

October 04, 2018

First Issue of the WAMA Monthly Newsletter

by Women in Action on Mining in Asia



Dear Friends of WAMA,

With great pleasure, we present to you the the first newsletter of WAMA. The purpose of this newsletter is to be updated about the work done by different groups, and be informed of the latest news and events in the field we are working in. This will be a monthly newsletter, and we hope to fill it up with your contributions regarding the updates and news from your respective regions in the coming months. So here goes!

UPDATES

1) Asian Regional Strategy Consultation for Women, Natural Resources, and Livelihoods in Extractive Contexts in Samarinda, Indonesia (July 2018)

A regional consultation was held from the 23rd-26th July 2018, in Samarinda, Indonesia organised by JATAM, along with Both ENDS and NTFP-EP. The focus of this workshop was on drawing the international connection of mining companies active in Indonesia, and on discussing strategies to strengthen women's rights and

[Subscribe](#)

[Archive](#)

countries, which they then mapped out to get a broader picture of the complexity of the problems and to get a better understanding of the international connection. By doing so, they found out that the problems each country is struggling with, are common: health issues, threats, harassment, intimidation, violence against women, social insecurity, military/ political involvement, land rights issues, exploitation of natural resources and environmental damage etc. This was followed by a group discussion focusing mainly on women's role and challenges, and the needs and strategies to solve their problems.



On the second day of the consultation, participants were taken on a field trip to mining affected areas in Samarinda, where they observed the conditions of the mining affected villages and interacted with community members and stakeholders. This included a meeting with the mothers who lost their children due to mining in Sempaja and an interaction with female farmers on the deteriorating condition of agriculture in Makroman. The participants closely observed the severe impacts of mining in the area on women and children.



Following this, the last two days comprised of a round of reflections from the field visits, strategy planning, needs assessment and mapping the agenda for the way forward.



2) Community workshop on 'Mining and Women's Rights' in Udaipur, India and Mobilisation of women's groups at a village level (August 2018)

On 24th August 2018, a community workshop was organised collectively by Dhaatri, SETU Ahmedabad, MM & P (Mines, Minerals and People) and Adivasi Ekta Parishad on the theme of 'Mining and Women's Rights', in Kisan Bhavan, Udaipur. This workshop was attended by 30 women from the districts of Udaipur, Dungarpur and Banswara. In this meeting, discussions were held on the environmental impacts of mining, the impact on women and their participation in resource governance. After a film screening of the documentary 'Above the Ground', participants engaged in a discussion and shared detailed experiences on how adivasi women in their villages have been impacted by the water crisis or air pollution, as a consequence of the mines in their vicinities. The meeting concluded with a strategy planning for developing women's groups in each of the participating villages, that will mobilise women towards raising their voices on environment related issues, after which the participants took a pledge to work towards conservation and governance of natural resources



Post the workshop, the community leaders who attended went on to hold village level meetings to mobilise other women to come ahead and work on the issues of environmental impact due to mining in their areas. On 9th September, 2018, a meeting was held in Nevatalai village. Around 60 women attended this meeting, where they shared their personal experiences of environment pollution in their village, and decided on what steps could be taken with regard to the issues discussed, mostly related to the pollution caused by the fly ash (black dust) that emerges from the thermal power plant constructed inside the boundary of their village.



3) Workshop on alternative sustainable livelihoods with devadasi women at Hospete, India (August 2018)

On 31st August, 2018, a workshop was conducted by Sakhi Trust with devadasi women, supported by FCAM and Dhaatri at Hospete, Karnataka, which was attended by 275 women members from the surrounding mining impacted villages. The agenda of the workshop was to mobilise and strengthen women via the 'Jenugudu women co-operative', and create opportunities for alternative sustainable livelihoods through this collective.





