

## APPENDIX

### Major Organizations Working on Women in Development in Thailand

---

The following is a selected list of major organizations working on WID in Thailand, their functions, and main activities. They have been selected on the basis of possible contacts or potential partners for the Bank. Out of more than 120 NGOs working directly on women's and gender issues, only eight are represented on the list, based on their known commitment, capability, and networks with other NGOs, Government, and international agencies. Some are involved in action programs, but their main strengths lie in their long-term interests advocating policy and action for WID.

#### A. Local NGOs

##### 1. The National Council of Women of Thailand (NCWT)

NCWT is an umbrella organization for women NGOs with a network in all provinces of Thailand. Membership is still drawn mostly from the middle and upper class levels of Thai society. Recently, the NCWT has made efforts to work on a partnership basis with women at the grassroots level and NGOs, and to move away from traditional welfare activities. The president of NCWT is appointed to the Board of NCWA, as one of the two NGO representatives (the other is from the Council of Social Welfare). UN agencies work with NCWT as a partner on the NGO side; and NCWA as a Government contact point.

##### 2. Foundation for Women

The Foundation for Women is an NGO that focuses on advocacy of women's rights, campaigning for public awareness of women's current problems, particularly domestic and other forms of sexual violence. The Foundation assists women by providing shelter and legal advice. Training is organized for volunteers who will protect, monitor, and help children who are victims of sexual exploitation, and give scholarships for youth groups. The Foundation also conducts campaigns to create new values toward gender relations directed to young men.

##### 3. Friends of Women Foundation (FOW)

The main objectives of FOW, which was established in 1980, are to broaden public awareness of discrimination against women and coordinate efforts to raise women's status. Initially, FOW addressed a broad spectrum of issues (i.e., forced prostitution, rape, economic discrimination, worker dismissal on grounds of pregnancy or marriage), but now concentrates on sexual crimes and harassment. It also runs a women's rights protection center, health center, women workers campaign section, a publishing house, and is involved in gender analysis training and income generating projects.

Two new projects have been initiated since 1994. The first involves bringing together Thai grassroots women with the Grassroots Women's Network (GROWNET) project for Beijing-related and post-Beijing activities, building the capacity of grassroots women's groups, advocating and campaigning on laws, measures and mechanisms that will enhance the status of Thai women. The second is a fund-raising for self-reliance project that aims to raise funds to assist income generation for rural women, and to promote chemical-free food and health services.

#### **4. Women's Unity Group**

Women's Unity Group is closely connected with FOW, and was formed in 1993 after a factory fire that killed 188 women. Its membership comprises mainly women industrial workers in the BMA. The group has concentrated on the issues of occupational health and safety, job security, and welfare for workers.

#### **5. Thai Women Watch (TW2)**

Thai Women Watch was formed in 1996, specifically to monitor Government and NGO activities, and the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The founding members are women who went to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. TW2 consists of representatives of a wide range of NGOs as well as academics, thus making TW2 the newest women's network with activities closely linked to international bodies and issues. It concentrates on monitoring and advocacy activities rather than projects, emphasizing the exchange of experiences and information on successful advocacy strategies and mechanisms to promote the advancement of women. At present, TW2 cooperates closely with NCWT, NCWA, UN agencies and is the main link between Thai and international NGOs.

#### **6. Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women**

The Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women was formed in 1974. Its main target groups are disadvantaged women and children and, more recently, Buddhist nuns, and women infected with HIV/AIDS. It has also established emergency homes, a training center for women's education, and the **Gender and Development Research Institute (GDRI)**. The main objectives of GDRI are integrating gender issues into Government policies, and promoting women's role and participation in decision-making. GDRI also acts as Secretariat of the Women in Politics network, which monitors Government policies and political parties on women's issues. Its current research and activities address discrimination in the labor market, and the promotion of democracy. It has been active in promoting women's role in politics. In 1994-95, for example, it took the lead in advocating women's rights under the Thai constitution by starting a post card campaign to encourage members of Parliament to vote for an article specifying that women and men are equal. GDRI also conducts training to prepare women for local and national elections, the latter program was in cooperation with the recently established and influential **Institute of Women and Politics**

#### **7. The Appropriate Technology Association of Thailand (ATA)**

Formed in 1981, ATA initiated a project to promote the use of natural dye techniques by rural women in their weaving. The Project began in 1985 in five weaving provinces of the Northeast Region, extending to 10 six years later. ATA field workers organized the Project through existing women's groups. Its approach included leadership training, experimentation with and dissemination of natural dye techniques, a revolving fund to buy weaving supplies, equipment and advanced inventory, marketing assistance, silkworm and mulberry tree-raising activities, and improvement in weaving techniques. The principles of the Project include self-reliance, participation, and sustainability. Women who participated in the Project earned more income, enabling their families to have a better standard of living. It was also found that once the women stopped using chemical dyes, other environment-friendly practices such as tree planting, substitution of chemical fertilizers with green manure, and fish raising in rice paddies became popular.

## 8. Hill Area Development Foundation (HADF)

The Hill Area Development Foundation is famous for its work in promoting sustainable development in the villages of hill tribes. It was founded in 1985, with financial support from a number of international organizations. The participation of women is said to be the key to the success of the Project. At present, the integrated farming and alley-cropping technologies have been widely adopted in the villages. The techniques have been proven to effectively restore, protect, and enrich the soil, conserve the forest and watershed, and increase productivity of the highland areas in northern Thailand.

