EVALUATION
OF THE INDIGENOUS VOICES
IN ASIA PROJECT

Our Voices Our Rights
February 2015

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
1. Summary ............................................ 1
2. Project Context ................................. 2
3. Objectives of the IVA Project ............ 3
4. Findings and Achievements ............. 4
5. Recommendations for Regional Actions 8
6. Recommendations for Country Actions 11
7. Conclusions ................................. 15

Boxes
The Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) .... 1
IVA Project Implementing Agencies ........... 2
Evaluation Methodology ........................ 3
Barriers to Exposing Indigenous Issues in
Philippine Media ............................... 4
Media Collaboration Leads to
Postponement of World Bank Project ....... 8
Gender Dimensions ............................ 14
Indigenous Community Radio in Indonesia .. 16

Copyright © Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) Foundation, 2015 All rights reserved.
No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without the written permission of the copyright holder.

Published by:
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
108 Moo 5 Tamboon Sanpranate
Amphur Sansai, Chiang Mai 50210, Thailand
www.iva.aippnet.org
www.aippnet.org
www.ccmin.aippnet.org
www.iphrdefenders.com

Supported by:
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Contributors:
Dr. Roger Harris
Ms. Christine Apikul
Ms. Dipta Chakma

Suggested citation:
Evaluation of The Indigenous Voices in Asia Project,

Disclaimer:
The content and opinions expressed in this report do not represent those of the donors but is the sole responsibility of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP).
1. Summary

This report summarises an evaluation of the project for Indigenous Voices in Asia (IVA) that was conducted by the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) in 2012-4. In partnership with indigenous organisations in the participating countries; Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, and Thailand, the project conducted training and workshops to build capacity among indigenous journalist and activists to report on the adverse conditions faced by their communities, and to publish their accounts in the national media. It also strengthened the development of indigenous media, notably community radio, as well as created networks of indigenous activists and media representatives, both nationally and across Asia.

The IVA project trained more than 500 indigenous individuals with media skills; ranging from writing for local and national print media to radio broadcasting. In doing so, it has fostered mutually supportive networks of indigenous citizen journalists and activists and media representatives that continue to report on issues of concern to Asia’s Indigenous Peoples. This has resulted in an increase in the amount and frequency of media reporting of indigenous issues, which in some instances, has been seen to contribute towards modifications in development policy and professional practices that are more favourable to Indigenous Peoples.

In evaluating the project activities, it has become apparent that media that is owned and operated by Indigenous Peoples themselves shows considerable promise for allowing them greater voice within public debates around decisions that affect them, and that new media and social media have a role to play in this. Whilst traditional media remains crucial to exposing issues of indigenous concern, training indigenous citizen journalist continues to be a winning strategy, but the process can be strengthened in several ways.

Recommendations are offered to AIPP for future project conduct that target; building the capacities of country partners to carry out similar interventions, a focus on gender dimensions, further cross-border networking, increased application of communication principles to other programmes, a structured approach to advocacy, more intensive use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), and more effective creation and management of media materials. Additionally, further training should be augmented with digital approaches, needs assessments and longer term effectiveness evaluations. The IVA network needs to be invigorated with contributors who are more active. Academic linkages would expose young people to indigenous issues as well as promote greater use of research to increase knowledge on the innovative use of ICTs and methods of advocacy. Finally, more can be done to motivate indigenous reporting through award schemes and community visits.

The Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

AIPP is a non-governmental non-profit making member-based regional organisation of indigenous movements in Asia. It was founded in 1988 and has its Regional Secretariat in Chiang Mai, Thailand. At present, AIPP has 47 member organisations from 14 countries of Asia: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Taiwan/China, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam. AIPP's member organisations are national federations/networks, local and subnational organisations of Indigenous Peoples and indigenous women’s and youth organisations. The main target groups of AIPP's operations are the indigenous organisations and communities of Asia that its member and partner/network organisations represent. The key activities of AIPP are awareness raising, capacity building, policy advocacy and lobbying, and networking at the national, regional and international levels.

Of the world’s estimated population of 370 million Indigenous Peoples, around two-thirds live in Asia.
General recommendations are offered to the country partners targeting improvements in the training process, networking among indigenous and mainstream journalists, and greater use of community radio and social media. More specific recommendations are offered for each country partner.

2. Project Context

Of the world’s estimated population of 370 million Indigenous Peoples, around two-thirds live in Asia. Wherever they are found they remain among the most marginalised and vulnerable groups of society, having been largely excluded from mainstream development processes. Accounting for about five percent of the world’s population but about one-third of the world’s extremely poor, Indigenous Peoples continue to suffer from historical social injustices and discrimination, including issues related to their status and citizenship as well as state recognition of their economic, social and cultural rights. As a result, they have been deprived of their rights and entitlements, including rights over the lands that they occupy, access to natural resources, and basic social services, such as health and education.

