

## Toward greater communication and interaction among women and women's groups in the region

# The Global Fund visits Southeast Asia

In September 1991, Anne Firth Murray, President of The Global Fund for Women, and Lucia Pavia Ticzon, one of the Southeast Asian advisers of The Global Fund and coordinator for organization and human resource development of Isis International and cofounder of the Women's Resource and Research Center (WRRC), both located in Quezon City, Philippines travelled to meet with and consult the advisers and grantees of The Global Fund for Women on the possibility of developing a Global Fund association in Southeast Asia.

Anne and Luchie were able to visit most of the advisers, grantees, selected women's organizations, pro-women donors and donor agencies

during the two-week trip that took them to Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Jakarta and Manila.

During the meetings with individual women and women's groups, the consensus was that women want to work and interact together at a regional level on certain issues such as violence against women, trafficking in women and migrant labor issues, and training of women in community development and related skills. The groups felt that The Global Fund can nurture and expand these regional efforts.

In particular, The Global Fund can help create an environment and a context in which women can relate to each other on the basic reality and

uniqueness of women's lives. With this objective in mind, the Global Fund plans to continue discussing the possibilities of strengthening women's groups in the region.

Since strengthening south-south linkages is also one of the objectives of Isis International and because of its relocation to Manila, close collaboration with The Global Fund and with other women's organizations in the region offer many possibilities for networking.

The trip to Southeast Asia allowed The Global Fund a firsthand look into the many different ways it can service women's groups in the region and thereby the women's movements in the world.

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## Some Women's Groups in the Region

### Thailand

The Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women (APSW)  
501/1 Mu 3, Dejatungka Road  
Tungsikan, Don Muang, Bangkok  
10210

Established in 1974 as the Status of Women Promotion Group, the APSW's objectives are to study problems pertaining to discrimination and women's rights and to promote equal opportunities between men and women. Their projects include: Emergency Home for distressed women and children, SASAKAWA Women's Education and Training Center (WE-TRAIN) and the Gender and Development Research Institute (GDRI).

The APSW is presently operating two Emergency Homes which provide temporary shelter, food and medical care. WE-TRAIN provides skills

development in many areas while the GDRI is involved in academic and research work on gender issues.

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Friends of Thai Women Workers in Asia (FOWIA)  
P.O. Box 1102 Kasetsart, Bangkok  
10930, Thailand, Telefax 501-4539

The FOWIA assists women workers from Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore and Taiwan. Their work involves NGO networking, human rights council, church, domestic workers, prostitutes, and factory workers

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Friends of Women (FOW)  
984 Pha-Ha-Thit Road  
Bangkok 10200 Thailand

The FOW is concerned with the following issues: quality of life,

conditions of women workers in the factory (unions and the labor movement), health (occupational hazards), sexual harassment and violence (e.g., rape) and migrant workers from the countryside (covering not only Bangkok but also Asia).

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Foundation for Women (FFW)  
35/267 Saransanitwong 62, Bangkok  
10700/PO Box 7-47 Bkk 10700, Thailand, Tel. 4335149

The FFW set up a Women's Information Center and the Home for Battered Women in 1987. The Foundation looks into issues of domestic violence, prostitution, sex exploitation, tourism, sex market, and women's education. Its goal is to empower women by means of support programs and a separate project on AIDS.

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National Council of Women in Thailand (NCWT)  
41 Inthamara 1, Phayathai, Bangkok  
10400, Thailand, Tel. 279-5448

The NCWT is a women's organization dedicated to coordinating the promotion and development of the efforts of 130 NGO women's groups in Thailand. Their affiliates must have over 100 members and be a legal group with well defined objectives and constitution. Some of their members are the YWCA, charity groups, professionals, and alumnae associations.

It works closely with the National Commission on Women, a government organization established in 1989. It serves as a liaison group rather than a program-based group. It coordinates and builds up networks. One of the Council's efforts is to challenge popular media images of Thai women by conducting workshops.

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### Malaysia

Asian and Pacific Development Center (APDC), WID Program  
Persiaran Duta, PO Box 12224, 50770  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Tel. 603-2548088; Fax: 603-2550316

The APDC WID program is an autonomous intergovernmental organization that works toward changing the situation of women in the Asia-Pacific region. Its activities include networking, information dissemination, and supporting action programs. It currently undertakes a women's health documentation project, and projects on women and environment, and women and media.

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All Women's Action Society (AWAM)  
C/ 43C Jalan SS6/12  
47301 Kelana Jaya, Selangor Darul  
Ehsan, Malaysia, Tel. 03-7037334

AWAM is a group of women dedicated to creating awareness and developing consciousness among women of the dignity and rights of

women. Through campaigns, talks and seminars, AWAM provides a setting for skills development and creative growth, as well as fosters a support network for women to combat isolation and encourage change.

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National Council of Women's Organizations (CLWO)  
157, JI Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Tel 298-9251

The CLWO has commissions on health, education, economy and employment, environment, religion, politics and leadership, law, media, unity, and violence against women. It is an affiliate member of the International Council of Women and a member of the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organizations.

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Sabah Women's Action Research Group (SAWO)  
PO Box 12010, 88822 Kota Kinabalu Sabah, Malaysia

SAWO was set up in 1985 by a group of women concerned about increasing incidents of violence and discrimination against women, particularly in Sabah. They are a resource center and women's organization involved in research and publication, training volunteer counselors and increasing awareness about violence against women and other women's issues.

