



# APRN NEWSLETTER

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## APRN stand with peoples' struggles for land rights and biodiversity at COP CBD

See story on page 1



APRN book launch in Hyderabad, India. The event also ran in parallel to the COP CBD 11. Photo by APRN Secretariat

### What's inside?

- 3** Peasant groups slam hypocrisy of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- 3** Integration among ASEAN and FTA Region Partner Countries
- 4** Migrants to hold tribunal on the GFMD
- 4** AMRC releases research publications

- 5** Filipino women see gaps in the 2013 Empowerment Budget
- 5** APWLD resources available online
- 6** Asian Communities Press for Biosafety and Corporate Accountability Amid the Onslaught of GMOs
- 8** Climate Updates: Climate Finance talks still unclear
- 9** Civil society leaders to meet and discuss the future of ADE governance post-Busan



*Members of APVVU, NAPM, VAK and APRN present the book 'Sowing Seeds of Hope and Change: Farmers Confronting the Food and Climate Crises' during the book launch in Hyderabad, India. Photo by APRN Secretariat*

# APRN stand with people's struggle for land rights and biodiversity at COP CBD

by APRN Secretariat

Hyderabad, INDIA-- The Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) stood against the corporatization of agriculture during the Consultation on Food Sovereignty, Land and Biodiversity organized by Andhra Pradesh Vyavasaya Vruthidarula Union (APVVU), Vikas Adhyayan Kendra (VAK), National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM) and the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC) on October 14 to 15, 2012 in Hyderabad, India.

APRN joined hands with more than 50 representatives of peasants, farmers, dalits, nomadic tribes, indigenous peoples, women farmers, artisans, people working on alternatives, and people displaced from their lands as a result of corporatization of agriculture from different parts of South India and another part of Asia, that assembled at the consultation to discuss land rights and biodiversity. Together with other Indian civil society organizations (CSOs), the organizers of the consultation also initiated the People's Biodiversity Festival wherein hundreds gathered to exhibit their agricultural practices and products. Both the consultation and the festival ran in parallel with the 11th Conference of Parties on the Convention on Biodiversity (COP-CBD 11).

Land rights and the protection of biodiversity are closely linked with one another. Who controls the land also controls biodiversity. For the grassroots people, land is life and biodiversity supports their survival. However, increasing corporate control over resources resulted into land and resource grabs from the people. Biodiversity is lost as corporations introduced monocultures and synthetic chemicals to replace the traditional food sources and agricultural knowledge of the people.

Retired Reverend Karkare, Bishop of Hyderabad Conference of the Methodist Church of India, added that land is a fundamental resource. The systems of governance of the State are supposed to establish a system to ensure equity in distribution of land through land reform. Unfortunately, the land reform provisions are functional only to favor the 'haves'. Land is gradually getting alienated from the possession of the common person and moved in favor of investors.

According to APVVU Secretary Chennaiah Poguri, "the purpose of the consultation is to raise the question, 'Biodiversity for whom? Is it for people? Or, Corporations?' We gathered here to reaffirm the position that biodiversity is for the people. The COP11 taking place in the other side of Hyderabad has the objective of making biodiversity serve the interests of corporations. This consultation is the voice of the people."

Presentations by representatives from marginalized sectors such as forest dependent communities, dalits, coastal communities, and nomadic tribes highlighted demonstrated how corporations encroach into their communities and violate their rights. Petrochemical industries stretching across 974 kilometers of the seacoast of Andhra Pradesh violate the coastal zones regulations and also displace 8 million fisher people and peasant communities. Andhra Pradesh is the first state that implemented Structural Adjustment Plans (SAPs) and grabbed hundreds of thousands of lands from communities to donate freely to the corporations.

At the end of the consultation, the participants called for the immediate halt of destructive projects and demanded state responsibility on the protection of the people's right to land, biodiversity and human rights.



*Participants of the Consultation on People's Food Sovereignty: Land and Biodiversity sing about land and rights during a presentation before the book launch. Photo by APRN Secretariat.*

### APRN launches book at the conference

APRN launched its most recent research on food and climate entitled “Sowing the Seeds of Change and Hope: Farmers Confronting the Food and Climate Crises” on October 15 at the consultation—a day ahead of the celebration of the World Food Day.

