

Australian Greens Australian Political Parties for Democracy Program (APPDP)

Annual Report 2017/ 2018

1. Introduction

The APPDP grant to the Australian Greens is managed by its International Development Committee (IDC). The Australian Greens 2017-2020 program of work continued with the three strategic directions to promote democracy in the Asia Pacific region. Our work strengthens new and emerging parties with a Greens' perspective through training and project initiatives and through supporting a regional federation of Green parties. We actively promote participation in political processes at local, regional, and national levels.

The three program's objectives for 2017-18 were:

1. To support networking and training opportunities for Asia Pacific Green parties
2. To strengthen capacity of the Asia Pacific Greens Federation to build capacity and professionalism of Green parties in the region
3. To assist the development and consolidation of emerging parties

2. Summary

Overall progress in 2017 - 18 saw the following:

We have continued capacity development of the Asia Pacific Greens Federation (APGF) which now includes Asia, the Pacific and the Middle East. This has included ongoing support for the Secretariat, two new interns for APGF and for the first time a fundraising grants contractor for APGF which is registered as an Association in Australia. We provided training through in-country training initiatives in three countries and continued our internship program within Australia.

Over the past year we supported new and emerging party projects with the allocation of funding for grants including five active projects in India building the first pan-Indian Green party, Indonesia assisting registration of the first national Green party, Nepal assisting with party structures and capacity building for their national election, the Solomon Islands assisting with party structures and registration, and strengthening the APGF Women's Network (APGFWN). Several of our projects are ongoing from the previous year to provide assistance to meet key targets that may expand beyond a one-year cycle such as party registration and party building.

This year we commenced consolidation of written materials and resources by developing an accessible online toolkit from materials of the Australian Greens, New Zealand Greens and other parties in the region for access by all parties.

Activity Proposals

The three proposals are reviewed as follows:

3. Activity Proposal 1 - Support networking and training for Asia Pacific Green Parties

In-country trainings

In 2017-18 we have been utilising Australian Greens expertise while they have been in-country with other programs or on their own initiative. This has been cost effective and making the most of the opportunity. We have reached a wide geographic spread of parties each with unique requirements and stages of development.

Implementation process

3.1 Lebanon Green Party – May 2018 national election

The Lebanese election proceeded on May 8. It was the first national election for 8 years. Only one representative for the civil society grouping of parties was elected to parliament. The Lebanon Green Party stood three candidates – their first time at the national level. They have 4 municipal/ local government representatives. The IDC assisted with in-country training and website development. The election was a significant step forward in the Middle East for democratic processes.

3.2 Bangladesh Green Party - campaign training

Scott Ludlam, former Australian Greens Senator, undertook a training for the Bangladesh Green Party who are now building up a campaign on marine reserves and waterway protection. Scott travelled to both Mongolia and Bangladesh on his own initiative without IDC funds.

The Bangladeshi Greens then followed this up with their own training on running issue specific campaigns to develop party policies and platforms. The Bangladesh Green Party had an active IDC project last year which helped establish the party. At this time, smaller political parties find it difficult to stand for election in Bangladesh so developing their campaign platform has increasing importance.

3.3 Mongolian Green Party – party building

Scott Ludlam undertook an 8-day exchange with the Mongolian Green Party (MGP) in April which included media work, visits to rural areas, and party building training. The political system in Mongolia is in flux and two by-elections will be held in October 2018. MGP is the oldest Green Party in Asia and are building up to participate in national elections in 2020. We will be continuing training assistance to the Mongolian Greens with a focus on digital campaign training and systems building in September 2018. This assistance was identified as a priority by the initial in-country visit.



Mongolian Green Party Training 2018

3.4 Australian Greens Internship in Australia

This year an internship was hosted in Adelaide by the South Australian Green Party in the lead up to their March state election. The intern a Young Green from Indonesia was successful in completing her 21-day internship and taking the lessons learnt back to the Indonesian Greens especially regarding communications strategy and skills and election observation.

3.5 IDC Online Toolkit

The IDC is currently developing an easily accessible online toolkit from our own party's resources and examples from other party's initiatives and policies. The three key areas of documentation that can be adapted by emerging parties are: organisational management; elections and campaigning; advocacy and policy. This is particularly useful for parties who are setting up and registering their party; understanding democratic processes and systems; and for policy development and campaign development. The toolkit will be presented at a workshop at the December 2018 study tour of APGF parties to Australia.

