

Building the Capacities of Indigenous Peoples in Asia

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

THE ASIA INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PACT (AIPP) is a regional organization of Indigenous Peoples in Asia that visualizes and amplifies the voices and concerns of Indigenous Peoples and their intersectional groups such as Indigenous elderly, Indigenous youth, Indigenous Women, and Indigenous persons/women with disabilities (IPwDs/IWwDs) for the recognition of their collective and inherent rights at all levels.

It was founded in 1992 by the strong movements of Indigenous Peoples in Asia. Since then, it has been constantly supporting Indigenous Peoples for their rights, distinct cultures and identities, self-determination, recognition; in addition to living with peace, justice, and dignity in Asia.

AIPP has been continuously supporting and collaborating with Indigenous Peoples and the intersectional groups in their struggles and movements for enhancing the sustainable management systems of lands, territories, and resources for own future and development in an environment of peace, justice, and equality.

As of 2024, AIPP has forty-seven members from fourteen countries in Asia with seven indigenous peoples' national alliances/networks and thirty-five local and sub-national organizations including sixteen ethnic-based organizations, five indigenous women and four indigenous youth organizations.

In recent years, the issue of intersectionality within indigeneity such as gender, youth, disability, LGBTQI+ has become more visible and movements to mainstream this issue and the concerns involved have started as well. AIPP, along with its members, partners, and allies join forces with people, organizations and networks who share the same feelings and belief on the intersectionality issue to empower Indigenous Peoples and their communities to build better lives, well-being, and livelihood.

Additionally, AIPP seeks to build the broadest solidarity and cooperation with other Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations and social movements to strengthen and amplify the Indigenous and other movements towards achieving equality, peace, democracy, and justice. AIPP also seeks

to promote and protect the integrity and harmony of the environment and nature, and enhance the sustainable resource management systems. AIPP's work is grounded and functions at broader levels (local/national to regional and global levels); working with decision-makers, governments, United Nations (UN) agencies and corporations, to be able to speak out on bigger issues that pervade Indigenous communities.

Through the years, AIPP has developed its expertise on grassroots capacity-building, advocacy and networking from local to global levels and strengthening partnerships with indigenous organizations, support non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies and other institutions.

Vision

AIPP has adopted the following vision:

Indigenous Peoples in Asia are living with dignity and fully exercising their rights, distinct cultures and identity, and enhancing their sustainable management systems on lands, territories and resources for their own future and development in an environment of peace, justice and equality.

Mission

It has the following mission:

AIPP strengthens the solidarity, cooperation and capacities of indigenous peoples in Asia to promote and protect their rights, cultures and identities, and their sustainable resource management system for their development and self-determination.

Core Values

AIPP's vision steers it in the right direction, while its core values and principles provide guidance in shaping the organization. AIPP including its Executive Committee, board and secretariat need to realize the mandate and vision of AIPP including its core values and principles that shape the

concrete political and strategic guide and support to the member-organizations. AIPP has the core values of

- Self Determination
- Foundational Leadership
- Volunteerism/Voluntary Transition
- Co-responsibility and
- Reconciliation.

Programs

The main areas of work of AIPP in its programs are information dissemination, awareness-raising, capacity-building, advocacy and networking from local to global.

There are programs for the following concerns:

- Communication
- Environment
- Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy
- Indigenous Women
- Organizational Strengthening and Movement Building
- Regional Capacity-building.

AIPP is accredited as an NGO in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and as observer organization with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). AIPP is a member of the International Land Coalition (ILC).

