

Report on the Meeting of Second Conveners' Group for the Asia Pacific NGO Forum on B+10

April 29-30, 2004, Viengtai Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Meeting Chair:

Patricia (Tatti) B. Licuanan, Chairperson, Asia Pacific NGO Forum on B+10

Participants:

The meeting was attended by forty (40) individuals representing 22 women's organizations/networks.

Meeting Flow:

Day One of the meeting had the following segments: (a) sharing, updating of groups/networks on their participation to the upcoming Forum as well as their national and sub-regional processes on B+10; (2) a briefing about the Forum through a presentation; 3) discussion by break-out groups to approve changes into the plan of actions and reactivate functional committee membership; 4) discussion by break-out groups to reorganize and finalize plans of each thematic committee; 5) final inspection of the Mahidol University by the Hosting Committee with selected members of the Conveners' Group.

Day Two of the meeting had the following segments: (a) report of the Functional Committees on the agreements taken and plan finalization; (b) discussion on political strategies in preparation for the High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting in September and 2005 CSW Review; c) review of points of discussion and points for follow-through.

Substantive Highlights/Summary of Discussion

1. The Meeting was formally opened to finalize all of the plans and preparations for the Forum. One of the concerns raised by the sub-regional groups/networks is the lack of funding for participation at the Forum especially by the representatives from the Pacific Islands who were not able to attend the meeting. Gaps in areas of preparation and slow action of committees were targeted to be filled up at the meeting.
2. Both the functional committees holding the overall plan for the Forum as well as the leadership and membership of the thematic committees were reorganized and revived under a point person/point organization. All who have attended the meeting were considered part of the conveners' group hence, integrated into the process of preparation and deliberation.
3. Below is the updated membership of the Functional Committees and Thematic Committees. The underlined names are the point person/organization.

A. Functional Committees

Program: Tatti Licuanan, Titi Sumbung, Pam Rajput, Gigi Francisco, Tay-Tay, Pawadee Tonguthai, Ayesha Mir, Janice Fong, ISIS, Dinara Alimdjanova, RD Marte (NAPY), Agniva Lahiri (NAPY)

Lobbying: Pam Rajput, Rathi Ramanathan, Mulyandari (Coalition of Indonesian Women for Democracy and Justice), RD Marte (NAPY), Meena Shivdas, Nandita Gandhi (NNWAG), Women's League of Burma

Participation: Lin Chew, Agniva Lahiri, Cecilia Young Dongling, Shyr Lagura, , Vanita Mukherjee, Mahmuda Islam

Fundraising and Finance: Hiroko Hara, Yukiko Oda, Young Hai Park, APWLD, Tatti Licuanan, Eileen Pittaway, Sumalee Chartikavanij, Sonali Mohapatra, Gulnora Makhmudova, Dinara Alimdjanova

Gender and Marketplace: Annie Serrano, Ruby Kenny (NAPY), Supatana Atorn-Phathai, Prabha Kijjana, Gulnora Makhmudova

Media and Communications: APC-WNSP, Isis International (Mavic Balleza), Meena Shivdas (ARENA), Sepali (Sri Lanka)

Drafting and Publications: Eileen Pittaway, Michiko, Anjana Shakya, Yukiko Oda, Ruth Manosma, Ruby Kenny (NAPY/PNG), Rini Soerojo, Sonali Mohapatra (NAPY-India), Farida Shaheed, Salma Khan

Hosting: Thai Women Watch, Thanpuying Sumalee Chartikavanij, Pawadee Tonguthai, Mahidol University, National Council of Women (Thailand), Tourism Authority of Thailand

Cultural Committee: Marilen Abesamis, Nandita Shah
Film Sub Committee: Lin Chew, Isis- Mavic Balleza,
Susanna George, Nandita Shah,
Mahbobeh Abassgholizadeh

B. Thematic Committees

Women and the Environment: Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW), Dinara Alimdjanova

Education and Training of Women: WAGI, ACWCUA, Thai Women Watch (c/o Pawadee), Lippi-Indonesia, Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh, ANWC, Titir Soejono

