

GROUPE DE
TRAVAIL
ASIE-
PACIFIQUE



ASIA-
PACIFIC
WORKING
GROUP

ASIA-PACIFIC WORKING GROUP

Preliminary Annual Report 2016-2017



FEBRUARY 2017

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APWG PRELIMINARY ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017 IN NUMBERS



1 ANNUAL MEETING attended by **30** participants



6 LEARNING EVENTS attended by **148** participants



1 RESEARCH PROJECT involving **2** interns



13 SUBGROUP MEETINGS



2 DIALOGUE & CONSULTATION MEETINGS



2 MEETINGS with MPs & STANDING COMMITTEES



3 CAMPAIGN & ADVOCACY EVENTS



8 PUBLICATIONS & LETTERS



5 TWEETS with **#CCICAsiaPacific** on CCIC's top 20



23 MEMBERS (including **3** new ones)

ASIA-PACIFIC WORKING GROUP PRELIMINARY ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

1. APWG TOGETHER WITH OTHER REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS

In 2015, CCIC adopted a new approach to its three geographic working groups, and re-structured its staffing as an attempt to facilitate greater collaboration, shared learning and potential synergies. By February 2016, the three part-time RWG coordinators were replaced by a full-time Regional Working Group Officer, and in May a full-time Program Assistant was hired.

The RWGs prepared work plans with cross-cutting events and opportunities for common action. As an example of collaboration, the RWG worked together to produce and publish in March 2016 a report on trade, investment and human rights and later in June, coordinated meetings with selected MPs to discuss issues raised in the report and organized a public forum with national and international advocates on the issue of trade, investment and human rights at the University of Ottawa attended by more than 100 participants, comprised of RWG members, students, academia and the general public. Later in October, the RWGs were invited to appear before the Standing Committee on International Trade to testify on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in which the report was submitted.

Another highpoint of joint collaboration was the November capacity building workshop organized for all members of the RWGs as a first cross-cutting learning activity. The workshop was attended by 35 members and included separate strategy meetings for each working group.

Finally, several tools were developed, including a shared online calendar, a “map” of all members’ expertise, promotional material, and a communication and a social media outreach strategy through listserv, Twitter and Facebook, to enhance visibility of RWG’s public events, issues and campaigns.

1.1 KEY ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS 2016-2017

- (March) Publication of RWG Report “[*Whose rights are we protecting: ensuring the primacy of human rights over investor protections in the international legal regime*](#)”;
- (June) Convened a [public forum](#) at the University of Ottawa entitled “*Whose Rights are we Protecting?*” on Trade, Investment and Human Rights, attended by 100 individuals from civil society and academia;
- (June) Organized three consultation meetings with the regional branches of Global Affairs Canada on the International Assistance review;
- (July) Started using new [e-mail marketing](#) software to better communicate important RWG messages, either in regards to events, campaigns or important updates;
- (July) Created new [Regional Working Groups flyer](#);

- (September) Launched the RWG Social Media outreach through CCIC's Twitter and Facebook accounts with personalised #hashtags per RWG (#CCICAmericas #CCICAfrica #CCICAsiaPacific);
- (October) A member of the CCIC's Regional Working Groups [appeared before the Standing Committee on International Trade](#) to testify on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) during which the [report](#) was submitted;
- (November) Organized a capacity building Parliamentary Strategy Workshop on parliamentary relations for all members, while including separate strategy session for each RWG;
- (November) Produced a [Parliamentary Strategy Guide](#) on the 42nd Parliament for the Regional Working Groups - Functions relevant to international cooperation;
- (January) Launched new online [CCIC - Regional Working Groups Calendar](#).

1.2 KEY OUTCOMES:

- There is interest and value in generating joint public events between the working groups – facilitating joint learning, leveraging knowledge and impact through the different networks;
- The new communication and a social media outreach strategy, through a new online shared calendar and social media presence on CCIC's twitter and Facebook accounts has both allowed for a greater, more dynamic (and more manageable and digestible) exchange of information between members and enhanced visibility of the working groups' public events, issues and campaigns within the CCIC networks and public;
- CCIC's Regional Working Groups have been invited to appear before the Standing Committee on International Trade to testify on the TPP due to the expertise that the working groups have generated on trade issues;
- The positive response by RWG members to participate in the Parliamentary Strategy Workshop indicates that there is an appetite for more cross-cutting learning events and to continue exploring opportunities for greater cross-collaboration between the working groups.

