



APRN NEWSLETTER

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Fourth Quarter 2012

“Weak climate deal endangers the people and the planet. Climate justice urgently needed.” -APRN

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Youth solidarity action during the COP 18 in Doha, Qatar. Photo by Tetet Nera-Lauron

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Photo by REN Alliance

“Weak climate deal endangers the people and the planet. Climate justice urgently needed.”-APRN

APRN Secretariat

The Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) deplores the weak climate deal coming out from the 18th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework on the Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the end of the Doha climate talks. Once again, the economic interests of developed countries prevailed in the negotiations over the rights and needs of vast majority of populations around the world that are suffering from the worsening impacts of the climate crisis.

World leaders have failed yet again to uphold climate justice. After two (2) weeks of gruelling negotiations that almost collapsed, the meetings were concluded with the announcement of the weak climate deal dubbed as the ‘Doha Climate Gateway.’ The deal affirms the extension of the Kyoto Protocol into the second commitment phase of eight (8) years, setting the timetable for the global climate change agreement on 2015, as well as the provision of climate finance.

However, any climate deal will fail to deliver real solutions to the climate crisis as long as wealthy industrialized countries, which are also on record the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, continue to refuse to carry out their historical responsibility and undermine the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR). The blatant efforts to remove these principles from the operations of the UNFCCC by industrialized countries, led by the United States, resulted into watered-down and non-binding agreements in the past. The Doha Climate Gateway is no exception.

Although the Doha Climate Gateway provides for the extension of the Kyoto Protocol to 8 years, it will not result into the deep and drastic cuts needed to keep global temperatures under 2 degrees Celsius. The largest emitters such

as US, Canada, Russia, Japan, and New Zealand refused to join the second commitment phase of the Kyoto Protocol. There was also no increase in the amount of cuts committed to the second phase. The emission cuts from Europe, Norway, Switzerland, Australia, and other countries will only total 18% by 2020 whereas the required cuts in emissions is 25-40%. Moreover, the extension of the Kyoto Protocol will also extend the operations of market mechanisms such as clean development mechanism (CDM) and emissions trading. These market mechanisms not only fall short of cutting carbon emissions. CDM projects such as large scale dams and palm oil plantations lead to land grabs and other forms of human rights violations aside from the environmental damages that they cause.

The talks also did not give light on the future of climate change financing that will supposedly help poor nations and people adapt to the impacts of climate change. Although the 100 billion USD funding commitment was made in Cancun, this is to be mobilized from 2020 onwards. The document does not legally bind the developed countries to provide money for the mid-term financing gap for which developing countries are demanding 60 billion USD by 2015. Instead, it only ‘encourages’ developed countries to contribute. Even the funding source for the loss and damage incurred by poor countries still needs to be settled. The US in particular refused any reference to compensation or legal liability.

Another instance where developed countries successfully manoeuvred the negotiations in their favour is when the US refused to any reference or inclusion of ‘equity’ and ‘CBDR’ in the final text which the Durban Platform group will use to guide its work.

The Doha Climate Gateway does not respond to the concrete conditions happening on the ground. Disasters caused by climate change will neither wait for 2015 nor 2020 before they hit. Likewise, the needs of the victims and also vulnerable populations need urgent response. Typhoon Bopha and Hurricane Sandy should remind world leaders that as they sit and wait and delay, more lives are lost due the impacts of climate change.

APRN stands with the vulnerable and marginalized people all over the world as they demand climate justice and real solutions that will address the urgent and long term impacts of climate change on their communities. False solutions and attempts to liquidate the principles of 'equity' and 'CBDR' should be exposed and rejected.

Likewise, APRN continues to stand with the people in rejecting the very system that allows economic interest of a few to prevail over the needs and survival of the greater number of

“Farmers’ rights should at the center of the negotiations”, CECOEDECON

APRN Secretariat

Doha, QATAR-- India-based Center for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON), together with other farmers’ movements in India organized a side event during the Conference of Parties 18 (COP 18) on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Doha, Qatar. The side event centered on the farmers and food producers’ demands from the official summit.

