10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific
August 25 - 30
Busan, Public of Korea

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**Background on ICAAP10:**
ARROW as a regional women’s organization which carries out a sub-regional programme on young people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights and envisions stronger linkages between the women’s movement (which includes the participation of girls) and HIV/AIDS movement as the enormous shift in new infection trends which puts young women as the face of HIV. The International Congress on HIV/AIDS (ICAAP) serves as the main community and stakeholder regional platform for exchange and liaison with the relevant stakeholder.

“ICAAP is the largest HIV/AIDS Forum in Asia Pacific Region and the second largest one in the world. Also it is a biennial gathering for the release and discussion of scientific, programmatic and policy developments in the global response to the issues of HIV/AIDS. The Co-convener of ICAAPs is the ASAP and UNAIDS. ICAAP promotes opportunities for greater regional collaboration, sharing of ideas amongst people infected and affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemics from across the Asia and the Pacific region and provides regional and national organisations, governments and individual stakeholders with space to enhance their mutual contributions in the response to HIV/AIDS. (From 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific Official Website).”

“This is my first time to attend a conference in Asia Pacific scope. Personally I learn a lot about how to work and build a network with people from diverse background. Furthermore, ICAAP has been a lesson learned for me as a youth committee for the 6th APCRSHR and how to conduct youth forum and youth pavilion to be better. (Rinaldi Ridwan, Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan-WHRAP-SEA partner)”

**Remarks:**
The conference did not have a lot of participants due to the South Korean government’s regulation to prohibit people using drugs, HIV positive, and transgender to obtain visas and by criminalizing people who are on oral substitution treatment that involves methadone.

During the conference, the protest from local activists got its tipping point when the police came to the venue and arrested an Korean activist. Two persons were hospitalized and threatened by the police. As a result from this incident, other participants of the conference took their
protest to the conference organising committee and suggested to boycott the conference if the arrested activist was not released soon. After the boycott, on the next day the arrested activist was released.

Pre-conference activity: Community Forum and the break sessions

The Community Forum (CF) historically convened by The Coalition of Asia Pacific Regional Networks on HIV/AIDS (7S) as part of the pre-ICAAP program took place on 24-26 August 2011. The CF consisted of eight individual day-long forums designed to reflect the main concerns of the community and organized by eight sub-committees (representing KAPs) out of 10 sub-committees composing Community Committee of the 10th ICAAP Local Organising Committee (LOC) along with an International counterpart. Civil Society (CS) representatives from the AP region along with some pre-identified experts, donors, other stakeholders, and human rights activists are expected to participate. Community Groups for Forum Breakout Sessions consisted of: Interfaith, Migrants/mobile populations, MSM/LGBT, People using drugs, Sex worker, Women and Girls and Youth.

Youth Forum

In collaboration with 7sisters-YOUTH LEAD, ARROW coordinated a pre conference session for young people that was attended by 50 participants. WHRAP-SEA partner from Indonesia, Rinaldi Ridwan—shared about Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan’s initiatives in promoting young people’s SRHR via the HIV/AIDS programme which uses the comprehensive sexuality education model. Furthermore he screened a documentary film “V talks’ which presents young women’s sexuality in three regions afterwhich Rachel presented findings of a research on young people’s knowledge on HIV/AIDS and its relation to the needs of CSE in HIV prevention. The forum focused on 3 main issues, as such: Treatment as prevention, Human Rights and Burning issue of these populations. The interesting part was when the Korean participants showed their interest about building a youth movement; since they have no youth networks in Korea particularly who work on SRHR issues. They made plans to make an effort on this and will consult to us about this effort.

To sum up, during the youth forum-the topic on youth participation was not explored beyond the level of representation. Aside from that, youth that came to this forum mostly come from Youth Lead and it might did not represent youth diversity in Asia Pacific country. Beside that, during the discussion series Rinaldi felt that the process was unclear and not focussed on the topic. However, during the discussions, everyone had some chance to speak their of their experience.

Women and Girls Forum

The Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA), the Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organizations (APCASO), the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), the New Progressives Party Sexual Politics Committee and the International Community of Women with HIV/AIDS-Asia Pacific (ICW-AP) organised women and girls’ participation at the 10th ICAAP Community Forum on the 25th (whole day) and 26th (morning) of August 2011.
Nancy Zhang presented about the *Key Affected Women and Girls Needs are Human Rights: a Case Study in Jingpo and De'ang Ethnic Groups in China*. The main contents were:

- **Ethnic Groups in Yunnan Province, China**
  Yunnan Province is located in China's southwest frontiers, the one with the most minorities in China, and Jingpo, De’ang, Bai, Dai, and so on 15 nationalities only exist. At present, the minority populations distribute along the mountain, mix with different minorities, inhabited together along the frontier in Sino-Laos, Sino-Burma, Sino-Vietnam border areas, as well as with other provinces bordering area.