2. ASIA-PACIFIC WORKING GROUP

The APWG's mandate is to monitor and share information and analysis on Canada's international cooperation and foreign policy agenda in the Asia-Pacific region: to provide a space for exchange of information and collaboration among members for policy dialogue and learning; to promote the experience and perspectives of voices from Asia in policy dialogue and development; and to facilitate the sharing of lessons and good practice in policy and program work.

In 2016, the APWG focused its work mainly on country-specific knowledge-sharing and dialogue, research and analysis, and external communication among members; and the creation of three discussion sub-groups on Afghanistan, Indonesia and Philippines.

2.1 KEY ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES 2016-2017

1 ANNUAL MEETING

- (June 16-17) Organized and held **1** face-to-face meeting in Ottawa, attended by **30** participants, and featuring sessions on “hot topics, a strategic planning workshop, and networking”.

Outcome: Hot topic presentation and strategic discussion groups during the annual meeting helped generate greater cohesion in the group and led to a stronger advocacy voice for APWG in preparation for the International Assistance review.

6 LEARNING EVENTS

Organized **6** learning events comprised of 3 brown bag lunches and 2 webinar-workshops and a key-note panel attended by a total of **148** participants.

- (July 28) Brown bag on 38.5 million farmers and climate change in Bangladesh in collaboration with FSPG and C4D attended by 10 participants;
- (September 7) Brown bag lunch “Worrying directions in Japan’s aid program and the implementation of the SDGs” with Akio Takayanagi attended by 20 participants;
- (September 20) Brown bag on “Road Safety in developing countries: important challenge to achieve the Health Target within the SDGs” with Eric Remacle, Handicap International attended by 7 participants.
- (November 21) A joint APWG-ACF Panel on “Leave No Girls Behind: Breaking Down Barriers to Girl’s Access to Quality Education” at World Vision, Mississauga attended by 60 participants;
- (November 22) Parliamentary Strategy Workshop attended by 30 participants with APWG members participate in the afternoon strategic session;
- (December 12) Webinar workshop on the Ombudsperson for extractive sector campaign with CNCA and new model legislation attended by 16 participants.

Outcome: APWG members shared expertise with their colleagues and acquired knowledge on important issues and relevant to Asia-Pacific. The Parliamentary Workshop was particularly appreciated as a means for improved knowledge on the reality of parliamentarians and acquisition of tools to build effective relationships with Members of Parliament.

1 RESEARCH

- (September) Launch of Phase 1 of the APWG-Philippines Research Internship on Canadian extractive industry present in that country;
- (January) Start of Phase 2 of the APWG-Philippines Research Internship and hired second intern, Leigha McCarroll of Carleton University.

Outcome: Peer reflection and analysis within the APWG has helped identify areas of common research interest. This led to a research focus around mining in the Philippines.

13 SUBGROUP MEETINGS

- APWG-Indonesia: **2** teleconferences in March and December
- APWG-Afghanistan: **3** teleconferences in February, June and November
- APWG-Philippine: **2** teleconferences in September and December
- APWG-Coordination Committee: **6** teleconferences from February to January

Outcome: Created a space to discuss important issues related to these countries. These meetings led to the elaboration of the APWG Action Plan 2016-2017, the APWG Research project on mining in the Philippines and outreaching to Members of Parliament and associations to explore ways of collaboration in regards to Indonesia, Afghanistan and the Philippines.

2 DIALOGUE & CONSULTATION MEETINGS

- (June 17) Organized a dialogue between APWG members and the Asia-Pacific Branch of Global Affairs Canada during the International Assistance Review consultations, and was attended by 30 members and 25 civil servants;
- (October 13) Organized a consultation meeting with the Asian Development Bank to provide input for their long-term planning (2030).

