



APRN NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of the Asia Pacific Research Network

Second Quarter 2014

*PILOT TRAINING. Around twelve civil society organizations participated in the Indonesia Training Seminar on CSO Accountability. Not shown in photo are representatives from INFID, PATIRO and Konsil LSM, the Indonesian NGO Council
Photo by the APRN Secretariat*



APRN pilots CSO Development Effectiveness and Accountability training in Jakarta *Story on page 1*

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APRN Biennial Conference 2014

APRN launches country outreach work on CSO Accountability; co-organizes Indonesia training

APRN Secretariat | www.aprnet.org

JAKARTA, Indonesia-- Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) held the National Training Seminar on CSO Accountability for Indonesian Civil Society on June 15 to 16, 2014 at Wisma PGI in Jakarta. The event was preceded by the training on Aid Monitoring and Development Effectiveness by the Reality of Aid Asia Pacific (ROA AP). The National Training Seminar on CSO Accountability is part of the global country-level outreach work of the CPDE Working Group on CSO Development Effectiveness, in which APRN is co-chair, and outreach coordinator.

During the training, CSOs discussed importance of accountability in the CSO sector and also the state of civil society in Indonesia. Participants observed that governments, the Indonesian government included, are regressing from the actual commitments they have made in Busan during the High Level Forum in 2011. According to them, CSOs are oftentimes excluded from development processes at the country-level. The Indonesian government, for one, introduced laws and policies which curtail CSOs participation in development, i.e. Indonesia Law on Mass Organizations, signed in 2013. Policies like this, according to them, imperil CSOs democratic space in the development arena, and curtail the fundamental rights and freedoms of people, particularly the freedom of expression, organization and political participation.

Participants were introduced to the importance of having a country-level CSO accountability mechanism which will contribute to improving organizational practices and policies and also strengthen the sector's legitimacy, transparency and effectiveness as independent development actors. Some participants also believe that CSO accountability mechanisms go beyond improving internal processes and practices, but can also be used as CSO response to challenges against democratic spaces of their work. At the end of the training, the participants drafted a work plan for promoting the

Istanbul Principles and the International Framework on CSO Development Effectiveness to more Indonesian CSOs in. A country-level Working Group on CSO Accountability was also created to oversee the implementation of the said work plan. The Working Group is expected to eventually lead the development of a country Roadmap on CSO Accountability Process, which will facilitate the development of a National CSO Accountability Charter and a CSO Report to the Public. The Charter will guide improving internal processes of CSOs and respond to the multidirectional nature of their accountability and transparency to different stakeholders, but will ultimately respond to CSOs primary accountability to the people and constituencies they serve. On the other hand, the Indonesian CSO Report to the Public (Laporan Publik) will discuss the work done by CSOs in terms of their roles and advocacy on development cooperation.

The Indonesia Training on Aid Monitoring and Development Effectiveness by the ROA-AP is the pilot for the yearlong capacity development intervention for CSOs. The training aimed to capacitate national CSOs in Indonesia to track and analyze aid information, including aid inflows and also aid outflows in the form of Indonesia's aid to other countries as an emerging donor through South-South Cooperation. Participating CSOs expressed their concerns on the transparency and effectiveness of government's budget information. According to them, many international development cooperation funds were channeled through the Indonesian government, which disburses the funds to organizations linked to the administration's political party. These funds are not audited and CSOs cannot even access information from the government on how these funds were used. At the end of the training, organizations were able to identify research targets, which they plan to produce this year. Topics range from researches on the delivery of basic services to the country's master plan on economic development. ###

Little to gain and much to lose for Australia in the Trans-Pacific Partnership

Australia Fair Trade and Investment Network | www.aftinet.org.au

Trade Ministers from 12 countries around the Pacific Rim met once again in Singapore on May 19-20. Their aim was a breakthrough in negotiations towards the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a free trade agreement involving Australia, Japan, the US and nine other countries around the Pacific Rim. They failed, yet again, to reach an agreement.

