



# Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

## Annual Report 2020



Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation

112 Moo 1, Tambon Sanpranate, Amphur Sansai, Chiang Mai – 50210, Thailand

# ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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AIPP PRINTING PRESS

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## Use of the term “Indigenous Peoples”

Over the decades, the concept of the term **Indigenous Peoples** has evolved beyond the original meaning found in dictionaries. We are using the term **Indigenous Peoples** with capitalised initials to denote its evolved meaning, which is well established in international law as well as in some domestic laws.

The 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of **Indigenous Peoples** (UNDRIP) recognises the right of **Indigenous Peoples** to self-determination, as all other people, by virtue of which they can freely determine their political status. The capitalization of **Indigenous Peoples** is increasingly used by UN bodies, other international and national organisations as well as governments across the world. For example, in Canada the term **Indigenous Peoples** and **First Nations** are capitalised the same way as, for example, the term **Canadian**.

In Asia, governments use different names to refer to us collectively, like **ethnic minorities, tribes and native people** etc. There are also other names given to us by outsiders, some of which are not appreciated by many of us since they often imply notions of cultural inferiority, being **primitive** or **backward**. Some examples are *sakai* (meaning slave) in Thailand, or *adim jati* (primitive tribes) in India. When we call ourselves **Indigenous Peoples**, we do not intend to claim to be the only native people to our regions and countries. We have also lived side-by-side with other people and communities, native to their own lands settled before the colonial period. These were mostly organized as state societies and are today the dominant people, who have the economic and political power in our regions or countries.

Our notion of guardianship and spiritual relationship to our lands and territories are distinctive features of our worldviews. A strong sense of community and kinship solidarity, collective ownership of land and resources, and consensus decision making are some of the distinctive elements of our social and political institutions that set us apart as **Indigenous Peoples** from our neighbours who belong to the dominant groups or non-indigenous minorities and natives in our countries.

We use **Indigenous Peoples** to emphasize diversity and our rights under international law.

The word “**Indigenous**” is also often used as an adjective with other nouns, like “indigenous plants” (referring to plant species native to an area) or “indigenous knowledge” (referring to local or traditional knowledge), all of which may or may not relate to Indigenous Peoples. In the publications of AIPP, whenever “Indigenous” is used in adjective form, it is with explicit reference to Indigenous Peoples, even though it is not written with a capital initial letter.

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

Chiang Mai, Thailand

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# ACRONYMS

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>ADB</b>    | Asian Development Bank  |
| <b>AIPNEE</b> | Asia Indigenous Peoples Network on Extractive Industries and Energy                 |
| <b>AIPP</b>   | Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact  |
| <b>AIWN</b>   | Asia Indigenous Women Network   |
| <b>AMAN</b>   | Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago) |
| <b>AMMS</b>   | Adivasi Mahila Maha Sangh   |
| <b>ANGNA</b>  | Adivasi Navjeevan Gathan Navjyoti Agua  |
| <b>APF</b>    | ASEAN People's Forum  |
| <b>APFSD</b>  | Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development                                       |
| <b>APIYN</b>  | Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network   |
| <b>APRCM</b>  | Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism                                      |
| <b>ASEAN</b>  | Association of Southeast Asian Nations  |
| <b>Ashray</b> | South Bihar Welfare Society for Tribal  |
| <b>BAI</b>    | Bai Indigenous Women's Network  |
| <b>BIPF</b>   | Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum   |
| <b>BTDF</b>   | Bardiyali Tharu Development Forum   |
| <b>CEDAW</b>  | Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women                   |
| <b>CEMSOJ</b> | Community Empowerment and Social Justice  |
| <b>CERD</b>   | International Convention on the Elimination on Racial Discrimination                |
| <b>CESD</b>   | Centre for Ethnic Studies and Development   |
| <b>CFR</b>    | Community Forest Rights   |
| <b>CIPA</b>   | Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Association   |
| <b>CIPL</b>   | Conserving Indigenous People's Languages  |
| <b>CIPO</b>   | Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization  |
| <b>CIWWG</b>  | Cambodia Indigenous Women Working Group   |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| CIYA         | Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association                               |
| COICA        | Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica |
| CSOs         | Civil Society Organizations   |
| DTP          | Diplomacy Training Programme  |
| EC           | Executive Council   |
| EIDHR        | European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Project          |
| EMRIP        | Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples                |
| ESCAP        | Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific             |
| ESCR-Network | International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights      |
| EU           | European Union  |
| FAO          | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations             |
| FIAN         | Food First Information and Action Network                           |
| FPIC         | Free Prior and Informed Consent                                     |
| FPP          | Forest Peoples Programme  |
| FRCS         | Forest Rights Committees  |
| GA           | General Assembly  |
| GEF          | Global Environment Facility   |
| GYBN         | Global Youth Biodiversity Network                                   |
| HA           | Highlander Association  |
| HLPF         | High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development               |
| HRCPA        | Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy                           |
| ICT          | Information Communication Technology                                |
| IEC          | Information, Education and Communication                            |
| IFIs         | International Financial Institutions                                |
| IGOs         | Intergovernmental Organizations                                     |
| IITC         | International Indian Treaty Council                                 |

## ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT (AIPP)

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| IKPA     | Indigenous Knowledge and Peoples of Asia                                     |
| ILC      | International Land Coalition   |
| ILO      | International Labour Organization  |
| IMN      | Indigenous Media Network (Thailand)  |
| IMPECT   | Inter-Mountain Peoples for Education and Cultural in Thailand Association    |
| I/NGOs   | International/Non-governmental Organizations                                 |
| IPHRDs   | Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders                                    |
| IPOs     | Indigenous Peoples Organizations   |
| IPTF     | Indigenous Peoples Task Force  |
| IPwDs    | Indigenous Persons with Disabilities   |
| ISAWN    | Inter State Adivasi Women's Network of Mainland India                        |
| IVA/N    | Indigenous Voices in Asia/Network  |
| IWFNEI   | Indigenous Women Forum of Northeast India                                    |
| IWGIA    | International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs                           |
| IWNT     | Indigenous Women's Network of Thailand                                       |
| JVS      | Jashpur Jan Vikas Sanstha  |
| JOAS     | The Indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia or Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia |
| KASAPI   | Koalisyon ng mga Katutubong Samahan ng Pilipinas                             |
| KATRIBU  | Katribu Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas                       |
| KEF      | Kalahan Educational Foundation   |
| KNCE     | Karen Network for Cultural and Education                                     |
| LAHURNIP | Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples         |
| LTR      | Land Territories and Resources   |
| MOs      | Member Organisations   |
| MRLG     | Mekong Region Land Governance  |
| NCIP     | National Commission on Indigenous Peoples                                    |
| NEFIN    | Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities                                 |

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| NIDA           | Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association                             |
| NIPT           | Network of Indigenous People in Thailand                          |
| NIWA           | Network of Indigenous Women in Asia                               |
| NIWF           | National Indigenous Women’s Federation                            |
| NOC of Vietnam | National Organizing Committee Vietnam                             |
| NPMHR          | Naga People Movement for Human Rights                             |
| OHCHR          | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights   |
| OSF            | Open Society Foundation   |
| PACOS Trust    | Partners of Community Organizations in Sabah                      |
| PAFID          | Philippine Association for Intercultural Development              |
| PEREMPUAN      | Association of Indigenous Women of The Archipelago                |
| PPMAN          | Perkumpulan Pembela Masyarakat Adat Nusantara                     |
| REDD           | Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation      |
| RRI            | Rights and Resources Initiative                                   |
| SDGs           | Sustainable Development Goals                                     |
| SHGs           | Self-Help Groups  |
| SIDA           | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency              |
| SSNC           | Swedish Society for Nature Conservation                           |
| TKN            | Ton-Kla Indigenous Children and Youth Network (Thailand)          |
| TOT            | Training of Trainers  |
| UN             | United Nations  |
| UNDP           | United Nations Development Programme                              |
| UNDRIP         | United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples    |
| UNEP           | United Nations Environment Programme                              |
| UNFCCC         | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change             |
| UNPFII         | United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues               |
| UNSRIP         | United Nations Special Rapporteur on Rights of Indigenous Peoples |
| UNWGBHR        | United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights         |

**ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT (AIPP)**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| UPR  | Universal Periodic Review              |
| VNR  | Voluntary National Review              |
| WB   | World Bank                             |
| WCIP | World Conference on Indigenous Peoples |
| ZTI  | Zero Tolerance Initiative              |

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

In the transition from 2019 to 2020, a novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) was discovered in China and soon started to sweep through the globe causing unprecedented impacts worldwide. The year 2020 has become turbulent and disruptive which has posed unprecedented challenges to AIPP's work.

Despite the unexpected circumstances of this year, AIPP takes pride in our determination and strenuousness that enabled us to have ventured through the COVID-19 crisis that grasped the whole world in 2020 and probably for a long time to come. AIPP has continued to prosecute our mission committed to the cause of promoting and defending Indigenous Peoples' rights and human rights and articulating issues of relevance to Indigenous Peoples.

The pandemic has exposed deep inequalities disproportionately affecting many Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and their communities. Many recovery plans initiated by the governments were predicated on the commitment to build back better for the inclusiveness of all citizens but failed to do so under either inadvertent or deliberate reasons.

AIPP is observing an increasing number of national strategies aimed for conservation and climate change mitigation, to ameliorate the food shortage crisis etc. which are targeting the ancestral lands of IPs, the land and environmental Indigenous defenders protesting against contested and destructive "development" programs given "green lights" by the government under the covert of COVID-19.

To tackle the aggregated issues, the Secretariat continued to lead its work under six programmes delivering advocacies from national to international levels and grounded projects across the region, reaching into Indigenous communities aiming at empowering the IPs. We have fulfilled many encouraging tasks with some memorable highlights that include: our COVID-19 emergency response measures including hosting and participating in webinars which amplified the voices of the IPs grappling the pandemic, publishing flash news update on COVID-19 situations across Asia offering the most updated ground information of the IPs and allocating grants to support much needs communities impacted by the pandemic; successfully hosted events (webinars, campaigns etc.) and provided written evidence (statements, briefing notes etc.) that uphold the rights of the IPs and advocate the role of the IPs as the guardians of our lands and resource such as the International Day of the world's Indigenous Peoples, Land Rights Now, International Day of Forests, Human Rights as enabling condition in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and so on; specifically on Indigenous Women (IW) and Youths, we have pledged 16 days of Activism against Gender based Violence among our members, partners, indigenous sisters and brothers, published HerStory 4 which brings the unique voices and tales of our incredible Indigenous sisters, hosted consultation meeting on AIYP following its inception in 2019 as well as conducted a regional dialogue on Indigenous Youths Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation; and as we are moving into 2021, this report marks the final one under our Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and signals our preparation for the Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

**ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT (AIPP)**

I am grateful that AIPP Secretariat team has always undertaken an egalitarian and collaborative work ethic that allows most decision-makings to be robust as they are taking into account the inputs of all.

And of course, the success of every organization depends on good leadership and sound governance. We are fortunate to have a management team who are inclusive and believe in our vision all along.

I am deeply appreciative of the ongoing support and commitment of the EC and Secretariat colleagues who have brought such tenacity and skill to the work of AIPP. I am extremely thankful to all the member organizations (MOs) and networks for continuing to be the source of inspiration of our collective struggle. Most importantly, on behalf of AIPP, I am extremely thankful to all our donors for their invaluable commitment and contribution towards the cause of Indigenous Peoples.

In such time of challenge, I have been much inspired by the commitment, passion, skills and capability of our wonderful colleagues, MOs, partners and our donors across and beyond Asia. We are deeply appreciative of the ongoing support and commitment of each of these groups that bring AIPP's vision to life.

Gam Shimray

Secretary General

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

# INTRODUCTION

AIPP envisions that Indigenous Peoples in Asia are fully exercising their rights, distinct cultures and identities, and 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. AIPP also strives for strengthening 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.

To achieve these, AIPP, its members, partners and allies join forces with people who share this belief, to empower Indigenous Peoples and their communities to build better lives for themselves, to build the broadest solidarity and cooperation to strengthen Indigenous movements and other social movements towards achieving equality, peace, democracy and justice, and to promote and protect the integrity of the environment and enhance the sustainable resource management systems of Indigenous Peoples. AIPP's works are grounded and also at the boarder level (national to international levels) with the decision-makers, governments, UN agencies and corporations, and speak out on the big issues.

It is a regional organization founded in 1992 by Indigenous Peoples' movements. The General Assembly (GA), held every four years, is AIPP's highest decision-making body. The GA adopts the 4-year Strategic Plan, approves policies, guidelines and resolutions and elects a 12-member Executive Council (EC), including Indigenous youth and women representatives, the Chairperson and the Secretary General. The Secretary General is directly accountable to the EC and the members and also leads the Secretariat, based in Chiang Mai, Thailand for effective implementation of programme activities. The Programme Committees, EC, member organizations and partner organizations are actively involved in programme implementation. At present, AIPP has 46 members from 14 countries in Asia with 18 Indigenous Peoples' national alliances/networks (national formations), 30 local and sub-national organizations.



*Figure 1: AIPP secretariat celebrating International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples, 2020 Chiang Mai, Thailand (AIPP Photo Archive)*



**PROGRESS OF PROGRAMMES**

**AIPP**

# 1. Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy (HRCPA) Programme

## A. Overview of the Programme

The HRCPA programme prioritizes on the building and the strengthening of Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders Network (IPHRDs) through trainings and documentation of issues and cases, violence and violations, discriminations and regional and international lobby and advocacy using the UN mechanisms, bodies and procedures, ASEAN, international financial institutions, Business and Human Rights (BHR), and the SDGs. The programme is involved in campaigns and community mobilizations for responding to human rights issues and violations relating to extractive industries, large-scale development projects, economic land concessions, eviction and displacement issues, etc.

In year 2020, following projects were implemented by the HRCPA programme:

- Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Defenders Network in Asia for advancement of the IP rights supported by the **European Union (EU)**, European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Project (EIDHR) - January 2019 until December 2021 in 9 countries in partnership with JOAS Malaysia, IPF Thailand, AWN India, CIYA Cambodia, LAHURNIP Nepal, KF Bangladesh, PPMAN Indonesia, CPA Philippines and POINT and IPP Myanmar<sup>1</sup>.
- Strengthening Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Defenders voices in Nepal and Bangladesh supported by **Global Witness**, from 1 August 2020 until 15 December 2020 piloting project at LAHURNIP Nepal and KF Bangladesh.
- Support Indigenous Peoples in Asia facing exacerbated human rights violations due to the COVID-19 response supported by the **International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)**, and the project implementation from 1 October 2020 until 31 December 2020. The project covers the regional IPHRDs exchange activity, EIDHR Project partner participation during the pandemic situations and capacity building, team building and retreat for AIPP secretariat.
- Outreach with Communities and Creation of Resources in Asia supported by the **Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)** and from Climate Justice Resilience Fund from 14 October 2020 to 28 February 2021 with Partners of Community Organizations in Sabah (PACOS Trust) for the community-led collective protection mechanism through the Community Protocol Initiative in Sabah, Malaysia.

<sup>1</sup> Full names of these partner organizations are: The Indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia (JOAS), Indigenous Peoples' Foundation for Education and Environment (IPF), Adivasi Women's Network (AWN), Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA), Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP), Kapaeeng Foundation (KF), Perkumpulan Pembela Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (PPMAN), Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) and Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together (POINT) and Indigenous Peoples Partnership (IPP).

- Indigenous Navigator (IN) - Bridge funds “Improving Indigenous Peoples’ access to justice and development through community-based monitoring” from February 2020 to August 2021 in Cambodia, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- IN Pillar 3 - Project: IWGIA/2017/9021: Making the SDGs work for Indigenous Peoples: promoting IPs’ human development and social inclusion in the context of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Facilitating Indigenous communities’ access to social services and social protection, in accordance, with own values and development aspirations through locally defined pilot initiatives from 1 May 2017- 31 August 2021 in Cambodia, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- IN Pillar 1 and 2 - Improving IPs’ Access to Justice and Development and Promoting IPs’ Human Development and Social inclusion through promotion of the Indigenous Navigator Framework from June 2017 to December 2020 in Cambodia and Nepal.
- New initiative entitled ‘Advancing Indigenous Peoples’ Land Rights Recognition through Evidence-based Advocacy’ in Asia with the grant support from International Land Coalition (ILC/IFAD) for the duration 2020 August to 2021 December for CBI 5 platforms and for fulfilling the AIPP’s land rights movement for IPs and building regional Land Territories and Resources (LTR) strategy.

## B. Objectives of the Programme

Goal 1: Indigenous Peoples in Asia are empowered to promote, claim and defend legal recognition of their identities and collective and individual human rights including the right to self-determination.

*Objective 1.1: Strengthen specific capacity building of member-organizations and communities for stronger grassroots movements, increased collaboration and sustained advocacy at the local and country level.*

*Objective 1.2: Stronger advocacy at the country level to governments and key development actors to implement and comply with UNDRIP and other International Human Rights and women’s rights standards.*

*Objective 1.3: Sustained Regional and Global Advocacy for the integration of IP Rights and welfare into policies, guidelines and programmes.*

Goal 2: Indigenous movements in Asia are strengthened by building the broadest solidarity and cooperation among Indigenous Peoples, as well as with other social movements, including minorities and marginalized groups, towards achieving equality, peace, democracy and justice.

*Objective 2.1: Sustain active participation in and broaden and strengthen global, regional, sub-regional and country networks, platforms and movements, particularly where AIPP has been designated as the focal point, to advance the promotion of equity, equality, peace and democracy.*

Goal 4: Promote full and effective participation of indigenous women, youth, indigenous persons with disabilities (IPwDs) and elderly persons, at all levels of decision-making within indigenous communities and the state.

*Objective 4.1: Increase the awareness on the rights of indigenous women and youth, IPwDs and elderly etc., and their capacities to promote and protect their rights.*

## C. Main achievements of the Programme

### c.1. Advocacy and Networking

#### i) Local and National Levels

- Joint Universal Periodic Review (UPR) [submission](#) of Community Empowerment and Social Justice (CEmSoJ), Human Rights and Save Nepa Valley movement in Nepal on 10 July 2020 in line with the guidelines of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- The [letters](#) submitted by Janasarokar Samiti in Khokana and Bungamati, to the relevant UN Special Procedures calling for their actions to safeguard the rights of the communities in the context of those ill-planned projects on behalf of the affected communities with Detailed documentation of impacts of the Fast-Track Expressway and other infrastructure projects in Khokana and Bungamati of Nepal.
- On 1 December 2020, AIPP and IWGIA jointly sent [the open letter](#) to the Prime Minister and Minister on Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Bangladesh urging protection of Indigenous Mro peoples from forced eviction, which was also submitted to the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights (UNWGBHR) and United Nations Special Rapporteur on Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNSRIP).
- Community mobilisation and documentation on the impact of the New amendment laws and policies of National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary for the impacts to the communities of 4 villages (Ring Luang, Thung Din Dam, Pabong Ngam and Na Lao) led to the submission of a petition to the Chairperson of Extraordinary Parliamentary Commission on the Study and Problem Solving of Human Rights Violation and People Assault demanding the return of the land to the community.
- LAHURNIP, the IN partner in Nepal, and other IP organisations, participated in the Multi-Stakeholder dialogue on SDGs at the national level to raise and put forth the IPs issues, concerns and aspirations to development.
- LAHURNIP, Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN), Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs) and Indigenous women organizations have jointly submitted the Voluntary National Review (VNR) shadow report 2020 to the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). IP leaders and LAHURNIP provided inputs to the shadow reports for the VNR prepared by Civil Society Organization through the lens of IPs.

- LAHURNIP published and widely distributed the Indigenous Development Plan and IEC material on the public policies related to local development to IPs and other concerned stakeholders to make them aware on IPs' issues in development agenda.
- IPs in the ground directly engaged with the local government for their self-determined development and the local government under the Indigenous Navigator in the process of local development process in Nepal.
- National report on demographic, socioeconomic status included Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia and continuing the campaign of IPs on Community land titling and the National Action Plan on the development and conservation in Cambodia.
- A memorandum of agreement was signed between Sanian Salai River Conservation Network and Nan Irrigation Project and a joint statement on their position against this project was submitted to Muang district officer with the proposal to immediately terminate the project.
- The partner in Bangladesh continued advocacy and lobbying with statistical bureau for IP Disaggregated Data.
- On 20 October 2020, Public Forum on Forest Law and the violation of community rights: People living in the forest - focus discussion in response to a recent incident of state repression in Ban Klang Village, a Karen Pwo community located in a Reserve Forest in Ban Dong Subdistrict, Mae Mo District, Lampang Province.
- The workshop on Indigenous Peoples/Ethnic' Situation and the Legal Protection in Thailand. The HRCPA team attended as observer and contributed during group work, and field visits. The workshop broadened our understanding of IP situation in Thailand.
- The HRCPA team participated in a forum for sharing Indigenous community's perspectives about registration as a World Heritage Site: Final Curve in the Road for the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex in Attaining World Heritage Status on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020. HRCPA team participated in the monitoring visits at Phu-Namron village, Nongyaplong district Phetburi, which helped to understanding the situation of conflict regarding the land issues and human rights in the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex Area and impact of the registration of the territories as a Natural World Heritage Site.

**ii) Regional Level**

- Asia Preparatory Meeting 2020

Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN) & AIPP co-hosted the Asia Preparatory meeting that was participated by 60 IP representatives from 13 countries including 38 female, 22 male and 3 of them were - Indigenous youth, IPwDs. This meeting was represented by AIPP networks such as Indigenous Voices of Asia Network (IVAN) with members Network of Indigenous Women in Asia (NIWA), Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP), Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders (IPHRDs) and Indigenous Knowledge and Peoples in Asia (IKPA).

The meeting was led by 10 indigenous experts in the specific sessions. However, the participation of some of the experts and participants were affected due to the unfortunate COVID-19 pandemic situation. Hence many of the invitees and guests from various UN agencies, donor organisations, Indigenous Peoples support organisations, National Human Rights institutions, member of UNPFII, EMRIP had to cancel their participation last minute.

However, important thematic issues were discussed and raised in different forums, sessions and submission of reports to UN mechanisms and procedures were made. The updates and concrete plans or strategies for engaging in the SDGs process at national and international levels, the follow up of the WCIP Outcome Document, including commitments about enhancing participation of Indigenous Peoples in the UN. Since not many were sure of their participation, other decisions on who will participate, who will draft statements, who will deliver was left open-ended.

- 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

The 7<sup>th</sup> Asia and Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) was conducted on 20 May 2020 by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), which served as a preparatory event for HLPF and engaged member States, UN bodies and other institutions, major groups and stakeholders in highlighting regional and sub-regional perspectives on the 2020 theme of the HLPF, *“Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”*.

AIPP as a regional organisation, coordinated IP representation in the forum to make sure the voices and perspectives of IPs in the region heard and reflected in the outcome of these processes. The HRCPA coordinated the meeting of IP constituency members, Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCM), Participation, IP inputs to Chair’s statement, two statements were prepared and published. A regional report on COVID-19 and SDGs were also published and submitted to Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) to inform the global report.

- Asia Pacific Peoples Forum on Sustainable Development (APPFSD)

The Asia Pacific Peoples Forum on Sustainable Development was organized by the APRCEM on 26-30 November 2020. AIPP disseminated information to IP constituency members, organized a workshop of IP constituency on COVID-19 and challenges faced by IPs in the region, the resilience and initiatives done by IPs and our aspirations and recommendations. The output of the workshop was submitted to the APRCEM and also presented during the closing plenary.

- Asia Pacific BHR forum

AIPP participated in the forum and make interventions and coordinated a side event with AIPP, Diplomacy Training Programme (DTP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Forum Asia on the topic [“Human Rights and Business in the COVID-19 Era: Challenges and Opportunities for Civil Society in a Shifting Environment”](#). AIPP nominated Mr. Shankar Limbu, LAHURNIP - Nepal to be the speaker at the event.

## ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT (AIPP)

- Follow up webinars to Asia Consultation of UNSRIP in 2019 and the report from the consultation.

A series of webinar was organized as a follow up to the report produced from the Asia Consultation of the UNSRIP which AIPP co-organized along with the OHCHR and others. Three episodes were conceptualized and two were executed during the year 2020.

The first Webinar was on “Strengthening the Protection of IPs in Asia - Land rights, Environment and Climate change in the Asian region” Friday 30 October 2020 with 277 registered and participated by more than 170 participants during highest count. The second Webinar was on “Strengthening the Protection of IPs in Asia - Situation of IPHRDs in the Asian region and the responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights” on 26 November 2020 with total registered participants of 86. The third one will be held in 2021 before the APFSD on the topic of SDGs and IPs.

- ASEAN People’s Forum (APF) 2020

The ASEAN Peoples Forum 2020 was hosted by the National Organizing Committee (NOC) of Vietnam. The HRCPA called a meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force (IPTF) to ASEAN to prepare for the forum. The meeting decided to submit two proposals for the side events in the convergence space one on Human Rights and Access to Justice and another on Ecological Sustainability. The side event on Ecological sustainability got accepted to be co-organised with other organisations, who submitted similar proposals. Our EC member Ms. Naw Ei Ei Min spoke in the panel co-organised by POINT, AIPP member and partner organization in Myanmar.

- Asia Land Forum & Regional Assembly 2020

The virtual Asia Land Forum was held from 6 to 9 October 2020. A side event/parallel session was conducted by AIPP in collaboration with South Asia Pastoralist Association and Central Asia Pastoralist Association on the topic “Achieving resilient food system and adapt to climate change through restoring rangelands and IPs Ancestral territory”. The panellists consist of International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs) and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) - IWGIA, Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The participants were mostly the ILC member organizations. Moreover, AIPP also contributed to the strategy document and made interventions during the plenaries.

- Land Rights Now (LRN) 2020

The HRCPA team organized and observed the Land Rights Now campaign at Nan Province, Thailand on 6 December commemorating the Global Land Rights Now Campaign Week (2-9 December 2020). The team also led social media campaign with the support from communication team, which now reached to more than 40000 people in a week on Facebook. This also highlighted the on-ground issue of local communities resisting the building of a dam by Thai government.

- International Day of the Worlds Indigenous Peoples - Webinar

During the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples from 5 to 9 August 2020, AIPP organized a series of webinars with the theme of “Self Determination and

Democratization". The HRCPA team led one session during the webinar (session III) on "Securing lands, territories and resources: an instrument in fighting COVID-19 and in achieving IPs self-determination". The webinar with distinguished speakers from India, Taiwan, Philippines, Myanmar and special remarks from Mr. Mike Taylor, International Land Coalition (ILC) and Ms. Joan Carling, IPMG. Also, the session was moderated by Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai, Member of Expert Mechanism on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP). Moreover, the team also participated in the Indigenous Day of the World's IPs celebration in Chiang Mai organized by the IPs Organizations in Thailand.

