

Asia/Pacific ISTR Regional Network

Asian Third Sector Research Network Formed

At the ISTR Geneva Conference, a meeting of 20 researchers from countries in Asia (including Australia) agreed to form an ISTR Asian Regional Network. Mark Lyons, ISTR Board member, agreed to be an initial contact point and to initiate and steer a process to organise a regional conference late in 1999. He noted that ISTR could provide some assistance and that further support might be obtained from the Asia-Pacific Philanthropy Consortium in which he is involved. However, considerably more support will need to be obtained.

The group noted that although the Asian region is the world's most populous, it was poorly represented at the Conference. There is an active research network in Australia and New Zealand and another has recently formed in Japan. Many at the meeting indicated that they had colleagues who were working on Third Sector topics, but were not at the Conference. It was hoped that the creation of a regional network would help encourage greater interaction between researchers around the region and that there would be a much larger contingent from Asia at the Dublin Conference in 2000.

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