This recent failure follows a fruitless visit by Obama to Asia in April, which had to focus on regional security issues instead of trade, as Japan and the US - the two biggest economies involved in the negotiations - failed to come to an agreement on market access issues. The current US-Japan stand-off demonstrates that the most powerful players are dominating the talks. As negotiations drag on into their fifth year, it is clear that many governments are unable to agree that the TPP is in their national interest. In the US, domestic opposition has led commentators to say there will be no Congressional consideration of the TPP before the end of 2014.

In Australia, opposition to the agreement is increasing as the community has become more aware of the more harmful proposals in the TPP, such as those which would increase the cost of medicines, impact negatively on public health, reduce the ability of government to regulate in the public interest, allow foreign investors to sue governments over health and environment laws, and threaten internet freedom.

In May, 46 unions, church groups, public health and other community organisations representing millions of Australians endorsed a letter to Trade Minister Andrew Robb which calls on the Minister to reject harmful proposals in the TPP which they say pose unacceptable risks and costs,

and should not be traded away in secret negotiations.

A major concern is the possible inclusion of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) clauses in the TPP and other trade agreements, which allow foreign investors to sue governments if they can claim that a law or policy has 'harmed' their investment. The current Coalition government has already agreed to this proposal in the Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement which was announced at the end of last year, and has indicated that it is willing to agree to include it in the TPP in exchange for market access. However, largely due to community opposition this clause was not included in the recently announced Japan-Australia free trade agreement.

In March, Greens Senator Peter Whish-Wilson tabled a bill in the Senate which would ban ISDS from all trade agreements, and received more than 130 submissions which demonstrate the extent of community opposition in Australia. There is also a Senate inquiry into the Korea FTA for which submissions are still open.

Opposition to ISDS is not only growing in Australia. As the number of ISDS cases lodged increases each year, more and more countries are expressing opposition towards ISDS provisions, including Germany, France, Indonesia, India, South Africa, and 10 countries in Latin America. Despite this, the US is still pushing for ISDS to be included in the TPP. As negotiations drag on, it becomes more and more apparent that there is little to gain and much to lose for Australia in the TPP.

Reference: Jenna Williams

Privacy and the E-Commerce Chapter of the TPP

Consumer Association of Penang | www.consumer.org.my

In the current negotiations of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement involving Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, United States and Vietnam, the USA has made proposals in the Electronic Commerce chapter. The next round of TPP negotiations where this is likely to be discussed starts on 12 May, 2014 in Vietnam. Since the negotiations are secret, we only have news reports of what the USA has proposed. These include free flow of information across borders and no local server requirement.

Countries may have a number of reasons why they want to keep sensitive data locally where it can be protected under their domestic privacy laws. This could be citizens' taxation data, healthcare records, financial information, etc.

A number of countries already have rules to ensure that this information is kept in the country when it is stored by governments. For example Canadian provinces British Columbia and Nova Scotia require personal information in the custody of a public body to be stored and accessed only

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(continued from page 2) in Canada unless one of a few limited exceptions applies. The Australian government is worried that these U.S. proposals for free flow of information across borders and a ban on local server requirements could hamper its ability to uphold its national privacy laws and regulations for off-shored personal data.

The USA is insisting on these proposals, despite the revelations by Edward Snowden of the extent of spying by the U.S. government.

NSA spying

Snowden's leaked documents have shown that the U.S. government's National Security Agency (NSA) has among other activities:

- Sent an agent to a technology company's headquarters where they installed U.S. government software on to the company server and downloaded data from there for several weeks. This would be facilitated if the servers are in the United States because other TPP countries cannot require them to be in their own countries – as the U.S. is seeking in the TPP.
- The PRISM program allows the intelligence services direct access to the servers of companies like Microsoft, Yahoo, Google, Facebook, Apple etc. to collect the content of communications including emails, files, stored data etc. of non-Americans.
- Tapped into the links between the data centres of technology companies such as Microsoft, Google and Yahoo. Another practice that is presumably facilitated by free flow of information and no local server requirements.
- Many other methods of spying.