Speakers shared experiences of farmers from various countries. Mr. Paul Quintos from Ibon International, underscored the growing urgency of the issue of access to natural resources amidst worsening environmental degradation and climate change. He shared the Philippines’ experience with Green Revolution, which raised crop yield but consequently increased the cost of production by promoting chemical-intensive, monocrop farming.

Another speaker, Michael Kuhen of Welt Hunger Hlife, linked the climate crisis with the advent of fossil-fueled industrialization. According to Mr. Kuhen, “this model of development has not only made the world environmentally unsound but exacerbated inequity.”

CECOEDECON Deputy Director Ritu Tiwari, in an interview said, “There is also a need to define practical and effective ways to build resilience and performance of farming systems in the face of climate change. Recognition of already significant impacts of climate change on agriculture is required and adaptation funding is should be fast tracked and made available to smallholder farmers.”

The participants of the side event demanded the governments

people around the world. ###

Sources:

Leahy, S. (10, December 2012). Doha climate summit ends with no new CO2 cuts or funding. Afronline. Retrieved from http://www.afronline.org/?p=27812&utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=doha-climate-summit-ends-with-no-new-co2-cuts-or-funding.

Khor, M. (10, December 2012). A “low ambition” outcome on Doha. TWN.

UN Climate Change Secretariat. (8, December 2012). Doha climate conference opens gateway to greater ambition and action on climate change. Retrieved from http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/121208_final_pr_cop18_cf.pdf.

to implement real solutions to the climate crises. The needs, interests, and rights of smallholder farmers and food producers, according to them, should be brought to the center of the negotiations. False solutions promoted by developing countries such as climate-smart agriculture, high input agriculture and genetically-modified organisms should be rejected. Likewise, the participants demanded that the agreement that will come out of the Doha talks should uphold the principles of equity and common by differentiated responsibilities.

CECOEDECON is part of Beyond Copenhagen Collective, a network of CSOs working on the issue of sustainable development, environment and agriculture. It is also a member of APRN.



Participants of the side event 'Agriculture in the UNFCCC' during the COP18 in Doha, Qatar. Photo by CECOEDECON

US, EU and Rich Countries, Cut Your Emission First

Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh

Dhaka, BANGLADESH -- On November 22, 2012, seven (7) civil society networks working on climate organized a march from the National Press Club to Jatiya Sahid Minar (National Language Movement Monument) on the eve of the Doha Climate Conference to be held in Doha, Qatar from November 26 to December 7.

During the march, the organizations demanded the United States the European Union and other rich countries to cut their emission first. They also demanded reparations as climate debt, not as loan and assistance.

The networks are: (a) Bangladesh Poribesh Anodolon (BAPA); (b) Bangladesh Indigenous People Network on Climate Change and Bio Diversity (BIPNetCCBD); (c) Climate Change and Development Forum (CCDF); (d) Climate Finance

Governance Network (CFGN); (e) Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihood (CSRL); (f) Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh (EquityBD), and Network on Climate Change Bangladesh (NCCB).

They also urged Bangladesh government delegation, on four key issues which are (i) Not to compromise on equity issues, raised by BRICS nations (Brazil, India, China and South Africa) without justice, and to uphold the interest of climate vulnerable countries' (CVC) interest, (ii) Inclusion of climate migrants right issues in adaptation, loss and damage discourse, (iii) Putting pressure on US, EU and other rich countries to promise a bigcut in carbon emission and (iv) Ensure full transparency, and direct access of Adivasis and local community in all climate funds both in the national and international level. ###

APRN holds 1st Training on Peoples' Research

APRN Secretariat

Hanoi, VIETNAM-- The Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) held the first Training on Peoples' Research on November 28-30, 2012 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The three-day event was hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD). The training gathered 12 researchers from civil society organizations (CSOs) from the Mekong Region.

"APRN has over a decade of tradition of doing research to support people's struggles for social change. APRN has also done a lot of trainings on research, communications, and media advocacy in the past. Through the first training on People's Research, APRN aims to further its advocacy of doing research for social change by training people's researchers from CSOs in the Asia Pacific region," said Ms. Maria Theresa Lauron, Chairperson of the APRN Board of Convenors (BOC).

