

Shaping Inclusion, Driving Change

From capacity building to global advocacy, Canada's support is creating lasting change for LGBTQI rights and inclusion in Asia and the Pacific.

Through the project **“Supporting LGBTQI Rights in Asia: Connecting Voices for LGBTQI Socio-Economic Inclusion and Human Rights in Asia” supported by Global Affairs Canada (GAC)**, 2023 - 2025, APCOM is working with 15 LGBTQI organisations across Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, and Thailand to strengthen capacities, expand regional advocacy, and drive meaningful policy change.

What began as small dialogues has grown into a powerful movement that is advancing equality, resilience, and hope for LGBTQI people and communities across the region.

“ Since joining the GAC-supported project, my life has changed. I now raise my voice and help others do the same. ”

Dada Keutla, Takienglao Association, Lao PDR

Strengthening Sustainable Organisations & Leadership



16 LGBTQI Organisations

including APCOM, **strengthened their capacities** through Organisational Diagnosis, Training Needs Analysis, and sub-grant activities.



50 + 250
LGBTQI Organisations LGBTQI Activists

joined **national workshops** on human rights, SOGIESC, gender analysis, project management, advocacy, and networking.



100+
LGBTQI
Leaders

joined **national partnership building meetings**, creating connections and amplifying collaboration at national levels.

5 Women-led LGBTQ organisations



participated in the 15th AWID International Forum, **presenting Southeast Asia's LGBTQ voices on the global feminist stage.**

Regional Advocacy & Agenda Setting



6 Regional Learning Sessions

including 3 APCOM's Community Summit in 2022, 2023, and 2024, and 3 Asian Development Bank (ADB) learning weeks in 2023, 2024, and 2025, and 5 Regional Level Learning Reports enabled knowledge sharing, cross-learning, and advocacy strategies.



40 LGBTQI Organisations

Working towards social and economic inclusion - coordinating more than **40 LGBTQI organisations** to engage with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** on inclusive safeguards, gender policy, and LGBTQI inclusion roadmaps.



HIV | EQUALITY | RIGHTS
HERO
AWARDS 2024

supporting **APCOM's HERO Awards 2024**, honouring 11 LGBTQI and HIV advocates and allies, reaching 79M+ people online and drawing 350+ participants in Bangkok.

APCOM with the ADB presented at the ILGA Asia Conference 2025 in Nepal on the economic cost of LGBTQI discrimination, engaging 250 participants from across Asia.



Transforming Communities Locally and Creating Effective Platform

Our partner organisations have successfully implemented organisational strengthening and capacity building projects in their localities enabling an advocacy infrastructure within the region to be contextualized and localized and truly responds to local needs.

The project also strengthened the leadership of lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer (LBTQ) women in LGBTQI communities in Asia as it not only partnered with 5 women-led LBTQ organisations but also ensured the participation of LBTQ women activists and leaders in project activities.



We were strong before, but now we are even stronger, with clarity, structure, and confidence.

Kong Yara, MRC, Cambodia



What began as small dialogues became powerful movements for inclusion.

Leslie Ampo-an, LOVE, Philippines

The small grants also provided the partner organisations with capacity strengthening in financial management as they strove to meet the requirements of APCOM's subgranting mechanism.



**15
ORG**

Analysis of 15 organisational diagnosis to inform capacity building needs and gaps for tailored capacity strengthening activities, and community-led project implementation with grants ranging from CAD 20,000 - CAD 26,000.



Micro Rainbow Cambodia (MRC)

grew from passion to professionalism, strengthening governance and safeguarding systems.



Perkumpulan Suara Kita built a

nationwide alternative media network with 48 contributors.

Srikandi Pakuan Panggah was successfully recognized as a legitimate advocacy organisation and acquired official registration.



LBTQ Organisation against Violence and for Equality (LOVE) and

Glamourosa Catarman transformed into strong advocacy organisations, forming village-level groups, safe university spaces, and youth-led leadership.



Young women leaders from **Takienglao Association** became active participants in regional ADB policy discussions.

