HIGHLIGHT

Asia Pacific women are calling for harmonising development priorities with already agreed upon standards as embodied in the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). While there have been advancements in gender equality since the initial adaptation of the BPfA, an inequitable model of development has deepened inequalities at the expense of the lives and wellbeing of women.

In December 2015, the United Nations will adopt a new set of goals which will shape future development priorities, including a goal on gender. We must recognize this as an opportunity to accelerate the implementation of governments’ obligations under the BPfA and ensure there is no regression from commitments already made.

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development | www.apwld.org

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We need very strong text in the Ministerial outcome document both for the work in the region but also when we move into the Post-2015 Development Agenda, negotiations and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) leading up to the global negotiations on climate adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage in Paris in September 2015. The Beijing+20 agenda review process is therefore critical for every aspect of the lives of women and girls in Asia and the Pacific and around the world,”

Noelene Nabulivou, Social Advocate of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era

DID YOU KNOW...

...that the World Conference held in Beijing in 1995 brought together more than 50,000 men and women, focused on the cross-cutting issues of equality, development and peace?

More facts about Beijing+20 campaign here: http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/beijing20

REGIONAL DIRECTOR’S CORNER

Roberta Clarke
Regional Director
UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

SOLIDARITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY (PART 1)

The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing was a culmination of international normative agenda setting in which gender equality was acknowledged as central to global development and security.

Starting in 1992, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development noted, though too briefly, that women’s full participation was essential to achieving sustainable development. In 1993, women’s rights advocates with thoughtful strategizing and positioning, ensured that the World Conference on Human Rights affirmed state accountability to respect, protect and fulfil women’s human rights.

At the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, historic agreement was reached on the non-negotiability of women’s access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

With this foundation, at the Beijing conference, governments and women’s NGOs articulated that the transformations needed across the economic, social, cultural, political and environmental spheres required the thinking and actions of everyone. In essence, the Beijing Conference launched gender mainstreaming as both a strategy and a message. We are all obligated to end discrimination and to empower women.

Read more: http://ow.ly/Ed7DQ
TWENTY YEARS AFTER THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION: HAVE ASIAN-PACIFIC COUNTRIES DONE ENOUGH FOR GENDER EQUALITY?

Over 400 feminist women activists working on women’s rights are meeting in Bangkok at the Asia-Pacific CSO Forum on Beijing+20 (APCSOB20) to discuss what their governments have done to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Activists from across the region will note if the reported progress by States has been sufficient and what States should be doing to tackle the challenges that remain on the 12 critical areas of concern identified twenty years ago in the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA).

“The Beijing+20 CSO Forum brings together women activists from the region to hold governments accountable and ensure that States make good on their promises from 20 years ago,” said Jasmin Qureshi, media liaison for the CSO Forum. “Accountability requires remedies that are powerful and enforceable; without them gender equality remains but a good intention.”

EVENT’S TODAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13:30 - 14:20</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony of Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum on Beijing+20:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:20 - 15:15</td>
<td>Session: Our lives 20 years on</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:45 - 16:45</td>
<td>Session: Our lives 20 years on the continuing struggle of women in achieving development</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:45 - 17:30</td>
<td>Plenary session: Accountability and implementation of BPfA, Post 2015 and the SDGs</td>
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YOUTH DIARY

Almost 20 years ago, in 1995, more than 50,000 people gathered in Beijing, China, for the Fourth World Conference on Women. Today young people from Asia Pacific is called to join the movement and stand up for gender equality and women’s empowerment.

During the Beijing+20 events in Bangkok, young people will have many opportunities to advocate both online and offline. This space will be dedicated to them, Beijing+20 through the eyes of the Asia-Pacific youth.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

1. Follow us: @unwomenasia
2. Take a selfie at UN Women’s booth #HeForShe
3. Share! Post and Tweet your content using the hashtag #Beijing20 across all your social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others)
4. Interact with us! Like, Favorite, Comment, Retweet and Share our posts!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The outcomes of the APCSOB20 will feed into the Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review. At the latter, UNESCAP member states will adopt the regional input that will go into the global review process dialogue to be held in 2015 at the 59th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW). The UNCSW will not include negotiation, but only policy recommendations that will converge with the post 2015 development agenda and sustainable goals.

The full press release by ISIS International here: http://ow.ly/Ed7KA

The regional Beijing+20 review process is supported by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in cooperation with UN Women.

This newsletter is produced daily by the UN Women Asia and the Pacific Regional Office Communications Team. If you are interested to contribute kindly submit your articles, pictures or information to:

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The editorial committee will review and edit the submissions and will try as much as possible to include all the contributions received.

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