



亚洲促进会 年度报告

asia catalyst annual report
2008

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Message from the Chair

Many of the activists with whom we work are already recognized experts in their fields, but Asia Catalyst helps empower them to translate their knowledge into policies and action. As a result, we are not only making progress on key public health and rule of law issues, but supporting a core group of leaders to tackle new—and bigger—challenges in the future..

Sophie Richardson
Board Chair

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How It Works

Asia's new nonprofit sector is growing rapidly. In China, thousands of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have sprung up in the past five years. Most are launched by dedicated young activists with little experience, and no training in budgeting, staff management, or strategic planning. Chinese groups also suffer from isolation from their peers in the region, partly due to the language barrier, and partly due to restricted flows of information. Without support, these new NGOs may close as quickly as they open.

Asia Catalyst's innovative incubation model involves partnering with one small, grassroots nongovernmental organization (NGO) that we believe has the capacity to become a leader in the field. We work together closely for two to three years, providing the group with capacity-building training in every aspect of its work: financial and personnel management, strategic planning, fundraising, advocacy and international outreach. After two to three years, the organization becomes strong enough to handle these tasks itself.

At the same time, through our network of partners, we offer help and training to other grassroots groups with advocacy and outreach. We are committed to building links across Asian borders and from South to South. Our initial focus is on civil society responding to HIV/AIDS in China, and we plan to expand into other regions and subjects in the future.

Who We Are

Sara L.M. Davis (known by her middle name, Meg) founded Asia Catalyst after spending the early part of her career working in different parts of Asia -- as a China scholar studying ethnic Buddhism in the borderlands of China and Burma; helping Thai environmental groups to document rights abuses linked to resource extraction in Burma; and doing research and advocacy for Human Rights Watch on police abuse, HIV/AIDS, housing rights, and more in China and Cambodia. Inspired by the boom in grassroots groups in China, and often asked by them for help with grant proposals, emergency shelter during a crackdown, press contacts and more, she launched Asia Catalyst in November 2006.

In January 2008, Asia Catalyst launched its internship program: recruiting, training and supervising 20 graduate students and professional volunteers over the course of the year. Our graduate interns have come from NYU Law School, Columbia University, Temple University Law School, the New School, Princeton University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, UCLA, Yale University, and Cornell University.



Asia Catalyst graduate interns and volunteers have input into the strategic direction of the organization, and some travel to China to work with our partners on the ground. Their hands-on experience equips them for future careers in the NGO sector, public policy or academe. Our interns have gone on to positions at international NGOs, in academia or in government, where they become part of our expanding international network. **Our board includes leading human rights experts on Asia, as well as experts in law, nonprofit management and web design.**

What We Do Incubating New NGOs



Asia Catalyst began its first incubation partnership with the **Korekata AIDS Law Center** (惟谦艾兹法律中心), China's first legal aid center for people with HIV/AIDS, in January 2007. The mission of the center is to defend the rights of people living with AIDS and to advance the development of Chinese rule of law. Through casework, publications, advocacy and workshops, the Korekata Center promotes access to and participation of people with AIDS in China's developing legal system. Their issues include combating discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS, advocating for compensation for people infected with HIV through hospital blood transfusions, advocating for treatment access, and promoting respect for the rights of vulnerable communities.

Asia Catalyst committed to working with the center from January 2007 through June 2009. Asia Catalyst mentored the staff of the center: **helping them to assess their own needs; strengthening budgeting and financial reporting practices with quarterly budgets and financial reports; facilitating strategic planning meetings; supporting center staff to take courses in team management and accounting; and holding regular meetings, in person and by phone, to discuss program design and implementation.** Asia Catalyst also supports and has trained a fundraiser in the center's office, who works alongside Asia Catalyst on grant applications, building new relationships with foundations. And, Asia Catalyst has helped the center to build relations with international peer organizations in India, South Africa, Thailand, and the United States.

