

FORUM-ASIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



FORUM-ASIA

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development

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Top cover photo:

Display to honour human
rights defenders who have
passed during the 7th Asian
Regional Human Rights
Defenders Forum

Bottom cover photo:

Supporters of Bersih
5 take to the streets in
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in
November

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Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development

Annual Report 2016

For more information about the issues raised or to access documents
referenced in the report, please consult the online edition
(<http://forum-asia.org/AnnualReport2016>)

In Memoriam

Max de Mesa (1944 – 2016)

Max de Mesa exemplified what it means to be a human rights defender, dedicating his life to protecting and promoting human rights in the Philippines, but also across Asia and beyond. He had been battling with illness for some years, and unfortunately his condition worsened over the course of 2016. In September, he was re-admitted to hospital, and sadly succumbed to his illness on Wednesday, 28 September 2016.

We want to express our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones, in particular his wife Dr. Jenny de Mesa and his children Chris and Karl.

Teodoro (Max) M. de Mesa was born on 1 April 1944. He received his elementary and high school education in Manila, the Philippines, after which he studied Philosophy, Theological Studies at the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay City, the Philippines. Max was ordained as a religious missionary priest of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) in 1972.

Max served and worked with many human rights organisations, initiatives, and networks over the decades, particularly with the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA) and the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP), both founding members of FORUM-ASIA. He served as an Adviser to the Executive Committee (EC) of FORUM-ASIA from 2004-2006, and was elected for the first time as a member of the EC from 2006-2009. At the time of his passing, Max was the Chairperson of PAHRA and Treasurer of the EC.

Max will be greatly missed. We will continue to remember his passion, energy, and inspiring dedication to human rights. We have lost his knowledge, experience and insights, but more importantly a colleague, partner, and friend. We hope that his family and loved ones will be consoled, if only a little that he will be remembered by many whom he touched over the course of his life.



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Message from the Chairperson



The year 2016 was remarkable for FORUM-ASIA as it started with the celebration of its 25th anniversary, the 8th General Assembly, and the approval of a new strategic plan which includes: economic, social and cultural rights; business and human rights; and the right to development. These rights are dependent on: the realisation of the rights to freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association; the protection of human rights defenders; and effective national, regional, and international human rights mechanisms.

This year we undertook significant efforts to assess and revise the organisation's policies and management practices, among others through the hiring of a new Executive Director. In addition, FORUM-ASIA accomplished a lot through its different programmes. I am glad to say that all of this helped FORUM-ASIA's member organisations to strengthen their advocacy at the national, regional, and global levels, by building the members' capacities to engage effectively with different stakeholders. FORUM-ASIA made efforts to raise awareness and respond to human rights violations by: conducting trial observation missions and visiting human rights defenders when they were detained; bringing experts and activists to sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC); supporting in organising visits of relevant United Nations Special Rapporteurs to the region; and advocating for strong and effective resolutions of the UNHRC.

FORUM-ASIA and its member organisations have been constantly challenged by systemic human rights violations. Among others caused by: the militarisation of society; impunity of high officials; aggressive invasions by transnational corporations to exploit natural resources; and failure of the judiciary to assure justice. The consequences of climate change continue to deprive millions of people from enjoying their right to adequate standards of living, while shrinking civic space does not allow development to be beneficial for the most disadvantaged communities in Asia.

Against this backdrop, we have to implement stronger advocacy strategies, which need to target the causes of human rights violations created by the mechanisms, systems, and policies in our countries. We need to make more effort to eliminate these causes. This means we need to continuously assess state policies, mechanisms, and systems in how they fulfil their human rights commitments and provide alternatives to get broad support from communities. For this purpose, we need to take the opportunity the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) present. Every SDG is a human right. We are committed to working both on human rights and development in the years to come.

Urantsooj Gombosuren

**Chairperson of FORUM-ASIA and
Chairperson of the Centre for Human Rights
and Development (CHRD), Mongolia**

Message from the Executive Director



Over the last 25 years, FORUM-ASIA has emerged as one of the largest membership based human rights and development organisations in Asia Pacific and the Global South. FORUM-ASIA works both at the grassroots level and the international level. At the grassroots level, it facilitates the capacity building of human rights defenders, organisations and movements, and enables them to articulate the concerns of the community they work for. At the international level, we engage in policy advocacy representing the voices and perspectives from the ground. FORUM-ASIA, as such, consciously tries to bridge the gap between the theory and practice of human rights.

FORUM-ASIA members come from 19 countries in Asia, it also works with partner organisations in many other countries in the region. The new strategy paper for 2016-2020 provides us with a new sense of mission. In its new phase of growth, FORUM-ASIA hopes to further a human rights approach to the Sustainable Development Goals. We also aim to invest in a new generation of human rights defenders and young civil society leaders, so new cadres are produced to further strengthen the movement for human rights, democracy and development. We continue to be dedicated to bringing women's rights to the centre of the discourse on human rights and development, including within the organisational context of FORUM-ASIA.

Asia is fast emerging as one of the most unequal regions in the world. Increasing instances of political conflict, geo-political tensions, the rise of politics of exclusion, hate, and the increasing divide between the poor and the rich, pose new challenges for human rights and sustainable development. A trend of shrinking civic and democratic spaces and increasing neo-conservative, populist authoritarianism is seen across the region.

While these challenges abound, financial resources from traditional donors for human rights, democracy and development are drying up. In this context, it is important for FORUM-ASIA to transform the situation through strategic interventions and advocacy.

In the year 2016, we moved forward to address these new challenges, and positioned the organisation more strategically. Our work with human rights defenders, civil society organisations and social movements, and our advocacy at the national, regional and international level have made a significant difference.

This annual report demonstrates the relevance of FORUM-ASIA at the national, regional and international level. Our work with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), but also in South Asia and at the UN Human Rights Council made strategic contributions for the human rights community in the region.

We are committed to learn from our work in 2016. We are committed to work together with all stakeholders to strengthen the human rights movement in Asia and beyond. To this end, we will strengthen knowledge networking, work closely with grassroots human rights initiatives, and further reinforce our strategic alliances and advocacy at all levels. We will continue to be inspired by the excellent work of our members and our team of young and dedicated staff.

We would request your inputs and suggestions in the light of this report. We hope to work with you and learn from you. We are confident that with solidarity and a new sense of mission, we will create a world without poverty and injustice. We, together, can make change happen to democratise societies and ensure human rights for all, everywhere.

In solidarity,

John Samuel
Executive Director of FORUM-ASIA

About FORUM-ASIA

The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (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 is committed to building a peaceful, just, equitable and ecologically sustainable community of peoples and societies in Asia where all human rights of all individuals, groups, and peoples—in particular, the poor, marginalised, and discriminated—are fully respected and realised in accordance with internationally accepted human rights norms and standards.

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 national, regional, and international levels; and
- Building the capacity of its members and partners.

Organisational Development

The 8th General Assembly of FORUM-ASIA was held in Bangkok on 6-7 January. During the gathering, the first female chairperson was elected in the 25-year history of FORUM-ASIA. This was a great step forward in terms of inclusive leadership development. FORUM-ASIA also expanded its membership base, with 11 new members being approved by the General Assembly. Now, FORUM-ASIA has 58 members in 19 countries, ranging from Afghanistan to Timor-Leste.

In another related development, FORUM-ASIA had a smooth leadership transition. Mr. John Samuel succeeded Ms. Evelyn Balais-Serrano as the Executive Director. Ms. Balais-Serrano completed her three-year term in August, and Mr. Samuel took over the role in October.

