
**ILGA Asia
Annual Report
2019**



ILGA Asia Annual Report 2019

Proposed Citation:

ILGA Asia. ILGA Asia Annual Report 2019. 2020, Bangkok, Thailand.

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

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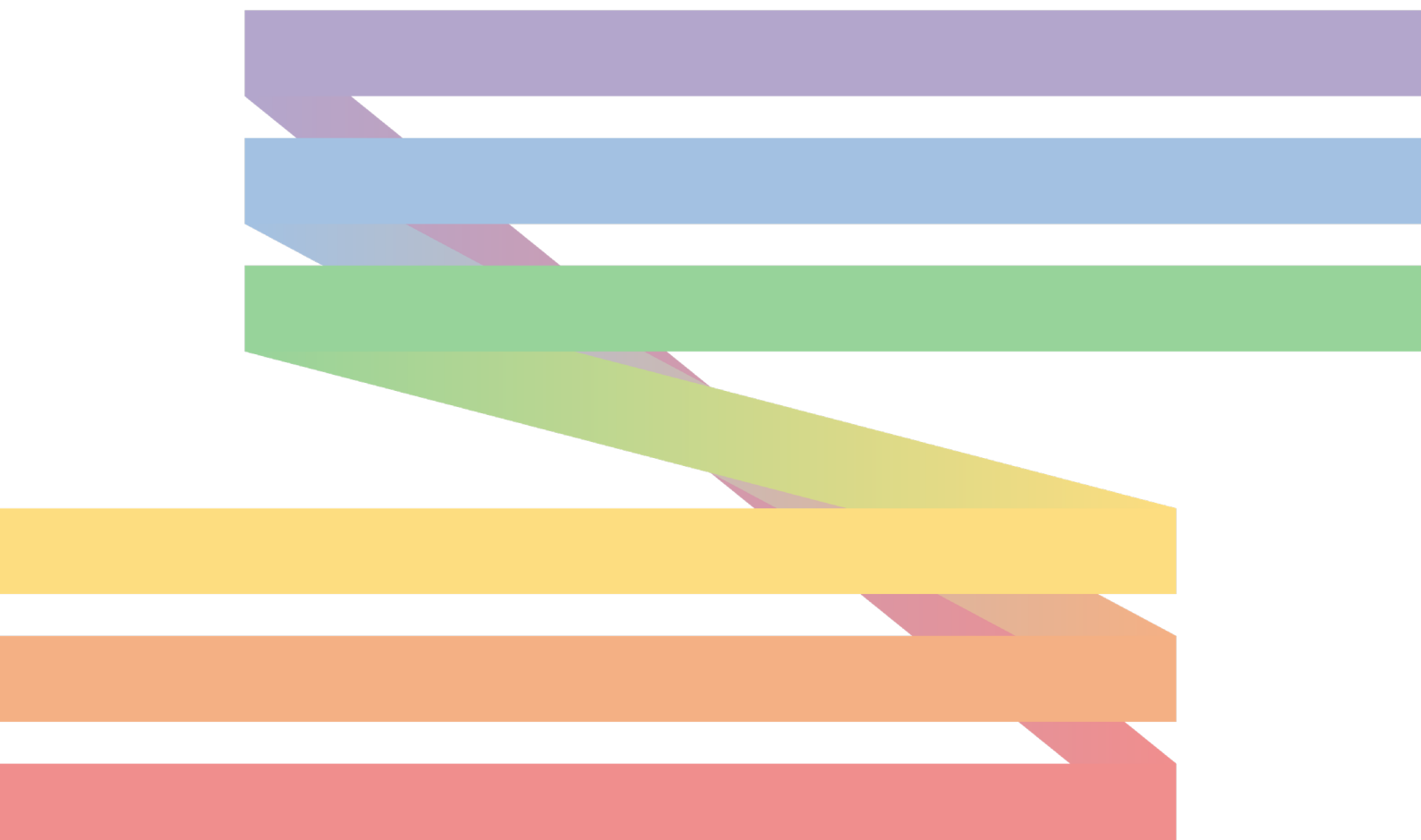
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Executive Summary