AIPP Objectives

AIPP has defined its objectives in the form of four strategic goals:

Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4
Strengthen governance and build co-responsibility among AIPP’s Executive Council (EC), member organizations (MOs) and networks for securing their rights and to create impacts at local and country levels.	Expand and build the capacity of the AIPP networks for greater outreach and integrated leadership with necessary skills.	Support AIPP’s MOs and networks in localizing SDGs, right-based conservation, FPIC (free, prior, and informed consent), and related capacity-building modules in their respective contexts.	Promote a culture of research and innovation to take new initiatives and approaches.
Focus on revival of Indigenous values, practices and principles of customary institutions and governance systems for a sustained advocacy and impact at all levels.	Create new channel of partnerships to expand networks of donors, knowledge & advocacy partners at all levels.	Expand and strengthen AIPP’s foundational and integrated leadership in realizing its organizational mandate and vision.	Build institutional and human capacity, and framework for catalyzing actions, communication, monitoring results and measuring impacts.
Focus on Indigenous knowledge for co-creation and documentation around bio-cultural landscapes including Indigenous food systems, natural resource management, biodiversity, and climate change with that of global best practices at all levels to create impacts.		Enhance Indigenous Women, youth and IPwDs engagement in the local and country level processes and actions and at decision-making level for building an integrated Indigenous movement and distributed leadership.	

Under Strategic Goal 1, AIPP implements training on Indigenous Peoples’ rights to self-determination and government focusing on Indigenous governance system, training module development including localizations in selected countries (Bangladesh, Malaysia, Nepal, and Northeast India), regional training on Indigenous self-government and democracy.

AIPP carries out research and produces advocacy materials, policy briefing papers, campaign materials and localization of these advocacy materials. In terms of institutional strengthening, AIPP supports its members and networks in strengthening leadership and policy development, direct involvement of AIPP Executive Council (EC) in the country consultations and

monitoring in addition to regular AIPP EC Meetings, AIPP Board Members meetings, organizational policy development and amendment.

AIPP implements Goal 2 through the expansion of outreach and networking, strengthening AIPP's networks, and supporting civil society organizations (CSOs) and private sectors such as through dialogue with private sectors on business and human rights at the regional and global levels. Furthermore, AIPP engages the Indigenous media by strengthening their media networks, media fellowship, and outreach through media engagements.

Under Goal 3, AIPP supports Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders (IPHRDs) and Indigenous leaders to effectively engage and influence the human rights mechanisms at the regional and global levels by consolidating common advocacy strategy and strengthening the engagement with national human rights institutions (Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines), and engaging with the UN mechanisms. The documentation and evidence generation on human rights violation cases, the support for court cases and follow-up of complaints in collaboration with IPHRDs have been continuous in 2022 as well. Furthermore, capacity-building for indigenous Peoples leaders and IPHRDs especially focusing on Indigenous Women and youth leaders are meant to strengthen Indigenous Women's leadership in doing advocacy work at national and regional levels. AIPP continues to support Indigenous Women in the dialogues with national and international experts and members of human rights mechanisms.

Under Goal 4, AIPP engages in research and innovation in all its programs by conducting specific research on Indigenous Women's role in governance system, analyzing civic space and producing innovative approaches in engaging in the democratization process, redefining traditional justice system and Indigenous values and principles, and overall reflection of Indigenous leaders and movement-building in the region. Further, AIPP highly prioritizes the enhancement of monitoring and learning with all its partners and member-organizations, and reflection and assessment to improve engagement of Indigenous Peoples in Asia. AIPP also amplifies and improves the gender mainstreaming in all AIPP engagements and the strengthening of adoption of good practices on institutional development, staff capacity development, and setting clarity on vision, mission and mandates.

Key Programs and Associated Networks

AIPP has six programs and corresponding regional networks directly under the regional secretariat. AIPP’s member-organizations and partners jointly implement the project interventions, advocacy and lobbying, capacity-building, research documentation and policy dialogues under these programs and networks.

Programs		Networks
1.	Indigenous Women Program	Network of Indigenous Women in Asia (NIWA)
2.	Environment Program	Indigenous Knowledge and Peoples of Asia (IKPA)
3.	Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy (HRCPA) Program	Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders Network (IPHRD)
4.	Regional Capacity Building (RCB) Program	Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP)
5.	Organizational Strengthening and Movement Building (OSMB)	AIPP Executive Committee members and networks
6.	Communication Program	Indigenous Voices in Asia Network (IVAN)

Capacity-building

AIPP organizes regional training activities for its member-organizations. The training activities cover different categories including Indigenous Peoples’ human rights defenders, Indigenous Women, youth leaders, etc.