“The book discusses how farmers use local agro-ecological food production systems and methods to cope with the food and climate crises and also how they use these to resist corporate agriculture from taking over their local food production,” said Ms. Marjorie Pamintuan, APRN General Secretary-in training.

The book is a compilation of APRN’s collaborative researches on food and climate implemented by four member-organizations in their respective countries: Coastal Development Partnership (CDP) in Bangladesh, China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO) in China, International NGO Forum for Indonesian Development in Indonesia, and IBON Foundation in the Philippines.

Some of the local agro-ecological practices that the researches documented were: (a) use of organic materials; (b) reliance on natural processes in maintaining soil fertility; (c) pest and disease control; (d) preservation of genetic resources through seed banking; (e) organic farming; (f) application of the system of rice intensification, and; (g) floating agriculture.

However, there is a need to guard against the co-optation of agro-ecological food production and farmers’ organizations for corporate interests. It is important to distinguish between smallholder agro-ecological food production systems and methods that are meant to produce for domestic or local consumption and the new approach that is still corporate in nature but makes use of schemes such as contract growing, leasehold and even de facto land grabbing to consolidate small landholdings into corporate farms.

According to Ms. Maria Theresa Nera-Lauron, APRN Chairperson, “The World Bank and its proponents are pushing for the adoption of ‘climate smart agriculture’ (CSA) as a ‘triple win formula’ that will supposedly address the need for increased food production while developing current agricultural production to mitigate contributions to climate change and at the same time adapt to its effects. Improved farming techniques will be introduced to small-scale farming communities and financing for the research and implementation will be sourced from the carbon markets.” There are [also] strong indications that CSA will only open more doors for multinational corporations to control agricultural production and directly displace small-scale food producers, according to the People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS).

Ms. Pamintuan also pointed out that “the Food and Agricultural Organization’s promotion of agricultural cooperatives as its theme for World Food Day on October 16 will worsen the corporate takeover of agriculture in developing countries and will further undermine the farmer’s local food production systems. FAO advocates for more liberalization of agriculture through investing in agricultural cooperatives that will link, or rather, will expose small holder farmers to the whims of the speculators in the world market. It’s brand of agricultural cooperatives will result into more exploitation of smallholder farmers by providing food companies cheap labour and cheap food products through contract farming.”

According to APC secretariat coordinator Ms. Rhoda Gueta, “October 15 is also the celebration of International Rural Women’s Day. Farmers, especially women farmers, should continue to encourage other farmers in defending their land, in protecting biodiversity and to use their local agro-ecological food production systems and methods.” ###



*Photo by APRN Secretariat*

## Peasant groups slam hypocrisy of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

by Peoples' Coalition for Food Sovereignty, Andhra Pradesh Vyavasaya Vruthidarula Union and Asian Peasant Coalition

Hyderabad, INDIA -- From 14 to 15 October 2012, Andhra Pradesh Vyavasaya Vruthidarula Union (APVVU) and the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC) in cooperation with Vikas Adhyayan Kendra (VAK) and National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM) held a Consultation on Peoples' Food Sovereignty: Land and Biodiversity, in Hyderabad, India. The consultation was held at the same time as the 11th Conference of Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The consultation brought together more than 50 people from South India and Asia representing peasants farmers, dalits, tribal people, indigenous peoples, women farmers, artisans, people working on alternatives, and people displaced from their lands. In their official public statement, APVVU and APC slammed the official conference and claimed that the CBD is only deceiving the people. There is a mismatch between what is actually happening on the ground and the claims of the UN that the CBD is dedicated towards the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. According to Chennaiah Poguri, APVVU Secretary General and APC South Asia

Co-coordinator, "farmers are losing their land, biodiversity, and livelihood because of the neoliberal development being implemented in India and elsewhere in Asia." In Andhra Pradesh, the state government is promoting petrochemical industries along the coastline, displacing 8 million fisher folks and peasant communities. Andhra Pradesh is the first state that implemented Structural Adjustment Plan (SAP) and has grabbed hundreds of thousands acres of lands and donated freely to the corporations at the cost of depriving land and livelihoods of the communities

Conference participants called for an immediate halt to the destructive projects being promoted by governments and corporations. They deceived the communities by relating their projects with development but instead bring environmental destruction and serious human rights violations.

