

# Climate Smart Women Connect:

Climate and Gender Justice for Indigenous Women in Asia



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# Climate Smart Women Connect:

## Climate and Gender Justice for Indigenous Women in Asia

**A 3-Day Conference at Ibis Styles Hotel, Ratchada, Bangkok**

**02-04 December 2019**

Organized by Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and Cuso International

### **Overall Goal**

This event will build momentum for a more inclusive climate policy through engagement with indigenous peoples, with a focus on Indigenous Women who are the most dependent on climate-affected livelihoods and play a key role as custodians of territories of life. Through collective actions and consensus building, it will contribute towards Indigenous Women's empowerment, thereby transforming the power structures that exclude women of different ethnicities from the climate-related policies that affect their lives.

Our research in Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar found that women – particularly indigenous women – are more likely than men to be affected by climate change. Vulnerabilities are rooted in gendered divisions of access and control to the land, labor, and other resources as well as decision making power. Women tend to be the primary caregivers and providers of food and fuel and therefore are more vulnerable to climate change impacts. Oftentimes, men migrate to other communities and to cities for employment opportunities; leaving women to fend for themselves, their children and elders. Despite some positive progress, policy development still excludes the needs and voices of those most affected, including indigenous women. Indigenous women's agency including their knowledge offer key insights for sustainability and social justice transformations. There is an urgent need that the global governance architecture for climate change addresses the lack of gender balance, sensitivity and responsiveness, and a meaningful recognition of Indigenous Knowledge in order to achieve climate and gender justice.

### **Objectives**

- To build a common understanding among different actors on the impact of climate change on Indigenous Women and their livelihoods.
- To scale up good practices and initiatives on climate change adaptation and livelihoods of Indigenous Women.
- To identify issues that can drive transformation in the inclusion and empowerment of Indigenous Women in the climate policy agenda.

### **Expected outcomes**

1. Stronger women's voice at all levels of the climate policy regime, with particular inclusion of indigenous women.
2. Increased socio-economic empowerment for women, with particular focus on indigenous women.
3. Increased community resilience to climate shocks and other disasters.

## **Tentative Agenda** (Draft version – 15 Nov 2019)

**Monday, 2 December 2019**

### **Climate Change and Indigenous Women – Evidence from the Ground**

08.30 - 09.00 Registration

09.00 – 10.30 **Session 1: Opening**

- Programme Opening with Cultural Ceremony by CIPO & Bunong Ethnic Group, Cambodia (Yun Mane, Rin Marinith, Choeun Sreymon, Phloek Phyron)
- Welcome Remarks and Programme Objectives
- Round of Introductions and expectations
- Opening Remarks

Speakers: Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) - Gam A Shimray, Secretary General  
Cuso International – Jonathan Burton. Head of Asia Programs  
Stockholm Environment Institute – Niall O’Connor, Executive Director  
Global Affairs Canada – Chargé d’affaires a.i. or the new Ambassador tbc

Moderator: Sushila Kumari Thapa Magar, Programme Coordinator, AIPP

10.30 – 11.00 Refreshments & group photo

11.00 – 12.30 **Session 2: Indigenous Women and Climate Change: Issues and Initiatives**

- Key-note speech to set the context at broader level. The status of Indigenous Peoples - Knowledge, Culture, Identity, Values and Livelihoods.

**Voices from the ground:**

- Indigenous Community representatives from 4 countries sharing the personal testimonies on how climate changes (both slow onset as well as climate shocks) are affecting their lives and how they are coping and adapting.

Keynote Speaker: Gam A Shimray, Secretary General, (AIPP)

Speakers: Madam Truong, Director, Centre for Development in Mountainous Areas, Vietnam  
Fong Chompey, Cambodia Indigenous Women’s Working Group (CIWWG)  
Lamphai Xayamongkhoun, Farmer, Philom Climate Smart Village, Savannakhet, Laos PDR  
Daw Nyo Nyo San, Inn Sein May, Myanmar

Moderator: Dr Sara Vigil, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI).

