



## **Report of the 21st Annual Meeting of the South East Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) 18 – 20 November 2024, Hotel Novo Tursimo, Dili, Timor-Leste**

The South East Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) is a collaborative platform consisting of six national human rights institutions from Southeast Asian countries consisting of the National Human Rights Commission of Indonesia (KOMNAS HAM); Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM); Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC); Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP); National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) and the Provedoria dos Direitos Humanos e Justiça (PDHJ) Timor-Leste. These institutions work together within SEANF to promote and protect human rights in the region.

PDHJ, as the SEANF Chair for 2024, hosted the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) from November 18-20, 2024, in Dili, Timor-Leste. The theme, "Human Rights for All, Especially in Southeast Asia: Respected, Protected, and Enjoyed Equally by All," inspired contributions from key participants.

### **Opening Remarks by SEANF Chair 2024, PDHJ Chairperson Virgilio da Silva Guterres ‘Lamukan’**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum (SEANF) in Dili, Timor-Leste, began with an opening ceremony led by the **Chairperson** or the Provedor de Direitos Humanos e Justiça (PDHJ), Mr. Virgilio da Silva Guterres "Lamukan." In his welcoming remarks, he extended a warm welcome to all SEANF members participating both in person and online. He emphasized the critical themes of "Protect, Respect, and Fulfill" human rights, highlighting the importance of the upcoming discussions on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ESCR) in border areas. Mr. Guterres stressed the need for collaborative efforts to address the unique challenges faced by marginalized communities, and he encouraged delegates to focus on the priorities outlined in the SEANF Strategic Plan 2022-2026. He also underscored the

importance of gender equality, empowering women and girls, and tackling torture prevention, expressing optimism that the conference would result in actionable outcomes for advancing human rights across the region.

### **1. Adoption of Agenda**

Adoption of the agenda without revision.

### **2. Adoption of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting report**

All member states of SEANF unanimously adopted the SEANF report from the 1st and 2nd TWG meetings.

### **3. Updates on Major Developments and Activities since the 2<sup>nd</sup> TWG Meeting of SEANF 2024**

All SEANF members presented an overview of their individual mandates, highlighting the work they've accomplished, major developments, and challenges encountered since the 2<sup>nd</sup> TWG Meeting of SEANF in 2024.

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**Komnas HAM**, Indonesia's National Human Rights Commission, presented key developments at the 21st SEANF Annual Meeting in 2024, including recommendations to the new administration of Prabowo and Gibran on pressing human rights issues. These recommendations covered areas such as resolving conflict in Papua, addressing gross human rights violations, ensuring the new capital's development aligns with human rights, protecting migrant workers, and improving police professionalism. The commission also advocated for budget increases and proposed several legal reforms, including the protection of domestic workers and revisions to the criminal code, while urging Indonesia to ratify international human rights conventions.

In 2024, Komnas HAM organized major events such as the **Human Rights Festival 2024** in North Sulawesi and the **Human Rights Youth Camp 2024**, which focused on raising awareness among students. It signed MoUs with key organizations and institutions, including the Indonesian National Army and the University of Surabaya. Internationally, Komnas HAM engaged in regional and global forums, including the **ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue** and the **APF Annual General Meeting**, where it was elected Deputy Chairperson for 2024-2026. Domestically, the commission conducted public consultations and human rights assessments in various regions, addressing issues like Indigenous Law, freedom of expression, and local government human rights practices.

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**SUHAKAM, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia**, marked several key developments in its human rights activities since the 20th SEANF Annual Conference. Dato' Seri Mohd Hishamudin Md Yunus, the newly appointed Chairman for the 2024-2027 term, took office on July 3, 2024. Among the Commission's significant activities, SUHAKAM organized a dialogue in January 2024 ahead of Malaysia's Fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR), where the country received 348 recommendations on issues like migrant workers, child marriage, and business rights. Malaysia accepted 182 of these recommendations fully and 41 partially. SUHAKAM also played

an instrumental role in the World Conference on Statelessness (WSC2024) in February, focusing on solutions for statelessness in Sabah.

Further, SUHAKAM's 2021-2022 Annual Report was debated in Parliament in July 2024, highlighting important topics such as racial discrimination, religious freedoms, and prison reform. Notably, amendments to the SUHAKAM Act 1999 were introduced, granting the Commission new powers, including the ability to visit detention facilities to ensure better conditions. The amendments also stipulated the appointment of women commissioners (30%) and commissioners with disabilities. The presentation concluded with the celebration of SUHAKAM's 25th Anniversary in September 2024, attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who acknowledged the Commission's pivotal role in promoting justice and civil liberties in Malaysia.