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Sisters in Islam  
C/ - No. 172, Lorong, Maarot  
59000 Bangsar Park, Malaysia

Sisters in Islam is a group of Muslim women studying and researching the status of women in Islam. This group believes that religion itself can be a liberating factor for women and wants to achieve rights granted by Islam. (See page 16 for additional information about the group.)

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Women's Aid Organization (WAO)  
Pertubuhan Pertolongan Wanita  
P.O. Box 493, Jalan Sultan  
46760 Petaling Jaya  
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia  
Tel. 03-7554426/7563488

Established in 1982, WAO is an independent and non-religious organization of paid and voluntary workers which deals with issues of domestic violence. It has a refuge center for battered women and children, telephone and face to face counselling and a program providing affordable child care facilities for working women.

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### Singapore

Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE)  
Tanglin P.O. Box 244, Singapore 9124

AWARE is an independent, non-political, non-religious organization founded in October 1985. It implements programs of education, publishing and outreach to work toward the removal of barriers that prevent Singaporean women from full participation in their country. (See page 36 for information about its women's center.)

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### Indonesia

Yayasan Srikandi  
Jl. Dempo 14 pav.  
Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia  
Tel. 8580292

Yayasan Srikandi is a Jakarta-based foundation established in 1983. Its activities are assistance to government programs that are related to the upgrading of women's role and the development of women's capabilities within the framework of social development in the country;

studies on the position and role of women within and outside the family; studies on the role of women in development and the impact on women

and the family; publications, consulting services and technical support, and development of cooperative work within the country and abroad to upgrade the position of women.

Yayasan Srikandi has six programs: documentation and publication, education and training, research and development, finance, communication, information and education, and internal/external relations.

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The Foundation of Women Liberation  
Yayasan Perempuan Mardika (YPM)  
P.O. Box 4069 JKTJ  
Jakarta, 13040 Indonesia

YPM is an organization concerned with the plight of Indonesian working women particularly those at the most exploitative sectors such as women workers, migrants, and domestics. It facilitates the establishment of independent working women's organizations from various sectors.

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Kalyanamitra Foundation  
Jl. Raya Bogor km. 20/30  
Jakarta 13510 Indonesia  
Tel. 021-802-603

Kalyanamitra was set up in 1985 to create a communication and information network among women's groups and other NGOs. The foundation is concerned with prostitution and violence against women, and documents the roles of women domestic workers and street vendors. They publish a quarterly newsletter, "Dongbret", in Indonesian.

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## Philippines

Center for Women's  
Resources (CWR)  
18 Scout Lozano St., Quezon City  
Tel. no.: 921-21-68; Fax no.: 99-27-55

The CWR promotes the full participation of Philippine women in the liberation movement and responds to the specific needs of women from

different sectors in collaboration with institutions, community and volunteer groups.

Depthnews Women's  
Service (DNWS)  
Press Foundation of Asia, 3rd floor,  
S & L Bldg., 1500 Roxas Blvd., Mla.  
Tel. no.: 59-14-78, Fax no.: 522-43-65

DNWS provides information on the status and concerns of women as well as the social, economic and political factors that affect them. It covers women's issues nationally and globally and takes initiatives on women's development.

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Institute of Women's Studies,  
Women's Studies Outreach Program,  
Saint Scholastica's College, Leon  
Guinto St. Manila

The Institute of Women's Studies extends educational and training services to grassroots women.

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Kanlungan Center Foundation  
77 K-10th St., Kamias, Quezon City.  
Tel. no.: 921-78-49

Kanlungan is an organization which acts as a crisis intervention center to help Filipino migrants acquire protection, welfare, and rehabilitation through legal processes, counselling and therapy. With the "feminization of the migrant workforce," most of their services target women.

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Kasamaka - North Cotabato  
235 Madrigueno Bldg., Kidapawan,  
Cotabato

Kasamaka is a coalition of women's organizations that strives to promote women's rights and equality in the context of the broad, popular struggle for a just, democratic and humane society. It sponsors women's education seminars, training and workshops.

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The Women's Media Circle  
96 Maningning St.  
Teachers' Village, Quezon City.  
Tel. no.: 921-38-0

The Women's Media Circle is a group of women artists, researchers and media professionals involved in the creation of more venues for the expression of women's issues, problems and solutions, aspirations and activities through arts and media. They produce "Woman Watch" for radio and television.

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Women's Research and Resource  
Center (WRRC), Miriam College  
Foundation, Inc. Katipunan Parkway  
Loyola Heights, Quezon City  
Philippines, Telefax 97-28-60

WRRC was founded in 1986 as a service-oriented institution for women and men committed to the education and empowerment of Philippine women toward full participation in national development and social change, and the realization of their full potential as women. They are an academic resource and service center which networks locally and internationally concerning events in Philippine women's movements and activities.

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Women's Studies Resource Center  
(WSRC), 2nd floor, Santos Bldg.,  
Malvar St., Davao City, Philippines  
Tel. 6-40-71

Set up in 1983 to serve the developmental needs of women in Mindanao, the WSRC is an educational and research agency that seeks to encourage the participation of the majority of women in the process of social transformation. They are developing tools and methodologies of research to create appropriate projects for women, while establishing links with women's groups from local, national, regional and international sources.

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