

Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor



Annual Report

2011

CONTENTS

Pages

Executive Committee Members 2011 **3**

Acknowledgement and Appreciation **3**

Diary of Events 2009 **4**

Annual Report 2009

Introduction

Programme and Activities

- 1 Equality under Construction
- 2 Women's Political Participation
- 3 Advocacy and Networking
- 4 Operations and Staff Development
- 5 Financial Report 2011

Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor

13 Lorong 4/48E, 46050 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
Tel: 603 77844977 / Fax: 603 77844978

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PERSATUAN KESEDARAN KOMUNITI SELANGOR 2009

President:	Maria Chin Abdullah
Vice-President:	Ong Jing Cheng
Treasurer:	Pook Li Yoon
Secretary:	Gopalan Papachan
Committee Members:	Alvin Tan Elaine Sor Noel Dass

APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE

We would like to mention a word of deepest appreciation to all our members, volunteers and friends who have contributed one way or another to make Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor what it is today. Without your contributions, we would not be where we are now.

Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

INTRODUCTION

The year 2011 saw our organisation moving more determinedly towards its goals, i.e., connecting with the marginalised women and young girls. Significant changes, achievements and impact were evidenced by the participation and the changing decisions made by the community women on their lives. We see the community women pushing forward more assertively in staking their claims for greater participation and representation at not only the community levels but also in some key decision making positions, e.g. taking up council positions. The numerous training workshops and solidarity support work that PKKS have been providing finally paid off and we can now proudly say that we do have women leaders who are able to lead, initiative and promote the rights-based perspective.

The results speak for themselves. In one year, we have trained 452 women and with that we now have 20 key women community leaders who can confidently work at their own constituency levels. Their progress can be witness in the programmes that they carry out with their women members, e.g. planning meetings with women, joining other NGOs, carrying out community organising work with local women leaders and even training women to deal with social welfare concerns.

In 2011 we also celebrated our first publication on women's rights entitled, *Equality under Construction. Women's Human Rights Report, 2011/12*. We were thrilled with our first book as it covered issues that were not only close to our work but it reflected the hidden, unheard voices of women – the informal women workers, refugee women, stateless women, women from diverse genders, and women who faced still face discriminatory and gender-bias laws.

However, a surprising victory came for the women's groups, Joint Action for Gender Equality, when Noorfadillah won her case against the Ministry of Education. The judge had used the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to be held binding over her case and ruled that discrimination did occurred.

PKKS also participated in promoting free and fair elections. Being the Secretariat to BERSIH 2.0 came with many stories, experiences and lessons learnt. The arrest of the staff of PKKS came as a shocked to most of us. This reflects the risk of taking on issues that the state perceived as being "sensitive". The gains that we learnt from this experience are that PKKS had been able to contribute a fair amount to the shaping of the politics in Malaysia, as well as helped built a stronger solidarity among members, volunteers and staff of PKKS. The rally on 9 July brought home the shift in the thinking of Malaysians where new politics are being re-hatched and old politics of fear and race being pushed out of the arena. The future is for the taking and PKKS is

still the key organization that can catalyse the process of empowerment and help change thinking in our nation, Malaysia.

The dedication of the staff and members needs to be emphasised. They had a very challenging and yet I believe an invigorating year. The friendship and solidarity is much stronger and the space for open discussion and consultation helped the organisation to move forward. Great things can happen even with small contributions and each and everyone who have been touched by PKKS have given their most to the organisation.

A very warm thank you to all.

Programmes

1. Equality and Non-discrimination

This project, *Monitor the Government of Malaysia's Legal Obligation towards Integration and Implementation of the CEDAW Framework and Analysis into Laws, Policies and Promote Effective Mechanisms to Advance Equality and Non-discrimination*, was funded by the European Union. It was originally meant to conclude within 15 months, but due to difficulties in the data collection and unforeseen circumstances, it was postponed by five months. Despite the significant loss in budget of 14% due to the ringgit appreciation, EMPOWER managed to successfully carry out all the activities to achieve the objectives beyond the call of the proposal. Additional activities not in the original proposal carried out by EMPOWER to concretise the implementation of CEDAW principles include:

- The 2010 Gender Responsive Budgeting workshop for government agencies and elected representatives;
- The Annual Monitor has four issues instead of three. The four chosen issues in the Monitor were seldom discussed in the public – women working in the informal sector, refugee women, gender neutral family law, and lesbians, bisexual and transgenders (published in 2012);
- A Gender Equality forum was organised on 12 March 2011 to bring home to the public the concepts of formal, protectionist and substantive equality using a real life example – Beatrice Fernandez v Sistem Penerbangan Malaysia & Anor;
- The concepts of equality and non-discrimination were also propagated through the radio such as the BFm during the International Day's Celebration on 8 March 2011;
- Working with the Selangor State government to shape the State Policy on Women and the State Action Plan on Women.

