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**20  
18**  
ANNUAL  
UPDATE

**OVER A  
DECADE OF  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE**



# FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

Annual Update **2018**



## HERO AWARDS 2018 SUPPORTERS

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Venue Partner



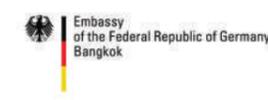
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# APCOM AMBASSADORS



LGBTI Human Rights Ambassador  
**The Hon Michael Kirby**



Private Sector Ambassador  
**Michael Bäk**



Community Ambassador  
**Okkar Min Maung**



Pacific Ambassador  
**H.E. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau**



Research Ambassador  
**Prof. Adeeba Kamarulzaman**



HIV/AIDS Ambassador  
**Prasada Rao**

# REGIONAL ADVISORY GROUP



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Vice Chair: **Donn Colby**



Board Member:  
**Damrong Sakulpongyuenyong**  
**Andrew Chidgey**  
**Isikeli Vulavou**  
**Scott Hearnden**  
**Nicolas Parkhill**



# FOREWORD

Following on from last year's landmark 10th anniversary commemorations, 2018 marked a year of consolidation for APCOM across a range of initiatives and objectives. One of the most important outcomes was the development and launch of TENACITY, our Strategic Framework for 2018-2020. This vital organisational framework will guide our work over the next few years and commits APCOM to taking a bold, ambitious and tenacious approach to building a more effective response to the health and rights of gay men, other men who have sex with men and LGBTI people across Asia and the Pacific.

What we want to help achieve by 2020 and beyond is a scaled up and sustainable HIV response for men who have sex with men, improved human rights for LGBTI people, and strong HIV and LGBTI community organisations across the region. This is the vision that underpins our strategy and informs the action that we'll take to help ensure that the people and communities we serve don't get left behind in relation to the global agenda for ending HIV and delivering sustainable development.

The action we undertook over the course of 2018 clearly illustrates how the work of APCOM is contributing to the realisation of our broader strategic goals. For example, in relation to improving the regional response to HIV, our TestXXX initiatives provided innovative HIV prevention education for young gay men in five Asian countries; our PULSE gay youth health survey helped gather critical data to improve HIV prevention initiatives targeting young gay men in the Greater Mekong region; and our PrEPMAP website helped increase awareness of HIV prevention treatment PrEP across the region.

In relation to improving human rights for LGBTI people, our involvement in the Pride In The Humanitarian System conference helped advance the inclusion of LGBTI people in humanitarian responses to conflicts and natural disasters; and our Marriage Equality Strategy Meeting helped advance the campaign for same-sex marriage in 8 countries across Asia. We also launched the Finance Inc. project that aims to contribute to improved access for LGBTI people to economic and social services specifically health, education and financial resources and services. It also aims to contribute to increased participation of LGBTI communities in the conversations aimed towards inclusion. In relation to fostering strong HIV and LGBTI community organisations across the region. Our SHIFT Knowledge Management Hub provided vital resources for HIV advocates in four key counties in Asia, and we showcased the value of community service through our production of our 2018 Asia Pacific HERO Awards.

These are just a few examples of the action that APCOM undertook in 2018 to make the difference we want to see in the world, and you can read more about these activities - as well as other organisational highlights - in this report. As always, we could not have achieved these important outcomes without the hard work and dedication of APCOM's staff, advisory board, ambassadors, stakeholders and supporters and we thank all for their contributions and collaboration.

In 2019, we look forward to the impact this collective effort will continue making as we seek equity, dignity and social justice for our brothers and sisters across our region and throughout the world.

**Dédé Oetomo** - Chair, Regional Advisory Group  
**Midnight Poonkasetwattana** - Executive Director

# INTRODUCTION WE ARE APCOM

We are a regional organisation with a vision to have a world where all gay men, other men who have sex with men and people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics can fully participate in and achieve sustainable development in all aspects of their health, rights and wellbeing.

We work to improve the health and rights of gay men, other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people across Asia and the Pacific. Our focus includes work on HIV because it is a key health issue for gay men and other men who have sex with men in the region. We also address other related health issues for our communities such as sexual health, mental health and drug use.

