

## Synergies in HIV and SRHR

The Asia Regional Dialogue entitled “Strategies for the South: Building Synergies in HIV/AIDS and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)” took place in Bangkok on July 11-13. This is the last regional dialogue as a direct follow up of the International Dialogue on Strategies for the South: Building Synergies in HIV/AIDS and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in May 2006. The other regional dialogues held were in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The aim of this initiative was to improve collaboration and advocacy on HIV/AIDS and SRHR at the regional and international levels.

The specific objective of the Bangkok meeting was to identify opportunities for more effective movement building on issues of HIV/AIDS and SRHR between major regional networks working in the area of SRHR, HIV/AIDS, women’s rights, sex worker rights, lesbian and gay, bisexual, transgender rights and drug user rights.

Topics discussed at the meeting included how to build collaborations between cross movements; the growing concern of generalised interventions focus in HIV and AIDS response; the absence of adequate sexuality education for adolescents; UNAIDS anti-sex workers proposed guidelines for sex work interventions; UNAIDS guidelines on provider-initiated testing and counseling (PITC) and its implications to community based response to HIV and AIDS, gender based violence and HIV/AIDS and finally how vertical funding is negatively impacted on sustainability of HIV and AIDS programmes and services.

The discussion ended with commitments from networks present to engage each other and provide solidarity on pressing issues regarding HIV/AIDS.

CARAM Asia was represented by the secretariat, CARAM Cambodia and Raks Thai. Other networks present were Seven Sisters, The Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW), and Asia Pacific Rainbow (AP-Rainbow), The Foundation for Studies and Research on Women (FEIM), SANGRAM and Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers is the coordinating organisation for this initiative

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