

THE 2<sup>nd</sup> ASIAN WOMEN'S NETWORK FORUM  
"Building Inclusive and Safer Cities for Women"  
FINAL REPORT



**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Women's Network Forum**  
(September 1<sup>st</sup>, Seoul Women's Plaza)

**I. Introduction and Background**

Seoul has made continuous efforts to share issues of women's policy and strengthen cooperative exchanges with other cities in Asia. As one of those efforts, Seoul has formed first 'Asian Dialogue' in 2009, for the women's solidarity among Asian cities, where Asian women leaders shared and discussed gender issues in Asia.

That initiative led Seoul Metropolitan Government and Seoul Foundation of Women and Family to host the first Asian Women's Network Forum and the second Asian Dialogue under the theme of "Women in Asian Cities : Crisis, Agency and Change"

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Women's Network Forum was organized by the specific suggestion at the 60<sup>th</sup> UN CSW to the Seoul Foundation of Women and Family to hold the forum with Asian cities under the theme of women's safety. The theme of the forum was 'Building inclusive and safer cities for women'. Women's safety is always the major issue for women in Asia and we believe that when we build a safe city for women that is building a safe city for all including children, senior citizens, single parents, immigrants and disabled who are usually marginalized as women.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Women's Network Forum was hosted by Seoul Foundation of Women and Family with the support of Seoul Metropolitan Government, Huairou Commission and CityNet.

**II. Objectives**

- Share urban strategies among cities to create safer Asian cities and prepare a reform plan
- Discuss and seek ways of public-private partnerships to create safer cities
- Build an Asian city network for continuous cooperation in creating safer Asian cities

<Day 1>

## Asian Dialogue

(31<sup>st</sup> August, Seoul Partners House)



### I. Summary

#### 1. Welcome and Introduction – K.H. Angela Kang, President of Seoul Foundation of Women and Family

Asian Dialogue was firstly initiated in 2009 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Metropolis Women's International Network Forum and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Dialogue was held in 2011. Asian Dialogue is the network of women leaders in Asian cities to discuss women's major issues in Asia. In 2016, the main issue is 'Women's safety'. We will share each city's practices and ideas and also discuss how we can collaborate and keep this network.

#### 2. Kyu Sook Um, Assistant mayor, Women and Family affairs office of Seoul Metropolitan Government

Seoul Metropolitan Government is implementing 'Safe city for women 2.0' for women's safety policy from 2016. The main change of this year's policy is 'smart safety Seoul' using smart phone app when reporting the danger, engaging more women to the decision making from considering one who needs protection, and including the safety from natural disaster issue into the safety policy.

#### 3. Umetani Junko, Special Adviser to the Hyogo Governor for regional Revitalization & Women's Empowerment

In Japan, when an earthquake occurs, women are considerably impacted and many of them lose their jobs after the disaster. At the time of Hanshin—Awaji earthquake, women did not participate in the disaster prevention meeting at the national or local level. Since women's empowerment is now regarded as a main task of Japan, women's economic activities have been improved thanks to the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace which came into effect last year. National and local governments and companies are coming up with plans to utilize this Act. Hyogo Prefecture will also establish and carry out action plans. It would be good to build 'safe cities for women' together through Asian Women's Network.

4. Yamaji Kumiko, Researcher of Osaka Prefectural University

Japanese experienced a lot of disasters. Since it is impossible for human beings to prevent disasters, post-disaster measures will be important. As Korea had the Ferry Sewol accident, we need to consider together how we could rebuild communities stronger than before.

5. Pamela Philipose, Board Member of Jagori

Jagori is trying to keep women, the victims of violence, from being stigmatized and to hold men and the society accountable for the violence. Also through Focus Group meeting, we empower female community members and help them assume various roles in the community, such as a police officer or driver of public transportation, etc.

For how to activate Asian Women's Network, many cities and regions share issues, which means there are many lessons to be learned from each other. Therefore, it is important to 'translate knowledge to action'. Best practices learned from one city can be improved even further in other city. The result of the effort will be shown not next year but at least in five years' time with short, mid and long term outcome. Therefore, we also need to develop a short, mid and long term plan.

6. Fides Bagasao, Member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, Huairou Commission

The Recommendation should mention that local government should acknowledge women's leadership and their execution and reflect women's voices in the new policy. Since several global goals including SDGs do have short and long term plan of building safe cities for women, the Recommendation should also have various long term strategies matched with those global goals. For the Asian Women's Network, Grassroots women's groups be included in the Asian Women's Network

City of Manila provides financial support to execute 'Initiative of safe cities for women' (participated by 18 cities) of UN Women. In this effort, community managers and 150 women operate 'Gender Desk' to deal with sexual harassment at public spaces and report to the media anxiety women and girls feel at public spaces, so that the local government can issue related ordinance or come up with other legal grounds. We expect this initiative and the ordinance of city of Manila can be benchmarked by other cities.

7. Corazon Juliano Soliman, Former Secretary of Department of Social Welfare and Development

In Philippines, women's coming home late was the issue, there is a large 24-hour call center called BPO(Business Process Outsourcing) in Manila and many of women employees return home early in the morning. To solve that problem, efforts were made by community level. In other cities, older women are voluntarily patrol the community.

