

IWRAP Asia Pacific

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Executive Summary

In the arena of women's human rights, as well as in terms of the broader context of global changes in political, economic and social scenarios, many changes have occurred since the inception of IWRAP Asia Pacific over fifteen years ago. Despite this, throughout 2010, our work on CEDAW and institutionalizing gender equality continued to be relevant, as we and our partners observed many cultural and structural obstacles still exist to deny women full realization of the enjoyment of their human rights and reveal chronic gaps in state fulfillment of their treaty obligations. Challenges to civil society organizing for human rights and democratic freedoms in some countries (Fiji, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka) and regions such as Central Asia, the Pacific Islands and Africa posed obstacles to the work of IWRAP Asia Pacific and its national partners during this time. Our methods, modes of work, tools and strategies continue to evolve to adapt to the environment within which we seek to promote and realize nondiscrimination and gender equality and to enhance the climate of compliance with human rights.

The three programmes of IWRAP Asia Pacific together with the institution building unit continue to function in a cohesive and seamless way to ensure the goals of the organisation are met; pitching together a range of strengths and expertise to further a common cause. A new litigation strategy that encompasses capacity building, advocacy and information collation and dissemination was set up to explore the legal route of claiming rights still using the norms and standards of international treaties and procedures such as the optional protocols.

Although the organisation saw many changes in the composition of staff; the units though working on a smaller headcount managed to continue with many of the planned activities. Those that were not completed were either combined or moved to the next year.

Being the key women's organisation that works on using CEDAW as a normative and strategic frame for advocacy on women's rights at the national level, 2010 saw us closing the cycle of the CEDAW review by co-organising three regional consultations on monitoring and strategising on CEDAW Concluding Observations held for groups in the Mekong, Pacific, Central Europe and Central Asia regions. From these we were able to programme and particularise our approach to the regions through training, technical assistance for filing claims using the OPCEDAW, and support in specific advocacy campaigns on OPCEDAW, and the ASEAN. IWRAP Asia also continued to facilitate and mentor women's rights activists to take part in the CEDAW review throughout the 45th – 47th CEDAW sessions to ensure women's realities at the local level inform international processes, so that international standards that are useful and reflective of national issues can be used and brought back home by women's groups, and thus to enable women's groups to influence their government's agenda for change and development of women. In running the From Global to Local we recognised the particular difficulties faced by marginalize groups and this prioritized marginalised and vulnerable groups including disability groups, ethnic minorities, rural, immigrant and refugee women as well as LBT women in participating in the CEDAW review. Recognising that there was a need to support some NGOs in preparing for the Review and developing their shadow report, the focus in 2010 was on trainings on shadow report writing for South Africa, Iraq, Vietnam and the United Kingdom. These trainings supported NGOs in writing comprehensive and compelling shadow reports and developing advocacy strategies based on the concluding comments post the review session.

2010 has been a time of consolidation and reflection for the organisation, as well as investigation in new or critical contexts, and to strengthen the application of the CEDAW framework to specific contexts, so

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as to enhance women's human rights work within a broader context of using rights for social transformation, such as the context of women affected by conflict/post-conflict, the resistance to recognition of women's human rights as an international norm based on cultural and religious barriers, strengthening our understanding and strategic entry points on issues related to the justiciability of women's economic, social and cultural rights and expansion of these rights to address the realities of women facing multiple layers of discrimination, and also continuing to strengthening IWRAW Asia Pacific's programming and strategies towards building and sustaining claiming of rights by women. In 2010, IWRAW AP identified women's economic, social and cultural rights as a priority area and thus together with ESCR-Net held a briefing with the CEDAW Committee during the 45th CEDAW session highlighting the importance of addressing women's ESC rights in the concluding observations and spurring on implementation of these rights at the national level. A new litigation strategy that encompasses capacity building, advocacy and information collation and dissemination was set up to explore the legal route of claiming rights still using the norms and standards of international treaties and procedures such as the optional protocols. The Global Consultation on conflict and post conflict held in October 2010 aimed to build capacity and collate more knowledge to enhance our thinking on the issue of conflict tapping into the wide range of experts to whom IWRAW AP is in contact. The outcome of the consultation would be used to prepare a statement to submit to the committee during a briefing in 2011 that will hopefully feed into the slated general recommendation on conflict.

As the definition and interpretation of rights is an area that is constantly being expanded and re-defined, thus IWRAW Asia Pacific began work on for additional capacity building resources including a training manual on the OPCEDAW, a lawyer's resource package to use national level courts as a way of strengthening national women's human rights jurisprudence and domestic level standard-setting, and an advocacy guide on the Universal Periodic Review process, as well as a guide for economic social cultural rights advocacy through the CEDAW and CESCR Committee and other resources. In February a write shop was held to develop a framework that will be used to create the resource package for litigating lawyers enabling the use of strategic litigation to advocate for women's human rights. In December 2010, we held a meeting to test resources created for claiming of women's economic, social and cultural rights using CEDAW/OPCEDAW and ICESCR/OPICESCR.

The IDEAS unit also continued to disseminate information on CEDAW and human rights via the website, listservs and statements responding to current issues. IDEAS also assisted the other units as and when required. In 2010, IDEAS began planning for the History Project which is to record the history of the organisation by the Founder, Shanthi Dairiam.

It continued to be the aim of the organisation to strengthen partnerships and build alliances inside and outside the Asia Pacific region, towards enhancing official/government and civil society institutional capacity to do CEDAW implementation and monitoring work. 2010 saw IWRAW Asia Pacific beginning an explorative dialogue with partners in the Pacific and paving the way for future engagement whilst still keeping up with the work in South and Southeast Asia. The unrest in the Middle East towards the end of 2010 dampened efforts to continue enlarging our scope and operations in the region, however it was still possible for the team to respond to a request for a shadow report/ CEDAW training for Iraqi NGOs held in Turkey. IWRAW AP sent a resource person and expended funds to provide this support and in 2011, to hold follow up activities based on findings from this meeting.

The Pacific Government-NGO dialogue enabled IWRAW-AP to also gauge the situation in the Pacific, build partnerships and concretise plans for follow-up in the region. There were in attendance countries

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that ratified CEDAW and even those that did not in order to encourage ratification and eventually do more substantive work on CEDAW. In 2011, we hope to hold more follow up and the organization is in the midst of drawing up a concept paper to delineate our strategy for the region- how best to proceed and the resources we have versus what we'll need.

Similarly, in 2010 IWRAP supported African NGO Masimanyane with Leslie Ann Foster to hold a shadow report training in South Africa. IWRAP provided technical support in the form of a resource person and funding to the cause. In 2011, IWRAP AP hopes to build further upon work in the African region through building capacity though limiting the scope to possible reporting countries and responding to requests for assistance as the region is vast and there is much to be learnt, and strategized before hoping to penetrate it.

IWRAP's work in Europe is usually limited to advocacy through filing of cases and the occasional training of trainers; however in 2010 we received a request for a shadow report workshop for the UK. As the UK was not an initial reporting country, the workshop focused the report on dealing the previous concluding observations and introducing them to the monitoring framework to further enhance their ability to report to committee on how the state was progressing in addressing their obligations under the concluding observations.

IWRAP Asia Pacific's tool, the CEDAW Application Framework (CAF) has been used for some time now to build knowledge and skills of partners in legislative and policy advocacy. In 2010, CAF trainings were carried out in Bangladesh (in collaboration with Naripokkho) and preliminary discussions were held with CEDAW groups in Indonesia (in collaboration with CWGI) to build the capacity of partners there.

With the advent of UN Women, the organisation worked to provide input through statements and participation at consultations towards establishing the mandate of the new conglomerate entity to ensure it is in line with the needs of women in the current environment, recognises and will be framed by a women's human rights approach and recognise the role of NGOs in UN, global governance and development processes. As IWRAP AP has always in the past worked closely with UNIFEM, DAW and other mechanisms within the UN system on women's advancement and rights issues, the consolidation of all these under the new UN Women entity made it important for IWRAP AP to be able to input on its creation, mandate and eventual engagement with organisations like IWRAP AP and others on the ground. To this end, IWRAP AP released two statements making suggestions and providing recommendations on how UN Women can manoeuvre its early years with potential strategies and directions. IWRAP AP was subsequently invited to participate in a Consultation on UN women with Regional and Non-Governmental Organisations organised by UNIFEM East and South East Asia in December. This became a further ground for IWRAP AP to stress the link between UN Women and CEDAW and the importance of the right kind of development of strategies in order to maintain the progresses made in the area of women's human rights and advancement thanks to the vigorous promotion and use of CEDAW with the support of UN Women's rights mechanisms. The meeting also served as an appropriate ground for IWRAP AP to connect with and get to know the people spearheading the new committee and building alliances to ensure IWRAP AP, its partners and stakeholders are able to properly access UN Women as a mode for advocacy.

The programmes continued to build stronger ties with the OHCHR and the newly constituted UN Women to ensure the Committee is always in a position to access information on the ground from national level NGOs, and for IWRAP Asia Pacific and our partners to inform on any changes or updates

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in the monitoring process of the Convention. IWRAP Asia Pacific also continues support for mechanisms outside the CEDAW review process that would be useful for the monitoring of human rights.

IWRAP AP has in 2010 found many ways to engage and inform in new processes, emerging issues and carrying out advocacy work relating to women's human rights with the CEDAW and Committee, other international treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council. When a new procedure was proposed to support the HRC in creating policy responses to address the existing gap in realizing de jure and defacto rights for women represented by continued discrimination against women in law and practice, IWRAP AP questioned the necessity of this mechanism but also recognised that it will need to work with this mechanism to ensure that gains from the CEDAW process continue to be strengthened. IWRAP Asia Pacific also engaged on the revived focus on treaty body reforms to ensure the reform process works towards strengthening and harmonising the treaty body process and will not allow women's human rights norms to lose ground.

Various initiatives were being formalised in the ASEAN Human Rights Mechanisms and thus we worked with our collaborating partner (APWLD) and our constituency (women's groups in SEA) to ensure that the new mechanism set up will have realisation of CEDAW and women's human rights as part of their mandate and agenda and to ensure they develop the procedures, resources, capacity and perspectives to do this work effectively and in coordinating the advocacy of the SEA Women's Caucus on ASEAN towards lobbying ASEAN bodies and structures to that purpose. Thus we organised both NGO strategising meetings (Women's Consultation on Advancing Women's Rights Advocacy, and the South East Asia Women's Caucus Coordination Meeting) and attended larger civil society meetings such as the ASEAN Civil Society Conference and Strategy Meetings for the regional advocacy group, SAPA as well as the ASEAN Community Blueprints to aid in advocacy with Member states which will be used in a meeting in 2011, and interfaced with the ASEAN structures and actors at various times in official NGO-ASEAN discussions.

The three programmes of IWRAP Asia Pacific together with the institution building unit continue to function in a cohesive and seamless way to ensure the goals of the organisation are met; pitching together a range of strengths and expertise to achieve organizational objectives. Although the organisation saw many changes in the composition of staff; the units though working on a smaller headcount managed to continue with many of the planned activities. Those that were not completed were either combined or moved to the next year. In Mid 2010 the three year plan meeting was held to develop an institutional document for its strategies and activities from 2011-2013 where the staff and the governance bodies brainstormed and mapped activities, plans and thrusts for the coming three years.

IWRAP AP would like to thank the Board of Directors, Advisory Committee as well as the individual committees for the different strategies; namely the Capacity Building Advisory Group (CBAG), Optional Protocol to CEDAW Advisory Group (OP CEDAW AG) and the Programme Management Team (PMT); for all their input, expertise and efforts expended in 2010 to ensure the success of the programmes of IWRAP AP. Also to resource persons and NGO partners who have contributed their time and expertise for the cause. IWRAP AP is also extremely grateful for the efforts of special advisor Shanthi Dairiam who has continued to offer her expertise, guidance, time and knowledge to building the organisation, shaping its work and supporting its staff.

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Organisational Information

A. General introduction to IWRAP Asia Pacific and summary of its work

International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) Asia Pacific is an international organisation based in the South working nationally, regionally and internationally towards the achievement of women's human rights. It plays a critical role in filling the gap between the promise of women's human rights as embodied in human rights treaties, and their actual realisation at the national level. It does this by mobilising women's groups at all levels to draw accountability from governments on the domestic application of human rights standards.

IWRAP Asia Pacific is located in Malaysia and since 1993 has worked internationally, regionally and nationally towards the achievement of women's human rights. Although it has a primary focus on the Asia Pacific region, IWRAP Asia Pacific has a global outreach. When it was first set-up in 1993, IWRAP Asia Pacific focused on work in 12 countries in South and Southeast Asia. Today, in 2011, the reach of our presence and expertise has expanded in a sustained manner to various countries/territories in South and Southeast Asia¹, and we are now also working collaboratively with groups in the Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regions and in the island states of the Pacific. In addition, we are exploring new ways and strategies of promoting CEDAW and CEDAW implementation in Southern Africa. Besides this, we have facilitated the advocacy of women's groups in over 122 countries globally to the CEDAW review.

IWRAP Asia Pacific remains the only organization that works systematically and consistently on monitoring and implementation of CEDAW, using the work of the CEDAW Committee and of other human rights mechanisms to advance the promotion and protection of women's human rights. IWRAP Asia Pacific seeks to improve the understanding of CEDAW as an instrument that adds significance to the concepts of substantive equality, non-discrimination, the relevance of treaty law to improving national level action plans geared towards social justice, women's equality and empowerment of marginalised groups. Thus CEDAW is embedded with integral concepts and components that creates and reforms institutional mechanisms that promote social transformation, thus support the building of states and societies premised on democratic principles, good governance, realisation of human rights for all and sustainable development.

Despite many advances in the law and policy environment towards recognition of gender equality and new mechanisms for promotion and protection of women's human rights, women still experience multiple forms of discrimination. Exclusion of gender perspectives and obstacles to women's participation in public and civic roles negatively impact democratic principles, good governance and rule of law. Using CEDAW to empower women as agents of social change, will strengthen good governance and rule of law. CEDAW provides the philosophical and practical framework for engendering state systems and processes, and defining a clear role for women in these processes. Democracy and good governance can only be achieved when women are acknowledged as equal citizens and empowered in claiming rights.

¹ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in South Asia and Aceh, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam

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In summary, throughout the 18 years of its work, IWRAP Asia Pacific has facilitated a process by which the CEDAW Convention has been used as a tool for applying international human rights standards in a wide range of contexts at the national level and in relation to many critical and emerging issues in relation to women, such as violence against women, employment, rights in marriage and citizenship rights. The experiences gathered have contributed to the development of new knowledge and skilling through better understanding of the various dimensions of equality, non-discrimination, State obligation, human rights principles: universal and indivisible and a rights based approach to development.

B. Conceptual Premise

One of the foundational concepts embodied in IWRAP Asia Pacific's work is that women's equality is central to the full enjoyment of human rights. Another working premise of the programme is that a rights framework does not automatically confer rights. Rather it legitimises the claim for rights and women have to be able to claim their rights.

One of IWRAP Asia Pacific's goals is the elimination of all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women, using a focus on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as the basis for activism for the advancement of women's human rights. To do this, IWRAP Asia Pacific has chosen to focus on the promotion of women's rights as women face an additional layer of discrimination as compared to men due to historical disadvantage. Consistent work with treaties ensures State accountability for taking specific actions to realise the human rights of women according to an expanding set of principles, standards and substantive commitments.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the CEDAW Convention) mandates substantive equality and gender responsive policies and programmes that are premised on a human rights perspective. It requires States parties to condemn discrimination against women in all its forms and to ensure its elimination. The strength of the CEDAW Convention is that it recognises the systemic nature of the oppression of women and extends protection to all groups of women in all contexts.

IWRAP Asia Pacific believes the implementation of human rights treaties and other mechanisms are critical in the realization of women's equality. It views international human rights standards as tools for bringing about change at all levels, the national and international, and in a wide range of contexts (e.g. violence against women, employment, rights in marriage, citizenship rights, rural development). IWRAP Asia Pacific sees this approach as enabling women activists to advocate for their rights, to address the conditions that contribute to discrimination against women and to ensure that the specificities of women's experiences inform the laws and policies in their country.

Thus IWRAP Asia Pacific's programme is premised on the belief therefore that, before women can access 'real' equality, several other conditions are needed:

- Standard-setting at the international level that matches the realities of women at the local level;
- A culture of compliance with gender sensitive human rights;
- Women's ability to claim their rights;

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- Women forming a constituency with a strong voice to invoke their rights and push for political action and create the necessary political will. This implies the need for capacity building and gender-sensitisation for women themselves, and for those bodies who would put the institutional changes in place (e.g. judges, lawyers, bureaucrats, and parliamentarians);
- Mechanisms for enforcement that are gender-sensitised and have the will to implement the CEDAW Convention; and
- A mechanism for monitoring the fulfilment of State obligations under the Convention to track the progress in making equality a reality for women at the domestic level.

The above factors are interactive and reinforce each other. All of this requires a focus on various actors and types of action. While women remain central to our programme, we also need to impact on all branches of government, legislators, the bureaucracy and the judiciary. We need to look at various institutions within these branches of government or which have an effect on them. These segments of actors include, politicians, bureaucrats at different levels, law enforcers, and prosecutors, specific institutions or mechanisms that monitor and or enforce human rights standards, judges and lawyers.

C. Philosophy, Vision and Mission

IWRAW Asia Pacific envisions a world in which there is full realization and enjoyment of human rights by all. Women's equality is integral to this achievement. We believe that through the pursuit of women's equality, societies can be transformed so as to achieve a balance of power and sustainable and equitable development conducive to realizing human rights.

To achieve this vision, we adopt a human rights approach and focus on the experiences of women from the South. We work at the international, national and local levels with women activists and NGOs; human rights advocates; lawyers; governments and international organizations from all different diverse groups through collaborative projects.

We see ourselves as catalysts in building capacity for change and in enhancing the realization of the human rights of women through:

- The effective implementation of human rights standards, as seen through the lens of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women ("CEDAW" or "CEDAW Convention") and other international human rights mechanisms, at all levels of society.
- The inclusion of women from diverse groups in standard-setting processes at the national and international levels, and in the formulation of policies and laws.
- The development of new knowledge and methodologies.
- The mobilization of women from diverse groups to bring about good governance and sustainable change.

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Enhancing Realisation of Rights

A. Overview/Background

IWRAW Asia Pacific's advocacy programme carries out activities at the national, regional and international levels in pursuance of the organisations overall objectives. Our work at the national level primarily involves supporting national level groups to carry out their own advocacy strategies based on the CEDAW framework to strengthen respect for and fulfilment of women's human rights by their government and often is conducted as a support strategy for activities at the national level by the BCC programme or in conjunction with regional or international strategies.

IWRAW Asia Pacific's work in regional and international advocacy and processes is based on the rationale that women should be facilitated in presenting and articulating their national level human rights concerns in international standard-setting arenas. It is at the international level that the most significant advances to the development of human rights theory have been made, and it is at this level that conceptual clarity on the universality and interconnectedness of all rights must be sought. This can then be translated into human rights practice at the national level. In this way, this strategy applies a synergetic approach to ensure that international gains are informed by and, therefore, reflective of the realities of women's lives and that these gains are able to support and strengthen claims for human rights at the national level. The strategy works to support civil society in expanding normative human rights standards and ensuring that national experiences have an impact on the formulation of international instruments and the work of international human rights mechanisms. Ultimately the strategy aims to strengthen state accountability for the fulfilment of human rights and adherence to their international human rights obligations.