Ms. Vu Thi Bich Hop, Executive Director of SRD and member of the APRN BOC, welcomed the participants during the first day of the training. In her welcoming speech, Ms. Hop emphasized that "research helps us analyse our problems, especially social problems, conflicts and the needs of the people whom we work for. So people's research is very important for NGOs. This is necessary to inform our projects."

Ms. Marjorie Pamintuan, APRN General Secretary-in training facilitated the training. Day 1 of the training focused on the principles and objectives behind people's research while Days 2 and 3 were devoted to the discussion of the research process and methodology. Policy Research was taken up and facilitated by Ms. Shanthi Sivakumaran, Policy Officer of the



Participants of APRN's Training on Peoples' Research with General Secretary Marjorie Pamintuan and our partners from SRD. Photo by APRN Secretariat

People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS). Mr. Truong Quoc Can, Deputy Executive Director of SRD also shared their organization's experience in doing research with their communities on using alternative farming methods.

The following organizations participated in the training: Centre for Sustainable Development Policy Studies (Vietnam), Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED-Vietnam), Live and Learn (Vietnam), Institute for Water and Environment (Vietnam), Education Science Institute of Vietnam, Development Research and Consultancy Centre (Vietnam), Research centre for Resources and Rural Development (Vietnam), Development Environment Community Association (DECA-Lao), Sustainable Development Foundation-Thailand (SDF-Thai), Seruni (Indonesia), and NGO Forum (Cambodia). ###

[TPPA] Report exposes bias in tribunals used by foreign investors to sue governments

Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network

The Australian Government is being sued for damages by the Philip Morris tobacco company in an international tribunal over its tobacco plain packaging legislation. The Government is opposing the inclusion of investor rights to sue in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPPA) negotiations which begin in New Zealand on December 2.

A study by the Amsterdam-based Transnational Institute shows how these tribunals, made up of investment lawyers who can also be advocates, lack independence and result in decisions which favour business at the expense of health, environment and other public interest legislation.

The report reveals:

- 15 arbitrators have decided 55% of all known investment-treaty disputes
- law firms have encourage legal cases, often against countries

in crisis, fuelling a twelve-fold increase in cases since 1996 by multinationals against states for any action deemed to have unfairly affected corporate profits

- exorbitant legal and arbitration costs averaging over US\$8 million per investor-state dispute, and exceeding US\$30 million in some cases, paid for by ordinary taxpayers in countries where many don't even have access to basic services
- lobbying by arbitration law firms and elite arbitrators that have succeeded in stopping necessary reform of investment agreements in the EU and US in the last four years The report argues that the alleged fairness and independence of international investment arbitration is an illusion and puts forward new arguments why governments should refuse to include investor rights to sue in trade agreements like the TPPA.

See the report at <http://www.tni.org/ProfitingFromInjustice.pdf>

Sea intrusion takes over 2.6 million acres of fertile land

Karachi, PAKISTAN- The World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP) and Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) while welcoming the report designed by Olivier De Schutter, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, who warned of the threat of 'ocean-grabbing' to food security, and urged world governments and international bodies to halt the depletion of fish stocks, and take urgent steps to protect, sustain, and share the benefits of fisheries and marine environments.

Representing the world fisher communities, WFFP and PFF appealed to the Pakistan government to design policy in the light of recommendations designed by the UN Rapporteur on the right to food to avoid food insecurity, as fears of sea intrusion, depletion of mangroves, delta and fresh waters were visible in the country, depriving fishermen of their right to livelihoods. "More than two million people depend on ocean for fishing here. The sea intrusion has taken away more than 2.6 million acres fertile land, which is alarming for the community."

PFF Chairperson Mohammed Ali Shah, who is also the Secretary General of WFFP, urged the Pakistan government to incorporate the recommendations in its Fisheries Policy to adopt mechanism to safeguard our fish reserves.

"Unchecked over exploitation of resources, like fish stock has put hundreds of people to live a vulnerable life there without availability of fish for their family's consumption," Shah said.

"Ocean-grabbing' – in the shape of shady access agreements that harm small-scale fishers, unreported catch, incursions into protected waters, and the diversion of resources away from local populations - can be as serious a threat as 'land-grabbing,'" De Schutter said as he unveiled a new report on fisheries and the right to food.

