

# RIGHTS, EMPOWERMENT AND LIBERATION! ASIAN RURAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2008

## Steering Committee:

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Tamil Nadu Women's Forum (TNWF)  
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Tenaganita, Malaysia

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All Nepal Women's Alliance  
(ANWA), Nepal

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International Movement Against  
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Lucia Jayaseelan  
Committee on Asian  
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Asia Pacific Forum on  
Women, Law and  
Development (APWLD)

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Research on AIDS and  
Mobility (CARAM Asia)

Sarojeni Rengam  
Pesticide Action Network Asia  
and the Pacific (PAN AP)



Rural women make up the invisible majority in Asia. Our voices need to be heard. Our collective strength needs to be visible. This is the time to consolidate our resistance and free ourselves from corporate globalisation, fundamentalism, state violence and militarisation.

Join us at the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Rural Women's Conference in Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu, India on March 6-8, 2008. Hosted by the Tamil Nadu Women's Forum (TNWF), Tamil Nadu Dalit Women's Movement (TNDWM) and Society for Rural Education and Development (SRED), the conference will be a venue for sharing, learning and building perspectives.

Alliances will be forged and movements strengthened between and among rural and indigenous women leaders, peasants, agricultural workers, fisherfolk, Dalits, pastoralists, informal workers, migrants, minorities and nomads from Asia.

The Asian Rural Women's Conference will set in motion collective action and strategies for economic, social and cultural transformation among rural women in Asia.

We welcome participation from women's organizations, regional formations, public interest groups, media, NGOs, and advocates.

Join us in this historic event as we march in solidarity with the Asian Rural Women and as we move towards Asian Rural Women's Liberation!

## Rights, Empowerment and Liberation for Asian rural women!

### Objectives:

- Empower all women in the rural economy to assert and claim rights
- Strengthen and consolidate rural women's movements in knowledge, actions and organisation
- Build solidarity and unity through a collective identity in Asia

### Activities:

The conference will have plenaries and simultaneous workshops on rural women's issues; speak-outs and testimonies from rural and indigenous women sectors in Asia, organic food festival, cultural and film presentations from various countries, women's caravan and other solidarity actions.

### Registration Fee:

For NGOs, the academe and other advocates, we require a minimal registration fee to cover conference materials, transport, meals and modest accommodation.

\*For international delegates – US\$350

\*For local delegates – US\$200

### Conference Update:

Information about the conference will be posted on the conference website <[www.asianruralwomen.net](http://www.asianruralwomen.net)>. Please contact the secretariat for additional information.

### Contact Information:

All correspondence concerning the conference should be sent to:

The Steering Committee

c/o Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP) and Tamil Nadu Women's Forum (TNWF)

Email: PAN AP <[panap@panap.net](mailto:panap@panap.net)>

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### Sign-up Form:

Name:
Organisation:
Organisational Address:
Country:
Email:
Tel.No:

Please send the form to PAN AP at [panap@panap.net](mailto:panap@panap.net); and [marjo.busto@panap.net](mailto:marjo.busto@panap.net) and to Tamil Nadu Women's Forum [tnwforum@gmail.com](mailto:tnwforum@gmail.com)

[www.asianruralwomen.net](http://www.asianruralwomen.net)



## Asian Rural Women's Conference 2008: Rights, Empowerment and Liberation CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**March 5:** Arrival of participants

**March 6, 2008:** Resisting Globalisation

10:00am - 11:00am Opening Remarks and introductions

11:00am - 1:00pm Rural Women's Testimonies/Voices

2:00pm - 3:00pm *Plenary: Resisting Globalisation and claiming our rights*

3:00pm - 5:00pm Simultaneous Workshops

- Land, Livelihood, Resources & Food Sovereignty
- Labour Migration and Displacement
- Women's Health & Violence against Women
- Economic Disempowerment
- Indigenous Peoples
- Environment
- Labour & Trade
- Fisherfolk
- Genetic Resources and Ecological Agriculture

5:00pm-6:00pm Plenary: Workshop Outcome (Strategies and Recommendations)

**March 7, 2008:** Empowering Ourselves

9:00am-10:00am *Plenary: Empowering ourselves against Fundamentalism*

10:00am-12:00n Simultaneous Workshops

- Dalit and casteism
- Sexual & reproductive rights
- Women culture & violence
- Politics, communalism and secularism

12:00n-1:00pm *Plenary: Militarisation, Democratization and strengthening our struggles*

2:00pm- 4:00pm Simultaneous Workshops

- Women Democracy & Politics
- State Violence & women's struggles
- Imperialist war on Terror
- Ethnic & caste conflict

4:00pm-5:00pm Plenary: Workshop Outcome (Strategies and Recommendations)

5:00pm-6:00pm Conference Declaration

6:00pm-7:00pm Cultural presentation and Briefing for the next day

**March 8, 2008:** Strengthening our Movement for Liberation

10:00am - 4:00pm Women's Caravan (Arakkonam to Chennai)

5:00pm – 8:00pm Public Assembly and Press Conference

For updates, please contact the Secretariat or visit the conference website.  
[www.asianruralwomen.net](http://www.asianruralwomen.net)