SESSION IX - Group work – Tying together emerging reflections and insights

Teams sat together with advisors and planned according to the following:

1. What are the next steps for individual research projects?
2. What can be done for national level policy advocacy?
3. What can CITIGEN do globally to influence the feminist agenda and global policy processes? Are there any opportunities we need to map?

Session IX was meant to provide the research partners a window period to sit with the advisors and share the specific issues and outcomes relating to their research. After the discussion each team presented, in short, its action points.

Mokhlesur Rahman (Bangladesh) shared that their discussion had helped bring out the need for two steps. First, they will revisit some aspects of their research by evolving working definitions, engaging more actively with feminist groups in Bangladesh and re-looking at their methodology in terms of interview methodology, as well as assumptions and hypotheses informing the project. The steps ahead will include the organisation of a workshop in December, as well as a possible conversations with the Indian and Sri Lankan teams on the commonalities and differences among the researches.

Oi Wan (China) reported that her team will interview more grassroots women about their use of ICTs in order to provide alternative views to the liberal Western politics. The team will also explore dimensions of translocal citizenship e.g. by analysing the contaminated milk incident. They are planning to have a workshop in June with feminists from Beijing and Guangzhou in order to build greater local connections.

Devika (India) shared insights from their discussion. Regarding policy issues, policy makers should be approached at this stage of the project, as a model is being created which should not be seized. The policy document should mirror various related social concerns and not look like an ICT project. From the methodology perspective, it would be important to create a network of resource sharing which would be neither corporatist nor statist, linking meso-institutions which would hopefully make it sustainable. Another aspect to take forward would be having yearly interns who could study the discussions forum of the website and/or give technical inputs to the website.

dela Tonga (Philippines) began by stating the wish of the team to continue tutorials for computer and Internet training in order to train more community journalists. They would thereby work on sustaining community participation by generating community perspective account stories related to gender, citizenship and reproductive health. The team will hold workshops at the end of the project cycle to ensure dissemination of outcomes to activists, academics and policy makers.

Cornwall spoke on behalf of the Sri Lankan team, to say that they had found interesting parallels with the Bangladeshi team and would in specific work towards foregrounding methodology and refining their comparative analysis.

Lappin (Thailand/Taiwan) said they will start with a reflective session with the team on the project. They are planning a series of activities to familiarise the members with organising tools for advocacy. One of the main interest for APWLD, she mentioned, would be to build moments and look at effective actions of women's organisations/movements engaging with ICTs.