

MEDIA RELEASE  
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## 26 countries now represented at Outgames

From Sweden to Samoa, Italy to India, people from 26 countries have registered to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> AsiaPacific Outgames, which open in Wellington on March 12.

The 26 countries that will be represented are: American Samoa, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Fiji, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Samoa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tonga, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu.

There is also diversity among the gender of participants: 42% are female, 53% are male, and there are 21 trans women, 15 trans men, as well as intersex people and others who identify in different ways.

“At these big events around the world, men typically make up two thirds or more of participants,” says Outgames Co-chair David Hindley. “We have worked hard to make sure that there is a bit more balance, and we are thrilled it has paid off.”

### US\$35,000 in late funding

Outgames human rights conference organisers have also received a last-minute boost, with US\$35,000 coming from a range of funders to assist with the conference. The money has been provided for very specific purposes, including bringing people from particular groups in Asia to the conference.

Over 258 people have registered for the conference so far (conference registrations close 9 March). In addition to the keynote speakers already announced, two more internationals have been named:

- **Boris Dittrich**, Advocacy Director (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Program) Human Rights Watch, New York
- **John Fisher**, a New Zealander and human rights campaigner currently based in Geneva.

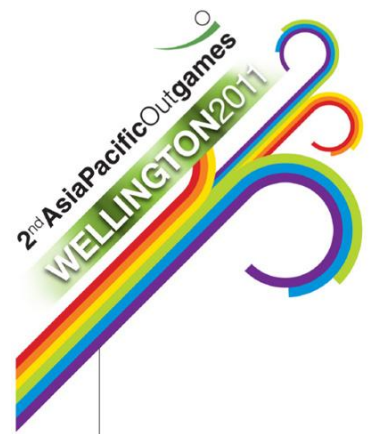
Unfortunately, keynote speaker Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn has had to withdraw due to United Nations commitments.

The 2nd AsiaPacific Outgames will be held March 12-19, in Wellington, New Zealand. For details of the programme, see [www.wellingtonoutgames.com](http://www.wellingtonoutgames.com).

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2nd AsiaPacific Outgames  
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