



亚洲促进会 年度报告

**asia catalyst annual report
2009**

Asia Catalyst, PO Box 20839, New York, NY 10009 – phone: +1-718-514-2855 – email: info@asiacatalyst.org – web: www.asiacatalyst.org

Message from the Chairs

"This year was a turning point for Asia Catalyst: we successfully launched the first legal aid center for people with HIV/AIDS in Beijing, and began empowering a group of marginalized women in China to run their own organization. We also worked to raise awareness of key public health and civil society groups from New York to Bali. Asia's movement for social justice is growing rapidly, and the demand for our help continues to grow as well." -- Yvonne Y.F. Chan and Sophie Richardson, Ph.D., Co-Chairs

What We Do	...	2
Who We Are	...	2
Technical Assistance to NGOs	...	3
• Korekata AIDS Law Center	...	4
• Phoenix	...	4
• Project-based consulting	...	4
Building South-South Relationships	...	5
• International meetings	...	5
• <i>Asia Report</i>	...	6
• Haven Project	...	6
• Research and advocacy	...	7
Financial report	...	8
Giving to Asia Catalyst	...	9
Directors, Staff & Volunteers	...	9
Donors	...	10



Mark Heywood (Chair, UNAIDS Health and Human Rights Committee) with Korekata AIDS Law Center staff in Beijing

WHAT WE DO

Asia Catalyst is a resource for grassroots, independent AIDS and harm reduction NGOs in Asia. The core of our work is long-term incubation, in which we coach an organization in financial management, internal governance, outreach and advocacy over several years. We also offer short-term consulting services. We promote alliances and sharing of information between Asian NGOs.

WHO WE ARE

Sara L.M. Davis, Ph.D. (also known by her middle name, Meg) founded Asia Catalyst after working in different parts of Asia – first as an anthropologist conducting research into ethnic culture on the borders of China and Burma; then doing research and advocacy for Human Rights Watch, Open Society Institute, and others in China, Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia. **Inspired by the boom in grassroots AIDS groups in China, and often asked by them for help, she launched Asia Catalyst at her kitchen table in November 2006.** Since then, the organization has grown to include an active board, staff and volunteer membership.

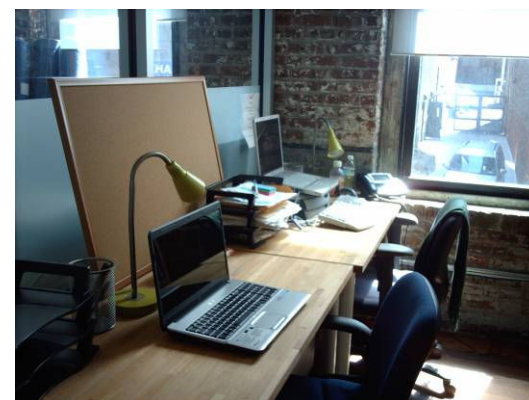


L-R: Gisa Hartmann, Meg Davis and Ken Oh meet in Bali

For the first half of 2009, we were assisted by **Carol Wang**, a Ph.D. student in anthropology at the New School for Social Research and longtime rights advocate. Carol helped to design our internship program and supervised the writing and publication of our report on AIDS treatment for children in China, as well as coordinating the Haven project. Carol left Asia Catalyst in September to focus full-time on her studies.

Ken Oh, Esq. is the editor of our Chinese-language website on economic and social rights in Asia, *Asia Report* (www.yazhoudiaocha.com). Ken is also a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Gary DiVito and the Honorable Idee Fox of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania. He holds a BA in Political Science and English Literature from Swarthmore College and a JD from Temple University School of Law. His previous work and internship experience includes the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, where he focused on transitional justice mechanisms and new constitutions.

German native **Gisa Hartmann** received her M.A. in Sinology and Political Science from University of Cologne, Germany, in summer 2009. Her thesis discusses psychosocial impacts on children affected by HIV/AIDS and is based on field research in Anhui province. At University of Cologne, she has organized symposia, panel discussions, and a Chinese documentary film festival, and she lived in Beijing for one and a half years. After working as a graduate intern with Asia Catalyst, she returned to New York to be administrative coordinator.



Asia Catalyst's office in Brooklyn, New York

Since January 2008, Asia Catalyst has recruited and trained 36 interns and volunteers from universities around the U.S. and Asia. **Asia Catalyst's egalitarian team structure reflects our values.** Everyone who works or volunteers for the organization has input into the direction of our work, takes a turn leading staff meetings, pitches in with administrative tasks, and joins in our annual strategic planning process.

