



ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Zonta in Asia – An Overview¹

According to the report compiled by District 17 historian, Erlinda E. Panlilio, Zonta International first turned its sights towards Asia in the 1950s in response to the impetus for international growth.

In the years between 1952 and 1970, the clubs in Asia were non-districted, as were the early European clubs; no areas or regions were organized.

Zonta's development in Asia (Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Philippines and Taiwan)

	New clubs	Lost Clubs	Gain/Loss	Active Clubs
1950-59	1			1
1960-69	14	0	14	15
1970-79	24	2	22	37
1980-89	29	2	27	64
1990-99	62	3	59	123
2000-09	32	13	19	142
2010-18	23	17	6	148
Total	185	37	148	

Zonta's development in South and South-East Asia (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand)

	New clubs	Lost Clubs	Gain/Loss	Active Clubs
1960-69	11		11	11
1970-79	9	4	5	16
1980-89	3	6	-3	13
1990-99	13	3	10	23
2000-09	7	-	7	30

¹ Research and text: *District 17: Zonta's Vibrant Presence in Asia & The Pacific* by Erlinda E. Panlilio, District 17 Historian 2012-20, building on drafts of Past International Vice-President Erlinda T. Villanueva and Past Governor Brenda Tanjutco, with additional research compiled by Eva Nielsen.

2010-18	10	3	7	37
Total	53	16	37	

1952: In June, the first Asian club, the Zonta Club of Manila 1 in the Philippines was formed

1960–1966: This was a period of very rapid growth. In 1960, the first clubs were established in India (Zonta Club of Bombay I) and Pakistan (Zonta Club of Karachi), followed in 1961 by the first club in Japan (Zonta Club of Tokyo I). The Zonta Club of Taipei I brought Taiwan (Republic of China) into the Zonta world in 1963 and a club was also established in Iran (Zonta Club of Tehran) in that year. The first clubs in Ceylon², (Zonta Club of Colombo) and South Korea (Zonta Club of Seoul I) were organized in 1966.

1968–1969: In February 1969, the first Zonta club in Thailand, the Zonta Club of Bangkok I, was chartered.

The Zonta Club of Cebu I became the second Philippine club in 1968, followed by the Zonta clubs of Quezon City, Baguio, Bacolod City and Davao City in 1969. All five of these clubs were organized by Dorothy Thompson of the Zonta Club of Toronto. A member of the International Membership Committee for some years, she is credited with organizing over 30 clubs around the world. International President Helvi Sipilä came to the Philippines in 1969 to present charter certificates.

By 1969, three additional clubs had emerged in India as well as two more in Pakistan, four in Japan, one in Ceylon and one in Bangladesh.

1970: Clubs continued to be organized throughout the 1970s³, including the first club in Hong Kong (Zonta Club of Hong Kong) in 1972. This led Zonta International to organize its Asian clubs in two areas:

- Area II, comprising Ceylon (two clubs), India (four clubs), Iran (one club) and Pakistan (three clubs).
- Area IV, comprising Japan (nine clubs), Korea (three clubs), the Philippines (eight clubs), Singapore (one club) and Thailand (one club).

1971: Zonta International President Leota Pekrul, who chartered seven new Asian clubs, convened the first conference of Zonta clubs in Asia. Four further regional meetings were convened in the 1970s: 1973 (Taipei, Taiwan), 1975 (Nagoya, Japan), 1977: (Hong Kong) and 1979 (South Korea).

1972: Zonta International changed the designation of Area to Region.

1974: A re-organization of the regions took place. District XVI was created for clubs in Australia and New Zealand, and the remaining non-districted clubs were organized in three regions. The Asian Region became Region I. The clubs in Iran were transferred to the European District XIV. Because of the political situation, the Iranian clubs disbanded in 1979.

