

Engendering Peace Building and Regenerating Women's Movements in South and Southeast Asia

A report on the Joint South and Southeast Asia
Regional Training Institute
27 August – 2 September 2007, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Objectives

- The overall goal of the Asian RTI is to enhance the dynamic participation and leadership of young feminist activists of South and South East Asia in national regional and global advocacy and actions of women's movements and other social movements. This was to be accomplished by exposing young Asian feminists and activists to the DAWN inter-linking analyses of gender justice and economic justice at both the RTI (2007 & 2009) and the 2007 DTI in Cape Town. A commitment to sustain a community of practitioners (COP) among the trained young feminists through communications and networking was also made. Finally, the RTI had the specific objective of supporting the application of DAWN's analytical approaches in the area of peace and conflict resolution and of involving the Asian RTI alumnae in related regional research and advocacy initiatives.

Criteria for Selection

- Young feminists / women activists already involved or interested to get involved in global advocacy toward securing and/or strengthening a global normative framework for women's rights and gender equality;
- Young feminists / women activists who were already active or interested to become active in programmatic and/or activist work for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality;
- Young feminists / women activists willing and able to sit through an English only training; and
- Young feminists / women activists who have been endorsed through the DAWN informal and extended feminist and social movements networks in the region.

Selection Process

- The participants were identified jointly by the DAWN Regional Coordinators and Regional Co-Facilitators from the Asian sub-regions. The selection process was not democratic but strategic and based on the identification and invitation of young women whose activist and advocacy work are known to DAWN and its associated networks. This process was carefully undertaken to ensure that participants reflected diverse country representations and their advocacies crisscrossing across DAWN's four thematic areas. This approach to selection proved to be effective in reaching out to a diverse group of women from various locations whose existing link to DAWN could facilitate follow through and joint work.

Participant Profile

South East Asia		South Asia	
Country	No. of Pax	Country	No. of Pax
Malaysia	2	India	4
Philippines	2	Bangladesh	1
Thailand	1	Pakistan	1
Myanmar	1	Nepal	2
Cambodia	1	Sri Lanka	2
China/HK	3	Maldives	1
China/Tibet	1		
Indonesia	3		
Vietnam	1		
Total	15	Total	11

Participant Profile

- A majority (16) worked or volunteered with national-local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), of which five were non-women or mixed NGOs. A few (4) of the participants were connected with international NGOs that, except for one, did not focus entirely on women's issues. A majority of these NGOs, whether local or international had community oriented advocacies and development interventions. In addition, four women were attached to the academia. They were joined by a participant who came from the media and another who worked in a governmental office.
- In terms of skills and competencies, participants were involved in popular education and training, research and documentation, advocacy and networking, women's studies, project development, and gender mainstreaming initiatives.
- In relation to DAWN thematic concentrations, an overwhelming majority of the participants addressed issues that fell under the rubric of Political Restructuring and Social Transformation and/or Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. These issues included women in conflict, violence against women, sexual discrimination, and laws protecting and promoting women's rights and gender equality in general. A fewer number (6) of participants were focused on issues falling under DAWN's Political Economy of Globalization – Trade while two people addressed sustainability issues falling under DAWN's Political Ecology and Sustainability theme.

Resource Persons and Facilitators

- Programme Committee:
 - the program group consisted of Gita Sen, DAWN Global Research Coordinator on Political Economy of Globalization / Inter-linkages and Global DTI Course Co-coordinator; Gigi Francisco, DAWN Regional Coordinator for South East Asia and Global DTI resource person on Trade and Social Movements/Resistances; Kumudini Samuel, DAWN Regional Coordinator for South Asia/ Conflict Resolution and Peace Building, and Cecilia Ng from Malaysia, Global DTI Resource Person on Political Restructuring and Social Transformation (PRST). Except for Dr. Gita Sen who could not join the actual training, the rest of the team members were also session facilitators and speakers. Gigi Francisco handled the module on the Political Economy of Globalization-Trade (PEG-Trade) while Kumudini Samuel and Cecilia Ng collaborated on the PRST module.