



“I” Exist!

Intersex Asia’s Engagement at the
10th ILGA Asia Conference

24 February to 28 February 2025,
Kathmandu Nepal

01 Event Summary

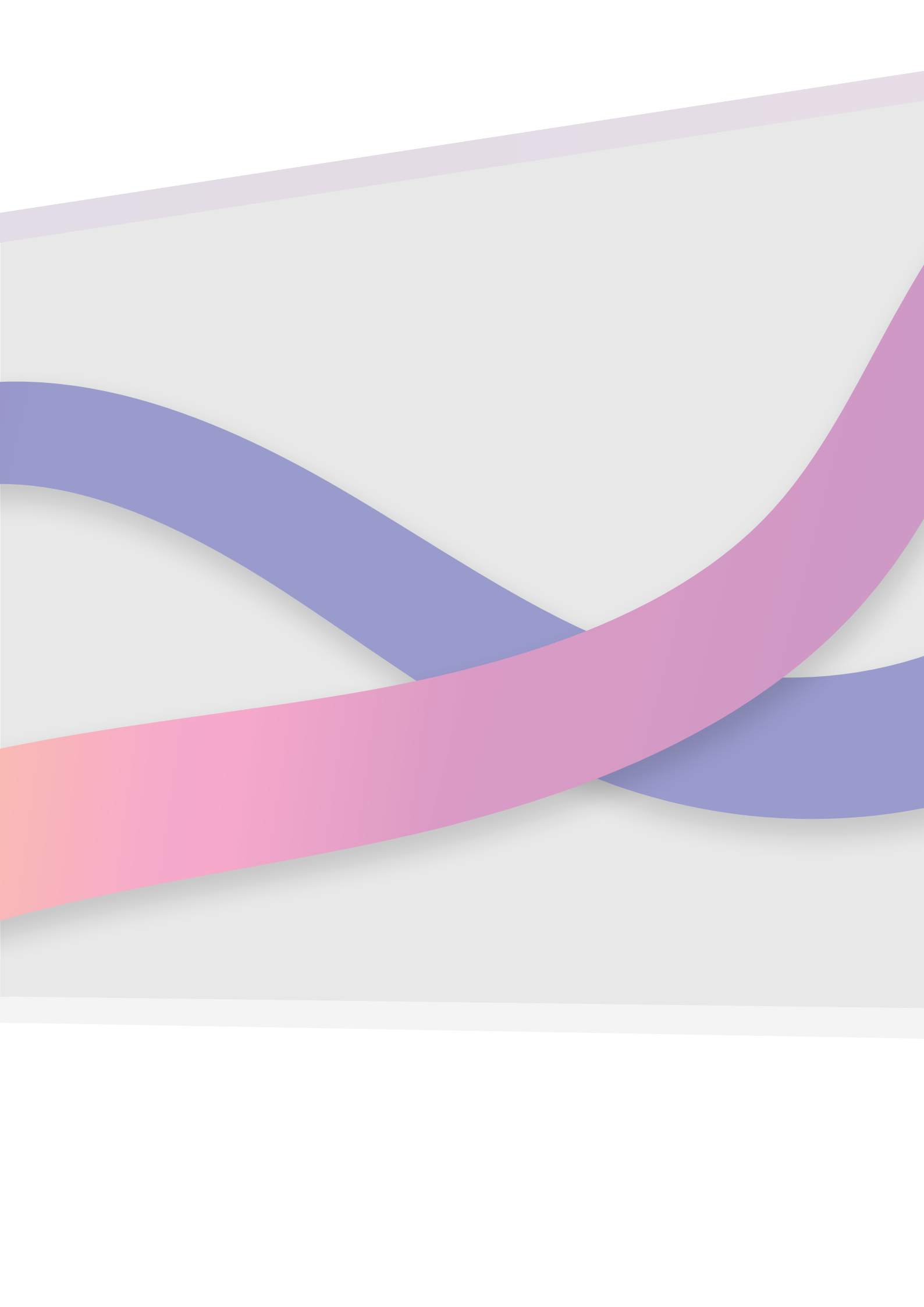
The summary of Intersex Asia’s engagement in the ILGA Asia Conference 2025 in Nepal

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Additionally, we extend our thanks to **Andrey Tran**, our Communication Officer, for his skillful design and layout of the report. His creativity has made the information not only accessible but visually engaging.

