

REPORT of the AIWN CONVENOR and SECRETARIAT (April 2004-June 2006)

1. Introduction

Since its second conference in March 2004 the Secretariat of the Asian Indigenous Women's Network has mainly been involved in the following areas of work.

- Ensuring sustained communications between the members;
- Education and training activities for indigenous women's organizations or networks;
- Advocacy and lobbying work at the UN;
- Registering AIWN in the Philippines so it can have its own legal personality;
- Generating some resources for AIWN for specific activities.

The following table presents the activities and status of the Secretariat. Several member-organizations' activities have also been included, based on information gathered by the secretariat. After this, a general assessment of where we are now will be presented.

II. Table of Activities

AREAS	ACTIVITIES	OUTCOME	REMARKS
1. Networking and Administrative			
A. SEC Registration	Done 2 nd Quarter 2004	AIWN is registered as <i>Indigenous Women's Network of Asia, Inc.</i> under the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Republic of the Philippines: Registration No. CN200428983	
B. Identification of Country Focal Persons	Done 3 rd Quarter 2004	Please see list of CFPs below	
C. AIWC Proceedings	Follow-up country reports and drafting - (June 2004 – January 2005)	Book: "Celebrating Diversity and Heightening Solidarity"	
	Editing, lay-out and press work (February – October 2005)		
	Distribution started in November 2005		

D. Systematization of AIWN organizational files and work	a. AIWC listserve	Setting up of aiwn@yahoo.com in the 2 nd quarter 2004	aiwn@skynet.net still active for broader network/communications within and outside Asia
	Resource Pooling	Survey circulated through listserve in December 2005; no response	
	Membership Form		Ongoing collection
	Membership Profiling	11 returned the membership form circulated in June 2006	Ongoing
	Coordination/Communications	Statement in support of Nepal Petition re: Political Killings in the Philippines Invitations and follow-up re: Commission on the Status of Women 50 th session	Ongoing
2. Capacity Building	a. Training on Indigenous Women, Biological Diversity and United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (May 6-7, 2004, New York)	Indigenous women's caucus for the UNPF3	Done jointly with the Secretariat of the CBD
	Enhancing Indigenous women's Capacities for Conflict Resolution and Addressing VAW in Armed Conflict Situations (3 July 2004, Mahidol University, Bangkok)	participants to the AP-NGO Beijing +10 review	with Amnesty International for the campaign against violence against women Discussed possible collaboration with
	Training for Women on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Conflict Resolution in Situations of Armed Conflict in Northeast India. (22-25 October, 2004, Guwahati, India)	Formation of the North East India Indigenous Women's Forum	Naga Women's Union, Tebtebba There is a standing request for a fact finding mission in Assam or other parts of NE India.
	International Indigenous Women's Forum, (26-27 February 2005, New York)	IP Women's Caucus for Beijing +10 Review Statement Resolution adopted by CSW49	Co-sponsored by the UNPFII Secretariat and MADRE
	Gender Orientation and Leadership Training for the Federation of Women's Organization in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, Philippines (March 31- April 5 2005)	Organization of the Federation of Tri-peoples Women's Association – a municipal-wide women's formation with a youth sector	

	Networking and Planning with Women's Organization under the HTNF, Bangladesh (28 September – 15 October 2005)	Organizational and training/capacity building programme for the Women's Resource Network under the Hill Tribes NGO Network, CHT, Bangladesh	WRN/HTNF, AIWN
	Study Session on Indigenous Women and the CEDAW (November 2005, Baguio City, Philippines)		UNIFEM SEAP, AIWN
	Asian Indigenous Women Information Kit (February 2006)	Data gathering with AMAN (Indonesia) with support from International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development	ICHRDD, AIWN
	Trainors' Training for Indigenous Women in Indonesia, (7-14 June 2006, Ngata Toro, Sulawesi, Indonesia)	Trainors' Pool for AMAN	AMAN, AIWN
ADVOCACY and LOBBY			
	Third Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues – (May 10-21, 2004, New York)	Distribution of the 2 nd AIWC Statement; Taken as an official document; High Level Panel and Dialogue on IP Women; Forum recommendations re: IP Women to the ECOSOC	Urgent requests: 1. Capacity Building for Indigenous Women in Armed Conflict situations on how to address issue of violence against women 2. Similar side-event during the Regional Beijing+10 Review
	Asia- Pacific NGO Forum 2004 on Beijing + 10, (30 June – 4 July, 2004, Bangkok, Thailand)	Held a side-event on Indigenous Women and Violence in Armed Conflict Situations Interventions on IP women perspectives in the plenary sessions and side events	
	3rd International Conference on Women and Mining (October, 2004, Hyderabad, India)		AIWN/Tebtebba/BIRSA was tasked to help coordinate the work among indigenous women in the mining campaign within the Asia
	Philippine NGO Validation Workshop on the Beijing+10 Report (21 January 2005, Manila)	Input on indigenous women's concerns in environment, poverty and HR to the Beijing +10 Scoreboard report	

	Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) Expert Group Meeting on "Achievements, gaps and challenges in "Linking the Implementation"	Paper "Indigenous Women and the MDGs" jointly authored by Bernice Aquino-See and Victoria Tauli-Corpuz Input on Indigenous Women, the BPfA and the MDGs	
	Meeting with UNIFEM-SEAP, Bangkok (1 July 2005, Bangkok)	AIWN as member of the Coordinating Committee for the Regional NGO Conference on CEDAW and Poverty in 2006; Organization of a Study Session on Indigenous Women and the CEDAW in preparation and as input to regional NGO conference –	
	Participation to the Association of Women in Development (AWID) Assembly (Oct. 2005, Bangkok, Thailand)	Steering Committee of the IIFW meetings re: Fund Raising for IIFW Idea of setting up an Indigenous Women's Fund	IIFW
	Statement of Concern Re: Nagarkot Massacre, Nepal, December 2005	AIWN letter of concern sent to the King of Nepal	
	WTO 6 th Ministerial Conference, (December 2005, Hongkong)		Innabuyog/BAI (Philippines); CHRDI (Mongolia)
	Participation to the CSW50, (27 February – 12 March 2006, New York)	Interventions in side events; Policy Paper submitted to the NGO - CSW on Indigenous Women and VAW Honoring of Lucky Sherpa, Himalayan Indigenous Women's Network, Nepal, as one of the Young Human Rights Leader by MADRE	
	Participation to the UNPFII 5, (15- 26 May 2006, New York)	Intervention supporting full and effective participation of indigenous women in the MDGs and the 2 nd IP Decade	

III. General Assessment Points

Most of the activities done for the first year (2004) were focused on developing a more stable state for AIWN. This means enabling it to have its own legal personality and generating resources for specific activities mainly on capacity-building, and sustaining communications between the members.

1. Sustaining communications between the AIWN members.

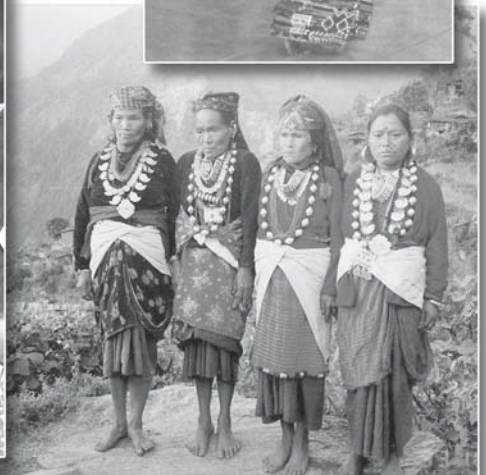
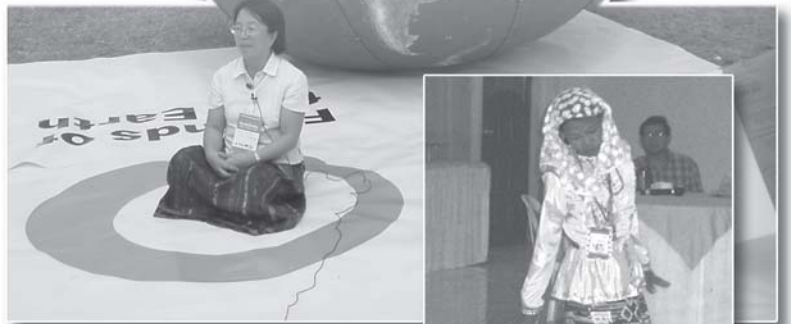
Since the 2nd quarter of the 2004, a listserv was created for updating and sustained communications between the AIWN members. This has been a very active listserv, to say the least. The plan to create an AIWN website has been programmed this year and is presently under conceptualization.

