

ASIA PACIFIC REFUGEE RIGHTS NETWORK



ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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MESSAGE FROM THE APRRN CHAIR

I am pleased to bring out this annual report which serves not only as a reflection of our past activities but also mirrors as a voice of the voiceless. The report covers a wide range of issues relating to the flight and plight of asylum-seekers and refugees in the region and our effort to bring the desired change in the policy of the states in favor of these destitute without destination.

APRRN has entered in its 5th year with renewed zeal, commitment and courage. On this occasion, I am pleased to note that the network has evolved as a truly regional shared platform for several organisations, alliances and individuals working in the field of upholding refugee rights across the region. APRRN has continued to facilitate dialogues, collaboration, and networking and information exchange among the member organisations and beyond. APRRN has developed itself as a mutual platform of information, for discourse and a shared avenue for strategic planning on the common issues of critical concern relating to refugee rights and displacement related humanitarian agenda. The renewed vision and commitment of the past and the present members of the Steering Committees, the seasoned advisory panel and the membership in general has greatly advanced the cause with a strategic activism as well as smart and forward-looking vision. The Secretariat team is an amazing pool of dynamic professionals which has demonstrated strong sense of confidence in coordinating such a diverse membership-based network.

Despite our ceaseless collective action, the Asia Pacific region continues to face the challenges constituted precisely because, in many instances, States fail to fulfill their protection obligations towards their citizens in the time of conflict and other adversarial situations and they then have to seek protection across the border. In addition refugees immersed in mixed large migration flows, make it difficult to discern those who fulfill the requirements of the 1951 Convention from other types of displaced populations. Conventional definition does not account for the current reality of displacement as displacement also results from natural disasters, development-induced projects, gender persecution—forms of persecution not foreseen at the time the Refugee Convention was written. As a result, many have to resort to smuggling or other forms of trafficking in order to try to flee their countries of origin and reach out for protection.

In the absence of laws concerning treatment of asylum seekers/refugees in majority of the countries in the region, the response to refugee influxes remains ad hoc. We are also witnessing how the phenomenon of statelessness has become more acute due to the lack of human rights and the absence of a proper care and rehabilitation system of the displaced persons and above all protection.

Effective and meaningful protection to most asylum-seekers, refugees and the stateless population in the region is still a distant reality although some signs of hope for the displaced population have been noted. Enactment of a refugee law in Korea, the recent story of the acceptance of the drifting Rohingya asylum-seekers by Malaysia, granting of long-term work permit to asylum-seekers in India, Pakistan government's decision to allow Afghan refugees for short-term stay among others are some of the laudable practices in the region. APRRN's continued raising of concern in the form of monitoring, information exchange, dialogues, issuing of general, urgent and solidarity statements have made some visible impact to change the policy of the States in questions. Periodic training on refugee law, legal aid, mental health, women and girls at risk, detention, regional protection agenda and lobbying at national, regional and international level have been proved extremely important not only to equip the network members with new knowledge and tools to further refugee rights. The brilliance of the network is that much of the expertise and strengths on these issues lies within the membership.

I, as Chair, am pleased that I have been entrusted by the membership to take over the role to provide guidance and direction in this process. Finally, I would like to extend my deep gratitude to everyone who has contributed to prepare the report with such an enriched wealth of information. The contribution from the membership in the field is central to sustain and shape up our collective campaign for advancing the cause of upholding the rights of refugees in the region.

Dr. Gopal Krishna Siwakoti
APRRN Chair



NOTE FROM THE APRRN COORDINATOR

The Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) has grown in stature and accomplishments since its inception in 2008. It remains the only network of its kind that focuses on issues related to forced migration in the Asia Pacific region.

It is through the dedicated work of its members that APRRN today is regarded as one of the key stakeholders on refugee rights. APRRN has demonstrated that its advocacy is not merely restricted to policy interventions at regional and international levels but plays a pivotal role in expanding protection for refugees and forced migrants at local and national levels. APRRN's diverse membership base enables APRRN to make a mark at various aspects of the refugee experience. APRRN is therefore able to formulate advocacy goals that are indeed holistic and rooted to the ground realities of those in need of protection.

This annual report gives you a snapshot of the activities of the network. However, it cannot and will not be able to capture the richness and depth of the implications of the work that APRRN members carry out on a day to day basis. This report is only but a testament to tremendous commitment of its members to better the lives of fellow humans, in working to build a world that's both sharing and caring.

I would like to thank the outgoing Steering Committee of APRRN, chaired by Dr. Pill Kyu Hwang for their tireless work in advancing the rights of refugees in the Asia Pacific region. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Steering Committee chaired by Dr. Gopal Krishna Siwakoti.

The work of the APRRN Secretariat and many activities of the network would not be possible without the tremendous work done by APRRN Secretariat staff. Julia Mayerhofer had done a sterling work which has been deeply appreciated by APRRN members. I also wish to thank Dana McLean and Isaac Olson who volunteered with APRRN as well as Rakinder Reehal who was an intern from September 2012 to March 2013. I would like to welcome the APRRN Administrative Officer Mayuree (Nok). Nok has more than 12 years of experience in office administration, prior to working with APRRN she was with Focus on the Global South.

I am honored to be part of a network that strives unceasingly to better the lives of those who are the marginalised of the marginalised.

Anoop Sukumaran
APRRN Coordinator



APRRN staff and interns in April 2013

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) is comprised of civil society organizations and individuals committed to advancing the rights of refugees in the region through information sharing, mutual capacity building, and joint advocacy.

APRRN was established in November 2008 as an open network; it welcomes the involvement of new members who subscribe to the following core principles:

- Using a rights-based approach to programming
- Applying humanitarian principles of nondiscrimination, impartiality, humanity, independence and accountability to affected populations
- Using a “Do no harm” approach to service delivery
- Exemplifying a commitment to building solidarity amongst civil society actors in the Asia Pacific region
- Working responsibly and with respect, accountability and transparency with each other

Members are expected to ensure and protect the rights of all, in particular refugees, stateless persons and forcibly displaced persons, as outlined in: the international refugee rights regime, which includes, inter alia, the 1951 Convention Related to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol; international human rights, humanitarian and customary law; and relevant regional and national legislation.

The Steering Committee of APRRN is mandated to provide general guidance for the direction and structure of the Network. The Steering Committee is composed of an elected Chair and Deputy Chair and elected representatives from the Geographical and Thematic Working Groups formed during APRRN’s annual consultations, a representative of APRRN’s host organisation (the Thai Committee for Refugees which provides legal registration in Thailand through a Memorandum of Understanding), appointed representatives from refugee backgrounds, and non-voting expert advisors, as specified in the APRRN Articles of Association.

The four Geographical Working Groups are South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. The five Thematic Working Groups are Immigration Detention, Legal Aid and Advocacy, Women and Girls at Risk, Right to Health, and, newly added in 2012, Statelessness. The APRRN general body met in August 2012, during the 4th Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights (APCRR 4) and elected new office bearers. The details of the new steering committee can be found here: <http://www.aprrn.info/1/index.php/about-us/structure>

APRRN is organised around the pillars of networking and information sharing, joint advocacy, and mutual capacity building. Through APRRN’s activities in 2012, APRRN was able to expand its influence as a leader in promoting refugee protection in Asia Pacific.

Key outcomes of our networking and information sharing campaign include:

Increased visibility of the network and sharing of information through communication channels as demonstrated by:

- Re-launch of website in September 2012
- Strengthened use of social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube
- Continuous use of Google Groups and mailing lists
- Publication of 3 newsletters, annual report and various other activity reports

Increased membership in underrepresented countries as demonstrated by:

- New members from Papua New Guinea, Maldives, Taiwan, Pakistan and Iran
- Increase in membership by 15% during 2012

Increased engagement of APRRN members sharing information and strategies as demonstrated by:

- Face to face discussion facilitated through 4 sub-regional consultations and one regional consultation (4th Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights)
- Drafting of action plans for 2013 during consultations

Increased visibility and recognition of the Network through outreach demonstrated by:

- Increase of 35% in invitations received by APRRN to provide expertise on refugee protection at regional conferences
- APRRN’s selection to host the regional hub of ICVA commencing in 2013
- APRRN’s invitation to deliver training on its regional advocacy model in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania as part of the International Detention Coalition’s work in sub-Saharan Africa

Key outcomes of our advocacy programme include:

Strengthened advocacy efforts on the national level as demonstrated by:

- APRRN members in Nepal engaging with the national legislative assembly to table national legislation on refugee protection, a result of APRRN training on strategic advocacy
- Lowest recorded refugee detainees in the Bangkok Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) in 10 years
- Passing of South Korea’s domestic refugee law
- The organisation by APRRN members of a symposium and training in Taiwan in October 2012, generating increased dialogue on refugee and immigration detention issues
- Increased protection for refugees in Indonesia, through drafting of Standard Operating Procedures
- The development of national pilot projects for alternatives to detention to be implemented in 2013 across a range of countries
- The organisation of a Refugee Workshop on Refugee Status Determination organised by APRRN members in Malaysia in May 2012

Increased opportunity to engage with UNHCR on country, regional, and international level as demonstrated by:

