Annual Report 2017

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2017 was a challenging year for human rights in Asia. Although, it is hard to remember a year that was not. We saw an increase in the harassment of human rights defenders across the region. Among others, through judicial means, verbal attacks, the criminalisation of their work, and in too many terrifying instances through killings and disappearances. We witnessed the introduction of new laws and legislation aimed at undermining or outright contradicting international human rights standards. And in many countries, we experienced the intensification of the authoritarian and repressive tendencies of our Governments.

However, it is in times of darkness that the brave rise up. Human rights defenders across the region stood up against repression. They demonstrated. They spoke out. They claimed their rights. They did not let themselves be silenced.

Throughout 2017, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) and its members contributed to this fight, this ongoing struggle. Whether in the form of trainings, expert consultations, or publications. Through statements at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) or submissions to regional human rights mechanisms. In the form of videos, tweets, and press-releases. By offering emergency protection to colleagues at risk.

The following report will give you an overview of the activities and projects FORUM-ASIA implemented in 2017. It is not an exhaustive or complete list, but an attempt to share highlights and key initiatives that we tried to implement in the past year to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights in our region.

So far 2018 is not looking to be an easier year, but we will continue to do our part. To build the capacity and assure the empowerment of human rights defenders at the local and international level for advocacy towards better prevention of human rights violations. To stand in solidarity with all those brave people who do not allow their fundamental freedoms and rights be disregarded, and to be a voice and protector for those who need it the most.

Message from the Chairperson

Urantsooj Gombosuren
Chairperson of FORUM-ASIA and Chairperson of the Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD), Mongolia
It was 70 years ago that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) emerged as a beacon of hope and dignity for all people everywhere. And it has been 25 years since the path-breaking UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Austria. The ideas developed in both these processes of human rights, democracy, and development have played an important role to expand fundamental freedoms, ensure human rights, and advance sustainable development.

However, we are living in a time when all those ideas that ushered democracy and human rights forwards are facing new challenges all over the world, and particularly in Asia. Despite economic growth in most of the Asian countries, inequality and injustice are on the rise. In the context of populist authoritarian tendencies and the emergence of illiberal States, the freedoms and rights of people are increasingly restricted. More than ever, civil society organisations and human rights organisations are facing challenges as a result of shrinking democratic and civic spaces. To address this, FORUM-ASIA, as a collective of its members, civil society organisations, and movements, strived to work together to promote and protect core legal and ethical values of freedom, rights, justice, and peace. In 2017, our collective work sought to protect, promote, and support civic initiatives for human rights and sustainable development. Over the course of the last year, we worked with our members and partners to: strengthen the capacity and leadership of human rights and civic organisations; support human rights defenders; and help bridge national, regional, and global initiatives for human rights and sustainable development.

We have worked with organisations and initiatives in the Global South, facilitated advocacy with our members at the UNHRC, and promoted initiatives to strengthen National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in countries of our region. The basis of all our work were our five thematic priority areas: 1) strengthening democratic and civic spaces; 2) promoting human rights in the context of business and human rights; 3) supporting human rights defenders; 4) strengthening NHRIs; and 5) facilitating advocacy and diplomacy at the regional and international level.

None of this would have been possible without our committed staff at FORUM-ASIA and our members spread across Asia. I would like to express my gratitude to all my colleagues, our members, partners, and donors for all their active support to take the vision and mission of FORUM-ASIA forward.

FORUM-ASIA will continue to be at the forefront of capacity development, research, advocacy, solidarity action, and partnership development to support civic initiatives and movements to ensure human rights and sustainable development for all. We present our report for the year 2017 for your kind consideration and continued support. We look forward to work with all organisations and movements. We are committed to serve and cooperate with the larger community of human rights defenders and civic initiatives for peace, justice, democracy, and development.

In solidarity,

John Samuel
Executive Director of FORUM-ASIA
The year 2017 was challenging. Almost all Governments in the region failed to live up to their human rights obligations. In some cases, Governments themselves proved to be the violators. They tolerated and even promoted impunity, condoned atrocities, and adopted authoritarian populism as a means of governance. Overall, 2017 was a year of human rights regression and distress.

Cambodia and the Maldives saw a complete closure of space for civil society and dissent. Non-governmental organisations critical of government excesses were virtually banned. Human rights defenders were: charged with sedition and other criminal offences; put behind bars; or forced to flee the country. All forms of dissent were suppressed.

The Duterte Administration, in the Philippines, continued its attack on civil society activists, human rights defenders, and political opponents. Senator Leila de Lima, a prominent critic of Duterte’s ‘war on drugs’, was put behind bars. The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) was threatened to remain silent or face abolition.

Myanmar drew the attention of the world as its security forces forced over six million Rohingya Muslims to flee systematic violence, massacre, rape, and arson, which bear patterns and symptoms of mass atrocity crimes. The Government of Myanmar continued to ignore international calls for accountability. A climate of fear and suspicion forced journalists and government critics to self-censor. The calls for justice for human rights violations of the past continued to remain unanswered.

In India, all forms of dissent were labelled anti-national, and critical voices were harassed and intimidated. The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) was used to target non-governmental organisations critical of government policies. Women human rights defenders working on land and environmental rights and for the rights of women, Dalits and marginalised communities were disparaged, attacked, and even killed.

Impunity continued to be a serious concern in Bangladesh. Incidents of arbitrary arrests, torture, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings were reported throughout the year. Freedoms of expression and assembly were curtailed using Section 57 of the Information and Communications Technology Act (ICT Act) and the Foreign Donation (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act. Human rights defenders faced attacks, harassment, and surveillance by security forces and non-state actors.

Blasphemy-related violence was one of the key issues in Pakistan. Both state and non-state actors used this rhetoric against human rights defenders and minority groups. Honour killings topped the list of violence against women and girls. The Government of Pakistan obstructed the registration and functioning of international non-governmental organisations through its Regulation of INGOs in Pakistan policy. Abductions, killings, and intimidation of human rights defenders, particularly those working on economic, social, and cultural rights, continued.

