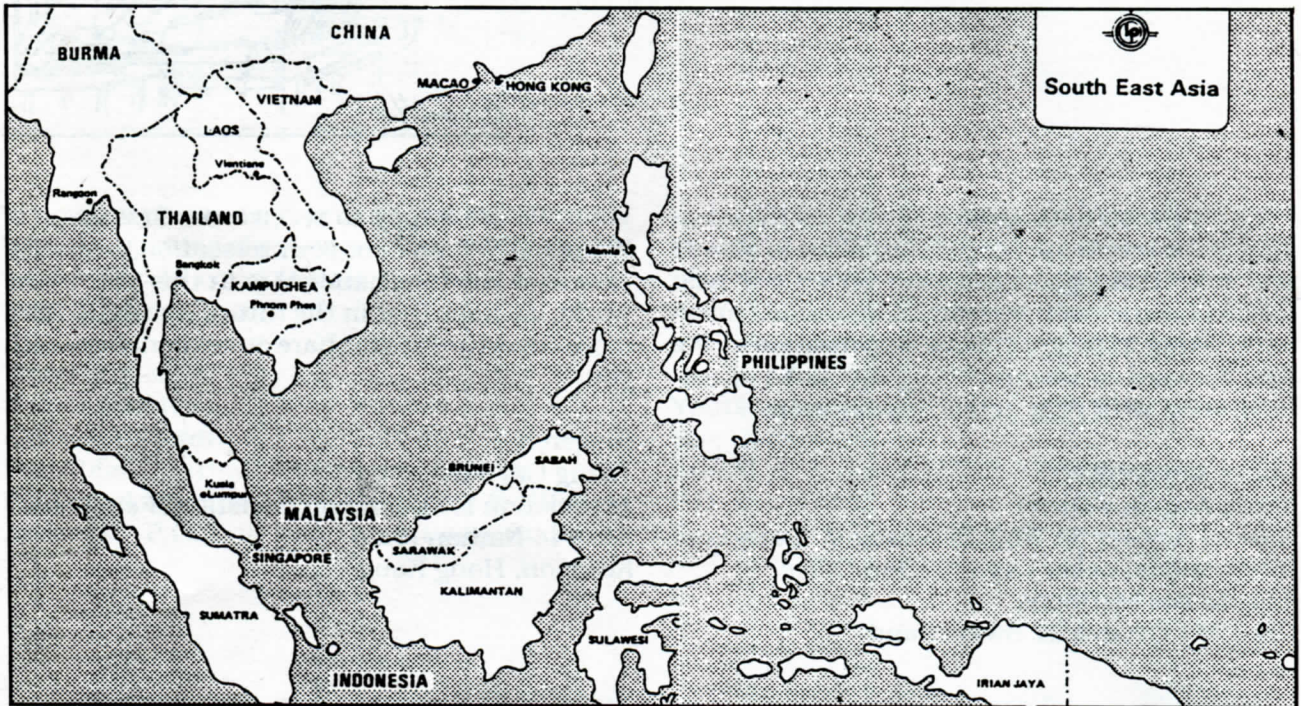


The Global Fund for Women Network in Southeast Asia



The Global Fund for Women was established in 1987 as a non-profit corporation engaged in philanthropic work. It provides funds to seed, strengthen, and link organizations committed to women's well-being and full participation in society. It provides small grants to groups concerned with female human rights and women's access to communication and media.

The Fund also promotes greater donor understanding of the importance of funding women's activities internationally and encourages increased support for women's programs, both in the United States where it is based and globally.

A vital orientation of The Global Fund is its commitment to giving flexible, timely support to women's groups working on emerging, controversial, or difficult issues. It works through an international network of 85 advisers who give their opinions on the merits of various women's organizations and whether or not they should receive funds. It has public charity, non-taxable status in the United States.