Furthermore, we are deeply appreciative of **Hiker Chiu**, the Executive Director; **Esan Regmi**, Chair of Intersex Asia; and **Jeff B Cagadahan**, Board Member of Intersex Asia. Their thorough reviews and revisions of the report have ensured that it meets our standards.

Lastly, a special thanks goes out to our Intersex participants—**Dana and Joey** from the Philippines, **Vino** from India, and **Nada** from Thailand—for generously sharing their reflection pieces. Your voices bring life to this report and provide critical insights that enhance its impact.

Summary

This report contains Intersex Asia's engagement in the ILGA Asia Conference from 24 February to 28 February 2025 [at Soaltee Hotel](#) in Nepal Kathmandu.

ILGA Asia Regional Conference is the highest-level decision-making body of ILGA Asia, taking place every other year, alternating with the ILGA World Conference.

In 2025, we proudly participated in the 10th ILGA Asia Conference, hosted in Kathmandu. The event brought together LGBTQIA+ activists and representatives from across the region to engage in critical discussions about human rights issues facing sexual and gender minorities. Through our participation, we aimed to contribute to advancing intersex rights and promoting awareness of intersex issues within broader LGBTQIA+ frameworks.

Intersex Asia hosted or participated in several sessions, that include:

- Bridging Movements in Asia: Advancing LGBT Rights, SRHR, child rights & Feminism
- Intersex Pre-conference
- "I" Exist: Intersex Asia Achievement & Our New Strategic Plan
- Visible in Law, Invisible in Data: Constructing a Social Legal Framework to Include Intersex People in Official Statistics.
- Building and Strengthening with Businesses: Strategies of Engaging Corporates in LGBTIQ+ Movements
- Regional Network Meeting

At the conference, Intersex Asia profiled its work, particularly its engagement with the Intersex communities, organizations, networks, and groups at the country level. It also highlighted various initiatives aimed at promoting awareness and understanding of intersex issues. Additionally, Intersex Asia shared successes from collaborative projects that aim to educate healthcare professionals regarding intersex rights and medical practices. The organization emphasized the importance of intersectionality in advocacy efforts and underscored collaborative relationships with local and international stakeholders to amplify intersex voices.

Through these engagements, Intersex Asia seeks not only to foster community support but also to challenge the global trend of erasing intersex identities, as well as the discrimination and misinformation surrounding intersex communities worldwide.

On 25 Feb 2025, Intersex Asia launched its new [Strategic Plan 2025 to 2029](#) with the support of IPPF. This event gathered 45 + participants, including Intersex community members, stakeholders, and allies. The launch highlighted Intersex Asia's commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where voices from the intersex community resonate strongly in policy discussions and social movements.

Intersex Asia would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to ILGA Asia for generously providing a platform that allows Intersex Asia and intersex communities to come together. This opportunity not only fosters collaboration but also promotes understanding and solidarity among our diverse groups. We are truly thankful for the commitment shown by ILGA Asia in supporting and uplifting intersex voices within the broader community.

Intersex Asia's Team Attended ILGA Conference 2025

Esan Regmi, Chair of Intersex Asia

Jeff B. Cagandahan, Board Member of Intersex Asia

Hiker Chiu, Executive Director

Selvan Antony, Program Manager

Prashant Singh, Research and Advocacy Officer

Andrey Tran, Communication Officer

Eli, Cross Movement Building Officer

Andrew Chiu, Finance and Admin Officer



**Jeff
Cagandahan**

no/him

Intersex Philippines

ILGA Asia
Conference
2025

Key Highlights from Our Engagement at the 10th ILGA Asia Conference 2025

Bridging Movements in Asia: Advancing LGBT Rights, SRHR, HIV & Feminism

23 February 2025

The primary objective of this session/event is to facilitate an enriching exchange of ideas and the sharing of knowledge among various organizations that operate within the spectrum of LGBTQIA+ rights, feminist movements, sexual reproductive health, and justice-related issues.

On 23 February 2025, Intersex Asia team members joined this event, which was sponsored by ILGA World, IPPF (co-convenors of the Kalavai Partnership), CREA, and ASEAN SOGIE Caucus.

