



ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT
ANNUAL REPORT
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Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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ACRONYMS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organization
IIFB	International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity
IIPFCC	International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change
IPHRD	Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defender
NPR	Nepalese Rupee
PESA Act	Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act
LCIP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNGPs	United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

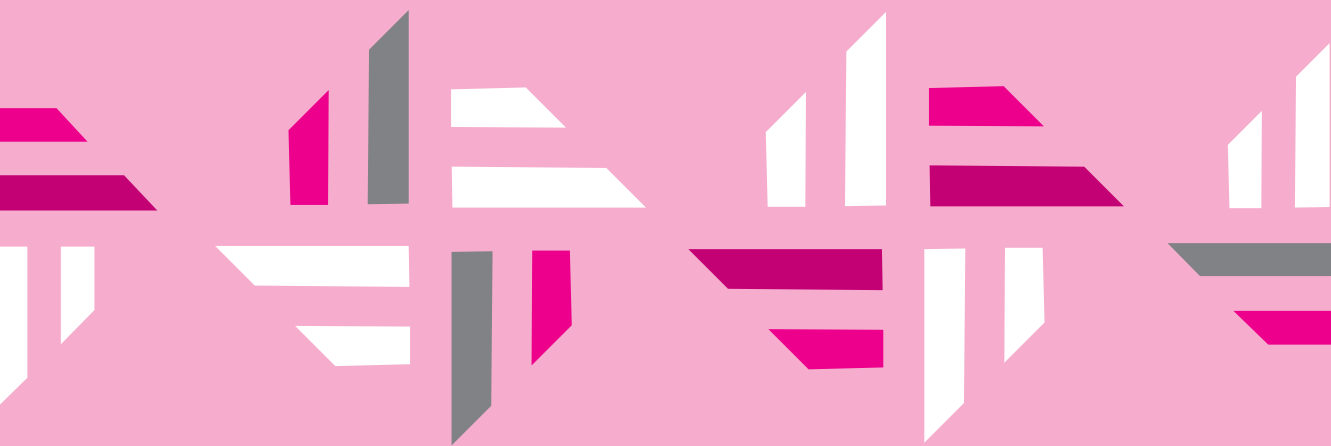


ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AIPP appreciates the support and inspiration of all the individuals and groups in our cause to promote and defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples and articulate the issues of their concerns in Asia. We are ever more motivated by the relentless struggles of many indigenous communities to defend and advance their rights and well-being and pay our respect to the indigenous leaders and human rights defenders, Indigenous Peoples' organizations and other civil society organizations that assist the communities in their struggles.

Further, specific gratitude is due to the AIPP member and partner organizations and their staff, members of the AIPP's Executive Council, Advisory/Foundation Board and Secretariat for their relentless work to gain the achievements reported herewith amidst myriad challenges and barriers. We also acknowledge the support provided for our works in line with the needs and aspirations of the indigenous communities in the region by the AIPP donor and partner organizations, namely Tamalpais Trust, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, International Labour Organization, European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, International Fund For Agricultural Development, Oxfam International, Oxfam America, Oxfam Australia, The Christensen Fund, The German Catholic Bishops' Organization for Development Cooperation (MISEREOR), Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Forest Peoples Programme, Rights and Resources Initiative, and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity.

We look forward to continuing working together with the individuals, organizations and groups to ensure the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Asia and around the world.





MESSAGE from the SECRETARY GENERAL: LOOKING BACK AT 2018¹

The year 2018 saw little progress and continued to be full of challenges for the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Asia. There was continued debate and discussion in Japan between the Ainu community and the government about the content of the new Ainu law that is expected to be adopted in 2019. However, Ainu activists were critical of the process involving one-sided hearings.

In Malaysia, to counter the impact of the 2017 Federal Court decision that limited native customary rights recognition to those lands that are settled, cleared and cultivated, the Sarawak Land Code was amended in July 2018 to provide the issuance of a title in perpetuity for communal native customary lands that fell under the category of *pemakai menao* (traditional territory) and *pulau gulau* (communal forest). However, a statutory limit of 1,000 hectares per title was set while communal customary claims in excess of 10,000 hectares are common. Thus, the natives of Sarawak continue to protest this amendment. In Sabah, the new Chief Minister announced that “communal titles” issued by the previous government were to be scrapped in order to better protect native land rights. Issuance of such titles, which are land held in trust by local authorities, had caused dissatisfaction and evoked anger.

¹ The information in this section is mainly sourced from the Indigenous World 2019 published by the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and updates provided by the Executive Council members in its meetings.

Myanmar saw the initiation of the much-anticipated National Land Use Council mandated to implement the National Land Use Policy completed two years earlier. The Council is created to coordinate the drafting of the National Land Law, which will seek to harmonize overlapping land policy. However, following its inaugural meeting in April and the multi-stakeholder National Land Use Forum in October, the formation and subsequent panel meetings of the Council were overshadowed by the amendments to Vacant Fallow and Virgin Land Law and Land Acquisition Act. The amendments have sparked opposition from farmers, indigenous groups, internally displaced persons and ethnic armed organizations for violating indigenous and community land rights. In Taiwan/China, the government launched a program for the revitalization of endangered indigenous languages in April 2018, which is administered by the Council of Indigenous Peoples in collaboration with seven universities across the country.

In many other countries, legal or other developments throughout the year were mostly negative for the concerns and rights of Indigenous Peoples. In October 2018, the Bangladesh government abolished its reservation for Indigenous Peoples along with other quota categories for first- and second-class government services. However, in a positive news, a committee within the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has decided to recognize a total of 50 ethnic groups under the Small Ethnic Groups Cultural Institution Act (2010), which can provide opportunities when accessing government services. On the other hand, there was zero progress in the implementation of the 1997 Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord in 2018 with the only exception of the reform of the CHT Accord Implementation Monitoring Committee.

In Cambodia, while occupation of indigenous lands for concessions continued, only a few indigenous communities have gained collective/communal land titles by the end of 2018 dashing hopes for protection of indigenous lands through such titling as provided under the 2001 Land Law and the 2002 Forest Law. Similarly, Indonesia has been slow in granting forest tenure to Indigenous Peoples and local communities five years after a historic Constitutional Court ruling that mandated the government to recognize their tenure rights.

At the same time, while it was the 70th year anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and 20 years since the adoption of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, fulfillment of even basic rights of Indigenous Peoples in many countries remained a far-fetched dream and indigenous human rights defenders continued to face severe risks and reprisals. For example, in Bangladesh, the Kapaeeng Foundation documented that at least 53 indigenous women and girls were reportedly killed, raped, assaulted and violated in 2018 while not a single perpetrator has been prosecuted for such violence against women. Further, a total of 117 indigenous rights defenders faced false charges, 75 of whom were arrested in 2018.

Similarly, 2018 has been another year of impunity in the Philippines, whereby Indigenous Peoples and human rights experienced intensified violation of their rights and continued attacks from the State. The National Alliance of Indigenous Peoples Organizations in the Philippines (KATRIBU) documented 183 cases of illegal arrest of indigenous persons since July 2016 – of those, 42 remain in detention for crimes they did not commit. The trumped-up charges against those persons include murder, frustrated murder and illegal possession of firearms and explosives. In February, the Philippine government has filed a court petition seeking to proscribe the rebel army and the communist party as terrorist organizations while listing at least 31 indigenous leaders among 649 persons as officers or members of those organizations. Those leaders include UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, and former Secretary General of AIPP, Joan Carling, among others. While the Special Rapporteur and three others were cleared in August, the government has continued to tag others as terrorists.

In the face of all the legal setbacks and challenges on the ground, indigenous communities have continued to fight back for their rights and well-being, which has often resulted in partial or full gains. For example, in November, about 10,000 tribal farmers in India marched from Thane to Mumbai in the State of Maharashtra demanding loan waivers and land rights. They called off their protests after the Chief Minister assured to redress for their grievances by the end of the year. Earlier, in March 2018, more than 35,000 farmers, mostly tribals, marched from Nashik to Mumbai to press for their demands, including land rights.

In Nepal, indigenous Newa and local communities in Kathmandu, which were adversely impacted by an aggressive road widening project of the government causing mass-forced evictions of up to 150,000 people as well as destruction of cultural and religious sites and heritages, won in the Supreme Court. Following years of mass mobilisation, protests, documentation and litigations of the communities, the Court, in its order, prohibited any road widening that adversely affected the housing security unless there is no other alternative; ordered that rights to relocation and rehousing of the displaced be dealt with equitably; and required benefits and compensation provided as per existing laws as well as conservation of the environment and archaeological sites focused on while implementing any development project. In June 2018, the International Labour Organization (ILO) also decided to set up a tripartite committee to examine alleged non-observance of ILO Convention 169 in response to a complaint lodged by the affected communities.

Similarly, the Supreme Administrative Court in Thailand has overturned the past lower court decision in relation to the forced evictions and destruction of properties of indigenous Karen villagers from the Kaeng Krachan National Park in June 2018. As per the Court verdict, although the national park officials had the authority to remove the properties that encroached on the forestland, they could not burn down people's properties without prior notice and the National Park Office was thus ordered to compensate the affected families with 50,000 Thai Baht each. The decision recognized Karen people as original people living in the areas and also referred to the 2010 Cabinet resolution to restore the traditional livelihoods of the Karens and thus opened more space for the promotion of community rights.

