



Gender and Citizenship in the Information Society (CITIGEN) workshop

Session I: Stories of Change

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

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 13th 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.

▲印尼的家庭看護總批戴上比較「溫馴」的臂章，但人與人間的關係，不應該建立在「軟土深掘」。她們，在台灣有話要說。（圖／張正 文／白宜

Field Research in Taiwan

- The forum with Filipino domestic workers, was held 20th 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.