During this event, a video presentation was showcased, offering a thorough global perspective on the rising anti-rights and anti-gender movements gaining traction worldwide. In addition to this enlightening visual content, participants took part in breakout sessions specifically designed to address the distinct regional challenges and potential solutions prompted by the implications of Trump's executive order. These discussions focused on pivotal themes such as **LGBTQ+ Rights and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Asia**. Attendees engaged in meaningful dialogues surrounding the synergy between **feminist movements and LGBTQ+ advocacy**, placing an emphasis on developing strategies to forge effective alliances that would amplify their collective voices while fostering impactful change within their communities. Moreover, the importance of **legal and policy reform** across various Asian countries was a focal point of these discussions. There was a particular urgency emphasized regarding the decriminalization of same-sex relationships, as well as implementing protective measures for LGBTQ+ individuals who continue to face significant legal vulnerabilities and social discrimination.

Furthermore, the event included an insightful session dedicated to **Case Studies that highlighted inspiring Stories of Resistance and Success emerging from various regions in Asia**. The session featured a series of insightful presentations, starting with a comprehensive overview of **Thailand's progressive approach to HIV prevention**, which emphasizes inclusive strategies for the LGBT community. Next, the focus shifted to India, where the **landmark decriminalization of homosexuality through the repeal of Section 377** was discussed. Following this, attendees **gained insight into Nepal's groundbreaking achievement regarding legal recognition for non-binary identities**.

The final session centered on Action Planning, specifically focusing on the transition from discussion to practical implementation. Attendees engaged in drafting detailed action plans that address multiple areas of focus: **Policy Advocacy; Joint Regional Campaigns; Community-Based Initiatives; Media Strategies for Awareness**. Following this collaborative planning phase, small groups presented their action points. These presentations allowed participants to convey their strategies effectively, share insights with peers, and refine their plans based on constructive feedback. This collaborative effort ensured a comprehensive approach to moving from dialogue into real-world implementation.

This event was fruitful, equipping the IA staff with a deeper understanding of Anti-rights movements and challenges related to Anti-gender rights. IA looks forward to strengthening its collaboration with CREA. Together, they will focus on addressing the complexities surrounding intersectionality, particularly regarding Intersex issues, ensuring that these vital discussions lead to meaningful progress in advocacy efforts.

Intersex Pre-Conference

24 February 2025

On 24 February 2025, Intersex Asia and Team joined the Intersex Pre-Conference hosted by Esan Regmi- Intersex Representative and Member, ILGA Asia Executive Board. This significant gathering brought together over 30 intersex individuals from various countries across Asia, fostering a space for dialogue and the exchange of experiences.

The objectives of this pre-conference include enlarging safe space for intersex in Asia, raising awareness and visibility of intersex issues among diverse audiences, strengthening regional networks among intersex activists and organizations, and providing capacity-building opportunities for intersex advocates and individuals.

The event facilitated rich discussions and collaborative activities, which helped participants identify priorities and develop impactful recommendations for stakeholders. Below are listed a few key priorities and recommendations to the key stakeholders.

Intersex community at the Intersex Pre-conference, ILGA Asia Conference 2025, Kathmandu, Nepal



Key priorities:

- **Access to good health and mental health** for intersex communities is a critical issue that demands attention and action.
- The implementation of reservation policies **in education and employment** is crucial to ensure equitable opportunities for intersex communities.
- The **right to legal recognition** for intersex communities is a crucial aspect of advancing human rights
- The practice of **performing unnecessary surgeries on intersex individuals** during childhood must be stopped. It is essential to raise awareness about the harmful impacts of these surgeries, which are often conducted without the informed consent of the individuals affected.
- **The lack of data regarding intersex individuals in Nepal's** national census presents significant challenges.

Key recommendations / message to the Donors:

- **We request continued funding support** - Continued support from Donors will drive advocacy efforts, achieve legal recognition, and empower communities
- **Create dedicated funding for intersex-led organizations**, separate from the funding designated for the overall LGBTQ community.
- **Create flexible funding for Intersex organizations.**
- **Support intersectional manner.**
- **Creating opportunities and pathways** for those who are underprivileged
- **Look beyond political issues and focus on the urgent realities intersex people face**, which are the lack of healthcare, legal recognition, and basic rights.

Overall, this pre-conference provided a valuable platform for Intersex individuals to come together and share their diverse experiences and personal insights. This gathering fostered meaningful discussions and culminated in the creation of a comprehensive [outcome statement](#) that reflects their collective voices and perspectives.

"I" Exist: Intersex Asia Achievements & Our New Strategic Plan

25 February 2025

Intersex Asia (IA), in partnership with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), organized a significant joint event at the ILGA Asia conference. This collaborative gathering aimed to introduce and unveil IA's Strategic Plan 2025 to 2029.

The event accommodated around 45 + participants, including LGBTQI community members and Stakeholders.