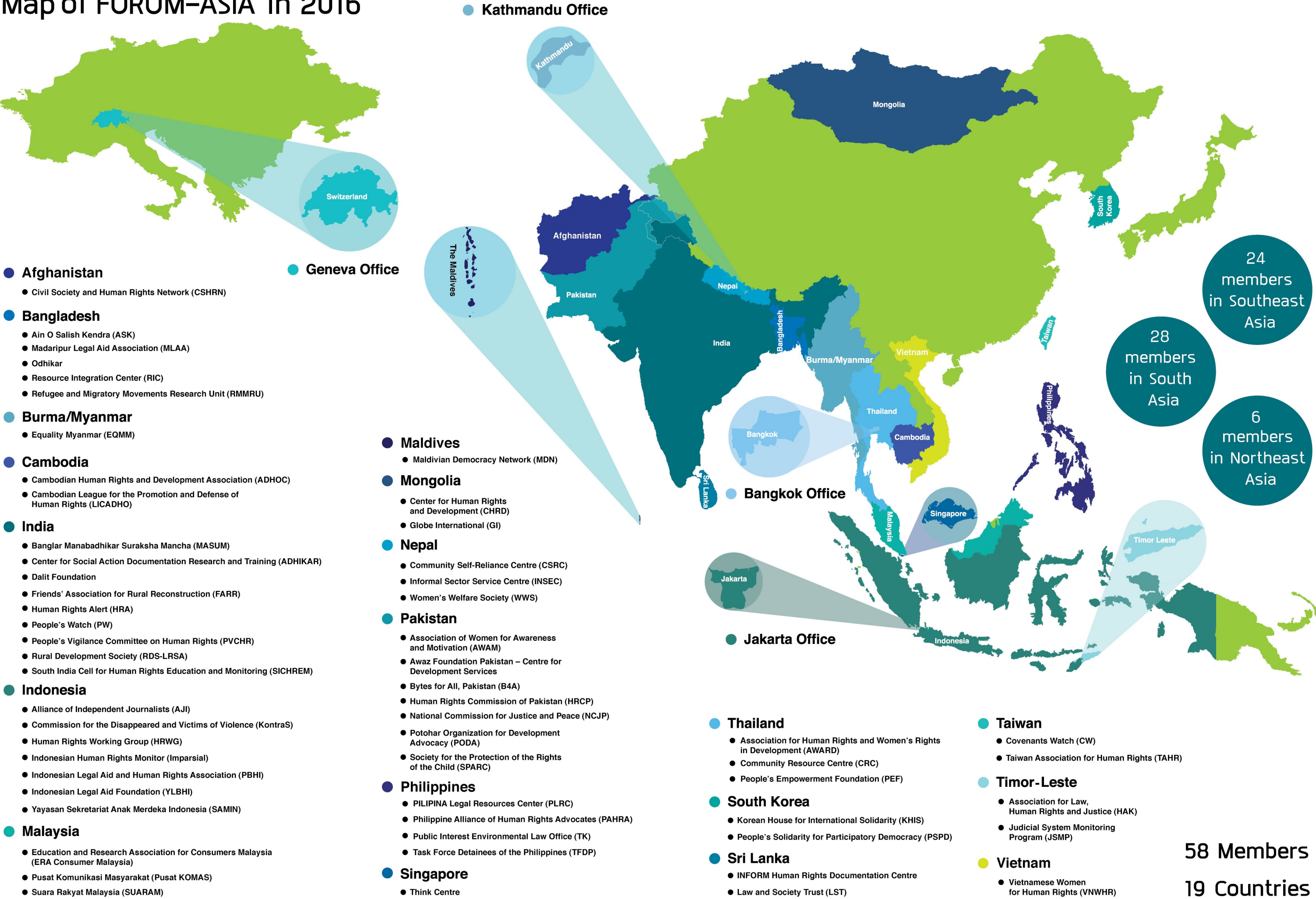
To guide FORUM-ASIA towards becoming more policy-informed and system driven, an external expert was commissioned, in February-March, to review: existing organisational policies; systems and practices; and offer recommendations to improve them. The recommendations included: the need for a clear-cut division of governance and management functions; significant improvement in human resource management systems and practices; and the development of a leadership transition plan. A retreat was organised with the Executive Committee and the Senior Management Team to discuss ways and means to implement the recommendations. Another retreat was held with Secretariat staff to discuss management and human resources related issues raised by the review.

FORUM-ASIA also made significant progress in terms of fundraising in 2016. In June, it entered into a four-year partnership with the European Union. The partnership builds on the four-year Strategic Plan (2016-2020), and addresses existing thematic priorities, including institutional development.

As part of capacity strengthening on financial sustainability and resource mobilisation of FORUM-ASIA and its members, it co-organised a four-day workshop on 21-24 March with Spring Forward, a Canada-based consulting firm. The workshop concluded with a robust plan of action for FORUM-ASIA and members to implement.

To ensure a better working environment, such as basic workspace, sufficient light, and cleanliness for all staff, FORUM-ASIA procured a new office space and moved to the new facility in August.

Map of FORUM-ASIA in 2016



25 Years of FORUM-ASIA

From left to right: Suhaimee Dulasa, former President of PerMAS, Patani, Thailand, Ruki Fernando, Advisor of INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre, Sri Lanka and Executive Committee Member of FORUM-ASIA and Wai Wai Nu, Co-founder of Women Peace Network Arakan (WPNA) and Justice for Women, Burma/Myanmar, during the 25th Anniversary event held in Bangkok, Thailand on 8 January.



In 2016, FORUM-ASIA celebrated 25 years. This was both an opportunity to celebrate achievements, learn from the past, and look to the future. A lot of effort was spent the year before to prepare the anniversary campaign, which facilitated implementation in the festive year itself. Roughly the campaign consisted of six different components.

Our Struggle for Human Rights – 25 Years of FORUM-ASIA

The publication 'Our Struggle for Human Rights – 25 Years of FORUM-ASIA' was developed both in print and online. The publication features thematic chapters, case-studies, spotlights on individuals, and organisational profiles. 1,800 copies of the 2,000 total anniversary publications that were printed were distributed. The online version of the anniversary publication received some 7,923 unique hits and 267,064 total hits over the course of the year. (See <https://25.forum-asia.org>.)

Bangkok, Jakarta and Geneva

Three public events were organised throughout the year. The year kicked-off with an event on 8 January at the Pridi Banomyong Institute in Bangkok, Thailand. Over the course of the day, people reflected on what FORUM-ASIA had done, what lessons were learnt, and what speakers and participants saw as priorities for the future. Both the print and the online version of the anniversary publication, 'Our Struggle for Human Rights – 25 Years of FORUM-ASIA' were launched. At the end of the day, the anniversary exhibition was unveiled. The event was attended by some 160 participants, including FORUM-ASIA members, partner organisations, academic institutions, inter-governmental organisations, and Governments from across Asia and beyond. (See <http://l.forum-asia.org/anniversaryreport>.)



From left to right: Adilur Rahman Khan, Secretary of Odhikar, Bangladesh and Vice-Chairperson of FORUM-ASIA, Ruth Manorama, renowned Indian activist, Jose Ramos-Horta, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate from Timor-Leste and John Samuel, Executive Director of FORUM-ASIA, during the 25th Anniversary event held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 16 November.

On 27 September, FORUM-ASIA, and its Indonesian members, the Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS), the Indonesian Human Rights Monitor (Imparsial), the Human Rights Working Group (HRWG), the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation (YLBHI), the Indonesian Legal Aid and Human Rights Association (PBHI), Yayasan Sekretariat Anak Merdeka Indonesia (SAMIN) and the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI), hosted an anniversary reception to celebrate 25 years of FORUM-ASIA, 'the Importance of Civic Space for Democracy'. The event was held at the J.S. Luwansa Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, and attended by some 90 people. (See <http://l.forum-asia.org/jakartafa25>.)

