

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

3rd Regional Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association-Asia (ILGA-ASIA)

Chiang Mai, Thailand
24-27 January 2008



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ASIA



Report of Proceedings of the 3rd Regional Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association-Asia

Chiangmai2008:
EQUALITY IN DIVERSITY NOW!

Chiang Mai, Thailand
24-27 January 2008





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TESA CASAL DE VELA

Managing Editor

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AILEEN FAMILARA

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PRETCHIE OBJA-AN

ELISE SOGO-ON

Copy Editor

NINA SOMERA

Proofreader

JUDITH M. DE GUZMAN

Layout Artist

TERESA L. DEBUQUE

PRODUCED BY



Isis International

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PREFACE

Lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders from Asia, in a truly gay historical moment, made a series of firsts for LGBT activists in the region. LGBT groups elected the first regional board for ILGA-ASIA, marched on the streets of Chiang Mai for its first-ever pride parade, and gathered for 4 days for the most widely represented conference of ILGA in the region so far. In between discussing serious matters during the day and celebrating in song and dance during the night, Chiang Mai 2008 was truly an amazing experience of coming together.

Around 160 LGBT activists from Asia and the rest of the world gathered from the 24th to the 27th of January 2008 for the Third ILGA-ASIA Regional Conference. Around 16 countries in Asia were represented including China, Japan, and Taiwan in East Asia; Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in South Asia; Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand in South East Asia; and Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia in Central Asia.

Envisioned to build a stronger network of LGBT groups in Asia, the conference elected a 10-member regional board with a male and female representative for each subregion. With the new board comes the hope of developing a regional agenda to initiate actions that can address the common and unique issues of LGBT persons in Asia. Among the key issues in the region is the struggle for the decriminalisation of homosexuality in many countries.

The conference drew 40 presentations over 7 plenaries, 6 workshops, and 3 caucuses. The high-

light of the conference is the launching of the Yogyakarta Principles by Vitit Muntarbhorn, Professor of Law at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University. Professor Vitit co-chaired the experts' meeting which drafted The Yogyakarta Principles, a set of principles on the application of international human rights law in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity. Prof. Vitit is also the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The conference theme "Equality in Diversity Now!" was chosen to reflect the diversity of cultures and experiences of LGBT persons as they struggle against societies that discriminate against them, and in some countries, laws that criminalise them. The conference was co-hosted by two local organisations, the Committee on Lesbian Rights in Burma (CLRBM) and M-Plus, and co-organised by Isis International.

ILGA is a world-wide federation of regional, national and local groups dedicated to achieving equal rights for LGBT persons globally. Founded in 1978, it now has more than 600 member organisations. Every continent and around 90 countries are represented. ILGA members range from small collectives to national groups and entire cities. ILGA is to this day the only international non-profit and non-governmental community-based federation focused on presenting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression as a global issue.

Mira Alexis Ofreneo, ILGA-Asia Female Rep. (Oct. '05-Jan'08)

Aung Myo Min, ILGA-Asia Male Rep. (Oct. '05-Jan'08)

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Chiangmai2008: “Equality in Diversity Now!” 3rd ILGA-Asia Regional Conference Chiang Mai, Thailand, 24 -27 January 2008

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

The 3rd International Lesbian & Gay Association (ILGA) - Asia Regional Conference was held on 24 - 27 January 2008 titled: “Equality in Diversity Now!” The conference was organised by ILGA-Asia, M-Plus, Committee on Lesbian Rights in Burma (CLRB), and Isis International. This event was attended primarily by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) activists from the different parts of Asia namely, China, Japan, and Taiwan in East Asia; Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka in South Asia; Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand in South East Asia; and Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia in Central Asia.

The conference built on the work that the two previous regional conferences had accomplished: the 1st ILGA-Asia conference titled “A to Z: The Other Asia” held in Mumbai, India, in 2002 and the 2nd ILGA-Asia Conference titled, “Coming Out, Coming Home”, held in Cebu, Philippines, in 2005. This third regional conference sought to further advance the struggle for visibility, social acceptance, and decriminalisation of Asian LGBT persons in and outside

of Asian societies. The conference was designed to provide spaces for interactive exchanges of personal experiences, advocacy platforms, and current strategies in addressing discrimination and social exclusion of Asian LGBTs. While the conference was able to surface the diverse ways by which genders and sexualities are experienced and defined in Asia, it also highlighted the similarities in struggles with governments, which are determined to neglect at best, and criminalise at worst such sexual diversity and its expressions.

Panel presentations, simultaneous workshops, and other related activities of the conference, such as the pride parade, were framed as an assertion for the decriminalisation of homosexuality. Consequently, the conference called for an end to homosexual discrimination and violence, and a move towards social inclusion and respect of Asian LGBT persons in everyday life.

The thematic areas of the conference were as follows: (1) Launching of the Yogyakarta Principles; (2) Queering the Asian Legal Systems; (3) Addressing AIDS in Asia; (4) Affirming Transgenders in LGBT Communities; (5) Women's Realities & the LGBT Movement; (6) LGBT Movements Traversing Other Social Movements; and (7) Building an ILGA-ASIA Regional Structure.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

DAY ONE : PRE-CONFERENCE, 24 JANUARY 2008

OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS

During the pre-conference, host organisations warmly welcomed the numerous participants, who, by far, constituted perhaps the biggest turn-out of attendance in ILGA-Asia's conferences. It also allowed the organisers to contextualise the direction of the 3rd ILGA-Asia conference and acknowledge the people that made such an event possible, primarily its donor partners and other supporters.

From the Committee on Lesbian Rights in Burma (CLRB) and M-Plus. Representatives from CLRB and M-Plus welcomed the participants to Chiang Mai, Thailand, stressing how proud and privileged they felt to be part of the conference preparations and to organise the first pride march ever to be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

From the ILGA-World and ILGA-Asia Representatives. The ILGA Asia Representatives shared their welcome speeches. Aung Myo Min, ILGA-Asia Male Representative, spoke of the difficulties of being away from his family in Burma, as he resides in exile in Thailand. Thailand has offered him the space to continue his human rights work not just for a free Burma, but also for sexual equality. He talked about sexual orientation as a human rights issue and its personal importance to him as a male gay human rights activist. Myo saw the conference as providing the space for reunions as well as new connections among LGBT activists all over Asia.

Mira Alexis Ofreneo, ILGA-Asia Female Representative, shared the challenges and difficulties of organising the said conference with limited resources. She

expressed her utmost appreciation to The Global Fund for Women (TGFW) and Open Society Institute (OSI), for the support they provided to the conference. She explained that much of the funds went to scholarship grants but unfortunately not all applicants could be funded. She noted that the large number of applicants signified the energy and passion for LGBT advocacy work in the Asian region. While the scholarships in 2005 were limited to 10 grantees out of more than 50 applicants, this 3rd ILGA-Asia conference awarded scholarships to 40 participants out of the more than 120 activists who applied. Ofreneo made special mention of the participants coming from Armenia and Kyrgyzstan who had joined the ILGA-Asia conference for the first time. Finally she acknowledged the support of Thai and Burmese friends from CLRB and M-Plus who had given their tireless support to ensure the actualisation of the conference.

Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, ILGA World Female Co-Secretary General, also gave her welcome speech. She began by expressing her amazement when she witnessed the Asian LGBT movement come together in the very first ILGA-Asia conference in Mumbai, and that six years later the opportunity has come to discuss the need and formalisation of an ILGA regional structure in Asia. She also took this opportunity to introduce Trevor Cook, the ILGA Executive Director.

The ILGA-Asia Journey: Then and Now. After the welcome remarks, Ofreneo gave a brief history of the beginnings of ILGA, its efforts directed at strengthening LGBT activism through regional linkages, particularly in Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific. ILGA was founded in 1978, with 600 member organisations, 60 of which were from Asia, all of whom were dedicated towards ending sexual and gender discrimination. According to her, the Asian membership of ILGA started to highlight the specificity and diversity of LGBT issues in the Asian region in Mumbai, India and later in Cebu City, Philippines. A video clip of

the 2nd ILGA-Asia conference was shown as a way of revisiting the ILGA-Asia journey. After this brief film showing, Ofreneo spoke of the positive growth of membership in the region. She ended with hopes for a fruitful conference filled with serious discussions, fun-filled solidarity gatherings, and a successful, first-ever LGBT Pride Parade in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME ORIENTATION

An orientation on the conference programme was given by Tesa de Vela of Isis International. She began her presentation by saying that given the enthusiastic response to the call for presentations and the limited knowledge of LGBT issues in Asia, the organisers of the conference decided to accept all the paper and workshop proposals received. As such the programme was structured to accommodate seven major plenary themes and six major workshop themes (See Conference Programme).

LGBT ISSUES AND STRATEGIES MAPPING WORKSHOPS

The pre-conference proper was designed as three separate caucuses that would allow exclusive spaces for males, females and transgenders to identify and freely discuss the different issues they faced as gay and bisexual males, lesbian and bisexual females, and transgenders. The caucuses were guided by the following questions: (1) What are the different issues in your specific countries? (2) What are the different strategies to address these issues? and (3) What are the issues that may be taken and addressed at the regional level?