There are many other challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples in Asia as well as struggles that they carried out throughout 2018. At international levels, two groundbreaking achievements were made under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change for Indigenous Peoples fighting for their rights in climate action – first, a Facilitative Working Group was established to fully operationalise the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform and, second, the Green Climate Fund adopted an Indigenous Peoples' Policy. AIPP also contributed in some of the campaigns undertaken and advances made by Indigenous Peoples in Asia.

The year 2018 presents a picture of some progress made regarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples but in general, it also saw further political regression in most countries. There were some gains made in the international campaign and advocacy, but commitment by respective governments to implementing international agreements continue to be a problem.

As provided in this report, human rights, access to justice and shrinking of civic space continue leaving little space for Indigenous organizations and civil society to make much meaningful engagement with governments. Given this situation, AIPP emphasized on mobilization and consolidation of Indigenous organizations and movements at the country level. In this regard, AIPP made some significant progress in countries like Bangladesh and Thailand.

With the forthcoming 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages and the greater discourse on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, among other avenues and opportunities, AIPP looks forward to continue the struggles of Indigenous Peoples of Asia in broader fronts.

We are extremely thankful to our donors (for their generous contributions), partners, and alliances in taking forward the issues of Indigenous Peoples in Asia despite the politically challenging situation. Without their support and solidarity, it would not have been possible to achieve the significant grounds that Indigenous movements in Asia have made.

Gam A. Shimray

With contribution from the Executive Council



ABOUT AIPP

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) is a regional organization founded in 1992 by Indigenous Peoples' movements. AIPP is committed to the cause of promoting and defending Indigenous Peoples' rights and human rights and articulating issues of relevance to Indigenous Peoples. At present, AIPP has 47 members from 14 countries in Asia with 18 Indigenous Peoples' national alliances/networks (national formations), 30 local and sub-national organizations. Of this number, 16 are ethnic based organizations, six indigenous women and four are indigenous youth organizations and one organization of indigenous persons with disabilities.

AIPP envisions that Indigenous Peoples in Asia are fully exercising their rights, distinct cultures and identities, are living with dignity, and enhancing their sustainable management systems on lands, territories and resources for their own future and development in an environment of peace, justice and equality.

For that, AIPP continuously strives on its mission to strengthen the solidarity, cooperation and capacities of Indigenous Peoples in Asia to promote and protect their rights, cultures and identities, and their sustainable resource management systems for their development and self-determination.



The 2017-2020 Strategic Plan of AIPP anchored on its vision and mission and drawing from the recommendations an external evaluation conducted in 2016 has defined five strategic goals for AIPP as follows:

- 1.** To empower Indigenous Peoples in Asia to promote and defend and claim legal recognition of their identities and collective and individual human rights including the right to self-determination.
- 2.** Strengthen indigenous movements in Asia by building the broadest solidarity and cooperation of Indigenous Peoples; and as well as with other social movements, including minorities and marginalized groups, towards achieving equality, peace, democracy and justice.
- 3.** To promote and protect the integrity of the natural environment and enhance the sustainable resource management systems of Indigenous Peoples including their skills and traditional knowledge for food security, livelihood and the protection of biodiversity by having full control over their lands, territories and its resources.

4. To promote full and effective participation of indigenous women, and youth and vulnerable people like indigenous persons with disabilities (IPwD) and elderly persons etc. as appropriate at all levels of decision-making within indigenous communities and the state.
5. Strengthen AIPP's Governance, and the Secretariat and Member-organizations.



Highlights

- AIPP has continued and strengthened its role as the regional organization of indigenous movements in the Asia region for regional and international processes such as those related to climate change, sustainable development goals, human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Further, it has increased or enhanced its engagement in new regional and global processes such as those related to land governance, traditional knowledge, biodiversity and ecosystem services under the Environment Programme.
- Despite lack of specific projects or considerable funds, AIPP Programmes such as Communication Development and Regional Capacity Building have effectively undertaken their fundamental roles and responsibilities. Despite difficult staff transition in the Communication Programme, national media dialogue/exchange and awards have been conducted successfully in Nepal and the Philippines, whereby the Vice President of Nepal inaugurated the media awards in the country. Further, the programmes have taken up new focus areas such as planning of regional platforms for indigenous women and youth under Indigenous Women and Regional Capacity Building programmes respectively.
- AIPP Secretariat leadership has restructured the Secretariat with a complete Management team functioning by the end of the year and renewed focus areas defined for the Programmes as follows:
 1. **Communication Programme:** Strengthening and consolidating Indigenous Voices of Asia Network and enhancing media advocacy
 2. **Environment:** Scaling up Community Learning Centers and Network on Traditional Knowledge
 3. **Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy:** Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Defenders Network
 4. **Indigenous Women:** Regional Platform and Leadership building, Gender integration in the works of the Secretariat and the member organizations
 5. **Organizational Strengthening and Movement Building:** Consolidation through country-level agenda setting and establishing coordination mechanism and responding to important emerging issues.
 6. **Regional Capacity Building Programme:** Community Organizing and Youth Platform, Indigenous Ways of Learning

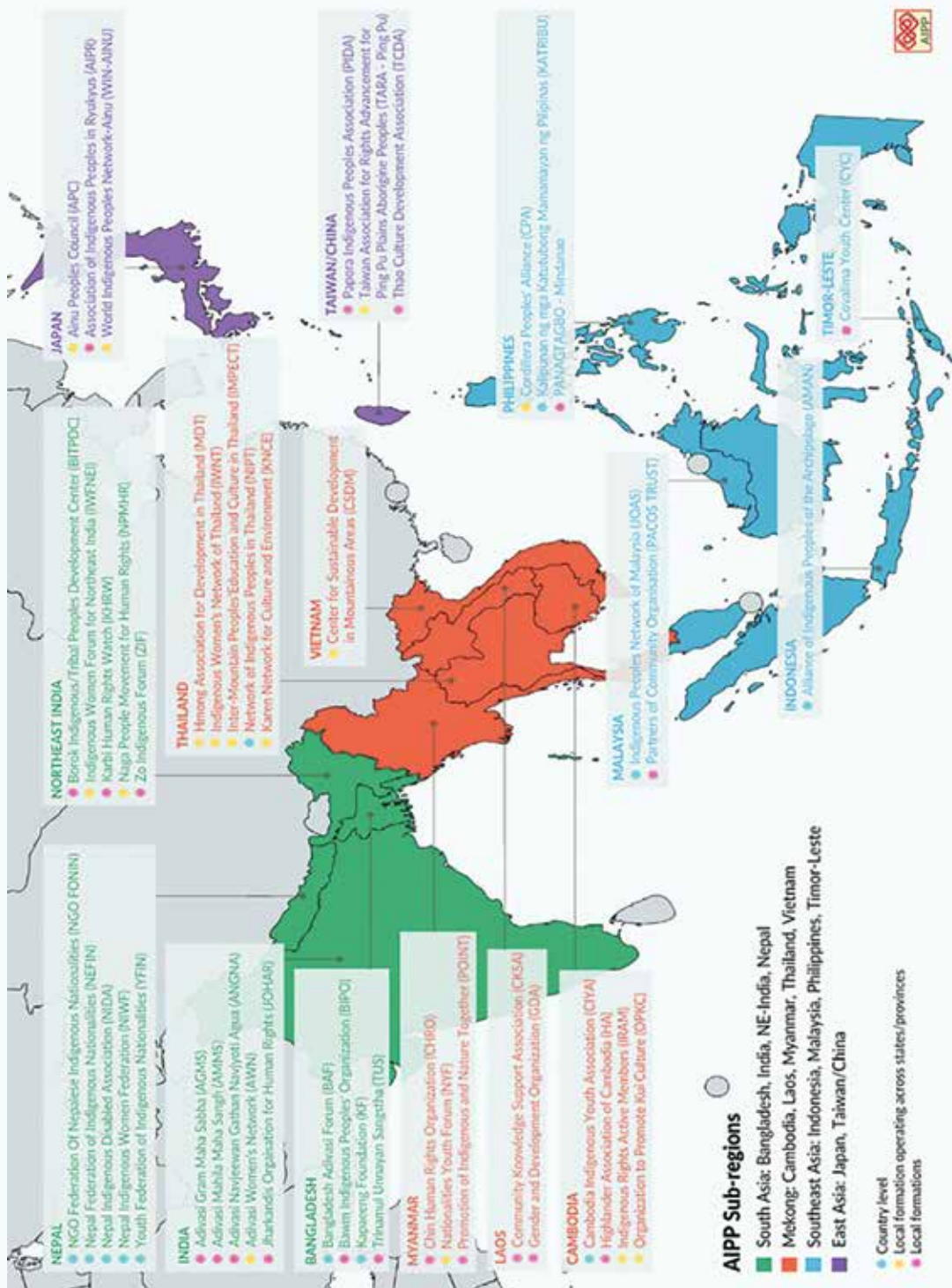
- AIPP has for the first time made a targeted outreach training for indigenous persons with disabilities in Asia to discuss the links of the UNDRIP to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. While the training has already led to visible outputs such as increase in participation of indigenous persons with disabilities in international human rights and SDGs-related processes, the AIPP will take on the engagement to draft an organizational policy on indigenous persons with disabilities to be finalized by 2020.
- Country consultations have been initiated as new approach for increased engagement of AIPP at the national and sub-national levels.



