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annual report

2012



asia  
catalyst



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This fifth anniversary year was an exciting year of growth for Asia Catalyst. We launched our NGO Leadership Cohort program, which set a new standard for intensive training in management and advocacy skills for China's start-up nonprofits. We published new human rights reports and completed work on our popular human rights curriculum. We also added a leading Chinese HIV/AIDS and human rights advocate to our senior management team, enabling us to partner with national networks of nonprofits in their regional and global policy advocacy initiatives. In 2013, we will begin the transition from a founder-led organization and embark on a new period of growth and development.

Yvonne Y.F. Chan  
Board Chair, Asia Catalyst

## OUR MISSION

Asia Catalyst works with grassroots groups from marginalized communities in East and Southeast Asia that promote the right to health. We train our partners to meet high standards of effective and democratic governance, to establish a stable foundation for future growth, and to conduct rigorous human rights research and advocacy. We aim to help our partners become leading advocates at the local, national and global levels.

Asia Catalyst's approach is uniquely tailored to the needs of grassroots nonprofits: we combine training in basic organizational management with rigorous human rights research and advocacy. We establish partnerships with grassroots NGOs and networks of people directly affected by HIV/AIDS, disability, hepatitis, and other urgent health issues. Using tools and workshops honed over years of working with similar groups, we help our partners to master essential nonprofit management and governance skills. We also work with national networks of NGOs to document rights violations and make recommendations for legal and policy change. We are pragmatic idealists – just like the local activists who inspire us with their courage, creativity and persistence in the face of tremendous challenges.



“I used to think we were a small support group,  
but now we are an established organization.”

Lanlan, executive director of Tianjin Xin’Ai, 2012 NGO Leadership Cohort member



## CHINA PROGRAM

When we ask inspiring Chinese activists what kind of training they need, the answer is usually, “Fundraising.” But when we probe more deeply, we often find that these new groups lack an organizational budget, a strategic plan, or a way to develop volunteers into core staff and community leaders. When they have those pieces in place, it becomes much easier to win support from donors.



In late 2011, the China Program launched the NGO Leadership Cohort, a year-long organizational management training program that brings ten leaders of grassroots health rights groups together for a series of weekend workshops. The curriculum begins with community consultation and conflict management skills, and then moves on to strategic planning, budgeting, and policy advocacy. Assignments and site visits between each workshop give cohort members a chance to hone their skills in their home offices, and promote trust and cooperation between the groups. The first cohort included LGBT groups, a sex worker organization, hepatitis groups, and people living with HIV/ AIDS. Asia Catalyst also launched a program to provide one-day workshops in strategic planning to a broad array of new non-profit start-ups in Tianjin, Guangzhou, Nanjing and Harbin.

The first cohort graduated from the program in 2013. In order to localize and scale up the program, three graduates of the first cohort have continued on as assistant trainers for the second year cohort. After successful completion of the assistant trainer program, they will be certified to use Asia Catalyst’s curriculum for their own organizational management trainings.

Meanwhile, four of the groups represented in the first cohort have received new grants from donors we connected them with, such as the Canada-China Fund, the Levi Strauss Foundation, and the Red Umbrella Fund. A fifth Cohort member is receiving a sub-grant from Asia Catalyst for a joint project supported by the German Embassy in Beijing.



## RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

In March 2012, working with the Korekata AIDS Law Center in Beijing, Asia Catalyst published a major human rights report, the first joint publication by a domestic Chinese and international human rights group. *China's Blood Disaster: The Way Forward* drew on 37 in-depth interviews with victims, family members and experts on China's HIV blood disaster, as well as 30 additional case files from the Korekata AIDS Law Center. Supported by UNAIDS, the report documents the urgent need for compensation and the obstacles victims face in China's troubled legal system.

The report, which has been covered by the British Medical Journal and the South China Morning Post, made recommendations relating to the creation of a national compensation fund. These were taken up almost verbatim by a government advisory group, which submitted them to the National People's Congress, which in turn presented them to the State Council. Thousands of blood disaster victims are still waiting for an official decision.

At the International AIDS Conference in July, Asia Catalyst was a visible presence -- holding workshops, roundtables, networking hours and presentations as well as awarding scholarships to bring four Chinese AIDS activists to the conference in Washington, DC.

In October 2012, Asia Catalyst welcomed leading Chinese AIDS activist Shen Tingting as our new advocacy director. Ms. Shen will establish partnerships with Chinese networks of NGOs and UN agencies to support advocacy on such issues as medical discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

"Two NGOs from the US and China have published a joint report saying that tens of thousands of victims infected with HIV as a result of the blood scandal are unable to obtain compensation, and that China must urgently establish a compensation mechanism."