"We slam the CBDs double standards. Hiding many black spots while talking biodiversity is a total hypocrisy. The call of this movement is to fight against the corruption, corporate control, and plunder. We call for the protection of the rights of the fisher people, peasants and their communities in Andhra Pradesh and across Asia," ended Poguri. ###

## Integration among ASEAN and FTA Region Partner Countries: The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

by Indonesia for Global Justice

Aside from the ASEAN Economic Minister Meeting, another regional economic consultation was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia last August 2012. The first consultation meeting was held between ASEAN and its free trade agreement (FTA) partner countries China, India, Australia, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand. The meeting resulted into an agreement to form a free trade area with a new concept of 'a cooperative and mutually beneficial economic partnership' which they called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). The preliminary framework was endorsed by ASEAN Leaders at the 19th ASEAN Summit in November 2011, and is scheduled to start negotiations in November 2012.

RCEP builds on the combined formula of ASEAN+3 in EAFTA (East Asia Free Trade Agreement) and ASEAN+6 in CEPEA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia). The main initiators of the partnership are China and Japan, which are both in the ASEAN+3 and ASEAN+6. Despite similarities to the past FTAs, it also has differences from the other existing agreements that currently make up

the 'noodle bowl of Asian trade agreements'.

Membership to RCEP has not been pre-determined, though; it has remained open to countries outside the members of the ASEAN, the ASEAN+3, ASEAN+6 and their partner countries. RCEP has adapted a system of 'open accession'. It is flexible in decision-making where it is embodied in the special and differential treatment of the ASEAN member countries. RCEP has a consistent commitment to trade liberalization in accordance with WTO rules. The FTA will also introduce "new options" of trade-policy marketplace and is expected to improve market access. For that, RCEP will depend a lot on ASEAN's efforts in establishing the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015.

But the new concept of trade liberalization in ASEAN+ + should also be reconsidered in the context of the trade situation occurring in the region, especially in Indonesia. We should not let the RCEP formation invade and dominate regional trade, even more by China, considering the region's past experience in ACFTA (ASEAN-China Free Trade Area). ###

# Migrants to hold tribunal on the GFMD

by Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants

The International Migrants Alliance invites you to the Migrant Tribunal on the GFMD (Global Forum on Migration and Development).

The tribunal is a two-day event that will put the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and its neoliberal globalization design on migration on trial. Testimonies and stories of resistance of witnesses from migrant grassroots organizations will be heard by a panel of judges from international organizations concerned with migration and migrant workers. They will formulate the judgment on the GFMD based on the presentations of the grassroots migrant workers.

The Migrant's Tribunal on the GFMD will take place on November 28-29, 2012 at the University of the Philippines in Quezon City, Philippines. For details, please contact the IMA secretariat at [ima.sect@gmail.com](mailto:ima.sect@gmail.com). ###

# AMRC releases research publications

The Asia Monitor Resource Center (AMRC) is proud to announce the release of its two new books, *The Reality of Corporate Social Responsibility and Capital Mobility and Workers in Asia*. Both are based on case studies conducted with the workers of the region.

AMRC is an independent non-governmental organization focusing on Asian labour concerns. The Center provides information, research, publications, training, labour networking and related services to trade unions, labour groups, and other development NGOs in the region. The Center's main goal is to support democratic and independent labour movements in Asia. In order to achieve this goal, AMRC upholds the principles of workers' empowerment and gender consciousness, and follows a participatory framework.

This book defines the character and different dimensions of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the context of Asian countries. The book was based on case studies with workers from China, South Korea, India and Indonesia. A popular, if not particularly concise, explanation seems to be 'the continuing commitment by businesses to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as of the local community and society at large.' This definition reflects the predominantly philanthropic dimension of CSR, as commonly practiced in many Asian countries. However, CSR takes a plethora of forms, including sponsoring awards, adopting voluntary codes of conduct, reporting on social and environmental impacts, engaging in dialogue with 'stakeholders', among others. The latest craze in the CSR market, of course, is concerning climate change issues, which has prompted an excitable chatter about energy efficiency and carbon offsetting. The talk of 'green economy', 'green job' and the like has been alarmingly widespread, that many activists have taken for granted.