Training for IPHRD focal organizations

In 2022, the focus of AIPP was capacity-building particularly strengthening the IPHRD focal organizations in the areas of project management, financial management, advocacy at the national and international levels, specifically on the use of existing mechanisms and instruments. The regional exchange of IPHRDs was reflected on the lessons learned and charting ways forward. The particular emphasis was also given on streamlining the agenda of Indigenous Women and Indigenous Peoples with Disabilities and other intersectional groups. Also, HRCPA continued to work on streamlining the capacity-building initiative of the partners at the country level. HRCPA program along with the IPHRD focal organizations localized the training modules to train and build a strong and grounded leadership who would lead the movement building and advocacy at all levels and creating an impact on the

ground. The partners in the Philippines, Nepal, and Bangladesh have drafted the localized training module and others have targeted theirs for 2023.

AIPP, together with Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS) and Partners of Community Organizations (PACOS), co-hosted a regional learning exchange/workshop for IPHRDs (16 - 20 June 2022) in Sabah, Malaysia. A total of fifty-two Indigenous Peoples (twenty-three females and twenty-nine males) including Person with Disabilities (1); Youth (1), one representative each from IKPA, IVAN and NIWA from ten countries actively participated throughout the event. Also, the EIDHR fund supported the participation of thirty-two IPHRDs (sixteen females and sixteen males) in the 3rd Regional Consultation on Indigenous Data Sovereignty Framework in Asia (22-23 June 2022) in Chiang Mai, Thailand representing eight countries (namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, and Vietnam) for the development of the IKDS.

As part of capacity-building, the Indigenous Navigator coordination meeting (28 March 2022) was held with the steering committee members, consortium partners, and national partners. Likewise, the workshop “Strengthening Customary Tenure Advocacy Initiatives in AIPP Network CSOs and MRLG CT Alliance” was organized (27-30 May 2022) at Bangkok in hybrid mode with a total thirty (twenty-six females and four males) from nine countries. Similar event on “Indigenous Women in Mekong Regional Exchange: Unpacking Indigenous Women’s Roles in Customary Forest Tenure and Water Governance” was organized jointly with MRLG, Oxfam-Mekong-Inclusion Project, SIDA, NIWA, IVAN on 6-8 April 2022, which was participated by thirty Indigenous Peoples (twenty-three females and seven males) from nine countries, member of Steering Committee of NIWA, Media, MRLG Regional Alliance, Donors, and stakeholders.

AIPP hosted a briefing session (virtual) on “Enhancing the Participation of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations” on 21 October 2022 at Bangkok with a total of twenty-four participants from Bangladesh, India, Cambodia, Philippines, Malaysia, and Nepal. Mr. Binota Moy Dhamai, the EMRIP Chair provided information on Enhanced Participation of Indigenous Peoples in the UN Human Rights Council. In addition, HRCPA program conducted a session on FPIC and Indigenous Peoples focusing on more effective and inclusive climate action through climate justice for young people (28 October 2022) at the UNDP building in Bangkok in collaboration of RCB program and

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with twenty Indigenous and Non-Indigenous youths from Asia and the Pacific participating.