Hiker Chiu, the Executive Director, kicked off the event with a warm welcome, setting the tone for an engaging and fruitful discussion. He highlighted the work of Intersex Asia, shared the importance of coming together to address significant issues in our respective fields, and emphasized the value of collaboration among participants. Hiker Chiu emphasized the theme "I Exist" in response to societal erasure and celebrated the increased participation of intersex individuals in ILGA Asia over the past 11 years. S/He stressed the importance of visibility and collaboration.



Nikos Dacanay, Community Engagement and Partnerships Lead from IPPF, provided an insightful overview of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and its ongoing initiatives. He detailed out how IPPF supports Intersex Asia and its member organizations, focusing on collaborative efforts aimed at promoting intersex rights and advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) across the region.



Chinju, the Intersex Activist from India, shared their experiences regarding the legal recognition for Intersex Individuals in India. They highlighted the need for policy reform, greater public awareness, and financial support for necessary surgeries. Chinju addressed the challenges faced by intersex people, including being grouped under the transgender umbrella, difficulties in changing legal documents, and limited access to healthcare.

Following this, **Nada, the Intersex Activist from Thailand**, shared insights into the evolving landscape of LGBTQI+ rights within the country. She pointed out the significant advancements that have been made, celebrating milestones that enhance visibility and acceptance. However, she emphasized the need for comprehensive medical reform, especially regarding healthcare coverage tailored to the unique needs of Intersex individuals. Nada also highlighted the ongoing efforts to draft and promote a legal bill aimed at gender recognition and protections for sex diversity, which underscores the importance of equitable treatment.

Hiker Chiu returned to present the highly anticipated launch of the new IA's Strategic Plan 2025 -2029. This plan outlines clear goals and actionable steps designed to enhance support for intersex communities across Asia region. It upholds the principle of ' Nothing About Us Without Us'. It also contributes to the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#); *Goal # 3: Good Health and Well-being*; *Goal # 5: Gender Equality*; *Goal # 10: Reduced Inequalities* and *Goal # 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development*. For more details about the Strategic plan, please click [here](#).

Esan Regmi, the Chair of Intersex Asia, delivered the closing remarks and said Thanks so much to all participants and IPPF for their support. Also, Esan reaffirmed Intersex Asia's commitment to advancing intersex rights.

Upon concluding the presentation, attendees were invited to network freely, creating a dynamic environment for exchanging ideas, building connections, and reinforcing collaborative efforts toward enhancing intersex rights.

Visible in Law, Invisible in Data: Constructing a Social Legal Framework to Include Intersex People in Official Statistics

26 February 2025

Organized by Intersex Asia during the ILGA Asia Conference in Nepal Kathmandu, this session opened space for almost 40 participants to learn about intersex-related issues, particularly the lack of data on the enforcement of socio-economic rights.

Speakers **Hiker Chiu from Intersex Asia; Jeff Cagandahan from Intersex Philippines; Esan Regmi from Campaign for Change, and Vino Dhan from VoIS India** delivered insightful presentations highlighting a critical issue: the absence of disaggregated data regarding intersex individuals within government statistics. They emphasized how this lack of nuanced data impedes effective policy-making and resource allocation for intersex communities. By outlining the specific challenges faced by intersex individuals due to insufficient data collection, the speakers called for greater awareness and advocacy to ensure that their needs are recognized and addressed at both local and national levels. Their discussions underscored the importance of gathering comprehensive data to foster an inclusive society where all identities are acknowledged and supported.



Visible in Law, Invisible in Data session at ILGA Asia Conference 2025.

From left to right: Prashant Singh, Hiker Chiu, Esan Regmi, Jeff Cagandahan, Vino Dhan.

Hiker, expressed concerns regarding the situation for intersex individuals in **Taiwan**, stating that the country lacks a legal identity for this population. In Taiwan, when a baby is born, their gender can only be registered as either male or female, without any recognition of intersex identities. This absence of legal acknowledgment poses significant challenges, particularly within medical healthcare. The inability to have a recognized legal identity complicates access to appropriate medical care and support services for intersex individuals. Therefore, it is essential that legal provisions are established to formally recognize intersex identities within Taiwanese law.

Jeff emphasized that in the **Philippines**, intersex children are facing a situation where their lives are at risk due to barriers to accessing critical medicines necessary for their survival. Simultaneously, it is concerning that many medical professionals and healthcare providers lack sufficient understanding regarding intersex conditions and the associated health risks, such as adrenal crises. This gap in knowledge can hinder timely and appropriate care for these vulnerable patients, ultimately leading to dire consequences.