In the face of these challenges and adversities, FORUM-ASIA, its members, and partners continued to invest resources and energy to protect civic space and champion the cause of human rights and democratic freedoms at all levels. Among others through the following:

- FORUM-ASIA protested, objected to, and countered all regressive moves, such as the introduction of laws against non-governmental organisations and cancellation of their licenses, through press-statements, research-based publications, thematic workshops, public discussions, side events and oral interventions during UNHRC sessions.
- FORUM-ASIA supported its members, human rights defenders, and youth activists in strengthening their capacity to maximise the impact of their work through trainings, advocacy, and campaigns.
- FORUM-ASIA engaged with inter-governmental mechanisms, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) human rights mechanism, to explore areas of collaboration to address human rights challenges faced in the region. Their performance was critically reviewed, areas of improvements were identified, and recommendations were offered in the form of reports and other publications. Dialogues and interactions were held with them on pertinent human rights issues.
- Through the Task Force on ASEAN Migrant Workers (TFAMW), FORUM-ASIA engaged in the development of a rights-based framework for the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers in Southeast Asia.
- In South Asia, where the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) stood dormant, non-governmental and civil society organisations continued to call on the SAARC Member States to be responsive to human rights issues and challenges faced in the region.
- FORUM-ASIA monitored, through the Asian NGO Network on National Human Rights Institutions (ANNI), the performance of NHRIs in the region, including the process of their establishment, and provided feedback focusing particularly on the level and nature of their engagement with civil society organisations.
- Efforts were made to establish national and regional protection systems for the security of human rights defenders and women human rights defenders. Defenders facing reprisals for their legitimate work were provided with support, including relocation assistance.
- Dialogues and interactions were held between local defenders and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, for the Rapporteur to be able to listen to cases and stories of harassment on the ground to have these be reflected in his reports and policy discussions.
- FORUM-ASIA engaged with the UNHRC in Geneva during regular sessions, facilitated the participation of human rights defenders and activists in the sessions, and organised a number of diplomatic briefings, bilateral meetings, and other meetings on country specific and thematic issues.
Organisational Development

The main focus of organisational development in 2017 has been: internal restructuring; alignment of policies and systems; development of a governance manual; and organisational sustainability.

The structure of the Country Programme, which used to cover South Asia, East Asia, and the National Human Rights Institutions Programme, was changed into South Asia Programme, East Asia and ASEAN Programme, and the National Human Rights Institutions Programme to sharpen the geo-cultural and thematic focus of the programmes, as well as to enhance internal coordination and alignment.

Staff contracts were restructured and reformulated to ensure their alignment with Thai and Swiss laws, the latter in relation to staff based in Geneva. Before alignment, legal advice was sought from Thai and Swiss lawyers. To address inconsistencies and overlaps in different policies and rules related to staffing and human resources, a Staff Handbook was developed by collating all relevant policies, rules, and regulations, and bringing in new rules and policies where necessary. The Handbook was also given an organisational context by introducing new sections: FORUM-ASIA’s vision, mission and objectives; organisational structure and core values; and required behavioural competencies of staff. In addition, a short policy on staff induction was added, and recruitment and performance management policies were expanded and improved.

The need for a Governance Manual was long felt in order to establish and institutionalise a distinction between management and governance - policymaking and oversight - functions, and to develop a smooth system of interaction and communication among various tiers of the governance structure, namely, members, the General Assembly, and the Executive Committee. To address this need, a Governance Manual was drafted by a consultant experienced in this area. It will be finalised and implemented in 2018.

FORUM-ASIA’s data storage went fully online, with Nextcloud being introduced as an online data storage facility and an interacting tool. A process was also started to move all organisational documents on Nextcloud, and share notes, documents, programme calendars and other matters among staff. A Quickbook client server was installed to computerise all financial transactions, including data sharing among the finance staff.

As to financial sustainability, groundwork was done with visits to some influential donors in Asia, Europe and the USA towards additional fundraising. During the visits, FORUM-ASIA’s vision and plans were shared. The concept of an Asia Dignity Fund was put forward with the aim of resource mobilisation to support new and emerging civil society organisations of youths, and marginalised social groups and communities in Asia. As it is also expected to fund core costs of FORUM-ASIA, the Fund will initially mobilise resources from donors, and gradually initiate fundraising initiatives of its own. A detailed business plan for the fund will be developed in 2018.

About FORUM-ASIA

FORUM-ASIA works to promote and protect human rights, including the right to development, through collaboration and cooperation among human rights organisations and defenders in Asia and beyond.

FORUM-ASIA is a network of 58 members in 19 countries across Asia. It was founded in 1991 in Manila, the Philippines. Its Secretariat was established in Bangkok, Thailand in 1992. Since then, other offices have been opened in Geneva, Jakarta, and Kathmandu. FORUM-ASIA has had consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC Status) since 2004, and a consultative relationship with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) since 2017.

FORUM-ASIA is committed to build peaceful, just, equitable, and sustainable societies in Asia, where all human rights of all individuals, groups, and peoples, without discrimination on any grounds, are fully realised in accordance with international human rights standards and norms.

It does so through four main strategies, being:

- Bringing together activists and stakeholders to tackle human rights issues;
- Protecting human rights defenders in Asia that find themselves in emergency situations;
- Advocating for human rights at the national, regional, and international level; and
- Building the capacity of its members and partners.
FORUM-ASIA’s East Asia and ASEAN Programme supports the work of FORUM-ASIA’s member organisations at the national level. Furthermore, it aims to enhance the independence and effectiveness of the ASEAN human rights mechanisms by strengthening the participation of civil society. It does so through various activities such as: workshops; trainings; national and regional consultations between civil society organisations and representatives of the AICHR and ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC); and other forms of information sharing. Some of the activities that the programme undertook in 2017 are described below.