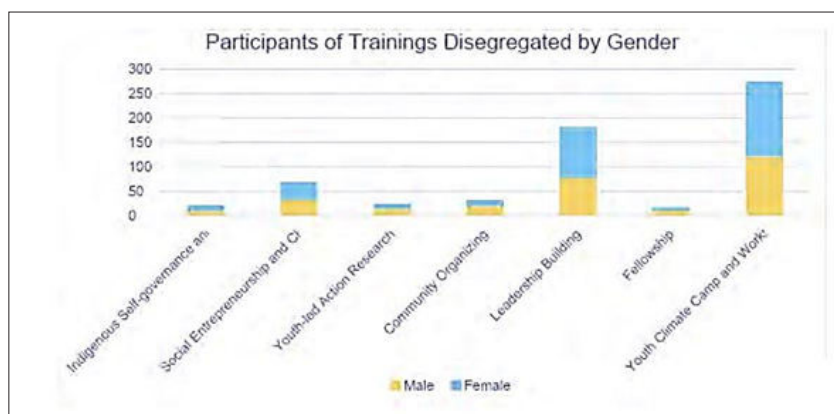
Focusing on IPHRDs networking, AIPP organized six online workshops and mentoring meetings for IPHRD focal organizations in five countries, namely, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, the Philippines, and Thailand under the support of the Samdhana Institute (TSI). A total of ten representatives (three females and seven males) of the IPHRD organizations participated in these workshops and built up their capacities in human rights documentation, data generation, submissions, fact-finding mission, advocacy tools, campaigns, and enhanced participation in advocacy events. Moreover, the partners also arranged capacity-building workshops/meetings for the IPHRDs of the respective countries for ensuring the participation of Indigenous youths and women.

On 19 October 2022, IWGIA organized a global webinar to introduce the Indigenous Navigator's Global Portal, which was participated by AIPP and its country partners. The webinar was designed to go through the portal and website of the Indigenous Navigator, including the methodology for the national and community surveys. Apart from the webinar, AIPP organized two online consultation workshops with six country partners and five consultation meetings with IWGIA to introduce the new phase of the Indigenous Navigator project.

In addition, AIPP and Diplomacy Training Programme (DTP) successfully organized a special capacity-building program on Diplomatic Outreach on Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) (five weeks of online sessions with two hours per week) from 10 November to 1 December 2022. This training aimed to enable human rights defenders in advocating Indigenous Peoples' rights in Asia Pacific engaging with the diplomats and policy makers in the countries. It included the content of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), lobbying skills, short simulation, and engagement with the diplomats. Altogether ten participants (four females and six males) were trained by the lead facilitator Bill Barker (retired Australian diplomat and trainer at DTP), Clare Sidoti and Anna Nettheim from STP, and Frederic Wilson from AIPP.

Capacity Leadership Strengthening

Indigenous youth strengthened their capacity regarding self-governance, social entrepreneurship, climate action, youth-led action research, community organizing and leadership. A total of twenty-one Indigenous youth and leaders are now engaged in work at the country level after they had been trained on Indigenous Self-governance and Democracy. A total of sixty-nine Indigenous youth received training on social entrepreneurship and climate change, and they are now engaged in work with social entrepreneurship and environment and climate issue. A total of two hundred fifty-two Indigenous youth strengthened their foundational leadership skills through community organizing, leadership training and fellowship program and they are now engaged in their member-organization and at the community levels. The genders of training participants are illustrated in the figure below:



Community Organizing and Leadership Building

PACOS Trust, the member and partner in Malaysia, organized community organizing training of trainers and provincial training in Sabah with a total of thirty-two Indigenous youth (nineteen males and thirteen females), which is an ongoing activity since October 2021. The training focused on strengthening the knowledge and skills of the youth on the historical background of the community/Indigenous group, core values of Indigenous Peoples including culture and governance system including livelihood and way of life, Indigenous land, territories, resources, Indigenous Women in the way of women empowerment, contemporary challenges, and future vision.

The thirty-two community organizers conducted community awareness sessions at community level particularly focusing on Kg. Somodon Tamparuli, Kg. Wangkod Tamparuli, Kg. Timbou Tamparuli, Kg. Lapasan Tenghilan, and Kg. Tinuhan Tenghilan. A total of three hundred ninety-four people from the five communities were able to understand and gain knowledge on land, territories, resources, culture, values and livelihood, their current issues and future vision to protect the resources and their identities.