Male Caucus. The male caucus was facilitated by Sumit Baudh (India) and Toen-King Oey (Indonesia) and joined by participants representing ten countries. Peter Dankmeijer (Netherlands) acted as the rapporteur of the male caucus. During the plenary sharing of the male caucus the rapporteur presented the highlights of their dialogue. This included issues

raised around the lack of openness for sexual diversity among conservative circles particularly the religious and legal institutions. Despite the social intolerance or perhaps in response to it, the participants of the male caucus spoke of a growth in political organising around LGBT issues in the various parts of Asia. They shared their experiences in strategies ranging from informal education work to lobbying for legal reforms which would formally recognise LGBT rights. Some of the challenges posed by the male caucus that require regional attention and collaboration included the abolition of sodomy laws; sustained education efforts on sexual diversity that is sensitive to cultural contexts; regional dialogues and linkages among LGBT groups; strengthened lobbying for LGBT rights among human rights groups; and support for political participation and representation by LGBT persons in politics; and consolidation and convergence of the different LGBT groups and their efforts in the Asian region.

Female Caucus. The female caucus was facilitated by Jean Chong (Singapore) and Salina Tamang (Nepal) and joined by participants representing twelve countries. The rapporteur of this caucus was Grace Poore (USA/ Malaysia). The plenary sharing of the female caucus also highlighted the dominant social conservatism manifested particularly in the control of women's bodies through limited sexual rights, experiences of violence and abuse, as well as varying degrees of social pressure to concede to traditional marriages and conform to societal norms. The caucus emphasised the invisibility, silencing, and marginalisation experienced by lesbian and bisexual women, not just in their communities but also within social movements. It also spoke of the lack of public policy to address discrimination against women on the basis of their sexual orientation and in some cases, even criminalisation. Among the strategies shared were those of organising in rural and urban areas; education work particularly through mass media; provision of direct services; and strengthening of individual lesbian and bisexual female

agency. Regional work deemed necessary included the exchange of resources and materials on female sexuality and sexual diversity; increased visibility of efforts for the advancement of LGBT rights; and support for lobby work on legislative bills which would uphold women's sexual rights.

Transgender Caucus. The transgender caucus was facilitated by Suben "Manisha" Dhakal (Nepal) and Jian Gang "Frank" Zhao (China) who was also assigned as rapporteur. It was joined by participants representing eight countries. The plenary sharing of the transgender caucus surfaced issues around the non-recognition and social exclusion of transgenders as well as the lack of understanding on how to obtain support for transgender rights and advocacy concerns. They also spoke of their social invisibility and vulnerability as they remain to be in an unprotected state of existence as a people. From access to public toilets, to access to social security, health services, and education, transgenders are denied important rights and privileges. The caucus also highlighted grave experiences of hate crimes or transphobia. As for strategies or ways of moving forward, the transgender caucus stressed the need to promote respect for transgenders and an understanding of gender identities and sexual orientation as different but related issues for human rights activism.

OPEN DISCUSSION & SYNTHESIS

The open forum affirmed the issues raised in all three caucuses and also surfaced some new ones. For instance, language limitations, such as being limited to the English language, was pointed out as a difficulty because current terms used do not sufficiently describe the experiences nor represent the realities of Asian LGBTs. Personal legal documents were also raised as challenges particularly for transgenders who had appearances that were deemed inconsistent or incompatible with their stated legal identities. There were also questions and challenges regarding ILGA's organisational name. It was pointed out that ILGA's name is neither reflec-

tive nor inclusive of bisexuals and transgenders. Finally, the open forum also heard the voices of young LGBTs who called for a youth caucus as they felt that youth LGBT issues are distinct and different. An evening open space session for LGBT youth was scheduled in the same evening and highlights from this session were shared with the plenary the following morning.

All the caucuses of the male, female and transgenders were united on the need for a regional network that can consolidate and/or converge the different LGBT organisations in Asia. Having such a network was seen as strategic in facilitating the exchange of materials, providing leverage in regional/international lobby work, and facilitating resource mobilization.

ILGA MATTERS

The day concluded with the session on "ILGA Matters" exclusive for ILGA members only. Internal matters were always on the last agenda of every conference day. These sessions allowed discussion on ILGA membership matters, ILGA constitution and bylaws, elections of ILGA representatives, as well as the planning for formalisation of the ILGA-Asia regional board and structure. The newly-elected ILGA-Asia regional board and representatives were presented at the last conference plenary.

DAY TWO : CONFERENCE PROPER, 25 JANUARY 2008

PRELIMINARIES – RECAP OF THE PREVIOUS DAY

The day started with a recap of the previous day prepared by the Isis documentation team and presented by Mira Ofreneo. The synthesis of the caucuses surfaced four significant sites or spheres of LGBT struggle: (1) the self, (2) the family and peers, (3) the community and social movements, and (4) the formal social institutions.

Each caucus identified varying as well as similar concerns for each of the spheres. The distinct issues of concern of each caucus are illustrated in the figures below.



Figure 1: Sites or Spheres of LGBT struggle

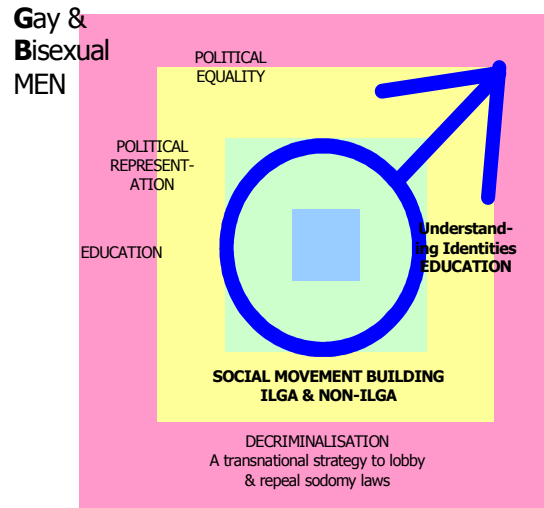


Figure 2: Issues raised in the Male Caucus

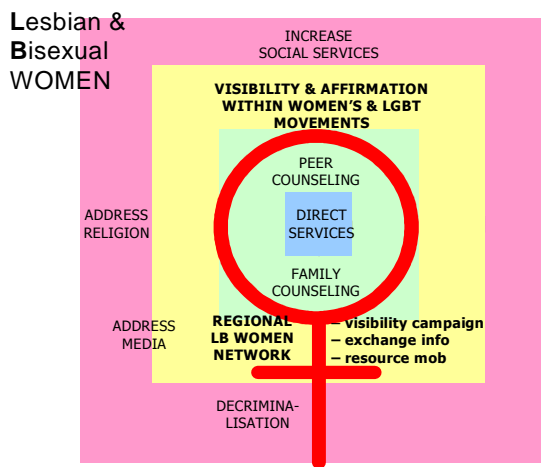


Figure 3. Issues raised in the Female Caucus

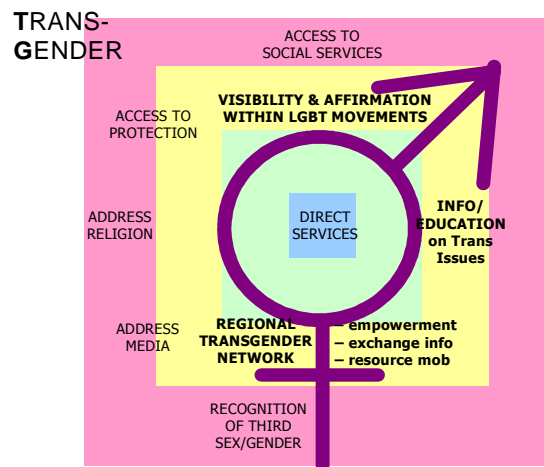


Figure 4. Issues raised in the Transgender Caucus

OPENING PLENARY: LAUNCHING OF THE YOGYAKARTA PRINCIPLES

The opening address was given by Naina Supapueng, from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Thailand. Supapueng talked about the work the NHRC had done in the area of LGBT advocacy. In her address, she acknowledged NHRC's limited understanding of LGBT issues. It was only through work with LGBT groups that the NHRC came to know about the discrimination faced by LGBTs.

Given this emerging sensitivity to the gravity of LGBT discrimination and the need to create spaces for legal remedies; the commission sought to systematically sensitise their members, government officials and policy makers. The process of sensitisation allowed for the revision and lobby for certain laws to recognise the rights of LGBTs. Supapueng shared their efforts, frustration, and near success, in the pushing for non-discrimination of LGBTs in the Thailand constitution, as well as revisions to the Rape Law to recognise rape or sexual violence as acts which are not happening exclusively to women but also to LGBTs.

The keynote address followed, delivered by Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and co-chair of the Experts' Meeting on the Yogyakarta Principles. Muntarbhorn gave a brief background on the Yogyakarta Principles. He pointed out that LGBTs are often discriminated on the basis of morality. While it is futile to argue on the basis of morality, he feels that people should be able to agree on why LGBT people should not be killed or discriminated because of their sexuality. The Yogyakarta Principles are directed at protecting LGBT rights through a better awareness and understanding of the issues faced by LGBTs all over the world. It offers clarity as to what is meant by the terms sexual orientation and gender identity. The Yogyakarta Principles ensure the rights of LGBTs on eight major

areas: [1] non-discrimination before the law; [2] human and personal security; [3] economic and socio-cultural rights; [4] expression, opinion and association; [5] freedom of movement and asylum; [6] participation in cultural and family life; [7] inherent right of human right defenders; and [8] redress and accountability.

Muntarbhorn stressed that if the Yogyakarta Principles are to be effective tools for LGBT advocacy, it must be translated into local languages and disseminated as widely as possible.

PLENARY II: QUEERING THE ASIAN LEGAL SYSTEM

This plenary featured some legal concepts and strategies for LGBT work in Asian countries where homosexuality, bisexuality and transgenderism are illegal and/or criminalised.