Despite the lack of quantitative data and statistics, the writers for the Annual Monitor, *"Equality Under Construction: Malaysian Women's Human Rights Report 2010/11"* collected qualitative data through focus group discussions. Case studies were used to bring to the fore the discrimination faced by the women - the juggling of household chores, earning an income, and looking after the family; constant harassment by the police, immigration and RELA officers; marital rape; staying in an abusive marriage due to gender neutral laws. These case studies together with the indicators developed at the monitoring workshop formed the basis of the Malaysian Women's Human Rights Report 2010/11. This book was printed in both English and Bahasa Malaysia and was distributed to elected representatives, government agencies and

CSOs for their actions to promote mechanisms to advance equality and non-discrimination.

A round table discussion on “Unaddressed Women’s Issues” was organised in collaboration with SUHAKAM on 31 October 2011. It was an opportunity to present to the government and CSOs the indicators of discrimination highlighted during the process of writing the Annual Monitor. The presence of SUHAKAM negated some of the negative press generated by a conservative right-wing NGO, MAPIM, who alleged that the recommendations questioned the sanctity of Islam and promoted homosexuality and lesbianism. This publicity worked in the favour of the project, since the RTD was given prominence in the media, which otherwise might not have been captured in the mainstream media.

Cooperating with Tenaganita, Bar Council Malaysia and Sisters in Islam was also a good synergy to forward the concepts of equality and non-discrimination. This led to a clearer establishment of the indicators of discrimination, and built a clear definition of the concepts that could be easily grasped by multiple stakeholders. Five public forums, including a Gender Equality Forum – Same Same BUT Different - were organized with a total participation of at least 250 people from various CSOs. The forums were held over the course of the year.

To further the discourse at the international and public arena, EMPOWER’s writers attended the national consultation with the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (SRVAW) on 13 January 2011; interviews on the LGBT issue, refugee women and the Islamic Family Law were arranged with a hard-hitting radio station, BFM radio. Throughout the duration of the project, EMPOWER continued to engage with the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and the Selangor State Government by giving feedback to the Gender Equality Bill and the State Plan of Action on Women. This media publicity indeed gave more prominence to the public debate on the concept of equality.

Noorfadillah had applied as a temporary teacher and was offered a placement until the Ministry of Education found out that she was pregnant. They withdrew their offer. Noorfadillah brought her case to court stating that under Article 8 (2) of the Federal Constitution (FC), she was discriminated. The Court argued that it is entitled to refer to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as it **has the force of law and is, therefore, binding on Malaysia.**

Honey Tan, EMPOWER member and a legal advisor to the project, wrote the arguments based on the concepts of equality and non-discrimination as provided for in Article 8 (2) of the Federal Constitution.

Noorfadilla’s case gained international profile and her case was nominated for the 2012 Gender Justice Uncovered Awards [see link: <http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/wlw/new.php?modo=premios&tp=nominados&y=2012>]. The Gender Justice Uncovered Awards highlight decisions or statements made in writing, in English or Spanish, by judges, courts, committees, administrative bodies, prosecutors, defense attorneys, ombudsman officers, UN Committees, asylum boards or any other actor within a legal case, which have a positive or negative impact on gender equality, including those related to sexual and reproductive rights, gender violence and gender discrimination. The people’s voting choice closed on Thu 31 May 2012.

These activities have generated the multiplier effect on the work of other CSOs as their issues emerged and were captured in all the engagements that were held. This

enabled a wider outreach to other CSOs and definitely gave prominence to newly emerging topics that were seldom discussed in the public realm. This project was effective in bringing government and CSOs together to promote mechanisms to forward equality and non-discrimination in laws, policies and services.

2. Women's Political Participation -- Menjana Kuasa Wanita

The programme which is had begun 2010 reached phase 2 of the project which was the mentoring of participants via scheduled visits to their constituencies, telephones calls and local area survey projects conducted regularly to document their progress. In addition to this, a lot of emphasis was put on social media interactions with an EMPOWER-maintained Facebook page – Menjana Kuasa Wanita to continuously engage with them. However, there were instances where some participants were unable to commit to the rigor of the programme due to increasing responsibilities at work and organizational commitments.