- **Ethnic Young Women and Girls’ less opportunities**
  Ethnic Young Women and Girls’ less opportunities on unequal distribution of educational resources; Poverty, social and gender bias; “Sexual culture”, such as early marriage and early pregnancy among females from ethnic groups; Less access to formal education, including those related to sexuality, and health services than others.

- **HIV/AIDS Prevalence**
  Nearly 35% of all new infection cases in 2010 are from Yunnan. Of these new infection cases in 2010, 71.7% were via sex transmission, and of these, 19.2% the people were infected by their spouse. And according to data, around 60% of HIV and AIDS infection cases were among young people from 20 to 29 years old. Women and Girls have possibility to be infected by the sex partners with HIV/AIDS due to using drug in cross border area in Yunnan Province.

- **Other SRH Issues Faced by Ethnic Youth**
  Maternal death, early marriage for ethic youth, under age girls’ pregnancy and unsafe abortion is also the issues faced by ethnic youth, especially the young women and girls. For example, abortion surgery is costly for these young people, upon the negative social judgment on pregnancy before marriage, young women and girls prefer the operations in private clinic by themselves rather than calling for help from parents, teachers and assistant institutes.

- **WHRAP-SEA Project**
  The Yunnan Health and Development Research Association (YHDRA) was selected as one of the partner organizations of the Women’s Health and Rights Advocacy Partnership—South East Asia (WHRAP-SEA) project by the Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW). The project aims to community-based organizations’ capability building, in order to strengthen the work with marginalized women and girls with the strategies of advocacy and to improve local access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, services and rights. From September 2010, YHDRA focused on the Jingpo and De’ang ethnic youth (14 to 30 year of age) in the Huyu Township of Ruili City, sino-Myanmar cross border, as the main groups that the project will engage with in a series of community activities to prevent the risk of SRH faced by youth.

- **Ethnic Young Women and Girls’ SRHR in Human Rights**
  Gender equality, Women’s empowerment, Community and population development are the problems which should be addressed for ethnic young women and girls. And this holistic factor also contributes to youth movement in local, national and even the regional levels.

- **Addressing the SRHR to Ethnic Young Women and Girls in China**
  Information and Education Provision, achieving positive SRHR outcomes is based on a foundation of solid knowledge of comprehensive, evidence-based and rights-based sexual and reproductive health information and education. Gender Bias means that Young women’s agency and ability building,
especially on HIV/AIDS prevention work, is needed with the young men’s participation and traditional culture support.

After a series of presentations, a discussion break session was organised. A group discussion conducted on the topic of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment policy in different countries. Some new information in Indonesia, India, Korea and China was shared, such as the cost of HIV/AIDS cure treatment, and the initiatives about comprehensive sexual education (CSE) in these countries. CSE has not really been practiced by governments, and even the NGO's activities just can cover part of the areas and groups. The government has not realized the importance, definition and implementation of CSE, this would be the advocacy points for us.

Community Report Back session:
Some of the main insights from the community report back session are as follows:

1. It is clear that rights of young people are abused and denied, not because they are young, but because it is difficult to assert youth rights. Young people have the right to decision-making and the right to voice out youth issues, which is the right to comprehensive sexuality education.

2. Acknowledge that treatment is prevention. Young people deserve to have improved access to safer, more affordable, and more effective ARV regimens and prophylaxes, treatment of opportunistic infections and co-infections, and corresponding diagnostics. Eliminating the barriers to youth-friendly services such as lack of resources, stigma and discrimination, punitive laws, illiteracy, and parental consent will benefit everyone affected by HIV, regardless of HIV status. After having discussion on the previous day, here are youth statement:

   a. Promote a safe environment free from bullying &discrimination in schools, family or the community due to their diversity, which includes gender, sexuality, status etc. This can be done through ‘police’, laws, policies etc.

   b. Provide access to legal, insurance, health, social etc services specific to the needs of young KAP or vulnerable population.

   c. Demand a mechanism which reports the violation of rights of young KAP & present a report

UNZIP THE LIPS! Putting Women and Girls at the center of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies:
UNZIP is a movement to bring centre stage issues of key affected women and girls (KAWGs) in the context of HIV and AIDS in the Asia Pacific region.
There are about 5 million people living with HIV in the Asia Pacific. The epidemic is still concentrated among MSM, CSW, IDU and transgender communities – the key affected populations (KAPs). A priority agenda in managing the epidemic in the region is to address the specific prevention, treatment and care needs of these KAPs. However the specific vulnerabilities of women and girls among the KAPs is still not fully understood because of lack of evidence. This in turn leads to a lack of visibility and commitments to the needs of women and girls. The 7Sisters, a coalition of KAP groups from the Asia Pacific along with a host of other stakeholders (UNAIDS, APA, ARROW) has initiated a dialogue process to envision how the issues of KAWGs can be given greater credence and visibility and ultimately how the specific needs of KAWGs can be addressed. The upcoming ICAAP in August 2011 offers an opportunity to visibilise the need to give KAWG related issues greater space.

