



**ASIA PACIFIC FORUM**  
ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR REGION

# Universal Periodic Review

APF Annual Conference Paper

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## **APF 13**

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific  
Forum of National Human Rights Institutions

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28 to 31 July 2008

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# UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

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PROGRAMME

**ASIA PACIFIC FORUM OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS (APF)**

**WORKSHOP ON THE UPR**

***Refining the role of NHRIs in participating in the UPR***

in collaboration with

Rights & Democracy

and

The National Institutions (NI) Unit of the

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

**Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur**

Hotel Imperial - "Nusantara 2" Room (Level 2)

**Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30 – 5:00**

**9:00 – 1:00**

JOINT SESSION WITH NGOS:

**RESPECTIVE ROLES AND POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN NHRIS AND NGOS IN THE UPR**

Organized in collaboration with

The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)

The International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) and

International Women's Rights Action Watch –Asia Pacific

- 8:30 – 9:00                      Coffee and registration  
*Facilitator: Ms. Cynthia Gervais, Director, Geneva Office of Rights & Democracy*
- 9:00 – 9:10                      **Introductory remarks and objectives for the workshop**  
*Professor Kyong-whan Ahn, Deputy Chairperson of the APF & ICC*
- 9:10 – 9:40                      **The cycle of the UPR : Key entry points for the participation of NHRIs and NGOs**  
*Ms. Cynthia Gervais, Director, Geneva Office of Rights & Democracy*
- 9:40 – 9:55                      **The role of the OHCHR**  
*Mr. Homayoun Alizadeh, Regional Representative of the OHCHR in Southeast Asia*
- 9:55 – 10:15                      Questions & Answers
- Perspectives on the first rounds of the UPR**
- National**
- 10:15 – 10:30                      Republic of Korea  
*Ms. Soo Hee CHOI, Special Assistant to Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission of Korea*
- 10:30 – 10:45                      Tonga  
*Mr. Gerard Winter, former High Court Judge of Fiji, and assistant to the Kingdom of Tonga in the preparation of its national report to the UPR*
- Global Overview**
- 10:45 – 11:00                      *Mr. Gareth Sweeney, Deputy Manager, International Human Rights Defenders Programme, Geneva, International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)*
- 11:00 – 11:15                      Break
- Regional perspectives on NGO participation in the first sessions of the UPR**
- 11:15 – 11:30                      *Ms. Emerlynne Gill, Human Rights Defenders (HRD) Programme Manager, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)*
- 11:30 – 12:00                      Questions & Answers

12:00 – 12:15 **Leading practices and challenges in NHRIs and NGO cooperation within the framework of the UPR**

*Facilitator: Ms. Cynthia Gervais, Director, Geneva Office of Rights & Democracy*

12:15 – 12:45 Indonesia

*Ms. Hesti Armiwulan, Vice Chairperson for External Affairs, the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) (TBC)*

*Mr. Rafendi Djamin, Coordinator, NGO Human Rights working Group (HRWG)*

12:45 – 1:00 Questions & Answers

1:00 – 2:00 Lunch

**2:00 – 5:00**

**SESSION WITH NHRIS MEMBERS OF THE APF:**

**DEBATE**

**REFINING THE ROLE OF NHRIS IN THE UPR**

2:00 – 2:15 Perspectives from the Commonwealth

*Ms. Purna Sen, Head of Human Rights Unit, Commonwealth Secretariat*

2:15 – 2:20 Questions & Answers

2:20 – 2:45 Presentation and discussion on key issues to be debated

*Mr. Hodayoun Alizadeh, Regional Representative of the OHCHR in Southeast Asia*

*(Participants will be invited to contribute to the list of questions for the debate).*

Examples of questions that may be addressed:

a) Questions with regard to NHRIs participation in the UPR

Q: To which extent NHRIs should participate in the preparation of the State report and what are the issues to be considered with regard to the appearance of independence of the NHRI?

Q: To which extent, the NHRI should advocate for its own status and mandate and how can this be effectively done in collaboration with NGOs?

Q: To which extent the NHRI should be critical to the State performance?

- Q: Would it be appropriate for NHRIs to lobby Member States of the Council including the troika, as well as other UN Members States during the UPR process?
- Q: What may be a key role for regional and global networks of NHRIs?
- b) Proposed practices to overcome the main challenges to NHRIs / State and NHRIs/ NGO cooperation in the UPR
- c) Potential next steps and follow up

2:45 – 3:30

General debate

*Co-moderated by APF and Rights & Democracy*

3:30 – 3:45

Break

3:45 – 4:45

General debate (continued)

4:45 – 5:00

Concluding remarks

*Ms. Cynthia Gervais, Director, Geneva Office of Rights & Democracy*

*Mr. Kieren Fitzpatrick, Director, Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF)*