"Without rapid action to claw back waters from unsustainable practices, fisheries will no longer be able to play a critical role in securing the right to food of millions," the expert said, noting that "with agricultural systems under increasing pressure, many people are now looking to rivers, lakes and oceans to provide an increasing share of our dietary protein."

Estimates on the scale of illegal catch range from 10-28 million tonnes (mt), while some 7.3mt – 10 per cent of global catch – is discarded every year. "It is clear that as fish are becoming less abundant, fishing vessels are tempted to evade rules and conservation strategies," the Special Rapporteur said.

Many of the world's waters are fished by distance fleets, De Schutter noted, calling for the Licence and Access Agreements (LAAs). He called for LAAs to include stronger oversight mechanisms to tackle illegal and unreported catch; take full account of the role of fisheries and small-scale fishers in meeting local food needs; strengthen labour rights on fishing vessels; and be concluded only on the basis of human rights impact assessments, to be prepared with the assistance of flag states.

The UN expert called on governments to rethink the models of fisheries that they support, highlighting that small-scale fishers actually catch more fish per gallon of fuel than industrial fleets, and discard fewer fish. "Industrial fishing in far-flung waters may seem like the economic option, but only because fleets are able to pocket major subsidies while externalizing the costs of over-fishing and resource degradation. Future generations will pay the price when the oceans run dry," he said.###

Retrieved from www.farmlandgrab.org

Sourced from the Daily Times- Pakistan, www.dailytimes.com.pk

Procession of 153 coffins to Mendiola marks 3rd year of massacre

In commemoration of the International Day to End Impunity

Manila, PHILIPPINES -- A procession of 153 mock coffins -- one for each journalist murdered in the country since 1986 -- was enroute to Mendiola from the Welcome Rotonda on Friday afternoon to mark the third year since the November 23, 2009 Ampatuan massacre and the second International Day to End Impunity.

Journalists, press freedom advocates, groups from various sectors and relatives of the massacre victims joined the march, which kicked off at 4 p.m.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines and the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists, which are spearheading the activity, said the march is protesting the persistence of the impunity with which media killings and other human rights violations continue to be committed in the country, as well as the persistent attempts by the administration to stifle press freedom through repressive legislation such as the Cybercrime Prevention Act and the Right of Reply bill, which President Benigno Aquino III has openly endorsed, while suppressing legislation, such as the Freedom of Information bill, that would expand democratic space and advance civil rights and liberties.

The Ampatuan massacre, which claimed 58 lives, including those of 32 media workers, is the worst incident of electoral violence in recent Philippine history and the single deadliest attack on the press ever recorded.

This is one of the reasons the International Freedom of Expression Exchange network, which counts some 90

independent organizations worldwide, chose November 23 as the International Day to End Impunity.

On Friday also, four major international press organizations, led by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), sent a letter to President Benigno Aquino III expressing deep disappointment over the inaction on the massacre and other media killings, despite the universal statement of outrage and call for action that first greeted it three years ago--and the solemn vow of government to give justice to the victims' families.

Three years since the mass murder, 99 of the 197 accused remain free, and of the 81 suspects thus far arraigned, only two are among the key members of the Ampatuan who allegedly planned and led the carnage. Three witnesses have also been killed.

Of the 153 media killings since 1986, when the NUJP began keeping tabs, there have only been 10 convictions, all of these gunmen. Not a single mastermind of a media murder has been punished. In General Santos City, where about half of the journalists who perished in the massacre came from, a funeral procession took six mock coffins to the Forest Lake Memorial Park, where more than a dozen victims are buried. Marches and other activities were also held Friday in Davao, Bacolod, Sorsogon and Cagayan de Oro cities, among other places. ###

Sourced from:

InterAksyon.com | The online news portal of TV5 Manila

CSOs and Social Movements from the South unite to Campaign for Peoples Goals for Sustainable Development

Civil Society Organizations and social movements from the Global South have banded together and pledged to Campaign for Peoples Goals for Sustainable Development (CPGSD). According to the common statement released by the campaign initiators, governments must abandon the current dominant development model that grants rights and liberties to capital over the rights and freedoms of people and the protection of the environment. They vow to fight for a new development framework that is founded on the principles of human rights, equality, self-determination, and social, gender and ecological justice.

