



**Human Rights and Equal
Opportunity Commission**
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INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS SEMINAR

**Sydney, Australia
24, 25 and 28 September 2007**

Programme

| Day 1, Monday 24 September: Human rights defenders and National Human Rights Institutions | | |
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| 8.30 | Registration | |
| 9.00 | Welcome remarks | Hon. John von Doussa President, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) |
| 9.15 | Presentation of the seminar, objectives, participants | Representative, International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) |
| 9.45 | Session 1: Human rights defenders and women human rights defenders in the Asia Pacific region: risks and challenges <i>This session will explore the overall situation of human rights defenders and women human rights defenders in the Asia Pacific region. Speakers from regional and national organisations will share their experiences and highlight some of the strategies adopted.</i> | Chair: Representative, ISHR - Emerlynne Gil, Forum Asia - Shanthi Dairiam, International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAW) Asia Pacific - Virisila Buadromo, Fiji Women's Rights Movement |
| 10.45 | Morning tea | |
| 11.00 | Session 2: The role of National Human Rights Institutions in protecting defenders at the national level <i>This session will focus on the role of NHRIs in fostering respect of the rights and work of human rights defenders and women human rights defenders at the national level. Regional and national organisations will present brief reports on the performance of NIs in their respective countries and will share their experiences and ideas.</i> | Chair: Representative, Forum Asia - Rafendi Djamin, Indonesian Working Group on Human Rights (IWGHR) - Erdechimeg Dashdorg, Centre for Human Rights and Development - Sergiu Troie, South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre (SAHRDC) |
| 12.30 | Lunch | |

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| 2.00 | <p>Session 3: The Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions</p> <p><i>This session will provide an overview of the role and functions of the APF and the challenges and opportunities it offers to NGOs. Speakers from non-government organisations will share their experiences of collaboration and interaction with the APF.</i></p> | <p>Chair: Vanessa Lesnie, HREOC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kieren Fitzpatrick, APF Secretariat - Philippe Tremblay, Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) - Sudarshana Gunawardana, Rights Now / Law and Society Trust (LST) |
| 3.30 | Afternoon tea | |
| 4.00 | <p>Session 4: Collaboration NHRIs/NGOs</p> <p><i>This session will discuss cooperation and collaboration between NHRIs and NGOs, focussing on experiences from different countries of the region and examples of best practices.</i></p> | <p>Chair: Vanessa Lesnie, HREOC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yap Swee Seng, Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM) - NI representative - NGO representative |
| 5.30 | Closing | |

Day 2, Tuesday 25 September: NGO coordination for APF 12th Annual Meeting

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| 8.45 | Report of day 1 | |
| 9.00 | <p>Session 5: Engaging with the Asia Pacific Forum</p> <p><i>This session will offer a brief overview of previous experiences of NGO engagement with APF, in particular during previous Annual Meetings, and review current opportunities.</i></p> | <p>Chair: Rafendi Djamin, IWGHR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative, Forum Asia - Gareth Sweeney, ISHR |
| 10.00 | Morning tea | |
| 10.30 | <p>Session 6: Plenary discussion – NGO coordination for the APF 12 and future meetings</p> | <p>Chair: Virisila Buadromo, Fiji Women's Rights Movement</p> |
| 11.30 | <p>Working groups: preparation of statements</p> <p><i>According to each organisation's interests, participants will be divided into working groups to discuss and prepare statements to be delivered during relevant sessions of the APF Annual Meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Topics addressed by the APF this year include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - environment (2006 ACJ reference, Thurs 27); - disability (open discussion on Thurs 27); - relevant topics under "reports from NGOs" (Wed 26). | <p>Coordinators: Forum Asia, ISHR</p> |
| 1.30 | Lunch | |
| 2.30 | <p>Session 7: The International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (ICC)</p> <p><i>This session will explore the role and functions of the International Coordinating Committee of NHRIs.</i></p> | <p>Jennifer Lynch, ICC Chairperson</p> |

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| 3.30 | Afternoon tea | |
| 4.00 | Session 8: Reports from working groups | Coordinator: ISHR |
| | <i>The working groups will report on the discussion and illustrate the content of the statements drafted. All interested organisations will thus be able to sign and join statements even if not involved in the drafting.</i> | |
| 5.30 | Closing | |

Day 3, Friday 28 September: Developments within the United Nations human rights system

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| 9.00 | Session 9: Human Rights Council and its institution-building process | - Representative, ISHR - Anselmo Lee, Forum Asia |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Highlights of the new Council</i> ➤ <i>The new Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism</i> ➤ <i>Participation of NGOs and NHRIs in the work of the Council</i> | |
| 10.30 | Morning tea | |
| 11.00 | Session 10: Special procedures | - Representative, ISHR - Yap Swee Seng, SUARAM - Rafendi Djamin, IWGHR |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>What they are and how can NGOs and NHRIs make use of them</i> ➤ <i>Impact of the institution-building process on the special procedures</i> | |
| 12.30 | Lunch | |
| 2.00 | Session 11: Treaty body system | - Representative, ISHR - Shanthi Dairiam, IWRAW Asia Pacific and CEDAW member |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>What is the treaty body system</i> ➤ <i>How can NGOs and NHRIs engage with the system</i> ➤ <i>Developments concerning NHRI engagement with treaty bodies</i> | |
| 3.30 | Evaluation and closing | |

The seminar will take place at the Hyde Park Forum, the conference centre of the Hyde Park Inn Hotel, at the following address:

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For further information on the seminar, please contact Mr Andrea Rocca at a.rocca@ishr.ch.