated and endorsed by various APWLD members.

“What APWLD was to enhance what I had learned in my work and took them and enhanced them and helped me to sharpen it... And what I think is that, this 22 seat campaign was an initiative from my organisation also and that was something that we have received support from APWLD through media awareness and facilitation from the secretariat”

Susan Setae

Executive Officer, Papua Hahine Social Action Forum



Despite the PNG bill stalling, it has created a ripple effect in other Asia Pacific countries, such as the Solomon Islands which is looking to emulate the process. In October, a Temporary Special Measure (TSM) Convention was held to review the existing TSM campaign for women to be represented and incorporate convention outcomes into electoral reform initiatives. Timor Leste recently amended a decree to increase quotas, while in Malaysia women have endorsed the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections.



Transformative leadership of participants extends to the mentoring of the movement and new leadership of women. We also see participants taking leadership roles beyond the national context. For example, in addition to being a member of Nepal's Constituent Assembly Binda Pandey has been elected to the position of Deputy Member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation. We also see appointments to key ASEAN bodies.



“...it supported me to internalize and strengthen the understanding and confidence within me... I am basically the trade union activist for almost two decade and none of the unionist has got opportunity to participate its program, yet. But with my reference, few friends from women, students and political movement have been part of this. After the program, they have been even bold and confident in terms of gender perspective. I have found lot change among them in terms of thinking beyond the border for reference and using international instrument in their work.”

Binda Pandey

Member of Nepal CA & Governing Body
of the International Labour Organization

Challenges-Lack of support for women in politics

Despite some increases in women’s leadership at national level in some countries in Asia, we continue to see their selection result from family dynasties or influence. We also see little increase in women’s political participation at the local level , or of marginalised women, particularly rural, indigenous and migrant women.

While we saw some success for our support of a gender quota in PNG and the ripple effect in the Solomon Islands, we need to recognise that increased numbers do not automatically equate to improved rights and conditions for women. Democratic restrictions that require military representation, corruption, and cronyism, as well as cultural barriers continue to limit women’s political leadership.

Women who completed our TOT most commonly noted funding support as a likely barrier to implementing their personal action plan. To address this we successfully applied for funding from the Dutch Government’s FLOW fund which will allow graduates to apply for funding support to implement their programme.

BREAKING OUT OF MARGINALISATION (BOOM)

Rural, indigenous and migrant women remain amongst the most economically and politically marginalised groups in the region. In 2011, UNDP released their Global Human Development Report which found that the dominant development model, promoted for the past 20 years, has not been an effective method to alleviate poverty, marginalisation or inequalities for the poor, particularly women. This finding reinforced the work of our programme and members. In order to challenge these inequalities, documentation to collect evidence and case studies is needed.

The BOOM programme focuses on strengthening the voice of rural, indigenous and migrant women to challenge discriminatory practices and laws. Women are trained and supported to document human rights violations (HRVs) and conduct participatory research. These findings are brought to national, regional and international fora to instigate change



Documenting human rights violations and building capacity

Eight country documentation teams detailing human rights violations produced case work and plans for advocacy at an APWLD workshop. This led to two major advancements for the teams of Sri Lanka, which brought cases to lobby at the HRC, and Kyrgyzstan.



“We got first success for our documentation project in Kyrgyzstan. As you know Kyrgyzstan team had documentation research and case study on negative effects of chemicals used in agriculture on the health of rural women farmers of reproductive ages in Kyrgyzstan. We shared documentation case on local and high levels, conducted campaigns and organized discussions. Vice Prime Minister (whom had executive Prime Minister Status at that time) signed a Decree on State catalogue of agrochemicals and pesticides permitted in Kyrgyzstan for 2011-2019! It is so important. Frankly speaking we are inspired with this success.”

Olga Djanaeva,
APWLD Organising Committee member
of documenting HRVs, from Alga,
Rural Women’s Association, Kyrgyzstan



APWLD participated in a fact-finding mission of human rights violations against farming communities in Northern Mindanao, Philippines. APWLD was the only international organisation in the delegation, and strengthened the interest and attention given to the violations. Security issues documenting HRVs were further addressed at a workshop during the Asia Pacific Feminist Forum in December. Following discussion, recommendations were made on how to improve safety, including risk assessments of the impact of documentation, and using fact finding missions to bring broader attention to cases.





As part of APWLD’s capacity-building of women’s indigenous groups, training and support was provided for Madagway Babaeyon, a new women’s indigenous group in the Philippines. They are demanding justice for the murders of indigenous people defending their land rights, and the families left behind. As a result, Madagway Babaeyon was able to launch an advocacy campaign, with support from across the region and the world, at the Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Summit in December in the Philippines.

The Road to Rio+20

It’s been 20 years since the principles and action plan for sustainable development were agreed upon in Rio at the UN Conference on Environment and Development. Yet two decades after the first Rio conference, great social and economic inequities still remain, especially for rural and indigenous women.