Lessons learnt/identified for next time

In-country training initiatives require substantial work in identifying the best training assistance, developing a program and working with the persons delivering the project as well as the party. The preparation phase needs ample lead time. Scheduling major training initiatives at intervals is important for staff and volunteer resources.

Training initiatives in Asia, the Pacific or the Middle East are much more focused on the recipient party and allocated at specific key dates such as build up to elections.

It is important to pass on the key resources developed for the specific in-country training program. The IDC online toolkit will assist with one aspect of this. Requesting parties to write detailed reports is a key part of their learnings as well as review of their project and work.

Achievement of overall program objective

The five training initiatives listed above have each met the program objective of strengthening political parties and democracy in Asia and the Middle East. The project in Lebanon is the first such initiative we have undertaken in the Middle East. It also provides for networking regionally between the Australian Greens and emerging Green parties.

In-country visits and training remain an important tool for assessing projects and to provide first hand training to key persons and executives in these parties. It also allows for specific adaptation to the political and cultural situation the parties are operating in at that time.

An internship program in Australia has the dual function of upskilling the successful intern/s and of informing the Australian Green party of the ongoing issues and challenges faced by parties in their home country.

4. Activity Proposal 2

Program objective - Strengthen capacity of the Asia Pacific Greens Federation (APGF) to build capacity and professionalism of Green parties

This project continued to support a sustainable secretariat to enhance the capacity of APGF to assist and develop member parties and emerging member parties. The Secretariat, a voluntary Convenor, and two APGF trainees provide coordination, communication systems and assist organisational development within the Federation.

The IDC also supports the APGF trainees who are from the Lebanese Green Party and the Nepali Green Party.

The Council holds monthly virtual meetings as part of its regional communications and planning structure and has a membership and administrative team. The Council continues to further develop the Federation's governance capabilities and to produce resolutions on green politics.

The APGF Council is an ongoing example of participating in a democratic process as for many parties this is their first exposure to such a process, particularly for those living in countries where democratic processes are not encouraged.

Implementation progress

4.1 APGF Secretariat

The Secretariat undertakes regular reporting to the APGF Council and to IDC. This includes bi-weekly Skype calls with the Australian Greens International Development Coordinator and monthly reports. This enables cooperation and information exchange between APGF and the Australian Greens. The work of the two APGF interns has enabled further development of the regional Young Greens network and support to the APGF women's network (APGWN). APGWN has in the 2017-18 financial year been provided a grant from the IDC for the development of a mentorship program and tool kit for women working in Green parties or standing for election. As part of our objective to increase the representation of women in party leadership positions and as candidates, APGF will monitor annually progress measures as part of the APGF annual meetings. For some parties this is a substantial undertaking in countries where this is not encouraged due to socio-economic, political and cultural issues.

4.2 Asia Pacific Greens Federation

The APGF Council convene monthly through an internet-based conferencing system to limit costs of travel. The Council is comprised of 18 members from Green parties within the region, a convenor, and two APGF interns. For the first time there is an equal number of male and female Councillors (elected delegates) from national parties. The current convenor is from the Australian Greens and assists in the strategic development of the federation. The Acting Secretary is the former party leader of the New Zealand Greens.

Achievement of overall program objective

Ongoing support for the APGF Secretariat is essential for the further development of the parties in the region alongside the ongoing expansion of APGF member parties. It is also the only communications link between parties spread through Asia, the Pacific and the Middle East. Without this network parties would be isolated and not share resources and experiences. Parties from non-OECD countries have extremely limited financial resources particularly in the least developed countries. It is deemed important to continue to provide development assistance for such parties through trainings, materials and project initiatives. APGF has now grown to 19 parties and associate party members.

Lessons Learnt

APGF continues to grow membership and improve administrative systems. Training and organisational development remain key issues to assist in this expansion. The IDC cannot expand its program unless in tandem with the growth of APGF.

Proficiency in English language skills remains an issue for several countries and delegates. As does access to internet-based conference facilities in rural areas where internet connections prove unreliable. Key for networking is party attendance at the monthly APGF internet-based meetings.