With limited representation and participation in democratic processes both formally through elections, political parties and local governments, and informally through the media and other communication channels the voices of Indigenous Peoples are hardly heard within debates around policies and decisions that affect them.

Against this backdrop, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in September 2007, which established a universal framework of minimum standards for survival, dignity, well-being and rights of the world’s Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration acknowledges the important role of indigenous media and mainstream media for the realisation of Indigenous Peoples’ rights, stipulating in article 16 that:

- Indigenous Peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination, and that;
- States shall take effective measures to ensure that state-owned media duly reflects indigenous cultural diversity.

Arising from the 2007 United Nations Development Programme on Indigenous Voices in Asia-Pacific, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) was mandated to lead the implementation of the project for Indigenous Voices in Asia (IVA) as a strategic framework for promoting and protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples through access to all forms of non-indigenous media, and for strengthening the role of indigenous media in enhancing indigenous voices, cultures, languages and identities.
Evaluation Methodology

The purpose of the evaluation is to:

- Assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of the project in strengthening Indigenous Peoples’ capacity, networking and awareness raising in relation to access to media/information;
- Assess the achievements of the project based on the indicators in the project document;
- Draw key lessons learned during the project implementation;
- Provide an overview of the strengths, weaknesses, challenges and gaps in project implementation, and recommendations for addressing the weaknesses and challenges.

The evaluation involved:

- A desk review of project documents and reports provided by AIPP and the country partner organisations, including publications, workshop reports, media monitoring reports, policy briefing papers, media strategies, case studies, video and audio documentaries, websites, social media sites, etc.;
- A briefing session with the IVA project team at AIPP;
- Visits to the five countries where the project was implemented, involving meetings with the country project teams and project stakeholders; trainers, resource persons, trained indigenous media professionals and rights activists, community leaders and members, government officials, mainstream media professionals, and NGO representatives;
- A debriefing session with AIPP.

3. Objectives of the Project for Indigenous Voices in Asia

The IVA project aims to ensure that Indigenous Peoples in Asia are effectively participating in democratic and political processes through the promotion and protection of their rights to access to all forms of media and their rights to set up their own media in their own languages.

The main components are intended to:

- Build the capacity of indigenous journalists, rights activists and community members on media related skills through training, workshops and exchanges of experiences;
- Raise the general public’s awareness of Indigenous Peoples’ rights and issues through the production of various kinds of educational materials; media and information sharing through various channels;
- Network with the media and other relevant stakeholders through dialogues, seminars and workshops.

Through these actions, the IVA project aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Indigenous media professionals and rights activists are effectively reporting and broadcasting on indigenous issues through various media channels, using multimedia and innovative communication tools;
- National governments and regional mechanisms are providing indigenous media professionals and rights activists greater access to information and rights to communicate through the media;
- Mainstream media reflects increased understanding and sensitivity to indigenous issues.
The IVA project has been a pioneering initiative in Asia that empowered Indigenous Peoples to use media to voice their concerns and issues. The project was highly relevant and timely for the participating country partners, all of whom implemented activities that fully conform to the objectives of the project. Only in Thailand do some of the activities remain incomplete, partly because the project was a late starter there as Thailand was substituted for Lao PDR where conditions were not favourable for the project.

The evaluation concludes that the objectives and design of the IVA project addressed the priorities of Indigenous Peoples at the local, national and international levels, and that the activities implemented contribute to the development objectives of Indigenous Peoples. There is evidence that the capacity building initiatives in the project led to increased reporting of indigenous issues, which in turn, brought about desirable outcomes for indigenous groups at both the national and community levels.

Key achievements of the project include the establishment of a regional IVA network and information portal about Asia’s Indigenous Peoples for continued use by indigenous media professionals, rights activists, mainstream media and others. In each participating country, networks of journalists and rights activists/citizen journalists were strengthened. In Cambodia, Indonesia and Nepal, community media were established, owned by Indigenous Peoples and reporting on indigenous issues.

Coverage of indigenous issues in mainstream media increased. More than 500 indigenous journalists, rights activists and community members from the five participating countries acquired and improved their media related skills. Some challenges remain however, with regard to reporters’ capacity for engaging with the media, the effectiveness of the training, and media editorial policies and control.