Throughout 2011, APWLD participated in the preparatory process for Rio+20- UN Conference on Sustainable Development, with members providing input into key documents and taking on leadership roles through the Women’s Major Group in advocacy fora:

- Provided input into the “Zero Draft” of the Rio+20 outcome document
- Seated in the Women’s Major Group to input into their statement on gender justice, and worked with other Asian members on the regional preparatory process to bring an Asia Pacific context
- Participated in drafting of the Asian Women’s Report and Declaration on Gender Justice and the Green Economy, as part of the Asian Women’s Forum on Gender Justice and the Green Economy Special Focus on Water, Energy, and Food Security, to prepare for the regional meeting for Rio+20



Climate Justice

Unjust global structures continue to expose economically poor women in the global south to the increasing effects of global warming. These women are rarely heard in climate debates yet have essential knowledge of sustainability and resilience.

Awareness raising, information sharing and capacity building for climate change related-policies and politics and women’s human rights urgently need to be strengthened. Issues raised through climate change impact cannot be addressed in isolation with sustainable development policy. While the use of “gender” has gained recognition and gender language has been included in official documents of climate change events in 2011, there is also concern that the term has been poorly conceptualised and doesn’t include women as key agents of change.

2011 activities marked an important step for APWLD to bring the perspective of women’s rights based on the experiences of rural and indigenous women into the collective climate justice messages carried by wider civil society.





UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)- COP17

To provide a strong gender perspective to international fora, APWLD participated in negotiations and advocacy throughout the year, in the lead up to the COP17 in September in South Africa. Starting with the first round of negotiations in April in Bangkok, APWLD attended meetings for the Transitional Committee for the Green Climate Fund in Tokyo, and played an official role as an observer organisation as part of the Women and Gender Constituency of COP17, participating in meetings and events both prior to and during this key global environmental event.



Climate Change Research

As part of APWLD's focus on climate change and its impact on women in the region, five research projects were completed in 2011, documenting how climate change has adversely impacted rural women's rights and livelihoods, as well as their current practices to deal with them. Research was done in collaboration with rural and indigenous women and briefs were launched at the COP17. They were brought to the attention of government delegations from Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Japan, as well as other research countries and ASEAN countries during the conference. In addition, APWLD was able to bring rural and indigenous women to the COP17 negotiations in Asia Pacific for the first time as official delegates.



"I was able to share the issues and concerns the women in the communities have been tackling with the participants at the side event during the COP17. I found there are common problems women face such as worsening poverty, worsening living conditions, which have the combined impact of insufficient government spending for basic infrastructure and social services, development projects such as tourism negatively affecting the community and climate change. From this research, I will continue to work with the community women to raise awareness and develop our adaptive capacity."

Kurukulasuriya Antanat Roshanthi Fernando,
President and member, Small Fisheries Women's Society

Climate Financing

In protecting women's rights in the context of global warming and climate change, accountability, transparency and a gender-responsive climate financing mechanism are essential for institutions that provide financing. In 2011, APWLD officially challenged the World Bank's (WB) role as trustee in the climate financing mechanism of the UNFCCC. APWLD recognised that its possible conflict of interest, combined with the negative experiences of women in WB-funded projects, created the potential for greater risks for women. We made an oral intervention at the 2nd meeting of the Transitional Committee for the Green Climate Fund in July in Japan. The intervention was supported by the delegations and the legal analysis was submitted to the UNFCCC.



Cross-cutting climate finance and women's rights

This issue was followed up during the COP17. At APWLD's invitation, the Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights attended an APWLD panel at the UN Conference on Climate Change and issued a press statement urging that climate finance should not add to the external debt burdens of poor recipient countries. This underlined the meaningful and effective participation of all stakeholders including women and other marginalised groups at the country level.

"Climate finance should be provided in the form of grants and not loans, ... Loans also have the potential to undermine the enjoyment of human rights by those who shoulder the burden of climate change: women, rural and indigenous peoples and the poor in developing countries. The (World) Bank should not have a central role in the new climate finance mechanism". "Its problems with unsuccessful projects, history of forcefully encouraging developing countries to implement economic policies that have an adverse social impact, and its record of financial support for projects harmful to the environment that may have contributed to climate change, suggest that it may not be the most legitimate institution for managing and delivering climate finance"

Dr. Cephas Lumina,

Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights



Challenges- Security threats for researchers and participants

Marginalisation of the issues facing women and tactics to intimidate their efforts create threatening and dangerous environments for women to gather research. Documentation work was halted in West Papua after conflicts erupted as a result of strained political situations, and the presence of armed security and military such as in the Philippines, who protect the economic interests of corporations and government over the rights of indigenous women, slowed efforts. Through our HRV training, we work with women to recognise threats and take action to minimise them as much as possible, as well as increase their presence and security by joining forces with other local organisations.

Migrant Domestic Workers Breaking out of Marginalisation

Employment in private households is the most common occupation for women in Asia Pacific, accounting for nearly one third of all female employment in the region. Domestic work is also the largest driver of labour migration in the region for women trying to escape poverty.

Much south–south migration, especially temporary, circular and seasonal migration, is unrecorded and migrants are undocumented. Without documentation and in the absence of protective legal frameworks, they are vulnerable to exploitation, and are largely invisible to policymakers.

Destination countries are sourcing cheaper migrant domestic workers from less developed countries, such as Cambodia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

To give a voice to domestic workers, APWLD, as Secretariat for United for Foreign Domestic Workers Rights Coalition (UFDWR), campaigns for the recognition of domestic work as work and subsequently the enjoyment of all labour and human rights.