The first presentation was titled "Penalisation of Private Consensual Same-Sex Acts in the Commonwealth Countries of South and Southeast Asia" by Sumit Baudh from the South and Southeast Asia Resource Centre on Sexuality based in India. Baudh traced the nature of sexual penalisation in South and South East Asia as rooted in a legal provision patterned after British Law during colonisation that considers carnal intercourse against the order and law of nature. However this provision failed to state and qualify the nature of carnal intercourse. Baudh identified some existing ways in challenging such sexual penalisation using human rights discourse. These include maximising existing rights on privacy, equality, human dignity and the basic right to life.

The second presentation was titled "Nepal Supreme Courts Historic Decision – Freedom for Us and Hope for the Rest of Asia," by Sunil Pant from Blue Diamond Society based in Nepal. Pant shared the gains of a recent Nepal Supreme Court Decision that decided favourably on Blue Diamond's petition to grant persons of the 'third nature' equal rights

before the law. The Supreme Court recognised their rights as equal citizens and agreed to penalise violence on the basis of sexual orientation. Such recognition of rights and citizenship has been concretely translated with the inclusion of the third gender in personal identification cards, passports, and other legal documents. Pant also talked about the decrease in incidents of violence and discrimination against transgenders as a development that the recent legal recognition seemed to have facilitated.

The third presentation was titled “An Attempt to Protect LGBT Rights under Local Legislation in Japan” by Asuzu Yamashita of the GayJapanNews and Citizen’s Council for Human Rights Japan based in Japan. Yamashita, the only female presenter of the panel, cited the specific ways in which she had incorporated LGBT-related legislation at the local level. These initiatives included permits for changing one’s sex in legal documents and education for local government officials. The latter’s training emphasised their responsibility and obligation to uphold and protect the rights of their LGBT citizens.

The fourth presentation was titled “Progressive Legislation vs. Conservative Court – A Tortured Legal Creation under Taiwan’s Social and Cultural Context” by Ashley Hsu-lian Wu of the Taiwan Tongzhi Hotline Association based in Taiwan. Hsu-lian Wu spoke of two seemingly polarised positions. On the one hand there was the positive impact of legislation in recognising LGBT rights and welfare in education, employment, and health, specifically the AIDS prevention and the Control Act and Partnership Rights. However, there were significant setbacks in the implementation and legal decisions coming from what was described as the “conservative courts”. The conservative courts continue to be blind to the rights and welfare of sexual and gender minorities, and as such reinforce homophobia in Taiwanese society.

The fifth presentation was titled “Shadow Preying on Shadows: LGBTs in Philippine Criminal Law” by

Edgar Bernal of the Rainbow Rights Project based in the Philippines. Bernal’s presentation examined the current initiatives of local LGBT groups to lobby for an anti-discrimination bill and legal reforms on existing gender oppressive provisions. He stresses that such legal reforms requires an understanding of the boundaries for consensual same-sex acts according to Philippine Criminal Law. Despite the absence of sodomy laws in the Philippines, the culture of homophobia clearly manifests itself within the Philippine legal system. In the end, he posed implications and recommendations on two levels: (1) ongoing legal initiatives and interventions on the State’s accountability in recognising and protecting LGBT persons; and (2) non-legal alternatives and support mechanisms for LGBTs. These may come in the form of public awareness campaigns, community building, and individual empowerment.

The sixth presentation was titled “The Struggles of LGBT Equality in Hong Kong” by Roddy Shaw of the Civil Rights for Sexual Diversity based in Hong Kong. Shaw shared his efforts at sensitising the legal system on LGBT issues. Such a process entailed an audit of national laws and international covenants which could be used as basis for crafting new laws for LGBTs. He added that having supporters within the judiciary has been helpful. As a result, old laws which violate LGBT rights were repealed.

The last, but certainly not least, presentation, was titled “The Rainbow Lobby: The Sexual Diversity Network and the Military-Installed Government in Thailand” by Douglas Sanders of Gays without Borders. A Canadian residing in Thailand, Sanders highlighted the positive experiences and gains obtained by what he terms as the “Rainbow Lobby” for LGBT rights in Thailand. He attributes its success to the absence of religious fundamentalism and the strength of Buddhist culture of the country. He also noted the important role played by individuals such as Naina Supapueng of the NHRC who consistently supports LGBT issues and provides the legal and feminist expertise needed to ground LGBT issues

within the human rights discourse. Sanders' presentation focused on what can be considered a successful collaboration between the NHRC, as a government body, and LGBT civil society groups in Thailand. Such partnership allowed for the drafting of policy proposals targeting strategic institutions like the military, the repealing of antiquated laws, and the groups' substantial contributions to the formulation of the Yogyakarta Principles.

PARALLEL SHARING/SKILLS WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 1: LOCAL LGBT EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY WORK

This workshop was composed of five presentations on LGBT education work, generally targeting youth from various sectors.

Kei Kato of Mejiro University, in Japan started with a presentation titled "LGBT Issues in Education: The College Guide for LGBT Students in Japan." With the help of some youth / students groups, he developed a practical guide to assess a university's sensitivity to LGBT issues. The guide evaluates three key areas: professor's list, diversity policy for LGBT, and a list of LGBT university student's organisations.

Kamilia Manaf of the Institut Pelangi Perempuan, based in Indonesia, followed with a presentation titled "By and For Youth LGBT Advocacy Work in Indonesia". She spoke of the interconnectedness of LGBT issues with women's issues and the need for youth learning strategies, like film analysis through group discussions, which are entertaining and light, yet informative and educational.

Enkhzaya Begzsuren of the Youth for Health CBO, based in Mongolia, followed with a presentation titled "A Successful MSM Peer Education Programme in Mongolia." In his presentation, Begzsuren recognised the need for creating an enabling social environment for LGBTs. He shared various approaches in accomplishing this goal. These approaches include

MSM peer education, advocacy training activities, community mobilisation, networking with NGOs, and solidarity events, such as the Mongolian Ms. Queer pageants.

Yuli Rustinawati of Arus Pelangi in Indonesia followed with a presentation titled "Homosexuals in Government Policies in Indonesia," which focused on the explicit and implicit ways in which homophobia manifests in government policies. He reiterated the need to hold government more accountable to its obligation in upholding LGBT rights as stipulated in strategic national laws and international conventions.

Rogelio "Rho" Diaz of IWAG Dabaw Inc. in the Philippines shared his presentation titled "Mainstreaming LGBT Issues through Organising: The Experience of Iwag Dabaw." Diaz related that he had initially held informal sessions to increase awareness on HIV/AIDS. Later on, he moved on to conducting formal studies to learn more about the situation of gays in Davao City. These studies informed actions directed at correcting myths and perceptions about homosexual men. These efforts facilitated the active involvement of gay men in community life, and contributed to sensitising their communities to gay existence.

Sardjono Sigit of GAYa NUSANTARA from Indonesia gave the last presentation, titled "Gays in Moslem Communities in Surabaya," which focused on the depth of reflection on faith which varies from different Moslem cultures. Sigit asserted that spirituality should not be in conflict with one's sexuality, given that essentially spirituality is one's personal reflection and relationship with religious values, and not what others say this should be.

Among the more critical points raised during the open forum was the concern regarding the socio-economic background of the LGBT groups membership and/or targeted constituencies. It was pointed out that representations of Asian LGBT youth and LGBT community work in Asia should be grounded

in the context of poverty, which the workshop speakers agreed would greatly shape one's strategies and determine the strategies' effectiveness.

WORKSHOP 2: LOCAL LGBT COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

This workshop was composed of three presentations focusing on effective communication strategies in reaching out to LGBT communities.

Alex Waipang Au of People Like Us (PLUS) from Singapore presented "The Digital Road to Acceptance: Changing Public Attitudes through the Internet," where he spoke of the highly conservative cultural context of Singapore. Given that the local media is generally government-controlled, the internet provides alternative spaces for expression and communication for LGBT activism and community-building.

Nino Restu Permana Susanto of QMUNITY JOGJA from Indonesia presented "Q! Film Festival: Using Film and Arts as an Effective Medium of Campaign for the Rights of the LGBTQ Community in Indonesia". He spoke of film festivals as an effective communication approach to LGBT advocacies given the sensitive nature of issues such as sexual diversity and HIV/AIDS. This approach is deemed to be generally non-threatening to the audience and to the public at large. However, there are still protests and resistance against LGBTQ film festivals, coming from religious extremist groups.

Bin Xu of Common Language, Gong Yi of Les+, and LiYun Jun of Beijing Aizhixing Institute, all based in China presented "Colouring China in Rainbow: How Independent Magazine Les+, Queering Singing Contests, Pink China Podcasts and LGBT Art Camps Push China Forward to Embrace Diversity." They shared their experience in publishing an independent lesbian magazine that has existed for the last two years, which produced up to 13 issues, and was circulated and sold in 40 cities, 30 provinces, and 11

countries around the world. While heterosexual women who have come across the magazine reported that it has helped them to be more sensitive to LGBT issues, homosexual women have commented on the magazine's ability in affirming their identities and creating a positive impact on their family members. Also highlighted was the organisation's conduct of summer camps for students, as creative venues to discuss LGBT issues through participants' exhibits and art work. The Super Queer Singing Contest was likewise a popular and entertaining event that served to awaken the broader community to LGBT existence.

The open discussion that followed the presentations, surfaced the need to be as creative as possible in LGBT education and advocacy work, given the increasing atmosphere of conservatism that is felt across China as well as in other parts of Asia.

