

# Sailing Together With and For The Community

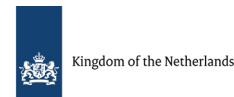


2019 ANNUAL UPDATE

| **apcom**



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*UNAIDS Regional Goodwill Ambassador  
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# AHOY!

# AHOY! SELAMAT

## MESSAGE FROM REGIONAL ADVISORY GROUP CHAIR

The year 2019 was our twelfth year working as a community-based network on gay men and MSM as well as other people and communities of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual characteristics (SOGIESC) in Asia and the Pacific.

We continued to work with our partners in different countries in education and innovation, in advocacy and research, and in community engagement. The work has faced some challenges due to the shrinking spaces for civil society in the region and to dwindling funds for effective implementation of the activities.

Our TestXXX programs in six city locations - Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Manila, and Yogyakarta are proven popular due to their fun, non-judgmental and sex positive approach to testing. TestXXX has inspired similar programs in other locations.

With funds for civil society organizations and community-led initiatives drying up, APCOM's SHIFT Financing Program has pioneered to provide strategic information and resources for organizational transitioning and sustainability.

APCOM remains the leader in an initiative to enable community organizations to provide tools for advocacy in rolling out PrEP in different countries as well as guidelines for community members. We continued to engage with the Asian Development Bank towards LGBTQI inclusion.

In community engagement, APCOM is a sub-recipient in the eight-country Global Fund supported project Sustainability of HIV Services for Key Populations (SKPA) with AFAO as the principal recipient. Our strength has been the result of years of engaging with communities in the eight countries. And finally, for the third year in a row, APCOM organized the HERO Awards series of events, including a discussion on engaging the private sector and culminating in the fabulous HERO Awards ceremony on the grounds of the Embassy of the Netherlands.

All in all, in increasingly difficult circumstances, we have been able to stay afloat and build for more innovative and creative work in 2020 and the years ahead. We wish to sincerely thank all our supporters and partners.

**Dédé Oetomo**



# AHOY! SAWASDEE

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In many cultures throughout our region, the number 12 has been linked to various cycles of time, with the twelfth phase representing the end of the cycle. In this sense, 2019 marked the end of APCOM's first 12-year cycle and over that time we've grown and evolved as we've pursued our mission to bring equity, dignity and social justice to the people and communities we serve.

Again, in many cultures, 12 years marks the end of childhood and the beginning of adolescence, and in many ways APCOM's 12 years of operation have given us a real sense of who we are as an organisation, the role we play in civil society in the Asia Pacific region and how we can affect the change we want to make.

In addition to our programmatic work, we also had to strive throughout 2019 to deal with a range of challenges due to shrinking space for civil society in the region and a contraction of funds for such activities. However, we feel that we have been able to adapt successfully to changing circumstances and we look forward to moving ahead with improved focus and increased stability.

This will be important as the need for education and advocacy around health and rights for our communities remain critical. The HIV epidemic in Asia and the Pacific continues to escalate among our communities, their health outcomes in relation to sexual health, mental health and drug use remain undervalued, and their human and legal rights continue to be suppressed in many cities and countries across the region.

Addressing this inequity is what drives the work of APCOM. As we move into a new cycle of maturity and confidence, we take all the knowledge, skills and relationships we have developed over the last 12 years into a new era of courage, tenacity and compassion that will see us improve the health and rights of our communities and shift the balance in favour of fairness.