2.1 Women in Political Participation Grassroots Level 1 Training Workshop

This workshop was conducted in Penang from 18 to 20th March 2011. The training workshop was attended by 18 community women leaders. A majority of the participants selected for this workshop work hand in hand at grassroots level with the WPP participants from the political organization in their areas. We decided to conduct the workshop outstation to give a change of environment for the women involved. It was a two-day residential programme which allowed the women to interact and network with each other. The training focused on the role of women in society, the various challenges they face, ways they could exercise their leadership roles, methods of analysing issues affecting their communities and ways to organize their communities in resolving issues affecting them.

2.2 Women in Political Participation Political Representatives Level 2 Training Workshop

Level 2 workshop had fewer participants because it was more focused and the programme was very comprehensive and required high level of participation. EMPOWER had enlisted the expertise of two organizations to co-facilitate some sessions in this workshop namely the National Democratic Institute and MyConsti programme (a committee of the Kuala Lumpur Bar Council). The workshop was held in Empress Hotel Sepang from 2nd – 5th June 2011. There were 17 participants involved in the training. Participants were from MIC, NGOs and PKR.

Prior to the Level 2 training workshop participants had been given assignments to be completed. They had to analyse the main issues in the constituents where they were based. For this 2nd level workshop, participants had to present their analysis. Most of the participants had taken great pains to analyse issues affecting their constituents and were able to display a deep understanding of this through their presentations. Next, participants were taken through extensive case studies which documented discrimination against women and human rights violations. They were expected to analyse these issues using the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Next, participants were asked to reflect upon their own growing leadership by sharing with others and looking at the commonalities of experiences and challenges that they faced. The sessions continued to ground their understanding of the Malaysian Constitution which was led by the MyConsti team. Participants practised writing preambles and had extensive discussions on issues pertaining to the Malaysian Constitution.

Two days of the workshop were dedicated to developing skills to carry out an effective campaign during elections. This session was facilitated by NDI which has extensive global experience working with women on issues pertaining to leadership and electoral processes. The feedback regarding the training workshop has been documented via video as part of EMPOWER's documentation process. Participants felt they had obtained a valuable learning experience which would greatly help them in developing their leadership.

2.3 Mentorship Programme September 2010 – February 2012

The approach in providing mentorship was based on the needs of the participants who required further capacity building and their commitment to continually develop the leadership skills.

Two of the participants who have been very consistent in working with Empower throughout the programme are Wasanthee Sinnasamy and Kamache Doray Rajoo. Wasanthee is a grassroots political leader based in Klang and Kuala Selangor while Kamache Doray Rajoo is a candidate who will be contesting in the next elections in Karak, Pahang. We focused on the areas which both the women were actively organizing communities.

2.4 Women in Political Participation (WPP) Grassroots Level 2 Training Workshop

This training was conducted on 18th to 20th November 2011 in Ipoh, Perak . It was a conscious decision to talk the women out of their usual environment. The women selected came from various political parties and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The majority of them came from impoverished circumstances in terms of socio-economic status.

The participants have been involved in political work at the grassroots level. What was most significant about these women leaders is the fact they have undergone high level of violence, marginalisation and gender discrimination. Some of them shared stories of overcoming personal obstacles such as the death of spouses, disabilities, poverty and sexual violence.

The training programme was structured to help participants identify the issues affecting them as women as well as connecting these issues to national and global level concerns. In addition to this, a process is utilized to highlight the importance of women's decision-making to politics which affect their lives. Participants are able to understand the level and extent gender discrimination impacts their rights as women and human rights as entrenched in CEDAW.

Next, the part of the programme deals with learning to use politics as important platform to advocate for women's rights. Participants are introduced to different levels of government they can institute change which was done through an interactive game to facilitate learning. Finally, they were provided with practical skills to organize at their community level. They were provided many simulations to develop more understanding as well as hone their skills as leaders at the community level.

3. ICT-VAW

This project concluded in June 2011. Small grants (USD5000) were given to four organisations to highlight digital violence against women through workshops, videos, or digital storytelling. Storytelling was an inspiration for women to share their stories on abortion for advocacy with policy makers and service providers. RRAAM, one of the grantees, has come up with a couple of videos on Women's Stories of Abortion and Access to Abortion Services. Women who have tried to or successfully had an abortion write their stories as inspiration and help for other women and themselves as well as for evidence for advocacy with policy makers and service providers. This was a way to empower women by giving them the space to voice out their concerns and issues that they are facing. It also provided a healing space in the telling of the story. They realized that they are not victims, but survivors of the abortion. The project by Stop Motion made a huge impact to others who are not aware about the different forms of violence that can harm an individual in an emotional or psychological manner. The audience has an idea of what is violence and that verbal abuse is also a form of violence. The videos also show that violence begins with the first smack or verbal abuse. The video on having women separated from men at public coaches in Malaysia managed to make it clear that gender segregation will not end violence but only has a temporary effect. Violence might still happen after the women leave the coach. We need to address the core issue which is to stop the violence. The greatest impact of this project is that they reached variety of people on Facebook users, Youtube users and it even came out in the local newspapers and also prime television.