There's an act against domestic violence, but still domestic violence is a widespread problem. As current government of the Philippines declared 'the war against drug', the nation is faced with an even bigger issue. 900 people were shot to death on charge of alleged drug use. Physical assault is the first thing that comes to our mind when it comes to violence, but there is psychological violence as well. To solve these problem, nation and local governments should encourage women's participation and raise voice to protect women from violence.

It is important to provide safe place to women when a natural disaster occurs. The trauma experienced by women is different from that of men. Therefore, women needs to be given a place where they feel safe.

8. Sri Husnaini Sofjan, Senior Program Strategist, Huairou Commission

To discuss safety, we need to share clear definition of safety. When we talk about women, we cannot group them altogether just because they are women. They can be divided into many groups according to age, level of salary and living environment. Also, safety needs to be guaranteed not only in the public place but also at home. Since safety is recognized differently by different groups, each group would have different

needs for safety. Therefore, it would be good to create a 'safety mapping'. Based on this we could develop dialogue and public organizations including local government should take responsibility for safety.

Women are not the vulnerable. Once women improve their capability and organize themselves, they can change Asia. As we saw the examples of grass-root women's civic organization, women are experts who can resolve the issues we currently talk about. Local governments should establish partnership with grass root organization (especially women's organization) and execute and monitor programs that could make a safe and inclusive city.

It is important to hold a dialogue on a regular basis. It would be good for CityNet, Metropolis and local governments to have a meeting at least once in two years and share the result of monitoring SDGs 11 goals. Regardless of a country or region, any organizations relevant to this issue would have to gather together and share ideas.

We need to acknowledge that all cities we live in accepted SDGs. Goal 11 of SDGs is to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", which is closely related with the theme of this forum. In the 11 goals, three subgoals (11.1, 11.2, 11.7) mention 'safety'. It would be good to mention SDGs 11 goals and 'safety'-related subgoals in the Recommendation since this will be suggested to UN HABITAT III. It would be also great to refer to principle of safe cities specified in the 'City we need' issued by UN HABITAT.

9. Sayel Cortes, Safer Cities Program Coordinator of CityNet

Safety for women is not just women's issue. Therefore, men need to have interest in it and find solutions together. Continuous exchange and connection is important. CityNet also communicates with many organizations which participated today. By doing so, we can share our own experiences and opinions of experts.

'New Urban Agenda' doesn't include issue of violence. But, emphasizing women's safety issue does mean that we need to include the vulnerable such as the elderly or children, in other words, everybody. It is unreasonable to say women are the vulnerable since there are many kinds of people in the group of women and they account for half of the population. Like other organizations, CityNet has conducted workshops on safety for long time. For the last two years, we actively shared our knowledge and experiences. If we keep this network, have expert meeting and exchange our knowledge and experiences, we would create a huge synergy effect in building safe cities for women.

10. Norliza Abdullah, Director of City Planning, Municipal Council of Seberang Perai

Malaysia has central, state and local governments. Safety principles are managed by the high level government, but it is a role of local government to implement the principles and build the city safe for citizens.

People have different needs, and this applies to women as well. That's why Seberang Perai has introduced GRP (gender responsive participatory budgeting). Local governments have to handle issues faced in the daily lives, so Seberang Perai is currently working on how we can guarantee safety for people.

We advise civil servants who implement policies to go and visit the community to listen to the voice of people with different needs. Since we adopted GRP, we do not hurry, take time to listen from community members and plan our projects accordingly. When we plan next year's budget, we start to have a meeting with stakeholders from June the previous year and identify their needs.

11. Laura Perez, President of Metropolis Women's Network

Like other cities, it is important for Barcelona to establish role of local governments and build network on feminism. The top priority of local governments and related parties would be reduction in sexual abuse against women in the public place. The second priority would reduce the anxiety felt by women.



Local government of Barcelona is not well aware of safety issue, since they think Barcelona is relatively safe city. Thus, the system for women's safety hasn't been well established yet. But still, there are sexual abuse against women in Barcelona even if there are just a few. So we need to research people's awareness of women's safety and sexual violence and also incidence of the violence at the public place. Currently many organizations in this region, especially women's organizations, raised their voice in the city council and developed protocol, which holds not only women but also men accountable for the issue of crime against women. Also, sexual violence frequently occurs at nightclubs, so people in this industry have to take interest as a main party and build relations with related organizations.



<Day 2>

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Women's Network Forum**

(1<sup>st</sup> September, Seoul Women's Plaza)

### **1. Session 1: Building a City Safe from Disaster**

□ Opening Remarks: K. H Kang, President of Seoul Foundation of Women and Family

Seoul Foundation of Women and Family is holding the forum for urban policy makers, community activists, women NOG leaders and experts could discuss women issues in Asian cities and work together to find devise measures. In the Asian Dialogue, women's safety policy of several cities were shared and a cooperative network was planned, which would drive policy implementation in the cities. The members of Asian Network also drew up a Recommendation which lists the role that city government, communities and Asian network can play for Asian Women's Safety. At the Forum, two topics will be discussed, Building a city safe from disasters and Building a city safe from violence. Through in-depth discussion, we can come up with suggestions for inclusive and safer cities for women.



□ Welcoming Remarks: Yang Sook Park, Chairperson of Health & Welfare Committee, Seoul Metropolitan Government

Seoul has paid special attention to women's safety and has been executing several programs to make the city safe for women. Seoul Metropolitan Council is also playing a critical role. The council provides the budget required to execute projects for women's safety and tries to the demand from women can be reflected in the policy of Seoul. In order to build a city safer for women, all different participants should work together no only the local government but also the local council representing citizens and communities as well as civil organizations and women in the community.