Esan, highlighted that there is a significant lack of data regarding intersex individuals in **Nepal**. Currently, the available statistics are not specific to their needs and experiences. The government does not maintain disaggregated data for intersex people. The lack of disaggregated data contributes to societal misunderstandings and stigma, leading to differential treatment towards Intersex individuals. This situation underscores a pressing need for improved census methodology and data collection practices to collect disaggregated data of marginalized populations.

Vino highlighted the significant challenges that intersex individuals face in accessing essential health care and education in India. In Tamil Nadu alone, it is estimated that approximately **50,000** children are born with intersex variations each year. Unfortunately, the **Indian** government has not established a comprehensive system for collecting data on these intersex children, which further complicates their access to necessary services. This situation underscores the urgent need for continuous advocacy efforts aimed at raising awareness and sensitizing government officials regarding intersex.

Overall, this session delivered deep insights and issues pertaining to intersex individuals, particularly emphasizing the critical gaps in disaggregated data. It underscored the necessity for engaging with intersex communities to ensure their voices are heard and considered. Additionally, the discussion highlighted the importance of building capacity of Intersex individuals.

Fight against the anti-gender movement in East Asia: the practice of EA Alliance for Anti-discrimination

This session delved into significant and pressing issues pertaining to the ongoing struggle against the anti-gender movement in East Asia (EA). It examined the various strategies and initiatives put forth by the EA Alliance for Anti-Discrimination, focusing on their collective efforts to confront pervasive discrimination and promote inclusivity. Key topics include the following: **Challenges in Countering Anti-Gender Narratives:** This segment identified and analyzed the significant obstacles faced by LGBTQ+ advocacy groups in East Asia. It will critically examine the tactics employed by the anti-gender movement and assess their influence on public perception and legislative policy regarding gender and sexuality. **Collaborative Efforts and Mutual Support:** This part of the discussion highlighted the pivotal role of the EA Alliance in fostering a collaborative environment. Regular discussions, sharing of diverse perspectives, and conducting comparative research will be explored as means to enhance solidarity among advocacy groups across different nations within East Asia. **Cultural and Societal Differences:** An important facet to consider is how varying cultural and societal contexts within East Asia impact LGBTQ+ rights. **Future Directions and Strategies in East Asia:** Here explored potential collaborations with both regional partners and international LGBTI+ movements, aiming to create a united front against discrimination while enhancing advocacy efforts across borders.

During this session, several discussions were held about the framework of a survey that appears to be based on a Taiwan government initiative. This survey is being conducted by the Gender Equality Committee of the Executive Yuan, which serves as the cabinet in Taiwan. The scope of this governmental survey is quite broad, addressing crucial topics such as equal pay for equal work, the division of household chores, adoption by same-sex couples, and the rights of transgender individuals to utilize public restrooms. The questionnaire delves

into an array of issues related to gender and sexual identity, including questions about sex, gay and lesbian relationships, transgender experiences, and intersex individuals. Notably, however, it has been observed that there are relatively few questions pertaining specifically to intersex persons. There was an emphasis that the survey is currently ongoing and needs further refinement and completion.

Overall, this session provided a comprehensive exploration of effective strategies for countering anti-gender movements. It emphasized the importance of fostering dialogue and collaboration among various stakeholders to build a more inclusive society across East Asia. Through collaboration and innovative advocacy, it is possible to create environments that uphold gender equality and respect for all, ultimately contributing to a more equitable future in the region.

Building and Strengthening with Businesses: Strategies of Engaging Corporates in LGBTIQ+ Movements

27 February 2025

This session delved into the significant theme of alliances and collaborations between corporate entities and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), with a focus on achieving several key objectives. One primary goal is to gain insights into how LGBTIQ+ organizations in various countries effectively collaborate with businesses, taking into account their distinctive cultural and social frameworks to foster greater support for the LGBTIQ+ movement.

The session highlighted how the LGBTIQ+ organizations have crafted a range of innovative strategies to advance the LGBTIQ+ movement effectively, tailoring their approaches based on the unique social conditions and cultural nuances of each country. By employing diverse methodologies to engage, initiate, and cultivate collaboration with corporate entities in varied social settings, these organizations can transform companies into pivotal allies—catalyzing progress within society collectively.