2. Legal personality of the AIWN

The AIWN has been formally registered as the Indigenous Women's Network of Asia, Inc. under the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Republic of the Philippines with Registration No. CN200428983.

3. Finalizing the list of national focal points.

The identification of National Focal Persons has also been completed as listed below:





Left, right and below:
Trainers' Training for
Indigenous Women in
Indonesia, June 7-14,
2006



UNPFII Chair Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, middle,
with Joan Carling of CPA (left) and Lola
Garcia-Alix of IWGIA during the 5th Session
of the UNPFII



Gender Sensitivity
and Indigenous
Women's
Rights Training,
Bangladesh,
July 2006
(above, left)



Study Session on Indigenous
Women and the CEDAW,
November 2005 (above, right)



Efforts to generate adequate resources for AIWN have been more successful for specific projects rather than for long-term comprehensive proposals.

- 1 Bangladesh - Susmita Chakma
- 2 Burma - Lway Cherry
- 3 China - He Hong
- 4 India - Sumshot Khular
- 5 Indonesia - Rukmini Paata Toheke
- 6 Japan - Naomi Shimazaki
- 7 Malaysia - Jamainah Bt. Dadong
- 8 Nepal - Chunda Bajracharya
- 9 Philippines - Vernie Yocogan - Diano
- 10 Taiwan - Wuhua Paqaliyus
- 11 Thailand - Suraporn Suriyamonton
- 12 Mongolia - Delgermaa
- 13 Bhutan - Deki Yangzom

New contacts have been made with Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and East Timor during the CEDAW Study Session. There is a need to strengthen our relationships with them, as AIWN and individual organizations/partners.

5. Finance generation

Efforts to generate adequate resources for AIWN have been more successful for specific projects rather than for long-term comprehensive proposals. The following shows the state of our efforts along this line.

5.1. *HIVOS (The Netherlands)* - A comprehensive 3-year proposal has been drafted and sent to HIVOS (Netherlands) for possible funding. They replied that while they were interested in the project, they have to deal with snags in their administration. As they do not have projects, nor an office in the Philippines, it is hard for them to consider the project. We clarified with them that the AIWN is a regional body and therefore should not be considered as a Philippine project. They committed that when their administrative snags are resolved, they can still consider our proposal. The Convenor recently met with a senior manager of HIVOS and she said that there might be a chance they can reconsider the proposal. We have to resubmit this again.

5.2. *NOVIB (The Netherlands)* - As of now, most of the resources used for the education and training activities came from the budget of the Gender Desk of Tebtebba which is funded by its main partner. Recently, we negotiated a project for education and training with NOVIB. They agreed to give a small amount, but not to the AIWN, as the one we were dealing with is the Global Programme. They said they can only consider this if the proponent is Tebtebba, which is a global NGO. They cannot deal with regional programmes. This was done and currently, they have committed to give funding for training-education activities in four countries in Asia, namely Philippines, India, Bangladesh and Indonesia which had outstanding requests with Tebtebba. The trainings are being implemented this year.

5.3. *UNIFEM-CEDAW-SEAP* - The proposal to hold a training on

CEDAW was conceptualized with UNIFEM after a consultation meeting in preparation for the Regional NGO Conference on Women and Poverty held in Bangkok. This was implemented as the "Study Session on Indigenous Women and the CEDAW" which was held in October 2005 for AIWN members. With a \$25,000 budget, the training was supposed to be a preparatory activity and initial input to the said conference.

5.4. *International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development (ICHRDD, Canada)* - A proposal has been approved for the contextualization and translation of an education material which was first developed for the Indigenous Women of the Americas. This is a simplified kit which contains a general description of the situation of indigenous women in Asia and existing international instruments which are relevant for them. AMAN of Indonesia is a co-partner in this endeavour with a Canadian intern from R&D (Rights and Democracy, Canada). The AIWN Secretariat has worked on the general material.

6. Capacity Building and Advocacy Work

In 2005 and onwards, more capacity-building activities were done on the basis of requests from the members. The requests basically centered on the following.

- Understanding the legal instruments which promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples, in general and women, in particular;
- How to organize women's organizations and run these more effectively;
- Understanding how to deal with the issue of violence against indigenous women in situations of armed conflict;
- Trainors' Trainings for Indigenous Women;
- Training on Women and Decision Making.