The IVA project aimed to achieve three outcomes. The first outcome focused on developing the capacity of indigenous media professionals and rights activists through the organisation of training courses, seminars and networking events. Baseline information showed that there were no or few known indigenous journalists in most countries. Through the IVA project, a total of 35 training courses and over 20 networking events were organised, resulting in over 500 indigenous media professionals and rights activists being trained. In addition, 4 audio/video resource centres were established (2 in Cambodia, 1 in Nepal and 1 in Chiang Mai), 2 community radio stations were established in Indonesia. The resource centre in Chiang Mai located in the heart of the city not only serves as audio visual resource hub, it also a library enriched with information of the indigenous peoples in Asia. The project resulted in an increase in the number of indigenous journalists and rights activists (citizen journalists) who are aware of indigenous issues and who report on indigenous issues, as follows:

Barriers to Exposing Indigenous Issues in Philippine Media

- The stories are often not “saleable” to the media;
- The content is often not sensational;
- The presentation is poor;
- It is hard to travel to the mountains to get stories;
- Stories are not popular if they don’t affect other people;
- There is a lack of information flow to the mainstream media on indigenous issues.
- Some editorial policies restrict coverage, e.g. of militarisation;
- Cultural distances between indigenous communities and the media in Manila, which lead to different interests;
- There is bias against minorities; their stories are not “sexy”.
• In Cambodia, the trained participants produced radio programmes for broadcast in their own communities and in 2 provincial radio stations;
• In Indonesia, the trained participants produced radio programmes for broadcast in their community radio stations;
• In Nepal, the audio/video resource centre allowed the production of a 72-episode radio programme, which was broadcasted on 6 community radio stations;
• In the Philippines, the partner organisations produced news articles for community newspapers and radio programmes for community radio stations;
• In Thailand, the country partner partnered with media agencies (both mainstream and alternative) to conduct training that resulted in the broadcasting of some of the outputs produced during the training courses (at no cost to the project).

Media organisations have generally found it difficult to report on indigenous issues due to the lack of data and information. Moreover, the information provided by indigenous organisations has been described by respondents as “too technical”, “inward looking” and “not friendly to the public”.

Roger Harris & Christin Apikul

The second outcome of the project focused on the creation of an enabling environment for indigenous media professionals and rights activists to publish/broadcast the voices of Indigenous Peoples. Activities under this outcome included 2 regional and 4 national multi-stakeholder consultations, the establishment of 1 regional and 2 national networks (Philippines and Thailand), and the strengthening of 1 existing network (FONIJ in Nepal). In Cambodia, groups of citizen journalist volunteers were formed at the community level and there are plans to bring them together to form a national network. In Indonesia, discussions to form an AMAN Citizen Journalists Network have been documented but from the interviews conducted, it appears that this has not yet materialised. Additionally, country partners produced policy briefing papers and media strategies.

A notable achievement is in Indonesia where AMAN established a coordination mechanism among AMAN members, mainstream media representatives and government officials to meet face-to-face on a monthly basis. In Cambodia, the project gained the support of local government officials, which will be important for indigenous communities when they apply for a community radio license. In Nepal, the Ministry of Information and Communication established a High Level Media Commission to propose recommendations for a new Inclusive Media Policy. FONIJ is one of the members of the Commission and has been instrumental in advocating for greater inclusiveness in the media sector. Generally, in most countries, there is evidence from project stakeholders that governments are now more sensitive to indigenous issues, and they are more willing to listen and interact with Indigenous Peoples.

The third outcome focused on establishing connections and cultivating relationships with mainstream media, as well as with alternative media and online media. A total of 7 dialogue and exchange workshops between indigenous media professionals and mainstream media representatives were organised at the country level. Towards achieving this outcome, a total of 7 award contests were organised at the national level and 2 at the regional level, resulting in a total of 40 national and 7 regional awardees. All the country partners valued the relationship established with mainstream media and have continued to consolidate and build upon their network with different media agencies.
Indigenous groups should have a media plan. For example, the 300 or so Mindanao residents who marched in Manila with the “Stop the Killing” campaign that took place during the evaluation did not have a media plan, and their coverage suffered accordingly.

Ms. Luzviminda C. Iligan. Gabriella Women’s Party. Party List Representative, House of Representatives, Philippines

In addition to media exposure, something else is needed to achieve the full potential of advocacy for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to influence policy and development practice.


In all countries, the project stakeholders interviewed reported an increase in the coverage of indigenous issues in mainstream media. For example, through FONLI’s media monitoring of 10 national daily newspapers, it is reported that the number of news articles on indigenous issues has doubled from 2-3 per week at the start of the project to 4-6 per week towards the end of the project.