Later, on 16 November, FORUM-ASIA, together with the Martin Ennals Award and the Right Livelihood Award, hosted a panel discussion on the 25th Anniversary of FORUM-ASIA and the 10th Anniversary of its presence in Geneva. The event, entitled '50 Years of the International Bill of Human Rights and 10 Years of the UN Human Rights Council – What does this mean for Asia?', was held at Maison de la Paix in Geneva, Switzerland and featured Jose Ramos-Horta, Ruth Manorama, and Adilur Rahman Khan as panellists. The panel discussion was attended by some 120 people.

Unfortunately, a planned event in Kathmandu did not take place.

Photo exhibition

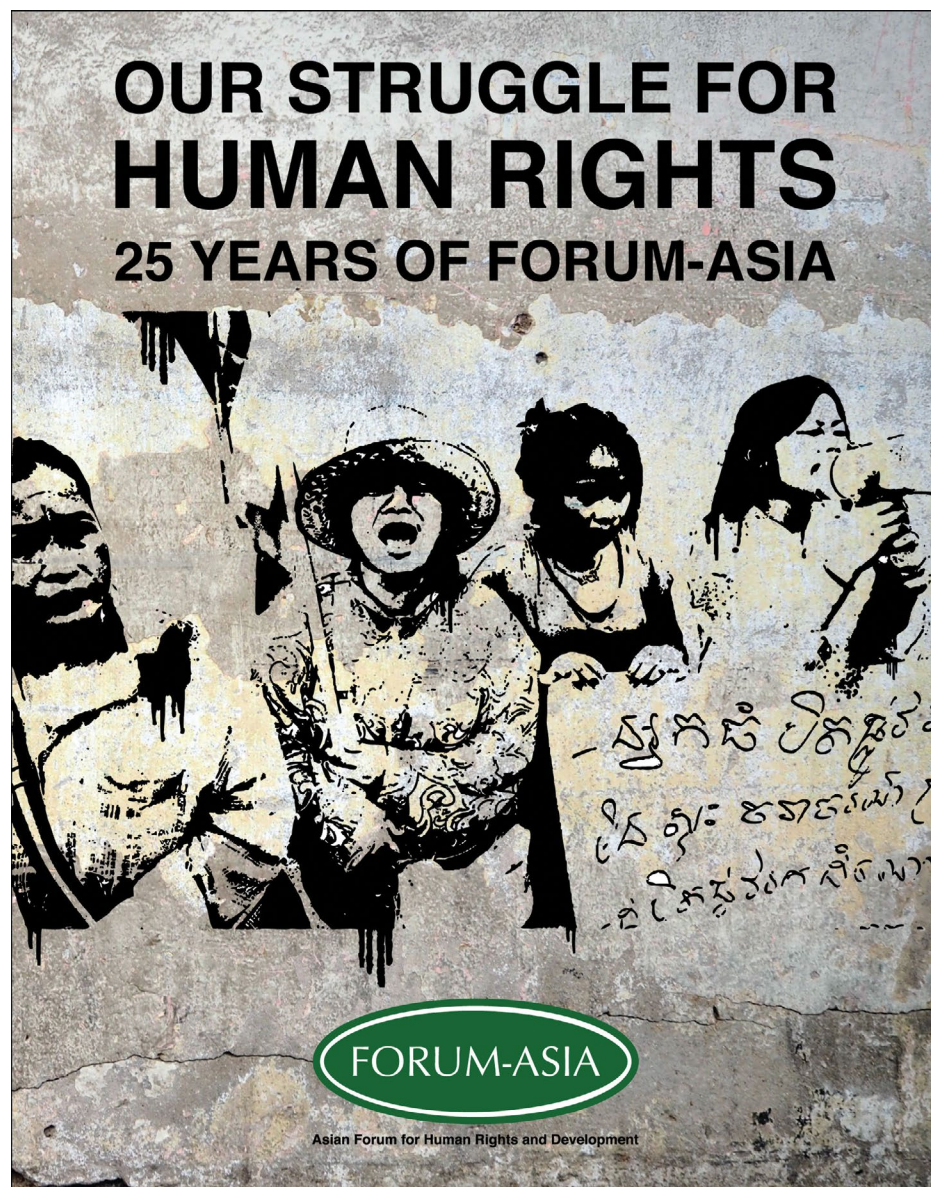
A photo exhibition was also developed, which was shown at all three above mentioned events, and also at three conferences organised by other institutions over the course of the year.



Group photo at the 25th Anniversary event held in Bangkok, Thailand on 8 January.



Group photo at the 25th Anniversary event held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 27 September.



OUR STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS 25 YEARS OF FORUM-ASIA

Videos

A total of 46 videos were produced related to the anniversary: nine compilation videos; 34 single videos; and three videos with congratulatory messages. (See <https://www.youtube.com/ForumAsiaVideo>.)

Social media

Throughout the year, social media posts – both on Facebook and Twitter – with content related to the anniversary campaign were shared around three times a week, resulting in some 140 posts with stories from the publication, photos from the exhibition or videos produced for the campaign. Particularly the photos – which were combined with quotes – proved to be very popular. The hashtag #FORUMASIA25 was used at all three events, as well as combined with all social media posts.

Other promotional materials

Finally, other promotional materials, including a new flyer, an updated folder, and the revitalisation of the FORUM-ASIA website, were developed to take the campaign beyond the anniversary year itself.



The photo exhibition was displayed at the Bangkok Art and Culture Center in March.

East and South Asia Programme



FORUM-ASIA's East and South Asia Programme or Country Programme supports the work of FORUM-ASIA's member organisations at the national level. The two sub-regional strategies enhance inter-programme synergy, cooperation and coordination within the Secretariat for effective advocacy, campaigning, and networking. Some of the highlights of 2016 are described below.

On 19 October, the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL), the Asia Democracy Network (ADN), ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR), and FORUM-ASIA organised the 'International Conference on the 25th Anniversary of the 1991 Paris Peace Accords on Cambodia'. More than 80 participants from national, regional and international civil society groups, research institutions, and Embassies gathered in Phnom Penh, to review the implementation of the Accords over the past 25 years.

FORUM-ASIA also supported an exchange programme between FORUM-ASIA member, the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO), and civil society in Malaysia. The exchange aimed to provide a platform for regional experience sharing and learning between Asian organisations.

The unofficial academic visit from 30 November-10 December of Maina Kiai, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, to Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines was timely given the crackdown on civic freedoms and the threat to the survival of independent civil society and human rights defenders in many of these countries. The visit to Malaysia, in particular, gained significant attention from civil society, the Government, and media on the issue of foreign funding for civil society organisations.

The collective solidarity among the South Asian members was also strengthened. This was evident, among other things, from joint actions taken in the form of the submission of memorandums to human rights bodies in India. FORUM-ASIA co-signed, with 93 human



rights organisations and individuals, a memorandum submitted to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India. The memorandum expressed concern over the violent repression unleashed by the State Government of West Bengal against Banglar Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM), a FORUM-ASIA member from India.

In another case, FORUM-ASIA members from South Asia jointly submitted a memorandum demanding the NHRC of India to take affirmative action against the cancellation of the licenses based on the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) of non-governmental organisations in India, including that of FORUM-ASIA member, People's Watch. This action resulted in the Commission taking note of the memorandum and issuing a notice to the Government.