- Nomination of APRRN Coordinator to serve as Rapporteur at the 2012 UNHCR – NGO Consultations, including tabling of the rapporteur's report at the UNHCR Ex-Com in November 2012
- Strengthened dialogue with UNHCR Regional Hub and senior protection officers in Geneva
- Invitation for APRRN representatives to attend "Stakeholder Consultation on the Advancement of UNHCR Implementing Partner Relations", "5th High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges" and the "Structured Dialogue on Partnership"
- Correspondence with the UNHCR Regional Representative and follow up discussions regarding RSD procedures in South East Asia

Increased awareness of refugee related issues and solidarity among human rights defenders as demonstrated by:

- Release of 3 joint statements highlighting concerns about the situation of the Rohingya in Bangladesh and Burma, Australian refugee policy and the visit of the US president to Myanmar
- Launch of the joint campaign to end immigration detention of children with the International Detention Coalition
- Release of a letter of concern for the Uzbek citizen deported from Korea after seeking asylum within its borders
- Conducting of a 3 day training and consultation on repatriation with refugee community groups with Burma Partnership in Mae Sot, Thailand

Increased engagement with national governments, multilateral bodies including ASEAN, and UN agencies as demonstrated by:

- Provision of inputs to the ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights (ADHR)
- Provision of inputs to the People's ADHR, a document that reflects civil society perspectives to compare with the official ADHR
- Participation in the SAPA (Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy) Task Force Meeting on securing human rights
- Coordination of input for and drafting of the Asia Pacific NGO Statement for the 53rd UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting in Geneva.
- Regular meetings with the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process
- APRRN delegation to UNHCR-NGO consultations held formal meetings with government representatives from Australia, Thailand, Nepal, Japan, and Korea while in Geneva

Key outcomes of our capacity-building programme include:

APRRN's capacity-strengthening initiatives led to increased capacity of human-rights defenders, service-providers, and refugees in the areas of refugee law, mental health, advocacy, and women's empowerment as demonstrated by:

- South East Asia Legal Aid Training in February 2012 (attended by 25 participants)
- South Asia Legal Aid Training (attended by 20 participants)
- South East Asia Refugee Mental Health Training (attended by over 40 participants)
- Short course on refugee law and advocacy (attended by 25 participants)





REFUGEES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

AN OVERVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS

Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific

In 2012 broadened negative measures in **Australia's** refugee policy could be observed such as re-introduction of offshore processing, the denial of the right to work of new arrivals and the involuntary return of significant numbers of Sri Lankan asylum seekers without access to a credible RSD process.. Unfortunately, Australia's record on refugee protection is being significantly undermined by these developments as well as by the continuation of its mandatory detention policy. Some of these cases also represent a violation of international law (despite Australia having signed the 1951 Refugee Convention and its Protocol) and result in an ineffective, inefficient and inhumane asylum policy. There are also concerns that the asylum debate in Australia has become highly politicised , losing focus on ensuring protection for vulnerable refugees.

Australia also exerts a tremendous political influence in this sub-region, and on the region as a whole. This can be seen in areas such as the proposed Australia-Malaysia refugee swap deal, the development of the Regional Cooperation Framework under the Bali Process as well as discussions around off-shore processing or regional processing centers.

In 2012 one of the main issues surrounding **New Zealand's** immigration policies was the Immigration Amendment Bill. This bill provides for the mandatory detention of groups of undocumented asylum seekers arriving in New Zealand. It also includes the suspension of refugee status procedures, restrictions on family reunion, and a requirement to re-establish refugee status after a period of three years (NZ Immigration, 2012). The proposed changes will also affect the rights and treatment of children who form part of family groups arriving as part of a "mass arrival group". The bill is in conflict with New Zealand's international obligations to refugees.

Another troubling development from New Zealand is that it will be taking 150 refugees annually from Australia, potentially from the offshore detention centres of Nauru and Manus Island, and will also consider sending any future boat arrivals to these offshore processing detention centres (NZ Human Rights Commission, 2013). This decision will result in a reduction in the number of resettlement places available for referral by UNHCR at a time when many more resettlement places are desperately needed. In numbers, this means that New Zealand will reduce its commitment to resettle 750 refugees a year from all over the world to just 600 per year.

Southeast Asia

Once known exclusively as a refugee-producing country, in recent years **Cambodia**—one of the few states in the Asia-Pacific region party to both the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, has itself become a refugee-receiving country. However, recognition rates remain low and only a handful of asylum seekers along with their families received recognition by the Cambodian government so far. The Cambodian government has yet to develop an open, transparent refugee determination procedure in line with international standards.

UNHCR presence in Cambodia will also end in 2013, which may have detrimental effects on refugees and asylum seekers in the country.

The UNHCR operations in **Malaysia** remain one of the biggest RSD operations in the world with over 98.000 registered refugees and asylum seekers coming mainly from Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan (UNHCR, 2012a). Key protection challenges in Malaysia include the lack of an established asylum system to regulate the status and rights of refugees in Malaysia, the non-recognition of refugee rights by the Malaysian government as well as the continued arrest and often-prolonged detention of refugees, including minors and vulnerable populations in conditions that do not meet basic international standards. In addition, the Malaysian government does not make any distinction between refugees and undocumented migrants. Consequently, refugees are vulnerable to arrest for immigration offences, the punishment of which includes forms of physical torture such as whipping and caning. Particularly alarming in Malaysia is the high rate of sexual violence against female refugees and their exploitation at the hands of both employers and law enforcement personnel.

Following the violence in Rakhine State, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya inside **Myanmar** have been displaced and protection efforts as well as durable solutions are urgently required. Since the issuing of the 1982 Citizenship Law, Rohingya have not been able to obtain citizenship leaving them stateless. As a result, the Rohingya have been subject to severe discrimination and human rights abuses, forcing them to flee their homelands mainly across the border to Bangladesh.



To date the international community has not intervened and stronger cooperation is required between international organisations and humanitarian actors seeking to reduce inter-communal tensions in Rakhine state. There is also a need to build support to encourage the government of Myanmar to respect the rights of the Rohingya and to take steps to uphold their right to a nationality.

In Eastern Myanmar some ethnic groups were able to sign ceasefire agreements, but it is reported that the military continues to be present in this area. Fighting between the Burmese government and the Kachin Independent Army continues and has produced hundreds of thousands of IDPs as well as refugees seeking shelter in China. In August 2012, Kachin refugees were also forced back into Myanmar by the Chinese government despite the ongoing fighting.

The **Philippines** has signed the 1951 Refugee Convention and there is a relatively good protection environment compared to other Southeast Asian countries. The Filipino government has also started an initiative to map the stateless population within the Philippines following the country's ratification of the Statelessness Convention in 2011. In November 2012, new refugee protection mechanisms were also established; refugees can now be unified with their extended family members such as grandparents and asylum-seekers have the right to a lawyer and an interpreter during RSD, and most importantly they cannot be deported while the procedure is still ongoing. Special measures for unaccompanied children have also been put in place. Asylum seekers in the Philippines are not subject to indefinite immigration detention and are also provided with asylum seeker certificates.

The conflicts in Southern Mindanao are ongoing and have created IDPs in this region – many of them remain without any durable solutions, although the Filipino government has made positive progress in the form of peace talks.

Thailand continues to host a high number of Burmese refugees in camps along the border as well as urban refugees residing mostly in Bangkok. Thailand has not signed on to the 1951 Refugee Convention and also lacks domestic law to deal with refugees. Furthermore refugees in Thailand living outside camps are considered “illegal immigrants”, putting them under constant threat, and they are often subject to immigration detention. The number of people in detention decreased in 2012 due to the bail programmes implemented by NGOs, however arrests continue and there are currently no alternatives to detention in place. Conditions inside refugee camps along the border remain harsh and further funding cuts have led to noticeable shortcuts in service provision, affecting the most vulnerable.

Due to the ceasefire agreements between the Burmese army and ethnic groups, discussion about repatriation of Burmese refugees residing in camps have increased among the concerned stakeholders. However peace inside Myanmar is still fragile and also certain preconditions need to be in place to ensure that refugees can return in safety and with dignity.

Specific concerns include the ongoing presence of Burmese military troops, reports of human rights violations, thousands of uncleared landmines, oppressive laws, landownership issues, the lack of healthcare and education services, the lack of assistance for vulnerable people, livelihood issues, challenges relating to reintegration with local communities and citizenship/national rights. As of May 2013 refugee communities have not been consulted enough and the lack of clear information has sparked rumours and unnecessary panic.

Rohingya refugees also continue to come to Thailand by boats from the Bay of Bengal. Some of them are accepted on Thai soil but remain in immigration detention centres, mainly in the South of Thailand. At the same time there have been various incidents where the Thai Navy has pushed back boats to the open sea and there have also been reports of shooting being involved in these operations.

Indonesia has also not signed the 1951 Refugee Convention or its Protocol and there is no domestic law in place to protect refugees. Indonesia continues to be a transit country for many refugees trying to travel onwards to Australia. The key challenge is to ensure protection in this environment marked by mixed migration where there is a lack of legal frameworks. The majority of the refugees registered in Indonesia are from Afghanistan, Myanmar, Iran, Iraq and Sri Lanka. Refugees in Indonesia are also subject to indefinite immigration detention, however authorities allow NGOs to access and provide services for those detained. Unfortunately, the Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) drafted earlier in 2012 in consultation with civil society are still pending for a final decision.