Overall, it is clear that the capacity building initiatives in the project have led to increased reporting of indigenous issues and that this in turn has brought about desirable outcomes for indigenous groups, at both the national and community levels, in the following ways:

- Policy decisions have been influenced;
- Awareness of Indigenous Peoples rights has been raised;
- Indigenous Peoples’ confidence to speak out has been boosted;
- Public interest about indigenous cultures has been raised;
- Conversations to address indigenous issues among community members has been encouraged;
- Community cohesiveness has been built and solidarity strengthened among indigenous communities.

The IVA project generated several important lessons and valuable experiences that are potentially scalable and replicable. These relate especially to:

- the establishment of indigenous media outlets,
- the development of indigenous media content,
- the creation of networks and connections with mainstream media, and in organising training for indigenous media professionals and rights activists. These lessons can be summarised as follows:

**Indigenous Media**

There is enthusiasm for indigenous radio;

- Indigenous Peoples’ organisations have learned the value of their own media;
- Media exposure should be coordinated with other forms of activism;
- There is a role for social media, but journalists need internet access and training; network is essential.

The long standing Thai government policy of promoting and implementing one nation, one culture has led to the rejection of the term Indigenous Peoples and the denial of their ethnic and cultural diversity and collective rights.

Mainstream Media

- Mainstream media can be convinced there is a story on indigenous issues;
- International exposure can influence multinational corporations;
- Media representatives can be sensitised to indigenous issues with field trips.

Training

- Training courses should be conducted locally with guidelines for resource persons;
- Trainees should be provided with equipment so that they can practice what they learn.

Across the five participating countries, some or all the activities of the IVA project reflected the implementing partner organisation’s existing strategic intent and regular activities, which are therefore contributing to the sustainability of the project. The community radio stations in Indonesia and the audio/video resource centres in Cambodia are run by community volunteers, and it appears that community members have a strong sense of ownership towards these community media outlets. However, further support will be required to sustain, replicate and upscale these installations, as well as the networks and other outputs established under the project. It is important that AIPP does not lose the momentum created in the IVA project, and continues to build on its results and achievements.

In addition to the outputs generated by each participating country partner, AIPP carried out a variety of activities of regional relevance to supplement their work, as follows:

- **Regional Workshops**

  Five regional events were held in four countries, involving all project partners. All the participants interviewed in the evaluation valued these events. Mainstream media representatives commented that they were unique and that they allowed them to learn from Indigenous Peoples in different countries. A publication has been developed to document the learning and good practices that were shared at the skills sharing and exchange workshops.

- **Publications and Knowledge Products**

  AIPP published a variety of items, including: reports, animated videos, comic books, posters, guidebooks, radio scripts and a policy briefing paper. Country partners found these relevant and useful.

- **IVA Network and Website**

  AIPP established the IVA network and website in July 2013 to promote solidarity and cooperation among indigenous journalists, non-indigenous journalists and indigenous rights activists in advancing and defending media freedom, freedom of information, Indigenous Peoples’ rights and democracy. To date, the network, which has more than 110 members, has published more than 250 articles that highlight topical indigenous issues across Asia.

- **Regional Awards**

  AIPP organised two regional award contests for the best media reporting on indigenous issues. There were 7 winners from Indonesia, Nepal, Malaysia, India and the Philippines. These activities effectively motivated and showcased high quality reporting on indigenous issues.
Indigenous Resource Centre

A resource centre has been set up by AIPP in Chiang Mai, Thailand that is open to the public. The centre contains a collection of relevant publications (print and electronic) as well as computers with internet connection and a printer.

Media Collaboration Leads to Postponement of World Bank Project

A Nepal Electricity Authority’s project to develop the Khimti-Dhalkebar 220 KV high voltage power line with support from the World Bank began implementation without any prior consultation with the resident Tamang Indigenous communities. FONIJ together with mainstream media journalists conducted a field visit, which prompted the police, who had been threatening, arresting and injuring community members, to retreat. Their reporting of the Indigenous Peoples’ perspectives at the project site created a snowball effect and other local journalists started reporting the story.

“We have been struggling for 5 years, but nobody heard our voices. When media reported on our struggles, then they [the project officials] came to discuss with us,” said one of the community members. The latest update received is that the project has been postponed. Others agreed that the media coverage of the issue influenced the postponement of the project. The reporters’ initiative demonstrated the power of the media in bringing about change.

FONIJ has been conducting field visits to indigenous communities with mainstream media journalists whenever possible in order to sensitise them to indigenous issues. Indigenous communities are often located in remote areas and mainstream media agencies do not always have the funds or motivation to send journalists to them. Accordingly, support for such initiatives is important for achieving more balanced reporting that takes into account the perspective of the Indigenous Peoples.

