

**ILGA Asia
Annual Report
2018**

**ILGA
ASIA**

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Asian Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA)

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Executive Summary

In 2018, ILGA Asia continued to achieved the goals that it had set out in the Strategic Plan of 2017-2019, with progress made in all 5 strategic objectives.

Through 2 trainings on human rights mechanisms, ILGA Asia reached 41 LGBTI activists coming from 19 countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. The trainings not only provided these activists with skills and knowledge to work with various United Nations bodies and UN mechanisms, but also created an opportunity for them to share best practices on policy advocacy, social campaigning, and sustaining the LGBTI movement with each other. For the first time ever, ILGA Asia focused on the health and wellbeing of LGBTI human rights defenders, providing the space for self-care during all of our events, and skills to improve their wellbeing. The skills are necessary for them to continue their advocacy and sustain the movement in their local community.

Organizations that support and empower parents and families of LGBTI persons have grown in Asian countries over the past decade. These organizations have challenged the false narrative that parents who love their children must protect their children from an LGBTI lifestyle, even if it means disowning them. The Regional Meeting on Empowerment and Capacity Development for Parents of LGBTI Persons in Asia was convened in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in August, 2018 with participation of 26 participants from 9 countries, including 10 mothers who have LGBTI children. This first regional meeting of its kind found that stigma against LGBTI persons affected their family, who bore the same fear and shame imposed upon them by society. Education was the first step to overcome this stigma, although accessing to information in local language was a big barrier. Parents who overcame their own stigma became some of the most powerful champions of LGBTI people and had a huge impact on the movement. The meeting was successful in sharing best practices among parental groups on how to best advocate for the rights of LGBTI persons through policy advocacy and social campaigning.

A new Communications officer joined ILGA Asia team in late 2018 to management social media channels, develop original contents, and liaise with international and regional media outlets.

One of the most significant steps of ILGA Asia in 2018 was to successfully register as a non-profit foundation in Thailand. The legal entity will

allow ILGA Asia to develop its own financial capacity, ease the operation of its office in Thailand, and work more effectively with its members and partners in the region and around the world. The Executive Board elected in December 2017 in Phnom Penh met two times in March and December 2018 to strengthen teamwork and governance, develop the Standing Orders, review the implementation of Strategic Plan, and finalize plan for the 9th ILGA Asia Conference in Seoul.

Strengthened capacity of LGBTI civil society on working with human rights mechanisms

Provision of training on human rights mechanisms and documentation of human rights violations to LGBTI civil society

ILGA Asia organized 2 trainings on human rights mechanisms for LGBTI community in 2018. The first training took place in May 2018 in Seoul, South Korea to bring in 22 LGBTI activists from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, and Taiwan. The second training took place in Bangkok, Thailand, inviting 20 participants from 12 countries: Nepal, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Bhutan, Sri Lanka. Drawing the experience and feedbacks from the previous trainings, these trainings emphasized in supporting national advocacy strategy using various tools including different UN mechanisms, lobbying with the government, social campaigning, etc. Moreover, the training provided space for LGBTI activists to discuss their wellbeing, share healthful skills and practices, and create a plan for self-care. These wellbeing workshops significantly helped participants relaxed amidst the intense training that lasted 8-9 hours every day. Everyone remained engaged and curious until the very last day.

The training gathered a diverse group of people, including all the countries in East Asia and most countries in South and Southeast Asia, those who identify as cisgender, transgender, non-binary, intersex, heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, pansexual, and polysexual. A number of trainers and speakers were invited to the trainings: Coalition for Sexual & Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR), Chinese Lala Alliance, Gay Japan News, ILGA World, Innovation for Change, The Korean Society of Law and Policy on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGILAW), The Mongolian LGBT Center, Rainbow Action Korea, Seoul National University, Manushya Foundation, Fortify Rights, Sangsan Anakot Yachawon, COC Netherlands, Taiwan Alliance to Promote Civil Partnership Rights, and Taiwan Tongzhi Hotline Association. One training also included a field trip to meet with Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Adequate Housing who was visiting South Korea at the National Human Rights Commission, immediately after the workshop on Special Procedures.

