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Meeting
Report

Financial Inc. Inception Meeting Report



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Design and layout: Hidayah Syahputra

Cover Photo: Panel Moderator Dede Oetomo, APCOM Executive Director Midnight Poonkasetwattana, WB Independent Panel Member Imrana Jalal, Babaylanes Executive Director BJ Eco at the APCOM and GayA Nusantara session during the CSPF.

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I. ABOUT THE INCEPTION MEETING

The inception meeting was conducted from October 10-12, 2018, in Bali, Indonesia. This was set to coincide with the World Bank Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF) where APCOM was able to secure a session.

The inception meeting was designed to be a participatory activity with the following objectives:

1. Know the partners organizations more;
2. Discuss the LGBTQI situation in the countries where the project is being implemented;
3. Learn about how multilateral development banks operate and identify possible pathways of engagement;
4. Presentation of details of Finance Inc. including goals and project components;
5. Generate feedback and suggestions on the present project design;
6. Develop workplans for in-country activity with project partners; and
7. Discuss partnerships

Preparatory Activities

To prepare the representatives from country partners so they will be able to engage actively and meaningfully during the inception meeting, APCOM sent the following to country partners prior to the meeting, for their review:

1. Inception Meeting Agenda/Concept Note
2. Inception Meeting Activity Design
3. Full write-up of desk research

Further, Skype calls were conducted with partner organizations to discuss the objectives and design of the inception meeting. The Skype calls were also an opportunity to initially discuss Finance Inc. project components. Participation and roles of country partners as testimony speakers during the CSPF session was also one of the agenda items. Skype calls were held as follows:

September 26, 2018 – LaoPHA, Babaylanes and Suara Kita
October 10, 2018 – MRI Cambodia

Prior to meeting, APCOM requested that project partners prepare the following:

1. LGBT situations in their respective countries;
2. Introductions of their organizations

Activity Design

The inception meeting design was a combination of presentations from APCOM and country partners, small group workshops and brainstorming, and plenary discussions. Learning sessions were also incorporated during the inception meeting.



II. RESULTS OF THE INCEPTION MEETING PER OBJECTIVE

Objective 1: Get to know the partner organizations

Partner organizations of the Finance Inc. project were requested to prepare a brief introduction about their organizations prior to the actual inception meeting. time to outline the primary focus of their organization, the scope of their work, and the organizations networks they are working with.

Partner organizations are focused on MSM and TG, and LGBT populations in their respective countries. Scope of work include human rights, awareness raising, service delivery, and policy and legislative advocacy, and economic empowerment.

Organizations are working with other CBOs and NGOs in their respective countries. They also partner with government agencies and legislators. Some of the partner organizations are working with the private sector. Also, some of the partner organizations are working with regional networks.

Specifically:

- LaoPHA focuses on outreach among the MSM and TG community, carrying out client support services, including CST service provision and ARV and TB treatment, education/adherence guidance. LaoPHA also cooperate with Care international on gender base violent to support our key population who faced violent to reach the services and supporting from related sector.
- Babaylanes is an LGBT advocacy organization that works to educate and empower university students and the general population on SOGIE and human rights and inclusion, working closely also to advocate to local government.
- SUARA Kita is also an advocacy focused organization that promotes rights-based approaches to LGBT inclusion.
- MRI Cambodia is an organization educates the public on LGBT inclusion and the mitigation of stigma and discrimination towards the community that prevents access to gainful employment and education opportunities. Micro Rainbow International's (MRI's) vision is to create a world where lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) people are free from discrimination, persecution and have equal opportunities in life, including in accessing employment, training, education, financial services, healthcare, housing, places of faith, and public services.

Organizations also did a paired activity where they interviewed each other about the focus and expertise of their respective organizations. Organizations had different areas of expertise including awareness raising on SOGIE, and human rights specific to LGBT and health especially HIV as well as advocacy to other organizations, the media, and MRI in particular had experience in poverty mitigation.



Results of the said activity are below:

| Babaylanes | Suara Kita | MRI Cambodia | LaoPHA |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights and SOGIE training/ workshops for teachers, university student councils, private organizations, other CBOs and NGOs • Research, education, awareness raising • Policy advocacy and lobby | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media advocacy including social media • SOGIE awareness raising at the university level. • Cultural products, • Capacitating communities on media products, • Sexual and gender diversity training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOGI inclusion • Micro-financing, • Human rights advocacy and lobbying • Trained teachers, and held public discussions about SOGI • Working with the media, radio • LGBT issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with health sector, • HIV • Support services for PLHIV. • Community mobilization • Gender Based violent(GBV) • TB treatment • Malaria |

Objective 2: Discuss LGBTQI situation in the countries where the project is being implemented

Country partners were requested to prepare LGBTQI situation in their respective countries. A session during the inception meeting was dedicated to presentations and discussions of the LGBTQI country situations.