In September 2009, we opened a small office in the Green Desk facility in Brooklyn, New York. Green Desk offers environmentally responsible offices for rent to small companies and nonprofits. The office is used by staff, volunteers, and visiting activists from Asia.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NGOS



*Li Man, director of Phoenix, working online
(Photo courtesy of STIGMA)*

The core of our work is our “incubation” approach to capacity-building: tailored coaching over several years for an NGO which we believe has the capacity to become a leader in the field. This involves, first, helping organizations to write a strategic plan incorporating their visions for the future, with concrete short- and medium-term goals; then a month-by-month timeline of activities; then an annual budget. We work together to raise funds for the NGO, transferring funds on a quarterly basis based on their quarterly financial reports. We have strict guidelines on reporting and documentation of all expenditures.

When Li Man saw her first completed strategic plan, she said, “Wow - it’s so beautiful!”

In addition, we provide ongoing coaching and information on issues the organization identifies in consultation with us. In some cases, we provide training ourselves; in others, we arrange it through our global network of contacts. We help NGOs to build mentoring relationships with more established organizations in their field, and facilitate their participation at international conferences. We are always available for questions as they come up. We also encourage NGOs to be accountable to their communities, and to develop egalitarian approaches to decision-making.

After two to three years of intensive technical assistance, the organization “graduates” and becomes fully independent. At that time, we move into an advisory capacity, and encourage the group to “pay it forward” by offering training and assistance to smaller NGOs in their field.

- **Korekata AIDS Law Center**

This year, the **Korekata AIDS Law Center** (惟谦艾兹法律中心), China’s first legal aid center for people with HIV/AIDS, successfully ‘graduated’ from its two-and-a-half year incubation period with Asia Catalyst. The mission of the center is to defend the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and to advance the development of Chinese rule of law. Through casework, publications, advocacy and workshops, the Korekata



Asia Catalyst presents Korekata AIDS Law Center with their certificate of incubation. L-R: Li Dan, Xu Haibo, Meg Davis

Center promotes access to and participation of PLWHA in China’s developing legal system. Their issues include combating discrimination against PLWHA, advocating for compensation for people infected with HIV through hospital blood transfusions, advocating for treatment access, and promoting respect for the rights of vulnerable communities.

In 2009, Korekata’s programs included joint advocacy in China with Mark Heywood of the South African AIDS Law Project; trainings for PLWHA and lawyers in AIDS law; launching an AIDS law hotline; and publishing *Korekata*, a quarterly journal on AIDS law in China and around the world. They also moved to a new office, which they share with another AIDS NGO . Korekata is increasingly approached by the UN and international donors to partner on new projects.

We celebrated Korekata’s graduation with a party in Beijing in November. We are immensely proud of everything the organization has accomplished.

- **Phoenix**

Based on our success with Korekata, the board, staff and volunteers decided to identify a women-run organization working with a community affected by HIV/AIDS outside of Beijing. In August 2009, after meeting with several organizations, we began our second incubation relationship with **Phoenix (苦草工作室)**, a group of 90 current and former sex workers living with HIV in Yunnan Province.



Li Hui (Korekata AIDS Law Center) and Li Man (Phoenix) working together on a visit to Indonesia.

Phoenix’s members face multiple challenges: personal health problems, the health problems of their children and partners, multiple forms of marginalization from society (as drug users, sex workers, and women living with HIV) and the constant threat of violence from clients, partners and others. **The group’s programs include**

prison visits, visits to members’ homes, treatment advocacy, training in how to live with HIV, outings for children affected by HIV, and arranging funerals for women who die of AIDS and who have

been rejected by their families. Phoenix members also have a strong interest in learning about and implementing their rights under Chinese law, and in beginning outreach to migrant women sex workers from Vietnam, including trafficking victims.

The organization’s mission statement says, **“The purpose of our organization is to bring sisters together to manage themselves, educate themselves and save themselves. “**



Phoenix staff Li Man and a friend at the Phoenix car wash. The organization started a car wash to generate income.

Asia Catalyst's work with Phoenix includes basic computer training, and creating an annual plan, monthly timeline, and budget. With our support, Phoenix is developing systems for managing and tracking expenditures. Phoenix is also building relationships with more established AIDS and sex work organizations in China and Southeast Asia, such as the Asia-Pacific Network of Sex Workers. Asia Catalyst placed Phoenix director Li Man in a two-week site visit to Stigma, a women-run drug users' organization in Indonesia, and assisted her to participate in the ICAAP AIDS conference in Bali.

- **Project-based consulting**

In addition to our ongoing incubation of one organization at a time, in 2009 we began offering short-term assistance to organizations that have specific, short-term needs. We spent time with **IKON**, an organization of drug users in Bali, to help flesh out their ideas for a shift in their program work, and helped **Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group** to develop a strategic plan for 2010.