□ Presentation 1: Natural Disaster and Women(Umetani Junko, special advisor to the Hyogo Governor for regional Revitalization & Women's Empowerment)

- When earthquakes occur, there are always more female than male casualties. After the disaster, male survivors refuse to leave the house or experience an increased dependence on alcohol due to the trauma, resulting in increased levels of family violence. The lack of sanitary products and everyday necessities, the absence of a distribution system for food and other essentials, and the lack of privacy due to the absence of partitions in disaster shelters are significant problems. Irregular female employees are often let go from their jobs after a disaster, resulting in high levels of discontent about their newfound unemployed status.
- An accurate response to the needs of (especially) senior) citizens that changes in accordance with the progression of long-term restoration efforts are particularly important. Within six days of the earthquake, the Hyogo Prefectural Gender Equality Promotion Center resumed its daily tasks. In addition to creating a “City Development Promotion Committee for Coexistence of Men and Women” and promulgating a directly-related city development proposal, the Center regularly hosts vocational classes and entrepreneurship seminars to increase female employment levels.
- Male and female participation levels in pest control and public health have recently increased, but the level of female participation is still relatively low. Required aspects for city-building (e.g. pest control, area control, health) are as follows: 1) gender-sensitive sharing and announcement of important information. 2) meticulous approach to the needs of mothers of small children. 3) creation of a network between administrative organizations, disaster-related institutions, and private companies, and 4) enhancement of female capabilities.
- Social activities by women is essential in Hyogo Prefecture for the building of a healthy regional infrastructure and local rebuilding. A prerequisite for this is that the city is safe for women. Because cities that are safe for women are safe for everyone, there is a sincere hope that safe cities for women can be a reality in the near future.



□ Presentation 2: Women led Disaster Risk Reduction: Resiliency, Response and Recovery(DRR) (Corazon Juliano Soliman, Former Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development of Philippines)

- Women are often seen as individuals that need protection, but they are actually key players who carry out important roles in local communities. Leadership training for women is essential if they are to be able to enhance their abilities through professional knowledge. For example, during Typhoon Haiyan, women actively collected information related to the requests/needs of women, girls and children, which ended up playing a crucial role in the recovery process.
- Ways to strengthen female authority: 1) Family Development (FDS), a conditional cash payment program, is becoming an arena for enhanced understanding of women's problems through discussions between partners and beneficiaries on issues related to women and families; 2) Through departmentalized DRR data, we can ascertain from a gender-sensitive perspective how women are

affected by natural disasters and how these effects are different from those for men during evaluations of damage/loss; 3) Women's groups, governments and female police officers must actively participate in efforts toward safety to prevent sexual abuse and violence toward women.

- For the earliest possible recovery and reconstruction, grassroots women's organizations must be mobilized, as they are the most aware of the situation for vulnerable groups within a particular region. Also, because locally-led development is always favored when conducting a project, democratic procedures (discussion, voting) are always followed.
- If governments execute gender-sensitive policies that strengthen female authority, women feel that they are supported by the government, which builds enough confidence to raise objections to cultural regulations that are based on gender inequality. Also, to include grassroots women's organizations and various other stakeholders in the development of gender-sensitive policies and guidelines, participation by female representatives is essential for effective communication between government and local society as well as for effective policy decision-making. By including female representatives, we can create balanced policies that take the female perspective into consideration.



□ Presentation 3: The role of “Safe Cities for Women” in the New Urban Agenda (Sayel Cortes, Safer Cities Program Coordinator of CityNet)

- Because a city is home for many people, it must be a highly inclusive place. If cities fail to guarantee safety for women, it becomes very difficult for women (who constitute half the population) to go about their daily lives. The countless direct and indirect factors of urban life have a significant impact on the safety of women.
- The “New Urban Agenda,” which will be promulgated at UN Habitat III, is an action-oriented document that is essential for the establishment of global standards for sustainable urban development (e.g. dedicated partners, stakeholders, government urban development officers, private organizations all gathered in one place to create and manage cities) that contains guidelines to direct urbanization for the next 20 years. Special efforts are being made to include measures that protect women and their safety.
- Safe Cities for Women must be further developed into a global initiative by sharing local examples and policies with others through local networks and recognizing projects and opportunities that can benefit everyone. CITYNET is currently hosting numerous workshops on the issue of urban safety. By establishing local networks and benchmarking exemplary cases through partnerships with UN Habitat and Seoul Metropolitan Government, CITYNET is sharing the experiences of Asian cities at international conferences. CITYNET will continue to pursue such activities and use them as the foundation for creation of “Safer City Guidelines.”





