

APWoFN

# ACTIVITY REPORT

2024-2025

APWoFN

APWoFN 2024-2025



# International Women's Day 2024

**APWoFN celebrated International Women's Day and uploaded the highlight video from Bali Meeting.**

Bali Meeting Highlighted Video is available here >>> [VIDEO](#)

On November 20-22, 2023, we held the first face-to-face meeting of the APWoFN members in Bali, Indonesia, to deepen our bonds and formulate projects for FY2023 and beyond while recognizing one another's cultures and religious denominations.

Over the three days, we discussed specific actions for 2024 and had extensive dialogue. We believe in sharing, dialogue and mutual understanding are necessary to strengthen women's empowerment.



Happy  
International  
Women's  
Day





# Tackling Human Trafficking in Asia-Challenges and Best Practices

A digital book of Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network (APWoFN)'s seminar in September 2022 on Anti-Human Trafficking was published in May 2024.



A Digital Book is available here >>> [\*\*DIGITAL BOOK\*\*](#)



Rev. A. Elga Joan Sarapung  
(Chair of APWoFN)





Mr. Gabriel Goa  
(PADMA Indonesia)



Dr. Antonius PS  
Wibowo (LPSK-RI)

# Online Workshop on Human Trafficking

Three Days Lobby and Advocacy Workshop was held online on 24th – 26th September 2024.

## Day 1 Summary

The Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network (APWoFN) workshop, initiated with a Hindu prayer, focused on combating human trafficking, a critical issue emphasized by Rev. Masamichi Kamiya and Rev. Elga Sarapung. Objectives included raising awareness, sharing advocacy experiences, outlining achievements and challenges, and developing collaborative strategies.

Key Country Reports:

## Indonesia:

- Human trafficking is at emergency levels, particularly sexual servitude.
- Efforts include the Zero Trafficking Network and safe houses, but collusion and systemic issues persist.
- Strategies involve government collaboration, victim assistance, lobbying, and media engagement.
- Legal frameworks and victim protection agencies are in place, but cases are rising.
- Media plays a vital role in bringing cases to light.



Mrs. Sonya Helen  
Sinombor (Senior  
Journalist, KOMPAS,  
Jakarta)



# Online Workshop on Human Trafficking

## Japan:

- Challenges include labor and sexual trafficking, with online exploitation emerging.
- Organizations like Not For Sale Japan (NFSJ) and JNATIP are advocating for stronger laws and victim support.
- Emphasis on the need for better law enforcement and victim protection.

## Nepal:

- Alliance against Trafficking in Women and Children in Nepal (AATWIN) addresses trafficking with legal frameworks and government collaboration.
- Challenges include changing trafficking trends, socioeconomic factors, and border issues.
- Gaps remain in statistics and victim support.

## India:

- India is a Tier Two country in combating trafficking, with significant cases of forced labor and sexual exploitation.
- Factors include climate change, social issues, and economic hardship.
- Efforts include government coordination and crime reporting systems, but challenges like underreporting and victim support persist.
- Financial tracking is becoming a large issue due to online currency.

## Philippines:

- Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) is a major concern.
- Legal frameworks and organizations like IJM are working to combat trafficking.
- Cryptocurrency is being used by traffickers.