The South Asia Programme organised a solidarity conference on Bangladesh in Bangkok, Thailand on 2-3 May, as well as a Convention against Torture in New Delhi, India on 24-25 June. Both events saw the participation of numerous national and international human rights groups and led to the formation of solidarity groups.

Towards the end of 2016, a report, 'Desecrating Expression: An Account of Freedom of Expression and Religion in Asia' was jointly published by FORUM-ASIA, Bytes for All, Pakistan, and Global Partners Digital, focusing on the intersection between the right to freedom of expression and the right to freedom of religion. The report was officially launched during the Internet Governance Forum in Mexico and later during an event in Bangkok at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand (FCCT) on 20 December. (See <http://l.forum-asia.org/desecratingexpressionreport>.)

The National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) Advocacy Programme

FORUM-ASIA's advocacy work on National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) is conducted by the NHRIs Advocacy Programme. The programme's main objectives are: 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 yet. The programme mainly operates through the Asian NGO Network on National Human Rights Institutions (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.

2016 marked a milestone anniversary for ANNI. Ten years after its inception, network strengthening, advocacy, and engagement with key counterparts continue to be key areas of concern. The formal creation of the ANNI Advisory Committee, comprising of experts on the issue of NHRIs, was another milestone on the road to the strengthening of ANNI's network management and structure.

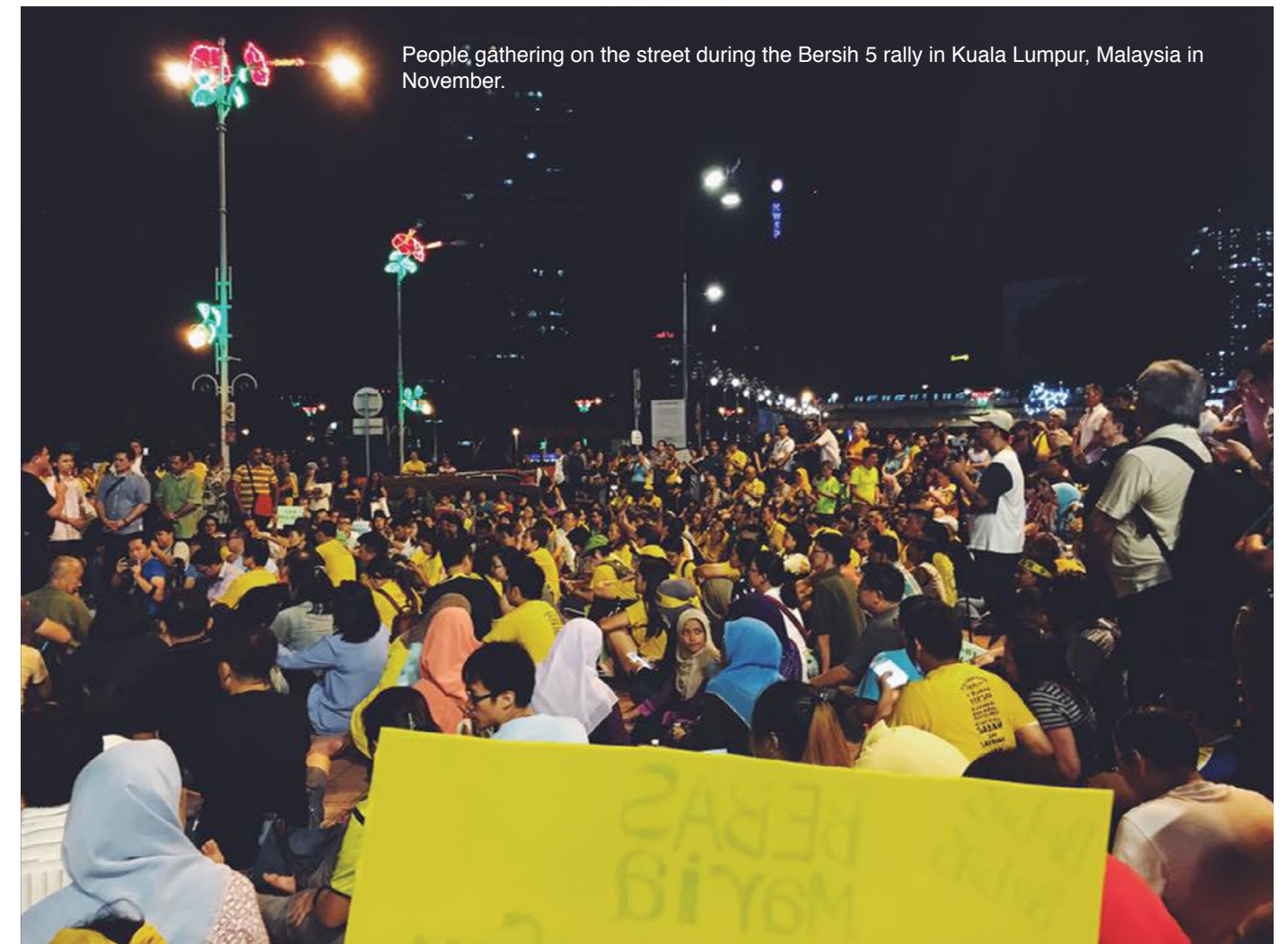


Group discussion during the ANNI Regional Conference in Bangkok, Thailand in October.

On 25-26 October, ANNI hosted its annual regional conference, 'Challenges and Opportunities in the Strengthening and Establishment of National Human Rights Institutions in Asia', in Bangkok, Thailand. 2016's conference was held parallel to the 21st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs (APF). ANNI representatives specifically participated in the NHRI-NGO Dialogue Session. This session, organised by the APF, was an opportunity for ANNI to receive updates from the APF regarding previous ANNI Formal Inputs into the APF Strategic Plan 2015-2020 submitted in 2014. It also provided the opportunity to submit new inputs to the APF.

At the same time, the '2016 ANNI Report on the Performance and Establishment of NHRIs in Asia' was launched, both during the ANNI Conference and the AGM of the APF. In the report ANNI formulates specific recommendations for 13 countries and territories in Asia, both with and without NHRIs in place. Key recommendations include: amending NHRIs' founding laws in order to create an independent composition of NHRI commissioners; as well as adding resources to their operations. (See <http://l.forum-asia.org/annireport2016>.)

On 6 November, a representative from ANNI joined a side event in advance of the 22nd Conference of State Parties under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22), co-organised by the Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI). This event served as an important forum to discuss how NHRIs can work to strengthen linkages between sustainable development, climate change, and human rights.



People gathering on the street during the Bersih 5 rally in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November.



Group photo at the 9th ANNI Regional Consultation in Jakarta, Indonesia in May.

Human Rights Defenders Programme



FORUM-ASIA's Human Rights Defenders Programme is a protection measure for human rights defenders (HRDs) in Asia. It seeks to facilitate a conducive environment for HRDs to be able to conduct their work more effectively and efficiently, conscious of the risks involved. It also provides practical safeguards for HRDs at risk by reducing both actual and perceived threats stemming from their work.

In order to build effective protection mechanisms at the national level, FORUM-ASIA continued to facilitate the establishment of national HRDs networks. In April, FORUM-ASIA organised a two-day consultation on this subject together with FORUM-ASIA members from the Philippines. Defenders identified salient points for a draft HRD protection bill to be filed in Congress after the national elections. Defenders and civil society organisations (CSOs) committed to contribute to a coordinated protection mechanism for HRDs. In September, a three-day training and strategy session was organised in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, attended by around 50 HRDs and women human rights defenders (WHRDs) from the capital and rural areas of the country. Since FORUM-ASIA initiated the process in 2015, efforts to set up a national HRDs network in Mongolia continue to head in the right direction. In a similar fashion, FORUM-ASIA joined forces with its member, Equality Myanmar, and partner, Progressive Voice (former Burma Partnership), in Yangon in October, to organise a two-day follow-up workshop on protection mechanisms for HRDs. Around 25 young activists from ethnic minority groups, and conflict-affected rural areas participated in the workshop, which aimed to develop further strategies and action plans for the creation of a HRDs network in the country.