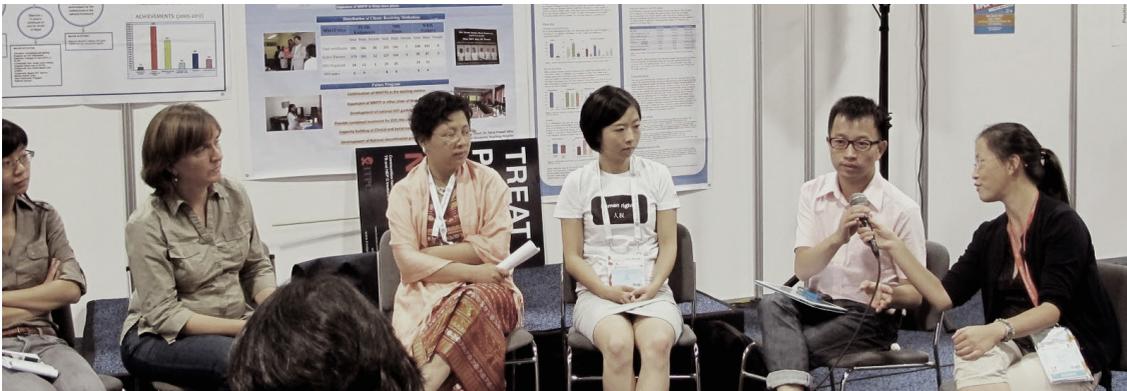
Shenzhen Center for Disease Control and Prevention, China

## RIGHTS TRAINING PROGRAM



In partnership with the Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group and Dongjen Center for Human Rights Education and Action, Asia Catalyst completed work on our popular three-part human rights curriculum, *Know It, Prove It, Change It: A Rights Curriculum for Grassroots Groups*. In 2012, we completed the text of the final volume, *Change It: Ending Rights Abuses*. Each volume includes a manual and a supplement with lesson plans, worksheets and templates. The series is published in English, Chinese and Thai, and *Change It* will also be available in Burmese. The complete series will be published in 2013.

As part of the process of creating the curriculum, the three groups worked together to hold joint workshops and field-test training tools. These included a workshop for 50 international AIDS activists in Washington DC held during the International AIDS Conference, and a workshop for 12 Chinese and Thai LGBT and sex worker activists in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The workshops built bridges, connecting ground-breaking activists across borders.



## GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

2012 was Asia Catalyst’s fifth anniversary — a milestone we marked with celebrations and rapid growth. Asia Catalyst added new staff, new systems and moved from a sublet in Brooklyn to an office in Manhattan. With Brian Bonci as Director of Finance and Operations; China Program Director, Gisa Hartmann, in Beijing; and Shen Tingting as our new Advocacy Director, Asia Catalyst now has a core management team to build the long-term stability of the organization.

In January 2013, founder Sara L.M. Davis Ph.D (known as Meg) joined the Board of Directors, stepping down as executive director to take a new position as a senior specialist on human rights and equity at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. Respected China law expert Andrea Worden became Acting Executive Director.

Asia Catalyst grew its board leadership as well. While founding board member Sophie Richardson ended her second term, and board member Christina Lem also stepped down, in 2012 we added Chad Bolick, Andrew Duncan, and Bruce Rabb to the Board, along with Dr. Davis.

This year we also launched the Catalyzers — a group of early and mid-career professionals who support Asian lawyers and community leaders by organizing events in New York. The Catalyzers held two events: a networking hour to welcome visiting Chinese public interest lawyers at Ethan Cohen Fine Arts, and a panel at Fordham Law School on LGBT rights in China, featuring prominent experts and advocates Zhou Dan, Sam Zhao, and John Balzano.

## WHO WE ARE



### **Andrea J. Worden, J.D. | Acting Executive Director**

Andrea is a human rights advocate, lawyer, and educator who has worked on human rights and rule of law issues in China throughout much of her career. She previously was a counsel with O’Melveny & Myers, LLP and served as a fellow at Yale Law School’s China Law Center. Andrea has a J.D. from Stanford Law School and a master’s degree in modern Chinese history, also from Stanford. After obtaining her bachelor’s degree in history and East Asian Studies from Yale University, she taught English in Tianjin and Hunan with the Yale-China Association.