ILGA Asia stepped into the final year to implement its Strategic Plan in 2019, to fulfill all the commitments made to memberships prior to 2017 and reach all the expected targets. The five strategic objectives have been accomplished through organizing a series of meetings, training sessions, conference, media campaigns and communication initiatives in collaboration with LGBTI civil society in the region and around the world, other human rights organizations and allies. Our cross-cutting collaboration was also in line with the spirit of the 8th ILGA Asia Conference - our largest event of the year and the largest conference ILGA Asia had organized: Building Alliances to Strengthen the Movement, emphasizing the importance of reaching out to other social movements and sectors in promoting gender and sexual diversity and achieving social changes. Not only the number and the scale of activities were increasing, they were done with a clearer purpose in mind, and with a result-oriented approach. This Annual Report focuses on the five objectives in ILGA Asia's Strategic Plan.

Recognizing the importance of working with international human rights instruments at the United Nations in the absence of pan-Asian mechanisms in the region, ILGA Asia continued to support LGBTI human rights defenders to strengthen their international advocacy at the UN. Apart from various workshops on using UN mechanisms, ranging from 1 day to 1 week, ILGA Asia created opportunities for LGBTI activists to meet with the Independent Expert on SOGI, the first time for many of them, to understand more about his mandate and how they can work with the mandate to protect and promote the human rights of LGBTI community in their respective country.

Engagement with parents of LGBTI people and religious leaders, those identified as key social influencers in Asian societies, was sustained through workshops on "coming out stories of parents of LGBTI people," "strategies in the face of increasing fundamentalism and conservative influence," and "experiences, needs and questions around queer Muslim movement building in Asia." These workshops were highly appreciated by participants, with the one on "coming out stories" being ILGA Asia's most favorite workshop in 2019.

ILGA Asia coordinated the flow of information regarding LGBTI issues in the region through the use of newsletters and social media channels, notably Facebook. The monthly Rainbow News was by far the only of its kind to compile LGBTI news in Asia, being anticipated by many activists not only within the region, but also those around the world who want to learn more about Asia.

The Executive Board of ILGA Asia met twice in 2019, one in August, prior to the ILGA Asia Conference, and once in November, after the new board was elected. Various policies at ILGA Asia were being reviewed and newly developed, including the policy on sexual harassment, equal opportunities, representation of ILGA Asia at events, and greening policy. At the same time, capacity of the staff and board members were

strengthened through a joint workshop on governance co-organized with Pan Africa ILGA, the first time the two regions of ILGA collaborating with each other. Number of staff members in the office was increased to a total of 3 persons.

Finally, ILGA Asia promoted regional solidarity and collaboration among LGBTI communities and with allies from other social movements through organizing the 8th ILGA Asia Conference and the Asian Caucus as a part of the ILGA World Conference. These events were not only important for member organizations to raise their voice and concerns, to influence regional strategies and priorities, but also for the wider LGBTI community in Asia to learn about the most current issues. Participation from ILGA Asia memberships had never been so active. Also in 2019, for the first time, member organizations were presented with ILGA Asia's audited financial statement with the opening of new bank accounts in 2018. The conference adopted its own Standing Orders to be used in place of the current ILGA World Standing Orders.

Strategic objective 1

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

Increasing access of the LGBTI community to international human rights mechanisms continued to be ILGA Asia's top priority in 2019. While there is no full-time staff dedicated to UN mechanisms and advocacy, ILGA Asia sought technical support and worked closely with ILGA World and other national, regional and international partners, including ASEAN SOGIE Caucus, Beyond Border, Sangsan Anakot Yachawon, Human Rights Space, COC Netherlands, to provide training opportunities to members and LGBTI activists in the region. In particular, on August 20, 2019, at the ILGA Asia Conference, ILGA World supported a 1-day workshop on the Universal Periodic Review, Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures, engagement with the UN Human Rights Council and the mandate of the Independent Expert on SOGI, as well as introducing different research works such as the Trans Legal Mapping Research and the State-Sponsored Homophobia Report.

