

SW-ASEAN



Proceedings of 1st ASEAN Sex Worker Summit
(SW-ASEAN Studies: Module One)

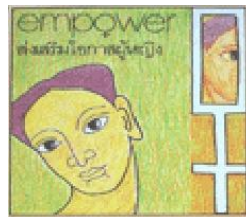
12-16th November, 2012

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

PRESENTED BY

Empower Foundation

Thailand



Empower Foundation

57/60 Tiwanon Road

Nontaburi 11000

Thailand

Tel/fax +6625268311

email: noi@empowerfoundation.org

www.empowerfoundation.org



Supported by UNDP

Ready... set.... go...

Empower Foundation delegates met to go over the program and check we had everything one last time before heading off to the airport.



Lesson One: ASEAN and Immigration

At the airport in Thailand we were going to meet up with delegates from other countries. When we arrived we found our friend in distress. Despite the fact she had a paid return ticket from her home country to Cambodia the Thai immigration staff would not let her pass through immigration to check in and continue her journey. Instead they had kept her waiting for 4 hours and now planned to send her straight back home. The airline staff was very helpful, offering to check her in for the forward flight to Cambodia but the immigration officer in charge would not allow this. Pi Noi spent a frantic 45 minutes trying to find a solution but the officer was not interested. Our friend was taken to a different boarding gate and sent home. We all felt terrible for her. At the same time two of our other friends had also arrived without a Thai visa. Even though the rules say they should have applied in their home country a different immigration officer was kind enough to give them a visa stamp.

When we talked about what had happened we realized that our friends had helped us learn a lot about ASEAN travel. One delegate was trying to travel from one poor country to another poor country. If she went directly it would have been no problem and she would get a visa on arrival in Cambodia. However the trouble came because she needed to pass through a richer country, Thailand. In Thailand people from her country are seen as “illegal workers, diseases spreaders and associated with crimes”. Our other friends who come from a country that doesn’t face this stigma in Thailand were given permission even though they had not followed the law strictly.

The immigration law is not applied equally to everyone but rather is applied according to your status of where you are from, what you do and who you are. The law can be changed or not, applied or ignored according to the mood and attitudes of the immigration staff.

Will travel become more or less difficult when we become one ASEAN Economic Community?

A team of WNU members, led by Phranny worked very hard to help Empower organize the Summit. It was especially helpful because we had never hosted a meeting outside of Thailand before.



Our Summit included sex worker leaders from WNU Cambodia, OPSI Indonesia, Suwanakade Laos, PAMT Malaysia, TOP Myanmar, Deviant Daughters and Whore Philippines, \$carlet Timor Timor Leste and Empower Thailand. An extended family of more than 30 people from eight countries needs a very long table to eat together.

Empower had asked each country to prepare 10 photos to share how we work and live in our different countries.



Even though we were presenting to each other we were all nervous and excited. ***"I have never presented in English before so I was very worried people would not understand me. In the end it wasn't as difficult as I thought it would be and I would like to practice my English so I can speak out and understand more"*** Nong Empower delegate

We found that nearly all of us are self employed working independently. Some of us have several regular places we visit to meet customers. About half of us use the mobile phone and/or internet to find customers.



Laos style



We like kind, generous polite customers

"I thought we would see differences and we did, but mostly I noticed how similar our work and our lives are." Lulu Deviant Daughters delegate



We used a series of photos and props to get a better understanding of the ASEAN Community.

"I learned that sex workers everywhere in ASEAN are getting very little condoms!"

"Kaythi TOP delegate"



We also looked at a simplified version of the structure of ASEAN. The member states form ASEAN, managing issues under three pillars Economic, Social Cultural and Political Security. Each pillar is overseen by a Community Council. Specific issues within the Community Council are addressed by the relevant Senior Ministers. The Senior Ministers draft declarations, do planning and appoint working groups or task forces to carry out specific jobs. For example the Social Cultural Pillar is overseen by the Social Cultural Community Council. Health is one issue under the Council and is addressed by the Senior Health Ministers. The Health Ministers drafted the "ASEAN Commitment "Getting to ZERO" declaration on HIV. They have created a ASEAN Task Force on Aids (ATFOA) to draft a plan and implement the declaration.