*(Please click on thumbnails to access publications)*

The book is a product of a collaboration between AMRC and Asian TNC Monitoring Network (ATNC). It provides an analysis that capital mobility has become major and underlying factor of the precarity of workers in Asia. The chapters - case studies on Japan, China, Philippines and Thailand - illustrate that workers' collective bargaining power has declined which can be seen in the intensification of irregularisation, union busting actions, company closures, and massive dismissal of workers reported across the region. In many cases, this condition has resulted in the weakening of militancy of workers in countries that used to be dynamic actors in the labour rights movement. ###

Please visit AMRC's website [www.amrc.org.hk](http://www.amrc.org.hk) and their publication download site <http://amrc.org.hk/bookdownload> for more information.

The International Migrants' Alliance invites you to the

# MIGRANTS' TRIBUNAL ON THE GFMD

Manila, Philippines  
November 28-29, 2012

**SCHEDULE:**  
(Nov 28-29) Migrants' Tribunal on the GFMD  
(Nov 29) International consultation on the preparation for the UN High Level Forum on Migration & Development  
(Nov 30) Mass demonstration

For details, please contact the IMA Secretariat at [ima.sect@gmail.com](mailto:ima.sect@gmail.com)

Photo from APMM website ([www.apmmigrants.org](http://www.apmmigrants.org))



## Filipino women see gaps in the 2013 Empowerment Budget

by Center for Women's Resources

Filipino women organizations saw the gap between the pronouncement and the operation of the proposed 2013 Php2-trillion (USD 48.72 billion) Philippine national budget, identifying these gaps as putting women's lives at stake. Although the budget for social services has increased, the Center for Women's Resources (CWR) and Gabriela questioned how the basic needs in health, education, and housing are considered in the proposal.

In the forum "Women's Lives at Stake: Diagnosing President Aquino's 2013 Empowerment Budget", CWR and Gabriela presented their call for an accessible, free, immediate, and quality service that should be the primary concern in the 2013 budget.

"A peso a day for health, two pesos a day for kindergarten, and almost 9 million pesos (USD 219, 244.30) for demolition of urban poor could not be considered an empowering budget at all," declared UP [University of the Philippines] Vice-Chancellor Marion Jimenez-Tan, who presented the CWR study as the research institution's chairperson.

Jimenez mentioned that the budget for social services still falls short of the actual needs of the people. The budget for programs and activities for health amounting to Php 39.2 billion (USD 95.49 million) only translates to Php 426 per year (USD 10.40) or Php1.16 (USD 0.03) per day for every Filipino. With the education budget of Php 1.68 billion

(USD 40.93 million) for kindergarten, the estimated amount for every child will only be Php 971.00 (USD 23.65) per year or Php 2.70 (USD 0.07) per day. The housing budget has specific fund for driving out "professional squatters and squatting syndicates" amounting to Php 8.6 million (USD 209, 500.00).

"The Aquino government packages the budget as an Atas ng Taumbayan and yet the allotment for the people, particularly for women, is far from what we need. If the government really listens to our Atas, then there should have been a bigger amount for free, accessible, immediate, and quality service in health, education, and housing," stated Joms Salvador, secretary-general of Gabriela.

Women-specific programs, such as the Conditional Cash Transfer and the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project, are largely funded by foreign loans. "These loans add to the devastating debt of the country where its payment eats up the largest part of the budget," observed Jimenez. Debt payment for interest alone swells up to Php333.9 billion (USD 8.13 billion), getting the lion's share of the budget.

"There is a need to re-channel some amounts of other items like debt payment to the delivery of social services. We should unveil the illusory design of this empowerment budget. We need action than mere declaration; responsive program than mere rhetoric," stated Jimenez. ###

## APWLD resources available online

The Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development would like to share their two new publications- the Forum News and Know Your Rights, Claim Your Rights.



This edition of Forum News is dedicated to the issue of land grabbing and its impact on women's rights. The issue also looks at what we can do to advance the movement for land reforms and rights. Internationally, there is increasing recognition that it is access to and control of land and resources that is most likely to lead to a reduction in poverty and an increase in dignity. Also included in this edition is an article by feminist human rights scholar, Purna Sen, which analyses the use of 'morality' language in international human rights standards. Her paper reveals that while human rights standards are intended to establish a global moral code, the inclusion of morality is most likely to be employed against women's autonomy.

