



**ASEAN SOGIE
CAUCUS**

The background is a colorful, abstract illustration. A central hand holds a rainbow. To the left is a large sunflower. To the right is a lotus flower. Below the hand are two stylized human profiles in profile, one in purple and one in blue. The background is filled with various patterns, including stripes, polka dots, and wavy lines.

ASEAN SOGIE CAUCUS 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



About ASC

VISION

An ASEAN Community that respects the human rights of all people regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).

MISSION

ASC is a regional network that dynamically engages diverse actors to collectively advocate for the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer people, non-binary and gender-diverse persons in Southeast Asia.

GOALS

ASC works towards the following goals:

- All human rights mechanisms impacting the ASEAN region adopt and implement frameworks and plans of actions that promote and protect the rights of LGBTIQ, non-binary and gender-diverse persons.
- Domestic laws, policies, and programs in Southeast Asian countries include the protection and promotion of the rights of LGBTIQ, non-binary and gender-diverse persons.
- LGBTIQ, non-binary and gender-diverse civil society are empowered to engage state and non-state actors to adhere to human rights standards.

History of ASC

ASEAN SOGIE Caucus (ASC) is a network of human rights activists from Southeast Asia that works for the inclusion of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) into the human rights work in ASEAN. Advocating for the human rights of all persons regardless of SOGIESC is at the heart of ASC's mission.

Our roots go back to the courageous action of activists from eight (8) ASEAN countries, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Our founders ensured the visibility and meaningful engagement of LGBTIQ voices in ASEAN civil society spaces, especially the annual ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ ASEAN People's Forum (ACSC/APF). Since 2010, our founders ensured that LGBTIQ issues are addressed in the ASEAN civil society actions and recommendations reflected in outcome documents.

In 2011, ASC was formally established during a meeting of LGBTIQ activists held in Jakarta, Indonesia in preparation for the ACSC/APF of that year. This meeting was organized jointly by Arus Pelangi, Indonesia for Humans, and iSEE. ASC recognizes that its birth and evolution occurred alongside the expanding spaces for regional civil society's engagement with ASEAN.

In 2014, ASC began setting up its Secretariat in Quezon City, Philippines and eventually gained legal registration as a non-stock, non-profit organization the following year. Since then, we have pushed for LGBTIQ human rights through engagements in civil society platforms and human rights mechanisms; supported local LGBTIQ activists through mentorship, technical assistance, and relationship-building; and reimagined activism as a creative process anchored on a vision of South-South solidarity.

In 2021, ASC was granted a Special Consultative Status by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Foreword

We are moving forward, no matter what.

Every human being has the same rights regardless their background or status such as color, religious, economic, sexual orientation, gender, age, etc. But we also understand that being an LGBTQIA+ person across the globe has never been easy.

Although many countries already have become friendly, supportive, and protective of LGBTQIA+ persons in the areas of politics, the economy, and social and cultural life, I think these are outcomes of the hard work done by LGBTQIA+ person who support each other and collaborate in the fight for human rights.

Taking inspiration from global networks and allies, ASC was established ten (10) years ago. ASC was formed so Southeast Asian activists can collectively demand for justice, and equal rights. This task has never been easy due to the unique condition of ASEAN, a region where 6 out of 10 ASEAN member states continue to criminalize LGBTQIA+ persons. Complicating the situation is the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which left many LGBTQIA+ persons behind, and the shrinking democratic spaces in countries such as Brunei, Myanmar, and Thailand that continue to threaten our movements.

Our region is very diverse due to many languages, knowledge and belief, culture, political situation. Rather than to see these as obstacles, we see them more as advantages, and this mindset is the best thing in ASC. We are working on those differences, follow-through and support hand in hand. Throughout the years, ASC fosters dialogue so every LGBTQIA+ person or organization can have the voice to articulate our objectives towards inclusive and equal rights, and the space to learn from the process. In a space where there is power imbalance between and among actors, ASC always makes sure that the voices of grassroots organizations are heard at the regional or global levels.

Within 10 years, we can see many changes in relation LGBTQIA+ rights in Southeast Asia. They can be good steps forward or regressions. By navigating through these changes, ASC can also prove that we are getting stronger.

Yuli Rustinawati, Vice-Chairperson, ASEAN SOGIE Caucus

RAINBOW REACH OUT

Responding to the Needs of LGBTIQ Organizations Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 Pandemic still impacted 2021 as it did the previous year. While some countries have relaxed mobility restrictions, still, the experiences of LGBTIQ persons in the region is almost the same as the year before. Most of ASC's works were still conducted online, and our partners have, in a way, adjusted to this 'New Normal'. It is evident that the response that ASC started the year before is far from over. This is owing to the many organizations that still needed help.

Notwithstanding the prolonged quarantine measures and other restrictions imposed by governments, and the increasing availability of vaccines, many countries in Southeast Asia witnessed a continuous surge of infections. Local LGBTIQ groups whom ASC has worked closely with continue to express concerns about the health and wellbeing of their members, their organizational sustainability, and the continuous demands to support survival needs of their communities.