Asia's blind spot

Center for Women's Resources | www.cwrweb.org

MANILA, Philippines-- "More of a blind spot rather than a bright spot," said by a women's group in reaction to President Benigno Simeon (BS) Aquino's claim that the Philippines is "Asia's bright spot" because of the country's rising economy, as he welcomed the delegates of the World Economic Forum on East Asia (WEF-EA) last May 22.

According to the Center for Women's Resources (CWR), a research and training institution for women established since 1982, President Aquino's account of economic progress is a blind spot where the real image is not seen or displayed. "The so-called inclusive growth due to a 7.2% GDP in 2013 did not trickle down to the majority of the people. Rather, it

Use of personal data by private companies (big data)

There are also significant privacy concerns about the ways in which private companies use the personal data of TPP citizens. "Telephone companies involved with the NSA's "bulk" data-collection program are expanding their own data gathering on the Internet and mobile devices as well. This information is used to create dossiers—online targeting profiles—on individuals. These personal digital records can reveal details on our financial status, health concerns, ethnicity/race, political interests, buying habits, and the technology we use."

See <http://www.centerfordigitaldemocracy.org/sites/default/files/NSATTIPHAndout1217.pdf> for more examples.

Exceptions to the free flow of information requirement

Based on past U.S. free trade agreements, any exceptions the U.S. government will agree to are likely to be difficult to use and insufficient to protect the policies, laws and regulations that national or sub national governments may currently have or want to use in future.

CAP views that in the TPP, Malaysia should not agree to a requirement to have free flow of information across borders or a ban on requirements to have local servers. This is not because we are against freedom of information, which is something the public wants. On the contrary, it is because of our concern that in the guise of "free flow of information", it facilitates any US government access to Malaysian citizens' confidential data, thus violating our privacy. We urge the Malaysian government to seriously consider our concerns on the impingement of our privacy and other concerns raised earlier and hence withdraw from the TPP negotiations.

We believe that if Malaysia signs the TPPA it will lead to many negative effects that can be disastrous to the social and economic fabric of our country. Thus CAP calls on the Malaysian government to not sign the TPPA.###

only gives a steady profit for the rich. The poverty incidence remains high at 25.2 per cent while the richest 50 Filipinos get 25 per cent of the Php12-trillion of the country's GDP. That's the essence of Mr. Aquino's bright spot", said Cham Perez, CWR's research coordinator.

She added that being a consistent top ten in WEF's Global Gender Gap report since 2006 and ranking fifth in 2013 does not mean a better condition for Filipino women. The Gender Gap Report considered four fundamental categories in rating the countries. These categories – termed as pillars - are economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.

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(continued from page 3) “Although these categories are considered, the report only measures gaps, outcome variables, and gender equality rather than the internal bases of making women empowered. If we examine closely the impact of the country’s economy, availability of education, access to healthcare, and political participation, the results would be different,” Perez said.

Perez presented the most recent CWR study on the plight of the Filipino women that indicates a long way to empowerment. The study refutes the Aquino government’s claim of high economic growth since it did not trickle down to women’s improved condition. More than 5.3 million women are unemployed, underemployed or unpaid family workers. More than 2.7 million are working as seasonal or casual and in a short term basis, receiving wages below the minimum rate. There are 1.2 million impoverished families

who could hardly eat three full meals daily.

“Such condition of women is the effect of the Aquino government’s adherence to the neoliberal framework of development that favors the local and foreign businesses over people’s interest,” explained Perez.

WEF-EA, a gathering of businessmen, technocrats, and Asian officials is the Asian version of the annual global gathering of WEF in Switzerland. The delegates will discuss on the sustainable and equitable growth for Asian economies.

“The government’s hosting of WEF-EA means invitation to more foreign investors and further marginalization of 85% of women, children, and the rest of the Filipino people,” said Perez. ###

Obama’s visit to PH bodes ill for Filipino workers, small firms

Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research | www.eiler.ph

MANILA, Philippines-- US President Barack Obama’s visit to the Philippines will be a final push for further trade and investment liberalization which will gravely affect Filipino workers and even small enterprises, a labor research group said today.

Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research (EILER) said Obama’s push for Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal portends greater influx of imported commodities and wider exposure of Philippine economy to external shocks amid the lingering global economic downturn.