Despite the lengthy workshops, all participants found the whole experience rewarding and very well-balanced with a variety of topics intertwining, while keeping the main goal of supporting the national advocacy strategy. Some wished for shorter meeting time, but unlike the first training, there was no request for more in-depth knowledge into each UN mechanism.

Organized 2 trainings on Human Rights Mechanism for LGBTI Community

By the end of 2018, ILGA Asia had organized a total of 5 trainings on human rights mechanisms for more than 100 people. Moving forward, ILGA Asia will remain in touch with the participants of these trainings, connect them to opportunity to engage with international human rights mechanisms, and provide technical assistance to them.



Increased understanding and acceptance of the public on SOGIESC issues through key social influencers such as parents and family of LGBTI people and religious leaders

Regional meeting for parents of LGBTI people in Asia

The Regional Meeting on Empowerment and Capacity Development for Parents of LGBTI+ Persons in Asia was convened in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on August 24-25, 2018. This meeting was co-hosted by the ICS Center in Vietnam, ILGA Asia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Faculty of Learning Sciences and Education, Thammasat University. The objectives were to:

- Understand the role and impact of parents of LGBTI+ persons in Asian society and their impact on the perception of the general public
- Share and document best practices for engaging parents of LGBTI+ persons in advocacy and developing their capacity across Asia
- Create and maintain a regional community of knowledge sharing and learning among organizations that work with parents of LGBTI+ persons
- Strengthen the solidarity among parents of LGBTI+ persons in Asia

The meeting was conducted in English with simultaneous translation into selected national languages. Twenty-six participants from nine countries (Cambodia, China, India, Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Taiwan, and Vietnam) attended the meeting. Participants included ten mothers, nine LGBTI+ community activists involved in organizing parental groups, and seven representatives of organizations that co-hosted the conference.

The meeting highlighted the need to provide support to parents of LGBTI+ persons, because LGBTI+ related stigma affects parents both directly and indirectly. Direct impact from stigma include parents being blamed by their neighbors, partners and extended family members for having an LGBTI+ child. Indirect impact of stigma was experienced through fears for the child's future or the family's public image, as well as self-blame for the child being LGBTI+. Many parents initially attempted to convert their child to a cisgender heterosexual, for example by forcing them to get married or to join the military. Some parents were able to accept their child sooner through their love for the child, but others described only having reached a turning point after a crisis situation ensued, for example when their child was contemplating suicide. Many parents have been helped by LGBTI+ groups or by groups focusing specifically on bringing together parents of LGBTI+ individuals; others became founding members of such groups.

The Regional Meeting on Empowerment and Capacity Development for Parents of LGBTI+ Persons in Asia was convened in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

The discussion paper on the topic has been published: <https://www.ilgaasia.org/publications/discussion-paper-on-empowerment-and-capacity-development-for-parents-of-lgbti-persons-in-asia>



Database for strategic information and knowledge sharing and building

The current official website ilgaasia.org was launched in 2018 with the purpose of featuring official announcements, statements and updates from ILGA Asia. The website also helped ILGA Asia better reach the public through our contact information. Although being simple, the current website served the needs of ILGA Asia for the time being.

ILGA Asia continued working with other partners to respond to critical events to the LGBTI community. For one instance, ILGA Asia and ASEAN SOGIE Caucus, APCOM, Asia Pacific Transgender Network released a statement in response to the vote of the United Nations General Assembly deciding the continuation of the mandate by the Independent Expert in SOGI. ILGA Asia also joined another statement to protect the rights and health of all Indonesian citizens by supporting efforts to end the growing mistreatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in Indonesia. These joint statements were widely shared with our members in Asia and partners.

