

APWJN

Asia and the Pacific Women Judges Network

Meet the Advisory Committee

Connecting women judges through regional solidarity and shared learning.



A judge-led regional network supported by the
United Nations Development Programme and the Asian Development Bank

About APWJN

The Asia and the Pacific Women Judges Network brings together women judges across the region to strengthen judicial leadership, exchange experience and explore institutional practices that widen women's opportunities to lead. Supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), APWJN is a judge-led platform connecting regional cooperation with national judicial priorities.

Why regional exchange matters

Women have made progress in entering the judiciary, yet their access to senior responsibilities and institutional decision-making varies across jurisdictions. Career pathways are shaped by appointment and promotion practices, access to mentoring and professional networks, workplace culture and opportunities to take part in court management and reform.

Regional exchange creates space for judges to compare approaches, learn from different legal systems and identify practices suited to their own institutions. It also helps sustain professional relationships beyond individual conferences and training activities.

Judicial ownership

The Network's direction is shaped by judges' experiences and priorities. UNDP and ADB provide Secretariat support, bringing together country-level rule of law engagement, regional convening capacity and law and policy reform expertise. This relationship supports continued peer exchange while preserving judicial ownership of the substantive agenda.

Shared priorities

APWJN's strategic framework connects individual leadership and professional support with the institutional conditions that enable women judges to exercise influence.

01

Women's judicial leadership and peer support

Create sustained opportunities for women judges to exchange experience, strengthen professional relationships and learn from one another. Mentoring and peer support can help judges navigate career transitions, professional isolation and the responsibilities that accompany judicial leadership.

02

Enabling institutional practice and leadership pathways

Explore the institutional practices that shape access to leadership, including appointment and promotion processes, management responsibilities, workplace culture and participation in decision-making. Share approaches that can inform dialogue and reform within different judicial systems.

03

Knowledge evidence and innovation

Bring research and judicial experience into regional dialogue. Identify knowledge gaps, examine emerging challenges and share practical insights on institutional change, integrity and public trust, including the implications of digital transformation for women's judicial leadership.

04

Regional community and cooperation

Build a continuing regional community that recognizes differences across subregions, legal systems and court structures. Connect shared priorities with opportunities for regional and subregional cooperation, while keeping national contexts and judicial independence central.

The Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee brings senior women judges from different jurisdictions and subregions into the Network’s strategic dialogue. Its role is to provide guidance and help ensure that APWJN remains responsive to judges’ experiences and priorities.

Advisors contribute to the substantive agenda, support peer exchange and help identify priorities for continued cooperation. Their collective experience spans constitutional and appellate adjudication, judicial education, institutional reform, human rights and professional networks. UNDP and ADB support this work through the Network’s Secretariat.

Member guide

Justice Mubina Asaf
Bangladesh | Profile on page 5

Justice Nani Indrawati
Indonesia | Profile on page 5

Justice Chinara Aidarbekova
Kyrgyz Republic | Profile on page 6

Justice Dato’ Mary Lim Thiam Suan
Malaysia | Profile on page 6

Justice Aisha Shujune Muhammad
Maldives | Profile on page 7

Judge Dolgorsuren Namjil
Mongolia | Profile on page 7

Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla
Nepal | Profile on page 8

Justice Ayesha Malik
Pakistan | Profile on page 8

Justice Laura Wawun-Kuvi
Papua New Guinea | Profile on page 9

Justice Maria Filomena “Monette” Dumandan Singh
Philippines | Profile on page 9

Justice Mata Keli Tuatagaloa
Samoa | Profile on page 10

Justice Suntariya Muanpawong
Thailand | Profile on page 10

Member profiles



BANGLADESH

Justice Mubina Asaf

Judge, High Court Division, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

Justice Mubina Asaf is a Judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. A former Deputy Attorney General with experience of 7 years in the Attorney General's office. She has over 30 years of professional experience. She was a founder partner of a law firm and an editor of the law desk of a national daily newspaper. She was also President of a foundation which worked with marginalized under privileged vulnerable groups, women and children addressing social injustices and providing support to ensure inclusivity and equality.



INDONESIA

Justice Nani Indrawati

Justice, Civil Chamber, Supreme Court of Indonesia; Chair, Indonesian Women Judges Association

Justice Nani Indrawati is an Indonesian Supreme Court Justice appointed to the Civil Chamber in 2022. She is the inaugural Chair of the Indonesian Women Judges Association. A champion for environmental law, her pioneering Anti-SLAPP advocacy protects activists from retaliatory lawsuits, while her regional work promotes gender-responsive judicial reform.

Member profiles



KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Justice Chinara Aidarbekova

Judge, Constitutional Court of the Kyrgyz Republic; Commissioner, International Commission of Jurists

Justice Chinara Aidarbekova is a Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Kyrgyz Republic with over thirty years of experience. A Highest Qualification Class Judge, she formerly chaired national legislative drafting at the Ministry of Justice. Today, she leads the Kyrgyz Association of Women Judges and serves as an International Commission of Jurists Commissioner.



MALAYSIA

Justice Dato' Mary Lim Thiam Suan

Retired Judge, Federal Court of Malaysia; President, AIAC Court of Arbitration

Justice Dato' Mary Lim Thiam Suan is a retired Federal Court Judge of Malaysia and current President of the AIAC Court of Arbitration. An Honorary Bencher of Lincoln's Inn and DIFC Courts Judge, she made history as Malaysia's first Construction Court Judge, capping a distinguished career in public service, jurisprudence, and international dispute resolution.