“With Obama’s push for TPP, we fear that thousands of workers will be laid off as small enterprises will be jostled out of the market with the entry of big foreign capitalists and greater influx of imported goods. Further trade and investment liberalization will be only for US gain,” EILER executive director Anna Leah Escresa said.

“Pressure will also be exerted in export-oriented special economic zones to maintain a vast pool of cheap and contractual labor, in line with the globalization mantra of global competitiveness and trade efficiency. Labor’s race to the bottom will be much worse,” she added.

With increased pressure in economic zones, Escresa said Filipino workers stand to suffer intensified flexible work arrangements, wage depression, and severe labor rights violations. EILER explained that there is nothing significant to gain from joining the US-backed TPP agreement, saying the country’s three decades of trade and investment liberalization proves the disastrous implications of neoliberal globalization.

“In the three decades of liberalization, the key economic sectors of manufacturing and agriculture have been in



OBAMA OUT. Militants took the streets during the Manila visit of US President Barack Obama last April 29. They protested US intervention to country’s sovereignty and the signing of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA). Photograbbed from CNN

perpetual decline. Employment in manufacturing did not surpass the 4-million mark. Agriculture’s share in the country’s gross domestic product has continued to shrink,” Escresa said.

The group said Obama is also expected to pressure Aquino to fast-track the Charter change (Cha cha) as contained in House Resolution No. 1 to give the TPP agreement a legal basis. “Workers should lead the protests against Obama’s visit, as they will gravely suffer from the pernicious effects of Cha-cha and the TPP agreement,” Escresa concluded. ###

International Day of Action for Women's Health: Rural Women Raise SRHR Issues

Asian Rural Women's Coalition | www.asianruralwomen.net

As the world commemorates the International Day of Action for Women's Health, rural women continue to speak up on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

The travelling journal on SRHR, entitled *Our Stories, One Journey: Empowering Rural Women in Asia Pacific and Africa on SRHR*, collects the experiences and struggles for SRHR by rural women across 17 countries in the global south. In writings, drawings, and photographs, the journal has highlighted continuing struggles for SRHR by rural women, who told of lack of access to health care, child marriage, unsafe abortion, workers' rights violations, and other pressing SRHR issues in their own lives and communities.

On 28 May 1987, women's rights activists proposed to celebrate this day as the International Day of Action for Women's Health, to give women and girls a chance to speak out on SRHR issues they faced. Today, 27 years later, it is apparent that SRHR issues are still largely unheard, and unresolved.

On its seventh stop, the travelling journal made its way to Vietnam. Previously, it was in the hands of an indigenous Nepali woman who organises health camps for farmers in an impoverished community that faces the problems of child marriage, domestic violence, and hazardous working conditions. Kumari Waiba of the Youth Welfare Society wrote about how these SRHR issues are being brought up

at the local level through information campaigns and public dialogues.

In Vietnam, the travelling journal follows the story of 30-year-old Ke Thi Hach. Ke Thih is a member of the Women's Union of the Hong Quang Commune, A Luoi district, Thua Thien Hue province in Vietnam. In the journal, she will talk about the inaccessibility of family planning methods and contraception for women in her community, which are mainly involved in paddy and corn farming. Even while Ke Thi is formally educated, she lacked the proper information on contraception methods. This led her to almost miscarry her second child.

Ke Thi's story, as well as the stories of the other women who have participated in the journal so far, shows that more needs to be done to ensure that women's health is upheld as a right. It shows that SRHR must be included in the priorities of governments and international institutions. As the Post-2015 Development Agenda is drawn up, a holistic approach to women's health is indispensable in responding to the felt needs and aspirations of grassroots rural women.

The travelling journal, which started early this year, is a collaboration of the Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC) and the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW).###

Nepal government to punish hard pesticide use

Consumers' International Asia and the Pacific | www.consumersinternational.org

Nepal's Agriculture Secretary has announced that Nepal's government will punish the use and sale of hard pesticides while subsidising the cost of organic plant fertiliser production by 50%.

The move is part of the government's continued policy of 'prize and punish' to replace hard pesticides and herbicides with organic pesticides.