Our international advocacy work contributes to the dynamism at the international level by linking local level advocacy with the international official processes for monitoring fulfilment of women's human rights, such as through CEDAW and other international human rights treaties. Information provided by women's groups that would otherwise remain inaccessible at the United Nations and international level enhances the effectiveness of international standard setting activities such as the review of government reports. Simultaneously, participation by women's rights NGOs at the UN level helps them in turn to make the treaties, procedures and mechanisms more "real", relevant and effective at the local level.

B. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the programme include:

- Contribute to institutionalising women's human rights, creating a culture of respect for women's human rights and strengthening protection mechanisms nationally, regionally and internationally;
- Facilitate the claiming of rights by women at the national, regional and international level;
- Contribute towards a feminist engagement at the international level to support the integration of a women's human rights perspective into international mechanisms and procedures as well as the mobilisation and representation of a polity of women as rights holders in these processes.

The objectives of the Enhancing the Realisation of Rights programme for 2011-2013 include the following:

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1. To develop advocacy strategies and collaborate with national and regional organisations to address critical and/or emerging issues using an international women's human rights framework ensuring that the positioning on these issues is grounded in national realities;
2. To facilitate women's engagement in standard setting and interpreting processes and in expanding the scope for the application of international women's human rights standards at the regional and international levels, with particular emphasis on the perspectives and issues of women facing multiple discriminations; and through strengthening of national level implementation of these standards²;
3. To contribute towards strengthening of mechanisms and processes for the claiming of women's human rights, at the national, regional and international levels;
4. To facilitate the claiming of rights by women, using law as a tool, at the national and international levels, in particular through the OP CEDAW and OP ICESCR.

C. Highlights in Implementation for 2010

In 2010, the From Global to Local programme of IWRAP Asia Pacific facilitated the participation of 45 NGO representatives from 23 countries in state reviews by the CEDAW Committee and supported and/or trained 85 women in lobbying and submitting relevant, concise and effective alternative information to the Committee through oral statements during the informal dialogue and lunch briefings. The CEDAW Committee reviewed 23 State parties in 3 sessions in the year; the 45th CEDAW session held from 18 January – 5 February 2010 in Geneva, the 46th CEDAW session held from 12 – 30 July 2010 in New York and the 47th CEDAW session held from 4 – 22 October 2010 in Geneva. IWRAP Asia Pacific continued to focus on ensuring participation of women from specific communities that face marginalisation and discrimination due to their identity or minority status, and facilitated the participation of and/or trained lesbian/bisexual/transgender women (from Malta, Panama, Russia, Turkey, Uganda and Uzbekistan), rural women (from Australia), women with disabilities (from Australia and Turkey), immigrant and refugee women (from Australia) and women from ethnic minorities (Roma women from the Czech Republic).

After the 46th session, IWRAP Asia Pacific began to systematically make available to participants limited financial support for specific national level activities to follow-up on the review session. This support aims to continue the momentum created by the session and encourage the development of a comprehensive programme towards effective implementation of the Concluding Observations. As such, support was provided after the 46th and 47th session to NGOs from Argentina, Burkina Faso, the Czech Republic, Malta, the Russian Federation and Uganda. The range of activities supported included translation of the Concluding Observations into national and local languages, publication and dissemination and organisation of media and publicity campaigns, roundtables, workshops and seminars about the Concluding Observations, the review session and shadow reports.

In continuation of the series of regional consultations on implementation of CEDAW Concluding Observations which IWRAP Asia Pacific has been organising since 2007, a consultation was held in

² Part of the work in the next three years will be to focus on strengthening the linkages inter and intra programmes in terms of IWRAP Asia Pacific's overall strategy and its strengths as an organisation that focuses on drawing on standards and using processes (including that created under CEDAW) to operationalise theoretical treaty standards to create domestic level change and make connections between standard setting, expanding interpretation of standards, monitoring of state accountability and mobilisation of groups for national advocacy.

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Europe in collaboration with the Karat Coalition and WIDE. (Other such consultations have previously been held in South East Asia (2007), South Asia (2008) and the MENA region (2009)). The consultation brought together 32 women's rights advocates from 19 countries across Europe and Central Asia to assess the status of CEDAW application in the region and consider strategies for the future. In Southeast Asia, the ERR programme built on its previous regional work in 2007 by organising a consultation on the implementation of the CEDAW Concluding Observations specifically for Cambodia, Laos, Timor Leste and Viet Nam. The participants prepared and presented national action plans to address issues of priority which they had identified. IWRAP Asia Pacific also organised a meeting with MENA partners parallel to the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women to follow-up on the status of implementation of strategies developed during the regional consultation organised there by IWRAP Asia Pacific in 2009.

Since 2008, IWRAP Asia Pacific has been exploring the possibilities of collaboration and long-term partnerships with NGOs in the Pacific region on CEDAW implementation. In 2010, subsequent to a series of discussions in 2009 and with the assistance of Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT), UNIFEM Pacific and the Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM), IWRAP Asia Pacific was able to organise a Government-NGO Dialogue ("the Pacific Consultation") on CEDAW and OP CEDAW bringing together key government officials as well as women's groups, academics and activists from the Pacific region. This was followed immediately by an NGO meeting to develop specific action plans around CEDAW ratification and implementation.

IWRAP Asia Pacific frequently holds briefings with the CEDAW Committee on specific issues with the aim of providing them with additional information so that they can strengthen their work in developing Concluding Observations, General Recommendations and other work. In 2010 this work was continued by holding a briefing during the 45th session on the importance of highlighting women's economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights in Concluding Observations and the Committee's role in advancing the understanding of the importance of ESC rights in women's lives. This briefing was held in conjunction with the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net) and the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE). This briefing also presented an opportunity for IWRAP Asia Pacific to launch a Primer on women's ESC rights which was developed in collaboration with the same partner organisations. A second briefing was held for the Committee on women's ESC rights during its 47th session in order to present to the Committee findings of research conducted into the Committee's work to date on women's ESC rights as well as an analysis of how the Committee can more explicitly use the substantive equality framework in promoting women's ESC rights, particularly through the Optional Protocol. Until the OP ICESCR becomes operational, it was noted that OP CEDAW remains the most critical mechanism available for advancing jurisprudence on women's ESC rights.

IWRAP Asia Pacific continued its work in identifying cases for litigation under OP CEDAW, providing technical assistance to the filing of communications and inquiries, developing resources and building the capacity of lawyers and activists under the OP. Technical assistance was provided on drafting submissions for two potential cases under the OP, one in Northern Ireland on restrictions on rights relating to abortion and one in Thailand on impunity for sexual assault. Continuing support was provided in relation to the request for an inquiry filed with the CEDAW Committee in 2008 in collaboration with the Centre for Reproductive Rights and the CEDAW Task Force (coordinated by EnGendeRights). This included support for on-going research and with the filing of additional submissions. The ERR programme also supported the BCC programme in its implementation of a Training of Trainers on

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CEDAW Application and OP CEDAW with the Karat Coalition in Europe which strengthened our engagement in this region and gave rise to plans for further activities in 2011.

Consistent work was also carried out to ensure that the successful adoption of the OP ICESCR in 2008 translates into the availability of an effective mechanism to complement OP CEDAW in providing redress for violations of women's ESC rights. In 2010, this work was mainly carried out as part of our membership of the Steering Committee of the NGO Coalition for the OP ICESCR and included a meeting with Coalition members in Geneva to develop positions and advocacy strategies around the draft Rules of Procedure of the Committee, a meeting with the OHCHR and the Head of the UN Petitions Unit to discuss the drafting of the Rules, inputting substantively into the draft Rules and lobby documents on priority issues for inclusion and providing inputs and background materials for the development by the Coalition of an Advocacy Kit on ratification of the OP. IWRAP Asia Pacific also supported the Coalition's advocacy around the 2010 elections to the ICESCR Committee by disseminating targeted letters to partners in numerous countries to encourage them to lobby their governments to present and elect credible and experienced candidates.

IWRAP Asia Pacific continued to engage intensively in advocacy work in the Southeast Asia region in 2010. IWRAP Asia Pacific played a key role in continuing to facilitate the participation of women's human rights groups in the process of establishing the ASEAN human rights mechanisms to ensure that women's human rights concerns and principles were integrated. IWRAP Asia Pacific also conducted and participated in a range of activities in our role as co-coordinator of the Southeast Asia Women's Caucus.

The ERR programme also continued to provide support to the BCC programme on a number of activities including pilot testing of a training package on the OP CEDAW in Nepal and of an Advocacy Guide on the OP CEDAW and OP ICESCR in Malaysia and the development of a litigation strategy to identify cases under these instruments.

D. Accomplishments:

1. Advocacy around CEDAW

In 2010, IWRAP Asia Pacific continued to successfully engage in activities at all stages of the CEDAW review cycle to facilitate engagement by national women's groups with the process and the CEDAW Committee through building their capacity to write shadow reports; participate in the CEDAW review process; lobby for effective Concluding Observations and; develop strategies for national level implementation of Concluding Observations.

a. From Global to Local: Facilitating women's engagement with the CEDAW review process

The 'From Global to Local' programme continued to provide essential support to women in effectively accessing the Committee's review sessions and using the process to its maximum potential. In 2010 the programme was successfully completed by participants attending the 45th, 46th and 47th sessions of the CEDAW Committee in Geneva and New York. In keeping with its objectives of encouraging participation by marginalised and vulnerable groups, IWRAP Asia Pacific worked with partners to identify and work with women from a diverse range of backgrounds. As well as working with women from mainstream groups, we were able to support women from

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disability groups and ethnic minorities, rural women, immigrant and refugee women and LBT women in preparing skilled and effective interventions and submissions to the review sessions. In addition to submitting shadow reports, IWRAW Asia Pacific assisted the participants in preparing and presenting oral interventions to the Committee during the informal dialogue and organising side events/lunch briefings between the NGOs and the Committee. This ensured focused interactions between the participants and the Committee and also facilitated confidential sharing of information by women who may face retaliations as a result of their engagement with the process.

IWRAW Asia Pacific's support through the 'From Global to Local' programme helped women to enrich the constructive dialogue between the Committee and each state reviewed by providing the Committee with alternative information highlighting critical and sometimes sensitive issues on which to base its questions and the subsequent Concluding Observations. Participation by the women in the sessions and the compilation of shadow reports with IWRAW Asia Pacific's support also provided the groups with additional skills, information and other tools to conduct targeted advocacy on their return to the national level.

IWRAW Asia Pacific staff and resource persons attending the sessions actively worked to strengthen our organisational relationships with both the OHCHR and its staff and individual members of the CEDAW Committee. With a change in some staff at the OHCHR during 2010, new relationships were also built with key individuals on which the success of our collaboration with the Committee, the continuation of the programme and future fruitful cooperation will rely.

Coordinating participation of NGOs and the "From Global to Local" programme at this session allowed IWRAW Asia Pacific to identify methods of improving the programme for the future. It was determined that at future sessions, IWRAW Asia Pacific should endeavour during the session to meet with NGO representatives whose presence was not facilitated by IWRAW Asia Pacific in order to better understand national level dynamics and develop methods of collaboration and coordination between all NGOs present from a particular country. This will ensure maximum benefit from and efficiency during preparation of oral statements and the conduct of the lunch briefings. The sessions also illustrated that there is a need to continue ensuring participation of both mainstream women's organisations and those from marginalised groups at every session.

In order to ensure a holistic approach to the review session and consistent engagement by national level NGOs, IWRAW Asia Pacific decided after the 46th session to offer limited financial support to participants which would both encourage and facilitate the continuation of review related activities post-review and begin a larger process of implementation of the Convention at the national level. As such, we supported activities in 6 countries to give impetus to advocacy initiatives by participants around the process and implementation of the Concluding Observations. This support complements our ongoing regional level activities around implementation of Concluding Observations and allowed us to increase our engagement with the entire review cycle in regions where our organisational engagement is less intensive.

b. Regional Consultations on CEDAW and the Implementation of the CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations

IWRAW Asia Pacific has, since 2007, organised regional consultations in various regions as a means of conducting substantive follow-up to the CEDAW review process and working with partners to aid in

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developing national level advocacy and other strategies around implementation of the Concluding Observations. In 2010 IWRAW Asia Pacific held such consultations at the regional level in the CEE/CIS region and at the sub-regional level in South East Asia for participants from Cambodia, Laos, Timor Lest and Viet Nam. During the consultations participating activists and advocates were able to assess the status of CEDAW implementation in the context of the specificities of their region/sub-region, build their knowledge of CEDAW and other human rights instruments as they relate to the promotion and monitoring of women's human rights, identify opportunities and strategic directions for implementation of the Concluding Observations regionally and nationally and develop action plans. The consultations also offered an opportunity for participants to strengthen existing alliances and create new ones.

As part of our continued engagement with partners from regional consultations held in previous years, IWRAW Asia Pacific met with participants of our 2009 consultation in the MENA region during the 54th CSW in New York. The meeting was an opportunity for IWRAW Asia Pacific to follow up on the priorities identified during the regional consultation and implementation of the national action plans that were developed there. From this meeting, IWRAW Asia Pacific was able to identify a regional coalition, Equality Without Reservations, to take forward sustained work on promoting CEDAW implementation at the regional level.

The Pacific region has always presented challenges for engagement by IWRAW Asia Pacific due, for example, to its geographical difficulties. However, in 2010, we were able to bring to fruition previous discussions with NGOs in the region and organise a Government – NGO Dialogue. Partners in the region had identified a growing interest among NGOs to build their capacities on CEDAW and use of the OP and the Dialogue provided this space while the subsequent NGO meeting provided an opportunity for developing specific action plans.

In the last quarter of 2010 IWRAW Asia Pacific agreed to support the KARAT Coalition in their future plans to develop a sub-regional strategy to address barriers to access to justice. This was brought about whilst undertaking follow up activities to the trainings conducted by IWRAW Asia Pacific from 2009, KARAT had identified that certain barriers hinder efforts to make full effective use of the OP CEDAW and access to justice. This strategy will be more fully developed in 2011 with input and support from IWRAW Asia Pacific.

2. Advocacy around specific mechanisms for redress

IWRAW Asia Pacific considers the OP CEDAW to be an important mechanism through which to protect and promote the rights of women as well as a mechanism through which to expand and clarify understanding of the nature and scope of the CEDAW Convention particularly in relation to specific contexts and fact-patterns. While the OP ICESCR is not yet in force, IWRAW Asia Pacific was involved in its drafting and adoption and is now invested in ensuring that the practice and procedures adopted by the ICESCR Committee and the skills and knowledge of those NGOs engaging with it enable it to be another strong tool for the advancement of women's human rights once it is operational.

- a. Supporting potential submission of communication and request for inquiry under the Optional Protocol for CEDAW

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In line with this, in 2010 IWRAP Asia Pacific was able to identify two potential cases to take forward under the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and to provide technical expertise on both to NGOs that requested it. The advice provided guided the groups working on draft submissions to the Committee regarding the legal requirements, both substantive and procedural, for bringing a communication/request to the Committee. This will increase the chances that the communication will be found admissible and the request for an inquiry accepted.

b. Strengthening procedures and knowledge on OP ICESCR

Two of the core accomplishments in this area in 2010 involved the development of materials for advocacy around the drafting of the Rules of Procedure of the ICESCR Committee under the OP and contributing to the development and finalisation of an Advocacy Kit by the NGO Coalition for the OP-ICESCR.

With regard to the former, IWRAP Asia Pacific was able to engage a legal expert to draft submissions on model Rules of Procedure for submission to the Committee and to follow up by providing expert inputs into existing draft Rules developed by the UN Petitions Unit and the Committee. Through this expert, IWRAP Asia Pacific was also able to contribute to the development of strategies for best presenting the drafts to Committee members and conducting advocacy around them.

IWRAP Asia Pacific also provided inputs into and background materials for the Advocacy Kit which was finalised in 2010 and includes general information on the OP and a guide for local NGOs in their advocacy work around the ratification process. The Kit covers basic refresher information on the ICESCR, details of the procedures and mechanisms under the OP, arguments for ratification and information, resources and templates to assist NGOs in lobbying for ratification and implementation of the OP.

c. Training and Pilot Testing of Resources on the OP CEDAW

IWRAP Asia Pacific is conscious that the benefits of the OP CEDAW procedure for the realisation of women's human rights and substantive equality is dependent on the quantity and quality of engagement by women with the mechanism. As such, in 2010, we focused on developing a number of resources, conducting capacity building initiatives and trainings on the mechanism and developing a litigation strategy which will help in future to identify appropriate cases for action under the OP and ensure use of the procedures under the OP is as effective as possible. Pilot-testings were therefore conducted for a training package on the Optional Protocol in Nepal and an Advocacy Guide on the OP CEDAW and the OP ICESCR in Penang, Malaysia. The ERR programme also supported the BCC programme in conducting a training on the OP CEDAW in Poland and organised a Write-shop on Creating Resources for Lawyers on Litigation for Women's Human Rights Using CEDAW in February 2010. See the report of the BCC programme as regards these activities.

3. Integrating WHRs concerns into other HR mechanisms

a. ASEAN

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In 2010 IWRAW Asia Pacific continued to contribute to building the capacity of national women's groups as well as ensuring the participation of women's groups in national and regional advocacy processes around the establishment of the ASEAN human rights mechanisms through its sustained support for the Southeast Asia Women's Caucus on ASEAN (Women's Caucus), which it coordinated with the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD).

IWRAW Asia Pacific sees the establishment of the AICHR and ACWC as a step forward in the recognition and promotion of human rights in all member states of ASEAN as human rights concerns are no longer considered as solely a domestic issue as the AICHR and ACWC creates a regional forum to address the concerns in each member state. The TOR of the ACWC clearly states the adherence to the principles and full implementation of CEDAW and CRC with the realisation of women's human rights and children's human rights as a regional concern rather than being considered as solely a domestic issue, while primary responsibility to promote and protect the fundamental rights of women and children rests with each member state. Further, the evolutionary process sets forth the initial step in moving ASEAN from being state-centric to more people-oriented, especially in supporting the participation of women and children in dialogues and consultation processes in ASEAN.

The rationale for continued emphasis on ASEAN advocacy and building a regional network of women's groups capable of strategic and substantive interventions in the current ASEAN processes is based on the premise that work on promoting CEDAW implementation towards the realisation of women's human rights in Southeast Asia is directly impacted by the developments within the ASEAN structures and mechanisms as the women's groups in the region engage in the advocacy at the national and regional level as a platform to ensure that the women's human right agenda in Southeast Asia is realised and fulfilled.

The creation of the ASEAN Human Rights Mechanisms also posed an important opportunity to strengthen the protection of international human rights norms and standards in the SEA region. IWRAW Asia Pacific will try to ensure the integration of the CEDAW framework to counter the use of cultural relativist arguments to undermine international human rights norms and women's human rights in particular.

The focus of the work around ASEAN from 2010 – 2012 (in collaboration with APWLD) is to ensure:

1. The skills and capacity of women's groups in 10 Southeast Asia countries on ASEAN structures and processes as a platform to advance women's human rights will be built and strengthened using a feminist perspective
2. Engagement of women's groups in national and regional level advocacy on ASEAN to ensure integration of international women's human rights principles and standards will be facilitated in 10 Southeast Asia countries.
3. Women's Caucus as a network will be strengthened and fora for sharing of experiences and linking advocacy around ASEAN to national, regional and international processes and mechanisms to advance women's human rights will be created.

Work to support SEA women's groups in lobbying on ASEAN Human Rights developments especially in ensuring the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Rights of Women and Children and the ASEAN Committee on

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Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers will address the issues of women's human rights, employ a gender perspective in their work and further the international human rights obligations of ASEAN states.