Similarities in situations include lack of policy, legislations and mechanisms which aim to recognize and protect LGBTQI rights in the countries. Experiences of SOGIESC based stigma and discrimination were also highlighted.

Specific country nuances and LGBTQI issues were identified. In Cambodia and Lao, discussions about LGBTI are quite new. In Cambodia understanding of SOGIE was limited, however Cambodians have a relatively fluid understanding of gender and sexual orientation, informed by Theravada Buddhism, but that LGBT peoples were often deemed 'unbankable'. Lao PDR has an almost similar situation with Cambodia. Lao also highlighted the nuances in LGBT experience between those situated in the rural and urban settings.

In the Philippines, societal norms were framed within the familial unit, and therefore SOGIE-based stigma and discrimination often began in the home. Concern was also raised that as the Philippines is a LMIC the Global Fund supported LGBT/HIV organizations will lose out when facing transition away. An Equality Bill which has been pending in Congress has recently been approved. However, passage of this measure into becoming a law is being blocked at the Senate by some senators.

In Indonesia, threats and backlash are being experienced particularly in specific provinces such as the conservative Aceh. LGBT are vulnerable for being targeted of certain law: pornography law, information and electronic transaction law, children protection law, drug abuse prevention law.

It was evident from the country presentations that although each were experiencing unique indigenous concerns (including enabling conditions), there were a number of cross cutting issues including cultural obstacles or existing stereotypes, binary conceptions, rural and urban nuances, unequal access to services, that should all be acknowledged as they move forward.



Objective 3:
Learn about
how multilateral
development
banks work and
operate and identify
possible pathways of
engagement

The session resource speaker was Imrana Jalal, a member of the World Bank Independent Panel. Imrana Jalal was with the Asian Development Bank for years before transferring to the World Bank.

The sessions focused on how MDBs, particularly the ADB and WB operate. The session also identified possible challenges and ways forward in engaging with the ADB.

Strategies to Consider and Action Points:

- Think about how this agenda matters on the economic bottom line.
- Approach the identified allies, e.g. Australia, the donor countries, in theory the board members ought to be supportive.
- Approach the ADB gender people.
- ADB has a division which is tasked to engage with NGOs. Some contracts have clauses about participation of NGOs who provide technical assistance.

Objectives 4 and
5: Presentation of
details of Finance Inc.
including goals and
project components
and feedback/
suggestions on the
present project
design

Details of the Finance Inc were presented to the country partners. Presentations included background of the project and what it aims to address; project goals, outcomes and components. These sessions allowed for additional familiarity of the country partners with the projects.



APCOM and Finance Inc country partners with resource speaker Jeremy Kadden of Human Rights Campaign. (Photo from Olam Rasaphonh)



Results from these sessions on the details of the Finance Inc included suggestions on how to improve the present design of the project.

Strategies to Consider and Action Points:

- APCOM to conduct country visits. These visits will include meeting with representatives from the Asian Development Bank to formally introduce the project and the country partners. It was also suggested that APCOM attend key moments of the project.
- Combine funds allocated for Pilot Project (2nd Semester 2018) and process documentation of best practice (2nd Semester of 2019). Integrate process documentation in every activity/phase of the pilot project implementation.
- Set aside a certain amount from the allocated funds for process documentation for a new event which will be in the 1st Quarter of 2020. This activity is a regional meeting of country partners to share lessons learned, challenges, and successes experienced during the implementation of the pilot projects. This aims to result in a regional synthesis of the experiences of the country partners in the implementation of the pilot projects.
- Country partners to help APCOM organize project components which will be implemented at the country level specifically the workshop on capacity strengthening of LGBTI activists.
- On schedules of activities, some major in country events were flagged for consideration when finalizing schedules of in-country activities. These included national elections on April 2019 for Indonesia, and May 2019 for the Philippines. Lao and Cambodia will also have major national events in May.
- Partners could explore 'fiscal hosting' which is usually an organization that had good standing and was accountable, an organization they could trust at the local level- these mechanisms were available.