Consumers International's Member in Nepal – Socio Economic Welfare Action for Women and Children (SEWA Nepal) – helped lay the groundwork for this breakthrough for sustainable consumption in the country. SEWA Nepal spread the message of organic farming through what they say is the first interactive program organised on food and environment issues in Nepal.

SEWA Nepal's President Ms Kalyanee Shah says: "Our aim is to influence policy and implementation to meet environmental and livelihood challenges emerging in the

country. So we look for opportunities to carry out our agenda together with consumers, practitioners and policymakers to promote organic farming in Nepal."

SEWA Nepal's three-phase campaign achieved outstanding success in reaching out to the media, women's groups, government officials and youth groups in different regions of Nepal. SEWA Nepal conducted a sensitisation program on the importance of organic farming and held two interactive sessions with media representatives from 12 newspapers, seven radio stations and eight television channels.

SEWA Nepal was a recipient of the Green Action Fund, an annual award programme made available through the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC).

The Fund aims to promote sustainable development and reduce poverty by promoting worldwide awareness and advocacy activities which encourage sustainable patterns of consumption. ###

Photo by the United Nations

The Promise of Shared Prosperity: **Leave No One Behind, Let No One Get Away**

Maria Theresa Nera-Lauron, Chair of the APRN Board of Conveners

Years of extreme weather events have put the science of climate change in the spotlight—forwarding irrefutable evidence that the planet is indeed at the brink of unmanageable and irreversible change. Informed by climate science, efforts to prevent the looming climate crisis have led us to alternative practices that are key to sustainable development. Unfortunately, the political economy of climate change tells us another story.

Knowing the consequences all too well while navigating the politico-economic landscape of climate change is like reading the same book, but not all are on the same page. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) met before the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in Pattaya, Thailand and took note that climate change, environmental sustainability, and planetary boundaries are crosscutting development issues that are already impacting negatively on complex global systems and therefore should be comprehensively addressed in the framework for sustainable development goals (SDGs). The development of these renewed goals must in turn, be guided by the twin imperatives of equity and ambition in order to prevent the devastating effects of climate change.

While we welcome that one of main themes of the APFSD is ‘shared prosperity within planetary boundaries’ there remains a need to have a shared understanding of the challenges, opportunities as well as the essence of what it means to have ‘shared prosperity’ amid the tipping points of planetary limits. This vision can only be realized in the context of redistributive justice, to ensure that the people and planet benefit from genuine sustainable development.

In line with this, we reiterate the need to uphold the Rio Principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR), recognizing that solving the climate problem requires collective efforts and that some countries however, are more responsible than others based on historical emissions, capabilities and potential for action. Furthermore, it is important for member States in the region to take leadership in the following:

-Raise the ambition and commit to carbon emissions reduction to keep global temperature rise to less than 1.5 degrees

-Implementation of an alternative development framework that puts people and planet at the heart of sustainable development;

-Promotion of industrialization and full employment based on sound rural development, sustainable agriculture and genuine agrarian reform;

-Develop and promote carbon-neutral sources of energy, and expand renewable energy systems;

-Harness the benefits from ‘peace dividends’ and increase public spending on universalizing social services instead of raising the budget for military expenditures;

-Put a cap on greed and enact and implement measures to tax the rich.

The over-fixation with economic growth has led to economic, social and ecological crises that impact most on the poor and marginalized communities in the region. Aside from exacerbating poverty and magnifying inequalities between countries, societies, and between women and men, climate change poses an existential threat to people, entire communities and countries.

As such, it becomes imperative to respond to the urgency of the situation – climate change should be a stand-alone goal and must be embedded in the principles of environmental sustainability and equity and must be entrenched throughout the SDG framework.

We know all too well that we need to change tack if we are to live up with the promise of shared prosperity. A promise to ‘leave no one behind’ AND ‘let no one get away.’ ###

Aside from being APRN BOC Chair, Ms. Nera-Lauron is also one of the co-chairs of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE). She is also co-chair of the Working Group on CSO Development Effectiveness and the CSO representative to the Building Block on Climate Finance (now called Busan Partnership for Climate Finance and Action). She also helps coordinate the Peoples’ Movement on Climate Change (PMCC). -Ed.