In numbers

- Around 8,500 indigenous men, women, youth and persons with disabilities participated in different training, exchanges, workshops, awareness programs, dialogues, assessments and community mobilizations organized by AIPP programmes at local, national and regional levels. They benefitted with increase in various knowledge, skills and capacities, including REDD+, human rights, rights of Indigenous Peoples, SDGs, community organizing, leadership, documentation and advocacy.
- At least 15 side events were co-organized or supported by AIPP in various international meetings. Those include the conferences of parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity and the sessions of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Commission on Status of Women, among others.
- AIPP published over 20 statements, shadow reports and submissions throughout the year – often jointly with member and partner organizations. Those laid out recommendations were made to regional and international mechanisms relating to biodiversity, climate change, human rights, women's rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, or related to specific cases of human rights violations of Indigenous Peoples or country situations concerning Indigenous Peoples.
- At least 18 training/educational and advocacy materials (briefing papers, guide, report, case studies, documentary videos, etc.) were produced or reproduced by different AIPP programmes in 2018. Those were also translated in at least three languages besides English and widely disseminated in printed form and through online channels in AIPP networks and publicly.

AIPP's Members Organisations:





COMMUNICATION PROGRAMME

This Programme undertakes the regular sharing of information to members, contacts and partners on key developments and issues relating to Indigenous Peoples in Asia through different channels of media including e-media. It also includes the translation of relevant documents, production of info-posters, animation, video documentaries and the operation of the Indigenous Voice Asia Network as a joint platform of journalists/media practitioners and indigenous activists in amplifying the voices of Indigenous Peoples. It further guides and supports the communication strategy of all programs such as on campaign strategy and activities on thematic or human rights cases.



Highlights

- AIPP received significant media exposure throughout the year, including in dominant media such as Reuters and Kyoto News and other national media, as well as alternative or indigenous media such as iMPACT magazine or Nepal's Indigenous Television. The Programme also referred journalists to AIPP member organizations.
- Two country-level media dialogues and awards were organized in Nepal and the Philippines. The Vice-President of Nepal inaugurated the national media exchange in the country, whereby participants stressed on mother-tongue journalism that has inspired development of new project under the Programme.
- The Programme has been able to increase representation of indigenous women as resource persons in AIPP's communication materials as well as their portrayal in social media content. AIPP has continued steady social media engagement during the year despite limitation of personnel in the Programme to manage multiple communication and social media channels of the organization.



In the Spotlight

The National Media Exchange in Nepal held from 12-14 June 2018 was very well attended and included significant discussions on the barriers and pathways for Indigenous Peoples' participation in media in the country. Participating journalists and media practitioners found the exchange very helpful and important to advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"There are three challenges in Nepali media landscape in regard to indigenous issues: ownership, content, and structure. The country needs to see more indigenous individuals as editors on media houses, aside from getting more indigenous journalists to the newsroom."
- Mr. Danda Gurung, FONIJ, during the national media exchange in Nepal



New avenues and opportunities

In 2018, the Programme has confirmed funding from Open Society Foundation for its activities planned for 2019-2020 with partner organizations identified in Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand while collaboration is also being explored with the Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA) under the grant. With 2019 declared by the UN General Assembly as the International Year of **Indigenous Languages**, the Programme will incorporate preservation of indigenous languages into its activities.



In numbers

- 42 participants (13 women, 29 men) attended the national media dialogue in Nepal to discuss indigenous journalists in the landscape of Nepalese media. 20 participants (13 women and 7 men) attended the national media exchange and Gawad Agong Award in the Philippines where they discussed on mainstreaming indigenous issues in the country.
- AIPP produced 13 alerts throughout the year.



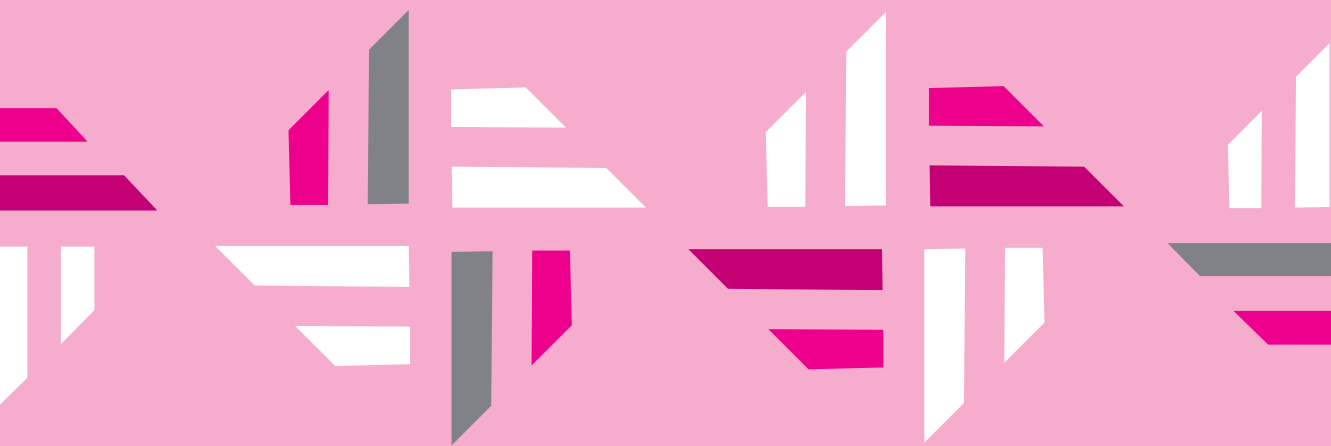
Challenges

- Lack of human resources in the Programme and need for clarity in roles and responsibilities among programmes and personnel, which are often overlapping, have been identified as the key challenges of the Programme.



Lessons Learnt

- Organizational communication plan needs to be scheduled regularly to increase AIPP's presence in mainstream and social media landscapes.
- Timely information sharing from other programmes is indispensable for the Programme to undertake its responsibilities. In planning any activity, AIPP programmes should consider inviting journalists as part of media engagement.
- Incorporating indigenous languages in the communication materials and channels will help address language barriers with indigenous communities.
- Partner organizations need stronger understanding of gender mainstreaming to ensure gender sensitivity and equal and effective representation in their activities.





ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

The programme addresses the issues relating to climate change, biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge promotion and protection. In particular, forest conservation under the Reducing Emissions on Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) and climate change adaptation at the community level, and sustained advocacy with REDD+ and climate change related bodies such as the UNFCCC and CBD are the focus of this programme in partnership with member organizations and networks. The program has also taken issues relating to Indigenous Knowledge and coordinates the recently established Indigenous Knowledge and Peoples of Asia (IKPA).



Highlights

- Through the Programme, AIPP has continued to lead the coordination and communication for the Asia region in climate change related processes within the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) while strengthening relationship with negotiators from States such as Germany and Belgium. AIPP in the capacity of focal point of Indigenous Peoples provided its unwavering support and contributions, like in the previous years, to the IIPFCC throughout the negotiations on the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples (LCIP) Platform at the 24th Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, for which a Facilitative Working Group was launched at the Conference.
- AIPP led drafting of the submission of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) on the post-2020 global biodiversity strategy during 14th Conference of Parties of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In the submission, indigenous peoples recommended shifting from biodiversity focused strategy to one centered people, culture and rights and demanded for their full and effective participation during the preparatory process as well as in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the strategy. AIPP also continued to lead the coordination and communication for the Asia region in the CBD process through the IIFB together with other regions.

- As regional CSO representative, AIPP has increased the sharing of cases of human rights violations of Asian indigenous communities relating to the environment in regional and international meetings of the to the UN Environment Programme. It has continued its engagement in the ASEAN CSO Forum on Social Forestry – the 2018 CSO Forum report includes AIPP’s recommendation to established environmental defenders fund at the regional level.

Indigenous communities under the projects of the Programme have been able to influence local authorities on their environmental and human rights concerns. For example, indigenous communities with Mae pon-Maeya Watershed Network were able to reduce the 60-day no burning policy to 50 days in consultation with authorities in Thailand’s Chomthong district. Indigenous Thami people in Sunkoshi village of Nepal were able to secure NPR 280,000 from the local government for the construction of ethnic museum. Similarly, indigenous Danuwar people in Battar people were able to mobilize NPR 2,200,000 from the local government to build river embankments to protect their agricultural fields from flooding in rainy season. In India, Adivasi Mahila Maha Sangh facilitated a meeting between local authorities and Borokana community, which resulted in the community needs relating to electricity, road construction and drinking water met within 10 days. Separately, Pahari Kurwa, one of the primitive Adivasi groups, has received housing and other fundamental services from the government due to Jashpur Jan Vikas Sanstha (JJVS)’s advocacy and lobby with the district collector and other government line agencies.