ASC is mindful of the serious impact of COVID-19 pandemic on our fellow LGBTIQ organizations in the region. To provide evidence, ASC published a report titled, **The Impact of COVID-19 on LGBTIQ Organizations in Southeast Asia**.¹ In carrying out this research, ASC engaged more than 48 LGBTQIA+ organizations from the region. This report was a follow-up to the Rapid Needs Assessment done in April 2020. in order to understand the impact of the pandemic on LGBTIQ groups.

ASC continued its Rainbow Reach Out program to support local LGBTIQ organizations who had trouble during the pandemic.

ASC supported the following organizations:

- Esbisquet, a transgender led organization in Indonesia that runs a safe-space;
- UNIGEN, a youth-led organization in Viet Nam that runs capacity-building and empowerment sessions for LGBTQIA+ youth;
- San Julian Pride, an organization that empowers the lives of LGBTIQ persons in rural areas in the Philippines; and
- Cangkang Queer, an organization that consolidates and strengthens local LGBTQIA+ activism in North Sumatra, Indonesia.

¹ ASEAN SOGIE Caucus, 2021. The Impact of COVID-19 on LGBTIQ+ Organizations in Southeast Asia. Retrieved from <https://aseansogiecaucus.org/news/asc-news/178-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-lgbtqi-organizations-in-southeast-asia-2021>.



ASC's support for the aforementioned groups focused on organizational sustainability, staff enrichment activities, and efforts to distribute dignity packs for affected LGBTQIA+ persons.

ASC continued its Rainbow Reach Out support to Cangkang Queer, a local LGBTIQ organization based in Medan, Indonesia who has been ASC's partner since 2020. For 2021, ASC support went to the organization's payments of operational costs such as salaries of staff and volunteers and office rent and utilities for a period of 3 months. The funds enabled Cangkang Queer to hire a campaign staff to organize their social media campaigns. The following are direct quotes from the leaders of Cangkang Queer:

“At the past two years were the difficult time for Cangkang Queer to accomplish organizational works as LGBTIQ organization, because of COVID-19 pandemic and the access to get fund is very tight. The support from ASC to Cangkang Queer is very helpful for local LGBTIQ organization like us. This support helped us to continue our works and the community in our area.”

Amek Adlian, Chairperson, Cangkang Queer

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“ASC continued to help Cangkang Queer during the pandemic years. We’ve tried to submit a proposal to another funding organization but unfortunately were not successful. As local LGBTIQ organization we only depends on other organizations supports, meanwhile the government does not give support for organization like us even we’ve officially registered.”

**Tengku Chioo, Treasurer,
Cangkang Queer**



As a result of the extreme weather conditions in December 2021, ASC reached out to affected activists from Malaysia and Philippines to provide humanitarian assistance. ASC provided emergency financial support to SEED Foundation, whose office was seriously damaged due to the flooding last December 19, 2021. ASC also provided support to members of LIYAB Network, an LGBTIQ humanitarian assistance network in the Philippines with members from the provinces of Iloilo, Cebu, Surigao City, and Butuan City. The said provinces were seriously affected by the super typhoon Odette that hit Southern Philippines on December 16, 2021. In addition, ASC actively participated in the coordination efforts of LIYAB, including referring members to non-LGBTIQ focused humanitarian actors and mental health providers.

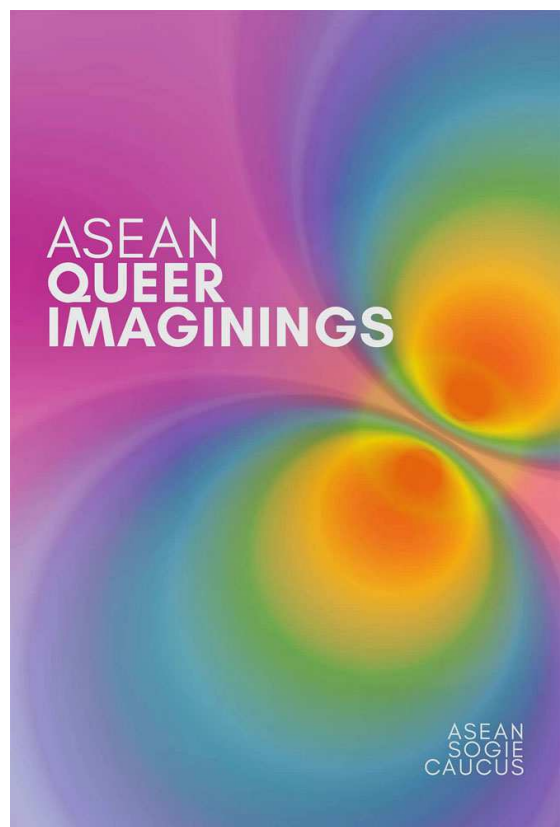
SOUTH-SOUTH SOLIDARITY

Creating spaces for cross-border LGBTIQ advocacies

It is important for ASC to enjoin local communities to take their rightful spaces in the regional space. Queering ASEAN remains to be a continuous, albeit arduous process that ASC believes is essential for a truly empowered and truly participative LGBTQIA+ engagement. Spaces are continuously created for LGBTQIA+ activists, especially at the grassroots level, to take advocacy actions - be it influencing domestic policies on human rights, seeking redress for human rights violations, or changing minds and hearts through public campaigns. ASC recognizes that it is in the helm of leadership as a regional organization and is thus tasked with the role of facilitation and weaving of the immense powers of local activists into the tapestry of transnational and regional advocacies.