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**The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC)** has been active in promoting human rights education and awareness through various initiatives since the 20th SEANF Annual Conference. From December 2023 to October 2024, the MNHRC organized 56 human rights lectures, attended by 6,604 trainees, across multiple ministries, police training canters, and educational institutions. These lectures were delivered both online (13 sessions) and face-to-face (43 sessions). Additionally, the MNHRC conducted five Human Rights Talks, engaging 1,070 participants on topics such as business and human rights, healthcare rights, and the commemoration of International Women's Day. The commission also handled 225 complaints during the year, with 58 sent to the relevant departments and 49 receiving responses. MNHRC's inspection visits included 11 prisons, 12 labor camps, 18 police lock-ups, 15 court detention centers, 10 homes for the aged, and 6 youth training schools.

In terms of advocacy and international cooperation, MNHRC has actively participated in key regional and international events. The commission attended several workshops and meetings organized by organizations like SEANF, AICHR, and APF, including the SEANF Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings and the APF Annual Program on GANHRI Accreditation. MNHRC also completed important research papers, such as the review on Myanmar's potential accession to the Convention Against Torture (CAT), and translated key human rights conventions into Burmese, including the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** and the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**. Furthermore, the MNHRC has invested in staff capacity building through various training programs, such as Front-End Web Development and Digital Innovation Leadership, to enhance its internal expertise. These efforts highlight MNHRC's continued commitment to advancing human rights, both within Myanmar and in the regional and international human rights community.

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**The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP)**, under the leadership of Chairperson Richard P. Palpal-Latoc, has continued to expand its activities and impact since the 20th SEANF Annual Conference. Key developments include significant progress in its prevention and protection services, such as the exercise of visitorial powers to inspect jails, prisons, and detention facilities to ensure human rights standards are upheld. CHRP has also advanced its

efforts to investigate human rights violations, including civil and political rights, by providing legal aid to the underprivileged and offering immunity to witnesses providing essential testimony. The Commission's policy services have focused on recommending effective measures to Congress to promote human rights and ensure compensation for victims, while also monitoring the Philippine government's compliance with international human rights obligations.

In addition to its core activities, CHRP has actively engaged in public education and outreach through numerous events in 2024. These included the "Lakbay Karapatan Tungo sa Kamalayan" (LaKarAn) initiative, the construction of the Freedom Memorial Museum, and a public forum disseminating the Concluding Observations from the UN CMW and UN CEDAW sessions. CHRP also participated in regional dialogues on human rights, anti-corruption, and migrant workers' rights, and collaborated with international organizations, such as the National Human Rights Commission of Taiwan and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). By September 2024, the CHRP had visited 744 detention facilities and hosted several forums, legal assistance drives, and workshops, reflecting its ongoing commitment to human rights advocacy and its active participation in regional and global human rights platforms.

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**The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT)** has made significant progress since the 20th SEANF Annual Conference, particularly in the realm of human rights advocacy and protection. Notably, Thailand was elected to the UN Human Rights Council for the 2025-2027 term, which has been celebrated by the NHRCT through public statements highlighting the country's commitment to human rights. Between October 2023 and September 2024, the NHRCT received the most complaints in areas such as the right to justice, community rights, and the right to present complaints. The commission addressed several key issues, including police malpractice during arrests, discriminatory treatment of prisoners, the impact of the Pattani Bay dredging project on local fishermen, and cases of enforced disappearance. In addition, it focused on vulnerable groups, such as stateless students and ethnic minorities, and labor rights, particularly the working conditions of food delivery platform riders in Thailand.

In addition to its protective measures, the NHRCT has been actively involved in promotion and cooperation with international organizations. It partnered with UNDP, government agencies, and businesses in Phuket to host a training on "Sustainable Business Practices and Respect for Human Rights," and worked closely with UN agencies, AICHR, and the UNODC on issues ranging from torture prevention to migrant labor rights. The NHRCT also played a crucial role in international human rights dialogues, submitting an alternative report to the Committee against Torture at the 81st Session of CAT in Geneva. Looking ahead, the NHRCT has identified five priority issues for the upcoming Human Rights Assembly in 2025, including labor rights, environmental rights, and the rights of older persons, with a particular focus on emerging challenges such as business and human rights (BHR) and artificial intelligence (AI). The commission remains committed to addressing ongoing human rights challenges, such as the living conditions of displaced Myanmar nationals along the Thai-Myanmar border and the closure of migrant children's learning centres.