#### □ Summary of discussion

##### ○ Discussant 1: Kang Hee-young (Research Fellow, Seoul Foundation of Women & Family)

- I believe that the presentation topics all began from thoughts on how to link international activities with local issues and problems. However, even if decisions are made from a gender-sensitive perspective through international activity, because cities all have different environments and conditions and varying gender perspectives among their policy makers, there is a limit to which this can be executed in individual cities.
- According to my findings, in Japan, the experience of the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake proved to be very helpful in establishing policies after the Great East Japan earthquake. This led to the creation of effective policies for differences in items needed by men and women, guaranteeing privacy at evacuation shelters, and the announcement of government policies on sexual violence and family violence during natural disasters.
- In the Philippines, I have an objection to the argument that women who have knowledge of disaster-related areas are not solely victims and are able to assume an effective leadership role. According to surveys of Seoul residents, the area in which the difference between men and women was the highest during disasters was whether or not one had received training. In terms of receiving training, the participation of women is low. Most safety policy experts say that because natural disasters occur for both men and women, policies must be made that target all people rather than solely women. However, even if natural disasters do affect people regardless of gender, the effects vary by individual. Therefore, future research and policymaking must focus on the differences in damage caused to men and women during disaster situations and ways in which women can act in leadership roles. Also, because natural disasters occur less frequently in South Korea than other countries, citizens are relatively uninformed about everyday response techniques. South Korea must focus on creating a link that connects natural disasters and safety in the minds of ordinary citizens.

##### ○ Discussant 2: Faye Lee (Program Director, Humanitarian Partnership Team, KCOC)

- In discussions on disaster response in the international community, there are many more female-related programs than in the past as well as initiatives that are based on women. As opposed to the increased level of international focus, the importance of women's roles in disaster management on-site is not a high priority. Awareness of the need for gender-sensitive perspectives is also virtually absent.
- The fifth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) is achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. Enhancement of female capabilities and rights is emphasized through measures such as including gender-sensitive perspectives in policies, enhancing leadership skills for women and

youth, including women as stakeholders in disaster risk management, emphasizing the role of women in the development and execution of gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies and programs, and in the process of rebuilding livelihoods after disasters have occurred. One major agenda item discussed at this year's World Humanitarian Summit (which was held in Turkey) was the achievement of gender equality. Five pledges were established: 1) build up women's roles as agents of change and as leaders, 2) increase support for female-led groups to achieve female-led humanitarian aid, 3) protect the reproductive ability of women and girls during disaster situations based on international agreements, 4) guarantee a universal approach to extension of rights, and 5) work to prevent sexual violence during disaster situations.

- Monitoring and advocacy activities are very important in achieving the safety of Asian women. The problem is that methods do exist but are not used. Both government-led and private projects are equipped with across-the-board application of gender-specific analyses, guidelines for preventing sexual violence and conducting gender-specific activities in the execution of humanitarian projects, and training for both of these points. It may be a good idea to give extra points to those who actively use the "gender marker" widely used in the international community in all aid projects and achieve positive outcomes. Above all, public-private cooperation must be fortified (e.g. private monitoring of government response to and execution of measures on content agreed upon by the international community).



### 3. Keynote Address: Building Inclusive and Safer Cities for Women

#### □ Won-soon Park, Mayor of Seoul

- Asian cities face a multitude of problems due to population concentration, including those related to housing, water, traffic congestion, unemployment and poverty. This has led to increased social instability, which has resulted in a marked increase in economic and social damage for women. Recently, a woman was murdered at night in a public restroom near Gangnam Station. Women all over the country immediately responded, saying that it was a misogynistic crime that occurred in an already highly sexually discriminatory society. As can be seen from this incident, it is not the damage itself but the fear that women feel as a result of it that is the bigger problem in violence directed toward women. Due to fears about safety, women do not feel free to go about their daily lives. Also, due to difficulties accessing various forms of infrastructure and support (e.g. school, workplace, public services, cultural performances), women are faced with significant obstacles in their right to lead a free and self-directed life.
- As can be seen in the disasters that have occurred in various cities, women are particularly vulnerable to disasters and crises. The reason for this is the Asian cultural tradition of discrimination toward women and their inability to respond appropriately to disasters due to their obligation to take care of their families.

- A major issue in urban safety is the problem of gender equality. Societies that discriminate against women socially, economically and culturally make women vulnerable in terms of personal safety. We need to stop telling women to “be careful” and start telling men to not harm women. For women to enjoy their right to be safe and become major agents in a city, they must be guaranteed equal rights and opportunities in all areas of life including society, economy, culture and politics. Children, teenagers, senior citizens, those with disabilities, and immigrants also have difficulty accessing high-quality social services, jobs, educational institutions, local communities, the streets and a variety of public places. Efforts made to give these rights to women will also guarantee that these same rights are made available to other alienated and vulnerable groups.
- To eliminate the dangers faced by women, increase gender awareness and create a gender-equal society, Seoul Metropolitan Government has taken the following measures. Step 1 was the introduction of a safe delivery service and home security service for one-person households consisting of unmarried women. Step 2 was the People Safety Network, Environment Safety Network, and Transportation Safety Network to build up a city that is safe for women. Aspects of these networks like the Safe Return Home Scouts for Women, Safe Home, expansion of CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design), increasing the intensity of streetlamp lights, and the Safe Taxi Service have already been widely introduced in Korea and overseas as outstanding examples. Step 3 was the installation of over 29,000 CCTVs and the Integrated Control Centers installed and operated in all 25 districts. Based on our strong safety infrastructure, the city of Seoul is currently developing a Smart Safety Service mobile application. In addition to these activities, we host online and offline discussion forums to ensure active reflection of women’s opinions in city policies. These efforts have led to Seoul winning first place in the Asia-Pacific region in Category 4 of the UN Public Service Award 2015 for its policies of “Fighting Violence against Women”, which is recognized internationally as a success.
- As “prosumers” of policy, it is obvious on a theoretical level that women participate in the creation of such policies. However, this has unfortunately not been the case in reality thus far. To create cities that are safe for women, city institutions must cooperate with civic groups and women in local communities. Public and private groups and men and women must all share the responsibility and discuss everything from city policies to local problems. Making the city’s material space safe is important, but just as important is the participation of women in the decision-making processes of policies on city planning and construction, infrastructure, construction of facilities and public transportation systems.
- As the chair city for the UN Habitat GNSC (Global Network on Safer Cities) in Asia, Seoul is taking the lead in sharing exemplary cases and developing guidelines for the creation of safe cities in Asia. Also, at a point in which new global paradigms are being actively created, like the UN’s SDGs and the UN Habitat’s New Urban Agenda, the Asian Women’s Network Forum was founded to focus on issues specific to the Asian region and for Asian cities to cooperate in finding solutions to mutual problems. I would be greatly pleased if the Forum emphasizes the creation of a gender-equal social environment to ensure the safety of women in its <Recommendation>. It would be even better if this statement can be presented at the UN Habitat III conference and the New Urban Agenda includes the issues of gender equality, enhancement of women’s capabilities, and women’s safety.