12.30 – 13.30 **Lunch break** – Networking & introduction to the country booths

13.30 – 15.00 **Session 3: Indigenous Women & Climate Change: Sharing Research Findings from 4 Countries in SE Asia**

- How are IP Livelihoods affected by climate change in SE Asia?
- How does this differ between women and men in different geographic locations?
- How does intersectionality affect the impacts of climate change? (focusing on socio-economic status, gender, age)

Speakers: Piseth Vann, Researcher, Senior Consultant, EDI, Cambodia  
Keopheth Phoumphone, Social Development Alliance, Laos PDR  
Dr Wai Yar Lin Zin, Researcher, Myanmar  
Dr Sen La Thi, Researcher, Vietnam

Moderator: Elizabeth Thippawong, Remote Ethnic Women Program Advisor, CARE International.

15.00 – 15.30 Refreshments

15.30 – 16.45 **Session 4: Climate Adaptation and Good Practices**

- How do Indigenous Women cope with climate shocks and impacts on their livelihoods?
- What are the existing good practices and Indigenous Knowledges on climate change adaption and livelihood?
- What are the recommendations on the further actions to amplify the good practices?

Speakers: Dr Wai Yar Lin Zin, Researcher, Myanmar  
Dr Sen La Thi, Researcher, Vietnam  
Elizabeth Thippawong, former Program Advisor, Gender & Development Association (GDA), Laos PDR  
Expert on IK and Adaption – Manisha tbc

Moderator: Kalpana Giri, Senior Programme Officer, RECOFTC.

16.45 – 17.00 **Closing of Day 1** with check-in call with COP25 and cultural thanksgiving by Myanmar Indigenous Women Leaders.

Facilitation: Ariel Mishkin, Research & Communications Advisor, Cuso International  
Ma Tin Mar Yi, Project Manager, May Doe Kabar, Myanmar



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**Tuesday, 3 December 2019**

## **Indigenous Women and Their Role in Climate Change**

08.30 – 09.00 Recap of Day 1 by 3 Laos Indigenous Women (Ms Honkeo Douangdy, Ms Chanmany Tandaeng & Mrs Phay)

Facilitation: Ariel Mishkin, Research & Communications Advisor, Cuso International  
Vanhvisa Vongsouthi, Project Coordinator, GDA, Laos

09.00 – 10.30 **Session 5: Indigenous Knowledge & Learning Systems for Adaptation I**

- How do Indigenous Women learn how to adapt their livelihoods for climate changes & shocks?
- How can the local systems of learning and adaptation be strengthened?
- How can this knowledge can be better disseminated, promoted and recognized in wider circles?

Speakers: Piseth Vann, Researcher, Senior Consultant, EDI, Cambodia  
Keopheth Phoumphone, Social Development Alliance (SODA), Laos PDR  
Madam Luong Thi Truong, Director, Centre for Development in Mountainous Areas (CSDM), Vietnam  
Nu Ra Maru, Promotion of Indigenous & Nature Together (POINT)

Moderator: Tim Cook, Country Representative – Laos PDR, Cuso International

10.30 – 11.00 Refreshments

11.00 – 12.30 **Session 6: Indigenous Knowledge & Learning Systems for Adaptation II**

- Groups report back to the plenary
- Discussion of presentations & how to take the ideas forward.

Moderator: Tim Cook, Country Representative – Laos PDR, Cuso International

Facilitators: Dr Sen Le Thi Hoa, Dr Wai Yar, Piseth Vann, Keopheth Phoumphone, Madam Truong,  
Vanhvisa Vongsouthi, Hein Bunhieng, Ma Tin Mar Yi.