- Through various trainings and exchange visits, the Programme has built different capacities and skills of many indigenous communities across several countries.
 - ❖ After being inspired to replicate the practices of indigenous women in Thailand’s Hua E Khang village during an exchange visit, Karen women in Hakkia village similarly started to produce and sell their weaving products. Also, women groups in Thailand have started initiatives for seed preservation and continuation of Indigenous Knowledge .
 - ❖ An orientation on SDGs and community mapping in Nepal enabled the target communities to define their communities’ natural resources and hazard areas. Similarly, in southern district of Makwanpur, a network of indigenous women was established to revive language and culture and promote organic farming after a training.
 - ❖ Further, communities in India’s Odisha state are taking greater responsibilities for protecting the forests as their owners, including regulating and managing forest resources. They have become more aware about the government policies towards Adivasis and able to articulate their land and resource rights. Formation of Gaon Sarkar (village councils) for self-governance has expanded even beyond project areas and is practically spreading all over the project district. Also, in India, self-help groups of women have been established and operating for livelihoods promotion and income generation. Women in those groups are also taking actions to reduce gender-based violence.

- Climate change adaptation and mitigation projects implemented through the Programme have made direct positive impacts in the lives and livelihoods of indigenous communities.
 - ❖ In the Philippines, small scale mitigation projects such as setting up rice mill in Alunugan province and sugarcane crusher in Mogao, water system repair in Binasaran, Malibcong and Abra provinces, and ginger production in Uhaj, Banaue and Ifugao have helped communities to generate income and reduce their household costs. While the target communities in Binasaran, including a primary school, were provided access to clean and safe water, they also formed a committee to oversee and manage similar mitigation projects.
 - ❖ Kho Muong villagers in Vietnam were able to increase average rice production from 5.3 ton/ha to 6.5 ton/ha by applying climate smart agriculture methods. Similarly, usage of chemical fertilizers has decreased and use of bio-fertilizers increased in India's Odisha state. Natural farming is also gradually increasing among indigenous communities in Thailand.
- The Programme has also contributed to AIPP's institutional strengthening through organization of training on Results Based Management for the AIPP Secretariat as well as orientation on project and financial management for AIPP member organizations that are its project partners.



In the spotlight (box)

Strengthening livelihoods and traditional practices of indigenous women in Myanmar

As part of the Programme's partnership with the Chin Human Rights Organization under a Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) supported REDD+ project implemented since 2016, a network of Dai women (Dai Seng La Network) was formed representing indigenous women of 11 villages in Myanmar's Chin State. The network actively works on strengthening livelihoods of indigenous women, particularly on agroforestry, animal husbandry as well as revival of their indigenous practices such as weaving and traditional dances. The women of the network have become the drivers in improving and achieving sustainable livelihood in their respective communities using indigenous knowledge as their main application.

Lobbying local authorities for self-governance and forest rights in India

With assistance from the Programme, Indigenous Peoples Forum of Odisha organized rally and demonstration of Adivasis, who submitted memorandum to the Sundargarh District Chief in India demanding formation of Gram Sabhas (village councils) according to the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, (PESA Act) 1996, effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and provide Community Forest Rights title to the Gram Sabhas. The District Chief accepted the formation of Gram Sabhas and Pathalgadi (planting of stone order at entry points of tribal villages to demarcate territories and declare sovereign authority of the Gram Sabhas) and encouraged to continue forming Gram Sabhas while promising to lobby with the State government for formulating rules for the PESA Act.



New avenues and opportunities

In 2018, AIPP's Environment Programme has signed contract for a new Global Advocacy Project with Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSSNC) for implementation from 2018 to 2020 as well as taken responsibility as regional partner for a project with the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs titled Defending the Defenders - Indigenous Environmental Human Rights Defenders for 2019-2020 period. While strengthening good relationships with donor and partner organizations such as the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Secretariat of the CBD and the Forest Peoples Programme, AIPP has also increased its engagement through the Programme in international mechanisms and processes such as the Mekong Regional Land Forum of the Mekong Region Land Governance Project, the Commitment-Based Initiative 6 related to Water Access of the International Land Coalition, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the multi-stakeholder Forest Dialogue platform. There are more fundraising opportunities on environmental issues, which opens up more partnership avenues for AIPP and its member organizations through the Programme.



In numbers

- At least 7,965 persons (3,954 women, 4,011 men and 515 youths) from around 35 indigenous/ethnic groups in six countries India, Myanmar, Nepal Thailand, the Philippines and Viet Nam benefitted from various trainings, orientation workshops, awareness programs, assessments, exchanges and community mobilizations organized under the Programme at local, national and regional levels. For example,

- ❖ 23 indigenous youth (6 men and 17 women) in Myanmar have increased their knowledge through participation in a training of trainers on Rights and REDD+. Similarly, at least 641 persons (260 of them women) were trained on rights and REDD+ in Viet Nam
- ❖ In India's Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand states, at least 220 persons – around half of them were women – increased their awareness on and capacities to lobby for implementation of PESA Act, 1996 for self-governance of Adivasis through Gram Sabhas, as well as Forest Rights Act, 2006, among other issues.
- ❖ 41 indigenous persons (22 men, 19 women and 5 youth) from India, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand attended the 4th Regional Adaptation Learning Highway organized to share indigenous peoples' experiences and success stories for combatting climate change and promoting livelihoods as well as their country situations and action plans.
- The Programme co-organized or contributed to organizing five side events at various international meetings such as the 24th Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 14th Conference of Parties of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Around 10 training, educational or advocacy materials (briefing paper, case studies, documentary videos, etc.) were produced under the Programme throughout the year.
 - ❖ A Briefing Paper on Building the Resiliency of Indigenous Communities on Climate Change Adaptation was published following a three-day interaction and immersion programme under the Regional Adaptation Learning Highway held in the Philippines in March 2018.
 - ❖ Case studies have been published on Indigenous Peoples' Good Practices in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, including experiences of indigenous Karen community of Hak-kia village in northern Thailand and water management practice of Taloctoc tribe in the northern Philippines. Similarly, video and documentation have been produced on native seeds and indigenous peoples.



Challenges

- Most of the challenges faced by the Programme emerge from the institutional capacities and political contexts of the partner organizations of its projects. Those include, among others, language barriers for communication in English with project partners and beneficiaries, inadequate organizational policies and financial systems of the partners, lack of timely response and substantive reporting from them and their coordination with member organizations and Executive Council members in the country, as well as remote and politically fragile locations of their project areas. Some challenges also relate to the donor organizations such as frequent changes in focal point and delay in communication.

- The Programme has also identified few challenges in the working of the Secretariat and project management, including gaps in communication with administration and finance, lack of regular Secretariat meetings and sharing of work plan, inconsistency in decision-making, non-availability of standards or tools for evaluation of consultants, etc.



Lessons learnt

- The newly started good practice of the Programme of preparing monitoring visit report with concrete recommendations to improve project management and institutional strengthening of the AIPP member organizations should be continued and followed through.
- Project inception meetings are not enough for partners to thoroughly understand the project goals and objectives. Thus, the goals and objectives should be recalled in annual partners meetings and implementation of project activities should be linked with them. It is also important to include orientation of AIPP policies in the partners meetings where partners should also present their institutional policies.
- Reporting templates and guidelines are useful for partners as well as for AIPP to get required information on project implementation. Documentation and publication of stories of change resulting from the projects should be continued.
- Capacity assessment of project partners must be done before entering into long-term partnership to avoid challenges in project implementation. AIPP's monitoring visits should be maximized to meet the project staff and other relevant representatives of the partner organizations.
- Preparation of project proposals should be given adequate time for effective consultation with partners. Also, there should be timely sharing of information such as work and travel plans, decisions from the Management to avoid gaps in communication and inconsistencies.



HUMAN RIGHTS CAPACITY AND POLICY ADVOCACY PROGRAMME

The Programme engages in building and strengthening of Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders Network (IPHRDs) through trainings and documentation and regional and international lobby and advocacy using UN mechanisms, bodies and procedures, ASEAN, international financial institutions, and the SDGs. The program is involved in campaign and community mobilization for responding to human rights issues and violations relating to extractive industries, large-scale development projects, economic land concessions, eviction and displacement issues, etc.



