



亚洲促进会 2010 年年度报告

asia catalyst
2010 annual report

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS

Asia Catalyst is scaling up, reaching new grassroots groups in China and Southeast Asia, and coaching them in the skills that help them to survive and thrive. This year, we helped local AIDS groups to develop strategic plans, strengthen their management skills, and reach out to policy makers in Asia and at the UN. The groups we help are "paying it forward" by training and helping smaller groups in turn. Join us as we build our network of supporters!

-- Yvonne Y.F. Chan and Sophie Richardson, Ph.D., Co-Chairs

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Asia Catalyst and friends march at the International AIDS Conference in Vienna, July 2010

WHAT WE DO

Asia Catalyst is a resource for **grassroots, independent nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)** that work on economic and social rights in China and Southeast Asia. The core of our work is one-on-one coaching services to groups in strategic planning, management, research and advocacy. We also work with our local partners to advocate for human rights in the global response to HIV/AIDS.

Asia Catalyst is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 nonprofit located in Brooklyn, New York.

WHO WE ARE



Asia Catalyst staff and 2010 summer interns near our Brooklyn office

Sara L.M. Davis, Ph.D. (also known by her middle name, Meg) founded Asia Catalyst after working in in Asia as an anthropologist on the borders of China and Burma; then as a researcher and advocate at Human Rights Watch, Open Society Institute, and others in China, Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia. **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.

German native **Gisa Hartmann** received her M.A. in Sinology and Political Science from University of Cologne, Germany, in summer 2009. At University of Cologne and in Beijing, she has organized events and a Chinese documentary film festival. After working as a graduate intern with Asia Catalyst, she returned to New York to be administrative coordinator and became China program coordinator in October 2010.

In addition to these two full-time staff, our team includes several part-time consultants. **Ariel Herrera** is a longtime human rights advocate who founded Amnesty International USA's LGBT Rights Program and ran it for many years. In late 2010, he helped Asia Catalyst to formalize our program work and began to lay the foundation in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand for our future Southeast Asia program. **Carol Wang**, a Ph.D. student in anthropology at the New School for Social Research who formerly worked for Human Rights in China, has helped to edit and write new rights training materials. **Ken Oh** edited our Chinese-language website on economic and social rights in Asia, *Asia Report* (www.yazhoudiaocha.com) and oversaw the creation of our AIDS law database on that site.

In 2010, we recruited and trained **7 graduate and undergraduate interns** from universities including University of Pennsylvania, Hampshire College, Harvard University, NYU, and Seton Hall. Their projects ranged from training Chinese women living with HIV/AIDS in human rights research methods, to writing about Nepalese political reform, and creating stop-motion animation videos.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NGOS

The core of our work is our tailored, one-on-one approach to capacity-building for grassroots HIV/AIDS NGOs. We first discuss with our local partners to assess how they identify their needs and what we recommend addressing first. We normally begin by helping organizations to write a long-term vision statement and then incorporate this into a simple strategic plan with concrete short- and medium-term goals. The next steps are to create a month-by-month timeline of activities, and an annual budget.

We always promote our core values, which include accountability to the communities we and our partners serve, internal democracy within our organizations, and financial transparency. Our approach is empathetic but rigorous. We also encourage the groups we work with to “pay it forward” by offering

Asia Catalyst helped us to meet with senior officials from the Global Fund and UNAIDS, to share issues that we have no other way to raise at home, and to brainstorm solutions.

- Shen Tingting, Chinese AIDS activist

training and assistance to smaller NGOs in their field.

Our services include facilitation of strategic planning, helping groups to create budgets and volunteer management systems, training in fundraising (including grant-writing and community-fundraising, and working with groups to help them develop community-driven human rights documentation and advocacy projects.

- CHINA

Asia Catalyst began our work with grassroots HIV/AIDS NGOs in China – where civil society is

growing rapidly, despite restrictions. We began by “incubating” the **Korekata AIDS Law Center**, China’s first legal aid center for people living with HIV/AIDS. We provided extensive training and coaching to the staff of Korekata, and also linked Korekata AIDS Law Center to more established AIDS law experts overseas – including **Mark Heywood**, South African AIDS activist and chair of the UN Committee on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights; and **Anand Grover**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health and director of the Lawyers’ Collective HIV/AIDS Unit in India.

The Korekata AIDS Law Center is now completely independent, and we partner with them on advocacy in China and in training new partner groups.