PLENARY III: ADDRESSING AIDS IN ASIA

This plenary highlighted how LGBT persons in Asia live with HIV/AIDS and how certain cultural practices continue to render LGBT persons and their sexual partners vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.

The first presentation was titled "Is Creating Gay Communities the Answer to HIV in Asia?" by Chad Hughes of the Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health based in Australia. Hughes spoke of the spread of HIV/AIDS in Asia given the rampant yet hidden and unsafe sexual practices of men who have sex with men (MSM). Hughes stressed the need for public awareness raising campaigns, directed towards changing sexual behaviour but not sexual identities or orientations.

The second presentation was titled "HIV and Sexual Identity in Myanmar" by Tin Aung Win of Burnet Institute Myanmar. Win also raised concerns about the MSM in Myanmar, insisting that to effectively address these persons, there is a need to differentiate MSM from gay men.

The third presentation was titled “Maintaining and Expanding HIV Prevention Programmes at Mplus+ Chiang Mai” by Chris Walsh of Deakin University based in Australia, and Pad Thepsi of M-Plus, Chiang Mai. They shared their work on information dissemination through health brochures and other published materials; the conduct of workshops on coming out; and direct services through clinics and counseling hotlines. They also cited the particular difficulties they faced in relating to migrant MSM because of the language barrier, cultural differences, and at times, the limited literacy. To address such challenges, they have developed materials that are available in different languages to help increase the understanding of same-sex practices and awareness of personal risks among migrants.

The fourth and last presentation was titled “Getting Everyone to the Table: MSM, HIV, and the Asia-Pacific Response” by Paul Causey of the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health. Causey also spoke about issues and concerns related to MSM, particularly regarding those who are not aware that they are at risk of HIV/AIDS. He highlighted their groups’ collaborative efforts with government agencies, UN agencies and donors in addressing the issue of MSM. He also demonstrated the link of MSM to the growing concern of HIV/AIDS in Asia.

Among the critical queries and comments raised during the open forum was the issue of women’s invisibility, particularly the experiences of the women who continue to relate with MSM. These women are equally, if not more, unaware of their risk and exposure to HIV/AIDS. It was suggested that strategies seeking to address HIV/AIDS must surface the voices and experiences of these women, and address the gender power dynamics of such intimate relationships. It was pointed out that only in approaching HIV/AIDS in Asia from this gendered stance could it be said that HIV/AIDS prevention is being addressed from a holistic perspective.

ILGA MATTERS

DAY THREE : CONFERENCE PROPER, 26 JANUARY 2008

PRELIMINARIES – RECAP OF THE PREVIOUS DAY

The third day of the conference started with a recap of the second day prepared by the Isis documentation team and presented by Marion Cabrera, a member of the team. The issues discussed in the previous day ranged from LGBT advocacy work using international human rights standards, to legal approaches at the national levels, to effective awareness-raising strategies at community levels.

State officials from Thailand’s National Human Rights Commission, as well as from the United Nations endorsed the Yogyakarta Principles that serve to deepen the international community’s understanding of LGBT issues and concerns and to clarify the distinction between sexual orientation and gender identity. The officials stressed the need to translate the Yogyakarta Principles to local Asian languages for its further dissemination and effective use.

The plenary on “Queering the Asian Legal System” provided a rich sharing from various countries on the multiple ways by which laws can be subverted in support of LGBTs issues and concerns. Deemed as equally valuable was strategic alliance-building with progressive policy makers to facilitate legislative lobby work towards the legal recognition and protection of LGBT rights, welfare and entitlements.

The workshops focused on the current education and communication strategies used for effective LGBT advocacy work. There was a consensus that these strategies must not only be appropriate to the nature of LGBT issues, but also sensitive to the cultural, social and economic contexts of Asian societies.

The plenary on “Addressing AIDS in Asia” was a sharing of existing work on behavioural and attitudinal change among MSMs through a wide

range of direct service provisions, training programmes and information-communication materials. There was also a recognition and openness to further explore ways to enhance and develop a more holistic approach to addressing HIV/AIDS in Asia. For instance, this approach must include a better understanding of existing gender roles, gender socialisation, and gender power dynamics of intimate relations and households in the Asian context.

PLENARY IV: AFFIRMING TRANSGENDERS IN LGBT COMMUNITIES

This plenary focused on the unique issues and challenges posed to transgender persons as members of the LGBT community and as part of larger social justice movements.

The first presentation was titled "Gender Identity Transformed from 'Freaks' to a Rights Issue" by Aya Kamikawa, a Setagaya Ward Assembly Member in Tokyo, Japan. Kamikawa, who ran for a government position in Japan as a transgender woman, shared with the group that as of 2003, Japan has allowed sexual re-assignment. Despite this legal recognition, many transgenders still encounter difficulties and discrimination from other social institutions, particularly in attaining employment.

The second presentation was titled "Including Transgenders in LGBT Organisations" by Anna Kirey of Labrys based in Kyrgyzstan. Kirey explained that in Kyrgyzstan, there is no law permitting sexual re-assignment. In fact, the country has very strict laws about alterations made on passports and other official identification documents. Much of Labrys' work is directed at organising transgenders and lobbying for their legal recognition as well as facilitating their access to basic health services and social protection.

The third presentation was titled "Re-integration of Transgenderism in the LGBT community" by Lukman Sarahman of YAYASAN SRIKANDI SEJATI

based in Indonesia. Sarahman's presentation centred on the poor living conditions of transgenders and stressed that the need to increase awareness of transgenders' sexual identity rights and issues is an urgent one, if transgenders are to live with human dignity. Sarahman also recognised the importance of strengthening the linkages of local transgender groups, with the broader LGBT movement for social change.

The fourth presentation was titled "Metis: Rising from Victimisation towards Inclusion" by "Manisha" Suben Dhakal of Blue Diamond Society based in Nepal. Transgenders in Nepal have the confidence to deal with the community and are fully aware of their rights. However, they are still confronted with public discrimination and violence. Given this situation, local LGBT activism focuses its efforts on lobbying for a UN Convention on human rights and sexual orientation accompanied by a strong campaign for increased visibility of transgenders.

The fifth and last presentation was titled "Transgenders in China" by Jian Gang "Frank" Zhao of the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers based in China. In China both cross-dressing and prostitution is illegal. Yet both practices are widespread. Tens of thousands engage in sex work, many of them transgenders, and many of them unaware of their human rights. The presentation pointed to the need to provide venues to simply listen to the stories of transgenders in China, in order to learn how they can best be supported.

PARALLEL SKILLS/GENERAL WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 3: EMPOWERING TRANSGENDERS

This workshop was composed of two presentations which focused on effective empowerment strategies for transgenders.

Danai Linjongrat and Rapeepun Jommaroeng of Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand facilitated a

session they referred to as “An Empowering and Mind-Opening Process for Transgender People to Talk about their Sexuality.” This was an interactive group discussion that made use of word association exercises as a springboard to a vibrant discussion on the various schemas the workshop participants had of transgenders. The social implications of these schemas, as well as the implication of their descriptive labels were also discussed. The discussion also dwelled on the constricting conditions that languages provide for transgenders, be they local Asian languages or English.

Anna Kirey of Labrys in Kyrgyzstan also conducted an interactive session titled “Including Transgenders in LGBT Organisations.” This session was a fun and light way of evaluating the participants’ level of understanding and engagement on transgender issues. The participants were asked to answer yes or no to questions which surfaced their knowledge of definitions, distinctions of labels, and identification of transgenders, transvestites, and transsexuals. The questions also probed into the current work done by organisations to address transgender issues, and their level of awareness on transgenderism within their communities.

WORKSHOP 4: STRATEGISING FOR REGIONAL LGBT ADVOCACY

This workshop was a collaboratively sponsored session of the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) led by Grace Poore, Anjaree, Thailand led by Anjana Suvarmananda and ILGA led by Rosanna Flamer-Caldera.

The workshop provided the space to discuss the nature and need for LGBT regional advocacy work. Guided by questions from the resource facilitators from the three organisations, the workshop process surfaced the following: (1) some of the pressing LGBT issues that could best be addressed at the regional level, (2) possibilities of regional strategies having local impact, (3) target audiences likely to

benefit from the strategies, and (4) other things that were perceived as important to note when doing regional LGBT action.

The issues identified by the Southeast Asia sub-workshop included religious fundamentalism, decriminalisation, anti-discrimination, visibility of women and transgenders, and the empowerment of the youth LGBTQ. The regional strategies they identified were along the lines of collaboration with progressive religious leaders to speak on LGBT issues; dissemination of the Yogyakarta Principles; facilitation of a regional exchange of materials; and capacity building of the youth. The groups did not identify a specific target audience who could benefit from these because beneficiaries will depend on the specific issues being addressed.

Issues identified by the South Asia sub-group included the weak LGBT communities amidst increasing violence against LGBT individuals due to increasing political conservatism. Among the strategies identified were the continuation of regional fora/conferences and meetings to discuss issues on resource mobilisation, and the sharing of best practices on lobbying with international bodies such as the United Nations (UN) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Maximising country shadow reports as a means of documenting and exposing violations of human rights against LGBT was also cited as a strategy. The group also noted the importance of concerted efforts rather than acting in isolation or in competition with each other. The issues identified by the East Asia sub-workshop group included the need to empower the LGBT communities to effectively address discrimination. Some of the strategies highlighted were community-organising, and development of strategic partnerships with groups and/or individuals from other sectors like business, media, government, and educational institutions, towards broadening awareness on LGBT issues. They cautioned against imposing actions on the local LGBT communities, even if they are the target audience of these strategies.