## 9. Thai Environmental and Community Development Association

While ATA and HADF are oriented toward women in rural communities, this NGO is known for its focus on urban issues. Founded in 1984 by a group of business executives from 19 firms, it has become popularly known as “Magic Eyes” (from the cartoon symbol of its campaign promoting a clean Bangkok). “Magic Eyes” has contributed to publicizing urban environmental problems and promoting environmental awareness, education, and protection in Bangkok. Private sector cooperation is the main factor contributing to the success of this organization. Led by the Bangkok Bank, the members come from all sectors of business including Thai International, Bangkok Entertainment Co., Honda Cars (Thailand), Siam Cement Co. Ltd., Caltex (Thailand), and Central Department Store. The Association has assisted over 300 projects and developed a wide network of organizations with environmental concerns. In 1993, it became the first NGO to receive funding for environmental activities from the Thai Government, when the Department of Pollution Control, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment conducted a campaign to clean up the Chao Phraya River. While women and development are not its main focus, in 1996, the President of the Association ran for the Constitution Drafting Assembly after receiving strong support from a group of women NGOs known as “Women’s Constitution Network”, which has become more involved in women’s issues such as women and the environment and participation in politics.

## B. International Organizations

### 1. Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

The Canadian International Development Agency is the most active international agency in WID and gender activities and issues. It works closely with a broad range of partners, including Government, NGOs, and regional institutions. CIDA has helped to build capacity to broaden public participation in development, improve access to the legal system, and advance the rights of women and children. Canada’s official development assistance program places top priority on the participation of women as equal partners in the sustainable development of their societies.

The Canada Fund finances small, innovative, community-based projects that are sustainable and promote self-reliance. The Canadian Embassy, which administers the Fund, considers projects from a wide variety of sectors but gives priority to those that focus on women, the environment, and human rights. It supported Thai and other Southeast Asian women in the preparations for and participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. *The Southeast Asian Gender Equity Program (SEAGEP)* extends CIDA’s assistance for activities among Southeast Asian women’s organizations in support of the Beijing Platform for Action. A SEAGEP fund has been established for this purpose, and to address common issues of gender equity for women in Southeast Asia. SEAGEP programs include women’s rights; human resource development; appropriate integration in the economy; personal security, health, empowerment and decision-making; and analysis of globalization and its impact on women.

## 2. Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

As part of the Australia-Thailand development cooperation program, AusAID administers the Small Activities Scheme (SAS). The scheme is intended as a quick disbursing mechanism for funding relatively small but effective development activities at minimal administrative cost. It is managed by the Technical and Economic Cooperation Section of the Australian Embassy in Bangkok. SAS activities are normally short-term, being completed within one financial year. Australia's aid program to Thailand focuses on health, especially HIV/AIDS, the environment, and poverty alleviation. Special consideration is given to proposals targeting women and human rights.

## 3. UN Agencies based in Bangkok

Various UN agencies joined together in late 1995 to form **Gender and Women Development Working Group (GWAD)**. The aim is to facilitate the collaboration of the UN system in pursuing areas of common interest, the exchange of information and cooperation and complementarity in program development and implementation. Founding members of the working group consist of representatives from UNICEF, UNIDO, UNFPA/CST, FAO, UNFPA and ESCAP, and additional members will be appointed from ILO, UNDP, UNDCP, UNHCR, and WHO.

GWAD facilitates collaboration, coordination and information exchange among UN agencies to: (i) mainstream gender issues and support the advancement of women in Thailand; (ii) coordinate UN activities to support the Government and NGOs in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and the Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in the Asia-Pacific Region (The Jakarta Plan); and (iii) to support campaigns that promote women and gender issues in Thailand.

## 4. Academic Institutions

Courses on women in development are conducted in at least 13 academic institutions in Thailand in the form of Women Studies Programs, research, training, seminars, and development projects for women. Women Studies Programs in the universities were mostly initiated through collective and voluntary efforts of academicians interested in women's studies who took time off their teaching and research schedule. After their efforts were recognized by administrators, the program's status was upgraded and granted some financial support. Technical and financial assistance from foreign organizations or universities are vital, but currently quite limited. Activities mostly consist of curriculum development, research, data collection, and academic services such as training, seminars, discussion exhibitions, news bulletins, and teaching various aspects of women's studies. The main academic institutions in the four regions that are suitable for Bank contacts and partnerships are:

### **Central Region:**

Women, Children and Youth Program  
Social Research Institution, Chulalongkorn University

Women and Youth Studies Program  
Thammasat University

### **Northeastern Region:**

Women's Studies Center  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,  
Khon Kaen University

**Northern Region:**

Women Studies Center

Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiangmai University;

Center for the Studies and Development of Lanna Women

Faculty of Education, Chiangmai University;

Women Studies Center

Research and Development Institute

Faculty of Social Science, Payap University, Chiangmai

**Southern Region:**

Women, Research and Development Institute

Srinakarinviroj University, Southern Campus

Women, Research and Development Institute

Songklanakarin University, Haadyai Campus