In addition, our tax-exempt status means that we can help other groups that don't have that status to receive foundation grants. We are also currently acting as a fiscal agent for three organizations: Korekata AIDS Law Center; **Aibai**, an LGBT rights organization in China, which is offering training to Chinese NGOs in how to conduct effective meetings; and **WKCVC Projects**, which is producing a documentary about the assassination of Cambodian labor rights advocate Chea Vichea.

BUILDING SOUTH-SOUTH RELATIONSHIPS

International meetings

As grassroots AIDS advocates in China have tended to be isolated from peers and colleagues in the rest of the world, international conferences are an opportunity for them to form relationships, gather information, and advocate for basic rights. This year we began providing support to Chinese AIDS activists at international meetings.

At the International Harm Reduction Association meeting in Bangkok, Meg Davis joined with Karyn Kaplan (TTAG), Rebecca Schleifer (HRW) and Rick Lines (IHRA) to offer training in human rights documentation and advocacy to AIDS and harm reduction groups from around Asia. She also

"We are so very grateful for your insights, experience shared, and all-around support for improving our work."

-- Karyn Kaplan, Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group



Asia Catalyst, Chinese and Indonesian activists share experiences at the AIDS conference in Bali

provided Chinese translation for several panels to drug user activists from Yunnan, and met with Indonesian drug user activists to discuss plans to offer HIV and human rights training to the police.

At the International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific in Bali, Meg, Gisa, Ken and Carol worked together to provide comprehensive support to a delegation of Chinese AIDS activists. We helped arrange scholarships to cover travel and housing costs, translated abstracts into English, provided translators for the conference, and helped AIDS activists to navigate the meeting. *Asia Report* posted a guide to the meeting and live-blogged panels and workshops in Chinese. Together with IKON, we threw a barbecue party on the beach for 100 Asian AIDS activists and their friends.

For otherwise-isolated activists, these international conferences can be a rare opportunity to break down walls and make new allies. As one Chinese activist said at ICAAP, “All these Asian activists know each other, but we don’t know any of them.” Another told us, “I feel like a bird that has been let out of the cage.”

“We’re so happy to get news from you about AIDS in other places. It’s extremely important for Chinese NGOs, but we have no other way to get this kind of information. Thank you!”

-- China Red Ribbon Network

Asia Report

In October 2008, Asia Catalyst launched *Asia Report* (www.yazhoudiaocha.com), a Chinese-language website that reports on news and activism about social, economic and cultural rights in Asian countries other than China. We developed this resource when Chinese groups expressed a strong interest in learning about and making contact with groups working on economic and social rights in East, South, and Southeast Asia.



Li Man, Li Hui and drug user activists from STIGMA meet in Jakarta. (Photo courtesy of STIGMA)

In addition to weekly news updates, the website features commentary, discussions between Chinese and other Asian activists, and information about conferences and scholarships, as well as live blogging from regional events. We have also begun partnering with the Asian Human Rights Commission and the Asian-Pacific Network of Sex Workers to translate their materials into Chinese.

Haven Project

Following on the success of our 2008 program, Asia Catalyst again offered fellowships to six Chinese AIDS activists, placing them at more established AIDS organizations in Asia and the U.S. for visits of a few weeks up to a few months. This year, we placed six Chinese AIDS activists at the following organizations:

- **Housing Works**, a New York organization dedicated to ending the twin crises of HIV/AIDS and homelessness
- **STIGMA Foundation**, an Indonesian organization of former drug users, people living with HIV/AIDS, and their supporters
- **Thai National AIDS Foundation**, a national center for NGOs and community groups working on HIV/AIDS
- **Midnight Blue**, a Hong Kong organization of male sex workers that works to reduce the harm and dangers they face in the field

The fellowships gave Chinese activists exposure to new ideas and approaches to their work. Following on their successful fellowship placements, a number of this year's and last year's fellows were reunited at ICAAP AIDS meeting in Bali.

Research and Advocacy

Asia Catalyst helps to build the capacity of grassroots groups to conduct their own advocacy, through consulting, training, and introducing them to new contacts at the UN, governments, and international donor agencies. We also conduct ongoing advocacy at the international level ourselves, on policy issues that come out of our work on the ground.



Graduate researcher Lauren Burke spent two months doing research in China and made a lot of friends in Yunnan Province.

In 2009, this included:

- **Launching a major report, based on on-the-ground research and interviews in China, on the barriers children with HIV/AIDS face to getting treatment**
- Publishing a report on restrictions AIDS NGOs face to doing their work in Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, China and Vietnam
- Raising individual cases of detained AIDS activists with the United Nations and with the press
- Partnering with Indonesian drug user groups to lobby senior police officials to end police abuse

We continue to monitor the conditions faced by our local partners, and to offer our support as well as a platform to help make their voices heard.