PARALLEL SHARING/SKILLS/GENERAL WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 5: CELEBRATING PRIDE WITH INTERPRIDE

This workshop was composed of two presentations highlighting experiences on organising LGBT pride events in Asia.

Sahran Abeyesundara of Equal Ground & INTERPRIDE from Sri Lanka presented "INTERPRIDE and Its Benefits for the Asia Queer Community." Abeyesundara traced the history and relevance of pride events within the LGBT movement. He explained that in the past, LGBT pride marches were venues for airing grievances; protesting inequality and discrimination, and publicly expressing experiences of LGBTs. Recently, pride events have evolved into pride parades which are more celebratory in nature and directed primarily at achieving LGBT public visibility. He asserted that pride events in whatever form that is most appropriate in Asian countries, remains a critical approach for the continued struggle for LGBT rights.

Ashley Hsu-liang Wu of Taiwan Tongzhi Hotline Association presented "Does Asia Need the Pride Parade? A Western Production or a Chance to Become a New LGBT Movement?" He began by surfacing participants' thoughts on pride parades, which were generally described as happy, fun, political, and colourful. He then shared the history of the pride parade in Taiwan which was initially tied into government initiated festivals, until the LGBT community insisted on an independent space to express LGBT issues and concerns. More recently, the LGBT pride parade in Taiwan culminated with a celebration of the first same-sex marriage (though not yet legally recognised). Last year's theme was to show the larger community the different faces of LGBTs and their active involvement and contribution in economic, political and everyday life.

The open forum that followed was a venue for the

participants to also share their own styles, creativity and objectives in staging LGBT pride events in their different country contexts.

WORKSHOP 6: GALE AND REGIONAL LGBT EDUCATION EFFORTS

This workshop was composed of two presentations where facilitators shared their experiences on doing LGBT education work in the region.

Mira Ofreneo of Isis International and GALE and Sri Augustine of the Ardhanary Institute and GALE presented "The Gender and Sexualities Matrix – A Tool for LGBT Education with GALE." The matrix presentation challenged the usual focus of gender sensitivity training activities which use the traditional sex and gender divide as their foundation for understanding and examining gender and sexuality issues. Instead, Ofreneo's matrix acknowledges sexual orientation and gender identity as equally fundamental categories as biological sex and sociological genders. As such, they were not simply born out of the sex and gender divide. In doing so, she was able to show that there are at least 48 types of people, wherein the traditionally masculine, heterosexual male and the traditionally feminine, heterosexual female are the minority.

Peter Dankmeijer of GALE from the Netherlands presented "Introducing the Global Alliance on LGBT Education (GALE) : GALE in Asia." Dankmeijer shared GALE's history, work, and current involvements in Asia. Their mission as an organisation is to promote the full inclusion of disadvantaged people because of sexual orientation and gender identity through education. Now on their ninth year, they continue to work towards establishing an alliance of professional workers and development groups, as well as launching various types of projects to promote LGBT sensitivity in education. Dankmeijer also shared how GALE intends to continue strengthening and expanding its work in the Asian region.

The open forum that followed raised concerns about LGBT education work which requires a great deal of cultural sensitivity. Cultural sensitivity can prevent the perception of imposition, as the concepts of sex, gender, and sexuality are challenged, expanded, and evolved to be more inclusive of LGBT persons.

PLENARY V: WOMEN'S REALITIES AND THE LGBT MOVEMENT

This plenary put forward the issues and conditions women members of the LGBT movement face, surfacing the multiple spheres of discrimination and marginalisations.

The first presentation was titled "Women in Japan: LGBT's Involvement in Politics" by Kanako Otsuji from Japan. Otsuji, a former politician in Japan, shared how she participates in Japan politics as an 'out' lesbian. Although she lost in the last election, she continues her involvement in raising awareness on LGBT issues in the various fora she attends. At the end of her presentation, she identified four major challenges faced by the LGBT movement in Japan: (1) women's visibility; (2) LGBT issues as political issues; (3) lesbians in media; and (4) the general improvement of women's status, focusing on the principle of equal wage as men.

The second presentation was titled "Women's Sexuality and Cultural Politics in Sri Lanka" by Upeksha Thabrew from the Women's Support Group in Sri Lanka. Thabrew discussed the difficulties of political-organising and action for LGBT and women's groups in a repressive political and cultural context. Thabrew points out, for instance, how transgenders receive personal threats that make it difficult for them to even live freely, and even more to stage public action.

The third presentation was titled "Women LBT Visibility: Developing Capacity and Coalition Building Within and Among the LGBT, Human Rights, and Women's Movements" by Sri Augustine of the

Ardhanary Institute in Indonesia. Augustine shared her experience of asserting women LBT visibility within three major social movements: (1) LGBT, (2) human rights and (3) women's movements. She maintains that women's involvement in human rights movements and LGBT movements is a political statement in itself, as it challenges traditional notions and roles of women.

The fourth and last presentation was titled "Do We Need a Separate Lesbian Movement in Asia?" by Anjana Suvarnananda of Anjaree in Thailand. Suvarnananda spoke of the difficulties experienced with doing LGBT organising in the region in the 1990s when even ways of communicating was a challenge. She noted that much had certainly changed for the better. The large turn-out of participants in the conference itself shows how communication, and consequently, political organising, is made much easier. Given these and many other positive changes, she still posed these questions for reflection: (1) Are we giving enough attention to women's realities within the LGBT movements? and (2) Do we need a separate lesbian movement to strengthen lesbian advocacy within feminist, LGBT and broad social movements?

Unfortunately, due to time constraints an open forum did not take place after this plenary.

ILGA MATTERS

DAY FOUR: CONFERENCE PROPER - 27 JANUARY 2008

PRELIMINARIES – RECAP OF THE PREVIOUS DAY

Given the missed opportunity for an open forum after the last plenary of the previous day, the documentation team focused its recap on the challenges and reflection points raised in the last plenary on Women's Realities and the LGBT Movement. The recap, prepared by the Isis documentation team, was

presented by Janice Lopez, a member of the team. She highlighted and briefly elaborated on four major points raised in the plenary: [1] LGBT issues and traditional politics in Japan; [2] LGBT organising and advocacy amidst political repression in Sri Lanka; [3] strengthening LGBT linkages with human rights and feminist movements in Indonesia; and [4] the question, 'Is there a need for a separate lesbian movement in the region?'

PLENARY VI: LGBT MOVEMENTS TRAVERSING OTHER SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

This plenary focused on the multi-sectoral areas and different levels of LGBT advocacy work - local, regional and international - and its broad target audiences.

The first presentation was titled "LGBT Advocacy in the Indonesian Human Rights Movement" by Toen-King Oey of Arus Pelangi in Indonesia. Oey began with a brief orientation on the work of Arus Pelangi, namely its advocacy campaigns, legal aid, and monitoring of human rights violations against LGBTs. Their organisation sees the importance of being able to mainstream LGBT issues and concerns within the other social justice movements. Although they have encountered resistance, Oey explained that they continue to assert LGBT presence in labor, human rights, feminist and AIDS movements. He added that such integration is imperative in the Indonesian socio-political context.

The second presentation was titled "Heterosexism, Social Movements, and the LGBT Agenda in Asia" by Tesa de Vela and Bianca Miglioretto of Isis International based in the Philippines. They shared Isis' experience in challenging explicit and implicit forms of heterosexism and/or homophobia. Both illustrated specific efforts where heterosexist assumptions surfaced within the broad social movements (e.g. World Social Forum and World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters), within feminist movements (e.g. Feminist Dialogues), and at a time,

even within its own organisation. In recognising the gains and importance of such opportunities, Isis continues to identify spaces for inter-movement dialogues and poses this as a possible LGBT agenda in Asia.

The third and last presentation was titled "Strapped for Cash? The Implication of HIV Funding in the LGBT Communities" by Aditya Bondyopadhyay of the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health based in India. Bondyopadhyay began his presentation with a synthesis of on-going debates on HIV awareness and its link to LGBT advocacy. He also emphasised the difficulties experienced by MSM who are at greater risk of HIV/AIDS but are usually not prepared to 'come out'. Despite such difficulties, Bondyopadhyay presented opportunities for dialogue and collaboration among those doing HIV/AIDS work and those doing LGBT organising and advocacy work. He sees these opportunities as strategic, particularly for LGBT groups which encounter difficulty in fund raising. Such funds dedicated to HIV/AIDS can and should be maximised for the LGBT communities.

The open forum that followed highlighted the exchanges among many of the participants. Stories were shared on the following: similar as well as unique strategies for overcoming homophobia; awareness of their own positions of privilege as educated and English speaking members of LGBT communities; the need to recognise the multiple identities of LGBTs in terms of class, caste, religion, etc.; balancing the need for resources and commitment to advocacy work; and the importance of standing a firm ground and not compromising one's own agenda to donor driven agendas. There was also a general commitment expressed by the participants to continue inter-movement dialogues as a crucial strategy towards empowering the LGBT community in Asia.

CLOSING PLENARY VII: BUILDING AN ILGA-ASIA REGIONAL STRUCTURE

The plenary presentations and workshops allowed the articulation of new and long standing issues and demonstrated the depth and coverage of the strategies adopted by LGBT groups in the region. The need for as well as the role of regional networks such as ILGA-Asia were affirmed and clarified. There was a consensus that ILGA is a converging point of the efforts of local groups. It provides the much needed exchange of resources, capacity building, and policy lobbying at the regional level (e.g., UN bodies).