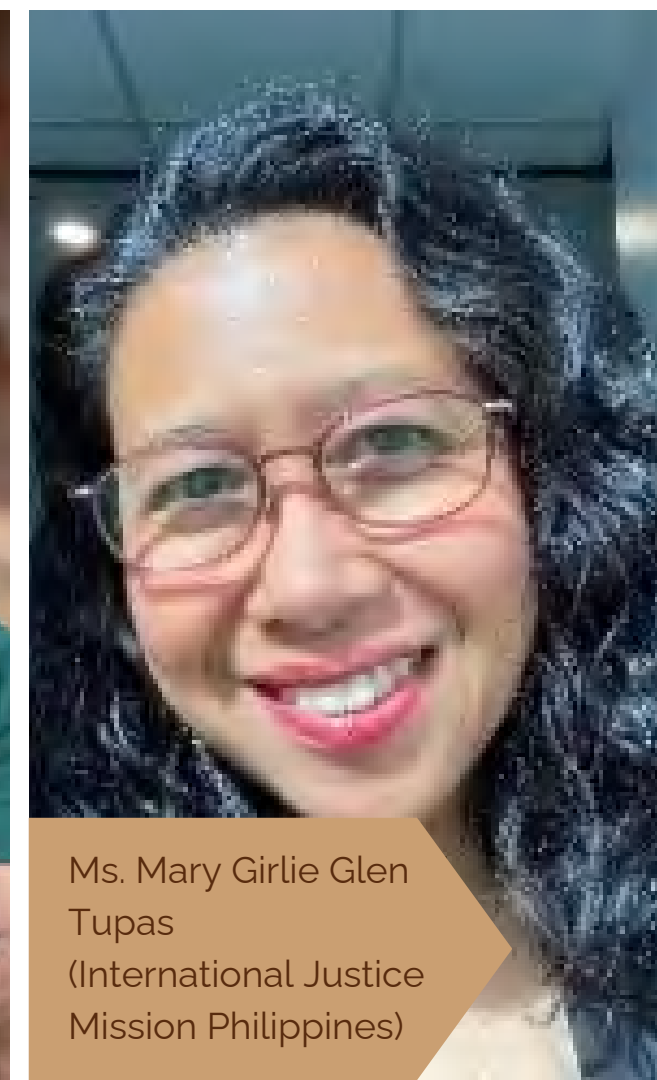
Ms. Mariko Yamaoka  
(Director of Not For  
Sale Japan [NFSJ])



Ms. Benu Maya  
Gurung (National  
Director of AATWIN)



Mr. Joseph Mathews  
(Head of the Child  
Rights Section of  
Caritas India)



Ms. Mary Girlie Glen  
Tupas  
(International Justice  
Mission Philippines)



# Online Workshop on Human Trafficking

## Day 2 Summary

Day Two focused on regional perspectives and collaborative strategies against human trafficking. Ms. Jamby Djusubalieva highlighted the sophistication of trafficking networks and the vulnerability of young victims, emphasizing the crucial role of civil society organizations.

### Australia:

- Human trafficking is viewed as modern slavery, with rising reported cases, particularly forced marriage and sexual servitude.
- Victims are predominantly female, and underreporting is a significant issue.

### Malaysia:

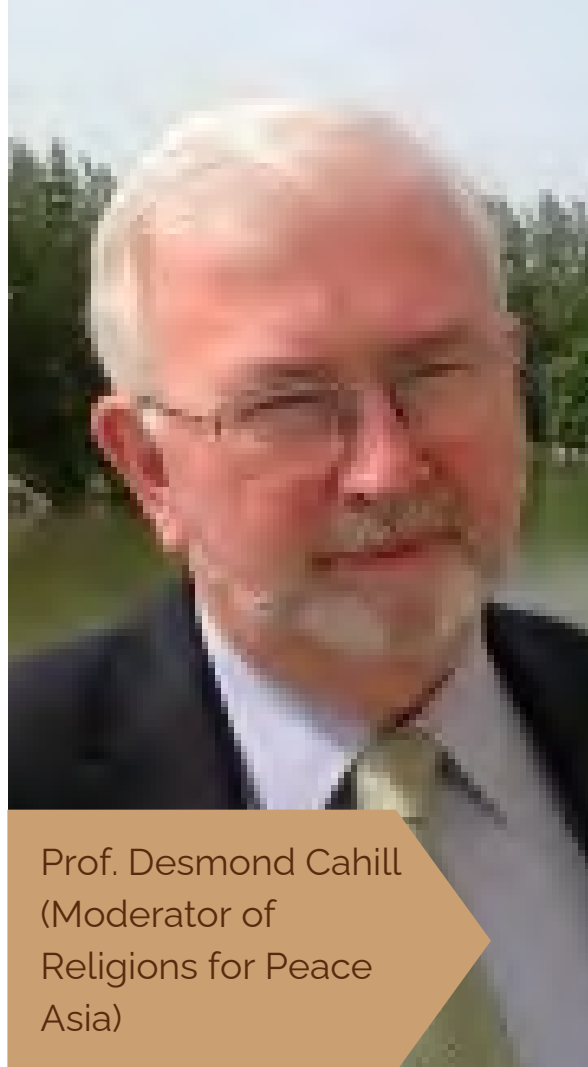
- The government is actively combating trafficking, achieving Tier Two status.
- Challenges include victim cooperation and police training.
- Strategies involve international collaboration and increased shelter access.
- The rise of social media has increased vulnerability.