As a result of this close partnership and the hard work of its staff, the Korekata Center is rapidly emerging as a resource and a leader in the field. The center undertook these activities in 2008:

- **Two workshops** to train Chinese lawyers and NGO staff in AIDS law, one led by **Anand Grover** (UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health), another by **Mark Heywood** (chair, UN Reference Group on AIDS and Human Rights);
- **An international conference on AIDS and law in Japan**, featuring senior Chinese and Japanese scholars, an HIV-positive Japanese member of parliament, leading AIDS advocates from both countries, and a keynote address by **Prof. Scott Burris** (Temple University Law School);
- **Free legal assistance** to people with HIV/AIDS on criminal and civil law cases;
- **A national hotline** to provide advice on AIDS law cases;
- **A quarterly journal, Korekata Magazine**, which publishes news, information and analysis of AIDS law trends in China and internationally, distributed free of charge to 3,000 lawyers and AIDS groups around China;
- **Two handbooks**, one on AIDS law, and one on the rights of vulnerable groups;

- **A resource guide on AIDS law**, with articles, case studies, and excerpts of relevant Chinese laws;
- **A week of lectures, trainings and advocacy meetings** with senior officials with **Mark Heywood** (founder of South Africa's AIDS Law Project and chair of UN Reference Group on AIDS and Human Rights); and
- **The center is also beginning to pass on what they've learned to others -- holding "salons" for grassroots AIDS NGOs on a range of topics, from the rights of children with HIV/AIDS to advocacy campaign strategy.**

In June 2009, Asia Catalyst and Korekata AIDS Law Center will conclude their formal partnership with a ceremony in Beijing. However, we will likely continue to work together on other projects, as Asia Catalyst moves on to our next incubation partnership.

Haven for Advocates

In spring 2008, Chinese AIDS activists expressed concerns to Asia Catalyst about the threat of detention and police harassment in the run-up to the Beijing Olympics. Such preventive detentions are common in advance of major events in China. This risk also presented an opportunity to address two other concerns: **the need for Chinese grassroots AIDS advocates to combat their isolation, and the parallel need for greater international understanding of the challenges they face.**



To help grassroots AIDS advocates avoid the risk of detention, while simultaneously building their capacity and networks, Asia Catalyst awarded eight fellowships to AIDS activists from China, placing them in AIDS organizations in other countries. Fellows were nominated by their peers. As several of the fellowship recipients are HIV-positive, and medical care and the quality of available medications are poor in China, we arranged for medical check-ups and paid for medications in the host cities.

These groups either hosted fellows or assisted with their placements:

- Housing Works (New York)
- Pink Triangle Foundation (Malaysia)
- AIDS Concern (Hong Kong)
- Hong Kong Rainbow (Hong Kong)
- HealthGap (Philadelphia)
- AIDS Policy Project (Philadelphia)
- Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network (Toronto)
- Lawyers Collective-HIV/AIDS Unit (New Delhi)

- Daytop China (Kunming)

Six fellows were able to travel to their host organizations. Two, who live in Henan province, were prohibited by police from leaving.



The fellowship recipients were enthusiastic about their experiences abroad. Housing Works, an organization with an annual budget of \$40 million which advocates for the housing rights of people with HIV/AIDS, provided visiting fellow (and Korekata AIDS Law Center founder) Li Dan and a Chinese colleague with a month of intensive training and orientation to every aspect of their work in New York. This included meetings with the head of every department in the organization, visits to Housing Works' thrift stores and bookstores, and allowing Li Dan and his colleague to sit in on staff meetings, orientations, and accompany staff on outreach visits to clinics and the streets.

Pink Triangle Foundation in Malaysia provided similar programs for their visiting fellow, arranging multiple day-long observations of their harm reduction programs and clinical work, and meetings with partner NGOs. The fellow stayed in the home of the executive director.

In the U.S., fellows Li Dan and Gao Qi went to Philadelphia and Washington DC, where we met with AIDS law experts, senior policy aides to Congress, staff of the State Department, and human rights NGOs. In New York, they spoke at a well-attended public panel discussion on AIDS and human rights in China, featuring Li Dan and Gao Qi, NYU Law professor Jerome A. Cohen, and Joseph Amon, director of Health and Human Rights at Human Rights Watch.

In their own words:

“I had total access to and a deep understanding of Housing Works, including their work on law, advocacy, women's health centers, housing programs for homeless people with AIDS, volunteer management, human resources, fund-raising, budgeting procedures, business and so on... This will help me to improve the future development of my own NGO.” – Li Dan, Beijing

“I came to the beautiful and richly endowed country of Malaysia, and met people of all races and different colors, speaking different languages...I was aware before of sex workers, gays, and transgender people, but I had never had contact with them. After a month of living together with these colleagues, working together day and night, I felt that we are all one. Our common enemy is HIV, not HIV-infected people; they are our friends, our brothers and sisters, and the community is an essential combination of all these special groups.” – AIDS activist, Jilin

One final success story from the Advocates Haven project: when lawyer and Haven fellow Yu Fangqiang had trouble obtaining a visa to travel overseas, we bought him a last-minute plane ticket to Kunming (Yunnan province) – a remote city on China's borders with

Southeast Asia. There he worked with two AIDS organizations, Aizhixing and Daytop China, assisting Daytop with its litigation work. Yu Fangqiang fell in love with Kunming -- and after the summer fellowship was over, he stayed there to start his own AIDS law center.