As a regional organisation, we focus on improving relevant human and legal rights across the region as discrimination, stigma, criminalisation and exclusion impact on the health outcomes of the communities we serve.

- Strategic Goals**
- **HIV is not over**
  - **Our Rights**  
Protecting gay men, other men who have sex with me and SOGIESC Persons
  - **Our Strength**  
Stronger interlinked communities and broader partner networks

## New Strategy

- 1. Advocacy & Research**  
We work with individuals and community partners across the region to help implementers, legislators, policymakers, and international agencies including donor agencies to better understand the needs of our communities and compel them to act. We also undertake and support a range of local, national and international research projects, so we can inform this advocacy with appropriate evidence.
- 2. Education & Innovation**  
We drive innovation and promote technology to build community-based models of evidence-informed interventions and responses. We produce campaigns to inform our community members about issues which affect their health and wellbeing. We deliver training and produce resources to help our community partners to improve how they work. We develop and trial new health promotion initiatives that can be used by community partners across the region.
- 3. Community Engagement**  
We build capacities to ensure new generations of leadership among gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people. We engage communities to deliver strong responses based on evidence and good practice. We connect community members, community partners and other stakeholders so that we can all work together more effectively. We work with individuals and communities to focus attention on local needs that are emerging, forgotten or ignored.



# OVERVIEW

We represent and work with a network of individuals and community-based organisations across 35 countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Annual Update **2018**



21  
NUMBER OF STAFF

13  
RESOURCES PRODUCED

21,679  
WEBSITE VISITORS

13  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS ACROSS THE REGION

8,920  
ONLINE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

4,500  
YOUTUBE VIEWS

10,461  
FACEBOOK LIKES (APCOM)

3,978  
TWITTER FOLLOWERS

# EDUCATION & INNOVATION

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**testXXX.org** TestXXX

testXXX is conceived by APCOM to close the gap between the HIV prevalence among MSM in Asian cities and the rate of HIV testing among them. Many countries within Asia are recording alarmingly high numbers of HIV infection among MSM population. This is particularly evident in large urban areas like Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta and Manila where prevalence has been reported between 15-31%. Where data is available, the rate of HIV testing among young MSM (aged 29 and below) is less than 50%.

testXXX was piloted in Bangkok, named TestBKK, in 2014 with the support from LINKAGES Thailand led by FHI Thailand funded by USAID and PEPFAR. With the support of Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF) in 2015, testBKK received additional resources for three years (2015-2018) and TestXXX expanded to three new cities: Ho Chi Minh City (TestSGN), Manila (TestMNL), and Jakarta (TestJKT). Each of these expanded campaign received a one-year grant.

While TestBKK is directly implemented by APCOM, the other TestXXX campaigns are implemented by country-level partners – so called Country Implementing Partners (CIPs) under APCOM's supervision and guidance. These CIPs are CARMAH for TestSGN, Love Yourself Inc. for TestMNL and Jaringan GWL-INA for TestJKT.

Each testXXX campaign is mandated to create partnerships with a certain number of clinics that provide sexual health services, including HIV and STI testing and treatment, to MSM. These selected clinics should be accommodating and sensitive to the needs of MSM, including ensuring non-judgemental, anonymous and confidential service delivery.



**SUCK F\*#K TEST REPEAT**  
testBKK.org

**TestBKK**

testBKK is a pilot and Bangkok-based campaign of testXXX, APCOM's flagship regional sexual health campaign targeting young gay men in Asia-Pacific cities with high HIV prevalence among gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) demography. The campaign aims to complement the existing testing services in Bangkok in reaching wider young MSM audience and generating the HIV prevention, support and care service uptakes among them.

To achieve the goals, testBKK has harnessed the power of cutting-edge communications and creativity that resonates with today's culture of YMSM, such as the popular use of mobile sexual networking apps and other online platforms to regularly find new sexual partners.