In some parts of the world (notably India and Mexico), Global Fund advisers have joined together in groups to advise as a group rather than individually. In both countries,

the advisory groups are working toward creating a "women's fund" -- a group that would fundraise and give away money -- very much as The Global Fund does -- within those countries and regions. In the United States, about sixty "women's funds" have developed in various cities, and it is an inclusive and exciting development in philanthropy.

The Fund's support for women's advancement is rooted in: a commitment to justice, an appreciation of the value of women's experience, and a sense of urgency of the need to face and solve the world's problems.

The Fund responds to three particular areas of concern: female human rights; communications, media, and communications technology; and economic autonomy of women. In its four and a half years of existence, it has assisted about 200 groups, many of which are in Asia.

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Toward greater communication and interaction among women and women's groups in the region

The Global Fund visits Southeast Asia

In September 1991, Anne Firth Murray, President of The Global Fund for Women, and Lucia Pavia Ticzon, one of the Southeast Asian advisers of The Global Fund and coordinator for organization and human resource development of Isis International and cofounder of the Women's Resource and Research Center (WRRC), both located in Quezon City, Philippines travelled to meet with and consult the advisers and grantees of The Global Fund for Women on the possibility of developing a Global Fund association in Southeast Asia.

Anne and Luchie were able to visit most of the advisers, grantees, selected women's organizations, pro-women donors and donor agencies

during the two-week trip that took them to Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Jakarta and Manila.

During the meetings with individual women and women's groups, the consensus was that women want to work and interact together at a regional level on certain issues such as violence against women, trafficking in women and migrant labor issues, and training of women in community development and related skills. The groups felt that The Global Fund can nurture and expand these regional efforts.

In particular, The Global Fund can help create an environment and a context in which women can relate to each other on the basic reality and

uniqueness of women's lives. With this objective in mind, the Global Fund plans to continue discussing the possibilities of strengthening women's groups in the region.

Since strengthening south-south linkages is also one of the objectives of Isis International and because of its relocation to Manila, close collaboration with The Global Fund and with other women's organizations in the region offer many possibilities for networking.

The trip to Southeast Asia allowed The Global Fund a firsthand look into the many different ways it can service women's groups in the region and thereby the women's movements in the world.

Some Women's Groups in the Region

Thailand

The Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women (APSW)
501/1 Mu 3, Dejatungka Road
Tungsikan, Don Muang, Bangkok 10210

Established in 1974 as the Status of Women Promotion Group, the APSW's objectives are to study problems pertaining to discrimination and women's rights and to promote equal opportunities between men and women. Their projects include: Emergency Home for distressed women and children, SASAKAWA Women's Education and Training Center (WE-TRAIN) and the Gender and Development Research Institute (GDRI).

The APSW is presently operating two Emergency Homes which provide temporary shelter, food and medical care. WE-TRAIN provides skills

development in many areas while the GDRI is involved in academic and research work on gender issues.

Friends of Thai Women Workers in Asia (FOWIA)
P.O. Box 1102 Kasetsart, Bangkok 10930, Thailand, Telefax 501-4539

The FOWIA assists women workers from Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore and Taiwan. Their work involves NGO networking, human rights council, church, domestic workers, prostitutes, and factory workers

Friends of Women (FOW)
984 Pha-Ha-Thit Road
Bangkok 10200 Thailand

The FOW is concerned with the following issues: quality of life,

conditions of women workers in the factory (unions and the labor movement), health (occupational hazards), sexual harassment and violence (e.g., rape) and migrant workers from the countryside (covering not only Bangkok but also Asia).

Foundation for Women (FFW)
35/267 Saransanitwong 62, Bangkok 10700/PO Box 7-47 Bkk 10700, Thailand, Tel. 4335149

The FFW set up a Women's Information Center and the Home for Battered Women in 1987. The Foundation looks into issues of domestic violence, prostitution, sex exploitation, tourism, sex market, and women's education. Its goal is to empower women by means of support programs and a separate project on AIDS.