Outcome: Ongoing dialogue and engagement with government officials have improved and consolidated relationships with civil servants in the Asia-Pacific branch, and have identified in the APWG a go-to coalition for civil servants on issues in the region.

2 MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT & STANDING COMMITTEE

- (October 27) A member testifies on behalf of the Regional Working Groups before the [Standing Committee on International Trade](#) on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) during which the joint [RWG Report](#) was submitted;
- (June) Meetings with several MPs to discuss the issues raised in the joint RWG Report.

Outcome: APWG is better-known among parliamentarians who work on international development or foreign affairs, particularly in Indonesia, Afghanistan and the Philippines.

3 CAMPAIGN & ADVOCACY EVENTS

- (On-going) Together, the RWGs have joined the CNCA Campaign “Open for Justice” to call for an independent Ombudsman for the Canadian extractive industry;
- (June 7) Joint RWG Forum at the University of Ottawa on Trade, Investment and Human Rights with input from APWG members;

- (August 10-12) Presence at the WSF in Montreal on behalf of RWG members.

Outcome: APWG is more visible in the international development sector, public debate and social medias. These activities reinforced the coherence of APWG advocacy work.

8 PUBLICATIONS & LETTERS

- (March) Publication of “[Whose rights are we protecting: ensuring the primacy of human rights over investor protections in the international legal regime](#)” Report;
- (July) APWG contribution to the [CCIC’s IAR submission to GAC](#);
- (September) Elaboration of the [APWG Action Plan 2016-2017](#);
- (October): Open Letter [APWG Peace Statement for the Philippines](#) sent to the Negotiating Panel of the Government of the Philippines (GRP) and of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) in regards to the Peace Process;
- (November) Produced a [Parliamentary Strategy Guide](#) on the 42nd Parliament for the Regional Working Groups - Functions relevant to international cooperation;
- (January) Official APWG letters (3) sent to Members of Parliament and associations to meet and discuss collaboration in Indonesia, Afghanistan and Philippines.

Outcome: Letters to officials and publications has contributed in raising APWG’s profile among decision-makers and resulted in the invitation to participate in the Standing Committee on International Trade hearings on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

COMMUNICATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA

- (June) Creation of list of mapping expertise by APWG members;
- (July) Started using new [e-mail marketing](#) software to better communicate important APWG messages, either in regards to events, campaigns or updates;
- (July) Created new [Regional Working Groups flyer](#);
- (September) New communication outreach strategy for APWG;
- (October) Online [Survey](#) to gauge APWG member’s priorities and interest;
- (January) Launched new online [CCIC - Regional Working Groups Calendar](#).
- (Ongoing) Increased presence on social media through CCIC’s Twitter and Facebook accounts using the personalized hashtags #CCICAsiaPacific #CCICAsiePacifique
- 5 Tweets with #CCICAsiaPacific hashtag on CCIC’s top 20 tweets during last trimester of 2016. Joint APWG-ACF Panel “Leave no Girls behind” generated the top tweet with 2,110 impressions, the APWG consultation dialogue with the Asian Development Bank rated 2nd top tweet with 1,710 impressions

Outcome: the new communication and a social media outreach as allowed for a greater, more dynamic (and more manageable and digestible) exchange of information between members and enhanced visibility of the APWG events within the CCIC networks and public.

2.2 MEMBERSHIP

The APWG has **23** members, including **3** new ones (*).

Aga Khan Foundation Canada
Canadian Co-operative Association
Canadian Labour Congress
Canadian Red Cross
Canadian Union of Public Employees
CARE Canada
Christian Children's Fund of Canada
Cuso International
Development and Peace
Equitas *
Handicap International
Humber College
International Development and Relief Foundation *
Inter Pares
Kairos
Leger Foundation
MiningWatch Canada
Oxfam Canada
Presbyterian World Service & Development
United Church of Canada
USC Canada *
World Vision Canada
World University Service of Canada

2.3 FINANCES

\$27,991.67 has been pledged by APWG members as of December 31, 2016 for the 2016-2017 fiscal year budget.