The creation of an ILGA-Asia regional structure was seen as a concrete step forward. The following sub-regions were identified with their corresponding elected representatives (See table below).

Each of the elected representatives gave their commitment to strengthening LGBT advocacy work in the region primarily by expanding its reach to as many Asian countries possible. They also expressed their need for the continued support from the current ILGA membership and its officers.

The conference culminated with a voting on who would be the secretariat and organisers of the next ILGA-Asia conference. After the votes were cast, Blue Diamond which is based in Nepal was chosen. He graciously accepted to host the 4th ILGA-Asia conference in 2010.

ILGA-ASIA Regional Board Members and Representatives to the ILGA-World Board

Sub-Region	Male Representative	Female Representative
Central Asia	Suki	Anna Kirey
South Asia	Sahran Abeyundara	Hashna Hena
Southeast Asia	Toen-King Oey	Poedjiati Tan
East Asia	Ashley Hsu-liang Wu	Eva Lee
West Asia	Jian Gang "Frank" Zhao	Kamilia Manaf
Asian Region	Sahran Abeyundara	Poedjiati Tan

PRESS RELEASE

Another World is Possible with Sexual Diversity

Equality in Diversity NOW! was the rallying call of the 3rd ILGA-Asia Regional Conference for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) people held in January 2008. For the first time in Thai history, more than 150 LGBTIQ people from all over Asia proudly marched and danced in the streets of Chiang Mai to make themselves visible, with the hope that the rest of the world was watching.

This pride parade and street party happened at Night Plaza Street, starting from the Buddhist Centre (Puttastan) to Pantip Plaza. This event also marked the “GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION AND MOBILISATION” where millions of people, civil society organisations, and social movements from various parts of the world organised events to show that “ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE.”

“For ILGA-Asia, a world that is truly democratic, is a world that is inclusive of all genders, a community that is accepting of gender diversity, religions which are respectful of sexual differences among people, and governments which protect and uphold the human rights of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders, Intersex and Queers.” said Mira Ofreneo, ILGA-Asia female representative from the Philippines.

The conference was officially launched on 24 January 2008, with the opening remarks from no less than Dr. Naina Supapueng, representing the National Human Rights Commission in Thailand and Prof. Vitit Muntarbhorn, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and co-chair of the expert's meeting of the Yogyakarta Principles.

Note: This press release was distributed to the various media agencies covering the pride parade.



PHOTO ESSAY





CAUCUSES FOCUS STRATEGIES ON SIGNIFICANT SPHERES IN LGBT STRUGGLE

By NIEL STEVE KINTANAR

The pre-conference caucus discussions of the 3rd ILGA-Asia Regional Conference held last 24 January 2008 provided a venue to identify the different Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) issues in the different countries and to enumerate different strategies, including those which can be employed at the regional level.

Three different discussions were organised to flesh out these issues and strategies: Male, Female and Transgender Caucuses. All three caucuses were synthesised into four significant spheres of LGBT struggle. This synthesis was presented by Mira Alexis Ofreneo, ILGA-Asia Female Representative, and Tesa de Vela, Associate Director of Isis International via a four-slide mind map.

The four significant spheres of LGBT struggle are (1) the self, (2) family and peers, (3) community and social movements, and (4) formal institutions and social structures. In this model, the self is affected by multiple levels of the surrounding environment. Conversely, the self can also actively influence its environment. Each discussion identified varying concerns on each of these spheres.

With participants from ten countries, the gay and bisexual men addressed issues which clustered around community and social movements, as well as formal institutions and social structures. Political equality, recognition and representation, and education were among the issues raised. One participant

pointed out society's limited openness to sexual diversity largely because of religious and legal conservatism. Various forms of discrimination also exist. An example cited was termination from employment due to one's sexuality. Despite such intolerance, the participants still speak of progress in organisations which are dealing with LGBT concerns in the region.

Strategies to address these issues include education work towards an appreciation and respect for a diversity of identities; dialogue between and among LGBT groups in different countries; and legal reforms which recognise LGBT rights as human rights. The participants also called for a transnational strategy to abolish and/or repeal sodomy laws which is the pressing advocacy of many at the moment.

Meanwhile, lesbian and bisexual women addressed issues in all four significant spheres. On the self and

The four significant spheres of LGBT struggle are (1) the self; (2) family and peers; (3) community and social movements; and (4) formal institutions and social structures.

A premium was placed on activism and human rights work. Challenges were also posed on how ILGA can be made more inclusive of bisexual and transgenders.

family and peers spheres, they expressed the need for accessible direct services such as counseling, given that a number of LGBT experience various forms of violence. On the spheres of community and social movements as well as formal institutions and social structures, religion remains an agent of conservatism, which effectively controls women's sexualities and sexual rights. Such control is manifested in their experience of violence. Women are also pressured to marry. The caucus participants maintained that forced marriage for women is a distinct experience from that of men. As lesbian and bisexual women are denied their fundamental rights and public policies have yet to fully address discrimination, there is a need for a visible and sustained affirmation of their human rights and other social entitlements.

The female caucus cited the following strategies: education and training in rural and urban areas, especially among the media and the religious; more direct access to social services and protection; and regional networking with other lesbian and bisexual women organisations.

Similar to lesbian and bisexual women, transgenders raised issues on visibility and recognition, equal rights, discrimination and violence. Transgender as a unique gender is still not being recognised. An example of recognition, however, is the case of Nepal which now recognises the "third gender" in their constitution. Language barriers and the lack of terminologies also contribute to the failure in capturing the experience of the transgender in Asia and LGBT communities. This has aggravated the problem of invisibility of the transgender concerns in and

out of the LGBT movement despite their visibility in pride parades and other LGBT media events. The fundamental lack of understanding of transgenders' unique issues point to their basic needs in the sphere of the self, including identity issues and health concerns. The lack of recognition of transgenders in society at large renders transgenders more marginalised in terms of social security and services and vulnerable to hate crimes (transphobia) and HIV.

Hence, there is a need for information and education on transgender issues firstly within the LGBT movement, and secondly in society at large. A call was made by transgenders for a network that can facilitate this exchange of information, empowerment, and resource mobilisation. A unique issue on a structural level is the need to recognise the third sex/gender and ensure their protection in the law.

The open forum affirmed the issues and concerns of the LGBT community, as cited by the caucuses. Strategies which were outlined during the plenary include the promotion of gender identities, sexual orientation and community empowerment through education. Towards this end, a premium was placed on activism and human rights work. Challenges were also posed on how ILGA can be made more inclusive of bisexual and transgenders, particularly with regard to its name. The open forum also highlighted the dearth of frameworks which can account for transgender rights.

Moreover, it was suggested that the youth be included as a caucus. Aside from their unique struggle, the youth is expected to take on the leadership in pursuing these issues in the future.

All three caucuses spoke of the need for a regional network that can consolidate the different LGBT organisations all over Asia. This regional network is envisioned to facilitate the exchange of resources and promote visibility, leading to greater possibilities for resource mobilisation and greater leverage for legal reforms lobbying.

LGBT MOVEMENTS TRAVERSING OTHER SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

By BIANCA MIGLIORETTO

Why should LGBT organisations, communities, and movements want to collaborate with feminist organisations, feminist movements, communication movements and the broader social movements?

This was one of the questions raised by Tesa de Vela and Bianca Miglioretto of Isis International at the panel, "LGBT Movements Traversing Other Social Movements."

Our sexual orientation and gender identity are just among the many more important factors which define our personal identity and our engagement as social beings, including our status in society and our experiences of discrimination. Other social categories such as gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, caste, class, and age, among others are equally crucial.

"While it is important for LGBT movements to build communities, it seems equally important to engage the broader social movements on LGBT issues," de Vela asserted. Places such as the World Social Forum and the Feminist Dialogues provide safe spaces. But these spaces must include stakes from the LGBT movements and allow the latter's dialogue with other social struggles such as those on patriarchy,

"The mainstream human rights movement offers many opportunities to hook up..." -- King Oey

neoliberalism, fundamentalism, and militarism.

Communication tools are likewise important for making LGBT issues more visible and advocating LGBT rights. Most organisations are against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. One of these organisations, AMARC (World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters) commits itself to such principle that it even articulates this in their by-laws.

However, its content on the airwaves rarely mentions LGBT issues. An open lobbying against a board candidate on the basis of her being a lesbian was also not apprehended by the organisation. Miglioretto, Isis community radio officer pointed out that, "the lesson here is that it is important to unite LGBT people within organisations and assert our rights and claim our space. Often we can count more from our solidarity with feminists than with heterosexual men."

Meanwhile, Aditya Bondyopadhyay from the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health pointed out that the HIV/AIDS prevention campaigns target MSM (Men having Sex with Men). Yet many MSMs hardly identify themselves as gay men. For them, having sex with men does not constitute a question on their gender behaviour at all: "Man penetrates, woman is penetrated... Effective fucking makes the man. Even if they have sex with a man, they still perform the penetrating act. [They believe that] they are not homosexual as they [usually fail] to develop a notion

“Visibility is crucial. It enhances the coming out process....” -- King Oey

of sexuality. The ‘gay’ identity means nothing to them,” Bondyopadhyay explained.

On the other hand, the self-identified gays are confined to a minority who are educated; who live in an urban setting; and who are economically well-off to gain access to communications tools and services. As he puts, “Gay activism therefore is restricted in reach, it is often exclusive or exclusionary.”