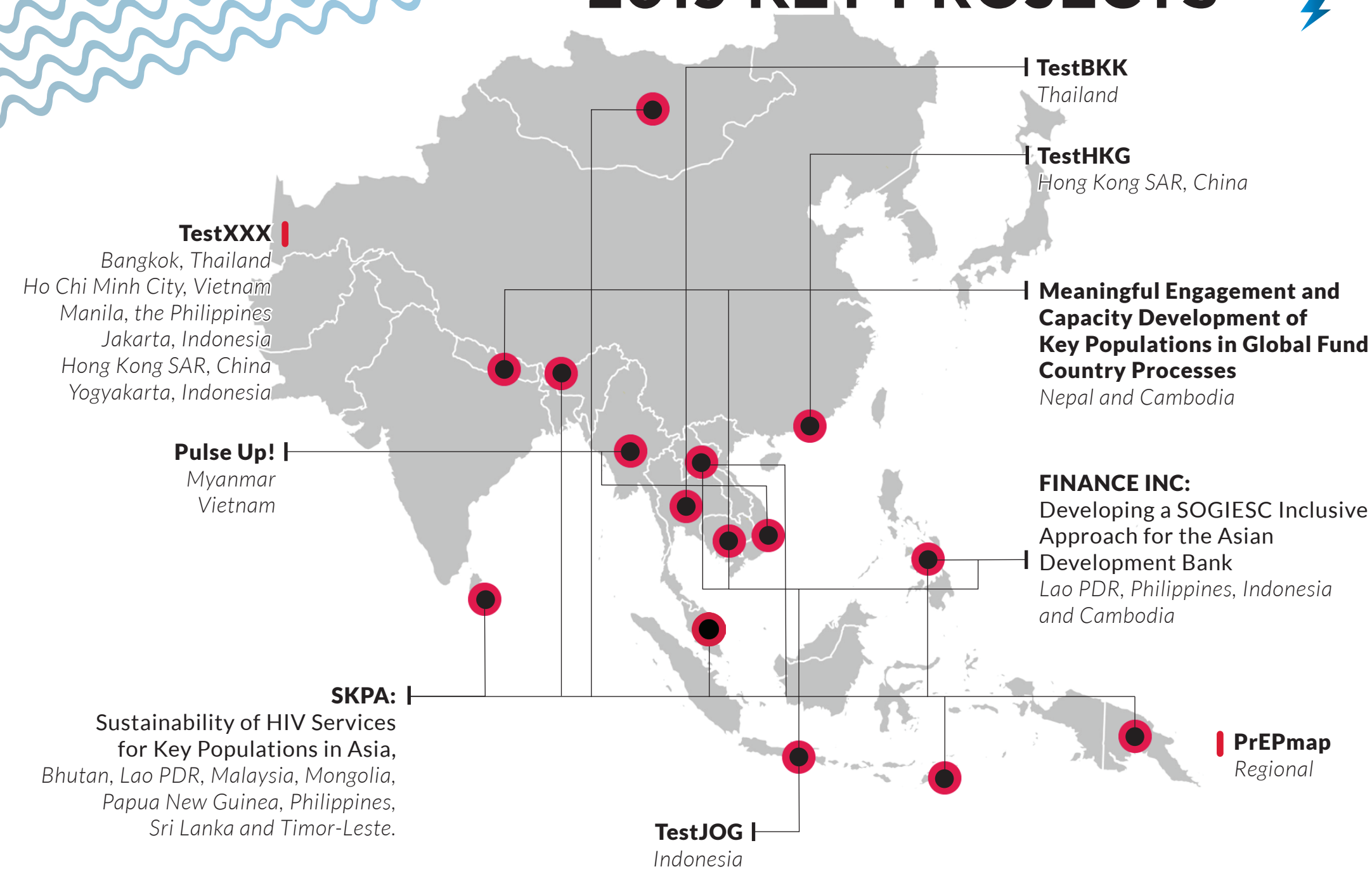
Our thanks as always to our dedicated staff, Regional Advisory Group members, volunteers, partners and supporters throughout the year for their respective contributions. It is only with the hard work and dedication of thousands of people across Asia and the Pacific that the health and rights of our communities will be respected and protected.

**Midnight Poonkasetwattana**





# 2019 KEY PROJECTS



# WE ARE APCOM



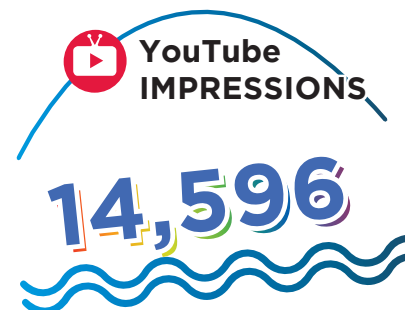
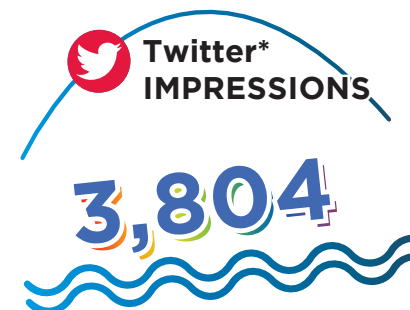
We are a regional organisation with a vision to have a world where all gay men, other men who have sex with men and people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics can fully participate and achieve sustainable development in all aspects of their health, rights and wellbeing.

We work to improve the health and rights of gay men, other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people across Asia and the Pacific. Our focus includes work on HIV because it is a key health issue for gay men and other men who have sex with men in the region. We also address other related health issues for our communities such as sexual health, mental health and drug use.

As a regional organisation, we focus on improving relevant human and legal rights across the region as discrimination, stigma, criminalisation and exclusion impact on the health outcomes of the communities we serve.



# 2019 IN NUMBERS

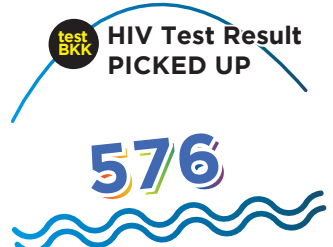
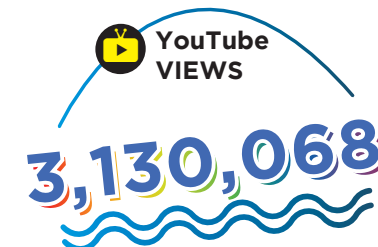
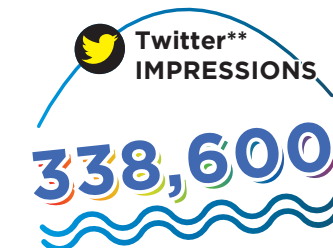


## APCOM WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA STATUS

\*APCOM's twitter account was created since 2013.



# 2019 IN NUMBERS



## testBKK WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA & HIV TESTING STATUS

\*\*testBKK twitter account had been suspended two (2) times because of the key messaging that we used targeting high-risk key population, but was not in-line with their advertising policies.





# SAILING TOWARDS 2019 MILESTONES

## Our Strategy

We launched our 2018-2020 Strategic Framework during the International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in July 2018. Titled TENACITY, our Strategic Framework focuses on the following strategic goals:

- 1 - HIV is not over** – Support initiatives that promote testing and reduce HIV infections
- 2 - Our Rights** - Protecting gay men, other men who have sex with me and communities and individuals of diverse SOGIESC.
- 3 - Our Strength** – Stronger interlinked communities and broader partner networks

## We work in the following areas:



### Education & Innovation

We drive innovation and promote technology to build community-based models of evidence-informed interventions and responses. We implement pilot projects which aim to deliver lessons and result in future scale up. We produce campaigns to inform our community members about issues which affect their health and wellbeing. We deliver training and produce resources to help our community partners to improve how they work. We develop and trial new health promotion initiatives that can be used by community partners across the region.