Links:

<http://thestar.com.my/metro/story.asp?file=/2011/2/22/central/8089933&sec=central>
<http://www.stopmotionproject.org/ktm-pink-coach-yay-or-nay/>

At the Community Radio workshop in Perak (North Malaysia), participants were introduced to alternative mode of communications to strengthen education and advocacy work related to gender equality, teenage pregnancies and impact on health. It also entailed skill training to bring out creative ways of documenting issues related to women's violations and teenage pregnancies. We had the community radio training workshop for the women in Perak to introduce alternative mode of communications to strengthen education and advocacy actions of CSOs. These modes of communication had a huge impact in Perak and they will have a similar training for other communities in Perak or even rural areas such as Teluk Intan and other areas in Perak region. Below is a link on what Perak Women for Women had produced during the workshop.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=narLqg5m8nA>

WAO, the final grantee, had a social media training that managed to expose the use of social media application and also digital media tools. Participants knew how to integrate the use of social media application in their daily advocacy roles. The training has raised the confidence levels and skills of the participants who deal directly with over 1,500 women every year who are survivors of violence. Due to this training Empower staff conducted their own social media training to a different group of women interested in political campaigns. This is a huge impact that has changed views on social media and the ability to use social media part of our daily advocacy roles and political campaigns.

The participants that have attended this FTX 2 Online security workshop has been equipped and has a better understanding how to build security capacity among individuals and organizations that work with NGOs and non-profit organizations. The relationship building and dialog sessions are fundamental parts of realizing this achievement, as they share and learned from others. This workshop provided knowledge on different security tools which could be used in their daily work and also it will benefit their organization. Participants realized that this was a good way of protecting their organisation's information system from online threat, detecting and neutralising online threats. These had helped them to understand the mind of the hacker. Participants learned how to use encryption of emails and chats therefore they are able to chat securely without worrying about leakage of sensitive information. Participants felt that there is no more fear of using the internet or even feeling inferior towards the men that have "better" knowledge of IT compared to women; they are empowered to use the internet in a secure manner.

A forum on policy and advocacy, "Is Facebook Unhealthy for Families" was organised. Participants were from a mixed background – the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, National Population Development Board, local universities, civil and faith-based societies, women's groups from Malacca, Perak and Sarawak. The strengthening of networking ties with the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development augured well for the promotion of gender equality. This could lead to Empower and the JAG group having more opportunities to contribute a substantive equality and rights-based framework to the Ministry's policies and actions. Currently the Ministry's policies and actions are welfare based and are not able to tackle the discrimination faced by women in a holistic manner. The Sarawak and Malacca participants will bring home to their organisations about the key points they have learnt at this forum, since both organisations conduct counselling services for violence survivors.

4. Advocacy and Networking

4.1 Joint Action Group for Gender Equality (JAG)

The Joint Action Group for Gender Equality met in February 2011 to discuss the plans for the year. Some of the salient points raised during this meeting were to take on issues which concerned women's livelihood issues such as poverty and housing rights. This is to expand the issues of women to include social justice issues affecting women's right to a better standard of living. Members of JAG agreed to highlight socio-economic the issues affecting the women they work.

A rally was organised in conjunction with International Women's Day 2011. The march was conducted from Central Market, Kuala Lumpur to the Kuala Lumpur Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall (KLSCAH) which was approximately 2 kilometres. The rally call was for 'Walk and Rawk for Change' to highlight women's voices and representation in decision making positions. An estimated 300 women and men participated the event with most mainstream media reporting the news. What's the date?

4.2 International Women's Day Celebration

This event was conducted in conjunction with International Women's Day on 8th March 2011 in cooperation with the U.S Embassy. The theme of the event was women's political participation which was attended by Ambassador Jones. In addition to this, Dato' Sri Azalina Othman (Barisan Nasional Member of Parliament for Pengerang) and Fuziah Salleh (Pakatan Rakyat Member of Parliament for Kota Baru) were

invited to the event to share their experiences with the audience that was generally made up of WPP participants.