- International Human Rights Day 2020

The HRCPA team led the commemoration of the International Human Rights Day 2020 on the 10 December 2020. The event was organized to reflect the situation of Human Rights and call for recommitment to the cause. The highlight of the event was the solidarity messages from our defenders on the ground and leadership of AIPP. A Solidarity message from the Chairperson kicked off the event and Secretary General gave the keynote address. A video presentation provided the glimpse of the cases supported by the HRCPA from 2019 to 2020. A statement was also produced by the HRCPA and was read out by Deputy Secretary General, which was also published on the website and shared widely through social media sites. Around 37 people participated in the programme including 21 women, 16 men and 9 youths. T-shirts and caps with the key messages on human rights were also distributed to all participants.

- Oceana Connect 2020

AIPP along with Diplomacy Training programme (DTP) organized a side event during the Oceana Connect 2020 on 29 October 2020 particularly on the topic on "Indigenous Peoples accelerating good governance and Indigenous Autonomy: lessons from COVID-19".

There was total registration of around 120 but only 73 participated online and also connected to some Indigenous Peoples Organisations from Australia. The outcome of this meeting was to take the question of good governance and Indigenous autonomy forward and in strengthening Indigenous narratives. This was a good platform to discuss and network and build common understanding around that question.

### iii) International Level

- Global Forum on Business and Human Rights (BHR)

The Global Forum on Business and Human Rights was held online from 16 to 18 November 2020. Several meetings were organized before the formal forum and one of them was the Global Indigenous Caucus, which was chaired by AIPP. Moreover, AIPP also led the drafting committee of the IP statement that was presented in the closing plenary. A dedicated session on IPs defenders was co-organized by AIPP, in which Mr. Gam Shimray, Secretary General of AIPP and Ms Guangchunliu Gangmei, HRCPA Coordinator were in the panel representing AIPP.

- Expert Mechanism on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

The EMRIP was conducted from 30 November to 4 December 2020 in an online platform due to COVID-19 pandemic. In preparation for the session, HRCPA team led the conduct of IP caucus to plan for the EMRIP regional consultation. It was decided to submit four regional joint statements, which was drafted and submitted for consideration. All the four statements were selected and the representatives from Youth, IPwDs, Women and Mr. Gam Shimray, Secretary General of AIPP participated in the formal session and presented the statements and also intervened during the discussions.

- Rights Conference 2020

A workshop was hosted by the Open Development Initiative (ODI) on the topic of “Lessons learnt from mobile data collection applications that strengthen Indigenous data governance towards greater indigenous data sovereignty” during the Rights Conference 2020. Ms. Guangchunliu Gangmei, HRCPA Coordinator, presented AIPP’s work on Indigenous data sovereignty. The workshop also had Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangri, Chairperson of AIPP from Thailand as one of the speakers, who spoke on data gathering initiatives of IPs in Thailand.

- Zero Tolerance Initiative (ZTI)

Under Zero Tolerance Initiative (ZTI), where AIPP is part of the steering group contributed to ZTI strategy, collaborated webinars on community protection and meeting with Investor alliances and Consumer Goods Forum, two proposals were submitted, one led by AIPP to SAGE Grant.

AIPP- semi- backbone team but there was a lot of expectations from AIPP. The HRCPA with small grant through the initiative was implementing the activity in documenting community protective mechanisms (community protocols) in partnership with the PACOS Trust.

- High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on SDGs

The meeting of the HLPF on sustainable development in 2020 was held from 7 to 16 July 2020, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. This included the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from 14 to 16 July 2020. The IPMG organized a series on webinar on various thematic issues linking to the main theme of HLPF 2020 “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. Ms. Guangchunliu Gangmei coordinated the participation of Indigenous leaders in the webinar/media zone whereby Mr. Nicholas Barla from Mainland India, Ms. Pratima Gurung from Nepal, Ms. Mai Thi Yu Mon from Myanmar and Mr. Pallab Chakma from Bangladesh participated as the speakers in the event.

AIPP also conducted an official side event along with the Diplomacy Training Programme (DTP), Australia and Permanent Mission of Australia to UN. The topic was on “Accelerating good governance and Indigenous autonomy for transformative partnership and action: lessons from COVID-19”, where Mr. Gam Shimray and Ms. Pratima Gurung, AIPP Partner in Nepal spoke at the event.

## iv) Quantitative Data

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>A total of 6 Communications/submissions to human rights mechanisms and procedures and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in 2020</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right to Land under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: A Human Rights Focus”- EMRIP.</li> <li>• Thailand CERD report- with Thailand Partners.</li> <li>• UPR submission Nepal- road expansion- with CEmSoJ.</li> <li>• Mro Indigenous Peoples case- Submitted to UNSRIP-IWGIA-AIPP.</li> <li>• Impact of Chinese overseas investment and business activities on communities: Focus on Asia and Africa- Submission for the adoption of the List of Issues for the Review of the People’s Republic of China, at the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in partnership with International Society for Human Rights.</li> <li>• To UNSRIP on Impact of COVID-19.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>A total of 18 Statements in 2020</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent report on WWF-linked human rights abuses shows conservation sector needs root and branch change- Killings, torture, sexual and physical violence and intimidation have no place in conservation- AIPP+FPP and others.</li> <li>• ZTI Solidarity Statement on COVID-19.</li> <li>• Submission to the German government as part of a the BHRRC ‘compendium’ in relation to ongoing EU legislative proposals on corporate conduct.</li> <li>• AIPP is appalled by the blowing up of the 46,000 years-old sacred sites of the Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura Peoples.</li> <li>• Open letter to the EU by organisations representing Indigenous Peoples, forest communities, and human rights, land and environmental defenders- AIPP+FPP and others.</li> <li>• APFSD; Linking National, Regional, and Global Dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’.</li> <li>• APFSD: Review of regional progress on SDGs five</li> </ul> |

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
|                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement on International Human Rights Day/ AIPP, 10 December 2020.</li> <li>• AIPP and IWGIA’s joint press release on <a href="#">Protect the Indigenous Mro Peoples from Forced Eviction</a>, 6 December 2020.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Open letter to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh</a> on Protect the Indigenous Mro Peoples from Forced Eviction, 1 December 2020.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Open letter to the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs of Bangladesh</a> on Protect the Indigenous Mro Peoples from Forced Eviction, 1st December 2020.</li> <li>• Joint Statement to the 13<sup>th</sup> session/Regional meetings of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) on 1 December 20, on “The impact of COVID-19 on Civic Space and the rights of IPs under the UNDRIP,” by Mr. Gam A. Shimray, on behalf of Asia IPs’ Caucus and AIPP</li> </ul>  |
| Briefing papers/case studies/ reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDG regional report.</li> <li>• Bodoland Territorial Council - a case study on rights of minorities in autonomous regions.</li> <li>• Draft of communication and visibility plan</li> <li>• IEC Materials published 7 by 7 partners (KF, CIYA, IPF, LAHURNIP. PPMAN, CPA, POINT)</li> <li>• ASEAN article for Indigenous World-IWGIA</li> <li>• BHR Briefing Paper</li> <li>• Cross cutting publication: detrimental laws report and COVID-19 flash update 3 and 4.</li> <li>• Translations: AIPP’s press release on protect Mro People &amp; AIPP’s message on COVID-19 (translated in Bengali and covered the news in Bangladesh media.</li> <li>• Proper documented human rights cases 56 Cases (from Bangladesh 10, India 6, Thailand 10, Nepal 10, Indonesia 7, Cambodia 4, Philippines 6 and Myanmar 3)</li> <li>• A total of 269 human rights cases collections by regional and national partners from Jan-Dec 2020.</li> </ul> |

## C.2. Capacity Building

### i) Regional Level

- Training on UN human rights mechanisms and orientation prior to the Asia Preparatory Meeting.

One-Day Orientation Workshop for Asia Preparatory meeting on the UN Mechanisms and Procedures relating to Indigenous Peoples was held on 1 March 2020 at Bali, Indonesia participated by 20 IPs including trainer, 12 female and 8 male.

- A Regional Online Capacity Strengthening Program for IPHRDs, Human Rights and Business.

The DTP and AIPP co-organized a training for IPHRDs on Human Rights and Business and was delivered online over a period of 4-6 weeks (2 sessions per week) from 23 November 2020 until 11 December 2020, which was participated by 23 participants (13 male and 10 female).

- IPHRDs Exchange and Learning on Digital Security.

The Regional Exchange and Training workshop of and for Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Defenders on Safety and Security, took place from 30 September to 2 October 2020 at Holiday Garden Hotel, Chiang Mai, Thailand. It addressed the concerns raised and strategize better management and protective mechanisms/skills on the threats and risks that are bound to increase with the increased use of the digital space for political activism. This activity is supported under the EIDHR project titled "Enhancing Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders Network in Asia for the advancement of the rights of Indigenous Peoples", under the IWGIA 'Supporting Indigenous Peoples human rights defenders for promotion and protection of rights of indigenous communities in Asia' and EIDHR project under Environment Programme with partners in Vietnam and Myanmar.

A total of 36 IPHRDs (male 18, female 18) joined the training programme from AIPP's member countries prioritizing the IPHRDs and IEHRDs focal organizations countries- Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand and ensuring the representatives from the regional network of IPHRDs and others- IKPA, NIWA, AIYP and IVAN. The participants from Thailand attended the training physically, but the overseas participants joined it virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

The participants improved their understanding on the concept of digital security, their personal and respective organizations' vulnerability and improved capacity to mitigate the digital security risks.

The IPHRDs, their organizations and network are strengthened at the local, country and regional levels through participating in IPHRDs exchange training and sharing experience in the platform at different levels.

- Online institutional strengthening workshop on organizational and financial management capacities 2020.

AIPP organized an online regional training workshop on institutional strengthening of IPHRDs and financial management capacities on December 7-8. This workshop aimed to support, strategize and strengthen the capacity of IPHRD focal organizations and networks, particularly in HR documentation, reporting and financial management.

A total of 25 participants (male 11, female 14) from 9 focal IPHRD organizations of 9 countries- Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, and Thailand joined the online workshop. From the workshop, the participants have updated the knowledge and skills of human rights case documentation, advocacy, reporting, and financial management and explored the knowledge to do advocacy and documentation on HR issues at national, regional and international levels; learned and followed up knowledge on AIPP's financial report (Cashbook, Ledger book, budgeting, forecasting), AIPP Financial Manual, projects guidelines, supporting documents, original receipts, timesheet, etc.

**ii) National and Community Level**

- A total of two national training workshops on Indigenous rights, women's rights, freedom of expression, were held in 2 partner countries – Bangladesh and Indonesia. The IPHRD focal organisation in Bangladesh – KF and Indonesia – PPMAN organized these workshops in their respective countries. A total of 34 IPHRDs (male 21, female 13) participated physically in the national workshop in Bangladesh and a total of 50 participants (male 37, female 13) joined the online national workshop in Indonesia.
- A total 6 community-based training workshops on Indigenous rights and human rights documentation of IPs' collective and individual rights, were organized by IPHRD country focal organizations in 2020 where a total of 425 community representatives (male 188, female 225, LGBT 12) in 6 countries - India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal and Philippines participated in these community-based workshops.

### iii) Quantitative Data

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Capacity building training/workshop | <p>Under the EIDHR project:</p> <p>(Regional level: A total of 4 capacity building trainings/workshops have been organized at regional level)</p> <p>Total of 104 participants out of which 54 were females and 50 were males</p> <p>National level training/workshop under EIDHR project</p> <p>A total of 6 community-based workshops on Indigenous and human rights mechanisms and documentation have been organized in 6 countries-India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines in 2020. A total of <b>425 community representatives (Male 188, Female 225 and LGBT 12)</b> in their respective countries participated in the workshops. Most of the workshops have been organized through online application due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.</p> |
|-------------------------------------|--|

#### C.3. Institutional Strengthening and Movement Building (OSMB) related achievements

- An online regional training workshop funded by EU/EIDER, was organized on institutional strengthening of IPHRDs and financial management capacities on 7 to 8 December 2020. A total of 25 participants (male 11, female 14) from 9 focal IPHRD organizations of 9 countries- Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, and Thailand joined the online workshop.
- A monitoring visit to Indigenous Peoples Forum for Environment and Education (IPF), Thailand took place on 18 December 2020. The human rights team members of AIPP visited the IPF office in Chiang Mai and monitored their activities.

#### C.4. Fundraising and New Partnerships

- Strengthening IPHRD's voices in Nepal and Bangladesh supported by Global Witness, from 1 August to 15 December 2020 by piloting project at LAHURNIP Nepal and KF Bangladesh.
- Outreach with Communities and Creation of Resources in Asia supported by the FPP and Project ID from Climate Justice Resilience Fund. This project from 14 October 2020 until 28 February 2021 and piloting in Sabah, Malaysia with PACOS Trust organization. The project aimed for the community-led collective protection mechanism (existing and gaps) through the Community Protocol Initiative in Sabah, Malaysia.

## ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT (AIPP)

- Support IPs in Asia facing exacerbated human rights violations due to the COVID-19 response supported by the IWGIA, and the project implementation from 1 October 2020 until 31 December 2020. The project covers the regional IPHRDs exchange activity which supports the EIDHR Project partner participation, technical and financial support during the pandemic situations and capacity building, team building and retreat for AIPP secretariat.
- Support IPs in Asia facing exacerbated human rights violations due to the COVID-19 response - Civilsamfund i Udvikling (CISU) and Danida under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark for 18 Months project implementation (January 2021 to August 2022)
- IN - Bridge funds - “Improving IPs’ access to justice and development through community-based monitoring” from February 2020 to August 2021 in Cambodia, Bangladesh and Nepal
- ILC - The AIPP is implementing a new initiative with the grant from ILC/IFAD for the duration 2020 August to 2021 December and with the scope to extend another 18 months as the triennial initiative. The title of the initiative is ‘Advancing Indigenous Peoples’ Land Rights Recognition through Evidence-based Advocacy’ in Asia. This initiative is for CBI 5 platforms and for fulfilling the AIPP’s land rights movement for IPs and building regional LTR strategy.

### D. Challenges and Opportunities

- Due to COVID-19 and travel restrictions, there are difficulties to do monitoring visits in the respective countries.
- Delayed and postponing of implementation of certain activities due to COVID-19, for example like regional training and exchange, communities training, alliance building, and media gathering were not possible.
- The amended laws and policies in many states have increased human rights violations brought additional challenges in the name of developments and exclusion of IPs to access fundamental human rights such as education, health, livelihood. Not been able to respond to all- funding constraints-work pressure- and some have pending reporting.
- Adapting to a new situation takes time, as members and partners are only able to do online meetings which need more technical capacity, access with good internet, equipment etc.
- Communication challenges between partners and AIPP, because some of the partner countries were totally lockdown in their respective countries and adopting work from home is quite challenging due to limited access of equipment and internet.
- Non/Delayed response of project partners

- Prioritization of follow up of cases received from the partners and IPHRDs is challenging which needs to be strengthened.
- The existing process on responding to urgent cases is a bit tedious and hence need to move to a more efficient and faster response with less procedurals/paperwork.
- Difficulty to receive original receipts tends to delay the process of audit and submission thereof to the donors- suggestion maybe letting the partner conduct their own financial audit and send the report to us.
- Delayed reporting to donors- IN and EIDHR.

## **E. Lessons learnt and Recommendations**

- Increase in fundraising.
- Minimize on short term proposals.
- Ground Zero Fellowship - implementation in India
- More coordinated and strategic Advocacy plan- inter-programme.
- Collaboration with ZTI, Friends of the Earth US in targeting investors, consumer goods forum etc, Partnership with Global Witness and ZTI EU draft legislation on corporate accountability.
- Effective and meaningful participation in the Binding treaty process
- Resources for the collective protection mechanism-Implementation in Malaysia
- Implementation of strategies- New approaches to IPHRDs, Business and Human Rights, SDGs the AIPP human rights violation systemization and Land, Territories and Resources database.
- Cases documentation, submissions, follow-up, campaign etc- Increase in submissions to HR bodies
- Continue partnership with Global Witness, IWGIA and others in launching campaigns on the cases already documented.
- Urgent response to cases - move towards simpler process- lesser paperwork.
- Financial Audit by partner organisations- If this can be done as there are risks and delay involve.
- Monitor the impact of our submissions/ advocacy - Need to track this more systematically.



## 2. Environment Programme

### A. Overview of the Programme

In 2020, the Environment Programme implemented 10 projects in partnership with AIPP members in Bangladesh, India (Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha states under AIPP-SSNC project), Nepal, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. The 50% of the total projects were fully aligned for capacity building and advocacy of IPs at the regional and international levels. The duration of the projects managed by the Programme ranges from 1 to 5 years. Among the 10 projects, 1 project is 5 years long, 1 project is 4 years long, 1 project is 3 years long, 2 projects are 2 years long, 3 projects are 1 year long, and 2 projects are activity-based partnership with the donor organizations.

Norad, SSNC, TCF, UNDP, IWGIA, UNCBD Secretariat, FPP, Swedbio and GIZ<sup>1</sup> are the key donors of the Environment Programme in 2020. Among these donors, Norad and SSNC are supporting long term projects of AIPP.

### B. Objectives of the Programme

The overall objective of the programme is “the collective rights to land, territories and resources of the IPs in Asia as well as the Indigenous Knowledge on sustainable natural resource management systems, food sovereignty and livelihoods are protected, respected and recognized at the local, national, regional and international levels.”

The Programme specifically contributed to the strategic goal number 3 “To promote and protect the integrity of the natural environment and enhance the sustainable resource management systems of IPs including their skills and Indigenous Knowledge for food security, livelihood and the protection of biodiversity by having full control over their lands, territories and resources”, it also contributed to all other 4 strategic goals of AIPP.

### C. Main achievements of the Programme

The programme was unable to implement all the activities of the projects due to the constraints engendered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the unprecedented health emergency and challenges posed by the COVID-19, the programme was able to adjust its plan and implement activities at the regional, national, and local levels with appropriate safety measures in place.

One of the highlights of the programme in 2020 was the increased documentation and promotion of the local stories of IPs in Thailand particularly highlighting their resiliency and action against the COVID-19. It was the conscious decision to prioritize Thailand for documentation because of the travel restriction to other countries in Asia. Further, the

<sup>2</sup> Full names of these donors are: Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

programme supported the Karen community of Phumen Village in declaring their village as the “Special Cultural Zone” in accordance with the Cabinet Resolution. Moreover, the programme increased documentation and supported community initiatives under IKPA, and able to operationalize the IKPA in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal that has facilitated a strong path to heighten the documentation of local IP actions in South Asian Countries. Further, the IKPA partners in Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam started building the foundation of the IKPA in the target community through the support of Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants.

The programme successfully negotiated with Norad and got the approval for no cost extension with full human resource cost until May 2021. Similarly, the TCF agreed to extend the timeline of the project to 2021. Under the SSNC support in India, mid-term evaluation of the project by an independent consultant was carried out in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha states.

AIPP entered partnership with a new donor, namely GIZ as well as renewed the partnership with Swedbio by hosting a Global Thematic Dialogue on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The programme dedicated a significant portion of their energy in preparing and submitting proposals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of the 4 long term proposals submitted, only the concept note of one long term proposal of 5 years got approved. The programme was able to raise funds for two activity-based partnerships and three projects with a 1-year timeline. Further, SSNC has agreed to support the two bridging proposals of AIPP for 2021. The priority for fundraising will continue in 2021.

### **C.1. Advocacy and Networking**

#### **i) Local and National Levels**

- Networking with the UNDP-Bangkok and Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)
- Written submission and contributions to AIPP members on Thailand CBD Bill and CERD report (in Thai language)
- Participation and contribution to REDD+ Communication Strategy Workshop, Thailand
- Participation in the panel discussion organized by the UNDP as part of the International Women’s Day and advocated on the roles and contributions of IW on Climate Change.
- Participated and raised issue of land rights ownership and gender equality in the Thailand against human rights violation and public assault meeting from 10-12 July 2020.
- Block-level Forest Rights Committees (FRC) members training in all districts of Chhattisgarh in an initiation of Chhattisgarh state government, and also in all blocks of Jashpur District by Jashpur Jan Vikas Sanstha (JJVS).
- Community Forest Rights (CFR) entitlement of the total 190 hectares for Nistar (common area for daily usages), grazing land, biodiversity and Non timber forest products in Luikona village of Jashpur, Chhattisgarh.

- Increased of Indigenous Women's representation about 40% in Gram Sabhas of all the project villages and are actively participating in the decision-making processes with their own leadership capacities.
- The programme supported 20 selected (11-JJVS, 5- AWN and 4- Adivasi Navjeevan Gathan Navjyoti Agua (ANGNA)) Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for producing and selling bio-fertilizers, and running traditional seed banking, producing mushroom, snacks-biscuits, Namkin, cake and running collective groceries, producing cash crops-turmeric and Ragi from traditional seeds and selling for their income generation.
- Due to repeated meetings with the District Forest Officer (DFO) and Range officer in Odisha, the officers agreed to support the community forestland titles claim process.
- ANGNA formed two federations of Gram Sabhas namely Gram Sabha Sangh Bargaon and Gram Sabha Sangh Kutra to consolidate the common voices of the Gram Sabhas for strong collective advocacy on Indigenous self-governance as enshrined by the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996 (PESA Act).<sup>2</sup>
- The FRCs in 3 states of India promised to save climate together by protecting and taking care of Forest.
- The legislative assembly of Odisha government respected to the Gram Sabha though, has not yet framed the rules of the PESA Act.
- Indigenous communities in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha are collectively and strongly advocating for their forest rights, community forestland titles at the district, division, and state levels through the collaboration with various networks and forums. Specially on the formulation of PESA Rules in Chhattisgarh, community leaders participated and contributed their inputs to be incorporated in the draft PESA rules.
- The district-level Policy Advocacy was carried out in collaboration with Sarv Adivasi Samaj Chhattisgarh, Chhattisgarh Tribal Peoples' Forum and Adivasi Mahila Maha Sangh on drafting of PESA rules in 3 districts of Chhattisgarh namely - Surguja, Jashpur and Korba. The district level consultation on drafting and input collection on PESA Rules was also one of the unexpected positive results of the project influence.
- Appointment of Ms. Mamta Kujur as one of the core-committee members of the monitoring and formulation of the PESA rules by the state government of Chhattisgarh.
- Nine memorandums (3 in Chhattisgarh and 6 in Odisha) were submitted to the State Government of Odisha and Chhattisgarh and the Central Government. In Chhattisgarh, two memorandums on women's rights and one on community forest rights entitlements were submitted to the Chief Minister through the District Collector of Balrampur and Jashpur districts, whereas memorandums to the District Forest Officer, Sundargarh, Odisha through Range Officer, Bargaon for an immediate implementation of FRA and PESA. Likewise, 6 memorandums were submitted to the

3 *The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) is a law enacted by the [Government of India](#) for ensuring self-governance through traditional Gram Sabhas for people living in the Scheduled Areas of India.*

Chief Justice of India, the President of India, the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, the Chairperson of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and the Minister of Tribal Affairs against the Supreme Court order on 13 February 2019 and amendment of National Population Register (NPR) and Citizen Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Odisha.

- A total of 6 villages in Jashpur, Chhattisgarh submitted applications for mapping of the land entitled under CFR for the purpose of protection, management, and regeneration of the forest resources to the Forest Department. After receiving the CFR, the Forest Department has to carry out mapping for clear demarcation of entitled forestland.
- There were 18 (2 in Chhattisgarh, 10 in Odisha and 6 in Jharkhand) new CFR claims submitted in 2020. In course of follow up, the communities visited District Collector's Office, Revenue Department, Forest Department at district level and also submitted written memorandum to the District Collector in Sundargarh, Odisha and Jashpur, Chhattisgarh demanding to issue the community forestland rights immediately as claimed. The communities also did dialogue with the forest and revenue departments about the status of submitted CFR claims and the reasons of unwillingness and delay in issuing the CFR entitlements. The communities claimed that "Forest is not of government but of the villagers" so the government must issue the CFR entitlements as claimed as enshrined by the FRA.
- Through the initiatives of Chhattisgarh State Government, block level FRC members training was conducted in all the districts. JJVS was given the opportunity to facilitate the trainings in all blocks of Jashpur District.
- All 71 project communities including adjoining communities in India are taking full responsibilities for protecting their forests as they are the owner of forests as well as regulating and managing forest resources even forestland entitlement is not given by the government.
- Project communities have strengthened their self-governance and become more alert, sensitive towards government's anti-indigenous policies to grab Indigenous land and resources. They are now bolder and more defensive in protecting their land, resources, and rights as guaranteed by the FRA, PESA and the constitution.
- Altogether 14 cases of (6-JJVS, 6-AWN and 2-ANGNA) human rights violations were monitored and documented. The cases were related to witch-hunting, domestic violence, trafficking, rape, mob lynching etc.
- In total 13 joint actions and community mobilizations (3-Chhattisgarh, 4-Odisha and 6- Jharkhand) were organized on the occasions of One Billion Rising, protest against amendment of National Population Register (NPR) and Citizen Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC), public awareness raising and sanitary materials distribution during COVID-19 pandemic, celebration of International Day of the World's IPs and UNDRIP day, 16th Days Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV), Human Rights Day, rally and demonstration against non-implementation of PESA and forest rights act at district collector's office and forest departments.

- In the village Jhargawan of Duldula Block, communities of Birhor, Oraon and Routiya in Jharkhand were being strengthened and united, these communities increased and developed better understanding on Community Forest Right Act and entitlements.
- The women groups of the village Bhimsela in Jharkhand initiated to celebrate the International Women's Day. They were able to mobilize the communities by themselves without any support. The women leadership is being evolved.
- Youths of Pahari Korwa communities in Chhattisgarh are taking initiatives for agriculture before they used to give land to the landlords for cultivation. Paddy and vegetables are being cultivated in their field. Now they are becoming self-dependent and earning surplus income for their livelihood.
- The community members representation and participation have increased in the Gram Sabha (Village Assembly) in Chhattisgarh and Odisha. They are also actively participating in the decision making. Hence, they are able to access the various government welfare schemes such as land leveling of forest land, irrigation, constructions of wells, small ponds and renovation of old ponds etc.
- Networking and collaborations have been established at the district and state level with like-minded organizations and institutions. Chhattisgarh Tribal Peoples Forum is being strengthened and growing with more commitment and dedication which was seen during the COVID-19 awareness program and also raising voices for food security.
- Annual partners meeting of SSNC partners was held in Odisha, which was hosted by ANGNA, which was joined virtually by the Environment Programme via zoom.
- The project villages and their adjoining villages in India are promoting the traditional seeds and Indigenous agricultural practices along with use and promotion of bio-fertilizers and traditional knowledge on natural resource management. They have mostly reduced the use of chemical fertilizers.
- The SSNC project in India supported to the selected 20 (11-JJVS, 5- AWN and 4-ANGNA) Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for income generation activities. The 4 SHGs supported by ANGNA are producing bio-fertilizers and selling to the farmers and running traditional seed banking. The 5 SHGs supported by AWN are producing mushroom, snacks-biscuit, Namkin, cake and also running a collective groceries shop. The 11 SHGs (2 belong to primitive tribal communities namely Korwa and Birhors) supported by JJVS are mostly producing cash crops-turmeric and Ragi from traditional seeds and selling for their income generation. As well they do the seasonal income generation activities to collect the non-timber products from forest and sell collectively.
- The 132 SHGs have built up their capacity on mobilizing and managing the funds and keeping proper financial records.
- ANGNA has started a pilot project named Sarbangin Vikash Andolan focusing on agriculture in two villages Jhirpani and Purnatoli. The SHGs are implementing the project. They have a plan to do mass organic agricultural production using bio-fertilizers produced by the SHGs and traditional seeds. They have a plan to generate the opportunities and strengthen their economic status.

## ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT (AIPP)

- Coronavirus has comparatively affected less to IPs in programming villages in India because of Indigenous food system containing more proteins and resilience power to combat the sickness.
- The Karen Indigenous Peoples of Phumen Village in the Western part of Thailand successfully declared their village as a Special Cultural Zone based on the cabinet resolution adopted on 3 August 2010. Karen Network for Culture and Environment (KNCE) through the financial support of AIPP helped the villagers to implement their plan to self-declare their village as a Special Cultural Zone.
- In total 381 (143 male and 238 female) IPs and Thai public were sensitized on the new rice eating celebration of IPs. Thai PBS covered the event “New Rice Eating Celebration and Indigenous Market Fair” organized by NIPT in its channel. The video is accessible at this link. The new rice eating celebration is common among Indigenous Peoples in Asia which is done to pay respect to the mother goddess of grains. Usually, the celebration is done among the family members only, which requires all the family members to attend the ceremony together.

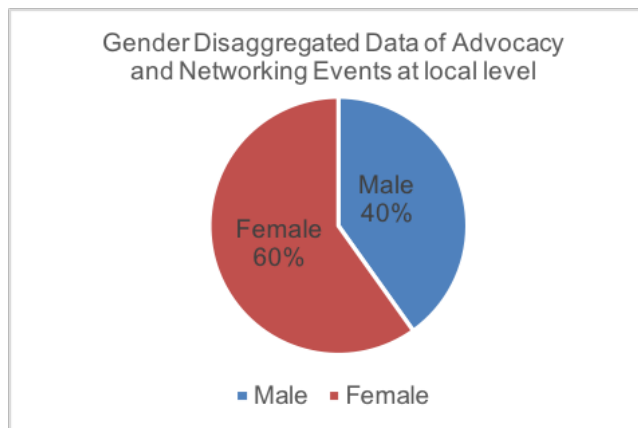


Figure 2 In 2020, Environment Programme through its multiple projects organized 63 events relating to advocacy and networking at local level. The total participants of those events were 13467 (Male: 5405, and Female: 8062).

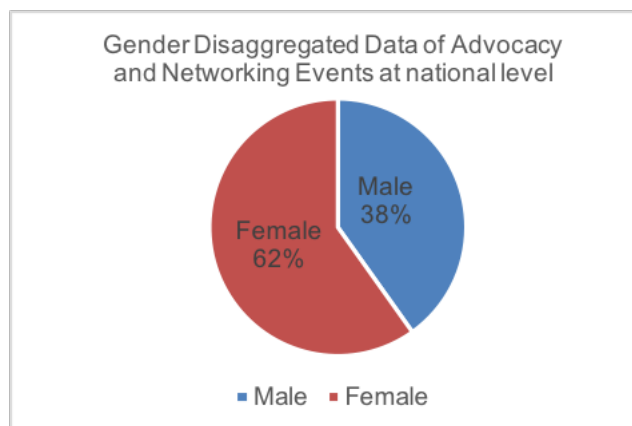


Figure 3 Similarly, 1 event under the advocacy and networking was organized at national level with the participation of 381 (381 Male: 143, Female: 238) participants.

## ii) Regional Level

- The documentation (3 news articles and two short videos in English and Thai languages) undertaken in partnership with the Indigenous Media Network in Thailand (IMN) heightened the visibility of the local stories and actions of Thai IPs against the COVID-19 pandemic. The documented stories were further promoted by one of the key donors of AIPP, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through their social media during the celebration of the International Day of World's IPs and widely disseminated by the Centres of Distinction on Indigenous and Local Knowledge (COD-ILK) through their newsletter.
- The Facebook page, twitter account and a webpage of the IKPA were launched during the World Environment Day to buttress the presence and visibility of Indigenous Stories in the online platform. The documented quotes of IPs including Indigenous Women and Youth were promoted as part of the celebration of the World Environment Day through the IKPA social media. About 80% of the messages promoted by AIPP were from Indigenous Women. The consistent uploading of the local stories and information of Indigenous Knowledge and the stories of IPs have attracted more followers to the social media page and accounts of the IKPA.
- The theme for the International Day for Biodiversity 2020 was “our solutions are in nature.” AIPP submitted two video messages to the Secretariat of UNCBD through the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB). One of the video messages was from Mr. Gam Shimray, the Secretary General of AIPP. The other video was from Ms. Noraeri Thungmueangthong, Chief of Huay E-Khang Village.
- Continuing the good practice of the previous years, the International Day of Forests was celebrated at AIPP Eco-office with the participation of AIPP Secretariat and Thai members. Besides taking photos with slogans and messages relating to forests, plant saplings were planted and above all, a big tree was planted in front of the office to mark the celebration. Besides, IPs’ including Indigenous Women’s quotes on the importance of forests (4 women and 5 men from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Thailand, and Vietnam) were documented and promoted during a week-long celebration of the International Day of Forests.
- The programme facilitated an online space for community representatives, Indigenous activists working at the national, regional, and international levels and FAO to share their stories and perspectives on land rights and Indigenous food systems by organizing a session on “Weaving knowledge, culture and customary land rights with Indigenous Peoples Food Systems” as part of the series of webinar organized in the celebration of the International Day of the World’s IPs. Altogether 128 people from 25 countries (Asia: 15, Europe: 3, Australia: 1, Latin America: 4, North America: 2) attended the webinar and got a clear message that land tenure security and knowledge of IPs are crucial in the protection and practice of Indigenous Food Systems. Among the six sessions organized by AIPP, it was only in the session of the Environment Programme where a community representative was invited to share her perspectives and recommendations on the topic.

- Ms. Pirawan Wongnithisathaporn and Mr. Prem Singh Tharu from the Environment Programme and Mr. Shohel Chandra Hajang and Mr. Fredric Wilson from the HRCPA Programme shared the status of Indigenous Languages in their respective countries as well as at the regional level during the virtual consultation organized by Asia-Pacific Steering Committee of Indigenous languages to the UNESCO.
- Mr. Gam A. Shimray, Secretary General of AIPP and Mr. Prem Singh Tharu, Environment Programme Officer attended the annual partners meeting of the SSNC and provided AIPP recommendations to the next 5 years (2022-2026) programme strategy and partnership of the SSNC.
- The Environment Programme inter-programmed with the HRCPA Programme to celebrate the International Human Rights Day at AIPP office. AIPP members, partners including women and children participated in the celebration where they took photos with banners containing the following messages:

*“Environmental Defenders are at the frontline in the flight for biodiversity and climate protection”.*

*“Defending the environment is not a crime!”.*

*“We stand up for Indigenous Environmental Defenders!”.*

*“Indigenous Environmental Defenders risk their lives to protect the environment”.*

Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsi, AIPP Chairperson and Mr. Gam A. Shimray, AIPP Secretary General delivered their remarks on the situation of human rights of IPs in Asia. Ms. Chanda Thapa, the Deputy Secretary General read out the statement on AIPP. The HRCPA programme had arranged T-Shirts and Caps for the participants. The celebration ended by lighting candles in the memory of the defenders who were murdered last year followed by a group photo.

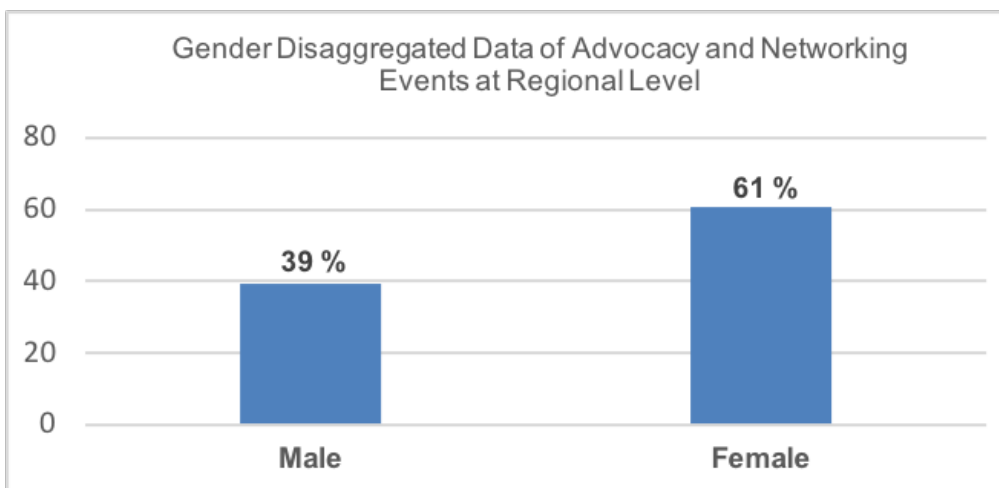
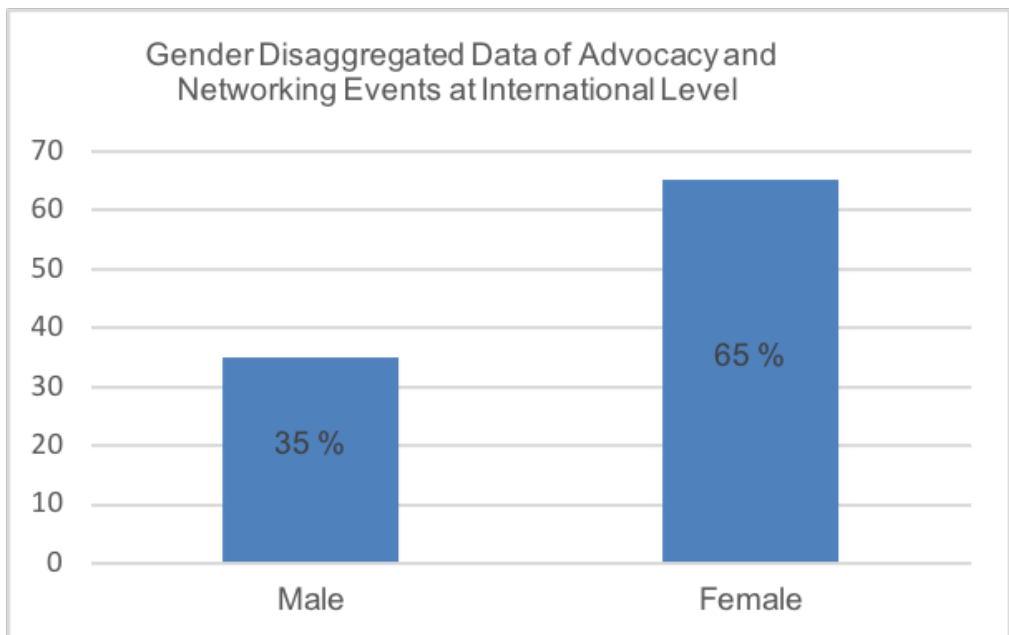


Figure 4 Environment Programme organized 5 events relating to advocacy and networking at regional level. The total participants of those events were 56 (Male: 22, Female: 34).

### iii) International Level

- AIPP hosted a global thematic workshop on human rights as an enabling condition in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework from 18-20 February 2020 with the participation of 41 representatives of Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, NGOs, UN agencies and governments. Out of 41 participants 26 were women and 3 were youth. The workshop was implemented in partnership with the Swedbio, FPP, GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, International Development and Law Organization (IDLO), Natural Justice, and UN Environment. It was the first time that people representing different constituencies came together to discuss and develop specific recommendations on the zero draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. AIPP did not have specific partnership with many of the co-conveners except Swedbio and FPP before. This partnership facilitated an opportunity for AIPP to work closely with them and strengthen AIPP's journey in the global biodiversity movement. The organizing of the workshop in Chiang Mai including the list of preparations done contributed to the visibility of AIPP.
- The outcome of the global thematic workshop was presented in the second meeting of the open-ended working group (OEWG II) on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in Rome, Italy. The report of the workshop is also available on the website of the CBD. The co-conveners of the workshop issued a press release titled "Protect Human Rights to Protect the Planet" prior to the OEWG II. The preparations done before, during and after the workshop, and the advocacy and lobby undertaken in the OEWG II utilizing the results of the workshop enhanced the visibility of human rights- based approach in the discussion of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- AIPP, FPP, Natural Justice, Swedbio, and Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas (ICCA) Consortium made a submission to a call for inputs on "Healthy Ecosystems and Human Rights: Sustaining the Foundations of Life" issued by the special rapporteur on human rights and environment. AIPP contributed specifically on the good practices of Indigenous Peoples and issues relating to the Environmental Defenders.
- The programme contributed to the Bureau meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in preparation for the Oslo consultation on the UNEA-5 as well as in the mid-term strategy of the UNEP.
- Ms. Naw Ei Ei Min, AIPP EC Member, got elected as one of the Indigenous Peoples' representatives to the Global Major Groups Facilitating Committee of UNEP. The programme facilitated her nomination process to the UNEP.
- The programme has increased its engagement with the FAO particularly on the Global Hub of Indigenous Food Systems where AIPP is nominated to be the Regional Hub on Indigenous Food Systems. This has led to the development of a project between AIPP and FAO focusing on Indigenous Biocentric Restoration. The programme is also following the process in preparation for the 2021 UN Summit on Food Systems that the UN Secretary General Antonia Gueterres is convening in September.

- AIPP and IWGIA made a submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat highlighting IPs’ perspectives on the current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and stressing on the need to put the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the centre of all climate actions. The submission includes specific recommendations for actions to UNFCCC Parties and UNFCCC Secretariat. AIPP and IWGIA developed a briefer based on this submission as well as prepared a news article highlighting the message of Indigenous Peoples on NDCs.
- The programme has continued its engagement with the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Network). In 2020, Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai, Environment Programme Committee Member, and Mr. Prem Singh Tharu, Environment Programme Officer participated and contributed to the global consultations on climate change, ESCR-Network and just and equitable recovery.
- The results of the regional consultation on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was shared by Mr. Lakpa Nuri Sherpa, Environment Programme Coordinator in the second global thematic dialogue for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held from 1-3 Dec 2020.
- Environment Programme contributed to the second edition of the Local Biodiversity Outlook (LBO) by providing local stories in different chapters of the global publication.



*Figure 5 Environment Programme organized 1 international event relating to advocacy and networking in 2020. The total participants of the event were 41 (Male: 15; and Female: 26).*

## iv) Quantitative Data

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>A total of 6 Communications/submissions to human rights mechanisms and procedures and IFIs</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission to the Special Rapporteur on HR and Environment</li> <li>• Submission to the UNEP 2021 Global Report on Environmental Rule of Law and Environmental Defenders Policy</li> <li>• Submission to the UNCBD Secretariat on Gender Policy</li> <li>• Submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat on the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform</li> <li>• AMMS Submission to the District Collector and Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh state</li> <li>• ANGNA submission to the Forest Office at block level and the Chief Minister and Governor through District Collector.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Statements</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press Release on post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in February 2020</li> <li>• Joint statement of Global Major Groups and Stakeholders during preparatory Oslo Consultation for the UNEA 5.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>Briefing papers/case studies/reports</p>   | <p>Briefing papers, news articles and case studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News Article “The Forest as Community Supermarket for Karen Indigenous Peoples in Thailand” in <a href="#">Thai</a> and <a href="#">English</a> languages</li> <li>• News Article “The Huay Ee Khang Model: Emerging Idea of Indigenous Women’s Forest to Embrace both People and Wildlife” in <a href="#">Thai</a> and <a href="#">English</a> languages</li> <li>• News Article “Further Reciprocal Rice for Fish: An act of Indigenous Peoples against COVID-19 recurrence” in <a href="#">Thai</a> and <a href="#">English</a> languages</li> <li>• Documentation of the traditional resource management practices of Phumen Villagers in the Western Thailand (the draft text is available in Thai language only, which will be finalized in 2021)</li> </ul> |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIPP contributed to the first newsletter of the Centre of Distinction on Indigenous and Local Knowledge (COD-ILK)</li> </ul> <p>Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSNC India Project Report</li> <li>• Norad Report</li> <li>• Swedbio/GIZ Report</li> <li>• SSNC-GAP Report</li> <li>• SCBD Report</li> <li>• FPP Small Grant Project Report</li> </ul>  |
| <p>Conduct of webinars, consultations and side events</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Session on IP Day on weaving knowledge, culture and customary land rights with IP's Food System (IPFS) on 6 August with 128 people from 25 countries</li> <li>• 4 virtual consultations on or with IFAD (including the Indigenous Peoples Forum on the theme of the value of Indigenous Food System: Resilience in context of COVID-19 pandemics with 193 participants (106 male and 87 female)</li> <li>• 1 virtual consultation on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to consolidate the IP perspectives (35 participants – 24 female and 13 male)</li> </ul> |
| <p>Networking with the donors and regional networks particularly on Indigenous Knowledge, CBD bill, SDGs and World Forestry Congress, global biodiversity framework and ES-CR-Net</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDP</li> <li>• NORAD</li> <li>• Swedbio, FPP, GIZ, IDLO and GIZ</li> <li>• SSNC</li> <li>• Jai Jagat</li> <li>• Non-Timber Forest Product Exchange Programme (NTEP-EP)</li> <li>• Asian Farmers Association (AFA)</li> <li>• ESCR-Network</li> </ul>  |
| <p>EC representation</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest-Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Capacity Building Project in Bangkok (Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri, Chairperson AIPP EC)</li> <li>• Ms. Naw Ei Ei Min has been elected as one of the Indigenous Peoples Representative to Global Major Group Facilitating Committee (GMGFC) of UNEP</li> </ul>   |

## C.2. Capacity Building

- AIPP facilitated the participation of the three partners of the SSNC project in a two hours' session on amended FCRA (Foreign Currency Regulation Act) organized by an Audit Firm from Delhi. This has increased common understanding among partners and AIPP on amended FCRA that is helpful in the effective implementation of the project.
- A total of 37 Indigenous Peoples (24 women and 13 men) have increased their knowledge and understanding on the updated zero draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. AIPP co-organized one-day regional consultation on the post-2020 GBF together with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network (IWBN) on 30 November 2020. Indigenous Peoples from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan/China, Thailand, and Vietnam actively participated throughout the consultation. As the consultation was organized virtually, AIPP was able to bring on board the representatives of Indigenous Peoples from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Taiwan/China, and Vietnam for the first time in the event specifically focusing on biodiversity.
- AIPP hosted three virtual sub-regional consultations (Mekong, South Asia, and South East Asia) and one regional consultation on "The value of Indigenous Food Systems: Resilience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic" in close collaboration with Asia members of the Steering Committee (ASC) of the IFAD, IWGIA and IFAD in November 2020. Altogether 193 participants (106 male and 87 female) increased their understanding of IFAD work and strategies in Asia, IFAD policy on Indigenous Peoples, and the status of Indigenous Peoples' engagement in the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD. The regional consultation elected Mr. Pallab Chakma, Executive Director of KF, Bangladesh as the South Asia Representative (one of the ASC members) to the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD. The regional consultation re-elected Ms. Mane Yun from Cambodia as the South East Asia representative. The selection of the Asia Indigenous Youth representative did not happen due to the limited number of Indigenous Youth in the regional consultation. The selection will take place in 2021.
- AIPP provided additional support to the JJVS/AMMS and ANGNA as part of the institutional strengthening budget of the SSNC project. This has developed and strengthened capacities of project partners on documentation and accounting.
- The SSNC project activities in 2020 strengthened the capacity and understanding of altogether 16,598 (6,606 male 9,992 female) Indigenous Peoples in 71 (37- Odisha, 17 Chhattisgarh and 17-Jharkhand) villages of three states in India on Forest Rights Act (FRA), Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, and IPs Rights.
- All the partners of the Programme took appropriate safety measures while organizing activities in their respective countries. India project partners in particular carried out a series awareness raising on COVID-19 as well as distributed sanitizers to the target communities. ANGNA sensitized the block level government offices near to its office.

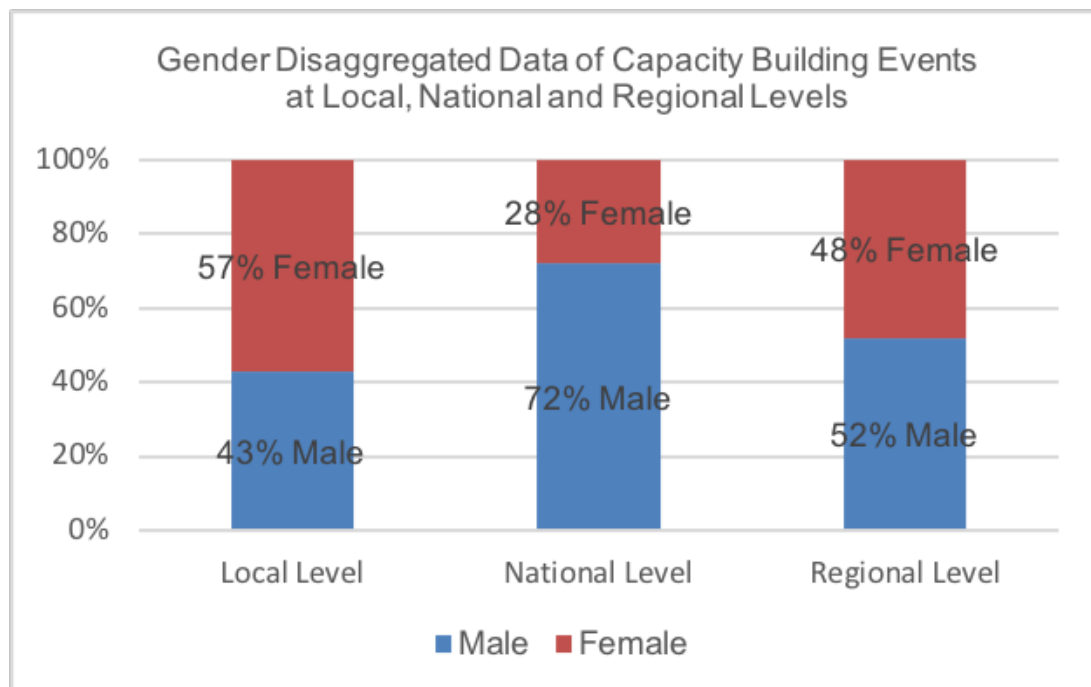
## ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT (AIPP)

- The Karen Indigenous leaders from the Western region of Thailand have increased their knowledge and understanding on laws and policies relating to land and forests.
- AIPP built the skills and capacities of IPs in Nepal, Bangladesh and India particularly on Indigenous Knowledge through operationalization of IKPA. The operationalization was done by organizing national level workshop in Nepal by NEFIN, district level workshop in Bangladesh by Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha (TUS) and inter-state level workshop in Jharkhand by ANGNA. The target communities for the IKPA were also identified except in Nepal (4 communities in Bangladesh and 2 communities in India).
- In total 125 (53 female and 72 male) Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh, India and Nepal became aware about the IKPA and had comprehensively discussed their issues, concerns and recommendations relating to Indigenous Knowledge in their respective countries. The participants of the workshops discussed and documented information on different customary practices of Indigenous Peoples including information of the knowledge holders and the types of Indigenous Knowledge they hold.
- Mr. Prem Singh Tharu, Environment Programme Officer, contributed as a speaker in the webinar named “Indigenous issues and peace education” for building capacities for justice and peace organized by Jai Jagat 2020.
- Mr. Prem Singh Tharu, Environment Programme Officer, also spoke in a virtual session organized by Indian Indigenous Peoples Organizations and Tribal Ministry of India as a speaker on Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Knowledge System in human rights perspective focusing on Intellectual Property Rights.
- Indian partners-JJVS/AMMS, AWN and ANGNA strengthened their networks with their local and state level networks and organizations.
- Training and Educational Materials:

| Title of the training/educational materials  | # of copies produced                        | # of copies distributed | Donor/ funding agency |
|--|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Case studies on Cyber Security in the Mekong Region: Analysis of the Legal Framework and Recommendations for Indigenous Peoples Rights Defenders | The case studies will be finalized in 2021  |                         | IWGIA                 |
| Documentation of the good practices of Thailand Indigenous Peoples on Natural Resource Management  | The documentation will be finalized in 2021 |                         | IIFB                  |
| Comic Book on Indigenous Knowledge (Thai, Karen, and English languages)  | The comic book will be finalized in 2021    |                         | Norad                 |

|   |  |  |     |
|---|--|--|-----|
| Short <a href="#">Documentary</a> on the Karen Indigenous Peoples of Mae Jok Village (with English Subtitles)                                 |  | Shared through list-serve and social media of the IKPA | FPP |
| Short <a href="#">Documentary</a> on the Revitalization of Indigenous Karen Water Management in Huay E Khang Village (with English Subtitles) |  | Shared through list-serv and social media of the IKPA  | FPP |

In 2020, Environment Programme organized 76 capacity building events at local level with the total participants of 3421 (1468 male and 1953 female). Likewise, 1 capacity building event was organized at the national level with 18 participants (13 male and 5 female) and 5 such events at the regional level with 230 participants (119 male and 111 female) (Figure 5). While comparing with 2019 report, 5% reduction of female participants in 2020 in the regional events (as 53% were women and 47% were men in 2019). Likewise, the female participants were 61% at the local level in 2019, which was reduced to 57% in 2020. Whereas, was no data at the national event in 2019 since much of the activities were concentrated at the local, and regional levels.



*Figure 6: Gender-disaggregated data of the participants in capacity building activities of Environment programme*

### C.3. Institutional Strengthening and Movement Building (OSMB) related achievements

- The Environment Programme led the discussion among the Secretariat to prioritize the drafting of AIPP policy and implementation guidelines on safety and security for the IPHRDs, which was welcomed by the management team. This resulted in the hiring of the consultant with the support of IWGIA under the ongoing project of the Environment Programme. Currently, AIPP has the draft version of the policy which was developed in consultation with the members of the IPHRDs network. AIPP Secretariat has already given their comments and inputs to the existing draft text of the policy. All the preparations undertaken in the development of draft policy were jointly undertaken by the Environment and HRCPA Programmes. Ms. Pirawan Wongnithisathaporn (Environment Programme) and Mr. Frederic Wilson (HRCPA) were focal persons closely involved in the drafting of the policy.
- The Environment Programme organized a consultation with the AIPP Secretariat and solicited their constructive feedback to the draft text of the policy on Environment. The draft text will be updated and shared to the Secretariat in 2021.
- The AIPP team had a face-to-face meeting with Norad for the first time in January 2020 that facilitated better understanding of the project and work of AIPP.
- There were series of communications between AIPP and Norad to resolve the issue with Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) under the REDD+ project. AIPP engaged in regular communication and consultation with representatives of CHRO and Norad throughout 2020 and succeeded to convince Norad. However, Norad based on the findings of the independent assessment of CHRO financial system decided in the last quarter of 2020 to terminate the partnership with CHRO. This is most probably the first time that any donor has terminated partnership with the AIPP members. This is a very important lesson for AIPP to undertake due diligence in the selection of project partners as well as prioritizing the development and/or strengthening of the financial system of project partners with stringent regular monitoring visits.
- Norad, SSNC and IWGIA are the long-term key donors. In addition, the Programme secured resources from new donors mainly GEF, GIZ, UNDP and IGES in 2020.
- The field trip to Mae Jok Village together with Indigenous Media Network (IMN) to document the case on Food Security and COVID-19 (2 from AIPP and 2 from IMN)
- The field visit to Huay E Khang Village together with IMN to document the case on Indigenous Women's roles and contributions in the Forest (3 from AIPP and 2 from IMN)
- The field visit to Mae Yod Village to consult with community to get their feedback in finalizing the Comic Book (5 from AIPP and 1 from PASD)
- The face-to-face meeting with auditor and finance team was done before and after audit of SSNC project on financial compliances and requirements expected by SSNC.