Meg Davis working with staff of Yunnan AIDS Initiative on their vision statement



Mark Heywood at Korekata AIDS Law Center's workshop for Chinese lawyers

In 2010, we provided intensive and long-term coaching to **Phoenix**, a group of 90 sex workers and women living with HIV/AIDS in Yunnan Province, China. Our coaching covered skills such as planning, volunteer management, and human rights documentation. We also helped to connect them to the **Asia-Pacific Network of Sex Workers**, and to **WITNESS**, a video advocacy organization.

In late 2010, we opened up a call for applications from more organizations around China, and received two dozen applications from a range of groups. Out of these, we selected three grassroots groups to coach in organizational management skills in 2011. We will also partner with the **Chinese Sex Worker Organization Network** to provide training and coaching to their members.

- **SOUTHEAST ASIA**



Hou Ye working on a strategic plan for Asia Report

In the last quarter of 2010, our consultant **Ariel Herrera**, a longtime human rights advocate and expert on global LGBT rights issues, spent three months in Thailand assessing the feasibility of establishing an Asia Catalyst program in Southeast Asia. He met with UN agencies, international donors, regional networks of people affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and human rights experts.

While in Thailand, Ariel hired a new editor for **our Chinese-language website on economic and social rights in Asia, Asia Report** (www.yazhoudiaocha.com). **Hou Ye** is an experienced translator and graduate of Chiang Mai University who has been active in the environmental protection movement in Thailand. Ariel brought Hou Ye together with the editor of a Burmese-language website, *HIV in Myanmar* (www.him.civiblog) and they began to develop plans to put the two sites together and merge them into a single, trilingual (Chinese-Burmese-English) website in HIV/AIDS and human rights in South and Southeast Asia.

Ariel also traveled to Cambodia, Malaysia and the Philippines, and explored the possibility of Asia Catalyst providing training in organizational management skills to NGOs in Burma/Myanmar. We are continuing to talk to organizations and donors as we explore the possibility of expanding our services in Southeast Asia.

HIV/AIDS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The communities we work with in China and Southeast Asia are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS because they are marginalized, and because a lack of human rights protections drives them underground and increase their vulnerability to the epidemic.



South African allies SECTION27 and COSATU joined the campaign to free jailed Chinese AIDS activist Tian Xi.

These rights issues include discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS, criminalization of drug users and sex workers (who face risk of imprisonment and police abuse), restrictions on their ability to share information and form AIDS organizations, and restrictions on their ability to use the existing legal systems to obtain accountability and compensation from individuals or institutions.

There is a growing consensus among UN agencies and international donors that human rights must be a core part of the international AIDS response. Asia Catalyst works with our local partners to build their capacity to analyze, document and advocate for their human rights at the domestic, regional and international levels. We are a resource for UN agencies and international donors on human rights in the regions where we work.

- **PUBLICATIONS AND ONLINE RESOURCES**

In March 2010, we launched our **AIDS Law Database online at www.yazhoudiaocha.com/laws/**. The database is a free, user-friendly resource, searchable in Chinese and English, to help researchers to find HIV/AIDS-related statutes throughout Asia. It is the first database exclusively dedicated to this purpose.

In November, we published a new report on **medical discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS in China**. The report was written by women living with HIV/AIDS at Phoenix, an NGO in Yunnan Province, and was based on interviews they conducted with members of their community. Korekata AIDS Law Center in Beijing contributed analysis of Chinese laws and policy recommendations. We sponsored a workshop to launch the report at the offices of UNAIDS in Beijing. UNAIDS invited Phoenix director Li Man to present the report again at the Red Ribbon Forum in Beijing in December. A number of the report's recommendations were taken up by the forum and passed on to Chinese authorities.

- PROTECTION OF AIDS ACTIVISTS

When our colleagues at grassroots AIDS NGOs are working in their offices, we provide support and training to help them run their organizations. When their organizations are shut down and individuals detained, we provide support and advocate for their release. **In a few cases we help to arrange a short-term “safe haven”** at universities and AIDS NGOs in Asia and the US where our colleagues can build their skills and connections and return home when the situation has eased.

