



# Gender and Citizenship in the Information Society (CITIGEN) workshop

## Session I: Stories of Change

# APWLD

**EMPOWERING WOMEN TO  
USE  
LAW AS AN INSTRUMENT OF  
CHANGE AND PROMOTING  
WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS  
IN THE ASIA PACIFIC  
REGION**

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# APWLD ICT Developments

- New APWLD website: <http://www.apwld.org/> It has made APWLD think about broader ICT issues for women and how we as an organisation can engage with ICT.
- UFDWR blog: <http://ufdwrs.blogspot.com/> More use of current blog in the lead up to the redevelopment. Now the blog is having around 500 page views a month, and has a better link up with the facebook page. We have a new domain name and are working on a new website for UFDWR.
- New tools: CRM complex database system with website, list serve and email integration, full tracking capability, we are also beginning to utilise online petition sites such as Care2.

# Field Research in Taiwan

- At least 169,000 women migrant domestic workers, they are not visible in the city, as they do not have the right to a day off. There is a lack of co-ordination.
- The Indonesian forum held 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. Discussed the problems they faced, by also solutions and their use of ICT. TASAT fostered a closer link with ATKI-Taiwan. The forum was also reported in the local media.

# Field Research in Taiwan

- The forum with Filipino domestic workers, was held 20<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- None of the organisations currently have a strategy of ICT use to organise workers, but they do use mobile phones for general communications.
- Surveys were carried out outside shops selling Indonesian goods, 7-11 convenience stores, parks, churches, mosques, train / MTR stations and at the shelters.



# Field Research in Hong Kong

- Hong Kong in contrast to Taiwan, has over 273,609 migrant domestic workers .
- They are protected by the local labour laws and can be seen in Hong Kong, especially on Sundays.
- The forum was delayed, but strong networks that exist between organisations, means that unlike in Taiwan, organising the forum and surveying is easier.
- April and May are busy months of processing all the information, writing it up and making some conclusions as to what the information shows us.



# Connections between gender, ICT and citizenship

- From the forum and survey results so far it is clear that almost all women domestic workers surveyed have mobile phones and have high usage,  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  connect to Internet on their mobile
- Except Indonesian domestic workers in Taiwan who are being told by brokers that it is not allowed and so numbers are less at  $\frac{3}{4}$ .
- Most women use their mobile to get information, and connect to organisations through friends (and friends of friends) and regular meeting places.
- Primary contact with organisations is through mobiles, but most organisations only text or call in response and do not have systems in place

# Connections between gender, ICT and citizenship

- There is a strong connection between having Sundays off, and effective organising and participation in society/ politics, simply through their presence in the public sphere
- ICT connection is most crucial when it is not possible to have regular meeting place and day (Sunday)
- By informing organisations on cheap simple ICT systems, (such as a basic bulk text system) organisation and information dissemination could be more efficient and effective
- Websites and social media such as Facebook is also under-utilised, UFDWR hopes to lead the way with new website.