South Asia

Bangladesh is hosting one of the largest stateless groups in the world. Around 30,000 Rohingya registered refugees live in two official refugee camps (Nayapara and Kutupalong) in the southeastern district of Cox's Bazar (UNHCR, 2013b). They live in a state of limbo, having been reliant on humanitarian assistance for decades with no durable solutions in sight.

In June 2012, the Bangladeshi Government closed its borders and started to push back Rohingya fleeing persecution in Rakhine State. Its position remains unchanged despite repeated advocacy efforts from NGOs, UNHCR and the international community. In July 2012, the Government issued closure orders to three international NGOs who were providing life-saving services in and around sites where unregistered Rohingya reside (RI, 2012).

Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees, the largest protracted refugee population in the world for three decades. Since March 2002, some 3.8 million Afghans residing in Pakistan have returned home through UNHCR's assisted voluntary repatriation programme. Currently, over 1.6 registered Afghan refugees are still living in the country. UNHCR considers voluntary repatriation as the preferred durable solution to resolve this protracted situation and the Government of Pakistan is increasing pressure on Afghan refugees to leave the country (UNHCR, 2013a).

In May 2012, an international stakeholders' conference endorsed a multi-year (2012-2014) Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees developed by UNHCR together with the Governments of Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan. The Solutions Strategy's key aims are to facilitate voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration and support refugee-hosting communities (UNHCR, 2012b). However, the sustainability of return and reintegration of Afghan refugees continues to be a concern. Despite the pressure from the Government and the extra incentives offered by UNHCR, the vast majority of the Afghans in Pakistan are reluctant to return to a country characterised by extreme levels of insecurity as well as economic, political and social instability.

On the 12th December 2012 the Government prolonged the legal stay of Afghan refugees in Pakistan for six months, extending a deadline on their residency papers that had been due to expire at the end of December. The Government of Pakistan committed not to expel any registered refugee until the end of June 2013 and to respect the voluntary nature of returns (The Express Tribune, 2012). Civil society welcomes this decision and calls on the Government of Pakistan to maintain asylum space for Afghan refugees until the conditions in Afghanistan are deemed to be conducive for their return.

Iran hosts some 878,265 registered refugees, including some 832,823 Afghans and 45,442 Iraqis. Most refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran reside in urban areas, with only 3 per cent living in settlements. Between January 2002 and July 2012, some 902,000 Afghan refugees returned home through UNHCR's assisted voluntary return programme. Some 28,000 Iraqi refugees have also been assisted to return home since 2003 (UNHCR, 2012c).

In 2012 the Government of Iran in cooperation with the UNHCR office implemented different initiatives for refugees, including the decision to issue work permits to refugee women, exemption from municipality tax for vulnerable refugees who have to renew their registration cards (Amayesh cards), extension of a health insurance scheme for refugees, and permission for refugee girls admitted to universities to obtain student visas within the country. In September 2012 the Government of Iran confirmed to the High Commissioner for Refugees its commitment to preserve the protection space for Afghan refugees, and showed its understanding of the unstable situation inside Afghanistan (NRC, 2012).

Nepal continues to host some 44,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from Bhutan in the camps of Morang and Jhapa in the Eastern district. The overall security situation in the camps remains favourable due to the support provided by law enforcement authorities, and to the mobilisation of community watch teams (UNHCR, 2011). There are also approximately 15,000 Tibetan refugees who arrived in Nepal before 1990 and have been allowed to remain in the country (UNHCR, 2011). However, their rights are limited and many lack documentation and refugee registration cards. Tibetan refugees (an average of 800 per year) continue to transit through Nepal en route to India.

The lack of national asylum legislation remains a major challenge. In 2011, INHURED International together with other institutions (PPR, Nepal Law Campus, Pro-public, HURON) presented to the Nepalese Parliament a draft refugee bill for its consideration. However, the Government has stalled on approving the bill, mainly due

to the political turmoil in the country and security concerns (APRRN, 2012).

Since the start of the resettlement programme in 2007 (the largest resettlement programme globally), more than 69,000 of the original 108,000 refugees from Bhutan have departed for eight different countries (The United States of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) (UNHCR, 2013c). It is expected that departures of up to 18,000 per year will continue in the coming years. As the refugee population declined, the Government of Nepal with the support of UNHCR started to consolidate the camps. In May 2012 the camp consolidation programme was completed, leaving only two camps out of the original seven. To address the needs of remaining refugees, UNHCR has submitted to the Government the plans for a five-year Community Based Development Programme/Transitional Solutions Initiative (CDBP/TSI) to facilitate the transition from humanitarian assistance to sustainable development in the refugee-hosting areas. The final programme document is currently pending, awaiting the Government of Nepal's approval.



Although **India** has not ratified the 1951 Convention and lacks a national refugee protection framework, the Government continues to respect the principle of non-refoulement and grant protection space to refugees from different countries. India hosts some 22,000 refugees and asylum-seekers (UNHCR, 2013c). The Government officially recognises and directly assists only Tibetan and Sri Lankan Tamil refugees while other refugee populations (mainly from China, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Somalia) are under UNHCR's mandate.

Since the end of the war in May 2009, the Government in cooperation with UNHCR has facilitated the return of over 468,000 **Sri Lanka** refugees from different countries (UNHCR, 2013c). Although the number of people in displacement camps has dropped considerably, many people, contrary to government claims, remain displaced in various parts of the country (mainly in the north and east). Key protection concerns in Sri Lanka include the military involvement in humanitarian and development projects in areas of return, limited demining of agricultural land and the inadequacy of essential services, including mechanisms to combat sexual and gender-based violence in return areas.

The end of the war in Sri Lanka has not produced peace and prosperity and the post reintegration process is still questionable. People continue to flee the country as a consequence of oppressive economic conditions and repression from the government and military. Tamils who were released from so-called rehabilitation camps have been unable to return to their homes as the army occupied most of their lands. Hundreds of people are still detained as political prisoners. Violations, murders, disappearances are increasing in the north and east (Kingsbury, 2013).

East Asia

In the last several years **Japan** committed to widen its protection space for asylum seekers and refugees. It was the first country in Asia to establish a three-year pilot project for resettlement. In March 2012 the government extended the term by two more years and also established an Experts Council to discuss the way forward after the pilot. However, since the inception of the project in 2010, only 55 refugees from Myanmar have arrived in Japan (AI, 2012). Although the number of asylum applications in Japan has increased dramatically in the past few years, Japan maintains an extremely low recognition rate.

In February 2012 the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Forum for Refugees Japan (FRJ) and Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA) agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a cooperation framework to improve the asylum process, including the expanded use of alternatives to detention. Within the scope of the agreement, two projects have been launched including a pilot project on alternatives to detention and a pilot project for airport cases. All juvenile immigration detainees have also been released in 2011 and 2012 (APRRN, 2012).

The **Republic of Korea** acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention in 1992 and the first refugee was recognised in 2001. Since then, the number of refugees arriving in the country increased very rapidly. The total number of asylum claimants reached 4,186 by February 2012, and among them, 271 people (6.5%) were granted refugee status (Chulhyo, 2012). The majority of them come from Asian countries including Pakistan, Nepal, China, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, but there are still many refugees from African countries including Uganda, Nigeria and Ivory Coast. In 2010, two recognised refugees were naturalised for the first time ever and a third person obtained Korean nationality in 2011.

Korean civil society also became increasingly concerned about refugee issues. In 2006 civil society groups started a discussion for the introduction of a new piece of legislation for refugee protection. In December 2011 the National Assembly adopted a new comprehensive Refugee Law (The Act on the Status and Treatment of Refugees), which will come into force on 1 July 2013. The implementation of the Refugee Law will depend on a number of implementation decrees. The Refugee Act was welcomed as a significant step towards the enhancement of refugee protection in South Korea. However, many of the original proposals made by civil society groups and parliamentarians to protect the economic and social rights of refugees and asylum seekers were not included in the final version of the law (Chulhyo, 2012).



Taiwan is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and lacks domestic law protecting asylum seekers and refugees. The treatment of asylum seekers falls under the auspices of the National Immigration Act and the National Immigration Agency (NIA) is responsible for all immigration-related policies and procedures for foreign workers, immigrant services, and repatriation of undocumented immigrants. Groups of concern in Taiwan include Tibetans, Chinese dissidents as well as groups from Burma.

In January 2009 the Legislative Yuan passed amendments to the National Immigration Act to allow foreign nationals who risk persecution in their country of origin to apply for residency in Taiwan. Tibetans who overstay their visas can now apply for residency certificates. Since the Immigration Act was revised, more than 100 ethnic Tibetans have gained legal residency (Ma, 2012). Also the Act Governing Relations between the People of Taiwan and PRC has been revised. The Ministry of the Interior may on a case-by case basis permit individuals

from PRC to gain long-term residency in Taiwan and may restrict the categories and quota for residency applications. In 2008 the Executive Yuan presented a Draft Refugee Act and it is still under the review process. NGOs continue to push for the review process to be open, transparent, and fair.