Ms. Kate Lappin  
APWLD Regional Coordinator

*Please click on thumbnails to access publications*

On the 16th of June, 2011 at the United Nations International Labor Conference, an overwhelming majority of governments, workers' representatives, and employers' representative voted for the adoption of a new Convention and Recommendation on Domestic Workers. This means that (1) the international community has officially recognised that domestic work is work; (2) adoption of the Convention Signifies an international commitment to improving the conditions of domestic workers and outs pressure on governments who do not protect domestic workers under their labor laws; and (3) if a government does ratify the Convention then they agree to a binding commitment to the new standards. This booklet published by APWLD details the rights of domestic workers, obligations of member states, and APWLD's further recommendations to the Convention.





Photo from the Philippine Collegian website ([www.philippinecollegian.org](http://www.philippinecollegian.org)).

# Asian Communities Press for Biosafety and Corporate Accountability Amid the Onslaught of GMOs

by Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific

While new technologies are being rapidly deployed in food and farms all over Asia, the law and policy regimes to ensure that they do not endanger life and biodiversity are still far from fully in place.

This overwhelming concern over the rights of people and countries, especially developing countries in Asia, was addressed at a side event on Biosafety and Accountability organized by Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PANAP), Third World Network (TWN) and Econexus during the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Meeting of the Parties (MOP) 6 in Hyderabad on 2 October 2012.

The side event linked the issue of accountability to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol (SP) on liability and redress. This SP to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was signed in March 2012 by 51 countries and will enter into force once ratified by the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol.

Chair of the session, Lim Li Ching of TWN, said in her introduction that Asia is becoming the centre for the biotechnology industry, which impacts not just Asian farmers and local communities, but also the world socially, economically, and environmentally, among others. While risks are being transported across borders, responsibilities are not. This raises the question of accountability when things ‘go wrong’.

## Committing Violations with Impunity

Clare Westwood of PANAP shared the verdict of the first ever Permanent People’s Tribunal (PPT) Session on Agrochemical Transnational Corporations (TNCs) on the six largest agrochemical companies in the world (Monsanto, Syngenta, Dow, DuPont, Bayer, and BASF), their home states (the US, Switzerland and Germany) and the IMF, WB and WTO guilty of gross, widespread and systematic violations of human rights. “The jury further found that institutions of global governance had failed to make agrochemical and biotech companies accountable for human rights violations. Among their major recommendations were to establish an appropriate international mechanism to investigate gross and flagrant violations of human rights by TNCs, host and home states, and to strictly adhere to the Precautionary Principle (which is also enshrined in the Cartagena Protocol) in national law,” said Westwood. The PPT was held in December 2011 in Bangalore, India,

The side event also highlighted Asian country experiences in terms of biosafety protocols and accountability. “There is a failure by the government to adequately control and monitor the introduction and impacts of the testing and cultivation of g crops in our country,” said Dr. Charito Medina, National Coordinator of Masipag (Farmer-Scientist Partnership for Development),

*“The laws and policies that encourage the entry and operations of corporations in the agricultural sector are not balanced in equal measure with laws and policies to regulate their conduct”*

Philippines, who shared that a study of genetically modified (GM) corn farmers had found adverse socio-economic impacts suffered by them. The Philippines is currently commercially growing GM corn and field-testing GM rice and GM brinjal/eggplant (as is Bangladesh) despite strong concerns and objections raised by civil society. Cases of contamination by GM canola and GM papaya in Japan and the experience with Bt cotton and Bt brinjal in India were also shared

*In a climate-challenged world where biodiversity provides the only insurance for real adaptation, putting the biological system at risk can prove to be suicidal.*

“The laws and policies that encourage the entry and operations of corporations in the agricultural sector are not balanced in equal measure with laws and policies to regulate their conduct,” said Shalini Bhutani, a lawyer and researcher based in Delhi. “For instance, the SP does not cover all LMOs, but only those which find their origin in transboundary movements” citing from her PAN AP policy paper entitled The Supplementary Protocol and Corporate Accountability which was distributed at the event.