Indigenous Peoples' Self-governance and Democracy

The training workshop on Indigenous Peoples' self-governance and democracy (19-23 February 2022) was successful and most of the participants were asked to draw up an assessment of Indigenous Peoples' situations regarding their rights and implementation of these rights with a focus on the relationship with public authority and express their vision about concept of self-determination. The participants exposed their vision, better understanding of their communities (youth, elders), and described their action to strengthen the achievements and explained how they were envisioning the future in terms of action. It was a great experience and opportunity to learn from each other and build a collective reflection based on their stories and experiences.

The second course was held from 19 to 28 October 2022 physically and gathered Indigenous Peoples from different communities such as Karen, Kroeng, Jarai, Chong, and Naga from Cambodia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand. The event was designed to provide a broad and thorough understanding of Indigenous Peoples' self-determination and self-governance to overcome structural discrimination and disadvantages in order to exercise their inherent right to autonomy. The content of the course included:

- Indigenous Peoples and self-determination
- Sovereignty, nations, and nation state
- Democracy in diversity: Federalism and autonomy
- Realizing autonomy: Things to be considered
- Indigenous self-government: Criteria for success
- The need for critical reflection: Four key issues
- Identifying grounding values and guiding principles of Indigenous self-government

- Decolonized self-government: Grounding values and guiding principles
- The statute of the Wampis Nation
- Deepening understanding
- Studying cases
- Concluding discussions and planning the next steps.

In addition, the participants learned the common aspects and struggles that they shared with other Indigenous communities, together with the main concepts regarding self-governance and autonomy. So, in general terms, participants learned to critically reflect on the state-of-affairs regarding self-determination and self-government among their own people, how to change existing non-adequate governance systems, to take stock of what is left, to explore the different options that Indigenous Peoples must do to establish a suitable governance system within their communities, different ways to decolonize governmental structures in Indigenous Peoples communities, how to inspire creativity and think of new ways of governance, the necessity of reinstalling Indigenous values in governance, and to acquire flexible ideas about governance.

Overall, participants recognized the importance of the course that reached Indigenous Peoples and leaders at all levels. They also expressed their determination to bring the acquired knowledge to their own communities, and to focus on implementing customary practices to strengthen a traditional self-government system. It is relevant to mention as well that participants were thankful that the understanding of the concepts and different experiences was done in person with other fellow participants.

Culture and Language Promotion

Indigenous Peoples are a unique community in the world with their distinct language, culture, values, livelihood and way of life. Promoting and protecting the Indigenous language is a priority area for the program. Hence, jointly with HRCPA program, it led the celebration of International Indigenous Language Day, which was attended by a total of sixty participants (virtually). The Secretary-General of AIPP spoke on the importance of protecting Indigenous Language in the light of Indigenous Peoples' self-determination/

inter-connectivity between Indigenous Language and self-determination. A professor from Delhi University spoke on scope and opportunity to advocate for Indigenous Language at global, regional, and national levels and Mr. Mathura Bikash Tripura, National Awardee for the contribution to mother tongue-based education spoke on Bangladesh Government's initiatives to protect the Indigenous Language. Likewise, Ms. Su Suriyamonton, Country Representative Thailand, Pestalozzi Children's Foundation, talked on the present situation of Indigenous language in Thailand. A statement was read by Mr. Dharmodip Basummatary on the occasion which was later shared on AIPA's website. A summary of a book about Indigenous Languages in Asia has been presented by Mr. Shohel Chandra Hajong and launched it during the event.

The 6th Tharu National Literature Festival 2022 was organized in Nepal to protect and preserve the language, culture, tradition, and indigenous knowledge. More than two hundred Tharu Indigenous Peoples attended the festival. They shared their ideas on how their culture, language, traditions, values, and knowledge could be protected.