IWRAW Asia Pacific successfully completed several activities in this regard during 2010. IWRAW Asia Pacific co-organised a Women's Consultation on Advancing Women's Rights Advocacy from 24 – 26 April in Jakarta, Indonesia followed by a South East Asia Women's Caucus Coordination Meeting on April 27th. The Consultation brought together over 40 participants from all ASEAN countries as well as Timor Leste and experts from Africa, America, Europe and the Pacific. The Coordination Meeting was attended by NGO representatives from 8 ASEAN countries and Timor Leste as well as members of the Women's Caucus Secretariat i.e. IWRAW Asia Pacific and APWLD.

In September and October, IWRAW Asia Pacific attended and facilitated the participation of national level NGOs in the ASEAN People's Forum, the ASEAN Civil Society Conference and Strategy Meetings for the regional advocacy group, SAPA. On 27 October 2010, IWRAW Asia Pacific also participated in a meeting held by the Working Group on the ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism based in Ateneo University. This allowed IWRAW Asia Pacific on behalf of the Women's Caucus to input into discussions to assess and identify the human rights implications of the three ASEAN Community Blueprints. The resulting analytical document will be used as an advocacy tool with Member States at a follow-up meeting in 2011.

b. Human Right Council (HRC) and Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

IWRAW Asia Pacific continued to engage with the Human Rights Council as a platform to ensure that women's rights concerns are adequately highlighted in its processes and to foster relationships with civil society organising around the Council. IWRAW Asia Pacific was able to respond effectively to ongoing developments in relation to discrimination in law and practice and maternal mortality issues as well as continuing our structured engagement with the UPR process.

In May 2010 IWRAW Asia Pacific responded to the call by the OHCHR for submissions for its thematic study on discrimination against women in law and practice and how the issue is addressed throughout the UN human rights system by submitting substantial information on the topic gleaned from our experiences and those of our partner organisations. The submission contained general information on the topic as well as information specific to the Asia Pacific region and observations and recommendations regarding how the issue is and should be treated within the UN system, including by the treaty bodies and all aspects of the HRC.

In addition, IWRAW Asia Pacific provided inputs into recommendations developed by civil society on proposed amendments and additions to Human Rights Council Resolution 15/17 on Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights. This Resolution was adopted at the 15th HRC in September 2010 as a follow-up to Resolution 11/8 adopted at the 11th HRC session which mandated the Council to undertake a thematic study on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and organise an interactive dialogue on the study at the 14th session. We also endorsed a statement made on behalf of 15 organisations under Item 3 of the agenda of the 14th HRC which addressed the report of the OHCHR on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights.

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In 2010 IWRAW Asia Pacific continued its practice of sending targeted emails to our partners and national level NGOs when their countries came up for review under the Universal Periodic Review, alerting them to deadlines for submission of alternative information to the review, offering technical advice and encouraging them to engage with the process. We also finalised a 'Guide to the UPR Process' and shared it with NGOs submitting reports to guide them on effective engagement with the review process and the submission of relevant documentation.

IWRAW Asia Pacific supported the participation of a total of 3 NGO representatives from Egypt and Fiji³ in their State's review and provided technical advice and logistical support to NGOs from Kyrgyzstan⁴ participating in their State's review. In the case of Kyrgyzstan, for example, this resulted in the acceptance by the State of recommendations in the Outcome document calling for the intensification in practice of sanctions in cases of discrimination against women due to sexual orientation.

c. UN Women

Once UN Women's operationalisation became imminent, IWRAW AP released two statements addressing the link between UN Women and CEDAW and making a range of suggestions in terms of its potential priorities during its early existence. IWRAW Asia Pacific was then invited to participate in a Consultation on UN Women with Regional Non-Governmental Organizations organised by UNIFEM East and South East Asia on 15 December 2010 in Bangkok. IWRAW AP participated in order to provide inputs into the development of UN Women in South East Asia as a regional organisation with expertise on the human rights of women and CEDAW.

IWRAW AP engaged with this meeting on the basis that it was an opportunity for a first direct engagement with UN Women on issues such as its general mandate and its shape and structure especially in South East Asia as well as the opportunity it offered to get an insight into its development and to network around such issues as NGO participation in UN Women. IWRAW Asia Pacific sought to make the most of the space to assert itself, its partners and networks and civil society in general as important stakeholders in the process of transition and the effective establishment of UN Women. IWRAW Asia Pacific also wished to use the opportunity to begin to the potential of UN Women as a venue for advocacy, identify and connect with NGOs in the region with an interest in the work of UN Women and strengthen existing contacts in UNIFEM and UN Women while also identifying new contacts. These objectives were successfully met and IWRAW Asia Pacific will continue to engage with UN Women through similar regional Consultations in 2011.

4. Advocacy on thematic issues

a. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

IWRAW Asia Pacific has identified women's economic, social and cultural rights as an area of priority concern for the organisation. Economic, social and cultural rights are traditionally less developed than civil and political rights yet their realisation is key to achieving substantive equality. Further, violations of these rights are systemic in all regions and fundamentally undermine the ability of women to claim and realise a wide range of other rights. A number of initiatives were therefore

³7th Session of the UPR, 8 – 19 February 2010 in Geneva.

⁴ 8th Session of the UPR 3 – 14 May 2010 in Geneva.

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accomplished by IWRAP Asia Pacific in 2010 to further our advocacy strategies in this area. Several resources were developed in collaboration with ESCR-Net: a primer on women's ESC rights which was launched during a briefing with the CEDAW Committee at its 45th session in conjunction with ESCR-Net and the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE); NGO Guidelines for submissions under ICESCR on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and NGO Guidelines for submissions under CEDAW on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The briefing with the CEDAW Committee during its 45th session allowed IWRAP Asia Pacific to highlight for the Committee the importance of directly addressing women's ESC rights in Concluding Observations and the Committee's role in advancing understanding of the importance of ESC rights in women's lives. The goal of the thematic briefing was to share with the Committee members that many women's groups around the world are increasingly recognising and working on advancing women's ESC rights at the national level but that implementation of these rights continues to be lacking. Several key points of intervention were identified for follow up, including continuing to support the production of resources on women's ESC rights and dialogue between various UN bodies mandated to address particular aspects of women's ESC rights.

The two sets of Guidelines for NGOs will facilitate effective reporting to the CEDAW and ICESCR Committees on issues relating to women's economic, social and cultural rights and thus effective monitoring by NGOs of their State's compliance with its obligations in this regard under each Committee. They also aim to specifically encourage women's groups to send alternative information to the ICESCR Committee on issues relating to the fulfilment of women's economic, social and cultural rights. The NGO Guidelines were finalised in July 2010 and presented to the CEDAW Committee at its 47th session in October 2010. Also during that session, IWRAP Asia Pacific in collaboration with ESCR Net conducted a second briefing on ESC rights for the CEDAW Committee. The briefing provided a very useful analysis of how the Committee can more explicitly use the substantive equality framework in promoting women's ESC rights, particularly through the Optional Protocol. It was noted, that until the OP ICESCR is operational the CEDAW OP remains the most critical mechanism available for advancing jurisprudence on women's ESC rights.

The presentations were well received, and there was substantial engagement from the members. The Committee particularly expressed interest in receiving further information on:

1. how the substantive equality approach can be applied to the procedural elements of CEDAW OP (i.e. re decisions about admissibility, exhaustion of remedies);
2. a resource list of NGOs working on women's ESC rights that could be provided in conjunction with the OP model communication form so that NGOs can link in with experts working in different areas.

The Committee also noted the value of the series of resources ESCR-net and IWRAP-AP are developing on women's ESC rights.

b. Migration and Trafficking

This has been identified as a second area of priority concern for IWRAP Asia Pacific and activities in 2010 aimed to continue to support and facilitate the application of CEDAW principles and standards in addressing these issues as a follow up to the Roundtable on Migration and Trafficking held in

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2009. We continued to work on developing the Toolkit on the Application of CEDAW to Address the Rights of Women Migrant Workers and also participated in the GAATW International Conference: Beyond Borders - Trafficking in the context of migrant, labour and women's rights was held from the 7th to the 8th of July 2010 in Bangkok Thailand. This conference provided an opportunity for IWRAW Asia Pacific to understand the issue of trafficking from the perspective of people/groups working on the ground. It also highlighted the need for information that is provided by these people/groups to reach the international treaty bodies and special procedures. IWRAW Asia Pacific will explore ways in which to facilitate this flow of information that is so crucial to address the issue of trafficking. The existing information on this issue is extensive.

c. Conflict

IWRAW Asia Pacific initiated activities in 2010 with the aim of leading toward the drafting and adoption of a General Comment by the CEDAW Committee and in support of the work of the Committee in addressing the larger socio-political context within which conflict occurs and is responded to by various international state and non-state actors and the roles that they play in either increasing or limiting the protection and promotion of women's human rights at all stages of conflict. IWRAW Asia Pacific organised the Global Consultation on Women Affected by Conflict which [see IDEAS and BCC for more information] discussed the various contexts and elements which should be incorporated in the General Comment on Women Affected by Conflict.

IWRAW Asia Pacific also attended the International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women of Burma which was held parallel to the 54th Commission on the Status of Women in New York. IWRAW Asia Pacific was present at the tribunal in support of Women's League of Burma as part of our continued engagement with them in Southeast Asia. The tribunal's recommendations were directed to the Burmese regime, ASEAN and international community.

d. Culture

IWRAW Asia Pacific is increasingly concerned at the use of rhetoric relating to culture and traditional values to undermine the principle of the universality of rights and to legitimise widespread and serious violations of women's human rights. In order to develop our internal capacity on this subject with a view to conducting further work in the future, IWRAW Asia Pacific participated in a two day South Asia Consultation on 2-3 September 2010 in Nepal addressing issues around Culture, Women and Human Rights organised by Partners in Law for Development (PLD). This consultation was supported by WOREC (Nepal). A group of 30 feminist activists, lawyers, human rights activists, researchers, community level organiser, academics and subject experts on political feminist discourse, political theory, CEDAW and law from Asia participated in the consultation. IWRAW Asia Pacific participated in the Consultation as part of its initiative to understand more on the theme of culture, women human rights and state obligation. The participation was useful in terms of networking with feminists and organisations from the region (Asia) working towards building a nuanced understanding on culture and religion in the context of women's human rights. It allowed a deeper understanding of the political and conceptual thinking at the level of human rights mechanisms such as CEDAW, SR on VAW and IE on Culture that can contribute to the process of standard setting at international level on cultural rights of women.

e. Challenges Faced

External challenges

A new call for reform of the treaty body system which began in 2009 and was extensively discussed in 2010 (Dublin, Marrakech, Poznan Declarations) has raised concerns among NGOs that any reform or amendment to the current system be focused on improving the implementation of human rights at the national level and improving the efficiency of the international system without undermining the advances that have been made to date. IWRAW Asia Pacific felt it was important for us to provide inputs and guidance to our core constituency of women's rights groups in order to ensure that the perspectives of women at the national level will feed into any current discussions on further reform of the human rights system. As IWRAW Asia Pacific works principally on CEDAW, these treaty based discussions and changes have a major impact on our work. The procedures of the CEDAW Committee itself are undergoing changes with the general move to make all treaty body processes more cohesive and aligned, and the introduction of new/changing procedures (e.g. follow-up to Concluding Observations procedure) – information about this needs to feed into the strategies and advocacy of national level groups working on CEDAW. For example, the reduction in terms of timing for NGO oral interventions during the CEDAW review session from 2 hours to now 1 hour has impacted and limited the opportunity for NGOs to utilize the space effectively.

Challenges to civil society organizing for human rights and democratic freedoms in some countries posed obstacles to the work of IWRAW Asia Pacific and its national partners during this time. IWRAW Asia Pacific was able to use the CEDAW review process and the From Global to Local programme to break some of the silences around women's activism for human rights in countries such as the Fiji and Uzbekistan. Growing tendencies by governments to adopt repressive laws reduces space for alternative and dissenting opinions and leads to increased scrutiny and harassment of human rights defenders by state and non-state actors. In some cases, laws that focus on combating terrorism can also be used to prevent human rights defenders from investigating and reporting human rights abuse. In addition, some governments see a strengthened civil society as a threat to state power, and create legal and policy regulations that can obstruct the formation of organizations. IWRAW Asia Pacific is aware that these threats to the freedom of association and expression are challenged by human rights organizations and movements that demand accountability from their government as well as from the UN and facilitated women's participation in international mechanisms with this in mind. Negative perceptions regarding the work of women human rights defenders on the part of the state in particular pose a risk to certain activists who may face repression and other repercussions on their return from the review. IWRAW Asia Pacific is sensitive to these issues, continually evaluating situations where threats to defenders may be relevant in its work and taking measures where necessary to minimise them.

There has also been proliferation of new international mechanisms with the creation of a position of Independent Expert on Cultural Rights (IECR) in the UN Human Rights Council, the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which is still working out its methods and practices (rules of procedure), the establishment of the Working Group on the issue of Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice (equality of men and women in law and through legal processes), and the establishment of the UN Women agency which amalgamates four previous women's agencies (OSAGI, UNIFEM, DAW and INSTRAW). While these mechanisms create new opportunities for women they also create challenges in ensuring cohesive and universal norms on women's human rights. They also challenge women human rights defenders

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and IWRAP Asia Pacific to keep abreast of the ongoing developments and develop new and evolving strategies which take adequate account of them. The UN Women, for example, will be tasked with leading the policy dialogue on women's rights and also supporting states in their implementation of gender equality. It is too new to say whether women's groups have been able to successfully impact the new mechanism but it is useful to note here the changes in the environment of working at the international level on women's human rights.

Similarly, at the regional level the ASEAN human rights mechanisms and processes (AICHR, ACWC and ACMW) have also been a focus of engagement for us, via the SEA Women's Caucus on ASEAN to ensure that these newly created mechanisms will integrate gender a perspective into their work.

Changes in the global arena in terms of women's human rights are extremely dynamic at present. 2010 was a challenging year for IWRAP Asia Pacific and indeed for all groups working for the promotion and protection of human rights across the world. IWRAP Asia Pacific continued to work with national partners, with the CEDAW Committee, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and with organizations and networks committed to the advancement of women's human rights to carry forward its goals and objectives to build a world respectful of the human rights of women, and of all human beings. On the one hand we witnessed a backsliding of commitments to women's rights with, for example, a return to the use of arguments of cultural specificity and relativism to combat the principle of universality of rights. Issues of equality and non-discrimination, which are fundamental principles of CEDAW and all other human rights instruments, are being put to the test when they are sought to be applied in the context of communities that are marginalised on the basis of their identity. On the other hand, we see an opening up of spaces within the mainstream human rights arena for the consideration of the specificity of women's experiences of violations, for example, within the mandate of the SR on human rights defenders and the newly created special procedure on cultural rights.

Within the UN system, UNFPA and other organizations including civil society groups working on reproductive and sexual health and rights matters commemorated Cairo +15, the 15th anniversary of the UN Conference on Population and Development. The process generated a strong backlash and groups opposing women's rights to choice in the area of reproductive and sexual health emerged from around the world. The growth of conservative attitudes and approaches to women's human rights was also borne out by the passing of a Resolution on 'Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms through a better understanding of traditional values of humankind' at the September 2009 session of the UN Human Rights Council, completely ignoring the negative impact of some 'traditional' values and practices on women's human rights and autonomy. Throughout 2010, IWRAP Asia Pacific has been involved with some of its partners and a network of human rights organizations in doing advocacy work around these issues in Geneva and elsewhere.

Violations of human rights, especially the rights of women, of members of minority and indigenous communities and of persons facing discrimination due to their sexual orientation and gender identity/expression continued to increase in 2010. In particular, there was an increase in the specific types of violations of women's human rights linked to the intersection of their cultural and religious identities and their other identities, including restrictions on their mobility and freedom of choice.

In addition, we note that there is a move by women globally towards claiming rights through international mechanisms. However, there are challenges in this created by lack of skills and

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knowledge around these mechanisms and other barriers to their effective use. IWRAP Asia Pacific worked on encouraging strategic use of OP CEDAW and conducted activities to ensure a strong basis for the newly created OP ICESCR. We have continued to support women's groups who seek to avail of the redress these mechanisms can provide where none is available at the national level through providing technical assistance and support in the drafting and filing of their cases.

Internal challenges

Given, the extensive changes in 2010 at the organisational level in terms of staff turnover, the ERR Programme had to revisit its work on developing linkages and drawing a clear plan of action for advocacy both at the international and regional levels. In prioritising ERR work in 2010, direct engagement by staff in advocacy around the ASEAN human rights mechanism was reduced rather drastically. Nonetheless, IWRAP Asia Pacific did continue to raise funds and support the work of the Southeast Women's Caucus on ASEAN as co-coordinator.

Given the intensity of the rapid changes and development at the international and regional level IWRAP Asia Pacific was often pressed to address these needs immediately and often required extraordinarily long hours and commitment from its staff and resource persons. IWRAP Asia Pacific identified the need for development of a team of advocacy focal persons for specific issues. Madhu Mehra was asked to be one of the advisors and representatives of IWRAP Asia Pacific on engagement with the Human Rights Council particularly on the issue of culture, while Ivy Josiah was asked to be the focal point on ASEAN related advocacy.

The wide spectrum and conceptual as well as contextual nature of the various thematic issues we address such as on SOGI, resistance to women's human rights on the basis of culture and religion, migration and trafficking, economic social and cultural rights as well as on women affected by conflict also requires internal capacity building in order to develop knowledge around these issues to sustain and enhance our engagement and advocacy around these issues.

f. Future Directions

The work in 2011 is informed by IWRAP Asia Pacific's 3 Year Plan (2011 – 2013) and aims to consolidate its existing work under the ERR programme as well as expand its work to new areas. The three year objectives for the Enhancing Realisation of Rights programme for 2011 – 2013 are:

1. To collaborate with national and regional organisations in addressing critical and/or emerging issues using the international women's human rights framework and develop strategies reflective of the ground realities of women at the national level;
2. To facilitate women's engagement in standard setting and interpreting processes and in expanding the scope for the application of international women's human rights standards at the regional and international levels, with particular emphasis on the perspectives and issues of women facing multiple discriminations; and through strengthening of national level implementation of these standards;
3. To contribute towards strengthening of mechanisms and processes for the claiming of women's human rights, at the national, regional and international levels;
4. To facilitate the claiming of rights by women, using law as a tool, at the national and international levels, in particular through the OP CEDAW and OP ICESCR.

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From 2011 onwards the ERR programme's engagement on the priority thematic issues (namely, culture and religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, women affected by conflict, economic, social and cultural rights, and migration) will involve integrating a focus on these issues into every advocacy context and highlighting opportunities to address these concerns whenever possible. In relation to economic, social and cultural rights, the priority forum of focus will be the CEDAW and ICESCR Committees and strategies around ratification and use of OP CEDAW and OP CESC. Culture and religion will be a primary area of focus during advocacy strategies around the Human Rights Council and the new ASEAN human rights mechanisms. Migration will be a priority in IWRAW Asia Pacific's work directly with the CEDAW Committee and also in the development of the ASEAN human rights mechanisms in light of their focus on migrant workers. Conflict will also be a priority theme when engaging directly with the CEDAW Committee and it and SOGI issues will be particularly addressed in the development of resources and activities to enhance the internal capacity of IWRAW Asia Pacific. All issues will be addressed as a priority through the From Global to Local programme when we will actively seek out national partners engaged in work around these issues and encourage existing national partners to include reference to these issues where they are relevant to the country context.