ASEAN Queer Imaginings

ASEAN Queer Imaginings is a publication by LGBTQIA+ activists in Southeast Asia. The book provides a space for activists to exercise thought leadership by sharing the wealth of experiences and lessons learned in advancing LGBTIQ rights in the region. The collection of essays delves into the struggle to make the region a home where we belong. ASC reached out to activists who made pushes in advocating for policy changes where queer lives are respected; those who took a subtle trajectory through art and cultural initiatives, revealing a narrative that recognized queer traces in history. There are also our colleagues who foster a hotbed for creative leadership among LGBTQIA+ Southeast Asians.



Country Specific Responses

Since February, ASC has been actively involved in regional advocacy responses on the situation in Myanmar. The following were measures done:

- a) coordination and check-in with LGBTIQ activists inside Myanmar,
- b) using social media in amplifying messages of activists in Myanmar and helping to raise awareness about the issue,
- c) engaging in regional advocacy initiatives in collaboration with other civil society organizations.

ASC continued coordinating with ASC members and LGBTQIA+ activists from Myanmar in updating the current situation, seeking advice on the approach of regional advocacy actions, and identifying possible support for their work. Communications with LGBTQIA+ activists who left Myanmar also took place. In one case, ASC helped in coordinating support responses for those who fled to Thailand. ASC likewise connected activists from Myanmar with other key actors in the region to amplify their advocacy messages. ASC likewise provided technical support to help some local groups obtain funding or emergency support from external sources. Furthermore, ASC ensures the visibility of Myanmar actors within its programs.

In Malaysia, ASC responded to the urgent case involving the persecution of Nur Sajat, a Malaysian transgender woman who faced threats to life and security due to her gender identity, gender expression, and advocacy for transgender rights. In coordination with Justice for Sisters, ILGA Asia, and Manushya Foundation, ASC submitted a joint communication to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in September 2021.

In Bangsamoro, Philippines, a joint letter was submitted to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in September 2021 to urge the autonomous government to take serious actions in protecting LGBTIQ persons from violence and discrimination. The letter was submitted as a response to the Bangsamoro Parliament's Resolution No. 526 entitled "A Resolution Condemning the Violence, Discrimination and Murder Committed Against Some Members of the LGBTQ++ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) in the Municipality of Datu Piang, Maguindano Last September 18 and 19, 2021". The letter was jointly submitted by ASC, ILGA Asia, and the following local organizations in Mindanao: MUJER LGBTQ Organization, SHINE SOCCSKARGEN, Shine South Cotabato, STRAP, Vote Pilipinas, BDEV Child Protection, Mindanao Pride, Empress Mindanao State University, ILAW Shared Community, and Genders United For Peace and Solidarity.

In Thailand, ASC leveraged social media to amplify the advocacy messages of Thai LGBTQIA+ activists in relation to their struggle for marriage equality. ASC amplified

the online campaign Support 1448, a petition to the government to legislate marriage equality. In coordination with local LGBTQIA+ activists, ASC issued a public statement “Fragile Heterosexuality of the Thai Constitutional Court” in response to the Thai court’s rejection of marriage equality which stated that sex was an act of nature and cannot be chosen, and that that marriage among non-heterosexuals may affect the security of the state, public order, and public morals.²

Forging Intersectional Feminist Futures

Forging Intersectional Feminist Futures (FIFF) is a regional collaboration that aims to achieve systemic gender equality in Asia by strengthening intersectional movement-building, which is key in developing transformative advocacy strategies that center on the voices and lived experiences of diverse groups of marginalized women and that challenge multiple systems of oppression.

The expected outcomes of the project are three-fold:

- (1) strengthen our collective understanding of intersectionality and intersectional feminism,
- (2) develop regional and national cross-movement advocacy roadmaps outlining intersectional entry points for collective action, and
- (3) document good practices and strategies for applying an intersectional approach to eliminating gender inequality in Asia.

These outcomes are in line with ASC’s Strategic Priority 3: Mainstreaming SOGIESC in ASEAN Civil Society. Through FIFF, ASC will conduct meetings and dialogues with regional and local civil society organizations to find entry points in integrating SOGIESC into their plans and programs. ASC will organize joint workshops, face-to-face meetings with leaders, or do a SOGIESC orientation with their staff. ASC will provide technical support on how to integrate SOGIESC into the organization’s programs, plans of actions, strategic plans and projects.