### **Brian Bonci | Director of Finance and Operations**

Brian joined Asia Catalyst in October 2011. He received his BA in Political Science and Women’s and Gender Studies from Pace University, where he was a Jeannette K. Watson Fellow. Brian previously worked on political campaigns and volunteered with LGBT and HIV/AIDS advocacy organizations in New York City and Cape Town, South Africa. He also advised international exchange students in Tunisia and taught English in Central America.

### **Gisa Dang | China Program Director**

German native Gisa Dang (formerly Hartmann) received her MA in Sinology and Political Science from University of Cologne, Germany, in 2009. Her thesis discusses psychosocial impacts on children affected by HIV/AIDS and is based on field research in Anhui Province.

### **Shen Tingting | Advocacy Program Director**

Shen Tingting has been a prominent HIV/AIDS and human rights advocate in Beijing, China, and has been working with marginalized communities since her college days. In 2007, Tingting co-founded the Korekata AIDS Law Center with Li Dan, and until 2012 she was the deputy director of its parent organization, Dongjen Center for Human Rights Education and Action, where she founded and managed an outreach program for sex workers in Beijing. Tingting received her MA in Social Welfare from Renmin University of China in 2009, and served as a visiting research fellow at Asia Catalyst from March -August 2012.

## WHO WE ARE



### Shalena Krumm | Rights Training Program Coordinator

Shalena has ten years of experience launching grassroots campaigns, training youth activists and advocates, and facilitating social justice workshops. She previously worked at Echoing Green, an organization that supports social entrepreneurs and aspiring changemakers to develop careers with social impact. Most recently, Shalena helped restructure Ya-Ya Network (Youth Activists - Youth Allies), the organization where she received her activist training. She is an MA candidate at New York University and the recipient of numerous fellowships including the Dalai Lama Fellowship, New York University Catherine B. Reynolds Social Entrepreneurship Fellowship, and the Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship. Shalena currently serves as a founding board member of Brooklyn Movement Center in Brooklyn, New York.

### Hou Ye | China Program Assistant

Based in Kunming, China, Hou Ye, is a graduate of Chiang Mai University in Thailand. She previously consulted with Asia Catalyst on a Chinese-Burmese HIV/AIDS website project in Thailand.

### Bonnie Tse | Administrative Assistant

Bonnie is an undergraduate student at Hunter College, with a strong interest in nutrition and public health. She previously worked in the Women's Health Department at Charles B. Wang Community Health Center where she was also a Project AHEAD intern.

### Sara L.M. Davis, PhD (Meg) | Founder

Meg Davis founded Asia Catalyst in her apartment in 2006, in response to requests from grassroots HIV/AIDS activists in China for help with everything from grant proposals to press contacts to emergency assistance. Asia Catalyst's first grant supported the incubation and launch, with Li Dan and activists in Beijing, of China's first HIV/AIDS law center, the Korekata AIDS Law Center. As Meg, Li Dan and other Chinese activists worked together to create the center, they realized that an emerging generation of grassroots nonprofits in China and Southeast Asia needed user-friendly, local-language tools and resources on strategic planning, fundraising, management, and human rights documentation and advocacy skills. Under the guidance of a committed Board of Directors, the organization grew quickly, providing one-on-one coaching and small-group training to dozens of organizations. In January 2013, Meg joined Asia Catalyst's Board of Directors and took up a new position as Senior Specialist, Human Rights and Equity at The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### CHAIR & TREASURER

#### Yvonne Y.F. Chan

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

### SECRETARY

#### Ann Hotung

Fordham Law School

### MEMBERS

#### Carolyn Bartholomew

U.S.-China Economic & Security Commission

#### Chad Bolick

FSG

#### Sara L.M. Davis

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria

#### Andrew Duncan

Independent Consultant

#### Bruce Rabb

PILnet

#### Minky Worden

Human Rights Watch

### EMERITUS MEMBERS

#### Jerome A. Cohen

NYU School of Law

#### Sophie Richardson

Human Rights Watch

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR

#### John Santoleri

StoneWater Capital

## 2011-2012 SUPPORTERS



In 2012, Asia Catalyst's Board of Directors set the goal of raising \$50,000 to mark our fifth anniversary. We exceeded this goal, raising over \$170,000 in the calendar year. Here is a list of donors during our fiscal year, July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012. We are grateful to everyone for their continued support!