### Advocacy & Research

We work with individuals and community partners across the region to help implementers, legislators, policymakers, and international agencies including donor agencies to better understand the context, situation and the gaps in relation to access of rights and needs of our communities, and compel them to act. We also undertake and support a range of local, national and international research projects, so we can inform our advocacy with appropriate evidence and to contribute to raising awareness about the situation of the communities we work with



### Community Engagement

We strengthen capacities to build new generations of leadership among gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people. We engage communities to deliver strong responses based on evidence and good practice. We connect community members, community partners and other stakeholders so that we can all work together more effectively. We work with individuals and communities to focus attention on local needs that are emerging, forgotten or ignored.

Each testXXX campaign is mandated to create partnerships with a certain number of clinics that provide sexual health services, including HIV and STI testing and treatment, to MSM. These selected clinics should be accommodating and sensitive to the needs of MSM, including ensuring non-judgemental, anonymous and confidential service delivery.

## LABELS:



Education and Innovation



Advocacy and Research



Community Engagement



## TestXXX



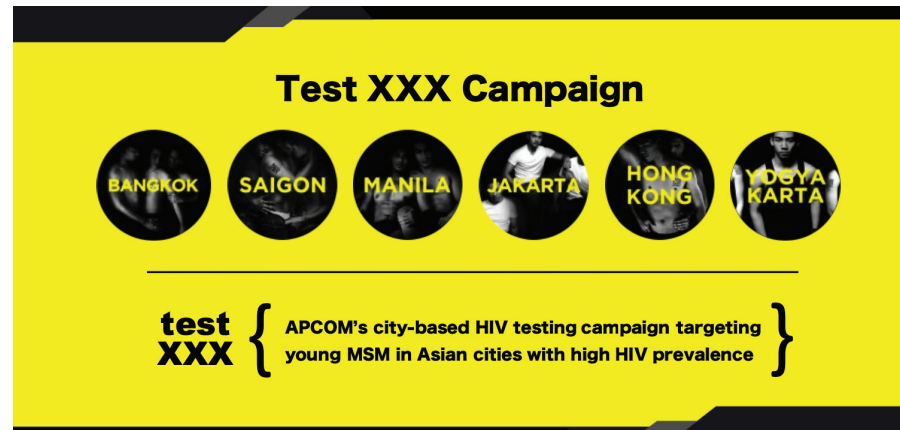
testXXX is conceived by APCOM to close the gap between the HIV prevalence among MSM in Asian cities and the rate of HIV testing among them. Many countries within Asia are recording alarmingly high numbers of HIV infection among the MSM population. This is particularly evident in large urban areas like Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta and Manila where prevalence has been reported between 15-31%. Where data is available, the rate of HIV testing among young MSM (aged 29 and below) is less than 50%.

testXXX was piloted in Bangkok as TestBKK in 2014, with the support from LINKAGES Thailand led by FHI Thailand funded by USAID and PEPFAR. With the support of Aidsfonds, TextXXX campaigns expanded to two additional cities. TestYKA was launched in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and TestHKG was launched in Hong Kong.

While TestBKK is directly implemented by APCOM, the other TestXXX campaigns are implemented by country-level partners – so called Country Implementing Partners (CIPs) under APCOM's supervision and guidance. These CIPs are Jaringan GWL-INA for TestJKT and TestYKA, and Aids Concern for TestHKG.

Each testXXX campaign is mandated to create partnerships with clinics that provide sexual health services, including HIV and STI testing and treatment, to MSM. These selected clinics should be accommodating and sensitive to the needs of MSM, including ensuring non-judgemental, anonymous and confidential service delivery.

## PROGRAM MILESTONES







# PROGRAM MILESTONES



## TestBKK



testBKK is the Bangkok-based pilot campaign of testXXX, APCOM's flagship regional sexual health campaign targeting young gay men in Asia-Pacific cities with high HIV prevalence among gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) demography. The campaign aims to complement the existing testing services in Bangkok in reaching a wider young MSM audience and generating HIV prevention, support and care service uptakes among them.

To achieve the goals, testBKK harnesses the power of cutting-edge communications and creativity that resonates with today's culture of YMSM, such as the popular use of mobile sexual networking apps and other online platforms to regularly find new sexual partners.

In 2019, testBKK continued to promote sexual health resources on its website as well as a customised, secure online booking platform, supported by LINKAGES Thailand led by FHI360 and funded by USAID and PEPFAR, through multiple digital touchpoints such as Facebook page and adverts on dating apps. The campaign also produced and utilises new campaign static visuals which convey sex-positive contents and established partnerships with social media influencers who are popular among young Thai MSM for smart growth of target audience.

Furthermore, as a response to the chemsex situation among MSM in Thailand, testBKK has developed non-judgemental, non-coercive harm reduction information resources in Thai language in order to assist MSM who engage in chemsex and any other kind of illicit drug consumption in reducing drug-associated harm and to encourage them to access HIV testing, prevention, and treatment services.