5. Activity Proposal 3

Program Objective - Assist the development and consolidation of emerging parties

This activity promotes program objectives by assisting new and emerging parties in the region to fully participate in the democratic processes within their own country. All member parties of APGF were informed of the opportunity to annually submit project proposals for small grants. 14 project proposals were received. The IDC reviewed and evaluated these proposals to determine the most effective proposals to fund within budget.

It was clear that the capacity of these member parties to identify projects and formulate project plans and proposals continues to improve on previous years' proposals. The IDC communicated the objectives of the APPDP and the strategic priorities of the IDC to the applicants. We also utilise a system of proposal submissions using Project Assessment & Planning checklists and Project Monitoring and Evaluation Checklists. Five proposals were selected that met the criteria this year. This is the same number as the previous year and the highest in number we have undertaken in any given year. To note four were for in-country parties and the fifth for the regional women's network.

Achievement of overall program objective

The Green Party of the Solomon Islands was nominated by the Australian Greens and the India Greens nominated by the Nepali Greens for membership to the APGF. Both were successful and have developed to this stage due to support of our project initiatives. In the previous year the Bangladesh Green Party and the Atjeh Greens also achieved membership status both with active IDC projects. The following projects were undertaken with the support of IDC project teams and expertise.

5.1 Solomon Islands - local government election December 2018 and national election early 2019

The Green Party Solomon Islands (GPSI) is still awaiting the conclusion of their party registration process since their documents were lodged in April. Two field trips to the remote Temotu province and to Isabel province were undertaken for party outreach. They will be standing a candidate for the first time in the local government elections in December 2018. A part-time administrator is contracted for party building, registration and fundraising. GPSI also plan to stand candidates in the national election scheduled for early next year.

5.2 Nepali Greens - green schools/camps and party branches

The party stood two women candidates in November-December at their national election - both polled 5th out of 11-12 candidates. The project has now completed 20 green schools (weekend workshops) over two years and set up two branches in urban areas outside of Kathmandu. This project incorporated 2-3-day Green camps to build up both a basis of supporters and to fulfil an educational role on Global Greens issues. Green camps were part of a strategy in the region at the base of Everest to build understanding of the Green party and its policies. Nepal has proportional representation which is unique for an electoral system in Asia.



Nepali Green Camp 2018

5.3 Indonesian Green Party – Partai Hijau Indonesia (PHI) registration

This is a new project over the past year to assist with party building, membership processes and recruitment leading up to party registration. To register a party 30 signatures are required from each of the 34 provinces within Indonesia. No national Green party is yet registered. A new project team was set up for this project with support from the South Korean and Atjeh Green parties. It is aimed the party will register ahead of the June 2019 national election.

5.4 India Greens – setting up a national party

The India Greens have held over 10 regional meetings and sub-regional meetings over the past year with the objective to set up party branches. Branches need to be registered in five states to form a national party. It is likely the party will have 7-8 state branches. This is a large undertaking over a two-year period. A three-year program was designed for the party's development which is seen as a priority from the Global Greens. They have also set up a Green Institute, called Green Forum India. The party will formally register at their national Congress in late 2018.

5.5. Asia Pacific Greens Women's Network - mentoring program, webinars and online tool and action kit

The women's mentoring program has now been piloted for seven months with five Asia Pacific Greens women party representatives being mentored by experienced women from Green parties from the Asia Pacific, Europe and African federations. This program will continue with the current intake running till year end with a new intake commencing in January 2019. The

mentoring program is complemented by monthly webinars. Topics addressed during these webinars include women's parliamentary leadership with Metiria Turei, former parliamentary leader of the New Zealand Green Party and acting APGF Secretary; women and climate change; women and water; women and poverty. The webinars are also available online and are open to all Australian Greens and APGF party women members.



Born in 1954 in the Philippines, **Ms. Meth H. Jimenez** is Secretary-General at SARILAYA. SARILAYA, formed in 1994 by women activists who survived the martial law dictatorship of the Marcos Regime. They adopt a socialist-eco-feminist framework to realize a gender-sensitive and empowering program for women and girls in the Philippines.



She had been a consultant for Martial Law Files Project of the Commission on Human Rights-UNDP and has experience of more than 40 years working for human rights, environment, women, children, heritage and political research. She has held many titles and is working constantly for the betterment of the environment and humans. She will be Resource Speaker on APGFWN (Asia Pacific Greens Federation's Women's Network) Webinar and share her knowledge and experience on : **COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE IS FIGHTING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS** on **July 25th**.