ILGA Asia completed the recruitment of the second staff in August. The new Communications and Membership Officer joined the office in Bangkok starting in October 2018. The new staff is in charge of managing social media channels, generating contents for the website, and increasing the membership for ILGA in Asia. The new officer launched a monthly newsletter called Rainbow News as a part of ILGA Asia's strategy to build a hub for information on LGBTI issues around Asia. It collects all the news from the Internet about LGBTI events taking place in Asia, updates from members and partner organizations, and shares it with the global LGBTI community. Rainbow News was read by approximately 200 people monthly and increased by month. With this newsletter, ILGA Asia will help community be aware of the situation we are in, and bring more Asian visibility to the global LGBTI community.

The trans representative at ILGA Asia created a mailing list for transgender community. This is a support group for transgender, non-binary and gender questioning persons which provides a safe space, peer support, community connection and information sharing to bring the whole community together in one single platform. The mailing list by the end of 2018 had 31 members.

The official
website
launched

—
Joint
statements
published

—
New monthly
newsletter
and new
mailing list for
Transgender
community



Strengthened capacity of ILGA Asia Executive Board and Staff

The Executive Board elected in December 2017 had their first board meeting in March 2018 in Bangkok, using the revenues from the ILGA Asia Conference in Cambodia. The board used the opportunity to strengthen teamwork, review governance and decision making process against the Governance Manual, review the activities in 2017, and approve the work plan and budget for 2018. The next board meeting was scheduled for November 2018.

Despite the lack of funding for face-to-face meeting, the Executive Board and its Coordinator managed to convene an online meeting every 2-3 weeks. These online meetings had played a critical role in ensuring the smooth implementation of the strategic plan, rapid response to current events, and marked transformation of ILGA Asia within the past year. All of these meetings came with the minutes, which help ILGA Asia to build up its institutional knowledge in the long run.

ILGA Asia closed its office in Hong Kong in 2017 after opening a new office in Bangkok, Thailand at the decision of the Executive Board in 2016. ILGA Asia was in the process of being registered as a Foreign Private Organization under the Regulations of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare on the Entry of Foreign Private Organizations to Operate in Thailand. Under this law, three persons of Thai nationality had been selected by the then Executive Board to act as the legal representative for the new entity on the voluntary basis. The process had been taking longer than originally expected due to the macro impact of political events having taken place in Thailand. ILGA Asia was officially registered as a Thai non-profit foundation by June 2018.

One staff member was maintained throughout 2017 and 2019. The Communication Officer and Finance Officer were never recruited as planned, but the Communication Officer will be recruited in 2018.

ILGA Asia Executive Board had a second meeting from 15-17 December 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. The board reviewed the new bylaws of ILGA Asia's incorporation in Thailand (under the name ILGA Foundation) to understand the legal context ILGA Asia is operating in. The Board reviewed the bylaws of ILGA Foundation, together with the Thai board, to understand the role and responsibility of each party to the new foundation, and their responsibility to the Government of Thailand. The board also reviewed the annual activity report for 2018, annual budget for 2018, and approved the work plan and budget for 2019.

Two board meetings held in March and October in Bangkok, Thailand

Adoption of ILGA Asia' Standing Orders was also discussed. The new Standing Orders were drafted and would be presented to ILGA Asia Conference in South Korea for adoption.

ILGA Asia Governance Manual was also reviewed and amended to make operation more effective within the organization.



Solidarity of LGBTI communities in Asia through networking and collaboration

Support to strengthen the intersex movement in Asia

Although previously there had been a few meetings for intersex activists in Asia, including the meetings at the ILGA Asia conferences in Taipei 2015 and Phnom Penh 2017, there was never a space for intersex people to identify the challenges and strategize for their future advocacy. The Asia Intersex Forum taking place in Bangkok, Thailand from February 8th-11th, 2018 provided that space to 14 intersex activists coming from 10 different countries across Asia, namely Hong Kong – China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam, being the largest gathering of intersex activists in the region.

