

The logo features three concentric, overlapping blue circular arcs that form a partial frame around the central text. The text is centered within this frame.

ASIA PACIFIC FORUM
ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR REGION

**Violence and abuse
against older persons**

Introduction

1. What is the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions?
2. The role of NHRIs and the rights of older persons
3. Violence and abuse

Asia Pacific Forum

- The Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) was established 1996
- The APF initially had 4 members – the national human rights institutions of:
 - Australia
 - India
 - Indonesia
 - New Zealand
- In 2008 the APF has 17 members

APF Membership

Members

- Afghanistan
- Australia
- India
- Indonesia
- Jordan
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mongolia
- Nepal
- New Zealand
- Palestine
- Philippines
- Qatar
- South Korea
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste

Possible Future Members

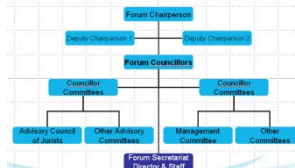
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Cambodia
- China
- Fiji
- Hong Kong
- Pakistan
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Singapore

APF Role and Functions

Three broad objectives:

- Improve effectiveness of existing national human rights institutions
- Assist Asia Pacific Governments and NGOs in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions
- Develop regional human rights cooperation

APF Structure and Governance



APF Activities

- Annual Meetings
- General Advisory Services
- Information and Promotion
- Regional and International Cooperation
- Capacity Building Projects
- Development of International Law
- Strategic Management

APF Funding

- Membership Fees
- Australian Government
- Indian Government
- South Korean Government
- New Zealand Government
- Thai Government
- US Government
- UK Government
- Swedish Government
- United Nations (e.g. OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO etc.)
- Private Foundations
- Raoul Wallenberg Institute
- Ad hoc donor support
- Need to fundraise for all APF projects

Regional Partnerships

- Lack of a formal regional human rights mechanism
- APF joint activities – e.g. Trafficking network, SEO network, Investigators network
- Formal partnership with human rights NGOs
- Cooperation with regional governments
- Cooperation with the UN

Future Developments

- More members – possibility of moving from the current 17 to 20 in three years
- Expansion of APF training and assistance
- Increased recognition of APF in international fora
- More funding and staff
- Regional offices

www.asiapacificforum.net



Asia Pacific Forum

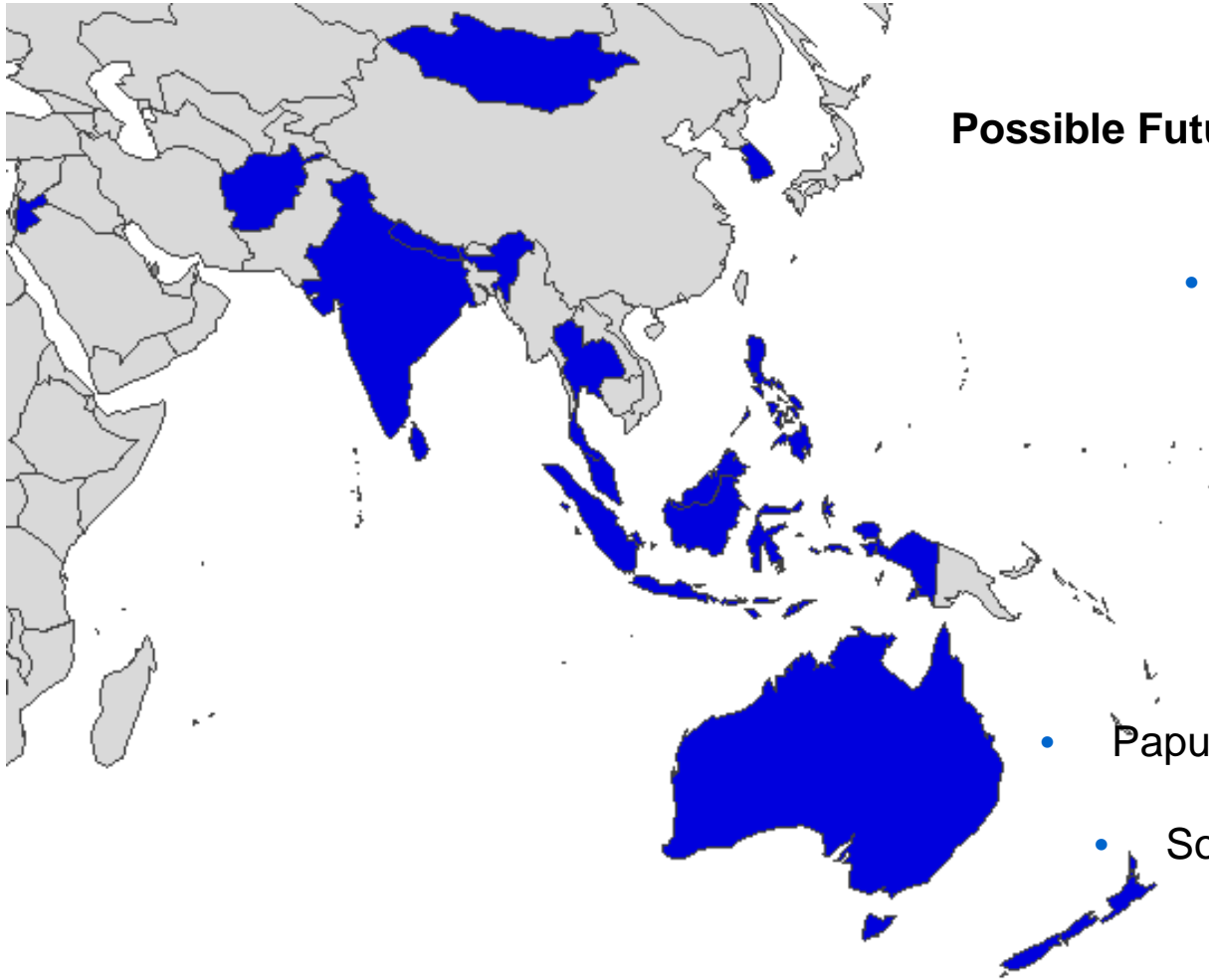
- The Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) was established 1996
- The APF is the first and most advanced of the four regional NHRI networks of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions from Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific and Europe
- In 1996 the APF had 4 member national human rights institutions (NHRIs). In 2011 the APF has 17 member NHRIs spread over 5 sub-regions from West Asia, South Asia, South East Asia, North East Asia and the Pacific