Photo by
APRN Secretariat

Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (RCEM) Communique

RCEM will ensure that the 60% of the world's people living in the Asia Pacific region are better represented by civil society and social movements in global negotiations and have a stronger, coordinated, and more effective voice in regional processes.

Seventy-five (75) representatives of civil society organizations in the Asia Pacific region gathered on 15-17 May in Bangkok, Thailand for the Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development. The meeting preceded the UNESCAP intergovernmental Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) and focused on consolidating and expanding the collective civil society call for Development Justice as central part of the post-2015 development agenda.

A major milestone of the CSO forum was the creation of a transition mechanism for a new Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (RCEM). The momentum to create such a mechanism derives from a series of discussions and meetings held throughout 2013 and 2014 in the region. These meetings have focused on the creation of a comprehensive and structured process to facilitate and coordinate Asia-Pacific CSO engagement on sustainable development with the entire United Nations system. This is a result of the Rio+20 outcomes, which has articulated the importance of multi-stakeholder participation for sustainable development.

During the CSO forum on May 15-17, representatives of the Transition Committee have been appointed based on constituency and sub-regional representation. During a one-year period (2014-2015) they will collate input from civil society on the optimal structure and functions of the RCEM. They will also facilitate outreach and capacity-building as well as consolidation and articulation of common positions of CSOs in the Asia-Pacific region in regional and global discussions on sustainable development. The Transition Committee is complemented by an Advisory Group consisting of individuals that have extensive knowledge on sustainable development and civil society engagement. This structure is expected to further evolve based on lessons learned and collective experience during this transition period and culminate in the formation of the full RCEM.

The aim of the RCEM is to enable stronger cross constituency¹ coordination and ensure that voices of all sub-regions of Asia Pacific are heard in intergovernmental processes. Thus, the RCEM will ensure that the 60% of the world's people living in the Asia Pacific region are better represented by civil society and social movements in global negotiations and have a stronger, coordinated, and more effective voice in regional processes.

As result of a bottom-up and inclusive process, the creation of the RCEM has been initiated, designed and will therefore be owned by CSOs in Asia and Pacific. It will be an open, inclusive and flexible mechanism designed to reach the broadest number of CSOs, harness the voice of grassroots and peoples' movements to advance a more just, equitable and sustainable model of development. Moreover, it will be a platform to share information and best practices and build capacities of CSOs for better and more effective engagement in the future.

Taking into account diversity of the Asia Pacific region and the limitations of existing institutional structures for civil society engagement, the CSO Forum in Bangkok defined 8 additional constituencies, which are currently not included in the existing Major Group structure, as well as 5 (five) sub-regional groupings.

At the UNESCAP APFSD, the RCEM served to coordinate the interventions and engagement of CSOs in the various plenary and roundtable sessions as well as for side events and informal dialogues. This generated positive feedback from many UN bodies and member states who are recognizing the substantive contributions made by civil society at the APFSD. This was a very encouraging preview of the RCEM's role and contribution to the sustainable development agenda for the region and beyond.

