



**Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights
19-21 November 2008
Level 2, Tiara 1-3, Royale Bintang Hotel, Kuala Lumpur**

Pre-Conference Programme

Wednesday, 19 November 2008

12pm onwards	Registration for the APCRR
13.00-14.15	Seminar 1: The International Refugee Regime and its Intersections with the International Human Rights Regime <i>Martin Jones, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University / Southern Refugee Legal Aid Network (SRLAN)</i>
14.15-14.30	Break
14.30-15.45	Seminar 2: Introduction to the UNHCR Executive Committee: Mandate, Structure, Processes <i>James Thomson, Act for Peace, Council of Churches Australia</i>
15.45-16.00	Break
16.00-18.30	Workshop 1: Information Security for Humanitarian and Human Rights NGOs <i>Leo Fernandez, IT Consultant</i> <p>This is an introductory workshop intended to acquaint delegates with key principles of information and communications security and to make an assessment of the information security needs of humanitarian and human rights organizations. The workshop aims to help organizations define the level of security required and to develop appropriate processes and measures to protect the confidentiality, integrity and accessibility of their information resources. The focus will be on identifying what steps organizations need to take in order to evolve a secure information and communication environment. Delegates will also be introduced to a few tools and techniques they could use at the individual level to protect their information. This workshop is for the average computer user and no special technical skills are assumed.</p>



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Thursday, 20 November 2008 (Day 1)

08.30 onwards	Registration and Morning Coffee
09.00 – 09.30	Introduction and Welcome Remarks <i>Yap Swee Seng, Forum Asia</i>
09.30 – 10.45	Plenary 1: Overview of the Asia Pacific Region <i>Chair: Yap Swee Seng, Forum Asia</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key issues facing the Asia Pacific region, challenges and opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Thomas Verghis, UNHCR</i> – <i>Priyanca Mathur Velath, Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University</i> – <i>Alice Nah, Migration Working Group</i> – <i>Pill-Kyu Hwang, Korean Public Interest Lawyers' Group, Gong-gam</i> – <i>John Gibson, Refugee Council of Australia</i> ▪ Questions and Answers
10.45 – 11.15	Coffee Break
11.15 – 12.45	Concurrent Sessions: Geographical Issues Delegates work in sub-regional groups to map main trends and key issues faced in their geographical areas, review actions and solutions (successful and unsuccessful), and suggest concrete ways of collaborating with each other and as a Network.
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.15	Plenary 2: Report Back from Geographical Sessions <i>Chair: Merrill-Smith, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)</i>
15.15 – 15.30	Coffee Break
15.30 – 17.00	Plenary 3: Service Provision <i>Chair: Mizanur Rahman, Empowerment through Law of the Common People (ELCOP)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ethics in Working with Refugees: Community Perspectives and Principles of Partnership – <i>Victor Biak Lian, Chin Human Rights Organisation (CHRO)</i> ▪ Strategies for Addressing Human Rights Dilemmas in Service Provision: Challenges and Opportunities in Advocacy – <i>Eri Ishikawa, Japan Association for Refugees (JAR)</i> ▪ Building the Infrastructure for the Observance of Refugee Rights in the Global South – <i>Barbara Harrell-Bond, Southern Refugee Legal Aid Network (SRLAN)</i> ▪ Open Discussion
19.00 – 21.00	Welcome Dinner



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Friday, 21 November 2008 (Day 2)

08.30 – 09.00	Morning Coffee
09.00 – 10.30	<p>Plenary 4: Strategies in Advocacy</p> <p><i>Chair: Ellene Sana, Center for Migrant Advocacy/ Migrant Forum in Asia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advancing refugee rights through international human rights mechanisms – <i>Shanti Dairiam, CEDAW Committee Member</i> ▪ Advancing refugee rights through regional inter-governmental processes – <i>Rafendi Djamin, Human Rights Working Group</i> ▪ Advancing refugee rights through Executive Committee Processes – <i>James Thomson, National Council of Churches Australia</i> ▪ Open Discussion
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 12.30	<p>Concurrent Sessions: Thematic Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Detention – <i>Grant Mitchell, International Detention Coalition</i> ▪ Refugee Legal Aid – <i>Martin Jones, Southern Refugee Legal Aid Network</i> ▪ Right to Health – <i>Sharuna Verghis, Health Equity Initiatives</i> ▪ Realizing the Rights of Refugee Women and Girls: Responding to risks of Sexual and Gender Base Violence – <i>Linda Bartolomei, Centre for Refugee Research</i>
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 14.45	Plenary 5: Dialogue with UNHCR Regional Protection Hub for the Asia Pacific
14.45 – 17.00	<p>Plenary 6: Moving Forward Together</p> <p><i>Chair: Yap Swee Seng, Forum-Asia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Structuring the Regional Network – Key Objectives, Action Plan for 2009-2010, Steering Committee, 2nd APCRR
	Close of Programme



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Post-Conference Workshop

Saturday, 22 November 2008

9.00–12.30	<p>Workshop 2: Introduction to Detention Monitoring and Torture Prevention</p> <p><i>(International Detention Coalition and the Association for the Prevention of Torture)</i></p> <p><i>Location: Health Equity Initiatives</i></p> <p>This workshop aims to provide human rights and welfare groups active or interested in visiting places of detention with an overview of detention monitoring mechanisms at the international, national and local levels and an introduction to the key elements involved in effective detention monitoring and the principles of torture prevention. The workshop will include input from the Association of the Prevention of Torture and the International Detention Coalition, as well as groups providing detention monitoring and torture prevention on the ground. The workshop hopes to assist groups in their work in supporting detainees by exploring areas requiring further consideration and to allow an exchange of ideas and strategies.</p>
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An overview of the refugee situation in Malaysia as well as community visits will also be planned for Saturday (more information forthcoming).

All delegates are also welcomed to participate in a post-conference action-planning meeting at Health Equity Initiatives from 2.00-4.00pm.

The Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights is organized by Forum Asia and the Centre for Refugee Research with the support of UNHCR, AUSAID, the Canadian High Commission, the Euro-Burma Office, Inter Pares, and the International Detention Coalition.