

Asia Pacific Alternate on WILPF's International Board: Report for 2024 AGM

Celine Kearney

The WILPF Asia Pacific network met online three times in 2023 and once in February 2024.

We are WILPF members from Aotearoa, Celine Kearney (Alternate Asia Pacific Representative, International WILPF Board) and Del Abcede (Aotearoa WILPF Asia Pacific Representative); Ludmilla Kwitko, from Australian WILPF (Asia Pacific Representative, International WILPF Board); Eno Ozaki from Japanese WILPF, (Member of the WILPF Asia Pacific Network) and a number of other Japanese WILPF women who join at different times. The February 2024 meeting, to discuss the transition to a new International WILPF Secretary General, included a number of WILPF Australia members and other Japanese and Aotearoa WILPF members. Ludmilla does sterling work leading us, liaising with the International WILPF Secretariat, and a range of other networks.

During the year we shared our different focuses and actions and got to know each other. We worked together to have an International WILPF alert sent out around the world when the Japanese Government chose to spill irradiated water, stored on land, as a consequence of the earthquake and series of tsunami waves which destroyed the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear powerplant in northern Japan. The water was spilled despite opposition from local fishermen, residents, and other countries.

Japanese WILPF women will continue to take part in scientific soil testing to document the consequences of irradiation from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear powerplant. Our WILPF Asia Pacific network will support them and work with them to publicise their findings, according to their wishes.

There is interest in joining our network from women in Korea, and we would like to re-establish communication with WILPF women in The Philippines and Tahiti Polynesia. investment from WILPF. Communication is a key issue for us, and WILPF international will need to realise that the price of a functioning Asia Pacific WILPF network will be regular funding for translation.

Ludmilla has suggested that we have a webinar later in 2024 on Women Peace and Security issues. This will be a good opportunity for us to share our experiences in Aotearoa with our Australian and Japanese WILPF sisters.