The Asia Pacific gathering was held in Semarang, Indonesia from the 1st until the 4th of September, 2018 with the participation of more than 70 Activists from various NGOs from 10 Countries of Asia- Pacific region. The origin countries of these NGOs were Pakistan, India, Myanmar, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Canada and Germany as well. Activities were organised through the cooperation of JATAM, KRuHA, IGJ, JPIC, OFM, WALHI and VIVAT, which are mainly Indonesian civil organisations, with their partners from international Asian Pacific organisations, such as Anti-Mining Alliance (ATM), Asia Pacific Network of Environment Defenders (APEND) and LILAK from the Philippines, Porgera Red River Woman Association from Papua New Guinea and NCAS from India.



the topic of law and the negative impact of extractivism. Participants shared their views and details from their respective countries on mining extraction, its effect on the human life specially indigenous people and also about the situation of human rights defenders. This discussion took place in the context of wrongful accusations and killings of human rights defenders in the recent past.



After rounds of presentations, discussions and strategy sharing by different groups, it was decided to create a platform for advocacy on an Asia Pacific regional level, to work together, share information, learn from each other's strategies and to foster solidarity. The objectives of this platform would be to promote alternative models of development based on human rights principles and towards recognizing rights of nature, to demand economic justice for communities affected by extractives, to assert justice through addressing human rights violations caused by extractives, and to hold corporations accountable when they violate human rights and destroy the environment.

5) Workshop and Study Tour on Women and Mining in Arkhangai Province, Mongolia (September 2018)



From 17th-19th September 2018, a workshop and study tour was organised by MONES- Women's Fund Mongolia in Arkhangai Province. This was a two day workshop attended by 30 participants from National and local Women's Rights and Environmental Rights NGOs, representatives of herders, citizen representatives, researchers and media activists from provinces across the country who shared their experiences of mining impacts, and discussed challenges, strategies and need for building women's leadership in addressing violations related to extractives in Mongolia. The workshop was also followed by a field study tour to the gold mines in Arkhangai province using GIA tools to understand the impacts on women's lives.



During the workshop, the participants deliberated on the mining situation in different provinces through group work on impacts, challenges and strategies proposed to address the goals for achieving women's rights vis a vis mining. The goals articulated were towards achieving a pollution-free Mongolia, maintenance of traditional livelihoods, protection of legal rights of herders, and practicing concepts of sustainable mining. The challenges to be addressed are the national NGOs' lack of awareness of the field realities, disconnect between the national and local NGOs, grievance redressal systems not in place, political interests and state interests pushing for mining against community voices, low education levels in provinces and the unheard community opinion and voices.



NARRATIVES

'Above the Ground' is a short documentary depicting the environmental impact of Zawar Mines, through the narratives of women farmers from the mine affected villages of Kanpur and Nevatalai of Udaipur District, Rajasthan, India.

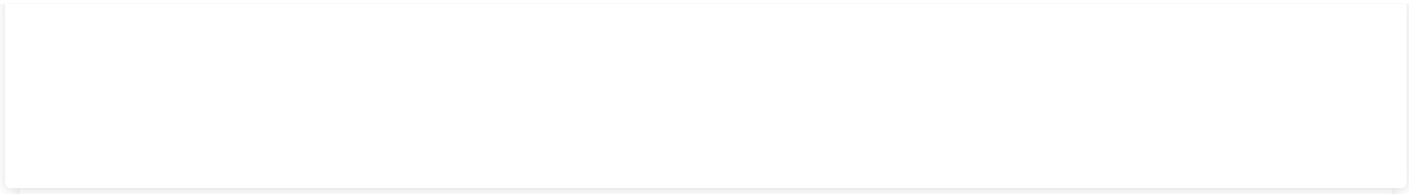


LATEST NEWS AND RESEARCH

1. [Going for Gold: Can small-scale mines be mercury free?](#)
2. [Phillipines Landslides after Typhoon Mangkhut could end the hunt for gold](#)
3. [Indonesian Province calls time out on mining](#)
4. [Why is Vedanta delisting from the London Stock Exchange?](#)
5. [Criminilization and violence increasingly used to silence indigeneous protest, according to UN report](#)
6. [A new book published by ANU press on bauxite mining conflicts in India by Patrik Oskarsson](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. [FEMPOWER! Roundtable Conference organised by Shirkat Gah- Women's Resource Centre in Kathmnadu Nepal from 30th-31st October 2018](#)
 2. [Thematic Social Forum on Mining & The Extractive Economy in Johannesburg, South Africa from 12th-15th November 2018](#)
-
-



[Subscribe](#)

[Archive](#)