

# Asia-Pacific GEM

Quarterly Newsletter on  
Gender and Macroeconomic Issues (GEM) in Asia and the Pacific

## WHAT CAN CLIMATE FINANCE LEARN FROM GENDER BUDGETING?

As the UN Member States adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda this September, adequate and effective allocation of finance for development is crucial for achieving the new development goals. One significant source of development finance in the post-2015 era will be the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The Fund is expected to raise \$100 billion by 2020; more than \$10 billion were already committed by various countries.

The GCF Board stated the need for all GCF funding to take a gender-sensitive approach from approval and implementation of the projects to results-based management. Upon the approval at the next board meeting in February 2015, presenting a gender policy and action plan will be a requirement for the GCF applications (for more information, see [Climate Funds Updates](#) by HBS and ODI).

Against this backdrop, at the [Asia Pacific Technical Workshop on Climate Responsive Budgeting](#), two background papers focused on gender. The first paper "[Tracking Climate Change Funding: Learning from Gender-Responsive Budgeting \(GRB\)](#)" authored by Dr. Debbie Budlender, GRB expert, presented some key cross-cutting challenges and successes of GRB and highlighted many relevant lessons for CRB.

By reviewing three decades of GRB initiatives in various countries, Dr. Budlender stated that GRB initiatives have often been supported by international actors such as the UN but originated at the national level by focusing on the national budget. On the other hand, the climate finance focus originated at the international level and access to international funds as well as private-sector investment remains a major driver although the climate finance work has recently extended to domestic finance. Therefore, important considerations for implementing CRB include **[continued on page 2]**

## ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON BEIJING +20 REVIEW

This year is the 20-year anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which made a landmark commitment to advance women's rights and equality, the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA)*. As part of the Beijing+20 process, the [Asia-Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review](#) took place in Bangkok on 17-20 November 2014. Prior to the Conference, the [Asia-Pacific Civil Society Consultation Forum](#) for the Beijing+20 Review was held in Bangkok on 14-16 November 2014.

The Civil Society Forum brought together over 480 participants from 36 countries, including those from women's and feminist organisations and women's human rights defenders. The event celebrated the historic achievement of the BPfA in securing a universal commitment by governments to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women. This was recognised as a political coming of age for the women's movement and has seen significant progress made in increased awareness of women's rights and gender inequality as well as gender mainstreaming.



The Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Beijing+20 Review, Bangkok

*"We need to look at the Beijing Platform for Action and re-politicise it and make it relevant to current realities. We need to hold our States accountable to their promises of 20 years ago and bring back the feminist politics that underpinned the Beijing documents,"* Yiping Cai, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), **[continued on page 2]**

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ensuring national ownership and sustainability of CRB mechanisms through leadership from influential ministries such as Finance, using existing budgeting and M&E tools, and moving beyond awareness raising to ensure that government officials have the skills for in depth climate change analysis. The discussion brought into focus the numerous parallels between the process of shifting gender and climate change from a specialist area to a cross-cutting agenda in government.

The second paper "[Incorporating Gender and Poverty Analysis in the Climate Public Expenditure and Institution Review: A methodological note \(Draft\)](#)" authored by Dr. Anit N. Mukherjee, attempted to outline a poverty and gender analysis of climate risk and vulnerability framework and then to provide options for undertaking a climate public expenditure review from a gender and poverty perspective,

depending on the country budgetary institutions, data availability and level of disaggregation by gender and poverty.

It was highlighted that women and the poor are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. As such climate change programs, climate finance and CRB must deliver community level impacts and provide accountability. Key messages to guide governments' implementation of CRB with respect to gender and poverty are that climate policy must integrate national gender and poverty priorities to find the co-benefits, targeting expenditures to simultaneously maximize the social, economic and environmental impact of programs and projects. Synergies between these agendas already exist in national-level policies, and now it is time to implement them as gender and poverty analysis is still lacking in climate policy and programs. Indicators are necessary to measure both inputs

and outcomes specific to women and vulnerable groups. Climate finance must be accountable, with public information that is accessible to citizens. As CRB goes forward civil society organizations can offer significant expertise and experience for progress in all of the above areas.