Placing these young advocates in larger AIDS NGOs is a simple but powerful way to strengthen Chinese civil society and lay the foundation for future relationships across borders.

Research and Advocacy



Asia Catalyst graduate interns conduct research and write reports on priority human rights issues for our local partners, placing these issues in a global context. These carefully-researched reports examine how other countries have handled the same problems, successfully or otherwise. They make tailored recommendations to the Chinese government, international donors, international agencies, and NGOs. The reports are released in English and Chinese simultaneously.

Our first report was *AIDS Blood Scandals: What China Can Learn from the World's Mistakes* (2007). Co-written by graduate intern Evan Anderson and Asia Catalyst director Sara Davis, it sparked policy changes in China's blood management system. In summer 2008, despite the restrictive political atmosphere of the Beijing Olympics, graduate interns Lauren Burke and Josh Greenstein did field research in China on access to AIDS treatment for children. Their report will be released in spring 2009.

Asia Catalyst conducts ongoing advocacy ourselves, and assists local partners with their advocacy work. This has included lobbying the UN, U.S. and Chinese government on the rights of Chinese AIDS activists during the Olympics, and assisting Chinese AIDS NGOs to issue a press release, which called for access to second-line treatment, NGOs during their visit to New York, assisting one colleague to get emergency medical care, and others to buy cell phones and arrange meetings. In 2008, we also submitted information to UN human rights mechanisms on the detention of Chinese AIDS activists, and partnered with Human Rights Watch on a UN submission on the arbitrary detention of injection drug users in China.

To raise awareness about the issues our partners work on, Asia Catalyst also holds events in New York. In 2008, we held nine "Asia Catalysters", ranging from a panel discussion on cultural rights and ethnic tourism in China, to a film screening of *Who Killed Chea Vichea?*, a documentary about the assassination of a Cambodian labor rights activist. *Comrades: The Chinese LGBT Film Festival* attracted media attention and diverse audiences to four screenings of lesbian and gay films that were banned in China.

Asia Report



In October 2008, Asia Catalyst launched, *Asia Report* (www.yazhoudiaocha.com), a Chinese-language website that reports on news and activism about social, economic and cultural rights in Asian countries other than China. We developed this resource in response to the results of our survey of grassroots Chinese NGOs conducted in 2007. **Chinese groups expressed a strong interest in learning about and making contact with groups working on the environment, HIV/AIDS, women's rights, and related issues in East, South, and Southeast Asia.**

Within its first few months of operations, *Asia Report's* traffic climbed steadily, with visitors showing enthusiasm for stories on health and human rights. In 2009, the site will expand to include more on-the-ground reporting from Asia, interactive colloquia, and guest commentaries from other Asian NGOs on cutting-edge topics.

Financial Report

July 2007-June 2008

<i>Revenue</i>	
Foundation grants	67,768
Government grants	8,750
Private gifts	5,230
Interest income	140
Total	81,888
<i>Program services</i>	
Incubation	49,557
Haven for Advocates	2,248
Asia Report	107
Research and advocacy	2,346
<i>Operating costs</i>	
Salaries	27,472
Administrative costs	2,241
Total	79,971

Giving to Asia Catalyst

Asia Catalyst is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit registered in New York State, so all gifts are tax-deductible. Secure online donations may be made through Paypal at www.asiacatalyst.org, or by mailing a check to Asia Catalyst, P.O. Box 20839, New York, NY 10009. For more information, please email us at info@asiacatalyst.org or call (212) 260-6440. And thank you for your support of grassroots nonprofits in Asia!

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Mission

Asia Catalyst partners with activists in Asia to inspire, create and launch innovative, self-sustaining programs and organizations that advance human rights, social justice and environmental protection. We link up Asian community leaders, journalists, activists and lawyers with each other and with international experts who can help them to realize their visions. We incubate programs that may be too risky or innovative for larger organizations to take on.



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Many thanks to everyone who gave their support in 2008, financial and otherwise!

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