#### 4. Session 2: **Building a City Safe from Violence**

□ Presenter 1: Women 's Safety, Urban Spaces: Responses to the Delhi Gang Rape (Pamela Philipose, Board Member of Jagori)

- Jagori defines violence against women as follows: Violence must be understood not from the patriarchal perspective of honor and shame but from the perspective of women's freedom, right to not have their bodies invaded, and dignity. This point was also emphasized during Jagori's investigation of the bus rape incident in New Delhi. "Safety" includes plans to prevent future crime as well as the resolution of crimes that have already occurred.
- According to Jagori's assessment of women's safety, 70 percent of female responders in New Delhi reported that they experienced sexual harassment between two and five times in the past year and that these incidents took place regardless of time or place. Incidents of sexual harassment occurred most frequently among female students between 16 and 19 years old. Approximately 90 percent of responders reported having witnessed sexual harassment, but most preferred to not become involved on-site. The place where sexual harassment was reported to occur most frequently was public places, yet cases where they requested police assistance amount to less than one percent. As such, it is clear that women have to be responsible for their own safety.
- After the New Delhi rape incident, Jagori developed an emergency response application in 2013 called "Safetipin." Safetipin is a data accumulation tool that uses GPS and other sources of data to show the user places in the city that are not safe. In addition, Jagori works for the creation of female-friendly public spaces and operates a help line which responds to incidents of violence against women in cooperation with local police. It has also engaged in activities that push for the installation of female-only cars on the subway and hiring of female taxi drivers. Teachers are provided with training on the creation of safe school environments and are equipped to provide the same training to their students. The booklet "Help Line Book," which contains information related to the police and other safety services, was developed and distributed. Jagori has also created opportunities for local women to meet regularly with one another as well as with other local residents to discuss safety issues. The beautification of a city may certainly help with reducing crime rates, but bonding the members of local communities through such activities is perhaps more effective.



□ Presenter 2: Urban violence from a gender perspective: opportunities for local governments (Laura Perez , President, Metropolis Women International Network)

- Local governments have three major roles in this area. The first is bringing about a decrease in sexual crimes against women and children committed in public places. Governments must create a regulatory framework for local self-governing bodies to decrease violence against women in order to continuously raise the alarm on sexual crimes committed in public places, resulting in increased



awareness by all societies on this problem. There must be a change in general perception of sexual crimes—moving away from making the victims (women) take the burden of responsibility and creating a social atmosphere in which men are warned against committing such crimes. Also, local governments must conduct studies and gather data on sexual crimes that occur in public places to make the general public understand the severity and nature of the problem. When applying all of these factors to the creation of urban safety policies, women must not be regarded as a single entity based solely on biological sex but as a diverse group.

- Second, the fear that women feel must be alleviated. Urban planning that involves newly-planned activities or the addition of a gender-sensitive perspective on existing programs will be a significant help in the creation of policies on women's safety. Also, local governments must create inter-city networks. The Montreal parade with the slogan “Women feel no fear on the streets or at night” and the El-Poble Sec festival, created by a Barcelona-based feminist organization for joint response against sexual crimes, are good examples of this. Recently, many movements like India's *Women Fight Back* and the US' *Hollaback!* have begun that use systematic methods to combat sexual crimes. But they must be approached with caution, as such movements can be a double-edged sword (can be utilized by potential victims or perpetrators). Opportunities are open not to smart cities but to societies with an advanced civic awareness. Therefore, gender-equal urban environments must be created based on collective intelligence.
- Third, we must create strong international partnerships. The UN Women Global Program, “Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls”, which has over 70 partners (national and local-level governments), is a good example. The Metropolis Women International Network is planning to create a guideline (“Mobility and sustainability from a gender perspective in metropolitan areas”) and submit it to UN Habitat III.



