## About the OGP Asia Pacific Civil Society Network

The OGP Asia Pacific Civil Society Network is envisioned to be a broad, unofficial network of CSOs that work on advancing the aims and principles of OGP in the region. Its aim is to provide civil society organisations an opportunity and space to connect, share ideas and find areas for mutual collaboration in between official regional and global OGP events. While membership is voluntary, with no formal responsibilities associated with participation, members are encouraged to actively participate in virtual discussions and contribute to planned activities. The following activities are envisaged:

* **Peer Exchange and Learning**: Sharing of experiences, challenges and best practices between participating countries’ on advocating for OGP membership, national consultation processes; development of national action plans, monitoring of commitments, expertise on cross-cutting open governance themes; and setting up of permanent dialogue mechanisms between government and civil society
* **Communications**: Contributing blogs, op-eds and other content for promoting OGP Asia Pacific news and developments and opportunities, and successes and challenges of civil society working on opening governments in Asia Pacific.
* **Awareness Raising and Outreach**: on the OGP by members in their resident countries and in other countries in which they work/have a presence including reaching out to civil society organisations that are not currently engaged on OGP, establishing linkages with OGP in other national and regional platforms and event.
* **Regional collaboration:** On events, bundled commitments, caucusing around specific themes/advocacy asks, and developing joint positions of OGP Asia Pacific civil society to relevant national, regional and global stakeholders.
* **Support to civil society in non-member countries**: Reaching out to and supporting civil society organisations campaigning for their countries to join OGP in eligible/near eligible/non-eligible Asian countries for purposes of supporting the expansion of OGP participation in the region.
* **Providing input into the Civil Society Day for Asia Pacific Regional Summits and meetings.**

## How will it work?

The Network will be convened by the OGP Support Unit’s Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Coordinator. An Asia Pacific CSOs mailing list has been set up for regular email communication on OGP news and activities in the region and will be used for the purposes of regular communication between members of the Network. Virtual discussions will be held every **6 weeks** via BlueJeans/Google Hangouts/Skype. The agenda for these discussions will be crowdsourced from members of the network, with each agenda item being led by the individual/organisation that proposes the item. Additionally, members of the network will aim to meet physically, at least once a year, at a time and place that limit additional physical travel, for example during regional and global OGP Summits and during other regional events that are attended by multiple members. The Network will come into effect **on March 15** and work for an initial period of one year. Its membership, structure, activities and principles of engagement will be reviewed at the end of six months and at the end of the year.

## Who can join?

The Network is open to all CSOs operating in Asia Pacific or with significant interests and activities in the region. Civil society organisations operating in Asia Pacific with a history of engagement on OGP or those that wish to engage in the acitivites described above going forward are encouraged to join. In order to ensure coherence and continuity, members are requested that they commit to joining **at least 5 of 8 calls** planned for 2016 and be willing to make tangible contributions to some or all activities described above.

## How to join?

**To indicate your interest in joining the Network, please fill out this short** [**form**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1CMvJ-klOE4BXPv-R3wi3zSUXGjW7BJ9m3yswkJenJlo/viewform) **by February 28. If you wish to be added to the** Asia Pacific CSOs mailing list, please email me directly at: shreya.basu@opengovpartnerhip.org. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the Network.