During the 4-day meeting, the intersex activists strengthened their capacity on human rights advocacy for intersex issues, fundraising for their movement, and sustaining their activism with wellbeing practices through peer learning from other intersex and LGBT activists. More importantly, they were there to connect with each other and discuss how to build an Asian intersex human rights movement together. The result was the launch of a movement represented by Intersex Asia, the first regional network of Asian human-rights-based intersex organisations and intersex activists working for the rights of intersex people and communities.

A public statement and a media statement were published immediately after the meeting to announce the creation of the new network. Fourteen intersex activists formed a team and divided labours and responsibilities among each other to move their work plan forward, with the establishment of different working groups and media representatives. The statements were quickly translated into different languages, eg. Chinese and Tamil, and distributed by members in their respective country. The event was reported in local media featuring members of Intersex Asia from that country, bringing intersex issues into the national and regional focus.

Aside all the media hypes, the Asia Intersex Forum gave the intersex activists moments to be in touch with themselves through self-care activities, which were important for those working under pressure and discrimination.

The forum recommended the next regional meeting for intersex people to engage more activists from East and West Asia, although identifying them may be a challenge. Another regional meeting should be convened in the next 12-24 months to follow up on the action plan and identify next steps and opportunities for advocacy. The budget should be increased to

include more intersex activists' participation in the future meetings.

**The first
Intersex
Forum took
place
in Bangkok,
Thailand**



Executive Board Members

Co-chairs



Manisha Dhakal
Blue Diamond Society
(Nepal)
South Asian representative



Mani AQ
Have Only Positive Expectations
(Pakistan)
Trans representative



Shadi Amin
6 Rang
(Iran)
West Asian representative



Charbel Maydaa
MOSAIC
(Lebanon)
West Asian representative



Saw Zin Maung Soe
C.A.N-Myanmar
(Myanmar)
Southeast Asian representative



Shakhawat Hossain
Boys of Bangladesh
(Bangladesh)
South Asian representative



Hiker Chiu
OII-Chinese
(Taiwan)
East Asian representative



Minhee Ryu
SOGILAW
(South Korea)
East Asian representative



Linh Ngo
ICS Center
(Viet Nam)
Southeast Asian representative



Gopi Shankar Madurai
Srishti Madurai
(India)
Intersex representative

Staff Members

As of 31 December 2018



Lieu Anh Vu
Regional Coordinator



Dowha Kim
Communications and
Membership Officer

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2018

	Note	(Unit: Baht)
<u>ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash equivalents	4	606,792.57
Other receivables	5	229,790.94
Other current assets	6	<u>20,336.92</u>
Total current assets		<u>856,920.43</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment		
Intangible assets	7	<u>36,181.98</u>
Total non-current assets		<u>37,181.98</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>893,102.41</u></u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND</u>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Other payables	8	<u>424,482.02</u>
Total current liabilities		<u>424,482.02</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>424,482.02</u>
FUND		
Initial Fund		200,000.00
Accumulated Revenues Over (Under)		
Expenses		<u>268,620.39</u>
TOTAL FUND		<u>468,620.39</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND		<u><u>893,102.41</u></u>

Statement of Income and Expenses

From June 21, 2018
to the period ending December 31, 2018

	Note	(Unit: Baht)
REVENUE		
Grants	9	1,844,981.57
Interest		267.61
Other		0.53
TOTAL REVENUE		<u>1,845,249.71</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Activities Expenses	10	878,617.95
Administrative expenses	11	697,984.61
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		<u>1,576,602.56</u>
REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES BEFORE TAX		
Corporate Income Tax		26.76
REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES-NET		<u><u>268,620.39</u></u>

Statement of Changes in Capital Fund

From June 21, 2018
to the period ending December 31, 2018

Note

(Unit: Baht)

FUND

Initial Fund		200,000.00
Revenue Over (Under) Expenses June 21, 2018	-	
<u>Plus</u> Revenue Over (Under) Expenses	<u>268,620.39</u>	<u>268,620.39</u>
Accumulated Revenue Over (Under) Expenses December 31, 2018		<u><u>468,620.39</u></u>

Sponsors and Partners



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