In terms of community outreach, testBKK engaged in the role of official sexual health partner of White Party Bangkok 2020 both on the online and physical outreach at the venues, and supported co-branding in producing the campaign materials to promote the awareness of PrEP among the partygoers.

By the end of 2019, testBKK has more than 71,802 Facebook Page followers, 65,405 YouTube channel subscribers and 3,130,068 views and 524,119 website visitors. TestBKK's Twitter also gained a new set of 1,600 followers, despite being suspended twice.



## TestHKG and TestJOG



Through the support received from Aidsfonds, TestXXX was expanded to two (2) additional cities, Hong Kong, SAR (TestHKG) and Yogyakarta, Indonesia (TestJOG). The city-based campaigns are implemented by Aids Concern and GWL-INA in Hong Kong SAR and Yogyakarta, Indonesia, respectively. Both are community-led organisations and facilitators of service provisions to MSM population.

As part of the regional city-based campaign TestXXX, TestHKG and TestJOG work to increase the number of MSM who report they have HIV test in the last year, increase knowledge about value of and access to HIV testing among MSM, and develop collaborations across agencies in the cities for the HIV testing campaign.

Although the expansion of TestXXX to these cities began in 2017, specific milestones were achieved in 2019. APCOM has successfully provided technical assistance to our Country Implementing Partner (CIP) by assisting them in developing key creative messages for the promotional materials of TestHKG and TestJOG. Through our partnerships, we have developed campaign products and monitoring of each campaign's social media touch points. We closely worked with them to reach the target audience of the campaign using different sets of key messaging, while maintaining the branding of TestXXX.

Through TestHKG and TestJOG, APCOM was able to strengthen the CIPs' organisational capacity including managing website, producing public service advertisements (PSA) videos, designing Information, Education and Communications (IEC) materials. Most importantly, APCOM was able to strengthen CIPs' financial management, organisational systems, and organisational processes including documentation and project evaluation.



## www.PrEPmap.org



We have powered this website to improve awareness, advocacy and ultimately access to PrEP across the Asia and the Pacific region. This initiative is a product of contributions of MSM community members in Asia and the Pacific for MSM community members in Asia and the Pacific. PrEP MAP is an exercise in community ownership to generate demand through a resource database on PrEP awareness and to advocate for and build demand in our communities for the right to access to proven and comprehensive prevention approaches.







# PROGRAM MILESTONES



## PULSE Up



The **PULSE Up!** project aims to gather epidemiological and behavioral data of young men who have sex with men (YMSM) through an online survey. This project builds the capacity of community organizations to facilitate survey roll-out, and conduct evidence-based advocacy with stakeholders to address YMSM needs. The data collected from this project will contribute to strengthening the HIV intervention programme and to end the epidemic among YMSM in the country.

PULSE Up! is a 2-year project beginning from 2019 and ending in 2020. The overall objective of this project ties in with the country's National Strategic Plan by lobbying and advocating with the Government to contribute to designing an HIV intervention programme to end the epidemic among MSM in the country and fulfill international targets, and providing information to the new Strategic Plan as the current one will end this year.



APCOM partnered with; **1. Myanmar Youth Stars (MYS)**, a network representing young key affected populations (YKP) in Myanmar. **2. Vietnam Network of Men who have sex with Men and Transgender (VNMSM -TG)** in Vietnam. With the support of APCOM, MYS, and VNMSM -TG had conducted several key activities, which includes;

### ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY MYS (IN MYANMAR)

**PrEP educational workshop**, it convened young MSM and key stakeholders to reflect PrEP status in the country. It contributed to increasing knowledge about PrEP among participants, and also it assisted them in developing a workplan to promote PrEP uptake among young MSM in the country. Furthermore, it highlighted that PrEP availability is currently limited, and significant work is required to make PrEP widely available and accessible in Myanmar.

**HIV prevention ambassador training**, two-day meeting, which gathered twenty community members from Yangon city. Overall, this training enhanced participants' knowledge and skills on HIV prevention activities. From this training, the trained ambassadors had developed their individual work plan to further disseminate gained knowledge to their peers and community members.

**Online survey rolled out**, it collected epidemiological and behavioral data of young MSM. A total of 834 respondents answered this survey. From this research activity, MYS produced a report and shared with communities and key stakeholders, the data collected from this survey will contribute to strengthening HIV intervention programmes for young MSM. In addition, it developed communication materials which highlights key issues or challenges of young MSM. This study highlighted that one-fourth of respondents did not receive HIV information and services and most of them never tested for HIV. Several other factors contribute to low HIV testing, which includes; **stigma and discrimination inside and outside the health care** settings, low awareness on modes of transmission, breach of confidentiality. Therefore, it indicated that there needs to create an enabling environment by service providers, especially for YMSM, to access HIV prevention services in both the public and private sectors.

### ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY VNMSM TG (IN VIETNAM)

**Submission of ethics application**, In November 2019, APCOM assisted VNMSM-TG to prepare and submit an ethics package to IRB committee in Hanoi School of Public Health. However, IRB committed had delayed approving the ethical application as a result of the COVID - 19 pandemic crisis.



## FINANCE INC: Developing a SOGIESC Inclusive Approach for the Asian Development Bank



Finance Inc is our project anchored on the human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination as expounded in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments which recognize that 'all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.' It is also anchored in The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) principle of 'leaving no one behind.'