Up to \$500,000

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Beijing  
 Levi Strauss Foundation  
 National Endowment for Democracy  
 Open Society Foundations/Southeast Asia Initiative  
 Open Society Foundations/International Harm Reduction Development Program  
 Swedish International Development Agency  
 UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Asia and the Pacific  
 UNAIDS China  
 U.S. Department of State

Up to \$5,000

Anonymous  
 Yvonne Chan  
 Jerome A. Cohen  
 Ann Hotung  
 Isdell Foundation  
 John and Carol Santoleri  
 James Seymour  
 Minky Worden

Up to \$500

Anonymous  
 Henry Delcore  
 Andrew Goldberg  
 Christina Lem  
 Carl Minzner  
 John Rhodes  
 Susan Roosevelt Weld

Up to \$100

Jan Berris  
 Thomas Borchert  
 Janice Brown  
 Joy Chia  
 Benjamin Davis and Yael Falicov  
 Deborah Davis  
 Martha Denton  
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 Patricia Quan  
 Bruce Rabb  
 Joshua Rosenzweig  
 Jen Salen  
 Douglas Walker  
 Kenneth Wasserman  
 Chang Che Wei  
 Elisabeth Wickeri  
 Carol Wang  
 Andrea Worden

## FINANCIALS\*



### REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Individual Contributions	23,512
Foundation/Trust Grants	267,137
Government Grants	350,252
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>640,901</b>

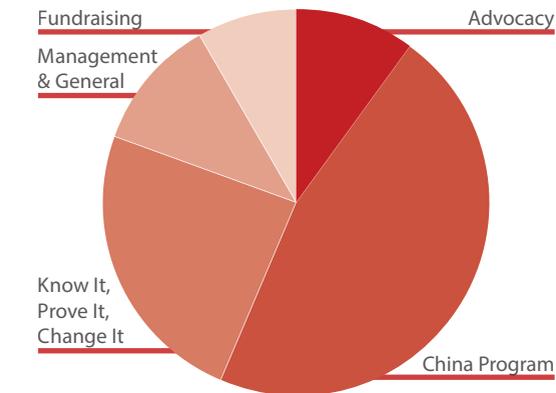
### OPERATING EXPENSES BY PROGRAM AREA

Advocacy	62,887
China Program	285,580
Know It, Prove It, Change It	148,291
Management & General	67,297
Fundraising	51,003
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>615,058</b>

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS 25,843**

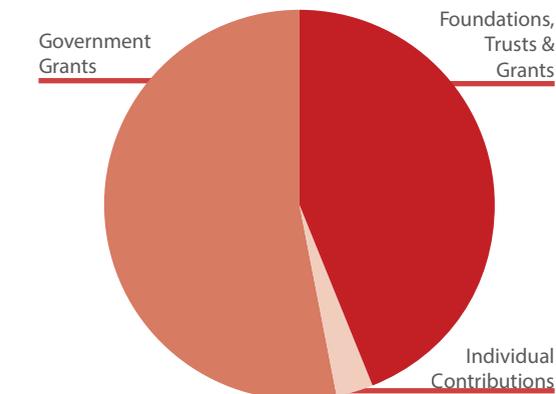
\*Year Ending June 30, 2012

### REVENUE AND SUPPORT



Total Expenses: \$615,058

### SOURCES OF REVENUE & SUPPORT



Total Revenue & Support: \$640,901

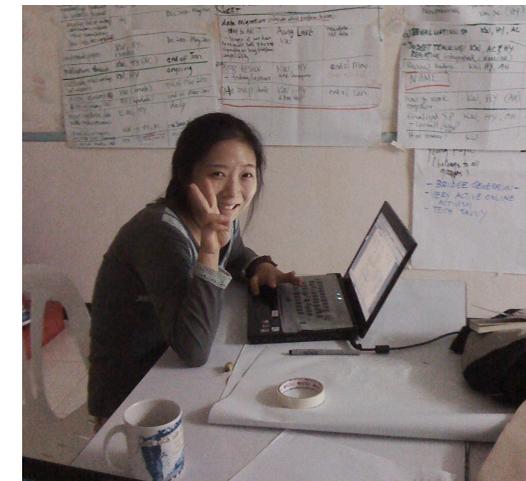
### ASSETS

Cash	96,634
Receivables	91,910
Equipment & Other Assets	27,726
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>216,270</b>

**LIABILITIES 28,078**

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	60,342
Temporary Restricted	127,852
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>188,194</b>





## GIVE TO ASIA CATALYST

Asia Catalyst is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization that relies on the financial support of individuals and grant-making organizations. Contributions are tax-exempt to the extent allowed by law.

We maintain minimal overhead in the US so that our funds get to Asia, where they are needed most. Please make your tax-deductible donation, and/or purchase a stylish t-shirt or tote bag, at [asiacatalyst.org/get\\_involved](http://asiacatalyst.org/get_involved)



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