In November, FORUM-ASIA organised the 7th Asian Regional Human Rights Defenders Forum under the theme of 'Towards Effective Protection for Human Rights Defenders/Women Human Rights Defenders: Self Reflection and Moving Forward', together with Sri Lankan members, INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre and the Law and Society Trust (LST) in Colombo. The forum provided a regional platform where HRDs and WHRDs from Asia and beyond gathered to assess patterns and trends of violations against defenders, but also to review and



brainstorm more effective protection policies and mechanisms. The forum was attended by over 100 participants, as well as the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs, Michel Forst, local government officials and donor agencies. For the first time, the forum was preceded by field visits to different parts of Sri Lanka, where a select number of participants met with local HRDs and WHRDs. Participants also benefitted from a comprehensive set of holistic security sessions, including psycho-social and well-being sessions, a digital security clinic and trainings, co-organised with Bytes for All, Pakistan.

For individual defenders' cases, the programme provided emergency assistance to 32 individual HRDs, WHRDs and family members, as well as one group of HRDs under direct attack. Among other things, the assistance included medical support, relocation and sanctuary (temporary shelter). In July and September, two trial observation missions were organised related to the case of Ny Chakrya, the Deputy Secretary General of the National Election Committee (NEC) and former Head of the Human Rights and Legal Aid Section of the Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC), a FORUM-ASIA member organisation. During the missions two prison visits were conducted, during which FORUM-ASIA met with Ny Chakrya and four staff members of ADHOC, who have been arbitrarily detained since April 2016. The two missions contributed to a significant improvement in the prison condition of the HRDs, and were covered by national and international media.

In order to increase the capacities of the next generation of defenders, FORUM-ASIA, together with the Asia Development Alliance (ADA) and the Asia Democracy Network (ADN), organised the 4th Glocal Advocacy Leadership in Asia (GALA) Academy in August, in Bangkok, Thailand. The large majority of the participants – 21 out of 30 - were women from across Asia.

In March, FORUM-ASIA together with the Southern Peasants Federation of Thailand (SPFT), the Community Resource Center (CRC), Amnesty International Thailand, Focus on the Global South, and Protection International organised a panel discussion aimed to increase public awareness on the situation and challenges faced by land rights defenders in Thailand. Panellists included a representative of the Government, as well as experts, and land right defenders. The event took place at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand (FCCT) in Bangkok, and was attended by a wide range of participants, including from the media, Embassies, donors, and non-governmental organisations.



Participants of the 4th Glocal Advocacy Leadership in Asia (GALA) Academy, held in Bangkok, Thailand in August.

United Nations Advocacy Programme

Side event on South Korea organised during the 32nd Regular Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, in June. © Maina Kiai



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. To this end, FORUM-ASIA connects Asian human rights defenders and civil society to official and geopolitical discourses at the UN and other various international forums.

The work of the UN Advocacy Programme primarily focused on the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and its mechanisms. FORUM-ASIA actively engaged and contributed Asian perspectives at the three regular sessions of the UNHRC. Outcomes of FORUM-ASIA's advocacy on the human rights situation in Burma/Myanmar at the 31st session were among the key highlights of the year. Working in the context of increased pressure on the UNHRC to lessen – or end – scrutiny of the human rights situation in Burma/Myanmar following the November 2015 general election, FORUM-ASIA was able to directly influence the UNHRC decisions that would shape its future engagement with Burma/Myanmar.

Ahead of the 31st session, with the support of members, partners and over a 100 non-governmental organisations from Burma/Myanmar, FORUM-ASIA called on the UNHRC to establish clearly benchmarked guidelines to serve as a road map to tackle the human rights challenges in the country. The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, as well as several States endorsed the call in their statements. Subsequently, the UNHRC adopted the resolution on the situation of human rights in Burma/Myanmar by consensus requesting the Special Rapporteur 'to work with the Government of Myanmar to identify benchmarks for progress and priority areas for technical assistance and capacity building'.¹

The UNHRC's adoption of a time-bound and measurable approach to change marks an important milestone in FORUM-ASIA's advocacy at the UN. This has been referred to as a new, constructive perspective on country-specific debates at the UNHRC. FORUM-ASIA's advocacy on Burma/Myanmar in 2016 was significant, not only because it was instrumental in creating a tool that will bring about systematic scrutiny and encourage change on the ground, but because it made an important contribution to international standard setting.

The human rights situation in Cambodia was another key priority for FORUM-ASIA at the UNHRC. 2016 saw the human rights situation in Cambodia spiral downwards with the arrest of four staff of the Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC), a member of FORUM-ASIA, and an official of the National Elections Committee on trumped up criminal charges. In response, FORUM-ASIA initiated advocacy activities at the 32nd session in June calling on States to condemn attacks on human rights defenders (HRDs) and civil society, and to put Cambodia on notice ahead of the annual UNHRC debate on the country in September. Several States condemned Cambodia, echoing concerns expressed by FORUM-ASIA and others. Sustained advocacy, building on the momentum from the preceding session, resulted in a joint statement by about 40 States at the 33rd session in September censuring Cambodia and applying pressure on the Government. While the advocacy did not secure an out of turn resolution or the release of the detained HRDs, it succeeded in increasing the attention on Cambodia and complemented the work on the ground to push back against repression.

FORUM-ASIA also continued to call for greater attention of the UNHRC on worsening human rights situations in Bangladesh, the Maldives, the Philippines, and Thailand, and contributed to thematic debates on freedoms of expression, assembly and association, and the protection of HRDs.

As part of the programme's objective to improve domestic measures in Asian States to facilitate the implementation of UN recommendations, FORUM-ASIA organised workshops in Mongolia and Timor-Leste, in December 2016, to assist national civil society to formulate strategies to follow up on the implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations. While the workshop in Mongolia was designed to assess the impact of strategies formulated in 2015, the workshop in Timor-Leste initiated the engagement of national civil society in the UPR follow up process. In addition, to ensure the broader participation of national civil society in the UPR process, FORUM-ASIA organised national UPR consultations in India and Indonesia to prepare civil society submissions for the third cycle of the UPR.

Enhancing cooperation among civil society organisations from the Global South is one of the key objectives of the UN Advocacy Programme. In 2016, FORUM-ASIA took part in several activities aimed at increasing South-South as well as cross-regional cooperation on advocacy at various international forums, including the UNHRC. FORUM-ASIA was also part of a newly established informal network of South-based non-governmental organisations led by Conectas Direitos Humanos of Brazil to promote dialogue, collaborative research, and collective action among civil society organisations working on foreign policy and human rights in the Global South.

¹ UN Doc. No. A/HRC/RES/31/24, adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on 24 March 2016

In order to facilitate the engagement of national civil society organisations in debates on human rights and foreign policy, the UNA Programme unveiled 'Review of Asian Diplomacy and Rights (RADAR)', at FORUM-ASIA's 25th anniversary event in Geneva, in November (see page 15). This online platform aims to disseminate information on positions of Asian States in international human rights debates. The platform will continue to be developed in 2017, and is hoped to become a one-stop spot for human rights information, analyses, and tools for research on the performance of Asian States at the UNHRC.