Objective 6: Develop workplans for in-country activity with project partners

Finance Inc has a pilot projects component which will be implemented by country partners. The pilot projects aim to deliver the insights and highlight experiences of LGBTI inclusive finance and economic projects. Aside from being basis for learnings, challenges and success, the pilot projects will also aim for future scale up. The insights from these pilot projects will inform other project components including advocacy with private sector during conferences and other related venues.

Country partners brainstormed on initial ideas which they can implement under the pilot projects component. The resulting concepts for pilot projects per organization are:

Suara Kita plans to look into "Pink Money" and the impact of persecution to the LGBT's economy, including looking at Aceh. The project would be in the form of a short documentary. They would also assess audience opinion/assess impact with evaluation sheet for the audience.

Activities include research, shooting, post-production then film dissemination.

Babaylanes plans to develop SOGIE inclusive financial literacy module project. This will include reviewing existing financial literacy module of SEDPI, a micro finance institution. Beneficiaries would include LGBT individuals and their families. They were planning on conducting this in Metro Manila.

MRI Cambodia plans to develop a video on the state of employment of LGBT which would then be launched. They also plan on a radio talk show on LGBT employment (this will be a national program).

This will be implemented in Phnom Penh and online, for example on Facebook and YouTube.



LaoPha explained that the situation was still precarious and new in Lao. There were many LGBT people working in the garment factory, so their initial idea is to provide SOGIE training for the HR staff in these factories and perhaps also some from the Ministry of Labor.

The target would be 300 people and HR staff in 50 garment factories. Activities will include training on SOGIE and LGBT rights to mitigate stigma

Country partners agreed on a common workplan indicating timelines for major activities under the pilot projects.

Workplan (Broad strokes) for Pilot Projects
Discussed and agreed upon during the Finance Inc. Inception Meeting
October 10-12, 2018

| No. | Activity | Year | Months |
|-----|--|------|--|
| 1 | APCOM to develop guidelines and template for Concept Paper of in-country pilot projects | 2018 | December |
| 2 | Send templates to country partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concept paper - Workplan template - Budget template | 2018 | December |
| 3 | Partner organizations conduct internal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brainstorming on pilot project (initial ideas and plans were presented during the inception meeting and these could be takeoff points for these discussions) - Agree on concept of pilot project - Finalize workplan and corresponding budget | 2019 | January February March |
| 4 | Consultation with organizations/offices which will be involved in pilot projects organizational processes | 2019 | February March |
| 5 | Submission to APCOM of pilot project concepts, workplans and budget | 2019 | March |
| 6 | APCOM review of pilot project concept, workplan and budgets and coordination with country partners to finalize concept, workplans and budgets. | 2019 | April May June |
| 7 | Pilot projects implementation | 2019 | July August September October November December |
| 8 | Project Partners' meeting to share on insights, lessons learned etc. about pilot projects. This activity aims to document and consolidate country experiences in the pilot projects implementation and develop regional insights. * | 2020 | January |

*Funds are also earmarked for process documentation by January 2020. It is of the utmost importance to document this process of the pilot projects from the inception phase until the evaluation and learn from the results, the mistakes and how to move forward. APCOM will negotiate with VOICE on the possibility of using a certain portion of funds for process documentation to be released during project implementation.



Strategies to Consider and Action Points:

- Country partners can decide to eventually change their concepts for pilot projects. However, the timelines will remain the same.
- The in-country pilot project will have a separate TOR, and the MOU was for partnership in general.
- APCOM will provide the organizations a budget guideline and template. The budget they will send would still need to be reviewed by the finance team. There will be requirements, procurement processes, and salaries in accordance with country equivalents. Reporting templates would be developed and disseminated by APCOM, including financial reporting guidelines. APCOM would also develop a workplan, however funds support was mainly for the in-country project.
- APCOM would be responsible for the regional level activities. Financial due diligence before funding was granted e.g. fiscal management.
- Partners needed to reflect on possible risks and mitigation strategies in the concept note.

Objective 7: Discussions about partnerships

Partners were asked to review the MOU and whether or not there were comments from their organizations about the content. The draft MoU was sent to the country partners before coming to Bali.

However, more time would be given to the country partners for internal organizational discussions about the MoU now that they have more information about the project.

Country partners from LaoPHA, Suara Kita and MRI Cambodia discussed the LGBTI situation in their countries during the APCOM Session at the World Bank Civil Society Policy Forum (Photo from Olam Rasaphonh).