The keynote speaker of the day, Shanthy Dairiam (former CEDAW committee member) provided the audience with a global perspective affecting women in terms of political participation. Ambassador Jones had an interactive session with selected WPP participants who provided him some feedback regarding the programme. As quoted from the article published on the U.S Embassy's website:-

“Attendees in conversation after the event discussed the great importance of networking for women in Malaysia, where they can join forces, exchanges ideas and be inspired by such discussions to advance women's equality and for the betterment of their communities. Some participants also noted that today's event gave them motivation and determination to be more fully committed to the political processes in Malaysia.”

4.3 Women Parliamentary Caucus Meeting

The Women Parliamentary Caucus organized a half-day Forum in conjunction with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (and children) on 24 November 2011. JAG members presented the recommendations in the CEDAW Concluding Observations to Malaysia in 2006 including the domestication of CEDAW, removal of reservations to CEDAW, training of judicial officers, non-recognition of marital rape and the need to have data desegregated by sex and ethnicity, all which are needed to address violence against women. Other panelists include representatives from the Bar Council, Voice of Children, the Sexual Crimes and Child investigation department (D11) of the Royal Malaysian Police, and the Registrar General of Children in Need of Protection of the Ministry of Women.

It was interesting to note that the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Human Resources had justified for the amendment to the Employment Act on sexual harassment and how it will expand the definition of place of work for cases of sexual harassment to include public places and workplaces like the Parliament.

At the end of the forum, a resolution was drafted in consultation with participants, to address issues highlighted at the forum. The resolution included, among others, forming a committee / commission to look into making gender disaggregated data accessible, domesticating CEDAW, removal of reservations to CEDAW and CRC, and looking into enacting a sexual harassment act.

4.4 Fiesta Feminista

Fiesta Feminista was held in Sabah from 25 – 27 November 2011 which involved the participation of EMPOWER. EMPOWER staff were also involved in conducting the orientation programme for the grassroots community. Participants from the WPP, Zafira Zainuddin and Kamache Doray Rajoo were selected to participate in the Fiesta Feminista programme which is an event organised by the women's groups in Malaysia to build the capacity of new advocates involved in women's rights. They came as political party representatives to take part in this initiative. They were exposed to many issues which affect women in terms of land rights issues, labour exploitation and sexual discrimination. They were able to experience first-hand the lived realities of grassroots women. They also participated in sharing sessions and raised awareness about the important of increasing women's political representation

4.5 Selangor State Action Plan on Women

EMPOWER was invited to be part of the Selangor State Think Tank on Women (Majlis Permuafakatan Wanita Selangor – MPWS) to develop actions plans for specific sectors, targeting at 11 groups of women. These target groups include single mothers, youth, indigeneous women and informal workers. EMPOWER has taken the lead for two sectors – women in political participation and women working in informal sectors. Whilst the MPWS is still in its infancy, we hope the programmes and action plans will be implemented in 2012

Coalition for Good Governance (CGG)

The campaign to bring back local council elections was revived again with the activation of its Taskforce on Local Government. A proposal was submitted by CGG to the Selangor State government on 21 June 2011, outlining how we see the local council elections can be pilot-tested in the Petaling Jaya council. Two workshops were held in July and August to iron out the procedures and processes involved in the conduct of local council elections. A proposed document was finalised and UPEN assured that the proposal will be presented to the Selangor State Executive Committee members. Unfortunately, since then, CGG had not heard nor received any news regarding our interventions or the proposal.

BERSIH 2.0

Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor (Empower) became the Secretariat for the Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections, BERSIH 2.0. This decision was in line with our organization's vision to build a more democratic Malaysia and at the same time, promote the political participation of women. As a result, EMPOWER's Executive Director, Maria Chin Abdullah became one of the Steering Committee members, the main decision-making body for the coalition.

Many activities to raise awareness about electoral reforms were conducted by the coalition and the operations for the campaign were carried out from the Empower office. One of the main activities was a rally to demand for clean and fair elections proposed for the 9th of July 2011. The authorities namely the police started clamping down on democratic spaces in the country as a result. As the event drew near, the repression of the authorities resulted in mass arrests and raids. People were arrested for wearing t-shirts which depicted the logo and the demands of BERSIH 2.0, mobilizing support for the rally and distributing BERSIH 2.0 pamphlets. On 29th June 2011, the Empower office was raided by the police and six Empower staff and a volunteer were arrested. During the raid five laptops, a video camera, BERSIH 2.0 paraphernalia, official documents and exhibits from the Women in Political Participation project were confiscated by the police. One of the exhibits was a poster of a renowned left movement leader, Shamsiah Fakeh. The police issued a public statement implicating EMPOWER in promoting communism, using this exhibit as proof. At present, the 6 EMPOWER staff and volunteer are still risk as their case is still pending. Empower staff were subjected to intimidation and harassment by the police and were asked to be on standby for court appearances indefinitely.