This initiative was the main outcome of the Rights for Sustainability Beyond Rio+20: Global Civil Society Workshop on the Rio+20 Outcomes and the Post-2015 Development Agenda held in Nairobi last October 2-3, 2012 organized by IBON International. Antonio Tujan, International Director of IBON, describes this initiative as “a Southern-led campaign that is grounded in grassroots struggles while

engaging with the official processes related to the post-2015 development agenda.”

The CPGSD statement was released just ahead of the meeting of the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 development agenda in London, UK. Among the key demands of the Campaign is the establishment of multistakeholder processes for setting the post-2015 development agenda at the national and international levels with full participation of civil society in deliberations and decision-making beyond mere consultations.

The CPGSD statement urges all movements, peoples' organizations, civil society groups and all concerned citizens to join the campaign.

Those who wish to join this campaign and sign-on to this statement should email Paul Quintos of IBON International at pquintos@iboninternational.org. ###

Create jobs at home. No to forced labor migration. No to GFMD. **Migrants' verdict on the GFMD: Guilty of Migrants' Rights Violations***

International Migrants' Alliance

As we commemorate the 12th year of the International Migrants Day, the International Migrants' Alliance (IMA) salutes all migrant workers, refugees, displaced peoples and their families as we all contribute to building a movement for the recognition, upholding and protection of our rights and dignity.

In many countries, migrant organizations and unions engage governments of both migrant-sending and receiving countries to challenge and call for the repeal of anti-migrant policies, to address immediate concerns and campaigns about imperiled migrants, devise alternatives and propositions to resolve forced labor migration.

The world witnessed how our refugee brothers and sisters campaigned against the racist and anti-refugee laws that the German government recently legislated; how our migrant organizations and their networks and friends successfully pressured the Taiwan government in releasing a migrant victimized by flawed State processes and policies; how we in the IMA and all our allies and friends campaigned for the securing of migrant workers affected by the strife in the Arab world, particularly those in Syria.

The International Migrants' Tribunal on the GFMD, a major initiative that the IMA co-organized with the International Women's Alliance, International League of People's Struggle and the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants, is the pinnacle of all our struggles and campaigns this year as we finally marked the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) as guilty of championing anti-migrant paradigms and policies that systemically denies rights.

Held on November 28 and 29 at the College of Law of the University of the Philippines, the International Migrants' Tribunal on the GFMD, or the IMT, became a stalwart event that amplified the voices of many sections of migrants (i.e. women, refugees, domestic workers, seafarers, immigrants, undocumented, among others) against the GFMD and the 37 States that host, organize and manage the GFMD.

The 20-page verdict released by the panel of five judges, all luminaries and experts in their respective positions, showed in detail how the GFMD is guilty of violating migrants' human rights. By championing the neoliberal agenda of migration as a tool for development, the GFMD virtually allows for the perpetuation of the commodification of labor and modern-day slavery.

Amidst the US\$372 billion-worth of remittance in 2011, migrants, refugees and displaced peoples continue to languish in horrible conditions. Racism, discrimination and social exclusion of migrants have not been squarely addressed but rather reinforced and embedded. Most receiving governments are even

guilty of fanning this anti-migrant environment by stating that migrants are stealing the people's jobs and bleeding the social services dry.

As more than 100 million people in the world are estimated to be migrants, the situation back in their home countries has not changed at all. The continued and faithful implementation by Sending States of the neoliberal policies of deregulation, privatization and liberalization only intensify the already abject poverty, severe unemployment and underdevelopment of many economies that force people to migrate for the survival of their families and loved ones.

Such a reality presents that this billion-dollar migration industry only benefits a few but never the migrants, their families and the people of the underdeveloped countries.

The IMA intends to bring and broadcast our verdict on the GFMD to the international community as we challenge international institutions like the United Nations to adhere to and uphold human rights and the many international conventions protecting these rights and completely junk the GFMD.

Only by shunning and completely destroying the neoliberal agenda and going for a people-focused, rights-based approach and alternative can the likes of UN be able to address and resolve the root causes of forced labor migration. Spurring economic and political development comes from the serious development of national industries and improvement of the agricultural industry that can help generate meaningful employment for all. History has proven this and this can happen.