The media coverage is one factor but we also have to recognise that the postponement is a combined effort by support groups such as LAHURNIP and Accountability Counsel in providing continuous legal and advocacy support for the community and the resolve of the community to not allow the project because of lack of Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

5. Recommendations for Regional Actions

Recommendations arising from the evaluation of the IVA project have been categorised into two groups; i) those that relate to actions that can be implemented and/or coordinated by AIPP at the Asia regional level, and ii) those that relate to actions that would be implemented at country level by the IVA country partners. Additionally, all recommendations have been prioritised based on two dimensions; i) a consideration of the difficulty in implementing them, and ii) their perceived impact on Indigenous Peoples and the organisations that represent them. Accordingly, three levels of priority have emerged for all recommendations;

• Priority 1 – Low Difficulty, High Impact
• Priority 2 – High Difficulty, High Impact
• Priority 3 – High Difficulty, Low Impact

Develop strategies for ICTs to achieve better access and greater use
Roger Harris & Christin Apikul
The recommendations for regional actions are as follows:

**Priority 1 – Low Difficulty, High Impact**

- **Project Management and Coordination**
  - Continue supporting the same country partner organisations should there be a second phase of the IVA project to build on the momentum and achievements established;
  - If the project is extended, include the capacity development of country partner staff in addressing some of the common challenges they face;
  - Although AIPP guided the partners to focus on gender issues, it was challenging to monitor this due to their untimely and irregular reporting. Therefore, if the project is extended, it is recommended to conduct a gender analysis and ensure that a gender perspective is incorporated in planning and implementation processes;
  - Continue creating opportunities for cross-country learning, but more targeted to the key concerns of the country partners.

- **Linkages and Synergy with AIPP Programmes and Networks**
  - Develop and implement a strategy to establish linkages and collaborations between the IVA network and other AIPP programmes and networks, to strengthen awareness raising and advocacy efforts;
  - Use the lessons learned from the IVA project to institutionalise a media/communication component in all AIPP programmes and projects.

- **Advocacy**
  - Build a structured approach to an integrated and coherent strategy for communications for advocacy;
  - Develop an advocacy strategy that will; coordinate media coverage with other activism, incorporate communications for advocacy, lead to the formulation of Advocacy Coalitions, and include the effective production and promotion of policy briefings.

- **Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Access and Tools**
  - Develop strategies for ICTs to achieve better access and greater use;
  - Provide training and support on the strategic use of social media for awareness raising and advocacy;
  - Provide training and support on developing websites.

- **Media Content**
  - The IVA network should be a repository of content on indigenous issues, in any languages in Asia, and this should be made clear to the partners;
  - Develop “media-friendly information”, and use data visualisation techniques and infographics;
  - Use a Creative Commons license for all products to promote reuse, adaptations and improvements;
  - For AIPP’s publications and knowledge products, develop a strategy for translation, localisation and dissemination at both the regional and national levels.
Priority 2 – High Difficulty, High Impact

- Training
  - Design training programmes using a process/continuing approach that nurtures skills and improves competencies;
  - Develop digitised multi-lingual e-learning materials;
  - Conduct training needs assessments and plan for the provision of equipment to produce media content;
  - Conduct an evaluation of the training course after 1 to 6 months to assess the extent to which participants were able to use to the skills that they acquired.

- IVA Network
  - Develop strategies for more active engagement among the members of the IVA network;
  - Consider identifying country hubs or topics hubs that will be responsible for facilitating the information flows within and between countries, including the translation of materials;
  - To implement the two recommendations above, and to actively promote the IVA network, engage at least one fulltime staff with skills in managing and facilitating online communities.

- Establish Linkages with Academia (Schools, Universities and Research Institutions)
  - Raise the awareness of young people about indigenous issues through schools, universities and non formal educational institutions. Consider partnering with schools and universities to integrate indigenous issues in school curriculum and journalism courses;
  - Organise networking events that bring together indigenous and non-indigenous youth to discuss indigenous issues and media reporting on indigenous issues;
  - Engage with academic researchers to conduct action-oriented research on the innovative use of ICTs for addressing indigenous issues that can be scaled up or replicated;
  - Engage with academic researchers to understand the impact of advocacy, to collect disaggregated data and to advocate for evidence informed policymaking.

- Awards and Other Motivations for Mainstream Media to Report on Indigenous Issues
  - Conduct a detailed assessment of the awards initiative and revisit its purpose and strategies in light of the assessment results;
  - Support interactions between indigenous journalists and mainstream media journalist to foster learning, e.g.
    - field visits with mainstream media to indigenous communities for investigative reporting;
    - partner with the Southeast Asian Press Alliance on its Annual Journalism Fellowship Programme.