### South Korea:

- Injustice, vulnerability, and economic disparity are key drivers.
- Networking, information sharing, and school involvement are vital in combating trafficking.
- Call centers are an important tool.



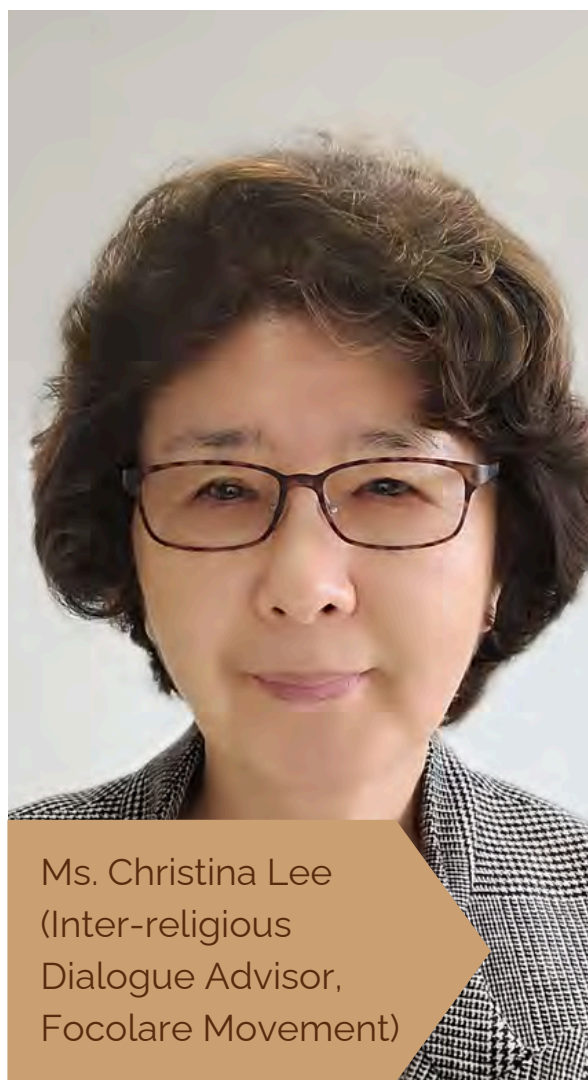
Ms. Haidi Flores-Fajardo (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)



Prof. Desmond Cahill (Moderator of Religions for Peace Asia)



Dr. Poey Tiang Peow (Secretary-General of Religions for Peace Malaysia)



Ms. Christina Lee (Inter-religious Dialogue Advisor, Focolare Movement)