Moreover, attendees learned actionable strategies designed to foster a diverse and inclusive workplace environment. Such methods empower the LGBTIQ+ community to thrive in professional settings while feeling secure and respected. Recognizing that individuals operate within different workplace dynamics, this partnership model allows LGBTIQ+ organizations to implement practices that promote inclusivity within corporate spheres. By joining forces with businesses, these organizations pave the way for establishing internal environments that embrace LGBTIQ+ inclusivity, ultimately enhancing both organizational culture and societal acceptance.

Everyone needs to work in different workplace environments. By partnering with businesses, LGBTIQ+ organizations can establish LGBTIQ+ inclusive internal environments, policies, and training, improving employees' understanding of diverse communities and enhancing the conditions for LGBTIQ+ employees. Additionally, increasing external corporate advocacy and support for the LGBTIQ+ community can further influence public perception and social atmosphere for the LGBTIQ+ communities.

Regional Network Meeting

28 February 2025

The representatives from seven Regional Networks **AFLN, APCOM, APTN, ILGA Asia, Intersex Asia, and YVC** joined the regional meeting on 28 February 2025.

This meeting gathered to engage in a comprehensive discussion regarding key developments on the **LGBTI Funding Infrastructure in Asia**. Among the topics addressed were updates related to the **DRL project**, which aimed to enhance support and resources for LGBTI initiatives in the region. Additionally, the agenda included a discussion on the **Advisory Committee for Equality Collaboration**, which receives backing from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

These seven network organisations will reconvene soon to engage in discussions regarding funding opportunities and to outline strategies for collaboration. In addition, this meeting will explore various avenues for financial support as well as to develop a cohesive plan for working together effectively on shared objectives.

Intersex Asia and other allies at the ILGA Asia Conference 2025, Kathmandu, Nepal





Reflection piece from the Intersex participants

Dana from the Philippines

My name is Dana, and I am from the Philippines. Currently, I hold the position of President of Intersex Philippines, a role that not only signifies my dedication to the intersex community but also empowers me to be a voice for those who often feel unheard.

Recently, I had the honor of participating in the ILGA Conference, where I was able to represent both my country and my organization. This experience was incredibly enriching as it provided a platform for engaging with like-minded advocates from around the region.

At the conference, I participated in a series of insightful sessions that addressed critical issues affecting marginalized communities. 1. **Youth Conference;** 2. **Intersex Asia Pre-Conference** 3. **4. Humanitarian Pre-Conference;** 5. **Trans People Conference;** 6. **Pre-Conference on Children's Rights and** 7. **Climate Change, War, and Conflict Conference.**

One of my key takeaways from the conference is the importance of recognizing the **rich diversity within the LGBTQI+ community**. Each identity represented in this spectrum grapples with its own unique struggles, historical contexts, and advocacy needs. For instance, while some movements are just beginning to gain traction, others like Intersex Asia and Intersex Philippines are starting to receive more visibility but still face substantial hurdles that demand our focus and effort. Furthermore, **intersectionality plays a pivotal role** in intersex advocacy. The discussions throughout the event underscored how intersex rights intersect with various pressing issues including youth challenges, humanitarian crises, climate change impacts, and overarching human rights matters. There was a strong emphasis on the necessity for robust international solidarity—particularly when it comes to tackling medical interventions performed without informed consent, addressing persistent gaps in legal recognition for intersex individuals, and confronting discriminatory policies that marginalize these voices. Another significant lesson I took away was the **undeniable power of collaboration**. Partnering with other organizations can greatly amplify our advocacy efforts and enhance our collective voice in promoting change. The conference reiterated that mere awareness-raising is insufficient; we must actively advocate for meaningful policy reforms, legal recognition of intersex rights, and the fostering of community-led initiatives that empower individuals within these diverse identities.

Dana says *"The ILGA Conference inspired me to do more for the grassroots intersex community and strengthen international collaborations. Working alongside ally organizations and regional networks reminded me that change happens when we unite our efforts. Moving forward, I am eager to take bolder steps in advocating for intersex rights at all levels."*

The knowledge that I gained from the ILGA Conference will help shape intersex advocacy in the Philippines. I plan to strengthen collaborations with international and regional partners to amplify intersex voices.

The host country for the conference, Nepal, was incredible. The cool and temperate weather was not only pleasant but also offered a refreshing change from the sweltering heat and humidity I typically experience back home. This climate added to the overall enjoyment of the conference, allowing participants to engage more freely without the discomfort of oppressive weather.