“TNCs influenced the negotiations and final text of the Supplementary Protocol. This has, among others, limited the definition of “damage to biodiversity” as “an adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,” taking into account risks to human health that are (i) measurable and (ii) significant, using scientific baselines that are recognized by public authority. Corporations are largely in control of the science that creates LMOs and the law-making processes,” she added.

The Global Industry Coalition, which represents biotech companies in the Cartagena Protocol, itself believes that biotech-specific liability rules are neither legally nor scientifically justified. Thus, in countries such as the U.S., GM products are treated the same as their non-GM counterparts as soon as they have been authorized by the government for release into the environment. Notably, the U.S. is a major GMO-exporting country (together with Argentina, Australia, and Canada) but it is not party to the Cartagena Protocol, and therefore also not party to the SP. Three of the largest biotech companies, namely, Monsanto, DuPont, and Dow, are U.S.-based.

As per the SP, domestic law shall also apply to damage resulting from transboundary movements of LMOs from non-parties to the Cartagena Protocol. In general, the SP

requires governments to revisit their existing legal regimes on environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, environmental liability and biotechnology products. “In several countries in Asia, the domestic regime on biosafety is yet to be either set up or updated to meet current challenges,” said Bhutani.

She pointed out that most biosafety laws or proposed biosafety laws in Asia only provide the legal framework for biotechnology companies to operate and in fact facilitate the entry and commercialization of GMOs. These laws, however, do not provide for reparation of damage to health, life, and biodiversity.

### **Biosafety Concerns**

Bhutani concluded that even with the SP, more effort is needed to protect biodiversity and the people who depend on it for survival, namely rural communities. She warned, “The SP talks of the ‘restoration of biological diversity’, but monies collected from fines might not be able to make up for or reverse the genetic contamination of biological resources. Therefore, law and policy should realistically weigh the pros and cons of promoting biotechnology. In a climate-challenged world where biodiversity provides the only insurance for real adaptation, putting the biological system at risk can prove to be suicidal. Given the emphasis on domestic laws for implementing the SP, governments should use every opportunity to create more local spaces for people’s concerns on biosafety to be brought to the fore.”

“The issue of accountability is an urgent one that demands immediate attention by governmental and inter-governmental bodies alongside with civil society. Agri-corporations have been committing human rights violations with impunity and there has been little or no redress or justice for the victims/survivors of such violations. It is time to make them accountable for their acts and omissions. Instruments such as the Cartagena and Supplementary Protocols can be useful means to do so if we are vigilant in their formulation and implementation,” ended Westwood.

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# Climate Updates: Climate Finance Talks Still Unclear

by Maria Theresa Nera-Lauron

Photo from IBON International website  
([www.iboninternational.org](http://www.iboninternational.org))

(Bangkok, Sept. 4) – More ambiguity than clarity, and yet the picture is becoming clearer than ever. After several sessions of the contact group on finance under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA), it is becoming clearer that developed countries are exerting such tremendous effort in making sure that no substantive discussion and decision regarding the future of climate change financing would be reached in Bangkok, and perhaps not even at the COP 18 in Doha this end-November. And this certainly does not bode well for communities especially in the developing countries who are already experiencing the impacts of climate change – of people who desperately are in need of resources to enable them to survive the impacts of floods, droughts and other effects of climate change.

At the discussion of the AWG-LCA contact group on finance, the Chair Mr. Aysar Tayeb, tried to focus the discussions on the issue of the arrangement between the Conference of Parties (COP) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). It may be remembered that the GCF was established at the COP 16 in Cancun and is envisioned to be the principal form of the climate financial mechanism, and not simply just one among the many climate funds in operation. But it has yet to take off the ground, having been saddled by issues around sources of funds, legal mandate, and many other issues.

The United States made the first intervention by stating that a large group of Parties question the procedure and mode of work proposed by the Chair. It further said that this group does not have a mandate to produce text at this meeting. This position was supported by Canada, Mexico and New Zealand who said that there was ‘no need, and no agreement, to come to a decision on finance.’

The Philippines, on behalf of the G77/China, countered by stating that the AWG LCA has a mandate to come to an agreed outcome. It stressed that financing is one of the main building blocks of these discussions, and getting clarity on the means of implementation is a very crucial issue for Parties to come to an agreement before we can move on to other processes. It thanked the Chair for taking on board the views of small countries because they too, are Parties to the Convention.