The workshop was held on 5-7 November 2014, in Bangkok, Thailand. The event, organised by the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, DFID, International Budget Partnership and UNDP, brought together over 160 representatives of government, experts and civil society from 15 countries in the region to share their diverse country experiences of CRB and discussed strategies for more effective, efficient and accountable climate finance.

[Contributed, with thanks, by Ms. Emily Ellis, UNDP APCR Intern and Graduate of Masters in Development Practice in Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.]

# ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON BEIJING+20 REVIEW

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[speaking at the opening of the Civil Society Forum](#). She also reminded the audience that 2015 is also the 20-year anniversary of the World Trade Organization (WTO). "WTO has come to impact on our lives and the lives of all the people of this region in varied detrimental ways. We have to take this impact into account in our work today together with our financial infrastructure," she said. Other panelists also spoke about the harms that the investment-driven mining sectors and development of economic zones make on women from land grabbing to damage on their livelihood. They called on governments to accelerate the implementation of the BPfA with greater emphasis on accountability and inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Diverse and intersecting gaps in the Beijing agenda and its implementation were highlighted in various areas including migration; sexual and reproductive health and rights; HIV and AIDS; the environment; sexual orientation, gender identity and expression; violence against women and girls; women with disabilities; women and armed conflict; rural women; women and girls' access to information; women and the media; and women's

human rights.

The [outcome statement](#) combined the voices of 187 civil society organisations from the region and stands as a non-governmental review of the implementation of the BPfA fed into the *Asia and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing +20 Review*.

The Conference was attended by 52 UN member states, 188 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and UN agencies. This was the first intergovernmental meeting addressing women's rights in the region to allow the CSOs to attend and the [CSO statement](#) has been referenced in a consensus intergovernmental declaration. Since the presence of the CSO delegates in the inter-governmental conference was itself an important accountability mechanism, the CSOs welcomed the commitment made by the UN member states in the Asia-Pacific.

The senior officials segment of the Conference reviewed progress on implementation and remaining challenges of the BPfA in each of the 12 critical areas of concern, while the Ministerial segment

highlighted member states' achievements and key issues in advancing women's rights. Governments across the region identified challenges in institutional change and normative frameworks, environmental issues, addressing women's morbidity and mortality, and in implementing the women, peace and security agenda. There are also major gaps remaining in terms of the gender wage gap and the vertical and horizontal segregation of the workforce, intimate partner violence, sex disaggregated data and statistics, and discriminatory social and cultural norms. The UN members states adopted the [Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration](#) on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, reaffirming the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action and highlighting measures to accelerate its implementation. This regional review will inform the global review dialogue to be held in March 2015 at the 59<sup>th</sup> Session on the Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

[Contributed, with thanks, by Ms. Emily Ellis, UNDP APCR Intern and Graduate of Masters in Development Practice in Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.]

# NEW RESOURCES

## **Blame it on the Rain? Gender differentiated impacts of drought on agricultural wage and work in India**



Using district-level panel data based on national sample survey data for India from 1993 to 2007, this [study](#) examined how rainfall shocks, which affect demand for labour in Indian agriculture, alter wage gaps between men and women in the agriculture sector. Overall, it was found that the effect of rainfall shocks on gender wage gaps in agriculture depends upon the gender roles underlying the technology of production in agriculture, which varies across cropping systems. In the rainfed rice-growing regions of India, for example, low rainfall years widen gender wage gaps, with women farmers suffering a greater loss in their wages as compared to their male counterparts. The cultivation of rice is highly sensitive to rainfall variability under rainfed conditions. Women workers are heavily concentrated in the cultivation of crops, such as rice, that are severely affected by rainfall variability, making them more vulnerable to labour market losses during bad rainfall years.

Focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted in 26 villages in two states in India, Maharashtra and Orissa, validated the empirical findings. Low rainfall affected operations of rice cultivation that tended to be conducted by women more than the operations that were predominately carried out by men, and the shift in cropping patterns from rice to other crops as a result of low rainfall reduced demand for women labourers relative to men.

In terms of labour supply response to weather variability, men appeared to have a clear advantage in searching for non-agriculture work outside their villages as compared to women, who are generally the main caregivers of children and other family members, as well the caretakers of the household. FGDs validated that women's increased time spent in home production activities, such as collecting water, fodder and firewood, and doing unpaid work, such as taking care of sick children, in years of low rainfall, kept

them away from the labour market.

FGDs also revealed that lower access to clean water and nutritious food were of greater concern to women than men in low rainfall years since they were primarily responsible for carrying out the day-to-day activities of running a household. This indicated that the spheres of influence were gendered, making the concerns gendered as well. Women also suffered from greater health effects than men. They characteristically reported increased incidence of joint pains, low platelet counts and fainting due to lower nutrition intakes and being tasked with the more stressful and exhausting work of fetching water. Not only did women undertake household chores, but in families suffering from economic difficulties, they also searched for non-agriculture or agricultural work outside their villages, which coupled with greater housework, led to fatigue. Drought and lack of alternative job opportunities also forced women into sex work. The paper concludes with some policy suggestions.

Author: Kanika Mahajan (The 2011 fellow of the Asia-Pacific intensive course on gender and macroeconomic issues and recipient of the seed grant made available from Japan-UNDP Partnership Fund) *Asia-Pacific GEM* e-Discussion Paper Series No. 1, December 2014, 50 pages

## **Gender and Economic Policy Management Initiative-Asia and the Pacific: Training modules in English**



UNDP's Gender and Economic Policy Management Initiative (GEMPI) is a comprehensive capacity development and policy advisory services programme that aims to help economic policies and poverty reduction strategies deliver results equitably to women and men, girls and boys. It was launched in Africa, followed by the Asia-Pacific region.

GEMPI Asia-Pacific modules address the most critical gender issues in all aspects of economic development in Asia and the Pacific. They are [12 modules](#):

1. Gender and Economics
2. Gender-responsive Policy Analysis
3. Unpaid Work
4. Gender, Data and Indices
5. Employment and Labour Markets
6. Gender and Poverty
7. Gender and Macroeconomics
8. Gender and Macroeconomic Strategies in Asia and the Pacific
9. Gender and Trade
10. Gender, Economics and the Environment
11. Gender and Finance
12. Good Governance, Public Financial Management and Gender-responsive budgeting

The modules can be used as a complete set to run a full-scale course. They can also be used individually, tailored for immediate and specific capacity development and policy advisory support to meet a country's particular needs.

Governments interested in a specific capacity building or policy advisory service can contact the [UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub](#) for immediate support.

## **Gender and Economic Policy Management Initiative-Asia and the Pacific: Training modules in Vietnamese**



The GEMPI training [courses](#) were held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, last year. So far five modules have been translated into Vietnamese and uploaded to women's leadership project [website](#) of the Viet Nam Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNDP Viet Nam.

The Modules available are:

1. [Gender and Economics](#)
5. [Employment and Labour Markets](#)
6. [Gender and Poverty](#)
7. [Gender and Macroeconomics](#)
9. [Gender and Trade](#)

Other modules in Vietnamese will be uploaded as they become available.

[Contributed, with thanks, by Jean Munro, Senior Technical Advisor of UNDP Viet Nam]

## NEW RESOURCES

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### **Women in Business: Short Video Interview Series on Women Entrepreneurs**

In August 2014, participants from all 20 Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) countries across Africa, South and East Asia and the Middle-East called for greater investment in women's productivity and implementation of gender-responsive policy frameworks at a three-day dialogue titled [Paths to Women's Economic Empowerment in IORA Countries, with a focus on tourism and textiles](#), jointly organized by [Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#) and [UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre](#) in partnership with the [IORA Secretariat](#). The objective of the Dialogue was to draft key messages about the path's to women's economic empowerment that were presented at the [IORA Council of Minister's meeting](#) in October 2014.