Nada from Thailand

My name is Nada Chaipayajit, hailing from Thailand. I am the co-founder of Intersex Thailand. I am a PhD researcher specializing in human rights law, with a focus on intersex rights, economic development, and business and human rights.



I attended the following sessions;

- **Day 1:** Intersex Pre-Conference, Trans Pre-Conference;
- **Day 2:** Inter-Faith Pre-Conference, Side Event – “I” Exist: Intersex Asia Achievement and Our New Strategic Plan;
- **Day 3:** Opening Ceremony (Morning Session), The Economic Cost of Discrimination: Data, Insights, and Pathways to Inclusive Growth, Movements for LGBTIQ+ Youth and Children in Taiwan and Thailand*, *RELENTLESS (APCOM Reception);
- **Day 4:** The Economic Case for LGBTQ+ Inclusion in Southeast Asia, *Building and Strengthening Collaboration With Businesses: Strategies of Engaging Corporates in LGBTIQ+ Movements;
- **Day 5:** Power of Pride Advocacy Achievements: LGBTI Advocacy Wins & the Road Ahead, Special Event: Thailand’s Cohort Meeting with UN SOGI

Being intersex has led me to some eye-opening experiences at the ILGA Conference 2025, especially when connecting with other intersex advocates across Asia. It really helped me understand how important it is to build community, form alliances, and communicate effectively. The theme of **“I Exist”** was super powerful and stood out during my time there, highlighting the need to ensure that intersex voices are integral parts of LGBTIQAN+ movements instead of just being brought in for appearances. This conference reaffirmed my dedication to bridging the critical divide between human rights advocacy and economic development. Additionally, it equipped me with innovative strategies for more effectively championing intersex rights, both in grassroots activism and in policy-driven initiatives. The experience has invigorated my commitment to advocating for a future where intersex individuals can thrive, free from discrimination and inequality.

The knowledge I have acquired from the ILGA Conference will serve as a pivotal tool in enhancing Intersex Thailand’s communication strategies as we work to address the persistent challenges posed by intersex phobia within the country. I intend to bolster community engagement initiatives that resonate with individuals directly affected by these issues, enhance policy advocacy efforts aimed at shaping inclusive legislation, and elevate public education initiatives designed to raise awareness about intersex rights and experiences.

Nada expresses profound gratitude towards Intersex Asia and ILGA Asia for granting her this indispensable opportunity. She reflects on the challenging journey she has faced, navigating the intimidating landscape of Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP), transitioning from a hands-on activist role to the more scholarly domain of academia, and the pursuit of her PhD. These experiences have led her to moments of doubt about her trajectory. However, attending this conference has rekindled her conviction; it serves as a powerful reminder that, irrespective of shifts in her professional identity, her primary mission remains unwavering—to advocate for and advance intersex and LGBTQ+ rights not only in Thailand but also across broader landscapes.

Vino from India

I am Mx. VinoDhan, aka Dhanalakshmi Thangan. As the founder and Executive Director of **VoIS INDIA**, which stands for Voice of Intersex Supports INDIA, I am deeply committed to advocating for the rights, dignity, and well-being of intersex individuals across the country.

I had the opportunity to attend several enlightening sessions at the ILGA Asia Conference, each focusing on various critical aspects of LGBTQIA+ rights and activism: 1. Asian Queer Community Issues and Opportunities; 2. Safe Abortion Protections for Trans Men and Non-Binary Individuals; 3. Strengthening Collaboration with Activists from Other Countries.

I came away from the ILGA Asia Conference with several important insights. One of the standout sessions focused on **Safe Abortion for Transmen and Non-binary individuals**, which was particularly eye-opening. This session not only expanded my understanding but also provided valuable insights into the practices and approaches being implemented in Southeast Asia. Furthermore, I found the session on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to be highly informative. It deepened my knowledge of how AI technologies can be leveraged to support the LGBTQIA+ community, especially individuals with special needs.

The insights I acquired from the ILGA Asia Conference will significantly enhance my ability to implement improved approaches and methodologies aimed at fostering greater understanding and sensitivity surrounding the complex issues of abortion and marital rights for the LGBTQIA+ community. This includes recognizing the unique challenges faced by transgender individuals, non-binary people, and intersex individuals. Additionally, reinforcing anti-discrimination laws is crucial. By collaborating with policymakers and government officials, we can strive to formulate more effective anti-rights measures and discrimination policies. Our focus will also encompass establishing better coordination with law enforcement and media outlets to ensure the protection of rights within these communities.