Uphold the rights, welfare and dignity of migrants, refugees and displaced peoples! Junk the GFMD and its neoliberal agenda!

No to forced labor migration and modern-day slavery! Long live international solidarity!

Onward with the migrant workers' movement against imperialism!

**IMA Statement on the 2012 International Migrants Day
 December 18, 2012*

Reference:

International Migrants' Alliance

c/o Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants

Tel No (852) 27237536

Email: ima.sect@gmail.com

Website: <http://internationalmigrants.org>

IBON International demands that developed countries have high ambition, equity and binding commitments for COP 18

Photo from The Telegraph, www.telegraph.co.uk

IBON International

Doha, QATAR -- Climate negotiations in Doha are stalling – along with the hope of averting a temperature rise that will have catastrophic impacts on the world's poorest.

As ministers from across the world arrive in Doha, developed countries are backing away from committing to ambitious reductions in carbon emissions as well as meaningful and immediate transfers of funds and technology to developing countries.

The US, EU, and negotiating blocs including the “Umbrella Group” (Australia, New Zealand, Russia, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Norway, and Japan), and the “Environmental Integrity Group” (Switzerland, Korea, Mexico), are blocking developing country demands that the Kyoto Protocol – the expiring cornerstone treaty of emissions reductions – is extended with ambitious and legally binding commitments. Likewise, while they make vague acknowledgements of the need to help developing countries, wealthy countries are avoiding concrete commitments to climate finance and technology transfer.

Both the EU and Australia are sticking to low emissions targets they will not increase without greater international action. The US claimed its “enormous” efforts on climate change should be recognized, but has pulled out of an extended Protocol and achieved a meager 3% reduction in emissions to date. The US said its positions are not based on “what is needed”, rather what can be “sold at home”. Indeed, developed countries stand united against new, legally binding commitments on emissions reductions in line with science.

Developing countries say that the supposed \$US30 billion in “fast-start financing” from 2010 – 2012 has actually been conflated with existing aid and loans. While developing countries have demanded a doubling of financing from 2013 – 2015, there remains no commitment. The “Green Climate Fund” was agreed to ensure long-term financing of \$US100 billion a year from 2020.

Again, while developing countries have sought firm assurances of public funding from developed countries, there remain no real guarantees.

The paralysis in climate negotiations threatens the lives and livelihoods of the world's poorest. Developed countries, led by the US, must live up to their rhetoric by taking action now on climate change.

IBON International demands:

An ambitious deal

Calculated on a basis of reducing global emissions to the needed 50-80% of 1990 levels while sharing global atmospheric space equally, industrialized countries like the US, Germany and the UK must reduce their emissions by 88 to 98 percent; China must also reduce its emissions by 47 to 79% compared to 1990 levels.

An equitable deal

Historic responsibility should be measured by cumulative emissions. There is a need to respect the Right to Development of people in poorer countries which have to prioritize meeting the basic needs of populations as well as dealing with the immediate effects of climate change in the immediate future.

An accountable deal

Parties should make legally enforceable commitments with transparent monitoring and reporting systems, characterized by accountability with multi-stakeholder governance. The UN must widen space for civil society participation in negotiations with an enhanced civil society role in monitoring COP outcomes.

Genuine sustainable development

As the climate crisis is rooted in unsustainable modes of production and consumption, the

“The paralysis in climate negotiations threatens the lives and livelihoods of the world's poorest. Developed countries, led by the US, must live up to their rhetoric by taking action now on climate change.”

real challenge is ushering in a new model of sustainable development, shifting away from an obsession with an exclusionary, top-down growth model geared towards excess consumption for private profit, towards new modes of production, consumption and distribution, and a rights-based framework centered on the principles of equity, justice, democratic ownership and respect for nature.

Some Northern NGOs have incorrectly portrayed the negotiations paralysis at COP18 as due to a “superpower” conflict between China and the US. Rather, the divide at COP18 is between developed countries with a historic responsibility for the

climate change the world is now experiencing, and developing countries that suffer the loss of lives and livelihoods resulting from this climate change.