- Online meetings with project partners carried out regarding effective project management, implementation and reporting
- The Annual Partners' Meeting of the SSNC project was held physically in Odisha in participation of 20 (7 males and 13 females) persons from three partners-AWN, JJVS and ANGNA. The three partners presented the project achievements, challenges, lesson learned, recommendations as well as impact of COVID-19 and its caused lockdown in project implementation. In the partners meeting, the consultant presented findings of the project evaluation and collected inputs and comments from project partners.
- Three SSNC partners plus AIPP and SSNC attended education sessions on amended Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010 (FRCA) of India organized by an audit firm.
- JJVS and ANGNA conducted documentation and write up training for their staff and network members. ANGNA conducted Tally Accounting Training for its finance staff and the staff of its network organizations.
- Forty hours English class focused on writing skill was attended by Ms. Pirawan Wongnithisathaporn from Environment programme

#### **C.4. Fundraising and New Partnerships**

Norad, SSNC, IWGIA, TCF, FPP/IGES, Swedbio, GIZ, IIFB, UNDP, IFAD, and CBD Secretariat were the key donors supporting the work of the Programme in 2020. It was the first time that the Environment Programme received support from the TCF even though TCF is not a new donor to AIPP. GIZ is a new donor not just for the programme but also to AIPP. Another new donor that AIPP secured resources from is Luminate.

In 2020, the programme submitted 16 proposals. Out of 16 proposals, three major proposals that had a timeline with a minimum of five years and maximum of 10 years got rejected. 12 proposals (mix of short term and long-term proposals) got approved in 2020. Out of 12 proposals, 4 short term proposals got approved and concluded in 2020.

#### **C.5. Information Sharing and Awareness Raising**

- A total of 3922 likes as of 31 December 2020 whereas it was 3748 as of 31 Dec 2019 that means 174 likes increased in 2020 in IKPA Facebook page.
- Altogether 3933 Followers as of 31 December 2020 whereas it was 3748 followers as of 31 December 2019 that means 148 followers increased in 2020 in FB page.
- Twitter: 1008 followers as of 31 December 2020 whereas it was 756 as of 31 Dec 2019 that means 252 increased in 2020.

## D. Positive Changes as a result of the programme's activities

- Increased visibility of the leadership of Ms. Noerari Thungmueangthong, Chief of Huay E-Khang village in revitalizing the traditional practice of Indigenous Women's Forest Management through news article
- Increased visibility of the exchange of food between Indigenous Peoples of the North and South of Thailand to cope with the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Increased visibility of the resiliency of Karen Indigenous Peoples during the COVID-19 lockdown
- The establishment of the teamwork between Environment Programme and Management Team particularly in fundraising
- Pioneering the good practice of face-to-face meeting between programme and auditor
- Despite the gravity of concerns raised by Norad on the financial management system of CHRO, AIPP was able to negotiate and got approval by Norad to support the 50% of the CHRO expenditure from 2019.
- Continuation of the inter-programme with all other units of AIPP
- Increased followers in the FB page and twitter account of the IKPA

## E. Challenges and Opportunities

### E.1. Challenges

- COVID-19 hindered the implementation of the annual plan of the programme at the local, national, regional, and international levels. The annual plan of the programme was adjusted considering the unprecedented challenges imposed by the COVID-19. The changes in the plan were done in consultation with relevant project partners and donor organizations. The project partners undertook appropriate safety and security measures at the local level while implementing the activities.
- The unsettled financial matters of the CHRO relating to Norad REDD+ project resulted in the unprecedented delay in the conduct of organizational audit. However, the Environment Programme continued to dialogue with representatives of CHRO and Norad and eventually concluded the unresolved issues flagged by Norad.
- The late settlement of CHRO financial issues delayed the second disbursement of the REDD+ project. The delayed second disbursement of the project and the challenges of COVID-19 culminated in AIPP and CSDM requesting Norad for the no-cost extension of the project. Norad agreed to approve the request of AIPP after AIPP revised the budget and work plan until May 2021.

- The Environment Programme and the Management Team had a limited time to draft ICI proposal as a teamwork which compelled the Secretariat members to work even on the weekend. This is mainly because all the team members were busy with other priorities of the programme. The limited time for proposal writing as well as the non-response from project partners despite frequent follow up especially from Cambodia compelled the team to compromise the quality of information in the proposal. This is a recurring challenge that most of the programmes in AIPP continue to face. Proper planning together with the sharing of workload and responsibilities among the team members should be done to avoid rushed proposal preparation in 2021 and beyond.
- The frequent change in the focal point of the Norad REDD+ project delayed the implementation of the project. Mr. Lakpa Nuri Sherpa, Environment Programme Coordinator, continued to provide necessary information to generate a common understanding of the project. The focal person of the donor changed two times in 2020 and six times from 2016 to 2020, which is unprecedented.
- The new trend among organizations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic is organizing meetings online. The positive aspect of organizing virtual meetings is considerably large number of participants from different countries can attend with significantly reduced expenses. However, these events organized by other regions of the World falls beyond the working hours, which has created work stress and pressure among staffs.
- AIPP had to use its budget to compensate for the currency fluctuation while sending the project balance back to the donor organization. It happened in the case of the project supported by GIZ. It is important to specifically mention in the contract of future projects that AIPP will not be responsible for covering any loss created by the currency fluctuation.
- It is challenging to concentrate on preparing quality proposals in a room shared by many people. Therefore, it would be good to have provision for people to work from home while drafting the new project proposal.
- Villages in the Jashpur and Surguja districts of Chhattisgarh state have received community forestland entitlement. But those areas are yet to be demarcated. Further the government has not given the Record of Rights (RoR) to the communities.
- Language barrier is challenging to effectively communicate with project partners as well as to understand the project document. With COVID-19 situation where communication is limited to online platforms, this challenge is worsening.
- AIPP email systems need to be improved. For example, there are issues of space limitation for each member of the Secretariat. Further, members of the Secretariat are facing difficulties in tracing emails. There are also cases where Finance colleagues are not receiving emails.

## E.2. New initiatives to address the challenges within the programmes

- The COVID-19 affected the planned activities of the programme at the local, national, regional, and international levels. Adjustments in the work plan were done in consultation with relevant partners and donor organizations. The programme organized an online inception meeting of the project “Operationalizing IKPA in Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam” for the first time. Considering that the meeting is in virtual platform, the duration of the virtual meeting was limited to 3 hours per day to make the meeting more effective. The inception meeting was organized in the first quarter of 2020. The practice of organizing a virtual partner’s meeting of the IKPA project continued in the last quarter of 2020. In the case of the SSNC project partners were able to travel and come together in Odisha state for the partners meeting and AIPP joined virtually in the meeting. This kind of arrangement at least enabled the project to spend the budget allocated for the activity.
- The project partners undertook necessary safety measures such as the use of mask and sanitizer as well as maintaining social distancing throughout the conduct of activities at the local level.
- The IKPA project has a limited budget for the activities at the local level. The partners in Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam were able to explore resources from other projects particularly for traveling and were able to organize back-to-back events in the target communities. For example, in the case of Vietnam, Center for Sustainable Development in the Mountainous Areas (CSDM) has to travel by plane and then by land to reach the target community. CSDM mitigated this challenge by organizing IKPA project activities back-to-back with the REDD+ project activities in the community. This enabled CSDM to charge the travel expenditures under the REDD+ project.
- The programme people could not undertake monitoring visits in the project areas due to travel restrictions. The online meetings and communication through email and social media were used to get updates from the project partners.
- As soon as the travel restrictions within Thailand was uplifted, the programme prioritized Thailand for the field visit and documentation. The programme was able to organize four community visits in Thailand resulting in the documentation and promotion of four local stories in the form of news articles and video.
- The conduct of online meetings and travel restrictions to other countries facilitated big balance in the projects managed by the programme. To mitigate the issue of balance, the programme started supporting the request of its member organizations. For example, the programme used its flexible budget under the FPP project to support the preparation and the implementation of the plan of Phumen villagers in declaring their village as a Special Cultural Zone. Similarly, the programme utilized its institutional strengthening budget under the SSNC project to support the project partners in organizing capacity building activities on human rights documentation and accounting.

- The COVID-19 pandemic had a serious impact in the implementation of planned activities at different levels. This led a very limited and/or no implementation of the projects' activities. As projects supported by Norad, TCF and IWGIA had a timeline until December 2020, AIPP had no choice but to request for no cost extension of those projects. AIPP revised the budget and work plan in consultation with partners for all the projects which were eventually approved by all the donors. AIPP was able to negotiate a budget for the human resource in all the projects during the no cost extension.
- The three major long-term proposals of the programme got rejected. The rejection of those big proposals engendered a human resource budget gap for 2021. This got compounded as many of the ongoing projects are going to conclude by the second half of 2021. To overcome this gap, the program negotiated with the SSNC to cover one human resource under the Global Advocacy Project and also full salary for project coordinator and finance officer under India project for 2021, which was eventually approved. With the approval of the data sovereignty project in Dec 2020 the human resource budget of the programme for 2021 is fully secured.

### **E.3. Opportunities**

- Rapport building and fundraising opportunities with new (GIZ, Luminate, Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator and IFAD) and existing donors (Norad, SSNC, IWGIA, TCF, SCBD, FPP/IGES)
- Making local actions and stories more visible among IPOs, UN Agencies, and policy makers through evidence-based documentation
- Expansion to and operationalization of the IKPA in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal
- Partnership with the IMN to document local stories of Thailand Indigenous Peoples
- Technical partnership with IMN to conduct virtual meetings
- Increased engagement and collaboration with the FAO through Global Hub on Indigenous Food Systems
- Partnership with IFAD and the Asia Steering Committee Members to the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD
- Advocacy and lobby for human rights-based approach in the UNCBD, UNFCCC and IPBES
- Inclusion of more AIPP member countries in the virtual consultations organized at the regional level
- Research and identification of the needs arising from the COVID-19 situation in India, Malaysia, and Vietnam

## ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT (AIPP)

- Submission of inputs of AIPP highlighting the good practices of Indigenous Peoples on resource management to Environment and Human Rights mechanisms and processes
- Less expenditures required to organize the project partners meeting has allowed AIPP to allocate those budgets for the activities in the ground
- The arrangement for AIPP Secretariat to work from home considering the COVID-19 pandemic has enabled favourable situations particularly for the report writing work and the drafting of new proposals.
- Contribution in the new 4 years strategy plan of AIPP
- Leadership role in the development of organizational policies, namely, Environment Policy and Safety and Security Policy for the IPHRDs
- Continued advocacy with the forest department, Sub-Division Level Committee (SDLC) and District Level Committee (DLC) for community forest rights
- COVID-19 pandemic brought threats and challenges for the people across the Planet. People particularly dependent on daily wages were adversely affected. Indigenous Peoples who were sustainably managing their natural resources using Indigenous Knowledge were found resilient towards the impacts of COVID-19. AIPP took this as an opportunity to document the actions of Indigenous Peoples through ongoing projects and promote the narrative that practice, and cultivation of indigenous knowledge are crucial to combat COVID-19.
- Many Indigenous migrant workers came back home and have started working in their land. At the same time many people are looking for alternative and secured jobs in their own town and state. There is an opportunity for AIPP to develop proposals focusing on innovative ways of IPs' livelihoods and income generations so that economic impacts generated by the pandemic can be minimized.
- JJVS team has expertise on GPS mapping and on map generation. This has provided opportunity for community members from other states to seek their support for community mapping.
- The district administrations of Jashpur district in Chhattisgarh state and Sundargarh district in Odisha state are supporting the SSNC partner organizations and are open to work with. So, there is a very good opportunity to collaborate and coordinate with the district administrations and work together for the rights of Indigenous Communities.
- Collaboration with Human Rights Programme in the formulation of the ToR for the Safety & Security Policy for the IPHRDs

## F. Lessons learnt and Recommendations

- The new trend among IPOs to organize meetings online in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization of virtual meetings has considerably increased the number of participants. Also, it has significantly decreased the expenses of the activities. The events organized by other regions of the World falls beyond the working hours which created work pressure and stress among the Secretariat. Therefore, the management team members need to consider arranging compensation to the Secretariat based on the number of hours spent beyond the office hour.
- The hosting of the series of sub-regional and regional consultations on Indigenous Peoples' engagement with IFAD provided opportunities for many members of AIPP to learn and understand the work of IFAD including their IP policy. Such opportunities have increased the knowledge and also the effectiveness and level of engagement of IPs with IFAD. But last-minute invitation and decision to engage creates pressure of coordination and hosting the events within a very limited time, which impacted the fundraising plan and other planned work of the programme. Furthermore, AIPP needs to be clear on its roles in such events as a regional organization of IPs in Asia.
- The finance team needs to understand the requirements of the donors correctly and consulted with the programme people. The regular meeting between programme and finance teams would strengthen the better understanding and tackling the issue collectively. The role and contribution of Finance consultant is important in this sense to address it. Finance colleagues managing the respective projects should regularly read and understand the financial requirements and consult with the relevant programme people to fully comprehend the donors' requirements. AIPP auditor and AIPP finance team should have common understanding on donor compliances and requirements.
- The findings need to be discussed in a face-to-face meeting amongst the auditor, finance team and programme team to facilitate timely development and finalization of the audit findings and management response.
- While developing the project and signing the agreements, the finance team needs to be involved together with the programme team to understand the project activities, budget, compliances, and project requirements including capacity of partners. It will help to build the common understanding of both finance and programme teams.
- Proper filing and storage of financial documents are very important to ensure the safety of AIPP documents.
- It is important to have management team on board particularly for activities where more than one programme involve operationalizing the smooth inter-programme coordination and cooperation.
- It is important to have preparatory meetings among the programmes when more than one programme involves in the regional events organized by AIPP to ensure clarity on the roles and responsibilities.

- It is important to include the finance team in the programme team meeting while discussing the partnership management. Also, the programme needs to involve relevant finance colleagues in finalizing the overall work plan of the Programme.
- The project partners who continuously ignore the AIPP communications, consistently delay in the submissions of reports, fail in the effective implementation of the project, do not abide by the AIPP and donor compliances, violate fundamental human rights of project staffs and prepare fake bills of the expenses must be stringently monitored, assessed and appropriate actions should be taken by the management team. We should consider not continuing partnership with such organizations as it affects the credibility of AIPP among the donor communities.
- AIPP should maximize the field visit by implementing methodologies that would facilitate feedback from the community members directly on issues being discussed at the regional and international levels on climate change and biodiversity. In February 2020, AIPP took the participants of the global workshop on post-2020 global biodiversity framework to Pa Pae village and Hin Lad Nai village and consulted with them specifically focusing on the contents of the draft text. This was a good practice that should be continued to strengthen in the coming days.
- AIPP has been organizing regional and international workshops, exchanges, and training among others for more than 25 years. However, AIPP is yet to put into a document about its internal processes and preparations done to organize such regional and international events. AIPP is impressed to see one of the Swedbio publications that entails the whole process of Swedbio needed to carry out workshops and exchanges. AIPP should consider developing a similar document listing and explaining the whole process of AIPP organizing such events. This will be useful for AIPP Secretariat as well as the members of AIPP.
- In addition to Swedbio, GIZ financially supported the implementation of the global thematic dialogue on the post-2020 GBF. The project facilitated the partnership for the first time between AIPP and GIZ. However, involvement of two donors doubled the work of AIPP particularly in coordinating, preparing budget, finalizing the agreements, and submitting narrative and financial reports. AIPP completely understands the need to have Swedbio and GIZ on board for the Chiang Mai workshop as well as the value they add to strengthen the momentum to promote human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the new biodiversity framework. However, it would be good to have one donor as much as possible to reduce the time for coordination and budgeting as well as for preparing contracts and drafting reports.
- GIZ undertook an external audit in November 2019 prior to signing the contract with AIPP. This process took time resulting into the delay of the disbursement of funds. AIPP has been working in the region and managing number of projects every year. GIZ could have used the system audit undertaken by AIPP core donors and trusted the AIPP system in place. AIPP fully understands the requirement of donors and is always keen to cooperate. As the total budget of the support was only Euro 50,000,

GIZ should have shown flexibility as demonstrated by Swedbio. AIPP should be vocal not to participate in the external audit for such an activity-based partnership in the future.

- In Vietnam, CSDM was concerned about the safety of the project communities. Therefore, they avoided traveling to town or other high-risk areas of COVID-19 pandemic when going to visit the project community.
- AIPP has advised IKPA project partners to implement activities in the project areas back-to-back with activities of other projects to minimize the transportation cost.
- AIPP should allocate sufficient time to the programme team to develop quality project proposal to win the competition funds since it is getting challenging and tough to compete with international organizations. It would be good develop relationship with the consortium partners in coming days.
- AIPP should focus more on long-term and core funding by minimizing engagement in number of small grants to avoid work pressures. Likewise, AIPP should minimize taking the lead of the events where no specific roles are provided to AIPP.
- AIPP needs to prioritize programmes' and organizational benefits rather than engaging in all the proposed and approached events. If possible, it is better to engage specific people and not all the team members of the programme.

## **G. Good practices that need to be continued**

- AIPP visited Mae Yod village and consulted with villagers, women groups, schoolteachers, and students 4 times in preparation, drafting and finalization of the comic book on Indigenous knowledge. Once all the relevant actors gave their approval to print the comic book, AIPP printed the comic book in Thai language. This is a good practice that we should continue to strengthen in the future.
- AIPP team together with the IMN visited two Karen villages and published local stories in the form of news articles and videos which made the actions of Thailand Indigenous Peoples more visible among relevant actors.
- The Environment Programme partnered and published the good practice of Thai IPs on food exchange during the IP Day Celebration with IMPECT office and IMN in both Thai and English languages, which should be continued.
- Regular team meeting and consultation to deepen the spirit of teamwork.
- The programme supported the communities affected by forest fires using its savings.
- Expansion of the IKPA
- Regular Field Visit/Exposure Visit

- Timely submission of the work plan and progress report
- Fundraising for the programme
- Inter-programme coordination, collaboration and cooperation with all programmes and Management Team
- Regular communication and consultation with the Programme Committee members
- Regular online meetings with the project partners
- International Day Celebration (Forest Day, Biodiversity Day, and Environment Day)
- Continue networking, liaison, coordination, cooperation and collaboration with like-minded organizations and networks on common issues and agendas.

## H. Practices to be minimized

- The selection of the number of project partners and the inclusion of activities for the project should be realistic against the available budget. Do not put multiple partners and many activities if the budget is limited. This will add a lot of pressure to the regional coordination.
- Do not forget to add a human resource budget for AIPP in any kind of project partnership.
- The budget for coordination and communication should be adequately reflected for activity-based partnership.
- Minimize responding to fundraising opportunity when there is a limited time to prepare quality proposal
- Avoid carelessness in managing the financial supporting documents submitted by project partners
- Avoid future partnership with the partners who are irresponsible, unaccountable and have failed in the implementation and management of the projects.

## I. Project management achievements

- Despite the uncertainty created by the COVID-19, IKPA project started in July 2020 with three partners from Thailand, Vietnam, and Malaysia.
- The targeted communities' members in Vietnam agreed to be part of the IKPA project and decided to become members of the Vietnamese Indigenous Knowledge Network (VTIK). The members of the project communities participated in some of the activities organized by the VTIK in 2020.

- During the workshop on community mapping and forest inventory, the participants drew maps of their villages showing cultivated land, forest, river, water spring, mountain, and rice fields, among others. This is the first time for them to draw their own community map. In the same trip, CSDM staff facilitated the forest inventory. The information gathered from this activity will allow project communities to monitor their biodiversity and identify fauna and flora species which are in the danger of extinction. This survey acquainted the villagers with the richness of the biodiversity in their areas and were able to identify the causes of the plant and animal loss. The villagers have now marked the areas needing the protection as community protected areas.
- CSDM provided training and introduced the manual on Indigenous Knowledge focusing on forest protection and biodiversity. The training participants used the manual to document Indigenous Knowledge related to biodiversity. They also were trained in participatory management of natural resources using Indigenous Knowledge. The participants expressed interest in working to revitalize their local seeds and animals. For example, the Hmong women participants of the training have expressed plans to plant for weaving “Lanh” - a traditional cloth.
- CSDM interviewed the Indigenous Knowledge holders including elders, Indigenous Women and Youth and collected information on diversity of the seeds, traditional herbal medicine, and their uses in three targeted communities.
- CSDM conducted an awareness raising workshop on biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals. The participants discussed and identified the drivers of biodiversity loss and degradation as well as set the common agreement in protecting their natural resources.
- In Thailand, Mae Sa Nga village has formed a working group on Community Based Monitoring and Information System (CBMIS).
- In Thailand, Khun Jae village has formulated their work plan on knowledge transferring of Indigenous Peoples relating to Lisu music and dance.
- During the lockdown caused of COVID-19 pandemic, JJVS/AMMS and ANGNA educated the communities on possible risks of COVID-19 and also distributed the sanitizing materials even if it was not in the project budgets.
- Both partners encouraged the communities to apply Indigenous Knowledge and practices regarding health cares along with herbal medicines available in their forests and surroundings.
- They helped the local government offices by sensitizing their offices and also helped the communities to access the government support allocated for the communities in the name of COVID-19 support.

- The Chhattisgarh government has started to draft PESA Rule to implement the PESA Act in 2020.
- The Chhattisgarh government has instructed the district government offices to provide the community forestland titles as formally requested by the communities as their submitted claims.
- The Sundargarh District Administration has committed to implement the Forest Rights Act and cooperate with the communities across the claim process.
- Two Partners, JJVS/AMMS and ANGNA have improved their reporting.

## J. Way forward

The programmatic priorities for future mainly for strategy 2021-2024 and annual plan 2021 will be as follows:

- Expansion of the IKPA to other countries in Asia
- Evidence based documentation to highlight Indigenous Peoples' contributions to the international targets relating to climate change, biodiversity, and food security.
- Integration and implementation of human rights-based approach in all actions and interventions of the programme at the local, national, regional, and international levels.
- Facilitate the participation of community members, Indigenous Knowledge Holders including women and youth at different forums and mechanisms to ensure Indigenous Voices are heard directly from the people on the ground.
- The livelihoods and income generations to the communities, who are always at the forefront of the Indigenous Movement, are very important and supportive for gearing up the advocacy works and obtaining desired changes in the communities in a sustainable way.
- Facilitate and promote the participation of Indigenous Women in decision making roles at all levels
- Support and promote the transfer of knowledge and practices from elders to the next generation
- Reward and appreciate the partners, members and communities who are deeply devoted and committed to develop and change the communities and are always working with and for the rights and well-being of communities
- Prioritize the needs and issues of the communities for future project development rather than falling into issues and interests of donor communities

- Strengthen and capacitate the partners, members, communities, activists including women, youth, children, and persons with disabilities at the communities and bring them at state, national, regional, and international arenas for their confidence building and learning targeting to build up future leadership.



## 3. Indigenous Women Programme

### A. Overview of the Programme

AIPP's Indigenous Women Programme (IWP) aims to empower Indigenous Women to assert, promote and protect their rights as women and Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Women Program's objectives are:

- Indigenous Women and men advocate for the recognition of the rights of Indigenous Women at all levels as enshrined in international law (e.g., UDHR, CEDAW, UNDRIP, ICERD, UNSCR 1325<sup>3</sup>), national legislation and customary laws.
- Indigenous Women and leaders have the knowledge and skills to advocate for violence against Indigenous Women and enhance their role in peace building especially in conflict areas.
- Indigenous Women have strong networks and organizations that promote networking, building alliances and cross learning.
- AIPP members and partners are applying the gender policy.

IWP has been actively contributing to the AIPP's strategic plan and the global Indigenous and Indigenous Women movements. Its efforts are more pronounced with the establishment of NIWA, which has been in the process of institutionalizing the collective actions from the Indigenous Women across Asia. Amidst the global crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, IWP also suffered from the operational challenges to carry out its planned activities due to travel restrictions, lockdowns and technological constraints. However, it was also an opportunity to create new spaces, learn new technology to continue working towards fulfilling its objectives.

In 2020, IWP continued to implement the advocacy and capacity building projects supported by VOICE-Global, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Comic Relief. With the project activities, IWP is working in 11 countries and with NIWA 14 countries are coordinated by the programme.

### B. Objectives of the Programme

Indigenous Women Programme contributes directly to all of the AIPP's five strategic goals.

- Goal 1: Indigenous Peoples in Asia are empowered to promote, claim and defend legal recognition of their identities and collective and individual human rights including the right to self-determination.

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3 UDHR – Universal Declaration of Human Rights, CEDAW – Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women, UNDRIP – United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ICERD - International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), UNSCR – UN Security Council Resolutions

- Goal 2: Indigenous movements in Asia are strengthened by building the broadest solidarity and cooperation among Indigenous Peoples, as well as with other social movements, including minorities and marginalized groups, towards achieving equality, peace, democracy and justice.
- Goal 3: To promote and protect the integrity of the natural environment through maintaining or regaining Indigenous Peoples' full control over their lands, territories and its resources and enhancing their sustainable resource management systems, including their skills and traditional knowledge related to food security, livelihood and the protection of biodiversity.
- Goal 4: Promote full and effective participation of Indigenous Women, youth, IPwDs and elderly persons, at all levels of decision-making within Indigenous communities and the state.

## C. Main achievements of the Programme

### C.1. Advocacy and Networking

In the year 2020, IWP carried out various advocacy initiatives before the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, which continued virtually after the travel restrictions and safety measures were enforced. This situation provided IWP an opportunity to innovate its advocacy techniques via virtual campaigns, media mobilization, research and planning, networks and statements.

The year started with the video interview of Ms. Jannie Lasimbang, AIPP's former Secretary General who has served as a State Assistant Minister to her country Malaysia to mark the International Women's Day 2020 on 8 March 2020. This video was reached to more than 2400 unique users on Social Media (Facebook, YouTube and Website).

Effective participation has always been a guiding approach to IWP, therefore, IWP has facilitated the participation of its partners, and network members in different international platforms including taking parts in webinars (Indigenous Women Rights and Biodiversity-Women4Biodiversity, Indigenous Women grassroots testimonies - FIMI).