Through Finance Inc. we aim to contribute to improved access of persons of diverse SOGIESC to economic and social services, specifically health, education and financial resources and services. It also aims to contribute to increased participation of LGBTQI communities in the conversations aimed towards inclusion.

This project increased its efforts to address economic and social exclusion based on sexual orientation, gender identities, expressions and sex characteristics in various sectors including the private sector and multilateral development institutions.

Finance Inc. is engaging the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other stakeholders in the finance and private sector towards the overall goal of LGBTQI inclusion.

APCOM and our country partner organizations for Finance Inc. were able to have initial engagement meetings with the Asian Development Bank Resident Missions in Lao PDR, A (June 8, 2019), Indonesia (June 19, 2019), and Cambodia (July 11, 2019). These meetings were venues to present the Finance Inc to the ADB resident missions and discuss possibilities of LGBTQI inclusion.

APCOM and our country partner organizations for Finance Inc. also organized capacity strengthening workshops in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and the Philippines. These workshops aimed to contribute to the awareness of LGBTQI organizations and activists about the private sector and identifying possible ways of engaging the private sector for LGBTQI inclusion. The workshops were conducted last November 9-10, 2019 (Philippines), November 18-19, 2019 (Indonesia), November 25-26, 2019 (Lao PDR), and December 10-11, 2019 (Cambodia). The workshops were attended by an average of 25 participants in each country representing various LGBTQI organizations.



### INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA AND BI-PHOBIA (IDAHOTB)

In May 2019, the Asian Development Bank commemorated the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) for the first at, at their headquarters in Manila. Part of this IDAHOT commemoration was a panel discussion titled 'LGBT+ as a vulnerable population: Entry points at ADB operations' was held. The panel discussion aimed to discuss marginalization based on sexual orientations, gender identities, expressions, and sex characteristics and how these affects access to employment, livelihood and other basic services. It also aimed to explore possible entry points for LGBT+ inclusion within ADB's operations. The panel delved into issues being experienced by LGBTQI communities, present state of data related to LGBTQI inclusion, and possibilities of integration of LGBT+ issues in the work that the Asian Development Bank is doing. APCOM and Babaylanes, our Finance country partner organization in the Philippines, were panelists.







# PROGRAM MILESTONES



## Sustainability of HIV Services for Key Populations in Asia (SKPA)

The SKPA Program is led by the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisation (AFAO), International Program based in Bangkok, Thailand as the principal recipient of the regional grant from the Global Fund Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The program is an eight-country initiative, which will run for three years (2019-2021) to scale up and promote HIV prevention services for communities most affected by HIV, with an aim to stop HIV transmission and AIDS-related deaths by 2030. SKPA has five main objectives: (1) Financing Sustainability, (2) Strategic Information, (3) Service Delivery, (4) Community Systems Strengthening, and (5) Enabling Environment.

### COMMUNITY BASED MONITORING



CBM is a framework, which is designed, led and driven by key population community and their networks in identified health service delivery facilities to measure the quality of HIV services, document and report potential challenges affecting the service delivery chain, and assess the stigma and discrimination experienced by key population communities in health care settings. APCOM is working with partner organizations in Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Laos and Papua New Guinea for CBM implementation.

In 2019, APCOM provided technical support to Youth for Health, the country sub-recipient in Mongolia, and its partners in relation to identifying the areas to be monitored by the community, the clinical sites where it will be implemented, and the partners who may be able to support the gathering of data and analysis of results.



### DEMAND GENERATION



Demand Generation is social marketing and online digital campaign, which is specifically tailored to scale-up outreach to key populations and improve their access to prevention, testing and treatment and retention in the service cascade. It is also an initiative to introduce new and essential programming elements to a country and boosting innovative interventions, including PrEP and self testing. APCOM is working with partner organizations in Mongolia, Laos, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines for Demand Generation Implementation.

Technical assistance has been provided to Youth for Health, the country sub-recipient in Mongolia, who later adapted APCOM's flagship testXXX campaign model into test4UB. Focusing its coverage on Ulaanbaatar, the capital and largest city in Mongolia, the campaign will serve as the center of information related to PrEP, HIV/AIDS and other sexual health issues for the MSM community.



# PROGRAM MILESTONES



## Meaningful Engagement and Capacity Development of Key Populations in Global Fund Country Processes



Under the GF 2.5 years grant (supported through Mpact), APCOM has partnered with country partner organizations in Nepal - Blue Diamond Society, and Cambodia - KHANA to provide technical assistance support to them to effectively engage in Global Fund and related National Aids planning processes. The specific objectives of this GF grant include the following:

1. Support key population (KP) Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCM) membership;
2. Strengthen engagement in funding request development;
3. Develop and implement HIV-related programs tailored to the needs of gay, bisexual, and other MSM, TG people, and KPs;
4. Monitor program implementation to ensure alignment with normative guidance;
5. Strengthen transition and sustainability readiness;



APCOM has contributed to achieving the above objectives by performing the following activities (but not limited to):

**DEVELOPMENT OF STC FACT SHEET:** Tool developed to increase the knowledge of MSM and Transgender community in GF sustainability, Transitioning, and Co-Financing (STC) Policy of the Global Fund, and World Bank Transition Checklist.

**REGIONAL CONSULTATION AND WORKSHOP ON TRANSITION AND SUSTAINABILITY READINESS IN THE REGION:** Community members in Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Vietnam, are empowered and provided tools for better engagement in GF processes as well as tools to ensure sustainable HIV response for those in transition.