Australia noted the consistent divergence of views in the last 4 sessions on finance, and questioned the Chair for introducing yet another major agenda regarding the relationship between the COP and the GCF. It further stated that the AWG LCA has served its purpose, and if any, the Bangkok sessions has had one clear outcome, i.e. there is no consensus and it questioned the Chair again for continuing to schedule a meeting of the contact group on finance. To this, the Chair replied and said he did not need Parties’ agreement to call for a discussion. He reported clearly though, that there is no agreement

on how to take these issues forward.

Other developing countries such as Saudi Arabia, India, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Iran, Zambia, Nepal, Uganda and Pakistan, in separate interventions, reiterated their positions affirming the mandate of the AWG-LCA to discuss matters concerning finance, as well as on the need to clearly define the arrangement between the GCF and the COP.

The European Union acknowledged that some of the issues mentioned in the last meetings of the contact group on finance do need to be taken up, but also noted that there are differing views on how to proceed and the venue where are to be fleshed out.

The Philippines, speaking on behalf of the G77/China and the group of countries that have made a submission on a draft decision regarding the GCF/COP arrangement, clarified on why the AWG-LCA is the venue for clarifying these issues. The GCF was established in Cancun as the operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, with the arrangements to be concluded in Doha with the objective of ensuring that the Green Climate Fund is accountable to and functions under the guidance of the Conference of Parties. Ms. Bernarditas Muller, coordinator for G77/China asked Parties: ‘are we now saying that it is now the Board of the GCF who will determine how it will be accountable and how it will be under the guidance of the COP? How can the child decide how it is going to be accountable to its parent?’

Saudi Arabia said it disagreed with the idea that the GCF Board will be developing the arrangements with the COP and argued that he doesn’t see it anywhere in the functions of the Board, and requested that the Standing Committee be fully in charge of this task.

Switzerland said that the Standing Committee was there to give guidance, and that Parties needed to trust the systems they have put in place. It requested Parties not to ‘complicate matters’ by developing decisions within the LCA.

The United States made another intervention, and stated that the Green Climate Fund will have independent juridical personality, and the Board is the executive authority of the Fund. This means that Board members are not endorsed or approved by the COP. And it repeated its position that these are not matters for the LCA to decide on.

In the midst of all these legalese, perhaps the more telling was the short intervention made by Japan who said that Parties have heard a lot from the Umbrella Group, but he has not heard much from other individual European countries apart from the views already articulated by the European Union. He needed to hear from the other European countries, especially since all of them are key ‘donors.’ ###

*...this certainly does not bode well for communities especially in the developing countries who are already experiencing the impacts of climate change – of people who desperately are in need of resources to enable them to survive the impacts of floods, droughts and other effects of climate change.*



# Civil society leaders to meet and discuss the future of ADE governance post-Busan

by *APRN Secretariat*

Photo from <http://healthmdgs.wordpress.com>

A year after the 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) held on November 2011 in Busan, South Korea, civil society leaders of the CSO Partnership on Development Effectiveness (CPDE) will meet again at the Global Council meeting to discuss the future of aid and development effectiveness (ADE) governance. The gathering of the Global Council (GC), the highest governing body of the CPDE, will take place on December 7 to 10, 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya.

CPDE is an open platform which aims to unite CSOs that work on the issue of ADE. It is the result of the continuous consultation and coordination among CSOs to engage donors and governments to advance the development effectiveness agenda post-Busan. As the governing body, GC is responsible for the political leadership, direction and accountability of the Coordination Committee (CC). It will also oversee all areas of works of CPDE by ensuring its reports, works and plans. The GC will also confirm the nomination of constituencies and focal persons, of the members of the Coordination Committee and the Co-Chairs, and the formation of working groups and committees.

At the meeting, GC members will select the composition of the CC. The CC will ensure the day-to-day operations of the CPDE and represent it to the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) and the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), among others.

The structure of the GC is characterized by inclusive and democratic participation. Earlier this year, regional and sectoral consultations were held to designate the representatives to the Global Council, which will be composed of sectoral, regional and sub-regional representatives (see box).

