

ABOUT THE AUTHORS-CONTRIBUTORS

THIDA C. KHUS

Thida Khus is the Executive Director of SILAKA, an intermediate agency that works to empower the management and administrative capacity of local and public organizations in Cambodia to become viable organizations in the newly formed democratic society. She links organizations and concerned citizens in the movement to campaign against non-violence prior to the 1998 elections in Cambodia. Under her leadership, SILAKA is moving to build local grassroots communities in 2 provinces by strengthening the ability to respond to conflict situations such as destruction of the environment and domestic violence.

She is also an advocate on women issues in the political arena in Phnom Penh. She is coordinator for the Gender and Millennium Development Goals in Cambodia, a project of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Since 1997, she has been active in the field of peace and non-violence in Cambodia. She worked in conjunction with the Dhammyietra Peace Walk started in 1993, when she facilitated group of concerned citizens to advocate for the writing and passing of the most liberal constitution in Asia.

ANI WIDYANI SOETJIPTO

Ani Widyani Soetjipto is a lecturer of the graduate program of the Women Studies and International Relations Program of the University of Indonesia. She is active as a member of the Women Convention Watch Indonesia, the Working Group for the Advancement and Realization of Women's Rights and the Board of Coordinator Centre for Electoral Reform (CETRO) in Indonesia.

Ms. Soetjipto obtained her bachelor's degree (Sarjana) in Political Science at the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Indonesia and attended her MA at the University of Washington in Seattle, USA. She also attended Chinese Language Training at the Tunghai University in Taichung, Taiwan. She has published in several newspapers and magazines and wrote articles for different books. Since 2002, she gives speeches and presentations

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MARIA CHIN ABDULLAH

Maria Chin Abdullah is the Executive Director of the Women's Development Collective (WDC) in Malaysia. In her years of experience working on gender and development issues in Malaysia and in the Asia-Pacific region, Ms. Abdullah is a recognized gender trainer and has developed modules on gender and feminism, with a focus on women's-rights-as-human-rights issues, violence against women and linking women's concerns with national development. She has also developed training programs on governance, gender equality, leadership and participation of women in key decision-making processes.

She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Applied Economics at the North East London Polytechnic, London, U.K. and completed her Master of Science in Urban Development Planning at the University College, London, U.K. She has conducted analytical researches and written articles for publications in regional organizations, Malaysian government departments and for Malaysian research institutions.

MARLEA P. MUÑEZ

Currently, Marlea Muñoz is the Executive Director of the Women's Education, Development and Productivity, Research and Advocacy Organization (WEDPRO), Inc., a collective women's organization based in the Philippines.

She graduated Bachelor of Arts in Forestry at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna. She had some units of course work in Master of Public Administration at the University of the Philippines in Diliman and completed an intensive Project Management Course conducted by Projektstyrning AB in Sweden. Since 1988, she had been involved in community forestry systems. She worked for the fulfillment of the rights of the poor, indigenous peoples, upland and coastal communities. In 1995, she revived the Gender and Development undertakings of DENR and initiated more concrete actions for women's rights. She has contributed articles on gender and development, cross-border mobility and sexual exploitation and community-based forest management to several publications.

PAWADEE TONGUTHAI

Dr. Pawadee Tonguthai teaches macroeconomics, human resources, economies of Asian countries, and gender issues in the economy at the Thammasat

University in Bangkok. She was appointed to the board of the National Commission on Women's Affairs for two terms and served on several national committees dealing with women's concerns. She currently chairs a national committee to prepare 'The Strategic Plan for Women's Economic Security' which is expected to be submitted through the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to the cabinet for approval by early 2005.

She did research and published about several topics, such as employment, gender and development, migration and urbanization, industrialization, and social protection. She has served as consultant to several international organizations (e.g. The World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, UN ESCAP, UNIDO, UNCTAD and ILO). She was the coordinator of UNDP/UNIFEM Gender Mainstreaming Facility in Thailand.

Dr. Pawadee is very active with both national and regional NGOs working on the advancement of women. She is a founding member of Thai Women Watch (which monitors Thailand's implementation of the UN Beijing Platform for Action), a board member of the Southeast Asian Women Watch (SEAWWatch) and a steering committee member of the Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW, a regional NGO promoting the advancement of women).

SUPATRA PUTANANUSORN

Supatra Putananusorn received her MA in Development Studies (Women and Development) from the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands and started her government service as community extension specialist with the community development department, Ministry of the Interior in Thailand. She then joined Thai National Commission on Women's Affairs and was subsequently promoted to be the Senior Policy and Planning Analyst and Chief of the Women's Information Center.

She has been involved in a number of major research projects on the status of women in Thailand that include, among others, the study on The Situation of Gender Equality in Thailand (Report on the Status of Women for the Fourth World Conference on Women) and A Feminist Appraisal on Income Generating Projects for Rural Women in Thailand.

Her last position in the civil service was as Chief of Research and Information Division, Gender Equality Promotion Bureau, Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. Since June 2004, Ms. Supatra has been the national coordinator of the UNIFEM CEDAW South East Asia Program in Thailand.