AIPP led by IWP organized a virtual side event on "Indigenous Women in COVID-19 to SDGs achievement: Frontline heroes' New Normal with accelerated collective actions" on Wednesday, 8 July 2020. The main objective to create space for Asian grassroots heroes to share their 'New Normal' showcasing Indigenous Knowledge and customary practices, collective actions and multi-stakeholder mechanism to achieve immediate and long-term food security, better education and health services, equality, and environmental justice.

The event was organized in collaboration with Asia Indigenous Women Network (AIWN), BAI Philippines, International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI), National Indigenous Women's Federation (NIWF), OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia, Association of Indigenous Women of The Archipelago (PEREMPUAN AMAN), Indonesia with a collective statement that can be accessed here: [Indigenous Women's collective statement during HLPF July 2020](#).

IWP also organized a webinar on "Indigenous Women's Rights and struggles: Reflection, actions and way forward" on 7 August 2020. The webinar was part of webinar series organized by AIPP on the occasion of International Indigenous Peoples' day from 5-7

August 2020. The session analysed the movements of Indigenous Peoples, Women as well as Indigenous Women and discuss Indigenous Women rights intersecting in both the international instruments. The representatives from AIPP member organizations and partners from Indonesia, Cambodia, Nepal had shared their experience on the topic. The representatives from National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women’s Alliance, International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP) and Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) also shared experiences from regional and global perspectives.

After the pandemic hit in the first quarter of 2020, IWP led the advocacy initiatives to network with Indigenous Women’s Organizations by conducting series of meetings to share and address the issues, challenges that Indigenous Women across Asia were facing in those unprecedented times. Those issues and challenges were published as the joint statement of NIWA and AIPP titled “COVID-19 Pandemic Multiplies Burden and Vulnerabilities of Indigenous Women in Asia” dated 26 June 2020.

IWP stands by the principle of distributed leadership of AIPP by encouraging and assisting its networks and members to claim their spaces in diverse decision-making platforms. This year, IWP facilitated NIWA to develop a joint regional statement in the 13<sup>th</sup> EMRIP session held in November-December 2020 with the thematic issue “The impact of COVID-19 on the rights of Indigenous Peoples under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.” With the technical support from IWP, Ms. Lin Lin Su Hsin, Steering Committee Member of NIWA presented the oral statement on Impact on Inter-sectional Group focusing on health, Violence against Indigenous Women (VAIW), education and livelihood of Indigenous Women in Asia.

On November 2020, IWP in coordination with Communication Programme of AIPP kickstarted the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV) 2020 through social media campaigns which reflected the Indigenous Women Issues and GBV against Indigenous Women in Asia. The campaign was reached out to almost 50,000 unique users.

To summarize, even with the challenges of this unique year, IWP has successfully carried out its advocacy initiatives to advocate for the recognition of the rights of Indigenous Women at all levels as enshrined in international law (e.g., UDHR, CEDAW UNDRIP, ICERD, UNSCR 1325), and national legislation and customary laws.

IWP’s advocacy initiatives 2020:

| S.N. | Initiatives   |
|------|---|
| 1    | 3 Joint Statements published on the issues and challenges of Indigenous Women in Asia |
| 2    | 2 Campaigns conducted   |
| 3    | Participation in various platforms  |

## C.2. Capacity Building

AIPP’s emphasis on the capacity building of the member organizations is strongly embedded in all programme units including IWP. The programme partnered with and facilitated the network members to strengthen their institutional capacity for stronger grassroots movements and increased collaboration in the local and country levels.

In the year 2020, IWP adopted the following approaches for the implementation:

**i) Providing professional and technical trainings**

- Leadership and advocacy training for IW representation in Gram Sabha
- Training on National level policies/laws and customary laws relevant to IW

**ii) Capacity Needs Assessment**

- Gender Mainstreaming Survey
- Gender Audit Pilot Project

**iii) Strengthening Institutions**

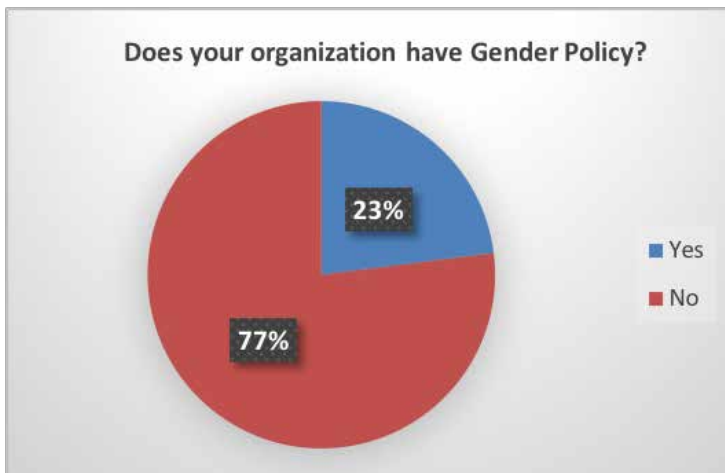
- Conducting country workshops
- Providing support for strategic planning
- Organizational development support

**iv) Networking**

- Organizing dialogues and meetings
- Organizing national consultations
- Participation and Representation in different global, regional platforms

**C.3. Gender Mainstreaming Survey**

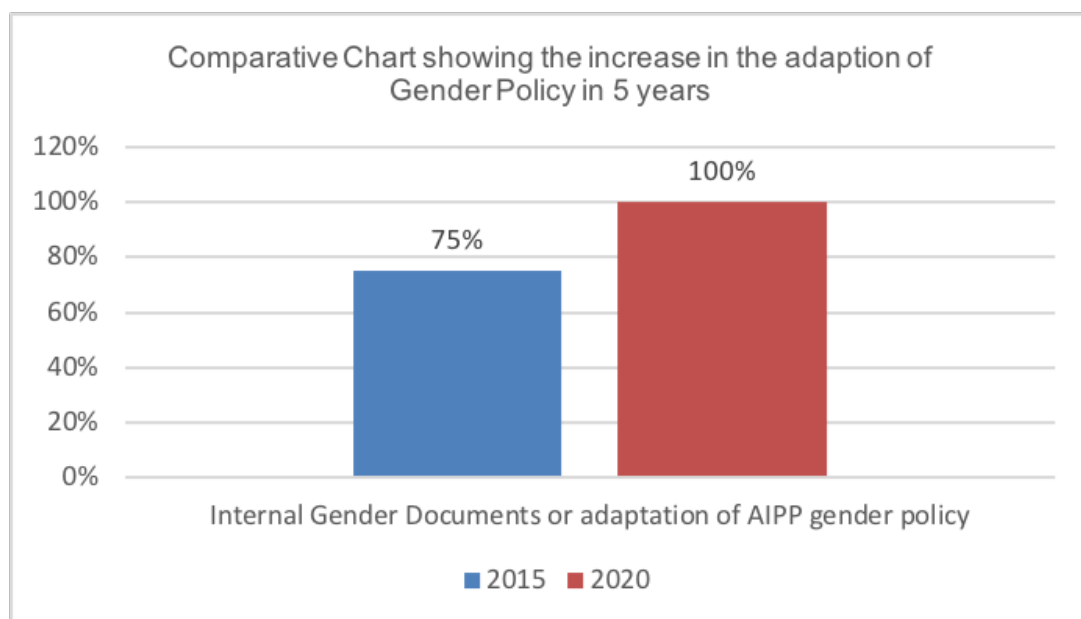
In December 2020, IWP conducted an online Gender Mainstreaming Survey with AIPP members and partners. A total of 26 organizations responded to the survey. It was found out that 23% of the AIPP members and partners have their own gender policy, whereas remaining were adapting AIPP’s gender policy in their organization.



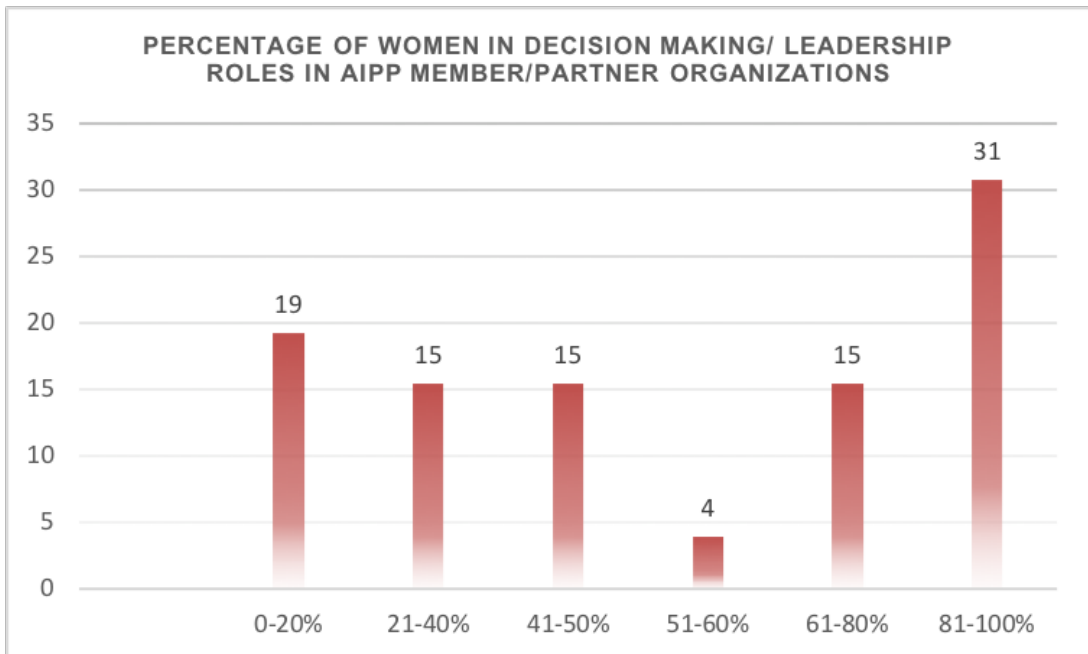
This directly contributed to the AIPP Strategic Plan 2017-2020:

- i) **Goal 1:** Indigenous Peoples in Asia are empowered to promote, claim and defend legal recognition of their identities and collective and individual human rights including the right to self-determination.
  - Specific Objective 1.1: Strengthen specific capacity of member-organizations and communities for stronger grassroots movements, increased collaboration and sustained advocacy at the local and country levels.
  - Indicator: (IW.1.1.2.) % of member organizations actively implementing gender policy (AIPP's gender policy or their own)
  
- ii) **Goal 4:** Promote full and effective participation of Indigenous Women, youth, Indigenous Persons with Disabilities (IPwD) and elderly persons, at all levels of decision-making within Indigenous communities and the state.
  - Objective 4.1: Increase the awareness on the rights of Indigenous Women and youth, IPwD and elderly etc., and their capacities to promote and protect their rights.
  - Indicator: (IW.4.1.1.) % of member organisations implementing AIPP Gender Policy, or their own Gender Policy

It is also worthy to note that this was an increase compared to 2015, where only 75% were in the process of adapting gender policy in their organization.



Women in decision-making/leadership roles in AIPP member/partner organizations:



It was found out that 31% of the AIPP member and partner organizations have 81-100% IW in the senior leadership role of their organization, directly contributing to:

- iii) **Goal 4:** Promote full and effective participation of Indigenous Women, youth, IPwDs and elderly persons, at all levels of decision-making within Indigenous communities and the state.
  - Objective 4.1: Increase the awareness on the rights of Indigenous Women and youth, IPwDs and elderly etc., and their capacities to promote and protect their rights.
  - Indicator: (IW.4.1.2.) No. of Indigenous Women playing decision making roles in organizations that are members or partners of AIPP network.

However, the effective mainstreaming of gender in organization is yet to studied. The members reported the following challenges and possible solutions to address the barriers in gender mainstreaming.

| Challenges  | Solutions           |
|---|---------------------|
| Lack of financial resources (22% responding organization)   | Financial resources |
| Lack of staff training on gender mainstreaming (15%)  | Capacity building   |
| Lack of own familiarity with gender mainstreaming (9%)  | Sensitization       |
| Please note that the respondents had the option to write three challenges and solutions. These are the responses received only. |                     |

#### C.4. Institutional Strengthening and Movement Building (OSMB) related achievements

IWP has supported its member organizations to strengthen their institutional capacity and for movement building. Few examples that took place in the year 2020 are as follows:

- Supported NIWF in providing technical support and coordination for community organization selection.
- AIPP reviewed and provided inputs on National Response prepared by NIWF to SRRIP call on IPs and COVID-19.
- AIPP mobilized COVID -19 relief supports to IPs specifically targeting IWs and IPwDs.
- Online meeting with NIWA Steering Committee to discuss about the country situation, collect updates and review NIWA strategy.

#### C.5. Fundraising and New Partnerships

##### i) Fundraising

Due to the pandemic situation, IWP resorted to proposal development and submission for fundraising efforts in the year 2020. Altogether 5 project proposals were submitted in the last quarter of the year, which has resulted in a positive outcome for one project and others are to be published.

| Proposals submitted to              | Date of Submission | Project Title  | Status                   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Sexual Violence Research Initiative | 15 September 2020  | Monitoring and Advocacy of Violence Against Indigenous Women in Bangladesh and Cambodia  | Results by February 2021 |
| UN Women                            | 05 October 2020    | Civil Society Shadow Reporting   | Results awaiting         |
| National Geographic Society         | 19 October 2020    | Voices from the South  | Results awaiting         |
| Oxfam Novib<br>30 October 2020      |                    | Empowering and strengthening Indigenous Women from the Mekong Region in Water Governance   | Accepted                 |
| UN Trust Fund                       | 4 November 2020    | Empowering and Strengthening indigenous women's organizations to prevent and respond to violence against Indigenous women and girls in the context of COVID 19 | Denied                   |

In addition, IWP has developed a fundraising database in order to track the key information about the donor agencies in one place. This database is expected to effectively manage the proposal development process in the coming years.

## ii) New Partnership

Gender Development Association (GDA) from Laos was onboard from June 2020 to implement the activities of VOICE project after the withdrawal of Global Association for People and the Environment (GAPE) from the project.

As a part of strengthening IW's network at the country level, AIPP built its partners with Cambodia Indigenous Women Working Group (CIWWG), Cambodia.

IWP also collaborated with Sangsanngo, a Thai NGO working for the rights of Indigenous youth and LGBTIQ. Through this partnership, Sangsanngo was able to organize mission to meet the Parliament/The Standing Committee on children, young people, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and ethnicity to discuss on impact of COVID-19 crisis among Karen Indigenous community that holding landless/stateless status in Thailand.

## D. Challenges and Opportunities

### D.1. Challenges

The advocacy initiatives and the movement building has paved the way for the Indigenous Women in Asia to start claiming their space and raise collective voices. However, the IWP has experienced profound challenges in the organizational and operational practices in the member organizations.

Summary of the challenges:

#### i) Internal organizational issues

- Weak Governance

Knowledge of good governance varies widely amongst the partners/members with some indicating very little understanding. One IP women representative has complained of founders wishing to "own" the organization for their own purposes.

- Lack of long-term Strategic Planning

Only few organizations have Strategic Plans, which would enable them to have ownership over their vision, mission, values and activities which leaves them vulnerable to the donors/trends and difficult to measure their impact over time.

- Poor Communication

The majority of the IP organizations have little or no access to reliable internet connections. In the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the events have been shifted to virtual platforms. With poor internet connection, it's always challenging for both AIPP and members/partners. Moreover, the low capacity on the communication make it challenging to report and follow up resulting to delays in the implementation and reporting to the donors as well.

- Limited Capacity of the Partner/Member Organizations

Furthermore, the member/partner organizations have limited technical and organizational capacities and only few are able or willing to pay for such capacity building. More than 60% of the member organizations reported that they need the capacity building on gender mainstreaming during the Gender Mainstreaming Survey 2020. IWP has identified the weak capacity in governance, technical areas of development, leadership, management, reporting advocacy and communications among most of the members and partners. Additionally, Technology has been a new and pressing challenge in the IT capacity.

## ii) External organizational issues

- Worsening the situation of the rights of IW and Girls in most of the countries

Despite multiple levels of advocacy and lobby work, the human rights situation of the Indigenous Women and girls have becoming worst in most of the countries in Asia which has becoming constant biggest challenges among the IW. There are increased reporting of violence and violations, rapes and sexual assaults, discriminations and marginalization among others

- Shrinking Space of CSOs

Militarization, Criminalization of IPHRD's, Intimidation and the decreasing space for Indigenous Peoples Rights activism faced by the IPHRD's, particularly Indigenous Women Human Rights Defenders (IWHRDs) for their work, capture of spaces, exclusion of Indigenous Peoples Organizations in the decision-making mechanisms are all the trends that have been directly harmful to the Indigenous Peoples Rights movement.

- Insufficient Resources

Many member/partner organizations have expressed challenges and difficulties in finding sufficient, appropriate and continuous finance/technical resources for their work. They have limited resource mobilization skills and significant dependency on donors, which might imply the lack of financial and organizational sustainability. The challenge of limited pool of qualified human resources in the IP communities has also been a significant barrier.

- Governments' Understanding

The governments in the member countries demonstrate very limited understanding of the Indigenous Peoples' rights and Issues, and their concerns in the international mechanisms and processes such as the SDGs. Moreover, the coordination and communication of IPs, IW with the government have been a slow, multiple layered and a tedious process, which is a constant challenge.

## iii) Moreover, IWP has faced two significant challenges in the AIPP secretariat

- Gender Mainstreaming Capacity

In the Organizational Gender Capacity Assessment in 2020, it was found that only 18% are confident to mainstream gender into their programmes within the secretariat. This is a biggest challenge within the secretariat, which means AIPP needs to strengthen the skills and capacities of the secretariat members at first.

- Inadequate Human Resources

The contribution of IWP in the organization is twofold. In the year 2020, IWP implemented 2 standalone projects (VOICE, Comic Relief) and 1 interproject (SIDA) requiring sufficient time and efforts to coordinate with the donors as well as more than 10 partner organizations in different countries. Although, small scale projects, it goes without saying that the efforts entailed are the same as the large projects. IWP also provides institutional support to the organization with mainstreaming gender and secretarial/administrative support to Network of Indigenous Women in Asia requiring communication/follow up with 14 organizations in Asia. In addition, considering the lack of financial resources IWP will focus on fundraising more in the coming years. There is 1 full time Programme Coordinator and 1 part-time consultant, both working remotely at the moment till the time uncertain. The inadequacy in the human resource has been seen as the challenge in IWP in the earlier years' report as well.

## **D.2. Opportunities**

IWP has identified significant opportunities in the implementation of its activities such as

Summary of the challenges:

### **i) Media Mobilization**

With the growing need of the technology to get informed and get connected, IWP has a vast opportunity to mobilize social, print, audio-video and web media to raise its concerns and issues surrounding the Indigenous Women in Asia. IWP and Communication Programme have been constantly collaborating for the possible interventions with the proper use of the media.

### **ii) Evidence Generation**

IWP works closely with the grassroot Indigenous Women organizations creating an opportunity to generate evidence for stronger movement. Mobilization of NIWA steering committee members and focal persons generate the evidence in the ground, which would be helpful for evidence-based advocacy and lobby at the national, regional and international levels.

### **iii) Development of Gender Indicators**

With gender integration embedded in the AIPP Strategic Plan, there is a vast opportunity to develop gender indicators, which can be built into all AIPP programmes as well as its members/partners programmes.

### **iv) Fundraising**

The partnerships and collective efforts to respond to COVID-19 pandemic impacts especially on women will still be the pressing need for all stakeholders including the global donor community. Aligned with AIPP's approach on strengthening member organizations and fostering linkages, there are opportunities to raise funds for the most vulnerable i.e., the Indigenous Women and girls across Asia.

## v) Networking

IWP has substantial opportunities to network with different actors in the movement and also like-minded organizations, feminist organizations, specific donors among others. The like-minded organizations, decision making bodies and donors etc. will be explored and reached out in the coming year to build solidarity as well as to strengthen the IP women's capacities and movements.

## E. Lessons learnt and Recommendations

- i) Adapting new technologies in the changed context are challenges and opportunities for acquiring new sets of skills and with wider outreach. Moreover, shifting to new normal situation with the use of technologies provide opportunities for more participants to involve in the process remotely with the least financial resources. However, language barriers and limited access and capacities to the technologies are the challenges. Thus, the available resources should be mobilized to build the capacities of the members and partners through continuous capacity building and coaching as appropriate.
- ii) Participatory approach is slow but brings ownership and requires patience: Sufficient time is needed/provided to discuss, understand, digest and internalize the issues. Continuous coaching, coordination and facilitation on the issues are crucial to build the common understanding, owning the processes and strengthening collaboration that will lead towards joint and effective efforts both in terms of issues, process, and outcomes.
- iii) Evidences are crucial for IWHRDs and IPHRDs for efficient and evidence-based advocacy and lobby. IWP and NIWA network would focus on documenting the specific cases of human rights violations among IW and also the good practices of IW, utilizing and amplifying these evidences through the existing media including the social media.

## F. Good practices that need to be continued

### i) Supporting MOs in strengthening organizational capabilities

IWP supported two member organizations (NEFIN/BIPF) to develop their Gender Policy and Gender Audit in 2020. Furthermore, it also supported Indigenous Women's Network of Thailand (IWNT) to develop its own strategic plan. This is a milestone for any organization and more important for the IP organizations to build a solid foundation to their movement. The practice of supporting the member organizations to strengthen their organizational capacities should be continued and replicated in 2021 and beyond.

### ii) Media Mobilization

IWP saw a surge in the reach of its projects and messages to the wider audience in 2020 through social media platforms. The pandemic situation has provided everyone with the opportunity to be more proactive in the social media giving us space for utilizing the technology to raise our voices louder. This practice should be continued more strategically on the regular basis.

### **iii) Inter-Programme Activities**

In 2020, IWP implemented one inter-project with the OSMB unit (under SIDA) and also developed other projects with the HRCPA programme (Gender Audit and MRLG). These inter-programme interventions provided an opportunity to mainstream gender in other programmes and also to learn and experience other programmes' interventions. This practice should be continued coming years as well.

### **iv) Gender Capacity Assessments**

The organizational gender capacity assessment and Gender mainstreaming survey provided IWP with an opportunity to identify the gaps internally within the secretariat as well as in the member/partner organizations. With the findings, IWP has another opportunity to formulate its plans for the coming year to strengthen the secretariat and member/partner organizations. This gender capacity assessment and gender mainstreaming should be continued as the core programme activities under IWP.

## **G. Practices to be minimized**

IWP wishes to minimize the practice of developing non-coherent Annual Workplan and project activities with AIPP's strategic workplan. It is learnt that this practice needs to be discontinued immediately as IWP's impact cannot be well explained or measured unless it aligns with AIPP's Strategic Plan.

## **H. Way Forward**

IWP's programmatic priorities for future will largely depend on the AIPP's Strategy 2021-2024. In order to develop its programmatic priorities, IWP will prioritize the programmes where the greatest need exists depending upon its capacity and resources. However, IWP will continue to work on the following programmatic approaches in 2021:

- Leadership Building
- Research, Documentation and Evidence Generation
- Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns for the Rights of IW
- Networking and Solidarity building including the NIWA interventions.
- Institutional Gender Mainstreaming and Integration

## 4. Regional Capacity Building Programme

### A. Overview of the Programme

In 2020, the programme has been focusing its works to the following:

- Strengthening capacities of Indigenous movements and Indigenous Youth to advance the recognition and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights in Asia. (especially in Malaysia and regional level) under the support of MISEREOR.
- Strengthening leadership of Indigenous Youth and AIPP's member-organizations for the protection of their lands, territories and resources, and revival of traditional government system (Regional) with support of The Christensen Fund (TCF).
- Promoting and protecting the rights, culture, identities, and sustainable resource management system of Indigenous Peoples in Asia. (Thailand, Cambodia, Bangladesh)
- Indigenous Youth COVID-19 Small Grants Program for Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (Nepal, Bangladesh, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines)

MISEREOR, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, TCF, SIDA and UNESCO are the key donors of the Regional Capacity Building Programme in 2020.

### B. Objectives of the Programme

#### B.1. Overview Objective

Strengthening specific capacity of member-organizations and communities for stronger grassroots movements, increased collaboration and sustained advocacy at the local and national levels.

#### B.2. Specific Objective

- To build foundation of leadership through educating the Indigenous youth on the Indigenous values of cooperation, culture, ways of life, history of struggle, community solidarity, collective leadership, and self-governing institutions.
- To build strong cooperation and sense of ownership between AIPP member-organizations and Secretariat to contribute to the overall work of AIPP at the local, regional, and international levels.
- To build stronger institutional capacity and functioning of Indigenous Peoples' organizations with greater accountability towards their constituents and other relevant stakeholders.

## C. Main achievements of the Programme

### C.1. Community Organizing and Leadership Training (COLT)

- i) Established a training centre for community organizing and leadership training at Sabah in Malaysia.
- ii) 10 Indigenous Youth from Malaysia (4 female and 6 male) strengthened their knowledge on community, their livelihood, history, Indigenous values, and tradition through COL training. They are now engaged in the community mobilization at Rompit in Peninsula. For more information, see: <https://aippnet.org/evaluation-of-community-organizing-and-leadership-training-in-malaysia/>
- iii) A total of 205 community peoples (86 male and 119 female) in Malaysia from the community workshops learned on Indigenous customs, land issues, and culture.
- iv) In total 60 Indigenous Youth including male and female strengthened their knowledge on contemporary political situation, Indigenous values and history of Indigenous struggle in Bangladesh from the national level and district level COL trainings.

### C.2. Asia Indigenous Youth Platform

- i) A total of 27 Indigenous entrepreneurs (10 female and 17 male) strengthened skills and knowledge through regional dialogue on entrepreneurship and human rights.
- ii) Governing article of Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP) has been finalized through consultation meeting in Bangkok and online meetings with the members of AIYP and work plan on the six-thematic areas by the youths done.
- iii) 10 MoAs had been done with Indigenous Youths' organizations/groups under the project of Indigenous Youth Covid-19 Response Small Grants.
- iv) Statement on the International Youth day published on the website for wider sharing. See: <https://aippnet.org/statement-on-the-international-youth-day-2020/>
- v) Young Indigenous social entrepreneurs' response to COVID-19 through online raised awareness on Covid-19 pandemic. See: <https://www.facebook.com/Youth-CoLab/videos/958494014667380>
- vi) Voice of Indigenous Youth on World Indigenous Peoples day shared through a video production to raise awareness on the World IPs day. See: <https://www.facebook.com/unescobangkok/videos/300961187989888>
- vii) Four Indigenous Youths from AIYP engaged in the work of Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) to Asia Youth Mapping.
- viii) Youth leadership development at the regional and global levels through playing significant role as speakers on different global webinars:
  - Miss Chandra Tripura attended the webinars on "Strengthening the protection of Indigenous Peoples in Asia" (<https://www.facebook.com/pratima.gurung.3194/posts/3517674311656579>) and "Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders

(IPHRDs) in Asia” ([https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=371334884155027&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=371334884155027&ref=watch_permalink)) as a Speaker.