For 2018, testBKK continued to promote sexual health resources in its website as well as a customised, secure online booking platform, supported by LINKAGES Thailand led by FHI360 and funded by USAID and PEPFAR, through multiple digital touchpoints such as Facebook page and adverts on dating apps. The campaign also produced and utilised new campaign static visuals which convey sex-positive contents and established partnerships with social media influencers who are popular among young Thai MSM for smart growth of target audience.

Furthermore, as a response to the chemsex situation among MSM in Thailand, testBKK has developed non-judgemental, non-coercive harm reduction information resources in Thai language in order to assist MSM who engage in chemsex and any other kind of illicit drug consumption in reducing drug-associated harm and to encourage them to access HIV testing, prevention, and treatment services.

In terms of community outreach, testBKK took an engagement in a role of official sexual health partner of White Party Bangkok 2019 both on the online outreach and physical outreach at the venues, and were co-branding in producing the campaign materials to promote the awareness of PrEP among the partygoers.

By the end of 2018, testBKK has more than 70,000 Facebook Page followers, 52,000 YouTube channel subscribers and 13,000 monthly website visitors.

**PrEP MAP**  
Your guide to PrEP in Asia and the Pacific

[www.PrEPmap.org](http://www.PrEPmap.org)

We have powered this website to improve awareness, advocacy and ultimately access to PrEP across the Asia and the Pacific region. This intervention is a product of the contributions of MSM community members in Asia and the Pacific for MSM community members in Asia and the Pacific. PrEP MAP is an exercise in community ownership to generate demand, through a resource database on PrEP awareness and to advocate for and build demand in our communities for the right to access proven and comprehensive prevention approaches.

APCOM launched this new digital resources during the International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2018) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

# EDUCATION & INNOVATION

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## Sustainable HIV Financing in Transition (SHIFT)

In 2017, APCOM entered into a partnership with Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) to deliver a first regional project aimed at improving HIV financing in countries whose economic development is limiting their eligibility for international aid. The project aims to provide technical assistance through research, education and advocacy to civil society in Indonesia, Malaysia, The Philippines and Thailand to be more effective at securing HIV programme funding from their respective national governments.

APCOM worked to increase the evidence base on innovative approaches to financing CSO and KP networks, as well as developed materials on financing concepts, experiences from programme and other countries, and good practice examples to support more effective CSO and KP advocacy. We have coordinated national assessments on financing mechanisms/policies which aimed at contributing to on-going understanding of the funding landscape for all other activities within the programme.

We have developed a series of case studies on good practices by CSOs across the region, to build the case for stronger CSO engagement in the HIV response. We have led with inputs from partners in documenting and compiling these case studies, which included cases of successful advocacy in domestic financing and investments, expansion of Universal Health Care or other social protection schemes to cover HIV and other health needs of key populations, and the use of innovative mechanisms to build core funds and sustainability.

### [www.shiftHIVfinancing.org](http://www.shiftHIVfinancing.org)

APCOM have established an online regional Knowledge Management Hub on sustainability and transition to expand online and printed access to investment and financing materials. The website, [www.shiftHIVfinancing.org](http://www.shiftHIVfinancing.org), is designed to facilitated regional and country partners' access to a range of financing and sustainability strategic information and advocacy materials.

We have collated and packaged materials that are relevant for community advocacy on sustainability and transition. The website contains a range of reports, case studies, videos and infographics focusing on HIV financing to help HIV advocates across Asia become more effective at participating in conversations with their national governments to fund health programmes for communities most affected by HIV.



## The Multi-Country South Asia Global Fund HIV Programme (MSA)

The Multi-Country South Asia Global Fund HIV Programme (MSA) is a regional programme to reduce vulnerability to, and impact of, HIV on men who have sex with men (MSM), hijra and transgender people through community systems strengthening in seven countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. UNDP BRH was the PR till 2016 and from January 2017 Save the Children, Nepal takes on the role of new PR, and APCOM continues to be the regional SR.

During the course of implementation, we aim to achieve improving the delivery of HIV related services for MSM, transgender and hijra population across South Asia; improving the policy environment with regard to MSM, transgender and HIV related issues; and improving the strategic knowledge on MSM, transgender and HIV related issues across South Asia.