International recognition of ‘domestic work as work’

After years of advocacy to have domestic work recognised as work, in July the International Labour Organisation adopted a “Convention and Recommendation on Decent Work for Domestic Workers” (DWC). This was a significant achievement and the result of collective global advocacy often led by Asia Pacific, where the majority of domestic workers reside and originate. One of the most significant gains of the UFDWR network has been to exert influence on the passage of the ILO-DWC. UFDWR campaigned to influence the votes of Indonesia and Malaysia, resulting in Indonesia changing its stance and supporting the Convention.



“The UFDWRs’ support to send me as its official representative to the International Labour Conference (ILC) is a concrete manifestation of their commitment and paying importance to the role of the grassroots movement of migrant domestic workers.

As a domestic worker and a unionist myself, being physically present in that historical event when the C189 was deliberated and passed is a privilege and a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I am also very proud to represent UFDWRs, being one of the most active and consistent amongst the domestic workers’ rights regional advocacy networks.*

My participation to the ILOC further strengthened my conviction in the importance of a strong grassroots migrant domestic workers’ movement supported by dedicated and committed NGOs. If not for the decades of hard work of the grassroots domestic workers including migrants and their advocates, the C189 could not have been a reality.”

Eman C. Villanueva,

Vice Chairperson of Filipino Migrant Workers’ Union, Hong Kong and representative of UFDWR and the Asian Migrants’ Coordinating Body to the 100th ILC

*Convention and Recommendation on Decent Work for Domestic Workers



Influencing Convention text

The UFDWR Coalition also led a regional submission on the convention and influenced the text in several places. Key changes to the draft text were advocated by members of the network and others who signed on to our submission:

- Recognition of Freedom of Association: protecting the right of domestic workers to establish and join organisations, federations and confederations
- More details of contract terms and conditions, including addresses of all parties, paid annual leave and daily and weekly rest periods; food and accommodation terms, if applicable
- Written job offers or contracts prior to moving, to prevent contract substitution after arriving at the new position
- Maternity and pregnancy protections
- Adequate protection from abuse, including laws on the obligations of agencies and employers, and from fees charged by private employment agencies taken from salaries or payments
- Prevention of compulsory pregnancy or HIV testing

These changes and a critical analysis of the new convention and recommendations were published in “Did we get what we wanted? The UFDWR Analysis of the New Domestic Work Instruments by APWLD and Caram-Asia”. The publication was created for activists advocating for ratification at national levels.



“The [APWLD] Labour and Migration and UFDWR initiatives facilitate the sharpening of our position on different issues affecting FDWs and further facilitate disseminating of information thereby expanding our international reach”

Cynthia Ca Abdon-Tellez,
Mission for Foreign Migrant Workers, Hong Kong



Organising domestic workers

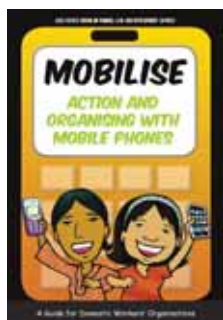
While the DWC is an important achievement, it doesn't have value unless implemented locally and used by workers organisations as an advocacy tool.

To make the convention a useful advocacy tool for domestic worker advocates we published a guide to the new ILO instruments "Know Your Rights, Claim Your Rights; Under the New ILO Convention on Domestic Workers". It has been distributed across the UFDWR membership, with plans to translate it into at least four more languages. It has already been used at the ASEAN Migrant Workers event in November, and the Malaysia Trade Union Congress, with over 800,000 members, has decided to re-print the guide itself and distribute it to its members in 2012.

Overcoming isolation of migrant domestic workers and their lack of collective representation is central to advancing rights. For the past 18 months we have been exploring ways to increase freedom of association rights using mobile phones. This research reveals that communication liberties are essential to the enjoyment of rights and to create enabling environments for other rights. Our research, conducted primarily in Taiwan and Hong Kong, provided an insight into the ways migrant domestic workers currently use mobile technology and how the technology could be better put into action to organise workers and protect rights.

As a result we created the "Mobilise Guide: Action and Organising with Mobile Phones". The first of its kind, the guide provides practical instructions to migrant worker groups on both technology use and organising.

Another advocacy tool was released in December. 'The New Slave in the Kitchen: Debt Bondage and Women Migrant Domestic Workers in Asia', outlines how the situation of women migrant domestic workers commonly leads to debt bondage and slave-like conditions. It analyses the connection to trafficking, smuggling and prostitution, and provides recommendations for changes for governments and other institutions. This will be put into action in 2012.



Challenges- Space for women migrant domestic workers; national ratifications of convention

Despite accessing various channels and networks the UFDWR Coalition was unable to make space for women migrant domestic workers at the IL Conference. While unions were generally supportive of women workers, they declined to give up any seats. In addition, restrictive government policies for domestic workers to leave destination countries during their contracts, even if only for short periods, further impact this loss of opportunity for women to participate and advocate directly in human rights mechanisms.

International migration lacks a binding multilateral regime. The UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families has been ratified by only 34 countries to date, with very few being developed countries, and only three countries in Asia Pacific¹. There is a risk that the new Convention on Domestic Workers will face the same restricted application. However, we will continue to support our members to have the Convention ratified and will explore other opportunities in 2012 to influence governments to adopt these measures for domestic workers.

