

# IDC Capacity Building

Facilitating training, resources and skills-sharing, as well as targeted partner projects with and between members, with a particular focus on members in the south.



Santha Fernando, NCCSL, at the IDC/APT Detention Monitoring Training, Kuala Lumpur, November 2008.



APRRN Steering Committee, KL, November 2008

## Asia Pacific Region

Given the number of children detained in the Asia Pacific region, it is a strategic regional focus for the IDC and we have been very active in the region in the past year. This includes supporting and building the capacity of members in the region through training, advocacy strategy meetings, regional network development and project development, such as the Malaysia Child Detention Project listed on page 9.

### The IDC's work has included:

- Supporting the development of the Asia Pacific Region Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), and its first conference, the Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights (APCRR) in Kuala Lumpur in November 2008. The Conference had more than 110 participants, including 70 civil society groups from 13 countries across the region and was the first regional refugee civil society conference of its kind in the Asia Pacific region, organized by IDC South East Asian Regional Representative, Alice Nah.
- Sitting on the Steering Committee of the APRRN and funding a participant from Sri Lanka to attend the APCRR.
- Facilitating a detention advocacy strategy session during the APCRR, which included 30 individuals from 11 countries across the region working on detention issues
- An outcome of the APCRR conference was the development of the first Immigration Detention Working Group (IDWG) for the region, co-chaired by the IDC. The IDWG drafted a core position in detention and aims to work together for the rights, dignity and wellbeing of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in detention in the Asia Pacific Region, through sharing information and good practice, training and developing advocacy strategies at the national, regional and international levels.
- The IDC has also supported two new exciting networks throughout the past 12 months - The Southern Legal Refugee Aid Network (SLRAN) and the first South Asian regional network focusing on refugee, asylum, IDP, migrant and detention issues, which has developed out of Colombo, South Asian Network Refugees, IDPS and Migrants (SANRIM).

## Regional Training

There is a great need for regional training, with more than 95% of IDC members in the south identifying it necessary to help in their work with detainees. This includes training in detention standards, detention monitoring, advocacy and working with detainees in a psychosocial capacity.

The IDC has undertaken and participated in the following training in the Asia Pacific region over the past year:

- Advocacy workshops with NGOs in Tokyo and Nagoya, Japan on detention advocacy and alternatives in late 2008.
- Detention monitoring training with the Association for the Prevention of Torture, civil society groups and Indonesian authorities in Jakarta in November 2008.
- Detention monitoring training of civil society groups with the APT as a part of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Consultations in Kuala Lumpur in November. This included 30 individuals, NGOs and UNHCR from around the region. Evaluation of the training showed that 82% thought the session was very good, 100% said it was helpful in their work and 91% were interested in further training. Due to the positive feedback, the IDC is exploring the facilitation of a training workshop on detention advocacy and working with detainees as part of the second regional APRR Conference in Bangkok in October 2009.

## Malaysian Training

The IDC has developed a training package for civil society groups focusing on detention standards, visiting places of detention, psychosocial dimensions of working with detainees and worker self-care. This training was used to train Shelter and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) staff to develop the Child Detention Project in Kuala Lumpur in April (See page 9).

UNHCR, civil society groups in Malaysia and the Malaysian Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM) have requested similar training from the IDC, which is planned to take place in late 2009. The IDC hopes to expand its training to other regions in the coming year, pending funding.

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