The regional consultation resulted to producing a **Community Statement on Sustainability, Transition and Co-Financing.**

**REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE MSM AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE GF COUNTRY PROCESSES.** HIV responses and GF engagements among the MSM and Transgender community in Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Timor - Leste, Bhutan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka are analyzed and reported with recommended on future steps.





# ORGANISATIONAL MILESTONES



2019



# ORGANISATIONAL MILESTONES



## REPRESENTING OUR CONSTITUENTS AT INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES

### ILGA WORLD CONFERENCE 2019

The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) organised the 2019 ILGA World Conference in Wellington, New Zealand in 18-22 March 2019. More than 500 people from almost 100 countries have gathered in Wellington, celebrating the past and strategising for the future of this diverse movement.

APCOM was active in taking part in the 29th ILGA World Conference organising two (2) pre-conference sessions on 19 March 2019. In one of the sessions, we were honoured to and proud to have the Rt Hon. Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and former Administrator of UNDP, to talk about how civil society organisations should attempt to engage with governments and international bodies like the UN System.

Clark emphasized the importance of the SDG 2030 framework. Related to the goals is the LGBTI Inclusion Index, which was crafted when she was leading UNDP. Understandably, she underlined the importance of all LGBTI civil society organizations to understand and make use of international mechanisms. The Being LGBTI in Asia Initiative, which has later been followed by similar initiatives with less explicit names in other regions, has turned out to break barriers in many countries, although it has been ordered to stop by the Government of Indonesia. Using the SDG framework, accurate data need to be collected.

### 8<sup>TH</sup> ILGA ASIA CONFERENCE

APCOM conducted a session “Integrating Rights Based Approaches in LGBTQI Advocacy: Focus on Economic and Social Rights” during the main sessions of the 8th ILGA Asia Conference under the theme ‘Building Alliances to Strengthen the Movement’ last August 2019.

The session explore linkages between LGBTQI economic issues and human rights-based principles, instruments and mechanisms; surface economic issues in relation to SOGIESC based discrimination and stigma affecting LGBTQI population; and rainstorm on possible ways forward in relation to contributing to address economic issues affecting LGBTQI.

The session brought together resource persons from LGBTQI organizations from Vietnam, Nepal, Pakistan and Taiwan.

The session was anchored by our Executive Director, Midnight Poonkasetwattana and our Regional Advisory Board Chair, Dede Oetomo.

### LGBT BUSINESS INCLUSION SESSION AT THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY

Some of the leading corporations in Thailand are working with APCOM to help improve the health and wellbeing of LGBTI people by encouraging the private sector to be more supportive of LGBTI employees.

As part of APCOM’s 2019 HERO Awards activities, representatives from Facebook, IKEA, IBM, Linfox and Baker McKenzie took part in a well-attended seminar about the health and economic benefits of workplace diversity and inclusion.

The seminar provided the opportunity for business, government and civil society to discuss ways in which employers and business can work with government and community organisations to implement policies and initiatives which allow LGBTI employees to feel accepted and valued in the workplace.

APCOM is continuing to work with a range of corporations and businesses to encourage the private sector to support other programs and projects which impact on the health and wellbeing of LGBTI people.

### THAILAND LGBT EQUALITY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Round tables with legal experts on constitutional issues to strategize and get advise on a possible legal way forward.

The consultation created a space attended by Thailand’s top 32 legal experts and human rights activists where the key issues around the legal aspects of LGBTIQ’s rights were discussed and updated. The exchange of information can increase better understanding of each other’s project and objectives and will increase possibility either to seek more collaboration with each other or to find a way to navigate their differences in the legal and political space. The sharing of information and strategies can also allow learning among the activists/actors on what works/not works under the current political/legal framework of Thailand. APCOM expects that the consultation can further strengthen political will for more legal and policy change to improve the rights and well-being of LGBT people in Thailand.

List of issues presented and discussed;

- Overall Legal situation of LGBTIQ people in Thailand
- Gender Equality Law and its protection of the rights of LGBT people
- Anti-discrimination Bill and law passage advocacy
- Constitution Court petition on Civil Code (marriage and family book)
- Civil Union Bill and its law passage
- Repeal of Civil Code on family and marriage
- Legal Gender Recognition Bill draf and law passage
- Bill for Gender Recognition for Transsexuals

The development of these law/drafts are in various stages of development and have different positions towards the issues they are working on. The round table presented a rare opportunity for these experts and organizations to share their positions and projects and to exchange views which vary among them. Through this event, APCOM has provided a much needed neutral space where organizations with different views and positions dialogued and developed their strategies to work around and with the difference.



# ORGANISATIONAL MILESTONES



2019

## ORGANISATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

APCOM, as a regional organisation, is a member of the following bodies:

### THE ASIA PACIFIC INTER-AGENCY TASK TEAM FOR YOUNG KEY POPULATIONS (IATT)

The Asia Pacific Inter-Agency Task Team on Young Key Populations (YKP) was established in 2009 to promote coordinated support from UN agencies and civil society partners to meet the HIV prevention, treatment, care and support needs of YKPs including: young men who have sex with men, young trans-gender people, young people who inject drugs, young people living with HIV, and young people selling sex.

### ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL CSO ENGAGEMENT MECHANISM (AP-RCEM)

APRCEM is a civil society platform aimed to enable stronger cross consistency coordination and ensure that voices of all sub-regions of Asia Pacific are heard in intergovernmental processes in regional and global level. The platform is initiated, owned and driven by the civil society organisations (CSOs), and seeks to engage with UN agencies and Member States on the Post-2015 as well as other development related issues/processes.