The merger of the East Asia Country Programme and the ASEAN Advocacy Programme in 2017 marked a strategic step by FORUM-ASIA. As a result of the programme restructuring, the new East Asia and ASEAN team, based both in Jakarta and Bangkok, strived for more streamlined coordination in the work. Furthermore, 2017 was a pivotal year for FORUM-ASIA given the attainment of the consultative relationship with the AICHR, which provided a strategic opportunity for FORUM-ASIA to advocate for a more effective regional human rights mechanism.

To raise issues related to the intersection of rights online, FORUM-ASIA, together with its member Bytes for All, Pakistan (B4A), and partners Global Partners Digital (GPD) and the Association for Progressive Communication (APC), jointly organised a three-day regional consultation on the ‘State of the Internet’ in Asia on 4-6 October in Bangkok. 77 participants from more than 50 organisations from 12 Asian countries joined the event to share their views on online expression, digital security, laws on digital space, and how the usage of virtual space has various impacts in real life, such as threats and harassments experienced by women human rights defenders when they exercise the right to freedom of expression online. The consultation also addressed the role of the private sector in shaping content regulation for online platforms. In addition to the closed-door session, a public lecture was delivered by David Kaye, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, at the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Thailand (FCCT) on 6 October. (also see page 36)

Another growing concern in Southeast Asia was that States appeared to use or misuse religion to define national identity and national security, which at times hindered fundamental human rights and civic space. It was within this context that the third annual Regional Consultation on Southeast Asia Freedom of Religion or Belief was held in Manila, parallel to the 31st ASEAN Summit on 7-8 November. Co-organised with the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Boat People SOS (BPSOS), and the Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), the event was an assembly of human rights activists, representatives from faith-based communities, law practitioners, and Members of Parliament dedicated to promoting freedom of religion or belief in Southeast Asia.

As a member of the Regional Steering Committee of the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People’s Forum (ACSC/APF), FORUM-ASIA was able to reflect the concerns of Asian civil society organisations and contribute to the agenda-setting of the conference. Additionally, FORUM-ASIA facilitated two workshops, ‘Road to Seek for Justice: Experiences of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) work with marginalised communities on engaging with ASEAN Human Rights Mechanisms’, and ‘Building Regional Solidarity, and Engaging ASEAN on Peace, Diversity and Right to Self-Determination during ACSC/APF 2017 in Manila, the Philippines.’
Right to Self-Determination. The workshops addressed the trend of shrinking civic space and deterioration of human rights in ASEAN, how it hindered the work of human rights defenders, and major drivers of intrastate conflicts and the security issues that dominated the region, such as cases from Rakhine and Kachin States in Myanmar, Mindanao in the Philippines, and the Deep South in Thailand.

By launching the annual performance report of the AICHR and the ACWC at the ACSC/APF, FORUM-ASIA challenged the practices of ASEAN in addressing human rights issues in the region and how the limitations of the mandate of regional human rights bodies affected their work in previous years.

For years FORUM-ASIA has advocated for the AICHR to include civil society organisations in its consultation processes. For the first time, such an interface meeting was held from 26 to 27 November 2017 during a roundtable discussion on the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration in Bohol, the Philippines. The participation of civil society in the discussion received appreciation from the AICHR representatives. To formalise the recommendations from civil society, FORUM-ASIA, in collaboration with 12 other organisations in a consultative relationship with the AICHR, sent an official letter, the Bohol Proposal, to all AICHR representatives and the ASEAN Secretariat after the roundtable discussion.
FORUM-ASIA’s South Asia Programme supports the work of FORUM-ASIA’s member organisations at the national level. Additionally, the regional strategies enhance inter-programme synergy, cooperation, and coordination within the Secretariat for effective advocacy, campaigning, and networking. Some of the highlights of 2017 are described below.

In 2017, the South Asia programme underwent a revamping process. Where before the Country Programme had been an umbrella programme for both South Asia, East Asia, and the National Human Rights Institutions programme, this was overhauled and both regions were given greater autonomy to focus on their own strategies. The South Asia Programme is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Due to the failure of SAARC in addressing human rights challenges in the region, the Regional Initiative for a South Asian Human Rights Mechanism (RISAHRM) was formed in July 2012 as a collaborative platform for some South Asian civil society organisations and individuals to advocate for the establishment of a regional human rights mechanism in South Asia.

During a meeting in April 2017, all 28 FORUM-ASIA members from South Asia, the RISAHRM Task Force, and other activists participated in a meeting to critically review the efforts taken towards the establishment of a regional human rights mechanism and to explore future possibilities to strengthen it.

In coordination with the Informal Sector Service Centre, one of FORUM-ASIA’s members in Nepal, a new report, ‘Understanding Regional Human Rights Mechanisms & The Need for a South Asian Human Rights Mechanism’ was launched during the consultation. The publication discusses in detail the importance and the necessity of establishing a regional human rights mechanism in South Asia. (See http://l.forum-asia.org/sahrmpublication)
A study on the human rights situation in Bangladesh was commissioned to an external expert to strengthen the knowledge, and identify proposals on how to tackle the issues effectively. The South Asia Programme visited Bangladesh to interact with FORUM-ASIA members, partners, and other stakeholders in the country, including the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh to develop a concrete action plan to address the recommendations of the Bangladesh study report both in the short term and in the long term.

The ‘South Asia Judicial Barometer (SAJB)’, launched in November, was published in collaboration with Law and Society Trust (LST), one of FORUM-ASIA’s members in Sri Lanka. The economic progress and sustainability in Asia, especially South Asia, depends greatly on its assurance and enforcement of the rule of law, in which the judiciary plays a crucial role, despite its challenges. The research maps the major ideological orientations and contestations driving the rule of law regime and the social character of the judiciary in South Asia. SAJB in its maiden issue contains chapters from five South Asian countries, and a briefing note on Pakistan. Four areas are highlighted in the publication: labour; minority rights; freedom of speech and association; and national security and terrorism. (See http://l.forum-asia.org/SAJB2017)
FORUM-ASIA’s Human Rights Defenders Programme is a protection measure for human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in Asia. It seeks to facilitate a conducive environment for human rights defenders to be able to conduct their work more effectively and efficiently, and to be conscious of the risks involved. It also provides practical safeguards for defenders at risk by mitigating both actual and perceived threats stemming from their work. Some of the highlights of 2017 are described below.