Hong Kong has a relatively small percentage of refugees compared to other parts of the world, mostly coming from South and Southeast Asian and African countries. The 1951 Refugee Convention, although ratified by China and extended to Macau, has not yet been extended to Hong Kong. Rather, the UNHCR fills in the gap by conducting refugee status determination. The government offers a separate, parallel mechanism for protection for torture claimants to comply with its obligations under the Convention Against Torture. Advocates and legal experts have been advocating for years that the government develop a single, unified mechanism for protection against torture, persecution and other forms of grave human rights abuses.

While awaiting the determination of their claim and resettlement, the government does provide social support to asylum seekers and recognised refugees, although this is offered on a discretionary, humanitarian basis rather than out of legal obligation. The government assistance is very minimal and inadequate for the costs of living in Hong Kong. Moreover, it is not being adjusted to inflation, meaning that beneficiaries' purchasing power is reduced over time. As such, many asylum seekers and refugees struggle on the brink of poverty. The UNHCR cash allowance for recognized refugees has also been cut down – leading to further frustration among refugees and making them more dependent on NGO support and charity for daily survival. Refugees are also legally barred from working and face barriers to access health and education services.

As of December 31, 2012, there were 117 recognized refugees in Hong Kong and the recognition rates remain comparatively low, around 14%. There have been several positive developments for collaboration, communication and joint advocacy between the UNHCR Sub-Office and civil society groups working on refugee rights and protection. Nonetheless, there is still work to be done towards achieving a more transparent and fair refugee status determination procedure. Lack of political will on behalf of the government is the key determinant of refugees' low levels of protection in Hong Kong. The UNHCR Sub-Office has a small staff, limited capacity and is seeing its budget reduced over time. At the same time, the government experienced a significant budget surplus of 8.37 billion USD in 2012. Civil society groups have therefore stepped up their efforts to lobby the government to assume more responsibility and dedicate more resources towards refugee protection.



PROGRAMME AREAS

ADVOCACY

APRRN actively engages with network members to convene advocacy campaigns designed to advance the rights and ensure protection of refugees and stateless persons at national, regional, and international levels. In doing so, APRRN pursues the following strategic objectives:

- To coordinate joint statements in response to key events in the region
- To influence regional inter-governmental forums and regional bodies like ASEAN and SAARC, and CSO networks like SAPA and People's SAARC
- To engage with UNHCR and international human rights mechanisms
- To strengthen national civil society initiatives to advance refugee rights.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. Refugee Bill passed in Korea

On December 29, 2011, the Republic of Korea passed the Bill on Refugee Status Determination and Treatment of Refugees and Others. Thanks to six years of advocacy efforts by APRRN Korea members in conjunction with the UNHCR country office and the National Human Rights Commission, the law will come into force on July 1, 2013. Under the new law, asylum seekers whose applications are being processed will be granted legal status to remain in the country, the right to legal employment, and access social services such as health care, housing and education. The RSD procedure will also guarantee access to legal assistance, appeal, documented process, confidentiality, and the right to apply for third country resettlement. Although APRRN welcomes the passing of the new law, members still urge the government to revise some of its articles.

2. Development of Standard Operating Procedures in Indonesia

In Indonesia the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) drafted standard operating procedures (SOP) on how to deal with refugees. APRRN members were approached by the MFA to give input into the final draft. This consultative process serves as a good model for other countries in the region which host large refugee populations, such as Thailand and Malaysia. The draft SOP include some of the following elements:

1. Asylum seekers or refugees will not be subject to refoulement, until their status is determined under the UNHCR RSD process

2. Asylum seekers, especially women, children, and vulnerable people, or those who have been granted refugee status are subject to alternative detention
3. Refugees are entitled to local integration
4. Refugees are entitled to freedom of movement with the immigration authorisation
5. Asylum seekers are entitled to formal or informal education
6. Refugees have the right to earn their living in compliance with Indonesian labor law
7. Asylum seekers and refugees shall have freedom of religion and manifest their religion

As of April 2013 the developed SOP were still pending final approval from the authorities.

3. Thailand: Stateless family released from Immigration Detention Centre

On January 27, after 18 months in detention, two stateless children and their family were released from the Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) in Bangkok. The children and their family arrived in Thailand to seek asylum but were arrested and detained in May 2010. In order to protect and promote the rights of the children and their family, the Thai Committee for Refugees Foundation took initiative and cooperated with the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRC) and the Immigration Department to release the family from the Immigration Detention Centre.

The full statement may be accessed here:

<http://www.aprrn.info/1/index.php/resources/press-releases/7-thailand-stateless-family-released-from-immigration-detention-centre>

4. Thailand: Alternatives to Detention

APRRN continues to contribute to the Task Force on Alternatives to Detention in Thailand as an observer. The Task Force was established in 2010 as a result of an APRRN consultation on immigration detention. The Task Force is coordinated by UNHCR and members include Asylum Access Thailand, the Bangkok Refugee Centre, Jesuit Refugee Services, the Thai Committee for Refugees Foundation, IOM, OHCHR and UNICEF. Throughout 2012, APRRN has provided input into this process with examples of alternatives to detention that are being practiced in different parts of Asia.

5. Refugee Workshops in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand

The first APRRN legal aid training was held in Bangkok in February 2012. As a result, APRRN members in Malaysia and Indonesia recognised the importance of legal aid and capacity building. Malaysian groups organized a national workshop from May 30-31 in Kuala Lumpur. The workshop discussed the definition of refugees, gave an overview of refugee law, highlighted the gaps in procedural standards, and provided the opportunity to identify action plans. APRRN welcomes the fact that the workshop was attended by a large number of representatives from refugee communities in Kuala Lumpur. The national workshop in Indonesia featured similar topics and was held in spring 2012. Legal aid providers in Bangkok also started to have regular informal meetings to update each other and move forward on the national action plans. APRRN is pleased to see that national groups took ownership of the issue, since APRRN believes that it is important to build capacity first, which will lead to more local ownership and domestication of refugee protection.

6. Repatriation of Burmese refugees from Thailand

In light of recent discussions and rumors relating to the repatriation of Burmese refugees in Thailand, APRRN has organised trainings with refugee communities in collaboration with Burma Partnership. The first training was held in Mae Sot in August 2012 and the second in Mae Hong Son in October 2012. Both trainings had the objective to empower refugees to play a more active role in the repatriation process and discuss strategies for ensuring that their voices be heard. After the training in Mae Sot, the Karen CBOs presented their concerns to UNHCR and also arranged a follow-up meeting. In addition a joint position paper and a press release was published – both highlighted concerns of refugees and what safeguards need to be in place so that refugees can return in safety and dignity. Burma Partnership also produced a short advocacy video with the main message that refugees' return must not be planned and prepared without refugees' central involvement.

7. Legislation and the development of asylum policy in Taiwan/East Asia

In October 2012, APRRN together with key refugee advocates and practitioners from East Asia held consultations with the aim of encouraging the development of asylum policy and legislation, and ensuring that these result in meaningful protection for refugees in practice. Legislation and government policy around asylum has changed and is changing in important ways in East Asia. Understanding and adapting to these changes is an ongoing challenge for all those working with refugees. It remains a priority to implement these policies and laws in a way that serves to protect refugees, and ensure their access to sustainable livelihoods and durable solutions.

Taiwan is currently considering the introduction of a "Refugee Act" that would represent a tremendous step forward in the sub-region and region as a whole. Considering that Korea has also just passed a comprehensive Refugee Bill, and considering that the Refugee Act may pass this year in Taiwan, East Asia representatives agreed that the timing was perfect to hold an event in Taiwan to promote adoption of this new law. The "Korean Refugee Bill" and "Taiwan Refugee Act" are two examples of recent legislative developments that will set a powerful precedent in the region. Each has implications for whether and how refugee populations are protected and provided for in those countries. These laws also have implications for those working in neighboring countries in East Asia.

All partners agreed that unless all levels of a community are actively engaged to bring about change, any progress will be slow, piecemeal and temporary, and as such the consultations focused on broad collaboration among civil society leaders, government representatives, and all relevant stakeholders to contribute to solutions. Collaborative engagements included: closed door meetings with government on the Draft Refugee Act, an immigration detention monitoring visit and closed door review with government, a full-day training covering "an overview of refugee law", a full-day training on "alternatives to detention", and an open Symposium held at Soochow University.

The consultations were divided into 6 different sessions: a detention monitoring visit and closed meeting with government on immigration detention, a closed meeting with government on the draft refugee law, intensive training providing an overview of forced migration law, intensive training on alternatives to detention and monitoring, a closed NGO roundtable East Asia consultation, and an open symposium on legislation and the developing asylum policy in East Asia. Following the closed meeting with the government on the draft refugee law a statement was requested by a Parliamentarian. This statement was produced, jointly signed by 40 organisations and international experts, and submitted to the Legislative Yuan of Taiwan. The success of the Taiwan outreach and networking initiative, was demonstrated most recently by the Taiwan Government's invitation to Brian Barbour (Former Chair of the East Asia Working Group) as a representative of APRRN and JAR to be an international observer in the Review Meeting of Taiwan's initial reports under the ICCPR and ICESCR in February of 2013. Engagement in the process resulted in a number of specific conclusions by the independent human rights committee of experts.