### THE EQUAL RIGHTS COALITION (ERC)

The intergovernmental Equal Rights Coalition (ERC) protects of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people. It was launched in July 2016, under the leadership of Uruguay and the Netherlands at the Global LGBTI Human Rights Conference in Montevideo.

The ERC advances the human rights of LGBTI persons and promotes inclusive development in both member and non-member countries. With 42 member states, the ERC advances its agenda by engaging with civil society organisations and multilateral agencies.

APCOM has representation on the working groups of the ERC.

# ORGANISATIONAL MILESTONES



### ILGA WORLD

The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association - is a worldwide federation of more than 1,600 organisations from over 150 countries and territories campaigning for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex human rights.

ILGA wants a world where the human rights of all are respected and where everyone can live in equality and freedom: a world where global justice and equity are assured and established regardless of people's sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).

### APA

APA is a network of national, regional and global civil society organizations that advocate for the fulfilment of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for all persons in the Asia Pacific region. It was initiated as a CSO led network to help propel the ICPD agenda forward in Asia and the Pacific, over the last two decades APA has galvanised national and regional advocacy to further SRHR, gender and human rights at regional and international fora.

### TCEN

Established in 2013, The Commonwealth Equality Network is a network of Commonwealth civil society organisations working to challenge inequality in the Commonwealth, based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The Network was set up with the aim of giving a voice to LGBTI communities across the Commonwealth and to support joint advocacy in identifying a Commonwealth solution to a Commonwealth problem. Much like the Commonwealth itself, the membership of the Network is dominated by organisations in low and middle-income countries, in particular sub Saharan Africa. The spread of members – many of them in existence for more than ten years – shows how widespread and longstanding support for LGBTI rights is within the Commonwealth and demonstrates the importance of civil society in leading the way on challenging homophobia and transphobia.

### GIN – SSOGIE

*(GLOBAL INTERFAITH NETWORK FOR PEOPLE OF ALL SEXES, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION)*

The Global Interfaith Network provides safe space to convene, document best practices, develop resources and together create local, regional, and international strategies for the decriminalization of LGBTI identities, was born. And to be successful GIN needed to be legitimate and relevant to all faiths and all local contexts where religion is used as a justification for discrimination against the LGBTI community and beyond.



## ORGANISATIONAL RESTRUCTURE

THE YEAR 2019  
ALSO SAW APCOM  
NAVIGATING  
ROUGH SEAS



We have addressed these challenges by introducing organisational changes and secretariat restructuring for APCOM.

Following an internal review, we have restructurted the team to improve how we work as an organisation and to better align ourselves with TENACITY our 2018-2020 strategic framework. The restructure also allowed us to respond to changes we have seen on the programme side in the past year.

The rapidly changing and challenging funding environment has meant that APCOM was not able to secure new programme funding as three main projects ended in 2018. And following the suspension of donor funding on the PULSE project (an initiative encompassing research, community capacity strengthening and advocacy effort that aims to improve the lives of young gay and bisexual men and other young men who have sex with men in the Greater Mekong region) two rounds audit was conducted. The results were finalized without consultation with APCOM, and the audit report did not contain any recommendations on how the organisation can improve its systems.

We hav also moved our physical office twice in 2019. Operational costs are not supported by funding agencies, hence, the organisation and secretariat needed to adjust its operations and move to a smaller office space.

As a result of these changes, in April 2019, APCOM's secretariat members were reduced from 21 to 10 staff.



## ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

“THE ROUGHER  
THE SEAS,  
THE SMOOTHER  
WE SAIL.”



No matter how tough the challenges were, APCOM was able to find opportunities to improve the organisation so it can address the issues better.

Internal policies were adjusted to fit to the number of staff. The members of the secretariat team took on organisational tasks to assist the organisation in treading the rough path. The staff also have become more resilient and communicative with respect to their needs personally and professionally.

The reduction of the number of staff at APCOM resulted in better collaboration between projects, programs, and the general operations of the organization.



## APCOM FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

|                   | BAHT          |
|-------------------|---------------|
|                   | 2019          |
| INCOME            |               |
| Grants            | 25,134,231.75 |
| Other Incomes     | 1,572,856.98  |
| TOTAL INCOME      | 26,707,088.73 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 18,704,873.45 |





Standing for **HIV, Equality and Rights**, the HERO Awards is an annual gala event which acknowledges outstanding HIV and LGBTI advocates and allies from across Asia and the Pacific. The HERO Awards also raises money for HIV, and LGBTI human rights work of APCOM. 2019 was our 3rd HERO Awards event, and we were grateful to have the support from the Embassy of the Netherlands in Bangkok and the Ambassador for hosting the event at his Residence on 22 November 2019.

Such annual event cannot take place without the support from our community partners **APN+** (Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS), **ILGA Asia** (Asia Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association), and **APT** (Asia Pacific Transgender Network).

We are also grateful for the support from **UNAIDS** and **UNFPA**.

Pia Wurtzbach, Miss Universe 2015 and UNAIDS Goodwill Ambassador for Asia and the Pacific was one of the MCs for the event.