Member profiles



MALDIVES

Justice Aisha Shujune Muhammad

Justice, Supreme Court of the Maldives; Vice Chairperson, UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture

Justice Aisha Shujune Muhammad is a pioneering jurist on the Supreme Court of the Maldives. Appointed in 2019, she made history as one of the nation's first female Supreme Court justices. She also serves as Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur of the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture, championing global human rights and criminal justice reform.



MONGOLIA

Judge Dolgorsuren Namjil

Judge, Administrative Court of Appeals of Mongolia

Judge Dolgorsuren Namjil has served on the Administrative Court of Appeals of Mongolia since 2014. With 37 years of public service, including 24 years in the justice sector, she has played a key role in judicial administration, policy, and cooperation. A judicial trainer at the Judicial Training and Research Academy of Mongolia, she is committed to strengthening administrative justice, judicial leadership, judicial education, and the rule of law.

Member profiles



NEPAL

Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla

Justice, Supreme Court of Nepal

Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla has served on the Supreme Court of Nepal since 2016. Before joining the bench, she was a prominent cause lawyer and was instrumental in landmark litigation advancing women's property rights, the criminalization of marital rape and domestic violence, reproductive rights, and access to justice. She also served as a member of the UN Committee Against Torture and Nepal's First Constituent Assembly. Her judicial work has contributed significantly to the development of jurisprudence on gender justice, environmental justice, the rule of law, separation of powers, and transitional justice. She was a recipient of the 2008 Gruber Women's Rights Prize.



PAKISTAN

Justice Ayesha Malik

Justice, Supreme Court of Pakistan

Justice Ayesha Malik is the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court of Pakistan, appointed in 2022 after a distinguished decade at the Lahore High Court. Widely respected for her independence, courage and commitment to human rights and the rule of law, her jurisprudence reflects a citizen-centred approach to justice, grounded in dignity, fairness and substantive equality. She has pioneered the integration of a gender perspective into judicial reasoning, challenging entrenched stereotypes and bringing the lived realities of women into the interpretation and application of law. Her leadership extends beyond the bench through judicial reform, education and advancing women's participation in legal institutions. Her contributions have earned international recognition, including an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of London and the 2026 Justitia Lifetime Award in Vienna.

Member profiles



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Justice Laura Wawun-Kuvi

Judge, Supreme Court and National Court of Papua New Guinea

Justice Laura Wawun-Kuvi is a Judge of the National and Supreme Courts of Papua New Guinea. With over 20 years of legal experience, she has worked as a State Prosecutor, Practice Manager with the State Solicitor's Office, District Court Magistrate prior to her appointment as a Judge. As a Judge she has run several judicial trainings for Magistrates. She is a member of the International Association of Women Judges, the PNG Judicial Women's Association, the Pacific Association of Women Judicial Officers and the Pacific Judicial Officers Association. She is also a fellow of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute and a Council Member of the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration Council.



PHILIPPINES

Justice Maria Filomena "Monette" Dumandan Singh

Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines; President-Elect, International Association of Women Judges

Justice Maria Filomena "Monette" Dumandan Singh is an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines and the President-Elect of the International Association of Women Judges. Appointed in 2022 to the Supreme Court, she modernized judicial ethics and digitized national Shari'ah Bar exams. A former appellate judge, she champions global female leadership and legal reform.

Member profiles



SAMOA

Justice Mata Keli Tuatagaloa

Senior Judge, Supreme Court of Samoa

Justice Mata Keli Tuatagaloa made history as the nation's first female District Court Judge in 2011 and first permanent female Supreme Court Judge in 2015 and recently became the Senior Supreme Court Judge. She has served as Acting Chief Justice and is known for her fearless rulings against domestic violence. Notably, she established Samoa's Alcohol and Drugs Court, achieving a significant reduction in alcohol-related crime through therapeutic, community-led justice. She was also selected as the New Zealand Prime Minister's Fellow in 2019.



THAILAND

Justice Suntariya Muanpawong

Vice President, Anti-Corruption Division
Central Appeal Court, Thailand

Justice Suntariya Muanpawong has served as Vice President of the Anti-Corruption Division of the Central Appeal Court in Thailand since October 2026 and is a pioneering legal reformer. Advancing from a practicing lawyer, she revolutionized Thailand's legal system through landmark research on gender justice, child protection, and environmental jurisprudence. She famously pioneered people-oriented reforms, drafting national environmental laws and developing objective tools for judicial decisions.

A continuing judicial community

APWJN is intended to sustain the relationships and professional dialogue that women judges have called for across the region. Continuing peer exchange can connect senior and emerging judicial leaders, create opportunities to discuss institutional challenges and support learning across different court systems.

Learning across jurisdictions

The Network creates space to examine how women judges gain access to leadership responsibilities, participate in institutional decisions and contribute to reform. Comparative experience can help judges identify approaches relevant to their own courts, while recognizing that legal systems, institutional arrangements and professional cultures differ.

Sustaining leadership

Judicial wellbeing, workload, public scrutiny and gender-based harassment affect the conditions in which women judges exercise leadership. Trusted peer discussion can surface these experiences and inform practical priorities for professional support and institutional dialogue.

Connecting dialogue with practice

The Advisory Committee helps connect regional discussion with the issues judges identify in their own professional settings. Supported by the Secretariat, the Network can carry forward shared learning and explore priorities for cooperation, knowledge development and leadership support.

Advancing women's judicial leadership

APWJN offers a regional space for women judges to learn from one another and contribute to the future of their institutions. Its shared aspiration is to strengthen the professional relationships, knowledge and institutional conditions that enable women to exercise judicial leadership.

The Advisory Committee brings judicial experience into this effort, helping shape a Network grounded in judges' priorities and sustained through regional cooperation.

Asia and the Pacific Women Judges Network

Supported by the United Nations Development Programme
and the Asian Development Bank