This conjecture illuminates the fact that the many “non-gay” men are those most at risk of HIV. Albeit HIV/AIDS prevention work is often well-funded, it tends to sidestep the LGBT rights discourse.

History taught HIV workers the importance of human rights to sustain themselves in their work. Interestingly, the pioneers of HIV work are mostly human rights activists. But it cannot be denied that HIV work attracts enormous funds — something which human rights work sorely miss.

Bondyopadhyay then urges the need to “create a symbiosis, forget false debates, and push the envelope gradually but firmly.” He explained that HIV must be used where the disease exists and at the same time, for human rights advocacy. “Rights need not be strapped for cash,” he added.

Bondyopadhyay also asserted that as “HIV needs rights for survival”, the “rights universe” must also tap the resources and opportunities that HIV work provides. Finally, he urged that HIV work include a broader agenda by involving LGBT issues, among others.

Articulating LGBT issues as human rights issues is likewise a strategy adapted by Indonesian LGBT

groups. “LGBT communities have been good at creating social space for themselves, but there is now a greater need for political space. The mainstream human rights movement offers many opportunities to hook up,” said Toen-King Oey from Arus Pelangi as he recounted the Indonesian experience of LGBT advocacy within the human rights movement. “Visibility is crucial. It enhances the coming out process. That is why we are always present at celebrations of Labor Day, Women’s Day, Human Rights Day, and AIDS Day,” he added.

Arus Pelangi (Rainbow) was formed in 2005 as an alliance of LGBT individuals and organisations as well as non-LGBT human rights activists. It is a pioneer in inclusive organising strategies for LGBT rights, that is including heterosexual supporters, moving beyond the traditionally exclusive approach of LGBT groups. It was the first organisation to dialogue with legislators and bureaucrats towards legal reform on LGBT issues. It has also allied itself with other minorities, who are also subjected to various forms of discrimination. These minorities include the differently-abled, ex-communists, and religious minorities. An umbrella coalition “Indonesian Anti-Discrimination Committed” (KADI) has been set up to help address all forms of discrimination that minorities confront.

While member organisations of ILGA at a national level are successfully queering other social movements, it is time for ILGA to go beyond community-building and initiate inter-movement dialogues. The debates are important, but now it is time for action.

As de Vela and Miglioretto posed, it is time to think about the following questions: “How can we broaden and enrich other social movements by introducing LGBT rights issues and how can we enrich the LGBT-movements by taking up other social issues?”

THOUGHTS ON “EQUALITY IN DIVERSITY NOW!”

By KATHLEEN AQUINO

The 3rd ILGA-Asia Conference held in Chiang Mai, Thailand last 24 to 27 January 2008, was

an opportunity to unite LGBT activists from the different parts of the region. It provided a venue for LGBT activists to discuss pressing issues within their respective countries and to share strategies towards the attainment of gender equality and sexual diversity in Asia.

A critical agenda of the conference was the establishment of a Regional Board for ILGA-Asia. This was among the main accomplishments of the conference.

Isis International interviewed the former representatives of ILGA-Asia: Mira Alexis Ofreneo, ILGA-Asia Female Representative and Research Associate of Isis International; and Aung Myo Min, ILGA-Asia Male Representative and Director of the Committee of Lesbian and Gay Rights Burma. Both Ofreneo and Min were responsible for organising the conference.

Isis International (Isis): Why did you choose the theme “Equality in Diversity Now” for this regional conference?



Mira Alexis P. Ofreneo

(MO): When we were planning for the meeting, what always emerged was the diversity in Asia, and consequently the

diversity of expressions of genders and sexualities. However diverse the cultures of Asia are, we have a common call for equality. And so we put them together and made it “Equality in Diversity Now!” Some wanted the theme to be “De-criminalisation Now” because in their own countries, there is a pressing need to abolish laws criminalising homosexuality. But we [still] felt that “Equality in Diversity Now” was more Asian.

Aung Myo Min

(AM): We are living in diversity — a diversity of culture, religion, belief. But the sexual minorities are not usually seen or visible in this kind of diversity. So we have a panel of diversity but we really want to have equality so that people from the sexual minorities, the LGBT people should be regarded as human beings.



Isis: What do you think this conference has achieved?

MO: For one, we have never put together so many LGBT people from different parts of Asia in one place before. We have had academic conferences like “Queer Asia” but we had not reached West Asia or Mongolia. In this conference, we have participants from these places. The participants are mostly activists who are working underground.

So the conference has really stirred excitement, drawing a number of people who are here. Hopefully, this will create momentum for people to come together [in the future].

AM: I am so pleased to have this conference right here. It [has been] a very successful event of ILGA-Asia, in terms of the number of participants coming from the different parts of Asia. The discussions are also very good. A lot of new inputs and knowledge were gained.

One other thing that I am so proud of is having the first ever gay pride parade in Chiang Mai. Last night, a huge number of people turned up, [showing their] interest.

Isis: What do you envision for ILGA-Asia?

MO: It is [really good] seeing these people attend this conference. As organisers, [we were] very

anxious [of the possibility] that people would not come. I [am also happy] to see the “pride parade.” But then I hope that a real network of groups [will emerge from] the region and do something concrete beyond the conferences. [These initiatives can be] a pilot campaign on “Equality in Diversity Now” across the different countries and a visibility campaign to affirm transgenders in the region. But then [these initiatives] will depend on the creation of a regional board for ILGA Asia.

AM: So many new ideas came up and were discussed in this conference. [What] we need to do is to [proceed] from discussion to action. We discussed how to build up good networking and solidarity in the struggle for equality. We need to take action so that we can [proceed] as planned. Discussion without action is useless. So we should take the discussion out of the conference room and take action in real life.



Standing from left to right: Ashley Hsu-liang Wu, East Asia Male Representative; Suki, Central Asia Male Representative; Anna Kirey, Central Asia Female Representative; Hashna Hena, South Asia Female Representative; Jian Gang “Frank” Zhao West Asia Male Representative; Sahran Abeyundara, South Asia Male Representative and ILGA-Asia Representative; Poedjiati Tan, Southeast Asia Female Representative & ILGA-Asia Representative
Sitting from left to right: Mira Alexis Ofreneo, former ILGA-Asia Female Representative; Kamilia Manaf, West Asia Female Representative; Eva Lee, East Asia Female Representative; Toen-King Oey, Southeast Asia Male Representative; Aung Myo Min, former ILGA-Asia Male Representative

Chiangmai2008
"Equality in Diversity Now!"
3rd ILGA-ASIA Regional Conference
Chiang Mai, Thailand, 24-27 January 2008

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

ARRIVAL

Wednesday, 23 January 2008

CONFERENCE DAY I

Thursday, 24 January 2008

PRELIMINARIES

8.00 am REGISTRATION
c/o Committee on Lesbian Rights in Burma (CLRB) & M-Plus, Host Organisations

PRE-CONFERENCE OPENING: Welcome to ILGA-ASIA!

10.00 am Opening by the Host Organisations
Representative from CLRB
Representative from M-Plus

10.10 am Pre-Conference Welcome Remarks
Aung Myo Min, ILGA-ASIA Male Representative
Mira Alexis P. Ofreneo, ILGA-ASIA Female Representative
Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, ILGA Female Co-Secretary-General

10.30 am PRESENTATIONS

"Coming Out, Coming Home: Cebu2005 2nd ILGA-Asia Regional Conference"
Film Presentation

"Equality in Diversity Now!: Chiangmai2008 3rd ILGA-Asia Regional Conference"
Mira Alexis P. Ofreneo, ILGA-ASIA Female Representative

10.50 am Presentation of Conference Programme
Tesa de Vela, Isis International-Manila, Programme Committee

Administrative Announcements
CLRB & M-Plus

————— 11.00 am —————
Tea/Coffee Break

PRECONFERENCE: L-G-B-T Issues and Strategies Mapping Workshops

11.15 am Gay and Bisexual Men's Caucus
Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Caucus
Transgender Caucus

Note: Each workshop was assigned a facilitator and graphic rapporteur.

————— 1.00 pm —————
Lunch

PRECONFERENCE: L-G-B-T Dialogues and Mapping Integration

2.00 pm Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Dialogues
Tesa de Vela, Facilitator
Mira Alexis P. Ofreneo, Graphic Rapporteur

————— 3.30 pm —————
Tea/Coffee Break

PRE-CONFERENCE CLOSING: Building an ILGA-ASIA Regional Structure

3.45 pm ILGA MATTERS

ILGA-ASIA Membership
Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, ILGA Female Co-Secretary-General
Trevor Cook, ILGA Executive Director

A Proposed ILGA-ASIA Organisational Structure:
Constitution, Regional Board, Regional Office
Mira Alexis P. Ofreneo, ILGA-ASIA Female Representative

Opening of Nominations for ILGA-ASIA Representatives
Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, ILGA Female Co-Secretary-General
Trevor Cook, ILGA Executive Director

Chairing Pool
Mira Alexis P. Ofreneo, ILGA-ASIA Female Representative

————— 5.00 pm —————
Rest

EVENING EVENT: Welcome Dinner & Opening Ceremonies

6.00 pm Opening Program
CLRB & M-Plus

Opening Address
Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, ILGA Female Co-Secretary-General

————— 9.00 pm —————
End of Day I

CONFERENCE DAY 2
Friday, 25 January 2008

PRELIMINARIES

9.30 am Administrative Announcements
CLRB and M-Plus

Recap
Isis International-Manila Documentation Team

OPENING PLENARY I: Launching of the Yogyakarta Principles

10.00 am Introductions
CLRB and M-Plus

Opening Address

Naina Supapueng, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Thailand

Keynote Address

Vitit Muntarbhorn, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Co-chair, Experts' Meeting on the Yogyakarta Principles