During the conference session, we developed a strategic session with women and girls to talk about how ‘gender’ as cross cutting issues being emphasized beyond the sideline of HIV/AIDS initiatives. APN+ working group on women-developed a research that foreseen the vulnerability of women who lived with HIV in accessing the SRHR services. Furthermore, during the donor and women’s forum; ADB, Global Fund, AUSAID and OSF talked about how they put gender as a mainstream strategy but faced multiple barriers in implementation it due to limited women participation and leadership on the ground.

**Conference session:**

1. **Plenary session**
The plenary session titled: getting zero in the Asia and the Pacific region. In this session, concerns arose on the issue of free trade agreements which play significant role in the access to health supplies and services. The diminishing funding support toward HIV/AIDS prevention also arose as a concern. In this session, youth community raised their voice on criminalization of sex worker and MSM, thus they ask for the access toward comprehensive sexuality education and youth-friendly services.

2. **New Gen Asia: Mentoring Young Leaders through Learning Exchange**
As the UN Year of Youth comes to a close, there is increasing recognition of the importance of young people as partners, innovators and leaders capable of developing and implementing creative solutions to tackle the many development challenges facing the world. This includes acting as the driving force in many settings behind the HIV prevention revolution.
Across the Asia-Pacific region, an estimated 500,000 young people aged 15-24 are living with HIV. While the overall prevalence in most countries is low, the epidemic is highly concentrated in young key affected populations (YKAPs). Recent data from the Global Commission on AIDS in Asia indicated that in the region, 95% of all new infections in young people are among YKAPs, even though this group make up only 5% of the youth population. YKAPs include: sex workers; men who have sex with men (MSM); transgender persons; and people who inject drugs.

To address these issues, the Asia-Pacific Inter Agency Task Team for YKAPs has developed a multi-pronged capacity development initiative. The initiative, known as NewGen Asia, involves several activities to develop the capacity of the new generation of young leaders.

On Aug 27, 2011, the NEWGEN ASIA: strengthening the voice of tomorrow’s leaders was conducted by UNICEF and other high level organizations. Rachel, Inal and Nancy attended this activity. This project initiates the youth’s leadership building with the target of young key population living with the risk of HIV/AIDS.

The event launched the NewGen mentorship program, pair 30 youth leaders and 30 experienced leaders from civil society, the UN bodies and other development partners, the government officers in AP region. The event was conducted very excited and cheerfully, the mentors and mentees were engaging to communication with each other, and mentors were willing to provide more supervision about project management, the leadership capability building, further education and project funding resources, and others useful information to mentees.

Nancy’s mentor is Prof. Zhao Pengfei, the technique officer, WHO AP region, Manila, Philippine. Whilst Rinaldi have a chance to be mentored by Dede Oetomo, the founder of Gaya Nusantara—the leading MSM and Transgender network in Indonesia. The program encourages the mentee to keep a close contact with mentor for sustainable ability improvement in the next coming year. It is a wonderful experience in ICAAP 10, and I also think it is a good chance for our Regional Youth Moving team to benefit from ‘adults’ for our own young leader's work among the community work for youths.

3. Young Key Affected Population Forum
Some data HIV/AIDS related in AP region has been shared during the YKAP forum on Aug 28, 2011. The data is about the young sex workers (60% sex workers are under 25 years old), 90% of women and 87% of men know the place for VCT and so on.

4. Chinese NGO Forum
A specific Chinese NGO forum about HIV/AIDS epidemic and prevention work in China was organized. Many social workers from China and others whom concerned about the development of HIV/AIDS initiatives in the country being attended the forum. With the current status on the legalization aiming for people living with HIV’s social rights and protection is still in process, furthermore the conflict among different policies, regulations and laws still existed. A case about the unemployment of people living with HIV shows that Chinese social protection (at least the judicatory and legalizing level) is still on the path.
5. Social Protection Forum
On Aug 28, the social protection forum, which provided more perspectives on social protection for HIV/AIDS prevention, such as the livelihood, poverty issues, education and etc.