Overall, this forum served as an invaluable educational experience. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to deepen my understanding of worldwide dynamics concerning the LGBTQIA+ communities.



Vino at the Intersex Asia Strategic Plan launch event, ILGA Asia Conference 2025

Joey from the Philippines

Hello, I am Joey from the Philippines, and I represent Intersex Philippines. As a lawyer and advocate, I provide pro bono legal assistance for Intersex Filipinos seeking name and gender marker changes. My participation deepened my commitment to advancing Intersex rights and intersectional advocacy across Asia.

At the ILGA Asia Conference, I engaged deeply in a variety of influential sessions that enriched my understanding of the current landscape of LGBTQIA+ advocacy. One highlight was the IPPF Pre-conference titled "**Bridging Movements in Asia,**" where critical discussions took place regarding

collaboration and solidarity among diverse movements. Additionally, I participated in **Intersex pre-conference**, which provided an excellent platform for regional networking among advocates committed to intersex rights. Furthermore, the UN-focused strategic session was particularly illuminating, as it highlighted global frameworks and strategies for advancing human rights on an international stage.

My experience at the ILGA Asia Conference really opened my eyes to the importance of intersectional advocacy, and it has had a fantastic impact on my work in the Philippines. One key takeaway for me was how essential it is to support each other across different movements, which was especially highlighted during the session "**Bridging Movements in Asia.**" This is vital in our fight against global anti-rights movements and the backlash facing women's and LGBTQIA+ rights. **The Intersex Pre-conference** and the interactive sessions did a great job of showcasing the need for visibility and tailored support for Intersex individuals. These discussions really align with the recent UN resolutions aimed at tackling discrimination against Intersex persons, providing us with helpful strategies to confront anti-gender mobilization and societal stigma. The discussions **on climate justice and humanitarian issues** pointed out the unique challenges that LGBTQIA+ communities face, which reminded me how important it is to push for resilience-focused advocacy, especially in disaster-prone places like the Philippines. Lastly, the sessions that encouraged working together across different groups reinforced the idea that we need to unite with intersectional strategies to effectively promote human rights and bodily autonomy across Asia.

Joey says " Going to the ILGA Asia Conference was an incredibly emotional and transformative experience for me! Listening to fellow Intersex advocates share their stories really hit home and made me feel even more committed to our cause. It wasn't just about learning; I also got to strengthen some amazing connections, including a heartfelt reunion with a friend"

I'm truly looking forward to the upcoming ILGA Asia Conference 2027 in the Philippines. It fills me with hope to be part of creating an experience that not only fosters regional alliances but also highlights the warmth and hospitality of the Filipino people.





Intersex Activists/ Leaders/ Members Attended ILGA Conference

Name	Organization	Country
Maimun	Intersex Bangladesh	Bangladesh
Tarikul	Bangladesh Intersex Forum	Bangladesh
Chinju	Amigos Trans Collective, Kerala	India
Dit	The Intersex and Trans Collective Manipur(TITC)	India
Ganga	VoIS INDIA	India
Momo	Intersex Human Rights India	India
Vijaya	VoIS INDIA	India
Vino	VoIS INDIA	India
Tata	Kolektif Interseks	Indonesia
Amek	Intersex.id	Indonesia
Ammar	Campaign for Change	Nepal
Archana	Campaign for change	Nepal
Bimala	Campaign for Change	Nepal
Chetana Kandel	Campaign for Change	Nepal
Gita Khadka	Campaign for Change	Nepal
Manisha	Campaign for Change	Nepal
Nabin	Campaign for Change	Nepal
Nira	Campaign for Change	Nepal
Niraj	Campaign for change	Nepal
Prem	Campaign for Change	Nepal
Rita	Campaign for Change	Nepal
Shishir	Campaign for Change	Nepal
Charm	Intersex Philippines	Philippines
Dana	Intersex Philippines	Philippines
Joey	Intersex Philippines	Philippines
MJ	Intersex Philippines	Philippines
PatriciaParticia	Intersex Philippines	Philippines
Rodela	Intersex Philippines	Philippines
Nada	Intersex Thailand	Thailand

Intersex Asia is an autonomous regional network of intersex-led organizations and individuals from Asian countries that work to support, educate and advocate for the rights and lives of intersex individuals and raise awareness on human rights violations and discrimination faced by intersex communities. It envisions a world where the beauty of intersex people is celebrated, and where intersex persons can love themselves and grow together as a community. It seeks to create a space for intersex people where they can come forward and act as a stakeholder of the global intersex rights movement.



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