Indigenous Youth in Research, Documentation, and Policy Development

The youth-led research work was introduced as a new initiative to enhance the skill and knowledge of youths on research work and documentation. As a result, youth had engaged and led some research in 2022 such as research on video documentation for fundraising for youth issues in collaboration with IWGIA, IMPECT and PACOS trust. The youth in Nepal and Northeast India, who participated in the Indigenous Peoples self-governance and democracy training carried out case studies on the same topics and published them. A similar study was done in Bangladesh. The youth in Northeast India documented good practices of traditional knowledge and Mukkuva community in the South India made a video documentary on customary rights and Indigenous Language. The youth in the Philippines particularly the youth artists and cultural workers used art to document the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. Documentation on the present situation (health, economic, social) of Indigenous Tharu people living near the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve area in Nepal was prepared and circulated widely. Also, documentation on the impact of Salween Dam project on Indigenous youths, and the

coping strategies of Indigenous youth was prepared and distributed among Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups.

The Indigenous Youth and Leaders are central focus for building leadership for the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Asia and strengthening the capacity of its member-organizations and networks. It is also a priority to smoothly accelerate and implement the country level plan. The Regional Capacity-building (RCB) program annexed research, documentation, and policy development as a part of leadership-building and enhancing the knowledge of Indigenous youth and leaders on research and documentation and enhancing the capacity of its member-organizations and networks.



Ms. Chandra Tripura, women youth leader, sharing her experience about youth-led action research

Strengthening Indigenous Youth and Person with Disability Organizations

One of the mandates for the RCB program is to provide support to youth organizations and member-organizations to develop organizational policies, strategic plans and leadership-building at the institutional levels. The RCB program provided support to nine youth and member-organizations for leadership, institutional and knowledge development in 2022 which remarkably contributed to the institutional capacity development of member-organizations and skill and knowledge development for Indigenous Youths and communities.

Regional Events of Indigenous Youths

The Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP) Annual Conference (11 to 12 November 2022) was held with sixty-nine Indigenous youth coming from different Indigenous communities across eleven countries in Asia – Bangladesh, Cambodia, India (Northeast and Mainland), Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam. As an outcome, the new AIYP Strategic Plan, Articles of Governance, and Council Members were adopted for the upcoming period of 2022-2025.

Also, the Regional Dialogue on Indigenous Youth on Social Entrepreneurship (14 to 16 November 2022) was held back-to-back in Chiang Mai with training on climate change with forty-five Indigenous youth coming from the same eleven countries. The participants learnt the fundamental aspects of social entrepreneurship, shared their stories and experiences, and elaborated pitch presentations to present their ideas for social enterprises to earn new partners and potential investors.

The Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP) Indigenous Peoples training was held at the same time with twenty Indigenous youth from the Asia Pacific, which focused at expanding the environmental and climate knowledge of the Indigenous youth as well as sharing their mutual insights and ways to combat the effects of climate change and environmental degradation. All the participants were part of different organizations and groups working on the promotion of Indigenous rights. In addition, the participants gained strategic knowledge of climate change issues, basic ways to counter the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, and how to better protect Indigenous lands and Indigenous rights.

The Peace Regional Training on Story Collection, Youth Participatory Action Research, & Youth Exchange (3 to 5 October 2022) were organized in Bangkok with twenty-four participants from the same eleven countries. Among others, youth from Indigenous communities such as Kinh (Vietnam), Thami (Nepal), Assam (India), Kerala (India), Khmu (Laos), Arakan (Myanmar), Chakma (Bangladesh), Tripura (Bangladesh), Tou Mu'ung (Indonesia), Wanua Matungkas (Indonesia), Karen (Thailand), Dara-Ang (Thailand), Kui (Cambodia), and Dusun (Malaysia) participated in the event. Most of the participants joined in affiliation with organizations and universities. It was an on-site training that gathered Indigenous

youth from different Indigenous communities of Asia. The training was designed to revitalize, explore and protect Indigenous culture through youth empowerment and promotion of intergenerational dialogue in the process of elaborating a research project. In the context of mass extinction of language and traditional heritage, the training was focused on cultural protection of Indigenous communities through the implementation of traditional knowledge in processes of peacebuilding, enhancing gender equality, and sustainable development.