## The 2019 HERO Award recipients were:

*Shivananda Khan Award for Extraordinary Achievement -*

**Tuisina Ymania Brown (Samoa)**

Tuisina is a long-term human rights defender. Originally from Samoa she holds a Master's degrees in Law. Her volunteer work includes the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice (Board Member); the Global Interfaith Network on Sex, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (Co-Chair); and the International Trans Fund (Co-Chair).

*Business Ally -*  
**ANZ Australia**

ANZ strives to build a culture of respect for all people and communities including LGBTIQ+ staff, customers and communities. Establishing an inclusive network for LGBTIQ+ staff in 2007, ANZ remains a partner of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras as well as a member of the "Welcome Here" campaign.

*Community Ally -*  
**Jonggeol Lee (South Korea)**

Jonggeol Lee is the Executive Director of Chingusai - a Korean gay men's human rights. He is a proven leader in the LGBT community of South Korean for the last decade. Recently he was the co-chairperson of Rainbow Action - the coalition of Korean LGBT organizations - to realize equality for gay men in Korea.

*Community Hero -*  
**Moon Ali (Pakistan)**

Moon has worked for many years on programs in Pakistan that benefit transgender people. She is passionate about improving the level of awareness about health for transgender people as well as enhancing their empowerment within the context of Pakistan.

*Community Organisation -*  
**Marriage Equality Coalition Taiwan (Taiwan)**

Marriage Equality Coalition Taiwan was established only in November 2016 as a platform to advocate for marriage equality. The five organizations that form the coalition are: Taiwan Tongzhi Hotline Advocacy, Awakening Foundation, The Lobby Alliance for LGBT Human Rights, and Gagaoollala. Taiwan legalised same-sex marriage in June this year becoming the first country in Asia to do so.

*Health & Wellbeing Hero -*  
**June Chua (Singapore)**

June is one of Singapore's leading advocates for transgender inclusive services. She has worked tirelessly for more than a decade to bring housing, basic information, health services and support to the Transgender community of Singapore.

Business Ally  
**ANZ**  
(Australia)



Community Ally  
**Jonggeol Lee**  
(South Korea)



Community Hero  
**Moon Ali**  
(Pakistan)



Community Organisation  
**Marriage Equality Coalition Taiwan**  
(Taiwan)



Health & Wellbeing Hero  
**June Chua**  
(Singapore)



HIV Hero  
**Acep Saepudin**  
(Indonesia)



Social Justice Hero  
**Menaka Guruswamy**  
**Arundhati Katju**  
(India)



Young Achiever  
**Doan Thanh Tung**  
(Vietnam)



Transgender Hero  
**Rena Janamnuaysook**  
(Thailand)



Shivananda Khan Award  
**Tuisina Ymania Brown**  
(Samoa)

*HIV Hero -*  
**Acep Saepudin (Indonesia)**

Acep is a young gay Muslim Indonesian man living with HIV. He has documented his journey of living with HIV since his diagnosis in September last year, using this platform to raise awareness, debunk myths and part a very personal face on the HIV epidemic in Indonesia.

*Social Justice Hero -*  
**Menaka Guruswamy and Arundhati Katju (India)**

Menaka and Arundhati were named as Time Magazine 100 Most Influential People list of 2019. After more than a 100 year when same-sex relations were ruled as unnatural, the Supreme Court of India ruled in September 2018 that Section 377 of the Indian Constitution was unconstitutional. They were key women in the successful petitioning of the Indian Supreme Court to achieve this ruling.

*Transgender Hero -*  
**Rena Janamnuaysook (Thailand)**

Rena is the face of the Tangerine Clinic in Bangkok, working tirelessly to improve the health and well-being of transgender people.

*Young Achiever -*  
**Doan Thanh Tung (Vietnam)**

Tung is the Executive Director of Lighthouse Social Enterprise and Chair of Youth Voices Count. A young HIV and LGBTQ activist he has been recognized for his work to establish LGBTQ-friendly health care services, both in Vietnam and internationally.





APCOM would like to thank the below sponsors who donated their artwork to APCOM for raising funds/ resources.

APCOM would like to thank the volunteers who have always extend their support to APCOM in their work.

## Volunteers

- Andrew Tran
- Anjana Suvarnananda
- Atcharapan Poonkasetwattana
- Arvind Mungur
- Aurawan Poonkasetwattana
- Geoff Manthey
- Hidayah Syaputra
- Kularb Khongtaisong
- Luc Stevens
- Michael Badorrek
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- Paul Jansen
- Paul Thompson
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- Roy Wadia
- Sunadda Samana
- Tan Hui Yee
- Tony Sakulpongyeunyong



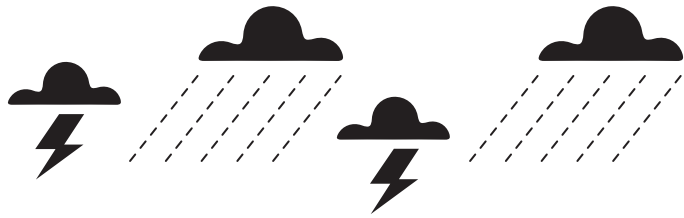
## **AUCTION SUPPORTERS**

|                            |                          |                  |                         |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Dumrong Sakulpongyuengyong | Hidayah Syahputra        | James Freeman    | Jung Tadsee             |
| Kaona Saowakun             | Leo                      | Lyno Vuth        | Pak Cheevasereechol     |
| Parinot Kunakornwong       | Pearasit Cheevasereechol | Peter Douglas    | PUCK                    |
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**NOTE:**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



# Support our cause



Interact with us:



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