“Some women have a better awareness of their rights and are more confident in using media to make their voices heard.”

Roger Harris & Christin Apikul
6. Recommendations for Country Actions

Many of the country-level recommendations that emerged from the evaluation apply to each country in which the IVA project operated. They are as follows:

**Priority 1 – Low Difficulty, High Impact**

- Training and Skills Development
  - Provide more journalism training;
  - Use clear criteria for selecting training participants;
  - Provide training on social media;
  - Provide training on preparing policy briefs.

- Networking, Exchanges and Learning Opportunities
  - Organise national networking events among indigenous journalists and/or indigenous activists;
  - Organise more multi-stakeholder seminars and interactions to establish and strengthen linkages with mainstream media and government;
  - Foster learning between mainstream media journalists and indigenous journalists, e.g., through field visits to indigenous communities.

- Make More Use of the Internet and Social Media
  - Develop integrated strategies for communication for advocacy.

**Priority 2 – High Difficulty, High Impact**

- Training
  - Conduct training locally. Local-level training courses can be more context specific, and can facilitate the formation of citizen journalist teams that can work together in the future;
  - Deliver training digitally. Training materials should be reproduced in digital form and offered online or offline for regular re-use;
  - Provide equipment. Ensure that trained citizen journalists have access to equipment for producing media content so that they can readily practice what they have learned and develop indigenous media content.

- Community Radio
  - Develop sustainability strategies for community radio stations;
  - Replicate Radio Sagada (Philippines);
  - Create model community radio stations.

- Networks
  - Formalise national networks of indigenous activists;
  - Make further use of the IVA network.
Priority 3 – High Difficulty, Low Impact

- Provide post-training support.

Other recommendations are specific to each country, as follows:

Cambodia

- BCV should create a model community radio station for indigenous communities;
- BCV and other NGOs should establish linkages with government to enable community media broadcasting;
- BCV should build relationships with mainstream media and develop a mechanism to share information;
- BCV should proactively connect and engage with relevant NGOs to seek opportunities for collaboration;
- Increase use of the internet and social media for increasing user-generated independent content;
- Promote video production capabilities among indigenous communities;
- BCV should consolidate the network of PIVs;
- Communities should prepare a sustainability plan for the audio/video resource centres;
- BCV should conduct an in-depth assessment of common issues facing communities, and develop a communication programme that address them;
- BCV should organise more radio listeners’ clubs.

Indonesia

- There is continued demand for the training of the type that the IVA delivered, but to be delivered at the grass-roots;
- AMAN should prepare a sustainability strategy for the community radio stations that it supports;
- All participants can make greater use of the internet and social media;
- AMAN should continue advocating for better internet access by remote and isolated indigenous communities;
- AMAN should formalise the national network of indigenous activists/citizen journalists;
- AMAN officials require capacity building in the preparation of policy briefs.

Nepal

- FONIJ should formulate an integrated communication for advocacy strategy and implementation plan;
- FONIJ requires training on the strategic use of social media for awareness raising and advocacy;
- FONIJ should reach out to more remote and marginalised indigenous communities and develop their capacities;
- There should be further seminars or workshops targeting policymakers and mainstream media in support of the inclusive media policy;

“We have been struggling for 5 years, but nobody heard our voices. When media reported on our struggles, then the project officials came to discuss with us.”

Khim Prasad Ghale
Engagement of Mainstream Media to the IPs Issues and Struggles
A Case Study in Nepal, October, 2014
There should be a programme that supports interaction between indigenous journalists and mainstream media journalists to foster learning;

- FONIJ should design training programmes using a process/continuing approach that nurture skills and improve competencies.

**Philippines**

- There is continued demand for the training of the type that the IVA delivered;
- Training materials should be reproduced in digital form and offered online or offline for regular re-use;
- KAMP should develop an integrated strategy for communication for advocacy;
- KAMP officials require capacity building in the preparation of policy briefs;
- Radio Sagada should be replicated in other sub regions of the country, particularly in Mindanao.

**Thailand**

IMPECT should:

- Develop clear criteria and requirements for selecting training participants;
- Organise trainings at the local level;
- Organise longer trainings for specific skill level;
- Organise national networking events for sharing and learning;
- Provide access to equipment and reference materials for citizen journalists;
- Provide post-training support and incentives for citizen journalists;
- Partner with universities and schools;
- Invest further in the Indigenous Media House;
- Make further use of the IVA network;
- Conduct regular face-to-face discussions with AIPP.