ASEAN Advocacy Programme



Group photo at the Regional Consultation on the Implementation of Regional Plans of Actions (RPAs) on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) and the Elimination of Violence Against Children (EVAC), in Bangkok, Thailand, in March.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Advocacy Programme of FORUM-ASIA aims to enhance the independence and effectiveness of the ASEAN human rights mechanisms by strengthening participation of civil society. It does so through various activities such as: workshops; trainings; national and regional consultations between civil society organisations (CSOs) and representatives of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and the Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC); and other forms of information sharing. Some of the activities that the programme undertook in 2016 are described below.

On 29-30 March, FORUM-ASIA and the ACWC co-organised 'the Regional Consultation on the Implementation of Regional Plans of Actions (RPAs) on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) and the Elimination of Violence Against Children (EVAC)', in Bangkok, Thailand. Representatives of the ACWC from the ten ASEAN countries, as well as more than 40 CSOs from the region attended the consultation. The consultation resulted in key-points for further collaboration between the ACWC and CSOs on the implementation of the RPAs on EVAW and EVAC.

At the national level, FORUM-ASIA also facilitated the engagement of CSOs with the AICHR and the ACWC. In December, FORUM-ASIA co-organised a national consultation on 'Mainstreaming Human Rights Based Approach in the Implementation of ACTIP (ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children)', with the Indonesia Representative to the AICHR in Jakarta, Indonesia. During the same month, FORUM-ASIA organised a national consultation on the implementation of RPAs on EVAW and EVAC in Burma/Myanmar. The consultation was attended by CSOs and the Myanmar Representative to the ACWC.

Continuing its work on monitoring and assessing the work of the ASEAN human rights mechanisms, namely the AICHR and the ACWC, FORUM-ASIA published its sixth report on these two bodies. The report, 'Breaking the Silence and Unlocking Barriers for Human Rights Protection in ASEAN', was launched in September, in Jakarta. It reviews and assesses activities



Session during the national consultation on 'Mainstreaming Human Rights Based Approach in the Implementation of the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children' in Jakarta, Indonesia in December.

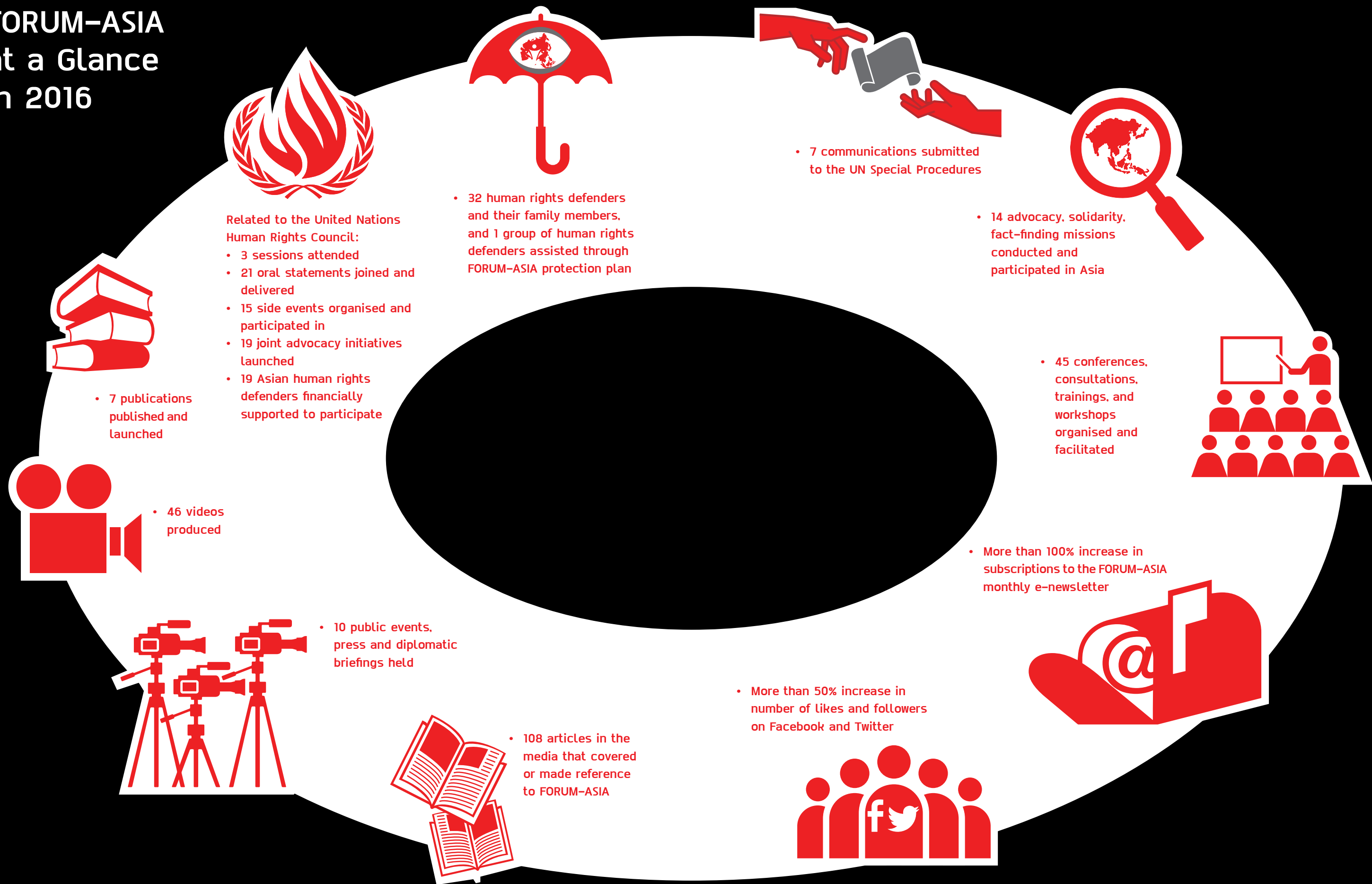
implemented by the AICHR and the ACWC, their engagement with CSOs, and their achievements and shortcomings in 2015. It shares the expectations from CSOs and other stakeholders of their engagement with the two bodies, and concludes with recommendations for improvement to the AICHR, the ACWC, and the ASEAN overall. (See <http://l.forum-asia.org/aseanreport2016>.)

The 9th Regional Consultation on ASEAN and Human Rights was co-organised by FORUM-ASIA and the Solidarity for ASEAN Peoples' Advocacies - Task Force on ASEAN and Human Rights (SAPA TFAHR) on 26-27 September, in Jakarta. The specific focus was on 'Strengthening Human Rights Protection through CSOs Participation in the ASEAN Human Rights Mechanisms'. This consultation was designed as a platform to bring CSOs together with key stakeholders, to bolster the promotion and protection of human rights in the ASEAN region. Opened by a speech of the Indonesia Committee Permanent Representative to ASEAN, the consultation was attended by some of the representatives of the AICHR and the ACWC.

In November, FORUM-ASIA conducted the 'Regional Training of Trainers on the ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism (ASEAN ToT 2016)', in Jakarta. The objective of the training was to increase the pool of human rights/ CSO trainers that can facilitate training or share their knowledge and skills on ASEAN and its human rights mechanisms in their countries or with their networks. 17 CSOs and human rights defenders from Cambodia, Indonesia, Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Timor-Leste participated in the training. New sessions on gender and violence against women were introduced. The participants had the chance to engage with representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat and the ACWC, and visited the ASEAN Secretariat Headquarters.