APGFWN WEBINAR

With Metiria Turei

Topic: Promoting Women's Participation or Ways to increase the Presence and Visibility of Women in Green Party

About Metiria

Metiria Turei was a member of parliament for the Green Party Aotearoa New Zealand from 2002 to 2017 and its co-leader from 2009. She has recently retired from politics and is now studying at the Dunedin School of Art. She has a law degree from Auckland Univeristy and spent many years as a poverty activist, fighting for the rights of families to a decent income and quality housing. She has grown children and now lives in Dunedin, with her husband.

Time : 20 June, Wednesday 4 am UTC

Asia Pacific Greens Women's Network webinars

5.6 Pacific Green Parties research project

A report was revised over the past year on the status of Green Parties or Green Party organisations throughout Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. This project continues to monitor contacts and any key developments of parties in the region and assess their future development.

Achievement of overall program objective

Three projects entered the second year of their support cycle while two new projects were selected. The Nepali Greens project has now concluded with a review in August 2018. The women's project will be continued by the APGF Secretariat, the Solomon Islands and India projects remain ongoing pieces of work over the next year. We are assessing how best to assist the Indonesia Green Party in the lead up to the 2019 elections.

Key party core team members learn project management and organisational skills as part of the project work itself. Two representatives for other APGF parties are in turn on the project teams and are observing and learning these skills in turn.

All the above projects have effectively contributed to the growth of the parties in the region and contributed to skill development within the specific project teams.

Lessons Learnt

Part of the planning process and party development is to assist the emerging parties to formulate detailed project plans. The IDC has enhanced its hands-on role in assisting in the planning and implementation phases. The review process upon completion of the projects continues to be a valuable assessment tool and a learning process for the recipient parties.

The time allocation to the projects can be intensive in the initial design phases and at key activity periods such as regional meetings or national Congresses or election lead up periods. Adequate time needs to be allotted at these points.

We have just begun the process to incorporate fundraising strategies and self-sufficiency models into the work plan for the emerging parties. We plan to continue this development.

The women's online tool kit program research was delayed two months due to its complexity in nature and is now due to be completed by September 1st. It focuses on initiatives to empower women within green parties and party structures with an action plan for APGF parties, some of which have very few female representatives in key roles.

6. Australian Greens International Development Committee

The APPDP grant to the Australian Greens is managed by its International Development Committee (IDC) with a membership comprising the National Convenor, National Manager, International Development Coordinator, International Secretary, a representative of the AG Global Issues Group, a representative of our Federal MPs and four international development experts who are selected each year. The IDC employs a part-time International Development Coordinator (IDCC), Michelle Sheather, who reports to the AG National Manager, Brett Constable.

The IDC meets online monthly to address proposals, monitoring, and evaluation of the APPD projects and training initiatives. Additionally, there is regular reporting and communications by email and project meetings, for the above-mentioned projects, usually monthly. The IDC holds an annual two-day face to face meeting, which was held in Melbourne in March 2018. This allowed for reviewing the previous year's work program and planning for the remaining two years of the current three-year APPDP agreement. Several new IDC members were inducted in late 2018 following the annual selection process. We have seen a significant increase in applicants for these roles and are steadily increasing the level of specialised expertise we can provide.

7. Conclusion

2017-18 was another active year for the Australian Greens APPD program with activities in each of the three program areas. The APGF Council and membership continues to expand with new members and associate members joining the Federation of parties in the region, due in large part to the project work of the Australian Greens IDC.

Five key projects were implemented in Indonesia, India, Nepal, Solomon Islands and the women's project for APGFWN. There is ongoing research to strengthen political parties within the Pacific region. Three in-country training and project review visits were held in Bangladesh, Lebanon, and Mongolia. The Australian Greens internship program was organised with the South Australian Greens during their state election for an intern from the Indonesia Green Party.

International cooperation between Asia Pacific and Middle East Green parties is practiced through involvement in project teams and the APGF.

Support for the APGF Secretariat increased over the past year with a new intake of interns, support for a fundraising contractor and support for strengthening of the functions of the Secretariat.

All the program objectives support sustainable democratic party processes with long term development outcomes.