² Republic of Sri Lanka from May 1972

³ International Directories; History-in-brief District 17, p. 1; De Langis: A History of Zonta International, 1919-80, p. 95

1975: Zonta International President Eleanor Jammal appointed area directors for the 12 areas of Region I:

1. Bangladesh (part of Pakistan until it became independent on 16 December 1971)
2. Hong Kong (sovereignty handed over by the U.K. to the People's Republic of China on 1 July 1997. Hong Kong is classified as a Special Administrative Region or SAR)
3. India (independent from Britain as of 15 August 1947)
4. Indonesia (independent from The Netherlands as of 17 August 1945)
5. Japan (28 April 1952 – peace treaty enacted with the western Allied Nations; 19 October 1956 – joint declaration with USSR to end hostilities)
6. Pakistan (independent from Britain as of 14 August 1947)
7. The Philippines (independent from USA as of 4 July 1946)
8. Singapore (independent from Britain on 9 August 1965)
9. South Korea (independent from Japan since 15 August 1945)
10. Sri Lanka (independent from Britain as the Dominion of Ceylon from 4 February 1948; Republic of Sri Lanka since 22 May 1972)
11. Taiwan, Republic of China (Founded 1 January 1912; People's Republic of China has claimed sovereignty over ROC since 1949)
12. Thailand (independent kingdom. Name changed from Kingdom of Siam to Kingdom of Thailand in 1939 but reverted to Siam in 1945 before finally becoming Thailand again in 1949.

1979: At the last regional meeting, on 19 September 1979, the board of the new District XVII was elected. They took office on the last day of the convention in Washington, D.C. in July 1980. The officers were Cecilia M. Palma, governor, Nancy Yu Huang, lt. governor, and Ruth C. Tirol, secretary.

1980–1990: In 1980, Region I became District XVII, comprising seven areas:

- Area 01: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
- Area 02: Japan
- Area 03: South Korea
- Area 04: Taiwan (Republic of China)
- Area 05: Hong Kong and Singapore⁴
- Area 06: Thailand and Indonesia
- Area 07: The Philippines.

1990: Zonta International replaced Roman with Arabic numerals, and District XVII was divided into:

- District 17, comprising clubs in Hong Kong, Indonesia (until 2002), the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia (added 1996) and Macau (added in 2014).
- District 25, comprising clubs in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.
- District 26, comprising clubs in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan (Republic of China).

2006: District 26 was divided into:

- District 26, comprising clubs in Japan.

⁴ Singapore moved to Area 6 in 1981

- District 31, comprising clubs in Taiwan (Republic of China) and Mongolia (added in 2016).
- District 32, comprising clubs in South Korea.

History of formation of Asian clubs in the non-districted period (1952–1970)

Countries are listed chronologically by charter year of the first club in the respective countries.

Philippines

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1952	0279	Zonta Club of Manila 1	
1964		Zonta Club of Iloilo City	1970
1968	0615	Zonta Club of Cebu City	
1969	0619	Zonta Club of Quezon City	
1969	0621	Zonta Club of Baguio	
1969	0622	Zonta Club of Bavao City	
1969	0623	Zonta Club of Bacolod City	

India

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1960	0462	Zonta Club of Bombay I	
1966	0566	Zonta Club of Madras	2018
1969	0633	Zonta Club of New Delhi	1980
1969	0635	Zonta Club of Bangalore	1980

Pakistan

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1960	0473	Zonta Club of Karachi	1976
1968	0598	Zonta Club of Lahore	1980
1968	0601	Zonta Club of Dacca*	

* Currently located in Bangladesh, which became a sovereign state in 1971. The name changed to Dhaka.

Japan

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1961/ 1962	0492	Zonta Club of Tokyo I*	
1965	0547	Zonta Club of Osaka	
1966/ 1966	0548	Zonta Club of Kyoto I	
1966	0560	Zonta Club of Sendai I	
1966	0564	Zonta Club of Yokohama	
1970	0648	Zonta Club of Sapporo I	
1970	0649	Zonta Club of Tokushima	
1970	0651	Zonta Club of Okayama	1975

* The club is listed in the Zonta International Directory as 1961; other editions give 1962 as the charter year.

Iran*

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1963	0522	Zonta Club of Tehran	1979

* Belonged from 1970-74 to Zonta International Area/Region II; from 1974–1979 to the European District XIV). The club disbanded after the Islamic Revolution (1978–1979).⁵

Taiwan, Republic of China

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1963/ 1964	0523	Zonta Club of Taipei I	

⁵ District XIV Directory

Ceylon⁶

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1966	0567	Zonta Club of Colombo	
1968	0602	Zonta Club of Kandy	1980

Hong Kong

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1966/ 1972	0571	Zonta Club of Hong Kong*	

* Club number 0571 indicates that 1966 is its charter year. However, Past International President Olivia Ferry, and Kathleen Yip⁷ corrected this to 1972 after liaising with Zonta International a few years ago⁷.