"I have heard about ASEAN before but this time I learned a lot – just about the simple things"
Selvi, PAMT delegate

Freedom from punishment, stigma and discrimination

In our country presentations we heard how different religious agencies and practices increase the stigma and discrimination against sex works in many ASEAN countries. In some countries religious law and/or complying with religious beliefs is a stronger force than State law and harder to address. We learned a lot from PAMT and Deviant Daughters/Whore about the impact of religions in society on sex workers and their families.





Also a PAMT delegate pointed out that we had neglected to include Hindu in our slides of ASEAN religions, especially for Malaysia and we have promised to adjust this.

Using Worker's Rights



\$carlet Timor delegates led a discussion on joining with Trade Unions as a way of decreasing stigma and exploitation of sex workers. The Trade Union movement in Timor Leste began after independence in 2002. \$carlet Timor became part of the movement 2 years ago. Sex workers pay an annual union membership fee and their concerns are addressed by the Unions the same as other workers. They explained that there seems to be very little discrimination or stigma in the Trade Union movement.

Can Do...

Sex workers of Empower Thailand are also pushing for labour rights. Lillee presented delegates with a cocktail and gave a presentation on the Can Do bar...

a safe just bar run for sex workers by sex workers. Can Do bar complies with labour and occupational health and safety standards and is a model for policy makers and other bar owners. Lately Can Do bar has also become a training center for bar staff and Lillee explained that they would like to keep improving and expanding this area of Can Do activities.



Using the Law



WNU and CLS gave a very interesting presentation on their Legal Service which has been operating for about the last 18 months. They have handled hundreds of enquiries and have managed to successfully mediate in many disputes since they

began. We discovered it is common across the region for most people, not only sex workers, to have little faith in the court system or the rule of law. Most would prefer to settle out of court rather than go through the long and often difficult justice system. Although mediation can be successful for individuals it does not necessarily help to create direct law reform. Donors need to be educated about this too so they do not insist on court cases as the main indicator of success for community legal services.

ASEAN Civil Society

Kunthi and Keo Tha WNU also took the time to explain the two branches of ASEAN Civil Society operating in Cambodia during the week. The Asean Peoples Forum (APF) that had been in existence for a few years was running workshops and compiling recommendations to forward the ASEAN governments. A second group, the newly formed ASEAN Grassroots Peoples Assembly (AGPA) was also holding rallies and compiling recommendations to ASEAN with particular focus on the Cambodian government. WNU was a founding member and allied with the AGPA and invited Empower and the SW Asean delegates to join their activities wherever possible. Their plans were further complicated by threats and intimidation by government authorities meaning venues, times and plans were all temporary.

After some discussion it was decided that we would join the AGPA cultural event, share and endorse the APNSW/WNU recommendations on sex work, run a session and submit recommendations in the APF forum before joining the AGPA General Assembly and then the march on the final day.

Almost nothing went to plan...



The delegates quickly put together a short performance using Empower magic show and our red umbrellas. There was only time for one rehearsal before we headed off to the AGPA cultural event but it was very smooth and they looked great.

AGPA Cultural Event: The umbrellas were handy in the sun and made sure our arrival at the venue was noticed. WNU friends were there to greet us.

About 1,000 people or more had gathered. Farmers, garment workers, sex workers, people from all walks of life. There were a lot of speeches, mostly in Cambodian so we didn't understand a lot but the crowd cheered. The performances began and we were proud to see the Cambodian sex workers so professional and beautiful. After a while we went to the back of the stage to get in the queue to perform.



We were all so excited. However before we could go on stage we were told the government had told the venue owner not to turn the electricity on. The organizers were worried that as it got dark paid thugs or gangs may come to cause trouble so the show was cancelled!

We were disappointed and more than this the next day we wondered if ASEAN governments behave like this towards their people now...what will our lives be like under a collective of 10 ASEAN governments?

Sex Work and the Economic Pillow!



We are developing an interactive game "Race to Be Rich" where sex workers can understand the basic evolution and impact of trade practices and policy such as economic migration, copyright, taxation, tariffs, labour standards and so on.

The governments and private sector of three countries; poor, middle and rich, compete with each other to get the natural resources, labour,

technology and skills needed to produce products for market and "get rich". Workers also try to earn as much as possible for themselves and their families. The draft game instructions are included in the SW Asean case so people can experiment further with the game. Each time the game is played different issues will arise depending on group make up and dynamics.



This time the issues that surfaced were labour migration, false and dodgy recruitment practices, copyright, destruction of environment and depletion of natural resources, government regulation of business and trade, profit, fair wages and contracts.