UNDP in Asia and the Pacific



[Go to the playlist](#)

This interview series featured six women participants who shared their experiences and views on opportunities and challenges for women in business and providing policy suggestions for governments in their efforts to facilitate women's business establishment and expansion.

Founder and Chairman of Sri Lanka based Selyn Exporters [Sandra Wanduragala](#) offers advice to young entrepreneurs.

[Natalie Tenzer-Silva](#), Director of DANA Tours in Mozambique speaks on how community-based tourism possibly can offer space for women entrepreneurs in male-dominant tourism sector.

Founder and Creative Director of Indonesia-based La Spina Collections, [Lianna Gunawan](#), speaks on her experience of starting business and provides suggestions to make business establishment process easier for small business.

[Elaina Olivia Chong](#), CEO of Singapore-based Consulting Firm Real Kaiten speaks on breaking the glass ceiling and the issue

on access to finance.

[Dr. Cecilia Ng](#), Director of the Penang Women's Development Corporation in Malaysia talks about the practical steps governments and the private sector can take to facilitate women's participation in the labour force.

[Dr. Freya Higgins-Desbiolles](#), Senior Lecturer of tourism at the University of South Australia Business School in Australia speaks on potential impacts – both positive and negative – that tourism and trade agreement on services make on communities and women.

Each video is about 3-4 minutes and suitable to show in the workshops/ seminars on women's economic empowerment or in university classes on gender studies or entrepreneurship development.

### **UNDP Guidance Note: Gender Statistics**



This [guidance note](#) provides a brief overview of gender statistics. It aims to increase understanding and encourage advocating for systemic production of official gender statistics and indicators. Included in the overview are summaries of gender indices, gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation methods, gaps and challenges within the Asia-Pacific region, and links to useful resources for those seeking further information about gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data. Also outlined are examples of good practice from across the region, where gender statistics are assisting in the creation of effective and long-term development solutions.

The note will be useful for practitioners who do not have expertise in statistics. It provides background information and explanations of what gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data are. It seeks to inform on the importance of understanding and applying gender statistics in development programming.

E-publication from UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub, August 2014, 20 pages

### **The Remaking of Social Contracts: Feminists in a fierce new world**



This new book from DAWN discusses the emergence and fracturing of social contracts, the rise of social movements, and the promise of human rights. While a social contract may indeed be a collective agreement, it is an agreement embedded in the political economy of power and inequality.

The book argues that change is possible even as we recognise the difficulty of doing so in a fierce new world. The early 21st century has been marked by the 'war on terror' and the series of financial and economic crisis. It is also a time of climate change and ecological crisis; a time when the world of work was drastically transformed towards flexibility and precariousness; and a time of backlash against progress towards social justice and human rights.

The first set of chapters are a series of critiques against the systemic reproduction of inequality. The second set of chapters tackles the issues of sustainability and climate change. The third set of chapters confronts fundamentalism and attempts to decipher the complexity of biopolitics. The last set of chapters looks into the complex act of building nation-states and the need to galvanise social movements. The books' essays and boxed features are a mixture of in-depth analysis and proposals for the remaking of the broken social contracts in this fierce new world.

Editors: Drs. Gita Sen and Marina Durano  
Publisher: Zed Books, October 2014, 326 pages.

[The text above is excerpts from the summary of the book in [DAWN Book Launch announcement](#). Contributed, with thanks, by Professor Marina Durano of Asian Center at the University of the Philippines-Diliman.]