The Independent Expert on SOGIE was invited to meet with LGBTI civil society in Asia, the first time he had made such a trip to the region ever since he had assumed his mandate. For three days, the Independent Expert held 20 private meetings with more than 60 individuals, including LGBTI activists coming from 19 Asian countries, many of them had just met him for the first time ever, representatives from the Korean government and the National Human Rights Commission, and the media. For the Independent Expert, that was also his first time to have direct interaction with LGBTI activists from countries like Myanmar and Iran, and to have a deeper understanding of their issues to support his mandate. His visit to Asia created a stronger foundation for future engagement between him and LGBTI civil society, human rights defenders, and governments in the region.

A training for LGBTI trainers in Southeast Asia on using international human rights mechanisms was organized between 2-6 December 2019 in Hanoi, Vietnam for 15 LGBTI human rights defenders coming from Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. As with other human rights training we did with our partners in the past, it was an opportunity to strengthen their skills and knowledge in using and integrating UN mechanisms in their advocacy strategy, and sharing best practices as well as challenges and concerns in their work. Moreover, the training also strengthened their skill to develop and facilitate training on using UN mechanisms for their own community. While the training was targeting those with prior experience in working with UN mechanisms, the organizing team specifically focused on bringing in trans people, intersex people and LBQ women in order to better document human rights violations against these groups, and bring UN mechanisms closer to their community in the future. For the first time, ILGA Asia and partners employed a participatory method in developing facilitating the training program, in which all participants were given the opportunity to modify the training program and take turns to train the rest of the group. This approach increased participants' ownership over the program and helped them become more active and critical in finding the best methodology for their own training sessions.

Other topics such as safety and security concerns when engaging with UN mechanisms and human rights activism, wellbeing of human rights defenders were also discussed.

Moving forward, ILGA Asia will continue to support LGBTI trainers to deliver trainings to LGBTI community in their country, while expanding the training program to South Asia and other regions. ILGA Asia will collaborate with other members, partners in the human rights field to provide technical support to LGBTI people who need it.



Strategic objective 2

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

Support from parents of LGBTI people has been at the center of ILGA Asia's advocacy, because of their strong influence over public opinion in Asian society, as well as the important role they play in the lives of LGBTI individuals. In August 2019, ILGA Asia Conference held a workshop on coming out stories of parents of LGBTI people with speakers coming from the Korean Parents of Sexual Minority (PFLAG Korea) and Sweekar the Rainbow Parents India. All the parents were from different places. One of them had a kid who was a transgender woman, and other two people's children were identified as gay. Every mother in this panel was working as activists in their country after seeing their children go through pain. Aruna Desai, founder of Sweekar, shared how she started her own research about sexual orientation and started to support the child after he came out. She then worked with other children and parents to create Sweekar. One Korean mother, after learning about her kid's gender identity, went to visit her in the US, and eventually accepted her kid as a daughter. Overtime, she finally took the courage to introduce her daughter to everyone and came to see a smile on her daughter's face afterwards. Although these parents are different, yet they not only stand up for their children but also for the children of others. Acceptance starts from home. When parents accept their children, society will eventually accept them too.

ILGA Asia started engaging with the faith communities and leaders has also been at the core of ILGA Asia's work in the region, given the strong impact religions have over society and the lives of LGBTI people, with or without faith. ILGA Asia and the Global Interfaith Network had been building collaboration for more than 2 years now, starting with the organization of the interfaith pre-conference of the 7th ILGA Asia Conference in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in December 2017, and then through discussions on common projects, regarding the diversity of family models in Asia. Another meeting on interfaith was convened in Seoul, South Korea in 2019 aimed at developing strategies to build our movement in the face of increasing fundamentalism and conservative influence in political spaces around the region. Religious groups who promote messages based on conservative, static and ill-thought notions of traditions and the family have been encroaching on the civil space of LGBTI communities across Asia and beyond, which led to human rights mechanisms being undermined from within and the lives of minority groups increasingly at risk. In addition, it is increasingly clear that in many local and national contexts, religious leaders wield some degree of political power, and that faith and tradition are frequently used to scapegoat sexual and gender minorities as a means of bolstering the aims of political actors. At the 1-day meeting, GIN supported the development of a strategy to reclaim faith and religion in local, regional and international political spaces, and capacitated members of sexual and gender minority populations to engage with religious leaders in their contexts to reduce levels of religious intolerance and scapegoating. Human Rights Campaign was also joining in facilitating the discussion on how to engage people with faith as allies in advancing LGBTI equality.

