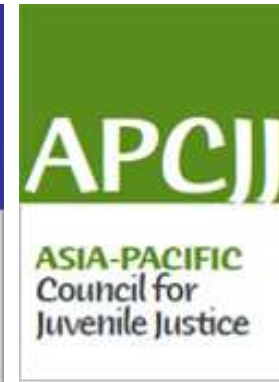


Introducing the Asia-Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice



IJJO in the world: The continental councils

- In order to **promote region specific responses to juvenile justice** the IJJO have brought together **local experts** in its continental councils.
- The aim of these think tanks is to **disseminate knowledge and good practices throughout their respective continents**. They also provide forums for discussions between experts that can be used to foster research and drive new initiatives.
- The councils comprise of **regional specialists from academia, public administration and civil society organisations**.



The Asia-Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice

Despite **significant progress** that is being made in **the protection of child rights across the Asia-Pacific region**, many countries **still face challenges** related to the treatment of children who are in contact with the justice system.

» The **APCJJ** was formed by the IJJO in order to **provide support for reform initiatives** that are underway across the region.



The **objective of the APCJJ** is to **formulate recommendation on the development of juvenile justice in Asia**.

To fulfil this it will **facilitate the gathering of quantitative and qualitative information** on the situation of children in conflict with the law.



APCJJ: Structure

The APCJJ brings together **juvenile justice stakeholders from all countries** in the region, and its **multi-disciplinary approach** is reflected in its composition

Academic section

Composed of Doctors, Professors, Academics, Universities, Faculties and/or Departments representing disciplines such as criminology, criminal law, international Human Rights Law, psychology, etc.

NGO section

Made up of national and local NGOs working with young offenders on the ground and on a daily basis





Public Administration section

Ministries or Departments of Justice and other governmental agencies and entities in charge of youth justice policies

Judiciary section

Composed of judiciary professionals, such as judges, prosecutors and judicial staff, in contact with children and young adults

Action lines: What the APCJJ does

-  Promote **sustainable collaboration** between stakeholders in the development of juvenile justice policies aimed at **integrating socially excluded young people**
-  **Exchange** of promising and evidence-based practices and programs
-  **Development of strategies** to ensure the respect for the rights of young people in conflict with the law and to **promote crime prevention policies** toward regional institutions, based on existing initiatives and programs
-  **Advocacy towards international and regional institutions** to call attention on the issues facing children who are caught in the cycle of violence




First meeting: Bangkok 2012



Held with the support of the Thai Minister of Justice the first meeting of the APCJJ took place in June 2012

First meeting: Bangkok 2012



-  The **objective** of this meeting was to translate **the knowledge shared during the debate into actions and documents** which can be used for **advocacy as well as for the training** of juvenile justice professionals.
-  Bringing together **experts from 20 countries** a **wide range of topics were discussed** including; juvenile delinquency tendencies, prevention programs in the region, how to promote child friendly justice and inclusion for young offenders.
-  The **conclusions** that came out of these discussions formed the basis of the **APCJJ's first report**. A particular recommendation was **the need for better training in the area of juvenile justice and the creation of the ASEAN subcommittee and other working groups**.

APCJJ's first report



- **"A voice for the future of Juvenile Justice in Asia-Pacific: An introduction to the Asia Pacific Council for Juvenile Justice and leading juvenile justice reforms in the region."**
- Authored by Alice McGrath it analyses the regional response to juvenile justice issues from a child rights perspective.
- The **First Report focuses on leading practices in juvenile crime prevention** as well as a particular attention on the **development of restorative justice approaches** and finally **condition of detention in the region**.
- It also provides an overview of the makeup and function of the APCJJ as well as the key outcomes of the first meeting of the Council in 2012 in Thailand.

Recommendations

The APCJJ's First Report makes a number of **in depth recommendations** to states, regional organizations and non government actors on how to improve

Prevention measures throughout the region	The administration of Juvenile Justice , particularly relating to creating specialized juvenile justice systems across the region	Efforts to bring about policy and legislative reform especially regarding diversion and alternatives to detention. Establishing initiatives to promote these areas should be given top priority across the region.	Rehabilitation and Reintegration programming	Advocacy measures
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The Report's conclusions emphasise the **importance of creating measures to protect children** from violence in juvenile justice systems as well as the **benefits of alternatives to detaining children** such as diversion and restorative justice.

First Meeting of the Subcommittee for ASEAN



Talks revolved around **how best to ensure** children in contact with the law **got access to the services they require**, as well as how to address the **lack of freedom in neighboring states**.



The Subcommittee also discussed a number of **other issues as part of a necessary interchange** about difficulties relating to **judicial cooperation** within ASEAN.

Second Meeting: Phuket 2015



Comprised of **two events** designed around the **common goal of promoting child-friendly juvenile systems** which are based **on international standards and norms** in the Asia-Pacific Region:

- The first part of the meeting was a **practice focused event** organized as a **professional development training** from May 5 to May 7. This was a direct consequence of the **need raised during the First Meeting** for better training for those working with children who have come into contact with the law.
- The second part was a **policy oriented event** also based on the **subjects raised in the First Meeting**. In particular discussions focused on how the **APCJJ can develop common strategies and sustainable collaboration** among members in these areas

Second Meeting: Phuket 2015



The meeting was **built around the results of the First Meeting** and the **conclusions of the First Report** and was held in conjunction with the Department for Juvenile Observation and Protection of the Thai Ministry of Justice, and the UNODC as well as UNICEF.

Discussions focused on **how best to facilitate the implementation of alternatives to detention** and **restorative justice** for children as part of each country in the Asia-Pacific Region's juvenile justice system.

Through this the APCJJ hopes to **support countries** from the Asia-Pacific Region in their **efforts to ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of children** who are in conflict with the law



Second Meeting of the Subcommittee for ASEAN

Organized in partnership with the **Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection of the Thai Ministry of Justice (DJOP)**

Regional guidelines on Juvenile Justice: promoting cross-border safeguards and defining strategies on elimination of violence against children in conflict with the law.

Addressing current regional and international developments

Defining common strategies

Relaying findings to institutional levels in ASEAN Member States and in the region

Thematic Issues: Cross-border cooperation

Cross-border cooperation in the ASEAN concerning the Treatment of Children in Conflict with the Law

- ▶ Sharing best practices and experiences for the drafting of regional guidelines
- ▶ Draft of IJJO suggestions on cross-border safeguards will be presented at this meeting
- ▶ Need for ASEAN Member States to implement common guidelines to guarantee a minimum standard of human rights for children in contact and/or conflict with the law in cross-border situations.

UN Global Study

Children deprived of liberty, conditions, situations and challenges in the context of the preparation of the UN Global Study

Identify current good practices

Provide recommendations for actions at a national, regional and international level on

Preventing detention

Reducing number of children deprived of their liberty

Strategies for eliminating violence against children in conflict with the law

Considering the **UN Model Strategies and Practical Measures** on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The child's best interests as a primary consideration

Every child is protected from all forms of violence without discrimination of any kind

Need to address gender-based violence

Need to consider vulnerabilities of children and specific situations including children committing criminal offences under the age of criminal responsibility

Regional plan of action on Violence against children and the UN Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

APCJJ: Staying in touch



For more details please visit: <http://www.apcjj.org/>



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The best way to stay up to date with initiatives of the APCJJ, the work of its members and relevant regional developments is the **newsletter**