¹ United Nations Treaty Collection, www.treaties.un.org, 2012

Women Human Rights Defenders

Efforts over the past nine years to gain recognition of the specific issues facing Women Human Rights Defenders have been a successful element of APWLD's work. The formation of the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRD IC) has brought greater recognition of the needs of women HRDs in the work of mainstream human rights organisations as well as governments.



WHRD IC is a resource and advocacy network for the protection and support of women human rights defenders worldwide.

In 2011, APWLD continued to serve on the Coalition's executive, hosting the WHRD IC website and distributing the key advocacy guidebook, **"Claiming Rights, Claiming Justice"**.

In March 2011, a new network was established in Papua New Guinea to support and protect women human rights defenders at risk, especially important with the physical isolation of the country creating more barriers and threats.

APWLD issued action alerts about women human rights defenders facing threats and violence, such as the unsolved death of the daughter of the WHRD Network Chair in Nepal, as well as cases in Bangladesh and PNG. We also used our networks to collect signatures for a WHRD IC petition to stop the silencing of a Malaysian human rights defender for defending Burmese migrant workers whose rights were being violated.

In April, WHRD IC raised awareness of and campaigned against a proposed law in Cambodia to strictly regulate NGOs and associations. The potential law is seen to undermine, rather than promote civil society and could be used to silence civil society criticism of the government and its agencies.



Throughout 2011, WHRD IC devoted much of its network energies to creating the "Global Report on the Situation of Women Human Rights Defenders". The report includes 43 case studies that illuminate specific trends and experiences of WHRDs. It plays a crucial part in advancing the recognition of WHRDs. The analysis includes how to respond to current challenges with protection strategies outlined.



Advocating for a Rights-Based Perspective on Aid and Development Effectiveness

Development policy, both locally and internationally, is often created without the voice of women's rights groups. Frequently what counts as 'development' is simply a euphemism for economic growth. Throughout 2011,

APWLD engaged in global advocacy and negotiations around development through our position in the BetterAid coordinating group and the Open Forum for Civil Society Development Effectiveness.



Engaging CSOs in Gender Equality and Development Effectiveness

In March we held a regional CSO workshop with 23 CSOs in Chiang Mai, Thailand. These included APWLD members and partners across migrant workers, women's rights, disability rights, civil society umbrella organisations, and indigenous and rural women. One of the most successful aspects of the workshop was expanding the number and diversity of organisations engaged in civil society effectiveness and development cooperation debate. Participants analysed the **"Open Forum Development Effectiveness Principles"** and its application from a gender perspective, and provided guidelines and feminist recommendations for CSOs to promote gender equality.



As well, key migrant rights groups noted that migrant organisations had previously not been involved in the platform. To promote sustainable outcomes from the networking and awareness generated at the consultation, participants have been using our special list-serve to provide updates on opportunities for engaging with the Open Forum and BetterAid processes.

"The consultation enabled me to have a better informed understanding of the issues around DE (Development Effectiveness)."

"I have heard about PD (Paris Declaration) and DE, I have now become more confident and able to share the understanding with relevant CSOs and other stakeholders in my country."

Participants in regional CSO workshop



Mobilising for Busan High Level Forum

In June APWLD co-organised a global consultation of women's organisations to strategise for the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) in Busan, Korea. At the preparatory meeting we collaborated with women's groups from other regions to produce the "Women's Key Demands", a document outlining the feminist position on development effectiveness. The document was circulated, translated and utilised in interactions with civil society and governments prior to and during the HLF-4.



APWLD convened an Asia Pacific strategy meeting following the consultation to mobilise women’s engagement with the process and provide increased evidence of the impact of aid processes for women’s rights in the region.

As a member of both the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness and BetterAid, APWLD engaged with other networks to undertake advocacy, information dissemination and capacity building in the lead up to the HLF-4, and the Civil Society Forum held prior to the HLF-4. As a result, ‘gender equality and empowerment’ were positioned as a prominent theme in the HLF-4. The Gender Consultation Global Report was disseminated widely and several participants in the regional workshop were invited to attend national and sub-regional Open Forum workshops, where the gender equality principles were shared.

Global Women’s Forum at HLF-4

APWLD co-organised the Global Women’s Forum within the Busan Civil Society Forum in November, as part of the Busan Global Civil Society Forum held prior to the HLF-4. The Forum offered a space for women’s rights and other civil society organisations to strategise and develop inputs aimed at both the CSO Forum and the official HLF-4. Approximately 70 women participated in the Global Women’s Forum, where they developed positions on key themes:



- Ownership & accountability and results including the future for development cooperation and its governance
- South-South cooperation, Triangular Cooperation and Future of Cooperation Governance
- Private sector and development
- High level session on gender equality and the US initiative of Gender Equality Action Plan



Securing commitments to gender equality and empowerment

Our efforts resulted in commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment included in the Outcome Document of the Forum- the “Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation”- as well as a commitment from the US government to revise their Gender Equality Action Plan. APWLD was appointed to the ‘G13’ to draft a civil society architecture paper around post-Busan civil society engagement in 2012.

This work will also provide part of the basis for future implications for APWLD’s upcoming work on sustainable and just development frameworks, including the lead up to Rio+20 in 2012, and ongoing advocacy to promote sustainable development with gender equality at its heart.