During the same conference, Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies

and the Queer Muslim Project organized an interactive workshop on experiences, needs and questions around queer Muslim movement building in Asia. The Queer Muslim Project ran a story-telling campaign through Instagram, as a means to document lived realities and amplify new narratives online, as well as a means to counter homophobia, Islamophobia and hate speech online. CSBR explored digital storytelling as a participatory method of documenting narratives and advancing community led mobilization, through a screenings of “Stories of Faith & Sexuality”, made by advocates in Indonesia. The discussion afterwards touched on questions of solidarity, allies, how to engage the media, how to do outreach, critical approaches to development aid and funding, and the importance of shedding binary and narrow notions of authenticity and Muslim identity.

ILGA Asia started a new collaboration with Salzburg Global Seminar to organize the next Salzburg Global LGBT Forum in 2019, which was eventually postponed to 2020. Starting with a core meeting in Salzburg in July 2020, the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum will begin an exploration of the ways in which religious and cultural leaders, congregations, and LGBT people can together form inclusive and supportive communities of understanding. The meeting will convene approximately 30 to 40 LGBTI human rights defenders and cultural and religious leaders across faiths, geographies, and generations to explore faith in LGBT communities, and LGBTI people in faith communities. By bridging these divides, the workshop will provide insights about the relationships between religious leaders and their communities and about how change happens in different contexts and faiths.



Strategic objective 3

Database for strategic information and knowledge sharing and building

ILGA Asia used the website as the main platform to share the contents and announcement and archive them. Contents posted on the website were statements, mailing for the conference, job openings, election result and report/paper. After these contents were posted on the website, it was shared on the social media platforms to promote the contents. There were 8,987 unique visitors to the website which is 98.8% higher than the year before. Pageviews also increased to 18,144 which is 112.2% higher than last year.

To communicate with member organizations and the public, ILGA Asia used various methods and platforms. One of them is the newsletter. In 2019, ILGA Asia has distributed 9 monthly newsletters consisting of a collection of LGBTI+ related news articles from Asia. Also, we communicated with the member organisation via the newsletter when we have to update them regarding the conference.

When it comes to social media, ILGA Asia manages four different social media channels in a different manner. The main channel has been a Facebook Page, which we usually shared LGBTI related news from the Asian region. We shared about 3 news articles every day so the Facebook page can be utilized as a database for information and knowledge sharing and building on SOGIESC issues in Asia. In 2019, we posted 637 posts and it reached 2,238 people on average. Likes of the Facebook page also grew 135% (3,163 likes to 4,271 likes).

Facebook Group has constantly grown with the Facebook Page. This platform is used as an online place where the friends, supporters and members of ILGA Asia can share their news and activities. This Facebook Group will be a key online channel for discussion and sharing information and knowledge.

ILGA Asia used Twitter and Instagram to promote ILGA Asia's activities and raise awareness of ILGA Asia. These channels were also platforms to share our announcements and statements. In 2019, followers of Twitter account also jumped from 656 followers to 1,422 followers. Followers of ILGA Asia's Instagram account also dramatically rose from 151 to 519 people. ILGA Asia also participated in #RenewIESOGI campaign with sharing campaign videos and posts on social media this year.



30/12/2019

We share LGBTI+ related news from Asia at the end of every month.

*You can click the [underlined text](#) and it is linked to the related article.

Share the sign-up URL of the newsletter  <http://eepurl.com/dpmivT>

Good Bye 2019 and Happy New Year 🎉

Strategic objective 4

Strengthened capacity of ILGA Asia Executive Board and Staff

The Executive Board of ILGA Asia met twice in 2019, one in August, prior to the ILGA Asia Conference, and once in November, after the new board was elected. The board meeting on August 18 was mainly to update on the ILGA Asia Conference and address urgent issues that needed the board's attention. The then Executive Board also reflected on their term before the new election. This year, the conference elected 7 new members to the Executive Board, while 4 members of the previous board remained. For the first time, the youth representative was elected. The Constitution was amended to include a new position in the board: bisexual representative.

The new Executive Board convened their first meeting in November in Hanoi, Vietnam. As Vietnam would be the host country of the next ILGA Asia Conference, the board took the opportunity to meet with the local LGBTI community, human rights defenders, and development partners in the country.