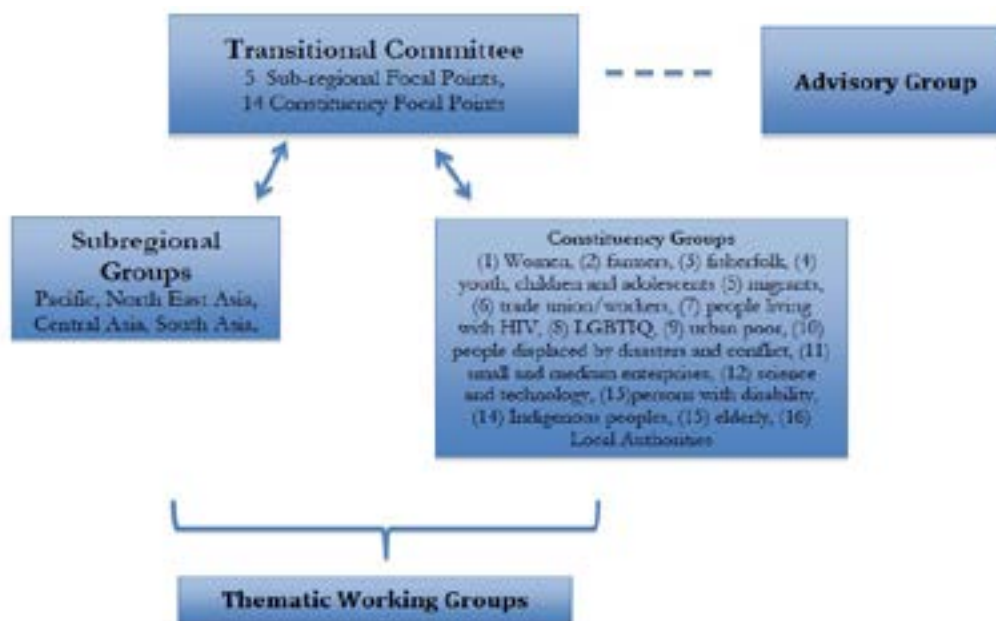
With the RCEM civil society can better advance their collective call for development justice

- an agenda that calls for five transformative shifts of redistributive justice, economic justice, social and gender justice, environmental justice and accountability to peoples.

For further information, please contact
Wardarina – Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
, Chair of Transition Committee of RCEM
Email: rina@apwld.org

The structure of the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (RCEM)

With the RCEM civil society can better advance their collective call for development justice - an agenda that calls for five transformative shifts of Redistributive justice, Economic justice, Social and Gender justice, Environmental justice and Accountability to Peoples.



JOIN US
21 July 2014

Join the Days of Action for Development Justice! An invitation from the Campaign for Peoples' Goals on Sustainable Development

On July 21st, farmers, workers, indigenous peoples, migrants, women, youth, and other groups from over 14 countries will kick-off the Days of Action for Development Justice with simultaneous events including teach-ins; public forums; media briefings; and the global launch of the video-graphic *"The Road to Development Justice"*.

or convergences (e.g. International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples; International Youth Day; World Food Day; International Human Rights Day; and so on)

On September 24, we will hold simultaneous People's General Assemblies for Development Justice in various countries.

Let the world's elites know that we will not allow them to go on enriching themselves in the name of "sustainable development".

Let us reclaim the world and the future. Let us claim development justice!

This will be followed by more Days of Action that would:

- Spotlight local and national campaigns or grassroots struggles demonstrating the peoples' demand for development justice
- Mobilize international solidarity support for these local and national campaigns and struggles
- Link particular peoples demands and the call for development justice around international political moments

Contact:

Campaign for Peoples' Goal on Sustainable Development

www.peoplesgoals.org

Paul Quintos

secretariat@peoplesgoals.org

Leanne Sajor

leanne@apwld.org

Alejandro Barrios Noya

abarrios@iboninternational.org

ASIA PACIFIC PEOPLE’S CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE

*The Asia Pacific Research Network Biennial Conference 2014
Hong Kong SAR | August 31- September 3 –2014*

In 2015, as the Millennium Development Goals are set to expire, the international community will chart another historic moment in creating a new development agenda that will impact the lives of the current and future generations as well as the ability of the planet to sustain life itself. Although mainstream reports show that progress in the MDGs has been achieved in areas such as poverty and school enrolment, ‘development’ is still way out of reach of billions of people.

The wealthiest 20% of the world’s population consume 80% of global resources and are responsible for the vast majority of global warming and environmental destruction. Meanwhile the poorest 20% of the population lack sufficient access to essentials such as food, clean water and energy, and account for just 1.3% of global resource consumption. The ecological footprint of high- income countries is three times that of middle-income countries, and five times that of low income countries.

More than half of the victims of the current unsustainable development framework live in Asia Pacific, where decades of economic liberalization and globalization have opened greater corporate control and domination of the commons and further promoted environmentally unsound technologies and practices.