APRRN at the UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs 2012

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

1. SAPA Task Force Meetings/Advocacy within the ASEAN

Since 2010, APRRN has functioned as the Refugee Focal Point for the Solidarity for Asia Peoples' Advocacy (SAPA) Taskforce on ASEAN Human Rights. The ASEAN Civil Society Conference in 2011 in Jakarta sparked momentum for collaborative networking between civil society organisations in the region working to further human rights, and for placing refugee rights on the table for discussion as a prominent issue. The APRRN Secretariat and members were present at the meeting for the SAPA Task Force on ASEAN and human rights (January 29, 2012) as well as during the annual SAPA Working Group Meeting on ASEAN (January 30, 2012). In both meetings APRRN was able to highlight the most pressing issues around refugees in the region and liaised for joint actions with other groups present.

In 2012, APRRN also continued to provide refugee rights language for the ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights (ADHR). APRRN strongly believes that the ADHR will be a useful and important instrument that could provide the basis and framework for effective protection of refugee rights in the region. APRRN also provided input to the People's ADHR, a document that reflects civil society perspectives in comparison with the official ADHR.

2. Meeting with with Regional Support Office of the 'Bali Process'

In July 2012 the Regional Support Office (RSO) was established in Bangkok in order to facilitate operationalization of the Regional Cooperation Framework, endorsed in March 2011 by the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (the Bali Process). APRRN members had an extended introductory meeting with members of the newly opened RSO in late 2012 and look forward to ongoing exchanges in relation to key concerns and protection-strengthening initiatives.

3. Regional Protection

In late 2012, the APRRN Steering Committee established a Sub-Committee on Regional Protection, further to the recommendation of APRRN members during the fourth Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights. The new sub-committee has representation by members from each of APRRN's four sub-regions and is tasked with elaborating an APRRN Vision for Regional Protection, as well as a blueprint to achieve this Vision. These are medium to long-term initiatives which will involve consultation with civil society, UNHCR, Governments and other stakeholders. APRRN intends to release a consultation draft of its Vision for Regional Protection in mid-2013. This initiative is in part a response to the fact that, while Governments have begun to engage in dialogue and cooperation on cross-border movements, this has mostly focused on combating people smuggling with limited attention to protection.

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

1. Constructive engagement with UNHCR

Every year over 400 NGO representatives from around the world attend the UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs in Geneva, Switzerland. The consultations are a major event for international NGOs, community-based refugee organisations, UNHCR's implementing partners, human rights groups, and refugee representatives themselves. The consultations provide a forum to discuss challenges and put forward recommendations and solutions. The consultations provides crucial opportunities for networking and allows NGO representatives to engage in direct advocacy with senior UNHCR staff. Beyond the consultations, many NGOs take the opportunity to arrange side meetings with other stakeholders such as state representatives.

The APRRN Secretariat and many of its members have been attending the consultations for many years. Many APRRN members have been engaged with the process for more than a decade, and have been instrumental in institutionalising the NGO-UNHCR consultations. In a relatively short period, APRRN as a network has achieved high visibility at the consultations, primarily due to the targeted and effective interventions and constructive dialogue with UNHCR at the consultations and beyond. APRRN has been referred to as a model for NGO-UNHCR collaboration. This year more than 15 APRRN members were present at the consultations, being actively involved in sessions as speakers, moderators and participants. APRRN has also been approached at the consultations by many organisations that are keen to join the network.

Every year one civil society representative is selected to be the Rapporteur of the NGO Consultations. In 2012 APRRN Coordinator Anoop Sukumaran, was nominated for this role. The role of the rapporteur is to report back on the various sessions highlighting key issues, best practices, and recommendations. This input was compiled into a final report, which was presented at the Executive Committee Meeting in October. The Executive Committee guides the work of UNHCR and approves UNHCR's budget and programmes and decides on key priorities. Anoop's role as the Rapporteur has not only provided great leverage for APRRN, but has also been very useful in making important contacts with key staff at UNHCR in Geneva.

In addition to attending the consultations, APRRN members were also able to arrange meetings with UNHCR Asia Bureau and the Deputy Director of the Division for International Protection. Through these meetings, APRRN was able to raise key issues and share updates from civil society perspectives. APRRN was also able to meet the representatives of the permanent mission of Thailand, Japan and Nepal, and briefed them about the refugee situations in their respective countries.

APRRN was also present at other key UNHCR events and activities throughout the year. APRRN was invited to participate in a Stakeholder Consultation on the Advancement of UNHCR Implementing Partner Relations in Budapest, Hungary. One of the Steering Committee members represented the interests and concerns of APRRN and provided input to the discussion.

In October 2012, Anoop Sukumaran presented the Rapporteur's Report on the NGO Consultations to the ExCom of UNHCR. As the Rapporteur, Anoop was able to meet with key delegations from member states of the ExCom and advance the protection debates from the Asia Pacific region. The Rapporteur's report was mentioned by 8 states in their statements to the Executive Committee, supporting the key recommendations of the report.

In December 2012, Anoop represented the APRRN Secretariat at the "5th High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges" which focused on the theme of "Faith and Protection". Participants strongly confirmed the convergence and complementarity between international protection and humanitarian principles as they relate to refugees, stateless people and the internally displaced on the one hand, and many religious values and traditions on the other. The Dialogue also generated a deeper appreciation of how the lives of those that UNHCR serves are shaped by religion and spirituality.

In the same month, the APRRN Coordinator also attended the Structured Dialogue on Partnership. The Dialogue provided an opportunity for NGOs and the UNHCR to review how we work together and to identify ways to make our partnerships more effective.



In addition, the APRRN Secretariat staff and APRRN members have arranged meetings with representatives from the UNHCR Regional Hub and the Regional Support Office in Bangkok. Through these meetings APRRN was able to discuss and raise key issues of concerns of our members.

APRRN also released a joint letter of concern to the UNHCR Regional Representative addressing issues with RSD procedures in Thailand. UNHCR responded to the letter and invited APRRN members in Thailand to a meeting in November 2012. The meeting was cordial and in an atmosphere of cooperation – UNHCR acknowledged that the letter was useful, that our stated concerns were being taken on board and that collaboration between UNHCR and civil society is important.

As was the case last year, APRRN was also invited to draft the Asia Pacific NGO Statement for the 53rd UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting. The final statement was presented in Geneva during March 13-15, 2012 and highlighted key protection gaps in the region, including weak domestic legal frameworks and the lack of ratification of international treaties to concretize the rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

JOINT STATEMENTS AND CAMPAIGNS

1. Campaign to end the immigration detention of children

APRRN coordinated with its members across the Asia Pacific region to contribute to the International Detention Coalition's (IDC) global campaign to end the detention of children. IDC's recently released report, *Captured Childhood*, details the testimonials of more than 70 detained children over the past two years. The document was presented in Geneva on March 21, 2012 at the 19th session of the UN Human Rights Council and aims to regularise the rights of children who are asylum-seekers, refugees, irregular migrants and stateless persons in accordance with their Child-Sensitive Community Assessment and Placement Model (CCAP).

APRRN members assisted in the campaign by collecting recorded stories and documentation on child detention from national civil society groups and NGOs. The IDC campaign demonstrates that alternatives to detention are necessary to protect the best interests and human rights of the child. APRRN members in the region have also conducted national activities that contributed to the campaign. The campaign also had activities in countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, South Korea, India, Pakistan and Nepal.

APRRN's support of the campaign is captured a press release, which can be downloaded here: <http://refugeerightsasiapacific.org/2012/03/21/aprrn-idc-press-release-children-do-not-belong-in-detention-global-report-and-campaign-to-end-immigration-detention-of-children-launched-at-un-human-rights-council/>

For more information on the campaign and report, see: <http://idcoalition.org/idc-policy-document-captured-child-hood-launches-today-in-geneva/>

2. APRRN joint statement: A call for Korean government to secure the safety of the asylum-seeker deported to Uzbekistan

APRRN released a joint statement calling out to the government of Korea and Uzbekistan. Korea forcibly deported an Uzbek citizen who arrived within their borders to seek asylum before he had an opportunity to exhaust his right to appeal. APRRN released a joint statement condemning these acts and expressing grave

concerns for the safety of the deported asylum seeker as his whereabouts were unknown.

The deportation of the asylum-seeker, whose refugee recognition procedure had not been finalised, to Uzbekistan where he could face torture is a serious violation of the Convention Against Torture, the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and above all, the principle of non-refoulement, *jus cogens* under the customary international law.