Through its ongoing advocacy, monitoring, and international cooperation, the NHRCT continues to push for significant human rights reforms and uphold its role in fostering respect for human rights both domestically and globally.

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**The PDHJ** has made significant progress since the first and second Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings in advancing its mission to promote human rights and good governance, as outlined in the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan. Key achievements include reaching 2,076 people through campaigns and dissemination efforts on human rights, with 970 community members, 775 students, and 188 individuals from vulnerable groups (including women, children, and persons with disabilities) benefiting from these initiatives. Additionally, 143 youth, 317 members of the National Police, Timor-Leste Defence Forces, and FALINTIL, as well as 539 public entities, participated in training sessions on human rights and governance. The PDHJ has also strengthened its outreach through media activities, engaging over 2,900 people through four press conferences, two talk shows, and 22 press releases. To further its visibility and commitment, PDHJ leadership and staff have participated in 20 national events across the country. Furthermore, PDHJ has expanded its reach by actively leveraging social media platforms such as Facebook, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Through these channels, PDHJ has been able to connect with wider audiences, utilizing a diverse range of content formats, including videos, photos, infographics, and more to engage the public effectively.

However, the PDHJ continues to face several challenges that affect the full implementation of its programs. Resource constraints, including insufficient funding and limited staffing, have restricted its ability to expand certain initiatives. Furthermore, the absence of crucial organic law revisions and sustained political support remain ongoing challenges. In addition, infrastructure issues, such as outdated office facilities and inadequate equipment, continue to hinder the institution's capacity for effective monitoring and evaluation. Despite these obstacles, the PDHJ remains committed to its core mission, continuing to focus on monitoring police detention centers, advocating for the rights of vulnerable groups, and conducting public perception surveys. The institution's continued engagement through media campaigns and outreach remains a vital part of its strategy to enhance public awareness and governance standards across Timor-Leste.

#### **4. Sharing on the implementation of SEANF Strategic Plan (2022-2026)**

The meeting evaluated the progress in implementing the four strategic priorities outlined in the current SEANF Strategic Plan, with presentations from the member institutions leading each priority area.

##### **Priority 1. Ensure human rights are central in a COVID-19 environment**

The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP) presented the draft Baseline Report on the Human Rights-Based Approach to COVID-19 Response and Recovery in SEANF Member Countries during the first day of the 21st Annual Meeting of SEANF. All members expressed their agreement and readiness to adopt the report, with minor input from the PDHJ. This input emphasized the need to consider Artificial Intelligence (AI) in future discussions, particularly in the context of COVID-19 as a reference. As AI continues to evolve as a new technology, it is

important to recognize that it may pose new challenges and risks, potentially creating further crises.

### **Priority 2. Protect and promote human rights in business**

The MNHRC presented on Priority 2, which focuses on the protection and promotion of human rights in business. However, since no document was submitted for review, the majority of members recognized the importance of addressing this issue but suggested deferring detailed discussions to the upcoming Technical Working Group meeting, which will be chaired by Komnas HAM Indonesia. Members emphasized the critical need to strengthen human rights protections within the business sector, particularly in the region, where rapid economic growth and business activities often present significant risks to workers' rights and environmental sustainability. It was agreed that a comprehensive framework for promoting responsible business practices should be developed, and the Technical Working Group will play a key role in advancing this agenda.

### **Priority 3. Prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment**

**The NHRCT** presented its 2024-2026 Action Plan on Torture Prevention, which outlines key initiatives aimed at combatting torture. These initiatives include mobilizing for change, strengthening law enforcement, increasing transparency in detention facilities, and improving the overall effectiveness of torture prevention efforts. The plan also emphasizes training for law enforcement officers, developing clear standards for torture prevention, and protecting vulnerable groups. The ultimate goal is to prevent torture and ensure that victims receive proper protection and remediation.