IWRAW Asia Pacific will continue to facilitate women's engagement in standard setting and interpreting processes and in expanding the scope for the application of international women's human rights standards at the regional and international levels, particularly through the From Global to Local programme. IWRAW Asia Pacific will continue to operationalise the training/mentoring programme during each CEDAW session as well as support follow up action plans on the implementation of the CEDAW Concluding Observations at the national level. One areas of specific focus is on conducting training on the writing of shadow reports for initial reporting countries as well as countries where NGOs have not submitted a report in the past in order to ensure substantive and comprehensive reports are submitted to the CEDAW Committee highlighting priority issues in the countries, analysing the state interventions and presenting concrete recommendations to the CEDAW Committee. In 2011, trainings will be conducted for Lesotho and Zimbabwe (These will be implemented by the Building Capacity for Change programme). One of the priorities of this programme is to actively seek to include marginalised groups of women because of the multiple discriminations they face, particularly but not limited to those groups affected by the critical and/or emerging issues identified by IWRAW Asia Pacific through its work with its partners.

IWRAW Asia Pacific's engagement with debates at the international level concerning harmonisation of follow-up procedures by the Treaty Bodies and its engagement with the CEDAW Committee on this issue will also contribute to strengthening national level implementation of international standards. Our priorities are to engage with the discussions regarding harmonisation of work processes, in particular follow-up procedures, and to carry out work around enhancing the ability of activists to lobby at the national level for selection of strong candidates for membership of the Committees, especially the CEDAW Committee.

Our work with ESCR-Net in supporting the ICESCR Committee in drafting their rules of procedure under the OP ICESCR will ensure that this mechanism provides a strong tool for women to claim their rights. IWRAW Asia Pacific will also be finalising the "Guide on Claiming Women's ESC Rights under CEDAW / ICESCR and their Optional Protocols" in the second half of 2011. Since IWRAW Asia Pacific has identified ESC rights as a priority area for 2011 onwards and recognises that failure to respect, protect and fulfil women's ESC rights is a major barrier to achieving substantive equality,

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IWRAW Asia Pacific will continue to explore new partnerships with organisations working on ESC rights, strengthen our existing relationships and seek to create links between the pool of experts and resource persons on ESC rights and those in the women's human rights community so that each can draw on the knowledge and strengths of the other and integrate this knowledge into their work with the ICESCR and CEDAW Committees respectively. This will enhance the resources available to both Committee's and aid in reflecting the work of both Committees and communities of activists in Concluding Observations, questions during State reviews, decisions and recommendations under the OP's and in General Recommendations.

In 2011 IWRAW Asia Pacific will continue to closely monitor and strategically engage with the development of UN Women to ensure that it develops into a strong and effective mechanism with a firm basis in the principles of non-discrimination, equality and universality.

IWRAW Asia Pacific's strategy on OP CEDAW and OP ICESCR will be central towards facilitating the claiming of rights by women using law as a tool. The ERR programme will continue to promote ratification of the OPs; provide technical assistance, and promote increased use of the OPs; develop its strategic litigation strategy; and monitor implementation of and follow-up to decisions of the Committee under the OP. In 2008 IWRAW Asia Pacific, in collaboration with numerous Philippine NGO's, submitted a request for an inquiry which was accepted by the Committee in early 2010. IWRAW Asia Pacific has also been collaborating with national partners in Kyrgyzstan in researching and formulating a potential communication regarding a case of unfair dismissal as well as an inquiry relating to the prevalence of bride kidnapping in the country. In Thailand, we have been discussing with UNIFEM and the Thai National Human Rights Commission regarding a proposed communication concerning impunity for sexual assault. IWRAW Asia Pacific will actively continue to promote and support follow up activities based on these collaborations. In 2011 IWRAW Asia Pacific will provide support to its partners in the Philippines to implement the decision of the Committee in *Karen Vertido v the Philippines* by carrying out training for the judiciary to increase their awareness and understanding of issues around consent in the context of the crime of rape.

IWRAW Asia Pacific will be developing a scoping paper and strategy on the Pacific region to build on the regional Government-NGO Dialogue held there in November 2010. This will include a component on advocacy strategies to lobby for non-reporting States to submit their overdue reports to the CEDAW Committee.

IWRAW Asia Pacific's ongoing work on the General Comment on Women Affected by Conflict will include strategising to ensure that IWRAW Asia Pacific's recommendations, based on its previous work and feedback from its partners, are included in the General Recommendation. It will also involve creation of further resources to support the work of the Committee in addressing the larger socio-political context within which conflict occurs and is responded to by various international and non-state actors and the roles that they play in either increasing or limiting the protection and promotion of women's human rights at all stages of conflict. In 2011, IWRAW Asia Pacific will also attend the General Day of Discussion with the CEDAW Committee in July to further the advocacy on the GR.

IWRAW Asia Pacific will continue to engage with the HRC in a number of ways, including through:

- In March 2011 IWRAW Asia Pacific will collaborate with the Violence is not our Culture Campaign and Partners in Law for Development in holding a parallel panel discussion at the 16th

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HRC entitled "Culture, Discrimination and Violence against Women" and with the participation of the Independent Expert in the field of Cultural Rights, Farida Shaheed. This will be the outcome of discussions on this matter which took place in 2010. In preparation for this panel, IWRAW Asia Pacific attended a Consultation organised by PLD in Nepal in September addressing issues around culture, women and human rights. We will also collaborate with VNC in the drafting of a joint statement to the HRC on this topic.

- IWRAW Asia Pacific plans to engage in the Annual Discussions on Women's Human Rights and Gender Integration in the Human Rights Council at the June and September sessions, including through lobbying to raise dialogue at these discussions which advances the recognition of the universality of human rights and lobbying for the integration of the human rights of women and a gender perspective in all the work of the HRC, including that of the Special Procedures and during the UPR.
- In February 2011 IWRAW Asia Pacific will participate in a seminar held by the Commonwealth Secretariat on implementation of UPR recommendations at the national level for Commonwealth European and Asian countries and will provide advice and suggestions to participants. IWRAW Asia Pacific hopes to continue this collaboration through supporting future such seminars for African Commonwealth countries and those in the Caribbean and Pacific.

In the period from 2011 – 2013 IWRAW Asia Pacific will continue to engage and collaborate with other NGOs on submissions on the treaty body reform process and participate in the regional consultations planned for 2011 in Korea (Asia Pacific region) and Pretoria (African region). IWRAW Asia Pacific will continue to input into the ICM and Treaty Bodies Chairpersons Meetings through direct participation and/or collaboration on joint statements and advocacy documents.

The creation of the ASEAN Human Rights Mechanisms poses an important opportunity to strengthen the protection of international human rights norms and standards in the SEA region. IWRAW Asia Pacific will work to ensure the integration of the CEDAW framework to counter the use of cultural relativist arguments which undermine international human rights norms and the human rights of women in particular. IWRAW Asia Pacific, in collaboration with APWLD will continue being the co-coordinators of the SEA Women's Caucus on ASEAN and engage in the ASEAN Peoples' Forum; work on the ASEAN blueprints; strengthen the work of the AICHR and ACWC by inputting into the development of the rules of procedures and workplan; support the drafting of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration; and provide capacity building to national women's groups in developing and implementing national advocacy strategies.

Building Capacity for Change

A. Overview/Background

The Building Capacity for Change (BCC) programme has evolved over the years. The Programme primarily aims to develop new ways of knowledge creation and skill building for activists, women's rights organisations and advocacy groups for the advancement of women's human using the key principles and framework of international human rights law, primarily the CEDAW Convention. The Programme works very closely with national groups and organisations..

The Programme continues to develop innovative strategies of building the capacity of organisations and institutions at national, regional and international levels for advocacy and reform. The programme fulfils the commitment of the organisation to provide training on the principles and application of the CEDAW Convention, adding value to the work of partner organisations through enhancing their capabilities to achieve the application of the standards of equality and non-discrimination set out in CEDAW and in other international human rights instruments.

IWRAW Asia Pacific's BCC Programme is conscious of the emerging issues and contexts challenging the implementation of CEDAW towards advancement of women's human rights, and continues to undertake programme strategies to meet these challenges.

B. Specific Objectives⁵

The overall objective of the BCC programme is to develop knowledge and skills in the application of international human rights law, especially on the principles of CEDAW . The specific aims of the strategy are as follows:

- To strengthen and expand the capacity of women's groups and networks to claim their human rights and to draw accountability from governments through national, regional and international mechanisms towards the realisation of women's rights and good governance in contexts specified under Article 2 of CEDAW and in relation to other contexts such as neo-liberal economic globalisation;
- To promote non-discrimination and equality at all levels of government action towards the crafting and effective implementation of laws, policies, and programmes, and securing remedies in cases of violations or non-enforcement of these measures by state and non-state actors;
- To strengthen alliances and collaboration with mainstream human rights organisations, social movements and other key players to sharpen women's equality and non-discrimination perspectives in their advocacy and strategies; and
- To develop tools, methodologies, resource materials, training frameworks and resource persons to facilitate the implementation of the Building Capacity for Change Programme.

The objectives of the Building Capacity for Change programme 2008-2010 included the following:⁶

⁵ These objectives were reviewed and affirmed at the March, 2008 Capacity Building Advisory Group meeting.

⁶ These objectives were developed at the March, 2008 Capacity Building Advisory Group meeting.

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1. To establish collaboration and partnerships on strategic initiatives with key identified groups in new regions;
2. To consolidate and strengthen strategic and progressive levels of work in existing countries/regions;
3. To consolidate and strengthen the capacity building programme in the area of litigation and to advance the use of the OP CEDAW;
4. To sharpen the orientation of programme activities in the application of women's human rights framework in specific context such as violence, migration, conflict and post conflict, neo-liberal globalisation, etc. and with respect to different sectors;
5. To consolidate gains of past work in knowledge creation, including development of concrete tools that could enhance the work of the programme and of the organization as a whole;
6. To develop policies and terms of reference for different forms of collaboration with partners, resource persons and other institutions.⁷

C. Highlights in Implementation for 2010

In 2010, the BCC Programme implemented a range of activities which included conventional CEDAW focused trainings, training of trainers, shadow report trainings, facilitated dialogue with national/regional women's rights networks on development of advocacy strategies and the development of resources on practical application of CEDAW. The BCC Programme reached out to its national partners to implement a collaborative project on applying IWRAW Asia Pacific's CEDAW Application Framework to influence their national governments and stakeholder institutions through law reform and policy advocacy initiatives. The activities implemented in 2010 resulted in strengthening and expanding pool of resource persons, building organisational knowledge on on substance and practical application of CEDAW in varying contexts for example, migration, trafficking, conflict, including the use and application of CEDAW through strategic litigation work.

Please refer to Annex 1(I) for a comprehensive list of the specific activities of Building Capacity for Change in 2010.

D. Accomplishments

1. Sustaining and developing IWRAW Asia Pacific's pool of resource persons

One of the ongoing programme activity implemented by the Building Capacity for Change is to develop, expand and strengthen its pool of resource persons, which consist resource persons with national, regional and international expertise and experience of addressing women's human rights issues using CEDAW and other international human rights frameworks. The pool of resource persons is critical to IWRAW Asia Pacific in its work promoting CEDAW and its application across Asia Pacific and beyond.

The BCC Programme identified several challenges associated with sustaining its pool of resource persons which included the over-dependence on some resource persons which lead to the under-utilisation of others. There is also the need to expand the pool to include persons with specialised knowledge. One of the ways implemented by the BCC Programme during 2010 was the pairing up of resource persons with different yet complementary capacities to conduct capacity building and conceptual meetings

⁷In 2009, BCC focused on objectives 1, 2 and 4.

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implemented through its programme activities. This included a mentoring method whereby junior resource persons were paired with senior resource persons in trainings.

The BCC Programme began developing a systematic and ongoing database on the pool of resource persons mapping educational qualifications, professional expertise/ experience and their interest areas. This will enable the BCC Programme and IWRAW Asia Pacific to identify and select appropriate resource persons in relation to the requests received by the organisation on building capacities of women's rights groups and organisations on use and application of CEDAW. The Southeast Asia region has always proved to be a challenge for the BCC Programme in terms of availability of resources and expertise within the region to advance women's human rights using CEDAW framework. The regional specificity of this region in terms of language, political structures, social and legal contexts required IWRAW Asia Pacific continue in its efforts towards strengthening the capacities of NGOs and women's groups from the region on clarity of concepts and principles incorporated in CEDAW and its relevance in bringing about positive change on women's human rights strategies.

The participatory assessment conducted by IWRAW Asia Pacific during 2009 in 7 seven countries from Southeast Asia, gave a mandated the BCC Programme to undertake capacity building initiatives catered specifically to the growing needs and aspirations of NGOs and women's rights organisations working in the region towards implementation of CEDAW to advance women's human rights of substantive equality and non discrimination. The Sub-regional Training of Trainers on CEDAW Application organised and conducted by IWRAW Asia Pacific in 2010 helped the BCC Programme to identify and develop a well-thought and result oriented national level follow up plans in select countries through trainers and local organisations (inclusive of existing national partners) identified at this Training. The result was a pool of 20 trainers whose contribution and support enabled the organisation to sustain and enhance its ongoing efforts in the region on application of CEDAW and lobbying towards drawing accountability from the national governments to implement its obligations under the Convention and under the Concluding Observations by the Committee.

Development of national level follow up plans for example, capacity building of local groups, dialogue with the State and government agencies on CEDAW implementation, creating a pool of CEDAW trainers at the national level emerging from the Sub-regional Training of Trainers should be considered as one of the successes of the BCC Programme in 2010. The BCC Programme worked closely with CWGI- CEDAW Working Group Initiative from Indonesia to develop and conduct a training of trainers for its member organisations and activists in the country on substantive understanding of CEDAW and application of a framework developed by IWRAW Asia Pacific to strengthen law reform and policy advocacy of women's rights groups using CEDAW as a direct follow up to the Sub-regional Training of Trainers. In 2011, the BCC Programme will continue to provide support and technical expertise to its trainers and partner organisations from Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Timor Leste and Thailand towards finalising and implementing national level follow up plans developed at the Sub-regional Training held in Cambodia in 2010. The trainers from the Sub-regional Training of Trainers will be paired with senior resource persons in carrying out their follow-up training plans in their respective countries.

Strengthening legal framework and structures providing women and other marginalised groups access to justice, implementation of legislation enacted to protect women against domestic violence, recognition of sexual and reproductive health rights for women and persons with unconventional sexual orientation/identity & interpretation of State's obligation under Art 2 of the Convention have been

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identified by trainers and partners of the organisation for more sustained and effective national level capacity building process on CEDAW.

The Concluding Observation Consultation organised by IRAW Asia Pacific for Cambodia, Laos, Timor Leste and Vietnam in 2010 provided valuable inputs and direction to the initiatives implemented in 2010 and envisioned for 2011 by the BCC Programme.

Over three years IRAW Asia Pacific has been providing support and technical expertise to Karat Coalition through its advocacy initiative on promoting ratification and use of OP CEDAW in the Central Asia and Eastern Europe region. In 2010 the BCC Programme responded to the request from Karat Coalition to build a pool of regional trainers in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland and Turkmenistan. Undarya Tumursukh and Eleanor Conda from IRAW Asia Pacific's pool of resource persons conducted the training of trainers for Karat Coalition in November 2010. This capacity building of regional trainers has created options for the BCC Programme on tapping resources and expertise available within the region, and utilise their knowledge and skills to expand its regional work on promotion of CEDAW & its application, and sustain its ongoing efforts/engagement with the regional women's organisations and networks around CEDAW.

During 2011 the BCC Programme intends undertake following initiatives to sustain, expand and strengthen its pool of resource persons on CEDAW and its application:

- Development of database on its existing pool of resource persons and trainers mapping their knowledge, skills and potential areas of working together through implementation of the Programme
- Systematic follow up with its national partners including lawyers, activists and NGO staff who had participated in past programme activities organised by IRAW Asia Pacific
- Initiatives to improve knowledge & skills of activists, women's organisations and NGOs on the application of CEDAW in their law reform and policy advocacy efforts
- Continued support to organisation's partners and women's organisations/networks linked through work in the Southeast Asia to effectively develop and strategise national level follow up plans based on CEDAW framework and the Concluding Observations by the CEDAW Committee
- Work towards expanding its outreach and scope of intervention through knowledge creation and capacity building initiatives on CEDAW and its application in context of emerging thematic contexts such as women's economic, social, cultural rights, migration, including use of law and litigation to advance women's human rights using CEDAW, OP CEDAW and relevant international human rights treaties

2. Training to enhance advocacy before, during and after the CEDAW review process

The BCC programme provides support to all activities undertaken by the organisation aimed at capacity building of NGOs on understanding and application of CEDAW, including the capacity building on shadow report writing and consultations on promoting implementation of the CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations. The BCC Programme implements these activities with support from the Enhancing Realisation of Rights Programme.

In 2010 the BCC Programme targeted training on shadow report writing to enhance the impact of its "From Global to Local Programme" conducted in conjunction with the CEDAW Review Session.

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According to the feedback received, the activists that participated at the "from Global to Local Programme", stated that this programme improved the quality and impact of their advocacy and lobbying with the CEDAW Committee.

Several shadow report trainings were conducted including one for the NGO coalition from South Africa in the preparation of their Shadow Report. South Africa . They were subsequently reviewed by the Committee in its 48th Session in January 2011. The BCC Programme also worked with NGOs from Iraq, Vietnam and United Kingdom to support the organisations in their initiative to write shadow report on CEDAW.

The engagement with national level groups and NGO Coalitions from South Africa and Vietnam on writing shadow report extended to reviewing of the draft shadow report by IWRAW Asia Pacific's resource persons who were involved in conducting training for these NGOs on how to write a shadow report and develop advocacy strategies using the report during the CEDAW Review Session.

The BCC Programme supported the Enhancing Realisation of Rights Programme towards implementation of Consultations on Concluding Observations for Europe, Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Laos, Timor Leste and Vietnam) and Pacific. The follow up plans emerged from the Southeast Asia Consultation were pursued by the BCC Programme with the national partners, and will be implemented in 2011. . These consultations have assisted the BCC Programme in sharpening its regional strategies and identification of priority issues in the national/regional setting. One of the challenges post the concluding observation focused meetings for the BCC Programme is integration of the follow up action plans into its region-specific work planned and implemented for following years, and ongoing association with the national partners in terms of building local activism and advocacy on women's human rights using the CEDAW framework.

Since 2008 IWRAW Asia Pacific has been interacting with women's rights organisations and networks from Afghanistan to undertake long term and sustained engagement on promoting CEDAW application and implementation of commitments made by the State under the Convention. Post the CEDAW training conducted for Afghanistan NGOs in 2009, the BCC Programme continued to establish fruitful partnership with national partner organisations. While the discussions did not result in immediate collaboration, the BCC Programme pursued during 2010 its dialogue with Afghanistan NGOs through Afghan Women's Organisation's Network opening window for a potential partnership with the network to advance women's rights applying CEDAW and building the capacities of national groups to understand and use the CEDAW framework in their ongoing efforts to influence State in the preparation of the CEDAW state report and to further enhance the state's implementation of CEDAW.

The lessons learned so far by the BCC Programme on its engagement with women's rights groups and organisations on substantive use and application of CEDAW pre, during and post CEDAW review process by the CEDAW Committee, are as follows:

- A proactive and integrated approach to ensure the capacity building efforts undertaken by the BCC Programme on effective use of CEDAW Reporting Process by the national level organisations and women' networks to advance women's human rights issues arising from the national contexts.
- The BCC Programme should continue to engage with social movements, thematic networks such as those working towards rights of migrant workers, persons with disabilities, indigenous

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peoples, sexuality rights, health, economic, social and cultural rights to build their understanding on principles of CEDAW and its use in integrating women's rights into their existing human rights work. This will ensure effective use of the guidelines developed by IWRAW Asia Pacific and in collaboration with other networks like IGLHRC, ESCR Net on shadow report writing.