APWLD, as part of the BetterAid coordinating group, received extensive media coverage of our work in Busan, including top stories in IPS-Asia Newswire, The Korea Herald, and The Guatemala Times. Our advocacy scarf worn by the coordinating group and key supporters throughout the Forum brought visibility and solidarity across HLF-4 events and in media, and was a topic of discussion among HLF-4 negotiating representatives.



Asia Pacific Feminist Forum



For some time APWLD members had identified the need for a regional women's rights gathering.

Prior to its launch in December, there had never been a feminist forum for the region. Internationally the World Conference on Women, last held in 1995, had provided a broader platform for women in Asia Pacific and globally to identify obstacles blocking the advancement of women, and collaborate to build a stronger women's movement.

The Asia Pacific Feminist Forum came at a time when civil society organisations were experiencing a difficult funding climate, especially those supporting human rights. There was also a need to create a more cohesive women's movement and collaborate more closely with diverse women's movements operating nationally, particularly LBT women and women with disabilities, and to nurture emerging activists.

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So APWLD hosted the first Asia Pacific Feminist Forum (APFF) in Chiang Mai, Thailand in December 2011. During the two and a half day-event, 130 women's rights activists focused on building new networks and collaborations, creating new movements, learning about struggles and discovering new skills and technology. The APFF trialed creative methods of learning and sharing and fused a sense of fun and solidarity with analysis and movement building.



Building capacity and networks

- Analysing the donor climate for women's rights organizations
- Exploring how to incorporate feminist Monitoring and Evaluation into organisation's activities for more accurate analysis of outcomes
- Feminist discussion on sustainable development
- Disability issues pioneered by an FLTP graduate

- Capacity-building via a ‘Tweet for Action’ workshop, where activists learned how to use the social media platform Twitter for activism and effective campaigning
- “Tour of the UN”, combining the methodology of FLTP training, with the expertise of Grounding the Global activists engaging UN mechanisms, including CESC. The workshop was aimed at equipping participants with the necessary skills, knowledge and strategies in dealing with various UN mechanisms

Key Outcomes

- APWLD was asked to organise an annual forum to gather donors and enable dialogue with women’s organisations in Asia Pacific
- Initiation of “Asia Pacific Women with Disability United”, the first network of its kind in the region
- Participants will apply skills and knowledge in dealing with various UN mechanisms when they attend the 56th session of CSW in February and Rio+20 in June, along with other UN events in 2012