- Presenter 3: Seberang Perai City, Efforts for Women's Safety (Noliza Abdullah, Director of Town Planning, Municipal Council of Seberang Perai)
  - After the Penang Women Development Corporation was founded in 2011, local governments began allocating part of their budgets to gender sensitivity-related projects. There were initial difficulties due to the small budget size and an increase in workload for bureaucrats, but the fact that immediate response could be made to citizens' requests was a major advantage. This eventually gave rise to Gender Responsive Participatory Budgeting (GRPB), a much more advanced system. When planning their budgets for the following year, local governments conduct open surveys from the previous year to ascertain how citizens feel. Voiced needs are transformed into data and analyzed, after which results are used as the basis for discussions among citizens' representatives. The content of these discussions is reflected in the following year's budget.
  - For urban safety, the “Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)” was introduced. Because this system required a high level of design, local legislatures, urban planning departments, technical departments, landscaping departments and architects pooled efforts to ascertain what was

needed in crime-vulnerable areas. The CPTED hopes to bring about a decrease in crime rates by installing CCTVs and signs in strategic locations. A gender committee was established to communicate with Seberang Perai's mayor and PWDC on the city's gender needs. Day care centers were built so that women can have a safe and reliable place for their children when they return to the workplace—thereby bringing about a work-family balance. For special residential areas that are not subject to local government ordinances, anti-crime officers were hired by the city to improve safety and security. As such, efforts are being made to guarantee safety for all citizens without violating laws in the process. Other efforts include the installation of CCTVs, creating women-only parking areas near parking lot entrances, police patrols, and beautifying areas near roads.

- Universal Design conducts inspections on whether urban buildings and spaces require designs that are disabilities-friendly. Afterward, stakeholders, architects and other related individuals hold a meeting every three months to share new guidelines or items to be newly executed. Through discussions on whether such measures are feasible, efforts are always made to find the best possible method.



#### □ Discussion summary

#### ○ Park Jong-soo (Director, Women's Policy Division, Seoul Metropolitan Government)

- In Pamela Philipose's presentation, I was most struck by the discussion of efforts by Jagori to improve women's rights in New Delhi. The Gangnam Station incident in Korea has been similarly influential in that members of the general public felt a shared outrage at the fact that it could have happened to anyone. The New Delhi group rape incident has its own judge. In Korea, this role is taken by each city's human rights committee.
- Laura Perez' presentation was about a change in perspective. I once participated in an inspection of promotional materials published by Seoul Metropolitan Government on how well they reflect a gender-sensitive perspective. For example, one phrase read "Be careful of hidden cameras." But because using hidden cameras is a crime, the phrase should have read "Do not use hidden cameras." Recently, a women's rights organization tried to post promotional materials to boost awareness of women's rights, but conflict ensued because Seoul Metro refused to grant permission. If Seoul Metropolitan Government were to distribute promotional material on having a gender-sensitive perspective, I think it would be a significant help in changing peoples' perceptions.
- Noliza Abdullah's presentation revealed that Seoul should be benchmarking Seberang Perai's efforts to reflect gender sensitivity in its budget. It looks like the gender sensitivity budget has successfully made a place for itself in areas of everyday life, for the city's government and for the city in general. Seoul Metropolitan Government also has a sizeable gender sensitivity budget, but efforts to monitor what is done with the budget are still insufficient.

- Seoul Metropolitan Government also initially conducted safety-related programs for the purpose of protecting socially vulnerable groups. However, with the passing of time, it became clear that more is needed to create policies for women and guarantee women's safety. We must move away from viewing women solely as individuals who need help because they are the subject of safety and are "weaker" and remember that "when women are safe, everyone is safe" and that "cities where women are safe are gender equal." Also, Seoul's policies on women's safety must be much more inclusive than they are now and must reflect women as agents who actively participate in efforts for urban safety.

○ Joy Da Hae (Project Manager of Improving Gender Equality and Safety for our Village, Seoul Women Association)

- The Seoul Women's Association perceives women's safety in terms of two major problems. First, we must dispose of the stereotype that women must be protected and that men must do the protecting. Also, the problem of sexual violence must be acknowledged as a human rights violation, and there must be a social consensus on the fact that it is a crime. In South Korea, reports of sexual crimes still often result in inactivity by the police and the allocation of responsibility to the woman. To increase the number of reported sexual crimes, the prosecution rate for punishing such crimes must increase.
- Education for children and teenagers on sexual harassment and sexual violence must not stop at one-time sessions but encourage young people to take on a healthy perspective of sex and perceive sexual violence from a human rights viewpoint. We must change the foundation of perception in order to change society for the better. South Korea also has a women's safety app, but the problem is that it does little more than voice the existence of a problem and does not lead to actual improvements. Central and local governments and related institutions must become actively involved so that potentially dangerous elements can be removed.
- According to studies jointly conducted with the Korean Institute of Criminology, people feel more fearful in large cities like Seoul and believe that crimes occur more frequently in large cities. In terms of crime rates, Seoul actually has a lower crime rate than other cities. The mistaken perception is caused by the fact that, contrary to smaller locales, people in metropolises have fewer exchanges with others and less faith in them, which leads to the belief that when one is the victim of a crime, one must handle it him or herself. Therefore, efforts to prevent crime in large cities must focus on reducing the gap between actual crime rates and citizen perceptions of the crime rate.
- With CPTED, we once conducted an investigation on the Yeongdeungpo district, which is where the Kim Su-cheol incident took place. The entire incident was captured on CCTV, but the problem with CCTV is that it is difficult to tell whether a person intends to commit a crime or not. It is important to realize that CCTV is merely a "last resort" when it comes to urban safety. The most significant limitation of first-generation CPTED is already surfacing—that because sexual crimes are often also committed among people who know each other well, the creation of a safe material environment does not itself prevent sexual crime. Therefore, while the creation of safe physical environments is important, it is just as important to engage in second-generation CPTED: strengthening protective measures that are not visible to the eye (improved cultural and social perception, strengthened communities).