With the aim of establishing and strengthening the protection mechanisms for defenders at the national level, FORUM-ASIA facilitated two national consultations on strengthening national human rights defenders networks in Mongolia and Pakistan respectively.

In Mongolia, the consultation was a continuation of past efforts started in 2015. Together with the two Mongolian FORUM-ASIA members, CHRD and Globe International (GI), the third national consultation was held in Ulaanbaatar on 4-5 September. The event brought together over 60 Mongolian human rights defenders from rural and urban communities. The objectives of the consultation were to strengthen understanding about international human rights frameworks, protection measures, and the national legal environment in respect to the work of defenders in the country. Participants drew up action plans that specified the different roles and responsibilities human rights defenders and women human rights defenders would play in the network and how they would work together to try and affect positive change for the human rights situation in Mongolia.

In the context of a deteriorating human rights situation and increased threats against human rights defenders and women human rights defenders in Pakistan, a similar consultation was conducted with the support of our Pakistani members in May. It was the very first step to advocate for the recognition of the roles and rights of human rights defenders and women human rights defenders and to lay out a path to support and strengthen the national human rights defenders network on protection mechanisms. The network aims to enhance the level of protection for human rights defenders and women human rights defenders on the ground with coordinated support and assistance for defenders at risk.

Recognising that relocation assistance is a crucial responsive measure in the protection of defenders at risk, particularly given the shrinking space for defenders in Asia, FORUM-ASIA held a two-day consultation on Asia Regional Relocation Mechanism for human rights defenders and women human rights defenders at risk in Bangkok, Thailand. The event was a follow-up to the 7th Asia Regional Human Rights Defenders Forum held in November 2016. Not only did the consultation draw on the experiences of human rights defenders and women human rights defenders from numerous countries in South, Southeast, and Northeast Asia, it was also enriched by inputs from academics, members from NHRIs, as well as defenders that have experience with regional relocation assistance in Africa. The consultation concluded that serious consideration should be given to a sustainable long-term relocation system for defenders at risk, especially those who are unable to return after short-term temporary relocation assistance, and that approaches for each temporary relocation assistance should be contextualised to reflect the individual’s needs, in particularly when it comes to women human rights defenders at risk.

To better highlight country-specific situations of human rights defenders and women human rights defenders to the international community through the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (UNSR on HRDs), FORUM-ASIA together with its members and partners facilitated an academic visit of Michel Forst, UNSR on HRDs, to Thailand and Cambodia on 27-31 May. As part of strengthening effective engagement with local civil society organisations and...
the general public in Thailand and Cambodia, public lectures were organised in Bangkok and Phnom Penh on ‘The Future of Global Human Rights Discourse: Trends & Challenges’ to raise awareness about the situation of human rights defenders in the region.

The visit also aimed to enable direct communication between the UNSR and local defenders who usually have a hard time reaching out to international mechanisms due to lack of resources and language barriers. The visit also contributed to enhance international recognition of the important work of human rights defenders and women human rights defenders on the ground to legitimise their work in their own countries as well as indicate to defenders that they are not isolated or alone.

FORUM-ASIA also documented cases of violations and abuses against human rights defenders and women human rights defenders, as well as new restrictive legislation and policies affecting civil society in Asia. The documented cases and an analysis of regional trends were published in the report ‘Defending in Numbers: Silencing the Voices of Asia 2015-2016’. (See http://l.forum-asia.org/DefendinginNumbers15-16)
FORUM-ASIA’s United Nations (UN) Advocacy Programme strives to bring an Asian perspective to global human rights discourses through continued engagement with UN human rights mechanisms. FORUM-ASIA connects Asian human rights defenders and civil society to official and geopolitical discourses at the UN. FORUM-ASIA provides a unique platform for Asian human rights defenders to advocate for their issues with ownership at various international forums. Some of the highlights of 2017 are described below.

In 2017, the UN Advocacy Programme focused on its engagement at the UNHRC and utilised this mechanism to leverage the collective power of civil society organisations in influencing States’ decisions at the Council.

In February 2017, the UN Advocacy Programme, along with UPR-info and FORUM-ASIA member INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre, conducted a workshop on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Sri Lanka. The workshop took place prior to the 34th regular session of the Council where key discussions on the implementation of the UNHRC decisions regarding accountability and reconciliation were held. FORUM-ASIA shared experiences working with other UPR processes in Asia and updates on the activities at the Council.

FORUM-ASIA played an important role in enhancing the visibility of Asian civil society perspectives at key human rights debates at the Council. During the 34th regular session of the Council, FORUM-ASIA’s presence was crucial in advocating for an independent inquiry on the violation of human rights and international law in conflict areas in Myanmar, particularly in Rakhine, Shan, and Kachin State. As a result, on 24 March, the last day of the session, the UNHRC decided to urgently dispatch an independent international Fact-Finding Mission to Myanmar to investigate the violations by the security forces in the country.

At the 35th regular session of the UNHRC, FORUM-ASIA focused its advocacy efforts on the Philippines and the Maldives. The increasing number of extrajudicial killings related to the ongoing ‘war on drugs’ in the Philippines and the crackdown on dissent and freedom of expression in the Maldives demanded urgent action from the Council. Apart from organising side-events and releasing oral statements, FORUM-ASIA was able to call for a joint-statement on the Maldives, which was supported by 34 Member States and a joint-statement on the Philippines supported by 32 Member States.