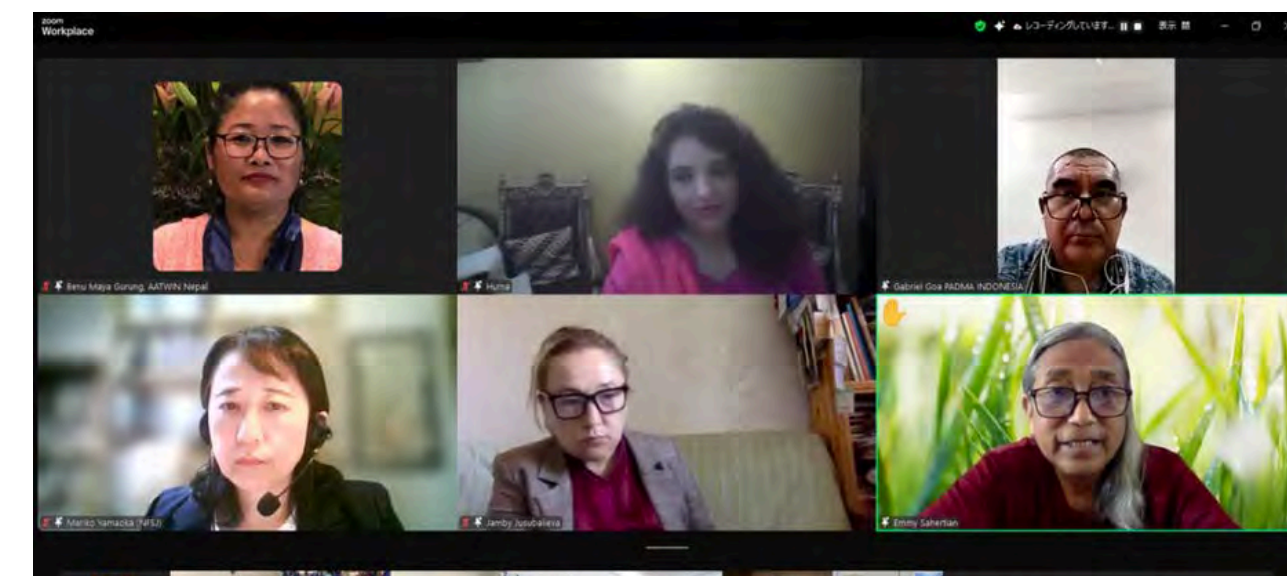
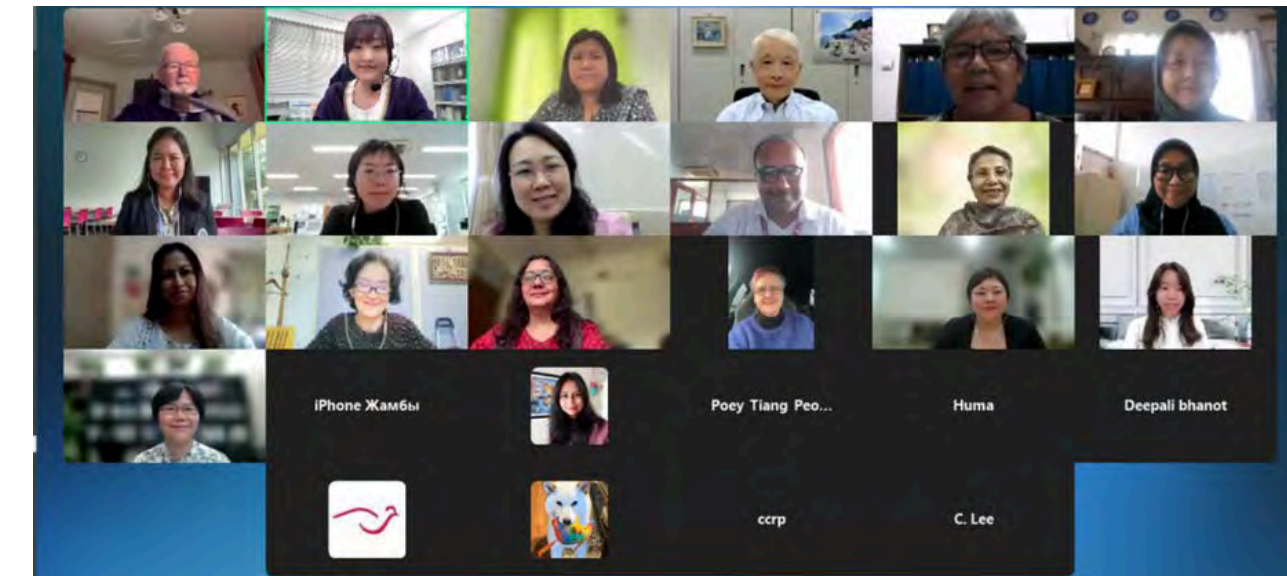


# Online Workshop on Human Trafficking

## Conclusion and Action Points:

Participants emphasized the need for enhanced collaboration, particularly in addressing digital exploitation and cross-border trafficking.