The full statement may be accessed here:

<http://www.aprrn.info/1/index.php/resources/joint-statements/1-aprrn-joint-statement-a-call-for-korean-government-to-secure-the-safety-of-the-asylum-seeker-deported-to-uzbekistan>

3. Joint statement on the Rohingya situation

In June 2012, APRRN released two separate statements on the current situation in Rakhine state in Myanmar. In the first statement, APRRN condemned the sectarian violence and deplored the use of violence by all sides. The statement also addressed the root causes of the problems and the systematic discrimination suffered by the Rohingya. APRRN made recommendations to the government of Myanmar and the government of Bangladesh as well as to the international community. The full statement had over fifty endorsements and can be accessed here:

<http://refugeerightsasiapacific.org/2012/06/14/asia-pacific-refugee-rights-network-statement-on-the-situation-in-the-rakhine-state-of-myanmar/>

The second statement, released on June 20, was addressed to the Government of Bangladesh. APRRN expressed concern over the detention and deportation of Rohingya refugees by the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB). The statement highlighted that those fleeing Rakhine State should be provided with safe haven and humanitarian assistance. APRRN also urged donors, regional governments and international organisations to provide diplomatic and financial support to improve the situation. The full statement can be downloaded here: <http://refugeerightsasiapacific.org/2012/06/20/do-not-turn-away-those-fleeing-the-sectarian-violence-in-rakhine-state/>

4. APRRN condemns the murder of Clover Graham

APRRN joined the IDC and others to express its heartfelt sadness at the horrendous murder of IDC member, Clover Graham, a well-known and highly respected Jamaican human rights advocate. She joined IDC in November 2011, after participating in its first workshop held in the Americas. Her significant contribution to Jamaican society and genuine interest in sharing her legal knowledge and experience was evident to all workshop participants at the time. Clover was passionate about improving detention conditions for asylum seekers and migrants in the Caribbean, and specifically, about ensuring that best practices in alternatives to detention be shared with the government of Jamaica.

The full statement may be accessed here:

<http://www.aprrn.info/1/index.php/resources/press-releases/122-aprrn-condemns-the-murder-of-clover-graham>

CAPACITY-BUILDING

In APRRN's effort to strengthen the work of our members in various areas, APRRN has implemented a range of joint trainings and workshops in 2012:

- Refugee Law (Short course)
- Legal aid and advocacy
- Refugee mental health
- Immigration detention
- Refugee/migrant women's issues (Preparation of the first Training of the Trainers)

ACHIEVEMENTS:

1. Regional Immigration Detention Workshop

Civil society in the Asia Pacific region has been working consistently and collaboratively over the past 4 years through APRRN's Immigration Detention Working Group (IDWG) to identify shared concerns, and develop corresponding priorities and action plans at the national and sub-regional levels with a focus on two core goals:

1. Ending detention by encouraging release, alternatives and minimising the use of detention
2. Improving conditions and protection and access to justice

This work has emerged in the face of the growing impact of immigration detention on refugees, asylum seekers and migrants throughout the region, and also in the context of increasing protection discussions bilaterally and through the Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF). In response to this, the IDC and APRRN, co-hosted a two day workshop in October 2012 with two key objectives:

1. Developing alternatives to immigration detention and monitoring models in the region
2. Developing priorities, models and messages for regional protection

The workshop enabled participants to begin the process of developing two year project plans for these two key objectives, in line with discussions and decisions made at the Asia Pacific Consultations on Refugee Rights (APCRR) 4 in Seoul in August, 2012. Finalized project plans encompassed the agreed to three regional priorities over the course of the past four years which remain central to the projects to be developed at the sub-regional and national levels:

1. Children in detention and alternatives to immigration detention
2. Improving detention access and monitoring
3. Supporting and building civil society capacity

Participants were comprised of APRRN and IDC members across the region, that have worked actively on immigration detention and regional protection issues within the network, as well as other key stakeholders.

2. Refugee Mental Health Training

The Refugee Mental Health Training was held in Bangkok in June 2012 and was attended by 45 participants from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Myanmar. Participants ranged from legal aid providers to service providers and advocacy organisation representatives. The training built on the momentum created by the first Refugee Mental Health Training organized by APRRN, held in Hong Kong in November 2011. This training was very well received and APRRN members highlighted the fact that a similar training was needed for the Southeast Asia region. The Southeast Asia Refugee Mental Health Training was spread over three days and aimed to build knowledge, skills and capacity among organizations working with refugees to respond more effectively to mental health issues among refugee communities. In addition to the training, APRRN facilitated a discussion to identify the most pressing challenges as well as joint strategies to address them.

Derina Johnson from Burma Border Projects was the main facilitator for this training. APRRN also relied on many other experienced mental health professionals as speakers, such as Dr. Xavier Pereira (Health Equity Initiatives, Malaysia), Ofelia C. Mendoza (Community and Family Services International, Philippines), Meredith Walsh (Burma Border Projects, Thailand), Dr. Htin Zaw (Social Action for Women, Thailand), Eh Tho & Saw Thaw Lin (Mae Tao Clinic Thailand), Judith Strasser & Sopheap Taing (Transcultural Psychosocial Organization, Cambodia). Feedback on the training was very positive and participants suggested that there is a need for future training and capacity building on the issue.

3. Southeast Asia Legal Aid Training

From February 21-23, 2012, the Legal Aid and Advocacy Working Group held the Southeast Asia Legal Aid Training in Bangkok, Thailand.

Twenty participants from four countries across the region- Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Cambodia - gathered to share best practices and discuss common challenges for improving access to effective legal aid in the refugee status determination process (RSD) as well as enhanced human and refugee rights protection.

The training was convened by Brian Barbour, Chair of the East Asia Working Group and Director of the External Relations Unit of the Japan Association for Refugees. Other speakers hailed from Asylum Access Thailand, the Thai Committee for Refugees Foundation and the UNHCR Asia Pacific Regional Hub.

In addition to the training elements participants also drafted an action plan which includes focus areas such as: more national training for lawyers and also interpreters, development of self-help kits, the sharing of past and present case law, continuing the engagement with ASEAN, the development of quarterly RSD reports and the development of a directory of legal aid service providers.

4. South Asia Legal Aid Training

The first legal aid training conducted by APRRN for the South Asia region was held in Dhulikhel, Nepal from July 19-21, 2012. The training was attended by 22 participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tibet and Nepal. Brian Barbour from the Japan Association for Refugees (JAR) and Chair of the APRRN East Asia Working Group was the main resource person for the training. The training was hosted by INHURED and PPR Nepal, which are APRRN members. Additional speakers included two resource persons from UNHCR, Luma Singh and Nathan Williams.

The objective of the training was to map the challenges in the sub-region, and discuss the gaps identified and tools to address these gaps. The training started with a critical panel discussion on the challenges to RSD/ legal aid in South Asia and a mapping exercise, which identified the main gaps. The latter part focused on an introduction to refugee law, legal aid and the refugee definition. On the second day, participants were introduced to case studies, the Nairobi code and ethics in legal aid, RSD procedural standards as well as practical aspects of legal representation. The last day of the training discussed legal aid projects as well as future action plans for APRRN in terms of legal aid for the South Asia region.

5. Short course on refugees and statelessness

The short course on refugees and statelessness was held in December 2012 to strengthen participants' capacity, expertise and knowledge on refugees and statelessness in the region. The course provided an interdisciplinary overview on refugees and statelessness covering political, legal, social, and economic aspects. It also examined responses by civil society, government, and intergovernmental organisations, and identified measures to better promote and protect the rights of stateless persons and refugees.

The course produced the following outcomes:

- Developed an understanding of the legal, political and social contexts
- Outlined activities of major institutions involved in refugee protection and advocacy

- Detailed gaps and challenges as well as the solutions and best practices
- Developed practical skills in areas of refugee identification, service provision, and advocacy

The in-class component was delivered over three consecutive days in Bangkok through a combination of lectures and small group work. The last two days of the course included a field trip to the Thai-Burma border, which enabled participants to understand firsthand the conditions and challenges of refugees. The course was presented by some of the leading experts working on refugee issues in the region. They included academics, activists, pro-bono lawyers, UNHCR representatives, and NGO workers.

The course was a joint initiative of APRRN, UNHCR, and the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies (IHRPS) at Mahidol University, Thailand.

6. Women and Girls at Risk

The Women and Girls at Risk Working Group (WAGAR) has worked diligently in the latter portion of 2012 to establish the framework of the "Refugee Women's Dialogues" in the Asia Pacific region, which are a series of workshops facilitated by APRRN and academics from the Centre for Refugee Research, University of New South Wales, Australia, beginning at the end of 2012 and extending into 2013.

Refugee women and girls face a unique set of challenges throughout all stages of the refugee experience. Stripped of the protection of their homes, refugee women and girls are often subject to multiple additional challenges including harassment, indifference, and sexual and gender based violence. APRRN partnered with the Centre for Refugee Research, University of New South Wales to conduct a follow-up to the women's dialogues that were initiated by UNHCR in as part of the 60th anniversary commemorations. These Dialogues gathered more than 1500 participants together to discuss the unique needs of women in seven sites across the world. The Dialogues created a safe space for refugee women to unpack and examine the refugee experience from a gendered perspective. Women were encouraged to identify key protection gaps. The Dialogues provided an opportunity for the women to present their analysis of the gaps and solutions to the UNHCR, government officials, and other NGOs.

As a result of the significant amount of specialised planning and methodological strategizing that must take place prior to the start of these workshops, APRRN held the first in the series at the start of January 2013. Intense research and planning, along with most event logistics were completed prior to the close of 2012.