- A systematic evaluation and impact assessment of the Concluding Observation consultations would contribute towards enhancing national advocacy strategies on women's human rights promoted and implemented by the BCC Programme.

Follow up activities planned in 2011 include:

- Support for women's groups in Afghanistan who have approached IWRAW Asia Pacific to provide guidance in building their capacities on preparation of an alternative report, and also to strengthen their national activism and advocacy influencing the State on advancement of women's human rights applying CEDAW;
- Follow up to the Shadow Report training for Iraqi organisation, especially in supporting their national consultation aimed at gather additional data, feedback and comments to the draft Shadow report.
- Supporting the women's groups in Vietnam in the process of finalisation of their NGO Shadow Report.
- Capacity building on shadow report writing on countries reporting on CEDAW during 2011-2013 through building national level partnership and collaboration, particularly initial reporting countries such as Lesotho and Ivory Coast;
- Assistance to women in Cambodia, Laos, Timor Leste and Vietnam in developing strategies for promoting implementation of the Concluding Observations articulated for their country by the CEDAW Committee at the end of the country review; and

3. Enhancing rights of women through application of CEDAW

IWRAW Asia Pacific believes that along with its engagement with the women's organisations and NGOs to promote understanding and practical application of CEDAW, it is as crucial to consistently dialogue/engage with the State, NHRIs and key stakeholder institutions as well. The national level activism must be accompanied with an effective policy advocacy to ensure the laws, programmes, policies and national level processes undertaken by the State are CEDAW compliant.

IWRAW Asia Pacific was able to develop the CEDAW Application Framework in 2007 to enable women's organisations and networks structured understanding of how the Convention and its principles and provisions can be the basis for their advocacy towards laws, policies addressing not only de jure rights to equality, but also de facto rights and both direct and indirect discrimination. The primary users of the Framework are State parties to CEDAW – governments and legislatures in particular. However, from the experiences of women's groups it is obvious that State parties often lack the willingness, motivation or capacity to fulfil their human rights obligations. Hence, women's human rights organisations have to proactively promote the use and application of the Framework by their governments and thus facilitating the implementation of human rights principles and standards. IWRAW Asia Pacific has been receiving requests from its national partners in South Asia and in Southeast Asia to support their efforts on use of CEDAW through building their capacity to understand and apply the CEDAW Application Framework to specific policy or law affecting women's human rights in their national context. The CEDAW Application Framework Project (CAF Project) initiated by the BCC Programme in 2010 is a

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strategic response by IRAW Asia Pacific to enhance capacity of its national partners and women's rights networks on use and application of CEDAW.

The CEDAW Application Framework Project aims to build and enhance knowledge and skills of IRAW Asia Pacific's national partners to use and apply the Framework in their legislative and policy advocacy. The CAF Project is a long term project to be implemented in phases over two years. Bangladesh and Indonesia were identified as countries for pilot CAF projects. Discussions have been initiated with the national partners, namely Naripokkho and CEDAW Working Group Initiative (CWGI) in Bangladesh and Indonesia respectively.

During 2010 the implementation of the CAF Project progressed in Bangladesh with initial orientation workshop for activists, lawyers and policy advocates who were members and partners Naripokkho involved in the implementation of the CAF Project in Bangladesh. This was followed by meetings and consultations by Naripokkho with local organisations and women's network encouraging these groups to partner Naripokkho in this structured process of testing and applying the CEDAW Application Framework in relation to legislation on violence against women and national policy either on agriculture.

A similar initial discussion was facilitated by the BCC Programme with CWGI in Indonesia, who expressed its commitment to apply the Framework in their advocacy on proposed Marriage Bill. IRAW Asia Pacific will continue supporting CWGI in overall development of the project in Indonesia, and include efforts to raise necessary funding for achieving the desired policy change through engagement of national women's groups in advocacy on CEDAW compliant Marriage Laws.

The work undertaken by the BCC Programme through the CAF Project should be seen as a natural progression in the development of programme strategy on capacity building to ensure realisation of women's rights by promoting practical application of CEDAW, both by the NGOs and the State including the NHRIs and other stakeholder institutions. The lessons learned during the initial phase of the CAF Project are as follows:

- The BCC Programme should encourage and mobilise its national partners to undertake projects and initiatives to continuously update the knowledge and skills of women's rights activists and policy advocates on understanding the international human rights treaty body mechanism, including on CEDAW and its scope and impact on advancing realisation of women's human rights.
- Identification and development of case studies in a user-friendly format is essential to supplement the delivery of substantive knowledge on CEDAW and the CEDAW Application Framework.
- The BCC Programme should explore ongoing opportunities and spaces to promote understanding and use of the CEDAW Application Framework through its engagement with women's rights groups and networks as well as with the State and key stakeholder institutions.

[Note]

The CEDAW Application Framework was developed during an Updating of Concepts Meeting that was held in October 2007 with IRAW Asia Pacific's resource persons. This meeting was organised in response to feedback from IRAW Asia Pacific partners that they understood CEDAW conceptually, but needed more concrete guidance on how to apply CEDAW in laws, policies and programmes. The Framework consists four sections ('Guiding Principles', 'Applying the Guiding Principles to ensure

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CEDAW Compliance', 'Implementation' and 'Monitoring and Accountability'), some of which are further divided into subsections, along with extended annotations detailing specific elements in each of the sections and subsections

4. Development of resources and tools on CEDAW

In 2010, the BCC Programme continued implementation of programme activities aimed towards creation of resources and materials to supplement its existing resources on CEDAW application. These activities include:

- Write-shop on creating resources for lawyers on use of CEDAW in litigation to advance women's human rights
- Pilot testing on use and application of OP CEDAW
- Pilot testing Workshop on claiming of women's economic, social and cultural rights using CEDAW/OPCEDAW and ICESCR/OPICESCR through strategic litigation

Besides IRAW Asia Pacific's engagement with women's organisations/networks it is becoming evident that the legal fraternity especially the lawyers need to develop clarity on substance of the CEDAW Convention and its application at national level through litigation work. Lawyers do play a critical role in promoting incorporation of CEDAW and influencing the State and key institutions to advance women's human rights by implementing CEDAW.

IRAW Asia Pacific's work with women's organisations and NGOs across the regions opened up spaces to mobilise and train lawyers and judges to improve their conceptual clarity on women's human rights and CEDAW. The enforcement of OP CEDAW and adoption of the Optional Protocol to ICESCR have provided new opportunities for lawyers to apply the Convention beyond the domestic jurisdiction for advancing the realisation of women's rights of substantive equality and non-discrimination. The grounds for admissibility and especially the condition of exhaustion of domestic remedies to be satisfied by the claimant women before approaching the international human rights monitoring mechanism created a basis for IRAW Asia Pacific's initiative on developing resources for lawyers on use of CEDAW to promote substantive equality and non-discrimination through domestic litigation work.

The BCC Programme facilitated during 2010 a series of initiatives towards development of resources for lawyers to enable application and incorporation of the CEDAW framework through their work on litigation to advance women's human rights in the national context.

The BCC Programme facilitated organisation of Write-Shop on Creating Resources for Lawyers on use of CEDAW to advance women's human rights, inviting a select group of CEDAW experts/practitioners and lawyers to develop a framework to enable the organisation moving ahead in its goal of development of resources for lawyers on use and application of CEDAW. The framework developed at the Write-Shop will be used to develop comprehensive resources including handouts and materials for IRAW Asia Pacific to train litigating lawyers on use of strategic litigation as a tool of advocacy towards advancement of women's rights in CEDAW.

The historicity of IRAW Asia Pacific's work since 2003 towards building capacities of lawyers litigating at national level on women's human rights using CEDAW, and thereby ensuring equality of access and opportunity for individual women claimants to realise their rights under the Convention, guided the

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organisation to think more deeply and strategically on its programme intervention strategy on use of law and litigation.

IWRAW Asia Pacific's active role and involvement in drafting and adoption of the OP CEDAW and later its campaign on promoting ratification of OP CEDAW through its Enhancing Realisation of Rights Programme strategy generated interest amongst the women's organisations and networks to build their knowledge and skills on use of OP CEDAW. The involvement of its resource persons especially on OP CEDAW enabled the organisation to plan development of resources for lawyers representing individual women claimant, women's rights organisations and networks in taking up cases at the international level through the communication and the inquiry procedures available under CEDAW.

Subsequent to the creation of resources on use and application of the OP CEDAW, soon it was realised that the violations addressed by women's organisations and networks using CEDAW and the OP CEDAW predominantly focus on the civil and political rights of women in diverse national contexts. The nature and scope of violations encountered by women of their economic, social and cultural rights are under-represented by lawyers litigating at the domestic level as well as at regional and/or international level. IWRAW Asia Pacific for past 3 years has been working with ESCR.Net encouraging women's organisations to address women's economic, social and cultural rights and build their capacity to understand and apply the substantive equality framework in the context of women's economic, social and cultural rights.

In 2010, the BCC Programme contributed towards testing of resources developed on promoting knowledge and use of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW by lawyers, NGOs and women's networks through the Communication and Inquiry Procedures to advance realisation of rights recognised in the Convention.

Further, the pilot testing of the Advocacy Manual prepared for lawyers advancing women's economic, social and cultural rights through strategic litigation using the CEDAW/OP CEDAW and ICESCR/OP ICESCR in 2010, organised and conducted in collaboration with the ESCR Net, has opened window of opportunities for the BCC Programme to renew, refine and revisit its strategy to engage with women's organisations and networks on promoting implementation of standards recognised in international human rights treaties drawing accountability from the State and stakeholder institutions.

The idea of seeking inputs and comments from the potential users of these resources, namely, the litigating lawyers representing individual women claimant and women's organisations proved to be crucial in creation and packaging of the information and practical tips on use and application of the Optional Protocols in advancing women's human rights affecting exercise and enjoyment of these rights by women both in private and public spheres.

In 2010 the BCC Programme continued its work on Toolkit for advocates on promoting the rights of women migrant workers using CEDAW, and preparing a conceptual piece on application of CEDAW in the context of impunity and violence against women.

The BCC Programme aims to finalise the above resources in 2011.

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E. Development of Regional Women's Human Rights Strategies

The BCC Programme supported the implementation of Concluding Observations meetings organised by IWRAW Asia Pacific in Southeast Asia, Europe and Pacific during 2010. These meetings enabled the BCC Programme to gather updated information and critical insights from the activists and women's organisations participating in these meetings, on ground reality, gaps and challenges encountered by them in addressing women's human rights.

In 2011 the BCC Programme will continue work with national level organisations in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific to refine or develop and carry out women's human rights implementation strategies at the national level and to connect NGOs from different countries and help them collaborate at the regional level. It will also focus on exploring and developing concrete strategies for Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Europe and Central Asia.

This focus on partnerships with national and regional level NGOs will serve the dual purposes of ensuring that national level activism is informed by international standards and that IWRAW Asia Pacific's international advocacy and capacity building work are grounded in national realities.

E. Challenges faced

Along with the achievements, in 2010, the BCC Programme experienced challenges requiring rethinking of the process through which the capacity building programme strategy should be implemented in order to ensure strategic use and application of CEDAW framework by women's rights groups and NGOs located in varying regional settings and addressing diverse issue contexts. This need resulted from requests coming from regions outside of Asia Pacific and initiating long term project implementation such as on the CEDAW Application Framework.

The emerging impetus given to use of law and litigation necessitated the BCC Programme to re-assess its own work on building capacity of lawyers on use of CEDAW further linking it with organisation's ongoing work towards ratification and use of the Optional Protocols – to CEDAW and ICESCR.

With increasing interest and growing number of national organisations and women's groups to engage with the CEDAW Committee through the reporting process, the challenge for BCC Programme is to consolidate lessons learnt and experiences gained in the past to develop a comprehensive resource package for both the organisations and the resource persons on how to write NGO shadow report and do advocacy using the shadow report process aimed to raise critical issues from their local contexts during the review process conducted by the CEDAW Committee. Further, the Global to Local Training kit is aimed to be completed in 2011.

There is a growing emphasis and necessity to evolve strategies towards advancing women's economic, social and cultural rights. In this context, the development of resources on OP CEDAW and on advocacy towards women's economic social and cultural rights through use of strategic litigation has opened new opportunities and spaces to intervene for IWRAW Asia Pacific. This has created a challenge for BCC Programme in terms of undertaking concerted efforts and action planning with its national partners and social movements to incorporate CEDAW and use of OP CEDAW as part of their overall programmatic vision on women's human rights.

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Development of resources and capacity building of NGOs and women's rights groups on application of CEDAW are two critical components of IWRAW Asia Pacific's capacity building strategy. During 2010, there have been efforts to finalise IWRAW Asia Pacific's training package on CEDAW, develop training package on OP CEDAW, on WESCR, and work towards knowledge creation on using CEDAW in the context of migration and trafficking, and assess its application to address the impunity in the context of Violence Against Women. To add to this list is the ongoing initiative by the organisation to develop resource package for lawyers on use of CEDAW in their work on women's human rights through domestic litigation. BCC Programme acknowledges the importance of these resources in the context of building knowledge and skills of women's organisations in drawing accountability from their national governments and stakeholder institutions in shaping agenda and actual realisation of women's human rights. Optimal utilisation and integration of all these resources on application of CEDAW in its programme implementation strategies remains a key for success to the BCC Programme.

Due to limited resources and changes taking place at the organisational level i.e. turnover of staff the BCC Programme, there was a need to revisit its work on developing linkages and drawing a clear plan of action in countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan and others. The reassessment of priorities for 2010 helped the BCC Programme to utilise its resources towards activities resulting either into consolidation of past strategic interventions or addressing women's human rights in the regions which the Programme was not able to do so earlier for example the Pacific.

Follow through on the activities conducted remains a challenge for the BCC Programme, especially for those activities implemented in response to requests for assistance. As far as possible the activities implemented through the BCC Programme often lead to plans to be followed up through the Enhancing Realisation of Rights programme. However, sometimes there is no concrete plan to be pursued and the BCC Programme is unable to spend adequate time and energy to undertake follow up with its partner organisations. Juggling the commitments that the organisation has already made to funders and partners at the beginning of the year and responding to requests that arise during the course of the year occasionally means some of these follow-ups fall between the cracks.

The BCC Programme operates within the organisation as programme strategy responding to the contexts and opportunities arising from the Enhancing Realisation of Rights programme implementation. In 2010, nature and scope of IWRAW Asia Pacific's role to contribute towards the treaty body reform process, ASEAN advocacy and developments taking place at the Human Rights Council's level on culture and women's human rights required the BCC Programme to mobilise support from its pool of resource persons with required expertise and experience to assist the organisation in playing a stronger and well-articulated role on these issues internationally. With the developments through the Global Consultation organised by IWRAW Asia Pacific in 2010 on addressing women's rights issues in the context of conflict and post conflict the BCC Programme started in collaboration with the IDEAS Programme to identify and locate resources including subject experts enabling the organisation to build on its existing capacities and resources in its engagement with women's rights groups and the CEDAW Committee towards advocacy on drafting of a general recommendation on rights of women in situations of conflict and post conflict. Given the speed and evolving nature of developments at the regional and international levels, it remains a challenge for the BCC programme to maintain a pool of resource persons able to commit not only their expertise but often exhaustive amount of time in the implementation of trainings, consultation as well as advocacy related activities.

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F. Future directions

In Southeast Asia, the BCC Programme intends to work with existing national partners and participants on follow up action plans developed at the meeting on Concluding Observations and the Sub-regional training of trainers. IWRAW Asia Pacific through its engagement with the women's rights movement in the region on ASEAN human rights mechanism aims to undertake focused activities for women's organisations towards building their conceptual clarity on and skills on practical application of CEDAW.

The BCC Programme will continue to develop its association and partnership with national groups in the Pacific, as follow up to its Government- NGO Dialogue held in 2010, and will develop a clear regional strategy to support the work on CEDAW implemented by the groups in the region. The engagement with groups in South Asia will be reassessed in light of the activities implemented during 2008-2010 including the country visits in the sub-region.

The ongoing work towards developing resources on using CEDAW to promote the rights of migrant women workers and incorporating the impunity framework in advocacy to end violence against women, will enable the BCC Programme to develop conceptual clarity and build skills of NGOs and groups in their influencing of national, regional and international level processes monitoring realisation of women's rights and particularly rights of women migrant workers by the State Parties.

The work towards development of resources for lawyers on using CEDAW in domestic litigation will be continued and a pilot testing workshop for litigating lawyers will be held in 2011. The materials developed and tested at this workshop will be used by the BCC Programme in regional trainings organised by IWRAW Asia Pacific in collaboration with its regional/national partners in Asia Pacific and beyond.

The implementation of strategy to mobilise strategic litigation to advance women's human rights will be strengthened by finalisation of the training package on use of OP CEDAW and the Advocacy Guide on Claiming of Women's economic, social and cultural rights through strategic litigation under CEDAW and ICESCR. The resources created for lawyers and NGOs on significance of using strategic litigation as an advocacy strategy towards advancement of women's human rights under CEDAW will enable IWRAW Asia Pacific to respond to the requests received by the organisation for providing technical assistance on substantive and procedural aspects of using the Optional Protocols.

In response to the interest and need expressed by its national partners IWRAW Asia Pacific initiated a long term project on application of the CEDAW Application Framework, developed by the organisation. The Framework aimed to provide the NGOs and activists a tool to sharpen and implement their efforts to engage in policy advocacy to advance women's human rights based on CEDAW. The BCC Programme intends to incorporate the lessons learnt and process of the outcome achieved in Bangladesh into planning and implementation of the Project in Indonesia, Vietnam and Timor Leste.

As part of organisation's Use of Law and Litigation strategy, the BCC Programme will begin to work towards creating a database on laws, policies, programmes, national action plans and legislative amendment documents addressing gender equality and women's human rights under CEDAW. The BCC Programme will receive support in accomplishing this outcome from the IDEAs and ERR programme staff.

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On strengthening the existing pool of resource persons, the BCC Programme will undertake a systematic process and reach out to all resource persons and trainers on updating their profiles and creating database on resource persons based on their core thematic focus and/or professional expertise, interest areas and skill competency.

The growing requests for conducting shadow reporting trainings from national groups and women's organisations has generated the need for the BCC Programme to focus on developing a resource package to be used at the shadow report trainings by the resource persons and similarly one comprised of materials to be distributed at these trainings.

IWRAW Asia Pacific's engagement through its "From Global to Local Programme" with the CEDAW reporting process and support given to national groups has resulted in development of guidelines for NGOs and groups interested to write alternative or shadow report. Currently, there are 3 set of guidelines, namely, generic guidelines developed by IWRAW Asia Pacific, guidelines to report on issues experienced by LGBT persons developed in by IGLHRC with IWRAW AP's support, and CEDAW-CESCR reporting guidelines developed in collaboration with ESCR Net. The BCC Programme intends to revisit the 3 set of guidelines on shadow report writing and to develop an integrated shadow report guidelines.

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Information Dissemination, Exchange and Application Strategy (IDEAS)

A. Overview

IDEAS was formulated to initiate and strengthen new levels of NGO activism on women's human rights, supporting IWRAW Asia Pacific national and programme partners in working towards an approach to CEDAW and women's rights activism that is more knowledge and rights-based, and enables sharper perspectives in surfacing the different layers of discrimination. Since its inception, IWRAW Asia Pacific has worked at creating awareness and building the capacity of women's groups to enable them to use international human rights treaties and mechanisms at the national level. Particular emphasis has been given to generating and sharing knowledge on the CEDAW Convention, which despite having been ratified or acceded to by 186 countries still remains inadequately implemented in most domestic contexts. Also, the normative standards that have been formulated through the initiatives of treaty bodies and other institutions do not adequately filter down and convert into local-level activities. By engaging and facilitating activism, IWRAW Asia Pacific has been able to identify areas of work and questions that need to be taken up in order to enhance the domestic application of human rights standards. Emerging issues have then been dealt with in ways that encourage processes by which women can claim their rights. So, through the development of new knowledge, we add to new thinking as well as new areas for action – including in the sphere of international advocacy – towards enhancing the realisation of women's rights.