Highlights

- The Programme has been able to provide continued and increased capacity building and research/documentation support to AIPP member and IPHRD organisations to strengthen the effectiveness of their campaigns and advocacy against human rights violations of Indigenous Peoples. Targeted land rights campaigns are also being carried out at country, regional and international levels in close cooperation with support groups and movements and linked to the Global Call to Action on Indigenous and Community Land Rights (#LandRightsNow).
- There has been improved planning and coordination of advocacy campaigns on critical or emerging issues based on a bottom-up approach at the sub regional and country level and bottom-up advocacy strategies and campaign plans that are fed into regional and global mechanisms and processes. Evidence-based advocacy carried out by AIPP member and IPHRD organisations have been strengthened with production of policy briefs and other materials based on research and analysis of state policies/laws and programmes

- AIPP has strengthened its partnership and collaboration with key allies for regional and international human rights mechanisms and processes such as with the Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights. It is proactively playing its role as a focal point for Indigenous Peoples' issues in Asia in those mechanisms and has actively facilitated the participation of indigenous communities and leaders in advocacy and campaign work based on common action plan.
- In 2018, the Programme has been able to enhance collaboration among members of thematic advocacy networks of Indigenous Peoples' organisations of Asia, such as the Asia Indigenous Peoples Network on Extractive Industries and Energy, as well as expand engagement of IPHRDs and their communities with new grievance mechanism(s) of strategic importance for Indigenous Peoples' rights such as in relation to the International Criminal Court.
- The Programme has been able to increase outreach to indigenous women and youth as well as indigenous persons with disabilities to enhance their capacities for the protection and promotion of their rights and participation in relevant decision-making bodies and mechanisms. As a result, indigenous women, youth and persons with disabilities have developed and/or strengthened linkages, partnerships and collaboration with indigenous movements and with other youth, women and IPwDs organisations, and their leaders are actively engaged in solidarity actions and in advocacy with duty-bearers for the protection and promotion of the rights and welfare.

In the spotlight

Linking UNDRIP to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Programme was able to reach out to 13 indigenous persons with disabilities to discuss the links of the UNDRIP to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This training resulted in one of the participants joining the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2018 to highlight the issues of indigenous persons with disabilities. The trainees were provided introduction to the concepts of land rights, rights of persons with disabilities, women's rights and SDGs. Also included were practical skills and knowledge in data gathering/documentation as well as advocacy at different levels.



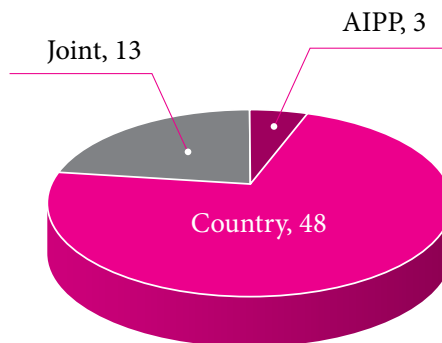
New avenues and opportunities

The Programme has been able to secure a multi-year grant from the European Union for enhancing Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders Network in Asia for advancement of Indigenous Peoples' rights to be implemented from 2019 to 2021 in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand. Further, the Programme will continue to use entry point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or discourse on development in general for advocating for Indigenous Peoples' rights, particularly in countries that do not recognise their rights such as Lao PDR and Viet Nam.

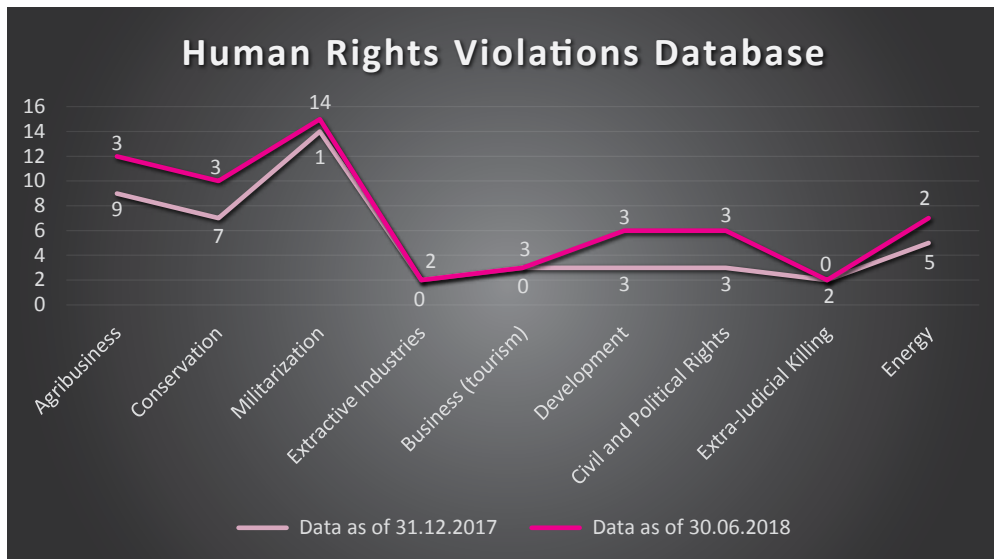


In numbers

Statements Jan to Dec 2018



- 13 joint and 3 AIPP statements were produced in collaboration with AIPP member/partner organizations in relation to various cases of human rights violations, specific country situations or for regional and international meetings. Similarly, 7 submissions/communications were drafted with close involvement of the Programme and forwarded to relevant human rights mechanisms highlighting a single or several cases of rights abuses.
- In collaboration with country partner-organizations, two shadow national reports for Voluntary National Reviews at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2018 and three infographics for baseline factsheets on SDGs in three countries were also produced under the Indigenous Navigator initiative.
- 19 additional cases were added to the human rights violation database. The support provided to these cases are combination of political (through provision of technical advice with regards to advocacy actions/strategies or solidarity statements) and financial.



- 9 side events were conducted in collaboration with AIPP member and organizations at regional and international UN meetings such as the annual sessions of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues session and the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, among others.
- 164 individuals were part of the Programme’s major regional training or other activities – 65 of them were men and 99 women. 7 staff persons from the AIPP Secretariat and 2 from partner organizations also received training on digital security through the initiative of the Programme.

Major Regional Activities	Key issues discussed	Place/Community
Asia Preparatory Meeting on UN mechanisms and processes relating to Indigenous Peoples 2018	UNDRIP and UN mechanisms and procedures	India
Regional Learning Exchange on Land Rights and SDGs	SDGs and land rights	Thailand
Regional Learning Exchange on Indigenous Peoples’ Rights and SDGs,	SDGs and indigenous women’s rights	Indonesia
Technical Workshop on the Rights of Indigenous Persons with Disabilities	UNDRIP, SDGs and CRPD	Thailand
Regional IPHRD Exchange	UNGPs on business and human rights	Indonesia



Challenges

- The unrelenting rise of autocratic leaders resulting to shrinking of democratic space remains to loom over the plight of IPHRDs in most countries in Asia, particularly the Philippines, Cambodia, Bangladesh, India, and Nepal. This reality also affects the struggle for legal recognition of Indigenous Peoples, particularly of their collective rights to land and self-determination.
- Politics between indigenous communities and organisations and between them and other NGOs is also persisting challenge in addressing the human rights issues of Indigenous Peoples at macro level. That often gets worse when there are conflicts created by businesses, governments or other actors at the community level. Similarly, the politics of representation at national, regional and international is a constant concern and challenge that the issues at the ground level seem to be diluted as the level of advocacy gets higher. In addition, the lay indigenous person and communities often finds it challenging to relate to the advocacy strategies at higher level and the people representing them at higher level of advocacy find it challenging to sincerely capture and update their knowledge about the changes on the ground.
- Lack of human and financial (particularly flexible funding) resources in the Programme to follow through and sustain action plans and advocacy strategies continues as a daunting challenge.
- There remains to be high need for capacity-building with regards to human rights documentation and planning advocacy strategy to IPHRD Network members.
- Indigenous women human rights defenders remain to be a struggle for members and partners with regards to representation and providing support.



Lessons learnt

- The IPHRDs Network needs further strengthening to require lesser facilitation and support from the Programme for credible documentation, drafting statements and submitting information /complaints to various human rights mechanisms as well as planning advocacy at different levels.
- It is increasingly important to increase the understanding of the issues and ensure participation of vulnerable sectors within indigenous communities, particularly indigenous persons with disabilities and indigenous LGBTIQ individuals. AIPP should promote networking and strengthening solidarity with other sectors putting emphasis on the cross-cutting issues of Indigenous Peoples, as well as strengthening the understanding of Indigenous Peoples on the issues of persons with disabilities, women and LGBTIQ.
- The Programme needs to better identify or prioritise the organisation or network to ally and collaborate with, including in consideration of the current human resource capacity to ensure sustainability of engagement. Continuous collaboration with organisations is crucial, particularly looking into future collaborations that goes beyond one-off activity
- Back-to-back meetings can be useful for maximizing the use of resources but also exhausting for the participants and the organizing staff persons. Information overload to participants highly likely defeats the purpose of the training.



INDIGENOUS WOMEN PROGRAMME

This Programme provides support for capacity building of Indigenous Women's organizations and networks and their increased participation and engagement in different levels of advocacy work. It also engages for the enhancement of the roles and contribution of Indigenous Women in climate change, sustainable resource management among others. AIPP has adopted its Gender Policy and has produced a gender main-streaming Manual as a guide to the regional secretariat and its member organizations – this Programme monitors and assists in the implementation thereof. It also organizes the regional platforms for exchanging experiences and solidarity building among Indigenous Women leaders, their organizations and networks.



Highlights

- AIPP member organizations' sensitivity towards greater inclusion of Indigenous Women and Indigenous Women with disabilities in their structures and activities is increasing. This is demonstrated in the increasing participation and effective representation of Indigenous Women and persons with disabilities (PWD) in the activities of various AIPP programmes implemented with the member and partner organizations as well as in wider indigenous movements.
- AIPP programmes have increased sensitivity towards gender mainstreaming and progressive realization of gender integration. For that, the Indigenous Women Programme has also directly supported participation of Indigenous Women in activities of other AIPP programmes and donor agencies such as the annual Asia regional preparatory meeting on UN mechanisms and processes relating to Indigenous Peoples of the AIPP and Oxfam Australia's annual learning and exchange meeting. As a result, the Programme has also been able to influence inclusion of Indigenous Peoples as cross-cutting group in the proposal and reporting templates of the Oxfam Australia.