# CALL FOR PAPERS/ CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) Annual Conference, Berlin, Germany, 16-18 July 2015**

The 2015 conference theme “Gender Equality in Challenging Time” is intended to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue on how feminist economics contributes to the many challenges we face throughout the world. These challenges include economic crises, austerity policies in European countries, the transformation of the welfare state, care crisis, social challenges in emerging economies, and employment and migration around the world. Other important themes include comparative studies of social welfare policy, domestic violence, feminist ecology, the intersectional analysis of race, ethnicity and gender, and sex work. Panel proposals and individual paper submissions are invited on any aspect of feminist inquiry into socio-economic issues. Interdisciplinary approaches are welcome.

Proposals must be submitted on-line via the [IAFFE website](http://www.iaffe.org/2015-annual-conference/). Submissions can be made for roundtables, panels or individual papers. The deadline for submission is **4 April 2015**. Notification of acceptance will begin starting 1 March 2015. For more information, please visit IAFFE conference website, <http://www.iaffe.org/2015-annual-conference/>

**The 2015 Rhonda Williams Prize**

In memory of Rhonda Williams, associate editor of *Feminist Economics* from 1994 to 1998, the IAFFE has established a prize to help scholars from underrepresented groups in IAFFE, whose work reflects Rhonda Williams' legacy of scholarship and activism, attend the annual IAFFE conference and present a paper.

The recipient's work in activism, advocacy, or scholarship should demonstrate a commitment to one or more of the following issues: Inequalities based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality; interrelationships among racism, sexism, homophobia, and classism; and connections between scholarship and activism.

Special consideration will be given to applicants from groups not well represented in IAFFE and those with limited access to travel funds from their home institutions or other sources. This prize is targeted to junior scholars and activists.

A cover letter, a CV, and a draft of full paper should be sent to Marlene Kim, Chair, Rhonda Williams Prize, at [Marlene.Kim@umb.edu](mailto:Marlene.Kim@umb.edu) by **4 April 2015**.

\$1,000 to be awarded at the IAFFE conference in Berlin, 16-18 July 2015. The funds are intended to partially defray

travel costs to attend the annual conference. For more information, please visit IAFFE conference website, [IAFFE website](http://www.iaffe.org/).

[Source: IAFFE listserv]

**Effects of patterns of growth on women's economic empowerment: IDRC**

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) announced a call for research proposals concerning the Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) program on the effects of specific patterns of growth on women's economic empowerment. Research also aims to determine which public policies and interventions can ensure that the positive effects of growth on women's empowerment are enhanced and the negative effects minimized.

A single consortium is expected to undertake six to eight projects within a total budget of up to CA\$2 million. There is a scope for funding one to two individual research projects of under CA\$300,000 if the proposed research is one a priority area.

Applications must be submitted by **17:00 (GMT)/12:00 (EST) on February 23, 2015**, through the [IDRC online application process](http://www.idrc.ca/grow). For more information, please visit the program website at [www.idrc.ca/grow](http://www.idrc.ca/grow). [Source: IDRC]

## About Us:

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and sharing knowledge, experience and resources worldwide to help people build a better life.

UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia-Pacific Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH) serves 36 countries in 24 country offices in Asia and the Pacific. A main priority of the BRH is to provide [UNDP Country Offices](http://www.undp.org/country-offices) in the region with easy access to knowledge through high quality advisory services based on global applied research and UNDP lessons learnt. The second priority is to build partnerships and promote regional capacity building initiatives, which allow UNDP, governments and other development partners to identify, create and share knowledge relevant to solving urgent development challenges.

**Asia-Pacific GEM**, a quarterly newsletter, aims to bring news related to gender and macroeconomic issues in the region to government officials, development agencies, civil society, and academia. **The next newsletter will be released in April 2015**. Please send any relevant news items you would like to share – for example, announcements about upcoming events, calls for papers, conferences, workshops, training programmes, new publications and research papers on gender and macroeconomics, and association news – to the newsletter [editor](mailto:editor@undp.org) at UNDP BRH by **15 March 2015**. The newsletter will be distributed electronically and posted on the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia-Pacific website.

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