13.30 – 13.30 **Lunch break** – Networking & discussion in the country booths



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13.30 – 15.00 **Session 7: Indigenous Women Power and Participation**

- What are the challenges & opportunities for Indigenous Women's participation in decision-making at different levels (local, national, international)?
- What are the pathways to overcoming gendered social norms?

Speakers: Dr Sara Vigil, Research Fellow - Gender, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)  
UNOHSHR (tbc)  
Phetsakhone Somphongbouthakanh, Expert on Gender & Human Rights, Laos PDR  
Kalpana Giri, Senior Programme Manager, RECOFTC

Moderator: Sisomphet Souvanthisith, Head of Advancement of Women Division, Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Laos PDR.

15.00 – 15.30 Refreshments

15.30 – 16.45 **Session 8: Prioritizing the Key Issues and Synthesizing Learning**

- Analyse the key issues and learnings from the presentations & discussions.
- Identify the different stakeholders working on the identified issues of Indigenous Women and Climate Change
- How can different external actors play a better supportive role?

Group discussions

Facilitators: Dr Sen Le Thi Hoa, Dr Wai Yar, Piseth Vann, Keopheth Phoumphone, Madam Truong, Vanhvisa Vongsouthi, Hein Bunhieng, Ma Tin Mar Yi.

Moderator: Sarah Pentlow, Gender Global Lead, Cuso International

16.45 – 17.00 **Closing of Day 2** with check-in call with COP25 and cultural thanksgiving by Vietnamese Indigenous Women Leaders.

Facilitation: Ariel Mishkin, Research & Communications Advisor, Cuso International  
Hoang Huong Lan, Centre for Development in Mountainous Areas, Vietnam



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Wednesday, 4 December 2019

## Indigenous Women and Developing Linkages

08.30 – 09.00 Recap of Day 2 by Indigenous Women Leaders

Facilitation: Ariel Mishkin, Research & Communications Advisor, Cuso International  
Hean Bunhieng, Executive Director, Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization (CIPO)

09.00 – 10.30 **Session 9: Global and Regional Frameworks on Climate Change I**

- Keynote Address
- How are Indigenous Women represented and engaged in decisions and policy making on climate and DRR?
- What's working well and what barriers do they face?
- What are the initiatives and policies to empower IW in the processes? Perspectives of different stakeholders on how we can use climate adaptation and DRR as an entry point to strengthen Indigenous Women's voice

Keynote Speaker: UN Women (tbc)

Speakers: Dr Claudia Ituarte-Lima, Senior Researcher, RWI (tbc)  
UNEP or Another panel member from media or government (tbc)  
Mrs Hornkeo, Field Coordinator, Global assoc for People & Environment (GAPE), Laos PDR

Moderator: Ella Baltazar, ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ACRN)

10.30 – 11.00 Refreshments



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11.00 – 12.30 **Session 10: Global and Regional Frameworks on Climate Change II**

- What is the situation of Indigenous Women's engagement and participation in climate change & DRR processes at different level?
- What are the opportunities and challenges for Indigenous Women to engage in the processes at different levels?
- What strategies and initiatives can be adopted to ensure IW's voice at different levels by different actors?

World Café facilitators:

- Local: Phetsakhone Somphongbouthakanh (Gender Consultant, Laos) & Gin Sum (Cuso, Myanmar)
- National: Ms Mya Lai Soe (DRD, Myanmar) & Sisomphet Souvanthisith, (MAF, Laos)
- Regional: Prem Singh Tharu (AIPP) & Aiz Santiago (Cuso)
- International: Dr Sara Vigil (SEI) & Sarah Pentlow (Cuso).