Organisational Development

Feminist Approach to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

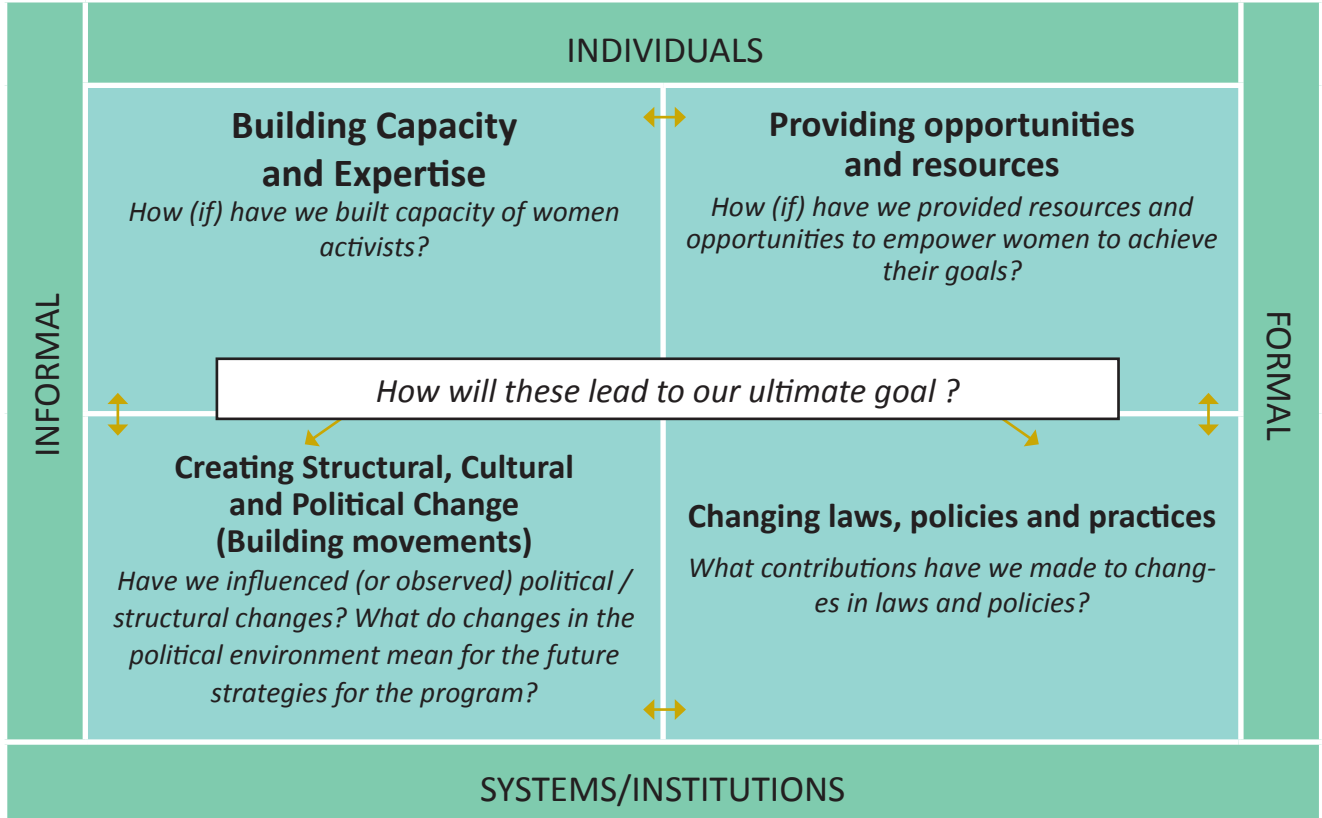


In 2011 APWLD adapted and trialled a monitoring and evaluation framework to support our work in analysing and documenting APWLD's Theory of Change, the impact of our programmes and the context we operate in. The tool illustrates different areas and levels in which change can occur. This serves to map ultimate objectives, the structural, cultural and legal, or policy areas we want to impact, and analyse and document how we are progressing to achieving the objectives. Importantly, this framework focuses on structural change as the ultimate target.

The application of this M&E framework is a work in progress and will be most effective if we are able to map change that occurs as a result of our movements, not simply single activities.

We believe feminist M&E should include:

- methods which benefit the work of women's rights activists
- analysis of political and structural contexts and change (both positive and negative)
- acknowledgment that creating structural changes to benefit women is a complex, long-term process that cannot be simply measured and attributed in direct and tangible terms
- women within the constituency as the key stakeholders, 'implementers' and drivers of our M&E
- promoting organisational learning and accountability to our constituencies





Communications

APWLD's new website went 'live' in March 2011 and traffic has since tripled. Visitors are more engaged with site content and spend three times the length of time exploring content. The site has also enabled a significant increase in subscribers to our electronic newsletter. Staff capacity-building has begun to ensure all staff can take part in site development and updates.



In 2011, APWLD began harnessing the power and reach of social media for activism, disseminating information more quickly and to more strategically targeted audiences to engage them and ignite action. These platforms, along with APWLD's website, community e-groups and html emails, have expanded the reach of APWLD's work and enabled the organisation to strengthen relations and engage with members, partners, funders and supporters in channels of their choice.

By using its strategic communication channels, APWLD gathered support for nominations for three UN Special Mandate holder positions, gathering over 400 signatures for each from key organisations and individuals in Asia Pacific.

APWLD also used its communication channels and extensive network to quickly and effectively disseminate calls for action around the region, to protect human rights defenders (Malaysia) and migrant domestic workers (Indonesia and Saudi Arabia), and demand governments stop violence against indigenous women (Philippines), among others.

Rohini, Your Passion Lives

APWLD was deeply saddened by the passing of one of our most promising and passionate secretariat members, Rohini Ghadiok. Rohini was an incredibly hard working, intelligent and committed young woman. She inspired us all with her fierce sense of social justice and her intellect. She challenged injustices even when it would be easier to ignore them. She taught us all a lot about many things and she was particularly committed to making our work as accessible as possible to women of all backgrounds.

It is truly sad that to lose such a young woman dedicated to the cause of women's justice. We are all proud and privileged to have worked with and known Rohini. Her passing is a tremendous loss for her family, for APWLD and for the Women's movement. She was respected and loved by her colleagues and friends in Chiang Mai and all those she touched through her work with APWLD. She will be painfully missed by all of us here at APWLD and in the movement.

Rohini had been with the APWLD Secretariat as the Programme Officer for both the Women in Power Programme and the Feminist Law and Practice Programme.

Her family has created a foundation in her name, and in December at the Asia Pacific Feminist Forum almost US\$1,500 was raised from a live auction. For more information, please go to www.rohinighadiokfoundation.org.



Rani Jethmalani, APWLD founder and inspiring women's rights activist



In 2011 we also lost one of our founders and women's rights activist Rani Jethmalani. Rani was a leader in the movement to eliminate violence against women in India and Asia Pacific. She used law to challenge inequality and focused on cases regarding dowry victims and bride-burning and made significant advancements in the rights of women.

She also co-founded WARLAW (Women's Action Research and Legal Action for Women), providing free legal assistance to dowry victims, and was instrumental in presenting a gender-neutral perspective to law in India. One of the founders of APWLD, she empowered women across Asia Pacific as a trainer in feminist legal theory and practices.

"Rani was a friend and fellow activist. We all join APWLD in lamenting her loss." – Hina Jilani, founding member APWLD; member UN Fact Finding mission on Gaza Conflict; former Special Representative of UN Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders

Her tremendous leadership and inspiring legal mind will continue to mobilise our members and other activists in the women's movement.

Financial Narrative

In 2011 APWLD received funds totalling USD858,547.86. This is an increase of almost 50% on the previous year. Our expenditure for the year was USD903,256.61, including liabilities. Our increased budget reflects growing programmes, particularly Regional Mechanisms and our Breaking out of Marginalisation programmes as well as the cost of holding the Asia Pacific Feminist Forum.

