Ms. Saowalak THONGKUAY (Thailand)

* Date and place of birth: 08 July 1966
* Place of residence: Pichit Province, Thailand
* Nationality: Thai
* United Nations working languages: English

Current position/function

* Board member for Asia Pacific Development Center on Disabilities,
* Committee for ASEAN Disability Forum and A/P Women with Disability United,
* Committee expert on Human Rights to the Determination of the Gender Discrimination,
* Sub-Committee on the Consideration of the Discrimination in Media, Thai Public Broadcasting Service,
* Chairwoman, Association for the Empowerment of Women with Disabilities.

Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities

* Advisory board committee to National Council of Thai Independent Living Centre to promote and implement the CRPD;
* Working group to Transportation for All to promote, evaluate the implementation of CRPD Art 9 accessibility in Public Policy in compliance with National Policy;
* Certified Facilitator for Disability Equality Training, ILO;
* Gender Expert for NHRI to promote intersectionality within Human Rights aspects;
* Network with Feminist movement to mainstream disability within the agendas and setup a relevant campaign in AP region;
* Committee for The ASEAN experts of Inclusive Entrepreneur to promote and raise awareness inclusive economic empowerment and CRPD Trainer.

Educational background, in particular on the rights of persons with disabilities

* M.ED in Human Resource Development, Ramkhamhaeng University, Bangkok;
* Disability Equality Training of trainer Kuala lumper, Turin, and ILO Geneva;
* Disability and Human Rights, Stockholm;
* Feminist Legal Theory and Practice (FLTP), Chiangmai, Thailand;
* Inclusive facilitator for CRPD and right based approach, Bangkok.

Please indicate whether you identify yourself as a person with disability or elaborate on your lived experience related to persons with disabilities

I am a wheelchair user since 1993, an agent of change and strong believer in empowerment with a human rights -based approach, and have been contributed to promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities at national, and regional levels for almost 20 years.

Relevant expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities. Please elaborate on your areas of expertise under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related experience

I have been a Committee member and expert on Human rights of Committee on the Determination of Gender Discrimination, established by the Gender Equality Act. Since 2016 I have given my comments in 40 cases, which were related to discrimination on the basis on gender and disabilities in the public and private in social, economics, and political rights and all cases are related to Thailand’s obligation under CRPD.

List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities

* LABOUR LAWS AND PRACTICES IN ASEAN A Comparative Study on Gender Equality, Employment of PWD, Youth Employment and Social Dialogue VOLUME II
* Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Asia- Pacific, Focus March 2009 Volume 55
* Direct experience access to justice of a woman with physically disability in her 30’s Social Forum, 5 October 2016, Panel, Informing Policy.