### 3. Adoption of Recommendation

Participants from Asian cities, Women NGOs and representative of international organization agreed to adopt a Recommendation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Women's Network Forum and to share it at UN Habitat III Conference.

Recommendation gives an instruction for governments, NGOs, women's organizations, and the international networks to take action for a more inclusive, more gender responsive and safe cities for all residents.

Seoul, Delhi, Manila, Hyogo Prefecture, Seberang Perai, Huairou Commission, Metropolis Women and Citynet has singed for the recommendation.





<Day 3>

### Site Visit and Tour

(2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016)

	Time	Site
1 <sup>st</sup> Sep	13:30-13:55	Gender Equality Library HeRE
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sep	09:00	Departure from Seoul Partners House
	10:00-11:30	Seoul Innovation Park
	12:00-13:00	Lunch
	13:00-14:00	BeautifulStore
	14:00-15:00	Insa-dong Tour
	15:30-16:30	Seoul Citizens Hall, Seoul Metropolitan Library
	16:30-17:30	Deoksugung
	17:30-18:00	Arrival at Seoul Partners House



Annex I. Asian Women's Network List

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/organization</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
1	K.H Angela Kang	President of Seoul Foundation of Women and Family	kkh.angela@seoulwomen.or.kr
2	Kyu Sook Um	Assistant mayor, Women and Family policy Affairs Office, SMG	kyusook@seoul.go.kr
3	Sri Husnaini Sofjan	Senior Program Strategist, Huairou Commission	sri.sofjan@huairou.org
4	Umetani Junko	Special Advisor of Hyogo Governor for Reginal Revitalization & Women's Empowerment	junko_umatani@pref.hyogo.lg.jp
5	Yamaji Kumiko	Researcher of Osaka Prefecture University	935yamaji@gmail.com
6	Corazon Juliano-Soliman(dinky)	Former Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development Philippines	dinkysunflower@yahoo.com
7	Sayel Cortes	Program Officer, Citynet	partnerdev@citynet-ap.org
8	Pamela Philipose	Board member of Jagori Senior Fellow with the Indian Council of Social Science Research	pamelaphilipose@gmail.com
9	Laura Perez	President of Metropolis Women International network	lperezc@bcn.cat
10	Norliza Abdullah	Director of Department of Town Planning, Municipal Council of Seberang Perai	Norliza@mpsp.gov.my
11	Amira Ahmad (MS)	Assistant Director of Human Resource Management, Municipal Council of Seberang Perai	amira@mpsp.gov.my
12	Silvia Llorente Sanchez	Advisor to the President of Metropolis Women International Network	women@metropolis.org
13	Fides Bagasao	Member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, Huairou Commission	fides_bagasao@yahoo.com

## Annex II. Program

Time	Program	
10:00-10:10	Opening	Opening Remarks: K.H Angela Kang, President of Seoul Foundation of Women and Family Welcoming Remarks : Yang Sook Park, Chairman of Health & Welfare Committee, Seoul Metropolitan Council
Session 1 :Building a city Safe from Disasters		
Session Chair: Sri Husnaini Sofjan, Senior Program Strategist, Huairou Commission		
10:10-11:30	Presenta- tion	Natural Disaster and Women Umetani Junko, Special Adviser to the Hyogo Governor for Regional Revitalization & Women's Empowerment
		Women led Disaster Risk Reduction : Resiliency, Response and Recovery Corazon Juliano Soliman, Former Secretary of Department of Social Welfare and Development of the Philippines
		The Role of Safer Cities for Women in the New Urban Agenda Sayel Cortes, Safer Cities Program Coordinator of CityNet
11:30-12:30	Discu- ssion QnA	- Hee Young Kang, Research Fellow of Seoul Foundation of Women and Family - Faye Lee, Program Director, Humanitarian Partnership Team, KCOC
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-14:20	Keynote address Building Inclusive and Safer Cities for Women Won Soon Park, Mayor of Seoul	
Session 2 : Building a City Safe from Violence		
Session Chair: Eun Shil Kim, Professor of Ewha Womans University		
14:20-15:40	Presen- ta- tion	Women’s Safety, Urban Spaces: Responses to the Delhi Gang Rape Pamela Philipose, Board Member of Jagori
		Violence in Urban Space from a Gender Perspective: the Commitment of the Local Level Laura Pérez, President of Metropolis Women International Network
		Seberang Perai City, Efforts for Women’s Safety Norliza Abdullah, Director of Town Planning, Municipal Council of Seberang Perai
15:40-16:20	Discu- ssion QnA	- Jong Soo Park, Director of Women’s Policy Division, Seoul Metropolitan Government - Joy Da Hae, Project Manager of Improving Gender Equality and Safety for our Village, Seoul Women Association
Recommendation of Asian Cities for Inclusive and Safer Cities for Women		
16:20-17:00	Agreement and proposal by Asian cities - Announce recommendation - Future cooperation plan of Asian Women’s Network	
17:00	Closing	

RECOMMENDATION OF  
THE 2<sup>nd</sup> ASIAN WOMEN'S NETWORK FORUM  
"Building Inclusive and Safer Cities for Women"

Recognizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, one of which is Goal 11 – makes cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Women's Network Forum with the theme "Building Inclusive and Safer Cities for Women", participants representing Asian city officials, women NGO activists and international organization experts has agreed on the following recommendations for governments, NGOs, women's organizations, and the international networks take action for a more inclusive, more gender responsive and safe cities for all residents.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

First, in order to create safer cities, local governments should in their policy making take into consideration factors like the gender, age, nationality and language of those who comprise the city's population from a perspective of prevention of violence through safety governance. Special provisions should be made to accommodate those who are differently abled, who have multiple responsibilities as care-givers, or who may come from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Second, local governments should put in place systems to prevent and address gender-based violence and to ensure safety in situations of disasters and catastrophes. They should conduct gender-centric analysis of current safety levels prevailing in their cities and collect reliable gender-sensitive data that should guide them in their policy making and administration.

Third, local governments should evolve urban plans and designs to guarantee women's safety. Urban spaces, like streets, parks, public toilets, housing, and transportation systems should be designed in a manner that ensures the safety of women as well as of other vulnerable groups like the elderly and the disabled.

Fourth, local governments are urged to acknowledge the practical knowledge and leadership of



women, from neighborhoods to city levels, and should actively encourage women's participation in their decision making processes, especially while devising plans and strategies for women's safety. In addition, female representation in crisis management committees should be enhanced particularly with regard to political, administrative and business interventions on safety.

Fifth, local governments should come up with gender-responsive safety guidelines and establish support systems for women survivors of violence as well as communities that are vulnerable to disasters. For example, local governments should provide legal support, medical support, and professional counseling and set up adequate shelters for victims of violence including the provision of space for women. Local governments together with the national government should increase female participation in training for disaster management, including emergency evacuation measures. They should also ensure clear signage and public messaging on where disaster shelters are located, educate the public on recognizing emergency warnings, and draw up gender-responsive guidelines for each type of disaster, keeping in mind the specific needs of women. There are other affected and other vulnerable sectors in society such as the elderly, children, immigrants and the disabled that must be provided with rights-based support.

Sixth, local authorities like the police, the emergency services, and the public transport services should ensure that their personnel are sensitized to these concerns, and trained to respond to violence against women and disasters in a gender-centric, gender-sensitive manner.

Seventh, the national government must provide full support to implement policies and programs that support the recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND CITIZENS**

First, female citizens and neighborhood communities should organize and participate in 'A city free from violence against women' campaign, with the media encouraged to prevent the issue by raising public awareness on gender equality and women's right to safety and mobility. These improvements should go in line with globally accepted principles of inclusion for all groups regardless of gender, ethnicity, age or religion.

Second, women's organizations and local communities should work together on mobilizing local communities for women's safety. It should be mandatory for all community activities to have equal gender representation, and the active participation of adolescents and girls.

Third, grassroots women's organizations should conduct safety audits in local neighborhoods with the

involvement of the residents, in order to evolve ways to establish an independent community safety net.

Fourth, women in communities should run safety leadership training programs for women and girls. Women should be encouraged to share their everyday experiences and suggest measures to address safety concerns.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS**

First, building on their geographical proximity and cultural similarities, cities in Asia should work together to share their experiences in recovering from disasters, tackling violence in all forms, including gender violence, and in ending a culture of gender discrimination and impunity. These improvements should go in line with globally accepted principles of inclusion for all groups regardless of gender, ethnicity, age or religion.

Second, the international city network should recognize the importance of city-to-city partnerships and networking in order to build a safe urban environment for women. International cities should acknowledge that they are accountable for women's safety and must put in place plans and practices in achieving this end.

Third, the international city network should recognize that gender equality and a non-discriminatory social environment are important for women's safety.

Fourth, the international city network should share the agreed recommendations with all cities and regions in Asia.

Fifth, the international city network should also share its vision and best practices on addressing violence against women as well as its disaster safety policies with other cities of the world.

## Asian Women's International Network: Asian Dialogue

### In collaboration with:

K.H. Angela Kang,  
President of Seoul Foundation of Women and Family,  
Seoul, Korea

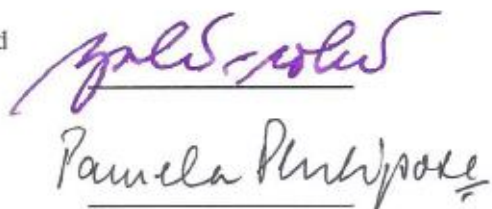


Kyu Sook Um,  
Assistant mayor of Women and Family Affairs Office,  
Seoul Metropolitan Government, Seoul, Korea

Umetani Junko,  
Special Adviser to the Hyogo Governor for Regional,  
Revitalization & Women's Empowerment, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan

梅谷 順子

Corazon Juliano Soliman,  
Former Secretary of Department of Social Welfare and  
Development of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines



Corazon Juliano Soliman

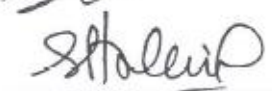
Pamela Philipose,  
Board Member of Jagori, Delhi, India



Laura Pérez  
President, Metropolis Women International Network



Sayel Cortes,  
Safer Cities Program Coordinator, CityNet



Sri Husnaini Sofjan,  
Senior Program Strategist, Huairou Commission



Norliza Abdullah,  
Director of Town Planning,  
Municipal Council of Seberang Perai, Malaysia

# Annex IV. Forum Sketch