Moderator: Albert Salamanca, Cluster Lead - Climate, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

12.30 – 13.30 **Lunch break** – Networking & discussion in the country booths

13.30 – 15.00 **Session 11: Indigenous Women Connect**

- Sharing of the drafted key common outcome messages for various audiences (including COP25 and national governments)

**Break-Out Sessions**

- Refine the Key Common Messages and recommendations for Strategic Engagement
- Addressing the differences

Facilitator: AIPP tbc

15.00 – 15.30 Refreshments



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15.30 – 16.15 **Session 12: The Way Forward for Indigenous Women in South East Asia**

- How can adaptive resilience-building strategies contribute to diminishing gender inequality and promoting social and environmental justice?
- Presentation of a final common statement
- Different stakeholders express their commitment
- Messages to COP25

Keynote Speaker: Joan Carling, Co-Convener, Indigenous Peoples' Major Group (via video recording)

Facilitators: Jonathan Burton, Head of Programs - Asia, Cuso International  
Sushila Kumari Thapa Magar, Programme Coordinator, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

COP25 Links: Pirawan (AIPP)  
Ei Ei Min, Director, POINT, Myanmar

16.15 – 16.45 **Reflections**

- Feedback & evaluation.

Moderator: Mia Aquino, Cuso International, Philippines

16.45 – 17.00 **Closing Session** - Closure of the workshop by a group of Indigenous women – ritual & ceremony

Presenters: Ma Cho Aye (Myanmar), Bo Dam Thi Hiem (Vietnam), Mrs Phay (Laos PDR), Dam Chanthy (Cambodia).

Facilitation: Madam Truong, Director, CSDM, Vietnam.

18.00 – 19.30 **Solidarity Dinner**

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*The event is by-invitation only. To express interest to participate, please register at <https://tinyurl.com/ClimateSmartWomen>.  
For more details, check out our [Facebook event page](#) or contact [ale@aippnet.org](mailto:ale@aippnet.org).*



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## **The Organizers**

### **Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)**

AIPP is a regional organization founded in 1988 by indigenous peoples' movements. AIPP is committed to the cause of promoting and defending indigenous peoples' rights and human rights and articulating issues of relevance to indigenous peoples. At present, AIPP has 48 members from 14 countries in Asia with 18 indigenous peoples' national networks, 30 local and sub-national organizations.

### **Cuso International**

Cuso International is a not-for-profit development organization that works to eradicate poverty and inequality through the efforts of highly skilled volunteers, collaborative partnerships and compassionate donors.

### **Gender Development Association (GDA), Laos PDR**

GDA is a Laos-based network, formed in 1991 out of a collaboration of the Lao Women's Union (LWU), UNICEF and various INGOs. GDA works for joint action and awareness to end all forms of gender discrimination, so all individuals can contribute to an equal and just Lao society. GDA is a member organization, with over 20 individuals and organizations across sectors.

### **Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization (CIPO), Cambodia**

CIPO was established and registered with Ministry of Interior in 2014. It was born out of the desire to change the destiny of the Cambodian Indigenous Peoples Society to take charge on their culture and tradition and their customary rights to land and natural resources in their community as well as in Cambodia country.

### **Center for Sustainable Development in Mountainous Areas (CSDM), Vietnam**

CSDM is a non-government development organisation, registered under an umbrella of Vietnam Unions for Science and Technology Associations. The mission of CSDM is to (a) improve the quality of life in ethnic communities by ensuring food security through encouraging occupations which are sustainable and environmentally sound; (b) encourage the protection and sustainable management of natural resources according to both indigenous knowledge and modern techniques; (c) revitalise and promote transmission of cultural heritage to the new generation; (d) support, develop and strengthen the capacities of community based organisations and cooperation within and between communities and organisations; and (e) advocate the cause of disadvantaged peoples and ethnic minority groups and co-ordinate with other organisations at national, regional and international levels.

### **May Doe Kabar (MDK), Myanmar**

May Doe Kabar was launched in 2015 with support from the United Nations Development Programme. It creates a channel for realizing the collective voices of rural women for inclusion in local and national policies. May Doe Kabar responds to the current needs and long-term aspirations of rural women to promote the role and leadership of rural women and their contribution to sustainable development and gender equality.