At the 36th regular session, through FORUM-ASIA’s advocacy efforts at the Council, the mandate of the Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar was extended and the Office of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights agreed to submit a report on the situation in Cambodia, which would be discussed at the 37th regular session of the Council. As part of its ongoing advocacy on Myanmar, FORUM-ASIA supported calls for a Special Session on Myanmar at the UNHRC. FORUM-ASIA also issued a joint-statement supported by 39 Member States, which was covered widely in the Philippines.

The UN Advocacy Programme also published ‘Perspectives on a Decade of Asian Foreign Policy at the UN Human Rights Council’, a working paper which looks at the positions of Asian States on resolutions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, protection of human rights defenders, as well as country-specific human rights situations, based on publicly available official records of the regular sessions of the Council’s first ten years (2006 to 2016). It aims to shed light on how Asian States influence international debates on human rights, and make the information much more accessible for the people of the respective countries to reflect on whether their countries indeed practise what they preach. (See http://l.forum-asia.org/WebsiteWorkingPaperSeriesII)
FORUM-ASIA’s advocacy work on NHRIs is conducted by the NHRIs Advocacy Programme. The programme’s main objective is to ensure that NHRIs are able to function in an enabling environment that is conducive for the actualisation of their mandate, and to advocate for the establishment of NHRIs in countries where such institutions do not exist. The programme mainly operates through the ANNI, a network of Asian non-governmental organisations and human rights defenders working on issues relating to NHRIs. FORUM-ASIA has served as the Secretariat of ANNI since its establishment in 2006. Some of the highlights of 2017 are described below.

From 24-28 July, a Task Force led by NHRI expert Rosslyn Noonan with the support of ANNI, FORUM-ASIA, and the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs (APF) was invited by local members, Covenants Watch and the Taiwan Association for Human Rights (TAHR), to conduct a week long mission to evaluate the progress made in establishing an NHRI compliant with the Paris Principles in Taiwan. The Task Force met with key stakeholders from various government agencies, civil society organisations, legal scholars, as well as Vice President Chen Chien-Jen, who is also the convenor of the Presidential Office Human Rights Consultative Committee. The mission concluded that there was strong support for the establishment of a NHRI in Taiwan, and provided a set of recommendations to achieve this goal.

At the network level, ANNI had its 10th Regional Consultation in Seoul on 7-8 March, one of the main annual events where ANNI members and the Secretariat reviewed and assessed its work, discussed NHRIs’ intervention in addressing human rights issues, and formulated an advocacy strategy to strengthen NHRIs in the region. The mission concluded that there was strong support for the establishment of a NHRI in Taiwan, and provided a set of recommendations to achieve this goal.

Similarly, on an annual basis, ANNI holds its regional conference which aims to discuss issues relevant to improving the work and functioning of NHRIs, as well as fostering dialogue and partnership with relevant stakeholders. From 28-29 November, the two-day ANNI conference, ‘Road Less Travelled: Forgotten Roles of NHRIs’ emphasised how NHRIs can play a significant role in addressing human rights in relation to businesses, and situations of conflict and post-conflict. The conference was strategically held in parallel with the APF annual meeting and biennial conference, where ANNI representatives were invited to the NHRIs-NGOs dialogue session. The interface meeting continued ANNI’s engagement with NHRIs in the region, including by representing civil society voices on issues related to NHRIs. Moreover, this was also an opportunity to maximise the impact of the ANNI Report launched on the same day.

The ‘2017 ANNI Report on the Performance and Establishment of National Human Rights Institutions in Asia’ was a result of the collective efforts of all ANNI members. The report features 15 countries in three sub-regions, namely Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Northeast Asia. The report provides analysis of the development of NHRIs in the region, their independence and effectiveness, and trends and levels of engagement with different stakeholders in respective countries. It also highlights opportunities for NHRIs to advocate for full compliance with the Paris Principles, and reflects broader contextual issues of human rights in the region, as well as encourages the establishment of NHRIs in countries and territories where such institutions are not yet established. (See http://l.forum-asia.org/ANNIreport2017)
The New Initiatives and Partnership Development Programme was established in October 2017 to support the development of new projects and initiatives in different areas of work that were identified by FORUM-ASIA’s General Assembly in 2016. The Programme aims to develop strategies and engage on issues, such as business and human rights, civic space, development, and youth, in partnership with stakeholders including youth groups, universities, and other civil society organisations across the world.

Besides strengthening its engagement with civil society organisations that are working to promote and protect civic space, the major activity which the programme spearheaded in 2017 was the organisation of FORUM-ASIA’s first Global Advocacy Learning Programme on Human Rights and Development. A total of 22 youth participants from across Asia joined the seven-day programme in Thailand on 19-25 November.

Conceptualised as a space for shared learning and collective reflection, the programme aimed to facilitate a process where participants could conceive the most appropriate strategic advocacy options for human rights and development in various contexts. Through interactive methods, collective analysis, and group work, participants had the chance to share and learn about fundamental principles of research, advocacy, and campaign with inputs from 12 experienced practitioners and experts from FORUM-ASIA, its members, and partners.

Topics covered during the programme included:
1) Human rights and development trends;
2) Human rights concepts, laws, systems, and mechanisms;
3) Strategies for the effective use of human rights concepts, laws, systems, and mechanisms;
4) The role of human rights as a bridge between development and democracy; and
5) People-centred advocacy and campaign designing.