IBON International Director Antonio Tujan Jr said: “As developed country ministers arrive in Doha, they must show the leadership necessary to avert catastrophic climate change through their adherence to ambition, equity and legally binding commitments. Developing country ministers must continue to unite in pushing them to this end.” ###

Statement of Solidarity with Civil Society in Palestine

Arab NGO Network for Development

The Israeli occupation is the major challenge and obstacle that the Palestinian society has, and that obstructs its development. The basic right of security, peaceful existence and self-determination for the Palestinian people, as well as its right to exist in an independent Palestinian State continues to be violated, resulting in deteriorating human rights conditions in the country, including poverty, unemployment, health care, education.

The raid by Israeli occupation army on December 11th 2012, to the offices of three civil society organizations based in Ramallah, namely the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO), Women’s Union and Addameer; an advocate for Palestinians in Israeli jails, confiscating five computers from the latter group, is a mere demonstration of systematic Israeli policy towards adoption of drastic aggressive measures to stop any attempt towards the quest of freedom by Palestinian people. The incident adds to Israeli record of continuous violation of international humanitarian and human rights law and the continuous challenge Palestinian people are facing for the enjoyment of freedom of association and freedom of opinion and of expression under Israeli occupation.

The incident, that came right after December 10th International Human Rights Day, which particularly this year marked the importance of inclusion through reference to the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, to peaceful assembly and association require immediate action and condemnation by international community towards Israeli occupation forces. The incident follows as well the bid of Palestinian people towards recognition and the new UN status as “non-member observer state,” and points the

Israeli policy approach to hinder the voices of Palestinian people to be heard by blocking human rights defenders and civil society activists’ work through physical and psychological pressure implemented on them.

In this regard, as the Arab NGO Network for Development, in solidarity with our member organizations in Palestine, we call upon the international community, particularly the international organizations and international civil society, who extensively enjoy their freedom of expression and opinion to raise the restrictions that their counterparts in Palestine are facing under Israeli occupation. We call them to use their freedom to promote the Palestinians’ through direct lobby on their governments to pressure Israel towards giving an immediate halt to attack human rights defenders.

It’s time to put an end to the occupation which is violating the international laws by all means, we therefore call upon the international community and instances to pressure on Israel to abide the related UN resolutions, the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to live in peace and prosperity.

Moreover, we call all the members of the Human Rights Council to elaborate the violations that human rights defenders’ are facing under Israeli occupation during the upcoming Universal Periodic Review on January 29th 2013, for which yet Israel showed no signs of cooperation. ###

Reference:
Arab NGO Network for Development
E-mail: annd@annd.org
Website: www.annd.org



AUTAUTIS
DEV

“It’s time to put an end to the occupation which is violating the international laws by all means...”

Photo from <http://beforeitsnews.com/international/2012/11/free-palestine-by-abdul-haye-amin-2448198.html>

Civil Society Leaders and Representatives launch CPDE

BetterAid Secretariat

Nairobi, KENYA-- Civil Society leaders and representatives launched the new CSO Platform Post-Busan, The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), after the First Global Council Meeting of CPDE in Nairobi, Kenya last 8-9 December 2012.

The CPDE will act as the collective successor of BetterAid and Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness, and will unite CSOs from around the world on the issue of development effectiveness, particularly in the context of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (BPd) and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC).

Fifty CSO leaders representing different regions and sectors endorsed the Nairobi Declaration for Development Effectiveness which guides the work and represents the foundation of CPDE.

The Nairobi Declaration for Development Effectiveness and other information on the CPDE are available at the BetterAid website, www.betteraid.org.

The French, Spanish and Arabic versions of the Nairobi Declaration will be available soon.

CPDE global council gathers in Kenya APRN co-leads CSO development effectiveness working group

APRN Secretariat

Nairobi, KENYA – Around fifty (50) civil society representatives gathered in Nairobi, Kenya from December 8 to 10, 2012 to discuss the new governance structure of civil society organizations (CSO) post-Busan High Level Forum (HLF4). The secretariats of the two platforms, BetterAid (BA) and Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness (OF) shared the successes and challenges they faced. Operations of both platforms closed this December as the new unified platform, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), commences. Participants of the meeting formalized the unified platform, its new global structure, the working groups (WG) and their mandates.