South Korea

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1966	0572	Zonta Club of Seoul I	

Bangladesh*

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1968	0601	Zonta Club of Dhaka I	

* East Pakistan until becoming a sovereign state on 16 December 1971.

Thailand

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1969	0624	Zonta Club of Bangkok I	

History of formation of Asian clubs (1970–2019)

Countries are listed alphabetically and clubs are listed chronologically by year of charter.

Bangladesh

1968	601	Zonta Club of Dhaka	
1981	991	Zonta Club of Dhaka II	
1992	1364	Zonta Club of Chittagong	
1992	1356	Zonta Club of Dhaka III	
1994	1483	Zonta Club of Dhaka IV	
2012	1903	Zonta Club of Zonta Club of Greater Dhaka	

⁶ Republic of Sri Lanka from May 1972

⁷ E-mail to Erlinda Panlilio and Eva Nielsen, 3 June 2019

Hong Kong

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1972	0571	Zonta Club of Hong Kong	
1977	0816	Zonta Club of Kowloon	
1980	0922	Zonta Club of Hong Kong East	
1982	1009	Zonta Club of New Territories	
1991	1339	Zonta Club of Victoria	
2002	1716	Zonta Club of Hong Kong II	
2017	1972	Zonta Club of New Territories	

India

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1972	0710	Zonta Club of Poona	1980
1973	0721	Zonta Club of Hyderabad	1980
1975	0769	Zonta Club of Bombay II	1999
1979	0877	Zonta Club of Bombay III	
1985	1129	Zonta Club of Delhi	1990
1991	1312	Zonta Club of Bangalore	1997

Indonesia

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1973	0716	Zonta Club of Jakarta	2001
1993	1431	Zonta Club of Kebayoran	2002

Iran*

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1976	0792	Zonta Club of Mashhad***	1979
1977	0806	Zonta Club of Shemiran****	1979

* The club disbanded after the Islamic Revolution (1978–1979).⁸

** In 1977 there were 84 active members and four honorary members of clubs.

*** In 1977 there were 24 active members.

**** In 1977 there were 42 active members.

Japan

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1971	673	Zonta Club of Nagoya	2016
1974	747	Zonta Club of Hakodate-Zonta Club of Hokkaido	
1978	838	Zonta Club of Naruto	
1978	867	Zonta Club of Okayama	
1981	980	Zonta Club of Kobe	

⁸ District XIV Directory

1982	1005	Zonta Club of Asahikawa, Hokkaido	2014
1983	1056	Zonta Club of Shiogama Area	
1984	1071	Zonta Club of Tokyo II	
1984	1077	Zonta Club of Kyoto II	
1984	1078	Zonta Club of Gifu	
1985	1104	Zonta Club of Fukui	
1986	1154	Zonta Club of Sapporo II	
1986	1161	Zonta Club of Morioka	
1989	1231	Zonta Club of Hiroshima	2002
1989	1263	Zonta Club of Sapporo III Iris	
1989	1267	Zonta Club of Nara	
1990	1297	Zonta Club of Takamatsu	
1990	1308	Zonta Club of Akita	
1991	1314	Zonta Club of Okinawa	
1991	1338	Zonta Club of Kitakyushu	
1992	1401	Zonta Club of Otaru	
1993	1421	Zonta Club of Kyoto Miyabi	
1993	1433	Zonta Club of Osaka II	
1995	1501	Zonta Club of Wakayama	
1995	1520	Zonta Club of Fukushima	
1995	1522	Zonta Club of Matsumoto	
1995	1524	Zonta Club of Koriyama	2016
1996	1531	Zonta Club of Nagoya II Sora	
1997	1557	Zonta Club of Sendai II	2006
1997	1559	Zonta Club of Minato Mirai	2000
1997	1560	Zonta Club of Senri	2003
1997	1575	Zonta Club of Phoenix Kobe	
1997	1580	Zonta Club of Nagasaki	2002
1998	1596	Zonta Club of Kushiro	
1998	1598	Zonta Club of Kanagawa	
1999	1628	Zonta Club of Kobe-Cyuo	2001
1999	1635	Zonta Club of Otsu	
2000	1664	Zonta Club of Chiba	2012
2000	1665	Zonta Club of Yokosuka	
2000	1677	Zonta Club of Tokyo III	
2001	1692	Zonta Club of Nara Manyoh	
2002	1736	Zonta Club of Aki Cosmos	
2005	1792	Zonta Club of Kanazawa	
2007	1824	Zonta Club of Himeji	
2007	1826	Zonta Club of Yamagata	
2012	1890	Zonta Club of Gunma	
2012	1893	Zonta Club of Sen-Himeji	
2012	1894	Zonta Club of Takamatsu II	
2015	1936	Zonta Club of Fukuoka	
2015	1938	Zonta Club of Fukui Reinan	
2015	1939	Zonta Club of Yamanashi	
2017	1971	Zonta Club of MIE	
2018	1982	Zonta Club of Fukuifine	