The FIFF Consortium is convened by the International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP) and joined by ASC, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW), Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTAN), International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), and the Special Talent Exchange Programme (STEP), a member of Asia Pacific Women with Disabilities United (APWWDU).

² ASEAN SOGIE Caucus, 2021. “Fragile Heterosexuality of Thailand Constitutional Court,” 10 December 2021. Retrieved from <https://aseansogiecawcus.org/statements/asc-statements/179-fragile-heterosexuality-of-thailand-constitutional-court>.



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“ASC is one of the most active and supportive regional organizations focusing on promoting SOGIE justice for all people since its inception. It has played a key role in shaping the LGBT movement in Asia with its vision. ASC has been a great ally of the intersex community. After Intersex Asia was founded in February 2018, ASC was the first regional organization that invited Intersex Asia to introduce intersex issues in the “Regional Learning Session on Child Rights and SOGIESC” in September of the same year. The organisation has proactively supported Intersex Asia to spread intersex knowledge with key LGBT organizations and activists in ASEAN region. Last year, ASC continued to actively collaborate with Intersex Asia and intersex activists to advocate intersex human rights in diverse, creative activities. Other than being professional, compassionate, and creative, Intersex Asia highly appreciates the warm concern and commitment of ASC in supporting the development of the intersex movement in Asia. ASC is a model of ally of the Intersex movement in Asia.”

Hiker Chiu, Executive Director, Intersex Asia

QUEERING ASEAN CIVIL SOCIETY

Creating synergy is required for ASC to continue engaging ASEAN intergovernmental institutions and the region's multitudinous and diverse civil society. It is a known fact that ASEAN human rights mechanisms continue to fail in demonstrating progress for LGBTQIA+ human rights. We look to civil society in ensuring that the advocacy agenda and political spaces remain inclusive of persons of diverse SOGIESC.

Alternative Regionalism

ASC co-organized the regional conference titled **"Advance and Realizing Alternative Regionalism: Southeast Asia People's Solidarity and Resistance During COVID-19 Times"**. This was done in collaboration with different civil society organizations and social movements, including the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies Program on Alternative Development, UP SOLAIR Center for Labor and Grassroots Initiatives, Asian Music for Peoples' Peace and Progress, Asian Solidarity Economy Council Inc., CIVICA Research, Focus on the Global South, Fundasaun Hafoun Timor Loro'sae, HomeNet Southeast Asia - HNSEA, Kdadalak Sulimutuk Institute, Konfederasi Pergerakan Rakyat Indonesia, Milk Tea Alliance, Serikat Petani Pasundan, Sustainability and Participation thru Education and Lifelong Learning, Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation, 11.11.11, and Coalition of the Flemish North-South Movement.

During the conference, there were workshop sessions on the following topics: education and pedagogy in the time of the pandemic; local food movements, pantries, community kitchens, gardens, and the importance of health and nutrition; community-based healthcare practices; diverse forms of cross-border solidarity during the pandemic; and community responses in the midst of a climate emergency. ASC co-facilitated two workshop sessions. Furthermore, ASC played a key role in mobilizing speakers during the plenary session on **"Cultural Solidarity: The Role of Culture and Arts in Advancing Southeast Asian Society"**.



The Rainbow Parl

The activity was co-organized by ASC and the Embassy of Canada in the Philippines. The project brought together LGBTIQ activists, members of the diplomatic community (e.g. Ambassador of Canada to ASEAN and the Ambassador of Canada to the Philippines both gave welcome speeches), legislators (e.g. Geraldine Roman from Philippines and Charles Santiago from Malaysia), government

officials, representatives from National Human Rights Institutions, the private sector, and fellow human rights defenders. The agenda of Rainbow Parl was to: a) increase awareness and understanding of current human rights situations in the different ASEAN countries in relation to LGBTIQ+ issues; b) develop salience of LGBTIQ+ issues specifically for allies to consider it as a worthwhile development and legislative agenda to pursue; c) propose concrete steps to advance LGBTIQ+ in their respective areas of affiliation in government, legislature, or private workplaces.



ASEAN Advocacy Week (AAW)