III. SESSION AND PARTICIPATION AT THE CIVIL SOCIETY POLICY FORUM AT THE WORLD BANK ANNUAL MEETING

APCOM and GAYa Nusantara were able to secure a session during the Civil Society Policy Forum at the World Bank Annual Meeting in Bali, Indonesia. The one-and-a-half-hour session titled 'SOGIESC Inclusion in Regional Multi-lateral Development Banks: Taking a leaf out of the World Bank's Playbook' was held at the Bandung Room of the Bali International Convention Center last October 10, 2018.

The session aimed to:

- 1 Draw attention to SOGI experiences in Asia with a focus on Indonesia's communities
- 2 Understand how the World Bank has made SOGI inclusion work and lessons for other regional MDBs.

The first part of the session was an opportunity for representatives from country partner organizations were also given the opportunity to present the LGBTQI situation and challenges in their respective countries to set the tone for the entire session. Kong Yara spoke in behalf of MRI-Cambodia, Teguh Affandi for Suara Kita, and Olam Rasaphonh presented for LaoPHA.

Meanwhile, the second part of the session was a panel discussion which was chaired by Dédé Oetomo of GAYa Nusantara. Panelists were Imrana Jalal, a member of the Independent Panel of World Bank, BJ Eco, Executive Director of Babaylanes, Yuli Rostinawati from Arus Pelangi, Midnight Poonkasetwattana, Executive Director of APCOM, and Maninder Gill, Director for Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice of the World Bank.

Maninder Gill provided updates on the World Bank initiatives for SOGI inclusion. These included the past and ongoing researches, the new World Bank Social Environmental Framework, and the Bank Management Instruction to Bank Staff. These aim to contribute to making sure that no one is excluded in the preparation and implementation of project, for any basis, including being LGBTI. The WB is also developing a Good Practice Note for bank staff.

Imrana Jalal discussed the possibilities of the Independent Panel as one of the accountability structures for ensuring that no one is left behind in the implementation of WB projects. It can be a possible venue for lodging LGBTI-related complaints in the context of WB projects as long as technical requirements are satisfied.

Panelist Yuli Rostinawati (Arus Pelangi) highlighted that violence and discrimination are being experienced by LGBTI communities. She stated that in the LGBTQI spectrum, here are unspoken voices specifically that of LBQ.

Inclusion, according to her, doesn't only mean 'no one left behind.' It is also about development projects following the principle of 'Do no harm.' What WB is doing now but we they should also address doing no harm.

BJ Eco (Babaylanes) discussed what LGBT organizations can do to leverage what WB is doing to advocate for inclusion with other multilateral development banks. He said that Babaylanes aims to contribute to empowering LGBTI students. It's a strategic intervention as these students are the future leaders of communities and industries. Babaylanes conducts trainings on SOGIESC, human rights, sexual health. They also organize LGBT students. These increases their visibility in the community.

Legislative advocacy is also one of the strategies of Babaylanes.



The APCOM and GAYa Nusantara session provided a venue for country partners to share the situation of LGBTI population in their respective countries with the panelists from World Bank. It was also an opportunity for country partners and the other attendees to learn more about the World Bank initiatives on SOGI inclusion.

The session was important as it was able to bring to the CSPF of the World Bank the LGBTQI concerns. Further, having representatives from the World Bank in the panel also contributed to the importance of the discussions on LGBTQI issues in relation to financial inclusion. It also served as a venue to discuss updates on the status of World Bank's geared towards LGBTQI inclusion in their operations and policies.

IV. VENUE FOR CROSS LEARNING

The inception meeting was also a venue for country participants and APCOM to learn from each other. As sessions and discussions were devoted to the LGBTQI situations in each country and the work being done by country partners, participants indicated that it gave them better understanding of the LGBTQI situation outside of their respective countries.

It also gave them an opportunity to discuss strategies being employed by their respective organizations and how they approached challenges in the course of the work that they do. An example of this was the questions for the representatives from Babaylanes on how they do their legislative advocacy. Meanwhile, representatives from LaoPHA highlighted the limited LGBTQI data in their country as present data are on MSM and TG.

Some of the comments of participants from their evaluation forms related to this include:

'Our understanding of LGBTQI situations made us reflect on our own situations. Learning from each other is a strength we can all build on.'

'I feel connected with the experiences of oppression that LGBTQI face in other countries.'



BJ Eco giving an overview of Babaylanes, Inc.