At the close of the programme, participants indicated their appreciation for the programme agenda which conferred knowledge on both the theoretical and practical aspects of international human rights law and practice, development, and advocacy. Presentations by experts and the overall interactive methodology were especially appreciated by the participants.
FORUM–ASIA at a Glance in 2017

- 26 human rights defenders including 9 environmental land rights defenders and 6 women human rights defenders assisted through FORUM–ASIA protection plan
- 14 communications submitted to the UN Special Procedures
- 10 advocacy, solidarity, fact-finding missions conducted and participated in Asia
- 43 conferences, consultations, trainings, and workshops organised and facilitated
- 2 security trainings for human rights defenders
- 48% increase in subscriptions to the FORUM–ASIA monthly e-newsletter
- 63% increase in number of likes and followers on Facebook and 35% on Twitter

Related to the United Nations Human Rights Council:
- 3 sessions attended
- 28 oral statements joined and delivered
- 21 side events organised and participated in
- 11 joint advocacy initiatives launched
- 14 Asian human rights defenders financially supported to participate

- 269 articles in the media that covered or made reference to FORUM–ASIA
- 13 public events, press, and diplomatic briefings held
- 114% increase in number of unique visitors to FORUM–ASIA’s website on average per month
- 36% increase in number of likes and followers on Facebook and 35% on Twitter
- 36 videos produced
- 8 publications published and launched
- 7 out of 12 case fact sheets submitted by the Human Rights Defenders team picked up by UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

FORUM–ASIA at a Glance in 2017
The Communication and Media Programme, formerly known as the Information, Communication and Publication Programme, works on internal and external communication to maximise the organisational outreach to members, partners, and outside audiences, through traditional and social media strategies, publications and other communication tools. The primary role of the programme is to create a larger constituency for human rights issues in Asia. Some of the highlights of 2017 are described below.

Communication and media support to other programmes was the main focus of the programme in 2017. This was primarily done through live-tweeting, posting daily Facebook recaps, and sharing photos during key FORUM-ASIA events throughout the year. A new tool that the team started using was live-streaming specific sessions or events through the FORUM-ASIA Facebook page.

During the regional consultation organised together with the APC, B4A, and GPD on 4-6 October 2017 on the state of freedoms of assembly, association, expression and religions online, ‘the State of the Internet’, the communication team: live-tweeted all sessions, taking into consideration sensitivity and privacy of certain participants; live-streamed all public sessions, particularly those featuring the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, David Kaye; posted photos; arranged one-on-one interviews with two Thai news-outlets; and organised a public lecture at the FCCT. (see also page 16)

When it came to media support for other programmes and the organisation overall, the team: supported issuing of statements; co-authored several opinion pieces; and organised press-events and media briefings. In Bangkok, four press-briefings were (co-)organised at the FCCT, two on Cambodia, one for the new publication of the Human Rights Defenders Programme, and one back-to-back with the previously mentioned regional consultation on the State of the Internet. Another focus of the Communication Programme was the production of new content for social media channels. Within this context the #FATalks series was developed. A series of seven videos, so far, which features members and partners of FORUM-ASIA talking about urgent current events or other important issues related to human rights. The videos are three to four minutes long and are shared on FORUM-ASIA's online media.

An unplanned activity was the involvement of FORUM-ASIA in the new campaign of CIVICUS, SPEAK!. At the end of March 2017, FORUM-ASIA was invited to attend a training of trainers which was combined with a session to develop the SPEAK! campaign through the accelerator methodology developed by MobLab. On 30 June – 2 July 2018, FORUM-ASIA held its own campaign accelerator training with members from countries as prioritised by CIVICUS. For the eventual campaign itself, which was conducted from 22-25 September 2017, FORUM-ASIA members in three countries – India, Indonesia, and Malaysia – received funding through the campaign to organise activities.

To further expand the knowledge and skills of FORUM-ASIA in digital security and online campaigning, the communication programme also attended various events related to these issues, such as the RightsCon in Brussels in April, CivicTechFest in Taipei in September, and the Coconet in Yogyakarta in October.
The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) Programme plays an important and key role in supporting the other programmes and the organisation at large to develop and further strengthen its internal planning, monitoring, and evaluation systems, as well as lead donor reporting and documentation processes. Some of the highlights of 2017 are described below.

PME’s role is crucial to create the internal systems that facilitate effective planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning using a results-based management model with the vision to strengthen FORUM-ASIA’s effectiveness and accountability towards the people it works with and supports.

In 2017, the PME Programme continued to establish its role within the Secretariat as a cross-cutting programme, and committed to achieving three key goals: clearly defining the role and responsibility of the PME Programme; continuing the establishment of an organisation-level, functional monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system; and improving the coordination efforts and supporting of other programmes to effectively monitor and report progress of their work through the introduction of standardised M&E instruments, assistance with data collection and reporting, and establishment of a new data storage and management system.

To achieve these goals, PME conducted a Secretariat-wide baseline survey, which helped assess the internal capacity, and revealed the types of assistance and level of support expected by other programmes.

FORUM-ASIA recognises the importance of having an institutionalised, functional organisation-wide M&E system. As such, PME developed an organisation-wide M&E framework that reflects the overall organisational and programme specific objectives, results, and indicators. The M&E framework has been designed as a reference tool for programmes to monitor and assess the progress of their work.

PME introduced a series of M&E tools, including an online data management platform, Nextcloud, which has helped streamline information shared across the Secretariat. The online system has been widely used by the organisation since its inception in early 2017.

Throughout the year, PME ensured the quality and on-time delivery of reports to the European Union, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Ford Foundation, and other donors.
The overall objective of the Administration Department is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the administrative management services of FORUM-ASIA. The department aims to improve office maintenance, administrative support and services for members, as well as management and programme staff. It does so by providing: administrative support and services; staff members support and human resources; office maintenance; and information technology (IT) support. Some of the highlights of 2017 are described below.

One of the major focuses of the Administration Department in 2017 was to facilitate the application for work permits of foreign staff in a timely manner. Four applications of work permits were submitted in 2017 and granted in early 2018. Additionally, staff needing to apply for or extend their visas to be able to work for FORUM-ASIA were also assisted. The Administration Department also played a crucial role in preparing requisite documents to renew the organisation’s registration with the Ministry of Labour in Thailand.