As a way to facilitate sharing of information and advocacy on human rights in ASEAN, FORUM-ASIA continued to maintain the 'Human Rights in ASEAN Online Platform (HRAOP)'. The online platform, launched in October 2013, provides regular updates on human rights issues and developments in the ASEAN region. (See <http://humanrightsinasean.info>.)

FORUM-ASIA at a Glance in 2016



Information, Communication and Publication Programme



Group photo at the ICP Consultation held in Bangkok, Thailand in December.

The Information, Communication and Publication (ICP) 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.

The FORUM-ASIA 25th Anniversary Campaign was the main focus for the ICP Programme throughout 2016. To read more about the 25th Anniversary campaign, see pages 14-17.

By constantly updating different types of content on FORUM-ASIA's social media pages, the ICP Programme managed to increase the online visibility of the organisation. At the end of the year, FORUM-ASIA's Facebook and Twitter pages increased likes and followers by more than 50 per cent. Social media pages were particularly instrumental in highlighting key FORUM-ASIA events, such as the 9th Regional Consultation on ASEAN and Human Rights (see page 31) and the 7th Asian Regional Human Rights Defenders Forum (see page 22-23). Short summaries of the sessions, combined with live tweets and photos, increased the level of engagement around the events and expanded the online visibility of FORUM-ASIA.

From 2-6 March, FORUM-ASIA supported and participated in 'Wonders of Freedom - Let's Spread Our Wings', an event organised by the Young Leadership for Social Change Programme of the Thai Volunteer Service Foundation. The event took place at the Bangkok Arts and Culture Center (BACC), where FORUM-ASIA organised a short workshop on how to develop effective advocacy strategies. In March and May, the ICP Programme conducted three workshops with students of Webster University Thailand, Birkerød Gymnasium from Denmark, and participants of the Global



From left to right: Phil Robertson, Deputy Director of Human Rights Watch Asia Division, Debbie Stothard, Founder and Coordinator of ALTSEAN-Burma and Secretary General of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and Marte Hellema, ICP Programme Manager, during the launch of 'Desecrating Expression - An Account of Freedom of Expression and Religion in Asia' in Bangkok, Thailand, in December.

Citizenship course of Global Platform Myanmar. During the workshops, the participants learnt about FORUM-ASIA and its areas of work, and were able to share and discuss current and future human rights challenges.

From 30 November-2 December, FORUM-ASIA jointly hosted a three-day forum, 'Youth at the Heart of the 2030 Agenda: The Case for Space', together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and Restless Development. The event was attended by more than 200 young community organisers, students, journalists, activists, and community leaders from across Asia Pacific. During the event, FORUM-ASIA spoke on a panel focusing on the opportunities and challenges for human rights defenders (HRDs) and young activists in using online tools and spaces. Additionally, FORUM-ASIA led a break-out session on digital security together with Amnesty International and ActionAid.

Throughout the year, FORUM-ASIA conducted surveys among both Secretariat staff and members on communication overall and digital security in particular, as well as an assessment of past statements and the media coverage they did or did not receive. Based on the outcomes of these exercises, different concept notes, policies and guidelines, including on statements, social media, media and digital security, were drafted. These documents were discussed during the ICP Consultation, organised in Bangkok on 3-4 December. The consultation was attended by FORUM-ASIA Secretariat staff, members, and partner organisations with particular experience and knowledge of online and offline communication. The discussions during the event were used to further develop strategies and policies to enhance and strengthen the work of FORUM-ASIA and its members.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Programme

The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) Programme plays a 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 in leading donor reporting and documentation processes.

In 2016, the PME Programme continued to position itself as a cross-cutting unit and further strengthened its role in FORUM-ASIA. During the year, FORUM-ASIA saw several important achievements. The PME Programme took on its annual role to organise and lead the 2016 programme review and work planning process in January, and provided guidance and support

The PME Programme has strived to establish a robust organisation-wide monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system. One of the fundamental components of any M&E system is to have a comprehensive and clear log-frame, which is used for project planning, design, implementation, and monitoring. In 2016, FORUM-ASIA worked diligently to reinforce and adopt the organisational log-frame, as well as to ensure progress was actively tracked and monitored. The PME Programme fine-tuned M&E tools, such as the annual progress reporting template, mission documents, and feedback/evaluation templates. New and effective ways to create and strengthen the outcome monitoring process, data collection and reporting systems were explored as well. Programmes were urged to conduct follow-up monitoring in order to assess the long-term impact of their work.

The PME Programme conducted three monitoring missions. The primary goal of the monitoring missions was to gather feedback from the attendees, facilitators, and organisers on the effectiveness of the event, and identify opportunities and areas for improvement. In



FORUM-ASIA staff and interns during the Mid-Year Review held in Thailand, in July.

on developing programme-specific work plans, budgets, and log-frames. In coordination with the programmes, the PME Programme produced the consolidated Annual Progress Report reflecting yearly progress, key achievements and lessons learnt. The report was well-regarded by FORUM-ASIA's donor, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

One of the primary roles of the PME Programme is to ensure donor commitments are respected and met on-time. In 2016, FORUM-ASIA enhanced its efforts to comply with donor obligations and meet reporting requirements. As a result of increased donor commitments and the acquisition of two new funds in late 2015, FORUM-ASIA's reporting responsibilities increased in 2016. The PME Programme worked in close coordination with the programmes to complete and deliver donor quarterly and annual reporting on schedule.

May, the PME Programme carried out two assessments; one focussed on the Bangladesh Solidarity Conference in Bangkok and another on the 9th Annual ANNI Regional Consultation in Jakarta. In November, the PME Programme conducted an assessment of the 7th Asian Regional Human Rights Defenders Forum. The findings, feedback from the participants, and key recommendations were developed into reports and distributed to programmes for learning purposes.

The PME team expanded with the addition of another Programme Officer who joined in September. With a full team on board, the programme hopes to clearly map out its functions, and introduce necessary tools and processes in order to strengthen the coordination with programmes and provide high-quality deliverables.

Administration Department



Administration Department during the 8th General Assembly in January in Bangkok, Thailand.



Registration table during the 9th ANNI Regional Consultation in May in Jakarta, Indonesia.



Registration table during the 25th Anniversary Event in January in Bangkok, Thailand.

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.

In August, FORUM-ASIA's Bangkok office moved to a new, bigger office space. The Administration Department took the lead and ensured that the move proceeded smoothly. FORUM-ASIA's Bangkok office has two large meeting rooms now and adequate space to welcome members and partners to Bangkok.

The Administration Department played a key role in ensuring the renewal of FORUM-ASIA's registration in Thailand as a regional organisation, while also facilitating the application for and granting of work permits and visa renewals. The department was also indispensable in the recruitment of new staff members and arranging of health insurance.

For the first time, FORUM-ASIA's staff based in Bangkok was able to enjoy a course of Thai classes in the office, two days a week for a total of 30 hours.

Throughout the year, the Administration Department provided logistical support in the organisation of various events held in Bangkok, including: FORUM-ASIA's General Assembly and the 25th Anniversary event; the annual evaluation and planning meeting; workshops and trainings; and meetings of the Executive Committee.

Significant progress was also made to improve FORUM-ASIA's server, which is now eight times faster and more secure than the previous one, with increased space for back-up.