**The CHRP** provided an update on its Torture Prevention Program, detailing actions aligned with its mandate to monitor and ensure compliance with the Anti-Torture Act of 2009. The CHRP exercises its visitorial powers to oversee various detention facilities, including jails, military detention centres, and mental health institutions. Additionally, the CHRP has been active in raising awareness through campaigns like the "Basta Run Against Torture" and enhancing training for law enforcement on detention safeguards. The CHRP has developed specific torture screening tools and guidelines for facilities such as Bahay Pag-Asa and is working on establishing a National Preventive Mechanism to strengthen its efforts. Despite challenges such as limited resources and budget constraints, the CHRP remains committed to fostering torture-free environments through ongoing monitoring, advocacy, and engagement activities, while addressing gaps in legislation and improving the enforcement of torture prevention laws.

**The PDHJ** also provided an update on its work to prevent torture in Timor-Leste for the period 2018-2024. The PDHJ has focused on both promotional and investigative activities. In 2022, it partnered with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) and the Ministry of Justice to develop and launch a torture prevention manual for prison guards. Between 2022 and 2024, PDHJ conducted training for 315 prison guards across three prisons in Timor-Leste. In 2024, PDHJ met with APT's Secretary-General to discuss continued cooperation, particularly in building the capacity of monitoring and investigation officers. On the investigative front, PDHJ registered 474 complaints between 2018 and 2023, most related to ill-treatment and excessive use of force by

police, military, and prison guards. While no torture cases involving state authorities were registered, PDHJ continues to advocate for stronger torture prevention measures, issuing recommendations to relevant entities, including the police and military, and submitting annual reports to the National Parliament.

**SUHAKAM, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia**, provided an update on its efforts to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment at the 21st Annual SEANF Conference. Despite Malaysia's failure to ratify the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), SUHAKAM has been actively addressing torture issues through investigations, monitoring detention conditions, and advocacy. In 2024, key initiatives included organizing a seminar on torture prevention, advocating for the abolition of corporal punishment in schools, and issuing press statements condemning the death penalty and corporal punishment. SUHAKAM's enhanced mandate, following amendments to its founding legislation, now allows for greater oversight of detention facilities, ensuring compliance with human rights standards. Additionally, SUHAKAM continues to collaborate with national and international stakeholders to drive reforms, including legislative changes to the death penalty and the establishment of the National Human Rights Action Committee.

#### **Priority 4. Strengthen SEANF as a credible, independent and effective institution**

##### **A. Permanent Secretariat of SEANF - Komnas HAM**

At the 21st SEANF Annual Meeting, Komnas HAM of Indonesia raised concerns about the establishment of a permanent Secretariat in Indonesia. Most member states expressed support for a rotating Secretariat model, where each chairing country would host the Secretariat. Indonesia was tasked with developing the guidelines for how the Secretariat would function under this rotating model.

The duration of the chairmanship term was also debated, with some members proposing a one-year term and others suggesting two years. It was agreed that Indonesia would conduct a comparative analysis to inform the final decision on the chairmanship duration.

Komnas HAM (Indonesia) will prepare the operational guidelines for the Secretariat, aligned with the rotating chairmanship. While the debate on the chairmanship duration remains unresolved, the agreement on a rotating Secretariat, following the chairmanship, was confirmed.

##### **B. Strengthen SEANF as credible, independent and effective institution – SUHAKAM (Agenda item 5)**

SUHAKAM presented proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Forum (SEANF), including revisions to Articles 1, 4, 5, and 10, as well as the introduction of new articles: Article 6, concerning categories of members; Article 7, addressing movement between membership categories; and a replacement of Article 17 (4) with a new article outlining the decision-making process.

While some articles were deferred for discussion at a future annual meeting, SEANF member states reached a consensus to amend and adopt Article 1 definition of national human rights institutions into the existing Rules of Procedure.

**Article 1 – "National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) refers to an independent national institution that complies with the Paris Principles and holds a constitutional and/or legislative mandate to promote and protect human rights."**

Suhakam will continue to lead the technical drafting committee to revise the rest of the Rules of Procedure, with each NHRI asked to send a lawyer to assist.

#### **5. Presentation of Communication guidelines and SEANF Media Communication.**

Due to most members not being prepared for the Presentation of Communication Guidelines and SEANF Media Communication, this agenda will be moved to the 1st TWG SEANF Meeting in 2025.