During the 4-day meeting, the new board familiarized themselves with the Governance Manual, which was assisting the decision-making process within the board. The manual was revised to reflect the new context and changes within the board, as well as to accommodate some of the challenges that were faced during its implementation. Besides the representative role that each board member was playing, the board also decided to take on more functional roles and form different working groups to take charge of specific areas at ILGA Asia. For instance, working groups on membership, conference, monitoring & evaluation, etc. were established. Board members were also assigned the roles of treasurers and secretaries.

Different policies at ILGA Asia were also being reviewed, including the policy on sexual harassment, equal opportunities, representation of ILGA Asia at events, and greening policy. All the policies were being revised for review at the next board meeting. Drafting of new policies such as human resources policy, child protection policies, finance manual, would also begin.

At the same meeting, the board also reviewed the annual activity report for 2019, annual budget for 2019, and approved the work plan and budget for 2020. The meeting was closed with a reception of LGBTI community in Vietnam and development partners, including NGOs, UN agencies and foreign embassies based in Hanoi. ILGA Asia introduced itself and briefed all the guests about the 9th ILGA Asia Conference to be held in Ho Chi Minh City.

In August 2019, a few board members from ILGA Asia joined board members of Pan Africa ILGA in a 3-day training on governance. It was the first time that both regions had training together, despite the fact that the idea had been conceived back in 2017, while training was planned for 2018 but did not happen. Given the similar structure that both regions had, and the role that each played within the ILGA family, the train-

ing addressed some of the common challenges that both boards faced in governance, communication, and engagement with constituencies. Selected board members at the training in turn brought the knowledge to share with the rest of the board at the following board meeting.

At the ILGA Asia Secretariat, another staff member was recruited to take care of finance and admin in the office, bringing the total number to 3. ILGA Asia office started to implement flexible working hours and remote working arrangement to promote staff's wellbeing and overall organizational efficiency.



Strategic objective 5

Solidarity of LGBTI communities in Asia through networking and collaboration

ILGA Asia was organizing and participating in various events around Asia and the globe to strengthen solidarity among LGBTI communities, as well as with other sectors and development partners. One such event was at the ILGA World Conference in Wellington, New Zealand / Aotearoa. On 19th March 2019, ILGA Asia organized the Asian Caucus, an important part of the ILGA World Conference, where LGBTIAQ activists from Asia reviewed challenges facing our community and coordinated our collective actions. It was about a 4-hour-long meeting and around 50 people, which was the highest number of attendees ever, from different regions of Asia participated. The main part of the Caucus was a participatory discussion where LGBTI activists shared updates from their own country while discussing ILGA Asia and ILGA World's work. In the end, a statement was released by 24 LGBTIAQ activists present at the Caucus. The statement called for attention of ILGA members and non-members to 9 issues: Internal Data Security, Decriminalization of Homosexuality, Government Censorship, Promotion of the Intersex Movement, Inclusion of Asexuality, Legal Gender Recognition, Movement Across Borders(Visa, Immigration, Travel Documents), Marriage Equality / Civil Partnership and Indigenous Identities; while reiterating the message: "ILGA should ensure that ILGA spaces are inclusive and diverse, and honor people's right to self-identity."

Following the World Conference was ILGA Asia's largest event, which was also by far the largest LGBTI human rights conference taking place in Asia. From 19-23 August 2019, ILGA Asia and the host organization Rainbow Action against Sexual Minority Discrimination welcomed 310 LGBTI activists and allies from 46 countries around the world to the 8th ILGA Asia Conference in Seoul, South Korea. The 5-day conference was divided into 2 days of pre-conference and 3 days of main conference. Of the 310 participants coming, 8 of them identified as intersex. 32% of all participants are cisgender female, 29% cisgender male, 11% trans female, 10% trans male, among other non-binary identities. There was a notable increase in the number of people who identified as agender and asexual at this conference compared to the previous year.