The training empowered the Indigenous youth to promote peace, sustainability, and gender equality by collecting stories, guarding traditions, and encouraging intergenerational dialogue. The fundamental pillars of the training were to learn, explore, and create. In this sense, the main outputs of the event were to digitalize stories in Indigenous languages, setting the



Declaration of AIYP Council Members (2022-2025) during the second youth conference.



2nd regional youth conference



First consultation meeting with Myanmar youth, Bangkok, 2-4 July 2023.



Thai indigenous youth with IWGIA and OD Denmark research team.



Participants in Indigenous self-governance meeting in the front of Lanu Indigenous governance center.



Indigenous youth learning how to protect the forest in their territories from fire.



Celebration of the International Mother Language Day, 2023.

focus on how young Indigenous Peoples want to present such stories. The training was organized by the AIPP in collaboration with UNESCO, the Asia Foundation, AIYP, MISEREOR, and the Embassy of Japan.

Fellowship and Internship Program

Fellowship is an important intervention that the RCB program provides to AIPP members and partners to support the overall work of the secretariat, its six programs and members/partners. The fellows and interns supported the heavy workload of the secretariat in specialized areas, including the program and administrative work. In most cases, they assisted in taking meeting notes and preparing reports of regional events and helping members on project implementation since staff were too pre-occupied with coordination

and campaign and advocacy work. In 2022, the RCB program assisted the AIPP secretariat and member-organizations' work with following number of fellows and interns:

- A fellow strengthened the capacity of NIDWAN and NIWA on customary tenure advocacy in Nepal;
- Two interns assisted BIPF in strengthening its work and movement-building in Bangladesh;
- Two fellows strengthened media work of Indigenous Peoples by publishing news in the Indigenous Peoples and national media in Bangladesh and Thailand;
- A fellow led the preparation of the CIPF Bill in the parliament and worked on the strategy development on land rights and Indigenous Peoples in Thailand;
- A ground zero fellow worked to mobilize the communities of Bang Kloy village and other communities located in Kae Krachan National Park to protect their land in Thailand;
- A fellow helped to strengthen the work of Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Alliance (CIPA) and movement building in Cambodia;
- Three Indigenous youths worked to strengthen the work of AIYP especially in organizing the 2nd regional youth conference, training on climate change and social entrepreneurship;
- A fellow helped the members in coordination and reporting with AIPP and other works in Mainland India;
- Four interns from Chiang Mai University and Copenhagen University supported the work on different programs of AIPP and IMPECT;
- A fellow engaged to develop a module on Indigenous youth leadership summit/youth leadership camp.

Advocacy, Community Mobilization and Movement Building in Asia

Five Indigenous youths attended the United Nations on Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) conference in Bali, Indonesia. The youths spoke on the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and how this knowledge can help mitigate and control the risk of natural disaster during the event. They learned about disaster issues, mitigation tools and techniques from

other speakers who came from different countries. The Indigenous youths also presented the youth-led video documentation to bring awareness on Indigenous issues and their challenges to all that attended the conference.

An Indigenous youth from AIYP strengthened the knowledge and capacity on climate change and SDG 13 by attending Stockholm + 50 in Sweden and shared the work of the platform with different stakeholders. Also, one hundred ten youth-led activities and Indigenous Peoples' issues have been shared in the AIYP Facebook page to bring awareness of issues and challenges to Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous youth.