#### **6. Transfer of Prisoners/Sentenced Persons to their Country of Origin**

SUHAKAM presented the status update of the International Transfer of Prisoners (ITOP) since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Working Group. As of April 2024, Malaysia's prisons house 13,616 international inmates, or 17.2% of the total prison population, with the majority coming from Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Thailand. A total of 99 countries worldwide practice the International Transfer of Prisoners (ITOP), including seven Southeast Asian nations: Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Brunei, the Philippines, and Malaysia. However, countries like Indonesia, Singapore, and Myanmar have not yet implemented ITOP. Malaysia's **International Transfer of Prisoners Act 2012** (Act 754) governs prisoner transfers, but some applications for transfer have been refused under Section 7(2) of the Act.

Moving forward, Malaysia plans to engage with governments to discuss the feasibility of prisoner transfers, emphasizing the legal frameworks and benefits of such initiatives. Comprehensive data on foreign prisoners, especially from Southeast Asia, will be gathered and shared at SEANF meetings. Following these discussions, bilateral talks between National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) will be held to identify prisoners eligible for transfer. In addition, Malaysia recently passed the **Abolition of the Mandatory Death Penalty Act 2023**, effective July 2024, which grants judge's discretion to impose alternative sentences. This law, alongside the **Review of Past Sentences Act 2023**, further supports the potential for prisoner transfers by allowing fairer reassessment of sentences.

During the meeting, each member state shared statistics on the number of foreign prisoners held in their respective countries, highlighting the complexities and challenges related to prisoner transfers across borders. The discussion covered the practices in place, as well as the obstacles that hinder the smooth transfer of prisoners, particularly those from Southeast Asian countries. Member states explored potential ways to cooperate more effectively and find solutions to address these challenges in the future.

## 7. Other Matters

### 1. **RightsCon and Invitation to SEANF Members to the Side Event being organized by NHRC Taiwan during the RightsCon (CHRP)**

The NHRIs invited SEANF members to participate in RightsCon 2025 and engage in the opportunities available for NHRIs at the 2024 SEANF Annual Meeting. RightsCon, taking place from 24-27 February 2025 in Taipei and online, is a major global event bringing together leaders from business, government, academia, and civil society to discuss human rights in the digital age.

SEANF members can register for the event through the provided registration link, with three types of tickets available. The event will feature over 550 sessions across 18 categories, including Artificial Intelligence, Business and Human Rights, Freedom of the Media, and Digital Security, offered in various formats such as workshops, dialogues, roundtables, and private meetings. Additionally, NHRC Taiwan, in collaboration with CHR Philippines, is organizing a side event on the rights of human rights defenders in the digital context, along with a welcome banquet on 24 February 2025. SEANF members interested in participating should contact NHRC Taiwan or CHR Philippines for further details. Additional engagement opportunities will be shared by CHR Philippines following their discussions with Access Now.

### 2. **Older Persons (CHRP)**

The **Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP)** presented an overview of the **UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA)** and the ongoing advocacy for a new **Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons**. The OEWGA, established to strengthen the human rights of older persons, has held 14 sessions since its creation, identifying significant gaps in the international human rights framework for older persons. These gaps include normative, implementation, information, and monitoring deficiencies. The group has advocated for a legally binding international instrument to promote and protect the rights of older persons, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive convention to address these gaps, including specific protections against discrimination, violence, and abuse, and the right to adequate care and support.

The **13th OEWGA session (2023)** concluded with a consensus decision on identifying gaps in the protection of older persons' rights, leading to a recommendation for further negotiations and discussions within the UN system. Following this, the 14th session (2024) continued this momentum, advocating for the drafting of an international convention and optional protocols to existing human rights treaties. These recommendations have been presented for consideration by the UN General Assembly, with calls for greater integration of older persons' rights into multilateral forums like the Human Rights Council. Advocacy efforts also include national actions such as the passage of the **Anti-Elder Abuse Bill** and encouraging governments and NHRIs to participate in the drafting process.

At the **Asia-Pacific NHRI workshop** held in August 2023, a **Call to Action** was adopted, urging governments, NHRIs, and civil society to advocate for a new convention on the rights of older persons. This included strengthening the regional and international framework for older persons' rights and addressing the gaps in national implementation. The workshop highlighted the importance of national actions alongside international efforts, stressing that regional and international instruments should not be used as an excuse for delaying necessary national reforms. The workshop also called for further engagement at the **Human Rights Council** and other UN bodies to advance the rights of older persons globally.