In addition, the Administration Department provided vital logistic support for the Global Advocacy Learning Programme on Human Rights and Development in Bangkok, as well as other activities organised, including supporting the visa application process, as well as arranging the venue, accommodation, and transportation for international participants. It also assured the Executive Committee’s quarterly meetings in Bangkok were smoothly organised.

Five regular staff, four fellows and seven interns joined FORUM-ASIA in 2017, reaching a total of 39 people working at the Secretariat in Bangkok, Jakarta, Geneva, and Kathmandu. With the support of the part-time Human Resource Consultant, the Administration Department established a more efficient and systematic recruitment and orientation process to all newcomers, as well as introducing an informative induction package including printed documents, face-to-face meetings with all programmes, and a briefing session about information management and digital security. A Staff Handbook was created to outline roles, responsibilities, and obligations of staff, as well as relevant organisational principles and policies.

To increase digital security at the organisational level, FORUM-ASIA purchased a dedicated online server to secure confidential communication and data, which is particularly important for an organisation working closely with human rights defenders and activists.
## Financial Overview

**FORUM-ASIA**

### 1. Income for January – December 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Funding Partners</th>
<th>Actual Income Jan-Dec 2017</th>
<th>% of actual income compared with total income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Donors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)</td>
<td>$ 669,286.72</td>
<td>33.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ford Foundation</td>
<td>$ 313,012.83</td>
<td>15.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Freedom House Inc</td>
<td>$ 91,954.64</td>
<td>4.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)</td>
<td>$ 199,194.61</td>
<td>10.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Delegation of the European Union to India-EIDHR</td>
<td>$ 156,165.08</td>
<td>7.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>CIVICUS</td>
<td>$ 182,265.36</td>
<td>9.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tides Center</td>
<td>$ 293,088.35</td>
<td>14.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Other Donors</td>
<td>$ 22,203.63</td>
<td>1.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Organisational Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>$ 102.43</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>$ 4,175.71</td>
<td>0.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>$ 40,903.85</td>
<td>2.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$ 1,972,353.21</td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2. Organisational Expenses per Programme for January – December 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>Expenses Jan-Dec 2017</th>
<th>% of Programme Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Operating Cost</td>
<td>$ 629,532.55</td>
<td>24.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>PME Programme</td>
<td>$ 134,016.62</td>
<td>5.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CM Programme</td>
<td>$ 120,188.34</td>
<td>4.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>South Asia Programme</td>
<td>$ 85,447.75</td>
<td>3.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>East Asia Programme</td>
<td>$ 182,356.43</td>
<td>6.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>UN Advocacy Programme</td>
<td>$ 339,209.20</td>
<td>12.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>HRD Programme</td>
<td>$ 309,620.54</td>
<td>11.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>ASEAN Advocacy Programme</td>
<td>$ 204,117.13</td>
<td>7.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>NHRI Programme</td>
<td>$ 95,830.33</td>
<td>3.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Senior Management Team</td>
<td>$ 74,225.72</td>
<td>2.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>AlNNI Programme</td>
<td>$ 160,780.37</td>
<td>6.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Innovation for Change</td>
<td>$ 279,161.77</td>
<td>10.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 2,614,486.75</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3. Balance of funds as on 31 December 2017

- **Opening balance on 1 January 2017**: $ 1,583,437.00
- **Income 2017**: $ 1,972,353.21
- **Less : Expenses 2017**: $(2,614,486.75)
- **Currency conversion adjustment**: $ 133,827.75
- **Balance as on 31 December 2017**: $ 1,075,131.21
FORUM–ASIA
Executive Committee (2016–2018)

Chairperson

Dr. Urantsooj Gombosuren
Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD), Mongolia

Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Adilur Rahman Khan
Odhikar, Bangladesh

Treasurer

Rose Trajano
Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA), the Philippines

Executive Committee Members

Dr. Adrian Heok
Think Centre, Singapore

Rafendi Djamin
Human Rights Working Group (HRWG), Indonesia

Ruki Fernando
INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre, Sri Lanka

Sadia Hussain
Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), Pakistan
FORUM–ASIA Staff and Interns in 2017

John Samuel - Executive Director
Betty Yolanda - Director
Mukunda Kattel - Director
**
Agantaranansa Juanda - National Human Rights Institutions Advocacy Programme Officer
Ahmed Adam - UN Advocacy Programme Officer
Angkana Krabuansaeng - Administration Officer
Anjuman Ara Begum - South Asia Programme Officer
Annouchka Wijesinghe - UN Advocacy Programme Intern
Ashrusha Mainali - Human Rights Defenders Programme Intern
Asif Khan - Admin Associate (IT Support)
Atnike Nova Sigiro - East Asia and ASEAN Programme Manager
Benny Agus Prima - Human Rights Defenders Programme Associate
Camilla Caron - Human Rights Defenders Programme Intern
Cecile Gaa - Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Programme Officer
Chutamas Wangkion - Administration Manager
Cindy Kartika - Admin Associate
Cornelius Damar Hanung - East Asia and ASEAN Programme Associate
Daisy Khamphakdy - Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Programme Officer
Daywin Prayogo - East Asia and ASEAN Programme Associate
Devandy Ario Putro - Communication and Media Programme Intern
Emile Kinley-Gauthier - UN Advocacy Programme Intern
Joseph Sycip - Administrative and Finance Officer
Kusuma Premchayaphak - Finance Officer
Lorenzo Urbinati - New Initiative and Partnership Development Programme Officer
Marte Hellema - Communication and Media Programme Manager
Masataka (Matt) Furuta - East Asia and ASEAN Programme Intern
Milanga Abeyesuriya - Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Programme Intern
Nicholas Paul Bull - Human Rights Defenders Programme Officer
Osama Motiwala - Communication and Media Programme Associate
Panadda Prakamakul - Finance Associate
Phasuk Riantub - Finance and Donor Reporting Officer
Pimsiri Petchnamrob - East Asia and ASEAN Programme Officer
Shivani Vaishnava - South Asia Programme Intern
R. Iniyan Ilango - UN Advocacy Programme Manager
Rachel Arinii Judhistari - East Asia and ASEAN Programme Manager
Rackchart Wong-Artichart - Communication and Media Programme Intern
Rosanna Ocampo - UN Advocacy Programme Officer
Samia Islam - UN Advocacy Programme Fellow
Sejin Kim - Human Rights Defenders Senior Programme Officer
Shanna Ramadhanti - ANNI Fellow
Suleeporn Permprasertsuk - Finance Manager
Tawan Rattanaprapaporn - East Asia and ASEAN Programme Associate
Wichai Prabpaln - Senior Finance Officer
Wipada Panichapathom - UN Advocacy Programme Associate
Yashasavi Datta - South Asia Programme Intern
Yin Yadanar Thein - UN Advocacy Programme Intern
Partners in 2017