CSO representatives welcomed the four co-chairs of the Global Council (GC), along with other representatives of the regions, sub-regions and sectors. The coordination committee was also elected to oversee the day-to-day operations of the platform. IBON International Director and former APRN Board of Convenors (BOC) Chair Antonio Tujan, Jr was elected as co-chair, with three others namely Emele Diututuraga (Pacific Islands Association of

NGOs), Mayra Moro-Coco (Association for Women’s Rights in Development), and Richard Ssewakiryanga (Uganda NGO Forum). Three working groups within the CPDE were also formed, including a working group on CSO Development Effectiveness (CSO DE) (other two are on (1) Enabling Environment, and; (2) Human Rights-Based Approach). APRN, together with CIVICUS, were elected as a global focal point to lead this WG.

The primary objective of the WG on CSO DE is to act as a platform to share the good practices, lessons learnt, and tools used for the implementation of the Istanbul Principles at the country level, among the CSOs involved in the CPDE process and beyond. APRN BOC Chair Maria Theresa Nera-Lauron, believes that the co-leadership in the WG will continue APRN’s work on the CSO DE agenda.

APRN served as OF’s Country Outreach Coordinator for Asia Pacific and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) until 2011. ###



Season's Greetings

May this season be filled with love, peace and solidarity, for years beyond.

Happy holidays!
APRN Secretariat



Official Newsletter of the Asia Pacific Research Network

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.

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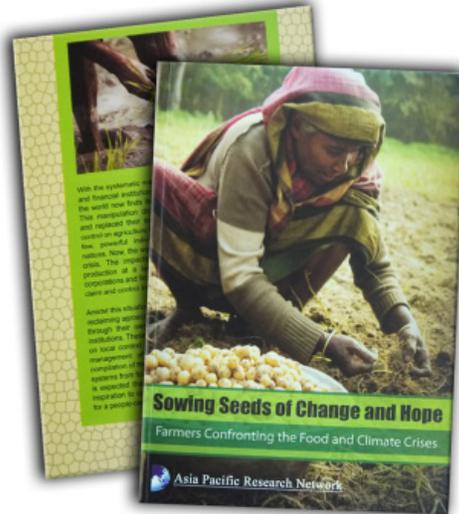
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Available APRN Publications



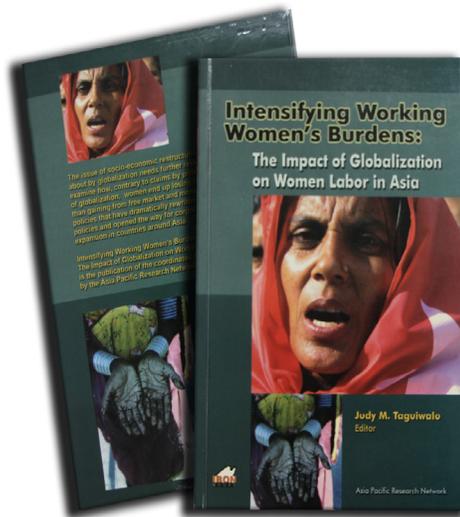
Sowing Seeds of Change and Hope ^{!NEW!}

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



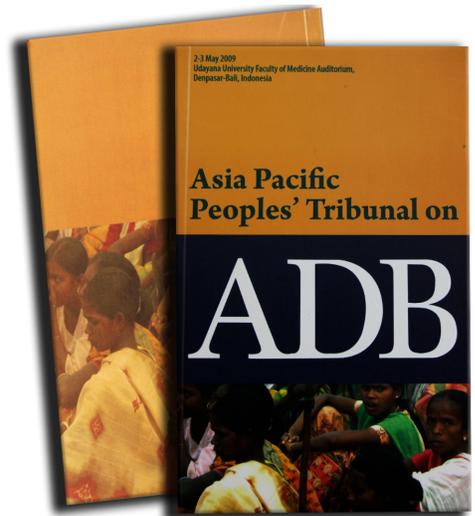
Women Resisting Crisis and War ^{!NEW!}

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.



Intensifying Working Women's Burdens:

The Impact of Globalization on Women Labor in Asia
Contrary to claims by promoters of globalization, women end up losing more than gaining from free market and monetarist policies that have dramatically rewritten economic policies and opened the way for corporate expansion in countries around Asia.



Asia Pacific Peoples' 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 practioners and parliamentarians.

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