- Mr. Rajinadai Bariam attended a webinar on “New Solidarity for an Ecological Transition”, organized by Global Social Economic Forum as a Speaker, which was held on 23-24 January 2020 with total participants of 30.
- Mr. Rajiandai Bariam, Ms. Lin Lin Su Hsin, Mr. Ke Jung and Ms. Aisah spoke on the role and engagement in the Indigenous Peoples’ movements at the global level.
- ix) Linkage built with Insight Global Education, Rights Resource Initiatives (RRI), Global Social Economic Forum, UNESCO, UNDP, Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN International).
- x) In total 4 online meetings with the members of AIYP have been carried out at the regional level participated by 15 participants.

### C.3. National Indigenous Youth Networks

- i) Five-years Strategic Plan developed and finalized by CIYA, Cambodia and Ton-kla, Thailand
- ii) Nationalities Youth Forum (NYF), Myanmar finished state level meetings to develop its five-years strategic plan.
- iii) Adhoc committee of Bangladesh Indigenous Youth Platform was formed
- iv) A total of 120 Indigenous Youths gained knowledge on IP rights through youth-elder dialogue in Bangladesh.

### C.4. Indigenous Self-government and Democracy

- i) Finalized the course module “IP Self-government and Democracy.”
- ii) Translation of the Wampis Video “Time is water” in six language:
  - Bengali: <https://youtu.be/cF3NVQVzsGw>
  - Hindi: [https://youtu.be/G7EuUI\\_vnno](https://youtu.be/G7EuUI_vnno)
  - Malay: <https://youtu.be/bueEAIQn8So>
  - Nepalese: <https://youtu.be/l2hp1TI-2w4>
  - Thai: <https://youtu.be/r3JtTnu174M>
  - Tetum: <https://youtu.be/2TA1OgbpmeA>

### C.5. Leadership Integration and Cross-learning Fellowship and Internship Program

- i) Work of BIPF in Bangladesh and Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Association (CIPA) in Cambodia has been strengthened and three years plan done by the fellows. See: <https://aippnet.org/profile-of-nitol-chakma/>

- ii) Youth engagement as fellow in FIAN International. See: <https://aippnet.org/profile-of-rajiandai-bariam/> and successfully finished his work and went back to Naga People Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR) for work.
- iii) Youth Intern has been engaged in the work of Ton-kla after successfully completion of six-months internship.

**a. Data Disaggregation on Capacity Building Activities**

| Area of Capacity   | Community/Country  | Male | Female | Youth | IPwDs | Total |
|--|--|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Community Organizing and Leadership Training at the provincial level   | Peninsula in Malaysia  | 6    | 4      | Yes   |       | 10    |
| Awareness session on Indigenous Custom and Culture at Kg. Sungai Kiol, Jerantut Pahang, Petoh, Kuala Rompin Pahang as part of community organizing work (Community levels) | Peninsula, Sarawak and Sabah   | 86   | 119    | Yes   |       | 205   |
| Community Organizing at the national level in Bangladesh   | Dhaka  | 8    | 7      | Yes   |       | 15    |
| Community Organizing at the district level in Bangladesh   | Sylhet, and Rangamati  | 25   | 20     | Yes   |       | 45    |
| Regional Dialogue on Entrepreneurship and Human Rights for Indigenous Youths entrepreneurs   | Bangkok  | 17   | 9      | Yes   | 1     | 26    |
| Training on media storytelling   | Indonesia, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam | 6    | 4      | Yes   |       | 10    |

**D. Challenges and Recommendations**

**D.1. Challenges**

- Indigenous Youth struggle to identify and integrate long-term and common issues.
- The selection of Indigenous Youth for the regional events was very random instead of targeting.
- Delayed response from the MOs as most of the leaders in MOs are activists.

- Impact of COVID-19 pandemic in the implementation of annual plan.
- Unnecessary role and interference from management hamper or delay implementation of planned activities sometimes.

## **D.2. Recommendations**

- Increase more engagement of Indigenous Youth in the community issue and also in the national and global processes and mechanisms.
- Need to provide more session for Indigenous Youth on envisioning and focusing on past, present and future situations so that they can plan their future clearly which help them to be integrated leaders for IP movements.
- RCB programme should find alternative ways to resolve the existing and potential problems.
- Management engagement in the programme should be more on the strategic issues instead of programme activities.

## **E. Positive Changes as a result of the programme's activities**

- Indigenous Youths' active involvement and contribution in the movement building in Bangladesh and Cambodia strengthened the IP movements in these countries.
- Indigenous Youths' visibility and participation have increased at the national, regional, and global levels.
- Indigenous Youths involved in the planning, selection, implementation, monitoring and reporting in the entire process of COVID-19 response project
- Indigenous Youth work more organized at the country and regional levels except in some countries mainly Laos, Vietnam and India.

## **F. Lessons learnt**

- Engaging Members in AIPP's in five Networks (AIYP, NIWA, IKPA, IVAN, IPHRD) and in the six-programmes' capacity building activities helped them to be leaders with full and clear information for IP rights at the national and regional levels.
- Strategic guidance from the management to the programmes helped the programmes to lead in the right direction instead of unnecessary interfering to the implementation. (Management should oversee the works of the programmes and make sure they are progressing in the right direction.)

**G. Way Forward**

- Foundational leadership training for Cambodia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Nepal and Thailand.
- Self-government and democracy course for India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Malaysia
- Fellowship and internship in Cambodia, Malaysia, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Myanmar and Philippines.
- Leadership camp in Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, India, Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines, Indonesia and Taiwan.
- National youth network in Bangladesh, Taiwan, India, Lao and Vietnam

## 5. Communication Programme

### A. Overview of the Programme Strengths

As a central programme of AIPP with the legacy brand as the Voice of Indigenous Peoples in Asia (IVAN), the work of driving advocacy, capacity building, networking, core and cohesive messaging are much easier for the Communication Programme (CP) since the groundwork and reputation building has already been done.

It is a needs-based programme and in alignment with the overall strategic goals of the organization in providing the skills, platform and amplification of IPs' voices and many intersections within them which are structurally and consistently silenced. The importance and necessity of the CP in furthering the goals of AIPP cannot be stressed enough as it is the most powerful machinery to drive advocacy at the global, regional, national and local levels, independently as well as in synergy with the management and other programmes within AIPP and externally.

- **Weaknesses**

At the structural level, IPs are not in control of their narratives and representation in terms of the 5 principles (Truth and Accuracy, Independence, Fairness and Impartiality, Humanity and Accountability) of journalistic guidelines (Truth and Accuracy, Independence, Fairness and Impartiality, Humanity, Accountability). We are not in decision making and influential positions to control the who, why, how, when and where of media coverage. The ongoing militarisation in areas, where IPs live and lack of representation at the policy making level as well as shrinking civic spaces have been acerbated because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic leading to attacks on free speech and expression, including efforts to mobilize and conduct protests on the ground. Organizationally, we need seamless workflows and system for a cohesive message from AIPP as a whole. Whether these are campaigns and activities on the ground and digital campaigns, better outputs and outcomes are assured when there is sustained synergy and communication between the programmes.

- **Opportunities**

The scale and scope of opportunities for AIPP to leverage are limitless. The CP needs to build long-term properties like media internship programmes through strategic alliances with credible news organizations for long lasting benefits to the targeted groups within the programmes. We have to think outside the box of workshops and trainings, that will drive the high impact we envision for the programme as a vehicle of change. Brand properties like media summits, fellowships and incentive centred strategies and tools for ongoing dialogue that need to be adopted to ensure AIPP enjoys top of the mind recall as do many of the biggest non-profit brands in the world today. AIPP also need to become the ONLY credible source of information to journalists in relation to Indigenous Peoples and their intersectional groups. There is a glaring opportunity for us where we can address the biggest anxiety point for investigative journalists as a credible source of information for them to build their stories on, since they themselves are struggling to publish hard hitting reportage as a result of crackdown of the free press. AIPP must therefore help them write these key pieces as a larger goal of supporting good journalism and enabling journalists speak truth to power.

- **Threats**

Today, AIPP enjoys credibility because it has been built on the solid foundation of strategic alliances at all levels. It plays a centralised role in many of the decision-making processes while being at the heart of campaigning for the rights of IPs in Asia. That could change due to a number of factors such as late adoption of digital strategies and tools since the world is increasingly moving to an online space as a result of the pandemic. Other organisations in the region with a similar focus also pose a constant threat.

The funds from the programme's donors Open Society Foundations (OSF) and SIDA therefore, need to be used judiciously in achieving long term vision of providing skills and opportunities to IP youth in becoming self-sufficient in the use of mass media communications and control of narratives in order to build networks of solidarity and positive change that will ultimately contribute to the self-actualization of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Asia.

## **B. Objectives of the programme**

Communication Programme contributes directly to all of the AIPP's five strategic goals.

**Goal 1:** IPs in Asia are empowered to promote, claim and defend legal recognition of their identities and collective and individual human rights including the right to self-determination.

- i) Objective 1.1: Strengthen specific capacity of member-organizations and communities for stronger grassroots movements, increased collaboration and sustained advocacy at the local and country levels.
  - AIPP member organizations who use communication tools developed by AIPP to strengthen their communication efforts in advocating for IP issues and concerns.
  - Communication resources (stories, photos, etc.) generated by AIPP member organizations and shared to raise awareness and visibility of IPs.
- ii) Objective 1.2: Stronger advocacy at the country level to governments and key development actors to implement and comply with the UNDRIP and other International Human Rights and women's rights standards
  - AIPP has designed and is implementing a communication strategy for Asia
  - AIPP MOs taking up advocacy interventions (submission to govt, documents of HR abuse, running campaigns) using AIPP publications/translated documents
  - Increased users of information management system of AIPP
  - Actions taken on social media on AIPP for issues of IPs
  - Indigenous media articles produced by AIPP trained journalists
  - New mainstream media reports on IP issues as a result of action on IVAN

**Goal 2:** Indigenous movements in Asia are strengthened by building the broadest solidarity & cooperation among IPs, as well as with other social movements of minorities & marginalized groups, towards achieving equality, peace, democracy and justice.

iii) Objective 2.1: Sustain active participation in and broaden and strengthen global, regional, sub-regional and country level networks, platforms and movements, particularly where AIPP has been designated as the focal point, to advance the promotion of equity, equality, peace and democracy.

- AIPP coached Indigenous journalists and activists to produce articles on IPs, their issues and concerns
- Resources mobilized by IVAN as a result of AIPP support
- Communication Focal points identified and functional in all AIPP target countries
- Mainstream and IP journalists published reports, articles, social media posts etc. on IP issues

**Goal 5:** Strengthen AIPP's governance, the secretariat and member organizations.

iv) Objective 5.1.: Sustain strong leadership based on effective performance and strengthen the regional secretariat for programme implementation and ensure the overall welfare and development of the staff and member organizations.

- AIPP MOs contributed to AIPP communication channels like digest, social media, website.

## C. Main achievements of the Programme

### C.1. Advocacy and Networking

#### i) Local and National Levels

- Country-level dialogues between IVAN partners, AIPP MOs, and mainstream media organizations and professional especially in Thailand, Cambodia and Bangladesh.
- **Cambodia:** Conserving Indigenous People's Languages (CIPL) conducted training on scriptwriting, camera and video editing to community journalists on 8-12 June 2020, attended by 14 participants (9 male and 5 female). After OSF agreed to the budget amendment request submitted along with the interim reports in 2019, CIPL used the fund to establish a studio in its office. The studio has been used to record and edit videos campaigning for Indigenous languages, including for providing information on COVID-19 using Indigenous languages.
- **Malaysia:** JOAS could only conduct the workshop during the three-months extension. The workshop, framed as a Training on Photo and Video Documentation, was held in 22-23 September 2020 and attended by 16 participants (10 men, 6 women). The participants were able to create videos with enhanced storytell-

ing capacities essential for journalism. So both technical and editorial skills were enhanced. Despite the three-months extension, JOAS couldn't conduct the media dialogue due to geographical challenge in addition to restrictions due to COVID-19 crisis. JOAS's secretariat is in Sabah, Borneo island while national media outlets are centered in Kuala Lumpur.

- **Philippines:** Katribu Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas (KATRIBU) conducted a two-days' workshop on 6-7 November 2020. The first day was for Indigenous Peoples leaders and human rights defenders, attended by ten people. The second day was for IP leaders and community representatives and Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders Network, which saw thirty participants. A media briefing was organized as part of the second day agenda at the conference room of the Commission on Human Rights. With this flow of event, participants could share consolidated statement of concerns to the media persons invited. As per their annual tradition, KATRIBU had planned to conduct Gawad Agong media awards back-to-back with media dialogues. The government's military approach to the COVID-19 pandemic became the main reason the organization couldn't carry on with the activity.
- **Thailand:** IMN initially planned to conduct the national media dialogue on 4-7 April 2020 but it was later suspended due to COVID-19. The activity was later used for a series of media visits to indigenous communities. IMN carried out media visits to six Indigenous communities, which later resulted 15 articles published by 5 media outlets, including government-owned TV channel Thai PBS.

## ii) Regional Level

Goal: Support IPOs and communities in Southeast Asia in responding to COVID-19 situation.

- **Regional exchange and strategy workshops** for strengthening the IVA Network. This activity was initially planned to be conducted in the first quarter of 2020 but couldn't, due to COVID-19.
  - Resumed activities of IVAN in Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia and Philippines after being barely active since 2014 due to the lack of support it needed to sustain its country-level engagement.
  - Increased engagement of IVAN with Indigenous youth in Thailand and Cambodia.
  - Increased connection, coordination, and collaboration of IVAN with other organizations/networks working on similar interests, and they have facilitated sessions in activities funded by this project.
  - Helped in bridging the communication gap with AIPP Secretariat and member/partner organizations through identification of country-focal person for easier coordination with IVAN's regional coordinator in AIPP Secretariat.

- **Malaysia, PACOS Trust:** The PACOS Trust organized broadcasting trainings for Indigenous youths on running webinars, online discussion and events from the grassroots level. These trainings needed to understand the new norms of communication using online media platforms to prepare for the Sabah State Youth Day Celebration.
  - These two trainings attended by members of Belia JOAS (JOAS's youth wing) and Sabah Indigenous Youth Council. The first one, a training of trainers, was organized on 30 August 2020 and attended by 20 Indigenous Youths (9 male, 11 female). The second one, held on 6 September 2020, was for three Indigenous Youth Councils.
  - Moreover, the funds provided to PACOS Trust also enabled them to improve their digital connection and security by purchasing Internet plan and anti-virus subscription.
  
- **Cambodia, CIPO (Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization):** The COVID-19 situation in Cambodia was used to justify lack of information disseminated to the communities regarding land registration. The registration process, itself, took a relatively short time, started with a meeting presided by the Prime Minister on 3 July 2020 to the notification arrived at the community level in the end of July 2020. Additionally, the Cambodian Government also encouraged the communities that have communal titles to get their land registered as individual land, which is against legal recognition of Indigenous rights. The funds provided has enabled CIPO to mobilize several organizations and networks to consolidate their Royal Government Land Registration Campaign with focus on Mondulakiri province as well as to conduct awareness workshops on the issue.
  
- **Cambodia, CIPL:** In addition to activities planned in the initial phase, CIPL also conducted another training on Basic Journalism for Community Journalists in Phnom Penh, on 21-23 September 2020, co-facilitated with Cambodian Center for Independent Media. The participants were from Rattanakiri, Mondulakiri, Kratie and Banteay Meanchey provinces, representing Kuoy, Charai, Phnong, Tumpuon and Kreung Indigenous groups. The total number of participants was 12 people (8 male, 4 female). The focus of the training was on reporting issues related to land, natural resources, and illegal logging.
  
- **Thailand: Academic Public Forum on Understanding “Indigenous Peoples of Thailand”:** The CP contributed to the academic public forum co-organized by Council of Indigenous Peoples in Thailand (CIPT), Sirindhorn Anthropology Center, Center of Ethnic Studies and Development of Chiang Mai University, Diakonia-Thailand, AIPP, and Thai PBS on 16-17 September 2020. This academic public forum was to contribute to a summary report and analysis of academic data which would lead CIPT to identify and add the number of key persons, networks, and organizations to be engaged with government policy concerning Indigenous Peoples of Thailand.

- **Thailand, TKN Network (Ton-Kla Indigenous Children and Youth Network):** TKN Network organized a three-days meeting on 28-30 August 2020 to design its strategic plan and action plan for the next five years. The meeting was attended by 40 Indigenous children and youth leaders from nine provinces, namely Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Mae Hong Son, Tan, Sakon Nakhon, Samut Sakhon, Ratchaburi, Phetchaburi, and Kanchanaburi. These participants also represented Indigenous media, stateless children, and seasons farming communities. Being included in the strategic and action plan of TKN Network strengthened the network of Indigenous children and youth for learning Indigenous Knowledge from elders, dissemination of information on cultural ways of live, and enhancing the ability to drive the works of TKN Network with pride and peace in multicultural society.
- **Thailand, IMN:** The IMN produced a video on Lisu Center of Indigenous Seed Varieties and their community initiatives in maintaining food security during COVID-19 pandemic. The video was initially showcased during AIPP’s webinars to commemorate the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples. It now can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPoB-pnxqFw>
- **Myanmar, IPP (Indigenous Peoples Partnership):** The IPP is an organization focusing on the Naga Self-Administered Zone, Myanmar. The initial targeted areas were in Tanai Township, Nanyun Township, and Khamti Township. However, due to urgent need from the community, one target area was extended to include Pangsau, a small town near Indo-Myanmar Border because it shares close link with Arunachal Pradesh in India. With the support of this fund, IPP could:
  - Provide essential supplies to local communities, including 15,000 masks, 400 face-shields, 50 personal protective equipment, 20 liters of chemical spray, 80 liters of hand sanitizer, and 10 set of sprayers.
  - Provide ten television sets to 10 communities in Nanyun Township and Pangsau Town. The villages selected are those without access to telephone and internet. The purpose of the television sets is for children to be able to engage with distance learning broadcasted by government-owned television channel after schools were closed due to the second wave of COVID-19.
  - The villages benefited were Tham Yung (87 households - HHs), Nar Lin Ta Gup (52 HHs), Kham Tai (159 HHs), Naung Yan (126 HHs), Kye Tha Rok (94 HHs), Chung Sone (52 HHs), Long Khong (35 HHs), Phar Jet (49 HHs), Cham Kock (63 HHs), Yong Ngwe (40 HHs).
  - Organized four advocacy meetings, respectively in Khamti, Nanyun, Tanai and Pangsau. The main focus of these meetings was to advocate Naga National Party to use the term “Indigenous Peoples” instead of “ethnic”, to include IPs’ issues in their campaign policy, and to apply COVID-19 measurements during their campaigns.
  - Develop its organizational gender policy through a three-days training and a two-day workshop facilitated by a female consultant from Rainfall Gender Study Institute. The gender policy is set to be approved and officially adopted by its next quarterly team meeting on 25 November 2020.

### iii) International Level

- AIPP Secretariat, International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples
  - In January 2020, AIPP put in its annual Strategic Plan a regional event, including Indigenous film festival showcasing the documentary works of IVAN’s members, to celebrate the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples on 9 August. Given the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the plan had been changed, thus, the CP opted for a three-days webinar series on 5-7 August 2020, divided into six sessions under one umbrella theme “Towards self-determination and democratization: Where are we heading?” The flexibility of this fund allowed the programme to purchase the needful to organize these webinars, including of GoToWebinar platform. These webinars joined by a total of 944 attendances (average 157 attendees/session). All recordings are available at AIPP’s website <https://aippnet.org/indigenous-peoples-day-2020/>.
- These webinars were also covered by ASEAN Today
  - (<https://www.aseantoday.com/2020/08/southeast-asias-indigenous-groups-call-for-self-determination-during-covid-19/>) and became Bangkok Post’s Asia Focus cover story for its Monday, 7 September 2020 edition. The latter’s two pages story was covered by an English newspaper for the first time ever in AIPP’s experience. Its online version can be read here: <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1981007/indigenous-voices-raised>. AIPP has published a brief report on the outcome of the three days event in November 2020.
- Global Digital Campaigns
  - A 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence was conducted between 25 November - 10 December 2020. The global digital campaign was one of the most successful in the year as it resulted in massive outreach online.
  - The Land Rights Now campaign also highlighted the plight of IPs in the Nan province of Northern Thailand.
  - AIPP’s celebrations and solidarity messages drew traction on World Human Rights Day.

## C.2. Capacity Building

- i) IPs of Thailand have gained dedicated spaces in two mainstream media in the country. The IMN has the access to submit its reports to Thai PBS’s C-site report application and Citizen News programme as well as Prachathai’s Blogazine. Thai PBS is a government-established television channel while Prachathai is a mainstream news outlet.
- ii) Another media outlet that has also approached AIPP and simultaneously wrote about Indigenous Peoples, specifically in Southeast Asia, was ASEAN Today. Ever since the first communication to AIPP initiated by one of its correspondents in early 2020, we have seen increasing number of their articles highlighting issues concerning IPs of ASEAN.

- iii) Increased engagement of KATRIBU, Philippines with alternative media outlets in the country supporting IPs issues, especially related to IPHRDs.
- iv) E-learning module on citizen journalism, photography, and content production. AIPP initially planned to seek content for the modules from the country-level workshops and trainings. However, partners could only conduct the activities toward the end of project timeline. AIPP later repurposed this activity fund for COVID-19 response.
- v) **AIPP Secretariat, Digital Media Center/soundproof room:** AIPP has been planning to have its own media center to support its in-house campaign production. With the increasing need to interact online either for meetings, trainings, conferences or webinars, AIPP saw the importance to have a soundproof room, one that its eco-friendly office does not accommodate. Therefore, AIPP has built one room in the office premises that will function as a media center and soundproof room. This fund contributed to the building within the limit allowed by the contract with support from other sources.
- vi) Revamping and maintaining of the IVAN website to develop it as an outlet to publish indigenous voices of Southeast Asia. This fund has been used for the purpose of:
  - Purchasing the domain ivanetwork.com and using the service of an external professional web developer. The website, originally for publishing IVAN members' works, is now expanded to publishing the production of AIPP's Digital Media Center. Therefore, for the meantime, the website is closed for public visitors, pending the readiness of AIPP's Digital Media Center and appointment of individual responsible for the media center/website.
  - Revamping AIPP's main website aippnet.org which as heavily damaged by cryptocurrency malwares. Learning from working with external web developer and understanding how AIPP Secretariat works, Communication Programme (who also oversaw the implementation of this project) then developed the aippnet.org by itself.
  - Improving AIPP's digital security through two attempts:
    - Staff capacity building by supporting AIPP's ICT Managing Officer Mr. Hpuji Nawng to attend an online course on Digital Security and Privacy in the Post-COVID-19 Era, organized by Human Rights Campus on 13 May – 9 June 2020. After attending this course, the said staff has conducted an internal workshop on digital security.
    - Protecting AIPP's website from cyber-attacks, including malwares and DDoS, by purchasing and setting-up plug-ins and other tools required.
- vii) Production of practical educational tool for IPHRDs and Indigenous Peoples' organizations (e.g., audio-visual), including key UN mechanism for effective advocacy. For this activity, AIPP with the help of Association Drumbeat Media in producing an educational video on how to participate in Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP). Association Drumbeat Media used the 12th session of EMRIP on 15-19 July 2019 to record the educational video. AIPP is still waiting for Association Drumbeat Media to share the videos that we will upload to our own

website before sharing it to members and partners, but for the meantime, the full video can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/431916712>.

- viii) Developing editorial policy for IVAN website, which will set standards and ethics for anything published through IVAN website. AIPP initially delayed this activity because we wanted to wait for all country workshop to be concluded so we could compose a journalistic stylebook based on inputs from the community representatives on how they wanted to be represented by media. Later on, this budget item was repurposed for COVID-19 responses.
- ix) Country-based IVA Award and publication of awardees' articles. This activity was planned to be conducted in five countries but only two could do it.
  - Cambodia: Instead of individuals, CIPL gave the award to one Indigenous community whose community journalists have shown good media work and practice, of which ceremony was attended by 81 men and 41 women of community members.
  - Philippines: KATRIBU had planned to hold its annual version of IVA Award, named Gawad Agong media awards. A media briefing was held on 14 March 2020 and promotional posters have been prepared, but the organization had to cancel the event because the country was placed under the militarist response to the COVID-19 crisis.
- x) The article by IMN about the Karen traditional village closure ceremony to prevent the spread of COVID-19 has created a ripple effect and later was included in the official message of the UN Secretary General António Guterres for the 2020 International Day of the World's IPs. The article was translated into English from Thai. The statement can be read here: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day/message>.
- xi) AIPP's CP Coordinator managed to implement the project activities including the Response and Communication Network on COVID-19 created by AIPP and its networks and partners. The network has, thus, far published three releases under the umbrella name COVID-19 and Humanity and two video messages from AIPP Secretary General, all by in-house production. These printed and audio-visual publications have become a source of information for Indigenous communities and allies in times when Indigenous communities' voices on COVID-19 being unheard. These publications have been featured on reports by UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, DOCIP (Indigenous Peoples' center for documentation, research, and information), and ASEAN Today (<https://www.aseantoday.com/2020/04/southeast-asias-indigenous-groups-call-for-support-in-their-fight-against-covid-19/>)
- xii) With the COVID-19 fund, AIPP could support communities and organizations other than partners of this project. Additionally, AIPP could, for the first time ever, support Indigenous communities in Myanmar's Naga self-administered zone.

### **C.3. Institutional Strengthening and Movement Building (OSMB) related achievements**

- All communications goals and outcomes are directly aligned with this focus area

### **C.4. Fundraising and New Partnerships**

- No funding proposals & grant applications were sent out to potential donors or records have not been shared with the new programme coordinator.

## **D. Positive Changes as a result of the programme's activities**

- AIPP's advocacy work and the scale and scope of its undertakings in all intersections covering Human Rights, IW, environment and regional capacity building for the future leaderships among indigenous youth was visualized. A key aspect of building the corporate brand identity of an organization depends on the levels of advocacy through media and outreach it undertakes. It is directly proportional to the impact of AIPP's work in all fora as well as how AIPP has created its name for IP solidarity and movements in Asia that was discovered through reputation building among stakeholders, potential donors and building movements and allyship at large. Digital campaign is a universal benchmark for outreach especially since this is one of the biggest means through which many target segments can be reached especially in a post COVID-19 world where physical outreach has diminished significantly in the last year. Despite multiple challenges in 2020, CP was effective in Global digital campaigns such as 16 days Activism, Land Rights Now and World Human Rights Day, which will be continued and expanded in coming years more strategically.

resulted in significant traction in terms of increase in page views, post engagement, organic traffic and new followers on digital properties in December 2020.

- Key metrics for the outreach achieved for the period between 25 November- 31 December when the digital campaigns went live are as follows:
  - Weekly impressions peaked at 48000+ users
  - Number of users reached peaked at 42000+ users
  - Daily reach peaked at 8000+ users
- A detailed aggregated data insight from Facebook has been attached with this report.