Responses from the Training Participants

Participants in AIPP training programs are asked to assess their participation in the training activities. Below are the thoughts of two participants:

I, Ms. Sabba Rani Maharjan, belong to the Newa Indigenous community of Kathmandu Valley. I got the opportunity to work as an Indigenous Youth activist for Indigenous issues and justice at the national, regional and global levels through Asia Indigenous Youth Platform. I am now an Executive Council Member of the Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP) and the Youth Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, Federal Council Nepal (YFIN). Additionally, I am the South Asia Focal person of Asia Young Indigenous Peoples Network (AYIPN). Recently I attended the 23rd session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) with support from AIPP. I read out a statement on behalf of Asia Indigenous Youth Caucus, outlining crucial recommendations made by Indigenous youth. Furthermore, I am the Indigenous Advisory Board Member of Global Green Grants Fund (GGF), through which I now directly recommend funds to Indigenous Youth-led organizations. In the realm of climate justice, I am chosen as an Indigenous Fellow at the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP), where I organized numerous climate-related activities across Asia. I am grateful to AIPP for building me as a youth Indigenous activist for the advocacy works on the Indigenous issues at the national, regional and global levels.

“The best experience for me was the project ‘Fight with the Climate Indigenous Youth Protectors’ which was meant to share with others our opinions and be able to learn together about ways to produce good videos and pictures. In addition, gathering

materials in making the video was also a new experience for me. Next, I met new friends from various ethnic groups throughout the District in Sabah. I'm looking forward to our Ulu Papar Group making our own short video recording on herbs and the use of the herbs. [This will] show to others that the villages in the Ulu Papar area are rich in biodiversity and knowledge like our traditional medicine. I hope that this project can help us to be confident in defending our rights as indigenous people so that we are not oppressed by the construction of projects like the Kaiduan Dam." (Miss Anna Babra Bonis)

Challenges and Areas for Improvement

The activities of AIPP faced a number of challenges which impact on its human rights education work. The challenges consist of the following:

- A vast majority of Indigenous Peoples have lost control over their land and resources, as well as their own development, due to “development projects” and measures in the name of protecting or conserving areas and cultural heritage;
- Little progress in the peace negotiations in Northeast India and the Philippines, while the peace process was stalled in Myanmar due to military coup;
- Strong resistance against or improper treatment of recognized rights of Indigenous Peoples in several countries, and improper implementation of agreements such as Chittagong Hill Tract Peace Accord in Bangladesh;
- High poverty rate of Indigenous Peoples in all countries in Asia;
- Rule of law is often not upheld, and opposition and public dissent are often met with state violence.

AIPP recognizes the need for improvement in some aspects of its work including:

- Coordination and networking with partners, donors and UN agencies
- Fund raising
- Bridging the gap in cooperation and understanding between the Indigenous youths and Indigenous elderly leaders

- Quick response in cases of human rights violations and land grabbing.

AIYP plans future capacity-building programs to focus on

- self-determination and Indigenous Peoples self-governance
- climate action to protect land, territories and resources of Indigenous Peoples
- community organizing and training on foundational leadership
- advocacy at national, regional and global levels
- internship and fellowship
- youth-led research work
- strengthening youth organizations (AIYP and national youth networks)
- legal empowerment training for Indigenous youths in line with UN-DRIP.

Indigenous Training for Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples in Asia believe that “knowledge is power, and education is liberating.” Unfortunately, for indigenous communities, this is not always true. The kind of education offered by the state often has the opposite effect: the indigenous youths are made to feel inferior, to deny their identity, to strive for the adoption of mainstream culture, values, and lifestyles that alienate them from the roots and lead them away from their homes and communities. At the same time, indigenous communities are facing increasingly complex challenges as their land and resources are being encroached upon, their local livelihoods integrated in the national and global market economy, and their self-government institutions undermined by their incorporation into the state’s political-administrative system. Often, the promised benefits of the latter in the form of government services do not reach the remote indigenous communities.

Indigenous communities need an education system that is based on their culture and identity to genuinely empower them to lead a self-determined life. There is also a need to create opportunities for indigenous communities to acquire complementary knowledge and skills offered by mainstream education to cope with the complexity of life in the 21st century.

Indigenous culture and value-based education system can help the indigenous communities strengthen indigenous leadership and liberate indigenous communities from adverse impacts of the mainstream society. AIPP focuses its capacity-building activities of Indigenous leaders including youth, women, Indigenous peoples with disabilities and other intersectional groups to defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Asia.