- The Programme has continued engagement and advocacy of AIPP and its member organizations in women's rights related processes at international levels. For example, it supported in the preparation and submission of shadow report on Indigenous Women for Nepal's CEDAW review. Further, the Programme has also been pushing to bring out or integrate gender perspectives from Indigenous Women in Asia for global processes such as climate change. One example of such efforts is the Conference on Indigenous Women and Climate Change in Northeast India organized in June 2018. Two statements on statement on Indigenous Women Human Rights Defender (IWHRD) were developed. One was submitted to UNCSW 2018 and second one in Cambodia developed jointly with Indigenous Women Organizations and Networks and widely shared urging to protect the IWHRD.
- The Programme has also continued setting up and bolstering Indigenous Women's networks at sub-national and national levels. For example, in India, it supported organizing three sub-national consultation in the northeast, central and south India as well as a national consultation of Indigenous Women to build and strengthen their networks.



In the spotlight

Indigenous Women and youth in Cambodia protecting their natural resources and human rights

Under a project partnership with the Programme, Jarai Indigenous Women in Peak village of Oyadav district of Cambodia's Ratanakiri province have set up forest patrolling of protected areas. They also appealed the Mesco Gold mining company to respect the rights of indigenous peoples in its local mining operations and convinced the company to implement the agreement between the village and the company. As a result, the company has developed and improved infrastructure in the village such as road construction, provided English schoolteacher and maintenance of well. Similarly, Jarai indigenous youths have formed volunteer groups to protect their natural resources by themselves without any support from external stakeholders.



New avenues and opportunities

The Programme also sees further needs and opportunities for capacity building and network strengthening of Indigenous Women's organizations in the membership and networks of AIPP, networking and partnership with young and disabled women's organizations and greater recognition of Indigenous Women from Asia in the processes of UN mechanisms and development actors.



In numbers

- At least 120 Indigenous persons (79 are women) directly benefitted from participation in various capacity building activities organized or supported by the Programme. Those include 47 women and 3 men who attended the 5th Annual Indigenous Women Exchange visit in Cambodia to discuss issues related to Indigenous Women Human Rights Defenders, climate change, leadership of Indigenous Women in traditional and customary institutions and Indigenous Peoples' movements. Similarly, 18 women and 7 men attended a national workshop on rights-based approach to SDGs in Indonesia. 6 Indigenous Women participated in Asia Prep Meeting in India
- The Programme produced three statements for advocacy in international processes or solidarity of Indigenous Women. Those were:
 - ❖ Statement for the 2018 session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on Indigenous Women human rights defenders,
 - ❖ AIPP's statement for the International Women's Day, and
 - ❖ Solidarity statement for community leaders and the Laoka indigenous community together with Indigenous Women's organizations participating in the annual exchange visit.

A side event was also co-organized on "Indigenous Women's rights: a vital tool to ensure gender equality and economic and social empowerment" during the CSW session.

- 6 briefing papers, case studies or reports were (re)produced or translated in various languages and disseminated during the year, including
 - ❖ HerStory-1 in Hindi (500 copies),
 - ❖ Summary Report on the Role and Contribution of Indigenous Women in Water Management: Case Study of Cambodia and Viet Nam in English, Khmer and Vietnamese (500 copies in each language),
 - ❖ AIPP Practical Guide on SDGs for Indigenous Peoples in Lao language and
 - ❖ Indigenous Women strategy of Cambodia in English.

Further researches were conducted on Indigenous Women and human trafficking in India (including ten states in Northeast and central India) and the role and contribution of Indigenous Women in water management in five additional provinces in Vietnam.



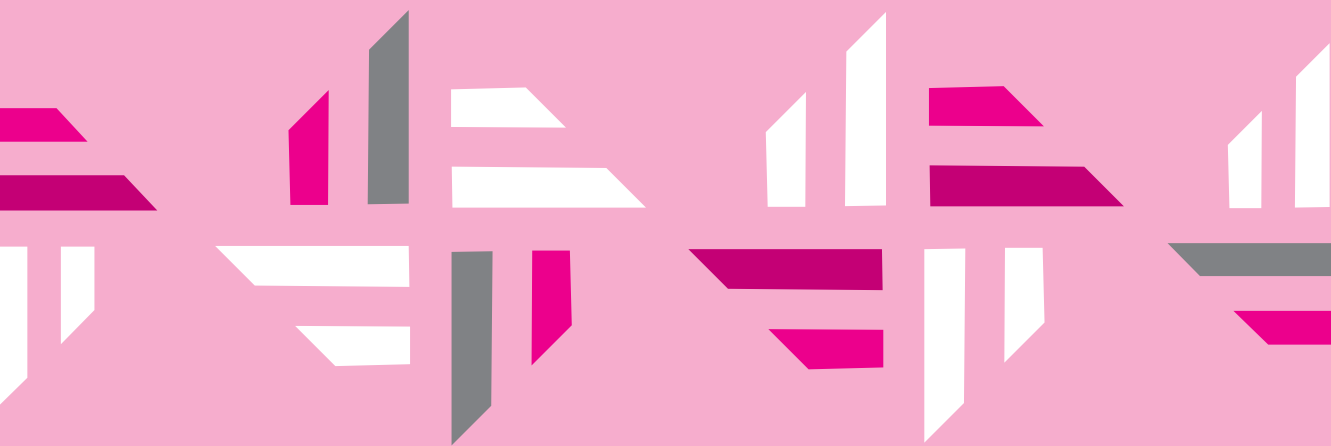
Challenges

- The Programme faces challenges mainly in project management on the level of partner organizations. Those include lack of timely submission of work plans and reports as well as implementation of project activities, language barriers and poor quality of reporting, difficulties in finding qualified resource persons and personnel at the country levels, problems in coordination within networks or organizations, and limited capacities for fundraising and financial management as well as gender mainstreaming.
- There are also challenges at the AIPP level, which include high human resources turnover and limited institutional memory, lack of clarity in delegation of authority, gap in communication between project partner/member organizations and donors, delay in submission of workplan and financial and project reports, as well as limitations in resource mobilization.



Lessons learnt

- Flexible grants have been very useful for the Programme to provide support for urgent needs of member/partner organizations, particularly for participation in advocacy events. Indigenous Women's organizations and networks in the membership of AIPP still require intensive post-formation assistance to become functional, which needs to be provided beyond activity-based support.
- Significant time and effort need to be invested to solidify networks that should be built ground up before consolidating such networks at the national level. That requires continued long-term collaboration with AIPP member organizations/networks.
- Engagement of Indigenous Women's representative to the AIPP's Executive Council has been helpful in strategizing for the Programme and its projects. Similarly, inter-programme collaboration has increased and contributed in integrating Indigenous Women's issues at the AIPP level.
- Continued inter programme collaboration strengthening as well as exploring the alternative means to coordinate and communicate with partners, members and stakeholders are important to overcome the challenges. Engaging multiple stakeholders in our initiatives will provide better avenue to amplify our learning, experiences and visibility.





ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING AND MOVEMENT BUILDING

The Programme activities include organizing the sub-regional meetings, country level assessment and consultation of AIPP member organizations as well as providing support for their institutional strengthening. It further conducts regular meetings of the AIPP Executive Council and develops, reviews policies and guidelines for the AIPP and monitors the implementation thereof. The Programme is also responsible for strengthening and management of the AIPP Secretariat in the day to day implementation and coordination of the AIPP programmes and activities. It guides and provides coherence to the AIPP programmes at the Secretariat through streamlining, facilitating inter-program collaboration, promoting integration as well as building inter-linkages of projects and thematic issues such as on women and youth, and movement building.



Highlights

- AIPP has strengthened its engagement with member organizations at country levels over the year with the conduct of consultations in Bangladesh, India (mainland and Northeast), Nepal and Thailand. The consultations provided critical reflections and opportunities for dialogue on Indigenous Peoples' struggles and movements in the countries. National coordination committees were formed at the consultations and key issues of Indigenous Peoples and areas of engagement in the countries identified while they also contributed to sharing on the experiences, ideas and aspirations of Indigenous Peoples and their organizations, consolidated their solidarity and unity as well as organized, coordinated.
- There has been increased involvement of the AIPP Secretary General and Executive Council members at the country-levels and in the global advocacy works. While the country consultations enhanced the role of the AIPP representatives at national levels, the Programme also supported and facilitated the participation of the Executive Council members in various advocacy processes, through assistance for their presentations, notes and other purposes as needed.