APF Membership

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Possible Future Members:

- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Cambodia
 - Fiji
- Iraq
- Japan
- Nauru
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
 - Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Vanuatu

National human rights institutions

- Are established by law: State institutions
- Responsibilities for the domestic application and implementation of human rights
- Work on the basis of international human rights standards
- Are independent
- Should comply with the UN Principles on the Status of National Institutions (the Paris Principles)

Development of NHRIs

Endorsed by UN in late 1940s – but first institutions only established in late 1970s and early 1980s

1991 first international meeting of NHRIs develops the Paris Principles

1993 Paris Principles adopted by CHR and GA

Annual UN resolutions: HRC, GA

2006 participation rights incorporated in the rules of procedure of the HRC

2011 expansion of role of NHRIs approved by the GA via the HRC review

More than 110 NHRIs worldwide



NHRIs in the Asia Pacific

- Human Rights Commission that acts as a corporate or collegial body
- Size varies: 3 (Mongolia), 5 (India) to 35 (Indonesia) Commissioners
- Generalists (India) and specialists, including 'age' specialists (Australia, New Zealand)
- Full-time and part-time commissioners
- Supported by full-time professional staff: around 20 (Mongolia) to more than 650 (Afghanistan, Philippines)

NHRIs in the Asia Pacific have:

- Broad mandate – inclusive of rights of older persons
- Jurisdiction relating to universal human rights standards
- Broad functions of:
 - monitoring
 - education
 - complaint investigation and resolution

Broad functions

- Can deal with individual complaints
- Can initiate their own investigations
- Can address systemic problems
- Can make recommendations to Government & Parliament
- Can refer investigations to independent prosecutors
- Can intervene in court proceedings
- Can undertake community education

Cooperative work

NHRIs work closely with:

- Non-government organisations
- Academics
- Parliament
- Executive
- Justice System
- International mechanisms and agencies
- Other national human rights institutions

Violence and abuse

The majority of NHRIs report that, with regards to violence and abuse, they have focused on institutionalized care settings.

They have often undertaken a systemic approach to their work on their own initiative rather than on the basis of individual complaints.

They have undertaken this work in close cooperation with older persons themselves, their advocacy organisations, service providers and the government.

They found:

- Incidents of physical, emotional, sexual and/or financial abuse
- Mainly as a result of neglect and/or ill treatment
- In certain instances as a direct result of abuse

Examples

- Inappropriate and undignified use of restraints
- The locking of doors leading to detention
- Social isolation and separation
- Inadequate standards and service delivery
- Covert or inappropriate use of medication
- Malnutrition
- Lack of 'proportionality' with regards to autonomy and harm minimisation.

The logo consists of two concentric blue circles. The outer circle is a thick blue line, and the inner circle is a thinner blue line. The text is centered within the space between these two circles.

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THANK YOU