Thus IDEAS functions as a programme which looks at systematising information related to the implementation of CEDAW and women's human rights so that there is a flow in terms of generating new knowledge on developments in women's human rights, the scope and application of CEDAW and strengthening the conditions to challenge and advance local and international human rights standards so that these address the issue of women's equality more effectively as well as enhancing the accessibility and utilisation of existing and new knowledge on human rights and CEDAW.

Also central to our work thus far has been the consistent efforts to collect and disseminate all other relevant data and documents pertaining to human rights practice at different levels.

IDEAS provides support to the capacity building and advocacy strategies of the organisation by collating, compiling and extracting new knowledge that is generated through the work of the organisation. In turn, this information is able to feed back into the different strategies on CEDAW and women's human rights implementation to provide advice on planning and development of future goals, thrusts and contexts. The knowledge is also packaged and disseminated to partners and allies through publications, reports and many other formats; or further study is required, through the holding of expert group meetings to harness the potential of the information and provide a considerable output that will be useful to feed into and inform changes in international treaty processes.

B. Objectives

IWRAW Asia Pacific's work on the CEDAW Convention has been useful for women's groups in helping them to view this treaty as an effective tool to counter discrimination against women. As a result, many have taken up and employed the Convention as a critical entry point in advocacy with their respective governments. However, we still find obstacles in the implementation of the CEDAW Convention, and the overall campaign to eliminate discrimination against women. These include the:

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- Lack of information on the principles of the treaty and the contents of its provisions, as well as knowledge on how to use this;
- Narrow interpretation of treaty provisions;
- Absence of information on best practices related to the CEDAW Convention;
- Absence of links with and information about other international human rights treaties and mechanisms that can allow for greater effectiveness in the campaign to eliminate discrimination against women;
- Lack of synergy in NGO activism on the work of the treaty bodies (i.e. women's groups are not utilising the work of the different treaty bodies and also not exchanging positive experiences in relation to this); and
- Absence of information on how international treaties can be incorporated into domestic laws.

The overall objectives of IDEAS aim to address some of these issues. These include:

1. Addressing the lack of information on the CEDAW "framework" by promoting better understanding of CEDAW, its principles and the content of its provisions and its framework on women's human rights.
2. Developing/capturing knowledge on how to use CEDAW more holistically and creatively by investigating new contexts and issues in application (practice) of the CEDAW framework (theory)
3. Disseminating information on the work of international human rights treaties and mechanisms and facilitate a flow of information between mainstream human rights groups and women's human rights groups to ensure that the international discourse on women's human rights, which is inclusive of varying contexts and experiences of marginalisation and oppression continues to be addressed and to allow for greater effectiveness and synergy in the work at all levels to eliminate discrimination against women.
4. Supporting the Building Capacity for Change and Enhancing Realisation of Rights strategies through conducting background research, fact checking and quality control through external and peer review mechanisms, collating materials, editing and publishing reports, and institutionalizing knowledge gains through coordinating the annual report of the organisation.

C. Highlights in Implementation for 2010

In the year 2010, the organisation sat to discuss the next three years of the organisation's activities and directions as well as individual programmatic thrusts and goals. These discussions redefined the objectives of IDEAS in the short term to enable completion and achievement of key priorities and key areas of work, while flagging that the organisation needs to reflect on the core objectives and functions of each programmatic strategy, of which IDEAS is one, in order to address the changes in the external environment and still hold true to the basic purpose of each strategy and IWRAW Asia Pacific as a whole. The process was to ensure the cohesiveness of the strategies remained intact yet still addressed the issues in an evolving social, political and economic environment.

2010 for the IDEAS programme was a year where many projects were initiated and also various ongoing projects continued to be worked on by various writers/authors and supported by the staff. The major initiative undertaken by IDEAS in collaboration with our partner groups was organising an Global Consultation cum Expert Group Meeting to discuss and develop new perspectives on the application of women's human rights' frameworks to the situation of women affected by conflict in order to support

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developing our position and strategy on the issue as one of five critical and/or emerging issues where we have identified the need to expand and strengthen the application of women's human rights.

This Global Consultation/EGM provided a platform to collectivise inputs and sharpen our analysis in order to promote the idea of the need for more rigorous and comprehensive approaches by the CEDAW Committee and its various processes.

As 2010 served to be a year of improvising to counter the limited number of staff and the extra funds, IDEAS took the opportunity to stock the resource centre with many new books and resources as well as revamp the organisational brochure and print individual brochures for the OP CEDAW and Global to Local. This was to ensure that the work of IWRAW AP is interestingly presented to potential stakeholders as well as to anyone wishing to know more about the organisation's fascinating work.

Although publications were slated to be completed in 2010, many were put on hold due to the extremely hectic schedules of the writers as well as the additional workload of existing programme officers tasked to take over from exiting staff.

IDEAS continued to update and improve the website with practical information on CEDAW, and the work of treaty bodies with relevance to women's human rights.

D. Accomplishments

1. Publications

Dissemination of IWRAW Asia Pacific's published materials, through hard copies and electronic means, fills gaps in information related to CEDAW and enables IWRAW Asia Pacific to reach a wider audience.

IWRAW Asia Pacific programme partners refer the organisation to suitable recipients and in some cases, assist it in disseminating its publications to their networks. Copies of the volume 1-14 of the OPS series, and the new publications on the Optional Protocol have been sent to programme partners, national partners, educational institutions, development agencies, UN agencies, human and women's rights organisations and other parties.

Hard copies are distributed at the trainings and seminars attended by and organised by IWRAW Asia Pacific throughout the year.

Occasional Papers Series (OPS)

The papers or essays published in this series seek to promote clarity on CEDAW and on human rights norms in relation to women. On occasion they respond to emerging discussions and debates related to areas of focus for IWRAW Asia Pacific. These papers are authored by feminist activists, legal experts and human rights practitioners from IWRAW Asia Pacific's network of resource persons and partners. The IDEAS programme officers provide support in proof-reading, fact checking, coordinating peer review by external readership and managing the publication schedule.

In 2010, IWRAW continued to work on and provide input and research on these ongoing papers:

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OPS 15: Gender Equality Laws by Shanthi Dairiam

The Gender Equality paper looks at the benefits of adopting gender equality laws, the challenges that will be faced and the issues that need to be taken into account. The paper focuses on the issues faced by women as a marginalised group though acknowledging the fact that there are other groups of people who face discrimination as well.

Although the paper does not go so far as to provide drafts to stifle the creation of laws to suit each country's needs, it does offer invaluable insight as to how components of such laws should be drafted and the usual things to consider. The book also studies particular constitutions to show how although gender equality is enshrined, it does not always follow that it will be protected.

This is a crucial publication for several reasons:

- It details why all countries need to adopt gender equality laws and the benefits to be reaped both for men and women;
- How these laws should essentially be framed to provide adequate protection and promotion of women's human rights; and
- The usefulness of CEDAW in aiding the creation and adoption of such laws.

OPS 16: Civil and Common Law by Alda Facio

Considering the importance of the optional protocol in assisting women to claim their rights as provided for by international law, this paper was conceived to explore the effect of the differences in legal systems has on the application of the decisions of the CEDAW Committee from the optional protocol mechanism. Due to the complexity of this question, and to ensure that the paper has instructive information to share with activists who want to explore the use of mechanisms such as the optional protocol to advance the substantive development of case law on women's rights, and obtain redress for specific violations suffered by an individual woman or a group of women, the writer took time in 2011 to refine and sharpen her paper. The final product is due in 2011.

OPS 17: Impunity in Violence against Women by Kamala Chandrakirana

Although much has been done to enact laws, national and international, set standards and raise awareness; violence against women has and continues to be a worldwide problem. It follows that states sanction impunity to perpetrators through lack of enforcement, unfair legal proceedings, unfavourable burdens and standards of proof, as well as allow culture and tradition (such as in cases of FGM, honour killings and wife beating for 'obedience') to continue to be used to resist their obligations to modify social and cultural patterns of thought and conduct that are premised on the inferiority of one sex, or based on stereotyped roles for men and women.

This paper is to provide additional resources for our work in addressing the application of the CEDAW framework to the issue of Violence against Women, specifically how it would apply to ensure states combat and address impunity using CEDAW and the impunity principles holistically and synergistically.

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2. Expert Group Meeting (EGM)

In October 2010, in collaboration with the Women and Media Collective, Sri Lanka, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), and Global Network of Women Peace-builders (GNWP) we organised a three day consultation, which is part of an overall strategy on broadening and strengthening the standards governing protection and promotion of women's human rights in conflict situations, in post-conflict societies and in societies in transition. Overall, the strategy moves away from a framework focusing solely on violence and on the 'protection' of women, to a framework that is centered on the 'protection of women's human rights' using the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and through the mechanisms and processes of the CEDAW Committee, as well as other relevant international standards and women, peace and security mechanisms of the United Nations. The meeting's immediate outputs were a substantive report which captured the discussions of the participants who were activists, lawyers, policy-makers, advocates, and grass-roots organisers from around the world working to promote and protect women's human rights in varying stages of conflict. It is hoped that the substance of the report and other documents to be developed after the meeting will directly contribute to deepen and enhance discussions the CEDAW Committee will be initiating throughout 2011, in its work to elaborate on a General Recommendation on women and conflict.,

3. Information Technology-based Dissemination and Exchange of Knowledge

i. Website <www.iwraw-ap.org>

The website continues to serve as a resource on CEDAW and to provide organisational information about IWRAW Asia Pacific. It ensures timely dissemination of information about CEDAW-related developments and about the work of IWRAW Asia Pacific. It also provides information on the NGO Campaign for an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant women's human rights news. The website expands IWRAW Asia Pacific's points of contact with its main constituency, who are for the most part human rights activists, and those who have a theoretical or procedural interest in CEDAW application and implementation.

In 2010, the front page of the website was simplified to link browsers straight to the CEDAW resource page. Touch ups were done to make the website easier to use with many links to help guide visitors to the more popular resources such as concluding observations and shadow reports. Currently the website consists of 1300 pages of content.

Website traffic in 2010 averaged 7000 unique visitors each month, making a yearly total of 84000 unique visitors. The top five search phrases directing readers to the website are "cedaw, iwraw, rights, sex discrimination act and women". In a search for the word "cedaw", the website is ranked by the Google search engine as the 10th most commonly accessed site, while the yahoo engine produces the website as the 6th most commonly accessed site in a similar search. According to another website monitoring service word searches of "women's rights" produce iwraw-ap.org as the 15th most relevant site for query.

IDEAS continues to request the linking of IWRAW Asia Pacific's website to other websites. By December 2010, Yahoo recorded about 1300 backlinks to IWRAW Asia Pacific from external links

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which were not via search engines, most of the external linkage being done by institutional human rights or development websites and personal websites.

ii. Listservs

Cedaw4change listserv

The cedaw4change listserv is used to disseminate information and action alerts. IWRAP Asia Pacific prioritise sharing CEDAW related information and alerts, as well as women's human rights information. The listserv also provides a means by which to keep participants of IWRAP Asia Pacific's activities and events updated and connected to IWRAP Asia Pacific's work and its current strategies as they usually ask to be subscribed to the list after attending IWRAP Asia Pacific's events.

The number of members subscribed to cedaw4change as of December 2010 was 1050, which means a drop-off of 50 members from 2009.

Global2local listserv

The global2local listserv was set up in October 2002 as a private (closed) listserv for participants of the From Global to Local programme. It enables participants to conduct discussions in a safe and confidential space, where members of the From Global to Local programme can keep in touch with each other for updates on CEDAW-related developments at the national level.

The list also facilitates requests for follow-up assistance, and collectively shares views or strategies to advance women's human rights.

There were 461 subscribers on this list as of December 2010. The listserv is not moderated although it is used to update participants on the organisations activities as well as providing discussion space for Global to Local participants.

iii. Requests for Information

IDEAS is supported by other programme officers in responding to requests for information that come to us through emails or from IWRAP Asia Pacific's engagements with its partners or at various other venues. These requests come in from different groups, including women's organisations, human rights organisations, regional and international bodies, universities, donor agencies and students studying CEDAW or international human rights law and practices.

The requests usually seek to gain clarity on CEDAW or to request specific information or data on its implementation. Some requests also encompass IWRAP AP's work and the possibility of collaborating or being trained by IWRAP AP to build capacity. Sometimes, these requests introduces us to new partners and possible pockets of assistance should IWRAP AP require it in future. It of course also relates to the objective of creating clarity regarding CEDAW in a specialised way through providing specific and tailored information to suit the need of the inquirer. The information is based on what is available on IWRAP Asia Pacific's website,

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materials from its library, the organisation's databases, and on the expertise of various staff members.

IWRAW Asia Pacific responded to 43 requests for information throughout the year. Most of these were specific requests for CEDAW related information, on the Committee's Concluding Observations, the CEDAW reporting process, schedule of CEDAW sessions, guidelines for the writing of NGO shadow/alternative reports, and requests to send shadow/alternative reports and for reference materials and translated materials on CEDAW, information about the OP CEDAW and the new Human Rights Council, its linkages to the work of the CEDAW Committee. The rest were requests were for information regarding the UN reform in general, about IWRAW Asia Pacific's work, request for materials (publications, training materials, pamphlets, etc) and referrals to IWRAW Asia Pacific's network and contacts and funding/financial assistance.

4. Organisational Information Archiving and Dissemination Support

i. The Resource Library

IWRAW Asia Pacific's library collects select materials on CEDAW and women's human rights, predominantly focused on two main categories: (a) core collection comprising key CEDAW related documents, and (b) other reference materials.

The Core Collection consists mainly of CEDAW-related information. It also includes documents from other treaty bodies, and documents in relation to the outputs of the UN Special Rapporteurs, Annual Treaty Body Chairs meetings, and the sessions of the UN Commission on Human Rights/Human Rights Council. IWRAW Asia Pacific's collection of NGO alternative/shadow reports that make up a large part of the core collection is unique, and dates back to 1997.

Other reference materials include books, reports and periodicals on the UN treaty body system, women's human rights, feminism, and gender and development.

In 2010, IWRAW Asia Pacific continued to improve and expand its collection of materials in the library by updating the library's compilation of CEDAW-related materials and other UN documents pertaining to women's human rights and expanding its collection of publications on human rights in general, and women's rights in particular. With a good amount of funds, IDEAS was able to purchase many new books on differing contexts including those which will be useful to the discussions on conflict. With the support of a part time librarian, the IDEAS team makes sure the library is maintained and that resources are made available for reference and research needs of the programme officers.

ii. Promotional Materials

IWRAW Asia Pacific redesigned and printed a new organisational brochure that features a handy pocket to insert CDs which contain softcopies of publications. This serves as an easier way to distribute IWRAW AP publications during meetings and reduce the cost of printing and shipping these to interested parties.

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Brochures for the Global to Local programme were also printed. As the flagship programme of IWRAW AP and the importance of constantly looking out for NGO participants and possible new resource people, it would be useful to have an easy to refer brochure on hand to explain and ignite interest in the programme. The same was done for the OP CEDAW brochure.

E. Challenges faced

IWRAW Asia Pacific circulates and receives a breadth of information on CEDAW at a volume no other women's organisation does. The information or knowledge consolidated and disseminated by IDEAS originate from information and new knowledge by ERR and BCC programmes through activities such as consultations and workshops, or through the network of national-level women's organisations with which ERR and BCC programme officers have extensive contact.

The question remains, however, as to the best method for the learning to be captured, documented and disseminated. Given the volume of work and understandable pressure on programme officers, time and space need to be set aside to ensure that new information and knowledge do not fall through the cracks.

The past papers have been commissioned to a known pool of experts that we use as resource persons for many activities. As most of them do hold full time jobs or other commitments beyond those of IWRAW AP, the clashing timetables and the inability to find appropriate replacements delay publications and resources considerably. This then leads to outdated materials which have to be edited and updated incurring more time and resources.

A broader pool of expert writers needs to be identified to limit the disruptions caused to publication deadlines due to overreliance on the small pool of very knowledgeable, committed and busy resource persons. The people also need to have adequate technical expertise to deal with the more intricate areas of human rights that is tackled by some of our publications.

There is a lack capacity in the organisation to translate key documents into the major UN languages. This hinders the distribution process and vastly reduces the number of people who are able to benefit from the information disseminated. IWRAW AP also does not have any consistent contacts that are agreeable to doing translations for us when necessary.

It would probably be useful to identify translators during meetings attended or to hire people internally to do as much.

Maintaining as well as adding new content to IWRAW Asia Pacific's website requires time and technical expertise. This is to ensure that content is produced in a timely and efficient manner, and that it can add to the work of the other programme officers.

To improve the timeliness of the website updates, IDEAS programme officers work together with a staff member from the Administrative and Logistics team. Working as an in-house team for website management requires close cooperation and coordination amongst various team members, as well as regular submissions of information from BCC and ERR.

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F. Future Directions

In terms of an overall organisational strategy, a key goal for the upcoming year is to construct a more efficient and effective way of collecting, producing and disseminating information, be it through publications, the website or the listservs; a more effective way of dealing with resource persons and preparing contingencies as well as filling any gaps that may suddenly arise. However, IDEAS POs need to be afforded adequate time to focus on IDEAS work as opposed to filling gaps left by the lack of staffing. This would greatly ensure that IDEAS work is not disrupted or delayed too severely.

In terms of specific activities, future work for IDEAS includes:

- The key publications projects for IDEAS continue to support the organisation's objectives of providing more learning resources on CEDAW. Proposed topics for future papers in the Occasional Papers Series include: education and sexual orientation and gender identity (possibly in 2012 if unable to source for writer).
- A history of IWRAW Asia Pacific will be researched and written in 2011 to 2012. The purpose of this publication is to share IWRAW Asia Pacific's experience as a women's human rights organisation that supports the implementation of CEDAW, so that other women's human rights organisations could learn from it.
- An EGM to follow up of the EGM on Conflict done in 2010

Institutional Building

A. Overview

The aim of the strategy is to sustain IWRAW Asia Pacific as a viable, effective and efficient institution by

- Ensuring that our work is consistently informed and responsive to the needs of our constituency.
- Providing systematic ways and methods to engage with and be accountable to our partners
- Providing a supportive work environment for the all staff
- Building transparent processes to ensure institutionalization of a shared responsibility to the organisation

The core institutional structures in IWRAW Asia Pacific comprises of the:

- Board of Directors;
- Advisory Committee; and
- Secretariat (staff)

These governance and management bodies provide structure and support in implementing IWRAW Asia Pacific's strategies.

2010 was a year of transition for IWRAW Asia Pacific. A major part of the institution building programme was focused on implementing ongoing programmes as well as looking forward to determine its strategy for the next three years to develop the next phase in the organisation's work cycles. The organisation was without an Executive Director for eight months of the year and had experienced staff turnover in key positions. Hence a priority for the organisation was to recruit and fill the key positions and set up an interim management team to manage the day-to-day operations. The Board of Directors – Shanthi Dairiam and Ivy Josiah were closely involved in making decision so that the team was able to operate effectively.

By end of 2010, there was a total staff strength of 17 full time members comprising of the Executive Director, Administrative and Finance Manager, 8 Programme Officers, 3 Finance personnel and 3 Administrative personnel. We also had a part-time librarian.

B. Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors met on 15 May 2010 to discuss and be updated on issues pertaining to organisational policy and financial matters.

In addition to matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting, the following items were addressed:

- Progress of recruiting key positions
- Staff benefits in relation to scholarship for staff development
- Interim management structure especially the role of the Special Adviser in the absence of an Executive Director

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- Presentation and adoption of the budget for the year 2010
- Progress of the History Project
- IWRAW AP governance structure and clarification on roles and functions among the different groups
- Preparation for the 3 year planning workshop

Present were Shanthi Dairiam (founding Director), Ivy Josiah (Director), Maznah Mohamad (Director), Sapana Pradhan-Malla (Director) and Haslinah Yacob (minute taker).

C. Advisory Committee Meeting

IWRAW Asia Pacific's programme policy decisions, including the resource implications of each programme, are entrusted to its Advisory Committee. This body comprises 7 members, who are regional and international experts on women's rights and CEDAW.

There were no meetings held in 2010 but instead members attended the 3 Year Planning Meeting. See item VI 3 Year Planning Meeting

D. Operational Planning Process (previously Strategic Staff Planning meeting)

The Operational Planning Meeting (OPM) was held from 28 to 30 December 2010 attended by the Board Member Shanthi Dairiam, the Executive Director and all staff members.

The OPM had the dual aim of

1. finalising the 3 Year Plan document that incorporates all guidance, ideas and strategies discussed between the Board of Directors, Advisory Committee and Staff
2. Developing the 2011 calendar of activity from the 3 Year Plan.

Following on from the meeting,

1. The calendar of activities for 2011 was drawn up
2. The budget of planned activities and funding required to sustain these activities for 2011 was finalised
3. The 3 year plan for each of the programmatic components of the organisation were identified and finalised
4. A list of potential donors were identified and letters of inquiry were sent to them to source for funds
5. Updates and recommendations on policies and work procedures were tabled to the Board of Directors.

E. Strategic Planning Process

The Strategic Planning Meeting was not held but instead a 3 Year Plan meeting was held.

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F. 3 Year Planning Meeting

This was held on 22nd to 24 May 2010. Members of the Board, the Advisory Committee and staff participated in the workshop which was facilitated by Eleanor Condor, IWRAW Asia Pacific's Capacity Building Advisory Group member.

The workshop reviewed IWRAW Asia Pacific's history to better understand the driving forces that undergird its impetus, inspiration and energy for its work in the last 15 years. The session provided reflections on the major challenges faced by the organisation, both internally or externally, and how they were met. Following from this reflection, several key driving forces were identified.

Participants also conducted an assessment of IWRAW Asia Pacific's external and internal environment to understand the organisation's strength and weaknesses as well as opportunities and threats that is impacting the organisation. The focus was on 3 aspects of the institution:

1. Programmatic
2. Operational
3. Organisational

In the context of this, the vision, mission and the philosophy of the organisation was revisited to determine if they were still applicable and how well the programmes translate the vision and mission of the organisation.

Following on from these, the participants worked to develop a framework for the 3 year plan that included identifying primary constituencies, geographical focus, partners, etc and defining specific objectives for each of the identified programmatic components.

The outcomes of the workshop were:

1. The vision, mission and philosophy of the organisation was retained until the Strategic Planning meeting where this will be reviewed comprehensively
2. The 3 year objectives for IWRAW Asia Pacific for 2011 to 2013 were identified. These objectives will form the programmatic thrust for IWRAW Asia Pacific
3. A draft of the 3 year plans were drawn up for Enhancing Realisation of Rights, Building Capacity for Change, Information, Dissemination, Exchange and Application as well as Institution Building.
4. A list of action plans complete with owners and time lines were drawn up for the next steps.

G. Staff Activities

1. The Staff Team in 2010

The Executive Director Sunila Abeysekera left IWRAW AP in April 2010 after completing her contract. In the interim of appointing a new Executive Director, Shanthi Diariam from the Board of Directors had oversight of the organisation as Special Adviser. The new Executive Director, Thusitha Simon joined IWRAW AP in December 2010.

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2. Staff movements

Incoming

- Dorothy Benjamin joined as a Building Capacity for Change Programme Officer in June
- Diana Frances Chai joined as a Programme Officer in July
- Kirsty McKay from New Zealand joined as a Programme Officer in September
- Ann Campbell from Ireland joined as an Enhancing Realization of Rights Programme Officer in October
- Ayesha Sen Choudhury from India joined as a Research and Litigation Strategies Programme Officer in October
- Mohd Razlan Bin Mohd Radzuan joined as an Administrative Assistant in May.
- Thusitha Simon from India joined as Executive Director in December
- Pook Li Ping joined as Administration and Finance Manager in December

Exits

- Sunila Abeysekera left in April upon completing her contract
- Sahar ELSaadany, Programmer Officer resigned in February
- Lisa Ellen Pusey, Programmer Officer left upon completion of her contract. She continues to be a resource person for IWRAW AP.
- Lee Wei San, Programmer Office resigned in May
- Amy Lynne Locklear, Programmer Officer resigned in May
- Wong Sau Foong, Administration and Finance Manger resigned in March
- Yasmin Masidi, Programmer Officer resigned in June
- Shuaibah Awaldeen, Administration and Finance Manager resigned in December

3. Staff development

When funds permit, staff members are encouraged to take up activities that would contribute towards the building of their knowledge and skills. It includes attending courses and trainings that can boost their understanding of women's human rights as well as enhance their competence in the areas of information technology, finance and accounting systems. This also acts as a retention tool to retain staff.

Programme staff were encouraged to individually develop their knowledge and eventual expertise in thematic areas such as sexual orientation and gender identity, sexual and reproductive health and rights and indigenous and peasant women. Efforts were made throughout 2010 to actively search for opportunities for capacity-building and learning in these thematic areas to further sharpen programme officers' ability in the application of CEDAW and to connect their work to the larger women's human rights world. It is expected that these efforts will continue in 2011.

IWRAW Asia Pacific was able to financially support Wathshlah Naidu, a senior programme officer to attend the International Summer School on Forced Migration at Oxford International Summer School from 5th to 23rd July 2010. The organisation also granted her study leave during this period with full pay. After the training, she was to give a background paper on forced migration that contained new ideas and perspectives that IWRAW AP could draw on in this area of work.

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2 staff attended a one day seminar "Google Applications Training" on how to use the tools and communications solutions that Google provides to help small businesses run smoothly and effectively on limited budgets. These will be use to manage IWRAW AP's websites or to hold forums on ideas/issues or post questionnaires to reach a wider audience.

4. Internship Programme

IWRAW Asia Pacific's internship programme offers successful applicants exposure to a range of women's human rights issues and knowledge on CEDAW and related treaty bodies. Interns participate and support in on-going programmatic initiatives of the organisation including providing project and research support. Interns are asked to develop position papers on various issues relating to women's rights, redrafting and updating training materials, undertake research, collation and analysis of cases and principles and assist in other ways.

In May 2010, the organisation affirmed its intention to more directly enhance skills and capacity of women's human rights advocates in the region by prioritising candidates from the Global South (especially from the Asia Pacific) to join us as funded interns, in order to build the pool of CEDAW activists in the region. This plan is to be implemented in its next three year plan with funds.

In 2010, IWRAW Asia Pacific hosted three interns. The interns were assigned to assist us in various activities including the Global to Local programme and preparation of conference/workshop materials and background papers that focus on issues and its compliance with CEDAW. Alicia Dibbets from the Netherlands joined us in February and worked with us till May 2010 on research on several of our thematic focus on the impact of conflict on women and information gathering to support some of our regional programmes. From May-July 2010, Alice Huling from New York University provided us support for the From Global to Local programme in July and research for some of our regional CEDAW implementation activities. In September – December 2010, Alifa Bandali joined us from Canada and supported us in the October session From Global to Local and updated and edited research papers on treaty body incorporation in Laos and Vietnam. Sarah Mae Thomas joined us from the University of Monash, Australia and supported us with the implementation of the From Global to Local programme in January 2011.

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Annex

Activity List 2010

Dates	Activity
January	
6 January 2010	<p>Meeting with the new General Secretary, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development.</p> <p>Admin and Finance Manager Wong Sau Foong and staff member, Azlini met the newly elected General Secretary, Datuk Norhayati Sulaiman to introduce IWRAW Asia Pacific on the programmes and the relationship between the ministry and IWRAW Asia Pacific.</p>
18 January - 5 February 2010	<p>45th CEDAW Session, From Global to Local, Geneva</p> <p>The 45th CEDAW session was held in Geneva from 18 Jan – 5 Feb 2010. The CEDAW Committee reviewed the reports of 8 countries; namely Botswana, Egypt, Malawi, Netherlands, Panama, United Arab Emirates, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.</p> <p>IWRAW Asia Pacific supported NGOs from each of these 8 countries in the preparation of shadow reports and facilitated their participation at the CEDAW session. Natacha Foucard from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights met with NGOs during the training programme.</p> <p>Some impact/successes can be noted from this activity after the review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netherlands marginalised/immigrants rights group made a press statement seeking action by Netherlands state on implementing rights for women from immigrant background using CEDAW as a framework. • Ukrainian group is working with the NGO group on the Committee on the Rights of the Child to monitor both CRC and CEDAW to comprehensively address rights of girl child and women. They shared that they were able to plan for the CRC better knowing how treaty bodies work. • Egyptian NGOs made plans to engage the state (women's machinery) to review the concluding observations and develop a national plan to implement them, They also planned meetings with parliamentarians to discuss lifting reservations, adopting the optional protocol and to discuss the needed legal reform of discriminatory laws.
25 January 2010	<p>Briefing for the CEDAW Committee on ESCRs in collaboration with COHRE and ESCR-Net, Geneva.</p> <p>Held during the 45th session on the importance of highlighting women's economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights in Concluding Observations and the Committee's role in advancing the understanding of the importance of ESC rights in women's lives in conjunction with the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net) and the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE). This briefing also presented an opportunity for</p>

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	<p>IWRAW Asia Pacific to launch a Primer on women's ESC rights which was developed in collaboration with the same partner organisations. A second briefing was held for the Committee on women's ESC rights during its 47th session in order to present to the Committee findings of research conducted into the Committee's work to date on women's ESC rights as well as an analysis of how the Committee can more explicitly use the substantive equality framework in promoting women's ESC rights, particularly through the Optional Protocol.</p>
February	
1-2 February 2010	<p>Meeting on implementing cultural rights: Nature, issues at stake and challenges.</p> <p>This seminar was organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in partnership with the International Organization of La Francophonie and UNESCO, in collaboration with the Observatory of diversity and cultural rights. The seminar aimed at clarifying concepts and at reflecting upon main issues raised by the realization of cultural rights. The discussion provided valuable insights that will help the Independent Expert in fulfilling her mandate and in identifying how best to implement cultural rights, while ensuring the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights. The expert, Farida Shaheed made a strong statement to close the seminar – she expressed interest in the cultural rights of indigenous peoples, migrants and women. The last was on the point that not only do women have a right to be free from harmful cultural practices, but they also have a right to participate in and be creators of culture.</p> <p>This meeting was attended by program officer Yasmin Masidi. We attended this as part of our exploration on strategies to resist the challenge presented by culture towards women's human rights.</p>
8-19 February 2010	<p>7th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)</p> <p>IWRAW Asia Pacific encourages women's organisations to lobby at the Universal Periodic Review for the protection and promotion of women's human rights and particularly the implementation of CEDAW's Concluding Observations. From the countries reporting at the 7th UPR Session, IWRAW Asia Pacific supported two NGO representative from Egypt (Afaf Marei and Iman Mandour) and Virisila Buadromo from Fiji to lobby for strong recommendations relating to women's human rights at the review. IWRAW Asia Pacific financed their travel and accommodation in Geneva as well as provided information and support on the best entry points for engaging in the review sharing our 'Guide to the UPR Process.</p>
14-17 February 2010	<p>Write-Shop on Creating Resources for Lawyers on Litigation for Women's Human Rights Using CEDAW held at Pullman Lakeside, Putrajaya (Malaysia)</p> <p>IWRAW-Asia Pacific organized the Write-Shop on Creating Resources for Lawyers on Litigation for Women's Human Rights Using CEDAW from 14-17</p>

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	<p>February 2010. This meeting was held as a follow-up to the Expert Group Meeting held in 2008 on developing training package for lawyers on using CEDAW in their litigation work at the national courts.</p> <p>A select group of CEDAW experts, litigating lawyers and members of IWRAW-AP's pool of resource persons attended the Write-Shop. During the four days of discussion and focused group work, the 8 invitees and IWRAW-AP representatives facilitated to finalise the thematic content of the package, training framework and work plan towards testing of the resource package. The process at the Write-Shop reaffirmed IWRAW-AP vision on developing resources for lawyers on litigation for women's human rights using CEDAW and explicit commitment from the participants to work further on this with IWRAW-AP towards a pilot testing of the resource package.</p>
<p>22-27 February 2010</p>	<p>Training on OP CEDAW for Lawyers (Pilot testing of OP CEDAW Package), Nepal</p> <p>This training brought together 15 litigators and activists involved in litigating for women's human rights from the following countries in the Asia Pacific region⁸ whose government's have ratified the OP CEDAW - Australia, Bangladesh, Korea, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor L'este, Philippines, Mongolia, well as from Cambodia given the Cambodian government is on the verge of ratification of the OP CEDAW.</p> <p>The aimed to build capacity of lawyers who conduct national litigation on women's human rights to use the OP CEDAW as a tool for advancing women's human rights including understanding the implications for national level litigation. Furthermore, it sought to clarify the uses of the OP CEDAW for addressing violations of women's human rights and advancing women's human rights including determining if and when the OP CEDAW is an appropriate tool and the comparative advantages of OP CEDAW and other complaints mechanisms. Finally, the training provided an opportunity for IWRAW Asia Pacific to pilot test its Training Package on the OP CEDAW.</p> <p>The training received good feedback from participants with regards to both the substantive content of the training and methodologies used. We also gained useful and practical insights and suggestions on how we can further improve the package.</p>
<p>March</p>	
<p>1 - 12 March 2010</p>	<p>Events parallel to the 54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), New York</p> <p>On 6 March 2010 IWRAW Asia Pacific, represented by Shanthi Dairiam, organised a meeting with partners from the MENA region who were in New York attending the 54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women</p>

⁸ For the purposes of this training, IWRAW Asia Pacific will not be including countries from Central Asia as we have another on-going capacity building programme on the OP CEDAW in this region.

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	<p>(CSW) events. This follow up meeting to the Regional Consultation on the Implementation of the CEDAW Committee Concluding Observations in MENA (2 – 5 December 2009) focused on getting updates on the plans made at the MENA Consultation in December 2009 on identifying priorities and developing national action plans for the promotion of the Concluding Observations. It also successfully saw the identification of the “Equality Without Reservations Coalition” as the regional organisation to take forward sustained work on promoting CEDAW implementation at the regional level.</p> <p>Shanthy Dairiam also attended the International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women of Burma on 2 March 2010 which was held as parallel event during the CSW events. IWRAW Asia Pacific was present at the tribunal in support of Women’s League of Burma as part of our continued engagement with them in Southeast Asia. The tribunal’s recommendations were directed to the Burmese regime, ASEAN and international community.</p> <p>Shanthy Diariam was on panel at a side event organised by UNIFEM on Women and Access to Justice.</p>
April	
24-26 April 2010	<p>Women’s Consultation on Advancing Women’s Rights Advocacy, Jakarta, Indonesia</p> <p>IWRAW Asia Pacific was invited to the Women’s Consultation on Advancing Women’s Rights Advocacy which was organised by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development from 24 – 26 April 2010. The Consultation provided a forum for women activists who have been actively involved in the ASEAN processes to share updated information and initiatives taken at national and regional levels. It reviewed and assessed women’s engagement in ASEAN human rights structures and processes (AICHR, ACWC and ACMW). The event further looked into other human rights mechanisms, including UN mechanisms, regional HR mechanisms in three regions (Africa, Inter-America and Europe) and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) to strengthen the regional ones. Experts and women human rights defenders who have been actively using multiple mechanisms were invited to share their inspiring experiences, strategies and challenges to advance women’s rights advocacy nationally, regionally and internationally. The Consultation brought together around 50 women human rights activists from the Asia Pacific region.</p> <p>IWRAW Asia Pacific was represented by Ivy Josiah and Wathshlah Naidu.</p>
27 April 2010	<p>Coordination Meeting of the Southeast Asia Women’s Caucus on ASEAN, Jakarta, Indonesia</p> <p>The Southeast Asia Women’s Caucus on ASEAN, coordinated by IWRAW Asia Pacific and APWLD organised the Coordination Meeting on 27 April 2010. The Coordination Meeting was a venue for the national focal points of the</p>

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	<p>Women's Caucus to share idea and have discussion on the operation and representation of the Women's Caucus at national, regional and international levels. Strategies for the 2010 were explored and planned. The Coordination Meeting was preceded by a meeting with Dr. Donald Tambunan, the Head and Ms., Mega Irena a Senior Officer from the Social Welfare, Women, Labour and Migrant Workers at the ASEAN Secretariat. The meeting was aimed at introducing the SEA Women's Caucus on ASEAN and to get updates on the ACWC and AICHR.</p> <p>IWRAW Asia Pacific was represented by Ivy Josiah and Wathshlah Naidu.</p>
May	
3-14 May 2010	<p>8th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Geneva – Funded participation of women's NGO representative to the UPR.</p> <p>Logistical support provided to bring Kyrgyzstan LBT and women's rights groups to participate in the UPR session. One participant was funded from Labrys to this session of the UPR to ensure the space for women's rights groups working on issues of sexuality and gender identity would be addressed by the UPR process.</p>
13-14 May 2010	<p>Discussion on migration and CEDAW toolkit with Edna Aquino</p> <p>Programme staff and Special advisor held a one day discussion with Edna Aquino our resource person developing the toolkit to finalise the objective and outline of the toolkit.</p>
22-25 May 2010	<p>IWRAW Asia Pacific Three Year Plan Workshop</p> <p>This internal planning meeting was organised to provide a space for discussion by the staff, Board of Directors and the Advisory Committee towards creation of a framework document/masterplan for strategies and activities in 2011-2013. This document would serve as a guide for planning strategies and activities and to serve as a basis for development of proposals.</p>
15 May 2010	<p>Board of Directors Meeting</p> <p>The Board of Directors of IWRAW AP met on this day to discuss issues and plans of actions. Among other things, the board discussed the admin and finance manual, salary revision, deferred income, depositing accounts and the history project.</p>
31 – 6 June May 2010	<p>Sub-Regional Training of Trainers on CEDAW Application for Southeast Asia held in Phnom Penh (Cambodia)</p> <p>IWRAW Asia Pacific organised a Sub Regional Training of Trainers (SRTOT) on the application of CEDAW on 31 May-6 June 2010 for women's organisations and groups from Southeast Asia. This is a substantive one week training to enhance the capacity of trainers in the region on training others on CEDAW. The training was held in Phnom Penh (Cambodia) in collaboration with local organisation SILAKA. The Southeast Asia Training of Trainers aimed to build</p>