As a result of this, several programmes were affected namely the Women in Political Participation (WPP) programme which is a cross political party training initiative. It later transpired that WPP participants from Barisan Nasional component parties such as UMNO and Gerakan disassociated from EMPOWER in the wake of the BERSIH 2.0 crack down. This took place at a crucial time as we had embarked on the second phase of our training and had started reaching out to grassroots community women.

Our pool of participants for the follow up and training activities was significantly reduced.

Please see news article - <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/print/malaysia/despitesnubs-and-smears-bersih-pushes-on/>

ASEAN

PKKS participated in at least four key events at the Association for Southeast Asian Nations. They are as follows:

The ASEAN civil society conference and the ASEAN Peoples' Forum. This was attended by Janarthani, programme officer. This was held from 3-5 May 2011, in Jakarta, Indonesia. A charter was signed by 1,300 delegates to put forward the concerns of the civil society.

Maria Chin Abdullah, Executive Director and President of PKKS attended three ASEAN Women Caucus meetings.

SEA Women's Caucus Regional Workshop on Influencing the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, held from 22 - 24/25 August 2012, Kuala Lumpur. She contributed towards the drafting of the ASEAN Women's Caucus submission on ASEAN Human Rights Declaration. The intervention was to provide a women's rights perspective to the AHRD.

Informal Meeting with the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection on the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) on 8 September 2011, Solo, Indonesia. One of the success at this meeting was the meeting with ACWC. It as agreed that the following issues would be the focus of ACWC:

- a) elimination of violence against women and children;
- b) the rights of children to participate;
- c) promotion of consultation and dialogue with stakeholders in national and regional levels;
- d) trafficking of women and children;
- e) women's participation in politics;
- f) institutional capacity;
- g) child protection system (including child labour, child abuse, children with HIV AIDS, children in conflict with the law, quality education);
- h) promotion of ASEAN instrument;
- i) gender equality in education in formal and non-formal institutions (including equal access);
- j) women and children living with HIV AIDS;
- k) social impact of climate change on women and children;
- l) and strengthening economic rights in the context of the feminization of poverty.

Strengthening ASEAN Human Rights System through Civil Society Advocacy, which was organised by the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and HRWG from 4 to 5 December 2011, Bali, Indonesia.

The aim of the first day was to tease out all the issues related to the AICHR Human Rights charter and how the human mechanism will work in order that the Charter can effective to all, if not most, states in the ASEAN (now 10 member states). There was also an emphasis made to ensure better alignment between AICHR and ACWC

All in all, even though PKKS made a conscious decision to not take up the co-focal point for ASEAN Women Caucus but increasingly it finds itself being drawn into making key interventions. One of the reasons being that members from the other countries lack the capacity to do the substantive contributions, especially writing in English. For the moment, it seemed that PKKS role is still needed at the ASEAN Women Caucus. We have yet to assess how this will be linked to our commitment to the IKAT project which is also looking at forming women's political participation at the ASEAN level.

4. Operations and Staff Development

This 2011 saw the resignation of Samante Sarah and Mila Nordin and the employment of Lau Shu Shi as programme officer of PKKS. Chan Lek Ka interned with us for almost two months and we are happy to say that it was a joy to have him. His contribution, together with his amicable nature, helped the organisation in its work preparation with the women. As a follow-up to his internship, he helped to publicise the organisation to his University and promised to encourage UCIS to organise International Women's Day with PKKS' participation.

Two staff development sessions were organised in 2011 as the schedules were very tight. One was on project management and the other was on campaign strategies and skills. Staff were also sent to various seminars and workshops that were meant to consciously help them to develop their IT skills and their perspective in women and human rights perspective.

The year 2011 is indeed an eventful year and filled with enthusiasm and vigour from the staff, members and volunteers. For that we have been fortunate and we look forward to next year – a year of more growth, new energies and much more commitment from everyone.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2011

Total income of RM697,435 was received, comprising of grants (RM315,392.67), donations (RM308,659) and trainers' fees (RM 71,316). The bulk of the donations and grants was for BERSIH 2.0 activities (RM 410,479). Fixed assets worth RM18,000 were purchased to replace four laptops and one hard drive taken by the police, LCD projector, external hard drives, a video camera, a camera, PA system and flatbed scanner. A grantor, Freedom House, funded the purchases. There is a balance of RM310,592 to be carried forward to 2012 to finance institutional costs like salaries, rent, utilities and staff medical insurance as many funders do not fund these costs. The funds will also be used in the Advocacy and Campaign programme since some parts of the programme are not funded at the present moment.