There were 104 participants coming from ILGA member organizations from all the regions, while there were 34 member organizations coming from Asia. Out of almost 400 scholarship applications received, a total number of 118 participants were awarded with a scholarship to attend the conference, covering from only the conference fee, to the whole package of transportation, accommodation and other expenses. These scholars were selected by the ILGA Asia Executive Board on the basis of their engagement at the conference, either through organizing, facilitating or speaking at a workshop, or volunteering for various tasks; the community they represented; and the region they came from.

From 19-20 August, there were a total of 9 preconference events on different topics: women, lesbian, intersex, trans, bisexual, youth, advocacy and research, marriage equality, and interfaith. Some of these events were only open to pre-selected attendants.

From 21-23 August, there were 4 plenaries and 25 concurrent sessions. These sessions were selected from 124 proposals submitted by LGBTI community and allies around the world. Priority was given to topics that aligned with the theme and objectives of this year’s conference, had never been discussed at previous ILGA Asia conferences, emerging issues with huge impact to Asian communities, and those featuring speakers representing diverse identities and geography of Asia.

Of all the sessions at the main conference, nine of these sessions had at least a trans speaker, while almost every time slot had a session related to trans people and their issues. Five sessions had at least 1 intersex speaker, while 2 of them were dedicated to intersex issues. Women, intersex and non-binary speakers and facilitators were present in all of the sessions.

For the first time, member organizations were presented with ILGA Asia’s audited financial statement with the opening of new bank accounts in 2018. The conference also adopted its own Standing Orders to be used in place of the current ILGA World Standing Orders.

Recognizing the importance of the intersex movement to the whole LGBTI movement in Asia, supporting and collaborating with Intersex Asia was one of the top priorities for ILGA Asia in 2019. ILGA Asia lent its support to most of Intersex Asia’s activities, including a number of trainings and workshops, but most importantly, the 2nd Asian Intersex Forum in Seoul, South Korea. ILGA Asia office also supported the recruitment of the new Intersex Asia Coordinator and hosted their new staff. Besides a strong relationship between ILGA Asia and Intersex Asia, intersex people and intersex activists were present at all ILGA Asia’s activities in 2019, our effort to promote the visibility of intersex people in the region, as well as promoting the understanding of the rest of LGBTI community and the public about sex characteristics and intersex issues.



Executive Board Members

by August, 2019

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

from August, 2019

Co-chairs:



Candy YUN
KSCRC
(South Korea)

East Asian Representative



Shadi Amin
6 Rang
(Iran)

West Asian representative



Charbel Maydaa
MOSAIC
(Lebanon)

West Asian representative



Moon Ali
Khuwaja Sira Society
(Pakistan)

South Asian Representative



Niluka Perera
DSAT
(Sri Lanka)

South Asian Representative



Jennifer Lu
Taiwan Tongzhi
Hotline Association
(Taiwan)

East Asian Representative



Brenda R. Alegre
STRAP
(The Philippines)

Southeast Asian representative



Linh Ngo
ICS Center
(Viet Nam)

Southeast Asian representative



**Wannapong (Nhuun)
Yodmuang**
APTN
(Thailand)

Trans representative



Gopi Shankar Madurai
Srishti Madurai
(India)

Intersex representative



Tashi Tsheten
Youth Voices Count
(Bhutan)

