

REPORT: Women in the Ranks Vital to Trust in Police

International Association of Women Police cited for advancing female leaders

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In these tumultuous times in policing, it is more vital than ever to have women in law enforcement – and we cannot begin to build community trust and institutional legitimacy without them.

That declaration comes from a recent report, “*Women in Law Enforcement in the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Region*,” published by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), United Entity for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (UN Women), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). ASEAN is a regional intergovernmental organization comprising 10 countries in Southeast Asia, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration among its members and other countries in Asia.

The report features the research of prominent women leaders in policing, among them, Ida Oetari Purnamasasi. She is Brigadier General of the Indonesian National Police and this week was appointed Third Vice President of the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) - the first time in IAWP’s 105-year history that someone from Asia has been in such a position. The IAWP, a global organization to strengthen, unite and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally, is comprised of members from over 70 countries and 26 affiliate organizations.

As noted in the report, the Indonesian National Police, under Gen. Purnamasasi, have shown strong leadership through their commitment to hosting conferences that promote women in policing. In 2014, they hosted the IAWP 2nd Regional Women Police Conference with the theme “*Strengthening and Empowering Women Police*.” In September 2021, Indonesian National Police will host the IAWP Annual Training Conference, which will draw as many as 1,000 policewomen from around the world to visit Yogyakarta for a five-day event, “*Women at the Center Stage of Policing*.”

“These high-profile events require high-level leadership and commitment, given that they demand significant time and resources to plan and deliver, and it is significant that it will be the first time the conference is held in Asia,” said Deborah Friedl, President of IAWP. “Women in policing face many challenges around the globe. We at IAWP are honored to have one of the women meeting those challenges with her input for this report, and with her character, in Ida Oetari Purnamasasi.”

The research offered in “*Women in Law Enforcement in the ASEAN Region*” provides a look at the current state of affairs with respect to recruitment, training, deployment and Promotion of women, and provides insights into policies and practices which support or hinder

their inclusion and empowerment. The findings can inform regional and national policy developments, institutional practices and strategies as well as targeted support from international partners to strengthen efforts to recruit more women and contribute to the meaningful employment of women in law enforcement careers.

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To see the report, <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/08/women-in-law-enforcement-in-the-asean-region>

About the International Association of Women Police (IAWP): IAWP is a richly diverse and growing organization with global reach. IAWP has members, affiliates, friends and strategic partners in countries around the world. IAWP's mission is to strengthen, unite and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally.

- Web site: www.iawp.org
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/iawpinfo>
- Partnership/sponsorship enquiries: executivedirector@iawp.org

About the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL): INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization. Its role is to connect law enforcement agencies across its 194 member countries and assist them in combating transnational crime in order to create a safer world. To this end, INTERPOL enables them to share and access data on crimes and criminals, and provides a range of technical and operational support, as well as capacity building and training.

About the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women): UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women. In doing so, UN Women advances internationally agreed standards on gender equality and supports countries in translating them into practice through laws, policies and services. It uses experiences in countries to inform agreement on new gender equality norms and, through its links across the United Nations, put gender equality at the center of all three pillars of global progress: peace and security, human rights and sustainable development.

About the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): UNODC works with member states across the globe to address the threat posed by drugs, crime, and terrorism. In Southeast Asia, UNODC is uniquely placed to support ASEAN frameworks which address the challenge presented by transnational organized crime and promote justice and the rule of law. These multilateral efforts serve as the foundation for regional cooperation on economic, social, political, and security matters.

UNODC recognizes that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals.

Through our capacity-building activities, we are working to increase participation and leadership of female officers within law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, these activities enable front-line officers to better meet the needs of women and girls in the context of cross-border crime and migrant smuggling.