

Asia/Pacific ISTR Regional Network

Asian Third Sector Research Network

by Mark Lyons

Over 70 people attended a meeting of the ISTR Asian Third Sector Research Network just before the beginning of the Dublin conference. Mark Lyons from Australia and Masa Deguchi from Japan, both ISTR directors, convened the meeting.

Most of the meeting was devoted to reports from different countries in the region. The main developments reported were:

Japan

The successful launch of JANPORA, the Japanese Nonprofit Research Association. JANPORA held its first conference in March 1999 in Osaka and a second in 2000 in Tokyo. It produces a quarterly newsletter, an annual volume of research papers and a refereed journal: Japanese Nonprofit Review (in Japanese). It hopes to produce an on-line journal (in Japanese and English). JANPORA's website: www.osipp.osaka-u.ac.jp/janpora-e.

India

The formation of the Association for Third Sector Research in India (ATRI) took place on 26 January 2000. Among its first tasks is to raise money for research fellowships and organising a national conference for 25-26 February 2001.

Taiwan

Growing involvement by academics in Third Sector research was reported, including an informal nonprofit discussion group and funding for a nonprofit research centre at a new university at Kaoshing in the south of Taiwan.

Korea

A conference of Korean Third Sector researchers was foreshadowed. Two large scale research projects were reported:

- One conducted by the University of Tampere in Finland focused on NGOs in several south Asian countries.
- The other focused on resource mobilisation in several Asian countries. Managed by Venture for Fundraising in the Philippines for the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium, it focused on the mobilising of financial gifts from the population of a number of Asian countries. Case studies of innovative ways of mobilising such philanthropy for the Philippines, India, Thailand, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and Pakistan were collected. It will also conduct a survey of giving in four of these countries: the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and India.

Several items pertaining to the future and operation of the ISTR Asian Third Sector Research Network were discussed: Several at the meeting argued that the network should be identified as Asia and Pacific, so as clearly to include New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and other Pacific island states. However, it was also noted that title generally excluded south Asia and, often included the United States and Canada. It was agreed that the second ISTR Asian Third Sector Research Conference would be held in Osaka in either late October or early December 2001. A final decision on the date would depend upon the venue selected. Support was given for a regular newsletter, to be sent in electronic form to those with e-mail access and faxed to the rest. The possibility of creating an ISTR Asian Third Sector Research Network page on the forthcoming Asia Pacific Philanthropy Information Network (APPIN) website was noted. It was agreed that a list of Asian Third Sector researchers and their major research interests would be put on the APPIN website.