- Dr. Deepali Bhanot suggested ACRP to develop tool kits, and increase liaisons with researchers. Networking and expert consultation were deemed essential for developing effective training and advocacy.
- Rev. Elga Sarapung called for a follow-up plan with concrete actions, including publications, media content, and short films.
- Professor Cahill acknowledged the knowledge gained, highlighting statistical gaps and the need for university collaboration, and thanked Rev. Elga Sarapung and Ms. Minako Idei for their leadership.
- The workshop concluded with a prayer from Dr. Yin Yin Maw.





# International Women's Day 2025

To commemorate International Women's Day 2025, we endorsed the International Women's Day 2025 statement initiated by Soroptimist International and the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO).

Statement is available here>>> [\*\*STATEMENT\*\*](#)

INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY

8  
MARCH

*Empowered Women  
Empower the World*



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We, as the regional network of multireligious women's leaders of Religions for Peace Asia, believes the power of women and children who can bring solutions to the problems that infest the world today, brings together the commitment of women's leaders to advance common actions towards peace, and works to inspire the Inclusion of women across religious and cultural divides. Let us all celebrate International Women's Day for a world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive: a world where difference is valued and celebrated.

APWoFN 2024-2025



# Upcoming...

## Online Workshop on Peace-Building

This workshop aims to 1) strengthen women peacebuilders in the ACRP network with peacebuilding knowledge and skills; 2) create a platform for meaningful interaction among women peacebuilders in the Asia-Pacific region; 3) consolidate the existing partnership or build a new partnership for future collaboration among women peacebuilders for peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

**May 26-28, 2025**  
**11:00 - 18:30 (JST)**



The poster features a purple and pink color scheme with floral patterns. At the top, there is a circular inset showing a woman smiling in front of a lake. Below this, the text 'APWoFN' is written in a stylized font, followed by 'PEACE-BUILDING WORKSHOP' in bold white letters. To the right, a circular badge says 'ZOOM WORKSHOP'. Below the title, the dates 'May 26-28, 2025' and the time '11:00 - 18:30 (JST)' are listed. A paragraph of text describes the workshop's goals. At the bottom, there is a 'REGISTER NOW' button with a right arrow and a URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81256848888>. The background of the poster shows a crowd of people at a conference.

Organized by Asia-Pacific Women of Faith Network

**APWoFN**  
**PEACE-BUILDING**  
**WORKSHOP**

**ZOOM**  
**WORKSHOP**

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**REGISTER NOW** 

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81256848888>



Dr. Suphatmet Yunyasit  
(Co-Chair of APWoFN)



# Upcoming...

## Online Workshop on Climate Change

The project aims to establish a forum for ACRP member countries to share and implement voluntary "climate-positive" initiatives. It will encourage, support, and document diverse climate projects, creating a reporting system to share practical methods and track investments and outcomes. The project will also identify and disseminate models for climate action across the region.

✓ Transition    ✓ Resilience    ✓ Recovery

### July 2025

\*Detailed information to be announced soon!



Ms. Naoko Yasmin Kawada  
(Secretary General of APWoFN)





# Thank you

Since the new leadership began after the ACRP Governance Assembly in 2021, we have developed the APWoFN's activities, focusing on three main themes: anti-human trafficking, climate change, and peace-building and reconciliation.

APWoFN will continue to work for peace with men and youth as our partners, with the strengths of constant communication and a proactive approach to activities!