————— 11.00 am —————

Tea/Coffee Break

PLENARY II: Queering the Asian Legal Systems

11.15 am PRESENTATIONS

"Penalisation of Private Consensual Same-Sex Sexual Acts in the Commonwealth Countries of South and South-east Asia"

Sumit Baudh, The South and South East Asia Resource Centre on Sexuality, India

"Nepal Supreme Court's Historic Decision - Freedom for Us and Hope for Rest of Asia"

Sunil Pant, Blue Diamond Society, Nepal

"An Attempt to Protect LGBT Rights under Local Legislation in Japan"

Azusa Yamashita, Gay Japan News, Japan

"Progressive Legislation vs. Conservative Court – A Tortured Legal Creation under Taiwan's Social and Cultural Context"

Ashley Hsu-liang Wu, Taiwan Tongzhi Hotline Association, Taiwan

"Shadow Preying on Shadows: LGBTs in Philippine Criminal Law"

Edgar Bernal, Rainbow Rights Project (RRights) Inc., Philippines

"The Struggles of LGBT Equality in Hong Kong"

Roddy Shaw, Civil Rights for Sexual Diversity, Hong Kong

"The Rainbow Lobby: The Sexual Diversity Network and the Military-Installed Government in Thailand"

Douglas Sanders, Gays Without Borders, Thailand/Canada

12.45 am Open Forum

————— 1.00 pm —————

Lunch

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

2.00 pm Workshop I (Sharing/Skills): "Local LGBT Education and Advocacy Work"

"LGBT Issues in Education: The College Guide for LGBT Students in Japan"

Kei Kato, Mejiro University, Japan

"By and For Youth LGBT Advocacy Work in Indonesia"

Kamilia, Institut Pelangi Perempuan, Indonesia

"A Successful MSM Peer Education Programme in Mongolia"

Enkhzaya Begzsuren, Youth for Health CBO, Mongolia

"Homosexuals in Government Policies in Indonesia"

Yuli Rustinawati, Arus Pelangi, Indonesia

"Mainstreaming LGBT Issues Through Organizing: The Experience of Iwag Dabaw"

Rogelio "Rhoj" Diaz, Iwag Dabaw Inc., Philippines

“Gays in Moslem Communities in Surabaya - Indonesia”
Sardjono Sigit, GAYa NUSANTARA, Indonesia

Workshop 2 (Sharing/Skills): “Local LGBT Communication Strategies”

“The Digital Road to Acceptance: Changing Public Attitudes Through the Internet – The Case of Singapore”
Alex Waipang Au, People Like Us (PLUS), Singapore

“Coloring China in Rainbow: How Independent Magazine Les+, Queer Singing Contest, Pink China Podcasts and LGBT Art Camp Push China Forward to Embrace Diversity”
Bin Xu, Common Language, China
Gong Yi, Les+, China
Li Yun Jun, Beijing Aizhixing Institute, China

“Q! Film Festival: Using Film and Arts as an Effective Medium of Campaign for the Rights of the LGBTQ Community in Indonesia”
Nino Restu Permana Susanto, QMUNITY JOGJA, Indonesia

————— 3.30 pm —————
Tea/Coffee Break

PLENARY III: Addressing AIDS in Asia

3.45 pm PRESENTATIONS

“Is Creating ‘Gay Communities’ the Answer to HIV in Asia?”
Chad Hughes, Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Australia

“Maintaining and Expanding HIV Prevention Programmes at M-Plus Chiang Mai”
Christopher Walsh, Pad Thepsi, & Montian Wuthikailert, Deakin University, Australia /M-Plus, Thailand

“HIV and Sexual Identity in Myanmar”
Tin Aung Win & Kim Benton, Burnet Institute Myanmar, Myanmar/New Zealand

“Getting Everyone to the Table: MSM, HIV, and the Asia-Pacific Response”
Paul Causey, Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health, Thailand/USA

4.45 pm Open Forum

5.00 pm ILGA MATTERS

Aung Myo Min, ILGA-ASIA Male Representative
Mira Alexis P. Ofreneo, ILGA-ASIA Female Representative
Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, ILGA Female Co-Secretary-General
Trevor Cook, ILGA Executive Director

————— 5.30 pm —————
End of Day 2

CONFERENCE DAY 3
Saturday, 26 January 2008

Preliminaries

9.00 am Administrative Announcements
CLRB & M-Plus

Recap
Isis International-Manila Documentation Team

PLENARY IV: Affirming Transgenders in LGBT Communities

9.30 am PRESENTATIONS

“Gender Identity Transformed from “Freaks” to a Rights Issue”

Aya Kamikawa, Setagaya Ward Assembly Member in Tokyo, Japan

“Including Transgenders: The Experience of Kyrgyzstan and Ways Forward”

Anna Kirey, Labrys, Kyrgyzstan/Ukraine

“Re-Integration of Transgenders in the LGBT Community”

Lukman Surahman, YAYASAN SRIKANDI SEJATI, Indonesia

“Metis: Rising from Victimisation towards Inclusion - Heroes of the Movement”

Suben “Manisha” Dhakal, Blue Diamond Society, Nepal

“Transgenders in China”

Jian Gang “Frank” Zhao, Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers, China

10.45 am Open Forum

11.00 am

Tea/Coffee Break

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

11.15 am Workshop 3 (Skills): “Empowering Transgenders”

“An Empowering and Mind-Opening Process for Transgender People to Talk About Their Sexuality”

Danai Linjongrat & Rapeepun Jommaroeng, Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand, Thailand

“Including Transgenders in LGBT Organizations”

Anna Kirey, Labrys, Kyrgyzstan/Ukraine

Workshop 4 (General): “Strategising for Regional LGBT Advocacy”

Grace Poore, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), USA/Malaysia

Anjana Suvamananda, Anjaree, Thailand

Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA)

1.00 pm

Lunch

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

2.00 pm Workshop 5 (Sharing/Skills): “Celebrating Pride with INTERPRIDE”

“Does Asia Need the Pride Parade? A Western Production or a Chance to Become a New LGBT Social Movement?”

Ashley Hsu-liang Wu, Taiwan Tongzhi Hotline Association, Taiwan

“INTERPRIDE and Its Benefits for the Asian Queer Community”

Sahran Abeysundara, Equal Ground & INTERPRIDE, Sri Lanka

Workshop 6 (General): “GALE and Regional LGBT Education Efforts”

“The Genders and Sexualities Matrix – A Tool for LGBT Education with GALE”

Mira Alexis P. Ofreneo, Isis International-Manila and GALE, Philippines

Sri Augustine, Ardhany Institute and GALE, Indonesia

"Introducing the Global Alliance on LGBT Education – GALE in Asia"
Peter Dankmeijer, GALE, Netherlands

————— 3.30 pm —————
Tea/Coffee Break

PLENARY V: Women's Realities and the LGBT Movement

3.45 pm PRESENTATIONS

"Women In Japan: LGBT's Involvement in Politics"
Kanao Otsuji, Japan

"Women's Sexuality and Cultural Politics in Sri Lanka"
Upeksha Thabrew, Women's Support Group, Sri Lanka

"Women LBT Visibility: Developing Capacity and Coalition Building Within and Among the LGBT, Human Rights,
and Women's Movements"
Sri Agustine, Ardhany Institute, Indonesia

"Do We Need a Separate Lesbian Movement in Asia?"
Anjana Suvamananda, Anjaree, Thailand

4.45 pm Open Forum

5.00 pm ILGA MATTERS

Aung Myo Min, ILGA-ASIA Male Representative
Mira Alexis P. Ofreneo, ILGA-ASIA Female Representative
Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, ILGA Female Co-Secretary-General
Trevor Cook, ILGA Executive Director

EVENING EVENT: Pride Parade & Street Party

————— 9.00 pm —————
End of Day 3

CONFERENCE DAY 4
Sunday, 27 January 2008

Preliminaries

9.00 am Administrative Announcements
CLRB and M-Plus

Recap
Isis International-Manila Documentation Team

PLENARY VI: LGBT Movements Traversing Other Social Movements

9.30 am PRESENTATIONS

"LGBT Advocacy in the Indonesian Human Rights Movement"
Toen-King Oey, Arus Pelangi, Indonesia

"Heterosexism, Social Movements, and the LGBT Agenda in Asia"
Tesa de Vela & Bianca Miglioretto, Isis International

"Strapped for Cash? The Implications of HIV Funding in the LGBT Communities"
Aditya Bondyopadhyay, Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health, India

10.45 am Open Forum

————— 11.00 am —————
Tea/Coffee Break

CLOSING PLENARY VII: Building an ILGA-ASIA Regional Structure

11.15 am ILGA MATTERS

Presentation of Nominees for ILGA-ASIA Representatives and Regional Board

Election of ILGA-ASIA Regional Board

Election of ILGA-ASIA Representatives to the World Executive Board

Presentation of Elected ILGA-ASIA Representatives and Regional Board

Election and Presentation of Host Organisation and Country for the Next Regional Conference

Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, ILGA Female Co-Secretary-General
Trevor Cook, ILGA Executive Director

12.30 pm Closing Address
Newly Elected ILGA-ASIA Representatives

————— 1.00 pm —————
Lunch

————— 2.00 pm —————
End of Day 4

DEPARTURE
Monday, 28 January 2008