Macau

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
2014	1927	Macau	

Malaysia

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1996	1540	Kuantan	2013
2011	1884	Kuala Lumpur	2017

Nepal

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
2012	1909	Zonta Club of Kathmandu	
2019	1990	Zonta Club of Pokhara	

Philippines

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1971	0666	Zonta Club of Makati & Environs	
1971	0667	Zonta Club of Mandaluyong-San Juan	
1973	0718	Zonta Club of Albay Area	1980
1973	0719	Zonta Club of Batangas	1986
1973	0720	Zonta Club of Iloilo City	
1978	0845	Zonta Club of Ilocos Sur	1990
1978	0846	Zonta Club of Ilocos Norte	
1979	0869	Zonta Club of Cagayan De Oro	
1980	0926	Zonta Club of Zamboanga City	
1981	982	Zonta Club of Tuguegarao	
1982	1002	Zonta Club of Cebu II	
1982	1027	Zonta Club of La Union	2005
1985	1102	Zonta Club of Dipolog City	2001
1985	1135	Zonta Club of Pasig	
1988	1206	Zonta Club of Muntinlupa-Las Pinas & Environs	
1989	1254	Zonta Club of Makati Ayala	
1989	1258	Zonta Club of Greater Rizal I	
1990	1294	Zonta Club of Central Tuguegarao	
1990	1298	Zonta Club of Laguna	
1991	1313	Zonta Club of Bacolod City II	1999
1991	1318	Zonta Club of Iloilo	
1991	1345	Zonta Club of Edsa & Environs	2014
1991	1346	Zonta Club of Naga & Camarines Sur	
1991	1347	Zonta Club of Metro Rizal	
1991	1348	Zonta Club of Aparri	
1991	1349	Zonta Club of Pateros-Taguig	2015

1992	1372	Zonta Club of Manila II	
1992	1385	Zonta Club of Abra	2005
1992	1395	Zonta Club of Greater Rizal II	
1992	1402	Zonta Club of De Valle Verde	
1993	1430	Zonta Club of Metropolitan Pasig	
1993	1446	Zonta Club of Cavite	
1993	1447	Zonta Club of Marikina	
1994	1472	Zonta Club of Negros Oriental	1996
1995	1509	Zonta Club of Urban Manila	2011
1995	1512	Zonta Club of Lucena City & Environs	
1995	1514	Zonta Club of Davao City II	
1995	1519	Zonta Club of Las Pinas	
1996	1544	Zonta Club of Cagayan De Oro	
1997	1584	Zonta Club of Metro Ortigas	
1997	1585	Zonta Club of Manilla III	
1998	1597	Zonta Club of Tacloban	
1998	1610	Zonta Club of Santiago City	2000
1998	1621	Zonta Club of Nueva Vizcaya	2000
1998	1622	Zonta Club of Makati-Paseo De Roxas	
2000	1676	Zonta Club of Legaspi City and Albay	2011
2001	1690	Zonta Club of Mandaluyong-San Juan II	
2001	1696	Zonta Club of Antipolo City	
2003	1748	Zonta Club of Baliuag	
2007	1829	Zonta Club of Bohol	2010
2007	1830	Zonta Club of Fort Bonifacio	
2007	1832	Zonta Club of Alabang	
2009	1853	Zonta Club of La Union San Fernando City	
2010	1872	Zonta Club of Paranaque	
2011	1887	Zonta Club of Pasay & Environs	
2012	1900	Zonta Club of Pampanga & Environs	
2014	1919	Zonta Club of La Trinidad	
2015	1937	Zonta Club of Makati-Central Business District	
2015	1940	e-Club of the Philippines 1	
2018	1975	Zonta Club of Metro Greenhills	
2019	1989	Zonta Club of Makati Legaspi	