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	<p>capacity of trainers in Southeast Asia to implement the training at the local and national level. 20 participants consisting women' rights activists, lawyers, community organisers and trainers from 9 countries namely, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Timor Leste, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore attended the training. Janine Moussa, Undarya Tumursukh and Thida Khus facilitated the training as members of IWRAW Asia Pacific's resource persons. The emphasis during the SRTOT was made on applying CEDAW principles and its framework in specific contexts with a clear understanding of prevalent socio-political and economic environment and challenges faced by women's rights movement by the socio-political and economic structures dominated by patriarchal and religious hegemony. The thrust was on the outcome and follow up action plans from the SRTOT, and IWRAW Asia Pacific encouraged the participants to develop training plans and projects that can be undertaken in country and issue context for implementation as collaborative initiative.</p>
June	
9 – 12 June 2010	<p>Consultation on the Implementation of the CEDAW Concluding Observations in Cambodia, Laos, Timor Leste and Viet Nam (Phnom Penh, Cambodia)</p> <p>IWRAW Asia Pacific organized a Consultation on the Implementation of the CEDAW Concluding Observations in Cambodia, Laos, Timor Leste and Viet Nam held in Phnom Penh on 9-12 June 2010. The Consultation aimed to provide a platform for women's activists, women's organisations, NGOs and CEDAW experts from Cambodia, Laos, Timor Leste and Viet Nam to assess the status of CEDAW implementation in these four countries, and to consider & discuss further how to utilise CEDAW and other international human rights treaties to advance women's human rights. This Consultation was hosted by SILAKA, a national partner of IWRAW-Asia Pacific from Cambodia. The Consultation was a platform for women's organizations to examine the successes & barriers in promoting and monitoring implementation of CEDAW concluding observations by their national governments.</p> <p>27 participants consisted of women' rights activists, researchers, lawyers, academics and NGO representatives from the four countries working on issues of women's right to equality, migration, violence against women, access to justice and public advocacy. Eleanor Conda and Shireen Huq represented IWRAW Asia Pacific and facilitated discussions at the Consultation. The Consultation addressed the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and understanding of standards on the rights and state obligations under the CEDAW (and its general recommendations) and other international human rights treaties, to enable promotion and monitoring of implementation of the CEDAW Concluding Observations • Opportunities and spaces for women's groups at the regional and international level to further implementation of the CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations and advance the particular human rights of women these relate to

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing strategies and action plans for advancing the implementation of CEDAW Concluding Observations at national level including identify areas of collaboration, nationally, sub-regionally and internationally in support of these strategies and action plans <p>The participants prepared and presented national action plans on the priority issues identified earlier in the Consultation. IWRAW Asia Pacific intends to collaborate, assist and support the national level groups and women's organizations to promote state implementation of the CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations.</p>
July	
1-3 July 2010	<p>Europe Concluding Observations Implementation Meeting. In collaboration with KARAT Coalition and WIDE. Warsaw, Poland</p> <p>International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW Asia Pacific) in collaboration with KARAT Coalition and WIDE Network was held on 1-3 July in Warsaw, Poland. The meeting was hosted by KARAT Coalition.</p> <p>In total, the Consultation was attended by 32 people from 19 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine) including the organizing team from IWRAW Asia-Pacific KARAT and WIDE. Participants were women advocating for women's rights and full implementation of CEDAW at national and regional levels in Europe and Central Asia (further referred to as Region), many of whom participate in CEDAW review process and the accompanying 'From Global to Local' Programme of IWRAW. Among them were representatives from KARAT's and WIDE's member organizations, as well as organizations from the Region participating in KARAT's CEDAW-related projects. Furthermore, the consultation included two resource persons: former CEDAW Committee member Shanthi Dairiam and Member of IWRAW Asia-Pacific's Advisory Committee member Shireen Huq. Based on the prioritised critical concerns and the corresponding challenges/barriers to the implementation of the CEDAW Concluding Observations identified, the participants developed strategic directions on how to promote them as well as how CEDAW focus could be integrated into their existing women's human rights advocacy work. A report of the Consultation is available from IWRAW Asia Pacific.</p> <p>Based on the prioritised critical concerns and the corresponding challenges/barriers to the implementation of the CEDAW Concluding Observations identified, the participants developed strategic directions on how to promote them as well as how CEDAW focus could be integrated into their existing women's human rights advocacy work.</p>
6-7 July 2010	The GAATW International Conference : Beyond Borders - Trafficking in the

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	<p>context of migrant, labour and women's rights was held from the 7th to the 8th of July 2010 in Bangkok Thailand.</p> <p>This conference provided an opportunity for IWRAP Asia Pacific to understand the issue of trafficking from the perspective of people/groups working on the ground. It also highlighted the need for information that is provided by these people/groups to reach the international treaty bodies and special procedures. IWRAP Asia Pacific will explore ways in which to facilitate this flow of information that is so crucial to address the issue of trafficking. The existing information on this issue is extensive.</p> <p>IWRAP Asia Pacific held a consultation in collaboration with GAATW and Caram Asian in 2009 to analyse and promote the understanding and use of the CEDAW Framework to deal with women's human rights issues within the migration and trafficking contexts, and this meeting is seen as a follow-up to this collaborative work.</p>
<p>12 – 30 July 2010</p>	<p>46th CEDAW Session: From Global to Local, Training and Mentoring , New York</p> <p>The 46th CEDAW session was held in New York from 12 – 30 July 2010. The CEDAW Committee reviewed the reports of 7 countries; namely Albania, Argentina, Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, and Turkey.</p> <p>IWRAP Asia Pacific held two sessions of three-day CEDAW training programmes during this session for the NGOs from countries reporting for the first and second week of the 46th CEDAW review session. IWRAP Asia Pacific encouraged and facilitated participation of 25 NGOs from Argentina, Albania, Australia, Russian Federation, Fiji, Turkey, Papua New Guinea and India at the 46th CEDAW Session held from 12-30 July 2010 in New York. IWRAP Asia Pacific funded participation of 17 women' rights activists from Albania (2), Australia (3), Argentina (1), Fiji (1), Turkey (3), Russian Federation (2), Papua New Guinea (2) and India (3) at the CEDAW review, while a total number of 10 NGO representatives in addition to the above participated in the Global to Local programme held in conjunction with the 46th Session in July 2010. IWRAP Asia Pacific facilitated the submission of 13 NGO alternative / shadow reports from 7 reporting States.</p> <p>Some impact/successes can be noted from this activity after the review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russian LGBT groups made a press statement on the way the CEDAW Committee addressed the issue of discrimination against LBT women. • Turkish groups held a national briefing on the findings of the CEDAW Committee, raising awareness of the relevance of the CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations.
<p>22 July 2010</p>	<p>Meeting with Malaysian Gender Machinery</p> <p>Meeting with Mr Harjeet , Secretary, Policy Department, Ministry of Women Development, Family and Community to introduce IWRAP's Admin & Finance manager, Shuaibah Awaldeen. Mr Harjeet has enquired the</p>

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	possibilities of IWRAW providing a training to the staff of the Ministry and later a representative from other ministries to accommodate that "Gender Focal Point" programme.
24 July 2010	<p>Global to Local Programme and Management Team (PMT) Meeting During the 46th CEDAW Session, the From Global to Local programme team took the opportunity to hold its PMT meeting with its advisory group cum partner-implementors of the From Global to Local programme. The meeting was attended by Debra Liebowitz (USA), Alda Facio (Costa Rica), Tulika Srivastava (India) and attended by Shanthi Dairiam on behalf of the Board, with Gauri Bhopatkar from staff.</p> <p>At the meeting, the PMT assessed the implementation of the 46th session and discussed the effectiveness of the current model of the programme and how it can be improved, providing better support to NGOs prior to and post CEDAW session, supporting women from marginalised groups, the training kit, issues relating to funding and programme planning for 2010-2011.</p>
30 July 2010	<p>Meeting with Ministry of Women, Malaysia Representatives from the Ministry of Women visited the IWRAW office to explore the possibility of IWRAW facilitating a training for them. The representatives included the Deputy Under Secretary from the Policy Division, Ms Zuraidah Amiruddin and several other officers from the same division. They were given a briefing on IWRAW and its work. Ms. Zuraidah explained that her department is seeking a very basic training on understanding gender, the use and importance of CEDAW, other UN mechanisms and how all these could be used in their work, including on thematic issues such as Violence against Women (VAW). After discussion and inputs from IWRAW staff, it was decided that the representatives would get back to IWRAW on the design of the training and the target group.</p>
August	
18-20 August 2010	<p>Vietnam Shadow Report Training Gencomnet, a network of Vietnamese NGOs, researchers, managers and activists that work and coordinate on gender equality has been partnering with IWRAW Asia Pacific since 2007 on CEDAW implementation and monitoring, decided to also initiate a shadow report process. In 2010 it sought technical assistance from IWRAW Asia Pacific to conduct a shadow report training for its network team members to improve their shadow report writing and research process, and to provide feedback on the draft shadow report as part of its overall CEDAW strategy called "Enhance NGO capacity in writing Shadow Report 2010 on CEDAW implementation in Vietnam".</p> <p>This three day training was provided for 30 Vietnamese participants who were involved in the shadow report process lead by Gencomnet. The outcomes of this capacity building activity include raising participant's basic knowledge of CEDAW, skills and methods for writing CEDAW Shadow</p>

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	<p>Report, sharing experiences with regional resource persons/consultants and each other in topics of the reports as well as CEDAW in relevant areas, improving participant's skills and knowledge of CEDAW, skills and methods for writing CEDAW shadow report to become resource persons for the future training course on CEDAW and skills for writing CEDAW Shadow Report and developing a CEDAW Shadow Report which address the requirements of the Committee in terms of reporting and provide good quality information.</p>
September	
<p>1-3 September 2010</p>	<p>South Asia Consultation on Culture Women and Human Rights, by Partners in Law and Development (PLD) in collaboration with WOREC (Nepal)</p> <p>IWRAW Asia Pacific was invited by the hosts PLD to this discussion. Gauri and new programme officer Ayesha attended this in order to explore future strategies on ideas to resist the barriers posed by culture to realising women's human rights. It was also an opportunity to dialogue with the new independent expert on cultural rights on her mandate, and perspective on looking at culture and rights in a consistent and positive way towards realising women's human rights.</p>
<p>23-27 September 2010</p>	<p>Participation of Women's Caucus at the 6th ASEAN People's Forum (APF VI)</p> <p>Twenty-nine Women's Caucus members from 11 countries participated in the APF VI, held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 24–26 September 2010.</p> <p>As part of Women's Caucus we co-organised and co-hosted thematic workshops to discuss and collate inputs towards impacting the outcome document of the APF and to deliver Women's Caucus own positions in lobbying ASEAN governments at the ASEAN Summit that would follow. The workshops were on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASEAN Free Trade Agreements and Regional Economic Integration and Cooperation: People's Perspectives and Alternatives Human Rights and Democracy: Achieving Human Rights and Democracy in ASEAN Labour and Migrant Workers' Rights: Decent Work for All Including Migrant Workers Changing Roles of ASEAN Women: Challenges and Opportunities <p>Key outcome for this engagement was the active engagement and presence of the Women's Caucus at the APF VI enhancement of cooperation and consolidation amongst members and with other civil society and human rights groups, which will further reinforce the Women's Caucus movement on advocating to ASEAN. Moreover, it enabled the Women's Caucus to assess best strategic practices for the next APF which will take place in Indonesia in 2011. Women's Caucus's recommendations were also incorporated into the APF Final Statement. Women's Caucus also engaged in the drafting of the</p>

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	<p>recommendations for the final statement to ASEAN. Based on the inputs in the women's rights workshop, Women's Caucus drafted an official statement calling for the realisation of women's human rights in the ASEAN processes. The recommendations were made towards the ASEAN member states and government, ASEAN Secretariat and other structures.</p>
29 September	<p>Roundtable discussion: Challenges and Opportunities in Multiracial Alliance: Promoting Political Management and Dialogue</p> <p>This was a learning/sharing session organised by the Freidrich Naumann, who invited South African political to discuss the role of the Opposition in governments (especially two party style)</p>
October	
4 – 22 October 2010	<p>47th CEDAW session: Global to Local, Geneva</p> <p>The 47th session saw 7 countries being reviewed including India which was due to submit its exceptional report. Initially there were 8 but Chad was pulled out a month before as there was no state report and unlikely that the state would've been able to attend the session due to internal conflict. The other countries were Bahamas, Burkina Faso, Czech Republic, Malta, Tunisia and Uganda.</p> <p>IWRAW AP once again facilitated NGO participation and shadow report writing for 5 out of the 6 countries reporting. A total of 7 shadow reports for these 5 countries were facilitated by IWRAW AP.</p> <p>Some impact/successes can be noted from this activity after the review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The participants shared that the training given by IWRAW Asia Pacific improved their effectiveness in engagement with the Committee e.g. maximizing the outcomes of lunch briefings, being able to provide context and clarification to the Committee to enable more rigorous analysis during the constructive dialogue. • There was a heightened focus by the CEDAW Committee on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
15 – 17 October 2010	<p>Expert Group Meeting – Global Consultation on the application of a Women's Human Rights framework on the issue of Women Affected By Conflict 15-17 October 2010, Ramada Hotel, Colombo (Sri Lanka)</p> <p>The Consultation was aimed at creating a space for exchange of experiences and strategies between advocates from countries and communities with different experiences of the various stages of conflict, e.g. long and unresolved conflicts, from countries where the history and root cause of the conflict is official unrecognised and pushed to the margins, in countries from a post - war scenario and countries in transition. The consultation also examined specific situations of displacement, statelessness, lack of decision making and impunity with regard to their long-term impact on women.</p>

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25 th October	<p>Asean Civil Society Conference and SAPA Strategy Meetings</p> <p>This was attended by Audrey going as a programme officer of IWRAP Asia Pacific. IWRAP Asia Pacific attended as part of SEA Women's Caucus on ASEAN and as a previous member of the task force on gender of SAPA. As co convenor of Women's Caucus we facilitated participation of WC activists to the ASEAN People's Forum/ASEAN Civil Society Conference this year in September in Hanoi. This meeting was held to strategise on how to engage at the ASEAN Summit which was not held back to back with the ACSC this year. Women's Caucus needs information on how the main CSO group on ASEAN (SAPA) and now newer advocacy groups building around ASEAN are thinking of using the opportunities and space for 2011 when Indonesian government plays host to ASEAN. We learnt of and input into strategies of the SAPA group.</p>
27 October 2010	<p>Discussion on the Human Rights Implications of the ASEAN Community Blueprints</p> <p>IWRAP Asia Pacific was invited by the organisers the Working Group on the ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism working out of the Ateneo University.</p> <p>The Blueprints when implemented will have significant impact on women as they relate to how ASEAN will now regulate relationship between members states and influence how national level action will be taken to ensure peace and security, promote economic development and stronger trade ties between ASEAN states and with ASEAN and other regional blocs</p> <p>Audrey from IWRAP Asia Pacific attended as Women's Caucus to provide inputs from women's groups in the region into the discussions of CSOs and think tanks on how the blueprints should operate to provide ASEAN member states more clarity on their obligations to SEA people toward development, democracy, security and human rights realisation and to analyse possible gaps and challenges in implementing the blueprints as a regional action plan.</p>
October 29-31, 2010	<p>South Africa Shadow Report Training</p> <p>South Africa will be reviewed in the upcoming 48th CEDAW Session. As such, IWRAP Asia Pacific supported Masimanyane, a national women's human rights groups in South Africa which is coordinating the shadow report process for the 9 provinces of South Africa to be reflected in one shadow report, which is one component of their overall strategy on using CEDAW to seek accountability of the South African government on issue of Violence Against Women and promotion of the rights of women in relation to HIV/AIDS. The training supported the development of the shadow report. The three day meeting was held in East London and 18 women from the nine provinces of South Africa attended this workshop.</p>

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	<p>The objectives of the meeting were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring together the research teams, those who have assisted in the drawing up of the questionnaires and interview protocols, as well as those who will assist in the drafting of the report • Highlight issues and provide an opportunity to begin the process of finalising the information to be included in the final report • Develop a frame for the shadow report which will have been developed • To support the planning process for finalising the shadow report
November	
16-19 December	<p>Workshop on the CEDAW Application Framework ,Dhaka Bangladesh</p> <p>The workshop was the first activity in Bangladesh as part of the CAF project. The Workshop aims were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build knowledge and skills of members of Narripokkho, the national partner in Bangladesh, and other women's organisations on use of CEDAW Application in their legislative and policy advocacy • Identify ideas for refinement of the CEDAW Application Framework • Develop advocacy work plan to be implemented at national level after the workshop <p>Narripokkho invited approximately 20 participants with an experience of legislative and policy advocacy, including lawyers, participants from Bangladesh attended IWRAW AP's activities in past. Shanthi Dairiam and Shireen Huq acted as resource persons.</p>
17-23 November 2010	<p>Training of Trainers on the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Warsaw, Poland</p> <p>The training, to be held soon in November, is organized jointly by KARAT Coalition and IWRAW Asia Pacific. It is designed for female leaders and advocates who aim at promoting women's human rights and gender equality through improving the knowledge and the understanding of CEDAW in their countries. It is intended for women with the NGOs' background who act in the area of women's rights in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. About 20 participants will be trained in this training. The event is a part of KARAT's strategy aimed at strengthening the capacity of women's NGOs in Central and Eastern European and Central Asian countries to apply CEDAW in the local context and to promote it as tool for the advancement of women for which IWRAW Asia Pacific has been supporting in terms of technical assistance, strategic input and some financial support. The training aims at expanding the pool of Russian speaking resource persons based in the CEE/CIS countries who can conduct the trainings on the CEDAW Convention at local, national and regional level in cooperation with KARAT Coalition, its partner organisations and possibly with IWRAW Asia Pacific IWRAW Asia Pacific programme staff have been supporting the planning of this activity since September 2010.</p>

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<p>20 - 27 November 2010</p>	<p>NGO and Government Dialogue on CEDAW and OP CEDAW in the Pacific (in collaboration with RRRT) Subsequent to a series of discussions in 2009 and with the assistance of Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT), UNIFEM Pacific and the Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM), IWRAW Asia Pacific was able to organise a Government-NGO Dialogue ("the Pacific Consultation") on CEDAW and OP CEDAW bringing together key government officials as well as women's groups, academics and activists from the Pacific region. This was followed immediately by an NGO meeting to develop specific action plans around CEDAW ratification and implementation.</p>
<p>December</p>	
<p>10-14 December 2010</p>	<p>Iraq Shadow Report Process , Istanbul Turkey Iraq may be scheduled for its CEDAW review in upcoming future.</p> <p>Iraq women's groups ,supported by the Norwegian Church Aid, organised a national level shadow report workshop and invited IWRAW Asia Pacific to provide technical assistance. The meeting would support the newly established civil society groups and women's rights organisations working in and on the issues of women in Iraq by supporting the development of a shadow report. NGOs are working on a shadow report that will specifically highlight the issue of trafficking. Shanthi Dairiam provided technical inputs.</p>
<p>15 December 2010</p>	<p>UNIFEM (Part of UN Women) East and Southeast Asia Consultation on UN Women with Regional Non-Governmental Organizations The Consultation was organized by UNIFEM SEA, and IWRAW AP participated to provide inputs into the development of UN Women in South East Asia as a regional organisation with expertise in the human rights of women and CEDAW. Ann Campbell attended as IWRAW AP's Programme Officer in charge of advocacy.</p>
<p>27 – 30 December 2010</p>	<p>Operational Planning Meeting The Operational Planning Meeting (OPM) was held to discuss the calendar of activities for 2011 based on the 3 year plan, going through possible donor lists, ensuring that the objectives of each programme reflects the current needs of the organisation and the external environment as well as scrutinising our pool of resource persons to ensure the most appropriate expertise is used for a particular activity to maximise benefit. It was also important to re-acquaint ourselves with the entire available pool and spread out tasks and activities as some resource persons were stretched to the limit and others were under-utilised.</p> <p>The meeting was attended by all staff, the new Executive Director Thusitha Simon, the new Finance and Admin Manager, Pook Li Ping and Special Advisor Shanthi Dairiam.</p>