

Mission

The Asian Indigenous Women's Network wants to support, sustain and help consolidate the various efforts of indigenous women in Asia to critically understand the roots of their marginalized situation and to empower themselves by becoming aware of their rights as women and as indigenous peoples, and by developing their own organizations or structures for empowerment.



aiwn COORDINATING COUNCIL

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(Kankanaey, Philippines)
Convener of AIWN

Chairperson, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)
Executive Director, Tebtebba

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Palaung Women's Organization

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Partners of Community Organisa-
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ASIAN INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S NETWORK

*Sharing Commonalities
and Diversities,
Forging Unity Towards
Indigenous Women's Empowerment*

History

The Asian Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN) was formed in 1993 during the First Conference of Asian Indigenous Women in response to the common experiences of discrimination as women, as indigenous peoples and based on socio-economic class. This was attended by 150 participants from 13 Asian countries. As a loose network of 11 indigenous women's organizations and 26 indigenous peoples' organizations with women committees, AIWN has faced several challenges in its aim to organize and consolidate indigenous women's organizations in the region to engage in all levels and fora affecting their rights and identities as women and as indigenous peoples. AIWN continues to build on these experiences to further raise Asian indigenous women's voices from their own organizations, to the national and international levels.

To facilitate its work, AIWN has Country Focal Persons who compose the Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council is headed by its Convenor, Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the current Chairperson of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and Executive Director of Tebtebba. Tebtebba serves as AIWN's Secretariat.



Objectives

- 1. Networking and Organizational Consolidation** through regular communication in various forms such as the AIWN magazine, listserve, website and surface mail.
 - a. to keep each other updated on developments within their respective organizations and sharing of information through the AIWN Magazine and publications exchange;
 - b. to support indigenous women's organizations and to help set-up organizations and/or women's desks, if requested;
 - c. to strengthen the relationships and linkages among and between the members and with other groups and formations; and
 - d. to consolidate the network members through the listserve and through its website www.asianindigenouswomen.org.
- 2. Lobbying and Advocacy** in the United Nations and multilateral bodies and agencies dealing with indigenous peoples and women, especially on self-determined development, biodiversity and traditional knowledge, climate change, among others; and initiating and participating in campaigns addressing their issues.
 - a. to raise Asian indigenous peoples' and women's issues and concerns in the UN and multilateral bodies and processes and other fora such as the UNPFII, Commission on Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, among others; and
 - b. to undertake campaigns and support ongoing campaigns relevant to the priority concerns of Asian indigenous women.
- 3. Capacity building activities** of network members through participation in training and education activities, conferences, workshops, exposure programs and relevant processes and activities from the national to the global level.



- a. to undertake education and awareness-raising on human rights, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and women's rights;
- b. to monitor and effectively implement the UNDRIP and the Programme of Action of the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005-2015);
- c. to hold skills-training activities to enhance the capacities of indigenous women to undertake organizing, research, education, campaigns management, advocacy and lobbying, livelihood development; and to develop their leadership potentials; and
- d. to facilitate the participation of indigenous women in regional and international processes.

- 4. Engendering indigenous peoples' organizations and networks** by undertaking gender analysis of indigenous peoples' issues and sensitizing them on indigenous women's issues and perspectives.