## **E. Challenges and Opportunities**

### **E.1. Challenges**

#### **i) Organizations based and Internal challenges**

- COVID-19 has affected the way AIPP works. For instance, the new Communication Programme Coordinator will not be able to join the Secretariat in Chiang Mai,

Thailand because the Thai government will not issue work permits until further notice. Therefore, working remotely is expected, which may affect the internal coordination with colleagues at the Management Team and Finance Unit of AIPP in Chiang Mai.

- The programme, therefore, has to think outside the box and apply design thinking to create sustainable flagship tools and intellectual properties to drive change and achieve the strategic goals for AIPP as well build a brand that is sought after by high value organizations and individuals. The full extent of marketing and communications applied in the for-profit sector needs to be adapted to the non-profit universe.
- As a result of lack of proper understanding and vision and solutions driven approach, other programmes have served as a benchmark and a reference point for the communications programme. That will only result in incorrect assessments at the time of review both of persons and performance as expectations are set as per the other programmes which do not have a lateral component.
- Currently, the programme officer's role and key result areas are aligned a centralized operational role such as administration and finance. IT solutions and support are separate function from communications. This will also result in erroneous reviews since the core expertise of the communications coordinator do not align with IT related matters.
- A federal system of working can compromise the organization at various levels both internally as well as externally if it becomes a feudal system of working between programmes.

## ii) External factors

- The global trends of fascist leadership and amplification of right-wing voices is disastrous for populations that are not dominant. It is particularly devastating for Indigenous Peoples and the many intersections and demographics as we are the most marginalized peoples globally, forced to exist on the margins and now being pushed over the edge with increased violence, misuse of law enforcements, military occupation, invisible in policy design and academic, political, institutional and civic spaces. The ongoing pandemic has posed a huge hindrance in the way we mobilize and occupy spaces to amplify our voices. The crackdown on Human Rights Defenders as well as other dissenters under the guise of the pandemic in terms of lockdowns and increased surveillance has been detrimental to the way we can function.
- In additional, the unpredictability on COVID-19 situation led to change in the modality of implementation of planned activities or even cause delay in the implementation.
- As per the situation analysis that is currently existing and the migration online for future planned activities, structural inequalities will play out in the form of lack of connectivity from remote locations, poor network coverage, lack of basic internet

user knowledge, no scope for innovations due to over reliance on internet access among partner organizations will hinder the implementation of the best laid plans.

- Differences in work culture and styles, linguistic barriers, communication skills, slow adoption of new resources and unwillingness to communicate and comprehend the overall plan and participation in planned activities will pose a hindrance to the goals and objectives outlined in the both the strategic as well as the annual plans.

## E.2. Opportunities

- i) Currently there are no sustainable strategic alliances formed with mainstream and independent media outlets to build vehicles of change such as internship programmes funded by AIPP so that apart from the usual methodologies of designing trainings and workshops, IP youth from within the network can gain unmatched hands on experience of working in a newsroom, to get acclimatized to the fast paced working style, hone sharp editorial judgement and news sense as well as work under extremely short deadlines. This practical experience cannot be replicated by short training sessions and workshops and will instead equip generations of Indigenous journalists and media personnel with both the skills and the opportunities for a career in journalism.
- ii) The lack of a talented pool of Indigenous professionals one can outsource work to means there is an operational struggle as well as compromises in the quality of work produced whether it is audio visual content and design needs. This is great opportunity to amplify the work of these artists and professionals on our platforms and among our network as well as globally, and most importantly provide them paid opportunities which are drying up given that slow economic growth of some member countries has resulted in massive job losses.
- iii) The possibilities of driving the strategic goals through online advocacy and brand building are limitless.

Communications programme unlike others has plenty of scope for proactive strategy and implementation instead of reactive work like disaster and crisis management of other programmes. It's a great opportunity to build lasting systems which successive communications programme coordinators can continue seamlessly to sustain legacy brand extensions for AIPP.

## F. Lessons learnt and Recommendations

- Combining the funding from this project and SIDA for the IVAN's 2019 Regional Gathering turned out to be helpful in putting the regional perspectives into IVAN because AIPP was able to invite and support participants from member organizations in countries other than this project's partners.
- The partner organizations involvement from the proposal development phase is important to build ownership and timely and effective execution of project activities. However, this should not be taken as an assurance that they would be able to implement all the activities within the timeline.

- Some activities may not work well in the country context. For instance, the chance to conduct media dialogue in Cambodia is almost zero.
- Some partner organizations have internal challenges (e.g., human resources, leadership changes) that affected the implementation. Practicing open communication might be able to minimize the negative effects.
- The flexibility to repurpose the activities gave AIPP the ability to support communities and partner organizations that otherwise would be left out due to limitations set by other funding sources.
- In order to submit reports on schedule, AIPP should communicate more intensively with country partners.

## G. Good practices that need to be continued

- Access to management on a regular basis to discuss ideas and proposals.
- Continued responsiveness from the IW and HRCPA programmes.
- Support from finance and admin teams for their amazing help in processing requests.

## H. Practises to be minimized

- Cumbersome and unstructured workflow systems.
- Lack of communication or sporadic communication between CP and other programmes
- Reduction in replication of paperwork.
- Clear identification and delegation of responsibilities.
- Division of work into different production timelines when it is a collaboration between programmes will ensure quality output within the deadline.

## I. Project Management

### I.1. Achievements

- i) Global digital campaigns such as
  - 16 days Activism
  - Land Rights Now
  - World Human Rights Day

resulted in significant traction in terms of increase in page views, post engagement, organic traffic and new followers on digital properties in December 2020.

## I.2. Recommendations

More cohesive and impactful digital campaigns as a result of increased brainstorming between programmes. Forward planning is crucial to ensure the desired goals are achieved.

## J. Way Forward

For all future CP strategies, it is crucial that AIPP follows these global benchmarks for the communication strategies as mapped by the Public information and communications policies and practices in the United Nations system which are enlisted below:

- a. Benchmark 1: Organizational goals and priorities reduction in replication of paperwork.

Public information and communications are embedded in strategic planning at the global, regional and national levels to support the AIPP's strategic goals and priorities defined by MOs, taking into account organizational specificities.

- b. Benchmark 2: Overarching principles of communications.

Public information and communications have formal and inclusive organization wide framework/strategy that cascades down to the communications plans of the programmes and as a whole organization which can be trickled down to the members, partners and networks as appropriate.

- c. Benchmark 3: Access to executive management.

The public information and communications function have sufficient access to executive management to ensure its proper integration in the strategic decision - making processes of the organization.

- d. Benchmark 4: Coherent planning and messaging

Public information and communications activities and products are delivered by and within organization through concerted planning and are based on harmonized

and coherent messaging.

- e. Benchmark 5: Multilingualism

The organization develops multilingual public information and communications activities and products to reach out to local audiences and to maximize the uptake of its messages.

**f. Benchmark 6: Resources**

The organization devotes adequate and sustainable resources to public information and communications, enabling its dedicated corporate entity to coordinate, guide and perform its advisory role at all levels.

**g. Benchmark 7: Internal and external communications**

The organization integrates internal and external communications into a holistic approach, recognizing the role of non-communication staff in public information and communications.

**h. Benchmark 8: Training**

The organization offers regular public information and communications training, in order to refine the competencies of public information and communications officers as well as of other staff communicating on behalf of the organization.

**i. Benchmark 9: Monitoring and oversight**

Public information and communications activities and products are monitored and evaluated on a regular basis to assess their impact on intended audiences. Good practices and lessons learned are identified and help management to shape future public information and communications initiatives of the organization.



## 6. Organizational Strengthening and Movement Building (OSMB) Programme

### A. Overview of the Programme

The OSMB Programme focusses on democratic governance of AIPP and collective leadership of the EC in their engagement with the MOs to promote constitutionalism and thus promote awareness of rights and responsibilities among its constituents. AIPP, as a federation of IPs' movements, sees its strength in fostering unity and solidarity among members and others, including strengthening the organizing capacity of its MOs and awareness of its rights and responsibilities. This awareness and practice of constitutionalism enables them to engage with the States on constitutional and legal matters effectively. Further, sharing of experiences, ideas and engagement in dialogues enable MOs to identify critical issues and processes (those that have potentials to create significant political impact) at the local and country levels and affectively link it to the regional and global advocacy processes. It also sharpens regional strategy and approach for effective intervention on core issues such as IW, land rights, self-determination and self-government, etc.

Over the years, AIPP has been strengthening its local movements processes and planning together with its MOs. The implementation of the current Strategic Plan also focused on consolidating such grassroots movements and processes and put in place mechanism for bottom-up planning to ensure that AIPP contributes to make a difference in the life of Indigenous communities in a significant way.

### B. Objectives of the Programme

During the reporting period (January to December 2020), AIPP successfully accomplished the activities planned for a year led by the Management Team and OSMB programme in cooperation and collaboration with all other programme teams. The implementation and the key achievements of AIPP for a year was also supported by the AIPP EC and Advisory Board mainly fulfilling the following goals:

- AIPP's governance, the secretariat and MOs are strengthened (Goal 1)
- Indigenous movements in Asia are strengthened by building broad solidarity and cooperation among IPs, as well as with other social movements towards achieving equality, peace, democracy and justice (Goal 2)
- IPs in Asia are empowered to promote, claim and defend legal recognition of their identities and collective and individual human rights including the rights to self-determination (Goal 3)
- Full and effective participation of IW and IY as well as vulnerable people, like IPwDs at all levels of decision making are promoted within Indigenous communities and the state (Goal 4)

- Protection of the integrity of the natural environment is promoted and the sustainable resource management systems of IPs including their skills and traditional knowledge for food security, livelihood and protection of biodiversity is enhanced by having full control over their lands, territories and their resources (Goal 5)

Additionally, AIPP actively supported and engaged its MOs and partners in collecting data on the impacts of COVID-19 on IPs, IW, IPwDs and IYs who were directly and indirectly impacted by the pandemic. Besides collecting data, AIPP also supported the communities on the ground through the emergency fund to support its MOs and local partners in 9 countries on COVID-19 relief and responses.

### C. Main achievements of the Programme

For the implementation of planned activities in 2020 under OSMB programme, most of the planned international meetings/workshops/conferences were either cancelled or postponed for later part of the year or were organized in the virtual platforms as the alternate due to COVID-19 pandemic. AIPP has been ensuring the effective engagement of the IPs, IW, IPwDs and IYs in these processes, meetings/workshops/conferences.

Led by the OSMB programme, AIPP provided direct support to 28 IPOs in 8 countries as shown in the table below. These organizations included 15 AIPP’s MOs, 10 local partners, and 3 IPs’ Networks in 2020.<sup>4</sup>

| No. | Country                      | Organizations/network                     |
|-----|------------------------------|---|
| 1   | Bangladesh                   | BIPF*                                     |
| 2   | Cambodia                     | CIPO, CIYA*, HA*, CIWWG                   |
| 3   | Mainland and Northeast India | ANGNA*, Ashray, IWFNEI*, NPMHR* and ISAWN |
| 4   | Indonesia                    | PERAMPUAN AMAN*                           |
| 5   | Malaysia                     | PACOS*                                    |
| 6   | Nepal                        | BTDF, NEFIN*, NIDA*, NIWF*, CEMSOJ        |
| 7   | Philippines                  | Liyang Network, TNDI, BAI                 |
| 8   | Thailand                     | IMPECT*, NIPT*, CESD, IMN, IWNT*, KNCE*   |

Note: \* refers to the AIPP MOs

4 Full names of these organizations are: Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum (BIPF), Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization (CIPO), Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA), Highlander Association (HA), Cambodia Indigenous Women Working Group (CIWWG), Adivasi Navjeevan Gathan Navjyoti Agua (ANGNA), South Bihar Welfare Society for Tribal (Ashray), Indigenous Women Forum of Northeast India (IWFNEI), Naga People Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR), Inter State Adivasi Women’s Network of Mainland India (ISAWN), Association of Indigenous Women of The Archipelago (PERAMPUAN AMAN), Partners of Community Organizations in Sabah (PACOS), Bardiyali Tharu Development Forum (BTDF), Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN), Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association (NIDA), National Indigenous Women’s Federation (NIWF), Community Empowerment and Social Justice (CEMSOJ), TNDI, Bai Indigenous Women’s Network (BAI), Inter-Mountain Peoples for Education and Cultural in Thailand Association (IMPECT), Network of Indigenous People in Thailand (NIPT), Centre for Ethnic Studies and Development (CESD), Indigenous Media Network (IMN), Indigenous Women’s Network of Thailand (IWNT), Karen Network for Cultural and Education (KNCE).

## C.1. Advocacy and Networking

### i) Local and National Levels

- A Critical Reflection and Dialogue on IPs' Struggles & Movements in Malaysia was organized from 3-4 February 2020 in Sabah Malaysia. The meeting was co-organised by PACOS-Trust.

The key objectives of the meeting were to have a critical reflection and dialogue on IPs' struggles & movements in Malaysia; scope and role of AIPP in engaging with these struggles & movements; and discuss on responsibilities and action plan for AIPP MOs, networks, focal points, AIPP Secretariat and EC.

- The participants of assessment meeting with Ms. Jannie Lasimbang, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Law and Native Affairs, Sabah, Malaysia and Former Secretary General of AIPP, was organized with a total of 33 representatives of IPs (16 men and 17 women) from the 3 regions of Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia participated throughout the assessment. Besides the Malaysian participants, representatives from AIPP, Mr. Gam Shimray, the Secretary-General and Ms. Chanda Thapa Magar, the Deputy Secretary-General, also participated and facilitated the assessment.

Key results gained from the assessment are:

- Participants have increased understanding on the objectives and role of AIPP in the struggle of IPs, the types of AIPP MOs and networks, and their strengths and weaknesses.
- Participants reflected on IPs' situation in Malaysia, especially on Indigenous movements, government policies and strategies, as well as issues of conflict and human rights in Malaysia. The participants also discussed key issues that emerged from these reflections and identified recommendations to combat these issues to strengthen IP movements.
- The assessment provided a platform for IP representatives to prioritize relevant agendas, regional and global processes and issues that need support from AIPP.
- Participants have increased understanding on the role and expectations on the EC and secretariat of AIPP and recommendations to improve communication with them.
- The meeting provided a platform for IPOs in Malaysia to share with each other as well as to maintain and strengthen their support and solidarity in the country.

### ii) Regional Level

- The Southeast Asia Sub-regional meeting was co-organized by AIPP and AMAN during 10-13 February 2020 in Bogor, Indonesia. The key objectives of the meeting were to discuss key developments and issues at the local and national levels; and concerns and priorities of members for the programme development of AIPP; strengthen coordination mechanisms and organizational processes between and

among members, the regional secretariat and EC members; and strengthen the solidarity and cooperation of AIPP members, partners and networks in the Southeast Asia Sub-region. Around 30 (16 female and 14 male) participants from 4 countries (Philippines, Indonesia, Timor Leste and Malaysia) were present in the meeting.

Key outcome/decision of the meeting to follow up:

- LTR is the common issue across all the countries in the sub-region.
  - Cross border issues between Philippines/Indonesia and Malaysia.
  - Philippines and Indonesia will focus on existing laws and policy for advocacy and lobby with the government.
  - Need to focus on strengthening the engagement of members and partners in environment processes.
  - IPHRDs in all countries are in threat hence it is recommended to develop regional Safety and Security Policy of AIPP (it's in the drafting process now).
  - Mainstreaming Indigenous economy and entrepreneurship, which is grounded by community initiatives, linking with traditional farming occupations.
  - Asia Indigenous Peoples Network on Energy and Extractive industries (AIPNEE) will be part of AIPP's Regional BHR strategy.
  - Conduct training or learning exchange for paralegal/lawyers.
  - Timor Leste team and AIPP EC/Secretariat will sit together to discuss on the country situation and collaboration.
  - The members were also provided an orientation on organisational policy such as gender policy and anti-corruption policy along with the regional networks of AIPP.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> validation workshop of the course module development on IP self-government and democracy was organized on 14-16 February 2020. The participants attended the validation workshop were from Malaysia, Northeast India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Thailand. Mrs Jannie Lasimbang was also present in the workshop. The course module has been finalized during the workshop. The following decisions had been taken:
    - It has been decided to implement the pilot project in Sabah, Malaysia.
      - A total of 12 participants were confirmed from the four countries - Malaysia, Bangladesh, Northeast India and Nepal.
      - The course has been planned conduct in two phases: First course in Sabah, Malaysia in June 2020 and the follow up course in Chiang Mai, Thailand in October/November 2020 were organized.
      - Dr. Christian Erni, lead researcher has agreed to lead the pilot course with support from one of research team members.

### iii) International Level

- The MOs were empowered and tooled up for advocacy interventions including submission of the statements to the governments, documentation of Human Rights abuses and organizing and running campaigns. The online social movement through different social media platforms were increasing during the report period. There were total of 8 webinars hosted by AIPP in 2020. Out of them Six webinars were organized during 13th International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples led by the OSMB Programme on 5-7 August 2020, under one umbrella theme "Towards self-determination and democratization: Where are we heading?" There were 944 attendances (average 157 attendees/session). All recordings are available at AIPP's [website](#). The webinars were also covered by [ASEAN Today](#) and became Bangkok Post's Asia Focus cover story for its Monday, 7 September 2020 edition. The latter's two pages story was AIPP's first time ever being covered by an English newspaper.

### iv) EC Involvement in Networking and Advocacy

- Mrs. Jacqueline K. Carino, EC Member from the Philippines, attended the Dialogue Meeting on Enhanced Indigenous Peoples' Participation at the United Nations Ecuador, Quito, Latin-America from January 5-10, 2020 organized by Sámi Parliament in Finland, Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA), International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) and AIPP. The main objective of the dialogue was to provide Indigenous representatives and experts the opportunity to consider and consolidate their positions and strategies on the current process and processes to come. The meeting decided to establish a coordinating body of Indigenous representatives from all seven Indigenous regions for consultation and coordination. AIPP is one of the coordinating members.
- Mr. Gam A. Shimray and Mr. Prem Singh Tharu, Environment Programme Officer attended the annual partners meeting of the SSNC and provided AIPP recommendations to the next 5 years (2022-2026) programme strategy and partnership of the SSNC.
- The video interview of Mrs. Jannie Lasimbang, AIPP's first Secretary-General who has served as a State Assistant Minister to her country Malaysia to mark the International Women's Day 2020 on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020. This video was reached to more than 2400 unique users on social media (Facebook, YouTube and Website).
- Ms. Chanda Thapa Magar, Deputy SG of AIPP joined "Asia Women and Rivers Congress" as a keynote speaker, which was organized by Oxfam Australia on 25 September 2020. She shared experiences of IW during COVID-19 period and how and what kind of support to IW's leadership in the time of COVID-19 response and recovery.

- Ms. Chanda Thapa Magar also spoke in during the Asia Round table discussion on “Present and Future of National Action Plans in Asia through the Eyes of Four Business and Human Rights Champion”. The event was organized on the occasion of the 9th Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights on 16-19 November 2020. During the session, Ms. Chanda highlighted the critical situation faced by IPs in Asia due to operation of different businesses supported by companies and government. She emphasized on the implementation of FPIC for any kind of project interventions in the Indigenous communities.

## C.2. Capacity Building

### v) Regional Level

- Conduct regional trainings, workshop, dialogues and forums in relation to IPs’ to LTR and self-determined development in sustainable development, including on peace democratization.
  - The training on UN human rights mechanisms and orientation was organized prior to the Asia Preparatory Meeting. One-Day Orientation Workshop for Asia Preparatory meeting on the UN Mechanisms and Procedure Relating to Indigenous Peoples was held on 1 March 2020 in Bali, Indonesia. Altogether, 20 IPs (12 female and 8 male) including trainer, participated in the workshop.
  - A series of webinar was organized as a follow-up to the report produced from the Asia Consultation of UNSRIP which AIPP co-organized along with the OHCHR and others. Three episodes were conceptualized and two were executed during the year 2020. The first webinar was on “Strengthening the Protection of Indigenous Peoples in Asia on Land rights, Environment and Climate change in the Asian region” on 30 October 2020. There was a total of 277 registered and participated by more than 170 during highest count. The second Webinar was on “Strengthening the Protection of Indigenous Peoples in Asia: Situation of Indigenous human rights defenders in the Asian region and the responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights” on 26th November 2020. There were total of 86 registered participants.

### vi) National and Community Level

- Conduct local and national trainings, dialogues and forums in relation to Indigenous rights to LTR and self-determined development in sustainable development, including on peace and democratization (in collaboration with HRCPA).
- AIPP’s MOs and networks in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, and Thailand organized event on the International Day of Indigenous Peoples within August.
  - » In Bangladesh, BIPF in collaboration with local partners and networks organized series of events for the celebration of IPs’ day from 6-11 August 2020. These included a virtual press conference, a virtual discussion meeting involving IP rights activists, NGOs, CSOs, politicians, academicians, journalists, women, youths

and students' leaders. Further, the video messages from the attendees were broadcasted; and a virtual cultural event was organized with the representatives of different Indigenous communities. In addition to that, BIPF published 150,000 copies of colourful supplement at the daily newspaper on: COVID-19 and Indigenous Peoples Resilience. On 11 August 2020, a webinar on COVID-19 and Indigenous Peoples' rights issues: Bangladesh context was held.

- » In Thailand, the celebration of IPs Day was held on 8-9 August 2020 with the theme on "Sharing Love and Health from the Mountains to the Sea". The events were organized separately in four regions: Northern highlands and Northern lowlands, Northeast, South, and Central/Eastern/Western regions. AIPP's MOs in Thailand also used the existing online social media to broadcast the event to raise awareness. There were approximately more than 1,000 people attended the event but there were only 293 invited participants registered including 159 men and 134 women.
- » CIWWG, CIPO and CIPA organized International Indigenous People's Day on 09 August 2020 with participation of Indigenous representatives from 13 villages and 7 provinces. The theme of the event was Communal land registration for land and social security, poverty reduction, and identity conservation.
- » In India, on 9 August 2020, IPs of Sundargarh district under the leadership of ANGNA participated the World Indigenous People's Day celebration in Jhatainbud, Bargaon. The participants were the IPs from Kutrra and Bargaon block. There were total of 307 participants including 194 male and 113 female.
- Liyang Network and AIPP organized two forums for Open Mic and Online Forum on Land and Environmental Defenders in the Mindanao, Philippines. On 30 August 2020, 15 participants from Mindanao, Luzon and across the United States joined the Open Mic via Zoom. Participants exchanged information about their art accounts and advocacies in support of various human rights causes. While, on 31 August 2030, an online Forum on Land and Environmental Defenders highlighted and urged the public to heighten its vigilance and militancy against abuses.

### **C.3. Institutional Strengthening and Movement Building related achievements**

- vii) OSMB Programme played leading roles on implementing and overseeing the work in strengthening AIPP's governance, the secretariat and Mos (Goal 1).

In 2020, AIPP supported the MOs in Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia and Nepal regarding organizational strengthening and institutional building through country consultations, country-level trainings, country assessments and providing technical support. With the guidance from AIPP, the MOs in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Cambodia, India and Thailand successfully developed their draft country strategy during the last quarter of 2020, which was a part of developing AIPP Strategic Plan, 2021-2024.

- In Thailand, there were three consultation meetings organized in April, September and November in 2020 respectively. The key discussion at those meetings were mainly on the preparation of the 8th General Assembly meeting, the development

of joint strategic plan among AIPP's members, partners, and networks in Thailand, a review of AIPP's constitution and training on the important policies of AIPP. As a result, AIPP's MOs in Thailand had agreed to draft the joint strategy based on the needs of 9 existing Indigenous Related networks<sup>5</sup> in the country in order to develop more strategic and collective movement among the collaborative networks.

- On 27-28 November 2020, the IMPECT and NIPT organized the Rice Harvesting Celebration and Indigenous market fair. This was the first time that the event was jointly organized by the Indigenous organization and the Highland People Discovery Museum under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. There were 10 Indigenous groups under the supervision of the Highland People Discovery Museum are Akha, H'tin, Hmong, Karen, Khamu, Lahu, Lisu, Lawua, Mien and Mlabri. It is estimated that there were total of more than 500 people including target participants, organizers, vendors and walk-in guests joined the events. There are 381 registered participants (143 males and 238 females). More than 20 vendors joined the event which helped to support local vendors to sell their farm products and handmade products of IPs during this economic crisis caused by the pandemic.
- viii) The evaluation of AIPP's Strategic Plan of 2017-2020, the development of new Strategic Plan of 2021-2024 and the review of AIPP's Constitution and Bylaws.

Although travel restriction didn't allow to have physical meetings and in-person consultation for External Evaluation, AIPP reached out to boarder stakeholders including key donors, government and UN agencies, key partners, besides MOs, EC, Foundation/Advisory Board and secretariat team to gather inputs and feedbacks. As a preparation for Strategic Planning Development, AIPP gathered country strategies from 5 countries, which included country priorities, thematic areas and activities. The draft Strategic Plan document also includes key recommendations of External Evaluation Report (2020) and other relevant regional strategies and guidelines of AIPP.

- ix) Most of the regular meetings of AIPP EC and Foundation/Advisory Board were organized virtually in 2020. All those meetings were held frequently since there were many issues to discuss regarding the evaluation of AIPP's Strategic Plan implementation, the development of new Strategic Plan for 2021-2024, the review of AIPP Constitution & Bylaws and the preparation of the 8th General Assembly and election of new EC Members.
- x) As a part of strengthening secretariat's work, AIPP prioritized building capacity and skills of the staff through various in-house and external trainings and workshops. Some includes training on financial management; gender mainstreaming workshop; educational seminars on critical topics such as FPIC, Indigenous Knowledge, political situation in Thailand, field visits, and etc. Some specific training on server management, website management were also pro-

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<sup>5</sup> Nine networks include 1) Health networks 2) Food security networks 3) Highland Environmental management networks (HEM) 4) Indigenous Education Networks (IEN) 5) Indigenous Women Networks 6) Legal status Networks 7) Indigenous children and youth networks 8) Indigenous Human Rights Defenders Networks and 9) Indigenous Media Networks

vided to the communication staff and cyber security training for all staff. The two English language classes on basic and intermediate level were provided to 12 Staff from 3 November 2020. Besides, AIPP led by Environment, Human Rights and OSMB Programme had developed draft Environment, Safety & Security and disability Policy, which will be adopted from 2021 after consultation with the new EC.

- xi)** The course manual on the Realizing Indigenous Peoples' Autonomy and Self-government is drafted January 2020. The manual was written for Indigenous leaders, activists and intellectuals who want to engage in a deeper reflection on IPs' self-determination, autonomy and self-governance.

Three case studies regarding Indigenous Peoples Self Governance and Democracy were developed:

- Customary Self Governance of the Ao Nagas of Nagaland
- Customary Self-government Systems of Tamhang (Thakali) in Thasang, Nepal
- Orangasli Self-governance and Democracy: Looking back & Looking forward

The process is also triggering development of IFIs for improving their engagement with Indigenous communities.