"We can see from our game that the governments cooperate with business and each other but not interested in the welfare of the people or the environment. People without work were left to find their own way to survive. The workers all moved from one country to the next looking for work. But in the planning for one ASEAN Economic Community the only workers being considered are eight professions who will be the wanted migrants ... the rest of us will be unwanted migrants. We also see that the profit goes to the governments and the business owners. Most of the workers did not even get the small salary they were promised. This has given us a feel for what trade in the ASEAN Community may be like."

Pi Noi Empower

"Sex workers need to understand this as the economic policy is made by government and effects sex workers too. It's important sex workers understand how government and business think about the workers."

Selvi PAMT delegate

ASEAN and Trafficking



Trafficking is managed under the Political and Security Community Pillow as a crime issue. In most of our countries anti trafficking law and practices focus on sex workers. Anti trafficking has become another barrier for sex workers get around so we can assert our human rights.

We identified that for the most part anti trafficking law and practice is impacting negatively on the way we travel, work, our working conditions, our safety, the levels of stigma we face, and our income. Conversely it is not really effecting trafficking too much.

Anti trafficking laws have given corrupt police and other authorities a new tool to abuse and threaten sex workers.

Snap Shot of Situation

Myanmar and Timor Leste *sex workers don't feel direct impact of local anti-trafficking law day to day. For Myanmar **it has a major impact on freedom of movement** if they wish to visit or work in another ASEAN country or further afield.*

Cambodia – *police arrests at coffee shops, massage place – owners can pay bribes but if owners are arrested sex workers detained in dept of social affairs for 1-2 days then sent home to provinces – lose salary, costs to return to work in city, impacts families, children, etc. AT law not used much but they use public order law to round up sex workers. **A lot of money and hard effort put into anti-trafficking work on border, but no support for sex worker rights where thousands are arrested.***



Malaysia – Religious practices have a strong impact that reinforces the negative attitudes of anti-trafficking movement. Brothels were raided and migrant sex workers are arrested by immigration and put in detention camp – raiding teams take photos of customer and sex worker for evidence. Malaysia women from Saba are arrested and they say that they are trafficked too– – again they take photos of customer and sex worker for evidence. Send the women to KL shelter and won't let NGO contact them. The AT laws make it hard for us to move and find work in other countries because the sex workers are seen as trafficked. **Also when we help our friends to find sex work in another country they call this trafficking.** Transgender and local women sex workers – are arrested and let go by police.



Thailand – AT affects working conditions because raids make work less safe, and can't work with dignity and respect. **Police impact – increases bribery**, round-up sex workers for fines, bribes, rescues. Police use evidence that you are under 18 years – photos and xray tests.

Philippines – all sex work is seen as trafficking in the Philippines. **Media go on police raids and take photos of women for the newspapers** and then women are then excommunicated from family.

Laos – Sex workers are still looked at with disgust and it is still illegal to work– sex workers are **not tricked into work in Thailand but Laos and Thai government keep saying that we are.** (A few days later we found out how true this is. On the way back from our meeting to Laos - Nang, Oa, Wi and Pi No were stopped by a immigration officer in front of the toilets in Suvarnabhumi Airport. He tried to separate Nang from her Thai friends to question her. He said she may be being trafficked but he didn't try to stop the "traffickers", only Nang. He needed to see she had \$USD650 as evidence she wasn't trafficked!)

Indonesia – *Big problem in Indonesia especially as **the feminist groups /women's movement link sex work with trafficking.** Sex workers are excluded from the women's movement. AT increases violence against sex workers – physical, sexual, institutional violence. Condoms are used as evidence so now in massage parlors, the owners are too scared to put condoms out, sex workers don't use condoms.*

Summary: Sex workers in ASEAN are all affected by anti trafficking; also face serious problems that are common - like condoms, police violence. Migrant sex workers also affected by anti-trafficking especially those women who do not have papers = they cannot travel – related directly to border restrictions from anti-trafficking – now we have 10 borderlines – 10 times the problem?

Sex workers need to find a way to work and travel safely in ASEAN and live with the changes that are coming quickly in ASEAN.

How can we live with discrimination and stigma and how can we change society?

P.S Condom Blues

All the country delegates identified with OPSI and WNU about the issue of condoms being used as evidence.