V. EVALUATION

Participants were asked to evaluate the level of achievement of the activity objectives of the inception meeting. The evaluation used a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). They were also asked to provide comments on each item.

The evaluation results are summarized as follows:

| Meeting Objectives | Ratings |
|--|--|
| Get to know partners organizations | 6 participants answered 5 while 2 participants answered 4 |
| Be familiar with the LGBTIQ situation in the 4 project countries | 4 participants answered 5 and 4 participants answered 4 |
| Be familiar with the project details | 5 participants answered 5, 2 participants answered 4, and 1 participant answered 3. |
| Generate feedback and suggestions about the project | 5 participants answered 5, 2 participants answered 4, and 1 participant answered 3 |
| Develop workplans for in-country activity | 4 participants answered 5 and 4 participants answered 4. |
| Learn more about multilateral development banks | 3 participants answered 5, 2 participants answered 4, and 3 participants answered 3. |
| Discuss details of partnerships | 3 participants answered 5, 2 participants answered 4, and 3 participants answered 3. |

Finance Inc country partners with resource speakers after the APCOM and GayA Nusantara session at the World Bank Civil Society Policy Forum.



VI. CONCLUSIONS

The inception meeting and the session at the World Bank Civil Society Policy Forum were able to satisfy the objectives initially set for the activities.

The inception meeting provided a venue for participants to understand the project and its components and activities. It was also an opportunity for country partners to provide input and suggestions to the project as exemplified by their suggestions in relation to schedules of project activities and proposed additional activities aimed at realization of project objectives and outcomes.

The meeting also provided opportunities for learning about how multilateral development banks work and identification of strategies for engagements as we move forward in the project implementation. The CSPF session also contributed to the objective of having a better understanding of how multilateral development structures work.

Moreover, the APCOM and country partners were able to become more familiar with the LGBTQI situations in the countries where the project will be implemented. This familiarity will be important in incorporating nuances in the country situations vis a vis project implementation. A key reflection in this regard is to allow for leeway to adjust strategies depending on the situations per country, and be for project implementation to be informed of areas of concern including possible concerns for security.

The session during the Civil Society Policy Forum was an opportunity for country partners to highlight the LGBTI situations and challenges in their countries which framed the panel discussion.

While unintended, the inception meeting also was a venue for cross learning between partner organizations as to the strategies that they employ as they go along with their advocacies.

In all, the inception meeting and the session at the CSPF were important activities which contributed to jumpstarting Finance Inc. moving forward into its remaining period of implementation.

Panel Moderator Dede Oetomo, APCOM Executive Director Midnight Poonkasetwattana, WB Independent Panel Member Imrana Jalal, Babaylanes Executive Director BJ Eco, Yuli Rostinawati of Arus Pelangi and Maninder Gill, Director for Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice of the World Bank at the APCOM and GayA Nusantara session during the CSPF. (Photo from Olam Rasaphonh)



Participants:

The Inception meeting was attended by two (2) representatives each from the project country partners Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines and representatives from APCOM.

Country partner organizations are Micro Rainbow International (Cambodia), Suara Kita (Indonesia), LaoPHA (Lao PDR) and Babaylanes (Philippines).

Resource persons were also invited to provide input and sharing which aim to contribute to participants' familiarity with multilateral development banks and experiences on LGBTQI advocacy strategies.

| No. | Name | Organization | Country |
|-----|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1. | Kong Yara | MRI-Cambodia | Cambodia |
| 2. | Rachana Chhoeurng | MRI-Cambodia | Cambodia |
| 3. | Bambang Prayudi | Suara Kita | Indonesia |
| 4. | Teguh Affandi | Suara Kita | Indonesia |
| 5. | Olam Rasaphonh | Lao PHA | Lao PDR |
| 6. | Sookwai Phommaxai | Lao PHA | Lao PDR |
| 7. | Benigno Jose Eco | Babaylanes | Philippines |
| 8. | Eva Callueng | Babaylanes | Philippines |
| 9. | Midnight Poonkasetwattana | APCOM | Thailand |
| 10. | Dede Oetomo | APCOM | Panel Moderator CSPF |
| 11. | Ryan Figueiredo | APCOM | Thailand |
| 12. | Ramil Andag | APCOM | Thailand |
| 13. | Imrana Jalal | World Bank | Learning Session and CSPF Resource Speaker |
| 14. | Jeremy Kadden | Human Rights Campaign | Learning Session Resource Speaker |



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We are united in advocating for issues around HIV and those that advance the rights, health and well being of people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.



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