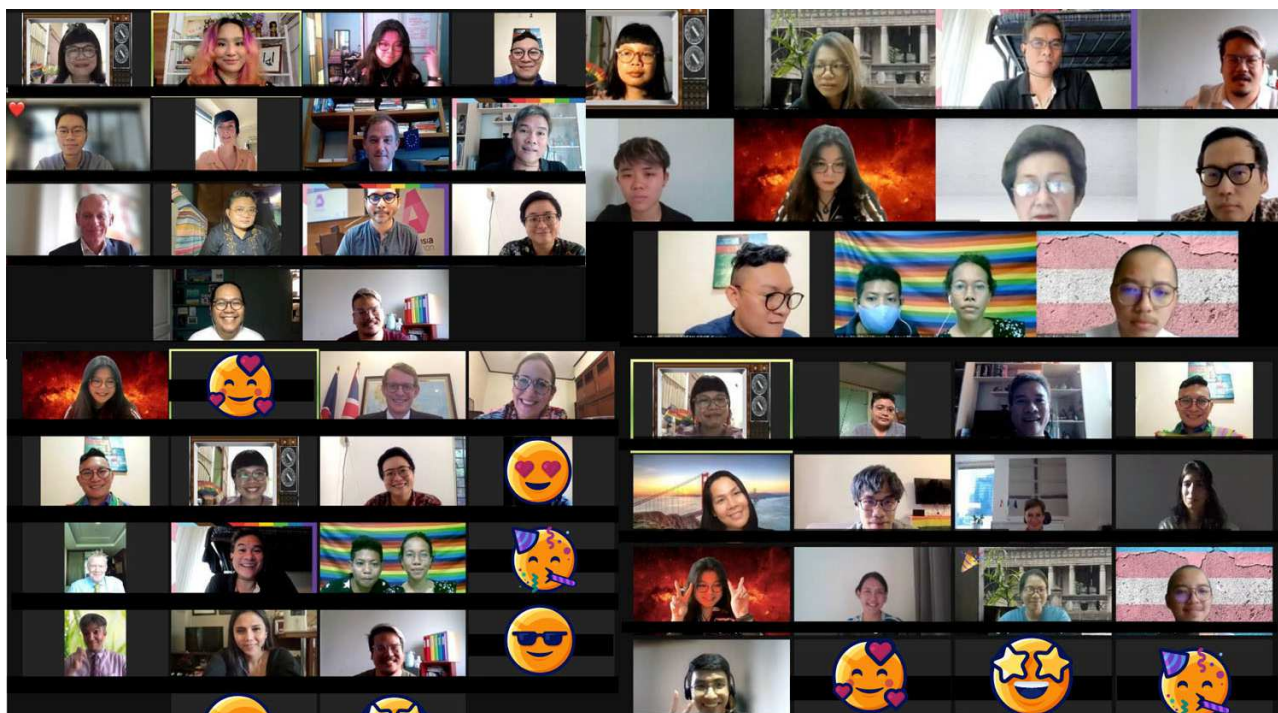
The AAW is a flagship initiative of ASC that was originally designed both as a capacity-building activity to enhance regional level advocacy of LGBTIQ activists, and to open spaces for political dialogues with ASEAN stakeholders. The program started in 2016 and since then it has been organized once every two years. The AAW which was originally scheduled in 2020 took place in July 2021, after a year of delay.

The program for this year enjoined 18 activists from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore, Timor Leste and Myanmar. They were chosen through a hybrid of open application/selection, and pre-selection from ASC's strategic partners and allies.

The AAW's was done in a fully virtual.. There were synchronous sessions which were done using Zoom. There were asynchronous learning activities done through group conversations with participants' mentors, reading assignments, and preparations of presentations. Furthermore, the use of Google Classroom was maximized to coordinate the process, upload the key documents, and to facilitate learning exchanges among participants.

From July 26 to 30, the AAW participants ventured into a series of political dialogues with the diplomatic community, AICHR, and national human rights institutions. These dialogues lasted for 1.5 hours each where ASC presented its regional advocacy agenda, participants' country human rights situations, feedback from ASEAN stakeholders, and an open forum.

The AAW resulted in a joint statement, titled "**Strategic Steps Towards and Inclusive ASEAN Region**", which was collectively drafted by the organizers and participants.³ The statement notes all the key issues and recommendations that were raised during the political dialogues with AICHR, NHRIs, and the diplomatic communities. This statement was disseminated broadly across the networks.



³ ASEAN SOGIE Caucus, 2021. "Strategic Steps Towards an Inclusive ASEAN Region," 3 August 2021. Retrieved from <https://aseansogiecaucus.org/statements/asc-statements/175-strategic-steps-towards-an-inclusive-asean-region>.

QUEERING NARRATIVES

Leveraging the power of arts and culture in advancing LGBTQIA+ rights

After a year of preparations, the **Southeast Asia Queer Cultural Festival (SEACQF)** finally took place last February 13 to March 13, 2021. This month-long event featured 37 creative works such as film, animation, literary work, and visual art. It also featured 14 live events such as panel discussions, live poetry reading, and the Southeast Asian Drag Festival; all the recordings of the live events are available in ASC's Facebook and YouTube profile. It is important to note that each work was done in a collaborative manner. As such, the festival itself provided the space and facilitated cross-country collaboration involving more than 60 artists and cultural workers across Southeast Asia. Furthermore, organizing the festival itself was done in a collaborative manner together with the following organizations: Iloilo Pride Team, MUJER LGBT, MicroRainbow International, Pangung Minoritas, and Hanoi Queer.



Some of the Featured Works During the SEAQCF

Diwata is a powerful collection of digital photography that reimagines Filipino Mythology and gives it a queer rereading. The images were moving and sensual and reinforces LGBTQ acceptance through pre-colonial mythological reinterpretation.