Burma - *The law says that condoms cannot be used as evidence against sex workers but sex workers often don't know about this so TOP shares information on this rights issue.*



Condoms are only evidence of safer sex...not evidence of any crime!

ASEAN Labour and Migration – Pillow Fight?

SW-ASEAN SMALL WORKING GROUP 1

Migration is managed under the Socio-Cultural Community Pillow, Labour under the Economic Pillow and Immigration under the Political - Security Pillow. This immediately gave us a clue that ASEAN had no clear policy or equal standard to apply to migrant workers.



While we know the Labour Ministries of ASEAN countries want more work and more workers, they do not want to be responsible for the legal rights, protections and benefits for migrant workers. We know Immigration Ministries only want to allow tourists and migrants from rich countries to cross their borders. From the government's point of view it is better if migrants can be kept temporary, and be excluded from national labour and social rights.

Asean and Labour - Migration 2015 will likely mean:

- **Stricter border controls and more documentation (e.g. ASEAN Smart card)**
- **Restricted work opportunities**
- **Less benefits and protections for migrant workers**

Migrant workers in ASEAN, especially those without documentation, already find themselves living under threat and working in sub standard conditions at best. Across all of ASEAN migrant workers are routinely arrested, fined and deported by immigration authorities even while Labour authorities admit they are very much needed and the Socio-Cultural Community tries to implement the ASEAN Convention for Migrant Workers.

Accessing permission to travel and work in another country is difficult for most people. Some of the issues discussed for migrants in general included:

Indonesia – women must be 30 years old to legally work as migrant worker

Cambodia – we pay a lot of money for visa documents/ employers don't keep their promise for work conditions, corrupt police and immigration make us pay

Thailand – difficult to get the right documents from employers, no right to Unionize

Myanmar – need to pay recruitment agents to travel

Timor – transgender have trouble to get accurate passport / visa documents so cannot easily migrate

In particular for sex workers:

- **most immigration laws prohibit sex workers from entering the country**
- **there are no Entertainment Visas' or other work permits for ASEAN citizens that could be used by sex workers**
-

RECOMMENDATIONS

ASEAN governments need to reform laws so that sex work is recognized under the labor law.

- ♣ Sex workers need their right to work and migrate recognized and be given the same protections and benefits as other migrant workers.
- ♣ All sex workers need the right to social security, health services and health insurance as other workers
- ♣ Need to lobby UN and target Ministry of Justice, MOFA, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Immigration and Ministry of Health



ASEAN and TOURISM

SW-ASEAN SMALL WORKING GROUP 2



Tourism is a priority area under the Economic Community Pillow. The ASEAN tourism plan includes some opportunities as it promotes skill building opportunities for all people in the industry. It also states that tourism plans should respect the dignity of the local people.

Many sex workers are part of the tourism industry but we are not recognized for our contribution.

PROBLEMS/NEEDS:

Re: the implementation of policy – must make sure that tourism policy is friendly to sex workers

Sex workers and trafficking is a DIFFERENT issue – must be recognized as such

UN policy needs to support change for sex workers

Sex workers face discrimination by other civil society groups

Our customers (tourists) also need to carry condoms without threat of arrest or harassment. Carrying condoms should not be used as evidence against sex workers. Carrying condoms should be legalized everywhere to promote safety for everyone including tourists.

DEMANDS

No rehabilitation centers in ASEAN

Legal services for ASEAN migration and legal issues for sex workers

Need a plan for sex workers to understand other countries laws and rights

Governments investing in tourism industry also need to invest in workers

Each country in ASEAN needs strong national sex worker network

Dialogue – Ministry of Health, National AIDS Council, law enforcement, Tourism Department, ASEAN Parliamentarians

ASEAN and HUMAN RIGHTS NO PILLOW... NOT EVEN A CUSHION

SW-ASEAN SMALL WORKING GROUP 3

We are all born naked with our equal human rights. The United Nations Declaration has 30 articles outlining our basic human rights. All our governments must comply with these rights.



The ASEAN Human Rights Declaration has at least 3 major problems:

1. There is no way to make governments comply with it...it's an up to you declaration
2. Article 7: says that our rights can be changed by our government according to different political, economic, legal, cultural, historical, religious backgrounds – it is like saying ASEAN people rights are different than other people rights. Not equal human rights at all.
3. Article 8: means that the government can change our rights if they want to in the name of public order, public morality, public health, national security and public welfare

This is very dangerous for sex workers and we need to work with other civil society groups to try and reform the declaration. (It was signed after our meeting on the 18th November 2012 despite ASEAN wide protests and petitions.)