- xii)** Enhancement and implementation of M&E System for AIPP and partners

On finalization of the next Strategic Plan (2021-2024), a new M&E plan including the result-based framework has been planned to be developed with a the existing M&E guide. Currently all programmes have been guided to report on the input, outputs and outcomes as per their annual work plans and budgets and the same is to be reported in their respective programme annual reports.

- xiii)** Conduct EC meeting

The EC always ensured the accountability and transparency with the MOs they represent. The Term of Reference on the roles and responsibilities of EC was revised in 2020 and extended for 6 more months because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the 8th General Assembly of AIPP was postponed to March 2021. The EC members engaged in the country level processes including monitoring visits, which allowed them to have close coordination, collaboration and communication with AIPP's members and familiarize themselves with programme implementations.

The first EC meeting of 2020 held in February 2020 in Bali Indonesia which approved the Annual Plan and budget of AIPP secretariat. Due to the need to discuss on the urgent matters including preparation for the GA, a sum of 6 online meetings of Executive Council were conducted. During those meetings, EC members regularly updated country situation, impact of COVID-19 and their responses. This helped AIPP to develop its strategy and preparing for urgent action.

**xiv)** Support to communication and collaboration work by the EC members

For effective communication and coordination with the members in the respective countries and sub-regions, 10 EC members are provided 200 USD/month as communication allowance to cover their expenses related to communication and other networking expenses. EC members are involved in several advocacy and networking events of AIPP at country, regional and global levels.

**xv)** Organize AIPP Foundation Board Meetings

The AIPP Foundation/Advisory Board Meeting was held on 24 February 2020 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The secretariat shared an update related to programme, finance and management and plan for 2020 including fundraising and advocacy plans. The meeting mainly discussed on Advisory Board members' support and engagement with MOs in Thailand on thematic issues related to land and forest rights. Additionally, board members were requested to engage in developing strategy for Thailand and research and documentation on specific thematic areas. The meeting also decided to involve Board members in the AIPP's election process during the GA.

**xvi)** 8th AIPP General Assembly

The 8th General Assembly of AIPP was planned to be conducted in September 2020 and some preliminary preparation work was also done. But, due to COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on traveling, the meeting could not be organized. After series of consultations with EC, Foundation/Advisory Board, MOs, AIPP decided to conduct GA in two phases in 2021. The first phase of meeting to be organized virtually to elect the new Executive Council of AIPP and adopt Strategic Plan (2021-2024). As a part of the second phase, a physical gathering has targeted to adopt the key policies, guidelines, strategies including discussion on amendment and review of AIPP's Constitution will happen.

**xvii)** AIPP Strategic Plan Evaluation, 2020

AIPP Strategic Plan evaluation had conducted by the consultants from July 2020. The external evaluation is aimed to 1) assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, responsiveness, sustainability and impacts of the strategies and programme of AIPP based on its strategic programme from 2017-2020, 2) review the institutional capacity of AIPP, particularly its strategies and activities for organizational strengthening and movement building as a regional federation of indigenous organizations, including the implementation of the Gender Policy of AIPP, and 3) identify and analyze the challenges and lessons learned and provide key recommendations that can guide AIPP in improving and defining its institutional strategies and programme development, including its strategic programme 2021-2024.

The key findings of the external evaluation are as follows:

- Programme Development and Implementation
- Institutional capacity of AIPP
- Recommendations

**xviii)** Publication and distribution of AIPP Annual report, brochure, including printing of AIPP manuals and policies (in collaboration with CP)

- HerStory 4 which contained the stories of 15 extraordinary Indigenous Women or women groups.
- AIPP's Annual report of 2017 and 2018 were produced in 2020. The e-books are available and 50 hard copies of each report will be printed by Tamalpais fund in early 2021.
- For the Annual report of 2019, through Tamalpais fund, AIPP hired a consultant to help reviewing and editing the report.

**xix)** Country-level consultation and strategy workshop

There are three consultation meetings were conducted in Thailand to discuss 8th General Assembly meeting, the development of joint strategic plan among AIPP's members, partners, and networks in Thailand, a review of AIPP's constitution and training on the important policies of AIPP.

As a result of those consultation meetings, AIPP's members and partners in Thailand agreed to draft the joint strategy of 2021 – 2024 based on the issues from 9 networks including 1) Health networks 2) Food security networks 3) Highland environmental management networks 4) Indigenous Education Networks 5) Indigenous Women Networks 6) Legal status Networks 7) Indigenous children and youth networks 8) Indigenous Human Rights Defenders Networks and 9) Indigenous Media Networks. And consider the common issues from previous consultation meeting are 1) Land rights which includes both Northern and Southern land 2) Natural resources management and Indigenous knowledge 3) Recognition of Indigenous Peoples, including legal status issues 4) Gender equality 5) SDGs target area. The draft joint strategic plan will be presented in the 8th General Assembly meeting that will happen in 2021.

**xx)** Support members/partners on emergency disaster management and rehabilitation plan implementation

The outbreak of global COVID-19 pandemic from the beginning of 2020 impacted the livelihoods of the Indigenous Peoples in Asia. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, AIPP has been closely monitoring the situation and progress in its member countries and the partners. Most of the partner organizations requested to provide immediate relief and emergency support to affected communities, including producing relevant IEC materials for information sharing and advocacy purposes etc. Members and networks in some countries (Bangladesh, Nepal, Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia) have already formed their network and started their actions to cope with this outbreak.

AIPP was also not prepared for such situations and didn't have prepared large funding to meet the requests from members on the ground. However, the SIDA fund was instrumental in providing immediate relief support to the members and partner organizations as urgent response. With the fund support from SIDA, AIPP provide emergency relief support to the affected Indigenous communities in Thailand, India, Nepal, and Malaysia.

The key initiatives taken by AIPP at the regional level as the COVID-19 responses:

- Regular monitoring the situation of Indigenous Peoples in Asian countries through regular communication with the partner and member organizations, conducting survey, organizing online meeting, collecting information from secondary sources;
- Conducted two surveys among AIPP members and networks to understand the ground situation and prepare plan and strategies for support;
- Set up a separate page on its website (<https://aippnet.org/covid-19-response/>) for regular sharing of information and updates.
- Producing regular flash report with an update from the communities;
- Provided emergency relief support to COVID-19, forest fire and measles affected communities in Bangladesh, India, Cambodia, Philippines, Malaysia, Nepal and Thailand.
- Fund raising for further support (AIPP has been receiving number of requests from members and partners for relief support and have very limited fund). This includes funds received from PAWANKA amounting to 30,000 USD to support partners in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the fund support from SIDA and PAWANKA, AIPP provided emergency relief support to the affected Indigenous communities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, and Thailand.

**D. Publication and education materials of OSMB**

| No. | Title   |
|-----|---|
| 1   | AIPP Annual Report 2017   |
| 2   | AIPP Annual Report 2018   |
| 3   | AIPP Annual Report 2019   |
| 4   | AIPP’s Strategic 2017-2020 Evaluation Report                              |
| 5   | Draft AIPP Strategic Plan 2021-2024                                       |
| 6   | Flash Update on COVID-19 and Humanity: IPs in Asia.                       |
| 7   | Flash update on COVID-19: lessons learned from Indigenous Peoples in Asia |
| 8   | Flash Update on COVID-19 and Humanity: Human Rights in Peril              |
| 9   | Can you add the hyperlink of the Meghalaya case here                      |
| 10  | Politics of Resistance: Indigenous Peoples and the Nepali state           |

## E. Challenges and Opportunities

### E.1. Challenges

- i) Outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic since the beginning of 2020 affected the implementation of planned activities in 2020. The spread of disease and prolonged locked down situation in many of the countries have also led to further uncertainty in the planning for the rest of the year.
- ii) Due to lack of sufficient funding for emergency response, AIPP was unable to provide necessary support on time.
- iii) Delay in submission of reports from partners and members.
- iv) Unable to conduct monitoring visit to MOs/partners in the respective countries.
- v) Adapting to a new situation takes time, because mostly we are only able to do online meetings which need more technical capacity, access with good internet, equipment and etc.
- vi) Communication challenges between partners and AIPP, this is because some of the partner countries were totally lockdown and adopting work from home is quite challenging due to limited access of equipment and internet.
- vii) The amended laws and policies in many states have increased human rights violations. In the name of developments and exclusion of Indigenous Peoples to access fundamental human rights such as education, health, livelihood etc.
- viii) Insufficient resources: Many member/partner organizations have expressed challenges and difficulties in finding sufficient, appropriate and continuous finance/technical resources for their work. They have limited resource mobilization skills and significant dependency on donors, which might imply the lack of financial and organizational sustainability. The challenge of limited pool of qualified human resources in the IP communities has also been a significant barrier.

### E.2. New Initiatives to address the challenges within the Programmes

- i) Meeting with UNFAO on 17 February 2020 for potential collaboration.
- ii) Meeting with OSF/UNDP/UNESCO in Bangkok on 25 February 2020 for potential collaboration in coming days.

## F. Lessons learnt and Recommendations

- i) Preparatory meetings such as Asia Preparatory meeting and meeting for UNFCCC, CBD, UNEP, GEF are very much beneficial for members and partners to gain understanding and information on the processes and mechanisms for their effective participation and engagements in regional and global advocacy platforms and networking. More specific trainings need to be provided for new participants.

- ii)** Regular and frequent Inter-programme meetings and programme team meetings are useful in strengthening the collaboration and communication.
- iii)** Targeted and long-term capacity and leadership building programmes and activities need to be promoted and implemented for generating and sustaining capable human resource pool at both sectoral and thematic areas.
- iv)** Emergency fund needs to be allocated to deal with any possible emergency situations.
- v)** To strengthen the capacity of the Management it is important to streamline the program oversight and guideline for internal meetings and setting up clear responsibilities of the Management Team.
- vi)** Streamlining of programme/thematic areas, mechanisms and processes is a must to minimize the workload and generate quality outcome.
- vii)** Regular meetings for strengthening inter-program collaboration and mainstreaming cross-cutting issues, including strategic discussions with the Management.
- viii)** Develop long term staff capacity development programme and plan
- ix)** Prioritize to raise long term fundraising specially for core funding and the development Fund raising strategy to be in line with the new organizational Strategic Plan 2021-2024
- x)** Systematize and streamline the virtual platforms to organize regional and country level activities under the SIDA project.
- xi)** Regularly communicate with members and adjust the plans on time to ensure the implementation of the activities.
- xii)** Revive and strengthen Indigenous self-government and democracy through implementation of the course module “IP self-government and democracy”.
- xiii)** For urgent response to cases, there is needed to move towards simpler process including lesser paperwork.
- xiv)** There is important to monitor the impact of our submissions/advocacies more systematically.
- xv)** Improvement of M&E system and result-based framework is needed for effective AIPP’s Strategic plan and programme implementation monitoring and also conduct of SIDA project Evaluation.

## G. Project management

Some important recommendations from SIDA Audit and Management responses in 2020 are:

| No. | Key recommendations  | Progress   |
|-----|--|--|
| 1   | AIPP should implement a risk mapping for the organization as a whole, including Financial risk   | Revision of the financial manual is on process                                   |
| 2   | Lack of adequate oversight on partner activities and financial management  | AIPP will finalize the M&E Guideline in 2020.                                    |
| 3   | Weaknesses in M&E of partner activities  | The monitoring plans and follow up actions taken up more systematically in 2020. |
| 4   | Recommended to carry out due diligence for all partners to indicate registration status, address, contact numbers, management team, set of accounts when relevant. | Members needs assessment and financial risk assessment is on the process         |

The image features a large, faint watermark of the AIPPP logo in the background. The logo consists of a stylized, interlocking geometric pattern of lines and shapes, with the acronym 'AIPPP' written in a bold, sans-serif font below it. The watermark is centered and semi-transparent, allowing the underlying text to be visible.

**SECRETARIAT MANAGEMENT**

**AIPPP**

## Achievements:

- Regular monthly secretariat meeting and Unit Head meeting.
- Support received from the management team members in developing new proposals, reporting and management response to audit findings.
- Inter-programme has strengthened – Celebration of the International Day of Forests together with the Community Programme; Submission of inputs to the CBD Secretariat together with Indigenous Women Programme; Co-organizing digital safety and security training for IPHRDs together with Human Rights Programme, Inter-programme with Human Rights Programme for the development of safety and security policy for the IPHRDS.
- Monthly sharing of the work plan and progress report by programmes and management has improved
- Good collaboration between the Environment Programme and admin colleagues in making AIPP environmentally healthy (tree; plants; flowers)
- Financial Colleagues: Engage throughout the process of proposal preparation particularly on finance.

## Recommendations:

- The management was too flexible in 2020 particularly in extending the deadlines for annual report submission again and again. This should be minimized particularly in the case of submission of annual reports.
- More thought leadership multimedia content from Gam since his posts do exceedingly well on social media and go a long way in terms of online reputation management. Also, more from AIPP's EC members.

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# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020**

# AIPPP

## Auditor's Report

### To The Committee of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation

#### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation** which comprise the statement of financial position as at **December 31, 2020** and the related statement of activities for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation** as at **December 31, 2020** and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Thai Financial Reporting Standards for Non-Publicly Accountable Entities.

#### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Thai Standards on Auditing. 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 Foundation in accordance with Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the Federation of Accounting Professions that is relevant to my audit of the financial statements 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.

#### Other Matter

The financial statement of **Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation** for the year ended **December 31, 2019** were audited by another auditor who expressed an unqualified opinion on those statements on August 19, 2020.

#### Responsibility of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Thai Financial Reporting Standards for Non-Publicly Accountable Entities 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 statements, management is responsible for assessing the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's Responsibility 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 Thai Standards on Auditing 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 Thai Standards on Auditing, 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 Foundation'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 Foundation'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 statements 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 Foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with management 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. Piyalug Leesin  
Registration Number 3755

NB Accounting – Audit Services Co., Ltd.  
Chiang Mai, Thailand  
August 31, 2021

## Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation

### Statement of Financial Position As at December 31, 2020

| <u>Assets</u>                             |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|
|   | Baht          |               |
|   | 2020          | 2019          |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                     |               |               |
| Cash and cash equivalents                 | 71,067,990.69 | 32,592,799.93 |
| Advance to partners                       | 13,180,577.39 | 12,310,644.43 |
| Accrued Grant Received                    | 162,922.82    | 2,252,302.60  |
| Other receivable                          | 380,535.00    | -             |
| Other current asset                       | 21,536.13     | 421,385.62    |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>               | 84,813,562.03 | 47,577,132.58 |
| <b>Non-Current Asset</b>                  |               |               |
| Property, plant and equipment-net         | 10,792,791.13 | 10,805,149.29 |
| <b>Total Non-Current Asset</b>            | 10,792,791.13 | 10,805,149.29 |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                       | 95,606,353.16 | 58,382,281.87 |
| <u>Liabilities and Fund Balance</u>       |               |               |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>                |               |               |
| Grant received in advance                 | 74,865,677.86 | 36,983,172.85 |
| Payable to partners                       | 1,631,204.07  | 2,120,525.22  |
| Accrued program expenses                  | 1,438,296.61  | 1,823,370.74  |
| Other paybles and accrued expenses        | 844,769.17    | 78,340.28     |
| Other current liabilities                 | 723,753.31    | 1,774,451.11  |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>          | 79,503,701.02 | 42,779,860.20 |
| <b>Fund Balance</b>                       |               |               |
| Initial Fund                              | 200,000.00    | 200,000.00    |
| Fund balance                              |               |               |
| Reserve Fund                              | 1,768,261.86  | -             |
| Fund balance - ending                     | 14,134,390.28 | 15,402,421.67 |
| <b>Total Fund Balance</b>                 | 16,102,652.14 | 15,602,421.67 |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b> | 95,606,353.16 | 58,382,281.87 |

## Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation

### Statement of Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

|   | Baht                  |                      |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
|   | 2020                  | 2019                 |
| <b>Revenues</b>                             |                       |                      |
| Grant received for project activities       | 72,386,996.17         | 87,192,123.14        |
| Grant contribution for administration       | 39,213.58             | 3,981,504.48         |
| Other income                                | 107,572.31            | 130,056.76           |
| Total Revenues                              | <u>72,533,782.06</u>  | <u>91,303,684.38</u> |
| <b>Expenses</b>                             |                       |                      |
| Project activities expense                  | 72,387,435.76         | 87,211,630.87        |
| Administration expense                      | 2,315,268.09          | 2,013,399.80         |
| Depreciation of assets and assets write-off | 787,781.06            | 690,687.99           |
| Total Expenses                              | <u>75,490,484.91</u>  | <u>89,915,718.66</u> |
| <b>Revenues Over (Under) Expenses</b>       | <u>(2,956,702.85)</u> | <u>1,387,965.72</u>  |

## Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation

### Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

|   | Baht                        |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|   | 2020                        | 2019                        |
| <b>Cash Flows from Operation Activities</b>                 |                             |                             |
| Cash received   |                             |                             |
| Cash receipts from Donors                                   | 111,044,471.22              | 66,909,148.55               |
| Cash receipts from other contributions                      | -                           | 2,823,785.74                |
| Cash receipts from bank interest                            | 58,890.08                   | 125,056.76                  |
| Cash receipts from other income                             | 48,682.23                   | 5,000.00                    |
| Cash paid   |                             |                             |
| Cash payments for project and support services              | (74,445,114.63)             | (90,239,336.17)             |
| <b>Net cash received from operating activities</b>          | <u>36,706,928.90</u>        | <u>(20,376,345.12)</u>      |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>                 |                             |                             |
| Cash paid   |                             |                             |
| Cash payment for purchase assets                            | -                           | (472,080.00)                |
| <b>Net cash received from investing activities</b>          | <u>-</u>                    | <u>(472,080.00)</u>         |
| <b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>                 |                             |                             |
| Cash received   |                             |                             |
| Cash receipts for reserved fund                             | 1,768,261.86                | -                           |
| <b>Net cash received from financing activities</b>          | <u>1,768,261.86</u>         | <u>-</u>                    |
| <b>Net increase (Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b> | 38,475,190.76               | (20,848,425.12)             |
| <b>Cash Balance at the Beginning of Year</b>                | 32,592,799.93               | 53,441,225.05               |
| <b>Cash Balance at the End of Year</b>                      | <u><u>71,067,990.69</u></u> | <u><u>32,592,799.93</u></u> |

## Statement of Changes in Accumulated Fund

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

|  | Unit : Baht       |                     |                      |                      |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|  | Initial Fund      | Reserve Fund        | Fund Balance         | Total                |
| <b>Balance as at<br/>December 31, 2018</b> | 200,000.00        | -                   | 14,014,455.95        | 14,214,455.95        |
| Revenues over<br>(under)<br>expenses 2019  | -                 | -                   | 1,387,965.72         | 1,387,965.72         |
| <b>Balance as at<br/>December 31, 2019</b> | 200,000.00        | -                   | 15,402,421.67        | 15,602,421.67        |
| Adjustment                                 | -                 | -                   | 1,688,671.46         | 1,688,671.46         |
| Revenues over<br>(under)<br>expenses 2020  | -                 | -                   | (2,956,702.85)       | (2,956,702.85)       |
| Reserve Fund                               | -                 | 1,768,261.86        | -                    | 1,768,261.86         |
| <b>Balance as at<br/>December 31, 2020</b> | <u>200,000.00</u> | <u>1,768,261.86</u> | <u>14,134,390.28</u> | <u>16,102,652.14</u> |

**Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation**  
**Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2020**

**These financial statements had been authorized for issue by Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation's Committee.**

**1. Organization and Activities**

**1.1 Legal Status and Address**

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation has legally registered with the Ministry of Interior in accordance with the Civil and Commercial Laws in April 19, 2002. The office is located at 112 Moo 1, Tumbol San Phranet, Amphur San Sai, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

**1.2 Nature of Foundation's Activities**

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation's activities are as follows :

- To share ideas and experiences as well as skills and knowledge of the original inhabitants.
- To promote and provide peace and harmony among the original inhabitants.
- To promote and provide support to the original inhabitants in developing (conserving) their culture and tradition.
- To perform activities for public benefit or work with charity organizations for public benefit.
- Not associated with any political action.
- Not sought for any profit or other benefits.

**1.3 Corporate Income Tax**

Since Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation is not prescribed as public charity organization or institution under a Notification of the Ministry of Finance in accordance with the Revenue Code Section 47(7)(b), it is subject to pay corporate income tax on gross income before the deduction of any expenses as follows:

**1.3.1** Income that are subject to corporate income tax are:

- Income from business e.g. rental income
- Income from selling of goods and/or service
- Income from capital gain e.g. interest income, dividend income, etc.

**1.1.2** Income that are exempt from corporate income tax are:

- Registration and subscription fees
- Money or property received as donation or gifts

**2. Basis of Financial Statement Preparation**

**2.1** The Foundation prepares its statutory financial statements in Thai Baht and in Thai language in conformity with Thai Financial Reporting Standards for Non-Publicly

Accountable Entities announced by The Federation of Accounting Professions during 2011.

For the convenience of the readers, the English translation of financial statements have been prepared from the statutory Thai language financial statements which are issued for domestic reporting purposes.

2.2 The financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis except where otherwise disclosed in the accounting policies.

### 3. **Significant Accounting Policies**

The Significant accounting policies for preparation of these financial statements are summarized below.

#### 3.1 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand, cash at banks, and all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less and not subject to withdrawal restrictions.

#### 3.2 Depreciation, Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is charged to current year activities and is calculated by reference to their costs on a straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

|                                    |    |       |
|------------------------------------|----|-------|
| Building and Building Improvements | 20 | years |
| Furniture & Office Equipment       | 5  | years |

No depreciation has been provided for land.

#### 3.3 Revenues and Expenses Recognition

Revenue and expenses are recognized as follows:

- Grant received for project activities on a cost reimbursement program is recognized as revenues when direct contract costs are incurred
- In case grant received exceed the revenues recognized for the year, the net balance is presented as grant received in advance and vice versa, the net balance is presented as accrued grant income.

□ Other revenues and expenses are recognized on accrual basis.

#### 3.4 Income Tax

Income tax is provided for in the account based on gross income before deduction of any expenses as determined in accordance with Revenue Code described in 1.3

The logo for AIPPP (Association of International Professional Photographers) is a stylized, interlocking geometric design. It features a central diamond shape formed by overlapping lines, with four smaller diamond shapes at the corners, each containing a smaller diamond. The entire logo is rendered in a dark purple color.

**CONCLUSION**

**AIPPP**

## CONCLUSION

AIPP's work in 2020 has been as vibrant as it has been challenging. Due to the advent of COVID-19 pandemic, which has wreaked havoc in so many of the communities in AIPP's member countries. While our partners in their respective countries have contributed enormously to the relief work for these vulnerable communities, the Secretariat in Thailand has been largely immobilized due to lockdown measures, an almost universal response to tackle the pandemic by the governments.

Despite all physical constraints, under the leadership of the management and six programme teams, we have made many achievements at all levels. We continue to advocate for promoting and defending Indigenous Peoples' rights and articulating issues of relevance to Indigenous Peoples at national, regional and international arenas. Meanwhile our teams are seen at the most grounded locations where our incredibly brave Indigenous Women, Men and Youths whose lives and livelihoods have been threatened by various reasons. The changes and challenges have also compelled us to swiftly shift our working scope as well as styles, adjusting to the "New Normal".

In rapid response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have established an interim COVID-19 response team dealing with pandemic related information collection and dissemination as well as seeking opportunities for relief in affected Indigenous communities. Under the work of the team in collaboration with all programmes, we have managed to publish 4 flash news updates specifically on COVID-19 related issue; attended webinars on the topics of the impacts of the pandemic with one of them acknowledging IW's in COVID-19 and the SDGs who are, in their collective actions, at the frontline fighting against the turmoil of the pandemic and the aggregated suppression raging at them; through the collaboration of AIYP, AIPP & UNESCO Bangkok, 11 projects have been supported through the Small Grant Program providing sustainable solutions for indigenous communities throughout South & Southeast Asia.

We continue to uphold the rights of the IPs and advocate the role of the IPs as the guardians of our lands and resources through successfully hosted events (webinars, campaigns, panel discussions etc.) and written evidence (statements, briefing notes etc.) such as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Land Rights Now Global Campaign, International Day of Forests, International Human Rights Day as enabling condition in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and so on.

The year 2020 has forced us to see that we need to change our relationship with nature. Indigenous Peoples preserve our forests with our Indigenous knowledge. Indigenous Peoples are the experts that should be listened to, to prevent future pandemics and climate change. Indigenous Peoples have also been fighting tirelessly for the recognition of our rights over our land, territories and resources. We firmly believe that legal recognition of customary land rights and governance systems is the only way of respecting the crucial role and contributions of Indigenous Peoples for sustaining the remaining forests, ecosystems, biodiversity and protecting Indigenous knowledge, technologies and cultural practices for next generations.

Specifically on Indigenous Women (IW) and Youths, we have pledged 16 days of Activism against Gender based Violence among our members, partners, Indigenous sisters and brothers and proud to be associated with Indigenous Women's organizations and the movements they are building in their communities. We have also published HerStory 4 which brings the unique voices of our incredible Indigenous sisters in which we share tales of strength and survival so that each new generation may learn from our foremothers and sisters and continue to be the voice of the silenced. IW's voices have been strengthened and promulgated through webinars and discussions at high level platforms. Our representatives who have spoken in these events echoed the realities on the ground and their actions are inspiring reflections of what can be done. Their shared aspiration for equality and dignity for all needs the support of everyone. After all, the world will only be truly free if women and Indigenous Peoples are equal to the rest of society and cultural diversity is respected and promoted. For the development of the Indigenous Youths, we have hosted consultation meetings on AIYP following its inception in 2019 as well as conducted a regional dialogue on Indigenous Youths Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

This report marks the fourth and final annual report for our Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 and we have working on the Strategic Plan framework for the coming 4 years. COVID-19 could be an opportunity that enable us to realize the ever-changing environment, create response mechanisms and set an exciting new strategic direction in the way forward.

It is more pressing and relevant than ever that AIPP, as the regional umbrella organization of Indigenous Peoples' movements in Asia, should unite our members and partners in response to the volatile contexts as it is expected that the trend of Indigenous Peoples rights violations is expected to worsen as the government continues to centralize and consolidate its powers and pursues its neoliberal economic development program. It is to our deep understanding that, to tackle these crises, we must be recognized as the rightful owners and stewards of our lands. Indigenous Peoples play a key role in keeping the world's ecosystems in balance. They are the guiding lights that can help save nature and prevent future pandemics.

For the forthcoming year, our development, networking, capacity building and advocacy work will transfer the power, funds and resources to the affected Indigenous Peoples through our ongoing programs and projects so they can uphold their deserved rights, and ensure our work recognizes and promotes self-determination. Together with our MOs and partners, staff and donors, we have made a huge positive impact across the region this year and we will continue our fights for the IPs for as long as necessary.

## 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 capacity building, 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 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
- 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

ANNUAL REPORT

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### Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

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