Throughout 2018, we have organised various capacity building workshops and developed knowledge products for the communities. There was a total of 262 members of community who attended meetings, events or capacity building workshops related to HIV, service delivery for MSM and transgender population. Through this period, there were 4 knowledge products developed related to the contribution of achieving project's goal "reduce the impact of HIV among MSM and transgender population."

APCOM has successfully linked South Asia with other significant work taking place in other regions. We created opportunities for our partners in participating in large international and global events such as ILGA Asia Conference and International AIDS Conferences. The mix of focus areas within the MSA enabled our partners in finding platforms to present their work and communities' voices to a larger audience.

# ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

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## PULSE Initiative

This initiative is a research, capacity strengthening and advocacy project targeting young gay men and other men who have sex with men (YMSM) in Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Through the research component, we aim to generate the crucial data on YMSM and underpin the advocacy activities. Capacity strengthening is ongoing across organisational capacity building, research, communications and promotions, and advocacy activities, tailored to the needs of the organisation. The PULSE initiative is fully supported by the 5% Initiative on HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria implemented by Expertise France. APCOM is the principle recipient and work across the countries through our country partners KHANA (Cambodia), Lao Positive Health Association (LaoPHA), Myanmar Youth Stars (MYS), Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand, and Vietnam Network of MSM.



Through this initiative, we aim to have region-wide means of providing new epidemiological and behavioural data on young MSM aged 15-24 years through internet-based survey and moving away from the traditional outreach activities and methods. We wanted to inform programs in structuring innovative interventions, guidelines, national strategic plans, as well as to the Country Coordinating Mechanisms and Global Fund in its future programs and engagements directed towards young MSM aged 15-24 to contribute in reducing HIV risk behaviours and prevent the escalating HIV epidemic among the young MSM population in the sub-region.

PULSE has had significant achievements over the last year. APCOM, in collaboration with our sub-recipients, has made substantial progress in implementing PULSE over the last year with the following key achievements:

- Wave 1 of the PULSE survey launched on 30 March 2018 in Cambodia, Laos PDR and Thailand. The survey closed on 31 May 2018. In total, 2865 young MSM completed the survey: 1477 in Thailand, 769 in Cambodia and 619 in Lao PDR. Data analysis is underway. The survey was widely promoted through social media including Facebook and private and public chat groups, dating apps, online influencers and 'offline' events by sub-recipients in their local language as well as APCOM.
- Mapping of online actors and venues popular with young MSM in each respective country was completed in late 2017. This provided critical information for the promotion of the survey in country.
- Pilot testing of the survey tool was conducted with young MSM in Cambodia, Laos PDR, Thailand and Vietnam in February - March 2018. Pilot testing provided valuable feedback on the survey, validated the online mapping and provided insight into the most appropriate incentives for participation.
- The inaugural Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting was held in August 2018. The SAC is intended to help ensure the scientific rigour of the research component by providing a "brain's trust" of experts from the Greater Mekong sub-region. The work of the SAC complements the Community Advisory Group / Coordinating Advisory Group (CAG), which has broader representation from community and key stakeholders to support the overall conduct of the project.

## FINANCE Inc.

## Finance Inc: Developing a SOGIESC Inclusive Approach for the Asian Development Bank

Finance Inc is our project anchored on the human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination as expounded in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments which recognize that 'all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.' It is also anchored on The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) principle of 'leaving no one behind.'

Through Finance Inc. we aim to contribute to improved access of persons of diverse SOGIESC to economic and social services specifically health, education and financial resources and services. It also aims to contribute to increased participation of LGBTQI communities in the conversations aimed towards inclusion.

There are ongoing efforts to address economic and social exclusion based on sexual orientation, gender identities, expressions and sex characteristics in various sectors including the private sector and multilateral development institutions.

Finance Inc. aims to engage with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other stakeholders in the finance sector towards the overall goal of LGBTQI inclusion. Reflections of LGBTQI inclusion can be in terms of policies, processes, and programs, among others.

