

## **Report from 2010 pre-Women's Meeting held in Manado, Indonesia.**

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From July 18-21<sup>st</sup> 2010 I represented ASCM at the 19th Asia Pacific pre-Women's Meeting in Manado, Indonesia. The theme was 'Renewing the Earth: Climate Justice and Equity – Feminist Perspectives'. There were fourteen delegates, from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand. In addition, the Regional Secretary, Necta Montes, and Regional Women's Coordinator Sunita Suna both attended.

A large proportion of the Meeting was dedicated to feminist theological perspectives relating to the environment, through Bible studies, a discussion of ecofeminism, group activities and individual reflection. Each delegate also presented a report on their National Women's Programs and activities. Although I had no report, as at the time we had no Women's Officer or programs dedicated specifically to women, I very briefly presented the statistics and knowledge I had of women's participation in the ASCM.

One of the main issues that arose was not merely the proportion of women in national executives, but also the extent of their participation and influence. In particular, many activities for women for the period were conducted at the regional level; thus, national movements had perhaps withdrawn from promoting activities in their respective countries, opting instead to send participants to regional workshops for women. Several of the Indonesian participants present also highlighted that they felt they had little influence in GMKI decision making, given that the great majority of the executive in Indonesian SCM is male. This issue was not isolated to Indonesia.

From the perspective of an Australian SCMer, this discussion was particularly informative – especially given that women tend to comprise 60% of area councils and national executive. In my very brief report presented to the group, I highlighted that this particular issue was not that relevant for Australian SCM, as more active members at the time were women than men. My participation for much of the rest of the meeting was mostly observational. At the very end of the three days, however, I voted, along with other official delegates, for three new members to be elected to the Regional Women's Committee for 2010-2012.