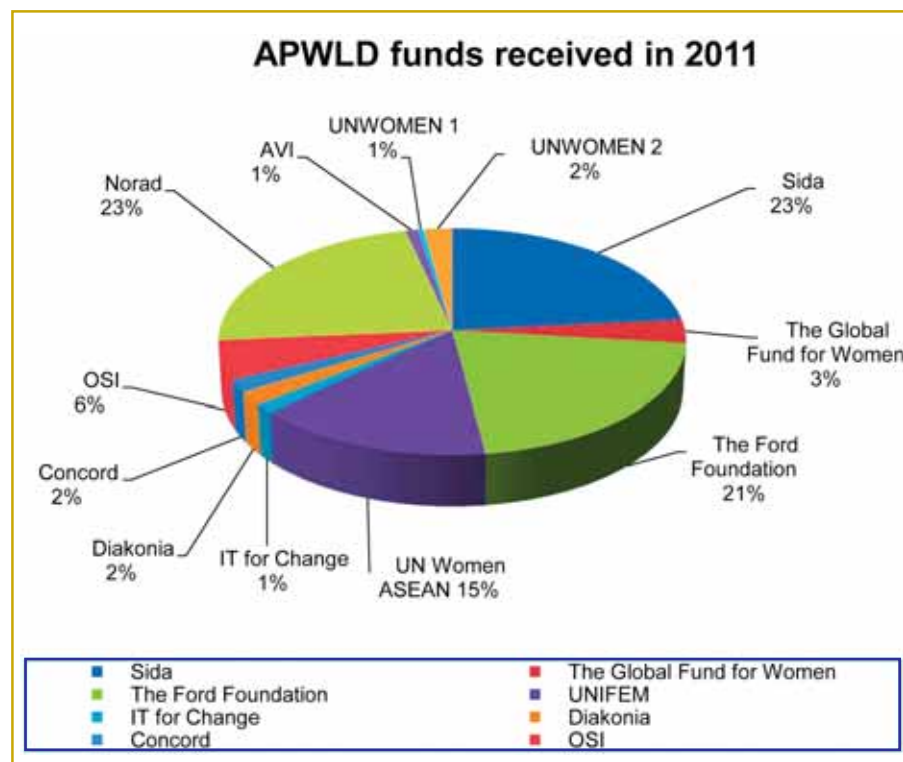
In 2011 we continued to receive core funding support from SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) and the Ford Foundation. We welcomed the support of Norad (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation) for the first time who provided funding support for the Breaking out of Marginalisation programme and the Women in Power Programme. UN Women provided support for the Regional Mechanisms programme (through funds from CIDA-Canadian International Development Agency) as well as two smaller grants for Grounding the Global activities. We received support from Open Society Institute for our Regional Consultation with UN Human Rights Special Procedures and Diakonia for our Feminist Legal Theory and Practice workshop, both new funders for APWLD. We also received grants from Concord Europe for our workshop on Development Effectiveness, IT for Change for our research with Migrant Domestic Workers use of ICT and Australian Volunteers Abroad/ Planet Wheeler Foundation to fund women with disabilities to attend the APFF.

The Global Fund for Women (GFW) continued to support our Women in Power programme and together with GFW and DAWN we submitted a successful joint proposal with to the Dutch Government's FLOW fund which will allow us to expand our Women in Power programme in 2012.

Almost all planned activities for the year were undertaken with several additional activities added to our programme of work where opportunities arose.

Programme costs amounted to 76% of total costs. Institutional development costs, which include network support, non-programme resources and materials, member governance meetings including the triennial General Assembly and staff development amounted to 11.5%. Administration costs were also 11.5%.

Our financial accounts have been audited and approved by HMD Consultants Co. Ltd. of Bangkok. Our auditors undertake both financial and management audits to identify any risks or improvements associated with our internal management systems. The auditor identified no materials weaknesses or reportable conditions during the audit.



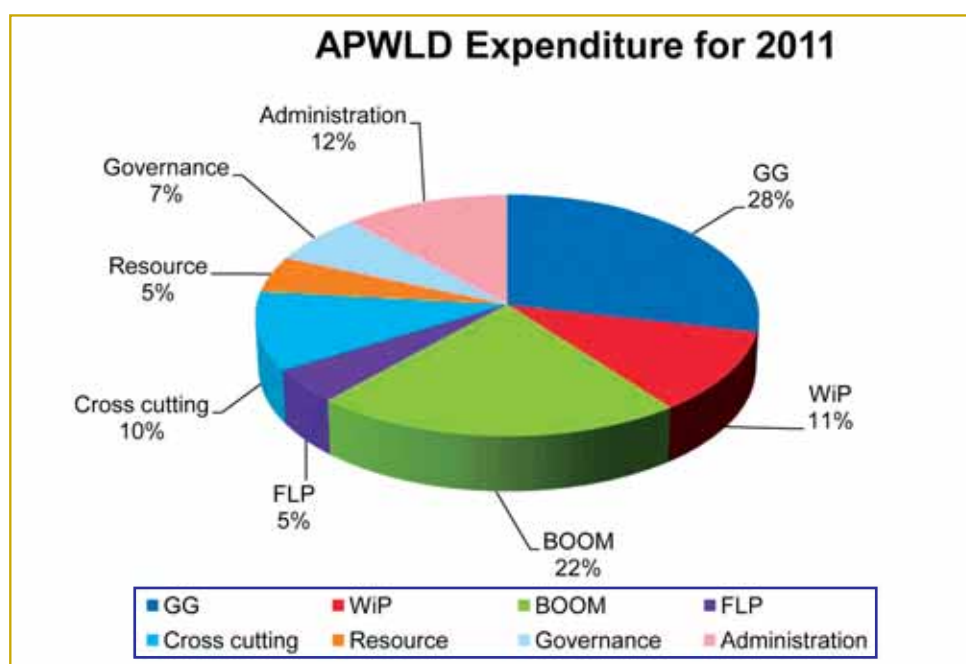
ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT

Chiang Mai, Thailand

Fund receipts in 2011

Balance forward from 2010	237,725.27
Fund received in 2011	
Sida	201,100.32
The Global Fund for Women	29,281.55
The Ford Foundation	180,946.60
UN Women ASEAN	129,605.55
IT for Change	11,599.46
Diakonia	16,153.71
Concord	15,164.88
OSI	48,252.43
Norad	195,893.49
AVI	8,090.62
UNWOMEN 1	4,066.28
UNWOMEN 2	18,392.97
Total funds received in 2011	858,547.86
Total funds	1,096,273.13
Other Income	
- Exchange Rate Gains	206.58
- Bank interest	3,229.26
- Miscellaneous income	1,668.63
Total funds available	\$1,101,377.60

(a) Average rate of exchange : USD1 = Baht 30.90



ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT

Chiangmai, Thailand
Expenditure in 2011

Title	Budget Used (USD)
GROUNDING THE GLOBAL (GG)	243,408.29
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	63,974.89
- Capacity Building	4,915.86
- Secretariat costs	808.77
- Programme Implementation costs	40,350.37
- <i>SEA Women's Caucus on ASEAN</i>	133,358.40
WOMEN IN POWER (WiP)	94,794.75
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	41,106.71
- Capacity Building	31,510.34
- Secretariat costs	1,311.75
- Programme Implementation costs	20,865.95
BREAKING OUT OF MAGINALISATION (BOOM)	186,061.97
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	41,108.45
- Capacity Building	50,328.24
- Secretariat costs	1,526.64
- Programme Implementation costs	40,756.40
- <i>Research : Labour and Migration</i>	18,701.75
- <i>Aid/Development Effectiveness</i>	33,640.49
FEMINIST LAW & PRACTICE (FLP)	39,272.25
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	1,108.94
- Capacity Building	16,607.86
- Secretariat costs	689.15
- Programme Implementation costs	20,866.30
CROSS CUTTING INITIATIVES	90,076.13
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	76,008.31
- Secretariat costs	837.53
- Programme Implementation costs	3,230.29
Sub-total A	653,613.39
Institutional Development	
- Resource Development and Publications	41,288.81
- Network consolidation	36,560.11
- Governance/Management Meetings	17,076.21
- Staff Development	3,512.27
Sub-total B	98,437.40
Administration	99,529.24
Accounts payable	51,676.58
Total Expenditure 2011	\$ 903,256.61

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

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

I have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of **ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT** as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 and the related statements of income and expenses for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

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

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT** as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.



(Mrs. Pilanthana Ketthongsook)

Authorised Auditor No.3650

Bangkok,

March 28, 2012

WOMEN OF APWLD

Regional Council Members



Standing, pictured from left to right

Titiek Kartika Hendrastiti...*(Indonesia)*
 Edwina Kotoisuva...*(Fiji)*
 Chuzaifah Yuniyanti to represent Kamala Chandrakirana...*(Indonesia)*
 Virisila Buadromo...*(Fiji Islands)*
 Zanaa Jurmed...*(Mongolia)*
 Kate Lappin...*(Regional Coordinator)*
 Olga Djanaeva...*(Kyrgyzstan)*

Vernie Yocogan-Diano...*(Philippines)*
 Khushi Kabir to represent Nijera Kori ...*(Bangladesh)*
 Elisa Tita Lubi...*(Philippines)*
 Azra Talat Sayeed...*(Pakistan)*
 Madhu Mehra...*(India)*
 Virada Somswadi...*(Thailand)*
 Cynthia Ca Abdon-Tellez...*(Hong Kong, POC)*

Sitting, pictured from left to right

Mikiko Otani...*(Japan)*
 Cho Young Sook...*(Korea)*
 Noor Farida Ariffin...*(Malaysia)*
 Sisters in Islam...*(Malaysia)*
 Phanomwan Yoodee...*(Thailand)*
 Shirkat Gah...*(Pakistan)*
 Yevgeniya Kozyreava...*(Kazakhstan)*

Missing from picture

Programme and Management Committee



Mikiko Otani
(Japan)



Cho Young Sook
(Korea)



Azra Talat Sayeed
(Pakistan)



Virada Somswadi
(Thailand)



Wanee B. Thitiprasert
(Thailand)



Cynthia Ca Abdon-Tellez
(Hong Kong, POC)



Kate Lappin
(Ex-officio)



2011 Secretariat

Kate Lappin

Tomoko Kashiwazaki

Misun Woo

Dalina Prasertsri

Rohini Ghadiok

Punika Shinawatra

Philippa Smales

Tina Lee

Navarat Nophiran

Kornvika Paupratum

Huong Tran

Grace Bangoy

Claire Layden

Gaayathri Nair

Dana Meads

Panee Jainanta

Nina Somera

Sarah Matsushita

June Taguiwalo

Diyana Yahaya

Josephine Mann

Tatjana Bosevska

Monique van Thiel



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



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