

APNSW

**Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers
12 Jalan 13/48A, The Boulevard Shop Office,
Off Jalan Sentul,
51000, KL, Malaysia**

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To whom it may concern:

Attached is a proposal seeking secretariat funding for the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers. The proposal covers the background of the network, its current structure, rationale for funding, management structure and the budget.

I hope that you look favourably on our application and looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Khartini Slamah
President

SECRETARIAT FUNDING FOR THE ASIA PACIFIC NETWORK
OF SEX WORKERS
DRAFT FOR DISTRIBUTION TO STEERING COMMITTEE
MEMBERS FOR COMMENT

History of the Network :

The network met for the first time at the Yokohama International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific in 1993. This meeting was rather informal and provided the first opportunity for a number of representatives from sex worker and support organisations to sow the seeds for the next coming together of the network. This next meeting occurred at the Chiang Mai International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific in 1995. Empower (Thailand) was successful in receiving some funding to bring regional representatives to the meeting. Logistic support was provided by APCASO (Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organisations). This meeting determined that the network would be made of representatives from sex workers and support agencies and that these representatives be currently working on or intend to in the future work on issues of safety for sex workers for protection from HIV/AIDS. These issues would cover such items as education, legality and legal support, advocacy and social support. The next meeting of the network occurred at the Manila International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific in October 1997. The first part of the meeting organised by Empower was funded by AIDSCAP and the second part organised by the Scarlet Alliance (Australia) was funded by UNAIDS. The first part of the meeting focused on issues of safety and safe working conditions for sex workers in the Asia Pacific region and the second part focused on organisational issues for the network. It was at this meeting that aims for the network were formulated (see attachment) and a short term workplan formulated. An interim steering committee was set up with the interim secretariat located in Calcutta with the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee. During this short period of time and with voluntary input from members of the steering committee a policy on HIV+ Sex workers was developed and adopted. This occurred at a meeting of the steering committee which took place in Calcutta in March/April 1998. This meeting was funded by AFAO (Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations). A directory of member organisations was also developed and links were made with Prosresnet (Prostitution Researchers Network). The meeting in Calcutta developed a more formal work plan for the network that includes the development of Model Guidelines for Safe Working and Practical and Ethical Guidelines on Research with sex workers. Progress has been slow on some of the elements within our workplan due to a number of issues: voluntary involvement, changing nature of member organizations and their staff, communication difficulties (variance in access to communication technology by members), etc.

OBJECTIVE: Strengthen the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Worker Projects.

ACTIVITIES : Two Day Meeting of representatives of the steering committee of the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Work Projects.

1. Workshops and discussion sessions:

- migration and globalisation issues as they apply to sex workers and the impact on HIV/AIDS prevention.
- Asian financial crisis and impact on HIV/AIDS prevention.

2. Strengthening the Asia Pacific network:

Development of Constitution for the network
Strategies for participation in future forums including the International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Malaysia, October 1999.
Project priority setting
Funding issues
Link with global network,

3. Development of project proposals:

Focus on the types of projects (eg resource development) that the network can undertake.

OUTCOMES:

1. Workshops and Discussions

Focused discussion on the issue of migration for the purposes of working in the sex industry and the impact of the Asian financial crisis will stimulate debate about the issues and allow strategic planning to incorporate concerns and solutions.

2. Strengthening of the network. Through the process of developing a constitution the network will have moved into a more formal realm of professionalism. This will facilitate the network undertaking project work in the future as well as provide a structure that will clarify the roles and responsibilities of network members. It will provide a distinct communication strategy for the network and facilitate more effective networking. Future incorporation of the network will allow the network to access secretariat funding.

3. Proposals for projects. Focusing on the development of cooperative and regional responses to issues will be more cost effective than each country and or organisations developing their own.

OUTPUTS:

Output 1: Financial Report. This will be submitted to by 1 Dec 1998.

Output 2: A 16 page Report. This will be submitted to by 1 Dec 1998. The report will document the workshop and meeting outcomes.

FOLLOW-UP PLAN:

Thus far the network has been able to occasionally meet and develop policy with volunteer support. Being able to meet to formalise the structure of the network will continue the process of network development. Under this framework the most important issues that will follow include:

1. The network secretariat will look at accessing funding for projects.
2. The structure decided on for the network, particularly for the secretariat will be responsible for ensuring good communication between members.

FINAL BUDGET:

Travel	\$ 25,000.00
Registration for Conference	\$ 12,000.00
Accommodation	\$ 7000.00
Per Diem	\$ 3,500.00
Venue Hire	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	\$US 48,000.00

AIMS FOR THE NETWORK:

Preamble:

Any reference to sex workers refers to female, male, lesbian, transgender and HIV+ sex workers.

The Aims of the Asia-Pacific Network of Sex Worker Projects are:

- 1. To actively promote the right of all sex workers to work in whatever areas of their chosen occupation,**
- 2. Provide practical information, skill and opportunities for information and skill sharing among sex worker organisations and sex worker projects which provide services,**
- 3. To raise awareness and advocacy for access to health, welfare and basic needs of sex workers,**

4. **Advocate at regional and global level for policies and action which reinstate and further the human rights of sex workers including:**
 - ? **the right to health,**
 - ? **the right to a safe working environment, free from discrimination, abuse and violence,**
 - ? **the right to travel,**
 - ? **the right to organise,**
 - ? **equality before the law and other rights contained within international human rights documents,**
 - ? **ethical and practical guidelines on research with sex workers.**

1. **Develop and maintain links between service providers, sex worker organisations and relevant regional and international institutions and agencies,**

2. **Facilitate opportunities for the voices of sex workers to be heard recognised and represented in regional and international forums,**

3. **To identify and mobilise financial and other resources available to further the aims, objectives and activities of the network.**

WHO (World Health Organization) Definition of Sexual Health

Sexual health is the integration of the physical, emotional, intellectual and social aspects of sexual being, in ways that are positively enriching and that enhance personality, communication and love.

Sexual health involves the capacity to enjoy and control sexual and reproductive behaviour in accordance with a social and personal ethic.

Sexual health involves freedom from fear, shame, guilt, false beliefs and other psychological factors inhibiting sexual response and impairing sexual relationships.

Sexual health involves freedom from organic disorders, diseases and deficiencies that interfere with sexual health and reproductive function.

Sexual health involves building healthy public policy, creating supportive environments, strengthening community action, developing personal skills and reorienting health services.

World Health Organisation, Health and Welfare Canada, Canadian Public Health Association. Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion. WHO, Copenhagen 1986.