NETWORKING AND INFORMATION SHARING

In an effort to create a stronger network with actively engaged members, sharing information and strategies, APPRN pursued the following strategic objectives during 2012:

- Organisation of the 4th Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights
- Organisation of working group consultations for: East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia
- Development of membership in un- and underrepresented countries
- Improvement of web presence through launch of new website, APPRN Blog and on-going use of social media
- Publication of a regular newsletter
- Continuous use of e-mail lists and teleconferencing
- Development of campaign materials: postcards, posters, brochures, badges etc.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

1. Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights 4 (APCRR 4)

The 4th Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights was held over three days in Seoul, Korea in August 2012. It brought together around 120 participants working on refugee issues from across the Asia Pacific region. The theme of APCRR4 was “Local obligation – global concern: Advancing refugee rights protection in the Asia Pacific”. The theme reflected one of APPRN’s core beliefs: that refugee rights need to be made a national priority by adopting national legislation and establishing mechanisms to protect refugees in host countries.

Day 1 featured a number of workshops on pressing issues such as national legislation, durable solutions, statelessness, community interpretation and regional cooperation. The various thematic and geographic sessions and discussions on Day 2 were structured to enhance information sharing and to strategise on joint actions. Day 3 was dedicated to the Annual General Meeting of APPRN and election of the new Steering Committee (see appendix).

The full report of APCRR4 can be viewed here: <http://www.aprrn.info/1/index.php/resources/reports/152-apcrr4-report>

The following joint actions were identified during the geographic and thematic working group sessions:

South Asia:

- More advocacy on the Rohingya inside Bangladesh
- Looking at existing domestic laws and constitution and see whether they can be used for advocating for refugee rights
- Increased localised training opportunities. Separated training for judiciary and police forces on refugee rights and international protection
- Engagement with international human rights mechanisms
- Increased network building and outreach to those working on migrant issues

Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific:

- Seek to expand working group membership to New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Pacific states
- Convene two sub-regional working group consultations: one in New Zealand and one in Australia
- Monitoring of developments in relation to the “Bali Process”, the Regional Cooperation Framework and its Regional Support Office
- Proactively seek opportunities to engage with other APPRN working groups and explore opportunities to foster connections between NGOs working on common issues across countries and sub-regions.
- Monitoring and responding to the Australian government’s removal of asylum seekers who arrive by boat to Nauru, PNG or any other state

East Asia:

- Look into refugee/civil society situations in unrepresented countries and strengthen network there
- Seek opportunities to involve refugees in activities and encourage refugee voices
- Seek opportunities for roundtables of refugee services providers
- Capacity building on psychosocial support, fundraising, interpretation and immigration detention
- Joint awareness around World Refugee Day
- Engagement with government through advocacy, negotiation, lobbying and collaboration
- Exchanging draft legislations on refugee rights
- Advocate for increased pilot resettlement programmes

Southeast Asia:

- Engagement with UNHCR on issues such as compliance with procedural standards, capacity building, training of interpreters, sharing of developments around RSD, dialogue with UNHCR Regional Hub and Geneva, provision of inputs to NGO Statement to ExCom and High Commissioner's Structured Dialogue
- Regional cooperation: Monitoring and coordinating with other regional networks, development of APRRN regional protection framework, monitoring and engagement with the Regional Support Office
- Capacity building in the area of legal aid, refugee mental health and psychosocial services and refugee law
- Information sharing on tools, good practices, references etc.
- Increasing the involvement of refugee communities
- Engagement on statelessness
- Repatriation of Burmese refugees: Development of position paper and advocacy, dialogue with donor countries on the practical challenges, engagement with the refugee community

Right to Health:

- Evidence based-advocacy: Include mental health as an issue in advocacy with governments and other agencies. Lobbying donors on increased funding.
- Staff exchange and mentorship programmes
- Trainings on mental health, interpretation as well as training for UNHCR/detention staff/government officials
- Mapping exercise
- Research on specific issues
- Sharing of resources, plans , materials, toolkits

Women and Girls at Risk:

- Preparation for the 5th World Conference on Women
- Creating country briefs on the situation relating to refugee women and girls at risk
- Refugee and Migrant Women's Dialogue

Legal Aid and Advocacy:

- Trainings on interpretation and legal aid
- Increased national regular meetings between legal aid providers to share information and see how collaboration can be achieved
- Sharing of best practices and jurisprudence
- Compilation of training materials

Immigration detention:

- Advocacy and development of alternatives to detention
- Expanding the campaign to end detention of children
- Improving access and monitoring
- Hosting of regional workshops and symposiums
- Advocacy for national legislations reform and expansion

2. Southeast Asia Consultation

The Southeast Asia Consultation was held on June 13, 2012 in Bangkok and attended by 25 participants from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia and Myanmar.

Through the consultation participants were able to create a joint-advocacy strategy for the geographic working group. Strategic objectives include: continuous engagement with UNHCR on a national and regional level, monitoring of the 6-P Programme in Malaysia, advocacy and engagement around the Regional Cooperation Framework and the Regional Support Office, advocacy on legal representation and capacity-building on legal aid, engagement with AICHR/ASEAN and the SAPA network, the establishment of the statelessness working group and capacity building on this issue, a regional workshop on alternatives to detention and increased leverage of refugee voices within the network.



Southeast Asia Refugee Mental Health Training

3. South Asia Consultation

APRRN convened a consultation in South Asia, bringing together members from Nepal, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a general mapping of the refugee situation in South Asia. The mapping served to 1) identify the unique needs refugees have in each region, as perceived by APRRN members operating in the region, 2) understand what actors are operating on the ground and what services they provide to refugees, and 3) where are the gaps between refugee needs and services available. After completing general mapping exercise the working group identified strategic pathways through which APRRN could, as a network, serve to bridge these gaps. The needs assessment was conducted through the lens of each of APRRN's five thematic areas. From the mapping participants were able to identify strategic advocacy plans around which groups could convene to promote increased protection for refugees in the region.

4. Australia & the Pacific and East Asia Consultation

Smaller consultations for Australia, New Zealand & the Pacific and East Asia were also held back to back to other meetings. The East Asia Consultation was held during the activities in Taiwan and the Australia, New Zealand & the Pacific Consultation was held after the immigration detention workshop in Bangkok. Both consultations reviewed action plans and strategized for joint actions in 2013.

5. Membership

As of April 2013 APRRN has grown to over 140 organisational and individual members. In 2012 we were able to reach out to un- and under-represented countries and now have new members from Taiwan, Papua New Guinea, Iran, Pakistan, and the Republic of Maldives.

6. Communication

In 2012, APRRN published 3 newsletters and also launched a new website in September 2012. APRRN also continues to use google mail lists for efficient and cost-effective communication. Mail lists have been used to share information, plan joint activities and get advice/support. We have also expanded our internet presence by creating an active Twitter Account (@APRRN_) and Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/APRefugeeRightsN). We intend to continue using these platforms for information sharing and also to create a YouTube page where we can record portions of APRRN conference and events and post them online. APRRN has also managed to develop a range of campaign materials including T-Shirts, posters, brochures and folders.

7. Membership outreach

The Japan Association for Refugees (JAR) and APRRN have been working together to ensure that refugee protection extends throughout the Asia Pacific region, including countries such as Mongolia and China. From 21-24 June 2012, with the support of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, JAR completed its initial field visit to Beijing and Mongolia that was divided into 7 different engagements: a briefing with the UNHCR Regional Office in Beijing, a briefing with the UNHCR representative in Mongolia, a meeting with the National Human Rights Commission, a meeting with the Mongolian Immigration Agency, and meetings with two civil society organizations in Mongolia. The timing of the outreach trip was very important as it followed the closing of

UNHCR's Office in Mongolia due to funding cuts. The outreach trip resulted not only in the development of network contacts in Mongolia, but also the identification of a few potential network contacts in mainland China. To build on this momentum, APRRN and JAR will organize a follow-up trip to Mongolia in May 2013.

8. Outreach

APRRN was also present at a range of meetings and conferences throughout the year to raise awareness about our work, foster collaboration and ensure that refugee concerns are highlighted:

- APRRN was invited to give a training on its regional advocacy model in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania as part of the International Detention Coalition's work in Sub-Saharan Africa
- APRRN hosted Human Rights Watch's pre-report launch meeting and first informal Task Force on urban refugee issues
- APRRN attended North Korean Human Rights and Refugees organised by Citizen's Alliance for North Korean Human Rights, Human Rights Watch and Conectas Derechos Humanos, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (August 2012)
- APRRN gave a presentation on "Forced Migration and Refugee Concerns" at the World Social Forum on Migration, Manila, Philippines (November 2012)
- APRRN participated in ICVA consultations in Bangkok, "Building Relationships for Improved Humanitarian Response" - a Workshop to develop ICVA's South East Asian Regional Hub. APRRN represented its membership by assisting ICVA in understanding the needs of the region. The meeting also served to build and strengthen relationships amongst NGOs, UN agencies, and key regional bodies, in order to increase regional dialogue and trust for improved humanitarian response.



Southeast Asia Legal Aid Training

RESEARCH

APRRN was able to conduct research on the challenges and coping strategies of refugees in the urban context. APRRN developed the profiling methodology, trained researchers, and then launched the research in four countries. The objectives of the study were:

- To gather credible data on conditions of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons in the Asia Pacific region, producing a database of information that can be shared
- To document coping strategies of refugees facing challenges
- To identify key stakeholders on refugee rights issues in the sub regions
- To identify key priority areas for stakeholders, in order to expand protection space, and combat susceptibility to trafficking and people smuggling
- To build the capacity of stakeholders on issues such as immigration detention, legal aid, mental health, advocacy etc.