NOTHING can change sex workers rights as human beings.

Selvi PAMT delegate

Other Human Rights Processes

From the original UN Declaration comes many more conventions for children, environment, education etc. One such convention is the Convention to End Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) that all our governments have also signed. Article 6 of CEDAW tells governments they must end "exploitation in prostitution" though this is not defined. It then says by "any means". Governments can, and do use this article to abuse the rights of sex workers and block the acceptance of sex work as work. Every 2 years governments must report on their progress and success with CEDAW. Because governments are usually not truthful Civil Society also makes a report (Shadow Report) However sex workers in ASEAN find they are never invited to these discussions and meetings on CEDAW.

SMALL GROUP ROUND UP

- ♣ The problem for ASEAN governments is poor people moving to rich countries - sex workers will be seen as unwanted workers – not the professional workers like a doctor, dentist, architect etc/
 - ***How can we work out ways that sex workers can migrate and move easily in ASEAN region?***
- ♣ Tourism – we need to work out differences in tourism and trafficking and see the differences and opportunities in tourism In ASEAN.
- ♣ In all the anti- trafficking laws in ASEAN they use the words “exploitation of prostitution” – but nobody really knows what “exploitation of prostitution” is. Empower is working on defining and describing clearly what sex workers experience as exploitation. If we can accurately define exploitation then police and others cannot just arrest us and say we are trafficked. They will need to follow a guideline on whether workers are exploited or not.
- ♣ We need to find ways to explain clearly what is different between migration and trafficking because people don’t seem to understand well enough. The feminist anti-trafficking movement will never understand or change = but we need to try to explain to the bigger group of people in our countries clearly to know the difference between sex work and trafficking.
- ♣ There might be a way to use the domestic worker campaign to explain the issue of sex work and migration in ASEAN to others. We have some of the same problems as domestic workers – not recognized as workers, not under labor law, cannot get proper documentation, face violence from authorities and employers – But why aren’t domestic workers being rescued? Why do we have to rescue sex workers? Surely sex workers need the same rights as domestic workers.

COMMON EMERGING ISSUES FOR ASEAN SEX WORKERS

1. Barriers to migration and travel
2. Abuse by authorities e.g. police, religious authorities, health providers
3. Still not enough condoms of right size, still punished for carrying condoms, too many police not enough doctors
4. Stigma and discrimination

RECOMMENDATIONS: The APNSW Secretariat sent the recommendations they had developed with WNU for submission with the AGPA statement

1. Sex workers demand freedom of movement for all peoples in ASEAN
2. Sex work is work. We must change laws and policies in all ASEAN countries to protect the rights of sex workers including LGBT sex worker.
3. We demand universal access to health care and for our countries to have the rights to produce their own generic medicines

We all agreed to endorse in principle and also agreed to use these in combination with our common issues to write recommendations to submit via the APF process. We arranged a time for a working group to meet and draft the recommendations for others to check the next day.

The agreed recommendations were included in the APF statement to ASEAN Member States

Freedom of Movement

- Sex workers call on ASEAN governments to ensure that all ASEAN peoples can migrate and travel safely, with equal access to services including health and legal services, regardless of occupation. This must include an end to discriminatory immigration policies and practices that restrict the movement of sex workers.

Human Rights

- Sex workers call on ASEAN governments to ensure sex workers receive equal protection and benefits under the law; and freedom from abuse by police and other state and non state actors, including religious bodies.

Right to Health

- Sex workers call on ASEAN governments to reform public health programming in order that sex workers are provided with the highest standards of health services, especially HIV prevention.

Right to Shared Benefits

The ASEAN Tourism Planning that proposes to offer education and skills to tourism workers. Sex workers call on ASEAN Tourism Ministers Committee to create a fund made available to sex workers and their organizations for education, skill training and other opportunities for sex workers.



ASEAN PEOPLES FORUM (APF)

It was good to visit the second civil society gathering to see different ways of organizing and different sectors of civil society. The AGPA was very sex worker friendly and seemed like everyone

agreed sex work was work. At the APF there was a mixture of some people who oppose sex work, a lot who have not made up their minds and a few who already support us. The SW Asean delegates all spoke with a small group of 25 Cambodian people who were very interested in learning and understanding

A new friend from next year's host country, Brunei was totally new to the whole idea of sex worker rights and open to learning.