- The Programme has been able to organize regular meetings of the Executive Council and AIPP Advisory/Foundation Board to ensure that the AIPP plans, policies and reports are adopted in a timely manner. Further, the Secretariat management has been strengthened with renewed focus areas of works and additional monitoring, backstopping and supervision for AIPP programmes implementation as well as for their financial tracking and management as required. The Programme has also provided support to the programmes for preparation and submission of new project proposals and meetings with the donors. Inter-programme collaboration has been enhanced, particularly for effective use of the core funds and management of request of supports from AIPP member organizations and networks.
- With a full Management team functioning in 2018, the Programme has put in place necessary organizational policies and guidelines and monitor implementation thereof. That includes a newly adopted Human Resources Guidelines to be effective from 1 February 2019 as well as necessary templates and forms, such as Terms of References, staff induction, etc. Staff development trainings on online graphic and website designing, results-based management, photography and project compliance were also organized or facilitated over the year as requested by the AIPP personnel.



In the spotlight

East Asia Sub-regional meeting: identifying priority areas and ways forward

AIPP has determined priority areas and ways forward for its engagement in East Asia through a sub-regional meeting in 2018. Thereby, financial support for indigenous representatives from the sub-region for engagement in regional and global processes/mechanisms, including those related to business and human rights, participation in trainings and exchanges, particularly related to women and youth, of AIPP programmes as well as internship at the AIPP Secretariat were among the ways recognized. Advocacy at the sessions of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as during the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages were also discussed. Strengthening democratic participation of Indigenous Peoples, engagement in the review of the States under international human rights conventions, establishing traditional knowledge network were also identified as priority areas.



New avenues and opportunities

The year 2018 was remarkable for AIPP with new commitments for core funding received from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and Open Society Foundation. There has also been increased interest of donor agencies and partner organizations in the works of or to collaborate with the AIPP. That is demonstrated in the increase in support from existing and new funders, requests for partnership in conducting joint activities at the regional and national levels by various UN agencies and other organizations.



In numbers

- At least 8 AIPP member and network organizations in Bangladesh, India, Thailand and the Philippines were provided or facilitated direct financial support for various projects/purposes from internal and external funds over the year.
- Throughout 2018, the Programme led the conduct of one sub-regional meeting, four country consultations, two Executive Council meetings and two meetings of the AIPP Advisory/Foundation Board. It also facilitated in organizing the Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Learning regional exchange visit of the Tamalpais Trust – one of the longstanding core funders of the AIPP, as well as the Asia Preparatory meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- With the Human Resources Management policy finalized, including for review of structure of the Secretariat, salary scale and benefits as well as staff appraisal system, the Programme led through the difficult times of staff transition in the Secretariat.

Total Staff	22 (14 males, 7 females)
New recruitments	10
Position adjustment	1
Staff appraisal	4
Probation review	3
Staff resignation	6
Volunteers/interns	6



Challenges

- Significant staff transition in the AIPP Secretariat presented serious human resources management challenge while lack of human resources has made it difficult to manage demands from the Secretariat.
- There is still lack of targeted staff development plan as identified by the staff members.
- The Secretariat is not fully monitoring the networking as well as gains in advocacy when reporting on their programmes and projects for more strategic interventions for AIPP's advocacy work.
- Fund raising has remained as a continuing challenge, particularly for core funds required for the AIPP



Lessons Learnt

- AIPP needs to work more closely with members at country level to identify common priority issues and political agenda for building common understanding and solidarity, which will help secretariat to develop planning and strategies following the bottom up approach
- The Programme needs to provide support to Executive Council members to enhance their engagement at regional and global advocacy processes
- Priority should be given to raise core fund to provide institutional strengthening support to members of AIPP at country level and urgent advocacy work at community, regional and global level.
- AIPP requires timely recruitment of experienced and 'efficient' staff to meet the increasing demands from the Secretariat while consultants/volunteers can be commissioned to outsource tasks and meet human resource gaps in the Secretariat.



REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

Through the Programme, AIPPP has been focusing on strengthening the role of indigenous youth within indigenous movements, including through community organizing, leadership building and inter-generational knowledge transfer. The Programme also aims to build strong cooperation and sense of ownership between AIPPP member organizations and the Secretariat as well as to build stronger institutional capacity and functioning of AIPPP and its member organizations. Additionally, it analyses the overall capacity building works of the AIPPP to understand need for further capacities and resources.



Highlights

- In 2018, the Programme, in partnership with Partners of Community Organisation (PACOS) Trust, began implementation of Community Organizing and Leadership Training in Malaysia. That included inception meeting held with the Belia Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (Belia-JOAS) – youth wing of the Indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia, selection of resource persons, and formation of a training team.
- Issues of indigenous youth were identified and an action plan for future work was developed through a youth assembly of Ton-kla Indigenous Youth Network (TKN) and Youth Council in Thailand. Similarly, indigenous youth in Nepal also finalized a strategic plan for the Youth Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, Nepal through a youth conference.
- The Programme has facilitated networking with academic and educational institutions in various countries by facilitating educational visits to and hosting internships at AIPPP. Similarly, it has initiated volunteering and fellowship programmes at the AIPPP Secretariat for representatives from its member organizations to build strong cooperation between the Secretariat and AIPPP member organizations.

- The Programme has built strong collaboration with other AIPP programmes for its activities targeting indigenous youth as well as data generation and disaggregation on capacity building works of the organization. That has helped maximize the use of resources, enhance the scope for indigenous youth and analyse the capacity building works of the AIPP.



In numbers

- 25 indigenous youths from Mekong sub-region attended a Youth Reference Group Meeting organized in collaboration with the UNESCO to identify their issues and developed their future scope of work.
- 75 indigenous youth (26 females, 49 male) from AIPP member organizations in Nepal as well as 30 journalists from various indigenous groups in the country, also mostly youth, strengthened their leadership skills and knowledge. The youth and journalists were also able to sensitize policy makers and bureaucrats on indigenous issues in the country.
- With support from the Programme, 3 indigenous youths are engaged in Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS) – the Indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia after completing their internship on investigative journalism and video production. Accordingly, JOAS has strengthened collaboration with media agencies such as Malaysiakini TV.
- 40 indigenous youth enhanced their understanding knowledge and skills on reporting human rights violations in their communities/villages.
- As per the data gathered by the Programme, at least 5,512 persons attended various capacity building activities of AIPP throughout the year. Of them, 2,671 were male; 2,721 were female, 118 were youth and 2 persons with disabilities.
- The Programme coordinated a visit of 18 students and a professor from a university in Japan for orientation about AIPP's works. Similarly, in 2018, it supported in hosting five interns for different AIPP programmes from various universities and countries. It also facilitated volunteering of a representative from member organizations in Bangladesh at the AIPP Secretariat while an AIPP Executive Council member has been also engaged a fellow with support from the Conservation International. The Programme has developed a draft guideline for internship and fellowships at the AIPP Secretariat.



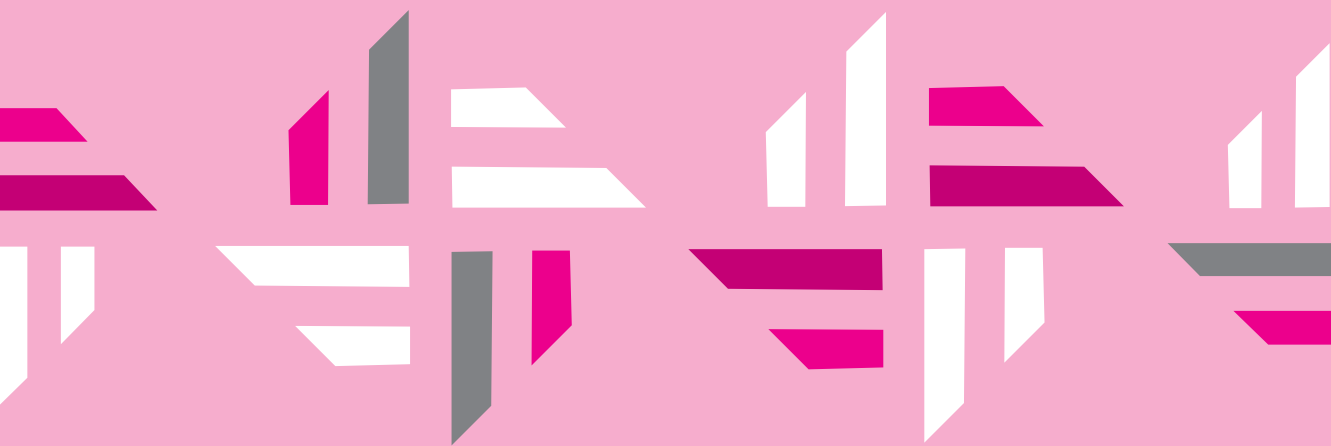
Challenges

- The Programme has identified its challenges as lack of project management capacities and particularly reporting skills at the level of partner organizations as well as language barriers for timely reporting.



Lessons Learnt

- The Programme encourages further joint or inter-programme activities and initiatives, including with network organizations, to enhance the target groups and scope of work within limited resources.
- Inviting and engaging policy makers and government representatives in AIPP's activities at national levels can often contribute to bringing greater attention to indigenous issues in the country for incorporating them in State policies as well as to abate the challenges to organizing activities in the country.