A policy paper prepared by AMAN, _ICT Policy; Potentially Undermining the Movement of Indigenous Peoples_, was summarised in the *Jakarta* Post and published in full on the AMAN website. Briefly, the paper highlights the following:

- Indigenous Peoples lack access to ICTs and are unable to use them to express themselves;
- Jakarta mainstream media has abundant access;
- The “Jakarta Perspective” dominates; that Indigenous Peoples are trespassers (on their own land);
- The deformation law is used as a tool to silence indigenous discontent expressed online.

“Women now realise they have a voice and that they can share information within and among their communities not just with other housewives.”

Gemma Danan, community leader of the Aeta people in the Philippines
Gender Dimensions

A gender analysis was not carried out prior to the start of the project, although gender issues were considered to some extent. In Indonesia, a seminar was organised for indigenous women to analyze their representation in the media. In Cambodia, the community radio programmes in La-ok village discussed domestic violence and the village elders reported that these contributed to reducing incidences of domestic violence.

In Nepal, all FONIJ district chairpersons are women, and there were more females than males in the training courses. However, FONIJ recognised that indigenous women generally receive fewer opportunities for training. The extension phase of the IVA project has included a basic journalism course for indigenous women activists and indigenous women journalists.

FONIJ reported close ties with Nepal’s National Indigenous Women’s Federation (NIWF), which has partnered with FONIJ to report on indigenous women’s issues. NIWF also appreciated the opportunity to participate in events organised under the IVA project in Nepal.

AIPP’s effort for inclusion of gender issues comprised:

- The IVA Inception Meeting, with discussions on gender mainstreaming and the proportion of women participating in all activities;
- The Regional Networking Workshop where a panel session on “Women in Media” was organised that looked at the challenges faced by women indigenous journalists and rights activists, and some recommendations were made by the panellists;
- The integration of Indigenous Women’s perspectives into activities and publications.

To raise the profile of indigenous women and to support indigenous women’s initiatives, the IVA project reprinted the “Her Story” publication and translated it into three languages Tagalog, Nepali and Hindi. Her Story II was produced and printed under IVA in collaboration with the Indigenous Women Programme of AIPP. Additionally, an animated video and an info-poster on indigenous women’s rights were developed, translated into different languages, and used at events and training courses.

Based on the interviews conducted and the documents reviewed, the evaluation did not encounter any activities that had negatively affected indigenous women. Some positive impacts were cited. In the Philippines, it was reported that women in the community now realise that they have a voice and that they can share information within and among their communities, not just with other housewives. Consequently, people now acknowledge the role of women, and women are more confident than before to speak out during meetings. Country partners recognised that media coverage of indigenous women issues is low, and the media industry environment is not women friendly.

In Indonesia, it was stated that women in local communities do not use the internet; they do not have access in the remote localities and power supplies are unreliable. It would be good if they were able to use the internet but better supplies of electricity and education would be required. There are no cultural barriers to women using the internet, but awareness is low.

Some partners included a gender perspective in project activities and some resources have been allocated to address the needs of indigenous women. As a result, some women have a better awareness of their rights and are more confident in using media to make their voices heard.
7. Conclusions

The IVA project has emerged from the evaluation as an effective mechanism for giving voice to Asia’s Indigenous Peoples. It has shown that with minimal guidance, indigenous representatives can be empowered to surface stories about the problems and challenges that their communities face and to engage with media organisations in order to report these to wider, national audiences. Moreover, in the case of indigenous community radio, it has demonstrated that such empowerment extends beyond just reporting of issues and more into increasing the confidence and solidarity that marginalised people need in order to tackle long-standing injustices and neglect. There are important lessons here for individuals and organisations that seek to redress some of the inequalities suffered by Indigenous Peoples.

ICTs seem to represent a major forward strategy, as espoused by international organisations;

“ICTs will contribute to the protection, dissemination and reproduction of indigenous knowledge and enable wide participation in traditional cultural expression.”


In the first place, it is evident that media exposure contributes towards alleviation; in the form of influencing policies and/or professional development practices that become more favourable towards indigenous communities. Secondly, the project has exposed the value for Indigenous Peoples of media that they themselves control; particularly print and radio broadcasting. Thirdly, the project has demonstrated that when indigenous groups work together, desirable outcomes arise, in many forms. Given the commonalities among the issues that Indigenous Peoples face relating to land, culture, resource extraction and discrimination for example, indigenous networking within country and across borders generates considerable opportunities for sharing experiences, swapping ideas, honing tactics and building solidarity. Secondary impacts of the project have led to strengthened organisations among country partners as well as indications of what works well and what works less well in the management and delivery of capacity-building activities for Indigenous Peoples.