It was a good opportunity to make our presence felt by performing our show at last! Miss Thailand followed by Miss Myanmar....



This session meant we were entitled to have our recommendations adopted into the final APF statement.



ASEAN Grassroots Peoples Assembly (AGPA)

Meanwhile across town the rest of WNU were gathered at the AGPA so everyone rushed off to join the AGPA as soon as the session was finished.



The SW-ASEAN BEAUTY CASE

Aside from our own learning at the Summit Empower created a beauty case that has the tools we can use to run a small discussion, training, presentation or booth. The delegates from this meeting were all presented with a beauty case and we hope they will use it in their home countries. We plan to add and make adaptations and improvements together during the project life.



SW-ASEAN PLANNING SESSION

The project in brief: Supported by UNDP

Project activities:

Documentation about sex work in different ASEAN countries

Aim:

- to help non-sex workers understand about sex work
- to build up sex workers in ASEAN countries where there are no sex worker organizations
- to be able to analyze, comment and perhaps influence ASEAN policy
- to share knowledge contacts and resources across the ASEAN States

There was a question from some delegates about whether Empower wanted to include the name of APNSW in the project. Most of the organizations who attended the Summit are also members of the Asia Pacific Sex Worker Network (APNSW) Empower, PAMT, TOP, OPSI. \$KT and WNU. The APNSW secretariat, Andrew, Tracy and Dale, came for some sessions but were very busy with parallel activities with the WNU and AGPA. Empower feels there is a good overlap between our APNSW network membership and our SW-Asean project already but Empower is not looking for a project partner at this point.

SW-ASEAN is an Empower project – with specific aims managed by Empower – not a network of sex worker organizations. Our work is aimed at only 11 countries in ASEAN – it is not a big network like APNSW. We will only look at issues for sex workers in the ASEAN countries – not the whole of Asia and the Pacific. Some groups who work on the project with us now, and in the future may not even be APNSW members. We feel we can open more broadly like this than if we work under APNSW banner. Empower would like all organizations attending the 1st Summit to continue with us on the project but we also respect the decision of other organizations. No one needs to feel obliged to join, as Empower will go ahead with training and skill building on ASEAN issues for Thai sex workers and any other interested groups. It is not clear how long the SWASEAN project will go for – right now we are aiming for 3 years up to 2015 ASEAN Community – but this will depend on interest from sex workers in ASEAN and support from funders. We will ask participating organizations to let us know if they are interested to stay with the project or not in the next few weeks.

Next SW-ASEAN Events

In **March 2013** Empower has secured an exhibition space in the Bangkok Art and Cultural Center for a 45 day showing. We are planning to use this space and time to highlight SW-ASEAN. This would include a media launch of the exhibition to bring attention to issues of sex workers in ASEAN.

Theme: It was decided that the best issue to address was "**Stigma and Discrimination**". It was mentioned regularly from sex workers from every country. It can also fit in with current UN and ASEAN plans for zero stigma and discrimination.

Plan: Organizations interested in joining will be sent guidelines about creating an art piece that reflects what sex workers in your country want to say about stigma and discrimination and also fits in with the overall exhibition. After you get the guidelines, when you decide on your creation send a description and budget to Empower. We have in total \$US20,000 to share between 11 countries. (It won't be even because some projects are cheaper than others and some countries are more expensive than others) Then in March 2 people from each country will be invited to come to the launch and meet together.

ICAAP Bangkok November 2013?

We see ICAAP is also a potential time we can get together again. HIV/Aids is largely managed under the Social-Cultural Economic Community Council Pillow, overseen by the Ministers of Health who have appointed a task force (ATFOA). (The ASEAN Declaration o HIV is a well thought out document and may be useful for SW-ASEAN) In addition the ASEAN Secretariat has a special HIV project – "ASEAN Cities Getting to Zero" UNDP is working on this project and compiling a report on the situation of drug users, HIV laws, travel restrictions etc in ASEAN. **SW-Asean requested Timor Leste be included and UNDP will follow this up.** After this document is published – talks will be started with government ministers, justice bodies, health providers and communities. This is an opportunity for sex workers of ASEAN to be able to say what we want and need from ASEAN governments regarding HIV /Aids. It was suggested that it would be good to hold a talk at ICAAP 2013. We feel that if UNDP supported the session at ICAAP it might be possible to get government ministers to attend.

