HIGHLIGHT

RAMA DHAKAL, CHAIRPERSON OF THE NEPAL DISABLED WOMEN ASSOCIATION

“Our organization was established in 1998 and works with women with disabilities to empower them and to advocate for them so they can have a dignified life in their community. Women with disabilities face multiple forms of discrimination – being women, being disabled and being poor.

I’d like to see more capacity building so that women with disabilities don’t need to be so economically dependent on their families. Many disabled women don’t get the same earning opportunities even when they are educated or skilled because people see the disability not their abilities. For inclusive development to be fulfilled, women with disabilities need to be at these kinds of high-level meetings and this one is a great opportunity for much-needed points to be brought forward.”

Reported by: Ellie van Baaren/UN Women Fiji

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“THAI WOMEN STILL FACE GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE”

- Adul Saengsingkaew
Minister of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand.

DID YOU KNOW!

...the Beijing Platform for Action made comprehensive commitments under 12 Critical Areas of Concern including: Women and the environment, Women in power and decision-making, The girl child, Women and the economy, Women and poverty, Violence against women, Human rights of women, Education and training of women, Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, Women and health, Women and the media and Women and armed conflict.

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

PHOTO EXHIBITION

“No one should work this way”

The ILO, UN Women, ESCAP with the Network of Domestic Workers in Thailand and HomeNet present the photo exhibition, “No one should work this way” by Karen Emmons and Steve McCurry focused on the need to better protect domestic workers, enhance their economic empowerment and provide them with decent work opportunities.

Tuesday 18 November, 7.30 pm
Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand (FCCT)

YOUTH DIARY

#Beijing20

Young women activists from Vietnam, Timor Leste, Malaysia and Laos join the Beijing+20 Forum in Bangkok with support from the Young Women Leaders Programme supported by UN Women’s Fund for Gender Equality and International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW)
NEWS

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL REPORTING NETWORKS FOR THE BEIJING+20

On the 15th of November 27 journalists from 20 countries across the Asia Pacific region met for the first time in Bangkok. Together, they have embarked on what will be a seven-day journey of knowledge sharing and learning, during the Regional Training Programme for Reporting for the Beijing+20, Youth Engagement and Gender Responsive Advocacy for Media in the Asia Pacific.

The aim of the course is not only to strengthen the language and advocacy tools the journalists use to report on the Beijing+20, but to create a strong network of communicators who can call on each other’s knowledge and expertise for support in the fight for gender equality. In sharing their vast array of experiences, understandings and stories, the participants will be capable of broadening the hearts and minds of their readers, encouraging shifts in attitudes and actions. Recognising this power within the media, UN Women’s Regional Director for the Asia Pacific, Roberta Clarke, addressed the journalists at a press conference on the 15th of November stating that through the Beijing+20, “We are trying to change the power structures of society to end violence.”

Reported by: Christina Yiannakis/UN Women Timor-Leste.

EVENT’S TODAY | 18 NOVEMBER

09:30-17:00 Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review | Full programme here: http://ow.ly/Elbuz

09:00-16:00 Regional Dialogue among Parliamentarians on the Implementation of CEDAW in conjunction with Beijing Platform for Action. | Full programme here: http://ow.ly/Elbwp

09:00-17:00 Reporting for the Beijing + 20, Youth Engagement and Gender Responsive Advocacy for media in Asia and the Pacific. | Full programme here:  http://ow.ly/ElbAi

HIGHLIGHTS

CSO DECLARATION ON BEIJING+20

Abortion—There is a need to guarantee safe and legal abortion in the region and decriminalise this practice.

Comprehensive sexuality education—Women have a right to accurate information about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Economic environment and role of the private sector—There is a need for accountability mechanisms for transnational corporations.

Equal right to inherit land—It is essential that governments state that the right to inherit land is a fundamental right.

Families—Language on the family should be less restrictive and include issues such as diversity in families and sharing of responsibilities.

Human rights and development—The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) should be the backbone of development policies for women.

Inclusion of women’s rights organizations—There is a need to recognize the work done by feminist groups on women’s human rights.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights—language on SRHR should be adopted

Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)—Women of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities continue to face violence and discrimination. There is a need to have a stand-alone paragraph on SOGI.

Unpaid care work—There is a need to have a commitment to redistribution for paid work and the reduction on the burden on women and the value of care work.

Women and climate change—There is a need for clear language on climate change.

Women and conflict—Participation of women in conflict resolution and decision-making processes should be put forward.

Women and HIV—There is a need to address and protect the rights of female sex workers, who are most at risk in the region.

Read the full text of the declaration here: http://ow.ly/Ew4f

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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:

Diego De La Rosa <Diego.delarosa@unwomen.org>

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

CONTACT

UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Building, 5th Floor, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200, Thailand.
Tel: +66 2 288-2093
Fax: +66 2 280-6030
asiapacific.unwomen.org

@unwomenasia

Contact: Montira Narkvichien
Regional Communications Specialist
Email: montira.narkvichien@unwomen.org

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Earth Passages/Lora Jo, ILO/Steve McCurry