The climate crisis of the 21st century, according to a recent study, has been caused largely by just 90 companies, which between them produced nearly two-thirds of the greenhouse gas emissions generated since the dawning of the industrial age.

The failure on delivering the needs of the people leads to the widespread clamour for a new development agenda that is truly transformative, just and sustainable. The global process for shaping the new development agenda has already started in the year 2013. However, the weak, marginalized and the most affected by unsustainable development are often not represented in these global conversations. Their voices must be included in the landmark decision-making process of creating the post-2015 development agenda.

The call for a truly transformative development agenda is encapsulated in the demand for Development Justice. By Development Justice we mean a just and transformative

framework for development that promotes people’s wellbeing, solidarity and equality (within and between countries, between men and women) while keeping within the earth’s carrying capacity.

Objectives of the conference:

1. To promote knowledge exchange among CSOs on the different aspects of Development Justice as a framework for a transformative development agenda.
2. To promote critical analyses on the global process shaping the post-2015 development agenda.
3. To promote collective strategizing among CSOs towards linking local demands for development justice to the global conversation shaping the post 2015 development agenda.
4. To develop research initiatives to pursue future directions in sustainable development advocacy and implementation initiatives.

The 2014 Biennial Conference of the Asia Pacific Research Network will revolve around the Development Justice framework, giving people’s perspective to the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. The conference will also be a stocktake of the successes, as well as the failures in meeting the Millenium Development Goals from different countries and sectors.

For more information regarding participation, please contact Marjorie Pamintuan, mpamintuan@aprnet.org or secretariat@aprnet.org





The **Asia Pacific Research Network** is a network of leading research NGOs in the Asia-Pacific. It is active in promoting exchange, coordination and capacity building support in research.

Office Address:
2nd Floor, IBON Center
114, Timog Avenue
Quezon City
1103, Philippines

Landline: (632) 9277060
loc. 202
Telefax: (632) 9276981

Email: secretariat@aprnnet.org
Website: www.aprnnet.org

Secretariat:
Marjorie Pamintuan
General Secretary

Jodel Dacara
Programme Officer

Send your comments, inquiries,
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secretariat@aprnnet.org

Available APRN Publications



Sowing Seeds of Change and Hope

The food producers of Asia Pacific are now reclaiming agroecological farming systems and methodologies through their own farmers' organizations and other support institutions. These local 'alternatives' from the people are rooted on local context and situation and are mindful of sustainable management of communities' resources



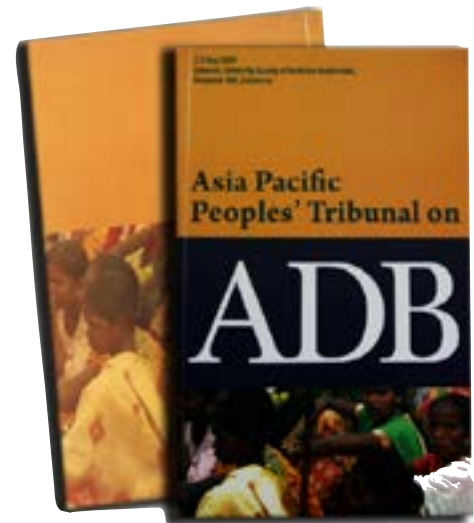
WTO and Maldevelopment

Two decades since the establishment of the World Trade Organization, only developed countries gained and prospered. Developing countries, on the other hand, suffer from the plunder of corporate economy, giving way for more profit for the rich and powerful nations.



Women Resisting Crisis and War

Although women are mostly at the receiving end of the negative impacts of neoliberal globalization and war, the reality is that they also go through various cycles of coping with, adapting to, and resisting the onslaught of the multiple crises.



Asia Pacific People's Tribunal on ADB

Taking into account the need to create space to examine the roles and impact of ADB on the issue of development, APRN and its members from Indonesia, organized the Asia Pacific People's Tribunal on ADB to gather studies, researches, and testimonies from affected communities on the negative impacts of ADB projects and submit these evidences before a tribunal of law experts, development practitioners and parliamentarians.

Contact the secretariat to get the full list of publications and how to avail of copies.