Next Steps

- A report from this first SW-ASEAN meeting will be done and sent to everyone
- Email communication and facebook will be the best way for everyone to stay in touch
- Organizations will be asked to confirm whether they are interested in staying with the project (silence will mean "yes")
- Empower will talk with groups in Singapore and Vietnam to join for March (suggestions and contacts welcome)



Discussion with UNDP re: Law Book

It was raised in the meeting by TOP, PAMT and OPSI that the UNDP Law book still has some gaps and errors for their countries. Unfortunately they just missed the second printing so the hard copies will not be corrected yet. Marta explained that the book is to be a living document on the UNDP website. People can send updates /corrections for the electronic version - UNDP will add any corrections to website

e-versions. Marta will follow up if UNDP can support some translation of sections but will need to know from SW-ASEAN groups who want translations on which parts.

Certificate in SW-ASEAN Studies Module One



Module One of SW Asean studies includes:
 The ASEAN Community
 Sex Work in ASEAN
 ASEAN Structure
 Trade and Economics
 Relevant issues from the 3 ASEAN Pillars
 ASEAN Labor, Migration and Trafficking
 ASEAN Human Rights, ASEAN Tourism
 Involvement in ASEAN Civil Society (Learning by doing)
 Performance for advocacy and community building (Learning by doing)
 Presenting (Learning by doing)



Thoughts from some of the delegates:

– this is the first time for me to join with other countries and share different ideas and experiences with other countries I feel very happy. Sopha WNU Cambodia

- It is good to learn about from Laos and Philippines from our community – a new thing for us to get other information Kaythi TOP Myanmar

This is my first experience – I was very happy to be elected to join the meeting. It is very useful for me because I find here a lot of issues of sex workers that I face in my country and now I know that is the same in other countries. I feel as sex worker I know more about how to make it better for sex workers - Heste OPSI Indonesia

Thank you for inviting 2 of us from Timor and our friends – we learn more about from every country – discuss about the issue...how we solve it? and also how we can be friend with it... Ricca \$KT Timor Leste.

At first in Thailand airport I was scared and I wanted to go home – but when the first day meeting I felt ok – I am thankful that I have met all of you – at first I was shy – everyone at home was negative about Cambodia and Thailand because they were scared that they were going to sell me here in Cambodia – because they don't understand. but now I am so glad to be here Lulu Deviant Daughters Philipines

I am Cambodian and I understand a little English and Thai– first time I feel scared but when I sit in the chair and listen I feel comfortable. WNU Cambodia

This is our first time here and I have a lot to learn because at home we don't have this kind of meeting – when I first came I don't know anything now I know a lot more. Khee Sawanakade Laos

Good meeting for us to attend and share our stories and what is happening at country level good discussion for 10-11 countries – Selvie, PAMT Malaysia

I now have a new friends and I am happy about that, to share the place for workers and now I know the way to go to the next place for work. I feel proud and impressed of everyone being involved with everything here – sex workers here moving everything along together. Lillee Thailand

i learn a lot about ASEAN. I feel comfortable in Cambodia. During five days in training I learn many thing about ASEAN LABOUR specially about sex worker life from different country. - Kassya \$TK Timor Leste

EMPOWER SW-ASEAN PARTY

Great party with performances from:

Keo Tha, Coordinator WNU Cambodia

Heste, Opsi Indonesia

Lulu & Mehl, Deviant Daughters/Whore Philippines

Richa & Kassya Scarlet Timor, Timor Leste

Dara, WNU Cambodia

Tu, Su, Nong Empower Thailand

Nang, Khee, Jun Sawanakade Laos



Pi Noi, Sopha and Wi making a toast to Sex Workers of ASEAN

SW-ASEAN FIRSTS

Aside from being the first ASEAN Sex Worker Summit there were many other firsts...

First time on a plane

First time to leave the country

First visit to Cambodia

First presentation

First presentation in English

First time to speak in mother language in a meeting

First time to meet other sex workers

First time singing and dancing on stage

First time to join a rally

First time to go to a disco

First time to have a face book page

First time to wear make up

First magic show performance

First time to be awarded a certificate

First Steamed Clam, BBQ chicken, Spider and Ghekko Dance