Advocacy and lobby work in the different arenas and different levels of engagement have been maximized to build our capacities to articulate our concerns and issues. These are the UNPFII sessions, the CBD/WIPO, Beijing+10/CSW, UNFCC, UNCHR, UNDP, WSF and WTO processes, ranging from national to the international levels. At the 3rd Session of the UNPFII, the AIWC Statement was submitted as an official document which became one of the basis for the UNPF's recommendations on indigenous women to the ECOSOC.

In the Beijing+10 Review, the resolution by indigenous women was adopted by the CSW 49th session (Resolution 49/7: Indigenous Women Beyond the Ten-Year Review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as contained in the **Final Report on the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women E/CN.6/2005/11**). This is a breakthrough in the history of indigenous women's involvement and participation in the CSW process. A series of capacity building sessions on the CSW/SR VAW, the UNPFII, etc., two official panels, six side events and two press conferences were organized to articulate indigenous women's

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concerns and issues. These were organized by the UNPFII and MADRE - the secretariat for the FIMI/IIWF. AIWN contributed as panelist/discussant and active participant.

Based on the recommendations from the April 2005 follow-up meeting, a Resource Pool Survey tool was drafted by the Secretariat and floated for comments and later for members to fill up. This is to facilitate sharing especially of human resources and expertise. A membership form was also floated through the listserve to formalize membership.

7. Networking and Expansion

Since the 2nd AIWC, two national and two regional indigenous women's network have been organized. The national-level networks are the BAI in the Philippines and the Ethnic Womens Network in Thailand, under the efforts of Innabuyog and IMPECT/IAITPTF, respectively. In Bangladesh and in India, the Garo Women's Organization has been organized through the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, while the Indigenous Womens Forum of North East India was born out of a capacity building training coordinated between the Naga Women's Union, AIWN and Tebtebba.

In the Philippines, a municipal-level federation of women's organization has also been organized after a series of capacity building activities in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte in relation to their campaign against a mining company. Another group of indigenous women leaders in Mindanao have expressed initiatives in organizing themselves to strengthen their ranks in relation to development aggression in their ancestral territories.

In Bangladesh, a Women's Resource Network within the Hill Tracts NGO Forum is currently being conceptualized. Capacity building training have been given by the AIPP (Asian Indigenous Peoples' Pact) and Tebtebba. The Adivasi Forum has reportedly also done a research on Garo women workers in Dhaka.

During the CBD Asia Workshop in April this year when we attempted the first AIWN Coordinating Council Meeting, we were able to get the interest of a Vietnamese participant to engage with the AIWN. During the "Study Session on Indigenous Women and the CEDAW," we were able to renew linkages and develop new ones with Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Timor Leste.

IV. Recommendations on what needs to be done

1. Sharing of experiences and needs by the different member organizations.

The report shared so far covers only the activities done by the Secretariat together with some members. There are still a lot to be shared in relation to the experiences and expertise of the member organizations

The AIWN's mandate is to build the capacity of its member organizations, so there should be more discussion on how this can be done more systematically.

and also identification of needs in terms of strengthening our capacities, etc.

2. Identification of capacity-building needs of members and capacity to organize training activities and development of education materials.

The activities of the Secretariat on capacity building was demand-driven. This means that if a member organization requests for a training, then this will be done on the basis of availability of resources. The AIWN's mandate is to build the capacity of its member organizations, so there should be more discussion on how this can be done more systematically. The resource pool survey is supposed to facilitate how we as a network can address this.

3. More discussions on the forthcoming activities in terms of lobbying and advocacy work.

Closer coordination, more sharing, updating of each other's activities, and strategic participation are needed to make Asian indigenous women's/peoples' perspectives more visible in the different fora and processes at all levels.

4. How to make the Task Forces more functional.

At the 2nd Asian Indigenous Women's Conference in 2004, we agreed that there will be Task Forces set up so that a group of members could put more focus on doing campaigns or education work on specific issues most relevant for them. Initially, these were the task forces identified:

- Task Force on Militarization,
- Task Force on Violence Against Women.

We need to agree on what are the task forces that we badly need and how do we make these functional. For instance, would we like to create a Task Force on Indigenous Women and the Extractive Industries?

5. Agree on a one year program and discuss whether we would like to hold another regional assembly or conference.

This will entail a more active role from the Coordinating Council of the network which is composed of the country focal persons.

5. Making the AIWN more visible.

Usually, we represent our own organizations in the meetings we go to. However, it is important to also represent the AIWN so that we will make it more visible in the national, regional and global arenas. How do we do this?

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