In August 2010, our Chinese colleague **Tian Xi**, a longtime petitioner for compensation for the thousands infected with HIV through China’s blood disaster, was imprisoned and charged with destruction of property. His trial in September was suspended and as of February 2011, he is still awaiting a sentence. Asia Catalyst is a member of the China AIDS Solidarity Network, which highlighted his case on World AIDS Day (December 1, 2010). We were joined by South African civil rights organization **SECTION27**, which issued a public sign-on letter with **COSATU**, the South African trade union, and held public protests.

- RIGHTS TRAINING



In talking with **Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group** (TTAG, in Bangkok, Thailand), and **Korekata AIDS Law Center** (from Beijing, China), we realized that across the region, all three of our organizations have seen a rapid growth of local groups of marginalized communities – sex workers, drug users, men who have sex with men, ethnic minorities -- demanding that human rights be included in the HIV/AIDS response, and asking us for training in rights advocacy skills.

While the political contexts in the countries our three groups work in differ, the fundamental rights concerns are similar from one country to the next. **Yet communities affected by HIV/AIDS lack the awareness or the practical tools to claim their rights and address these problems.**

In response, our three groups launched on a three-year joint project to produce **Know It, Prove It, Change It: A Rights Curriculum for Grassroots Groups**. **The project brings together our three organizations, each with rich experience working with marginalized communities, to pool our expertise.** The curriculum will include three volumes on how to analyze, research and advocate for rights at the local, regional and global levels. Each volume includes a teacher’s supplement that trainers can use to lead workshops. **All three volumes are being published in English, Thai and Chinese.** We are actively reaching out to organizations that will translate the books into other Asian languages.

In early 2010, we held two focus groups in Bangkok and Beijing to solicit input into the manual from Chinese and Thai NGOs that will actually use it. We also held two trial workshops using drafts of the manual at the International AIDS Conference in Vienna (July 2010) and at a workshop convened by TTAG in Bangkok (September 2010) for Chinese and Thai groups. Advisors in Hong Kong and Jakarta also gave comments.

In December 2010, we published *Prove It: Documenting Rights Abuses*. The Chinese and Thai editions of *Prove It* will be published in early 2011, and we'll then begin to develop the next volume of the curriculum.

- **INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

We are active in international conferences and always bring friends along: usually, activists from grassroots NGOs. At the International AIDS Conference in Vienna in July 2010, we gave

It was inspiring to directly work with Asia Catalyst at the AIDS conference. They tried to make every team member comfortable in an unfamiliar environment and ensured each person had their own gains.

William Lian, Aibai

rights at the Asia Society, featuring Prof. Joanne Csete (Columbia University), Joe Amon (Human Rights Watch), Daniel Wolfe (Open Society Institute), and Kevin Frost (amfAR). We also spoke on HIV/AIDS and human rights issues at Beijing Normal University, the Council on Foreign Relations, and Austin College in Texas.

several presentations on human rights and HIV/AIDS in China, partnered with Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group and Korekata AIDS Law Center to use *Prove It* to train 40 people in human rights documentation, and supported a delegation of Chinese AIDS activists, with a translator. We also participated in China's second Red Ribbon Forum, a government meeting with NGOs on HIV/AIDS and human rights.

In New York, we co-sponsored and moderated a standing-room only discussion of HIV/AIDS and human



AIDS activists kept the Asia Catalyst booth busy at the International AIDS Conference in Vienna



"HIV/AIDS in Asia: Is It a Rights Issue?" panel at Asia Society

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 2009-June 2010

Income

Grants	304,817
Individual & business donations	12,671
Pass-through fees	2,344
Translation fees	400
Interest	132
Other income	953

Total Income 321,317

Program Expenditures

Sub-grants to other groups	24,445
Individual travel stipends	1,539
Program salaries	66,978
Travel and technical assistance	66,783
Conferences	13,013
Outside contractors	3,853
Translators	23,688

Total Program 200,299

Operating Expenditures

Administrative salaries	66,979
Payroll taxes	1,020
Accountant	2,663
Rent	10,450
Operations (printing, phone, etc.)	7,719

Total Operations 88,831

Net Income 32,188

Our annual financial reports and 990 tax returns are available to the public upon request.



Asia Catalyst, Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group, and Korekata AIDS Law Center meet with Stanley Wong (Levi Strauss Foundation)



GIVING TO ASIA CATALYST

Asia Catalyst is a 501 (c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit, 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!

*Mayon Volcano, Philippines –
from Ariel Herrera's travels in Southeast Asia*

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Many thanks to everyone who gave their support, financial and otherwise!

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