The project gathered data on refugee populations, data on legal frameworks in refugee protection, mapped stakeholders on refugee issues in the country and highlighted critical issues as well as coping strategies. APRRN collaborated through a lead researcher in each of the sub regions responsible for identifying and collating of data for the primary and secondary data collection phases. The preliminary reports were compiled by the sub regional focal points. The APRRN Secretariat compiled all final data and along with identified experts, analysed the reports to form a comprehensive report that is regional. The final report will be submitted to conferences in the region, published on APRRN's website, and on various other academic forums and is expected to be published in the second quarter of 2013.



NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

WORKING GROUP ON STATELESSNESS

APRRN adopted statelessness as its newest thematic working group in August 2012. In the months that followed, the Secretariat and members developed the following terms of reference for the working group, for 2013 and beyond.

The Asia Pacific is home to nearly one-half of the world's stateless population, with numbers escalating annually. Stateless persons are at heightened risk of trafficking and people smuggling, both of which are phenomena that threatened regional peace and stability. In spite of rising numbers of stateless individuals, Asian states continue to advance punitive registration and citizenship policies that deny stateless individuals the right to citizenship. In response to the egregious human rights violations of states, civil society organisations operate across the region to meet the immediate needs of stateless persons, while simultaneously advocating for legislative reform on the national level. Presently, these civil society organisations operate in isolation, without access to expertise, training, and international capacity building mechanisms.

In 2012 the APRRN Secretariat was approached by several of its members to create a fifth thematic working group to focus on issues of statelessness, thereby providing a platform for regional support and capacity strengthening. In August 2012 APRRN formally established the working group of Statelessness, electing a Chair and Deputy Chair from the APRRN membership. This working group aims to strengthen capacity of civil society organisations to advocate effectively for and on behalf of stateless persons, and promote specialized education, training, and workshops to improve direct-service delivery.

Building on the momentum of these developments, the working group aims to expand understanding of the problem of statelessness in the Asia Pacific region. Furthermore it seeks to ensure the right of every person to have a nationality, work to facilitate acquisition of nationality and uphold international standards to protect stateless people and to prevent and reduce statelessness.

EVALUATION

In the second part of 2012 APRRN commissioned an independent external evaluation. The report will be made public in the second half of 2013.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Full list of APRRN staff:

- Coordinator: Anoop Sukumaran
- Programme Officer: Julia Mayerhofer (until September 2012)
- Programme Officer: Danielle J. Grigsby (September 2012 to February 2013)
- Administrative Officer: Mayuree Ruechakiattikul (joined in April 2012)

APRRN was also joined by Rakinder Reehal as an intern from September 2012 to March 2013 as well as several volunteers including Dana McLean and Isaac Olson.

LIST OF APRRN MEMBERS

List of current organizational members (noting some request anonymity):

APRRN has a diverse and inspiring range of members including legal aid providers, pro-bono lawyers, human rights advocates, service providers, academic institutions etc.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS AS OF APRIL 2013:

Australia:

Act for Peace - National Council of Churches in Australia
Amnesty International Australia
Bhutanese Organisation in Australia
Centre for Refugee Research, University of New South Wales
House of Welcome
International Detention Coalition
Migrant and Refugee Rights Project Asia Pacific
Naiker Associates
NAMII, Consultants
Oxfam Australia
Refugee Council of Australia
Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service (SA)

Bangladesh:

Bangladesh Integrated Social Advancement Programme (BISAP)
Odhikar
OKUP (Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program)

Cambodia:

Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARMA Cambodia)
Khmer Krom Human Rights Association

Hong Kong

Barnes and Daly
Christian Action
The Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre Ltd.
Vision First Ltd.

India:

Development and Justice Initiative
OfERR
Socio Legal Information Centre
The Other Media

Indonesia

Human Rights Working Group
JRS Indonesia
LBH Jakarta
People's Crisis Centre
World Relief

Iran:

Association for Protection of Refugee Women and Children (HAMI)

Japan:

Forum for Refugees Japan
Japan Association for Refugees
Stateless Network

Malaysia:

CARAM Asia
Federation of Reproductive Health Associations, Malaysia

Health Equity Initiatives (HEI)
Malaysian Social Research Institute
NurSalam
Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)
Tenaganita
The National Human Rights Society (HAKAM)
Voice of the Children

Nepal:

INHURED International
Population Watch
PPR Nepal

New Zealand:

New Zealand National Refugee Network

Pakistan:

ESCR-ASIA Pakistan
Human Rights Alliance Pakistan
RightsNow Pakistan
Rural Development Project (RDP)
Pakistan International Human Rights Organization (PIHRO)

Papua New Guinea:

Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee

Philippines:

Christian Solidarity Worldwide - Southeast Asia Inc.
Community and Family Services International
Migrant Forum in Asia

Republic of Maldives:

Maldives NGO Federation

South Korea:

APIL (Advocates for Public Interest Law)
Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights
Dongcheon Public Interest Foundation
Korean Public Interest Lawyers Group GONGGAM
Medipeace

NANCEN
Refugee PNAN
The Asia Centre for Human Rights (ACHR)

Sri Lanka:

South Asia Network for Refugees, IDPs and Migrants (SANRIM)

Taiwan:

Taipei Overseas Peace Service
Taiwan Association for Human Rights
Union of Excluded Immigrants and Unwanted Citizens (UNIC)

Thailand:

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum Asia)
Asylum Access
BPSOS, Inc.
Burma Border Projects
Caritas Thailand
Chin Human Rights Organization
Human Security Alliance (HSA)
People's Empowerment Foundation
Thai Committee for Refugees Foundation (TCR)
The Arakan Project

UK:

Centre for Applied Human Rights, University of York
Fahamu Refugee Programme
The Equal Rights Trust

As of April 2013 APRRN also counted 60 individuals members, leading to a total membership of over 140 members.

APRRN STEERING COMMITTEE

APRRN is governed and overseen by sixteen volunteer Steering Committee members. Each geographic working group elects a Chair and a Deputy Chair and the each thematic group elects a Chair to be representatives on the Steering Committee. They are responsible for working with the Secretariat to coordinate the implementation the activities of the action plans. The Steering Committee is elected by APRRN members for two-year terms and are eligible for re-election for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

POSITION

Chair
Deputy Chair

Geographic:

East Asia Chair
East Asia Deputy Chair
Southeast Asia Chair/
Host Organization Representative
Southeast Asia Deputy Chair
South Asia Chair
South Asia Deputy Chair
Australia & Pacific Chair
Australia & Pacific Deputy Chair

Thematic:

Legal Aid Chair
Immigration Detention Chair
Right to Health Chair
Women and Girls at Risk Chair
Statelessness Chair

Refugee representative

NAME

Gopal Krishna Siwakoti
Tamara Domicelj

Emma Daae Kim
E-Ling Chiu

Veerawit Tianchainan
Vladimir Hernandez
Lakshan Dias
Saud Tahir
Kafeba Mundele
Paul Power

Brian Barbour
Grant Mitchell
Ashok Gladston Xavier
Effie Mitchell
Lara Chen Tien-Shi

Cheery Zahau

ORGANIZATION

INHURED International
Oxfam Australia

Dongcheon Foundation
Taiwan Association for Human Rights

Thai Committee for Refugees Foundation
Community Family Services International
SANRIM
Socio Legal Information Centre
New Zealand National Refugee Network
Refugee Council of Australia

Japan Association for Refugees
International Detention Coalition
OfERR
Centre for Refugee Research
Stateless Network Japan

Thematic working groups deputy chairs:

Legal aid and advocacy: Medhapan Sundaradeja, Asylum Access Thailand

Immigration detention: Vivienne Chew , International Detention Coalition

Right to Health: Derina Johnson, Burma Border Projects

Women and Girls at Risk: Katrina Maliamauv, Tenaganita

Statelessness: Chris Lewa, The Arakan Project

Non-voting members:

Alice Nah, HAKAM, Malaysia

James Thomson, Act for Peace

Pill Kyu Hwang, GONNGAM

Advisors:

Yiombi Thona, South Korea

Marip Seng Bu, Japan

Martin David Jones, UK

Barbara Harrell Bond, UK

Rajendra Ghimire, Nepal

JC Kim, South Korea

Ho Taeg Lee, South Korea

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- Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- Aus Aid

PROJECT SUPPORT/PARTNERS:

- International Detention Coalition (IDWG Workshops)
- Burma Border Projects (Refugee Mental Health Training)
- Thai Committee for Refugees Foundation
- Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development
- Taiwan Association for Human Rights (East Asia Symposium)
- Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University (Short course)
- Human Asia (APCRR4)
- The Graduate School of International Studies of Korea University (APCRR4)
- Hwajeong Peace Foundation, The Dong-A Ibo (APCRR4)
- Japan Association for Refugees (East Asia Symposium)
- Stateless Network Japan

This list is not exclusive and we would like to extend our appreciation to all our members and partners who have contributed to the work of APRRN in 2012.

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