- (Indonesian Women's Congress), UNESCO Science and Technology UN, Gulnora Makhmudova
- Violence against Women: Nandita Gandhi (NNAWG), South Asia Women Watch (SAWW), Rita Kalibonso (Mitra Perempuan), Sonali Mohapatra (NAPY)
- Women and the Media: ANWIC, AMARC-Women's International Network, Meena Shivdas, Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh
- The Girl-Child: Ruby (NAPY), South Asian Alliance for Child Rights, Focus for Girl Child (Razia and Carl)
- Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of Women: UNIFEM East Asia and South East Asia, NCRFW, Dinara Alimdjanova, Rini Soerojo (ICWIP)
- Women and Armed Conflict: Women's League of Burma, Deepa (CAW), Dewi Nova Wahyuni (National Commission on Women's Rights)
- Power and Decision-Making: Thai Women Watch (c/o Pawadee), Titi Sumbung (ICWIP), Dinara Alimdjanova
- Women and Poverty: EAWF, DAWN, NAWO, Gulnora Makhmudova
- Women and the Economy: CAW, Titiek Harjini (Indonesian Association for Small Business)
- Women's Health: ARROW, APCRS, LIKHAAN, CARAASIA, Thai Women Watch (c/o Pawadee), RD Marte (NAPY), Indonesian Network for Reproductive Health (Anita Rachwan)
- Human Rights of Women: Thai Women Watch (c/o Pawadee), South Asia Watch, Mulyandari (Indonesian Coalition of Women for Democracy and Justice), Agniva (NAPY), Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh

3. Reports of the Functional Committees

A. Program Committee

The Program Committee finalized the flow, structure, and content of the program taking into consideration the opportunities and limits presented by the Mahidol University venue. Some changes in the plenary sessions were approved during the meeting. For the first plenary, the overarching goal is the inter-linking of Beijing Platform for Action (BPA) with other important advocacy areas such as the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Program of Action, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the broader rights-based framework, human security with a special focus on HIV/AIDS, and mobility. The committee also endorsed some

possible speakers for each of these focus areas and have finalized all of the speakers for other plenary sessions as well.

The conveners were encouraged to organize their own workshops and asked to encourage other organizations to submit proposals for workshops.

B. Hosting Committee:

The Hosting Committee reported that the accommodations for participants will not be inside Mahidol University but will be in the participating hotels due to several unforeseen circumstances. They will be in charge of providing the list of these hotels and negotiating on the prices. Because of these developments, participants will be transported back and forth during the forum free of charge.

However, the Hosting Committee reiterated that Mahidol is still the right venue for the Forum since it can very well adjust to the needs and requirements of the forum unlike in hotels.

As to the room requirements, the Hosting Committee reported that 50 rooms will be available for the concurrent sessions. It was decided that the Asean Institute of Health and Development, an adjacent building will be the site of some sessions that can provide 12 additional rooms. The time slot for the use of these rooms will be strictly from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, otherwise an overtime fee will be charged.

A request from the Program Committee to explore an increase in the number of rooms to accommodate a potential 50-100 seminar-workshops within the same vicinity was raised. It was agreed that the Hosting Committee will explore other ways to provide more rooms as needed.

C. Funding and Finance Committee

The Funding and Finance Committee reported the amount and sources of funding awarded to the forum. Funding were received from Ford Foundation, UNIFEM Phase 1, Hivos, Mamacash, and UNIFEM Japan National Committee. Prospective funding excluding income from registration fee is expected from UNIFEM Phase 2, Global Fund for Women, and UNDP.

It was agreed that the registration fee is USD \$100 per participant to cover for their lunch and two snacks per day, materials and kits, and transportation from hotel to venue. The income from the fee will be considered an 'in and out' fund to cover food and other logistical needs of the Hosting Committee. The invited plenary speakers will be fully covered by the funding.

The Committee encouraged the conveners to continue fundraising for their participants and their self-organized sessions since the funding received could cover limited scholarships and core costs only.