APRN Chair Ms. Maria Theresa Nera-Lauron will attend the GC as the CSO lead of the Building Block on Climate Finance. She will also bring with her the knowledge and experiences of APRN and its members in the CSO Development Effectiveness (CSO DE) agenda. APRN has been very active in the issue of ADE, and was part of the consortium of the Open Forum for CSO Development

Effectiveness (OF). The network launched regional, sub-regional and country consultations as the OF's country outreach coordinator for Asia Pacific and MENA. APRN also coordinated the participation of Asian CSOs during the HLF4 last year. For its part, the network believes in the importance of the said meeting to set the future of its previous works and commitments to the CSO DE agenda. It also believes that its participation to the working group on DE will further advance the issues of Asian CSOs and engage these organizations for more effective discourse. ###

**Box.** Composition of the Global Council

Composition of the Global Council*	Number of representatives
<b>Sectors</b>	<b>24</b>
Labour	6
Women	8
Global CSOs	2
Rural	4
Faith-based organizations	4
<b>Regions</b>	<b>6</b>
Africa	1
Asia-Pacific	1
Europe	1
Latin America	1
Middle East and North Africa	1
North America	1
<b>Sub-regions</b>	<b>16</b>
Africa	4
• Central Africa	
• Southern Africa	
• West Africa	
• East Africa	
Asia-Pacific	5
• NorthEast Asia	
• SouthEast Asia	
• South Asia	
• Central Asia	
• Pacific	
Europe	2
Latin America and the Caribbean	3
• South Cone	
• Central America	
• Andean Region	
MENA	2
• Middle East	
• North Africa	
<b>Co-chairs</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total number of Global Council members</b>	<b>48</b>

Source: *The Reality of Aid*

## Be part of the APRN Newsletter and Journal!

APRN members and friends are invited to share their researches and news about your upcoming activities and recent researches to be published in the journal and newsletter. For details, please contact the Secretariat at [secretariat@aprn.org](mailto:secretariat@aprn.org).

The 1st and 2nd Quarter 2012 newsletters, which highlight APRN members' International Women's Day activities, the Biennial Conference and the Asia Rio+20 participation, and the 18th and 19th volumes of the Journal, which features researches on Rio+20/sustainable development, are still available for download. Please follow the links to get your copy:

**APRN Newsletters:** [Second Quarter 2012](#) and [First Quarter 2012](#)  
**Asia-Pacific Journal:** [Volume 19 \(June 2012\)](#) and [Volume 18 \(December 2011\)](#)



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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# Available APRN Publications



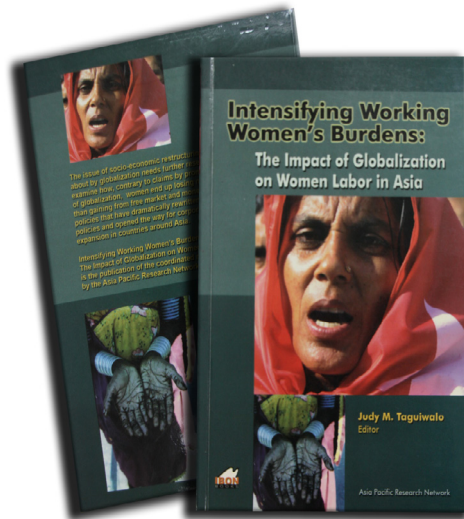
## Sowing Seeds of Change and Hope <sup>!NEW!</sup>

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



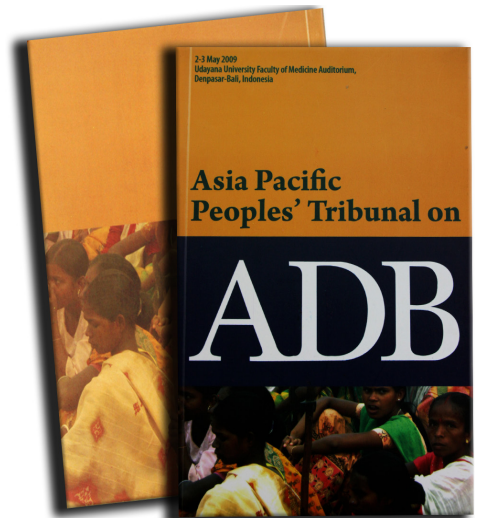
## Women Resisting Crisis and War <sup>!NEW!</sup>

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 practitioners and parliamentarians.

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