MOVING FORWARD



AIPPP Programmes have identified various challenges and drawn important lessons learnt over the year as noted above. Those provide some key reflections for moving forward for AIPPP, which include the following:

- AIPPP will put more intensive efforts for mobilizing greater core funds for the organization to address significant disparities in budgets among AIPPP programmes. The core funds will particularly be used for further efforts in communication development, gender mainstreaming and youth leadership within AIPPP, including its member organizations, as well as wider organizational strengthening and movement building.
- AIPPP needs to invest further and in a significant manner to increase the capacities and resources of its member and partner organizations, particularly for project management, including financial tracking and accountability, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, as well as their institutional strengthening. Engaging member and partner organizations directly in relevant trainings or learning exchanges of donor agencies could also be one way of such investment. AIPPP Secretariat will generate further or maximize existing resources to undertake more effective monitoring and evaluation, including through in-person visits to the projects and partner organizations.
- AIPPP Secretariat will develop further organizational guidelines, templates or other plans and implement them progressively to increase its efficiency. Those include communication plans, monitoring visit reporting template, partners' capacity assessment guidelines, etc. as identified by the AIPPP programmes.
- Gender mainstreaming in AIPPP's programmes and projects, including at the levels of member/partner organizations, require additional efforts to put indigenous women and their rights at the heart of what AIPPP does. Such efforts could begin with more effective orientation of AIPPP's gender policy to its staff and member/partner organizations for stronger implementation thereof. Further, regular gender survey/audit and programme assessment with gender perspective are some of the tools that can be used.

- AIPP will further encourage peer to peer learning exchanges such as those among indigenous human rights defenders and indigenous women activists. It will also put in greater efforts to effectively carry through its plans for operationalizing regional platforms for indigenous youth and women with specific focus areas.
- Engagement of AIPP, including its Executive Council members, at the country levels will be increased and enhanced with strategies refined further. One such strategy is to identify or strengthen focal organizations for specific areas of works or concerns of Indigenous Peoples that can integrate other member organizations in the country in that area. For example, the IPHRD partner organizations will be asked to integrate all AIPP member organizations in the national IPHRDs networks. Similarly, efforts will be made to devolve funds such as IPHRD fund to national levels to increase and ease regranting to member organizations at country levels for urgent needs.
- AIPP will strive to take its capacity building and advocacy actions to more grassroots levels in the indigenous communities through its member and partner organizations. That will also contribute to building the networks of indigenous activists and leaders ground up for greater sustainability. Long-term plans will be drawn for continued collaboration and follow ups with such networks.
- AIPP will aspire to measure its future effectiveness in terms of impacts beyond outputs and outcomes of its programmes and projects. For that, it will design and pursue necessary tools such as brief questionnaires to be implemented among its staff members or project partner organizations. Accordingly, it will put in place a more comprehensive framework to scale up initiatives with good impacts.
- AIPP will seek more diverse collaboration and partnership in its regional and international advocacy and engagement. That will also challenge AIPP programmes to work beyond their comfort zones and traditional approach. Such collaboration will also be sought to ensure participation of particularly vulnerable sectors within indigenous groups such as persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ.



2018

FINANCIAL STATEMENT



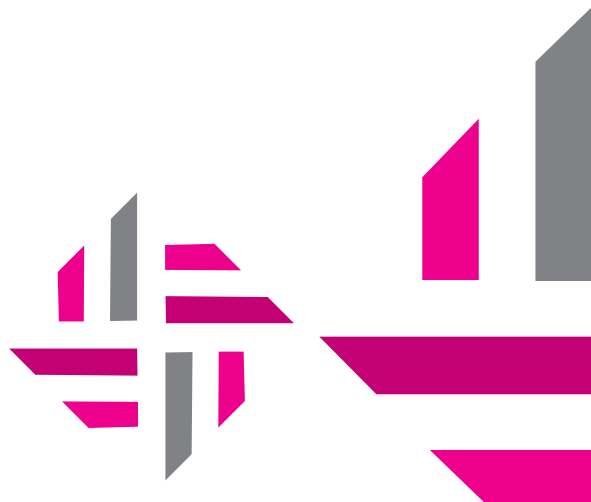
**ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT FOUNDATION
FINANCIAL REPORT**

AND

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

DECEMBER 31, 2018



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To The Management of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact foundation ("The Organization"), which comprise the statement of financial position, the statement of income and expenditure, the statement of cash flow and the change in fund balance for the year ended December 31, 2018 and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact foundation present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at December 31, 2018, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Thai Financial Reporting Standards.

Basic for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the Federation of Accounting Professions under the Royal Patronage of his Majesty the King's professional ethics of accounting practitioners, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with TFRS and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statement, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

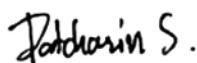
Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit, I also;

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statement or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statement, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statement represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Mrs. Patcharin Saramath
Certified Public Accountant (Thailand) no. 7794

Chiang Mai, Thailand
April 29, 2019

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation Audited Financial Statements Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December 2018

	AMOUNT IN THB	
	2018	2017
INCOMES		
Grants for Project Activities	64,369,104	65,298,628
Grant Contribution for Administration Expenses	3,267,927	3,615,343
Bank Interest	73,864	53,106
Other Income	14,500	34,763
TOTAL	67,725,395	69,001,840
EXPENDITURES		
Project Activities Expense	64,370,355	65,336,668
Administration Expense	1,676,627	1,585,174
Depreciation of Assets	616,851	658,187
TOTAL	66,663,833	67,580,030
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURES)	1,061,562	1,421,810

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation Audited Financial Statements Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2018

	AMOUNT IN THB	
	2018	2017
Fixed Assets:		
Property Land & Equipment	11,023,757	11,413,790
Current Assets:		
Cash in Bank and in hand	53,441,225	23,347,564
Partner Advances	10,077,583	6,150,050
Accrued Grant Income	2,697,111	1,392,053
Other Current Assets	133,038	91,335
Total	66,348,957	30,981,003
TOTAL ASSETS	77,372,714	42,394,792
Current Liabilities:		
Grants Received in Advance	59,270,446	25,265,619
Amounts due to Other Parties	3,738,285	3,548,023
Other Current Liabilities	149,527	428,256
Total	63,158,259	29,241,898
Fund Balance:		
Initial Funds	200,000	200,000
Accumulated Funds (Incomes over Expenditures)	14,014,456	12,952,895
Total	14,214,456	13,152,895
TOTAL ENTITY FUNDS	77,372,714	42,394,792

ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT FOUNDATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

1. General Information

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation was incorporated as a foundation under Thai laws on 19 April 2002. The Foundation located at 112 Moo 1, Tambon Sanpranate, Amphur Sansai, Chiang Mai 50210, Thailand.

The main objectives of the Foundation are as follows:

1. To share ideas and experiences as well as skills and knowledge of the original inhabitants.
2. To promote and provide peace and harmony among the original inhabitants.
3. To promote and provide support to the original inhabitants in developing (conserving) their culture and tradition.
4. To perform activities for public benefit or work with other charity organizations for public benefit.
5. Not to have actions related to politics.
6. To operate not for profit.

2. Basis of Preparation of the Financial Report

The financial report is prepared in accrual basis in according with the Thai Financial Reporting Standards accounting principles under the Accounting Act B.E. 2543. The Financial report is presented in Thai baht.

The Financial statement have been prepared by using historical cost measurement.

3. Summary of significant accounting policies

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and in banks due within 3 months where the risk of value fluctuation is minimum.

Income and Expense Recognition

The Foundation recognizes its income and expenses in accrual basis.

Property Plant and Equipment

Property plant and equipment represent equipment which were valued at cost, less accumulated depreciation.

The Foundation depreciates its asset by the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the assets as follows:

Building	20 years
Fencing	20 years
Office equipment	5 years

❖ About AIPP

The Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) is a regional organization established in 1992 by Indigenous Peoples' movements as a platform for solidarity and cooperation. AIPP is actively promoting and defending indigenous peoples' rights and human rights; sustainable development and management of resources and environment protection. Through the years, AIPP has developed its expertise on grassroots capacitybuilding, advocacy and networking from local to global levels and strengthening partnerships with indigenous organizations, support NGOs, UN agencies and other institutions. At present, AIPP has 47 members from 14 countries in Asia with 7 indigenous peoples' national alliances/networks and 35 local and sub-national organizations including 16 are ethnic-based organizations, five (5) indigenous women and four (4) are indigenous youth organizations.

❖ Our Vision

Indigenous Peoples in Asia are living with dignity and fully exercising their rights, distinct cultures and identity, and enhancing their sustainable management systems on lands, territories and resources for their own future and development in an environment of peace, justice and equality.

❖ Our Mission

AIPP strengthen the solidarity, cooperation and capacities of indigenous peoples in Asia to promote and protect their rights, cultures and identities, and their sustainable resource management system for their development and self-determination.

❖ Our Programmes

Our main areas of work among the different programmes are information dissemination, awareness raising, capacity building, advocacy and networking from local to global. Our programmes are:

- Communication Programme
- Environment
- Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy
- Indigenous Women
- Organizational Strengthening and Movement Building
- Regional Capacity Building

AIPP is accredited as an NGO in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and as observer organization with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). AIPP is a member of the International Land Coalition (ILC).



ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT
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Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

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