On Aug 29, forum- ADB’s New Strategic Direction on HIV Prevention in Asia and the Pacific was conducted. ADB provided the fine-turned approach for HIV prevention and evidence-based programming. Three strategic priorities are: mitigating HIV/AIDS risks and vulnerabilities in infrastructure projects; promoting regional cooperation to control and reverse the spread in infrastructure projects; supporting an evidence-based policy dialogue on impact, economics, gender, and poverty. The main fields of ADB funding would be with national or regional perspective, community-based should be concerned, and research, prevention, and other aspects can be considered also. Global Fund also provided guideline on project funding, the different levels of goals, targets, activities, and evaluation.

7. Invoking empathy in the spiritual, the religious response
In this session, religious leaders from the Christian community shared their experience in involving their community for HIV treatment. This session is relevant with Indonesia context where religious leaders play significant part in shaping public opinion and attitude toward any social matters. By knowing their presentation about dealing with HIV and their community, it can be concluded that we should build connection with religious leader to make them support and endorse our advocacy.

8. Airing the silenced voice and media’s role in HIV and Critiquing media reports of HIV in Korea focusing on critical communication perspective.
The session has given Rinaldi insight on how to formulating key message in mainstreaming HIV issue through media. Based on the presentation, it’s important to see how HIV related issue be seen in the mainstream media and how to formulate an effective message and to reduce any stigma and discrimination toward HIV.

9. HIV AIDS in ASEAN: progress and challenges.
This session was held by Asean task force on AIDS by ASEAN secretariat. In this session Rinaldi got a brief description about HIV/AIDS epidemic status in ASEAN country and the progress that this task force has done. But overall, in relation with Indonesia, Indonesia has played a key role in this epidemic since we have a progressive HIV movement and many success story.

10. meaningful participation of sex worker: “Nothing about us without us – sex worker meaningful participation”
The interesting part of this session were not in the speaker but in the participant who came. Participant from scarlet alliance, a group of sex worker advocate criticised and asked the role of the speaker during collecting data about sex worker in their respective country. They told the speaker that it is important to involve sex workers not only as a research object but also a subject and empower their position from the findings in research.

Resource Sharing
1. Information on relevant upcoming conferences:

- **Time**: 25. August to 31 for 2013
- **Site**: Busan Korea

**Major Themes:**
- Sexuality and Reproductive Health
- HIV/AIDS and STDs
- Health
- Mortality and Longevity
- Fertility
- Marriage and Union Formation
- Families and Households
- International Migration
- Internal Migration and Urbanization
- Population Ageing and Intergenerational Relations
- Children and Youth
- Gender and Population
- Society and Culture
- Population and the Environment
- Biogeography
- Population and Human Rights
- Population and Development
- Education and Labour Force
- Demographic Methods and Data
- Historical Demography
- Spatial Demography
- Population and Policy Challenges in East Asia

**Call for Papers**: April 2012

The 11th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific host by PDA. The Thai Cross Society.

**Congress activities:**
- The ICAAP11 will be organized in accordance to the theme of the congress and will include several programs such as: Scientific Program, Excursions, Leadership Program, Site Visits, Cultural Program, Skill Building Workshops, Community Forum.
- The breakout sessions will be for the following population groups: PLHIV, Youth, MSM and TG and LGBT, Migrant, Women, Sex worker, Interfaith, PUD.

**Contact Address:**
Population and Community Development Association (PDA)
Email: information@icaap11.org
Website: [www.icaap11.org](http://www.icaap11.org)

2. **Fellowship and Training**

- **Encouraging HIV and Drug Use Research**
  Funded by International AIDS Society (IAS)
  Application Duration: Dec. 8, 2011 to Feb, 10, 2012

- **Graduate Summer School Course**
  Study public health and health management
  Provided by School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales, Australia.
  Application Deadline: Sep. 30, 2011
3. **Research and Project Resource**

- Where is the money for HIV and AIDS

By Asia Pacific Council of Asia Service Organizations

A consortium of regional and international organizations raising awareness of inadequate funding levels, corruption, and waste. Support the implementation of innovative financing mechanisms and etc, to ensure funds for health and development.

Website: [http://www.makefinancework.org/home/financial-transaction-tax](http://www.makefinancework.org/home/financial-transaction-tax)

- Creative and Novel Ideas in HIV research

Research grants for early career investigators with no prior experience in HIV research

Deadline: Oct. 17, 2011

Website: [www.cnihr.org](http://www.cnihr.org)

4. **Publishing Paper**

- Journal of the International AIDS Society

Submission of research articles by investigators in low and middle income countries are welcome. The publications in the field of operational research are strongly encouraged.

Website: [www.jiasociety.org](http://www.jiasociety.org)