The project will provide venues for interphase between LGBTQI organizations and stakeholders in the finance and private sector.

To achieve these goals, Finance Inc. strategies include advocacy, partnerships building, contributing to evidence building, capability building and sensitization activities, learning from and being guided by experience on LGBTQI inclusion of other stakeholders in the finance and private sectors, and drawing lessons from implementing pilot projects related to LGBTQI financial inclusion.

For 2018, Finance Inc. was able to firm up partnerships with our country partner organizations and have started initial engagements with the Asian Development Bank headquarters. APCOM and our country partner organizations also had a session at the World Bank Civil Society Forum in October 2018 where the LGBTQI situations in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and the Philippines were highlighted. It was also an opportunity to learn how the World Bank is doing its SOGI inclusion work.

Finance Inc. is a three year (2018-2020) project being implemented with our country partner organizations in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and the Philippines. It is supported by VOICE under its Influencing Grant.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

connectingasia

## Connecting Asia

In March 2018 APCOM released Connecting Asia, a report detailing the outcomes of last year's groundbreaking Connecting Asia consultation in Bangkok – which focused on using digital communications to tackle the rising impact of HIV on gay men in Asia. The report provided a useful summary of the outcomes of the consultation and includes information on how frontline HIV and community workers across Asia are planning on using digital communications in their work with MSM and other populations impacted by HIV. Our Connecting Asia outcomes report highlights what is needed for a community-led ICT response to HIV and MSM in Asia, identifying key required inputs, actions, and lessons learned. The report will be an extremely useful reference for HIV workers across Asia and the Pacific for the development of their local HIV education programmes and will also serve as a useful resource for organisations seeking data for their advocacy and fundraising efforts in relation to ICT related initiatives.

## No Longer Left Behind – SOGIESC Asia and the Pacific Call for Action in the Humanitarian System

In March 2018 APCOM released Connecting Asia, a report detailing the outcomes of last year's groundbreaking Connecting Asia consultation in Bangkok – which focused on using digital communications to tackle the rising impact of HIV on gay men in Asia. The report provided a useful summary of the outcomes of the consultation and includes information on how frontline HIV and community workers across Asia are planning on using digital communications in their work with MSM and other populations impacted by HIV. Our Connecting Asia outcomes report highlights what is needed for a community-led ICT response to HIV and MSM in Asia, identifying key required inputs, actions, and lessons learned. The report will be an extremely useful reference for HIV workers across Asia and the Pacific for the development of their local HIV education programmes and will also serve as a useful resource for organisations seeking data for their advocacy and fundraising efforts in relation to ICT related initiatives.



# HERO AWARDS

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On 30 November 2018, we honoured HIV & LGBTQI Heroes at the Bangkok World AIDS Day Gala held at the British Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand and attended by over 300 people. A diverse and inspirational mix of 24 people and organisations from across Asia and the Pacific had been selected as finalists for this year's HERO Awards. Standing for HIV, Equality and Rights, the HERO Awards acknowledged the outstanding service to the HIV response in Asia and the Pacific, and to the region's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) communities. The 24 finalists were selected from over 200 nominations across eight categories submitted by community members throughout the region.

## The HERO Award recipients were:

Community Hero:  
**Jean Chong** (Singapore)

Transgender Hero:  
**Simran Shaikh** (India)

HIV Hero:  
**Nguyen Anh Phong** (Vietnam)

Social Justice Hero:  
**Ken Moala** (Oceania)

Health and Wellbeing Hero:  
**Dr. Yogi Prasetya** (Indonesia)

Community Ally Award:  
**Surang Janyam** (Thailand)

Community Organisation Award:  
**PT Foundation** (Malaysia)

Young Achiever Award:  
**Justin Francis Bionat** (Philippines)

Shivananda Khan Award for Extraordinary Achievement:  
**Taiga Ishikawa** (Japan)

HIV | EQUALITY | RIGHTS  
**HERO AWARDS**  
apcom



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Annual Update **2018**

## International AIDS Conference (AIDS) 2018

With more than half of 270,000 new HIV infections attributed to men who are having sex with men, there is an urgent and on-going need to address key populations still affected by the epidemic in particular their access to HIV services such as prevention, testing and treatment. Thailand, amongst the very few, has begun offering PrEP as part of the prevention package for key populations. More countries are following suit, however the response has been typified by demonstration projects with limited cohorts and number of persons recruited. There needs to be an urgent push for more comprehensive and accessible forms of PrEP access embedded within public health systems to ensure this prevention approach is effective.

