



APWLD

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

NGO on the Roster in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Announcement

**APWLD Regional Feminist Legal Theory and Practice Training in
collaboration with Women's Studies Centre, Faculty of Social Sciences,
Chiang Mai University**
In Chiang Mai
29 September – 6 October 2007

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) is an independent, non-government, non-profit organisation committed to enabling women to use law as an instrument of social change and to promote women's human rights. APWLD is the leading regional network addressing the issue of women, law and development in the Asia-Pacific and has an outreach with a wide network of women's and human rights NGOs and individuals in the region.

The Feminist Legal Theory and Practice (FLTP) training has been a significant activity of APWLD. The training has grown into a dynamic program that offers a unique model in the region in so far as it attempts to bring feminist insights and perspectives into legal practice. The trainings seeks to challenge the traditional notion that law is neutral, objective, a rational set of rules, unaffected by the perspective of those who possess the power inherent in the legal institutions. It seeks to address the social, cultural and political contexts that shape the legal system. Given that law (as a culture, system and as an institution) is a reality that women face and engage with, it is essential for women's rights activists to explore how it can be utilised to transform women's situations. Partners throughout the region have perceived feminist legal theory and practice as an important area of work.

APWLD will conduct an Asia Pacific Regional FLTP training in collaboration with the Women's Studies Centre, Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University, in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 29 September – 6 October 2007.

The specific objectives of the training are:

- To serve as a venue for participants to share experiences in using law in advocacy on women's concerns;
- To develop greater understanding of gender, discrimination, equality, law and human rights;
- To identify and discuss issues and dilemmas encountered by women's rights advocates in their use of legal strategies to address women's concerns;
- To enhance the capability of participants to effectively challenge discriminatory laws and practices in their countries by feminist, rights-based legal practice and by applying international conventions and precedents for advancement of women's rights.

APWLD invites women and men from Asia and Pacific, engaging with or using law for social justice issues, to participate in this 8 day training. We aim to have around 25 participants from the region. The training will be in English language - we regret to inform that due to limited resources, simultaneous translation facilities will not be available.

Participants will be selected based on the following considerations:

- a. Balance in regional representation;
- b. A mixture of lawyers, activists and academics engaging with the law for women's rights and social justice;
- c. Preference will be given to individuals with institutional affiliations (from either NGOs or government organisations or attorney general/public prosecutor's office etc);
- d. Priority will be given to those working on issues relevant to marginalised sections of the population;
- e. Proficiency in reading and writing English is essential.

Cost of the Training and Sponsorship

Due to limited funds, participants are encouraged to cover their travel costs (to Chiang Mai and back) either fully or partially. APWLD will cover costs of boarding and lodging for the eight-day training period. However, for those who cannot cover their travel costs, sponsorship for limited number of candidates is available. Please indicate the requirement of financial assistance in the form below.

Please fill in the form and email/post/fax it to APWLD at:

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
Girl Guides Association
189/3 Changklan Road
Amphoe Muang
Chiangmai 50101 Thailand
Tel: (66) (0)53 284527, 284856
Fax: (66) (0)53 280847
Email: misun@apwld.org
Website: www.apwld.org

(If you send the form by email, please indicate clearly in the subject line "Application for FLTP training")

The last date for receiving applications will be July 20, 2007.

APPLICATION FORM

(Please complete all questions fully and use additional sheets if necessary. Please submit the completed form with a copy of your curriculum vitae (CV) no later than 20 July, 2007.)

[PLEASE NOTE: INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED]

I. Personal Information:

1. Name:
2. Organisation Affiliation:
3. Mailing Address:
4. Country and state/province:
5. Telephone:
6. Fax:
7. E-mail Address:

II. Background on the Applicant & the Organisation:

- a) What are the main activities and programmes of your organisation?
- b) What does your position/role in your organisation involve? Please provide examples of how your work links to women's human rights.
- c) Does your work involve case work and/or conducting trainings on women's rights?
- d) Have you and your organisation addressed challenges that women face with respect to the law? If yes, please outline these.
- e) Do you have any specific background knowledge in human rights work?
- f) How long have you been involved with this organisation?
- g) Have you ever been a past participant in any Feminist Legal Theory and Practice Training session (FLTP) conducted by APWLD? If so, when and where?
- h) Have you attended any other international, regional or national training in a similar area as FLTP?

III. Understanding of Women's Rights and Law as a Tool for Change:

- a) What are the critical issues affecting women in your country and sub-region including with respect to the law and legal system? Please provide examples from your country or sub-region that demonstrate these.
- b) How do you think the law can be useful as a tool to address the challenges that women face? Please provide examples from your country or sub-region that demonstrate these.
- c) Why do you want to participate in this training and how will you use the knowledge you gain in the training? Please provide specific examples.

IV. Commitment of the NGO/Institution (to be answered by the NGO endorsing your participation):

- a) The institution/ organisation should certify that the person recommended has worked in the area of women's human rights and is committed to applying the core learning points from the training in her future work
- b) How will the attendance of your endorsee to the FLTP Training benefit your organisation?

V. Financial Assistance:

- a) Would you be able to cover your travel costs for this training (i.e., round trip to Chiang Mai and back) either fully or partially?
- b) Would you require financial assistance to cover your travel costs? If yes, please give us an estimate of the cost from your place of stay to Chiang Mai and back (most direct and cheapest route in local currency and US Dollars)?

Please attach your curriculum vitae and send back to misun@apwld.org by 20 July 2007.