A/Part is a Poetry Reading that features the region's best LGBTQ writers and staunch advocates. It includes powerhouses such as Aeoald Xerne Beuel, Andrew Kirkrose, Desmond Kon Zhicheng-Mingdé, Eroheizst, Fajar Zakhri, Jhoanna Lynn B. Cruz, Jose Luis Pablo, Kendrick Loo, Lune Loh, Mark Anthony Cayanan, Miguel Barretto García, Nerisa del Carmen Guevara, Ng Yi Sheng, Nguyen-Vu Viet Anh, Steno Padilla, and Stephanie Dogfoot. It was raw, real and empowering as different works tackled different issues of being LGBTQ in the poetic space.

Budjang is a short film that tells the story of the blossoming of LGBT people in a conservative Muslim barangay in Mindanao, Philippines, and highlights their customs. While this community has exercised tolerance towards LGBT people, there is still much that needs to be done to achieve acceptance and inclusion. It resonates with an earlier issue in the region about a Muslim film maker that got ostracized by his religious leaders for coming out LGBTQ and coming out with an arresting film about being Islam and LGBTQ. The film cleverly incorporates documentary clips, interviews, and compelling storytelling

Deaf LGBTQ features the lives of deaf LGBTIQ people in Malaysia who have many stories to tell but rarely do because of communication and language barriers. Seven persons are coming forward to share their memories of how people have reacted towards their identity as LGBTIQ people. They relive these memories by acting in the film, and the scenes from these memories are accompanied by a signed poetry (written in English). The poetry takes inspiration from all of the memories combined together, and all seven of them perform the poetry in Malaysian Sign Language (BIM). The film is crafty in the non-use of sounds as it simulates how it is to be deaf. The stories are compelling and eye-opening, on how, among the already marginalized LGBTQ groups, there are those who are further marginalized by disability.

Lonesome is an LGBTQ+ voicemail documentary that features stories of isolation and marginalization experienced by the diverse Malaysian LGBTQ+ community. Told in a series of voicemails, it details the issues and struggles of the community. It gives us an ‘in your face’ and raw telling of their distinct voices that are almost never heard. It is personal and yet, very societal, nay, universal even. The stories are riveting and all too familiar.

It is important to point out that the SEAQCF provided the space for our allies to express political support and amplify ASC's advocacy calls for equality. We used the medium of a video solidarity speech. During the opening night of the SEAQCF, there were solidarity messages given by AICHR Indonesia, and the diplomatic community such as the Embassies of Netherlands and of Belgium to the Philippines. We also obtained solidarity messages from the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines, the US Permanent Mission to ASEAN, and civil society allies such as ALTSEAN Burma, ASEAN Youth Forum, FORUM Asia, Plan International, APCOM, and Intersex Asia. Moreover, it is important to mention the solidarity speech of the UN Independent Expert on SOGI, Victor Madrigal Borloz.

The festival was done online, considering the pandemic. All the creative works can be accessed via the dedicated website (www.seaqcf.net), the Facebook page of ASC, and ASC's Youtube channel. This was decided together with VOICE way back in 2020. Compared to having a physical event, the online event entailed less cost (e.g. no expenses for foreign travels) and consequently enabled ASC to allot more budget to support artists. In the original plan, we were supposed to provide support for around 10 creative works. But with the online festival, we were able to support 37 creative works. As an online event, ASC was able to widen the scope of our audience even beyond the Southeast Asian region.



Hear Queer Stories

Hear Queer Stories is ASC's podcast platform to listen to and raise of LGBTIQ narratives from Southeast Asia. We talk to artists, activists, academics, and everyday heroes who continue to learn, advocate, and work for the inclusion of the Queer Community. ASC has published a series of podcasts since 2020 and continued along the year with the purpose of creating conversation among LGBTIQ activists of Southeast Asia to challenge the discourses and values that delegitimize the existence of LGBTIQ and to use the culture, art, and memory as tools for resistance. The podcast explores the concepts of 'collective memory' and 'alternative regionalism' and centers the conversation around said concepts.

The 2021 podcast series theme is Be/Longings with 10 episodes. The theme takes after Southeast Asian Queer Cultural Festival (SEAQCF) with a means to notify LGBTIQ community across the region that ASC are organizing an online festival in 2021 and amplified the voices of the SEAQCF artists. ⁴



⁴ ASEAN SOGIE Caucus. Hear Queer Stories, Available via <https://open.spotify.com/show/06vPwMA03hdgxvO1QDOSxP?si=c7bce8ef40cd4b9e>.

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“I am deeply grateful for the existence of ASEAN SOGIE Caucus, not only do they add critical and important points of views for ASEAN’s LGBTIQ advocacy, but also support an array of LGBTIQ groups in many ways.

Personally, I have been honoured to participate in AQLX and SEAQCF, both have been tremendously helpful in building my capacity as an activist/filmmaker. Not to mention the precious connections I get to make with my fellow activists from the region. Thanks to the opportunity given by SEAQCF, my film ‘Lonesome’ (which world premiered at SEAQCF), has went on to screen in many film festivals across the world.