The conservative swing in Southeast Asia has also caused widespread stigma and discrimination against young gay men, young men who are having sex with men and transgender people, turning back a humanistic and public health-centred response to the epidemic. Policy reform for a more enabling legal environment have been implemented, but political will is much needed still amongst policy makers and governments.

The following are APCOM's objectives in AIDS 2018:

1. Build a case on the continuing rise of HIV epidemic and human rights violations against key populations in Asia and the Pacific Region;
2. Promote HIV responses in Asia and the Pacific that are supported by and tailored to the needs of the community and key populations;
3. Showcase, disseminate and present strategic information on gay men, bisexual men, other MSM and transgender community in Asia and the Pacific;
4. Strengthen existing partnerships between and among community based organisations, funders, and technical partners, and establish new relationship, to:
  - Commit and advocate for innovative HIV prevention and testing methods tailored for young key populations aged 15-24;
  - Commit and advocate for political will of governments to increase domestic financing on HIV programs for key populations and to create a more enabling environment.

APCOM's engagement shall highlight the HIV epidemic and state of human rights situation in Asia and the Pacific, and advocate for an increased political commitment and accountability among governments, donors and civil society in combatting the HIV epidemic in the region. This is also an opportunity to showcase the support provided by Expertise France to Asia and demonstrate the achievements from these partnerships.

## ILGA Asia 2018

APCOM attended the 7th biennial conference of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Association in Asia (ILGA Asia) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in December 2017. It attracted over 300 delegates from throughout Asia who discussed a diverse range of issues affecting LGBTI people and communities across the region. Asia Pacific HIV and LGBTI community network APCOM had a strong presence at the week-long event, co-presenting several sessions and events on a variety of topics including improving advocacy for and reducing violence against LGBTI people.



**MAY 2018**

- ▶ **Controlling the HIV Epidemic Summit.**  
*Geneva, Switzerland*
  - It was hosted and supported by The International Association Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) in collaboration with UNAIDS, the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), the Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), and the Geneva University Hospitals. The summit aimed at reflecting a pathway towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.
- ▶ **International Conference on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status Research: Data Collection, Analysis, Social and Policy Engagement.**  
*Hong Kong*
  - The conference was co-organised by Sexualities Research Programme, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, United Nations Development Programme, and Gender Studies Programme, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, with the support from the CUHK Faculty of Social Science Conference Grant.
  - The conference considers how data about sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status can best be collected, analysed and utilised for social and policy engagements. One of its objectives is to inspire and equip academics and community-based groups to conduct sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status research that can inform policy and practice.
- ▶ **Robert Carr Fund Collective Impact Reflections.**  
*Amsterdam, The Netherlands*
  - The meeting was organised by Robert Carr Fund for civil society networks. It aims to build on achievements and lessons learned from the previous year's funding cycle.

**JUNE 2018**

- ▶ **Pacific Human Rights Conference: Advancing Human Rights related to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expressions in the Pacific.**  
*Nadi, Fiji*
  - The conference aims to embrace wider and collective knowledge on Pacific issues such as social justice, human rights, gender and sexual justice, health and well-being, and religious harmony in the Pacific.
- ▶ **13th International Conference on HIV Treatment and Prevention Adherence.**  
*Florida, USA*
  - Sponsored by IAPAC, the conference features the presentation and discussion of HIV treatment and biomedical prevention adherence research, as well as current behavioural and clinical perspectives. The conference focused on the state-of-the-science evidence on best practices and key lessons learned in the field of HIV treatment and prevention adherence.
- ▶ **Queer Asia Conference 2018: Bodies X Borders.**  
*London, United Kingdom*
  - This third edition of 'Queer' Asia conference charts new dialogues on burgeoning questions around bodies and borders with their attendant biopolitics.