Youth representative

Staff Members

As of December 31, 2019



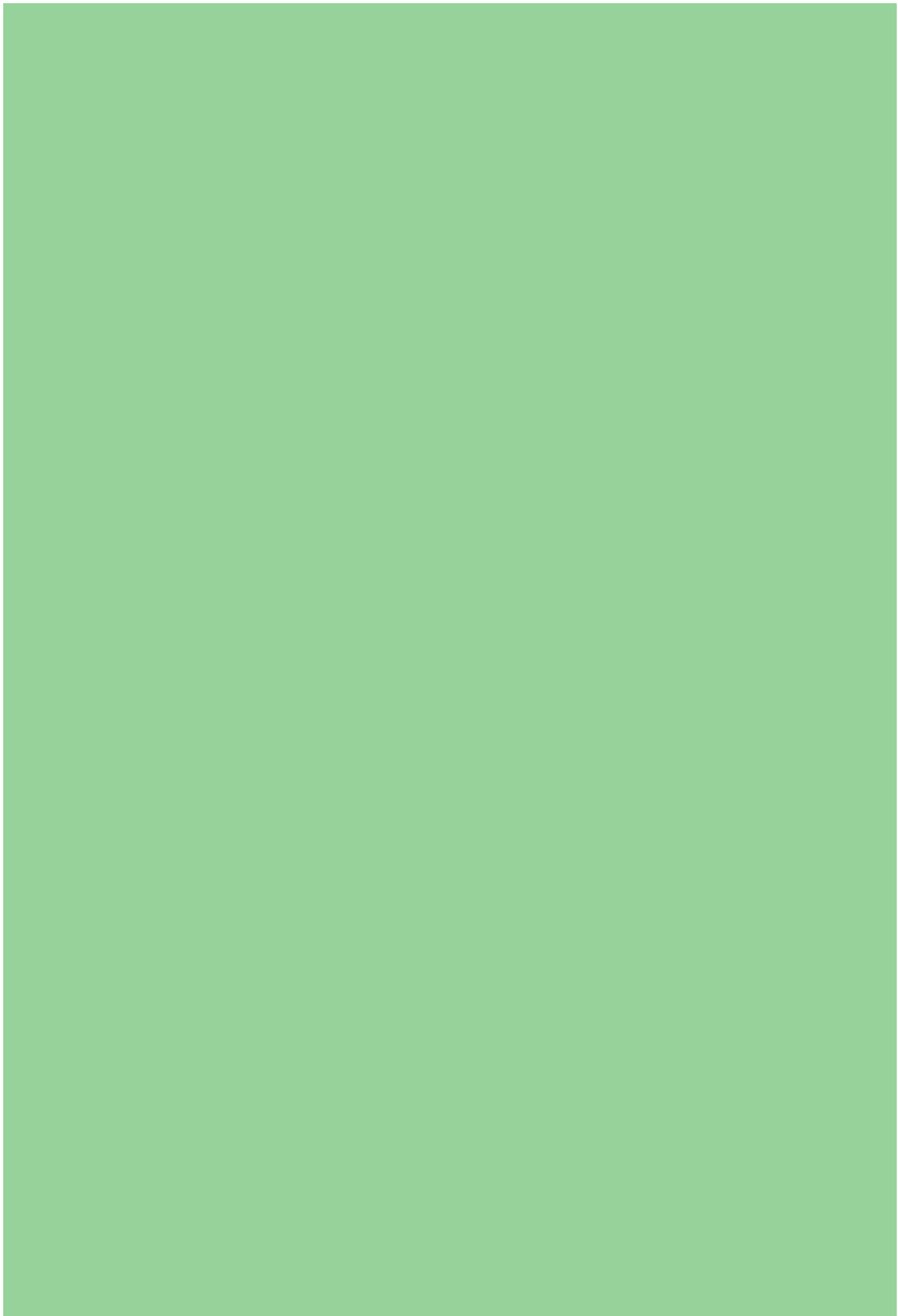
Lieu Anh Vu
Executive Director



Dowha Kim
Communications and
Membership Officer



Yarinda Srisutat
Finance and Admin Officer



Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2019

(Unit: Baht)

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and Cash equivalents	5,706,930.81
Other receivables	353,711.88
Other current assets	<u>68,141.32</u>
Total current assets	<u>6,128,784.01</u>

NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Property, plant and equipment	130,988.96
Total non-current assets	<u>130,988.96</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

6,259,772.97

LIABILITIES AND FUND

CURREENT LIABILITES

Other payables	497,691.64
Total current liabilities	<u>497,691.64</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES

497,691.64

FUND

Initial Fund	200,000.00
Accumulated Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<u>5,562,081.33</u>

TOTAL FUND

5,762,081.33

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND

6,259,772.97

Statement of Income and Expenses

For the year ended December 31, 2019

(Unit: Baht)

REVENUE	
Grants	16,172,763.74
Interest	9,853.00
Other	2.50
TOTAL REVENUE	16,182,619.24
EXPENDITURES	
Activities Expenses	7,409,717.40
Administrative expenses	3,478,455.60
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	10,888,173.00
REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES BEFORE TAX	5,294,446.24
Corporate Income Tax	985.30
REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES-NET	5,293,460.94

Sponsors and Partners



**ASEAN SOGIE
CAUCUS**