Calendar of Events 2011

Date	Event Title	Organised By	Who Attended
January 2011			
8-10 Jan 2011	Clean and Fair Election	Sarawak Road Trip	Maria
14 Jan 2011	Mentorship in Kuala Selangor: Implementing Local Area Surveys	Menjana Kuasa Wanita	Jana, Wasanthee
16 Jan 2011	Agenda Kesejahteraan Wanita Selangor	Majlis Perwakilan Penduduk (MPP) Zon 5	Maria, Jana
19 Jan 2011	Introducing Kita or Memperkenalkan Kita	Komunikasi Parti Kita	Maria
27 Jan 2011	The Seventh Pok Rafeah Chair Public Lecture: Malaysia's Dominant Societal Paradigm: Invented, Embedded, Contested Grassroots Women Training at Bukit Jalil Plantation	Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS) Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Menjana Kuasa Wanita	Maria Jana
29 Jan 2011	Seminar on the Communications and Multimedia Content Forum of Malaysia (CMCF) and Internet Safety	National Council of Women's Organisation of Malaysia HQ (NCWO)	Maria, Nurul and Jac Kee
29 Jan 2011	3 rd Equality Forum (Race, Relations and Religion)	Tenaganita & Bar Council	
29-30 Jan 2011	FOI Training	Centre For Independent Journalism (CIJ)	Jana, Nurul
February 2011			
7 Feb 2011	Project Management Training	Empower	Maria, Li Yoon, Mila, Jana, Mary, Temme and Shu Shi
11 Feb 2011	"Voice Your Choice" Press conference	E.P.I.C	Maria and
13 Feb 2011	Agenda Kesejahteraan Wanita Selangor	Majlis Perwakilan Penduduk (MPP) Zon 5	Maria, Jana
16 Feb 2011	The Wrong Doing Of Barisan Nasional or Build 3 rd force	Parti Sosialis Malaysia	Honey-She went as a speaker
20 Feb 2011	Agenda Kesejahteraan Wanita Selangor	Majlis Perwakilan Penduduk (MPP) Zon 5	Maria, Jana
21 Feb 2011	Public Forum: Election Reform in Malaysia	Bersih 2.0	Maria, Nurul
March 2011			
8 Mar 2011	International women's Day (IWD) with the U.S. Embassy	Empower-Women's Political Participation Programme	Maria, Li Yoon, Jana, Mila, Nurul, Nive Yong, Wasanthee, Jess Lew
9-10 March 2011	Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Consultation on The Universality Of The Rome Statute Of The International Criminal Court (ICC)	Parliament of Malaysia	Jana and Nive Yong
12 March 2011	Equality form: Same Same BUT Different	Empower	Maria, Li Yoon, Mila, Samante, Jana
12-14 March 2011	JAG input for training on Media Monitoring for elections	Centre For Independent Journalism (CIJ)	Mila and Samante
18 March 2011	Public Forum Sarawak: Tanah, Adat and Pilihanraya	Bersih 2.0	Maria, Nurul & Mila
26 March 2011	Walk and Rawk for Change	Empower, Women's Aid Organisation (WAO), Sisters In Islam (SIS),	Maria, Jana, Samante, Normila

		Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ)	
31 March 2011	Public Forum: Sarawak State Election	Bersih 2.0	Please confirm Maria. Not sure
April 2011			
6-7 April 2011	Staff Development: TOT Strategic Campaign Planning	Empower-Women Participation Political	Maria, Mila, Nive Yong, Jana, Haslinah Yaakob & Nurul
8 April 2011	Feminist Technology Exchange Workshop 2 on Secure Online Communications (FTX2)	Empower	Maria, Li Yoon, Samante, Normila
9 April 2011	To develop a National NGO/Civil Society Advocacy Action Plan on Prevention of unintended Pregnancies, Abandoned Babies, Better Access to Contraception and Abortion Services	The Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM) and Federation of Reproductive Health association Malaysia (FRHAM)	Maria
14-19 April 2011	Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) Team Building, Programme Advisory Committee & Board of Director's Meeting	Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)	Maria
20 April 2011	Sesi Taklimat Mengenai Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Bersama Pakar Dari Pejabat Pesuruhjaya Tinggi Hak Asasi Manusia (OHCHR)	Suruhanjaya Hak Manusia Malaysia (SUHAKAM)	Maria/Honey
26 April 2011	Sarawak State Elections	Merdeka Centre	Maria
May 2011			
1 May 2011	May Day Celebration	Empower	Maria, Li Yoon & Shamin
6 May 2011	Birthday Celebrations of the Queen of Netherlands	Embassy of Kingdom of the Netherlands	Jana & Shamin
13 May 2011	Mesyuarat Peringkat Tertinggi Malaysia's Strategies on Achieving Malaysian Women Thematic Priorities	NAM Institute for the Empowerment of Women (NIEW)	Maria/Honey/Shanti
14 May 2011	Bengkel Training of Trainings : Road Show : Reformasi Pilihanraya	Bersih 2.0	Maria, Nurul, Ikhsan
20-23 May 2011	ARROW Meeting at Manila	ARROW	Maria
20 May 2011	ASEAN People's Forum: Debrief for Malaysian NGOs	Pusat Komunikasi Masyarakat	Jana
31 May 2011	Understanding About Religion, Marriage and Domestic Violence amongst Youth in Malaysia	Sisters In Islam	Mila
June 2011			
2-5 June 2011	Women Participation in Political : Level 2 Training	Empower	Maria, Jana, Nurul, Normila
3-5 June 2011	Open Space Technology Learning Workshop	Open Space Technology	Samante
8 June 2011	Film Screening & Discussion : The Corridor by Zoe Neirizi	Empower and Sisters In Islam	Jana & Shamin
13 June 2011	NGO Forum for UN Women Strategic Plan 2011-2013	Gender Studies Department, Uni. Malaya	Jana