I wish folx from ASC all the best in their activism, and will be continuously at their service to advance LGBTIQ rights in ASEAN, and beyond. Thanks so much folx from ASC, you’re an inspiring bunch - keep doing what you do.”

Justice Khor, Film Director, Malaysia



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“I am JACK!, a drag performer from Viet Nam. In 2021, I was honored to be featured with 10 drag artists in the home(un)bound: A Southeast Asian Digital Drag Fest’ from Southeast Asian Queer Cultural Festival by ASEAN SOGIE Caucus. The project “Wherever there is Joy, there are Queers!” I did for SEAQCF was one of the most amazing and life-changing experiences I have ever had. At the time, I was trying to push my own boundaries in terms of drag, creative freedom, activism, and censorship in Viet Nam, which exposed myself to a lot of challenges and struggles. However, ASC was always there for my journey and had offered me the most generous support, for which I am always grateful for. The lessons and introspection I got from this opportunity has made me grow so much as a person, as an artist, and as a queer activist in Viet Nam.



As far as I have noticed, has ASC not only acknowledged the role of art in social movement, the organization has also shed lights on many important issues and conversations involving human rights, trans rights, HIV awareness, disability education, mental health across ASEAN region. I hope the constant contribution of ASC to the LGBTQIA+ advocacy in ASEAN region will continue to spark more conversations, reach more communities, and be able to help those in need.”

JACK!, LGBTQ+ Advocate and Drag Artist, Viet Nam

The Year 2021 in Figures

30

Online convenings that served as spaces for collaboration, dialogues, and cross-learning among LGBTQIA+ activists.

930

Individuals from the 11 Southeast Asian countries that we have reached through our local and regional online convenings, learning sessions, and workshops.

43

Local initiatives of LGBTQIA+ organizations supported. These include those supported through the Rainbow Reach Out, ASEAN Queer Leadership X, and the Southeast Asian Queer Cultural Festival. This also includes other forms of technical support extended to local LGBTQIA+ organizations.

419

Approximate number of individuals we have reached through our Rainbow Reach Out Program.

68

Online content produced such as podcasts, videos, graphics, and publications.

709K

Facebook Page reach.

3

Publications produced.

3.124M

Twitter reach.

170.3K

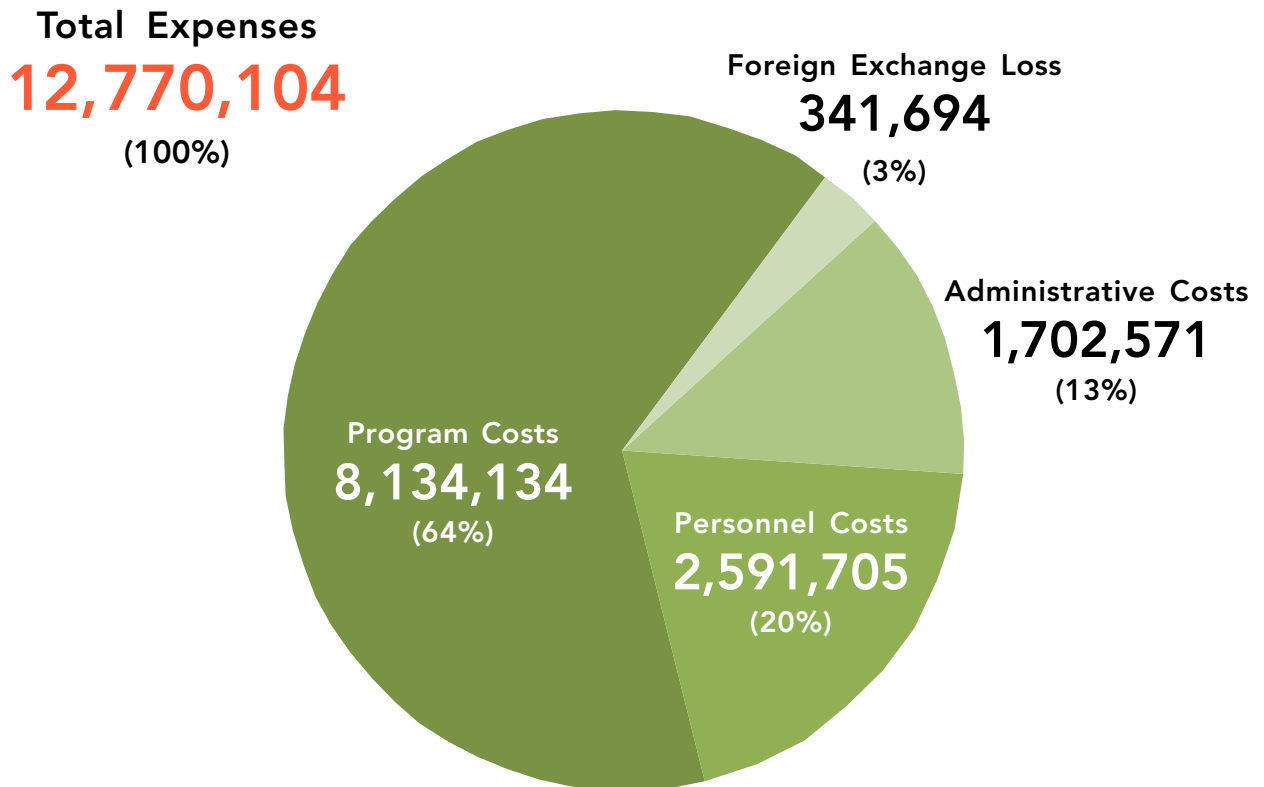
Instagram reach.