Individual leaders from **Don't Stop Dream Team (DSDT)** emerged, once silenced by fear, now confidently training new generations of LBQ youth to lead.



Health and Opportunity Network (HON)

became a legally registered foundation, ensuring sexual minority women hold at least half of decision-making seats.



Strengthening Localisation of LGBTQI expertise in Asia and the Pacific



Canada has made good changes through the funds and built great movements to the individuals and communities in these countries

Naomi Fontanos, APCOM, Thailand

The project has strengthened APCOM as a trusted regional organisation working on LGBTQI issues, needs, and concerns not only in Asia but as well as the Pacific. APCOM is working with 15 country partner organisations in Southeast Asia, supporting them to improve their management, programming, and sustainability.

We were also able to connect these 15 partner organisations with each other, ensuring that the LGBTQI movement at the country and in the region is capacitated, sustained and is able to articulate a regional agenda on LGBTQI human rights. Through the project APCOM is also able to connect with LGBTQI organisations in the Pacific on social and economic inclusion because of our regional learning sessions allowing APCOM to forge bonds and nurture stronger and more tightly knit connections with Pacific organisations.

APCOM strengthened its role as the regional funding intermediary, and its grants management by subgranting to organisations in the region, including to unregistered, newly formed organisations, those based in rural areas, and those that are led by LGBTQ individuals.

Through the small grants and the engagement of consultants, APCOM's subgranting mechanism has become more robust as APCOM managed contracts for close to 50 LGBTQI organizations and consultants in Asia throughout the project cycle. The small grants allowed our partner organizations to connect with individuals and entities in the private and public sector in their countries as they advocated for gender equality and socio-economic inclusion of LGBTQI communities in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines and Thailand.

APCOM has become a more effective and efficient fund provider in Asia, a more powerful bridge and accomplice to LGBTQI communities and a true partner serving LGBTQI organisations in Asia and the Pacific.





Ensuring Momentum and Sustaining LGBTQI Movement



LGBTQI communities in Asia have made incredible strides within this first phase, but without continued support, all we've built risks being lost. Canada's investment ensures that hope becomes a lasting change.

Midnight Poonkasetwatana, APCOM, Thailand

Everywhere, LGBTQI communities face discrimination, invisibility, stigma and violence. Without Canada's support, the progress made in building professional, connected, and sustainable LGBTQI organisations and leaders across Asia and the Pacific will be at risk.

With global funding challenges, LGBTQI communities and organizations in Asia and the Pacific are set to experience greater hardship, underemployment, and unemployment as programs, projects and activities shut down.

At the moment, around 5 out of 15 of our partner organizations have lost US funding: Micro Rainbow Cambodia (MRC) in Cambodia, Gaya Lentera Muda (GAYLAM) Lampung in Indonesia, Takienglao Association in Lao PDR, and Service Workers in Group (SWING) in Thailand. More than 100 LGBTQI activists and leaders are now out of a job because of the funding cuts.

Already many LGBTQI organisations in Asia and the Pacific lack core funding to sustain themselves, and without continued funding from Global Affairs Canada, LGBTQI organisations in Asia and the Pacific will find it more difficult to operate.

It is highly important for this start up project to continue on a long term basis, and ensure sustainable funding to the LGBTQI communities in Asia and the Pacific. The initial investment from Canada has already planted seeds of courage and institutions of change through its support to APCOM since 2022 - from Manila to Vientiane, Phnom Penh to Jakarta, Bangkok to the Pacific. - we must ensure these seeds grow and transforming dreams into lasting equality.





About APCOM



Founded in 2007, APCOM is a registered non-profit foundation in Thailand, working across Asia and the Pacific region on health, rights and wellbeing. **Our vision is to create a better, healthy, and dignified everyday life for people of diverse SOGIESC across Asia and the Pacific.**

Our mission is to improve the health, rights, and well-being of the diverse and dynamic communities that we serve. APCOM wants a world where people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics can fully participate in and achieve sustainable development in all aspects of their health, rights and wellbeing.



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