Financial Overview

FORUM-ASIA

1. Income for January – December 2016

Unit: USD

SN	Funding Partners	Actual Income Jan-Dec 2016	% of actual income compared with total income
A	Donors		
1	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	\$ 770,265	22.9%
2	European Union	\$ 1,777,223	52.9%
3	Ford Foundation	\$ 512,951	15.3%
4	Dan Church Aid (DCA)	\$ 28,935	0.93%
5	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)	\$ 197,639	5.9%
6	EIDHR (India)	\$ (184,588)	-5.5%
7	British ASEAN Funds	\$ 31,622	0.9%
8	Freedom House Inc	\$ 63,605	1.9%
9	International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)	\$ 1,714	0.1%
10	Fondation Internationale pour les Défenseurs des Droits de L'Homme (FIDDH)	\$ 16,805	0.5%
11	Civil Society Innovation Initiative (CSII)	\$ 78,450	2.3%
12	Asia Democracy Network (ADN)	\$ 12,739	0.4%
13	Asia Development Alliance (ADA), Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC)	\$ 4,531	0.1%
14	The May 18 Memorial Foundation	\$ 4,290	0.1%
15	Other	\$ 2,495	0.1%
B	Organisational Income		
1	Membership fee	\$ 7,760	0.2%
2	Interest income	\$ 6,128	0.2%
3	Other incomes	\$ 28,007	0.8%
	Total	\$3,360,573	100%

2. Organisational Expenses in terms of Programme for January – December 2016

Unit: USD

SN	Programmes	Expenses Jan-Dec 2016	% of Programme Expenses
1	Operating Cost	\$ 920,910	38%
2	PME Programme	\$ 111,429	5%
3	ICP Programme	\$ 127,259	5%
4	South Asia Programme	\$ 122,221	5%
5	East Asia Programme	\$ 169,335	7%
6	UN Advocacy Programme	\$ 298,303	13%
7	HRD Programme	\$ 288,807	12%
8	ASEAN Advocacy Programme	\$ 265,102	11%
9	Human Rights Training	\$ 102,022	4%
	Total	\$ 2,405,388	100%

3. Balance of Funds as on 31 December 2016

Opening balance as on 1 January 2016	\$ 636,403
Income 2016	\$ 3,360,573
Less: Expenses 2016	\$ (2,405,388)
Currency conversion adjustment	\$ (8,151)
Balance as on 31 December 2016	\$ 1,583,437

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

Max de Mesa
Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA), the Philippines

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

Next page top, from left to right: Sadia Hussain, Dr. Adrian Heok, Max de Mesa, Rafendi Djamin, Dr. Urantsooj Gombosuren, Adilur Rahman Khan and Ruki Fernando.



FORUM-ASIA Staff and Interns in 2016

Evelyn Balais-Serrano – Executive Director

John Samuel – Executive Director

**

Betty Yolanda – Director

Mukunda Kattel – Director

**

Agantaranansa Juanda – National Human Rights Institutions Advocacy Programme Officer

Ahmed Adam – United Nations Advocacy Programme Officer

Angkana Krabuansaeng – Administration Programme Officer

Anjuman Ara Begum – South Asia Programme Officer

Asif Khan – Administration Programme Associate (IT Support)

Astrid Maharani – United Nations Advocacy Programme Fellow

Atnike Nova Sigiro – ASEAN Advocacy Programme Manager

Benny Agus Prima – Human Rights Defenders Programme Associate

Bettina Stuffer – Information, Communication and Publication Programme Intern

Camilla Caron – Human Rights Defenders Programme Intern

Cecile Gaa – Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Programme Officer

Chutamas Wangklon – Administration Programme Manager

Cindy Kartika – ASEAN Advocacy Admin Associate

Daisy Khamphakdy – Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Programme Officer

Daywin Prayogo – ASEAN Advocacy Programme Associate

Emile Kinley-Gauthier – United Nations Advocacy Programme Intern

Gyan Kothari – United Nations Advocacy Programme Intern

Jane Aileen Tedjaseputra – ASEAN Advocacy Programme Officer

Joseph Sycip – United Nations Advocacy Administrative & Finance Officer

Kusuma Premchayaphak – Finance Officer

Lorenzo Urbinati – Information, Communication and Publication Programme Officer

Marte Hellema – Information, Communication and Publication Programme Manager

Milanga Abeysuriya – Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Programme Manager

Osama Motiwala – Information, Communication and Publication Programme Associate

Pimsiri Petchnamrob – East Asia Programme Officer



Princess Meeralith Celestino – Information, Communication and Publication Programme Intern

R. Iniyan Ilango – United Nations Advocacy Programme Manager

Rackchart Wong-Arthichart – Information, Communication and Publication Intern

Raghu Menon – Human Rights Defenders Programme Manager

Rosanna Ocampo – United Nations Advocacy Programme Officer

Sejin Kim – Human Rights Defenders Senior Programme Officer

Shanna Priangka Ramadhanti – East Asia Programme Intern

Shivani Vaishnava – South Asia Programme Intern

Suleeporn Permprasertsuk – Finance Manager

Theinny Oo – United Nations Advocacy Programme Fellow

Wichai Prabpaln – Finance Officer

Wipada Panichpathom – United Nations Advocacy Programme Intern

Partners in 2016

ActionAid

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

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

Burmese Rohingya

Organisation UK

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

Cambodian Center for Human Rights

Centre for Applied Human Rights, University of York

Center for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

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

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network

Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders

Focus on the Global South

Fortify Rights

Franciscans International

Freedom House

Front Line Defenders

Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict

Human Rights Defenders Alert-India

Human Rights Defenders Forum Myanmar

Human Rights Watch

HURIDOCS

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

Just Associate

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

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Open Society Forum Mongolia

Open Society Institute

Partnership for Justice, Nigeria

Peace Brigades International

Progressive Voice (former Burma Partnership)

Protection International

Reporters without Borders

Restless Development

Right Livelihood Award

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

Women's Aid Organisation

Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition

World Organisation Against Torture

and others

Donors

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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.



Acronyms

ACTIP	ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons
ACWC	ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and the Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
ADA	Asia Development Alliance
ADHOC	Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association
ADN	Asia Democracy Network
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AICHR	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
AJI	Alliance of Independent Journalists
ANFREL	Asian Network for Free Elections
ANNI	Asian NGO Network on National Human Rights Institutions
APF	Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions
APHR	ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BACC	Bangkok Arts and Culture Center
CCC	Cooperation Committee for Cambodia
CRC	Community Resource Centre
CSII	Civil Society Innovation Initiative
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DCA	Dan Church Aid
EVAC	Elimination of Violence against Children
EVAW	Elimination of Violence against Women
FCCT	Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Thailand
FCRA	Foreign Contribution Regulation Act

FIDH	International Federation for Human Rights
FORUM-ASIA	Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development
GALA	Glocal Advocacy Leadership in Asia
GANHRI	Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
HRAOP	Human Rights in ASEAN Online Platform
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
HRWG	Human Rights Working Group
ICP	Information, Communication and Publication
Imparsial	Indonesian Human Rights Monitor
IT	Information Technology
KontraS	Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence
LICADHO	Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights
LST	Law and Society Trust
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MASUM	Banglar Manabadhikar Surakksha Mancha
NGOs	Non Governmental Organisations
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
PBHI	Indonesian Legal Aid and Human Rights Association
PME	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
RADAR	Review of Asian Diplomacy and Rights
RPA	Regional Plans of Actions
SAMIN	Yayasan Sekretariat Anak Merdeka Indonesia

SAPA TFAHR	Solidarity for ASEAN Peoples’ Advocacies - Task Force on ASEAN and Human Rights
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation
SPFT	Southern Peasants Federation of Thailand
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
WHRDs	Women Human Rights Defenders
YLBHI	Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation



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 (HRDs) and civil society organisations (CSOs), coalition building with like-minded organisations, solidarity actions and evidence-based advocacy at various levels.



Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development