### 3. **MOU on Statelessness (CHRP)**

The **Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP)**, in collaboration with **SUHAKAM** (Malaysia) and **Komnas HAM** (Indonesia), renewed their **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** in 2023 to address statelessness issues in **Sabah**, Malaysia. This MOU, which is valid until 2028, focuses on assisting stateless communities, particularly those of Filipino and Indonesian descent, and individuals at risk of statelessness. These communities, including the Bajau Laut (Sama Dilaut) people, face severe human rights challenges, such as lack of access to social services, detention, and persecution due to their stateless status. The MOU aims to provide durable solutions for these populations by monitoring human rights issues and advocating for legal protection and policy changes.

Since the MOU's signing in 2020, CHRP has actively engaged in monitoring, research, and collaboration with SUHAKAM and Komnas HAM. These activities include monitoring stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness (PAROS) in communities and detention centers, as well as jointly conducting research on the issue. In 2024, CHRP conducted monitoring visits to various areas, such as the Processing Center for Displaced Persons in Zamboanga City and the Sama Badjao communities in Tawi Tawi. Additionally, CHRP referred human rights issues in detention centers in Sabah to SUHAKAM and contributed as a resource person in the Philippine Senate's hearing on the Refugees and Stateless Persons Protection Bill.

Looking ahead, CHRP's activities in 2025 will continue to focus on monitoring statelessness and human rights violations in key areas like Zamboanga City and Tawi Tawi. The Commission plans joint monitoring efforts with SUHAKAM and Komnas HAM in Sabah, as well as advocating for the passage of the Refugees and Stateless Persons Protection Bill. CHRP is also exploring collaboration with the Philippine Department of Justice to strengthen protections for refugees and stateless persons. These efforts highlight CHRP's ongoing commitment to addressing the root causes of statelessness and advocating for the rights and dignity of marginalized communities in the region.

## **8. Partner Dialogue**

### **1. APF : The Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions**

Mr. Kieren Fitzpatrick, a representative of the Asia Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institutions (APF), provided an update on the APF's activities and progress regarding its 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. Key highlights of the report include:

1. **Strategic Plan for 2025:** The APF's strategy focuses on training, capacity development, advocacy, and supporting the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). Key initiatives include:
  - Assistance to National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in implementing the Paris Principles.
  - Accreditation of NHRIs and human rights public service training.
  - Continued advocacy, technical support, and financial assistance to SEANF and GANHRI members.
2. **Upcoming Events in 2025:**
  - A major training program in Bangkok focusing on Paris Principles and NHRI accreditation.
  - A Governance Committee Meeting in November 2025 to discuss human rights outcomes in Asia.
  - Exploration of program activities in ASEAN to support NHRIs.
3. **Collaboration with SEANF:**
  - Ongoing cooperation with SEANF members based on an approved annual program.
  - Specific discussions with the Philippines and Indonesia on training and development for 2025.

Mr. Fitzpatrick emphasized the APF's commitment to working with NHRIs in promoting human rights and highlighted the importance of continued collaboration with SEANF and other stakeholders. The APF's support through training, advocacy, and financial aid will be crucial in advancing human rights in the region.

Overall, the APF aims to strengthen NHRIs and ensure compliance with international human rights standards through various initiatives and partnerships.

### **2. The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)**

Mr. Nid Satjipanon from the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) discussed the organization's efforts to prevent torture and protect human rights. APT is actively supporting national institutions in various countries and collaborating with ASEAN Prevention Forum (APF) members.

Key highlights include:

- **APT's ongoing commitment** to preventing torture and supporting human rights through strategic partnerships.
- **Plans for 2024:** A program to assist APF members in December, focusing on the prevention of torture, and the finalization of a strategic plan in early 2025.
- **Strategic Plan 2025-2028:** A focus on improving the criminal justice system, promoting gender equality, and supporting National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) to prevent torture.
- **Upcoming events:** These include a global event on women in prison, National Dialogue on OPCAT ratification in Thailand, and a workshop in Malaysia on effective investigation techniques.
- **Key focus areas:** APT emphasizes the importance of legal frameworks, public awareness, and NHRI monitoring of torture prevention.
- **Collaborations:** APT works with the Malaysian military on torture prevention and facilitates online research on the topic.
- **Regional support:** SEANF members, including Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Indonesia, are engaged in dialogues and training to prevent torture and promote justice.

In conclusion, APT's ongoing initiatives and strategic efforts aim to strengthen torture prevention and human rights protection across the region.