Alongside these advances, the project has revealed some indication of what more might be included in further efforts aimed at easing the adverse conditions in which many Indigenous Peoples live. Although having pointed the way towards methods of media-driven advocacy that are capable of showing results, it has become apparent that these could be strengthened; that media exposure, whilst necessary, is insufficient of itself to constitute a robust results-driven approach to advocating for indigenous rights. This begs the question; what else then is required?

In this regard, the IVA project and its successors might learn from the experiences of other social movements that have integrated communications blending old and new media into structured advocacy campaigns combining many forms of targeted lobbying and activism that re-enforce each other. Having achieved much, the IVA project has opened up opportunities, not only for replicating those achievements in other countries that have significant indigenous populations, but also for building on and extending its achievements into new areas of action. For the future, it is clear that ICTs will become crucial for amplifying indigenous voices, and that bringing this about should become a prime target for further similar interventions. With this in mind, the IVA project has as much to achieve ahead of it as it has already achieved behind.
Indigenous Community Radio in Indonesia

AMAN has assisted in setting up six community radio stations, including Radio Gelora, an indigenous community radio station in Secanggang, North Sumatra, where the evaluation held a focus group discussion with the community. The station is well-received and supported. It produces its own content, but suffers from unreliable electricity, competition from commercial stations, low bandwidth separation, limited broadcast power (50 watts), maintenance and repair difficulties, and lack of finances.

Listeners agreed that the station has been beneficial for them and for the indigenous movement. It has raised their profile such that they no longer feel negative prejudice from the rest of society. The station provides entertainment and news with which they can identify and they are beginning to understand their rights to their own culture and territory such that they can now press the government for greater recognition of them.

The consensus among the AMAN officials present was that the problems faced by the indigenous community of Secanggang (and others) are long term and deep rooted, so that “solutions” are also long term and challenging. However, they have witnessed the reaction by government and corporate officials to activities such as the land grabbing that are reported on the radio and the subsequent sharing of views within the community.

Community radio strengthens a community’s ability to achieve short-term alleviations to long-term problems, and the effect is cumulative; one small victory makes it easier to achieve the next. Also, it seems to work best in communities that are “strong”; well organised, with effective leadership and a culture of volunteerism. Given the benefits that have emerged from Radio Gelora, there is much to be gained by scaling up indigenous community radio stations into a network of indigenous broadcasters.
INDIGENOUS VOICES IN ASIA

“Our Voices Our Rights”
AIPP at a glance

The Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) is a regional organization founded in 1988 by indigenous peoples movements as a platform for solidarity and cooperation. AIPP actively promotes and defends indigenous peoples rights and human rights, sustainable development and management of natural resources and environment protection. Through more than two decades, it has developed an expertise in grassroots capacity building, advocacy and networking from local to global levels and strengthening partnership with indigenous organizations, support NGOs, UN agencies and other institutions. At present, AIPP has 47 members from 14 countries in Asia with 14 National Formations, 15 Sub-national Formations and 18 Local Formations. Of this number, six are Indigenous Women’s Organizations and four are Indigenous Youth Organizations.

Our Vision

Indigenous peoples in Asia are fully exercising their rights, distinct cultures and identities, are living with dignity and enhancing their sustainable management systems of lands, territories and resources for their own future and development in an environment of peace, justice and equality.

Our Mission

AIPP strengthens the solidarity, cooperation and capacities of indigenous peoples in Asia to promote and protect their rights, cultures and identities, and their sustainable resource management systems for their development and self-determination.

Our Goals

- To empower indigenous peoples in Asia to promote and defend their human rights and fundamental freedoms and claim legal recognition to their identities, collective rights under UNDRIP and other international human rights instruments
- To build the broadest solidarity and cooperation of indigenous peoples in Asia to strengthen indigenous movements
- To promote and protect the integrity of nature and the environment and enhance the sustainable resource management systems of indigenous peoples including their traditional knowledge, food sovereignty and biodiversity by having full control over their land, territories and resources.
- To attain full and effective participation and representation of indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous women and youth at all levels of decision-making
- To strengthen solidarity and cooperation with other social movements towards achieving equity, equality, peace, democracy and justice

AIPP Programme:

- Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy
- Communication and Development
- Regional Capacity Building
- Environment
- Indigenous Women
- Organizational Strengthening

AIPP is accredited as an NGO in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and as observer organizations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

AIPP is also a member of International Land Coalition and Global Environment Facility NGO Network.