行动

All India Network of NGOs and Individuals working with National and State Human Rights Institutions
Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma
Amnesty International
Article 19
ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
ASEAN Disability Forum
ASEAN SOGIE Caucus
Asia Centre
Asia Democracy Network
Asia Development Alliance
Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network
Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances
Asian Legal Resource Centre
Asian Network for Free Elections
Association of Progressive Communications
Association Suisse Birmanie
Boat People SOS
Brigham Young University
Burmesse Rohingya
Organisation UK
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
Cambodian Center for Human Rights
Center for Alliance of Labor and Human Rights
Centre for Applied Human Rights, Centre for Applied Human Rights, University of York
Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria
Centre for Social Justice
Child Rights Coalition Asia
Christian Solidarity Worldwide
CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Civil Rights Defenders
Coalition for Clean and Free Elections, Bersih
Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
Conectas Direitos Humanos
DefendDefenders (The East & Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project)
East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project
Earth Rights International
Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network
Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders
European Union Delegation to Thailand
Focus on the Global South
Fortify Rights
Franciscans International
Freedom House
Front Line Defenders
Generation Peace Youth Network
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
Global Partners Digital
Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor
Human Rights Defenders Alert-India
Human Rights Defenders Forum Myanmar
Human Rights NGOs Forum Mongolia
Human Rights Watch
HURIDOCS
In Defense of Human Rights and Dignity Movement (IDEFEND)
Innovation for Change
Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy
International Commission of Jurists
International Federation for Human Rights
International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association
International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism
International Service for Human Rights
Internews
Internet Dialogue on Law Reform
Joint Movement for NHRI and Optional Protocols
Just Associates
May 18 Memorial Foundation
Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders
Medical Action Group
Migrant Forum in Asia
NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court
Nirantar
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Open Society Forum Mongolia
Open Society Institute
Oyu Tolgoi Watch
Partnership for Justice, Nigeria
Peace Brigades International
Progressive Voice (former Burma Partnership)
ProtectDefenders.eu
Protection International
Reporters without Borders
Restless Development India
Right Livelihood Award
Solidarity for ASEAN People’s Advocacies (SAPA) Task Force on ASEAN and Human Rights
Southeast Asian Committee for Advocacy
Southeast Asian Press Alliance
Southern Peasants’ Federation of Thailand
Task Force on ASEAN Migrant Workers
Thai Lawyers for Human Rights
The Sombath Initiative
The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children
Timor Leste Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation
Transparency International
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
United Nations Population Fund
UPR Info
Urgent Action Fund for Women’s Human Rights
Women’s Aid Organisation
Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition
World Organisation Against Torture
and others
Donors

FORUM–ASIA would like to thank the following donors for their generous support in 2017:

This publication has been made possible with the generous support of the European Union.

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of FORUM–ASIA and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACSC</td>
<td>ASEAN Civil Society Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACWC</td>
<td>ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AICHR</td>
<td>ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNI</td>
<td>Asian NGO Network on National Human Rights Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APC</td>
<td>Association for Progressive Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APF</td>
<td>ASEAN People’s Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APF</td>
<td>Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4A</td>
<td>Bytes for All, Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPSOS</td>
<td>Boat People SOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHR</td>
<td>Commission on Human Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRD</td>
<td>Center for Human Rights and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM Programme</td>
<td>Communication and Media Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSW</td>
<td>Christian Solidarity Worldwide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECOSOC</td>
<td>United Nations Economic and Social Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIDHR</td>
<td>European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCCT</td>
<td>Foreign Correspondence Club of Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCRA</td>
<td>Foreign Contribution Regulation Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORUM-ASIA</td>
<td>Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GI</td>
<td>Globe International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPD</td>
<td>Global Partners Digital</td>
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<tr>
<td>HRD</td>
<td>Human Rights Defender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRWG</td>
<td>Human Rights Working Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICJ</td>
<td>International Commission of Jurists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT Act</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technology Act</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INGO</td>
<td>International Non Governmental Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LST</td>
<td>Law and Society Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHRC</td>
<td>National Human Rights Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHRCK</td>
<td>National Human Rights Commission of Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHRI</td>
<td>National Human Rights Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAHRA</td>
<td>Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PME</td>
<td>Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RISHARM</td>
<td>Regional Initiative for a South Asian Human Rights Mechanism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAARC</td>
<td>South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SABJ</td>
<td>South Asia Judicial Barometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCA</td>
<td>Sub-Committee on Accreditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sida</td>
<td>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPARC</td>
<td>Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAHR</td>
<td>Taiwan Association for Human Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TFAMW</td>
<td>Task Force on ASEAN Migrant Workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDHR</td>
<td>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHRC</td>
<td>United Nations Human Rights Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSR on HRDs</td>
<td>United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPR</td>
<td>Universal Periodic Review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vision
To build peaceful, just, gender-equal, equitable and sustainable societies in Asia where all human rights of all individuals, groups, and peoples without discrimination on any grounds, are fully realised in accordance with international human rights standards and norms.

Mission
To strengthen the human rights movement in Asia through capacity building of human rights defenders and civil society organisations, coalition building with like-minded organisations, solidarity actions and evidence-based advocacy at various levels.