Financial Report

For the year 2021

RECEIPTS	In Philippine Pesos
Grants	14,410,507
Donations	362,074
Interest	4,280
Total Receipts	14,776,862

Expenditures (in Philippines Pesos)



Our Team

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jean Chong, Chairperson
 Yuli Rustinawati, Vice Chairperson
 Maria Nica Dumlao, Secretary
 Ronald Emmanuel De Vera, Treasurer
 Jeselle Papa, Member
 Ging Cristobal, Member

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 Lini Zurlia, *Advocacy Officer*
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 Jessica Rachel, *Communications Associate*
 Belinda Mirasol, *Finance Officer*
 Juliet De Guzman, *Administrative Officer*
 Carolina Advincula, *Administrative Assistant*
 Ivanka Custodio, *Festival Coordinator, SEAQCF*
 AR Arcon, *Assistant Coordinator, SEAQCF*

ASC MEMBERS

ASC is a membership organization composed of individual human rights defenders as well as LGBTIQ focused organizations. We have members from eight (8) countries in the Southeast Asian region.

Our organizational members are:

- Arus Pelangi
- CamASEAN Youth's Future
- Colors Rainbow
- Iloilo Pride Team
- Indonesia for Humans
- Institute for the Study of Society, Economy and Environment (ISEE)
- Justice for Sisters
- Micro Rainbow International
- Outright Action International
- Sayoni
- Seksualiti Merdeka
- Togetherness for Equality and Action (TEA) Group

Acknowledgements

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AICHR Indonesia

AICHR Malaysia

AICHR Thailand

ASEAN Civil Society Conference/
ASEAN Peoples' Forum (ACSC/APF)
2021

ALTSEAN Burma

APCOM

Arco Iris Timor Leste

ARROW

Asexuality Asia

Asia Democracy Network

Asia Pacific Transgender Network

Asia Society Philippines

ASEAN Youth Forum (AYF)

ASEAN Youth Conference
on Violence (YVC)

B-Dev

Cangkang Queer

Commission on Human Rights
of the Philippines

COC Netherlands

Edge Effect

Equal Asia Foundation

Embassy of Canada in
the Philippines

Embassy of Belgium in
the Philippines

Embassy of Netherlands in
the Philippines

Permanent Mission of Canada
to ASEAN

Permanent Mission of the
United States to ASEAN

Edge Effect

ESBISQUET

FORUM Asia

Hanoi Queer

Independent Expert on protection
against violence and discrimination
based on sexual orientation and
gender identity (SOGI)

ILGA Asia

ILGA World

Initiatives for International Dialogue

Intersex Asia

Intersex Philippines

Intersex Equality Rights Coalition UK

Inpride Bangkok

IWRAW Asia Pacific

KL Queer Women Discussion Group
(KLQWDG)

Kepala Putik

Milk Tea Alliance

Mirror Mirror

MUJER LGBT Organization

Naransi Toleransi
OutRight Action International
Panggung Minoritas
PanACEa / Asexuality Asia
Philippine LGBT Chamber
of Commerce
Plan International Asia
Pacific Region
Queer Indonesia Archive
Queer East
Rainbow Alliance
Rainbow Six
ROJALI
San Julian Pride
SHAPE-SEA
Side B Philippines
STRAP
SUHAKAM
Talita Kum Indonesia
The Southeast Asia Network
on Alternative Regionalism
Visayas LGBTQ Network, Philippines

UniGEN
UN Independent Expert on SOGI
UPCIDS Alternative
Development Program
Urgent Action Fund for Women - Asia
Pacific
Women and Gender Institute,
Miriam College
Women's Legal and
Human Rights Bureau
Youth for YOUth
Youth Voices Count

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VOICE

Support Our Work



SUPPORT QUEER ADVOCACY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Your donation will go a long way in supporting our mission. Together, let's strengthen LGBTIQ activism in Southeast Asia.



Contact Us

ASEAN SOGIE Caucus

Unit 15-N, Tower 1, Suntrust Asmara Condominium,
284 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City, Philippines 1112

EMAIL info@aseansogiecaucus.org

WEBSITE www.aseansogiecaucus.org

FACEBOOK facebook.com/aseansogie

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COVER ART by Erik (Instagram: @wetpaint_dreams)
(IG account https://www.instagram.com/wetpaint_dreams/)