13-15 June 2011	Commonwealth Government & Opposition Workshop- Roles, Rights and Responsibilities	Commonwealth Secretary, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association	Maria
19 June 2011	Launch of Bersih 2.0 Rally	Bersih 2.0	Maria, Nurul, Jana, Mary, Deepa, Normila, Ikhsan
25 June 2011	Public Forum: Facebook: Is it unhealthy for families	Empower	Maria, Li Yoon, Jana, Mary, Normila, Shamin
30 June 2011	The Occasion of Canada Day	The High Commissioner of Canada	Maria
July 2011			
1 July 2011	235 th Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America	The Ambassador of the United States of America	Maria
9 July 2011	Bersih 2.0 Rally for Tuntutan	Bersih 2.0	Maria, Jana, Temme, Shu Shi, Shamini, Deepa
August 2011			
22 August 2011	Mesyuarat Tindakan Bersepadu Menangani Isu Rogol	Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat	Maria
25 August 2011	Majlis Sambutan Hari Wanita Kebangsaan	Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat	Maria
September 2011			
19 Sept 2011	Equality Project Launch; Publications & Press Conference	Empower	Maria, Li yoon, Normila, Jana
22 Sept 2011	Equality project: Roundtable Discussion	Empower	Maria, Li Yoon, Normila, Jana,
25 Sept 2011	DAP Grassroots Women Training	DAP Wanita Pahang Branch	Kamache, Jana, Maria
30 Sept 2011	Launch of Bersih 2.0 Campaign: Tunaikan 8 Tuntutan, Barulah PRU-13	Bersih 2.0	Maria, Deepa, Jana, Shu Shi & Temme
October 2011			
26-28 Oct 2011	Multi-Party Panel Discussion and Workshop on Promotion of Women's Political Representation in Souteast Asia	Kemitraan Governance Reform In Indonesia	Shu Shi, Adriene
20 Oct 2011	Roundtable Discussion on Gender Equality: Unaddressed Women's Rights Issues	Empower	Maria, Li Yoon, Mila, Jana, Temme, Shu Shi
21 Oct 2011	Dialogue With Malaysian AICHR Rep on Drafting of an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration		Honey & Andrew
November 2011			
1 Nov 2011	The Launch of State of World Population 2011 Report: People and Possibilities in a World at 7 Billion	The United Nations Populations Fund In Malaysia	Maria Chin Abdullah
15-17 Nov 2011	Workshop on Digital Security for Human Rights Defenders	Suara Rakyat Malaysia	Temme
18 – 20 Nov 2012	Menjana Kuasa Wanita: Grassroots Level 2 Training Workshop	Empower: Women's Political Participation	Maria, Jana, Deepa, Chan Lek Ka

23-28 Nov 2011	Fiesta Feminist : Raise Awareness	Joint Action Group	Jana, Zafirah, Kamache
29 Nov 2011	UN Roundtable Dialogue on Gender Disaggregated Data in Malaysia	The United Nations in Malaysia	Maria, Honey, Sudandarambal, Sue & Angela
December 2011			
8 Dec 2011	PAS Women Leaders Training	Empower: Women's Political Participation	Jana, Chan Lek Ka, Deepa
18 Dec 2011	Evaluation & Planning	Empower	Maria, Li Yoon, Jana, Mila, Mary, Deepa, Washante, Adriene, Jess, Noel, Nive