D. Participation Committee

The Committee stressed that the forum can only provide for limited scholarships. A scholarship form was amended to address a need for a graduated scholarship scheme as endorsed by the Program Committee. It was decided that \$1,000 USD will be allocated for full scholarship.

A concern on translation needs for participants were raised. It was agreed that a creative way to address translation needs will be sought that will be cost-free and relatively easy on the logistics.

E. Lobbying, Media and Communications Committee

The Media and Communications Committee reported that they will be doing a media strategy to inform more women about the Forum and encourage their participation. The strategy for mainstream media is targeted after the forum and for the UNESCAP High Intergovernmental Meeting in September.

A daily live webcasting (broadcasting of plenaries through website) will be sponsored by Isis International through AMARC streaming system.

The Lobbying Committee outlined their plans for lobbying in preparation for the UNESCAP High Level Intergovernmental Meeting in September 6-9, 2004 (see Rathi's document).

F. Cultural and Film Committee

The Cultural Committee considered the opening and closing ceremony as major cultural programs. They also plan some cultural presentations at night, a major concert on the last day and a film festival. Members from the Media Committee and the Cultural Committee decided a film festival. A film sub-committee was formed under the cultural committee to deliberate on the substantial aspect of the activity. Everyone is encouraged to submit documentary films relevant to the themes of the Forum.

G. Gender Marketplace

The Coordinator reported that call for proposals for exhibit is still open to all organizations/networks who wish to put up their projects, wares, crafts, and products in line with the forum's intent and objectives. The Chair would like to solicit the support of conveners to gender marketplace.

4. Political Strategies for September UNESCAP High Level Meeting and 2005 CSW Review

1. Koh Miyaoi, UNESCAP programme officer outlined the general structure of the High Level Meeting. There will be plenary sessions where governments will be invited to make statements, two (2) panel discussions on theme to be decided based on the questionnaire modelled along the CSW structure. NGOs will have to select their representative to make interventions. NGOs who will be in the panels are the experts. Publications were being prepared for the meeting which would include reports from countries, analysis, good initiatives, and ESCAP gender indicators. Participation of NGOs will go to ECOSOC accredited groups. Events organizing of NGOs or NGOs needing space for briefing and meetings can be arranged by the meeting organizers upon proper notice.

2. The Convener's Group felt that as many NGOs as possible should be given accreditation to ensure meaningful participation in the meeting. It was conceived that a strong statement, the Asia Pacific NGO statement should be heard at the plenary as a case to affirm the spirit and process of Beijing. The launching of the "Purple Book" could be one of the events that the Conveners' Group could think of organizing.
3. Another discussion point raised was the changing role of the United Nations after 9/11 and how have the women in the UN system perceive the response of the UN towards the actions of the U.S.
4. Pam Rajput reported the outcome of the CSW 2004 and what would be the focus of women's NGO in next year review. The consensus among NGOs is that the women's movement must go beyond Beijing and the Beijing Plus 10 must be seen in the context of global forces affecting women. As CSW is concerned, there would be no negotiated agreement nor a political declaration. The main goals agreed upon is to celebrate ten (10) years of Beijing Conference and thirty (30) years of women's gains and link Beijing with MDGs and other processes of UN.
5. It was agreed that the Lobbying Committee be the focal point to prepare strong strategies for the CSW 2005 to come out of the Forum.

5. Next Steps:

1. Concern for online payment through credit card was raised since the Hosting Committee specifically requires advance payment of one night pay reservation. At the meeting, different levels of advance payment were explored. The first one was through advance payment facility through online registration. The second level is by requesting our member organizations through focal points in each country to help out and be guarantors.
2. Invitation letters for participants will be given by the Secretariat while the registration form will be done by the Hosting Committee and will be put up in the communication lists and web site.

Attached Documents:

1. List of Functional and Thematic Committees
2. List of 2nd Conveners' Group Meeting Attendees
3. List of Thematic Workshops
4. List of Country Focal Points for Registration
5. Revised Programme