**AUGUST 2018**

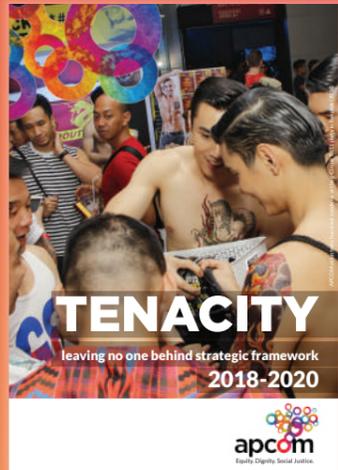
- ▶ **ILGA Oceania Regional Conference.**  
*Samoa*
  - The aim of the conference was to re-ignite the fires of the LGBTI community on issues of human rights and health in the states of Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific, Melanesia and the Micronesian Islands.

**OCTOBER 2018**

- ▶ **International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group Annual Meeting.**  
*Bali, Indonesia*
  - The meeting brought together central bankers, ministers of finance and development, private sector executives, civil society, media and academics to discuss issues of global concern, including world economic outlook, global financial stability, poverty eradication, jobs and growth, economic development, aid effectiveness and climate change.

# INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## Launch of APCOM Strategic Framework 2018-2020:

APCOM launched its new 'Leaving No One Behind' strategy at a special event during the AIDS 2018 conference in Amsterdam in July 2018. The new plan is called **TENACITY: leaving no one behind strategic framework 2018 – 2020** and details APCOM's vision for the people and communities it serves as well what outcomes APCOM will work towards achieving by 2020. Taking a bold, ambitious and tenacious approach to building a more effective response to the health and rights of gay men, other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC\* people in Asia and the Pacific, is the focus of our new 2018-2020 strategic framework.

These objectives are related to three key themes:

- **HIV Is Not Over:**  
Strengthening the HIV response for gay men and other men who have sex with men
- **Our Rights:**  
Protecting gay men, other men, who have sex with men and SOGIESC people
- **Our Strength:**  
Stronger interlinked communities and broader partner networks



## HELP APCOM'S SUSTAINABILITY

Annual Update **2018**

As announced at the HERO Awards, we want to thank you, our friends and partner for supporting and helping raise funds for APCOM's work.

However, unfortunately, APCOM is currently facing a rather uncertain financial future. Many international funding organizations and governments have decreased their financial support for HIV programs in the Asia Pacific, and this difficult environment for funding will persist for the foreseeable future.

Despite our best efforts for resource mobilisation, the funding we require for much of our HIV prevention and LGBTI rights work has not come through. This means our vital impact on the HIV and human rights response in this region is seriously diminished.

If you would like to support the work of APCOM in a significant way, and if you know sources of funding and support for APCOM please reach out to me at [midnightp@apcom.org](mailto:midnightp@apcom.org)

Account Name: **APCOM Foundation**  
 Bank Name: **Bangkok Bank**  
 Wireless Road Branch  
 Account Number: **9113002415**  
 SWIFT Code: **BKKBTHBK**

APCOM has gone through some organisational changes. Following an internal review, we restructured the team to improve how we work as an organisation and to better align ourselves with our 2018-2020 strategic framework.

The restructure also allows us to respond to changes we have seen on the programme side in the past year. The rapidly changing and challenging funding environment has meant that APCOM was not able to secure new programme funding. And following the suspension of donor funding on the PULSE project (previously known as the Greater Mekong Internet Sex Survey) two rounds of audit have now been conducted and we will take forward the audit recommendations to strengthen our internal controls and processes.

As a result of these changes APCOM's staff numbers has reduced from 21 to 11 from April 2019. These changes will enable us to prioritize and deliver more effectively against our thematic areas.

# ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES

*We are united in advocating for issues around HIV and those that advance the rights, health and well being of people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.*

# 20 18

**ANNUAL  
UPDATE**



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