Three buddies in Yunnan Province

Financial Report

July 2008-June 2009

Revenue

Foundation grants	134,447
Individual donations	23,444
Events income	1,476
Other income	4,020
Total	163,387

Program services

Incubation	27,144
Haven Project	22,687
Asia Report	15,633
Advocacy (and conferences)	15,007
Events	955
Fiscal agent payments	3,212
Total	84,638

Operating costs

Salaries	51,890
Administrative costs	6,607
Total	58,497



Fundraising party in New York City

Staying Strong in a Challenging Climate

While many nonprofit organizations have struggled in the current economic crisis, laying off staff and closing offices, Asia Catalyst's frugal habits and minimal overhead have helped us to weather the storm. We were fortunate to be able to double our budget and staff this year.

Meanwhile, our community of supporters has continued to grow. We added a number of new donors this year, and **nearly everyone who gave to Asia Catalyst last year -- from individuals mailing in a check to foundations that awarded us grants -- increased the amount of their gift this year.** We continue to responsibly plan our growth.

Giving to Asia Catalyst

Asia Catalyst is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit registered in New York State, so all gifts are tax-deductible. Secure online donations may be made through Paypal at www.asiacatalyst.org, or by mailing a check to Asia Catalyst, P.O. Box 20839, New York, NY 10009. For more information, please email us at info@asiacatalyst.org or call (718) 514-2855. Thank you for your support!



The lake in Gejiu City, Yunnan, China

Board of Directors

Yvonne Y.F. Chan, *Co-chair & Treasurer*
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind & Garrison

John Emerson, *Secretary*
Independent designer and programmer

Joseph Saunders
Human Rights Watch

John Santoleri, *Chair, Advisory committee*
Stonewater Capital

Sophie Richardson, Ph.D., *Co-chair*
Human Rights Watch

Prof. Jerome A. Cohen
New York University School of Law

Minky Worden
Human Rights Watch

Staff and Volunteers

Sara L.M. Davis, *executive director*
Susanna Arcella
Oliver Dinh
Peiting Li
Karl Metzner
Grace Minjeong Sur

Gisa Hartmann, *coordinator*
Lauren Burke
Peggy Fan
Anton Muhajir
Hye Gi Shim

Ken Oh, *Asia Report editor*
Sitong Chen
Josh Greenstein

Translators

Lydia Chen
Tim Wang
Amy Zhang

David Leo
Vivian Wei
Jing Zhang

*Josh Greenstein, Chinese
AIDS advocate Meng Lin, and
Lauren Burke meet in China.*



2009 Donors*Many thanks to everyone who gave their support in 2009, financial and otherwise!**\$50,000-150,000*

Levi Strauss Foundation	National Endowment for Democracy
-------------------------	----------------------------------

\$10,000-49,999

AIDS Fonds	Freedom House	Open Society Institute	Richard Fields
U.S.-China Legal Cooperation Fund			

1,000-9,999

Anonymous	Asia Vision Foundation	Yvonne Chan	Jerome Cohen
Taiwan Foundation for Democracy		Yodon Thonden	Minky Worden

\$200-999

Joanne Csete	Emmanuelle & Robin Lyon	John & Carol Santoleri	Joe Saunders	James Seymour
--------------	-------------------------	------------------------	--------------	---------------

\$100-199

Janice Brown	Henry Delcore	Mary Devins	John Emerson	Coco Jervis
Reema Khan	Margaret Lewis	Victor Mair	Dana Nguyen	
Robert & Cynthia Richardson		Sophie Richardson	Daniel Wolfe	Amy Zhang

Up to \$99

Stephen Anen	Catalina Arreaza	Nick Barlett	Jan Berris	Tita Chrisanty
Simon Dang	Sara L.M. Davis	William Denney	Manfred Elfstrom	Peggy Fan
Frances Feng	Amy Gadsden	Rich Garella	Gayton Gomez	Malory Graham
Joshua Greenstein	Sharon Greenstein	Louisa Coan Greve	Ro Gupta	Melanie Havelin
Jane Hsin	Nat Katin-Borland	Mansura Khanam	Neel Khichi	Kevin Lawrence
Marie Mainil	Stacy Mosher	Jesse Neuman	Noah Perabo	Nandini Pillai
Sreekumar Pillai	Joshua Rosenzweig	Elizabeth Seuling	Sami Sinclair	Noah Skocilich
Johnna Ho Strycharz	Jorge Amando Supelano	Jeremy Wallach	Carol Wang	Mike Wang
Kenneth Wasserman	Karen Weber	Eileen Wu	Ye Shiwei	