Singapore

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1971	0676	Zonta Club of Singapore	

South Korea

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1970	0653	Zonta Club of Busan I	

1971	0670	Zonta Club of Daegu I	
1983	1043	Zonta Club of Daejeon	
1985	1123	Zonta Club of Seoul II-Han Yang	
1987	1175	Zonta Club of Kwangju	2018
1992	1399	Zonta Club of Seoul III Nam Seoul	
1996	1534	Zonta Club of Busan II	
1996	1536	Zonta Club of Seoul IV	
1996	1537	Zonta Club of Seoul V	
1997	1561	Zonta Club of Seoul VI	
1998	1601	Zonta Club of Daegu II	
1998	1605	Zonta Club of Seoul VII	
1998	1606	Zonta Club of Kwangju	2003
2000	1660	Zonta Club of Kyongju	2010
2001	1691	Zonta Club of Kang Nam	2010
2002	1710	Zonta Club of Daejeon II	
2002	1713	Zonta Club of Daejeon III	2009
2002	1714	Zonta Club of Daejeon IV	
2005	1788	Zonta Club of Jeju	2013
2005	1789	Zonta Club of Daejeon V	
2005	1790	Zonta Club of Jeon-Buk	2010
2006	1818	Zonta Club of Jeon-Nam	
2008	1840	Zonta Club of Busan IV	
2008	1841	Zonta Club of Busan III	
2013	1915	Zonta Club of Daejeon VI	
2013 (6)	1918	Zonta Club of Daejeon III-FL	2015 (1)
2014	1925	Zonta Club of Daejeon VII	
2016 (12)	1956	Zonta Club of Daegu III	

Sri Lanka

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1994	1494	Zonta Club of Colombo II	
2006	1815	Zonta Club of Kandy	
2008	1842	Zonta Club of Colombo III	
2013	1913	Zonta Club of Negombo	2016
2017 (6)	1964	Zonta Club of Colombo IV	

Taiwan, Republic of China

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1971	0669	Zonta Club of Taipei II	
1972	0691	Zonta Club of Taipei County	
1972	0692	Zonta Club of Taichung	

1972	0693	Zonta Club of Kaohsiung	
1979	0897	Zonta Club of Tainan	
1979	0901	Zonta Club of Taipei III	
1982	1023	Zonta Club of Hsin Chu	
1987	1189	Zonta Club of Hua- Lian	
1989	1257	Zonta Club of Chang Hua	2013
1991	1343	Zonta Club of Taipei Shin	
1994	1484	Zonta Club of Kaohsiung Yuhsuan	
1995	1513	Zonta Club of Chia-Yi	
1997	1587	Zonta Club of Tainan Charming	
1999	1631	Zonta Club of Taoyuan	
2003	1742	Zonta Club of Miaoli	
2006	1814	Zonta Club of Taichung II	
2012	1895	Zonta Club of Taipei Rainbow	
2017 (12)	1957	Zonta Club of Taipei, Cosmo	
2017 (6)	1963	Zonta Club of Tainan Phoenix	
2018	1985	Zonta Club of Taichung Land-Sing	

Thailand

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Closed
1978	0840	Zonta Club of Bangkok II	
1985	1133	Zonta Club of Bangkok III	
1991	1331	Zonta Club of Khonkhaen	
1992	1370	Zonta Club of Bangkok IV	
1994	1492	Zonta Club of Bangkok V	
1996	1541	Zonta Club of Bangkok VI	
1997	1586	Zonta Club of Chiang Mai	
2000	1680	Zonta Club of Chiengrai I	
2000	1681	Zonta Club of Bangkok VII	
2002	1727	Zonta Club of Phitsanulok	
2004	1775	Zonta Club of Ratchaburi	
2008	1843	Zonta Club of Bangkok VIII	
2012	1896	Zonta Club of Bangkok IX	
2014 (8)	1930	Zonta Club of Bangkok X	
2017	1968	e-Club of Thailand 1, Bangkok	
2016	1950	Zonta Club of Chum Phae	
2018	1984	Zonta Club of Bangkok 11	